

**South Florida Ecosystem Restoration Land Acquisition Strategy
Land Acquisition Project Profile**

Program Name: Land Acquisition
Project Name: Southern Golden Gate Estates
Project Name Synonyms: Save Our Everglades
Project ID (Map Label): Southern Golden Gate Estates
Overlapping Project(s):

Primary SFER-related Objective: 2.A.1

Project synopsis: The primary objective of this project is to acquire approximately 55,247 acres of land under public ownership and to implement structural measures to restore the ecology of the Southern Golden Gate Estates (SGGE). The SGGE encompasses an area of sensitive environmental landscape in south central Collier County. It is an important surface water storage and aquifer recharge area with a unique ecology of cypress, wet prairie, pine and hardwood hammock and swamp communities, and includes three major flowways that contribute freshwater input to the Ten Thousand Island Estuary of the western Everglades watershed. The Faka Union Canal system, constructed in the 1960s to provide drainage for land development of approximately 173 square mile area, have overdrained the area resulting in reduction of aquifer storage, reduction of wetland functions, invasion of upland vegetation, increased frequency of forest fires and increased fresh water discharges to the estuary. Variations of freshwater discharges at large amplitudes have resulted in large fluctuations of salinity level and have eliminated or displaced a high proportion of the benthic, midwater and fish plankton communities in the estuary.

Project Sponsorship: Joint
Land Acquisition Funding Type: Joint
Land Acquisition Funds Source: CARL; Farm Bill
Agency Responsible for Acquiring the Land: FDEP
Land Acquisition Program(s): FF/ARC
Land Managing Agency: FDOF; FDRP
Funding Partner(s): DOI

Land Acquisition Schedule

Initiate Acquisition	Conclude Acquisition	Date Needed for Restoration
1984	2003	2003

Project Acreage/Progress

Total size	Acquired previous yr.	Acquired all years	Remaining to acquire
55,247	2,958	50,849	4,398

Estimated Project Requirements - Land Acquisition only (in thousands of dollars)

Agency	Closed through Sept. 2002	Closed in 2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	Cost of Remaining Acres	Real Estate & Associated Costs
Federal	\$ 33,028	\$ 7	\$ 1,925	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,925	\$ 34,960
State	\$ 59,518	\$ 5,677	\$ 27,300	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 27,300	\$ 92,495
Tribal	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Local	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Other	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
TBD	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Total	\$ 92,546	\$ 5,684	\$ 29,225	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 29,225	\$ 127,455

Land Cost Estimation Method: Fair Market Value/DSL approved

Degree of Ownership desired: Fee Simple

Comments: Year 2000 acres: Fed 1,083.82; State 2,320; Year 2001 acres: Fed 1,312; State 4,200.92; Year 2002 acres: Fed 83.10; State

Hyperlink(s): http://www.dep.state.fl.us/stland/oes/pdf_folder/SAVE_O_M.pdf

Contact: Judy Warrick; FDEP State Lands; 850-245-2669; judy.warrick@dep.state.fl.us

Update: 6/30/2003; John Outland