



South

Florida

Ecosystem

Restoration

# Land Acquisition Strategy

**Third Edition**

**Land Acquisition Task Team**

August 24, 2005

Presentation prepared by Muller and Associates, Inc.  
with the South Florida Ecosystem Restoration Task Force staff

# South Florida Ecosystem Restoration Land Acquisition Strategy First Edition

 Prepared in  
response to  
GAO report of  
April 2000

GAO

United States General Accounting Office  
Report to Congressional Requesters

April 2000

## SOUTH FLORIDA ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION

A Land Acquisition  
Plan Would Help  
Identify Lands That  
Need to Be Acquired



GAO/RCED-00-84



# South Florida Ecosystem Restoration Land Acquisition Strategy First Edition

## Purposes:

- ✦ provide information on the real estate needed to accomplish the ecosystem restoration goals
- ✦ identify a proposed strategy for fulfilling these requirements
- ✦ promote coordinated action to accomplish the land acquisition goals for the restoration effort



# South Florida Ecosystem Restoration Land Acquisition Strategy First Edition

## WRAC participation:

- ✦ WRAC Land Acquisition Committee – meetings in July, August 2002 – provided comments on draft of the first edition
- ✦ WRAC – submitted comments to Task Force, accepted in October 2002
- ✦ Land Acquisition Task Team (LATT) was instructed by Task Force to revise the draft to incorporate WRAC's recommendations

# South Florida Ecosystem Restoration Land Acquisition Strategy First Edition

## WRAC participation (cont'd)

WRAC's recommendations included:

- ✦ discussion of less than fee acquisitions through easements
- ✦ information on local government acquisition programs
- ✦ payment in lieu of taxes

# South Florida Ecosystem Restoration Land Acquisition Strategy First Edition

- ✦ Task Force members recognized WRAC's review prior to acceptance of the Strategy
- ✦ Land Acquisition Strategy accepted by South Florida Ecosystem Task Force in February 2004

# South Florida Ecosystem Restoration Land Acquisition Strategy Second Edition

- ✦ WRAC was again involved in drafting of the Land Acquisition Strategy
- ✦ Second Edition of the Land Acquisition Strategy accepted by South Florida Ecosystem Task Force in December 2004

# South Florida Ecosystem Restoration Land Acquisition Strategy Third Edition

- ✦ WRAC members who served on the Land Acquisition Committee – now on the Land Acquisition Task Team's *interested parties list*
- ✦ In July 2005, the Team sent out a *draft of the third edition* of the strategy to its members and the interested parties list requesting review and comment
- ✦ WRAC is scheduled to be briefed at their Sept. 8 meeting
- ✦ The LATT will send a revised draft to the Task Force, Working Group and WRAC in September

# South Florida Ecosystem Restoration Land Acquisition Strategy Third Edition - Draft

## Continued coverage of

### ✦ Alternative Tools to Meet Restoration Land Use Needs

- Rural Land Stewardship Program
- Easements
- Temporary Lease Agreements
- Mitigation Banks
- Public Private Partnerships

### ✦ County-level land acquisition programs and a full accounting of local government contributions to SFWMD, DEP and CERP land acquisition projects

### ✦ Mitigating the Loss of Tax Revenue through payment in lieu of taxes and the USFWS Revenue Sharing program

# South Florida Ecosystem Restoration Land Acquisition Strategy Third Edition - Draft

## Continued coverage (cont'd)

- ✦ All three goals of the South Florida ecosystem restoration:
  - ◆ Get the Water Right
  - ◆ Restore, Preserve & Protect Natural Habitats and Species
  - ◆ Foster Compatibility of the Built and Natural Systems (*new coverage*)
- ✦ All data are current as of June 30, 2005

# South Florida Ecosystem Restoration Land Acquisition Strategy Third Edition - Draft

## Progress made – Habitat Projects

- ✦ 5.8 million acres identified as needed for natural habitat protection within the SFWMD (Appendix D) – includes numerous projects in which the federal government will not be involved
- ✦ 4.9 million acres have been acquired by the state, federal and local governments
- ✦ Acquisition is complete for twelve (12) habitat projects, totaling 79,166 acres – 2 of these projects have federal involvement

# South Florida Ecosystem Restoration Land Acquisition Strategy Third Edition - Draft

## Progress – Water Projects

- ✦ 462,372 acres were identified in September 2002, with 234,790 acres acquired.
- ✦ Estimated land acquisition needs for water projects has been refined and is now 483,722 with 277,221 acres acquired.
- ✦ The SFWMD is the lead agency on these acquisitions.



# South Florida Ecosystem Restoration Land Acquisition Strategy Third Edition - Draft

## Progress (cont'd)

- ✦ Since the passage of the federal Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 (2002 Farm Bill), 30,901 acres of south Florida wetlands have been enrolled in either the *Wetlands Reserve Program* or the *Farm and Ranch Lands Protection Program*, protecting an important part of Florida's economy while contributing to ecosystem restoration.



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## Progress (cont'd)

- ✦ A full discussion of county-level land acquisition programs is now included in the LAS as a separate appendix
- ✦ All local government contributions to water and habitat projects are clearly identified.
- ✦ Discussion of the Florida's Greenways and Trails Program also in Appendix E

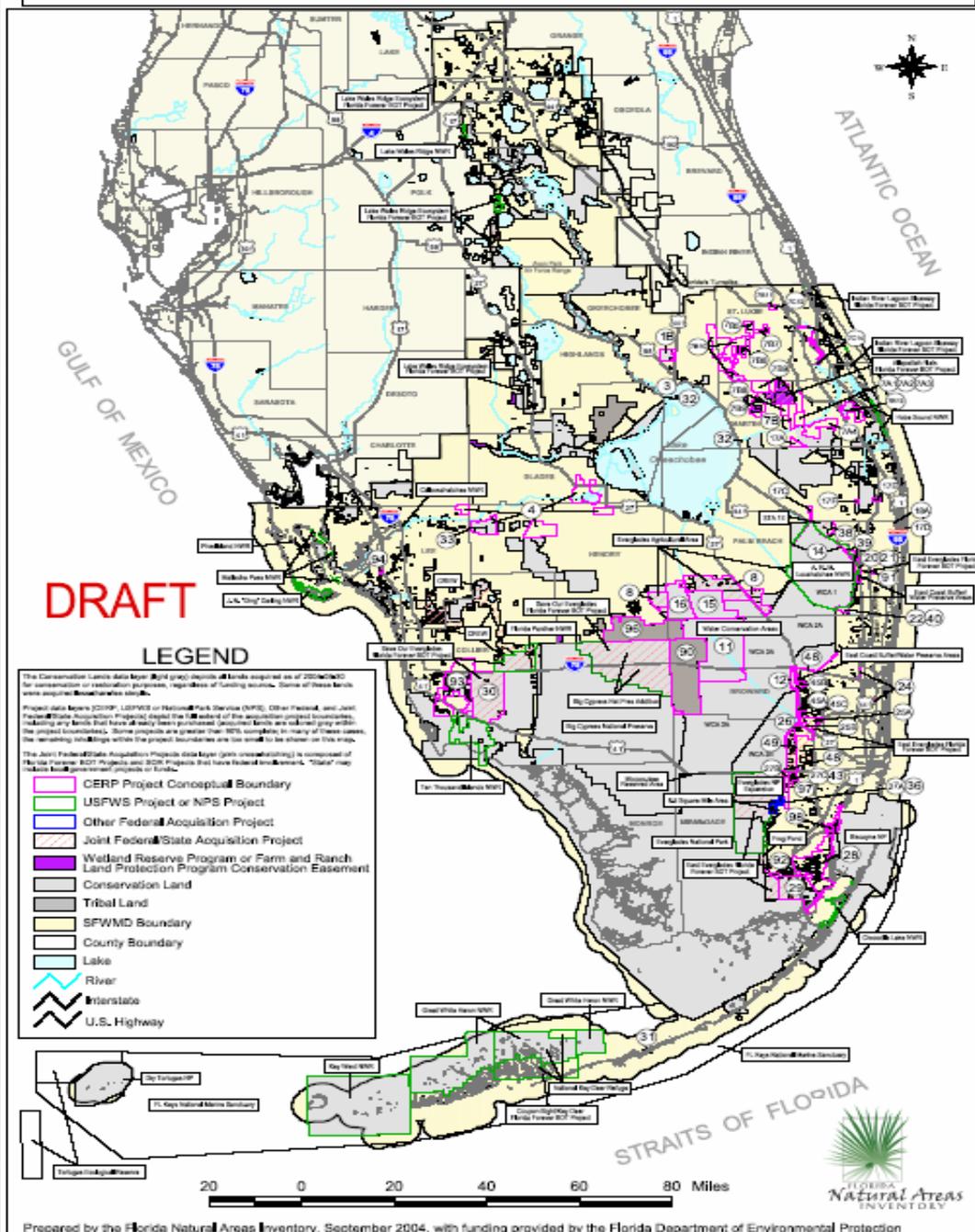


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## **New coverage of**

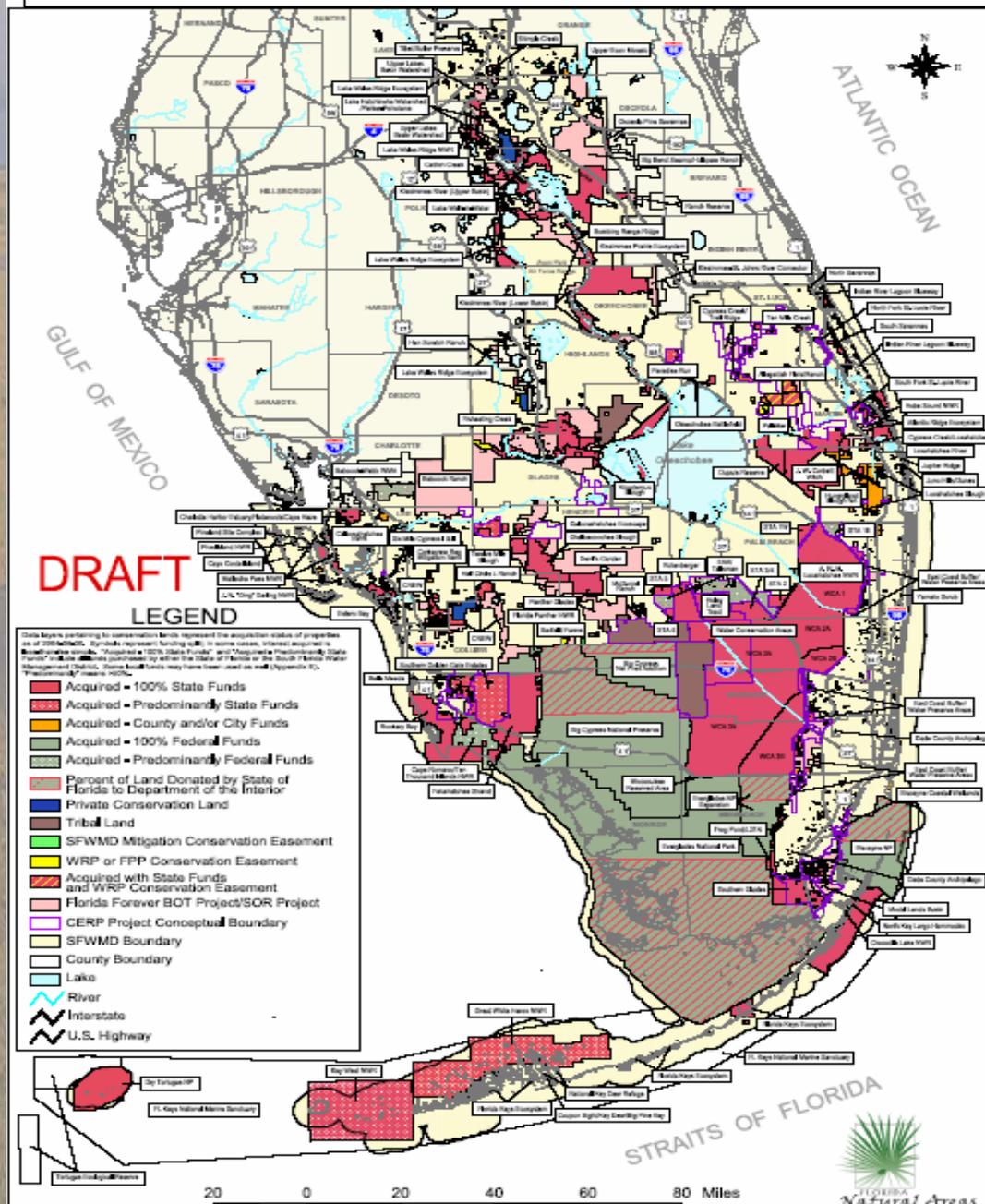
- ✦ Potential Funding Sources in Support of the Restoration (Appendix G)
- ✦ Tools Available to Identify Strategic Acquisitions (Appendix H)

# South Florida Ecosystem Restoration Land Acquisition Strategy Federal Projects and Joint Federal/State Projects



20040923

# South Florida Ecosystem Restoration Land Acquisition Update



Prepared by the Florida Natural Areas Inventory, September 2004, with funding provided by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection

20040902



South Florida Ecosystem Restoration  
**Land Acquisition Strategy**  
**Third Edition - Draft**

✦ The final draft of the Third Edition of the Land Acquisition Strategy is scheduled to be presented to the Task Force for acceptance in September 2005

