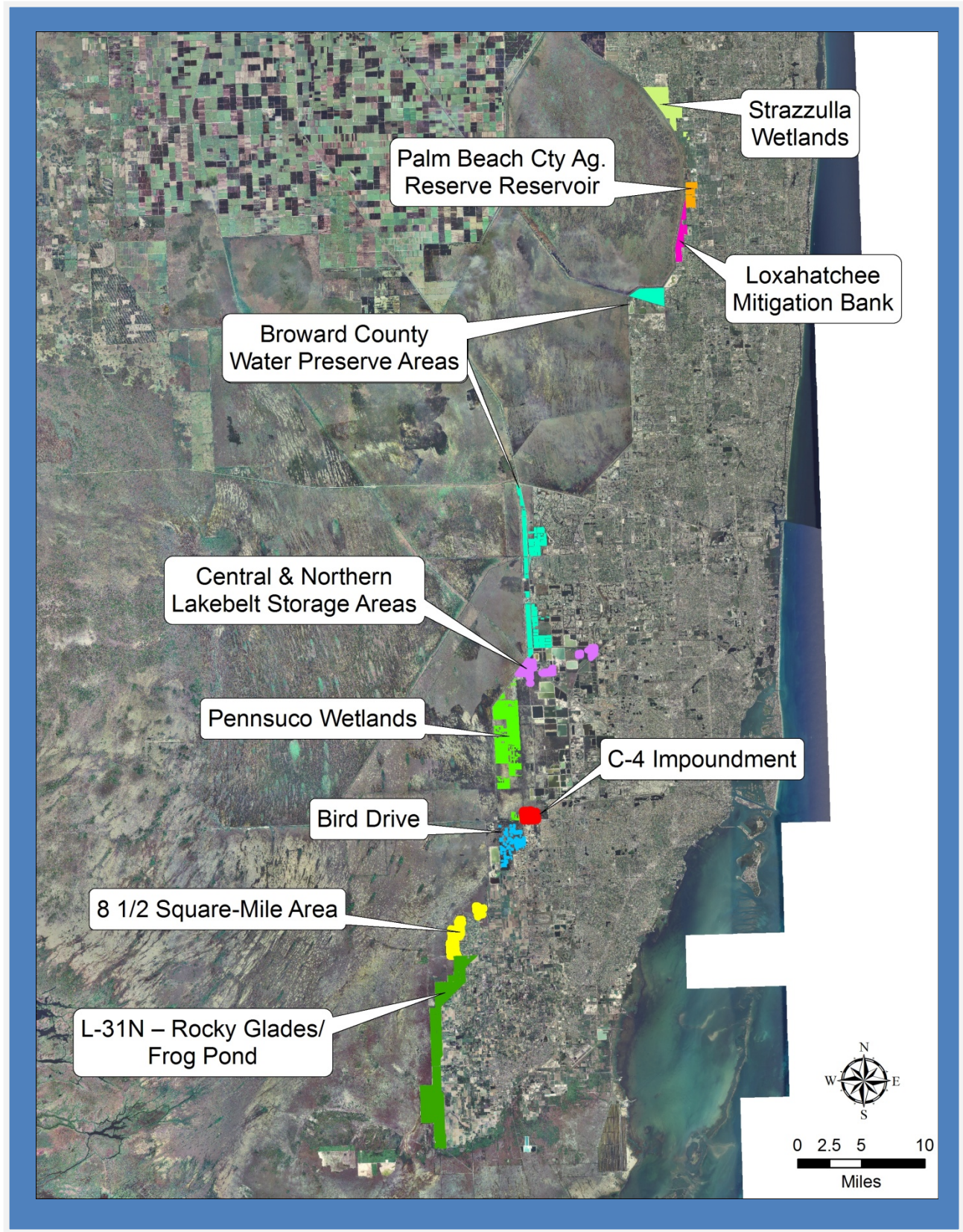
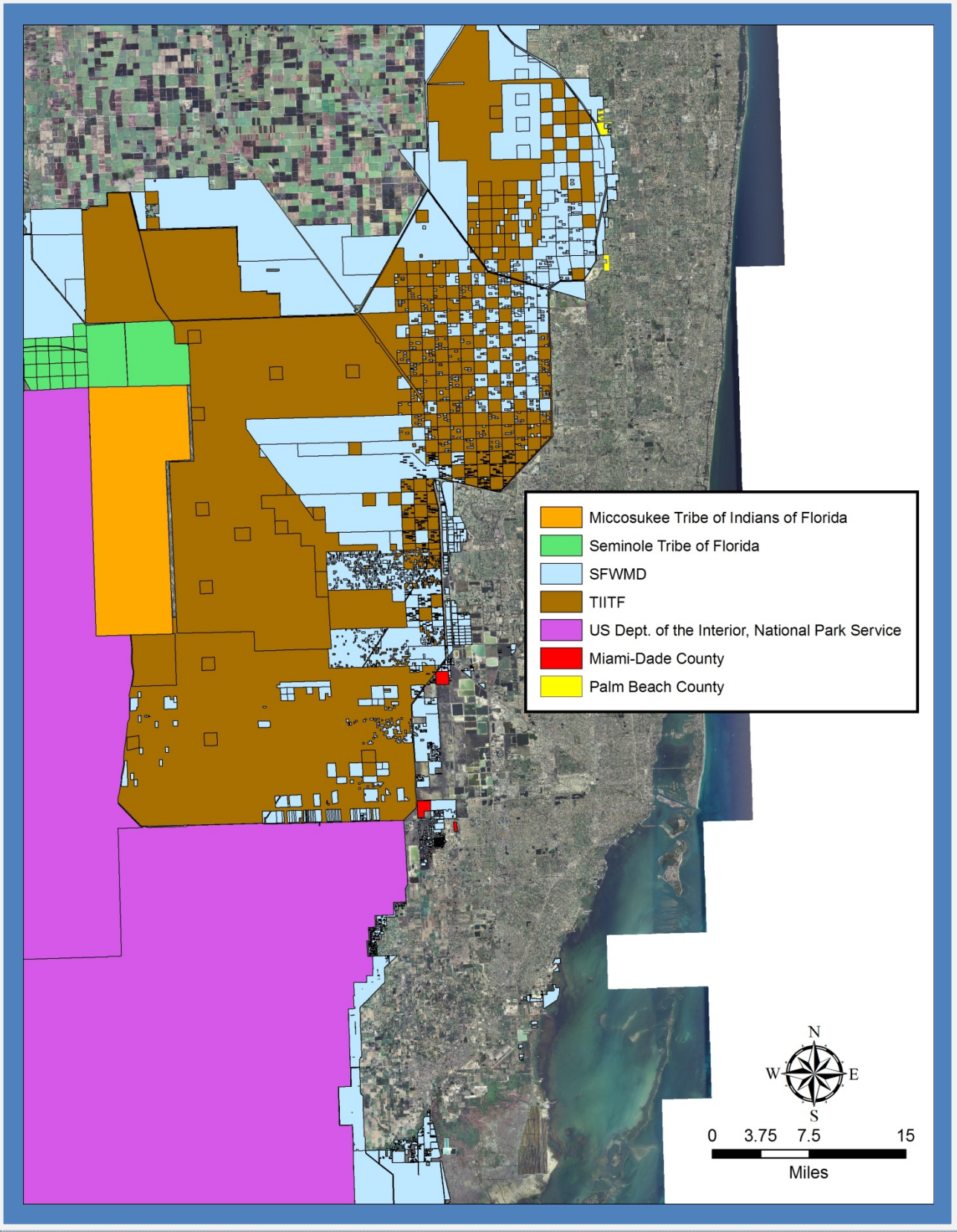


**East Coast Buffer  
Assessment Units**



**East Coast Buffer**  
**Area Public Lands**



**East Coast Buffer**

Palm Beach, Broward, and Miami-Dade

- Area within planning boundary footprint ~ 58,065 acres
- District fee-simple ownership ~ 31,028 acres
- Other public fee-simple ownership ~ 1,650 acres
- Area under other protective restriction (conservation easement, platted preserve area, etc.) ~ 2,341 acres

**Site Overview**

The east coast buffer had been part of the earliest Everglades restoration planning, which recognized the need for acquiring undeveloped lands east of the protective levees to better manage water in the Everglades without impacting the urban communities to the east. The first Save Our Rivers 5-year acquisition plan, printed in 1986, included several of the east coast buffer components.

The plans for this strip of land, stretching across most of three counties, has always envisioned a string of impoundments and restored wetlands that act as a buffer between the Everglades and east coast urban centers, managed in a manner that allows water to be captured, stored, and released at opportune times to benefit both the urban communities and the ecological system to the west. These features also serve a seepage management function to allow higher water levels in the Everglades without impacting water levels in the urban areas.

**Assessment Units**

Strazzulla Wetlands

Core Mission Value

The wetlands on this site serve as an important buffer between urban uses and the Loxahatchee wildlife Refuge. The site provides water quality, flood protection, and natural systems management benefits.

Other Resource Value

This area marked a transition from the flatwood-associated wet prairies to the east, and the Everglades mosaic. The site contains one of the only examples of the transitional prairie that historically occurred in a narrow band along much of the rim of the Everglades “bowl” where the muck of the everglades transitioned into sands.

Management Issues

The District has been negotiating a transfer of ownership to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for inclusion in the Refuge. The cypress area to the east has had a history of melaleuca and lygodium (old world climbing fern) infestations.

Public Use and Recreation Value

There are no developed public use facilities on this property.

Palm Beach County Ag. Reserve Reservoir

Core Mission Value

This area was acquired for the development of a small storage reservoir, but the project has not been authorized by Congress.

Other Resource Value

None

Management Issues

There are three leases on this site: (1) a pepper farm operation on the east side, (2) an equestrian training facility on the center parcel, and (3) a lease to Palm Beach County for the operation of the West Delray Regional Park.

Public Use and Recreation Value

The western portion of the site has been developed as part the West Delray Regional Park by Palm Beach County. The park features picnic shelters, a radio-controlled airplane landing strip, and an archery target range.

Loxahatchee Mitigation Bank

Core Mission Value

The area supports natural systems restoration by providing mitigation for impacts to wetlands.

Other Resource Value

The area borders the Loxahatchee Wildlife refuge, expanding the amount of protected conservation land in the area.

Management Issues

The area is managed by Tetratex, a private company, until all of the credits are sold and restoration success is achieved. Proceeds from the sale of credits are shared with the district to fund other land management needs and the long-term management of the property.

Public Use and Recreation Value

The mitigation bank is not currently open for recreation because the restoration of the site is ongoing.

Broward County Water Preserve Areas

The Broward County Water Preserve Areas consist of three impoundments and a seepage management strip of land, The Site 1 impoundment lies on the north side of the Hillsboro Canal, The C-9 and C-11 impoundments lie east of U.S. 27. The seepage management strip, also called the Everglades Buffer Strip, lies between U.S. 27 and the East Coast Protective Levee (L-33).

Core Mission Value

This project supports the decompartmentalization of the Water Conservation Areas, through the management of seepage that allow for higher water levels in the east side of the Water Conservation Areas. The impoundments provide capacity to capture water within the basin and hold it until it can be released with minimal negative impact to flood protection or water quality.

Other Resource Value

The buffer strip contains marsh and wet prairie underneath numerous melaleuca snags leftover from prior treatments. As such it is valuable habitat for wildlife, particularly for wading birds and raptors.

Management Issues

This area was formerly a solid mass of melaleuca that requires periodic intensive retreatments in order to prevent the harmful plants from re-establishing. The area has an ongoing problem with illegal dumping, makeshift shooting ranges, off-road vehicles, and abandoned vehicles and vessels.

Public Use and Recreation Value

There are currently no developed public use facilities on the site, but each component will have public use features developed in conjunction with the construction of the project, beginning with the Site 1 impoundment which is currently under construction.

Central and Northern Lakebelt Storage Areas

Core Mission Value

These Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan components would include a series of impoundments that are designed to increase operational flexibility to better manage water flows with minimal negative impact to flood protection or water quality.

Other Resource Value

Most of this area contains rock-mining and agricultural operations. There are also significant portions containing thick stands of melaleuca.

Management Issues

There are ongoing problems with solid waste dumping.

Public Use and Recreation Value

There are no developed public use features in the area.

Pennsuco Wetlands

Core Mission Value

This area has utilized mitigation funds associated with rock-mining impacts to conduct a large-scale restoration of marsh and wet prairie. It supports the District’s regulatory function and the natural systems restoration mission objective.

Other Resource Value

These wetlands have a shorter hydroperiod than much of the neighboring everglades mosaic. As such, they are highly valuable to a wide range of wildlife that require such conditions.

Management Issues

The area requires yearly exotic control sweeps to prevent the re-establishment of melaleuca.

Public Use and Recreation Value

There are currently no developed public use facilities on the site.

C-4 Impoundment

Core Mission Value

This area is a completed impoundment designed to capture excess water flows from the C-4 basin and release them at times when it is most advantageous in regards to minimizing negative impact to flood protection or water quality.

Other Resource Value

This shallow impoundment is utilized by wildlife and wading birds, to a degree that is dependent on the operation stage of the water-levels.

Management Issues

The northern cell is owned by the State, the southern cell is predominantly owned by the District.

Public Use and Recreation Value

There are no developed public use facilities on the site.

Bird Drive

Core Mission Value

This area is characterized by hundreds of small parcels. It is a Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan component that was intended to catch extra seepage coming off the re-hydrated Shark River Slough to the west. Planning under the Central Everglades Planning

Project currently anticipates this seepage being handled by a seepage barrier, rather than through the Bird Drive wetlands.

Other Resource Value

The natural features on this site have been significantly degraded due to invasive species infestation and off-road vehicle use.

Management Issues

The non-contiguous ownership within the area contributes to the cost of managing the property.

Public Use and Recreation Value

Because of the configuration of ownership, there are currently no public use facilities within the Bird Drive area.

The greatest challenge in this area is the ongoing control of invasive exotic plant species.

Public Use and Recreation Value

There are currently no developed public use facilities on the site.

8 1/2 Square-Mile Area

Core Mission Value

The 8 1/2 Square Mile Area project included the construction of a levee and a seepage collection canal to allow for greater water flows into the northeastern portion of Everglades National Park. The collected seepage is pumped into an impoundment cell in the L-31N / Rocky Glades area to the south.

Other Resource Value

The area to the west of the new levee contains large areas of marsh and wet prairie.

Management Issues

The area has had problems with access control and illegal dumping. The Army Corps of Engineers owns much of the land in the area. It is anticipated that these lands will be transferred to District ownership.

Public Use and Recreation Value

There are no developed public use facilities on the site.

L-31N – Rocky Glades / Frog Pond

Core Mission Value

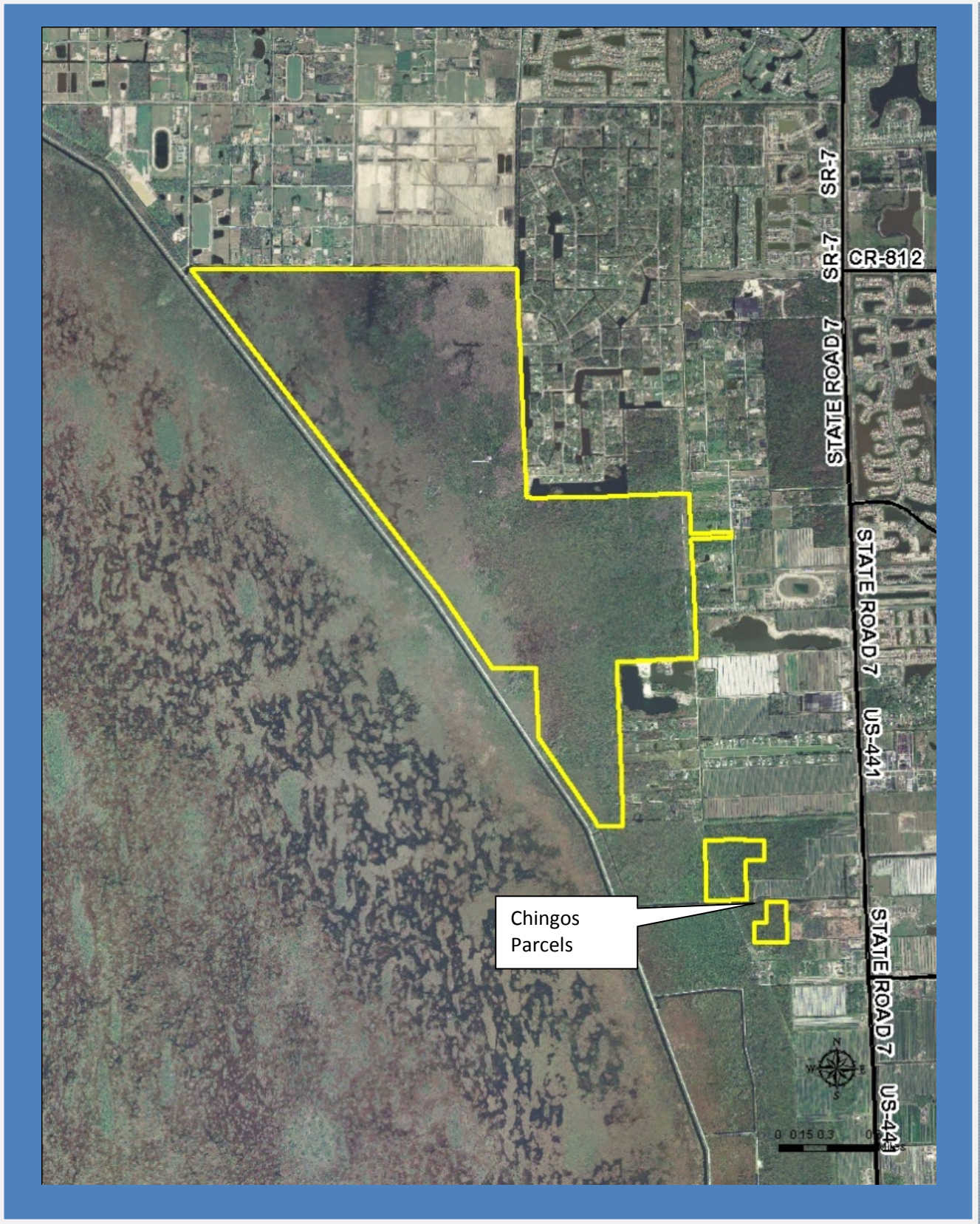
This project operates in conjunction with the 8 1/2 Square Mile Area to the north. It includes a long chain of above-ground water impoundment cells that create a subsurface hydrologic curtain to prevent seepage loss from the Shark River Slough in Everglades National Park.

Other Resource Value

Shallow impoundments are often utilized by a wide range of wildlife, varying with the operational stages of the water within them.

Management Issues

Strazzulla Wetlands, Location Map

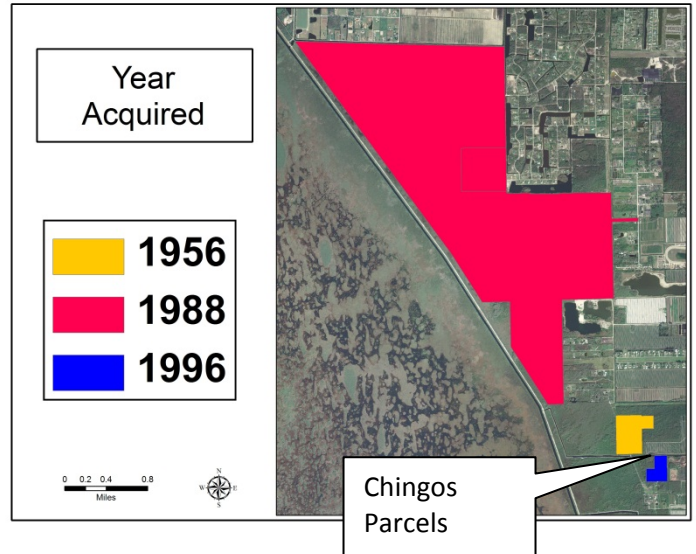
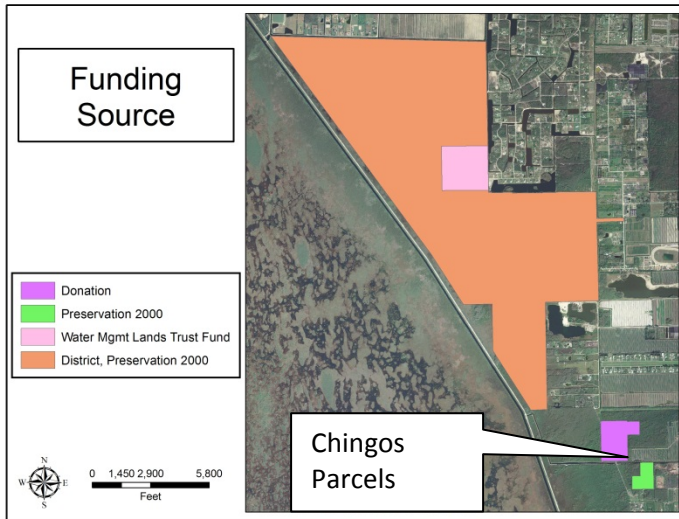


**Strazzulla Wetlands, Photos**

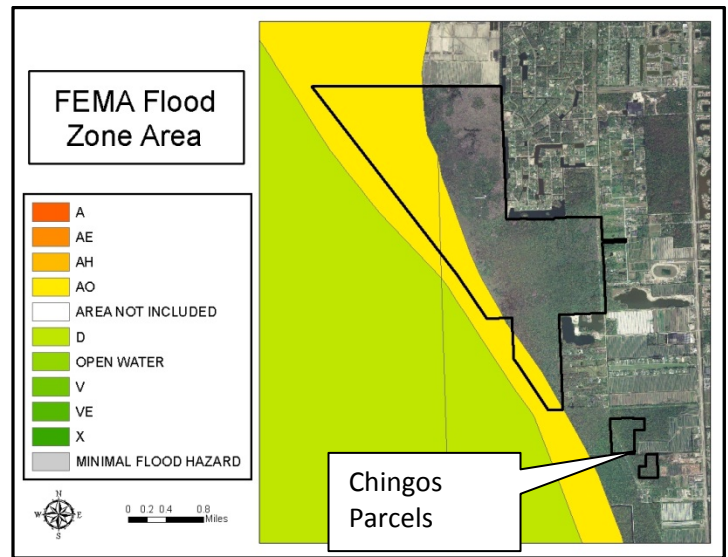
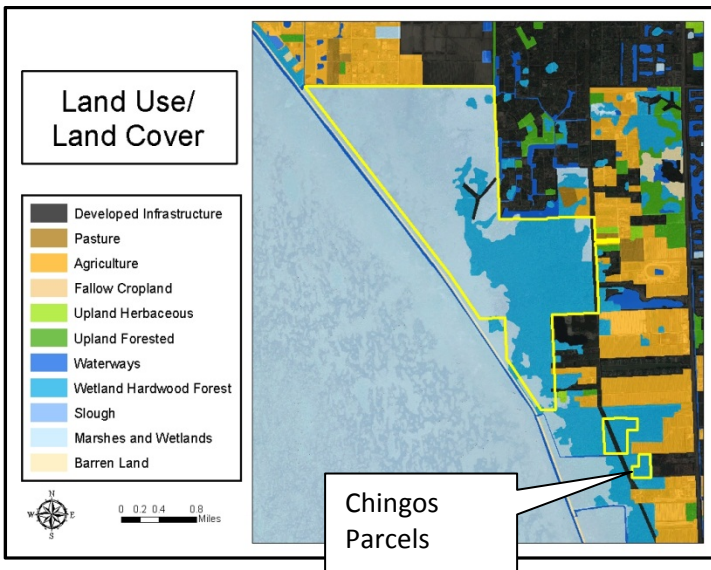
Strazzulla transitions from cypress in the east to sawgrass marsh in the west and a couple of flavors of wet prairie towards the center of the site.



### Strazzulla Wetlands: Land Acquisition



### Strazzulla Wetlands: Land Character

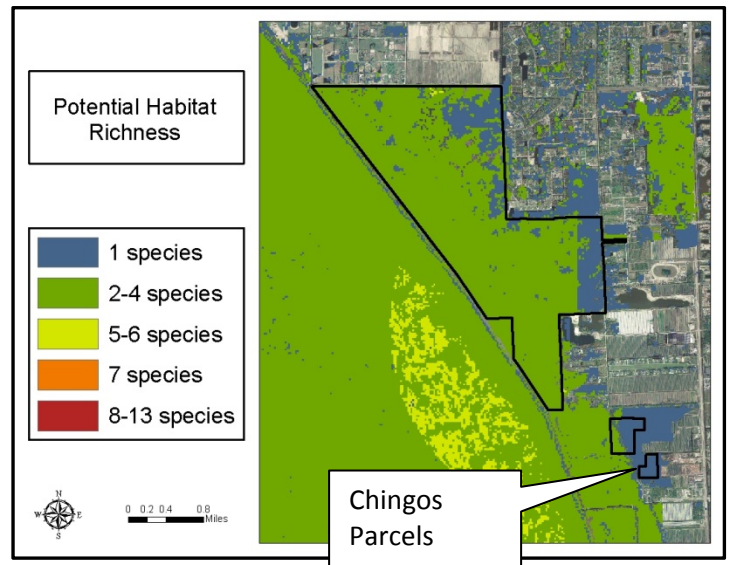
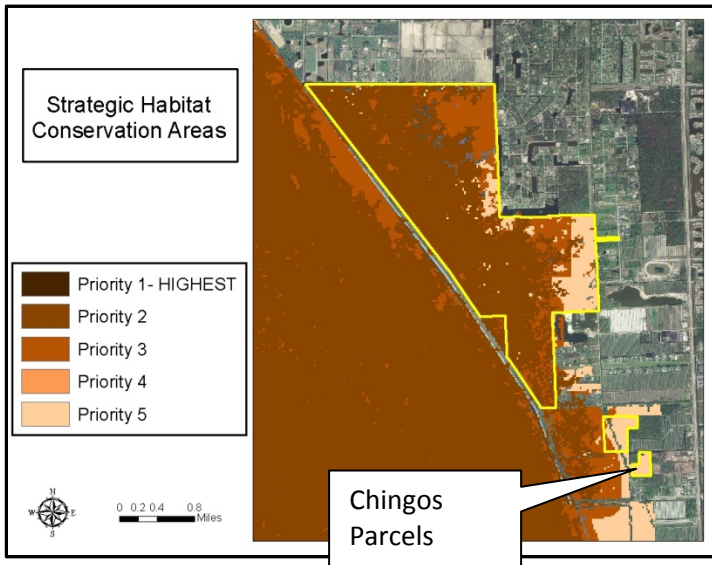
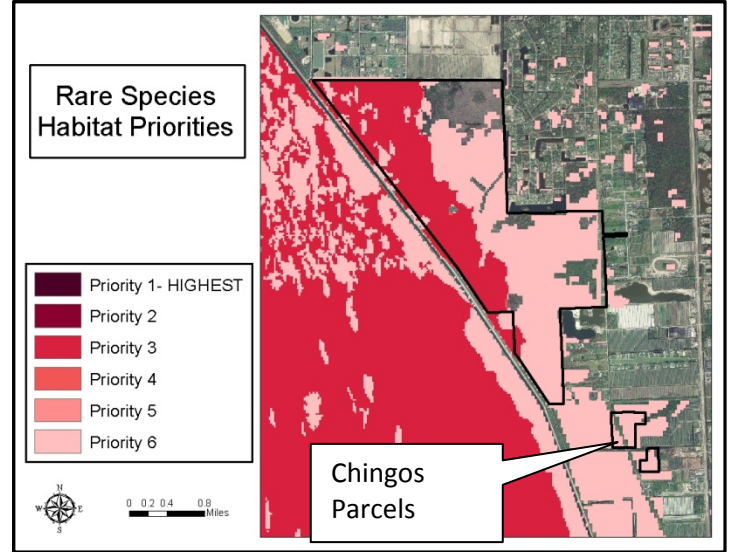
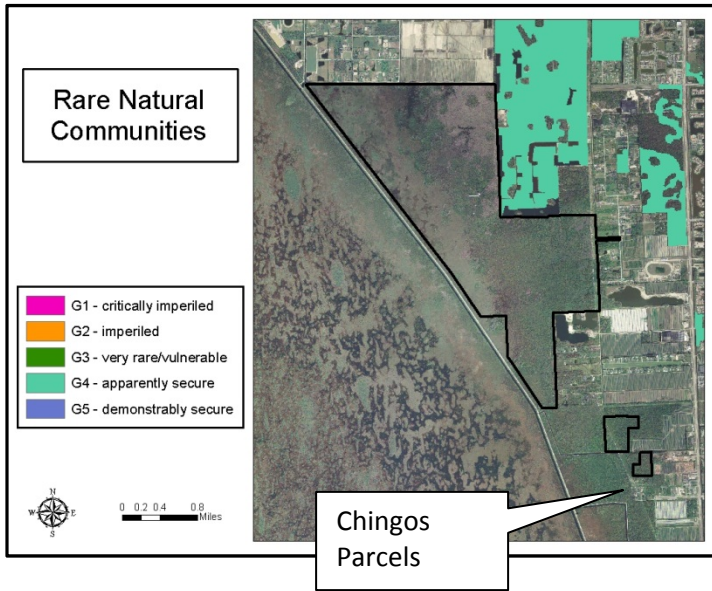


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**Strazzulla Wetlands: Land Character  
(Continued)**



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## Individual Parcel Assessments

### Chingos Parcels

These are two small parcels that are isolated and separated from strazzulla, they are adjacent to a larger County-owned parcel. Exotic trees, primarily Brazillian pepper, are dominant, but there are smaller areas of cypress as well. ~95.06 acres.

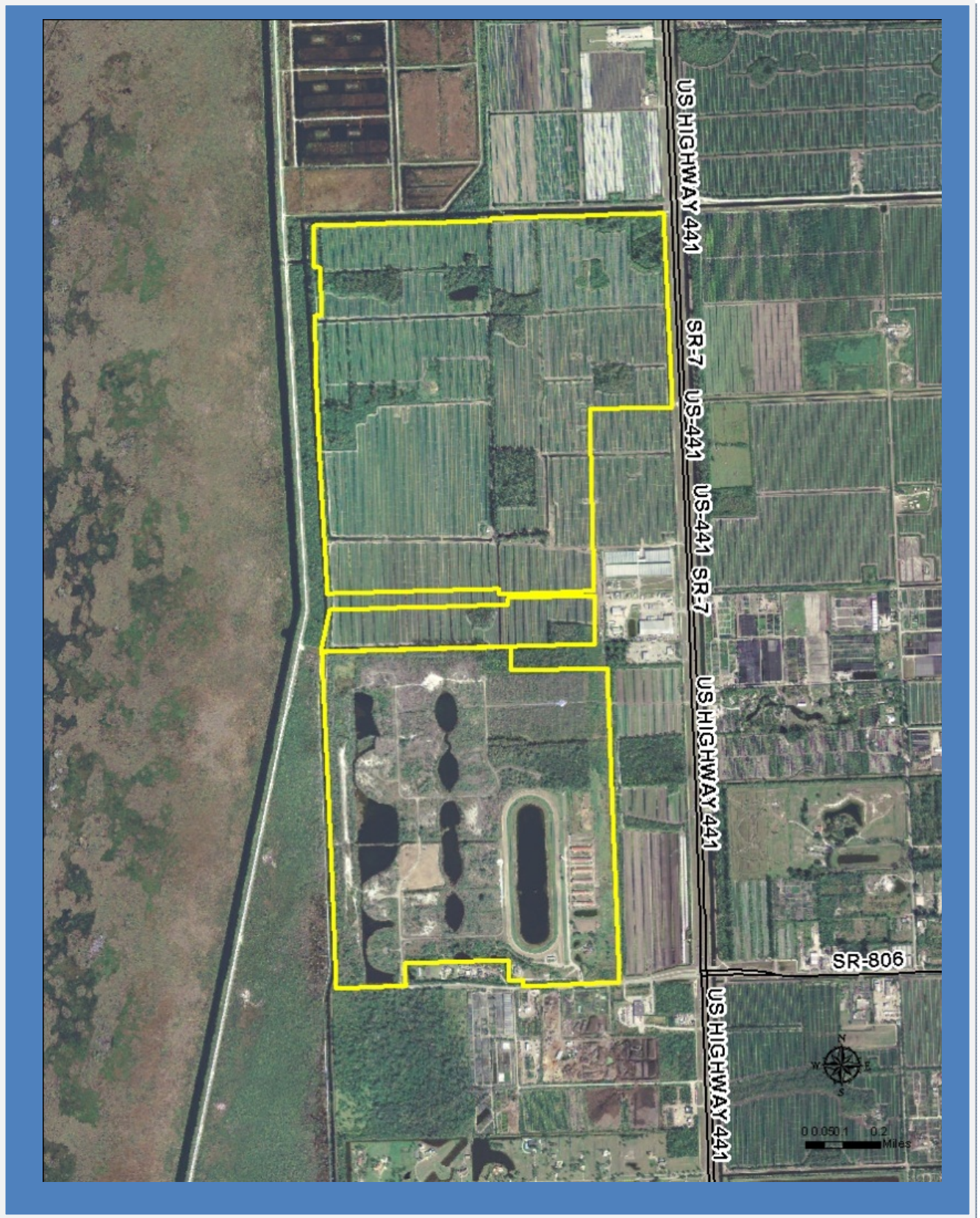
### Chingos Parcels, Photo



Looking into the site from the electric transmission corridor



Palm Beach Ag. Reserve Reservoir, Location  
Map



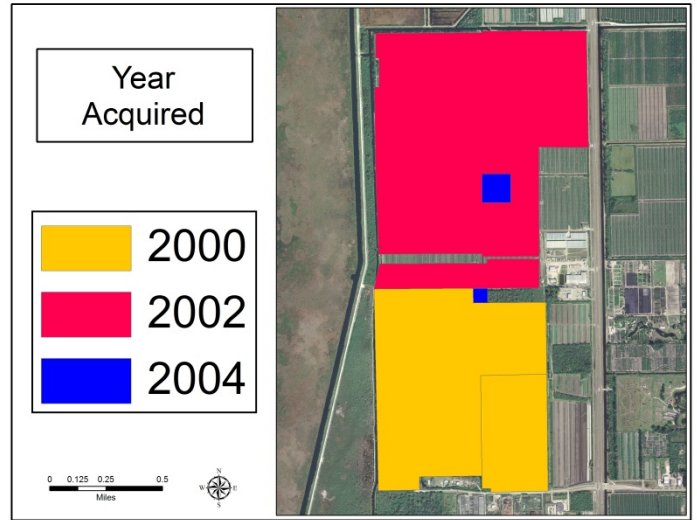
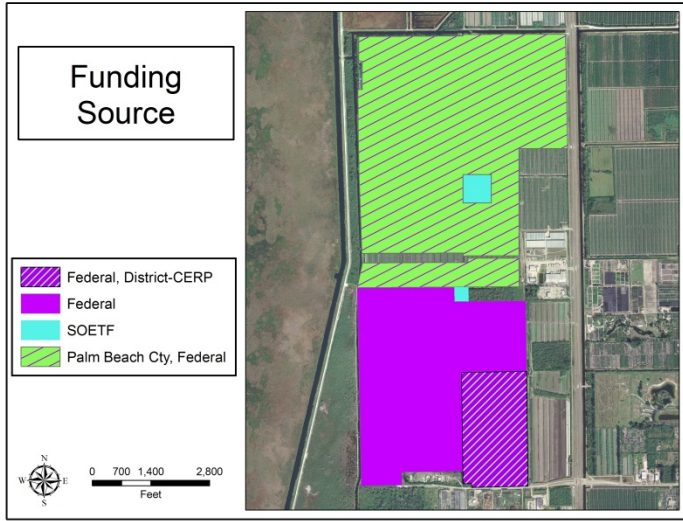
**Palm Beach Ag. Reserve Reservoir, Photos**



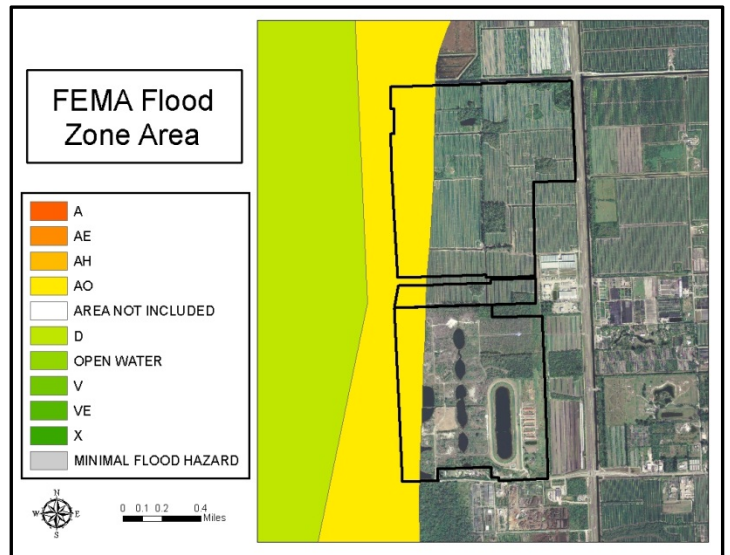
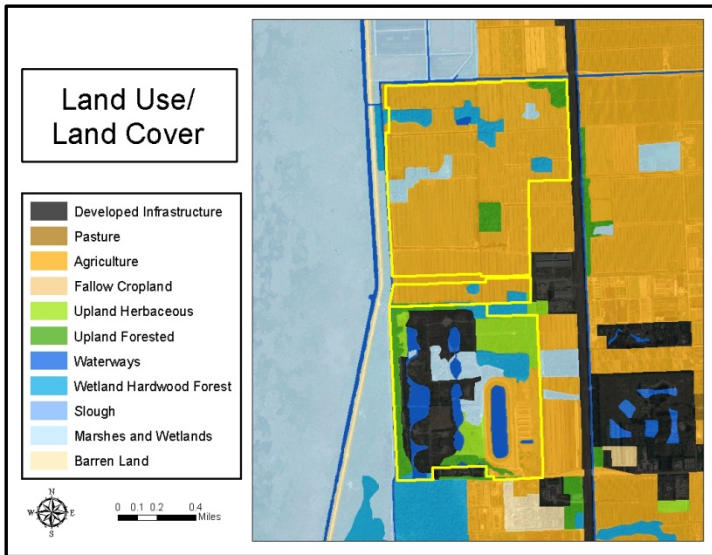
**These properties include Palm Beach Downs (above left), the West Delray Regional Park (above right), and a property leased for row crops (below)**



### Palm Beach Ag. Reserve Reservoir: Land Acquisition



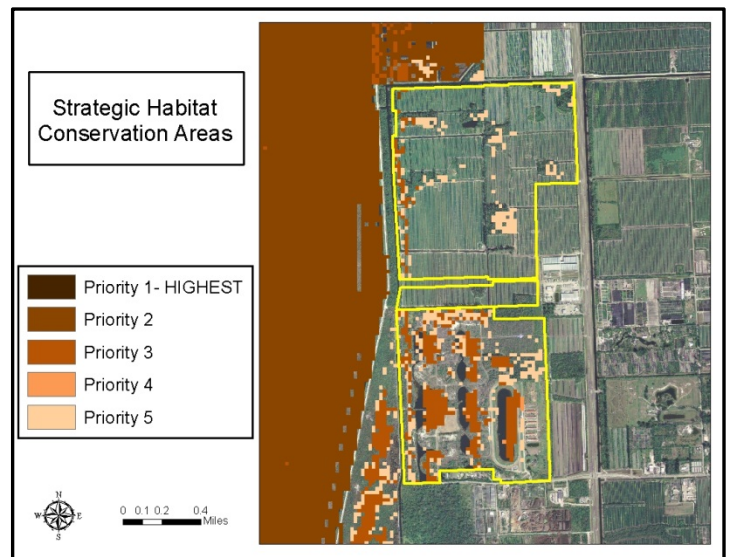
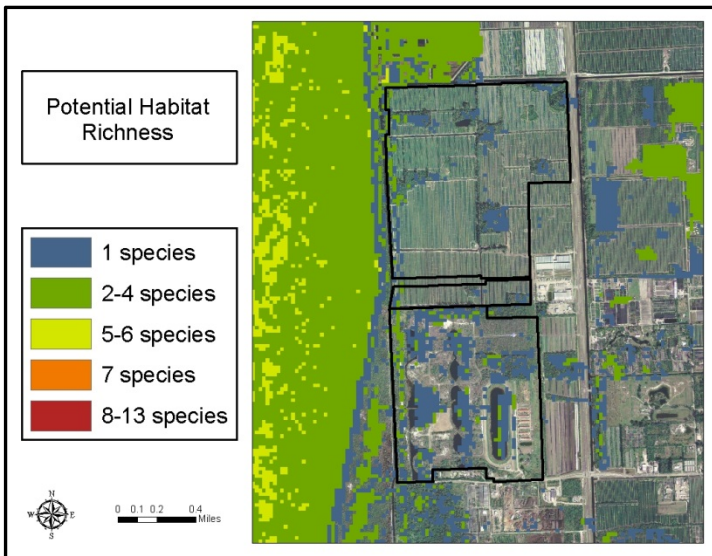
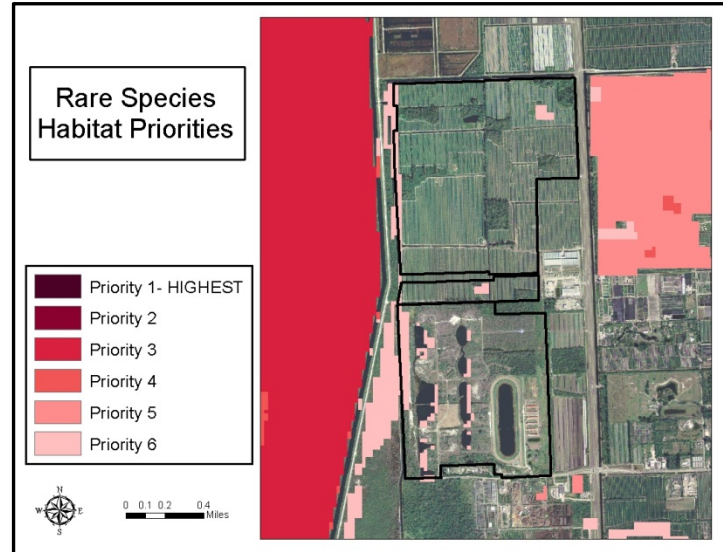
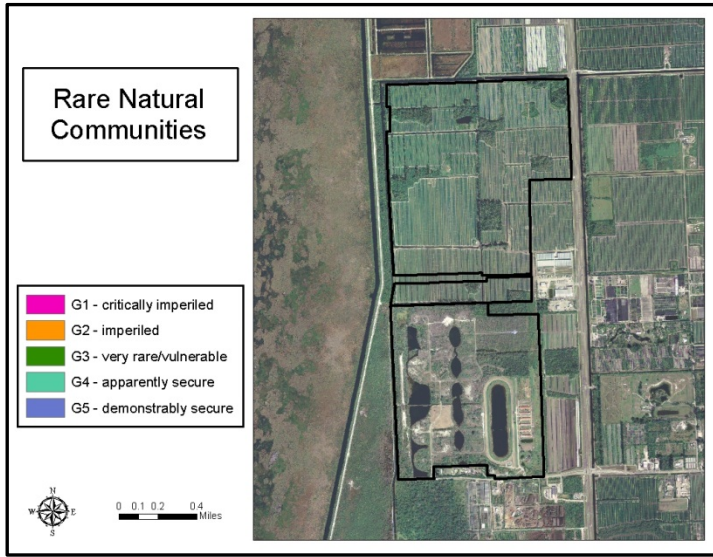
### Palm Beach Ag. Reserve Reservoir: Land Character



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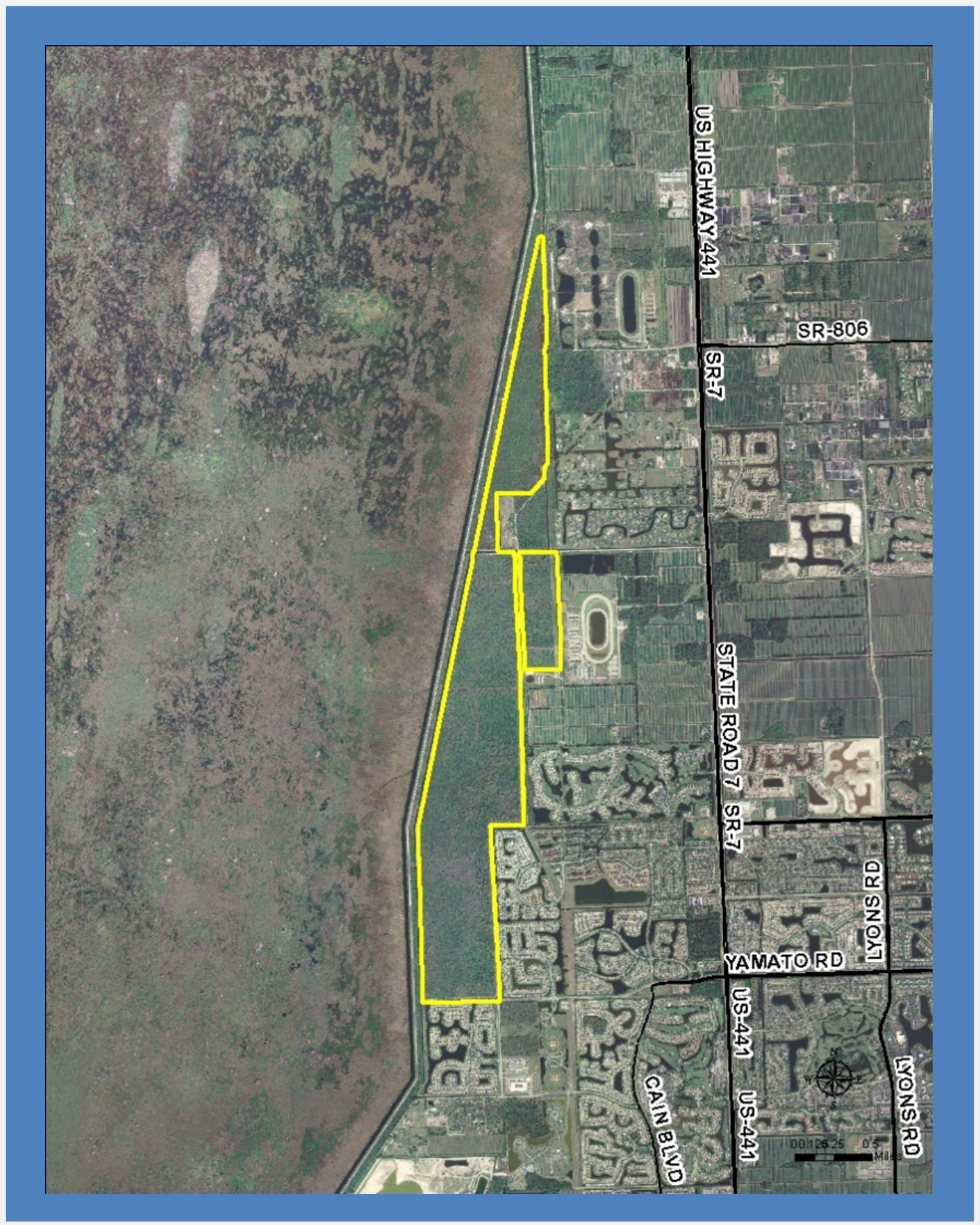
**Palm Beach Ag. Reserve Reservoir: Land Character (Continued)**



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Loxahatchee Mitigation Bank, Location Map



Loxahatchee Mitigation Bank, Photos



When the construction of the perimeter features of the bank began, the site was a dense forest of Brazilian pepper (above).

The pepper was chemically treated (below).





**Loxahatchee Mitigation Bank, Photos**



Removing the leftover biomass was a major feat involving heavy equipment, manual labor, inundations, and even napalm (above left)



**Loxahatchee Mitigation Bank, Photos**



**The mitigation bank in 2011**

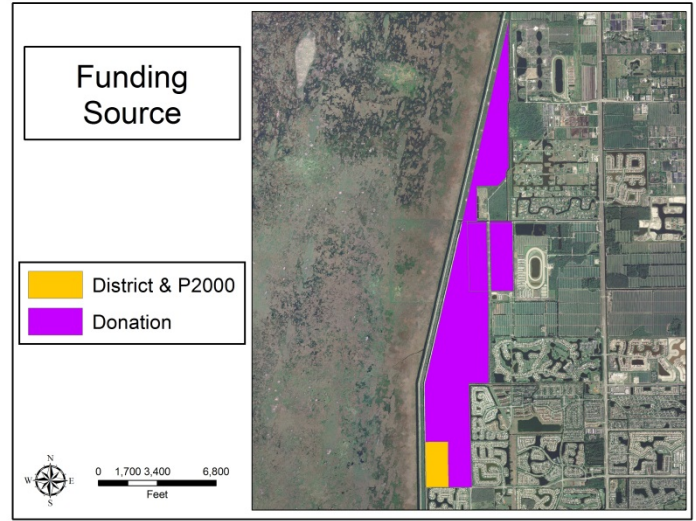
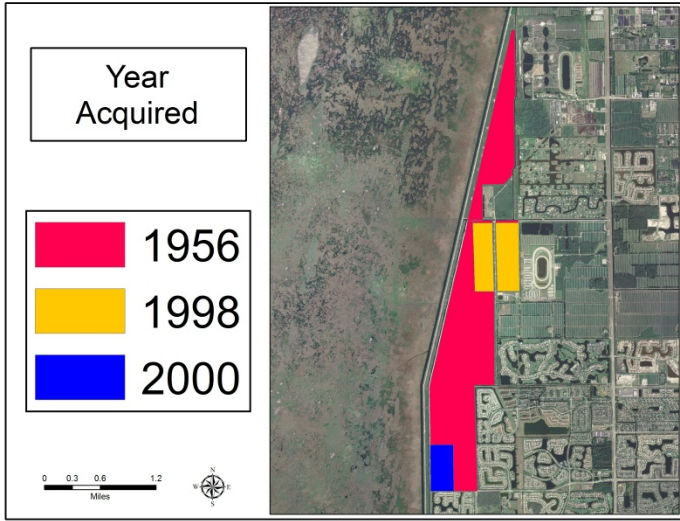
**Loxahatchee Mitigation Bank, Photos**



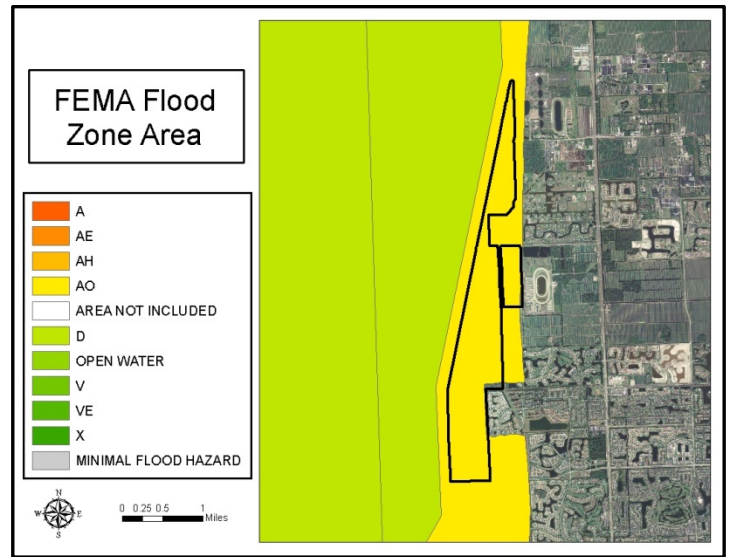
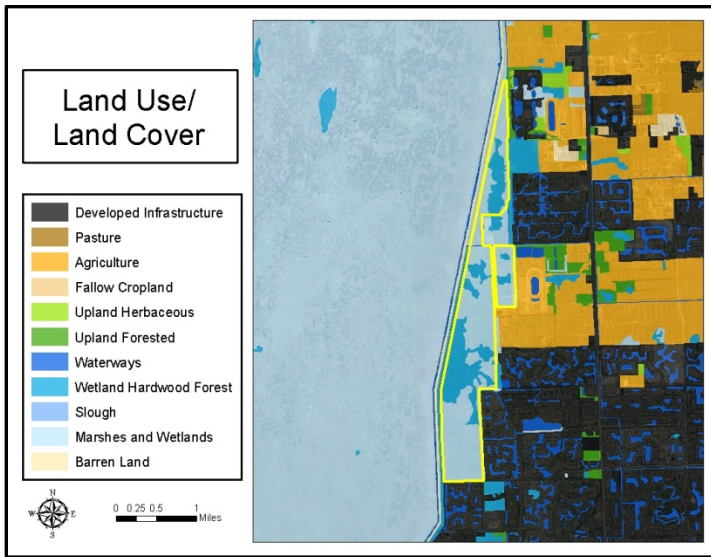
**The site now contains many of the same transitional wetland communities that are found at Strazzulla, a couple miles to the north.**



### Loxahatchee Mitigation Bank: Land Acquisition



### Loxahatchee Mitigation Bank: Land Character

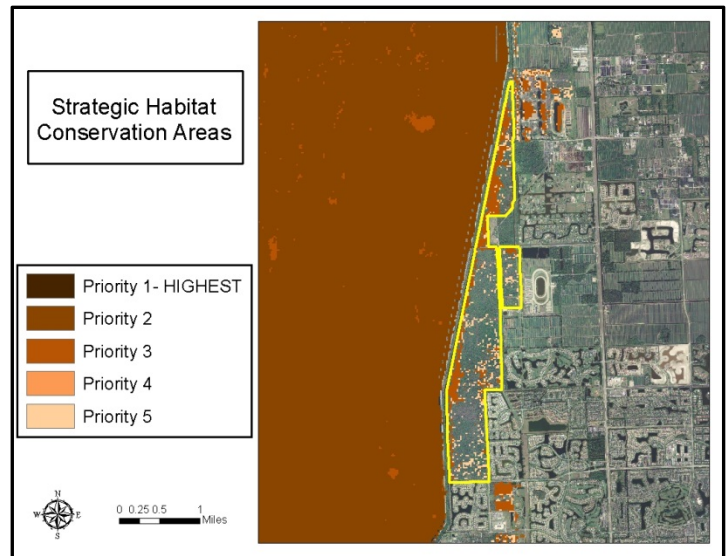
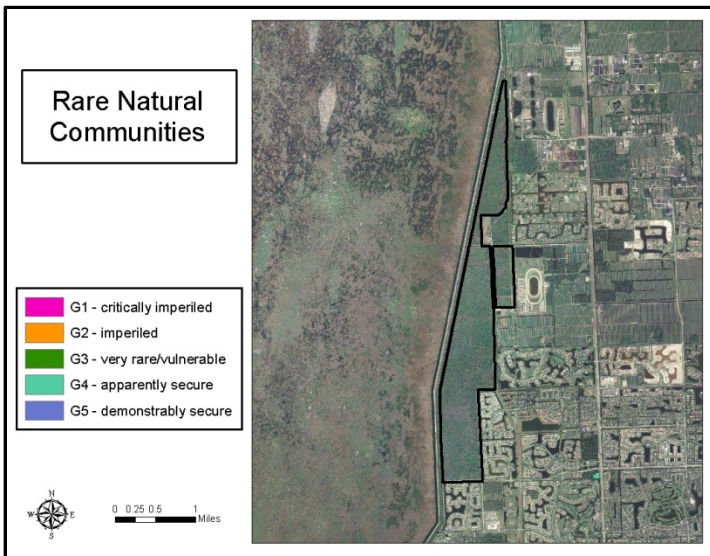
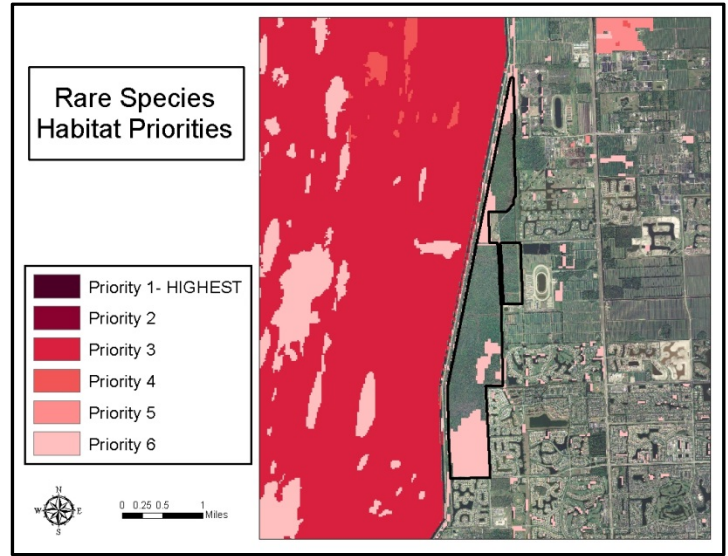
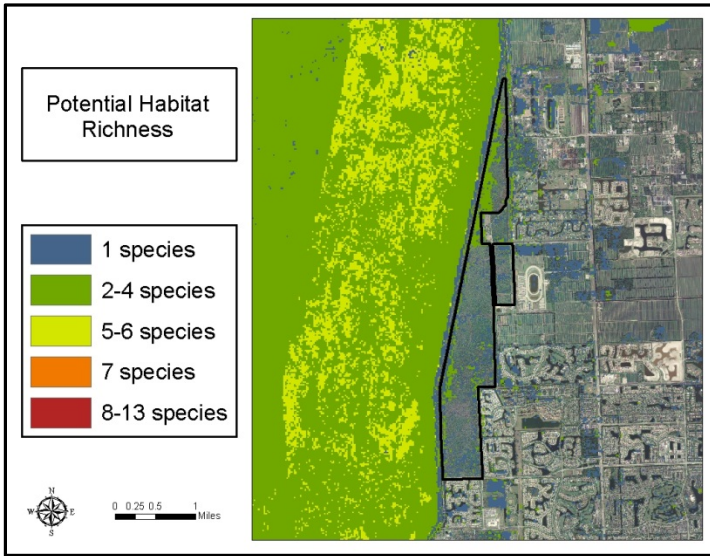


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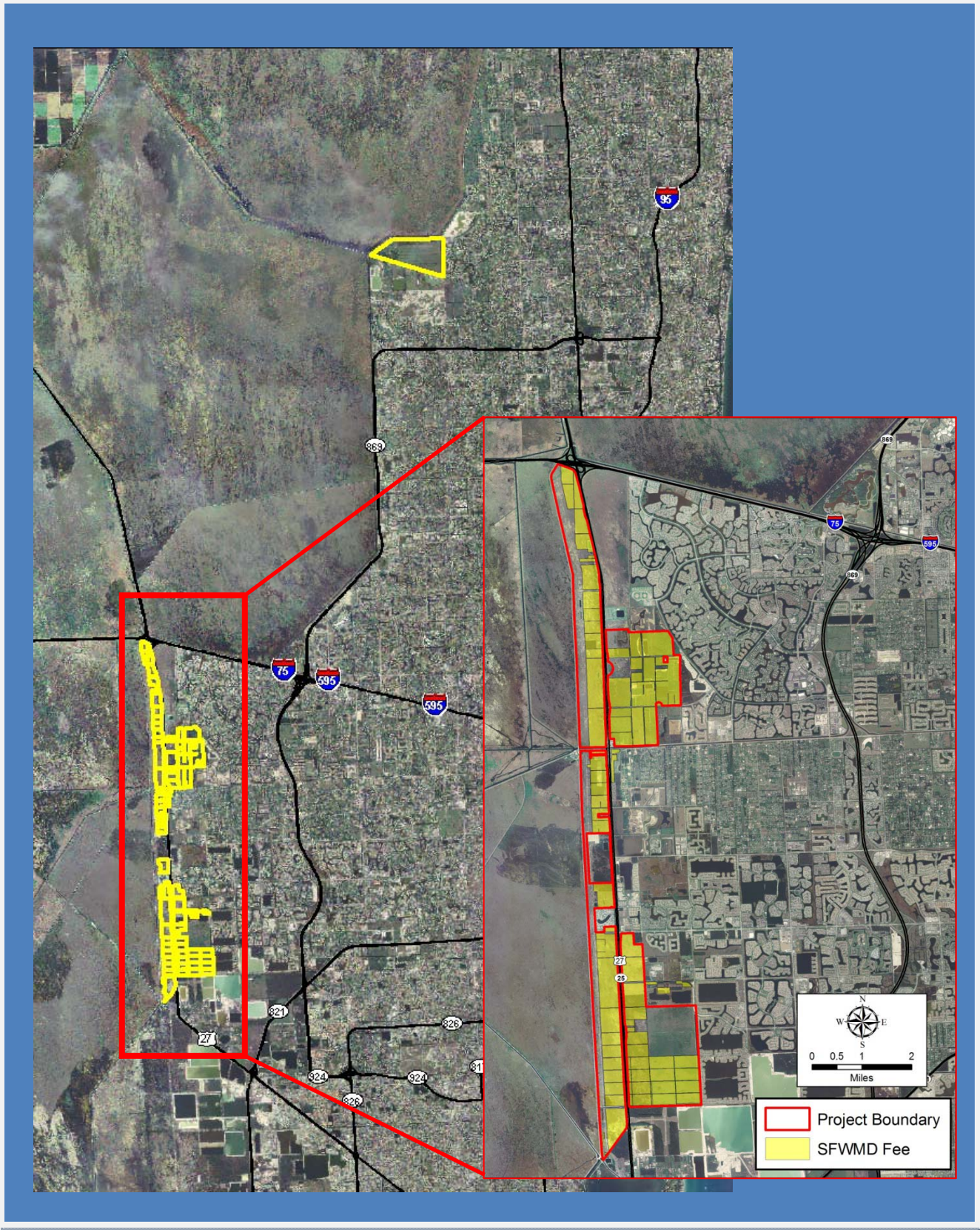
**Loxahatchee Mitigation Bank: Land Character  
(Continued)**



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Broward WPA, Location Map



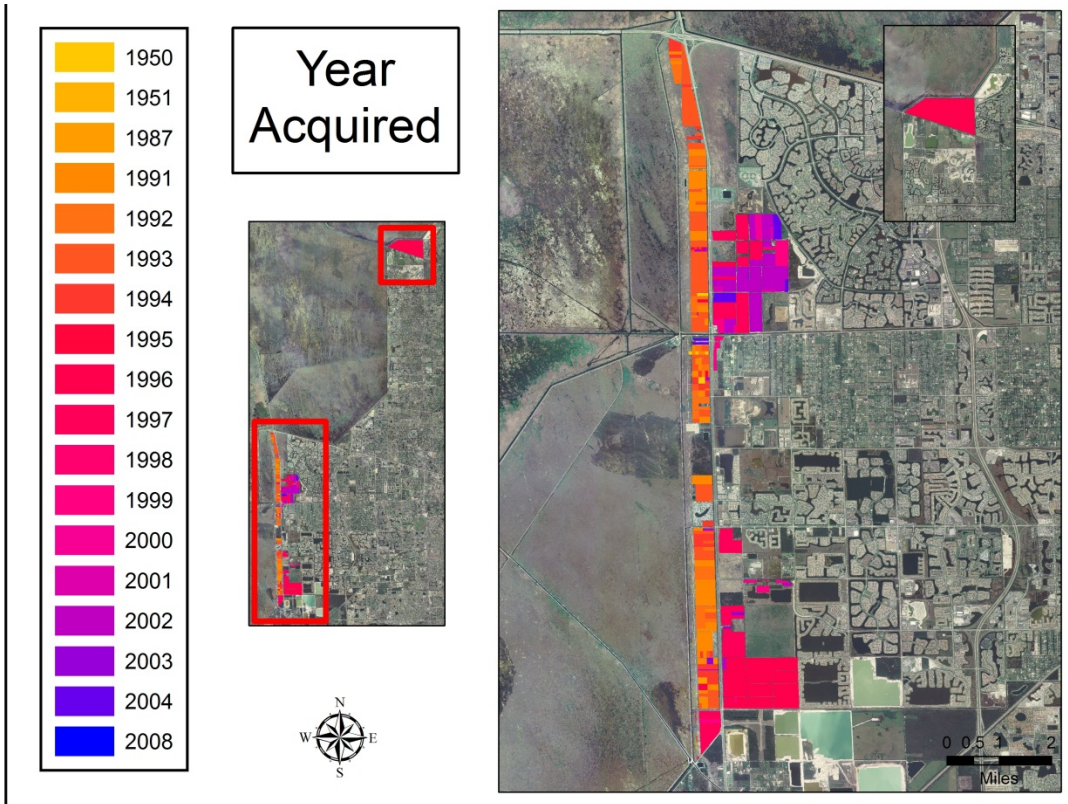
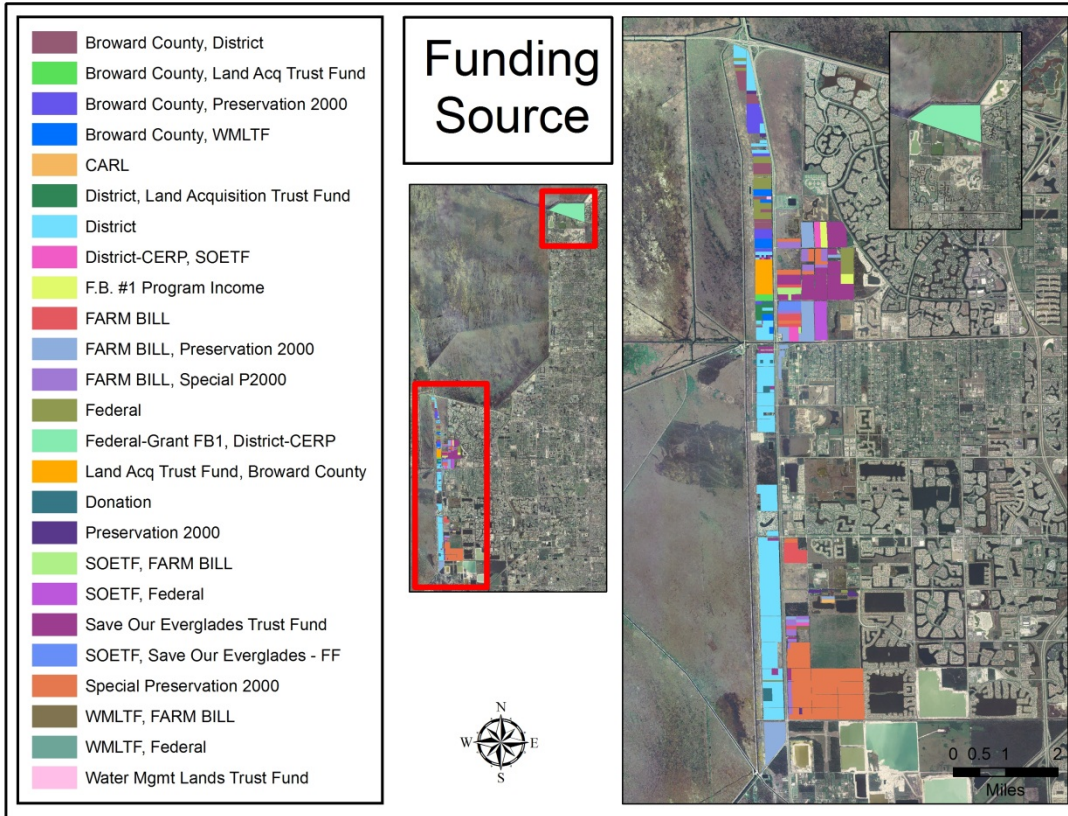
**Broward WPA, Photos**



The everglades buffer strip (above) and the site 1 impoundment under construction (below)



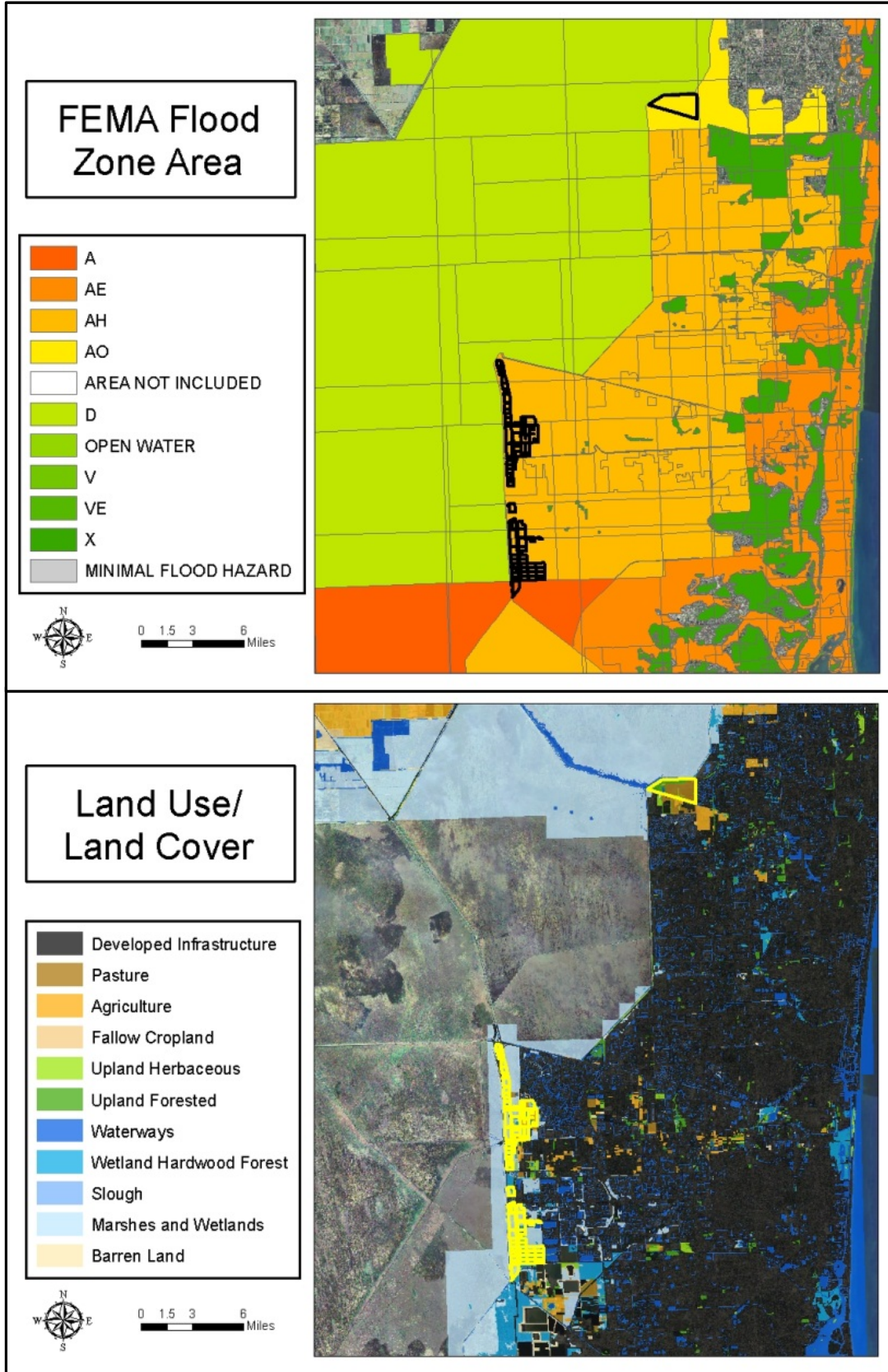
**Broward WPA: Land Acquisition**



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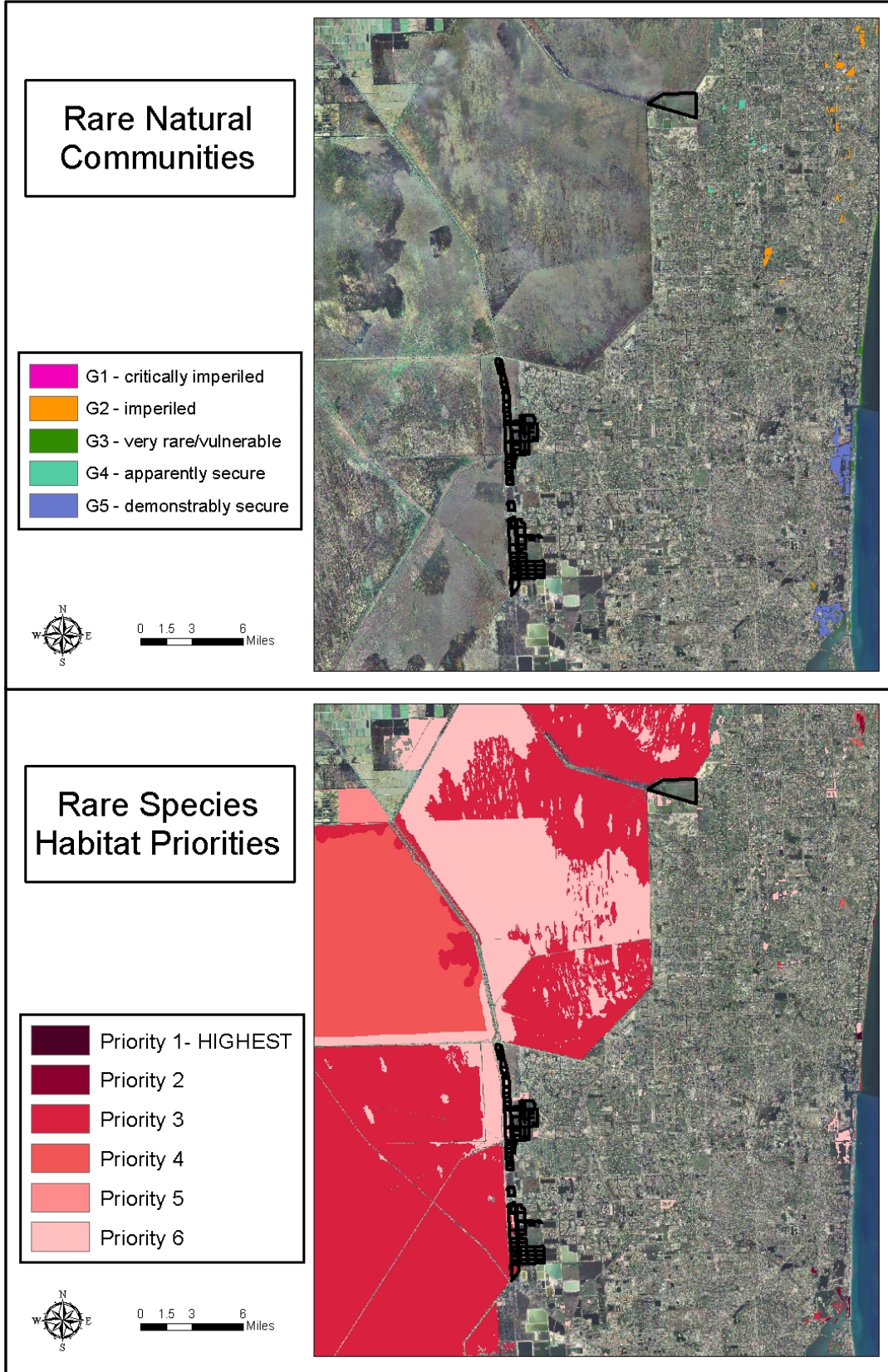


**Broward WPA: Land Character**



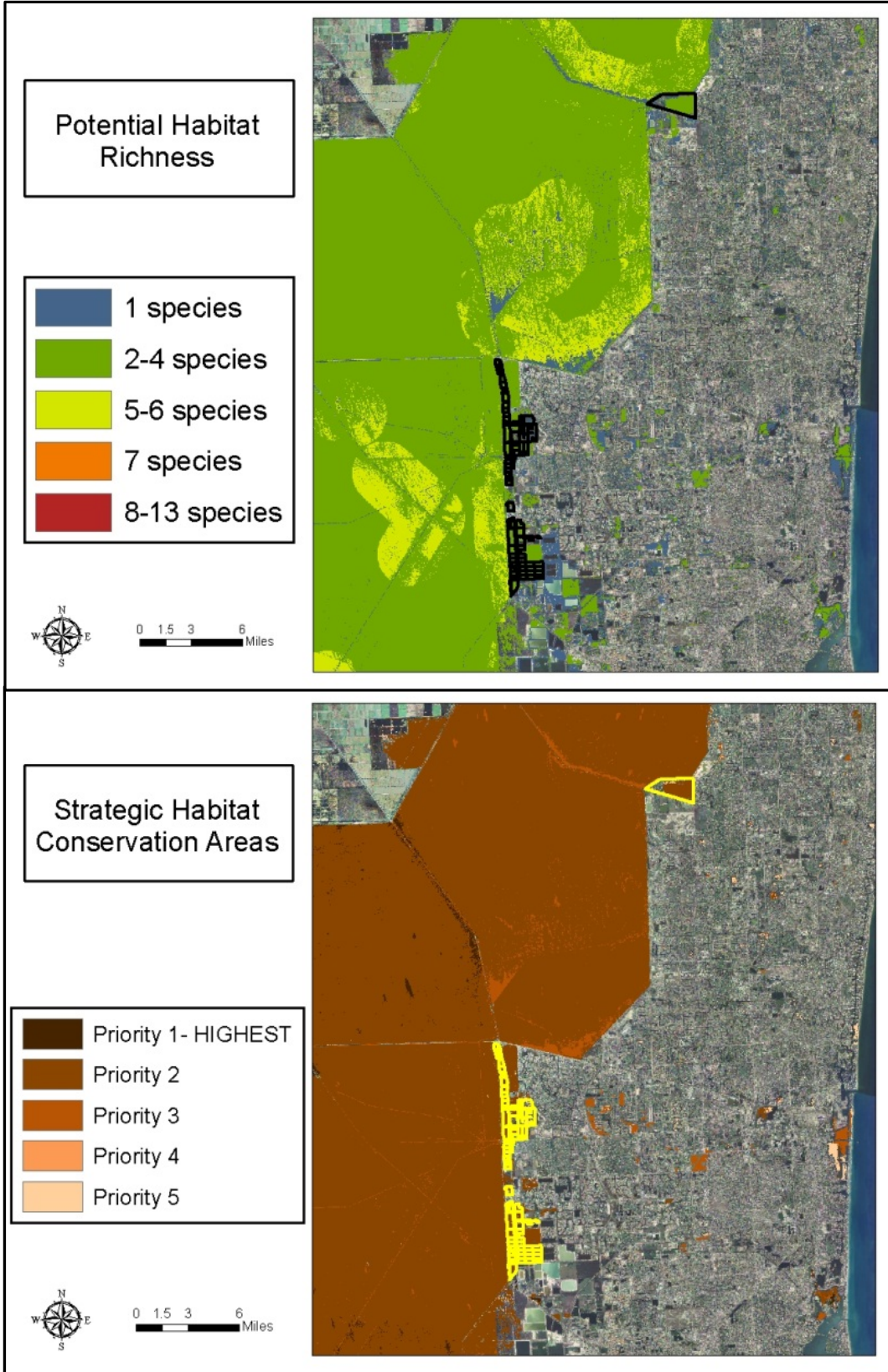
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**Broward WPA: Land Character (Continued)**



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**Broward WPA: Land Character (Continued)**



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**Individual Parcel Assessments**

Holly Lake Parcel

This parcel lies in the SE corner of a residential community and is hydrologically separated from the other buffer strip lands. ~16.6 acres.

Miramar Parkway Parcels

The District assumed ownership of these parcels, sometimes referred to as the Pembroke Road mitigation parcels, through its regulatory function as mitigation for impacts to other wetlands. ~ 46.63 acres.

Griffin Road Parcels

This property lies outside of the C-11 impoundment project footprint. It is located at the corner of Griffin Rd and U.S. 27, both north and south of the Griffin. It contains a variety of exotc trees. ~ 32.65 acres.

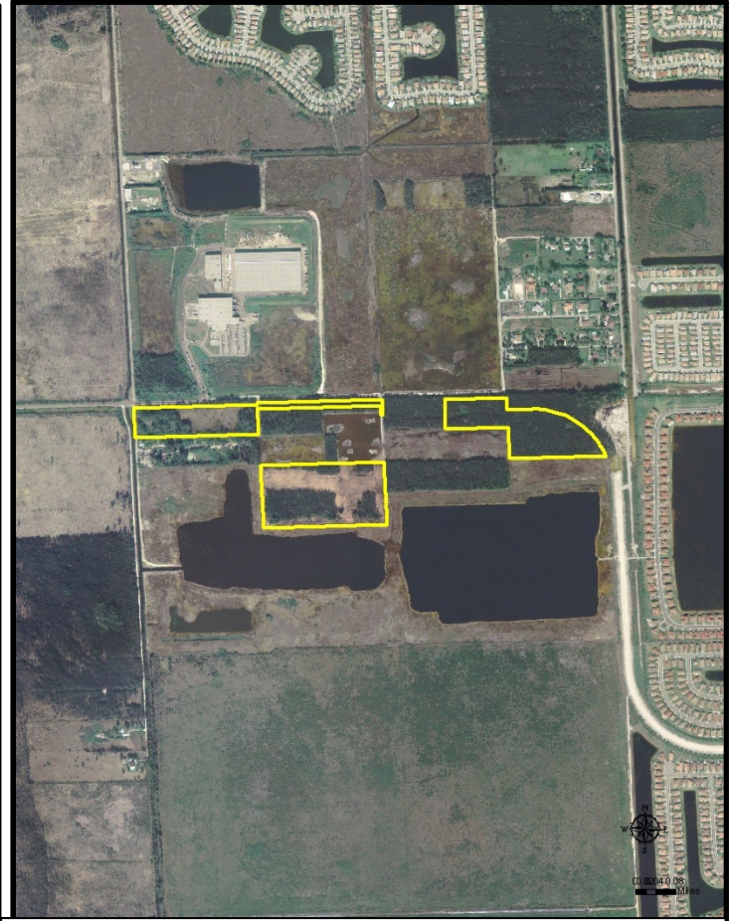


Holly Lake Parcel

**Broward County WPA Individual Parcels  
Location Maps**

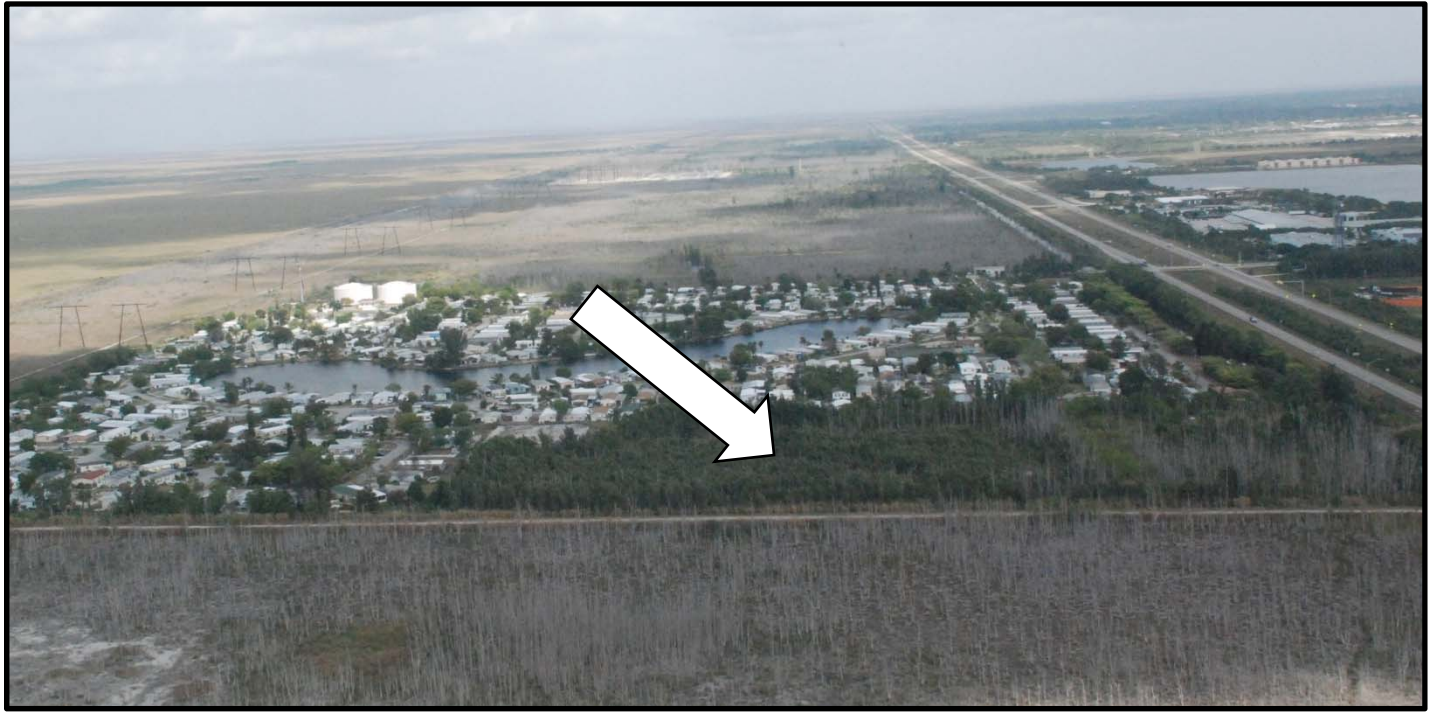


Griffin Road Parcels



Miramar Parkway Parcels

Holly Lake Parcels, Photos



This parcel is hydrologically separated from the other east coast buffer properties, the site is a conglomeration of exotic species



Miramar Parkway Miigation Parcels, Photos



These parcels lie outside of the proposed C-9 impoundment footprint.



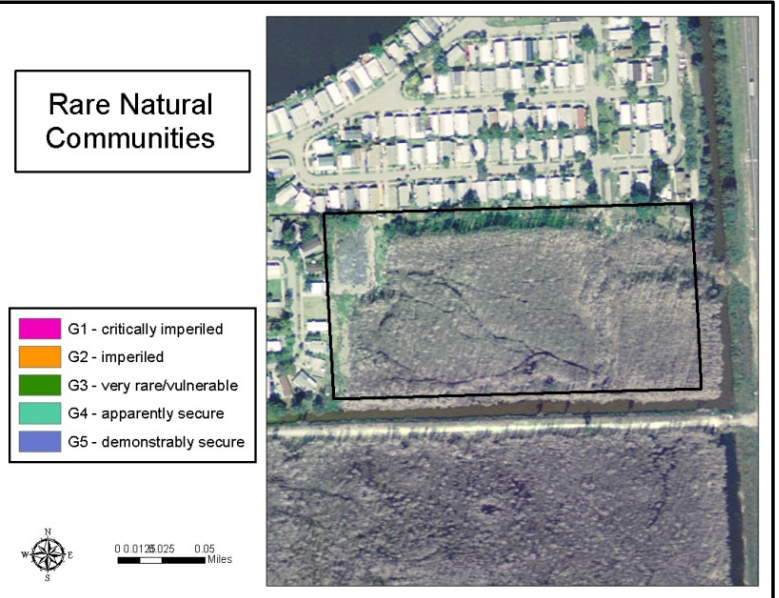
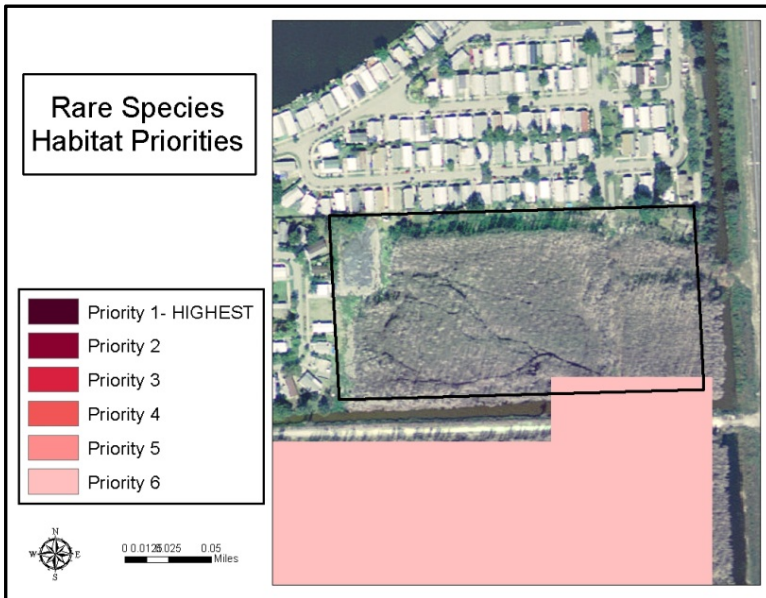
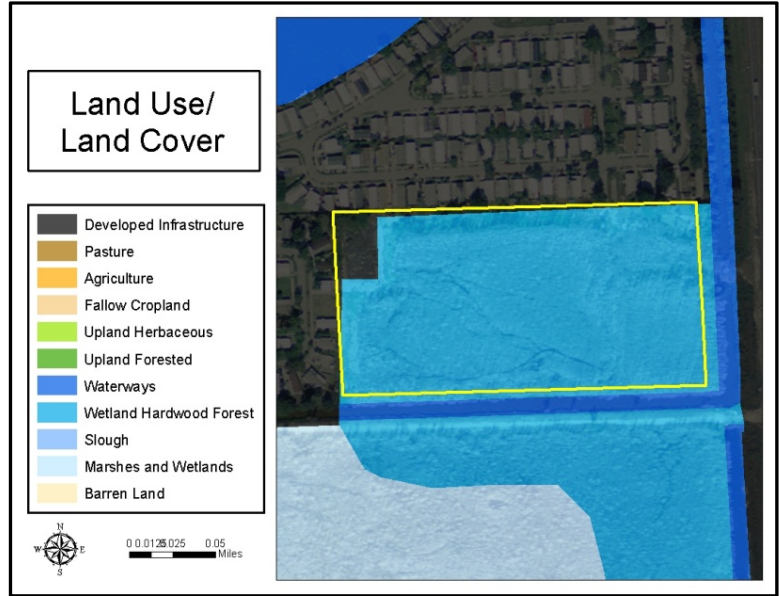
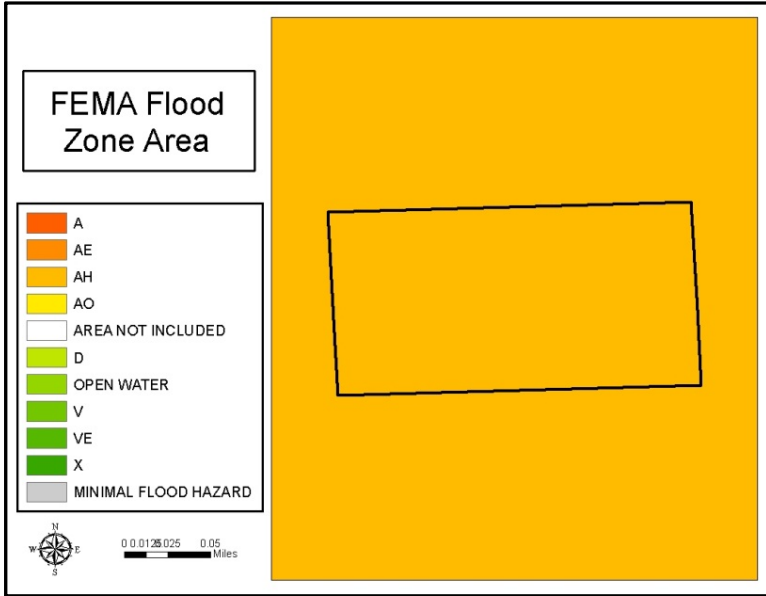
**Griffin Road Parcels, Photos**



**These parcels are overrun with exotic species and lie outside of the proposed C-9 impoundment footprint.**



**Broward County WPA Individual Parcels:  
Holly Lake Parcel: Land Character**

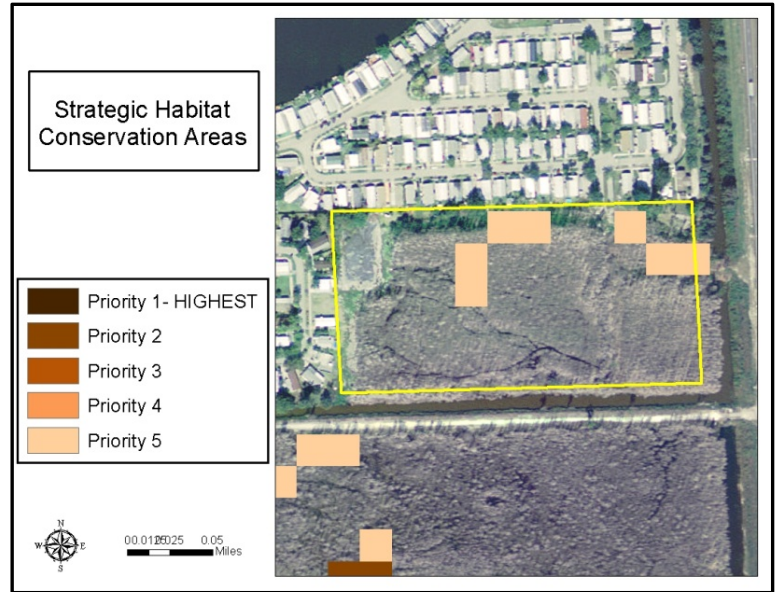
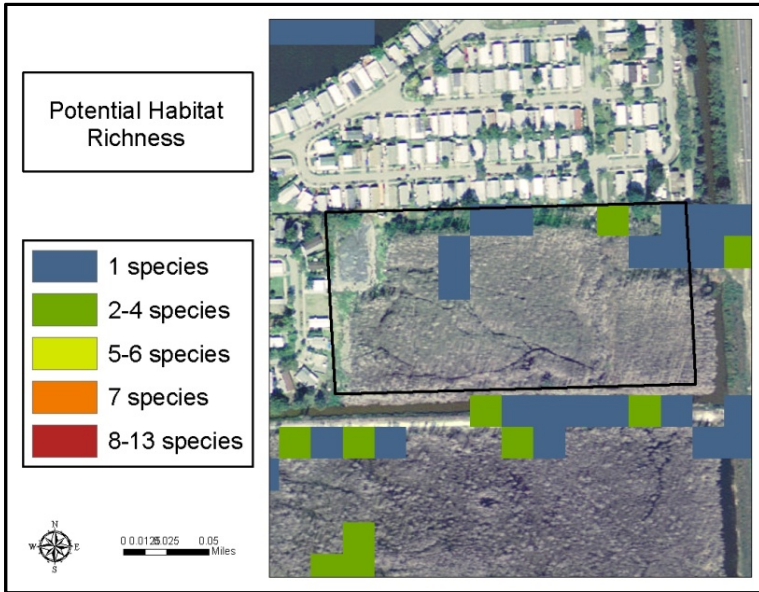


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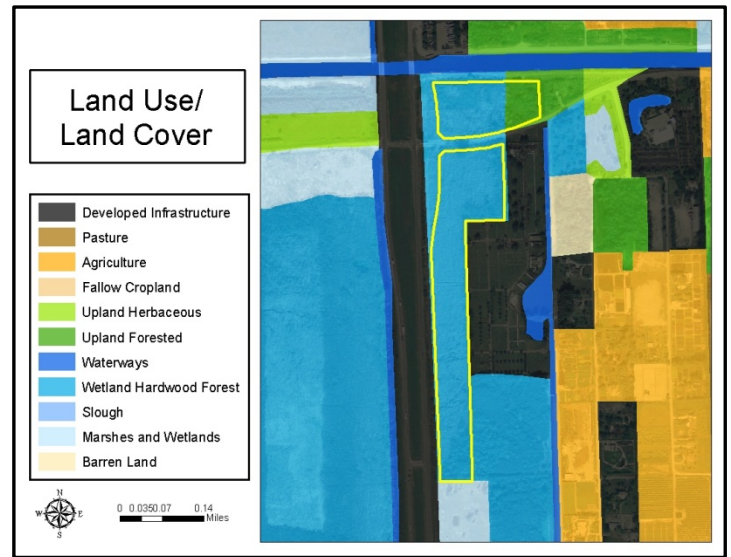
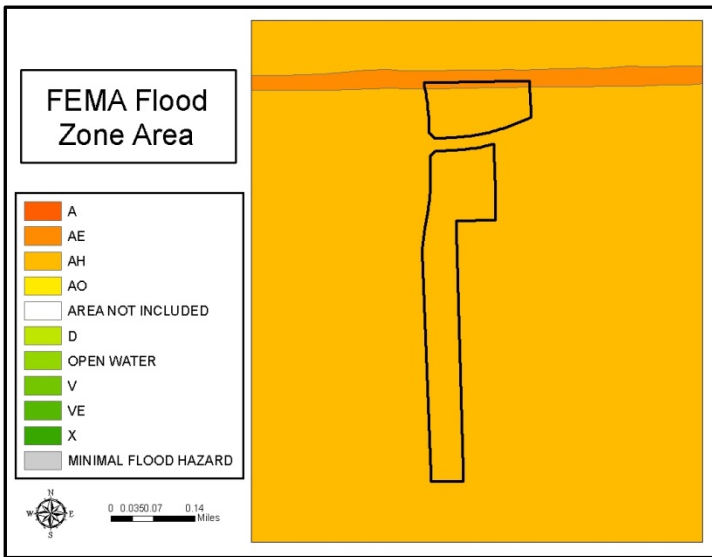
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**Broward County WPA Individual Parcels:  
Holly Lake Parcel: Land Character (Continued)**



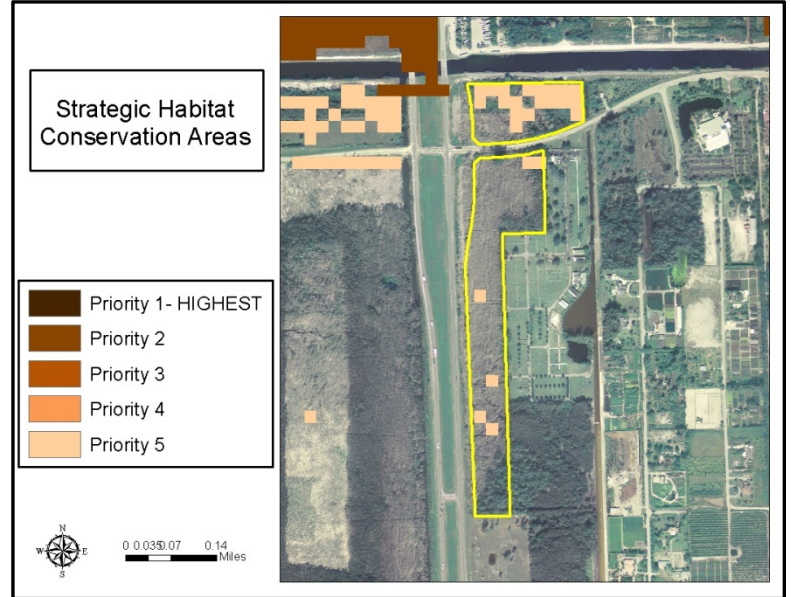
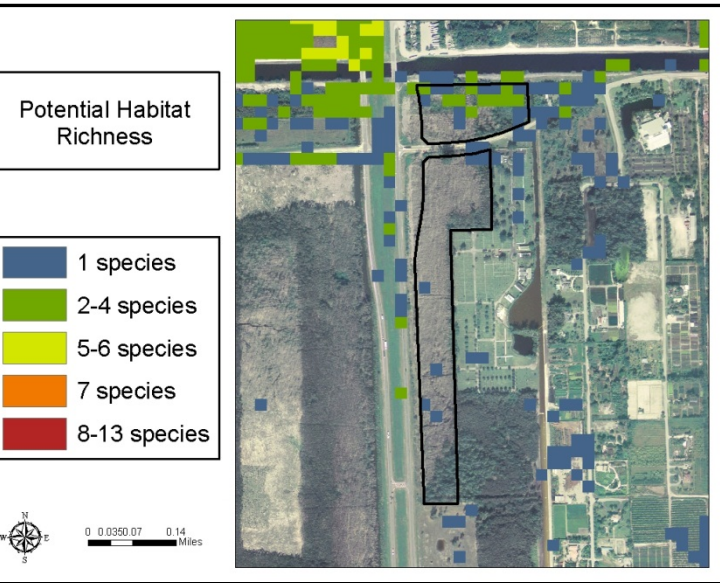
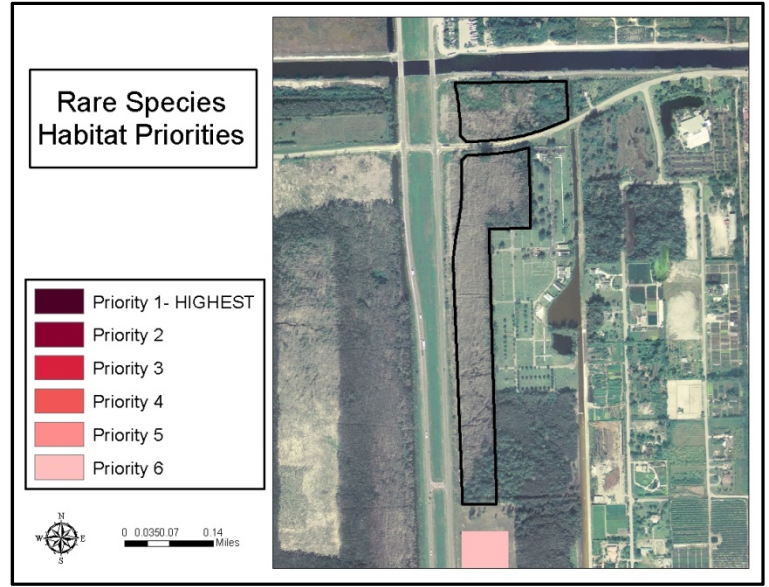
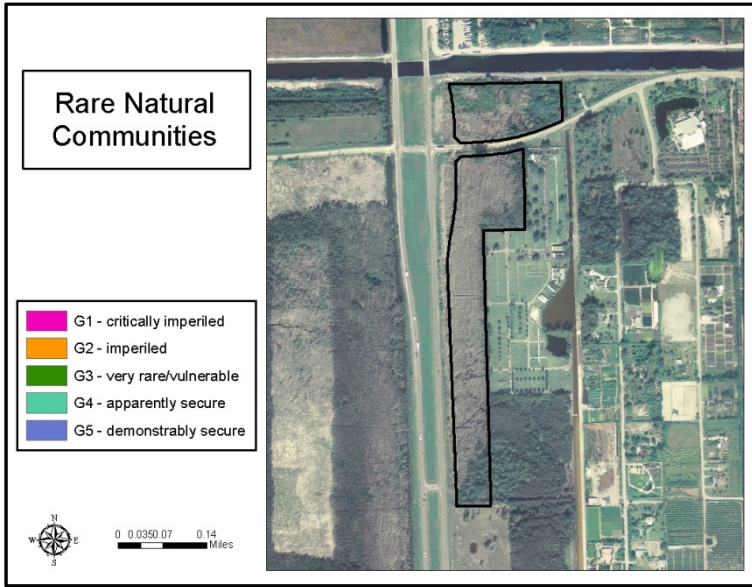
**Broward County WPA Individual Parcels:  
Griffin Road Parcels: Land Character**



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**Broward County WPA Individual Parcels:  
Griffin Road Parcels: Land Character  
(continued)**

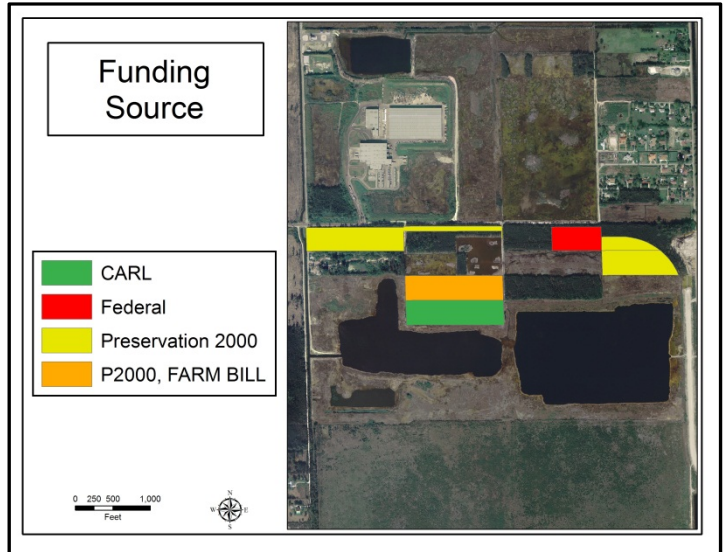
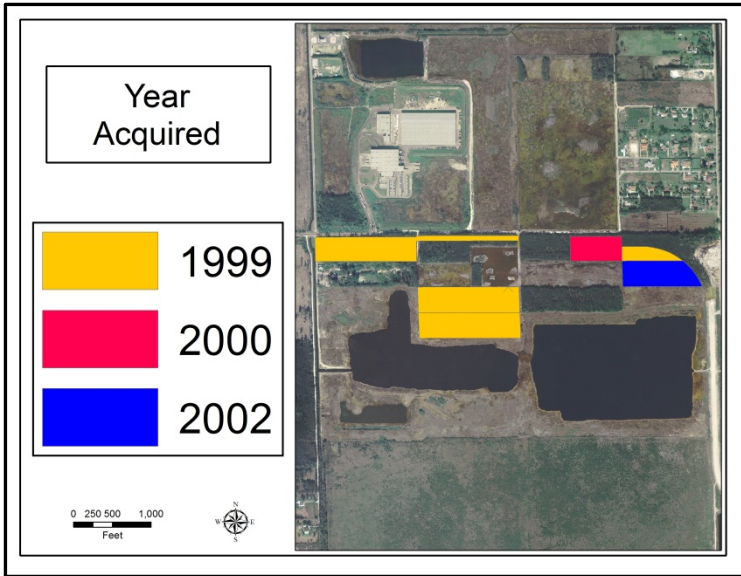


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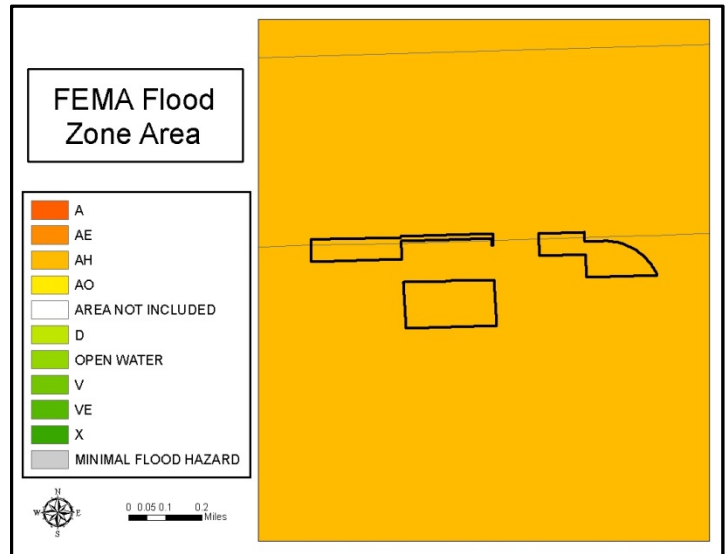
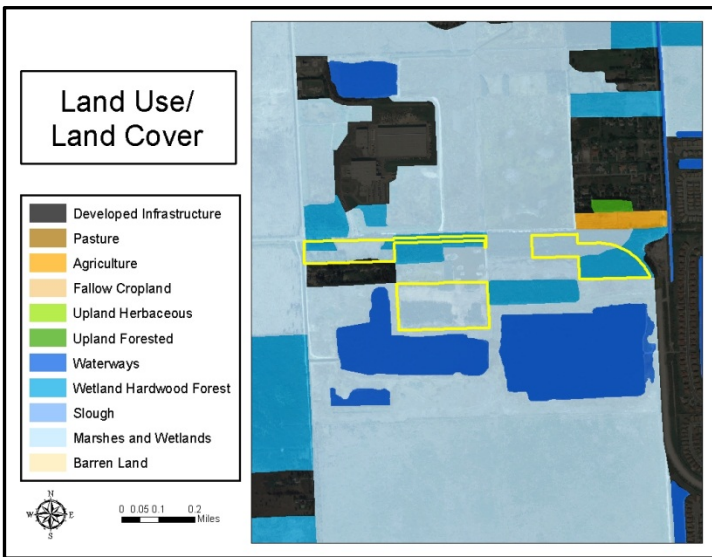
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[http://www.sfwmd.gov/portal/page/portal/xrepository/sfwmd\\_repository\\_pdf/land\\_assessment\\_study\\_process.pdf](http://www.sfwmd.gov/portal/page/portal/xrepository/sfwmd_repository_pdf/land_assessment_study_process.pdf)

**Broward County WPA Individual Parcels:  
Miramar Parkway Parcels: Land Acquisition**



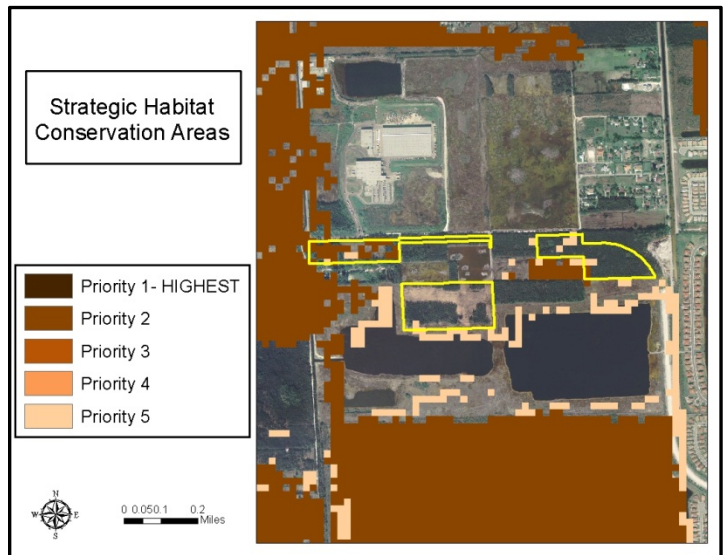
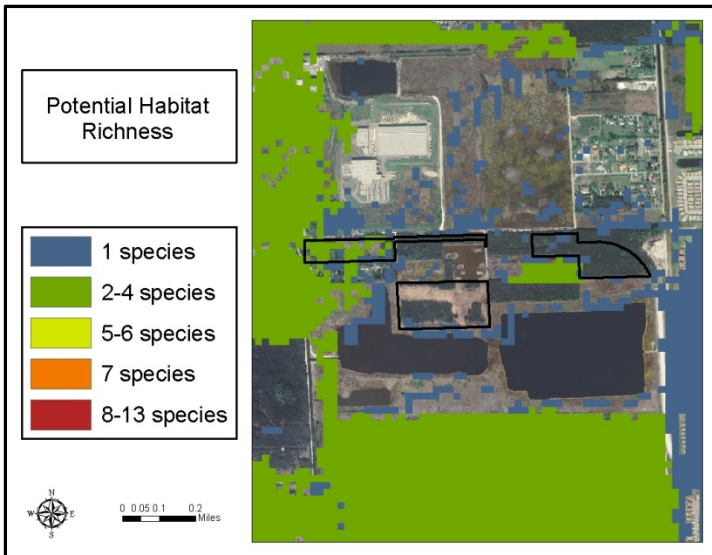
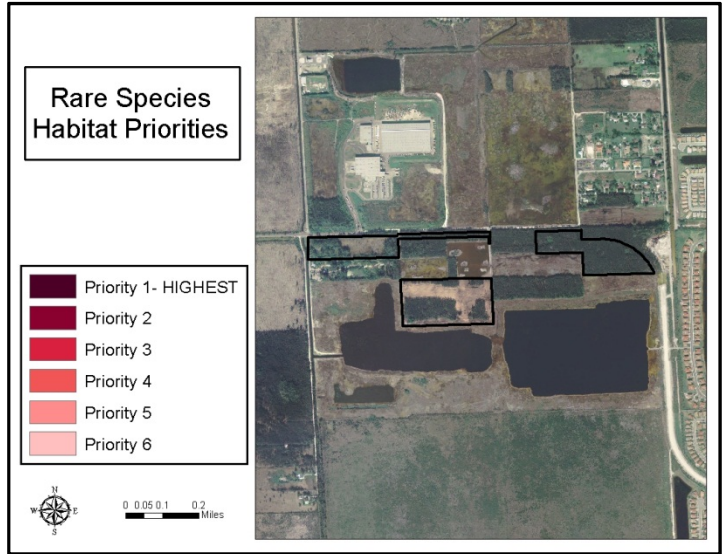
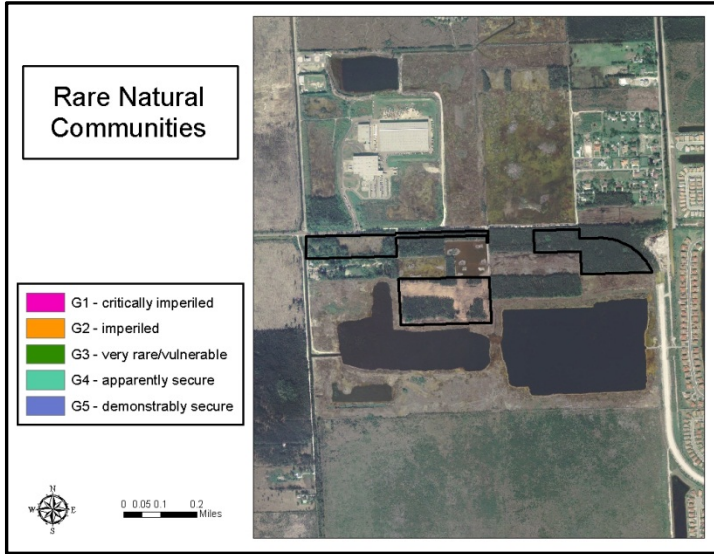
**Broward County WPA Individual Parcels:  
Miramar Parkway Parcels: Land Character**



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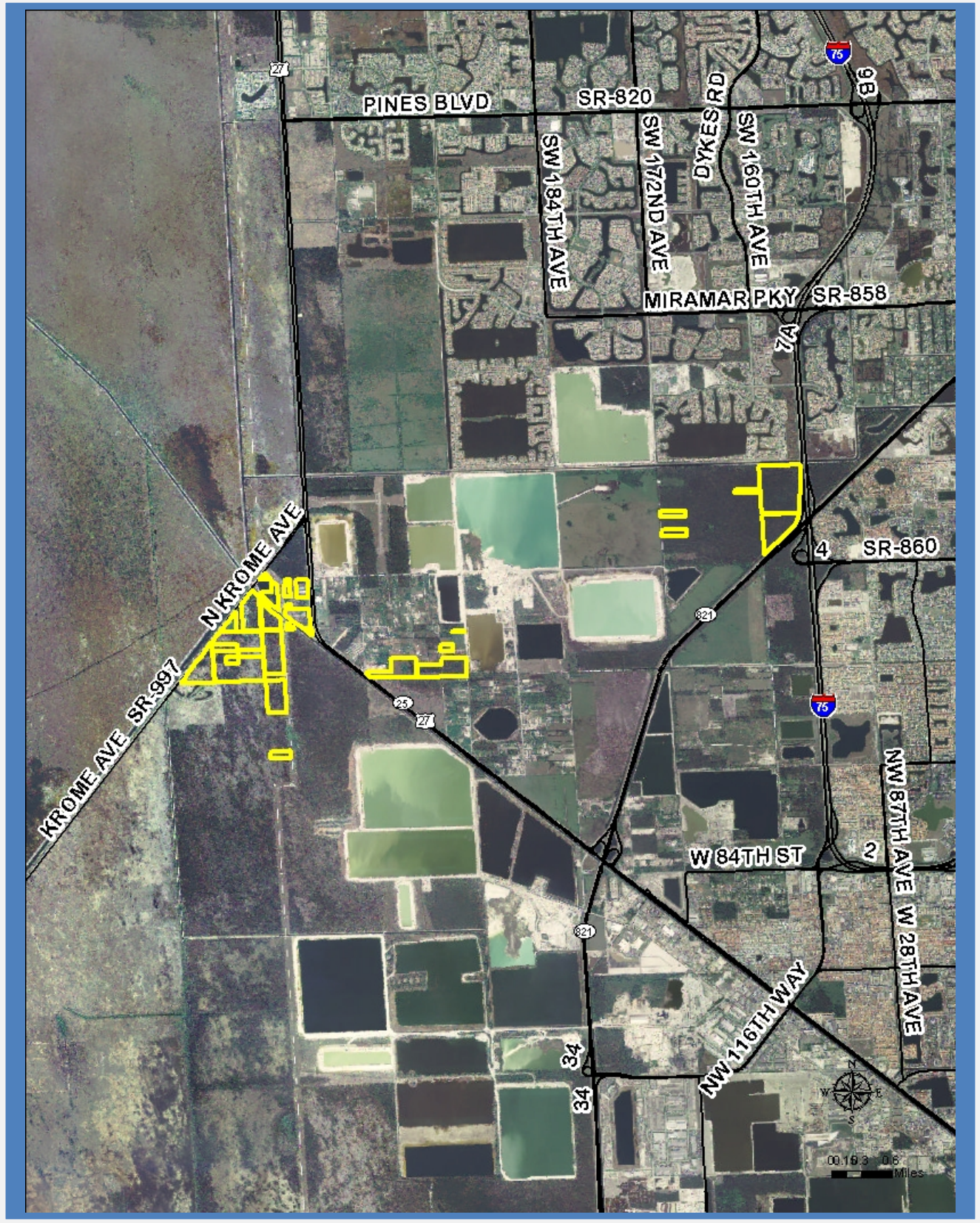
roward County WPA Individual Parcels:  
 Miramar Parkway Parcels: Land Character  
 (continued)



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Central and Northern Lakebelt, Location Map



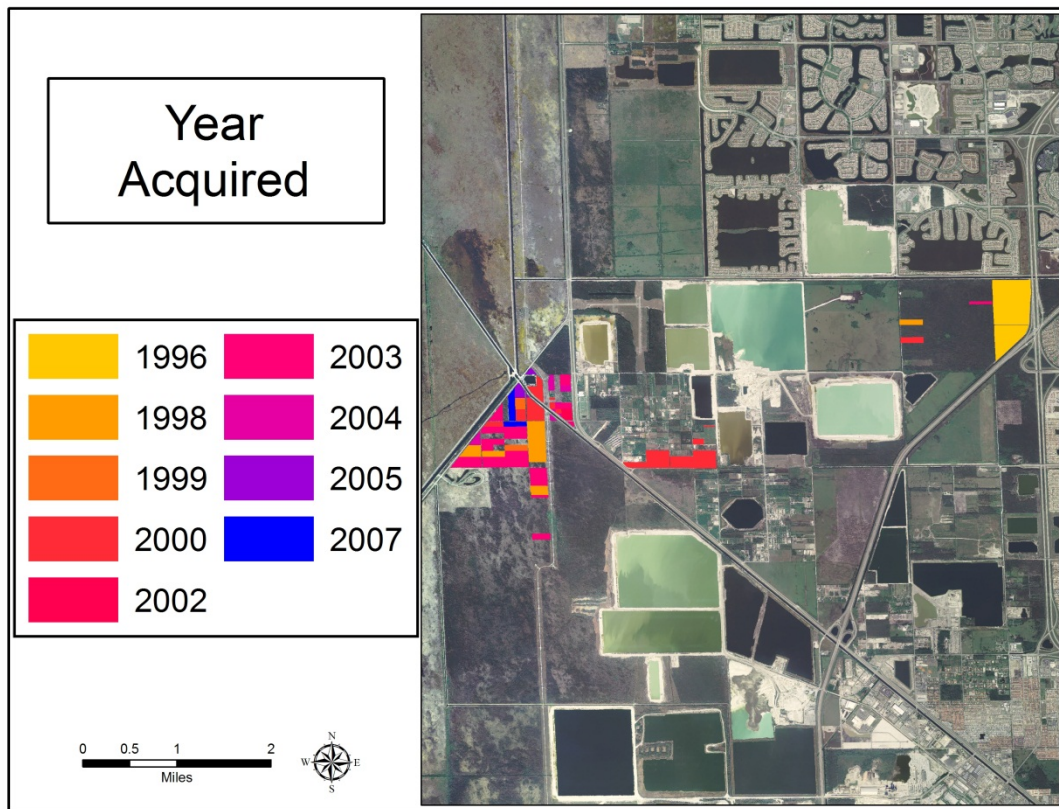
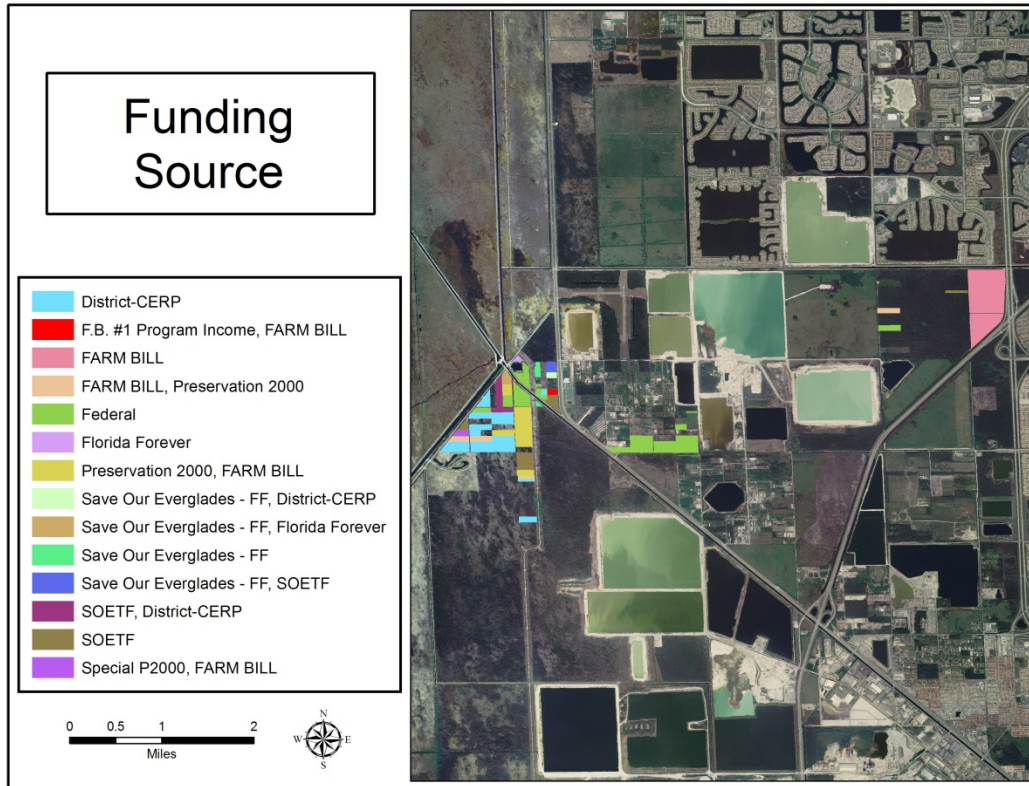
Central and Northern Lakebelt, Photos



The central and northern lakebelt area features rock mines (above) and highly disturbed melaleuca wetlands (below)

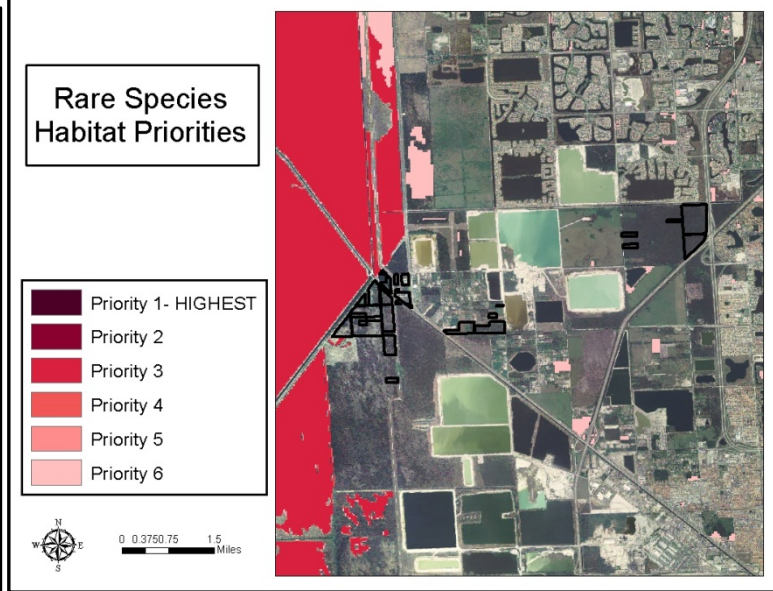
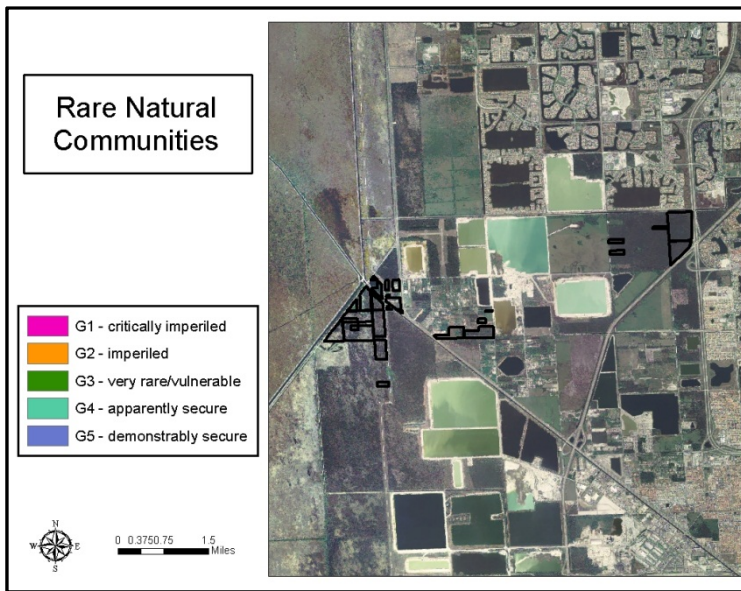
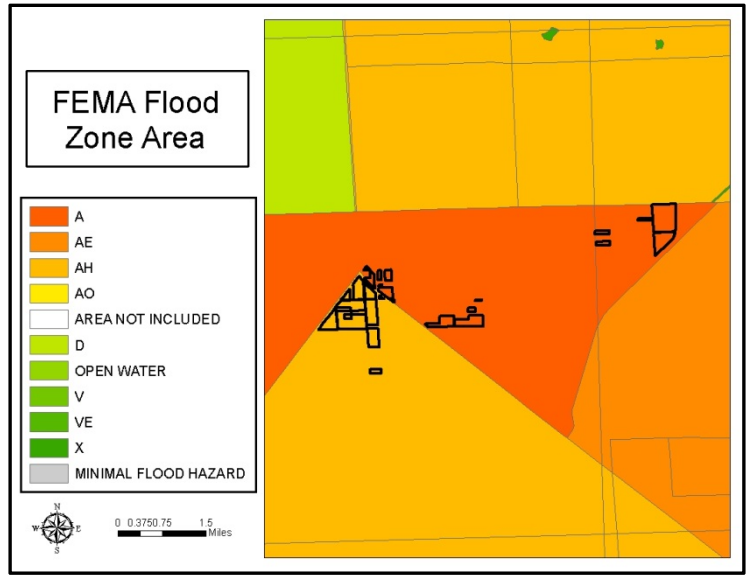
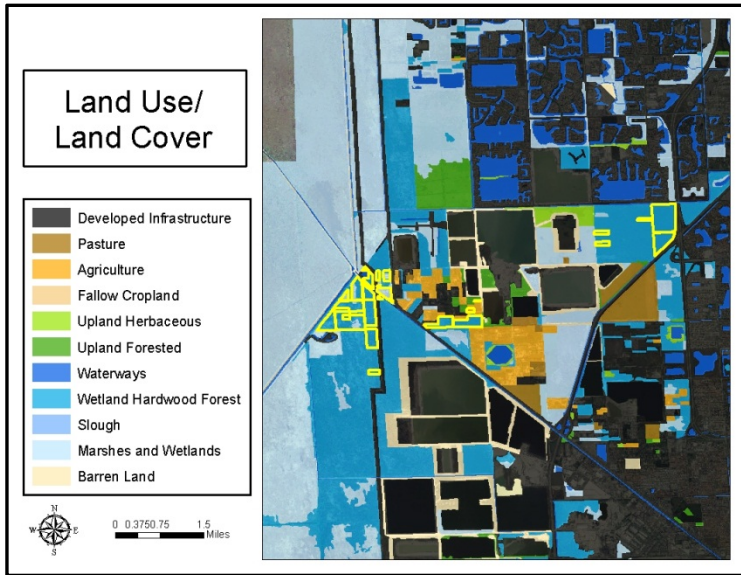


Central and Northern Lakebelt: Land Acquisition



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## Central and Northern Lakebelt: Land Character

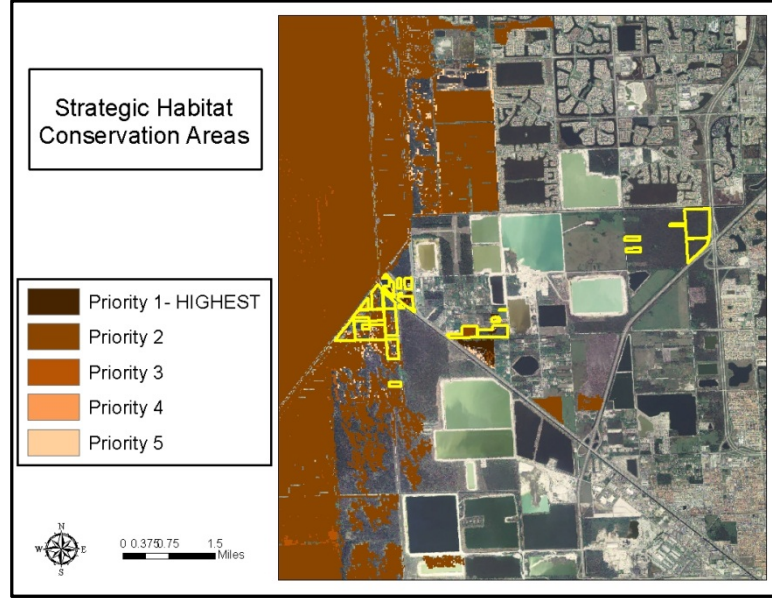
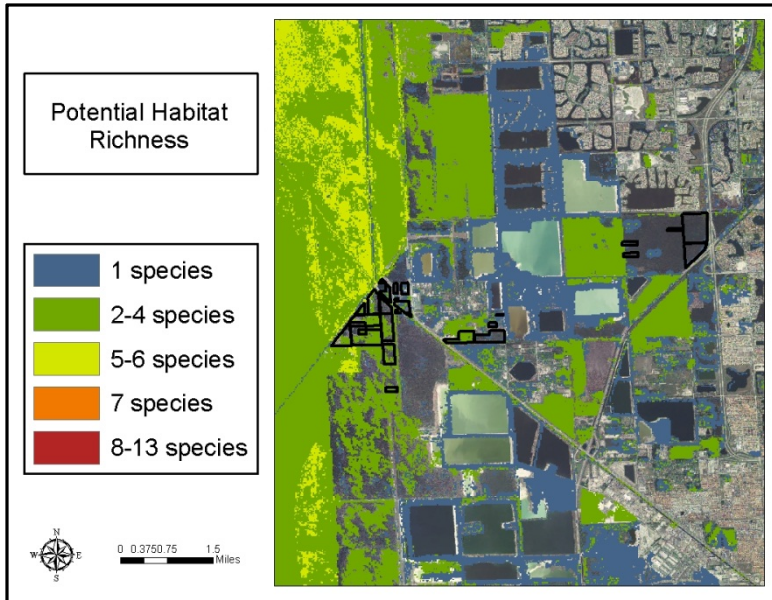


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**Central and Northern Lakebelt: Land Character (Continued)**



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**Pennsuco, Photos**



1998



1999



2000



2001



2003



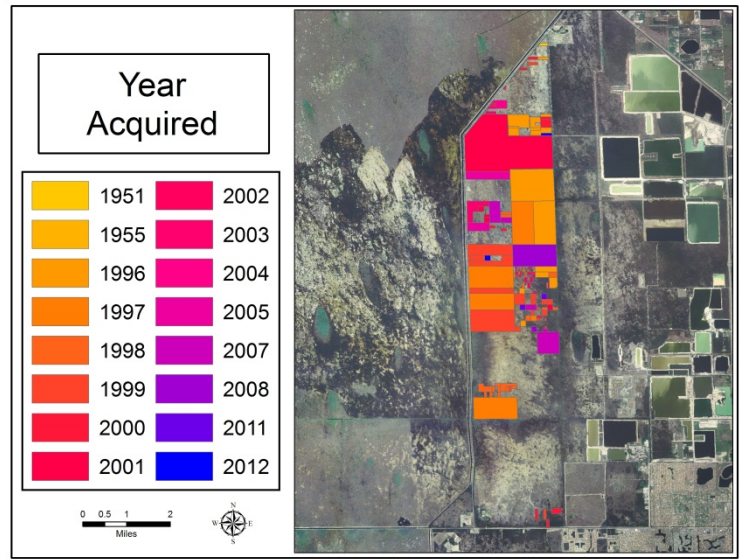
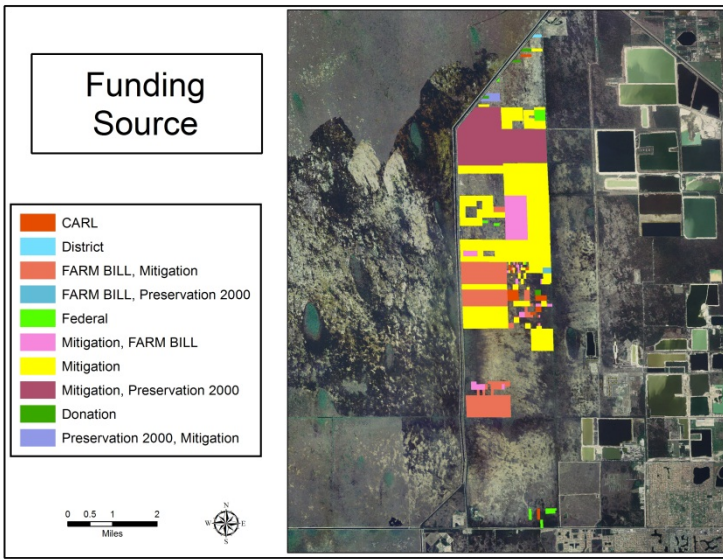
2004



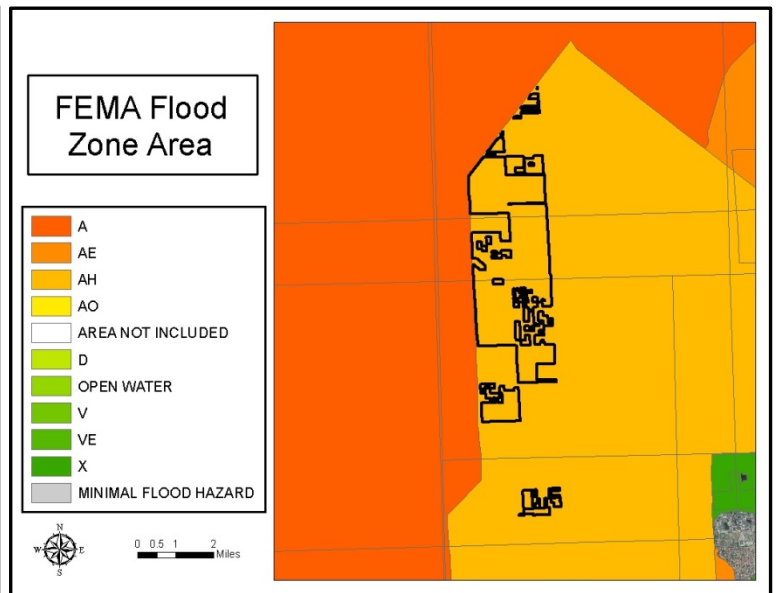
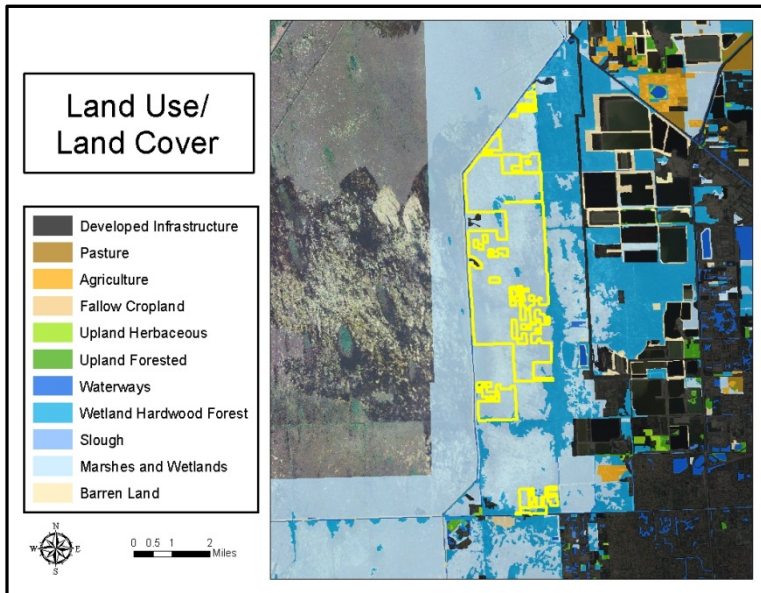
2005

**A seven year period of restoration taking the site from a forest of Melaleuca to wet prairie (top to bottom)**

### Pennsuco: Land Acquisition



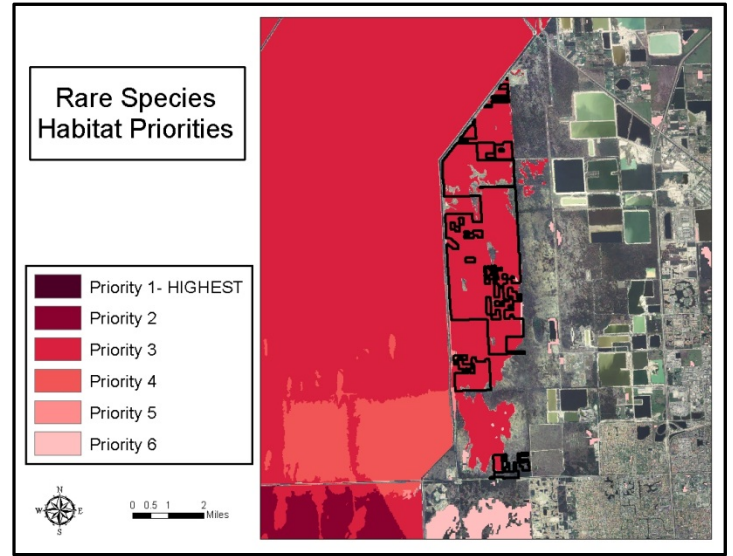
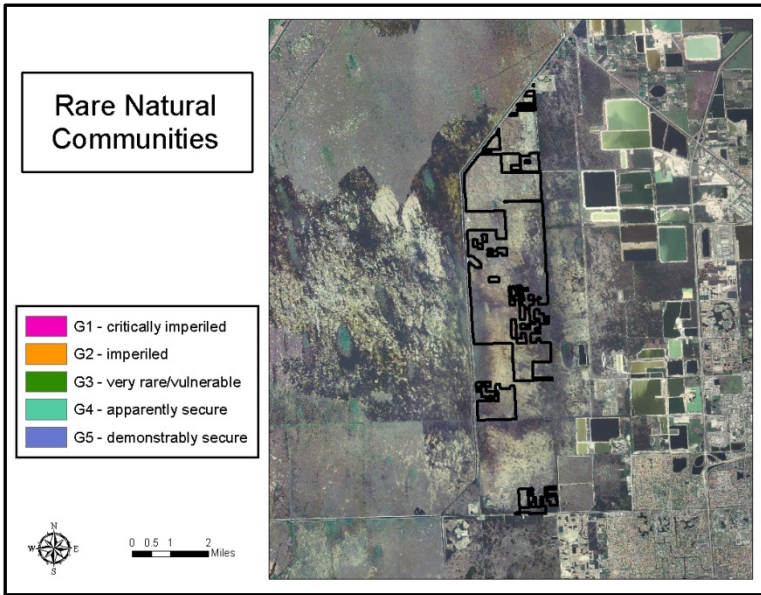
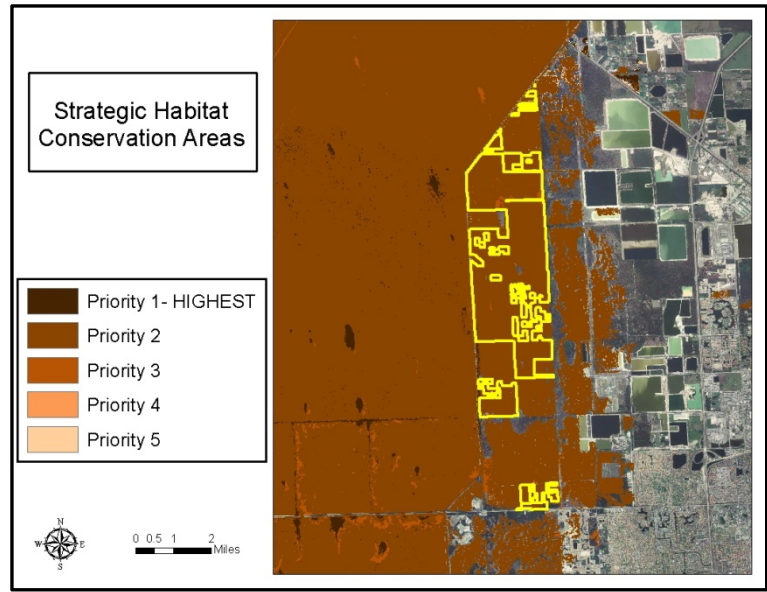
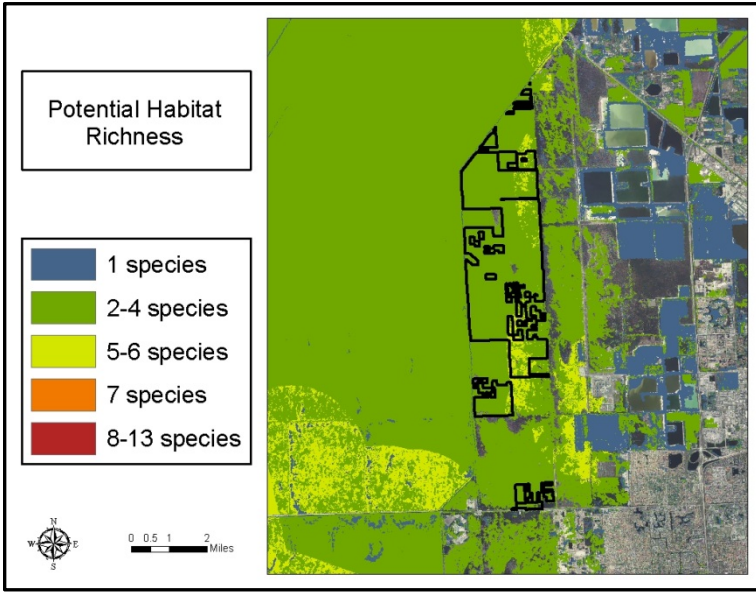
### Pennsuco: Land Character



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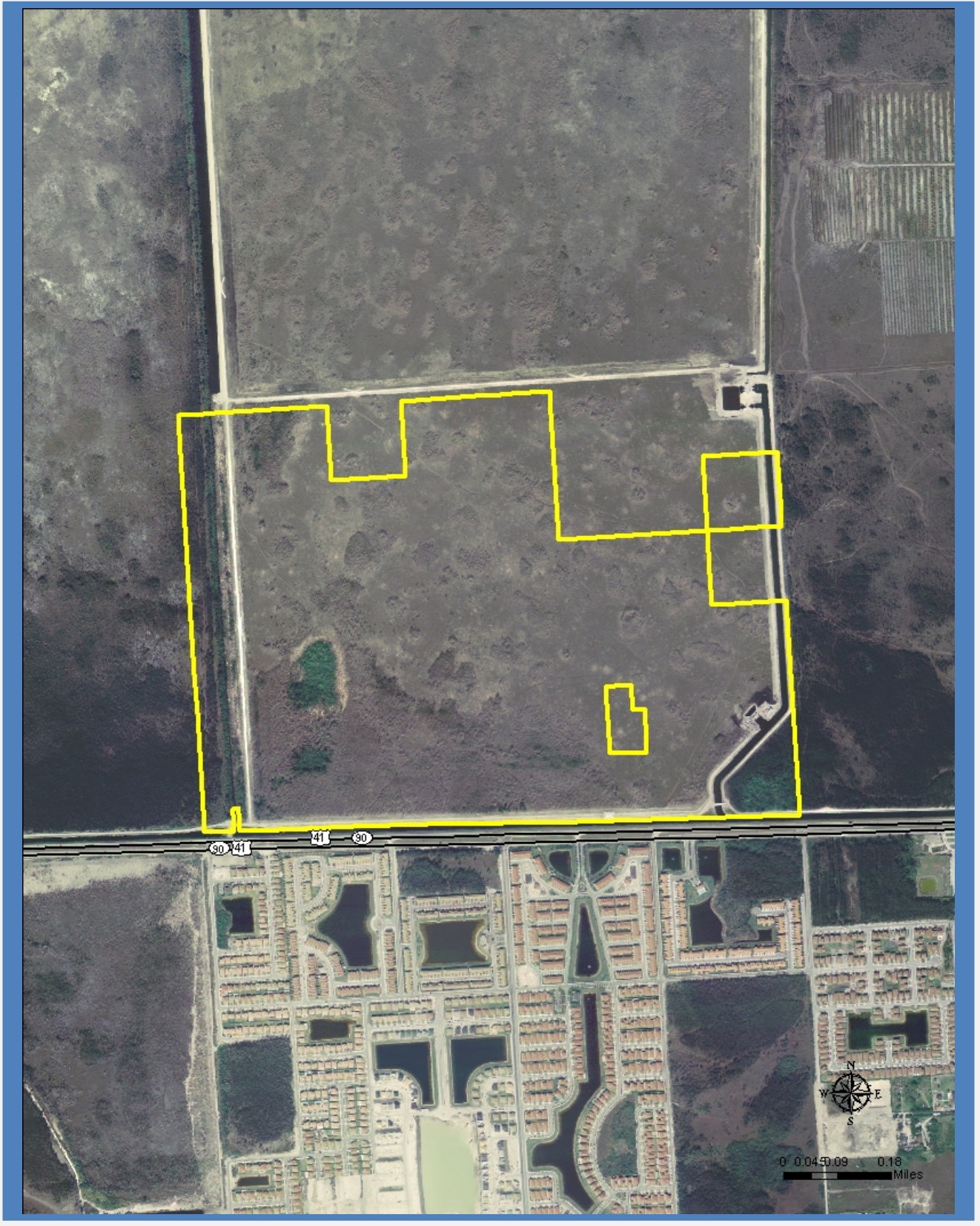
**Pennsuco: Land Character (Continued)**



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C-4 Impoundment, Location Map



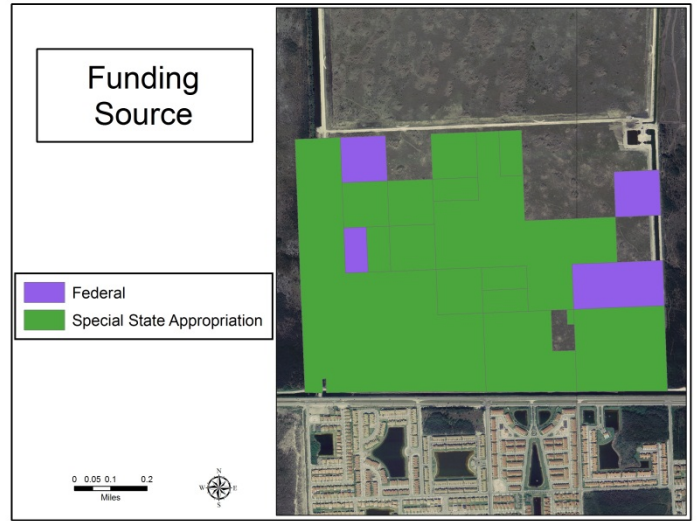
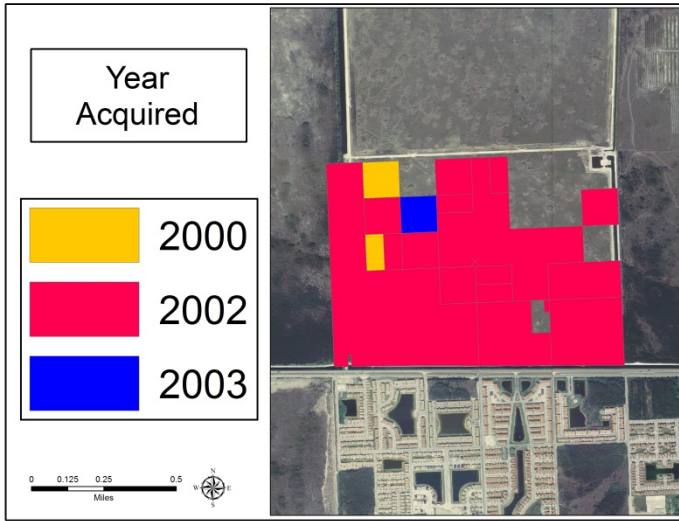
**C-4 Impoundment, Photos**



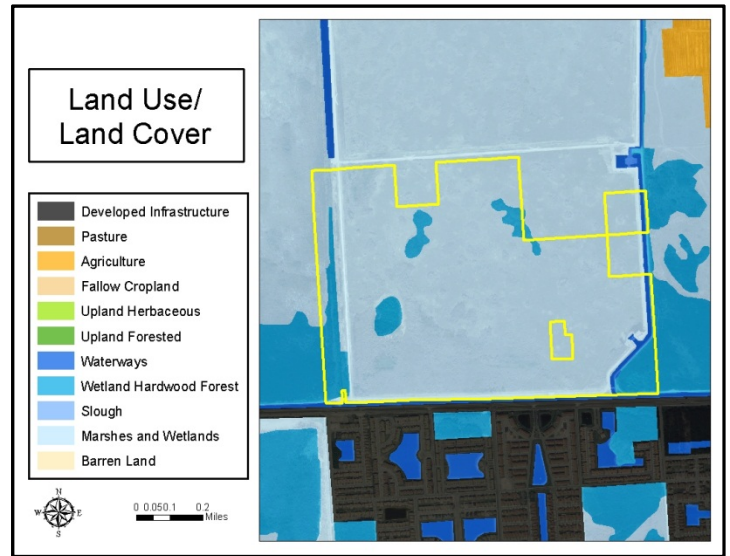
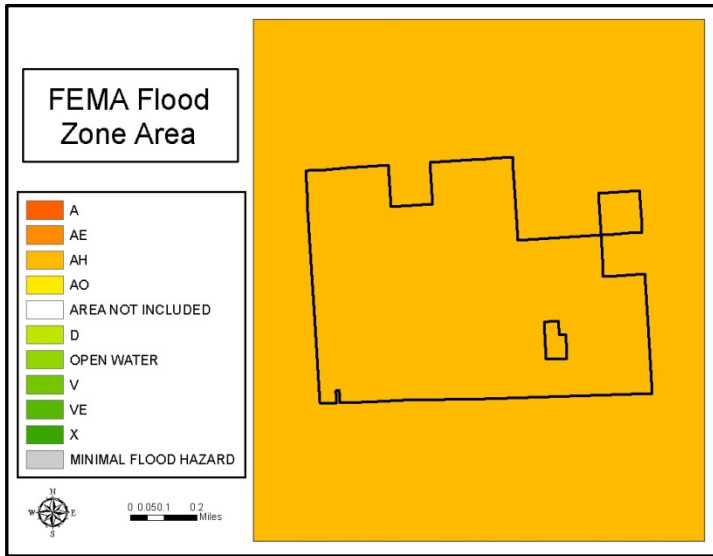
The impoundment cells and water conveyance features of the C-4 Impoundment



**C-4 Impoundment: Land Acquisition**



**C-4 Impoundment: Land Character**



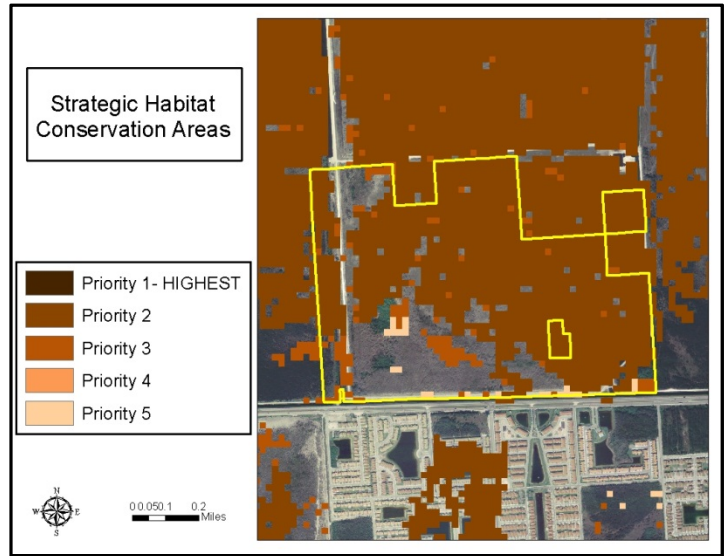
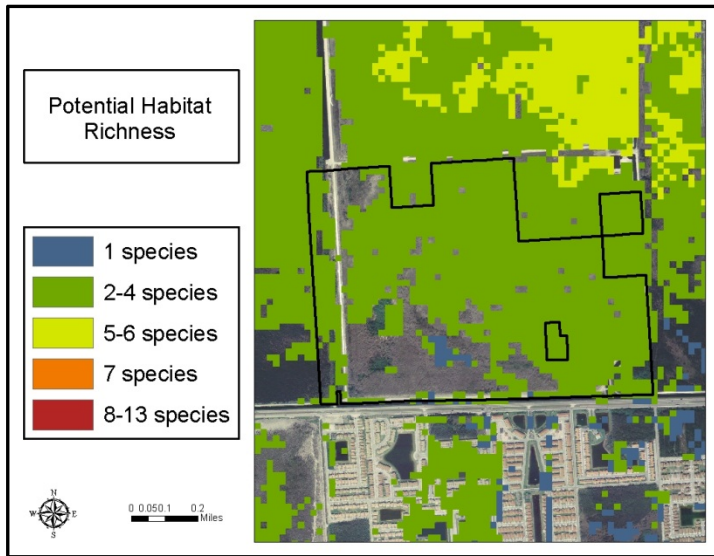
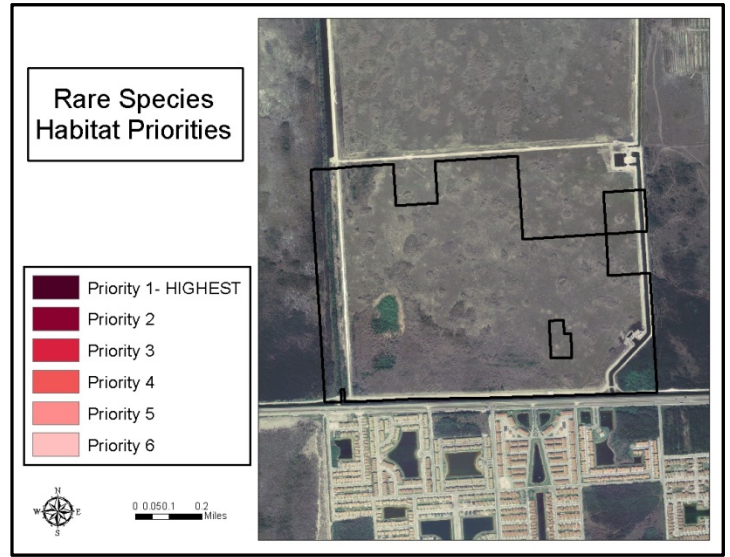
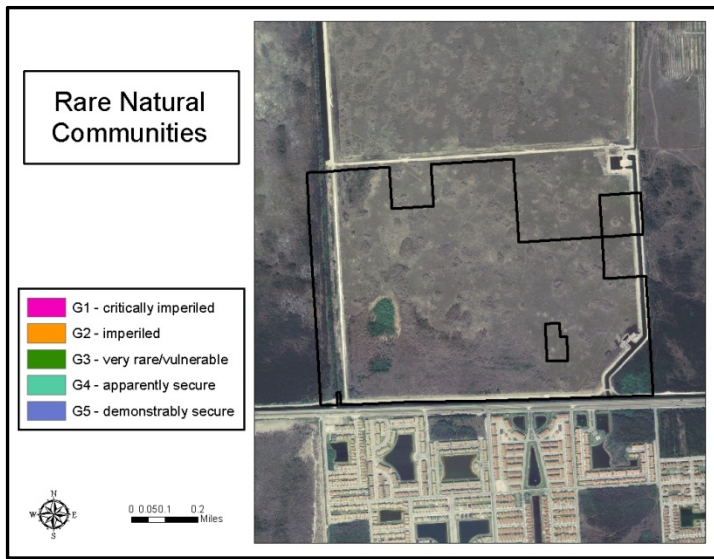
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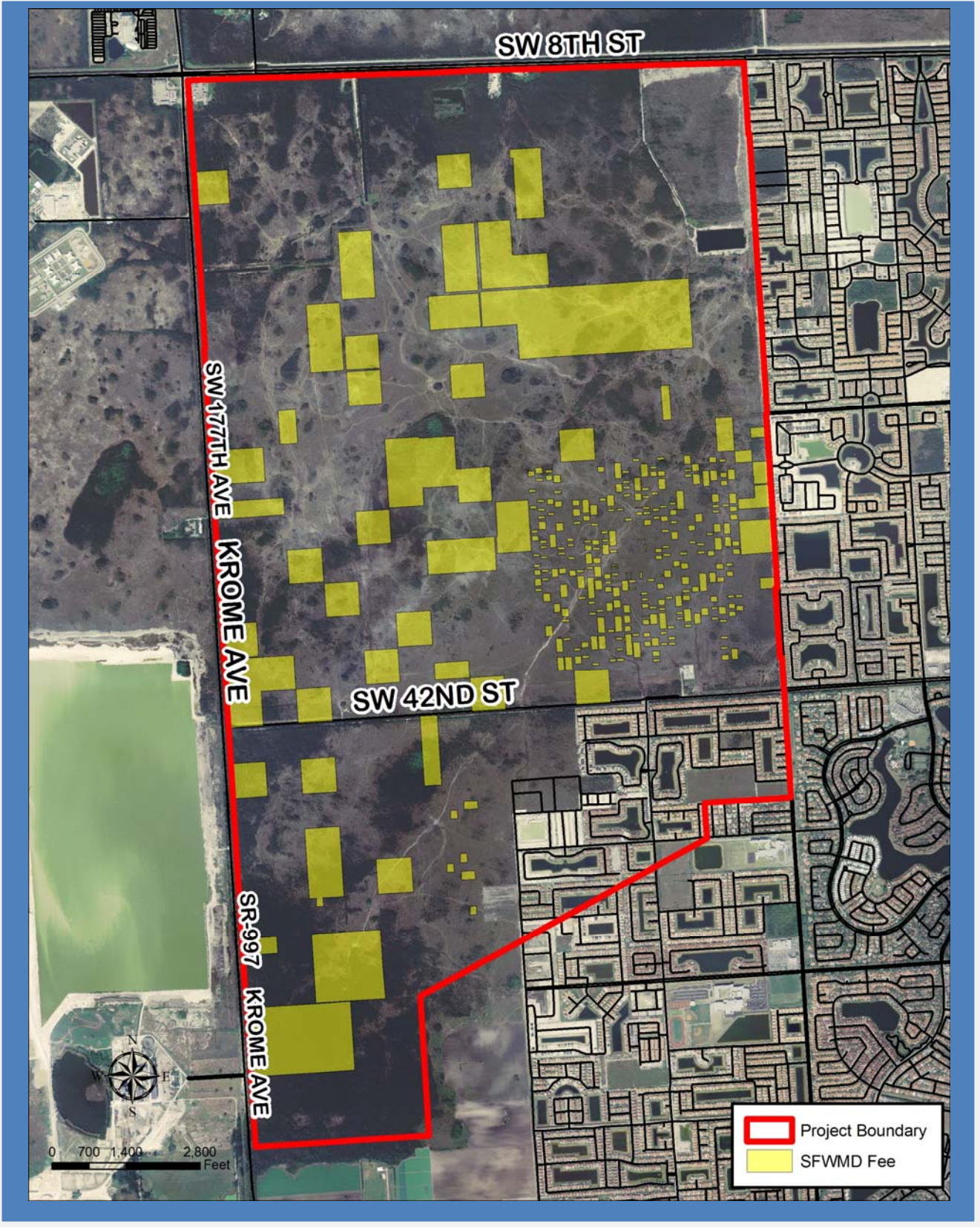
**C-4 Impoundment: Land Character  
(Continued)**



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Bird Drive, Location Map



**Bird Drive, Photos**



A typical view of Bird Drive, ATV / offroad vehicle tracks and Melaleuca trees.



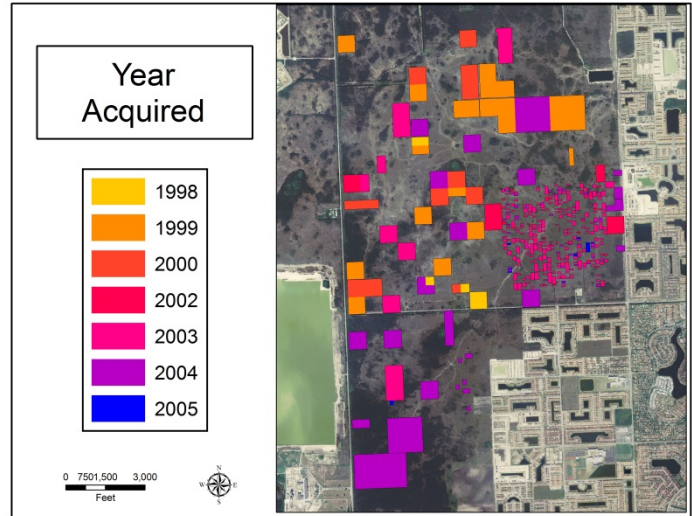
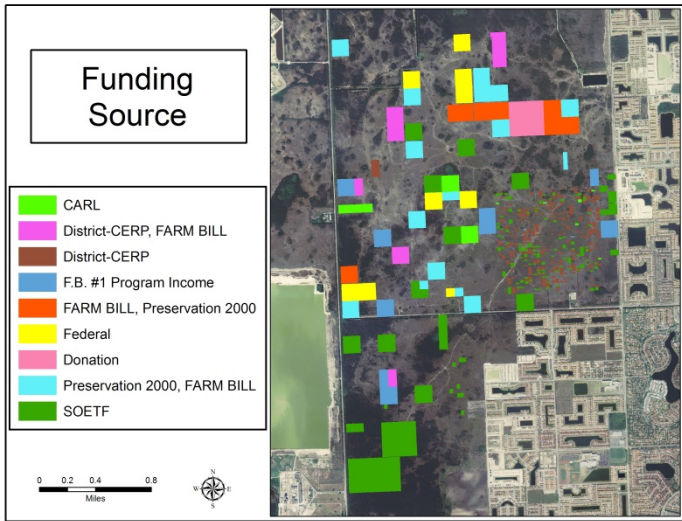
**Bird Drive, Photos**



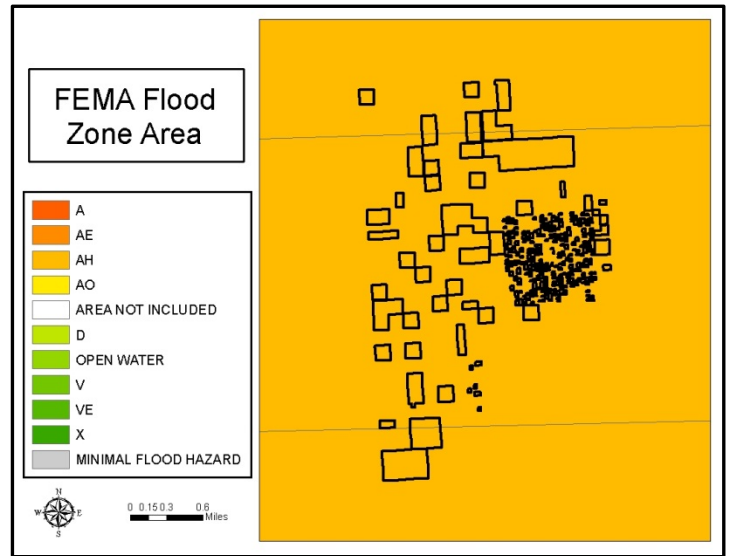
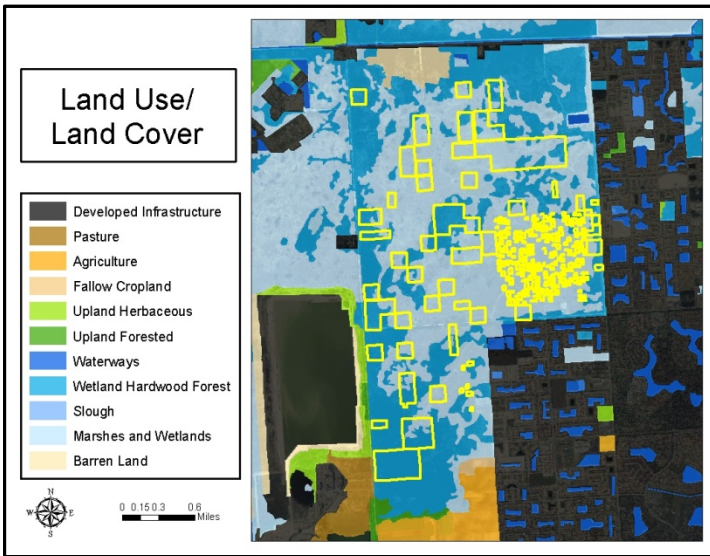
**Widespread damage to the wetlands from unauthorized offroad vehicle use.**



### Bird Drive: Land Acquisition



### Bird Drive: Land Character

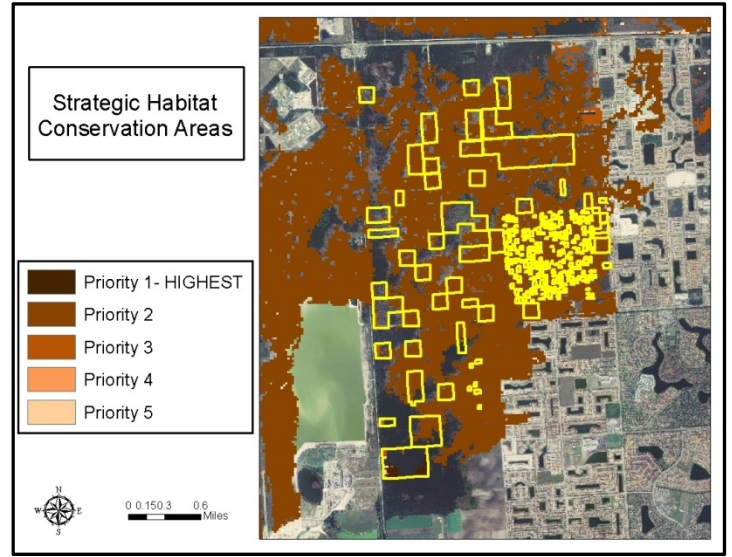
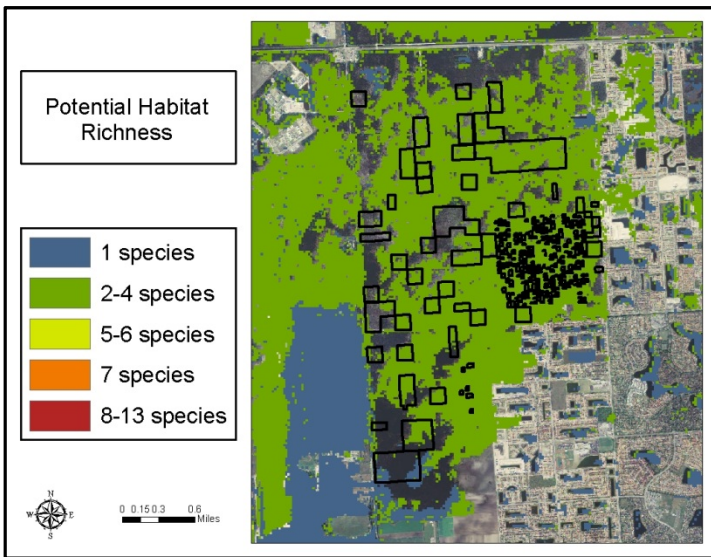
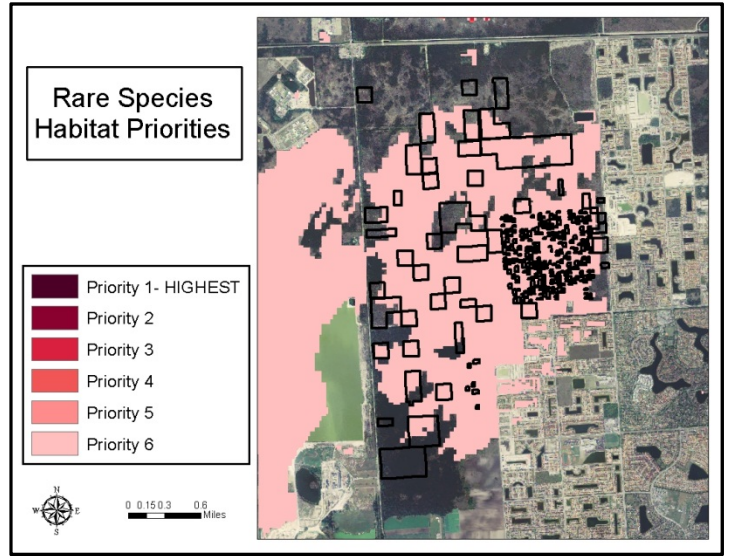
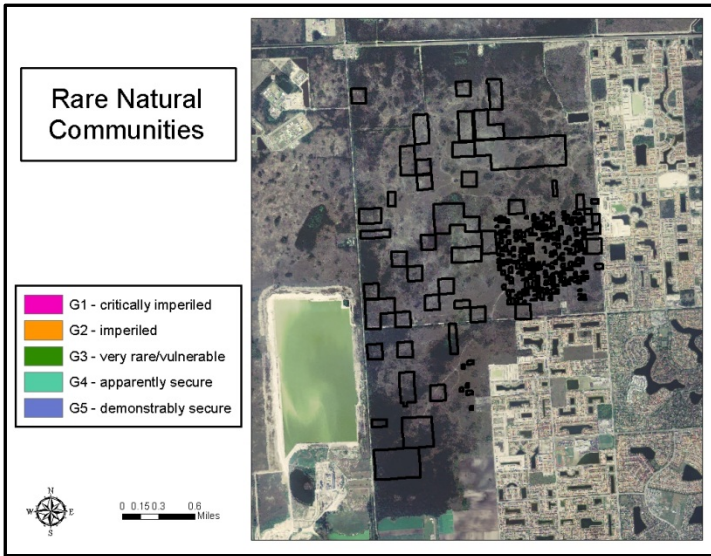


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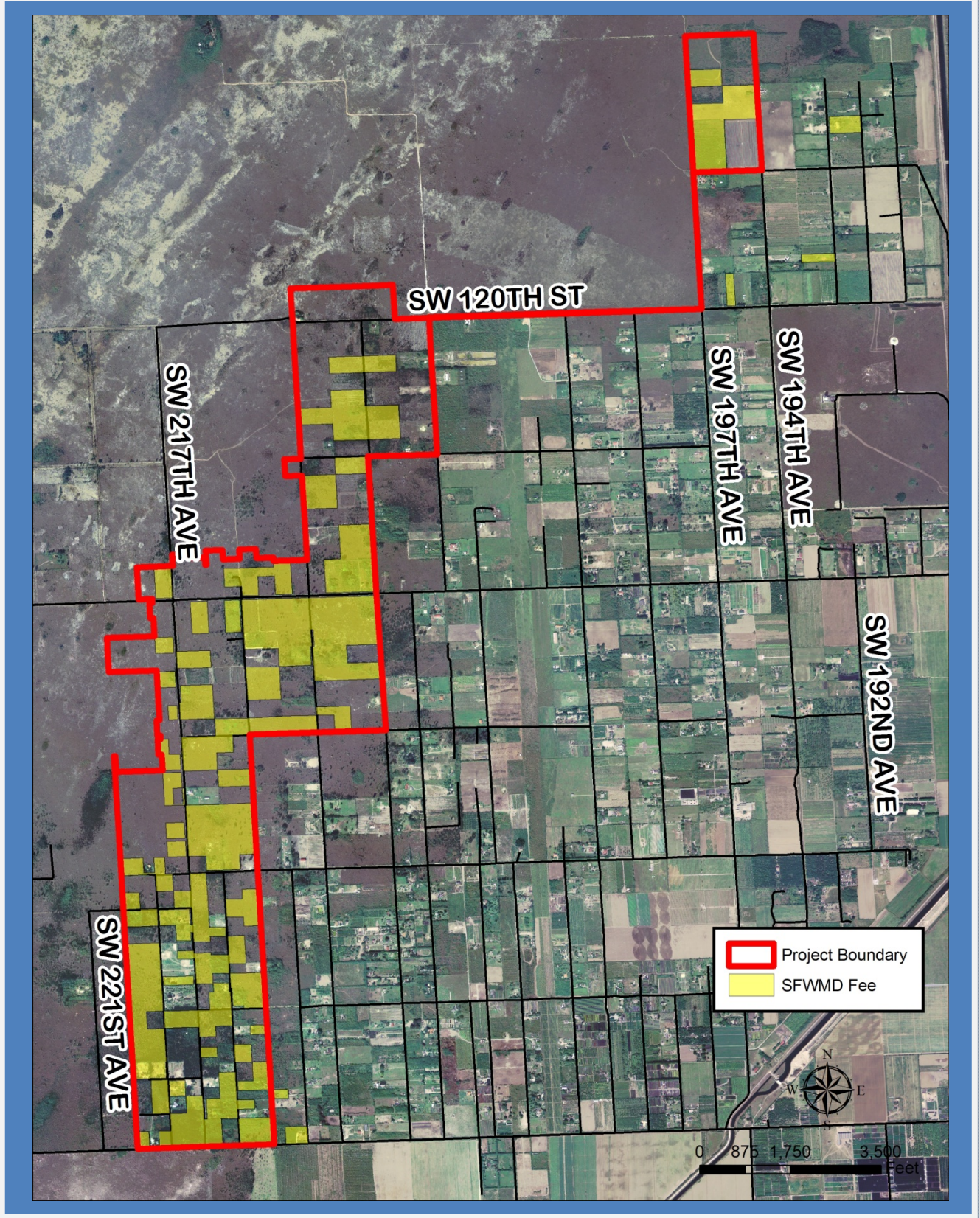
Bird Drive: Land Character (Continued)



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8 1/2 Square Mile Area, Location Map



8 1/2 Square Mile Area, Photos

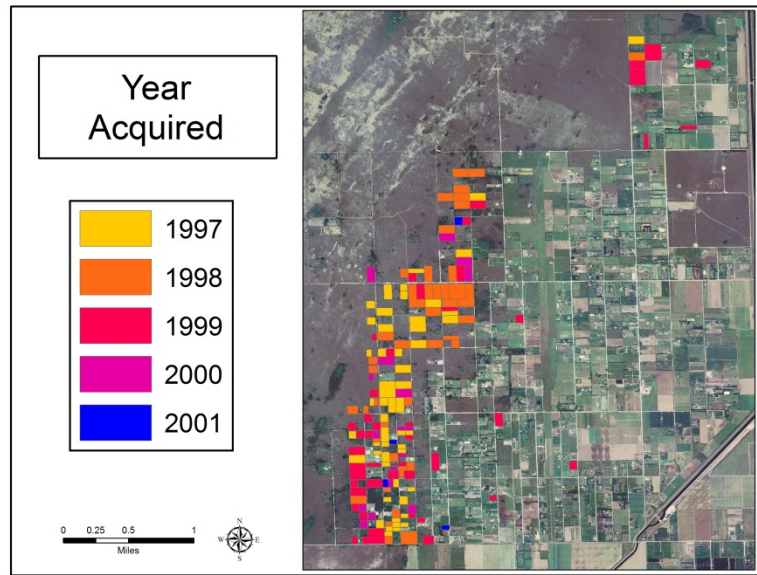
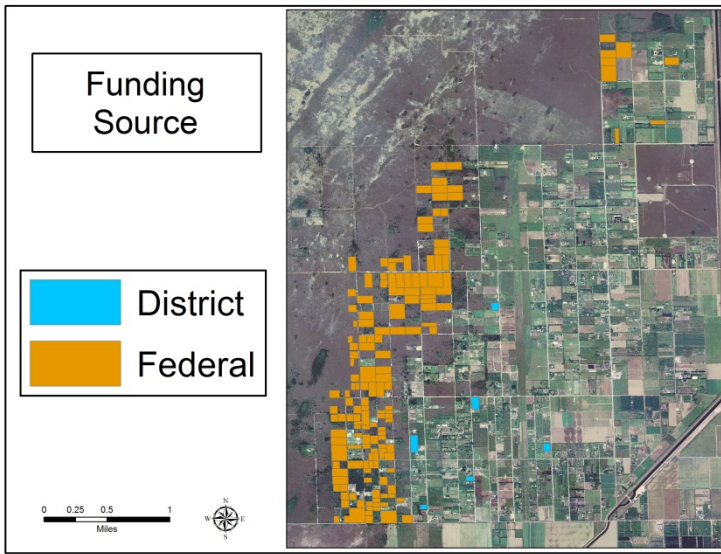


The levee component of the 8 1/2 Square Mile Area (above) and the general character of the area, wet prairie and former residential areas (below)

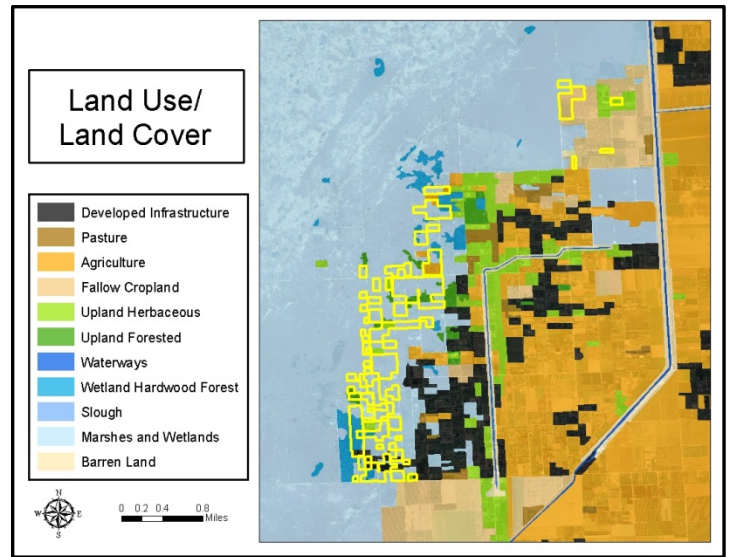
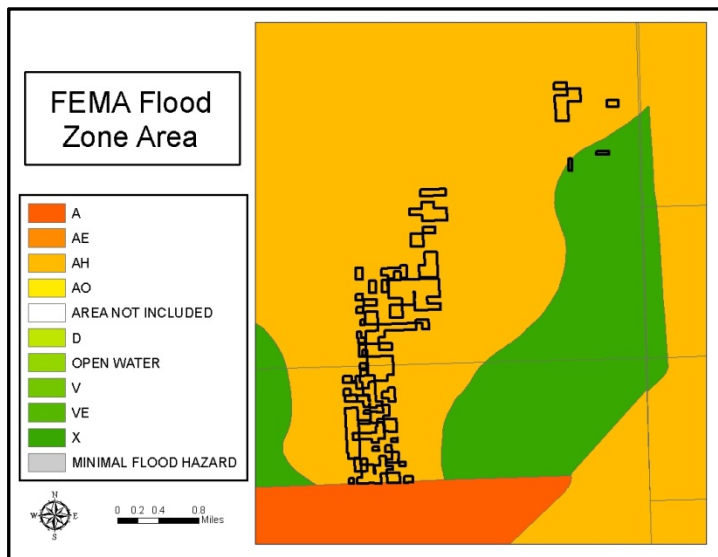




### 8 1/2 Square Mile Area: Land Acquisition



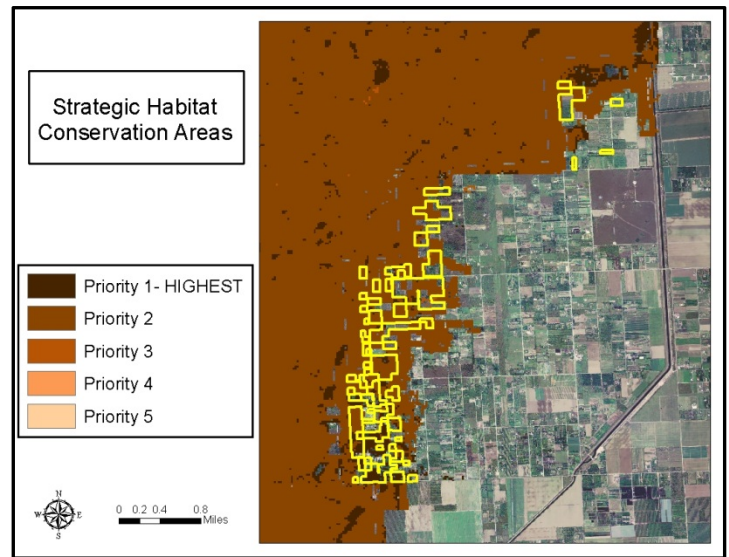
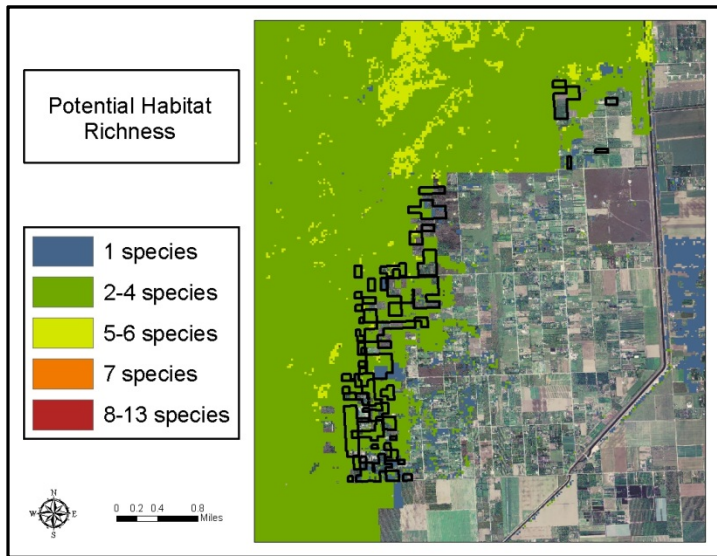
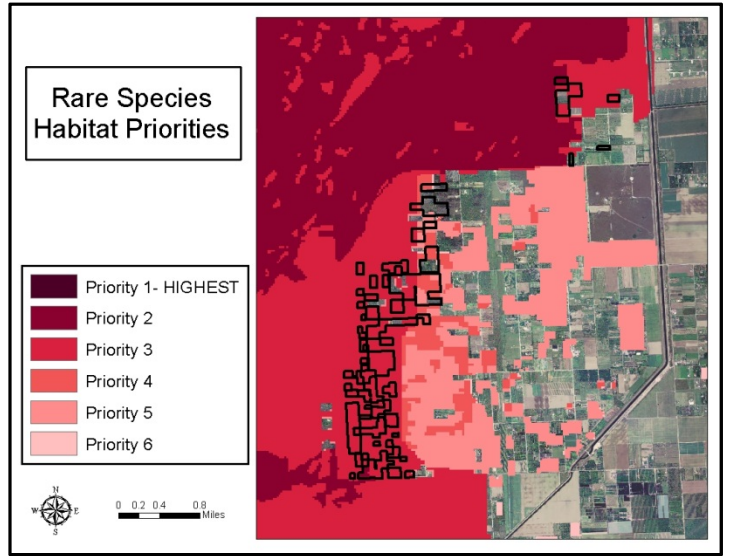
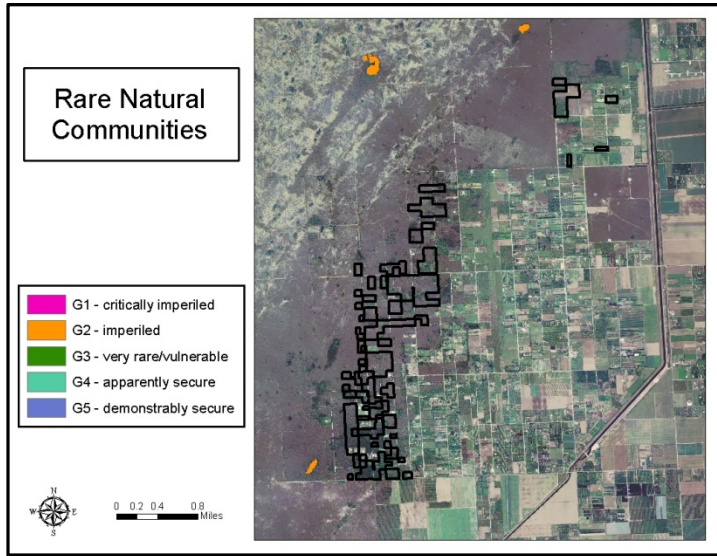
### 8 1/2 Square Mile Area: Land Character



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For more information on the data layers used in the assessment, please refer to the Land Assessment Study Process and Methodology document available here: [http://www.sfwmd.gov/portal/page/portal/xrepository/sfwmd\\_repository\\_pdf/land\\_assessment\\_study\\_process.pdf](http://www.sfwmd.gov/portal/page/portal/xrepository/sfwmd_repository_pdf/land_assessment_study_process.pdf)

8 1/2 Square Mile Area: Land Character  
(Continued)



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**Individual Parcel Assessments**

208<sup>th</sup> Ave Parcel

1999; District Funding. Vacant lot outside of the project area. ~1.26 acres.

212<sup>th</sup> Ave Parcel

1999; District Funding. Vacant lot outside of the project area. ~ 1.44 acres.

213<sup>th</sup> Ave Parcels

1999; District Funding. Vacant lot outside of the project area. ~ 5.04 acres.

152<sup>nd</sup> St Parcel

1999; District Funding. Vacant lot outside of the project area. ~3.75 acres

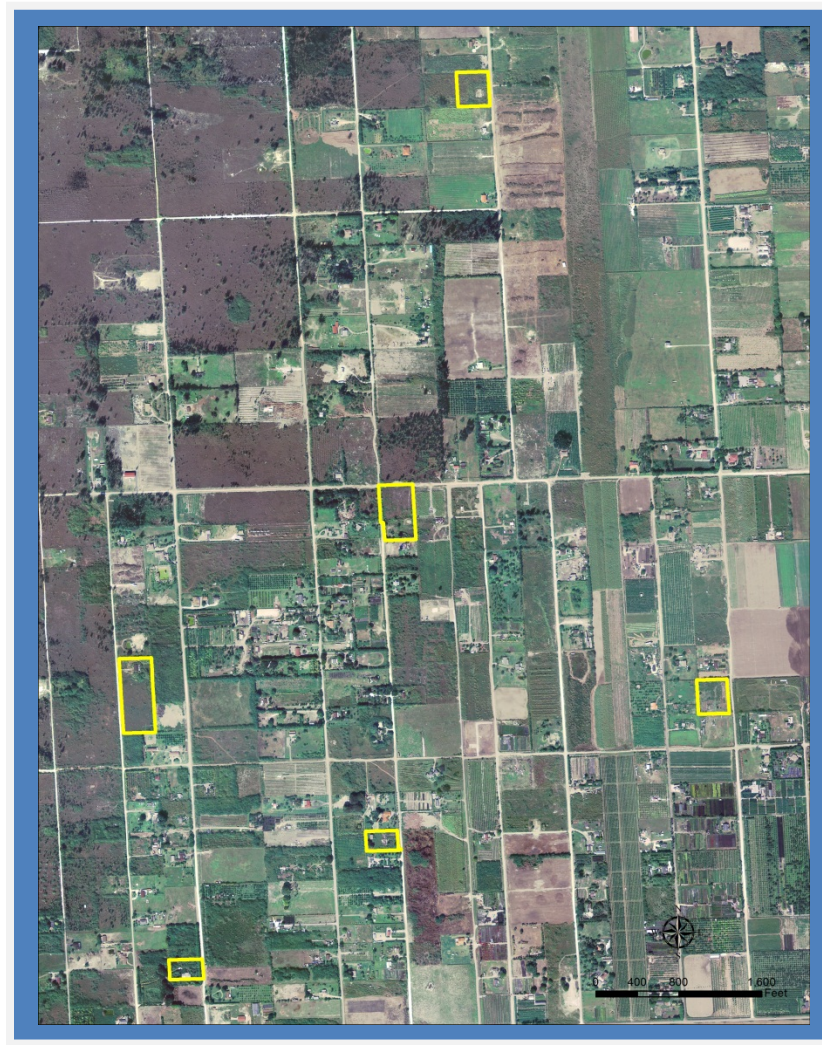
202<sup>nd</sup> Ave Parcel

1999; District Funding. Vacant lot outside of the project area. ~ 2.24 acres

205<sup>th</sup> Ave Parcel

1999; District Funding. Vacant lot outside of the project area. ~2.31 acres

**8 1/2 Square Mile Area Individual Parcels  
Location Map**



208<sup>th</sup> Ave. Parcel, Photo



152<sup>nd</sup> St. Parcel, Photo



212<sup>th</sup> Ave. Parcel, Photo



202<sup>nd</sup> Ave. Parcel, Photo



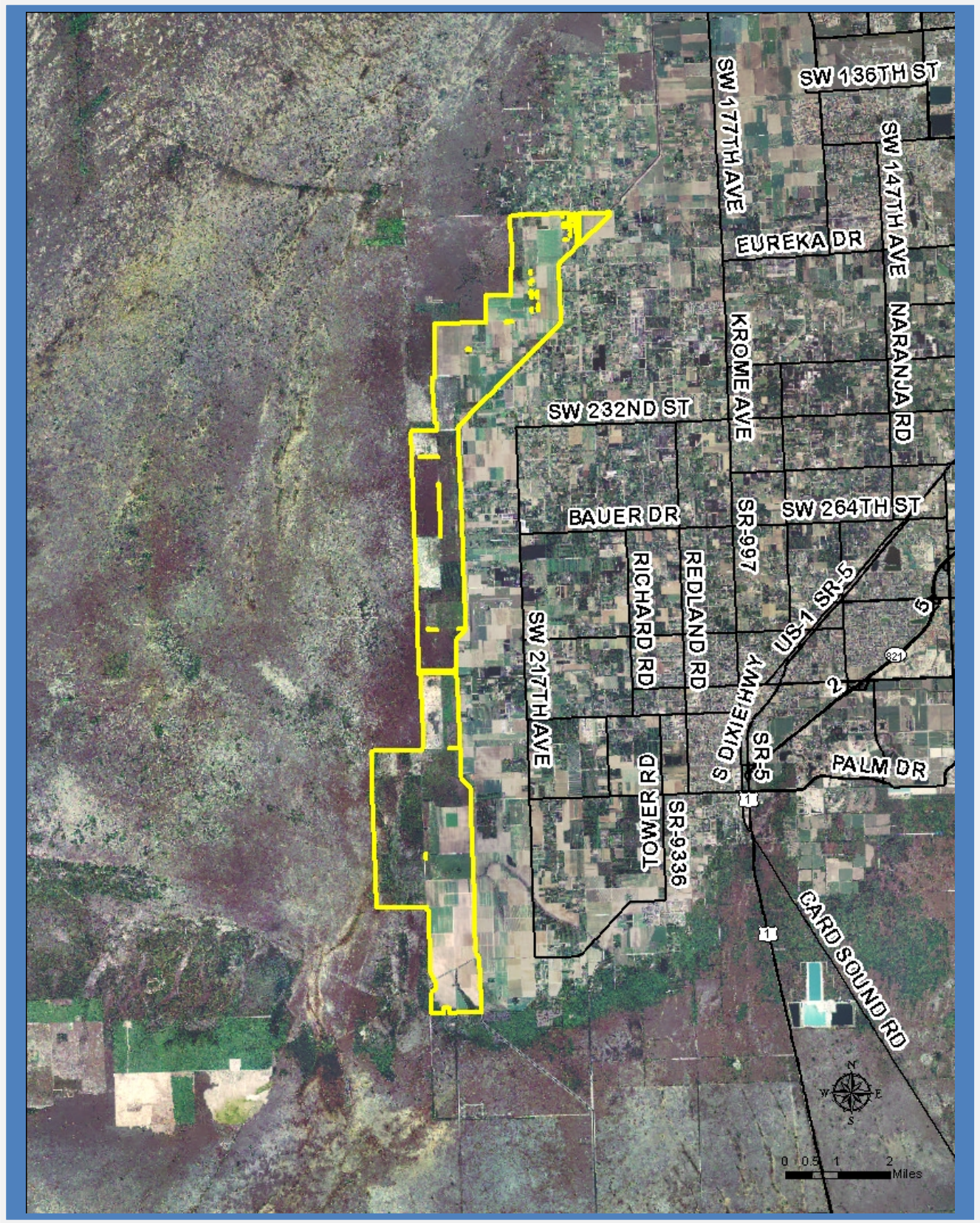
213<sup>th</sup> Ave. Parcel, Photo



205<sup>th</sup> Ave. Parcel, Photo



L-31N – Rocky Glades / Frog Pond, Location  
Map



**L-31N – Rocky Glades, Photos**



Two of the impoundment areas on L-31N – Rocky Glades.



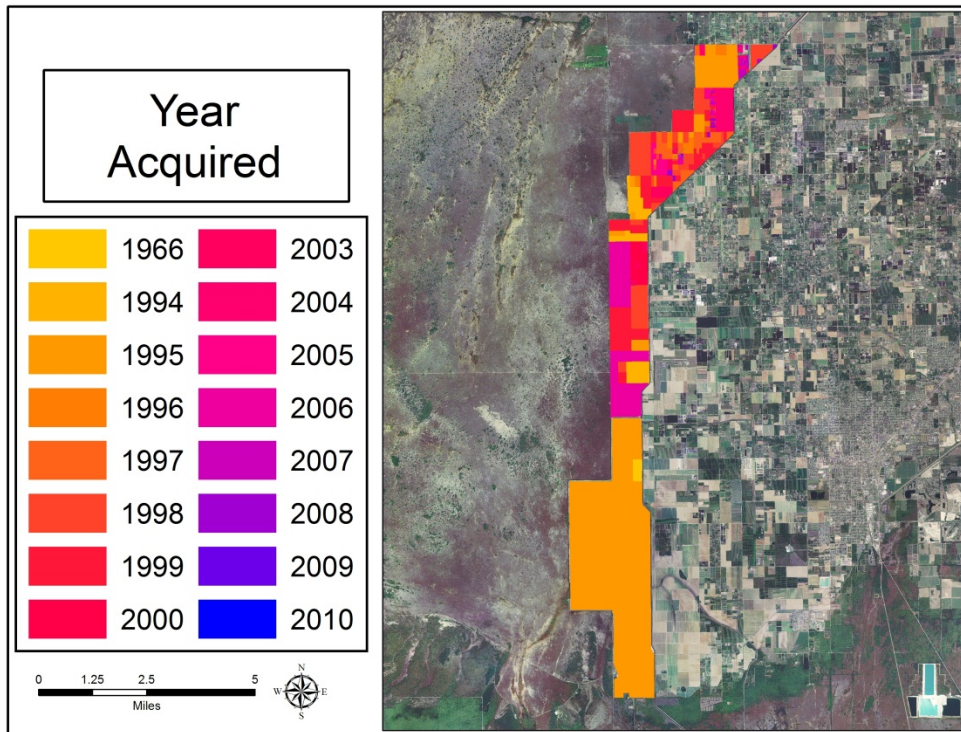
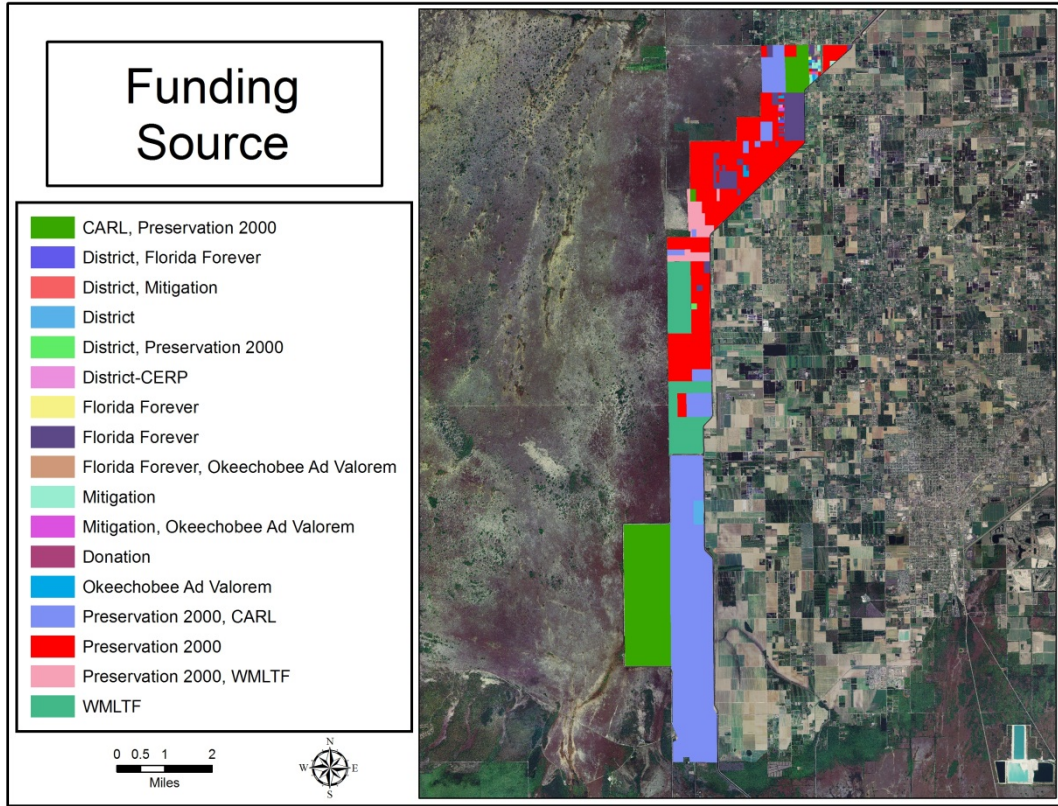
Frog Pond , Photos



An aerial view of Frog Pond (above) and a prescribed fire on the site (below)



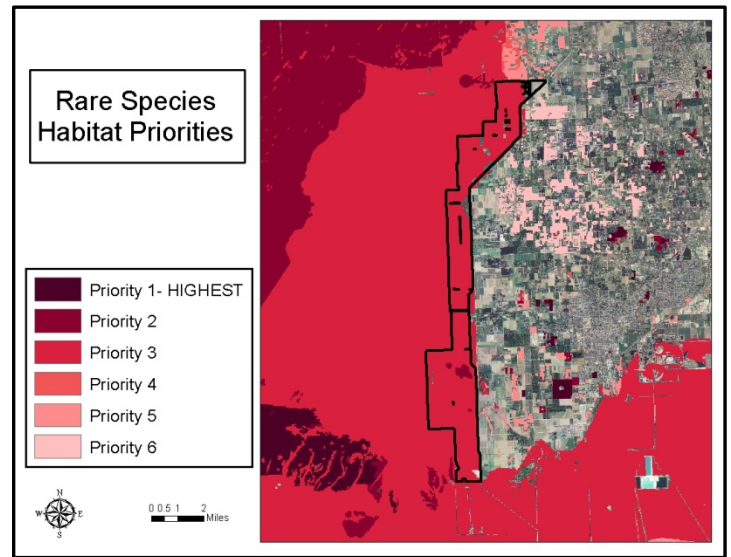
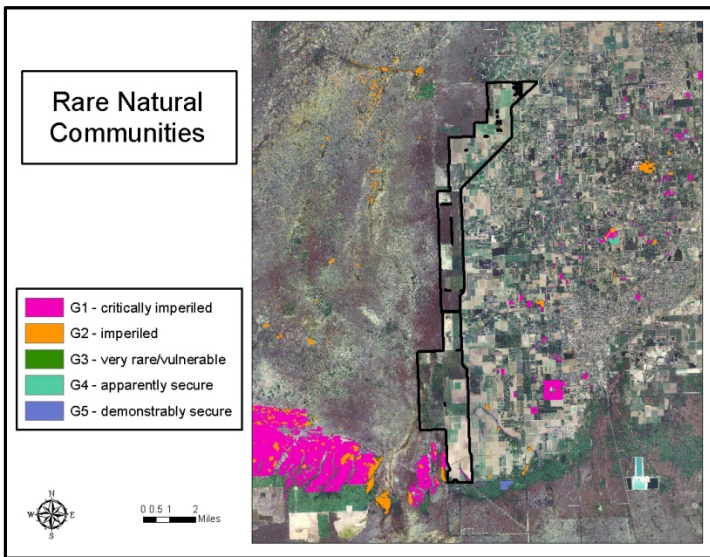
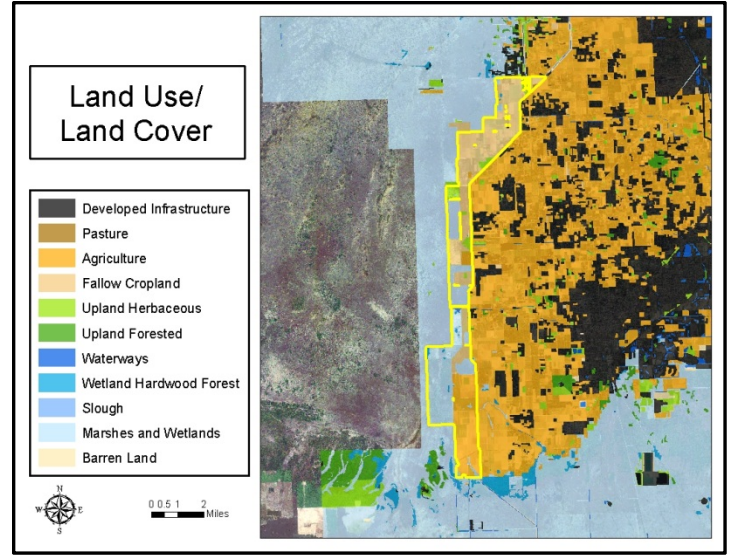
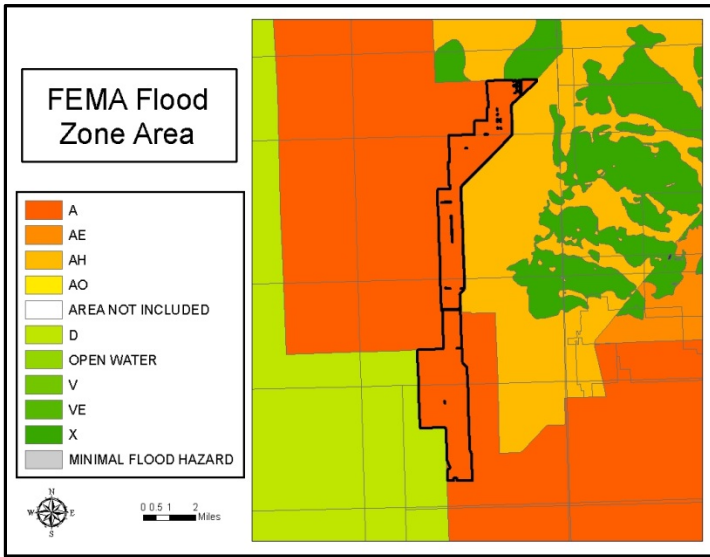
**L-31 – Rocky Glades / Frog Pond: Land Acquisition**



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### L-31 – Rocky Glades / Frog Pond: Land Character

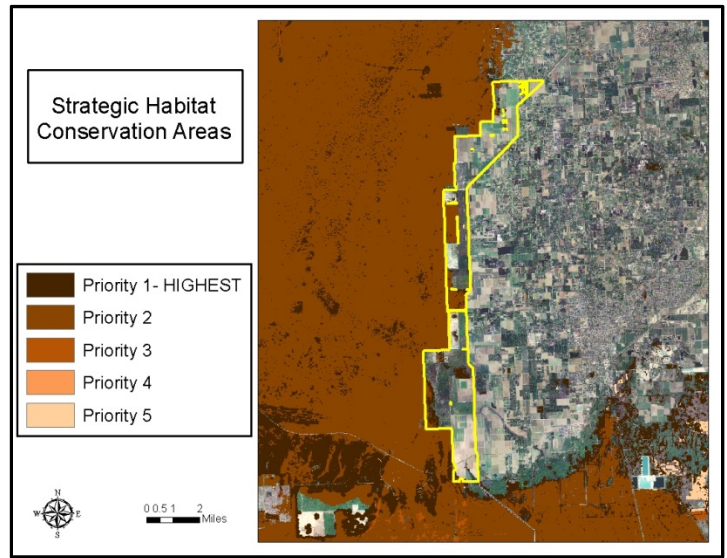
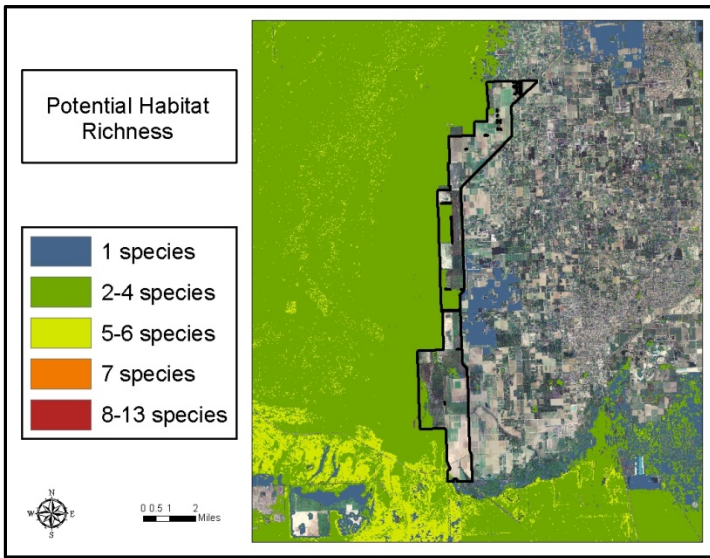


**Note: The rare natural communities data at left appears to be missing the pine rockland community that exists in the Frog Pond, in other areas on the map where it appears it is designated G1.**

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**L-31 – Rocky Glades / Frog Pond: Land Character (Continued)**



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