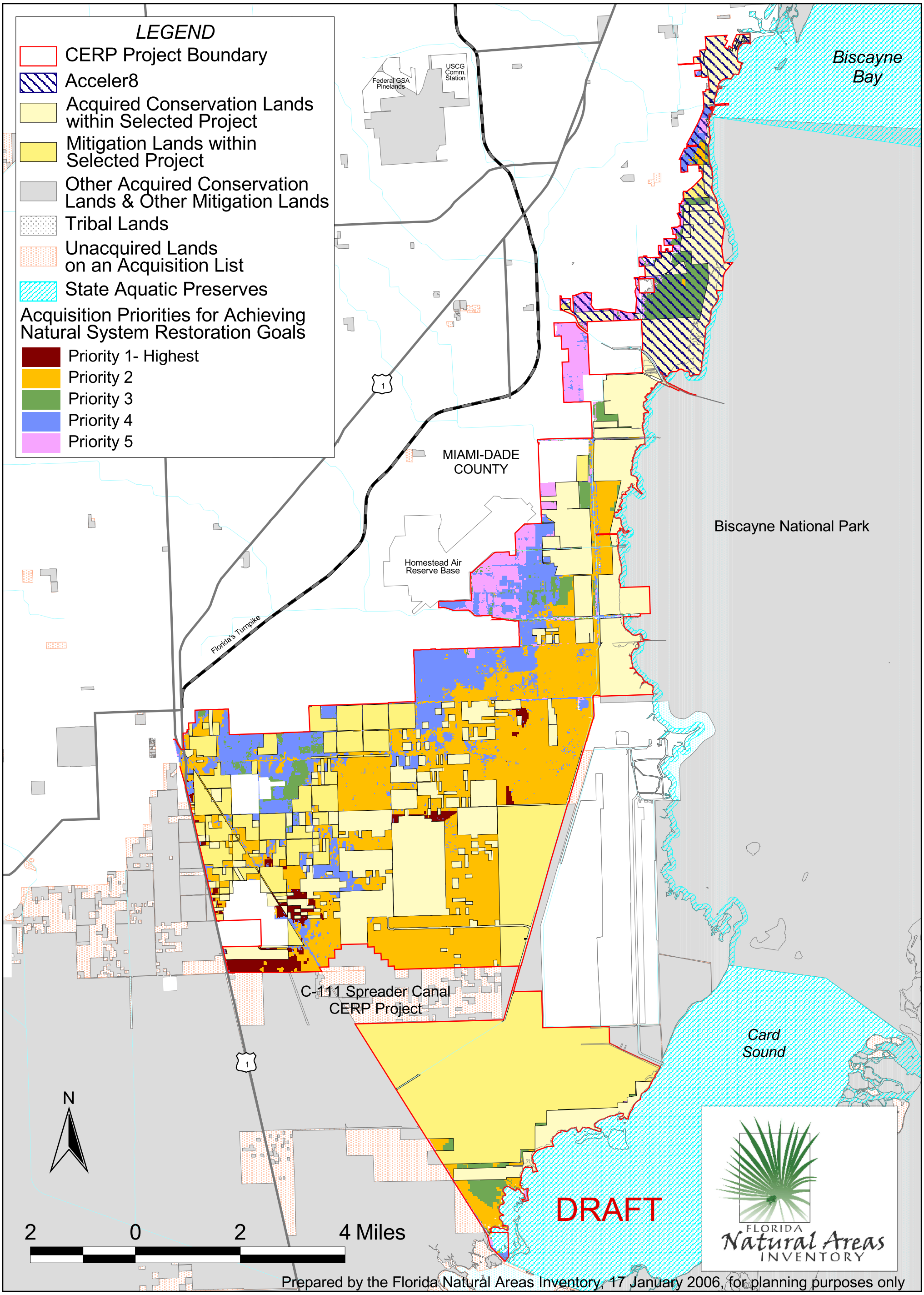


# Biscayne Bay Coastal Wetlands CERP Project

## South Florida Ecosystem Restoration Task Force Natural Lands Report

Acquisition Priorities for Achieving Natural System Restoration Goals: Lands were prioritized for acquisition based on 6 criteria: (1) land cover type, with natural uplands and wetlands scoring highest and disturbed lands scoring lowest; (2) rare species habitat, with lands that support species with the greatest conservation need scoring highest; (3) potential natural areas, which are possible examples of good quality natural communities, with higher quality communities scoring highest; (4) size of tract, with intact tracts of natural or semi-natural lands > 5,000 acres scoring highest; (5) connectivity to acquired conservation lands, with tracts adjacent to such lands scoring highest; and (6) connectivity to lands that are unacquired but are on an acquisition list, with tracts adjacent to such lands scoring highest. Lands classed as Priority 1 (highest priority) are those that received the highest possible scores for land cover type, rare species, and at least 2 of the other criteria.

Acquired Conservation Lands: This data set consists of publicly and privately owned lands that are managed for conservation of their natural resources. It includes conservation easements.

Mitigation Lands: This data set includes mitigation banks and mitigation conservation easements held by a public agency or conservation group.

Unacquired Lands on an Acquisition List: This data set consists of lands outside the selected project that are on the Florida Forever/Board of Trustees, Save Our Rivers, CERP, and/or Critical Restoration programs' land acquisition lists.