

South Florida Ecosystem Restoration Task Force

South Florida Ecosystem Restoration Land Acquisition Strategy

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July 2, 2009 Draft

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Land acquisition acres and dollar figures highlighted in red will be updated in the August draft to reflect data through June 30, 2009.

Comments due by Thursday July 30, 2009

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This strategy document is for planning purposes only, is subject to modification, and is not legally binding on any of the South Florida Ecosystem Restoration Task Force (Task Force) members. Each Task Force member and the interest they represent retain all of their sovereign rights, authorities, and jurisdictions for implementation of the projects contained in this document.

Acceptance of the report by the Task Force does not imply that the Task Force or the individual Task Force members endorse each land acquisition project described in the South Florida Ecosystem Restoration Land Acquisition Strategy.

Land acquisition needs of the South Florida Ecosystem Restoration continue to evolve as project footprints and land acquisition program needs are refined. Moreover, the land cost estimates contained in the body of this report are preliminary planning estimates that are not intended as, and do not reflect, fair market valuations of any individual parcel of land. Acceptance of this report, therefore, does not constitute an endorsement by any Task Force member as to any parcel or land valuation.

For multiple reasons, summary numbers change from one year to another, minimizing the ability to make simple comparisons between previous editions of the Land Acquisition Strategy. Differences in numbers may be due to such factors as the refinement of reporting techniques or changes in the number of size of projects, rather than the acquisition or disposition of land.

This document is updated on an annual basis. The reporting period for this information is ~~July 1, 2008~~ – ~~June 30, 2009~~ unless otherwise noted.

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Glossary

2002 Farm Bill: The Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002.

Acceler8: October 2004 commitment by the state of Florida to provide \$1.5 billion to expedite the design and construction of several components identified in the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan. **These projects have been incorporated in the SFWMD list of expedited projects.**

Conservation Easement: A legal agreement between a landowner and a government agency or nonprofit organization to protect the natural resources of a property permanently or for some designated period of time. The property still belongs to the landowner, but restrictions are placed both on the current landowner and subsequent landowners.

CERP: A comprehensive plan for the water resources of central and southern Florida authorized in the Water Resources Development Act of 2000. The overarching objective of this Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan is the restoration, preservation, and protection of the South Florida Ecosystem while providing for the other water-related needs of the region.

Conservation and Recreation Lands (CARL): Florida created this land acquisition program in 1979 to acquire lands to conserve and protect unique natural areas, endangered species, unusual geologic features, wetlands, and significant archaeological and historical sites. CARL projects were funded by the CARL Trust Fund and Preservation 2000. The Florida Forever - Board of Trustees program is CARL's successor.

Critical Restoration Projects: Precursors of CERP. During the planning phase of CERP projects, these projects are assumed to be completed. The 1996 Water Resources Development Act authorized these projects.

Fee simple acquisition: The outright purchase of all property rights.

Florida Forever: The 10-year, \$3 billion program established in 2000 by the Florida Legislature to conserve environmentally sensitive land, restore waterways, and preserve important cultural and historical resources. Florida Forever is the successor to Preservation 2000. The 2008 Legislature authorized an additional \$3 billion through 2020.

Goal: Something to be achieved. Goals can be established for outcomes (results) or outputs (efforts).

"Graham Map": The 1999 Everglades Ecosystem Land Acquisition State-Federal Cost Share Map requested by former Florida Senator Bob Graham. This map was produced by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection for the South Florida Ecosystem Restoration Task Force.

Lake Okeechobee Estuary Recovery: **Plan to restore the ecological health of Lake Okeechobee and the St. Lucie and Caloosahatchee Estuaries. In 2007, the Lake Okeechobee Estuary Recovery projects were incorporated into the Northern Everglades and Estuary Protection Program.**

Less-than-fee simple: The acquisition of limited property rights. The right to conserve and protect resources on the property is purchased at a lesser cost to taxpayers, while keeping the land in private ownership and on the tax rolls.

Master Implementation Sequencing Plan: Updates the sequencing and scheduling for the implementation of all CERP projects

Mitigation: An action or series of actions that offset the adverse environmental impact of a permitted activity.

Multi-Species Recovery Plan: Plan developed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service that contains information on the biology, ecology, status, trends, management, and recovery actions for 68 federally listed species found in South Florida, as well as the ecology and restoration needs of 23 natural communities in the region.

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Multi-Year Acquisition Agreement: An agreement that allows acquisition costs to be paid out over a number of years.

Northern Everglades: Ecosystem within the SFWMD boundary encompassing the Lake Okeechobee, Caloosahatchee River, and St. Lucie River basins. Key features include Kissimmee area lakes and rivers, Lake Okeechobee, and the Caloosahatchee and St. Lucie rivers and estuaries.

Northern Everglades and Estuaries Protection Program: In 2007 the Florida Legislature expanded the Lake Okeechobee Protection Act to strengthen protection for the Northern Everglades by restoring and preserving Lake Okeechobee and the Caloosahatchee and St. Lucie rivers and estuaries. The program expands the use of the Save Our Everglades Trust fund to include the Northern Everglades restoration and extends it through 2020.

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Objective: A goal expressed in specific, directly quantifiable terms.

Payment in Lieu of Taxes: Federal or State payments to local governments that help offset losses in property taxes due to nontaxable government owned lands within their boundaries.

Preservation 2000: A ten year program, initiated by the State of Florida in 1990, that raised \$300 million per year for a total of \$3 billion for environmental land acquisition.

Regional Planning Councils: Florida planning and public policy agencies that work with public and private leadership on regional issues.

Refuge Revenue Sharing Program: A U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service program that authorizes payments to offset the loss of tax revenue in counties in which USFWS lands are located. These payments are funded and administered separately from other Federal revenue sharing measures such as those made under the Payment in Lieu of Taxes Act.

Restudy: Colloquial expression for the Central and Southern Florida Project Comprehensive Review Study, authorized in 1992.

Rural Lands Stewardship Program: Florida's program to direct development in rural lands to preserve agriculture and protect the environment.

Save Our Everglades Trust Fund: A trust fund established in 2000 under provision of Florida's Everglades Restoration Investment Act to provide funds to implement CERP. In 2007 legislation authorized the use of the Trust Fun to implement the Northern Everglades and Estuaries Protection Program.

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Save Our Rivers: This 1981 Florida program created the Water Management Lands Trust Fund. This trust fund enables the water management districts to acquire lands necessary for water management, water supply, and the conservation and protection of water resources. Save Our Rivers projects can be jointly funded through the Water Management Lands Trust Fund and P-2000/Florida Forever.

South Florida Ecosystem: An area consisting of the lands and waters within the boundaries of the South Florida Water Management District and the Multi-Species Recovery Plan, including the Kissimmee Basin, Lake Okeechobee, Everglades, the Florida Keys, and the contiguous nearshore coastal waters.

Southern Everglades: Ecosystem within the SFWMD boundary south of the Lake Okeechobee, Caloosahatchee River, and St. Lucie River basins. Key features include the Water Conservation Areas, Big Cypress National Preserve, Everglades National Park, Florida Bay, and the coastal bays and estuaries south of Lake Okeechobee.

Sustainability: The state of having the needs of the present met without endangering the ability of future generations to be able to meet their own needs.

Vision: An aspiration of future conditions; in this case, the results that the South Florida Ecosystem Restoration Task Force members intend to achieve in terms of ecosystem health and quality of life for South Florida residents and visitors.

Water Resources Development Act: The Federal authorizing legislation for U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' water resource projects.

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Abbreviations and Acronyms

ASR Aquifer Storage and Recovery

CARL Conservation and Recreation Lands

C&SF Project Central and Southern Florida Flood Control Project

CERP Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan

CRP Critical Restoration Projects

CREW Corkscrew Regional Ecosystem Watershed

DCA Florida Department of Community Affairs

DOF Florida Division of Forestry

DSL Florida Division of State Lands

EAA Everglades Agricultural Area

ECP Everglades Construction Project

EEL Environmentally Endangered Lands

Farm Bill The Farm Security and Rural Investment Act

FDACS Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services

FDEP Florida Department of Environmental Protection

FF Florida Forever

FNAI Florida Natural Areas Inventory

FRESP Farm and Ranchlands Environmental Services Project

FRPP Farm and Ranch Land Protection Program

FWC Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission

FY Fiscal Year

GAO Government Accountability Office (formerly the General Accounting Office)

IRL Indian River Lagoon

LAS Land Acquisition Strategy

LATT Land Acquisition Task Team

LOPP Lake Okeechobee Protection Plan

LWCF Land and Water Conservation Fund

MISP Master Implementation Sequencing Plan

MSRP Multi-Species Recovery Plan

NEEPP Northern Everglades and Estuary Protection Program

NPS National Park Service

NRCS Natural Resources Conservation Service

NWR National Wildlife Refuge

NOAA National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

OGT Office of Greenways and Trails

OPE Other Project Element

P-2000 Preservation 2000

PIR Project Implementation Report

PILT Payment in Lieu of Taxes

Restudy C&SF Project Comprehensive Review Study

SCG Science Coordination Group

SFWMD South Florida Water Management District

SOETF Save Our Everglades Trust Fund

SOR Save Our Rivers

STA Stormwater Treatment Area

Task Force South Florida Ecosystem Restoration Task Force

USACE United States Army Corps of Engineers

USDA United States Department of Agriculture

USDOI United States Department of the Interior

USFWS United States Fish and Wildlife Service

WCA Water Conservation Area

WRAC Water Resources Advisory Commission

WRDA Water Resources Development Act

WREP Wetlands Reserve Enhancement Program

WRP Wetlands Reserve Program

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Executive Summary

Land acquisition is critical to South Florida Ecosystem restoration efforts. Land is needed to preserve habitat for native plants and animals, to act as a buffer to existing natural areas, and to provide opportunities for recreational pursuits. Land is also needed for water quality treatment areas, water storage reservoirs, and aquifer recharge areas that will help restore the natural hydrology of the ecosystem.

The purpose of the *South Florida Ecosystem Restoration Land Acquisition Strategy* (LAS) is to describe the land acquisition needed for ecosystem restoration projects that are either Federally funded or jointly funded by Federal and non-Federal agencies—and, with its appendices, provide a broad picture of all land acquisition initiatives that contribute to the restoration. This document updates and replaces the LAS accepted by the South Florida Ecosystem Restoration Task Force (Task Force) in September 2008.

The LAS addresses land acquisition needed to achieve the three strategic goals for South Florida Ecosystem restoration as adopted by the Task Force:

- Goal 1: Get the water right
- Goal 2: Restore, preserve, and protect habitats and species
- Goal 3: Foster compatibility of the built and natural systems

The LAS provides an update on how these restoration goals will be accomplished through the use of land acquisition strategies designed to ensure that only those private property rights necessary to accomplish the restoration goals will be acquired. It also measures and reports the acquisition of identified lands. The LAS presents an overall land acquisition picture for those responsible for South Florida Ecosystem restoration activities and funding. It also provides cooperating agencies with a perspective on how their current and potential land acquisition projects relate and contribute to the vision of the Task Force.

This edition of the LAS reflects data from July 1, 2008 through June 30, 2009. The Task Force's Land Acquisition Task Team (LATT) will update the LAS annually to track land acquisition progress and foster cooperation among member agencies on this important component of South Florida Ecosystem restoration.

Acquisition Status by Strategic Goal

The LAS summarizes projects identified as necessary for accomplishing the Task Force strategic goals. Land acquisition is also summarized for a few key restoration initiatives, including the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (CERP). A summary of the estimated lands needed to accomplish the strategic goals and other South Florida Ecosystem restoration initiatives follows.

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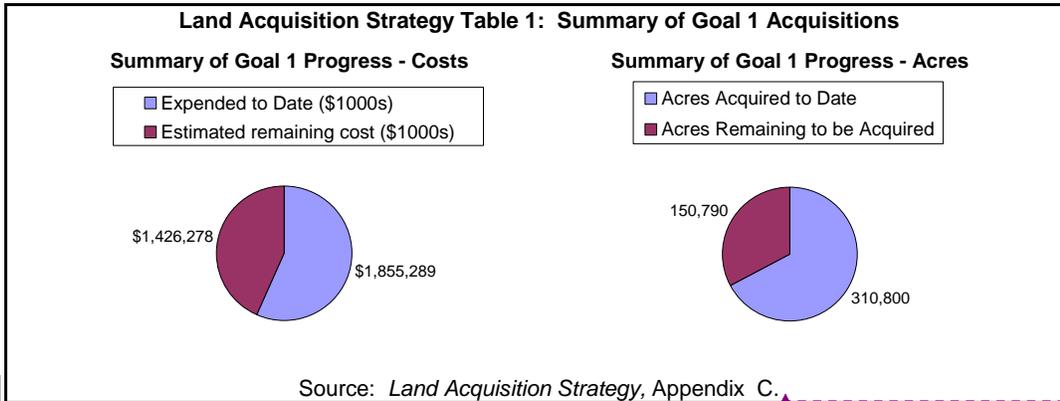
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Goal 1: Get the Water Right

There are 43 projects identified for acquisition to achieve Goal 1. This goal area includes projects needed to restore the quantity, distribution, and timing of water within the ecosystem, as well as projects to improve water quality. Therefore, this goal area includes lands needed for CERP, other projects modifying the current Central and Southern Florida (C&SF) water distribution system, and water quality improvements. Land acquisition estimates for the Goal 1 projects total 461,590 acres with 310,800 acres 67 percent acquired to date. The total estimated cost of these lands is \$3,281,567,000 with an estimated \$1,426,278,000 needed to complete acquisition of these parcels.¹

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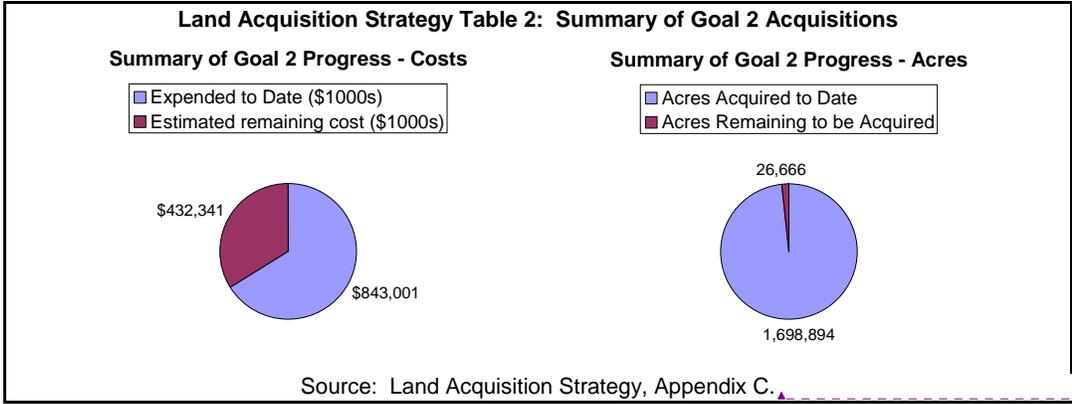
Goal 2: Restore, Preserve, and Protect Natural Habitats and Species

There are 21 projects identified for acquisition to achieve Goal 2. Achievement of this goal includes acquisition of lands needed for CERP and other habitat improvement projects that supplement and complement the existing network of publicly held parks, preserves, and refuges.

To date, 1,725,561 acres are estimated to be needed to achieve the targets established for this goal with 1,698,894 acres acquired (98 percent). The total estimated cost of these lands is approximately \$1,275,342,000 with an estimated \$432,341,000 needed to complete acquisition of these parcels.²

¹ Cost estimates for remaining acres for the Modified Water Deliveries projects are the estimated fair market value. The Kissimmee River restoration estimates are 2008 estimates to close all contracts and include engineering solutions in lieu of acquisition. For those CERP projects with either a Final Feasibility Study or Project Implementation Report, the Real Estate Plan estimates in those documents have been adjusted to 2008 dollars. For CERP projects that do not have an authorization document, the 1999 Restudy real estates estimates have been adjusted to 2008 dollars.

² Cost estimates for remaining acquisitions for National Wildlife Refuges and National Parks projects are based on estimated fair market value. The FDEP uses tax assessment values to estimate land costs for the Indian River Lagoon Blueway. The cost estimate for remaining acres for the Strazzulla Wetlands Water Preserve Area Project is the Real Estate Plan estimate in the October 2001 Water Preserve Area Feasibility Study adjusted to 2008 dollars. For those CERP projects with either a Final Feasibility Study or



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Goal 3: Foster Compatibility of the Built and Natural System

The Food Conservation and Energy Act of 2008 (2008 Farm Bill) authorized several programs that provide financial incentives to private landowners to restore or enhance wetlands and improve wildlife habitat while protecting working farms or retiring marginal land from agricultural production. Two of the six programs in the 2008 Farm Bill support efforts to achieve Goal 3 land acquisition objectives through permanent conservation easements – the Wetland Reserve Program (WRP) and the Farm and Ranch Land Protection Program (FRPP). Since passage of the 2008 Farm Bill, a total of \$88.9 million has been obligated to secure WRP easements on 36,045 acres and 5,497 acres have been acquired through the FRPP at a cost of \$5.8 million.

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The Broward County Secondary Canal System CERP project also contributes to this goal.

Acquisition Efforts by Initiative

Key ecosystem restoration initiatives like CERP, NEEPP and the Expedited Projects provide significant contributions toward achieving the Task Force’s three strategic goals. Additionally, many local governments within the region have land acquisition programs that significantly contribute to ecosystem restoration. The following is a discussion of these programs and associated land acquisition.

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The Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan

The Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) of 2000 authorized the CERP. Implementation of CERP is one of the highest priorities for the Task Force because of its significant contribution to the restoration of the South Florida Ecosystem.

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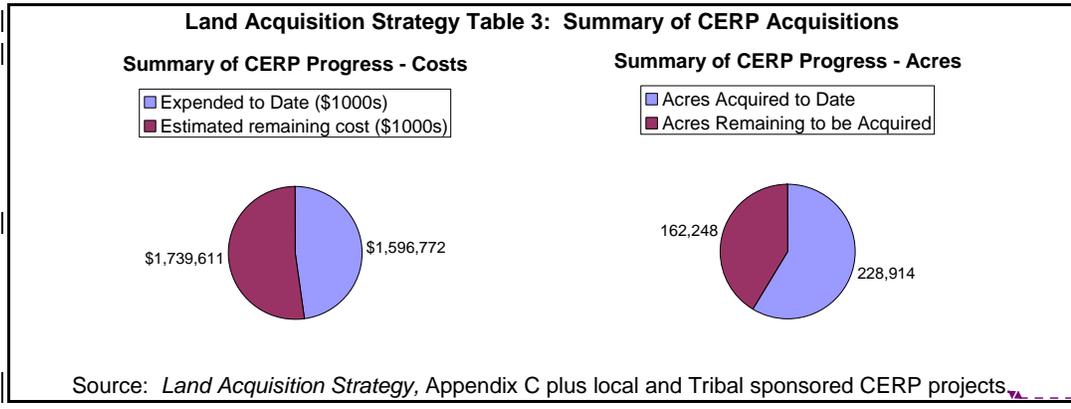
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Project Implementation Report, the Real Estate Plan estimates in those documents have been adjusted to 2008 dollars. For CERP projects that do not have an authorization document, the 1999 Restudy real estate estimates have been adjusted to 2008 dollars.

CERP land acquisition is ahead of schedule as compared to the March 2005 Master Implementation Sequencing Plan (MISP) land acquisition strategy. This is a result of the state acquiring acreage at the earliest possible time which has prevented these lands needed for restoration from being developed.

Land acquisition estimates for CERP projects total 391,167 acres.³ Approximately 230,191, (59 percent) of the acquisition acres have been acquired to date and 160,976 acres remain to be acquired. The total estimated cost of these lands is \$2,680,509,000 with an estimated \$1,059,636,000 needed to complete acquisition for CERP.⁴



Expedited Projects

In October 2004, Florida announced the Acceler8 initiative and its commitment to provide \$1.5 billion to accelerate the design and construction of projects selected for the immediate benefits they can provide to the Everglades and the South Florida Ecosystem. The majority of the expedited projects are components of CERP projects. Most of the lands for these projects are already in public ownership and were acquired with a combination of Federal and State funds.

Land acquisition estimates for the expedited projects total 130,022 acres of which approximately 3,559 acres are publicly-owned lands, including lands owned by utilities. Approximately 126,220 (97 percent) of the acquisition acres have been acquired to date

³ This acreage includes 3,141 acres of Tribal land and 17,803 acres of publicly owned lands, including lands owned by utilities.

⁴ Source: March 31, 2009 SFWMD CERP Master. The estimated costs for remaining acres for CERP projects with either a Final Feasibility Study or Project Implementation Report is based on the Real Estate Plan estimates which have been adjusted to 2008 dollars. For CERP projects that do not have an authorization document, the 1999 Restudy real estate estimates have been adjusted to 2008 dollars.

⁶ Source: March 31, 2009 SFWMD CERP Master. The CERP Master totals for expedited projects are only those with federal involvement; acquisition status for the solely state sponsored expedited projects (denoted with an asterisk (*)) are discussed in Appendix J.

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Examples of less-than-fee simple acquisitions:

- 38 acres donation of an easement from the State of Florida for the Herbert Hoover dike Rehabilitation project
- 187 acre donation of an easement from Miami-Dade County for operation of the Biscayne Bay Coastal Wetlands Phase 1 CERP project

A total of 263 acres were acquired in less-than-fee simple acquisitions during the reporting cycle.

Example of multi-year acquisition agreements:

- 1,659 acres for the Lake Okeechobee watershed Project was acquired in partnership with the Nature Conservancy (TNC) to complete the multi-year Pomcor acquisition
- 1,263 acres were acquired for the C-51 and South L-8 component of the North Palm Beach County - Part 1 CERP project as part of a 7-year option agreement; the final payment was made in March 2009
- 1,760 acres acquired for the C-23/C-24 Basin Storage South Reservoir and Stormwater Treatment Area (STA) components of the Indian River Lagoon – South CERP project; the remaining scheduled payments were expedited when a final payment was made in June 2009
- 257 acres were acquired for the Palmar/J.W. Corbett Wildlife Management Area Hydropattern Restoration component of the North Palm Palm Beach, Part 1 CERP project; the remaining payments were expedited when the final payment was made in April 2009

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Strategy Purpose and Background

Introduction

The South Florida Ecosystem is an 18,000 square mile region that includes all or part of sixteen counties and has more than six million human inhabitants. The watershed stretches from the Kissimmee River Basin-Lake Okeechobee system in the north to the coral reefs in the south. This water-dominated system encompasses a myriad of interconnected rivers, lakes, marshes, prairies, forests, and estuaries and spans the state between the Atlantic Ocean and the Gulf of Mexico.

In 1948, the ongoing efforts to drain the Everglades, protect the region from hurricanes, and make the region habitable culminated in Congressional authorization of the C&SF Project, a flood control project jointly built and managed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) and the South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD). The primary project goal was to provide water and flood control for urban and agricultural lands. Other goals were to improve habitat for fish and wildlife, ensure a water supply for Everglades National Park, and provide for agricultural, industrial, and recreational uses.

The C&SF Project significantly altered the region's hydrology (quantity, timing, and distribution of water). Historically, most rainwater soaked into the region's wetlands. By the 1970s, the constructed C&SF canal system included over 1,800 miles of canals and levees and 200 water control structures. This immense system diverted an average of 1.7 billion gallons of water per day (5,217 acre-feet per day) into the ocean and Gulf of Mexico.

The desirability of South Florida's climate, geographic location, cultural and social setting, and thriving economic opportunities have contributed to significant population growth since the C&SF Project was completed. While the historic Everglades has been reduced to about half of its original size, the current population in the region is predicted to double by the year 2050⁷. Consequently, the sustainability of the South Florida Ecosystem is in jeopardy. In response to this situation, the Federal, State, regional, and local governments and two Native American Indian Tribes have committed to support the restoration of the South Florida Ecosystem.

Land acquisition is critical to South Florida Ecosystem restoration efforts. Land is needed to preserve habitat for native plants and animals, act as a buffer to existing natural areas, and provide opportunities for recreational pursuits. Land is also needed for water quality treatment areas, water storage reservoirs, and aquifer recharge areas that will help restore the region's natural hydrology.

⁷U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, *Central and Southern Florida Project Comprehensive Review Study Final Integrated Feasibility Report and Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement*, April 1999.

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Purpose

The purpose of the LAS is to describe the land identified jointly by Federal and State agencies for ecosystem restoration and, with its appendices, provide a broad picture of all land acquisition initiatives that contribute to the restoration. The LATT updates the LAS annually for the Task Force. The LATT's Directive is found within Appendix ~~J~~ ^K.

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In April 2000, a General Accounting Office (GAO; now the Government Accountability Office) report recommended that the Task Force develop a land acquisition plan to coordinate member agencies' land acquisition activities. In response to this recommendation, the LAS includes:

- An assessment of the lands needed to accomplish each of the goals of restoration
- A description of the purpose for which the lands will be acquired and how they will be managed
- An estimate of the cost of these lands
- An estimate of when the lands will be needed for related restoration projects
- The agencies responsible for acquiring the lands

The LAS does not propose to acquire the amount of land necessary to restore or recreate the historic Everglades—many of those lands are irretrievably lost. The restored Everglades will be smaller and of a different configuration than the original, but will mimic the historic functions of the Everglades.

The South Florida Ecosystem Restoration Task Force

Six Federal departments (twelve Federal agencies), seven Florida State agencies, two American Indian Tribes, sixteen counties, scores of municipal governments, and interested groups and businesses from throughout South Florida participate in the restoration effort. Given the large geographic area, the diverse missions of these agencies, and the need to maximize the resources available for this effort, coordination among these entities is essential to the restoration effort.

WRDA 1996 established the intergovernmental Task Force. It consists of fourteen members from four sovereign entities: seven Federal agency representatives at the Assistant Secretary or equivalent level, five State representatives, and two Native American Indian representatives. Among other duties, WRDA 1996 requires the Task Force to:

- Coordinate the development of consistent strategies, policies, projects, and programs to address the restoration, preservation, and protection of the South Florida Ecosystem
- Exchange information on Everglades restoration efforts
- Coordinate scientific research
- Facilitate the resolution of interagency and intergovernmental disputes
- Facilitate public participation by the public

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The role of the Task Force is to facilitate the coordination of conservation and restoration efforts implemented through a combination of Federal, State, local, and Tribal initiatives in south Florida. The Task Force provides a forum for the participating entities to share information about their restoration projects and resolve conflicts, and report on progress. Congress and the public are particularly interested in how each individual member's efforts contribute to the larger framework of total ecosystem restoration. The Task Force *Land Acquisition Strategy* is a critical vehicle for sharing information.

Providing a forum for consensus building and issue engagement is a collaborative role, not one in which the Task Force dictates to its members. Because on-the-ground restoration is accomplished through the efforts of the individual Task Force members, they are the ones that are ultimately responsible for their particular programs, projects, and associated funding. This is an important distinction. Each member is accountable individually to its appropriate authorities and to each other for the success of the restoration. The Task Force has no overriding authority to direct its members. Instead the Task Force role of coordination complements the implementation roles of its members. The Task Force also provides opportunities to improve cohesion among public interest groups on the disparate elements and programs of the South Florida Ecosystem restoration (land acquisition and conservation, water quality improvement, water infrastructure development, and habitat protection).

A Working Group and Science Coordination Group (SCG) have been established to assist the Task Force in accomplishing its duties in general. Advisory groups such as the Water Resources Advisory Commission (WRAC) provide the Task Force with recommendations on specific issues.

The intergovernmental Task Force is the only forum that provides strategic coordination and a system-wide perspective to guide the separate restoration efforts being planned and implemented in south Florida. The Task Force members share a vision of a healthy South Florida Ecosystem that supports diverse and sustainable communities of plants, animals, and people. Three goals have been set to achieve this vision:

- Goal 1: Get the water right
- Goal 2: Restore, preserve, and protect natural habitats and species
- Goal 3: Foster compatibility of the built and natural systems

Land acquisition is an essential part of achieving these ecosystem restoration goals.

South Florida Ecosystem Restoration Land Acquisition Needs

The members of the Task Force have been engaged in the protection and restoration of the South Florida Ecosystem for many years prior to the formation of the Task Force. Acquisition of land to provide water for South Florida's human population and to protect natural resources has been an ongoing priority in ecosystem restoration.

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In 1947, the Federal government acquired land to establish Everglades National Park with the substantial contribution of 903,931 acres from the State of Florida. This noteworthy event has been followed and enhanced by numerous programs aimed at protecting and conserving South Florida's natural lands. State and Federal agencies currently manage 4.9 million acres of land important for the protection of natural habitat and species in South Florida (see Appendix D).

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By the mid-1980s, a consensus was developing that water management in the region needed to be improved for natural habitats to respond. In 1989 and 1992 respectively, Congress authorized the Modified Water Deliveries to Everglades National Park and the Kissimmee River Restoration projects. These projects added new land acquisition requirements as part of the improved water management system.

In 1992, Congress authorized the C&SF Comprehensive Review Study (Restudy) to take a system-wide look at the water management system and recommend changes to benefit the remaining Everglades while meeting other water related needs of the region. The Restudy is the foundation of CERP.

WRDA 2000 authorized CERP, perhaps the most ambitious ecological restoration program ever undertaken. CERP provides a framework for modifications and operational changes that are needed to restore, preserve, and protect the South Florida Ecosystem while providing for other water-related needs of the region, including water supply and flood protection. The authorization of CERP added new land acquisition requirements for the restoration of the South Florida Ecosystem.

On June 28, 2007, Florida's governor signed into law the Northern Everglades Initiative which expands the Northern Everglades Estuary and Protection Program (NEEPP) to the entire Northern Everglades system, including the Lake Okeechobee watershed as well as the Caloosahatchee and St. Lucie rivers and estuaries. As part of the plan to improve the health of the Northern Everglades, Florida will set aside land, construct treatment wetlands, and identify water storage areas needed to improve the quality, timing, and distribution of water in the natural system and will add new ecosystem restoration land acquisition requirements to complement the CERP.

On June 24, 2008 Florida Governor Charlie Crist announced that the SWMD would begin negotiating an historic agreement to acquire as much as 187,000 acres of agricultural land owned by the US Sugar Corporation for Everglades restoration. On May 13, 2009, the SFWMD Governing Board approved a strategy to acquire this land. This historic transaction provides for an initial acquisition of 73,000 acres and an option over the next 10 years to purchase an additional 107,000 acres. This is the largest conservation land acquisition ever contemplated by the State of Florida and the vast tracts of land will be used to increase water storage on a scale never before contemplated to revive, restore and preserve Lake Okeechobee, Florida's coastal estuaries and the fabled *River of Grass*.

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Acquisition Strategy

The strategy for land acquisition within the South Florida Ecosystem is to pursue acquisition of lands identified as necessary for restoration in a coordinated and timely manner. These include lands needed to fulfill Task Force goals and objectives (Appendix A) and implement ecosystem restoration initiatives such as CERP. Local government initiatives also contribute to ecosystem-wide restoration. The following is a discussion of land acquisition efforts by goal and initiative to date. Further discussion regarding existing and potential partnerships and mechanisms for land acquisition may be found in the next section.

Acquisition Efforts by Strategic Goal

The Task Force's guiding document, *Coordinating Success: Strategy for Restoration of the South Florida Ecosystem*, identifies projects needed for ecosystem restoration. Projects with land acquisition requirements are included in the following analysis. Specific project information is located within Appendix C.

Goal 1: Get the Water Right

Land acquisition for Goal 1 includes lands needed for CERP and other authorized modifications to the C&SF System including the Kissimmee River Restoration and Headwaters Revitalization Project, the C-111 Canal Project, the Critical Projects authorized in WRDA 96, and Modified Water Deliveries to Everglades National Park. Other water quality improvement projects, such as the 100 percent federally funded Stormwater Treatment Area (STA) 1-East component of the SFWMD's Everglades Construction Project, are also needed to fulfill this goal. A discussion of the state-purchased STAs is in Appendix E.

There are 43 projects identified for acquisition to achieve Goal 1. Land acquisition estimates for these projects total 461,590 acres with 310,810 acres (67 percent) acquired to date. The total estimated cost of these lands is \$3,281,567,000 with an estimated \$1,426,278,000 needed to complete acquisition.⁸

Identification of Lands to be Acquired

The acreage estimated on the project profile sheets in Appendix C reflects the best available information as of June 30, 2009. Non-CERP project land requirements are identified through General Design Memorandums. The Restudy estimated the total

⁸ Cost estimates for remaining acres for the Modified Water Deliveries projects are the estimated fair market value. The Kissimmee River restoration estimates are 2008 estimates to close all contracts and include engineering solutions in lieu of acquisition. For those CERP projects with either a Final Feasibility Study or Project Implementation Report, the Real Estate Plan estimates in those documents have been adjusted to 2008 dollars. For CERP projects that do not have an authorization document, the 1999 Restudy real estates estimates have been adjusted to 2008 dollars.

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lands needed for CERP based on preliminary conceptual project designs. These estimates have been updated for projects with a completed Project Implementation Report (PIR) as required by CERP and an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) as required by the National Environmental Policy Act.

Strategic Acquisitions

Failure to obtain parcels in a timely manner can result in construction delays and reconfiguration not just of one project, but for other related projects as well. Delays in acquiring project lands lessen the possibility that the necessary lands will be acquired and may also increase the cost of land. The MISP construction schedule determines the land acquisition schedule for CERP. In addition, the SFWMD has pursued a strategy of early land acquisition to secure lands for future CERP projects. [Appendix G details Fiscal Year \(FY\) 2009-010 SFWMD priority land acquisitions](#) to meet the MISP schedule. Appendix B identifies all the CERP projects with continued land acquisition needs.

Cost Estimates of Real Estate

Real estate cost estimates for non-CERP projects are based on actual expenditures and the estimated fair market value for remaining land acquisition. For those CERP projects with either a final Feasibility Study or PIR, the Real Estate Plan estimates in those documents have been adjusted to 2008 dollars for those projects that have not been constructed. For CERP projects that do not have an authorization document, the 1999 Restudy real estate estimates have been adjusted to 2008 dollars.

Funding Sources

These funding sources have been used to acquire Goal 1 lands:

- U.S. Department of the Interior (USDOl) Land and Water Conservation Fund
- U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Wetlands Preserve Program
- Federal Agriculture Improvement and Reform Act of 1996 (Farm Bill) Section 390
- Florida Forever – Board of Trustees Program
- State of Florida (Department of Environmental Protection) (FDEP) Save Our Everglades Trust Fund (SOETF)
- Save Our Rivers/Florida Forever (formerly Preservation 2000)
- Broward County Safe Parks and Land Preservation Bond Program
- Conservation Collier
- District Ad Valorem Taxes
- Special State Appropriations
- Lee County Conservation 20/20
- Martin County Lands for Healthy Rivers
- Miami-Dade County Environmentally Endangered Lands Program
- Palm Beach County Land Acquisition Program for Conservation Purposes
- St. Lucie County Environmentally Significant Lands Program
- The Nature Conservancy

The 2000 Everglades Restoration and Investment Act, Section 373.470 F.S., established a full and equal partnership between the State and Federal governments for

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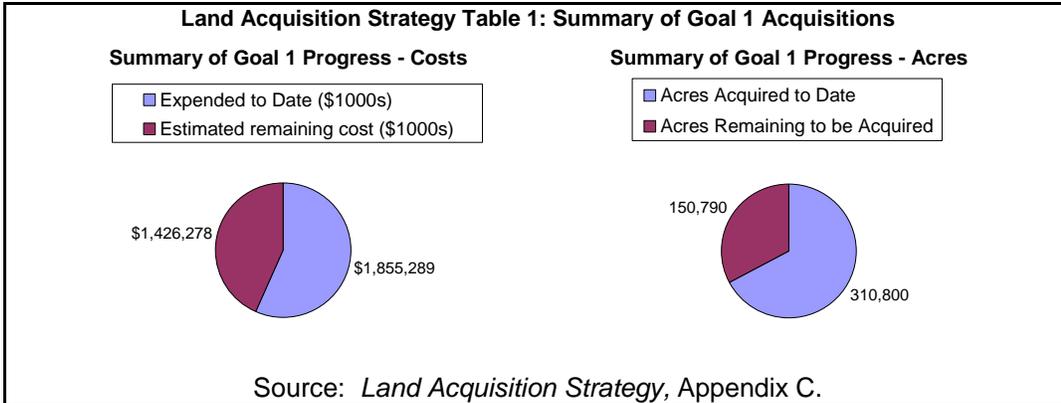
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the implementation of CERP. The Act established the Save Our Everglades Trust Fund to fund the State's cost share of implementing CERP. **Legislation passed in 2007 to authorize use of these funds** for the Northern Everglades and Estuaries Protection Program (NEEPP).

Florida's **2009-2010** budget includes **\$231.5** million for Everglades restoration. **These funds are provided for the design and construction of components of CERP and NEEP, and the acquisition of lands for projects included in these plans. Additionally, \$3 million of the 2009-2010 appropriation is provided to the Department of Agricultural and Consumer Services for implementation of the agricultural nonpoint source controls in the Northern Everglades watershed.**

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Goal 2: Restore, Preserve, and Protect Natural Habitats and Species

Habitat and species protection goals are met primarily through large public holdings such as parks and wildlife refuges. The LAS tracks the land acquisition needs of the three national parks/preserves, sixteen wildlife refuges, and nine CERP wetland restoration projects that contribute to this goal.

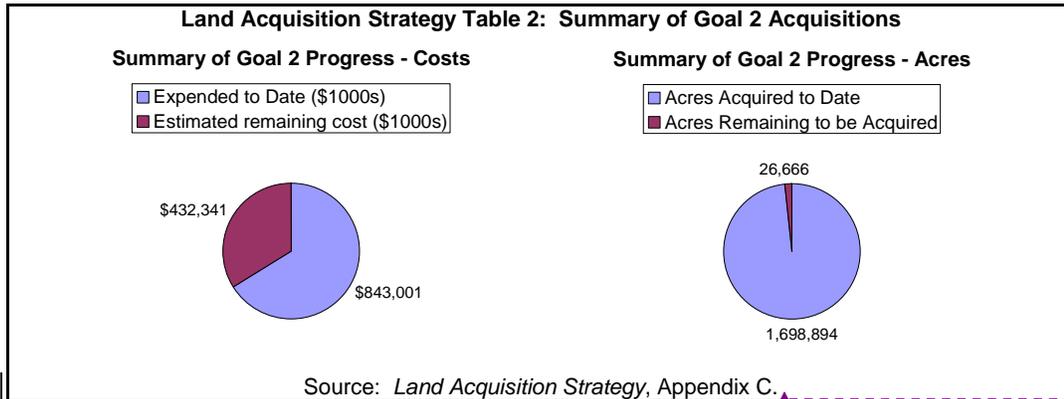
There are **twenty-one** projects identified for acquisition to achieve Goal 2. To date, **1,725,561** acres are estimated to be needed to achieve the targets established for this goal with **1,698,894** (98 percent) acres acquired. The total estimated cost of these lands is approximately **\$1,275,342,000** with an estimated **\$432,341,000** needed to complete acquisition of these parcels.⁹

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⁹ Cost estimates for remaining acquisitions for National Wildlife Refuges and National Parks projects are based on estimated fair market value. The FDEP uses tax assessment values to estimate land costs for the Indian River lagoon Blueway. The cost estimate for remaining acres for the Strazzulla Wetlands Water Preserve Area Project is the Real Estate Plan estimate in the October 2001 Water Preserve Area Feasibility Study adjusted to **2008** dollars. For those CERP projects with either a Final Feasibility Study or Project Implementation Report, the Real Estate Plan estimates in those documents have been adjusted to **2008** dollars. For those CERP projects that do not have an authorization document, the 1999 Restudy real estate estimates have been adjusted to **2008** dollars.

The habitat and species table in Appendix D lists all the Goal 2 land acquisition projects, regardless of Federal funding involvement. These projects are on the state's Florida Forever/Save Our Rivers (FF/SOR) project list. FF/SOR projects have been in transition over the last decade. As a precursor to the Critical Restoration Projects (CRP) and the CERP initiatives, several FF/SOR projects included lands to be used for the construction of facilities, such as reservoirs and impoundments. The table in Appendix D has been revised to reflect acres of natural lands only, as opposed to those obtained for construction projects.

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Identification of Lands to be Acquired

Any major boundary revisions to existing units of the national park system must be established by an act of Congress. Likewise, national wildlife refuge land acquisitions must be consistent with existing Congressional authorization. Land acquisition needs for CERP wetland restoration projects are identified in the Picayune Strand Restoration Project (Southern Golden Gate Estates) PIR, the Water Preserve Area Feasibility Study (Strazzulla Wetlands), and the Henderson Creek/Belle Meade conceptual plan.

Strategic Acquisitions

Land acquisition to complete park and refuge boundaries is a multi-year process and can span decades. The goal is to acquire lands before on-site resources are destroyed.

The Picayune Strand Restoration Project is centrally located among several nature preserves, wildlife refuges, and other wildlife areas in Collier County, one of the fastest growing counties in the nation. The acquisition of lands for this project will protect over 2.3 million contiguous acres of wildlife habitat.

The acquisition of the Strazzulla wetlands, immediately adjacent to the Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge, will increase the spatial extent of wetlands and will provide habitat connectivity for species that require large, unfragmented tracts of land for survival. This unique and endangered habitat contains the only remaining cypress habitat in the eastern Everglades and one of the few remaining sawgrass marshes adjacent to the coastal ridge.

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Cost Estimates of Real Estate

The National Park Service (NPS) and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) cost estimates for land acquisitions for national parks and national wildlife refuges are based on fair market value and appraisals that meet State and Federal standards. The FDEP, as the acquisition agent for Picayune Strand and Henderson Creek/Belle Meade projects, uses tax assessment values to estimate land costs. The cost estimate for the Strazzulla Wetlands CERP project is based on the 2001 Water Preserve Area Feasibility Study and has been adjusted to 2008 dollars.

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Funding Sources

These funding sources have been used to acquire Goal 2 lands:

- USDOJ Land and Water Conservation Fund
- Conservation and Recreation Lands (CARL)
- District Ad Valorem Taxes
- Florida Forever – Board of Trustees Program
- Save Our Rivers/Florida Forever (formerly Preservation 2000)
- City of Sanibel
- Collier County
- Monroe County
- The Conservation Fund
- The Nature Conservancy
- National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Coastal and Estuarine Land Conservation Program

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Goal 3: Foster Compatibility of the Built and Natural System

The 2002 and now the 2008 Farm Bill authorized several USDA administered programs to provide financial incentives to private landowners to restore or enhance wetlands and improve wildlife habitat while protecting working farms or retiring marginal land from agricultural production. The LAS tracks the WRP and FRPP efforts to achieve Goal 3 land acquisition objectives through permanent and 30-year conservation easements. These acquisitions include lands needed for CERP Projects. Other state and local acquisitions that contribute to this goal are discussed in Appendix F.

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The WRP is a voluntary program to assist landowners in restoring wetlands that have had wetlands functions reduced or eliminated by agricultural production practices. Priority is given to those lands that will maximize wildlife habitat. Permanent and 30-year conservation easements provide financial incentives for wetlands enhancement in exchange for retiring marginal agricultural lands. NRCS has obligated \$88.9 million dollars to secure WRP easements on 36,045 acres since the passage of the 2002 Farm Bill.

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The FRPP provides matching funds to help purchase development rights to keep productive farm and rangeland in agricultural uses. The USDA partners with State and

local governments, Tribes, and non-governmental organizations to acquire conservation easements from landowners. The USDA provides up to 50 percent of the fair market value of the conservation easement. Since the passage of the 2002 Farm Bill, 5,497 acres in south Florida have been acquired through the FRPP at a cost of \$5.8 million.

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Identification of Lands to be Acquired

To be eligible for the WRP, land must be restorable and suitable for wildlife benefits. This includes:

- Wetlands farmed under natural conditions
- Farmed wetlands
- Prior converted cropland
- Farmed wetland pasture
- Farmland that has become a wetland as a result of flooding
- Range land, pasture, or production forest land where the hydrology has been significantly degraded and can be restored
- Riparian areas which link protected wetlands
- Lands adjacent to protected wetlands that contribute significantly to wetland functions and values
- Previously restored wetlands that need long-term protection

To qualify for the FRPP, farmland must:

- Be part of a pending offer from a State, Tribe, or local farmland protection program
- Be privately owned
- Have a conservation plan for highly erodible land
- Be large enough to sustain agricultural production
- Be accessible to markets for what the land produces
- Have adequate infrastructure and agricultural support services
- Have surrounding parcels of land that can support long-term agricultural production

Strategic Acquisitions

For the WRP, the USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) places priority on the enrollment of those lands that will maximize wildlife values, especially related to enhancing habitat for migratory birds. The priority ranking factors for the WRP are:

- Habitat
- Location
- Hydrology
- Wildlife species
- Operation and maintenance
- Likelihood of success

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All sites within the South Florida Ecosystem restoration area receive an automatic 25 points in the NRCS priority ranking to encourage enrollment and increase the WRP contribution to the habitat restoration goals of the Task Force.

There are no special south Florida enrollment incentives for the FRPP. The State Conservationist, with advice from the State Technical Committee, establishes a weighted ranking system. Priority is given to easements that protect the nation's most threatened prime, unique, and important farmland or historical and archeological sites on farm and ranch lands. In evaluation of proposals and parcels, at least 50 percent of the weight is based on the national criteria. The remaining weight is based on state criteria contained in the State FRPP plan.

Cost Estimates of Real Estate

The WRP Geographic Area Rate Cap (GARC) is based on easement methodology that takes into account the University of Florida's Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences' (IFAS) annual *Florida Land Value Study* and the historic impact of WRP easement on the property values. The South Florida GARC is \$5,897 per acre for a permanent easement and \$4,441 per acre for a 30-year easement.

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The value of a FRPP conservation easement is determined through a professional appraisal. A qualified appraiser assesses the difference between the fair market value of a property, often using comparable sales, and its restricted value under the easement.

Available Funding Sources

The State Conservationist requests funds annually to fund WRP easements. Historically, Florida's WRP funding has ranged from \$8 to 11 million annually. WRP applications are funded from the priority list until all funds are obligated. It is important to note that funds obligated in one year cannot be used to fund applications in a different year and all unused funds for a fiscal year must be returned to the USDA.

The FRPP is funded through the USDA Commodity Credit Corporation. The FRPP share of the conservation easement cost must not exceed 50 percent of the appraised fair market value of the conservation easement. As part of its share of the cost of purchasing a conservation easement, a State or local government, Tribe, or non-governmental organization may include a charitable donation by the landowner of up to 25 percent of the appraised fair market value of the conservation easement. At a minimum, a cooperating entity must provide, in cash, 25 percent of the appraised fair market value or 50 percent of the purchase price of the conservation easement.

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Acquisition Efforts by Initiative

Key ecosystem restoration initiatives like CERP and the State's expedited projects provide significant contributions toward achieving the Task Force's three strategic goals. Additionally, many local governments within the region have land acquisition programs

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that significantly contribute to ecosystem restoration. The following is a discussion of these programs and associated land acquisition.

CERP

WRDA 2000 authorized CERP. Implementation of CERP is one of the highest priorities for the Task Force because of its significant contribution to the restoration of the South Florida Ecosystem.

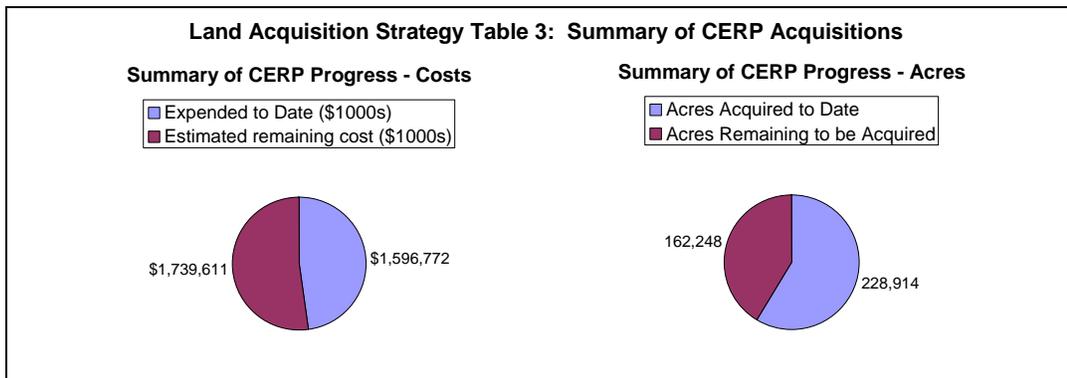
CERP land acquisition is ahead of schedule as compared to the March 2005 MISP land acquisition strategy. This is a result of the State acquiring acreage at the earliest possible time and has prevented these lands needed for restoration from being developed.

With the 2000 passage of the Everglades Restoration Investment Act and subsequent amendments, the state appropriated funds which are disbursed to the SFWMD for land acquisition, design and construction and technical planning needed to implement CERP and NEEPP.

For those projects with either a final Feasibility Study or PIR, the Real Estate Plan estimates in those documents have been adjusted to 2008 dollars. For those projects that do not have an authorization document, the 1999 Restudy real estate estimates have been adjusted to 2008 dollars.

Land acquisition estimates for CERP projects total 391,162 acres with 230,191 acres (59 percent) acquired to date. The total estimated cost of these lands is \$2,680,509,000 (was \$3,336,383,000 with adjustment to 2007 dollars), with an estimated \$1,059,636,000 needed to complete acquisition for CERP.¹⁰

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¹⁰ Source: March 31, 2009, SFWMD CERP Master. The estimated costs for remaining acres for CERP projects with either a Final Feasibility Study or Project Implementation Report is based on the Real Estate Plan estimates which have been adjusted to 2008 dollars. For CERP projects that do not have an authorization document, the 1999 Restudy real estate estimates have been adjusted to 2008 dollars.

Source: Land Acquisition Strategy, Appendix C with local and Tribal sponsored CERP projects.

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Expedited Projects

In October 2004, the State of Florida announced the *Acceler8* initiative and its commitment to provide \$1.5 billion to accelerate the design and construction of projects selected for the immediate benefits they can provide to the Everglades and the South Florida Ecosystem. The majority of these are projects, or portions of projects identified in the CERP. Most of the lands for these projects are already in public ownership and were acquired with a combination of Federal and State funds.

Over time, the SFWMD expanded this initial list of projects to also support a number of other restoration and water quality initiatives now under way in both the Northern and Southern reaches of South Florida’s interconnected ecosystem. The SFWMD’s continued commitment to design and build projects to benefit the environment is now referred to as “expedited” projects. All of the SFWMD’s expedited projects are listed below.

Northern Everglades

- Lakeside Ranch Stormwater Treatment Area (STA)*
- Taylor Creek Reservoir
- Permanent Forward Pumps*
- Brady Ranch Stormwater Treatment Area (STA)*
- C-44 (St. Lucie Canal) Reservoir/ Stormwater Treatment Area
- C-43 (Caloosahatchee River) West Reservoir
- C-43 Water Quality Treatment/Testing Facility
- Spanish Creek Four Corners*

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Southern Everglades

- L-8 Reservoir
- Everglades Agricultural Area (EAA) Reservoir Phase A-1
- EAA STAs*
- Acme Basin B Discharge
- Fran Reich Preserve (Site 1)
- Broward Water Preserve Area (WPA) Projects
- Picayune Strand Restoration
- Biscayne Bay Coastal Wetlands – Phase 1
- C-111 Spreader Canal – Phase 1

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Land acquisition estimates for the expedited projects total 130,022 acres of which approximately 3,559 acres are publicly-owned lands, including land owned by utilities. Approximately 126,220 acres (97 percent) have been acquired to date with an

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estimated 1,119 acres needed to complete acquisition for these projects. Expenditures to date total \$758,668,182.¹²

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Northern Everglades and Estuaries Protection Program

On June 28, 2007, Florida's governor signed into law the Northern Everglades Initiative which expands the Northern Everglades Estuary and Protection Program (NEEPP) to the entire Northern Everglades system, including the Lake Okeechobee watershed as well as the Caloosahatchee and St. Lucie rivers and estuaries. As part of the plan to improve the health of the Northern Everglades, Florida will set aside land, construct treatment wetlands, and identify water storage areas needed to improve the quality, timing, and distribution of water in the natural system and will add new ecosystem restoration land acquisition requirements to complement the CERP.

Land acquisition estimates for the NEEPP projects total XXXXX acres. Approximately XXXX (XX percent) of the acquisition acres have been acquired to date with an estimated XXXX acres remaining to complete acquisition for these projects. Total expenditures to date are \$XXXXXXXX. State land acquisition associated with NEEPP is described in Appendix J.

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Local Contributions

Local governments have also made significant land acquisition contributions to South Florida Ecosystem restoration goals:

Goal 1: Local governments have contributed over \$102 million for CERP land acquisition.

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Goal 2: Local governments have contributed over \$527 million for the natural habitat lands identified in Appendix D.

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Goal 3: Counties hold title to over 165,000 of lands that contribute towards the park, recreation, and open space objective of Goal 3.

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¹² Source: March 31, 2009, SFWMD CERP Master. The CERP Master total for expedited projects only those with federal involvement; acquisition status for the solely state sponsored expedited projects (denoted with an asterisk (*)) are discussed in Appendix J.

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Acquisition Partnerships and Mechanisms

Over 50 funding sources that could potentially be utilized in support of South Florida Ecosystem restoration are identified in Appendix H. These include Federal, State, and local government programs as well as those of non-governmental organizations. Fifteen have been used to date in support of South Florida Ecosystem restoration goals and land acquisition. Many of the programs provide opportunities to match or leverage funding available through other sources for land acquisition, conservation, or restoration. Further discussion of several of these partnerships and mechanisms follows.

Federal/State/Local Acquisition Partnerships

In many ways South Florida Ecosystem restoration began with the Federal/State partnership to establish Everglades National Park. Continued cooperation and coordination between Federal, State, and local partners in Everglades restoration has maximized the resources available for land acquisition.

The State of Florida's strong commitment to funding acquisition of environmental lands is the foundation of these partnerships.

The State of Florida's strong commitment to funding acquisition of environmental lands is the foundation of these partnerships. *Florida Forever is Florida's premier conservation and recreation lands acquisition program, a blueprint for conserving natural resources and renewing Florida's commitment to conserve the state's natural and cultural heritage. Florida Forever replaces Preservation 2000 (P2000), the largest public land acquisition program of its kind in the United States. With a total of 3.8 million acres of conservation land purchased in Florida, 2.4 million acres were purchased under the Florida Forever and P2000 programs. Florida spent \$3 billion during the ten years of P2000 and another \$2.6 billion of Florida Forever at of June 30, 2009. This commitment was renewed by the passage of Florida Forever legislation in April 2008, with an additional \$3 billion investment through 2020. The current distribution of funds was changed by:*

- Allocating 3.5 percent to the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (FDACS) *to support the rural and Family Lands program* for the acquisition of agricultural lands through perpetual easements and other perpetual less-than-fee techniques
- Reducing from 35 percent (\$105 million) to 30 percent (\$90 million) those funds distributed to the water management districts for use in acquiring lands and paying for capital projects related to land preservation and water resource development
- Allocating 2.5 percent to the Department of Community Affairs (DCA) for implementation of the *Stan Mayfield Working Waterfronts Program*

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- Reducing Florida Communities Trust (FCT) funding from 22 percent to 21 percent

The current distribution of funds was changed as noted in the chart that follows:

Table 4: Florida Forever Percentage Distribution

Agency	DISTRIBUTION (2000-01 to 2007-08)		NEW DISTRIBUTION (Begin 2008-09)	
	Fla. Forever % Distribution	Fla. Forever Appropriations	Fla. Forever % Distribution	Fla. Forever Appropriations
State Lands	35.0%	\$ 105,000,000	35.0%	\$ 105,000,000
Rec. & Parks	1.5%	\$ 4,500,000	1.5%	\$ 4,500,000
FWCC	1.5%	\$ 4,500,000	1.5%	\$ 4,500,000
DACS-DOF	1.5%	\$ 4,500,000	1.5%	\$ 4,500,000
<i>DACS-Rural and Family Lands</i>			3.5%	\$ 10,500,000
OGT-RtoT	1.5%	\$ 4,500,000	1.5%	\$ 4,500,000
DCA-FCT	22.0%	\$ 66,000,000	21.0%	\$ 63,000,000
<i>DCA-Working Waterfronts Program</i>			2.5%	\$ 7,500,000
FRDAP	2.0%	\$ 6,000,000	2.0%	\$ 6,000,000
WMD*	35.0%	\$ 105,000,000	30.0%	\$ 90,000,000
TOTAL	100%	\$ 300,000,000	100%	\$ 300,000,000
*WMD				
NFWWMD	7.5%	\$ 7,875,000	7.5%	\$ 6,750,000
SRWMD	7.5%	\$ 7,875,000	7.5%	\$ 6,750,000
SWFWMD	25.0%	\$ 26,250,000	25.0%	\$ 22,500,000
SJWMD	25.0%	\$ 26,250,000	25.0%	\$ 22,500,000
**SFWMD	35.0%	\$ 36,750,000	35.0%	\$ 31,500,000

****\$25,000,000 of the amount appropriated to the South Florida Water Management District for Bond Series I and II was transferred to the Everglades Trust Fund for Everglades Restoration.**

Unfortunately, this year's budget fails to include debt service to issue a new series of bonds for 2009 – 2010. This is the first year in the history of the Florida Forever program where the Florida Legislature has failed to authorize new bonding and budget authority for the Florida Forever program.

It is hopeful that as the economy improves, the documentary stamp tax funding source for Florida Forever will increase and continue to provide a dependable funding source for the program.

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Florida Forever Program /Federal Partnerships

The FDEP Division of State Lands (DSL) coordinates park and refuge land acquisitions with the Federal government. Lands purchased under the Florida Forever Program are managed under lease agreements by the appropriate federal park or wildlife refuge where the parcels contribute to the conservation of priority habitats and associated species. For example, seventy percent of the acres remaining to be acquired for the National Key Deer Refuge are also on DSL's Florida Forever acquisition list. The DSL is cooperating with the NPS on the Big Cypress National Preserve and Big Cypress National Preserve Addition.

Farm Bill Partnerships

In 1996, the USDO, FDEP, and SFWMD participated in a unique land acquisition partnership thanks to a specific congressional action. The Farm Bill of 1996 provided \$200 million to the Secretary of the Interior to fund or conduct restoration activities in the Everglades ecosystem. The 1996 Farm Bill funds, along with State funds, were utilized to purchase lands for CERP projects in the East Coast Buffer/Water Preserve Area, the EAA/Talisman property, and Picayune Strand Restoration (formerly known as Southern Golden Gate Estates).

The Land and Water Conservation Fund

The SFWMD has received about **\$183 million** in land acquisition grant funds from the USDO's Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) through FY **2009**. These funds have been used to acquire lands within the East Coast Buffer/Water Preserve Area, the EAA, STA-1 East, Southern Corkscrew Regional Ecosystem Watershed (CREW), Taylor Creek/Nubbin Slough, C-43 Basin Storage (Berry Groves), the Frog Pond area adjacent to Everglades National Park, and the Modified Water Deliveries/East Everglades.

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CERP Partnerships

Restoration partners have acquired 58 percent of the necessary CERP lands at a cost of \$1.6 billion, of which **\$319 million** was provided by the Federal government (USDO and USDA), **\$ 1.2 billion** from the State (SFWMD and FDEP), and **\$102 million** by local government.

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Leveraging Limited Funds

Partners at all levels of government recognize the need to both prioritize strategic acquisitions and create additional funding capacity through more coordinated and efficient use of existing programs, particularly as the cost of land in south Florida continues to rise. Certain mechanisms, such as less-than-fee acquisitions and innovative partnerships, can help maximize the use of limited fiscal resources. Some examples of these mechanisms are described below.

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Conservation Banks

The USFWS has added conservation banking to the arsenal of land acquisition options in South Florida. Conservation banks are permanently protected privately or publically owned lands that are managed for endangered, threatened, and other at-risk species. A conservation bank is like a biological bank account. Instead of money, the bank owner has habitat or species credits to sell. The USFWS approved habitat or species credits based on the natural resource values on the bank lands. In exchange for permanently protecting the bank lands and managing them for listed and other at-risk specie, conservation bank owners may sell credits to developers or others who need to compensate for the environmental impacts of their projects. Conservation banks, while directed at protecting and enhancing specific endangered species habitat will also help protect other valuable environmental resources, such as wetlands, aquifer-recharge areas, drinking water supplies and the habitat of state-listed species. Currently, one conservation bank (1,930 acres) has been approved and 15,800 acres are under review.

Conservation Easements

Conservation easements involve purchasing a portion of the rights associated with the land to provide some degree of protection to natural resources on the land. There are several advantages of this approach as the land stays on the tax rolls and the private landowner maintains responsibility for managing the property while still allowing some level of continued use. Although the cost could be as low as 25 percent of the cost of fee simple, the price depends on many factors, such as the number of rights purchased, the degree to which the landowner's use of the land is curtailed, and the development pressure on the land. The SFWMD, NRCS, [USFWS](#) and FDEP all use this tool to protect lands. Currently, conservation easements are contributing to the protection of 207,930 acres.

Some new federal and state initiatives have been enacted recently to make conservation easements more attractive to private landowners. The Wetlands Reserve Enhancement Program (WREP), a new program in the federal 2008 Farm Bill, provides the added incentive to the private landowner to participate in the WREP as the landowner may reserve grazing rights if the reservation is compatible with restoration goals. In the Fisheating Creek basin there are 15-20 landowners representing 20,000 acres with an additional 6 land owners representing 20,000 acres that are pre-enrolled to participate in the WREP.

The Florida electorate passed Amendment 4 in November 2008 and thereby amended the state constitution. Passage provides two levels of financial incentives for private landowners to protect their land, either through short-term or perpetual conservation easement. Additionally, the Florida legislature created a level of property assessment akin to the present "greenbelt" or agricultural assessment classification, this one called "conservation use".

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Engineering Cost-to-Cure Acquisitions

Engineering solutions can be developed to off-set the need to acquire land in order to implement and operate restoration projects. SFWMD works with private landowners to determine structural solutions that can abate impacts from project construction and minimize the amount of lands needed to execute a project. Cost-to-cure solutions are complicated and require more time than standard land-only acquisitions. For example, the Kissimmee River Restoration project Grape Hammock Fish Camp transaction included a cost-to-cure feature that protected the current residential mobile home operation and avoided the acquisition of 40 tenant sites and 70 rental recreational vehicle campsites to accommodate the acquisition of fee and permanent flowage easements of approximately 37 acres within the Kissimmee Chain of Lakes.

Florida Ranchlands and Environmental Services Program

The World Wildlife Fund received NRCS and State funding to implement the Florida Ranchlands Environmental Services Project (FRESP) a three year pilot project to design and field-test a pay-for-performance program that would pay ranchers in the Northern Everglades for the documented provision of water related environmental services, specifically water and phosphorus retention. **Four pilot projects have been constructed and four more are being planned. Eight private landowners, the SFWMD, NRCS, FDEP, and FDACS are partners on this project and technical support is being provided by UF-IFAS and the MacArthur Agro-Ecology Research Center (edit pending).**

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Multi-year Payout Agreements

Another alternative to the traditional fee simple purchase contract is the multiyear payout agreement used by the SFWMD. The agreements allow properties to be secured today and taken off the development market. At the same time, these options provide ample due diligence review time for the SFWMD, and allow purchase of property over multiple years. Approximately **14,613 acres** have been contracted for acquisition through these agreements.

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Mitigation Funds

The SFWMD no longer accepts mitigation funds from developers. However, over **\$2 million** is available to the District's land acquisition program for use in the CREW and Shingle Creek projects.

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In addition, the Lakebelt Mitigation program in Miami-Dade County has raised **\$31 million** for land acquisition, restoration and long-term management since 2000 for the wetland resources lost to mining activities in this area.

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Mitigation Lands

The strategic use of mitigation programs also contributes to the environmental restoration effort in south Florida. If a proposed project will result in negative impacts to wetlands, those impacts must be mitigated by the creation or enhancement of wetlands either on-site or off-site. Mitigation can be required as a condition of a Federal, State, or local permit.

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Various options exist to permanently protect mitigation lands. A private owner can retain fee title ownership of the land, with a permanent conservation easement on the land assigned to a governmental entity or a private, non-profit conservation organization. Another option is for a governmental entity or private non-profit conservation organization to hold fee title to the land, and the land also has a conservation easement on it held by another entity. A third alternative is for the fee simple title to be held by a government entity or private non-profit conservation organization. Mitigation lands can also be protected through Federal, State, or local regulatory instruments with the title held by a private entity. Table 4 provides acreage for selected mitigation lands in south Florida falling under these categories. More than **119,000** acres are being protected through various mitigation programs. **Appendix I** provides a map and additional information on south Florida mitigation lands.

Land Acquisition Strategy Table 5: Selected Mitigation Lands in South Florida	
TYPE/PROJECT NAME	ACRES
Mitigation lands with a conservation easement, with the fee title held by a private entity (excluding private non-profit conservation organizations)	78,717
Mitigation lands with a conservation easement, with the fee title held by government or a private non-profit conservation organization	23,685
Mitigation lands with no conservation easement, with fee simple title held by government or a private non-profit conservation organization	13,230
Mitigation lands protected through Federal, State, or local regulatory instruments with the title held by a private entity	3,758 ¹³
Total acres all categories	119,390

Source: The South Florida Water Management District, Florida Department of Environmental Protection, Florida Natural Areas Inventory, Lee County, Miami-Dade County and Palm Beach County.

Rural Land Stewardship Program

In 2001, Florida created the Rural Lands Stewardship Program. First designed as a pilot program, legislation in 2004 expanded the program to all counties statewide. Local governments designate stewardship areas through comprehensive plan amendments. The intent is to coordinate development within rural lands in a manner that preserves agriculture and protects the environment. Once designated, credits are allocated to individual parcels based on environmental and other values of the property. The credits are recorded as a covenant or restrictive easement in favor of the county and the FDEP, FDACS, or a statewide land trust.

Florida Department of Community Affairs (DCA) **initiated rule development in June 2007 to solicit public input prior to rule adoption. Under the statute, one Rural Land Stewardship Area (RSLA) was designated: Adams Ranch/Cloud Grove. Also the**

¹³ This figure includes **3,758 acres** of lands in private ownership in Miami-Dade County that are protected either by covenants or through local, State, and/or Federal permits that require conservation in perpetuity as mitigation.

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Department authorized designation of a RLSA in Highlands and Osceola Counties. The status of these designations is as follows:

- St. Lucie County plans have stalled. The County is currently working with DCA to re-evaluate its rural lands planning efforts
- Osceola County chose to instead pursue a large-scale comprehensive plan amendment that would create a “new city overlay”. As a result, DCA withdrew its authorization to designate a RLSA
- Highlands County, at the request of two landowners, informed DCA that it no longer wanted to pursue RLSA designation. DCA then withdrew its authorization to designate a RLSA

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Surplus/Exchange Lands

The SFWMD may sell or exchange surplus lands, including easements and other legal interests in real property not required for present or future use. Surplus lands are determined not necessary for any identified project by a formal SFWMD routing and approval process. As further justification, some of these lands were acquired as remainder parcels, that is, the portions of acquisition parcels falling outside the approved project boundary. Acquisition staff creatively use these surplus lands in lieu of cash and as further incentive for landowners to make a negotiated deal and avoid costly condemnation proceedings.

Examples of surplus/exchange transactions

- C-44 Reservoir surplus and exchange transactions were performed to relocate the drainage and canal system located within the project boundary; completion of these transactions was critical for moving forward with design and construction of the project
- A C-43 Reservoir exchange, an outstanding transaction for several years, was completed in September 2007. This exchange completed the land acquisition requirements consistent with the PIR design of the C-43 West Reservoir
- A 1,357 acres conservation easement and a 2.69 acres access easement was conveyed to the U.S. Department of Agriculture **Wetlands Reserve Program** for \$5 million as part of the Indian River Lagoon-South, Allapattah Complex Natural Storage and Water Quality Area project
- **SFWMD surplus and conveyed 1,360 acres of real estate interests to the U.S. Department of Agriculture Wetlands Reserve Program receiving \$5 million to offset the SFWMD's cost of acquiring lands within the PalMar Complex, a component of the Indian River Lagoon- South CERP project**

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Water Management Agreements on Public, Private and Tribal Lands

A key component of the Northern Everglades and Estuaries Protection Plan involves water management on public, private and tribal lands land to increase water retention, detention and/or storage in the watershed. The SFWMD, Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (FDACS), and FDEP have executed a memorandum of understanding to encourage the voluntary creation/restoration of wetlands and water retention or detention on lands within the Lake Okeechobee

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watershed. The memorandum defines the responsibilities of the participating agencies and the long-term responsibilities of participating landowners (edit pending).

Mitigating the Loss of Tax Revenue

Land acquisition for ecosystem restoration removes lands from the tax rolls. Both the Federal and State governments have programs to offset the loss of tax revenues to counties that contain Federal or State tax-exempt lands.

Division of Forestry Payment to Counties

The state Division of Forestry (DOF) makes annual payments to county school boards for State Forests within their boundaries. For revenue collected during FY 2007-08, DOF paid \$35,345.95 to Collier County for the Okaloacoochee Slough and Picayune Strand State Forests. Hendry County received \$774.03 for the Okaloacoochee Slough State Forest.

Payment in Lieu of Taxes Programs

Florida's Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILT) program is limited to counties with a population of 150,000 or less with conservation lands removed from the tax rolls through the P-2000 and Florida Forever acquisition programs. Once eligibility has been established, the governmental entity shall receive consecutive annual payments for each tax loss until the county or local government exceeds the population threshold of 150,000 and a determination of no further eligibility shall be made during that period.

For FY 2008-09, the FDEP paid \$500,945 to school boards, counties, and other units of government in six counties on 132,222 acres in South Florida. During FY 2009, the SFWMD made the fourth payment of \$57,803.06 to Hendry County for 8,513 acres purchased for STAs 5 and 6. Also, during FY 2009, the SFWMD made the fourth payment in PILT of \$2,766.60 to Highlands County for 358.69 acres purchased for the Kissimmee River Restoration project.

In South Florida, the U.S. Federal Government compensates jurisdictions with tax-exempt federal lands administered by the FDEP. In FY 2009, a payment of \$1,891,657 was made to eight counties for acres of federal holdings through its PILT program. The payments are for all federal lands that are eligible, including those managed by USDOJ.

Refuge Revenue Sharing Program

The USFWS makes annual payments to counties or other units of local government through its Refuge Revenue Sharing program. For FY 2008, the USFWS paid \$970,490 on 80,051 acres that the Service administers.

Tools to Identify Strategic Acquisitions

Several Federal and State agencies participating in South Florida Ecosystem restoration have analyzed potential land acquisitions in order to protect habitat for Florida's rarest plant and animal species. Several tools have been developed to assist

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conservation land acquisition agents in identifying strategic land acquisitions within their area of concern. The following is a discussion of some of those tools.

Critical Lands and Waters Identification Project (CLIP)

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The Florida Natural Areas Inventory (FNAI) is collaborating with the University of Florida GeoPlan Center and the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission on a Critical Lands and Waters Identification Project (CLIP) for the state's Century Commission for a Sustainable Florida. CLIP is a scientifically-sound and transparent process to identify Florida's "must save" environmental treasures and critical green structure. The goal of CLIP is to develop the best available planning tool to inform the state's decision-making in envisioning – and insuring – a sustainable future. Further information is available at http://centurycommission.org/current_projects.asp#CLIP (edit pending).

Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission Conservation Strategy

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The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) is the lead entity for the development of Florida's Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategy. This strategy uses a habitat-based approach to identify threats and the actions needed to address them. To support this effort, the FWC established Florida's Wildlife Legacy Initiative in 2004.

Major statewide conservation issues identified in the FWC Strategy include:

- Habitat loss and fragmentation
- Degradation of water resources
- Incompatible fire management
- Invasive plants and animals

Management of the physical environment (i.e., dredging and shoreline hardening activities, etc.).

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Several habitat types are recognized for their unique importance within south Florida's natural ecosystem:

- Sandhill
- Scrub
- Submerged aquatic vegetation (seagrass)
- Coral reef

The Initiative's priorities also include the Cooperative Conservation Blueprint, a statewide geographic information and decision support system for long-term land use planning. The Blueprint will identify Florida's critical lands and waters and incorporate broad input from citizens, agencies, landowners, and businesses to create a common 50 to 100 year vision for Florida's land use. More information can be found at www.myfwc.com/wildlifelegacy/strategy.html (edit pending).

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Florida Natural Areas Inventory Maps

FNAI has developed or compiled statewide natural resource data to inform the Florida Forever conservation land acquisition program. These data are available as Geographic Information Systems (GIS) data files at www.fnai.org/flforever.cfm.

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Additional tools are available on the FNAI website (www.fnai.org):

- Searchable rare species tracking list
- Conservation lands map server
- Online field guides to rare species
- Invasive species GIS data
- Biodiversity Matrix Map Server - a screening tool that provides immediate, free access to rare species occurrence information statewide

The LandScope Florida website draws together maps, reliable data and compelling information about the environment from many sources and presents them in dynamic and accessible formats. The website features a state-of-the-art online map viewer with a wealth of information including FNAI's conservation lands, conservation priorities, threats, plants and animals, and ecosystems.

LandScope Florida provides:

- A wide-ranging set of useful tools for conservation planning and priority setting
- A user-friendly site that integrates multimedia information with scientifically-vetted conservation data
- An interactive experience for sharing conservation initiatives and inspiring action

LandScope can be accessed at <http://www.landscape.org/florida>.

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Habitat Conservation Plans

Habitat Conservation Plans (HCP) are a tool that can be used to balance the need to conserve the habitat of species listed under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) and the needs of private and public landowners to make economic use of their own property. While this is a tool that is specifically used to manage Federal listed species, it can also be useful in managing many endemic species within the same habitat. Possible HCP benefits include:

- Shift the conservation focus from single-species management to multi-specie habitat management
- Engage private landowners and local governments in conservation planning
- Protect unlisted species, thereby reducing the likelihood that listing will be needed
- Promote long-term conservation of species and habitats through protection and management

Charlotte and Highlands Counties as well as the City of Cape Coral are working with the USFWS to craft HCPs for the Federally threatened Florida scrub-jay.

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Natural Lands Report

In 2006, a subgroup of the Task Force's LATT produced the *Natural Lands Report* (NLR) in response to a request from the U.S. House of Representatives' Interior Appropriations Sub-Committee. It identifies and prioritizes the natural attributes of lands necessary to achieve natural system restoration goals for the South Florida Ecosystem for these projects:

- Biscayne Bay Coastal Wetlands
- C-111 Spreader Canal
- Indian River Lagoon – South
- Lake Okeechobee Watershed

The report with project descriptions and natural lands maps was submitted to Congress by the U.S. Department of the Interior in March 2007 and is available at www.sfrestore.org/issueteams/latt/documents/index.html.

The Wetlands Reserve Enhancement Program (WREP), a new program in the 2008 Farm Bill, has the potential to protect the 90,000 acres identified in the NLR in the Lake Okeechobee Watershed through easement acquisition and wetland restoration using the WRP model with the added incentive of retention of grazing rights if compatible with restoration goals.

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There are 45 WRP applications pending in the sixteen-county SFWMD service area with the potential to protect 50,000 acres. NRCS is currently processing those applications and using the Lake Okeechobee Watershed analysis from the Natural Lands Report, has identified XXXX acres that will be protected through this program.

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Office of Greenways and Trails Recreational Prioritization Maps

The FDEP's Office of Greenways and Trails (OGT) Recreational Trail Prioritization Maps and the Florida Ecological Greenways network date were updated in 2008. Both the Trails and Ecological Greenways data layers represent the areas that are appropriate for establishment of a statewide greenways and trails system. These are planning areas and represent more than just existing trails and greenways, instead providing an overall vision of a comprehensive statewide network of greenways and trails to serve as a guide for local, State, regional, and Federal entities. All Florida Trail and Ecological Greenway data is available at http://www.floridatrailnetwork.com/view_maps.html.

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The FDEP's Office of Greenways and Trails (OGT) updated the Recreational Trail Prioritization maps in 2004 and the Ecological Greenways Priorities data in 2005. The updated Recreational Trail Prioritization Maps are scheduled for completion in September 2008.

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USFWS South Florida Multi-Species Recovery Plan

The USFWS' South Florida Multi-Species Recovery Plan (MSRP) contains information on the biology, ecology, status, trends, management, and recovery actions for 68 federally listed species¹⁴ found in South Florida, as well as the ecology and restoration needs of 23 natural communities in the region. Acquisition-related recovery tasks are included in the MSRP implementation schedule which was published on March 26,

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¹⁴ The MSRP and implementation schedule deal with 68 listed species; the bald eagle was removed from the list in the lower 48 states, effective August 8, 2007.

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2007. The MSRP and the implementation schedule are available at www.fws.gov/verobeach.

Wildlife Habitat Planning Manual

FWC, in partnership with several other agencies and foundations, funded 1000 Friends of Florida to develop a document addressing “Wildlife Habitat Planning and Best Management Practices for Florida Communities and Landowners.” The manual provides a framework and related background information along with descriptions of practical land planning and management actions that can be directed toward habitat and wildlife conservation. It is targeted to community planners, landscape architects, landowners, developers and active citizens. The manual documents the opportunities that exist to further wildlife habitat conservation, restoration and habitat connectivity through use of local or inter-local planning strategies, design features and best management practices. Presently, the document can be accessed online at: <http://www.floridahabitat.org/Technical%20Committee%20and%20Draft%20Manual>. The printed version is available from 1000 Friends of Florida (*edit pending*).

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Major Acquisition Accomplishments

As a result of innovative partnerships and creative approaches, several major acquisitions have been accomplished during this reporting period.

Examples of fee simple acquisitions:

- 27 acres of U.S. Sugar Talisman acquisition were transferred to the SFWMD following the completion of environmental cleanup
- 10 acres acquired within the C-23/C-24 South Reservoir component of the Indian River Lagoon – South project
- 428 acres within the Palmar/J.W. Corbett Wildlife Management Area Hydropattern restoration component of the North Palm Beach, Part 1 CERP; acquired in partnership with Martin County
- 8 acres acquired from the C-111 Canal Project through an exchange with Miami-Dade County

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A total of 508 acres were acquired in fee simple during the reporting cycle.

Examples of less-than-fee simple acquisitions:

- 38 acres donation of an easement from the State of Florida for the Herbert Hoover dike Rehabilitation project
- 187 acre donation of an easement from Miami-Dade County for operation of the Biscayne Bay Coastal Wetlands Phase 1 CERP project

A total of 263 acres were acquired in less-than-fee simple acquisitions during the reporting cycle.

Example of multi-year acquisition agreements:

- 1,659 acres for the Lake Okeechobee watershed Project was acquired in partnership with the Nature Conservancy (TNC) to complete the multi-year Pomcor acquisition
- 1,263 acres were acquired for the C-51 and South L-8 component of the North Palm Beach County - Part 1 CERP project as part of a 7-year option agreement; the final payment was made in March 2009
- 1,760 acres acquired for the C-23/C-24 Basin Storage South Reservoir and Stormwater Treatment Area (STA) components of the Indian River Lagoon – South CERP project; the remaining scheduled payments were expedited when a final payment was made in June 2009
- 257 acres were acquired for the Palmar/J.W. Corbett Hydropattern Restoration component of the North Palm Beach Part 1 CERP project; the remaining scheduled payments were expedited when a final payment was made in April 2009

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Appendices

- Appendix A: Strategic Goals and Objectives of the South Florida Ecosystem Restoration Task Force
- Appendix B: Federal/State/Joint Acquisition Maps and Descriptions
- Appendix C: Project Profiles and Summary Table
- Appendix D: Land Acquisition Update Map and State/Federal Cost Share Table
- Appendix E: Stormwater Treatment Areas
- Appendix F: County Land Acquisitions and Florida's Greenways and Trails Program
- Appendix G: SFWMD FY 2008-09 Land Acquisition Priorities
- Appendix H: Potential Funding Sources in Support of Restoration
- Appendix I: Land Protected through Mitigation Map and Description
- Appendix J: **Other State Water Resource Projects**
- Appendix K: Land Acquisition Task Team Directive

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Appendix A: Strategic Goals and Objectives of the South Florida Ecosystem Restoration Task Force

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Strategic Goals and Objectives of the South Florida Ecosystem Restoration Task Force

June 2008

GOAL 1: GET THE WATER RIGHT
Subgoal 1-A: Get the hydrology right
 Objective 1-A.1: Provide 1.8 million acre-feet of surface water storage by 2036
 Objective 1-A.2: Develop aquifer storage and recovery (ASR) systems capable of storing 1.7 billion gallons per day by 2030
 Objective 1-A.3: Modify 361 miles of impediments to flow by 2020

Subgoal 1-B: Get the water quality right
 Objective 1-B.1: Construct 96,010 acres of stormwater treatment areas by 2035
 Objective 1-B.2: Prepare locally-based plans to reduce pollutants as determined necessary by the total maximum daily loads by 2011

GOAL 2: RESTORE, PRESERVE, AND PROTECT NATURAL HABITATS & SPECIES
Subgoal 2-A: Restore, preserve, and protect natural habitats
 Objective 2-A.1: Complete acquisition of 5.7 million acres of land identified for habitat protection by 2020
 Objective 2-A.2: Protect 20 percent of the coral reefs by 2010
 Objective 2-A.3: Improve habitat quality for 2.4 million acres of natural areas in South Florida

Subgoal 2-B: Control invasive exotic plants and animals
 Objective 2-B.1: Achieve maintenance control of Brazilian pepper, melaleuca, Australian pine, and Old World Climbing Fern on South Florida's public conservation lands by 2020
 Objective 2-B.2: Release 2 biological control insects per year for the control of invasive exotic plants
 Objective 2-B.3: Achieve eradication of Gambian pouch rat by 2012

GOAL 3: FOSTER COMPATIBILITY OF THE BUILT AND NATURAL SYSTEMS
Subgoal 3-A: Use and manage land in a manner compatible with ecosystem restoration
 Objective 3-A.1: Prepare a land use analysis for selected restoration project
 Objective 3-A.2: Designate or acquire an additional 10,000 acres of lands needed for parks, recreation, and open space to complement south Florida Ecosystem Restoration through local, state, and federal programs by 2015
 Objective 3-A.3: Increase participation by 350,000 acres in the Grassland Reserve Program, Farm and Ranch Land Protection Program, and the Environmental Quality Incentive Program to Promote compatibility between agricultural production and South Florida Ecosystem Restoration by 2014
 Objective 3-A.4: Increase the number of local governments that adopt into their comprehensive plans (goals, objectives, policies, and related strategies) – concepts compatible with South Florida Ecosystem Restoration
 Objective 3-A.5: Increase the use of educational programs and initiatives to further the publics' and local Governments' understanding of the benefits of South Florida Ecosystem Restoration

Subgoal 3-B: Maintain or improve flood protection in a manner compatible with ecosystem restoration
 Objective 3-B.1: Maintain or improve existing levels of flood protection for the urban, agricultural, and natural environments
 Objective 3-B.2: Rehabilitate the Herbert Hoover Dike to provide adequate levels of flood protection to the communities and lands surrounding Lake Okeechobee

Subgoal 3-C: Provide sufficient water resources for built and natural systems
 Objective 3-C.1: Plan for regional water supply needs
 Objective 3-C.2: Increase volumes of reuse on a regional basis
 Objective 3-C.3: Increase water made available through the State's Water Protection and Sustainability Program SFWMD Alternative Water Supply Development Program

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Appendix B: Federal/State/Joint Acquisition Maps and Descriptions

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Federal/State/Joint Acquisition Maps and Descriptions

The Federal Projects and Joint Federal/State Projects Map

The Project Profiles in Appendix C are represented on the attached/following map. For this map and for the LAS in general, the term “State” includes the State of Florida, the SFWMD, and participating local governments. Each of the projects on the map is labeled with a circled number or a name. Five types of projects are illustrated: CERP projects, expedited projects, USFWS and NPS projects, other Federal acquisition projects, and joint Federal/State acquisition projects.

Existing conservation lands throughout the South Florida Ecosystem (as of June 30, 2009), regardless of funding source, are shown in light gray to provide context for the Federal and joint Federal/State projects. Some of these lands are less-than-fee simple acquisitions.

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Project data layers (CERP, expedited projects, USFWS or NPS, Other Federal, and Joint State/Federal Acquisition Projects) depict the full extent of the acquisition project boundaries, including any lands that have already been purchased (acquired lands are colored gray within the project boundaries). Some projects are greater than 90 percent complete; in many of these cases, the remaining inholdings within the project boundaries are too small to be shown on this map.

The Joint Federal/State Acquisition Projects data layer (pink cross-hatching) is composed of Florida Forever Board of Trustees projects and Save Our Rivers projects that have federal involvement.

The SFWMD provided digital data for CERP, expedited and Save Our Rivers projects with the disclaimer that any information, including but not limited to software and data, received from the SFWMD in fulfillment of a request is provided “AS IS” without warranty, including but not limited to merchantability and fitness for a particular purpose. For SFWMD projects, this map is a conceptual tool utilized for project development only. This map is not self-executing or binding on the SFWMD.

The conservation lands data layer was compiled by FNAI using data received from many different sources including Federal, State, and local managing agencies and private conservation organizations.

Map Key to CERP and Expedited Projects

The CERP and expedited project boundaries are general boundaries and will be refined after further analysis. The majority of the CERP and expedited projects are indicated by a circled number on the map; the rest are labeled by name. The accompanying map key to CERP and expedited projects lists all projects by map label, the project component name, the CERP project ID number, and project name.

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Map Key to CERP and Expedited Projects

MAP LABEL	PROJECT COMPONENT NAME	CERP ID NO.	PROJECT NAME
1	Lake Okeechobee Watershed (no boundary)	01	LAKE OKEECHOBEE WATERSHED
1B	Taylor Creek/Nubbin Slough	01B	LAKE OKEECHOBEE WATERSHED
3	Lake Okeechobee ASR (no boundary)	03	LAKE OKEECHOBEE ASR
4	C-43 Basin Storage Reservoir Part 1 & C-43 Basin ASR Part 2	04	C-43 BASIN STORAGE RESERVOIR
4A	C-43 Basin Storage Reservoir Part 1 & C-43 Basin ASR Part 2–expedited	04A	C-43 RESERVOIR WEST
7A1	IRL – C-44 Reservoir	07A01	INDIAN RIVER LAGOON – SOUTH
7A1	IRL – C-44 Reservoir – expedited	07A01	C-44 RESERVOIR & STA
7A2	IRL – C-44 West STA	07A02	INDIAN RIVER LAGOON – SOUTH
7A2	IRL – C-44 West STA – expedited	07A02	C-44 RESERVOIR & STA
7A3	IRL – C-44 East STA	07A03	INDIAN RIVER LAGOON – SOUTH
7A3	IRL – C-44 East STA –expedited	07A03	C-44 RESERVOIR & STA
7A4	IRL – PALMAR Complex Natural Storage and Water Quality Area	07A04	INDIAN RIVER LAGOON – SOUTH
7B5	IRL – C23/24 North Reservoir	07B05	INDIAN RIVER LAGOON – SOUTH
7B6	IRL – C23/24 South Reservoir	07B06	INDIAN RIVER LAGOON – SOUTH
7B7	IRL – C23/24 STA	07B07	INDIAN RIVER LAGOON – SOUTH
7B9	IRL – Allapattah Complex Natural Storage and Water Quality Area	07B09	INDIAN RIVER LAGOON – SOUTH
7B10	IRL – Cypress Creek/Trail Ridge Complex Natural Storage and Water Quality Area	07B10	INDIAN RIVER LAGOON – SOUTH
7B13	IRL – Southfork Natural Storage & Water Quality	07B13	INDIAN RIVER LAGOON – SOUTH
7C12	IRL – C-25 STA	07C12	INDIAN RIVER LAGOON – SOUTH
7C14	IRL – Northfork Floodplain Restoration	07C14	INDIAN RIVER LAGOON – SOUTH
8	Everglades Agricultural Area Storage Reservoir – Phase 1	08	EVERGLADES AGRICULTURAL AREA STORAGE RESERVOIR – PHASE 1
8A	Everglades Agricultural Area Storage Reservoir – Phase 1 – expedited	08	EVERGLADES AGRICULTURAL AREA STORAGE RESERVOIR – PHASE 1
8A1	EAA Reservoir – L-16 Cross Canal - expedited	08	EVERGLADES AGRICULTURAL AREA STORAGE RESERVOIR – PHASE 1
8A2	EAA Reservoir – L-21 Bolles Canal – expedited	08	EVERGLADES AGRICULTURAL AREA STORAGE RESERVIOR – PHASE 1
8B	EAA Compartment B – expedited	08	EVERGLADES AGRICULTURAL AREA STORMWATER TREATMENT AREA EXPANSION
8C	EAA Compartment C – expedited	08	EVERGLADES AGRICULTURAL AREA STORMWATER TREATMENT AREA EXPANSION
11B	Flow to NW & Central WCA 3	11B	FLOW TO NW & CENTRAL WCA 3
12	WCA 3 Decompartmentalization & Sheetflow Enhancement – Part 1 (S-351)	12	WCA DECOMP & SHEETFLOW ENHANCEMENT – PART 1
14	Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge Internal Canal Structures	14	LOXAHATCHEE NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE INTERNAL CANAL STRUCTURES
15	Modify Holey Land Wildlife	15	MODIFY HOLEY LAND WILDLIFE

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MAP LABEL	PROJECT COMPONENT NAME	CERP ID NO.	PROJECT NAME
	Management Area Hydropattern Restoration		MANAGEMENT AREA OPERATION PLAN
16	Modify Rotenberger Wildlife Management Area Operation Plan	16	MODIFY ROTENBERGER WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA OPERATION
17A	Pal-Mar and J.W. Corbett Wildlife Management Area Hydropattern Restoration	17	NORTH PALM BEACH COUNTY – PART 1
17C	C-51 and L-8 Reservoir	17	NORTH PALM BEACH COUNTY – PART 1
17D	Lake Worth Lagoon Restoration (no boundary)	17	NORTH PALM BEACH COUNTY – PART 1
17E	C-17 Backfilling and Treatment	17	NORTH PALM BEACH COUNTY – PART 1
17F	C-51 Backpumping and Treatment	17	NORTH PALM BEACH COUNTY – PART 1
18A	C-51 Regional Groundwater ASR (no boundary)	18	NORTH PALM BEACH COUNTY – PART 2
20	PBC Agricultural Reserve Reservoir & ASR	20	PBC AGRICULTURAL RESERVE RESERVOIR – PART 1
22	Fran Reich Preserve (Site 1 Impoundment) & Hillsboro ASR Pilot	22	HILLSBORO SITE 1 IMPOUNDMENT & ASR
22	Fran Reich Preserve (Site 1 Impoundment) – expedited	22	WATER PRESERVE AREAS
24	Broward County Secondary Canal System	24	BROWARD COUNTY SECONDARY CANAL SYSTEM
25A	Lakebelt Inground Reservoir Technology Pilot	25A	LAKEBELT INGROUND RESERVOIR TECHNOLOGY PILOT
25B	North Lakebelt Storage Area	25B	NORTH LAKEBELT STORAGE AREA
26A	Central Lakebelt Storage Area	26A	CENTRAL LAKEBELT STORAGE
27B	S-356 Structures	27B	EVERGLADES NATIONAL PARK SEEPAGE MANAGEMENT
28	Biscayne Bay Coastal Wetlands	28	BISCAYNE BAY COASTAL WETLANDS
28A	Biscayne Bay Coastal Wetlands-expedited	28A	BISCAYNE BAY COASTAL WETLANDS
29	C-111 Spreader Canal – Phase 2	29	C-111 SPREADER CANAL
29A	C-111 Spreader Canal – Phase 1–expedited	29A	C-111 SPREADER CANAL
30	Southern Golden Gate Estates Hydrologic Restoration	30	PICAYUNE STRAND
30	Southern Golden Gate Estates - expedited	30	PICAYUNE STRAND
31	Florida Keys Tidal Restoration (no boundary)	31	FLORIDA KEYS TIDAL RESTORATION
33	Caloosahatchee (C-43) River ASR Pilot	33	CALOOSAHATCHEE (C-43) RIVER ASR PILOT
36	L31N Seepage Management Pilot	36	EVERGLADES NATIONAL PARK SEEPAGE MANAGEMENT
38	Acme Basin B Discharge	38	ACME BASIN B DISCHARGE
38	Acme Basin B Discharge – expedited	38	WATER PRESERVE AREAS
39	Strazzulla Wetlands	39	STRAZZULLA WETLANDS
43	Bird Drive Recharge Area	43	EVERGLADES NATIONAL PARK SEEPAGE MANAGEMENT

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MAP LABEL	PROJECT COMPONENT NAME	CERP ID NO.	PROJECT NAME
45A	3A/3B Seepage Management	45A	BROWARD COUNTY WPA
45A	3A/3B Seepage Management – expedited	45A	WATER PRESERVE AREAS
45B	C-11 Impoundment	45B	BROWARD COUNTY WPA
45B	C-11 Impoundment – expedited	45B	WATER PRESERVE AREAS
45C	C-9 Impoundment	45C	BROWARD COUNTY WPA
45C	C-9 Impoundment – expedited	45C	WATER PRESERVE AREAS
48A	WCA 2B Flows to Central Lakebelt Storage Area	48A	WCA 2B FLOWS TO EVERGLADES NATIONAL PARK (ENP)
48B	L-30 Canal Upgrade	48B	WCA 2B FLOWS TO ENP
49	Dade-Broward Levee & Canal	49	WPA CONVEYANCE
90	Miccosukee Water Management Plan	90	MICCOSUKEE WATER MANAGEMENT PLAN
91	Winsberg Farm Wetland Restoration	91	WINSBERG FARM WETLAND RESTORATION
92	Restoration of Pineland & Hardwood Hammocks in the C-111 Basin	92	RESTORATION OF PINELAND & HARDWOOD HAMMOCKS IN THE C-111 BASIN
93	Henderson Creek/Belle Meade Restoration	93	HENDERSON CREEK/BELLE MEADE RESTORATION
94	Lakes Park Restoration	94	LAKES PARK RESTORATION
96	Seminole Tribe Big Cypress Reservation Water Conservation Plan	96	SEMINOLE TRIBE BIG CYPRESS RESERVATION WATER CONSERVATION PLAN
97	West Miami-Dade Reuse	97	WEST MIAMI-DADE REUSE
98	South Miami-Dade Reuse & Wastewater Reuse Technology Pilot	98	SOUTH MIAMI-DADE REUSE

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Appendix C: Project Profiles and Summary Table

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South Florida Ecosystem Restoration Land Acquisition Strategy Project Profiles

The project profile sheets list the following information for the projects on the map located in Appendix C:

- Project Name
- Project Name Synonym: Additional name(s) for a project used by other programs or initiatives.
- Project ID (Map Label): CERP and expedited project numbers are on the Map Key in Appendix B.
- Overlapping Project: Name of project (if any) that has an overlapping land acquisition boundary with this project. A geographic area's land cost, funding, and acreage are counted only once within the LAS. For each project, this field also indicates if the project is in the Northern Everglades or the Southern Everglades.
- Primary SFER-related Objective: The goals and objectives of the South Florida Ecosystem Restoration (SFER) are listed in Appendix A.
- Project Synopsis
- Project Sponsorship
- Land Acquisition Funding Type
- Land Acquisition Funding Source
- Agency Responsible for Acquiring the Land
- Land Acquisition Program
- Land Managing Agency
- Funding Partners (if applicable)
- Land Acquisition Schedule: includes the date acquisition was/will be initiated, the date acquisition will be concluded, and the date the project is needed for restoration.
- Project Acreage/Progress: includes the total size of the project, the acres acquired in the previous year, the acres acquired all years, and the acres remaining to be acquired. Acres acquired are those lands to which the agency has title as of June 30, 2009, and not those encumbered under contract through a multi-year option agreement.
- Estimated Project Requirements: includes the estimated cost of the land acquisition project, the cost of land closed through June 30, 2009, the estimated cost of the remaining acres, and the cost of real estate and associated costs. Any multi-year payout agreement payments are listed as future year costs (when applicable). Construction or restoration project requirements are not included in the estimate.
- Land Cost Estimation Method
- Degree of Ownership Desired
- Comments
- Hyperlink: Website of source for further information.
- Contact
- Update: Date of project profile sheet update; name and agency of person providing the updated information.

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**Appendix D: Land Acquisition Update Map and
State/Federal Cost Share Table**

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Land Acquisition Update Map and State/Federal Cost Share Table

The Land Acquisition Update Map

The Land Acquisition Update Map illustrates all planned and accomplished land acquisitions identified for ecosystem restoration regardless of funding source.

The DSL and FNAI collaborated to update the 1999 Everglades Ecosystem Land Acquisition State-Federal Cost Share Map, known as the “Graham Map,” to produce the South Florida Ecosystem Restoration Land Acquisition Update Map.

Data layers depicting acquired conservation lands were compiled by FNAI using data received from many different sources including Federal, State, and local managing agencies and private conservation organizations. Lands acquired through June 30, 2009, are depicted on the map. Symbols represent funding splits; in some cases, interest acquired is less-than-fee simple.

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Planned acquisitions are also indicated on the map. Project boundaries indicate areas that are desired for acquisition (includes intended less-than-fee acquisitions). Some areas within these boundaries have been acquired; these acquired areas are denoted with the various “Acquired” shadings (see map legend).

The Florida Forever Board of Trustees project data layer represents projects on their acquisition list as of June 30, 2009. Boundaries were digitized by FNAI staff using paper maps provided by the FDEP Office of Environmental Services.

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The SFWMD provided digital data for CERP and Save Our Rivers projects with the disclaimer that any information, including but not limited to software and data, received from the SFWMD in fulfillment of a request is provided “AS IS” without warranty, including but not limited to merchantability and fitness for a particular purpose. For the SFWMD projects, this map is a conceptual tool utilized for project development only. This map is not self-executing or binding on the SFWMD.

Lands labeled “Acquired – 100% State” and “Acquired – Predominately State” include all lands purchased by either the State of Florida or the SFWMD. For the purpose of this map, the term “predominately” means greater than 50%. Some local funds may have been used as well. County land acquisitions are reflected on this map; however, due to the map scale, many county project boundaries are too small to be shown on the map. For information on local projects, see Appendix F.

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The State/Federal Cost Share Table

The DSL produces the companion table listing all the projects that contribute to natural habitat and species protection and the Federal/State/local cost share of the projects illustrated on the map. These projects are on the state’s Florida Forever/Save Our Rivers (FF/SOR) project list. FF/SOR projects have been in transition over the last decade. The table in Appendix D has been revised to reflect acres of natural lands only, as opposed to those obtained for construction projects.

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Appendix E: Stormwater Treatment Areas

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Stormwater Treatment Areas

A primary component of the Everglades Construction Project is the six "Stormwater Treatment Areas", referred to as STAs. Lands for STA 1 - West, STA 2, STA 3/4, STA 5, and STA 6 were acquired by the SFWMD. These STAs are large constructed wetlands that receive nearly 1.4 million acre-feet per year of stormwater runoff from the Everglades Agricultural Area, adjacent watersheds and regulatory releases from Lake Okeechobee. (One acre-foot of water is 325,828 gallons.) The STAs treat incoming water through naturally occurring biological and physical processes to remove various pollutants and excess nutrients, with a primary emphasis on phosphorus. The STAs comprise a total area of 47,592 acres. Treated waters from the STAs will be directed to the Everglades Protection Area to improve water flow, timing, quantity, and quality. Treated water will be directed to the Refuge, Water Conservation Area 2-A and 3-A, the Big Cypress Seminole Indian Reservation, and to the Rotenberger Wildlife Management Area, which is an Everglades remnant.

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The USACE-owned STA 1-East will be operated in parallel with STA 1-West to reduce the total phosphorus in runoff from both the C-51 and S-5A basins prior to discharge to Water Conservation Area 1, the Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge.

STAs use vegetation to naturally cleanse excess nutrients from water to improve Everglades water quality. These vast wetlands are not only important for improving water quality, they also provide habitat for wildlife, particularly for birds and alligators. STA 1 – West and STA 5 are on the Great Florida Birding Trail. The submerged aquatic vegetation attracts waterfowl and has made the STAs a destination for sportsmen throughout Florida and the nation.

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Below is a summary of the lands acquired and dollars expended for these STAs.

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Name	Project Size	Acres Acquired	Expenditures	Funding Source
STA 1,2,3/4,5,6	41,089	41,043	\$126,772,412	State/SFWMD
STA 1-E/C-51 ¹⁵	6,503	6,503	\$48,991,000	Federal/USACE
DEER Fence canal	518	518	\$928,400	
TOTAL	48,110	48,064	\$176,691,812	

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¹⁵ The project profile for this 100% federally funded acquisition is on page 85. The acres and dollars for all STAs are included in this Appendix to provide a complete accounting of this restoration element.

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Appendix F: County Land Acquisitions
Florida's Greenways and Trails Program

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County Land Acquisitions and Florida's Greenways and Trails Program

This appendix provides information regarding progress made toward two of the strategic objectives for South Florida Ecosystem restoration.

Objective 3-A.1: Designate an additional 480,000 acres as part of the Florida Greenways and Trails System by 2009.

The FDEP OGT is working to establish a statewide system of greenways and trails, a "green infrastructure" that connects Florida's communities with the nature that surrounds them. To meet this goal, OGT administers the annual \$4.5 million Florida Greenways and Trails Land Acquisition Program under the Florida Forever Act. OGT also provides technical assistance and grants for the development of both motorized and non-motorized recreational trail projects through the federally funded Recreational Trail Program.

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Currently, over 4,000 miles of trails on Florida's public lands provide a variety of recreation opportunities, including hiking, biking, inline skating, horseback riding, paddling, and wildlife viewing. Some trails meander through state and local parks and conservation areas, while others provide convenient access to playgrounds and urban shopping areas. In addition to providing fitness and recreation opportunities, greenways provide a glimpse into natural Florida.

Local counties partner with the State for designation and funding for greenways and trails. The FDEP reports that **298,826 acres plus an additional 147 linear miles** of greenways and trails lands in the sixteen-county area are part of the State's system.

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Objective 3-A.2: Designate or acquire an additional 10,000 acres of lands needed for parks, recreation, and open space to complement South Florida Ecosystem Restoration through local, state, and federal programs

Counties with conservation land acquisition programs provided a summary of their programs. Broward, Charlotte, Collier, Highlands, Lee, Martin, Miami-Dade, Monroe, Orange, Osceola, Palm Beach, Polk, and St. Lucie counties provided this information. The smaller rural counties of Hendry, Glades, and Okeechobee do not have conservation land acquisition programs. Conservation lands in these counties are acquired through the State or the SFWMD. For this edition of the LAS, the LATT collected county-wide information, although parts of Orange, Osceola, Highlands, Polk, and Charlotte counties are outside the boundary of the SFWMD.

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Acquire an additional 2,500 acres of park, recreation, and open space by 2007. ¶

The counties were asked to list only those land acquisitions that are titled to the county on a summary table and provide a map illustrating those properties. It is important to note that county conservation land acquisitions can contribute to more than one ecosystem restoration objective. The counties determined which objective a particular land acquisition project addressed and reflected that information on the summary table. For this document, all county land acquisitions were credited towards meeting this objective. Currently, counties hold title to over **165,000 acres** of lands that contribute towards the park, recreation, and open space objective.

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Appendix G: SFWMD FY 2008-09 Land Acquisition Priorities

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SOUTH FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT
SFWMD FY ~~2009-2010~~ Land Acquisition Priorities¹⁶

Project	CERP or Master Project Name	Acres	County	Original Fund Source
Kissimmee River Restoration	N/A	TBD	Osceola Polk	Florida Forever/District Ad valorem
CREW	N/A	TBD	Lee Collier	Mitigation/Florida Forever
Herbert Hoover Dike	N/A	TBD	Palm Beach Hendry	District Ad valorem
River of Grass	CERP (contributes to multiple projects)	TBD	Glades Hendry Palm Beach	Certificates of Participation
Total		TBD		

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¹⁶ Subject to available funds.

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Appendix H: Potential Funding Sources in Support of Restoration

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Potential Funding Sources in Support of the Restoration of the South Florida Ecosystem

Program	Purpose
FEDERAL	
DOI	
Federal land acquisition programs	
Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) – Federal Land Acquisition	Acquisition for various federal agencies (FWS, NPS, BLM, and USDA Forest Service).
Migratory Bird Conservation Fund (FWS)	Receipts in this account allow FWS to acquire important migratory breeding areas, migration resting places, and wintering areas. Areas acquired become part of the refuge system.
Grant programs strictly for land acquisition by non-Federal entities	
Cooperative Endangered Species Conservation Fund Act Program (FWS)	To provide grants to States for Recovery Land Acquisition. (There is additional funding for Habitat Conservation Fund Land Acquisition Grants.)
Grant programs that may be used for land acquisition and other purposes by non-Federal agencies	
State and Tribal Wildlife Grants (FWS)	To help States and Tribes to implement comprehensive wildlife conservation plans and activities.
LWCF State Grant Program (NPS)	To provide matching grants to States and local governments for the acquisition and development of public outdoor recreation areas and facilities.
Sport Fish Restoration – Grants to States (FWS)	To provide funding for fisheries recreation and conservation efforts in the United States. Non-competitive apportionment based program.
Federal Aid and Wildlife Restoration – Grants to States	This program apportions funds to States and territories for use in restoring and protecting wildlife.
Grant programs that may be used for land acquisition and other purposes by Federal and non-Federal agencies	
North American Wetlands Conservation Act (FWS)	May fund the acquisition of habitat for waterfowl and migrating birds in support of the North American Waterfowl Management Plan.
Sport Fish Restoration --Coastal Wetlands Grants (FWS)	To acquire, restore and enhance wetlands in coastal states (DEP/TNC used this program for a project in Hendry Creek to buffer Estero Bay).
Federal Aid Wetlands Conservation (FWS)	May fund the acquisition of habitat for waterfowl and migrating birds in support of the North American Waterfowl Management Plan.
Other partnership programs supporting non-land acquisition conservation activities	
Private Stewardship Grants Program (FWS)	To provide grants for on-the-ground conservation projects on private lands benefiting federally listed, threatened, endangered species or other at-risk species.
Landowner Incentive Program (FWS)	Establish or supplement existing landowner incentive programs that provide technical or financial assistance, including habitat protection and restoration, to private landowners to benefit species at risk.
Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program (FWS)	To provide assistance to landowners to voluntarily restore wetlands, streams, grasslands, woodlands, and other important habitat that support fish and wildlife.

Programs that have been used to acquire lands for CERP are shaded in yellow.

Program	Purpose
Coastal Program	To work with coastal communities and other partners to focus and leverage resources on high-priority coastal habitat issues by providing important technical and financial support to our existing and new partners, including the Everglades/South Florida Ecosystem.
NPS Challenge Cost Share	To increase the participation of neighboring communities and qualified partners in preserving and improving the cultural, natural, and recreational resources for which the Service is responsible.
FWS Challenge Cost Share	Foster innovative and creative cooperative efforts to restore natural resources and establish or expand wildlife habitat, with an emphasis on Federal lands and resources.
BLM Challenge Cost Share	To leverage federal dollars with private and state funding for conservation efforts, benefiting resources on BLM administered public lands. The program solicits partnerships and partnership funding through a variety of resource management programs, including fisheries, wildlife, threatened and endangered species, cultural resources and recreation.
DOT	
National Scenic Byways Program	To provide grants in support of eligible projects, including protection of natural resources in an area adjacent to a scenic byway.
Federal Lands Highway Program	To provide financial resources and technical assistance for a coordinated program of public roads that service the transportation needs of Federal and Indian lands.
Alternative Transportation Program	To award grants or enter into an agreement to carry out qualified projects that would enhance the protection of national parks and public lands and increase the enjoyment of those visiting the parks and public lands.
Transportation Enhancements	To provide reimbursement for 12 eligible activities that enhance the transportation experience, including acquisition of scenic easements and sites.
USDA	
Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP)	To remove marginal agricultural lands from production and establish conservation practices to improve water quality and create wildlife habitat.
Forest Legacy Program	To help states acquire fee or easements for perpetual forest preservation.
Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP)	To assist landowners in restoring wetlands and wetland functions.
Farm and Ranch Lands Protection Program (FRPP)	To purchase easements on farm and ranch lands that will remain in agricultural production.
Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP)	To encourage the creation of high quality wildlife habitats that support wildlife populations on wetland, riparian, upland and aquatic habitat on Ag Lands.
Federal Agriculture Improvement and Reform Act of 1996 (Farm Bill) Section 390	To provide \$200 million to the Secretary of the Interior to conduct restoration activities in the Everglades ecosystem in South Florida, including the acquisition of real property.
NOAA	
Coastal and Estuarine Land Conservation Program (CELCP)	To provide matching funds to states to acquire land or easements to protect or restore coastal areas that have considerable conservation, recreation, ecological, or economic value and are threatened by conversion from their natural state to other uses or could be managed or restored to effectively conserve, enhance or restore ecological function.

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Programs that have been used to acquire lands for CERP are shaded in yellow.

Program	Purpose
STATE	
Florida Forever Program/Board of Trustees (FDEP)	To fund the acquisition and restoration of environmentally sensitive lands, lands to protect water resource development and supply, to increase public access, public lands management and maintenance, and increase protection of land by acquisition of conservation easements. Florida Forever is the umbrella funding source for the state programs listed below.
Florida Forever Program Water Management Districts (FDEP)	To fund the acquisition of lands and capital project expenditures necessary to implement the water management districts' priority lists.
Florida Communities Trust (FCT) (DCA)	To fund the state's land acquisition grant program for local governments and non-profits to acquire lands that promote outdoor recreation and natural resource protection needs identified in local government comprehensive plans.
Florida Forever Program Inholdings and Additions Programs (FDEP)	To acquire inholdings and additions to existing conservation lands.
Rural and Family Lands Protection Act	To acquire agricultural lands, through perpetual easements and other perpetual less-than-fee techniques.
Working Waterfronts	To acquire property to preserve working waterfronts used for commercial harvest of marine organisms or for promotion or education of the public about Florida's traditional working waterfronts.
Florida Greenways and Trails (FDEP)	To fund the statewide initiative to create a system of greenways and trails connecting communities and conservation areas.
FL Recreation Development Assistance Program (FRDAP) (FDEP)	To fund the acquisition or development of land for public outdoor recreation and the acquisition of inholdings and additions for state parks.
Save Our Everglades Trust Fund (FDEP)	To implement the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (CERP) and the Northern Everglades Estuaries Protection Program.
COUNTIES	
Broward Safe Parks and Land Preservation Bond Program	To protect the remaining natural lands in Broward County not currently managed for preservation.
Conservation Charlotte	To purchase and conserve environmentally sensitive lands.
Conservation Collier	To acquire, preserve, restore and manage environmentally significant lands.
Lee County Conservation Lands Program (Conservation 20/20)	To acquire, restore and manage lands important to wildlife, water supply, flooding, water quality, and resource oriented public uses.
Martin County Lands for Healthy Rivers and Natural Resource Protection (Healthy Rivers) and Lands for You	Healthy Rivers: to acquire lands for river restoration, provide matching funds for state and federal land acquisition programs for conservation and protection of natural resources and provide for municipal infrastructure. Lands for You: to preserve and protect environmental resources and cultural history while providing expanded outdoor recreational opportunities.
Miami-Dade County Environmentally Endangered Lands	To acquire, preserve, enhance, restore, conserve, and maintain environmentally endangered lands for the benefit of the present and future generations.
Monroe County Land Authority	To acquire land for recreation, affordable housing, environmental protection, and the protection of private property rights.
Orange County Green PLACE	To preserve conservation and water resource lands.

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Programs that have been used to acquire lands for CERP are shaded in yellow.

Program	Purpose
COUNTIES CONTINUED	
Osceola County S.A.V.E Osceola	To acquire lands to protect open space and water quality, preserve natural areas, protect endangered or threatened animals or plants and provide passive recreation such as trails.
Palm Beach County Land Acquisition Program for Conservation Purposes	To acquire additional environmentally sensitive lands for perpetual preservation and to acquire agricultural lands to preserve agriculture in the County's Ag Reserve.
Polk County Environmental Lands Program	To acquire, preserve, manage and restore endangered and environmentally sensitive lands, water resources and important wildlife habitat.
St. Lucie County Environmentally Significant Lands Program	To preserve native ecosystems and meet County Comprehensive Plan open space requirements.
NON GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS	
Conservancy of Southwest Florida	For the preservation and stewardship of the land and water resources in and around the 60,000-acres Corkscrew Regional Ecosystem Watershed (CREW).
CREW Trust	For the preservation and stewardship of the land and water resources in and around the 60,000 acre Corkscrew Regional Ecosystem Watershed.
Florida Keys Land and Sea Trust	For the preservation, conservation and the restoration of rare and endangered areas of the Florida Keys.
Green Horizon Land Trust, Inc.	To preserve environmentally valuable or sensitive lands and open space areas in and around the Central Florida Ridge for the benefit of the general public, and to educate the public as to the importance of such lands and their preservation.
National Fish and Wildlife Foundation	To award challenge grants that address priority actions promoting fish and wildlife conservation and the habitats on which they depend; work proactively to involve other conservation and community interests; leverage available funding; and evaluate project outcomes.
National Park Foundation	The South Florida National Parks Trust seeks to create a new tradition of philanthropy in support of Biscayne, Dry Tortugas and Everglades National Parks.
The Conservation Fund	To forge partnerships to preserve our nation's outdoor heritage, American's legacy of wildlife habitat, working landscapes and community open space.
The Nature Conservancy (TNC)	To preserve plants, animals and natural communities that represent the diversity of life on Earth. TNC works to increase public funding at the local, state and federal level and works with landowners to craft innovative land protection projects.
Sanibel-Captiva Conservation Foundation	Dedicated to preserving natural resources and wildlife habitat on and around Sanibel and Captiva islands
Treasured Lands Foundation	To forge partnerships to purchase environmentally vital lands, reopen closed parks, streamline operating costs and maintain the programs that benefit so many children, seniors and families
Trust for Public Lands (TPL)	To help agencies and communities create a vision for conservation, raise funds for conservation and complete conservation real estate transactions. TPL raises public as well as private funds and packages projects to funders and agencies.

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Appendix I: Land Protected through Mitigation Map and Description

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Selected Mitigation Lands in South Florida

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TYPE/PROJECT NAME	ACRES
Mitigation lands with a conservation easement, with the fee title held by a private entity (excluding private non-profit conservation organizations)	
Big Cypress Mitigation Bank	1,101
Bluefield Ranch Mitigation Bank	2,693
Everglades Mitigation Bank	13,512
Florida Mitigation Bank	1,585
Lee County	1,032
Panther Island Mitigation Bank	2,821
R.G. Reserve Mitigation Bank	658
Reedy Creek Mitigation Bank	4,100
Other Mitigation Projects	51,215
<i>Subtotal</i>	78,717

Mitigation lands with a conservation easement, with the fee title held by government or a private non-profit conservation organization

Bear Point Mitigation Bank	327
Corkscrew Regional Mitigation Bank	633
Disney Wilderness Preserve	11,518
Imperial Marsh/Flint Pen System	6,986
Loxahatchee Mitigation Bank	1,256
Palm Beach County	2,283
Palm Beach County-area SFWMD mitigation projects	339
Pembroke Pines Mitigation Bank/Wetlands Bank	343
<i>Subtotal</i>	23,685

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Mitigation lands with no conservation easement, fee simple title held by government or a private non-profit conservation organization

CREW	896
East Coast Buffer - cell 15 mitigation lands	32
East Coast Buffer - cells 17, 18 DOT I-75 mitigation lands	384
Hole in the Donut Mitigation Bank	6,032
Lake by the Bay – Miami-Dade County	51
Little Pine Island Mitigation Bank	1,728
Pennsocco Wetlands - East Coast Buffer	2,042
Platt's Creek Mitigation Bank	100
Shingle Creek	914
Split Oak Forest Mitigation Bank	1,050
<i>Subtotal</i>	13,230

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Mitigation lands protected through Federal, State, or local regulatory instruments with the title held by a private entity

Mitigation for Card Sound Quarry-Lake D	1191
Mitigation for Cutler Cay project	79
Mitigation for Florida City Rock Mine	341
Mitigation for Homestead Speedway	465
Other mitigation projects	1,682
<i>Subtotal</i>	3,758*

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Total acres all categories

119,390

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* As reported by Miami-Dade County. The acreage reflects current lands in private ownership in Miami-Dade County that are protected either by covenants or through local, State, and/or Federal permits that require conservation in perpetuity as mitigation.

Source: The South Florida Water Management District, Florida Department of Environmental Protection, Florida Natural Areas Inventory, Lee County, Miami-Dade County and Palm Beach County.

Appendix J: Other State Water Resource Projects

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Introductory text pending/table under development

Name	Project Size	Acres Acquired	Expenditures	Funding Source
Lake Okeechobee Isolated Wetland	904 acres	904 acres	\$572,750	State of Florida
Permanent Forward Pumps				
Spanish Creek Four Corners				
C-43 Water Quality Treatment/Testing Facility				
Brady Ranch STA				
Herbert Hoover Dike	TBD	41 acres	\$170,000	District Ad valorem
Caloosahatchee River Basin Water Quality Treatment & Testing Facility	1,773 acres	1,773 acres	\$37,106,387	Lee County State of Florida
Lake Trafford Impoundment	626 acres	626 acres	\$1,720,500	District Ad valorem
Ritta Island	604 acres	604 acres	\$1,720,500	District Ad valorem
Torry Island	909 acres	909 acres	\$1,754,500	District Ad valorem
East Everglades	17,324 acres	17,324 acres	\$7,322,114	District/State of Florida
TOTAL	22,140	22,181	\$49,946,251	

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**Appendix K: Land Acquisition Task Team
Directive**

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Land Acquisition Strategy Task Team Directive

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BACKGROUND: Land acquisition is critical to South Florida ecosystem restoration efforts. Land is needed to preserve habitat for native plants and animals and to act as a buffer to existing natural areas. Land is also needed for water quality treatment areas, water storage reservoirs, and aquifer recharge areas that will help restore natural hydrology. Land acquisition efforts are often complemented by less-than-fee acquisition and other conservation programs that provide permanent and long-term easements such as provided in USDA's Wetland Reserve Program and the Conservation Reserve Program.

Several planning efforts related to land acquisition have recently been accomplished. In December 1999, an ecosystem-wide acquisition map (the "Graham Map") was developed. In April 2000, The U.S. General Accounting Office (GAO) issued a report entitled, "South Florida Ecosystem Restoration: A Land Acquisition Plan Would Help Identify Lands That Need to Be Acquired." Subsequently, the Task Force strategy document, "Coordinating Success: Strategy for Restoration of the South Florida Ecosystem," was delivered to Congress. This strategy document provided information on numerous land acquisition projects undertaken for ecosystem restoration. In February 2003, the Task Force accepted the South Florida Ecosystem Land Acquisition Strategy prepared by the Land Acquisition Task Team. This Strategy built on the information in "Coordinating Success" and the "Graham Map," updating and adding information as necessary. The Task Force decided to produce an annual update.

PURPOSE: The purpose of the Task Team is to develop the annual updates to the land acquisition strategy originally accepted by the Task Force in March 2003. It describes the lands identified jointly by federal and state agencies for ecosystem restoration, and with its appendices, provides a broad picture of all land acquisition initiatives that contribute to the restoration. The annual updates will report land acquisition data from July 1 through June 30 each year.

MEMBERS:

Marsha Bansee (OED)
Don Burgess (Broward County)
~~Sherry Burroughs (Osceola County)~~
Wanda Caffie-Simpson (SFWMD)
~~Sarah Catala (Hendry County)~~
~~Gary Cochran (FWC)~~
~~Brian Coleman (NPS)~~
~~Darrell Enfinger (Okeechobee County)~~
~~Grant Gelhardt (DCA)~~
~~Cynthia Guerra (Miami-Dade County)~~
~~Larry Hilton (Glades County)~~
~~Beth Jackson (Orange County)~~
~~Janice McCarthy (Highlands County)~~

~~John Outland (FDEP) – Co-Chair~~
~~Sylvia Pelizza (USFWS) – Co-Chair~~
Mark Rosch (Monroe County)
Gaye Sharpe (Polk County)
Jim Sherman (Martin County)
Andy Stevens (Charlotte County)
Alexandra Sulecki (Collier County)
Lynda Thompson (Lee County)
Susan Trokey (Ding Darling NWR)
Diana Waite (St. Lucie County)
Rich Walesky (Palm Beach County)
Edward Wright (USDA)
Theresa Woody (OED)

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~~Revised July 2009~~

GUIDANCE:

1. The strategy will focus on acquisition efforts for lands where there is a federal or joint interest, including:
 - a) an assessment of the lands with both joint state and federal interest needed to accomplish each of the goals of the restoration,
 - b) a description of the purpose for which the lands will be acquired and how they will be managed,
 - c) an estimate of the cost of these lands,
 - d) an estimate of when the lands will be needed for related restoration projects, and
 - e) the agencies responsible for acquiring the lands.
2. The strategy will focus on those federal or joint requirements supportive of the three goals of the Task Force: Goal 1 (Get the Water Right), Goal 2 (Restore, Preserve, and Protect Natural Habitats and Species), Goal 3 (Foster Compatibility of the Built and Natural Systems).
3. The strategy will be limited to those lands that will be acquired with federal funds or as part of a federally cost shared project.
4. The strategy will be updated to reflect changes and additions to the restoration initiative's land acquisition needs.
5. The strategy will not infringe on existing missions, authorities or jurisdictions of the participating agencies.
6. The strategy should include other related state, district, local government, or non-governmental organization land acquisition projects in an appendix as appropriate.

DELIVERABLES:

The team shall produce the following interim and final deliverables for review and approval of the Working Group:

1. First draft for Working Group, Task Force, and interested parties (includes a subset of WRAC) review and comment (July/August)
2. Public Workshop (August)
3. WRAC briefing (September)
4. Revised draft for Working Group, Task Force, and interested parties (September)
5. Task Force approval of Land Acquisition Strategy (September)

ADMINISTRATIVE INSTRUCTIONS:

1. All team meetings will be open to the public, and if appropriate, time will be included in the agenda for public comment. Meetings will be advertised in accordance with the Pilot Public Affairs Procedures developed by the Working Group.
2. The representative from the OED will serve as the Public Affairs representative for the team and will be responsible for providing public notice of meetings, facilitating public comment, and providing a brief meeting summary for each meeting that is suitable for publication on the Task Force Web Site.
3. The OED will provide contract staff support, as needed, to assist the team in drafting and producing its proposed plan.

Revised July 2009

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