

FLORIDA PANTHER PROTECTION PROGRAM



Overview

- A collaborative effort between leading conservation organizations and Eastern Collier landowners to better protect and manage the Florida Panther in Southwest Florida and assist recovery of this endangered species.
- An environmentally and economically balanced program.



- Includes both suggested adjustments to the innovative Collier Rural Land Stewardship Area Program and additional components.
- Through an incentive-based land use program, the Florida Panther Protection Program would secure a contiguous range of panther habitat connecting the Florida Panther National Wildlife Refuge and Big Cypress National Preserve through Camp Keais Strand and the Okaloacoochee Slough with Corkscrew Marsh and adjacent lands in the region.

- The program involves approximately 195,000 acres of private land in Collier County.
- The program can be complementary to, but does not take the place of, non-panther planning and permitting programs.

Participants

- Conservation Organizations:
 - Audubon of Florida
 - Collier County Audubon Society
 - Defenders of Wildlife
 - Florida Wildlife Federation



- Landowners:

- Alico Land Development Corporation
- Barron Collier Partnership
- Collier Enterprises
- Consolidated Citrus LP
- English Brothers
- Half Circle L Ranch Partnership
- Pacific Tomato Growers Ltd.
- Sunniland Family Limited Partnership



Scientific Technical Review

- Area under review: Rural Land Stewardship Area within Collier County.
- Committee: comprised of six respected biologists and scientists with expertise in the Florida Panther
- Purpose: to evaluate whether the Panther Protection Program contributes to the overall protection, management and recovery of the Florida Panther.

- Expected completion: less than six months, but additional time may be requested if deemed necessary
- Landowners and conservation organizations to cooperatively and collaboratively facilitate and support the work of the Scientific Technical Review Committee.



Proposed Program Components



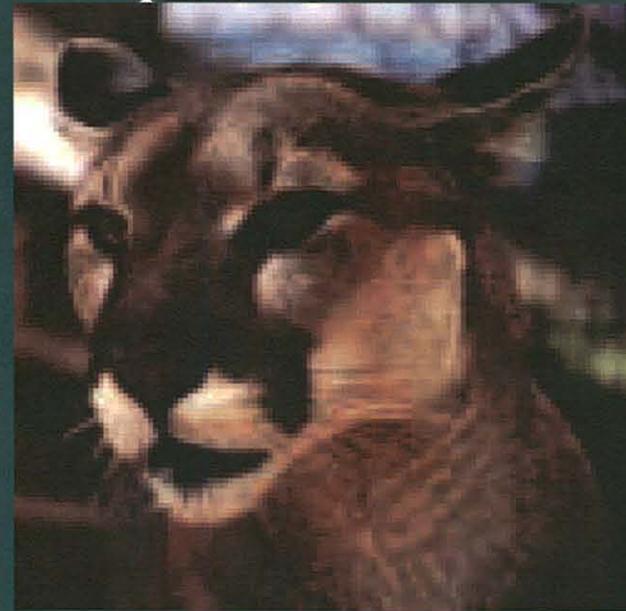
Funding

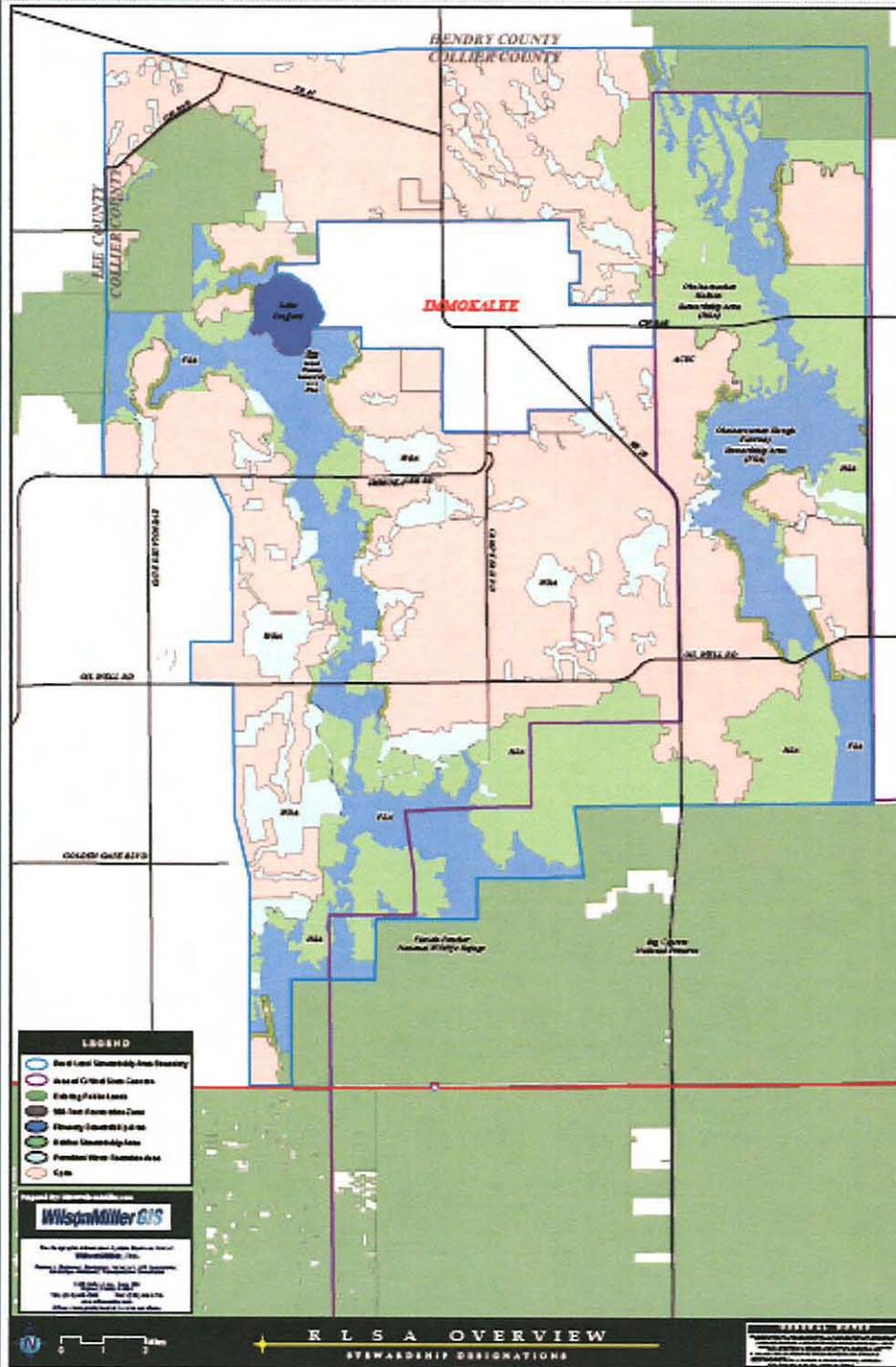
- Creation of the Paul J. Marinelli Florida Panther Protection Fund.
- Rural landowners will contribute to the Fund according to a pre-agreed formula that is generally tied to the generation and utilization of “Panther Habitat Units” from a Stewardship Sending Area within the Rural Land Stewardship Area.

- Fund expected to generate in excess of \$150 million in contributions through 2050.
- Fund to be administered by an independent nonprofit tax exempt entity, the Wildlife Foundation of Florida, and governed by a Board of Directors comprised of representatives of all participants.
- Fund Board to utilize the Fund for protective measures such as panther habitat restoration, buffering against human-panther interaction, locating and construction of panther crossings and acquisition of habitat demonstrated to be important to panther protection and management.

Additional Mitigation

- Requirement for additional mitigation and appropriate restoration for development impacts to primary panther habitat within the Rural Land Stewardship Area.





LEGEND

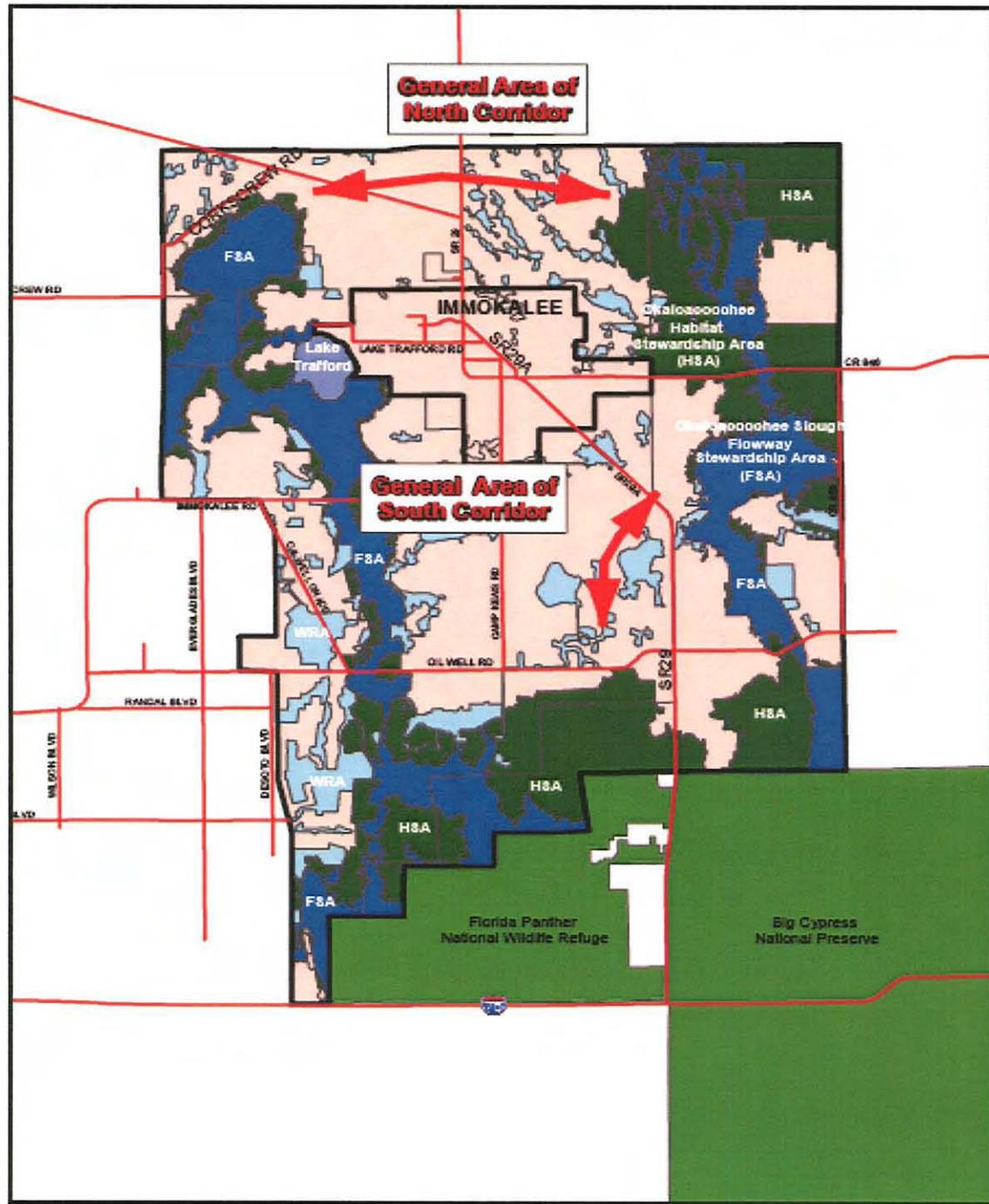
- Area of Local Community Area Boundary
- Area of Critical State Concern
- Existing Public Lands
- 100 Year Flood Hazard Zone
- Existing Community Area
- Other Community Area
- Potential Water Treatment Area
- Open

Prepared by Wilson Miller GIS

Wilson Miller GIS
 11000 S. US HWY 1
 Ft. Pierce, FL 34947
 Phone: 888.888.8888
 Fax: 888.888.8888
 Email: info@wilsonmiller.com

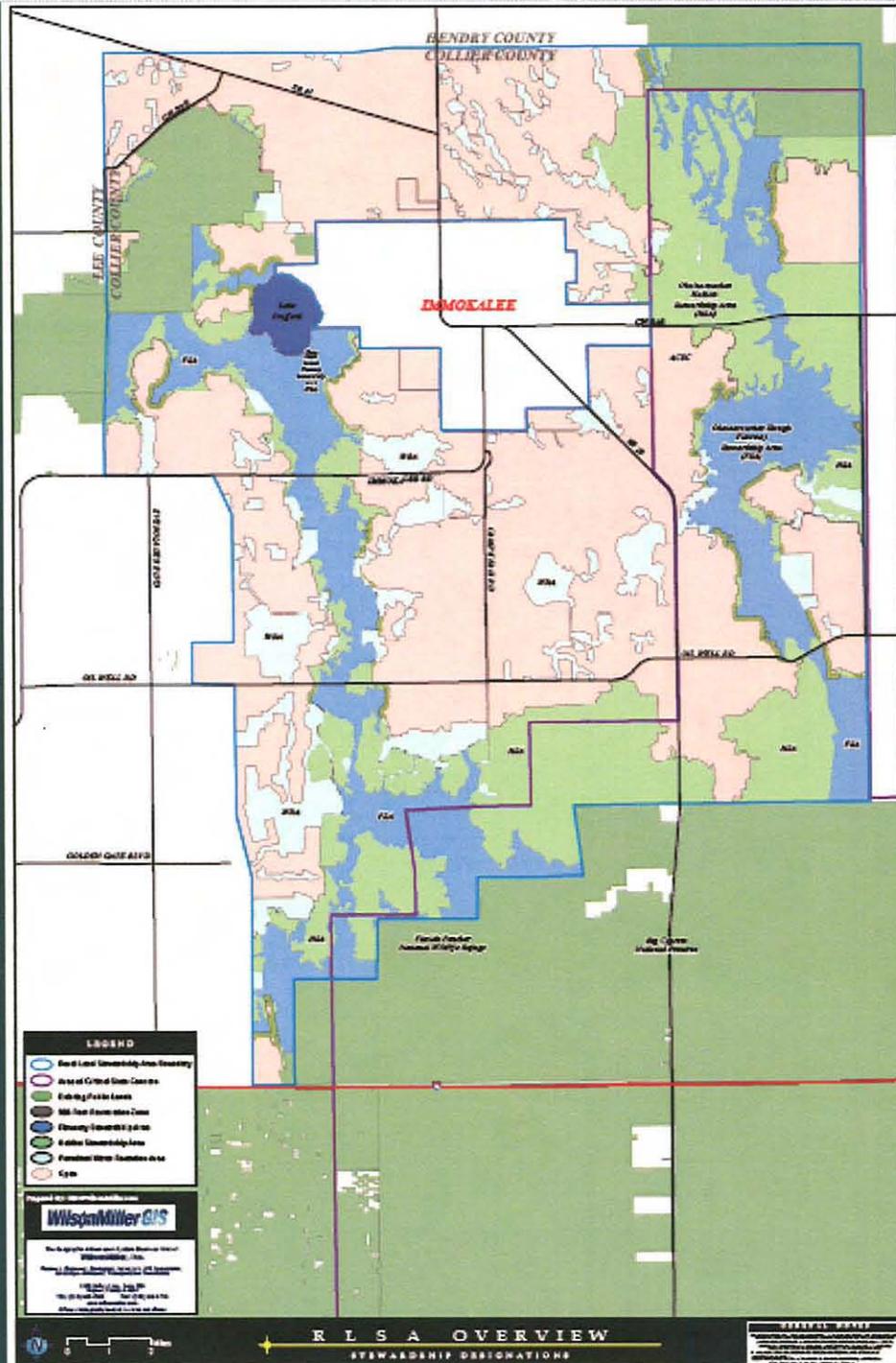
North and South Panther Corridors

- Proposed creation of a North Corridor and the proposed maintenance and enhancement of the South Corridor for the panther through the Rural Land Stewardship Area.
- Rural landowners to be incentivized through the generation of restoration credits to create, enhance, and restore such corridors

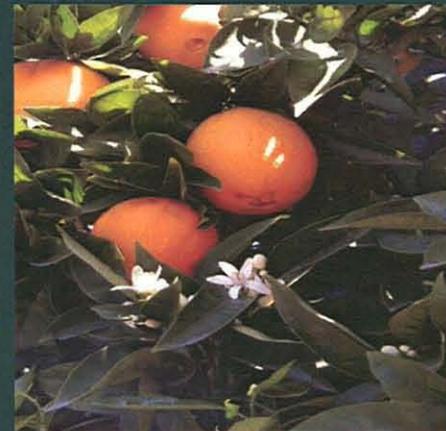


Agricultural Preservation

- Proposed creation of an agriculture preservation credit within the Rural Land Stewardship Area, consistent with direction of the Rural Land Stewardship Area Review Committee.
- Goals: to assure agricultural lands can be protected for future generations and to reduce development pressures within the Big Cypress Area of Critical State Concern.



- The agricultural preservation component reduces the potential build out footprint within the Rural Land Stewardship Area because it creates an incentive to discourage the one unit per five acre development pattern allowed under the baseline zoning and promotes compact, sustainable communities surrounded by viable agriculture.



Collier Rural Land Stewardship Area Build out

- It is the group's preliminary estimate that the changes proposed to the current Rural Land Stewardship Area credit system as a result of the new panther corridors and the agriculture preservation components will enable a maximum Stewardship Receiving Area development footprint of 45,000 acres within the total 195,000 acre Rural Land Stewardship Area. This estimate will be refined in conjunction with any other proposed changes to the credit system through the Rural Land Stewardship Area Five Year Review Committee's work.

Next Steps

- At completion of Scientific Technical Review, if consensus is reached to move forward, rural landowners and conservation organizations will enter into a binding agreement.
- Landowners will undergo a federal consultation process with the United States Department of the Interior Fish and Wildlife Service to develop a Conservation Agreement or its equivalent.



For more information visit:

www.FloridaPantherProtection.com