

# FIVE YEAR PLAN - 1989



**Save Our Rivers Division**

**South Florida Water Management District**

**South Florida Water Management District**

**WATER MANAGEMENT LANDS  
TRUST FUND**

***SAVE OUR RIVERS***

**FIVE YEAR PLAN**

**INFORMATION BOOKLET**

**1989**

Table of Contents  
Save our Rivers  
5 Year Plan  
Page 2

Completed/Partial Acquisitions and Project Maps .....	46
Dupuis Reserve .....	47
Lake Forest Preserve .....	48
Loxahatchee River .....	49
Nicodemus Slough .....	50
Strazzulla .....	51
East Everglades/Canal-111 .....	52
East Everglades; North & West .....	54
Kissimmee River Floodplain .....	56
Paradise Run .....	58
Six Mile Cypress .....	60
South Fork St. Lucie River .....	62
Water Conservation Areas .....	64

# FLORIDA RESOURCE RIVERS ACT

## 373.59 Water Management Lands Trust Fund

- (1) There is established within the Department of Environmental Regulation the Water Management Lands Trust Fund, to be used as a non-lapsing fund for the purposes of this section. The monies in this fund are hereby continually appropriated for the purpose of acquiring land in accordance with the provisions of this section.
- (2) Subsequent to public hearings, similar to those held pursuant to Chapter 120.54, each district shall file a 5-year plan for acquisition with the Legislature and the Secretary of Environmental Regulation by January 15, 1982. Annually thereafter, each district shall file with the Legislature and the Secretary a report of acquisition activity together with modifications or additions to its 5-year plan of acquisition. Expenditure of monies from the Water Management Lands Trust Fund shall be limited to the costs for acquisition of lands included within the plan as filed by each district; however, no such acquisition of lands shall occur without a public hearing similar to those held pursuant to the provisions set forth in Chapter 120.54.
  - (a) Prior to July 15, 1982, the use of monies from the fund shall be limited to the following land acquisitions:
    1. By South Florida Water Management District--lands in the water conservation areas and areas adversely affected by raising water levels of Lake Okeechobee in accordance with present regulation schedules, and the Savannahs wetland area in Martin County and St. Lucie County.
    2. By Southwest Florida Water Management District--lands in the Four River Basins areas, including Green Swamp, Upper Hillsborough and Cypress Creek, Anclote Water Storage Lands (Starkey), Withlacoochee and Hillsborough riverine corridors, and Sawgrass Lake addition.
    3. By St. Johns River Water Management District--Seminole Ranch, Latt Maxcy and Evans properties in the upper St. Johns River Basin.
    4. By Suwannee River Water Management District--lands in Suwannee River Valley.
    5. By Northwest Florida Water Management District--lands in the Choctawhatchee and Apalachicola River Valleys.
  - (b) After July 15, 1982, the use of monies from the fund shall be used for continued acquisition of lands listed in paragraph (a) and as set forth in the 5-year land acquisition plan of the district.
- (3) Monies from the Water Management Lands Trust Fund shall be used for acquiring the fee or other interest in lands necessary for water management, water supply, and the conservation and protection of water resources, except that such monies shall not be used for the acquisition of right-of-way for canals or pipelines. Lands acquired with monies from the fund shall be managed and maintained in an environmentally acceptable manner, and to the extent practicable, in such a way as to restore and protect their natural state and condition. The Secretary of the Department of Environmental Regulation shall release monies from the Water Management Lands Trust

Fund to the district following receipt of a resolution adopted by the Governing Board identifying the lands being acquired and certifying that such acquisition is consistent with the plan of acquisition and other provisions of this act. The Governing Board shall also provide to the Secretary of the Department of Environmental Regulation a copy of all certified appraisals used to determine the value of the land to be purchased. If the purchase price is greater than the appraisal price, the Governing Board shall submit written justification for the increased price. The Secretary of the Department of Environmental Regulation may withhold monies for any purchase that is not consistent with the five-year plan, the intent of this act or in excess of appraised value. The Governing Board may appeal any denial to the Land and Water Adjudicatory Commission pursuant to Section 373.114, Florida Statutes.

- (4) Water management land acquisition costs shall include payments to owners and costs and fees associated with such acquisition.
- (5) If a district issues revenue bonds or notes under Section 373.584, the district may pledge its share of the monies in the Water Management Lands Trust Fund as security for such bonds or notes. The Department of Environmental Regulation shall pay monies from the trust fund to a district or its designee sufficient to pay the debt service, as it becomes due, on the outstanding bonds and notes of the district; however, such payments shall not exceed the district's cumulative portion of the trust fund. However, any monies remaining after payment of the amount due on the debt service shall be released to the district pursuant to subsection (3).
- (6) Any unused portion of a district's share of the fund shall accumulate in the trust fund to the credit of that district. Interest earned on such portion shall also accumulate to the credit of that district to be used for land acquisition as provided in this section. The total monies over the life of the fund available to any district under this section shall not be reduced except by resolution of the district Governing Board stating that the need for the monies no longer exists.
- (7) Monies from the Water Management Lands Trust Fund shall be available to the five water management districts in the following percentages:
  - (a) Thirty percent to the South Florida Water management District.
  - (b) Twenty-five percent to the Southwest Florida Water Management District.
  - (c) Twenty-five percent to the St. Jones River Water Management District.
  - (d) Ten percent to the Suwannee River Water Management District
  - (e) Ten percent to the Northwest Florida Water Management District.

Notwithstanding the distribution formula specified in paragraphs (a) through (e), in fiscal year 1985-1986, the first proceeds of the Water Management Lands Trust Fund in an amount of \$500,000 shall be distributed equally among the five water management districts, and shall be used by the districts to develop acquisition plans and management plans for lands acquired with monies from the Water Management Lands Trust Fund. Monies that remain in the Water Management Lands Trust Fund after such distribution shall be available to the districts according to the formula specified in paragraphs (a) through (e).

- (8) Monies in the fund not needed to meet current obligations incurred under this section shall be transferred to the State Board of Administration, to the credit of the fund, to be invested in the manner provided by law. Interest received on such investments shall be credited to the fund.

(9) Lands acquired for the purposes enumerated in this section shall also be used for general public recreational purposes. General public recreational purposes shall include, but not be limited to fishing, hunting, horseback riding, swimming, camping, hiking, canoeing, boating, diving, birding, sailing, jogging, and other related outdoor activities to the maximum extent possible considering the environmental sensitivity and suitability of those lands. These public lands shall be evaluated for their resource value for the purpose of establishing which parcels, in whole or in part, annually or seasonally would be conducive to general public recreational purposes. These lands shall be made available to the public for these purposes, unless the district Governing Board can demonstrate that such activities would be incompatible with the purposes for which these lands were acquired.

(10) A district may dispose of land acquired under this section, pursuant to Section 373.089. However, revenue derived from such disposal may not be used for any purpose except the purchase of other lands meeting the criteria specified in this section, or payment of debt service on revenue bonds or notes issued under Section 373.584 as provided in this section.

(11) No monies generated pursuant to this act may be applied or expended subsequent to the effective date of this act to reimburse any district for prior expenditures for land acquisition from ad valorem taxes or other funds other than its share of the funds provided herein or to refund or refinance outstanding debt payable solely from ad valorem taxes or other funds other than its share of the funds provided herein.

## **201.02**

(1) On deeds, instruments, or writings whereby an lands, tenements, or other realty, or any interest therein, shall be granted, assigned, transferred, or otherwise conveyed to, or vested in, the purchaser, or any other person by his direction, on each \$100 of the consideration therefore the tax shall be 50 cents. When the full amount of the consideration for the execution, assignment, transfer, or conveyance is not shown in the face of such deed, instrument, document, or writing, the tax shall be at the rate of 50 cents for each \$100 or fractional part thereof of the consideration therefore.

## **SECTION 7.: EFFECTIVE AUGUST 1, 1985, SECTION 201.15, FLORIDA STATUTES, IS AMENDED TO READ:**

### **201.15 Distribution of Taxes Collected**

All taxes collected under the provision of this chapter shall be distributed as follows:

- (1) Seventy-four and six-tenths percent of the total taxes collected under the provisions of this chapter shall be paid into the State Treasury to the credit of the General Revenue Fund of the State, to be used and expended for the purposes for which the General Revenue Fund was created and exists by law.
- (2) Twelve and five-tenths percent of the total taxes collected under the provisions of this chapter shall be paid into the State Treasury to the credit of the Land Acquisition Trust Fund. Sums deposited in such fund pursuant to this subsection may be used for any purpose for which funds deposited in the Land Acquisition Trust Fund may be lawfully be used and may be used to pay the cost of the collection and enforcement of the tax levied by this chapter.

- (3) Three and one-tenth percent of the total taxes collected under the provisions of this chapter shall be paid into the State Treasury to the credit of the Land Acquisition Trust Fund. Monies deposited in the trust fund pursuant to this section shall be used for the following purposes:
- (a) Sixty percent of the monies shall be used to acquire coastal lands; and
  - (b) Forty percent of the monies shall be used to develop and manage lands acquired with monies from the Land Acquisition Trust Fund.
- \* (4) Nine and eight-tenths percent of the total taxes collected under the provisions of this chapter shall be paid into the State Treasury to the credit of the Water Management Lands Trust Fund. Sums deposited in that fund may be used for any purpose authorized in Section 373.59 and may be used to pay the cost of the collection and enforcement of the tax levied by this chapter.

\* Save Our Rivers Funds

# South Florida Water Management District Save Our Rivers Policy

## A. STATEMENT OF POLICY

1. The Governing Board recognizes a need to provide guidelines for selecting projects to be considered under the Resource Rivers Act (Section 373.59, Florida Statutes), which is also known as the Save Our Rivers Program. These guidelines include procedures for project selection and land acquisition and are intended as an addition and complementary to Rule 40E-7, Florida Administrative Code.
2. It is the Governing Board's intention to implement the Save Our Rivers Program in a manner that will provide long-term benefit to the citizens living within the District as well as the water resources of the District.
3. The Governing Board recognizes that the program's resources are limited and that land acquisition under the program will primarily be on a willing seller basis.
4. It is the goal of this Program to identify, prioritize and acquire necessary interests in lands for water management, water supply and conservation and protection of water resources.
5. In compliance with Section 373.59, Florida Statutes, the District will file an annual five-year plan with the Department of Environmental Regulation and the Florida Legislature.
6. Funding for the Save Our Rivers Program is derived from revenue collected from the documentary stamp tax and it is administered by the Department of Environmental Regulation.
7. To most effectively administer the Save Our Rivers Program, the District will closely coordinate with all other public land acquisition programs.
8. Through its regulatory programs, the District shall apply the same regulatory criteria to lands being considered for acquisition/protection, under the SOR program, as it does to similar lands not being considered for acquisition/protection.

The District's regulatory program shall not be used solely to reduce or control value of lands to be considered for acquisition/protection under the SOR Program, notwithstanding normal effects of regulations on land values.

9. It is the policy of the Governing Board that inclusion of a property in the Five Year Plan, pursuant to Section 373.59, F.S., does not reflect a definite intention by the South Florida Water Management District to acquire said property. Inclusion in the Five Year Plan indicates that the subject property has acquisition potential depending upon further investigation as to its environmental and management features and negotiation of a mutually acceptable acquisition price.

**B. SCOPE**

This policy will apply to all projects selected under the Save Our rivers Program.

**C. GENERAL GUIDELINES**

**1. DEFINITIONS:**

- a. Acquisition - acquiring title to land in fee, or in the discretion of the District, such other legal interest necessary for water management, water supply, or the conservation and protection of water resources.
- b. Board - the Governing Board of the South Florida Water Management District.
- c. Department - the Florida Department of Environmental Regulation
- d. District - the South Florida Water Management District
- e. Plan - the five-year plan as approved by the Board
- f. Secretary - the Secretary of the Department
- g. Selection - the process of identifying and evaluating proposed projects for inclusion in the plan
- h. SOR - the Save Our Rivers Program as provided under Section 373.59, F.S.
- i. SOR Project - a geographical area possessing unique features necessary for water management, water supply, and the conservation and protection of water resources.
- j. Survey - a certified survey signed by a licensed land surveyor authorized to practice surveying in the State of Florida.

**2. SELECTION COMMITTEE: A committee shall be established and composed of the following District staff members to make recommendation to the Board for selection of projects for inclusion in the plan:**

- a. Director, Division of Resource Planning
- b. Director, Department of Resource Control
- c. Director, Office of Resource Assistance
- d. Director, Department of Resource Operation
- e. Director, Department of Land Management
- f. Deputy Executive Director
- g. District Counsel
- h. Director, Save Our Rivers Division
- i. Director, Department of Finance and Administration

Each Committee member may designate a specific staff member to function as the representative on all Committee work.

The Committee shall biannually elect a chairman and vice chairman at a meeting in which a quorum is present. The next election shall be held upon expiration of the biannual term of the existing chairman. The Committee shall be responsible for receiving and evaluating suggestions for selection of projects under the SOR Program. All proposals to the Board for selection shall originate from the Committee; all suggestions for projects shall first be submitted to the Committee. The Committee shall meet at least twice a year to consider all suggestions for

selection and to prepare a plan of proposed projects. In order for suggested project to receive approval for consideration on the plan proposed by the Committee, it must be nominated by one Committee member and have votes of approval by at least five Committee members. Should any member of the Committee have a direct or indirect, present or contemplated future interest in a parcel proposed for inclusion, or could personally benefit from the acquisition of the parcel, the member shall not participate in discussion, vote or other action in regard to that parcel. The Board may consider appeals on any project proposed to the Committee but not recommended to the Board by the Committee.

The public meetings of the Selection Committee shall be widely publicized and as often as possible be held in different locations in the District. Minutes summarizing all comments made at the meetings shall be prepared and distributed to all Committee members and Board Members.

#### **D. PROJECT SELECTION GUIDELINES**

1. **TYPES OF PROJECTS:** Projects considered necessary for water management, water supply, and the conservation and protection of water resources, and thus eligible for selection, include but are not limited to:
  - a. River and stream floodplains,
  - b. River and stream floodways,
  - c. River and stream flood hazard areas,
  - d. River and stream littoral zones,
  - e. Springs,
  - f. Lakes, including littoral zones,
  - g. Aquifer recharge areas,
  - h. Wetlands,
  - i. Wellfields,
  - j. Unique water features,
  - k. Appropriate buffer zones qualifying for a--j above;
  - l. Lands needed to retain or store water, or
  - m. Reminders of land ownerships included in a--l.
2. **SOR PROJECT PROPOSAL:** The form attached to this policy shall be completed and submitted to the District for consideration of any proposed project.
3. **CRITERIA FOR SELECTION OF PROPOSED PROJECTS:** The Committee shall evaluate and weigh each proposed project using the following criteria:
  - a. The proposed SOR project is within the jurisdictional boundaries of the District.
  - b. The proposed SOR project is necessary for water management, water supply and/or the conservation and protection of water resources.
  - c. The proposed SOR project is part of a river system, a lake, a wetland, a groundwater recharge area, a water storage area, or associated with the recharge of a water body.
  - d. The proposed SOR project contains lands that are primarily in their natural state, or suitable for restoration, or have significant environmental values which should be conserved and protected.

- e. The proposed SOR project, is suitable for general public recreational purposes in a manner compatible with the water resource and environmental purposes for which it is selected.
- f. The proposed SOR project is consistent with all state, regional and local adopted plans.
- g. The proposed SOR project includes available management alternatives.
- h. The proposed SOR project has ecological value, including unique species of fish and wildlife and viable habitat.
- i. The proposed SOR project has unique geological features.
- j. The proposed SOR project has unique water management features, including opportunities for water quality and quantity protection and enhancement.
- k. The proposed SOR project contributes to the viability and protection of adjacent sensitive area.
- l. The proposed SOR project has historical or archaeological value.
- m. The proposed SOR project is located in a manner which considers the need for a balance of available resources and proximity to urban areas.

4. **PREPARATION OF FIVE YEAR PLAN:** A proposed plan shall be prepared by the Committee and presented to the Governing Board annually, or more frequently, if considered necessary by the Board or the Committee.

The list shall include the estimated management costs and the statutory authority for the project. A written report shall be prepared on each project selected for acquisition consideration. Each report shall consider and evaluate in writing:

- a. The public purpose of the project, including the statutory authority;
- b. An assessment of the project's ecological value, vulnerability, endangerment, and any other related environmental information;
- c. An assessment of management costs, utilization, ownership, and assessed value estimates;
- d. The determination whether the project conforms with local and state comprehensive plans or any other adopted governmental plans;
- e. The merits, both favorable and unfavorable, of each project;
- f. Compatibility with the State Water Use Plan; and
- g. Potential management options.

5. **BOARD CONSIDERATION AND ADOPTION OF FIVE YEAR PLAN:** As a minimum, the Board shall review all proposed projects and current projects on an annual basis. The Board shall annually adopt an update of the Five Year Plan and, after adoption, the projects approved shall be incorporated in a report and made available to the public. The Board recognizes that the Five Year Plan is a list of projects that qualify for the program. Projects included on the Five Year Plan will not necessarily be acquired.

## E. LAND ACQUISITION GUIDELINES

### 1. CRITERIA FOR EVALUATION OF ACQUISITION NEEDS:

- a. All projects on the Plan shall be evaluated to determine the nature and extent of land interests that are necessary for acquisition in order to achieve the purposes for which the project was included in the plan.
- b. In order to maximize the overall benefits of the SOR Program, the District shall seek to acquire only the quality of title necessary to achieve project purposes.

### 2. PRIORITY OF ACQUISITION: The District has prepared a Project Evaluation Matrix for the purpose of screening and prioritizing prospective additions to the Five Year Plan. The matrix consists of the following ten parameters:

- a. Water management
- b. Water supply
- c. Conservation and protection of water resources
- d. Manageability
- e. Habitat diversity
- f. Species diversity
- g. Connectedness
- h. Rarity
- i. Vulnerability
- j. Nature oriented human use

Projects have been separated into three categories:

#### 1) Legislatively Mandated Projects -- In 1981, when the Florida Resources Rivers Act was passed, the Florida Legislature specified that four projects within the South Florida Water Management District be considered for purchase with monies from the Water Management Lands Trust Fund. The Savannahs were originally mandated but deleted when DNR began acquisition under their C.A.R.L. program. It has now been re-added as an SOR Category "A" Project.

- a. Kissimmee River Floodplain
- b. Water Conservation Areas
- c. Nicodemus Slough

#### 2) Category "A" Projects -- Category A projects are those lands which received the highest relative scores when compared with all parcels evaluated for consideration for the Five Year Plan. Activity on Category A lands would consist of developing an aggressive plan of action for protection of these areas through a variety of land acquisition tools available to the Save Our Rivers program. These projects represent the best examples of lands within the District necessary for water management, water supply and conservation and protection of water resources. The following parcels fall into the "A" category:

- a. Big Pine Key
- b. Bird Rookery Swamp
- c. Fisheating Creek
- d. Pal-Mar
- e. Reedy Creek Swamp
- f. Savannahs
- g. Telegraph Swamp

- 3) Category "B" Projects--Category B projects are those parcels that meet the qualifications of the Save Our Rivers program, but ranked lower in relative score to all projects evaluated for consideration in the Five Year Plan. Activity on these projects will be more passive than those in Category A. Should landowners contact the District regarding the sale of their lands in the project area, we will attempt to secure those rights as a gift or a bargain sale. The following projects fall into the "B" category:
- a. Dade/Broward Levee
  - b. North Fork St. Lucie River
  - c. South Fork St. Lucie River
  - d. Shingle Creek Swamp

3. NOTIFICATION OF OWNERS: As owners are identified in an approved five year plan project, a notification letter will be mailed to them. The letter will briefly describe the program objectives and provide a focal point for future questions and discussion.

4. CONSIDERATION OF APPRAISALS:

- a. If two approved appraisals are obtained for a parcel of land and the lower of the two approved appraisals is within twenty percent (20%) of the higher approved appraisal, then the Executive Director may approve an offer to the landowner of a purchase price between the values found by the appraisals. The approved offer shall be based upon recommendation of the Director of Land Management and SOR Director. The offer shall be contingent upon final approval by the Board.

If the approved appraisals are more than twenty percent (20%) apart, then the Executive Director, Director of Land Management and the SOR Director shall present a recommendation to the Board for approval of an offer, obtain a third appraisal, or such other action as may be appropriate. The Board may direct another appraisal be obtained, or after receipt of information concerning the relative merits of the two appraisals, approve the purchase of the parcel at a value consistent with the use of an informed judgement and in the public interest, or authorize such other action as may be appropriate.

- b. When fee simple estate is acquired subject to outstanding interest such as a mineral interest, life estate, easement or lease, the purchase price shall be reduced in accordance with the effect the outstanding interest have upon the market value of the lands.

SOR Director shall present a recommendation to the Board for approval of an offer.

- 5. EMINENT DOMAIN: When efforts to acquire lands through negotiation have been unsuccessful, the Board may authorize the use of eminent domain, where applicable.
- 6. REPORTS AND RECORDS: District staff shall prepare a status report for the Governing Board on an annual basis. The report will outline property acquisitions, future property acquisitions and rejected SOR project applications. Records of all contacts with property owners shall be retained in the Department of Land Management.

# SAVE OUR RIVERS

## LAND MANAGEMENT POLICY

### I. PURPOSE AND SCOPE

- A. The policies, procedures, and guidelines contained herein are established to provide for the management of lands acquired under the Save Our Rivers Program in a manner consistent with the District's mission and the legislative directives set forth in Chapter 373.59 Florida Statutes.
- B. These policies, procedures, and guidelines shall apply to all property acquired under the Save Our Rivers Program.
- C. Nothing in these policies, procedures, and guidelines shall negate any statute, administrative rule, or other policy requirement.
- D. These policies, procedures, and guidelines will be reviewed at five (5) year intervals or earlier, if necessary, and updated as required. Public review and comment will be solicited as part of the review process.

### II. DEFINITIONS

- A. Cooperative Management Agreement - An agreement between two or more agencies setting forth the respective duties and responsibilities of each agency in the management of a specific tract of land.
- B. Lead Agency - Agency designated as the prime managing entity for a given tract of land; generally provides the on-site staff required for public use management.
- C. Cooperating Agencies - Two or more agencies working together to manage a specific unit.
- D. Management Unit - A single tract or combination of tracts under one management program.
- E. Wildlife Corridor - Two or more contiguous tracts of land forming a natural linkage for wildlife populations.
- F. Primary Resource Lands - Lands having high water resource, fish and wildlife, and recreational values requiring acquisition by gift or purchase.
- G. Buffer Lands - Those adjacent lands that can sustain some development provided sufficient control is maintained to prevent adverse impacts to the primary resource lands.
- H. Remainder Lands - Lands protected by local zoning that do not need to be placed in public ownership.

### III. SELECTION OF LAND MANAGERS

- A. The District shall strive to obtain the expertise and assistance required for the management of specific tracts of land by entering into cooperative management agreements with other state and federal agencies, units of local government, and private nonprofit organizations. The cooperative management agreement will designate a lead agency for management purposes.
- B. Where appropriate, the private sector will be encouraged to furnish certain management related facilities and services through the execution of leases and/or licenses.
- C. The District is charged by law with the responsibility for management of all lands acquired under the Save Our Rivers Program and therefore must act as the final arbiter of disputes arising between cooperating agencies.

### IV. MANAGEMENT PLANS

#### A. Conceptual Management Plan

- 1. A conceptual management plan (CMP) shall be prepared for each major tract of land by or at the direction of the District prior to acquisition.
- 2. Each CMP shall set forth a recommended management proposal and contain general background data on the property including but not limited to:
  - a. location
  - b. access
  - c. history
  - d. existing improvements
  - e. soils
  - f. topography
  - g. hydrology
  - h. vegetation
  - i. fish and wildlife resources, and
  - j. recreational potential
- 3. The process utilized by the District in developing the CMP shall solicit the comments and recommendations of individuals, organizations, local governments, and those regional, state, and federal agencies having a stake in the management of the tract.

**B. Operational Management Plan**

1. An operational management plan (OMP) shall be developed by the lead agency in consultation with the cooperating agencies for each major tract of land (or group of tracts) to be operated as a single management unit.
2. The OMP shall contain detailed information on the status of the area's critical resources, set forth general and specific management goals, objectives, resources and guidelines for each and outline the specific procedures and activities necessary for their accomplishment.
3. The OMP will be reviewed periodically and updated as necessary.

**C. Annual Work Plans**

1. An annual work plan shall be developed by each of the agencies participating in the management of a given unit.
2. Each work plan shall set forth the staffing levels, equipment and materials, and work activities proposed by the respective agency for implementation of the OMP.
3. The cooperating agencies shall meet at least once each year to discuss the status of the management unit and their planned activities for the upcoming year.

**V. GENERAL POLICIES AND GUIDELINES**

**A. Water Resources**

1. Management activities on Save Our Rivers tracts will be directed toward conservation and protection of the unit's water resources.
2. The District will not support or encourage any activities or development that would significantly alter the natural (undisturbed) movement and/or degrade the quality of surface or groundwater on management units.
3. Where feasible, an attempt will be made to restore a more natural hydroperiod on tracts where the drainage patterns have been substantially altered.
4. Visitor programs shall inform and educate the public relative to the importance of the area in maintaining adequate supplies of good quality water for the South Florida area.

**B. Fish and Wildlife Resources**

1. Management activities on Save Our Rivers tracts will seek to establish and maintain an appropriate number and variety of indigenous game and non-game species.
2. Particular emphasis will be placed on the identification and management of critical habitat for endangered or threatened species residing on or frequenting the management units.
3. The need for the establishment of sanctuary areas or "no hunting zones" to provide additional protection for endangered species will be evaluated.
4. Activities that may contribute to a decline in water quality and/or a reduction in critical wildlife habitat will not be encouraged on management units.

**C. Native Plant Communities**

1. Management practices on Save Our Rivers tracts will seek to restore and maintain an appropriate variety and distribution of native plant communities.
2. Particular emphasis will be placed on the identification and protection of rare and endangered species.
3. The planting of exotic plant species will be prohibited on all management units. Management practices will strive to identify existing infestations and to develop and implement appropriate control and/or eradication measures.
4. Management of the forest resources on select tracts will be undertaken in consultation with the Division of Forestry.
5. Forest management practices will strive to maintain age-class diversity and where appropriate species diversity.

**D. Archeological and Historical Resources**

1. The identification of sites within the management units that have unique archeological and/or historical significance will be undertaken in consultation with the Florida Bureau of History and Archives.
2. Management practices will strive to protect these unique resources and in appropriate situations allow for the provision of access and interpretive facilities to enhance their appreciation and enjoyment by the public.

## E. Recreational Use

1. Public use of management units for appropriate resource based outdoor recreational activities such as hunting, fishing, camping, horseback riding, hiking, boating, canoeing, and nature study shall be permitted and encouraged where such use does not interfere with protection and management of the area's critical water and environmental resources.
2. Management practices shall determine the mix of activities and level of use appropriate for each management unit. Activities that are considered highly disruptive to other recreational use or those that are clearly or potentially destructive of the area's critical resources will be prohibited.
3. The use of airboats, swamp buggies, tracked vehicles, motorcycles, and other types of off road vehicles on most management units will be prohibited. Motorized access will be limited to the greatest extent possible to the use of vehicles licensed for street use on certain designated roads.
4. Recreational development on most management units will be limited to the greatest extent possible to the provision of basic facilities for access, health and safety, and interpretation. The provision of certain facilities and services through the awarding of appropriate concession contracts may be authorized on some areas.
5. Rules and regulations governing the public use of all management units shall be established and enforced by the lead management agency.
6. The construction and maintenance of private camps and campsites on management units shall be prohibited.
7. Consideration may be given to the development and implementation of a permit/fee system on management units.
8. Programs shall be developed and implemented to inform and educate Visitors with respect to water resource management issues and the critical resources found on each management unit.

## F. Agricultural Use

1. Agricultural activities conducted on Save Our Rivers lands shall be limited to the grazing of livestock on native range and farming practices associated with the production of food and cover for wildlife.
2. The conversion of native range to improved pasture will be prohibited on all management units.
3. To the extent practical, management practices shall seek to convert existing improved pastures to native range.
4. The development and implementation of livestock grazing programs on management units shall be undertaken in consultation with the Soil Conservation Service.
5. Managing agencies shall implement measures to reduce potential conflicts between livestock grazing operations and concurrent recreational use.

#### G. Bee Leases and Apiaries

1. Consideration may be given by the District to the establishment of apiaries on management units through the development and awarding of appropriate leases.
2. Current state of Florida guidelines and standards regarding fees, distance between sites and from property boundaries, and related matters will be utilized in developing lease specifications.
3. Leases will not be transferrable or assignable in whole or in part.
4. If an existing annual lease is not renewed, the former lease holder will have thirty (30) days from the expiration of the lease to remove all of his/her capital improvements from the area. Future leasing of this site will then be determined through a publicly announced drawing conducted by the District.

#### H. Other

1. District will support those research and academic endeavors on management units by qualified agencies, educational institutions, and public and private conservation organizations that will contribute to more effective management and use of these areas.
2. Requests from government and/or private sources for permission to place signs, billboards, roads, power lines, pipelines and similar items on or through Save Our Rivers property will be approved only when the applicant has affirmatively demonstrated that the proposed use is consistent with preservation and enhancement of the area's critical resources and use of the area by the public for recreational purposes.
3. Management decision-making shall consider whether the lands are primary resource lands, remainder lands, or buffer lands.
4. Local government support shall be encouraged throughout the management process particularly with respect to the regulation of buffer areas and the creation of wildlife corridors.
5. Where necessary, law enforcement assistance will be requested from the appropriate agency to protect the resources of the property.
6. Detailed procedures to implement this policy are identified in the Land Acquisition/Management Procedures flow chart.

# Project Proposal Form

Please return ten copies of this form with ten copies of all referenced attachments to:

Director, Save Our Rivers  
South Florida Water Management District  
Post Office Box 24680  
West Palm Beach, Florida 33416-4680

Please complete every question on this form. If necessary, designate N/A where a question is not applicable. Complete applications will receive more prompt and complete attention.

1. **Name and Location**

Property Name (commonly known as):

County (or counties):

Within Municipal Boundaries? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_ Please attach a location map (8 1/2" by 11") specifying the property location and include a north arrow (map drawn to scale if possible); also, please provide any additional property maps or aerial photography which may further clarify the suggested project.

2. **Size**

Estimated Number of Acres: \_\_\_\_\_ County Estimated  
Number of Parcels: \_\_\_\_\_ County Estimated Acreage per  
Parcel: \_\_\_\_\_

3. **Access**

Does the property front on a public road? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_ If not,  
describe type of legal access?

4. **Ownership Information**

Identify the property owner(s) and the contact address(es) and telephone  
number(s):

5. **Survey Information**

Are surveys and/or legal descriptions available:

If so, attach or specify where they may be obtained:

6. **Title Information**

Are abstracts available from owner(s) ? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_ Do/Does owner(s) have title insurance policies? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

7. **SOR Qualifications**

Provide detailed information concerning the qualifications of the property for water management, water supply or the conservation and protection of water resources:

---

---

---

8. **Natural Characteristics**

Provide a description of the natural characteristics of the property, including the predominant plant and animal life; specify types of trees and percentage of coverage, types of animal life, any rare, threatened, or endangered species, identified by Federal or State programs (specify); historical or archeological sites, other geologic features, etc.:

---

---

---

Also provide information on reports prepared by any other agencies on the natural characteristics of the property; if possible, attach a copy of the report:

---

---

---

9. **General History Influences**

Provide a description of general history of the property; include the identification of significant past disturbances, both natural and human; include dates of storm damage, fires, floods, exotic infestations, farming, disturbances; describe any structures, roads, rails, fences, etc; is land involved in litigation (if yes, specify); is land on other public land acquisition lists (if yes, specify program & agency)?

---

---

---

10. **Buildings**

Describe types and occupancy, if any:

---

---

11. **Future Impacts**

Identify the anticipated future impacts which may have a negative affect on this property and whether the impacts are in the near future or are long range:

---

---

---

12. **Zoning and Land Use Designation**

Indicate local zoning and land use designation (from future land use map) on each parcel:

---

---

---

---

Identify any other adopted governmental plans that may affect the project; is it compatible with State Water Use Plan?

---

---

---

Attach copies of appropriate maps:

---

---

13. **Local Participation**

Will the local government participate the funding? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_  
Provide in-kind services? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_ Assist the management? \_\_\_\_\_  
Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_ If yes, to what extent? \_\_\_\_\_

---

---

Identify value as shown on the most recent tax roll:

---

---

Identify appraised value and appraiser's name (if available):

---

---

14. **Attachments**

Identify and label each attachment (with boundaries noted). Suggested attachments may include: zoning maps, soil maps, ownership maps, aerial photographs, vegetative maps, water resource maps, endangered species maps, on site photographs and U.S.G.S. Quadrangle maps.

Attachment A: \_\_\_\_\_  
Attachment B: \_\_\_\_\_  
Attachment C: \_\_\_\_\_  
Attachment D: \_\_\_\_\_  
Attachment E: \_\_\_\_\_

It is the policy of the Governing Board that inclusion of a property within the Five Year Plan pursuant to Section 373.59, F.S., does not reflect a definite intention by the South Florida Water Management District to acquire said property. Inclusion within the Five Year Plan indicates that the subject property has acquisition potential, depending upon further investigation as to its environmental and management features and the negotiation of a mutually acceptable acquisition price.

15. **Form completed by:**

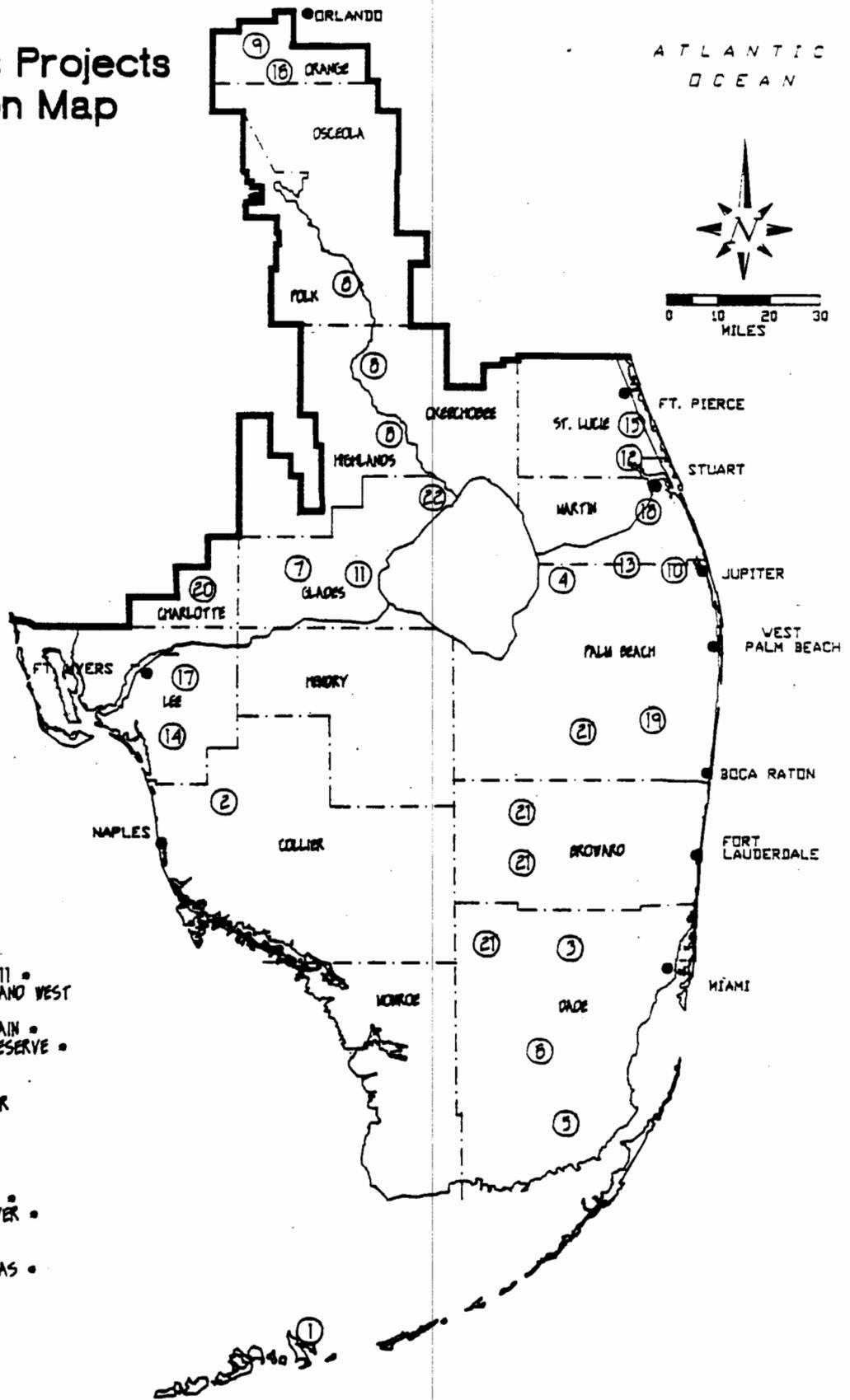
Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Telephone Number: ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

Please state affiliation to owner(s):

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

THIS PAGE INTENTIONALLY LEFT BLANK

# Save Our Rivers Projects General Location Map



1. BIG PINE KEY
2. BIRO ROOKERY SWAMP
3. DADE/BROWARD LEVEE
4. DUPLIS RESERVE •
5. EAST EVERGLADES/CANAL-III •
6. EAST EVERGLADES/NORTH AND WEST
7. FISHEATING CREEK
8. KISSIMEE RIVER FLOOD PLAIN •
9. LAKE FOREST NATURAL PRESERVE •
10. LOXAHATCHEE RIVER •
11. NICODIMUS SLOUGH •
12. NORTH PORK ST. LUCIE RIVER
13. PAL-WAR
14. REEDY CREEK SWAMP
15. SAVANNAHS
16. SHINGLE CREEK SWAMP
17. SIX MILE CYPRESS SLOUGH •
18. SOUTH PORK ST. LUCIE RIVER •
19. STRAZULLA TRACT •
20. TELEGRAPH SWAMP
21. WATER CONSERVATION AREAS •
22. PARADISE RUN •

• PARTIALLY OR TOTALLY ACQUIRED

**SAVE OUR RIVERS PROJECTS**

<u>PROJECT</u>	<u>COUNTIES</u> LEGISLATIVELY MANDATED	<u>TOTAL PROJECT AREA</u> (Acres)
KISSIMMEE RIVER FLOODPLAIN	Osceola, Polk	57,000
WATER CONSERVATION AREAS	Dade, Broward, Palm Beach	332,000
NICODEMUS SLOUGH	Glades	<u>2,000</u>
	<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>391,000</b>

**CATEGORY "A"**

BIG PINE KEY	Monroe	600
BIRD ROOKERY SWAMP	Lee/Collier	49,000
FISHEATING CREEK	Glades	28,000
PAL-MAR	Palm Beach/Martin	23,000
REEDY CREEK SWAMP	Orange/Polk	30,000
SAVANNAHS	St. Lucie	1,600
TELEGRAPH SWAMP	Charlotte	<u>10,000</u>
	<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>142,000</b>

**CATEGORY "B"**

DADE/BROWARD LEVEE	Dade	12,000
NORTH FORK, ST LUCIE RIVER	St. Lucie	2,000
SENIOR CORP. LANDS (EAST EVERGLADES)	Dade	300
SHINGLE CREEK SWAMP	Osceola	<u>3,000</u>
	<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>17,300</b>

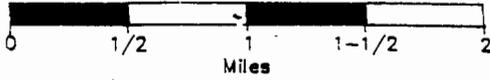
# SAVE OUR RIVERS

## DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED ACQUISITION

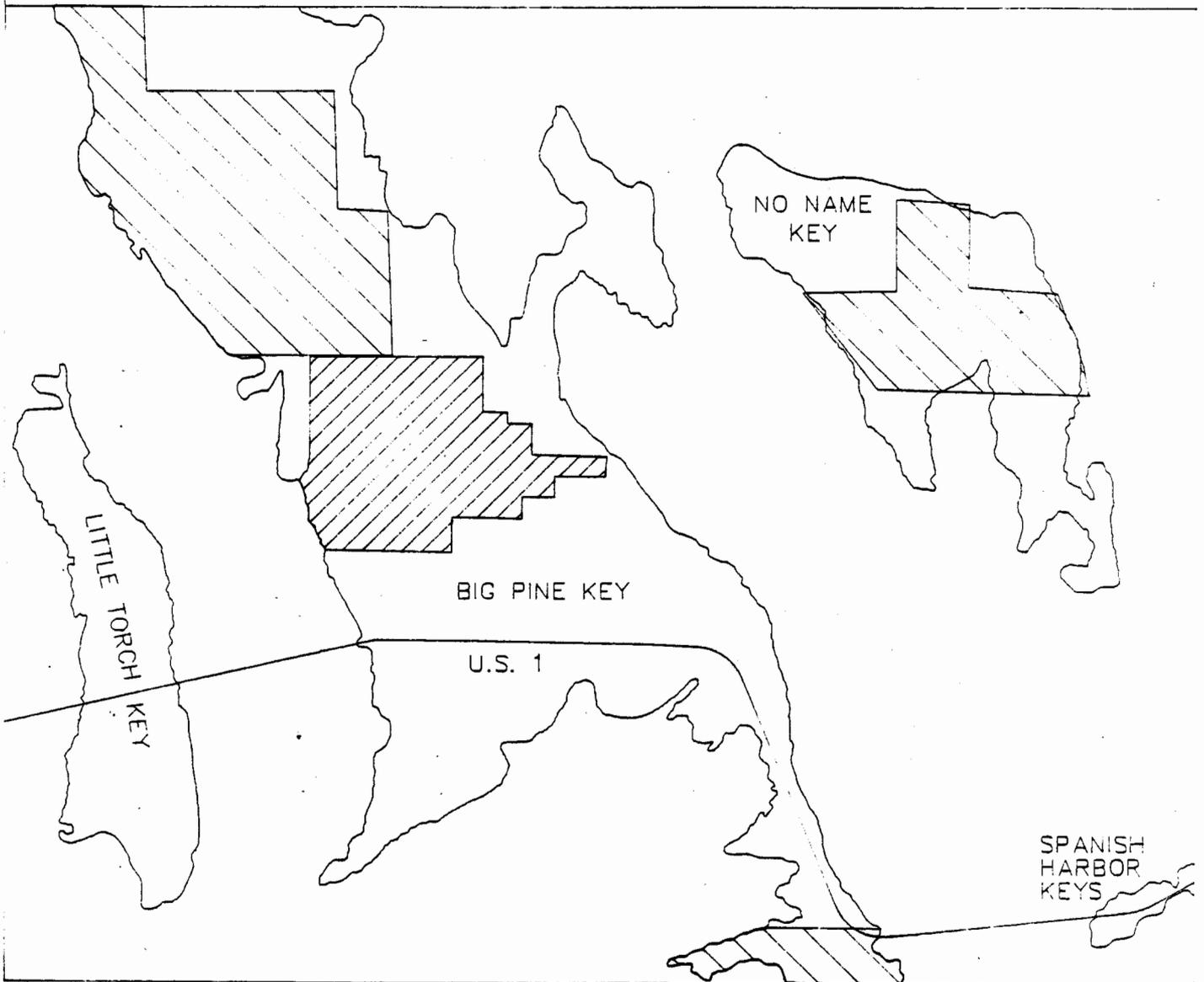
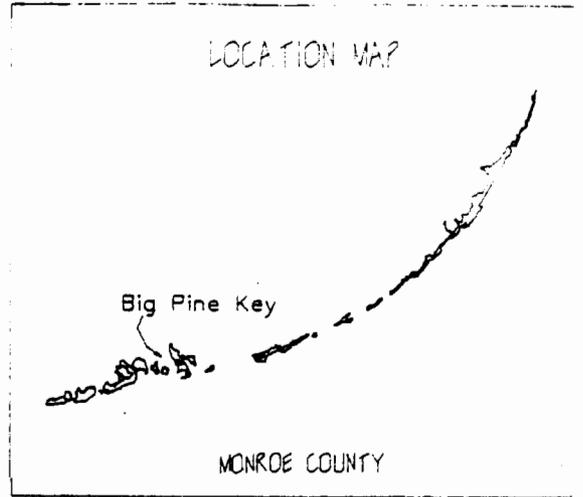
- |    |                                      |               |
|----|--------------------------------------|---------------|
| 1. | <u>Area of Potential Acquisition</u> | BIG PINE KEY  |
| 2. | <u>County:</u>                       | MONROE        |
| 3. | <u>Acres Under Consideration:</u>    | 605 ACRES     |
| 4. | <u>Estimated Assessed Value:</u>     | \$3.6 MILLION |
| 5. | <u>Description of Area:</u>          |               |

Big Pine Key is a unique project when compared with the remaining proposals. The project area totals 605 acres, and incorporates the only large freshwater aquifer in the Florida Keys. The lenses are a local source of freshwater. The wetland sloughs provide valuable habitat for a number of wetland dependent species, including several endangered wildlife species. They serve an important water management purpose as storage areas for stormwater runoff. The site contains West Indian tropical hammock and Caribbean slash pinelands, both of which are considered globally imperiled. The Florida Keys are an Area of Critical State Concern and Big Pine Key is an Area of Critical County Concern. The freshwater wetlands on Big Pine are the only areas in the Keys which hold water on a year round basis, even during drought periods. Because of this source of freshwater, many migratory raptors and wading birds stop there on an annual basis, or reside permanently. The wetland sloughs include habitat for 18 animal species and 21 plant species that are listed as rare or endangered. The most prominent is the Key deer. Big Pine Key is the core of the Key deer habitat specifically because of the freshwater resources that are available only on this island. Recent studies have shown that the freshwater lenses are extremely vulnerable to saltwater intrusion, depletion and pollution from septic tank systems. In the late 1970's there were 150 commercial and domestic wells, primarily for irrigation and non-potable uses, into the freshwater lenses. At the present time there are no estimates of withdrawal volumes nor is there ongoing monitoring. The freshwater lenses of Big Pine are directly connected with the nearshore waters of the Atlantic Ocean, which are classified as Outstanding Florida Waters. Contamination of the aquifer by septic tank waste could lead to the eutrophication of nearshore waters which could impact the coral reef system. Management would be undertaken by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, as part of the Key Deer Refuge.

# Big Pine Key



-  BIG PINE KEY AREA = 637 ACRES
-  KEY DEER NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE



## SAVE OUR RIVERS

### DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED ACQUISITION

1. Area of Potential Acquisition: BIRD ROOKERY SWAMP
2. Counties: LEE and COLLIER
3. Acres Under Consideration: 49,442 Acres
4. Estimated Assessed Value: \$37 MILLION
5. Description of Area:

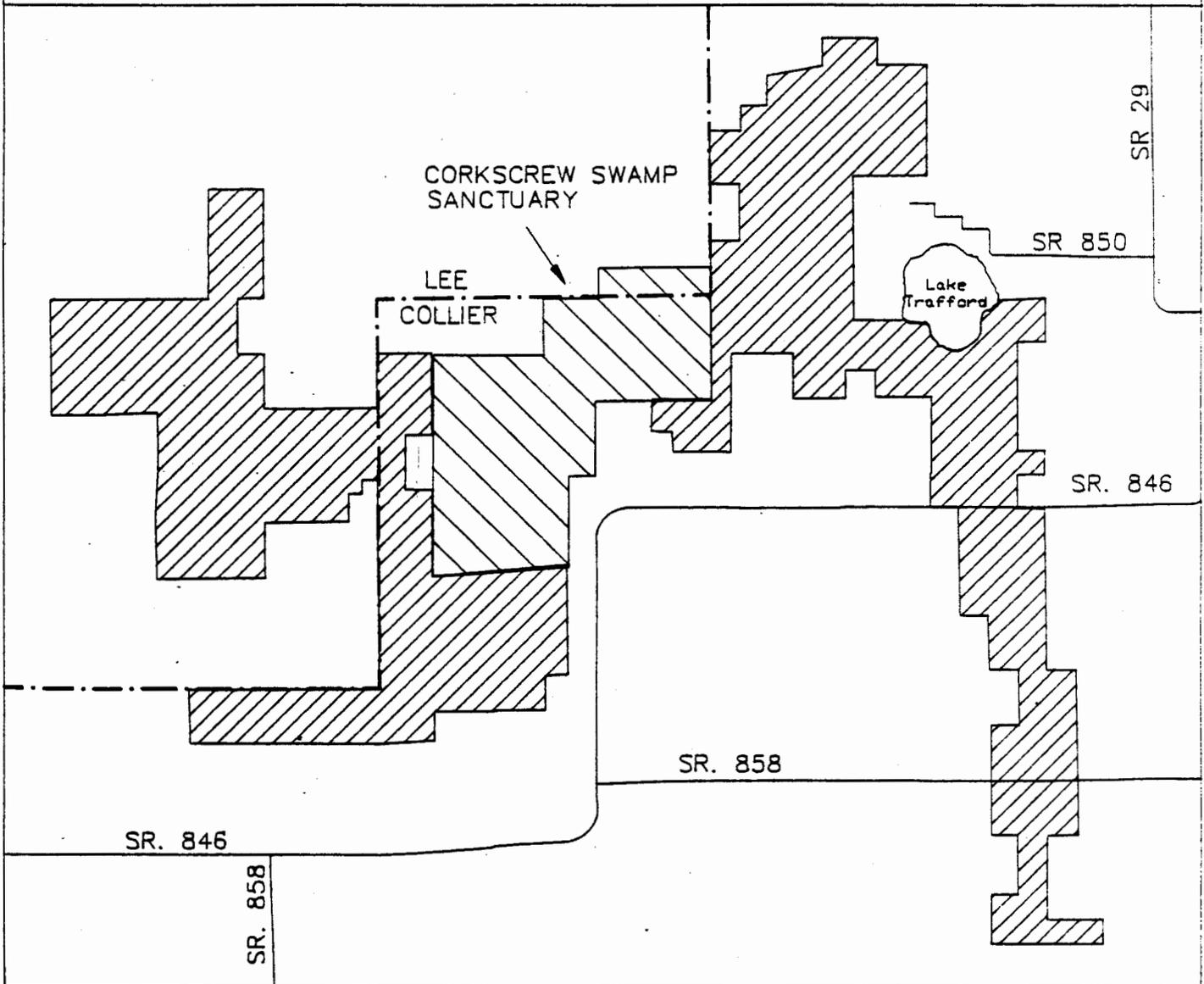
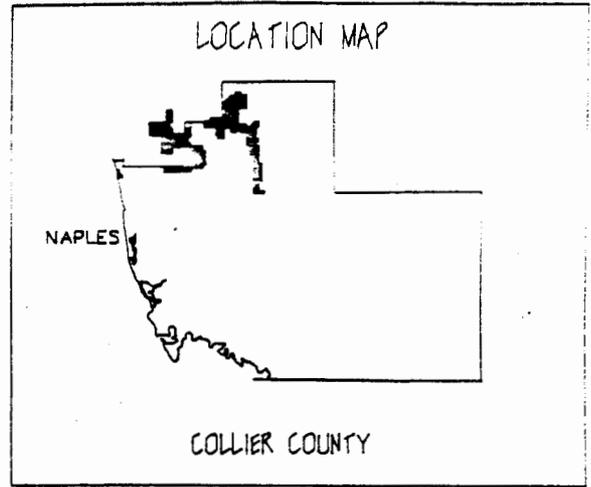
Bird Rookery Swamp is a generic name for a vast project which covers nearly 50,000 acres in Collier and Lee Counties. It includes Corkscrew Marsh, totalling 13,000 acres, which are the headwaters of Corkscrew Sanctuary and Bird Rookery Swamp. Flintpen Strand, in southeastern Lee County, is connected and covers an additional 13,000 acres. The eastern fork of Corkscrew Swamp branches from Bird Rookery Swamp and extends south of Lake Trafford over more than 6,000 additional acres. The eastern portion was not addressed in this study, but its importance was recognized because of the connection it forms with Fakahatchee Strand, to the south. Fakahatchee Strand, both that area within the State Preserve and the area proposed for purchase by the federal government, covers nearly 80,000 acres, and forms an unbroken corridor to the Ten Thousand Islands and Everglades National Park. When this system is looked at in the context of the corridor that it forms, it is one of the most valuable properties under consideration. It has tremendous water management value and importance. Bird Rookery Swamp is one of the few project areas where water supply was a significant issue. The northern portion is considered a potentiometric high and is a major aquifer recharge area. Bird Rookery Swamp and Flintpen Strand, in conjunction with Corkscrew Sanctuary, serve as one of the major nesting and feeding areas for the endangered wood stork. Florida panthers have been tracked through this system, as well.

Management requirements will be minimal. National Audubon has agreed to manage the Bird Rookery Swamp portion, and it is likely that Flintpen Strand could be operated by the Florida Game and Freshwater Fish Commission as a wildlife management area. Some exotics are present in the Lee County portion, but appear to be in controllable amounts. The size of the system alone allows it to buffer itself, thereby keeping management to a minimum. Public use would largely be limited to hunting. Its value for scientific study is extremely high.

# Bird Rookery Swamp



-  BIRD ROOKERY SWAMP AREA = 49442 ACRES
-  CORKSCREW SWAMP SANCTUARY



# SAVE OUR RIVERS

## DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED ACQUISITION

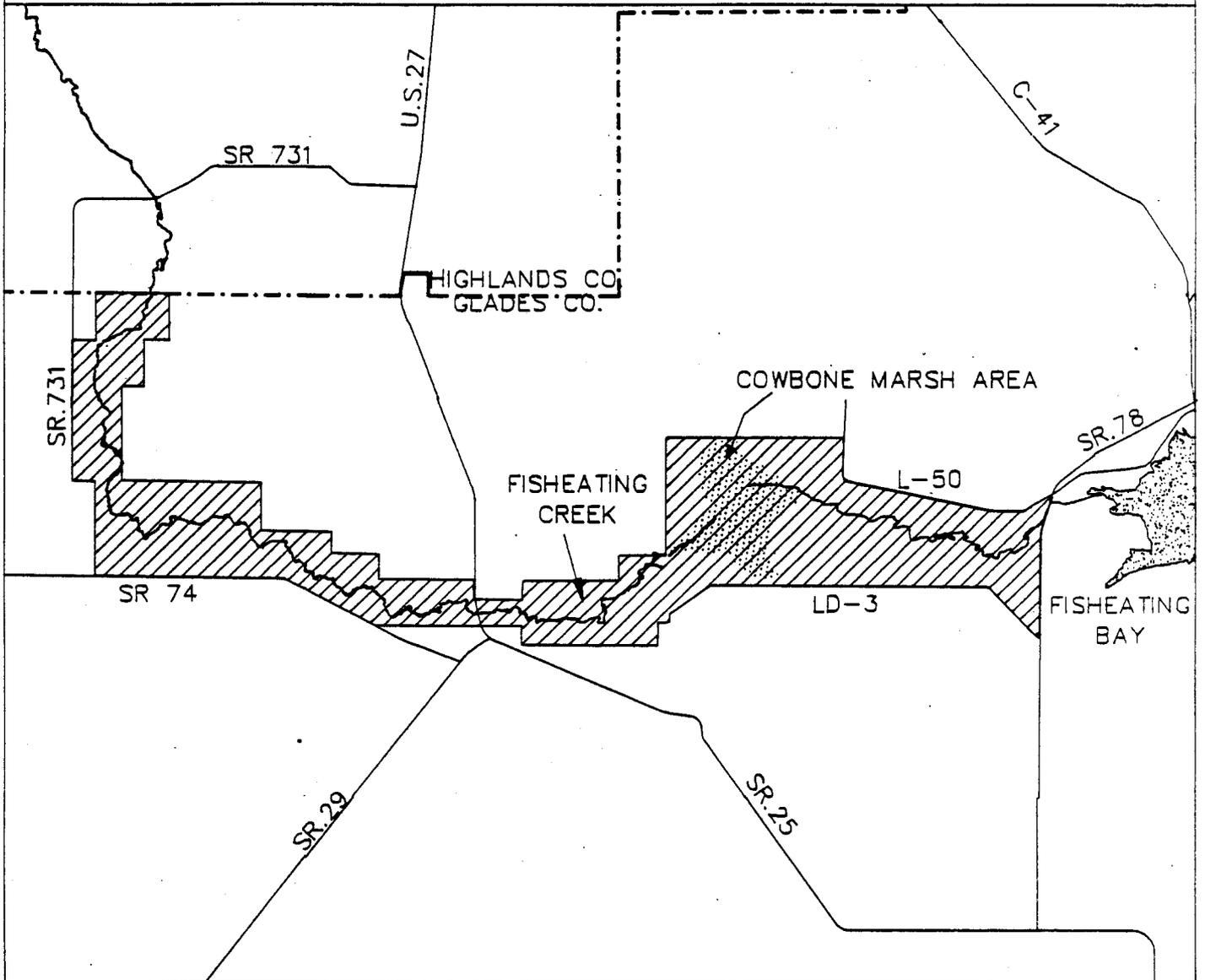
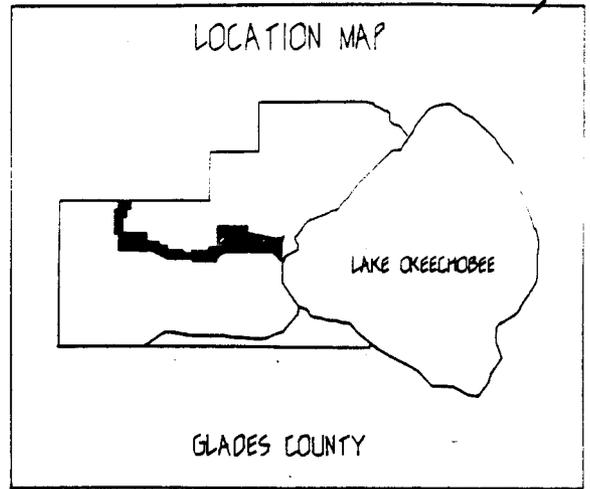
1. Area of Potential Acquisition: FISHEATING CREEK
2. County: GLADES
5. Acres Under Consideration: 27,958 ACRES
6. Estimated Assessed Value: \$20 MILLION
7. Description of Area:

Fisheating Creek is an extensive natural riverine system which flows across all of Glades County. The headwaters extend management system, with a watershed covering hundreds of square miles. The meandering run attenuates peak discharges during heavy storm events. The undisturbed uplands and wetlands are important for water quality improvement prior to discharges entering Lake Okeechobee. Land patterns includes upland hammocks and pine flatwoods which are used as unimproved pasture, and a variety of wetlands including cypress sloughs/mixed hardwood swamp forest, emergent marshes, willow thickets and openwater ponds and runs. Wading bird use is very heavy, including endangered wood storks, white ibis and great egrets. When stages in Lake Okeechobee are high, Fisheating Creek serves as an important feeding area for birds which normally use the lake marshes. Management requirements would be minimal, since the property is in its natural state. No exotic vegetation is present. Public use could be high, if access points were provided. All lands adjacent to the creek are presently under one ownership. Development pressure is very low, largely due to the single family ownership and likelihood that the primary land use will remain as pasture.

# Fisheating Creek



 FISHEATING CREEK AREA = 27950 ACRES



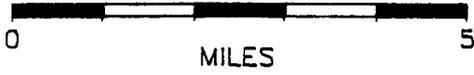
## SAVE OUR RIVERS

### DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED ACQUISITION

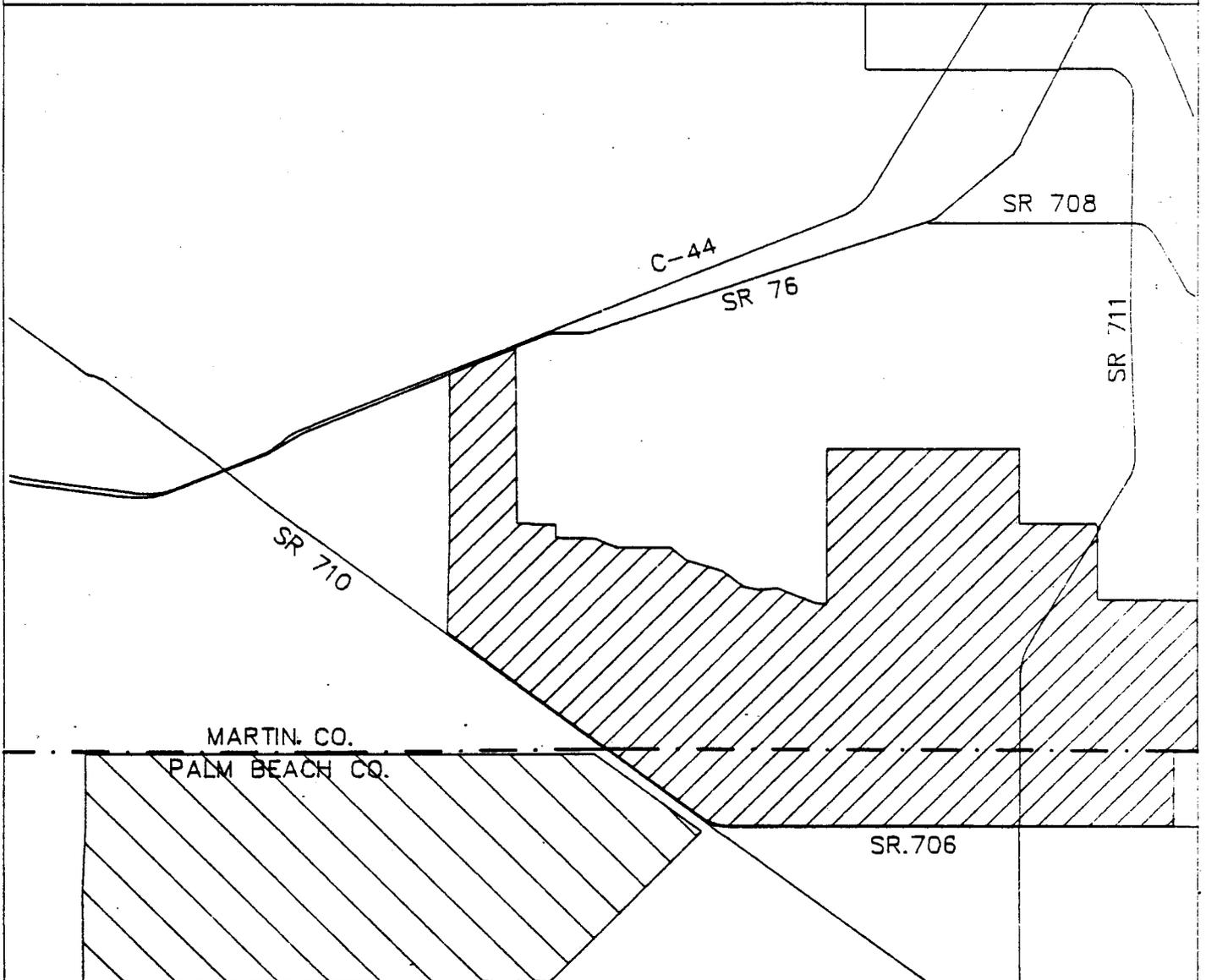
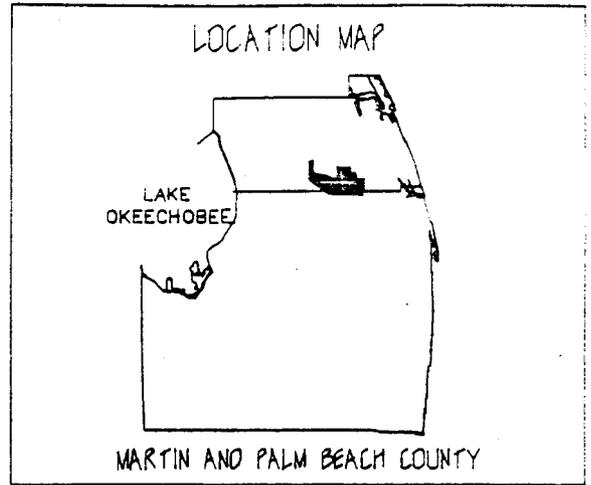
1. Area of Potential Acquisition: PAL-MAR
2. Counties: PALM BEACH and MARTIN
3. Acres Under Consideration: 22,658 ACRES
4. Estimated Assessed Value: \$16 MILLION
5. Description of Area:

Pal-Mar contains the largest concentration of contiguous wetlands in Martin County. Habitat diversity is relatively low, since all that exists are low pine flatwoods mixed with wet prairies. However, the quality of the habitat is very good. It scores high for connectedness, because it is only separated from Corbett Wildlife Management Area and DuPuis Reserve by SR 710. If permits could be obtained to drain the area the development pressure would be very high, since it is sub-divided into many small parcels. If a wellfield were developed in the area it could have severe environmental impacts, as the confining layer is inadequate to protect wetlands from leakage. Recreational use would probably be high, particularly if used as a wildlife management area like Corbett. Several deepwater canals remain from earlier attempts to drain the property. Since these have no positive outfall, they provide good fishing. Manageability would probably depend on the type and amount of public activity allowed. It has been used for some trash dumping and controllable infestations of exotic vegetation are present.

# Pal-Mar



-  PAL-MAR AREA = 22658 ACRES
-  CORBETT WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA



# SAVE OUR RIVERS

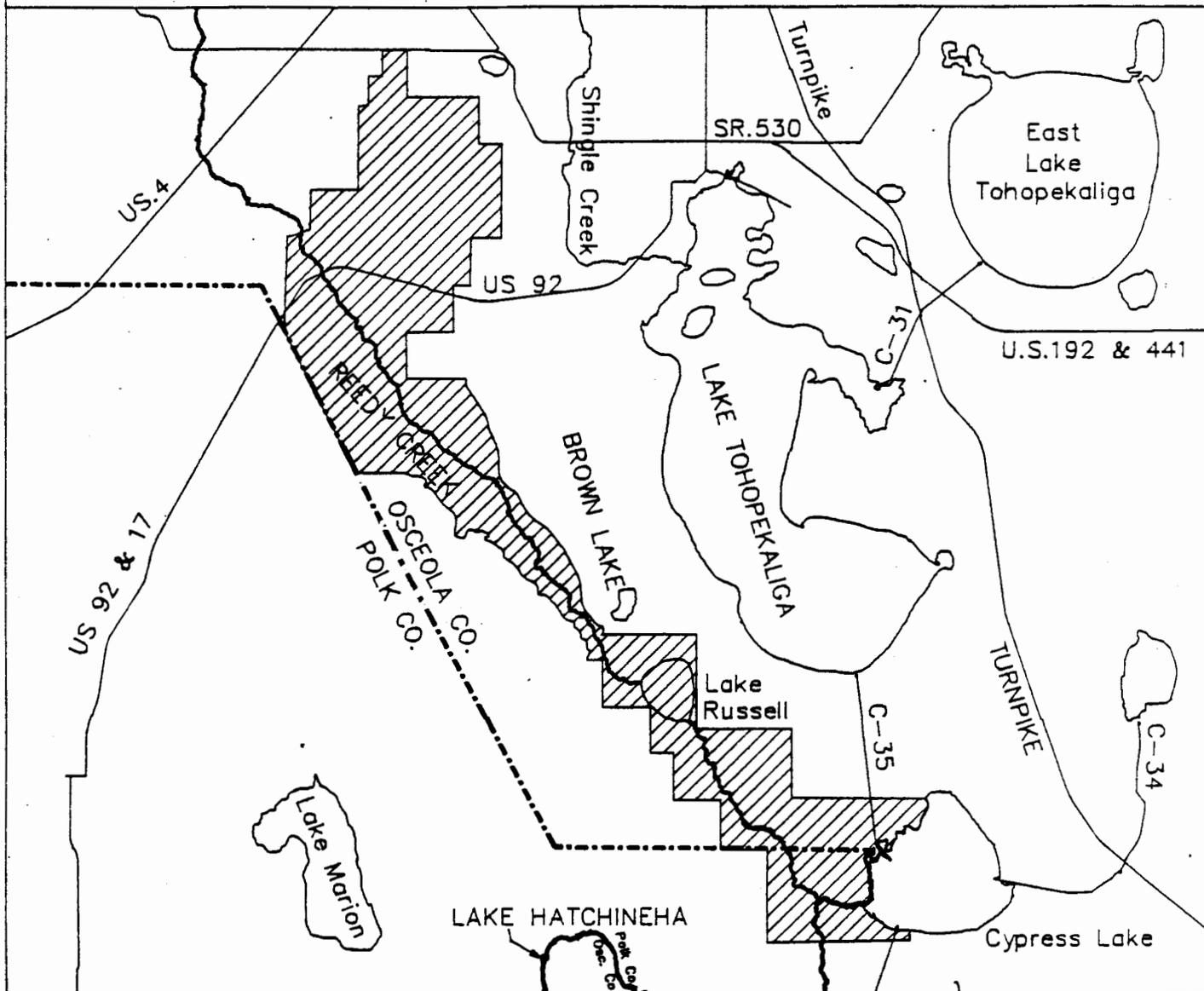
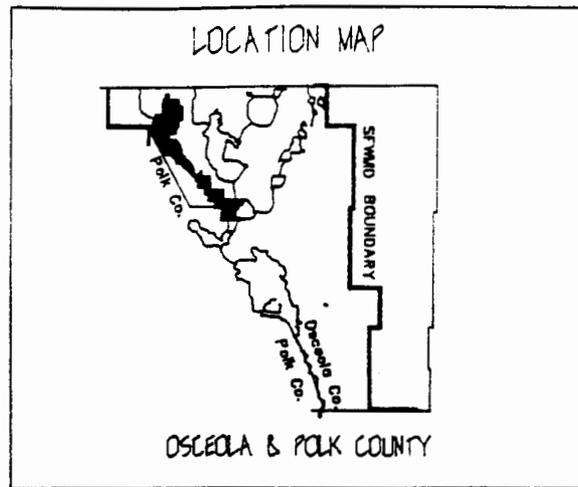
## DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED ACQUISITION

1. Area of Potential Acquisition: REEDY CREEK SWAMP
2. County: OSCEOLA
3. Acres Under Consideration: 30,431 ACRES
4. Estimated Assessed Value: \$21 MILLION
5. Description of Area:

Reedy Creek is an extensive hardwood/mixed cypress swamp which runs for nearly 25 miles through western Osceola County. In most areas the swamp is more than a mile wide and very inaccessible. It is extremely valuable for water management purposes since it has such a wide floodplain for attenuating peak flows and improving water quality. Its water quality is excellent and it is the headwater for two high quality lakes -- Lake Russell and Cypress Lake. The long length and its connection with the two lakes forms a significant wildlife corridor. While the quality of habitat is excellent, there is not much habitat diversity. A wood stork rookery is present in the swamp and isolated bald eagle nests are also present. Reedy Creek Swamp is an excellent location for eagle nests because it is isolated from man and close to lakes for feeding areas. Development pressure is increasing in the adjacent uplands; however, the swamp is several miles wide in most places and unless high density development is proposed, the swamp should be able to buffer itself. In the early 1980's a clearcut logging operation occurred in the swamp. Additional silvicultural activity of this sort can be expected in the future. Public use of Reedy Creek would probably be minimal, in the swamp itself. The system is very large, dense and inaccessible, except in a few locations. There is the potential for canoeing if access points were created.

# Reedy Creek Swamp

 REEDY CREEK AREA = 30431 ACRES



# SAVE OUR RIVERS

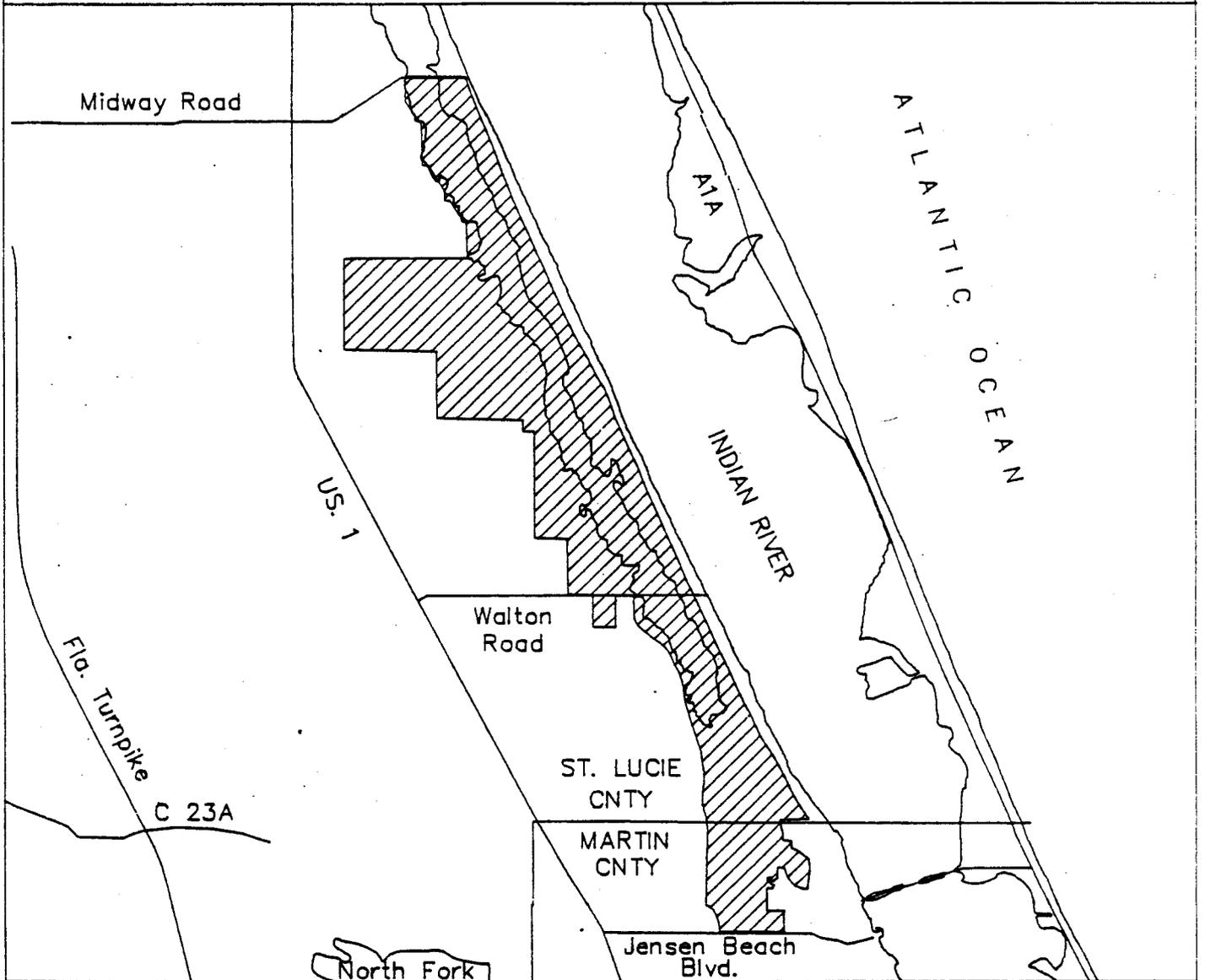
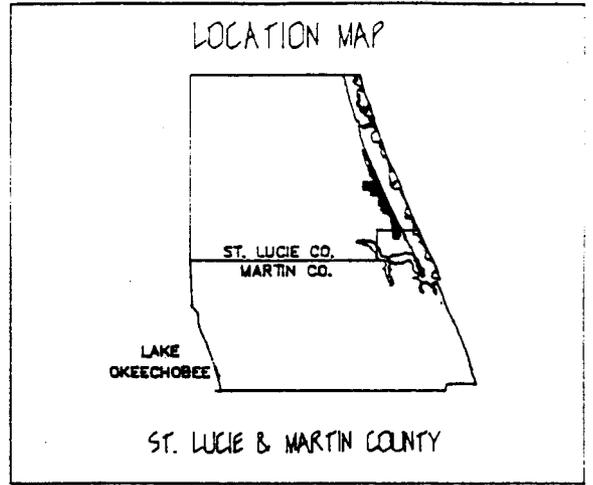
## DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED ACQUISITION

1. Area of Potential Acquisition: SAVANNAHS
2. Counties: ST. LUCIE AND MARTIN
3. Acres Under Consideration: 1,600 ACRES
4. Estimated Assessed Value: \$10 MILLION
5. Description of Area:

The Savannahs were one of the legislatively mandated projects originally considered under the SOR Program. When the Department of National Resources began acquiring land under the Conservation & Recreational Lands (C.A.R.L.) Program, the District removed it from the five year plan. The project area that SOR staff has considered is approximately 1,600 acres. At the present time, 3,500 acres are in state ownership as Savannahs State Preserve. The additional area is that portion outside the preserve which needs to be protected. The Savannahs is one of the most unique and endangered natural systems in the District. It is a remnant of a coastal wetland system which historically extended along most of the southeast Florida coast. It is very important for water management purposes. The freshwater aquifer which underlies it is not large enough for municipal uses, but the recharge that occurs along the coastal ridge serves to hold back the saltwater wedge, thereby reducing the danger of saltwater intrusion. The habitat types are quite diverse and include coastal dune, openwater sloughs, emergent marshes and low pine flatwoods. The wetlands are important feeding and nesting sites for wading birds in Martin and St. Lucie Counties whose habitat has been lost to urban development. The Savannahs are under tremendous pressure from urban development on both the east and west sides. The Savannahs are still in excellent condition. Exotic plant growth is minimal. Management could be undertaken by incorporating the additional area into the State Preserve, since a headquarters and permanent staff already exist. Public use of the Savannahs would be very high. It is easily accessible and is close to major population areas. It presently is heavily used by fisherman and naturalists. After reviewing the Savannahs under the new Project Evaluation Matrix, it was decided to add it back to the list as a Category "A" Project.

# Savannahs

 SAVANNAHS STATE RESERVE AREA =  
6483 ACRES



SAVE OUR RIVERS

SAVE OUR RIVERS

DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED ACQUISITION

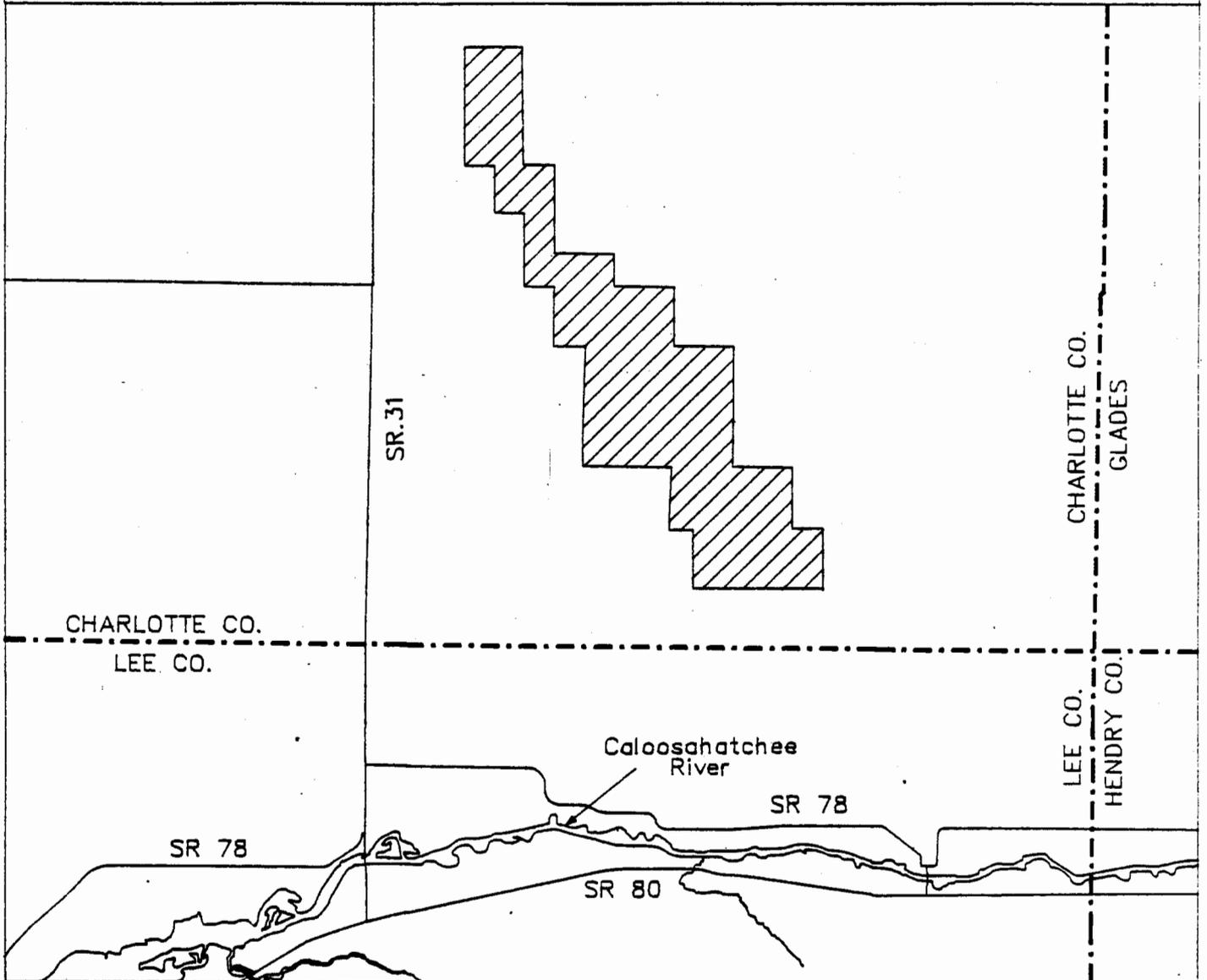
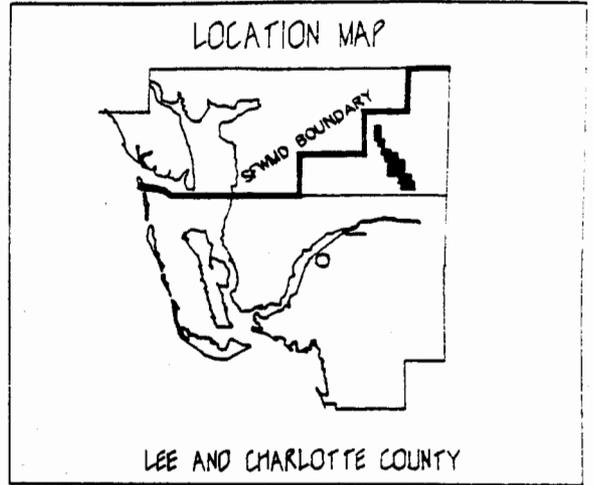
1. Area of Potential Acquisition: TELEGRAPH SWAMP
2. County CHARLOTTE
3. Acres Under Consideration: 9,748 ACRES
4. Estimated Assessed Value: \$6.8 MILLION
5. Description of Area:

Telegraph Swamp contains nearly 10,000 acres in Charlotte County. The property is under single ownership. It is a diverse system containing cypress sloughs, emergent and openwater marshes and isolated upland islands. The surrounding land use is either native range or improved pasture. Some row crop farming occurs. The property would require little in the way of management. It has neither been invaded by exotic vegetation nor has the hydrologic regime been altered; therefore, restoration would not be necessary. The potential for public use is questionable. It provides excellent opportunities for hunting, but the fact that it is totally surrounded by private property and has very limited access probably limits its public use potential. The property forms a vast wildlife corridor. It connects with C.M. Webb Wildlife Management Area to the north, which covers an additional 65,000 acres.

# Telegraph Swamp



 TELEGRAPH SWAMP AREA = 9748 ACRES

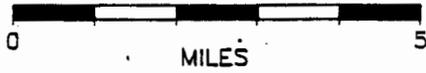


DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED ACQUISITION

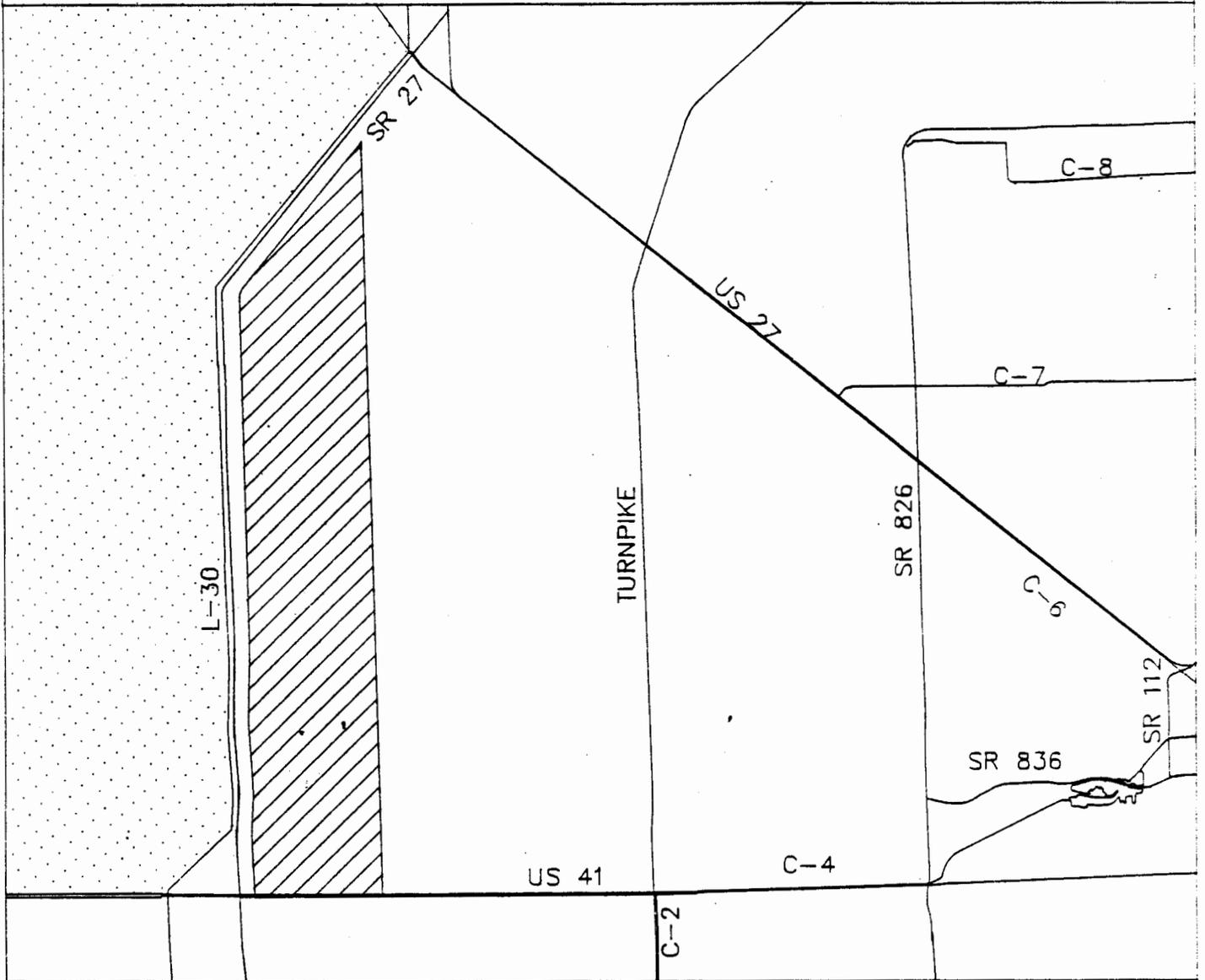
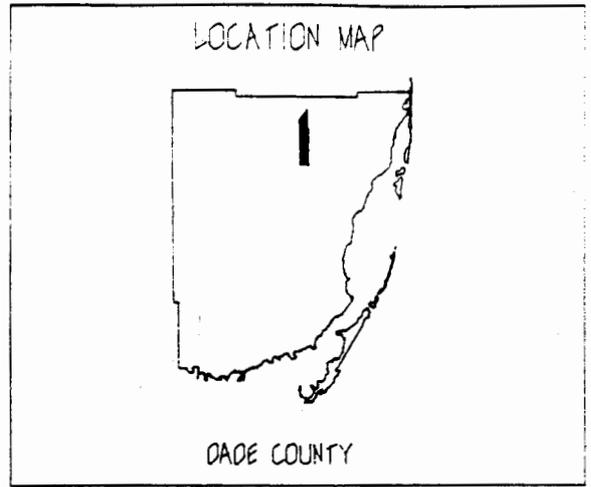
1. Area of Potential Acquisition: DADE/BROWARD LEVEE
2. County: DADE
3. Acres Under Consideration: 11,962 ACRES
4. Estimated Assessed Value: \$8.4 MILLION
5. Description of Area:

Development pressure in this area is moderate. Rock mining is occurring on parcels to the east, and several attempts have been made to extend into this tract, as well. Although no wellfields are located within the study area, it is close enough to existing and proposed wellfields that it helps maintain suitable groundwater conditions for those wellfields. Conservation Area 3 runs along the entire western edge of the property, separated by L-30 canal and levee. Melaleuca has had a great impact on the property. In the northern one-third exotics are only isolated and scattered, well within controllable limits. The central one-third is more heavily infested and would require extensive measures to treat existing outbreaks and control reinfestation. The southern one-third is out of control and probably irreversible. This is likely due to the drawdown affects of the Tamiami Canal, which runs along the southern property boundary. Recreational use would probably be low.

# Dade Broward Levee



-  DADE BROWARD LEVEE AREA = 11962 ACRES
-  WATER CONSERVATION AREA 3



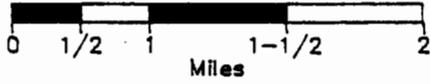
# SAVE OUR RIVERS

## DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED ACQUISITION

1. Area of Potential Acquisition: NORTH FORK ST. LUCIE RIVER
2. County: ST. LUCIE
3. Acres Under Consideration: 2,064 ACRES
4. Estimated Assessed Value: \$5.6 MILLION
5. Description of Area:

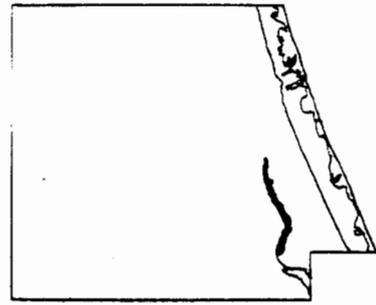
The stretch of North Fork under consideration is approximately six miles long. It varies in character between an undisturbed meandering river and stretches of dredged channel. It scores high for water management and conservation of water resources. There is high diversity of habitats along the river. They include freshwater swamp/hammock, sawgrass marshes, mangrove forests and scrub uplands. Its vulnerability is evident by the amount of residential development along its banks where elevations are high enough to allow construction to the edge of bank. It is a river of good size which can support larger boats. Recreational use is high. Management would depend on the extent of upland use which is permitted. No floodplain restoration or structure replacement appears necessary. Some exotic vegetation is present, but in controllable amounts.

# North Fork St. Lucie River

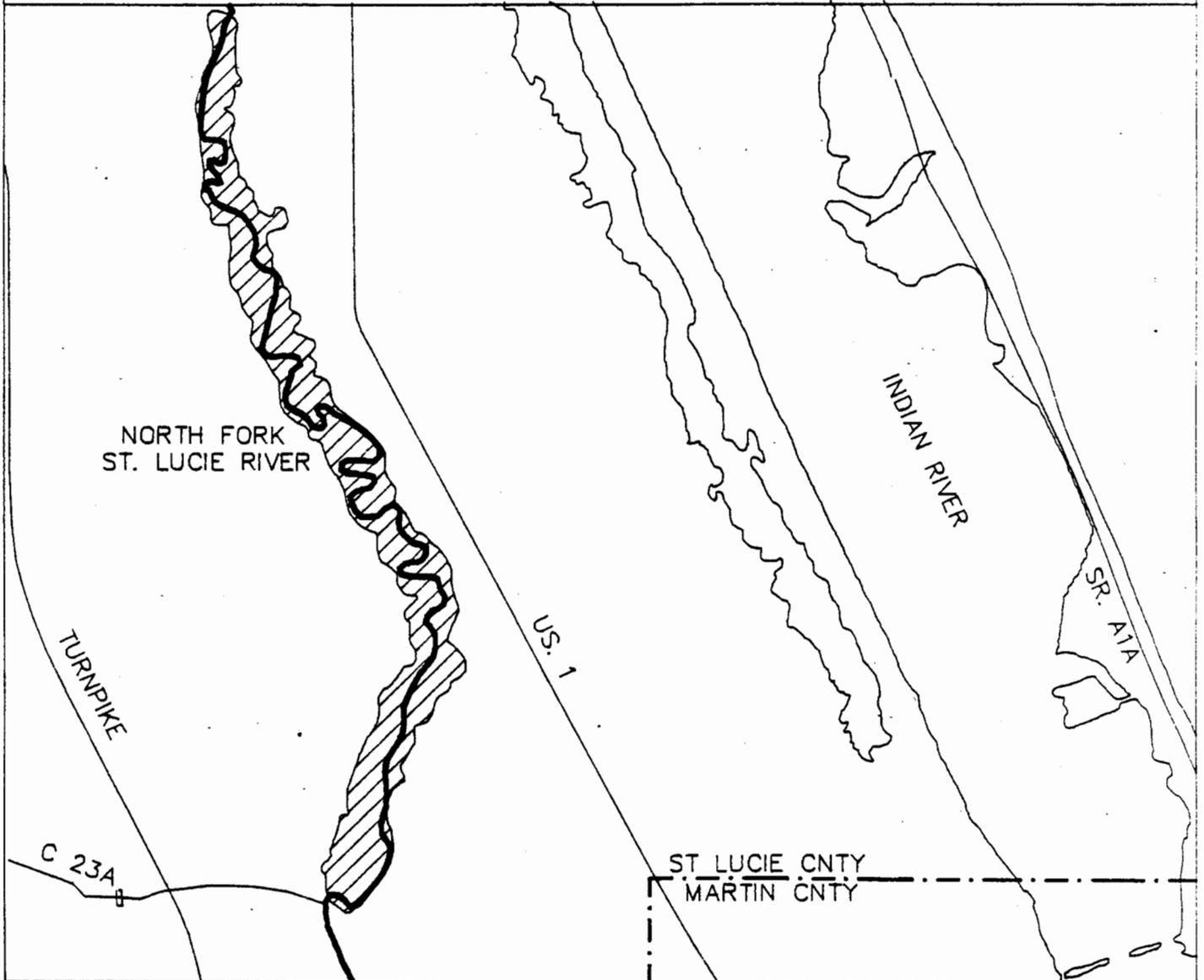


 ST. LUCIE NORTH FORK AREA = 2064 ACRES

## LOCATION MAP



ST. LUCIE COUNTY



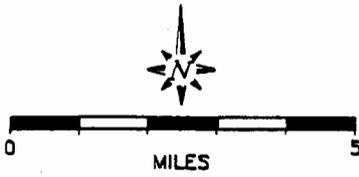
SAVE OUR RIVERS

DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED ACQUISITION

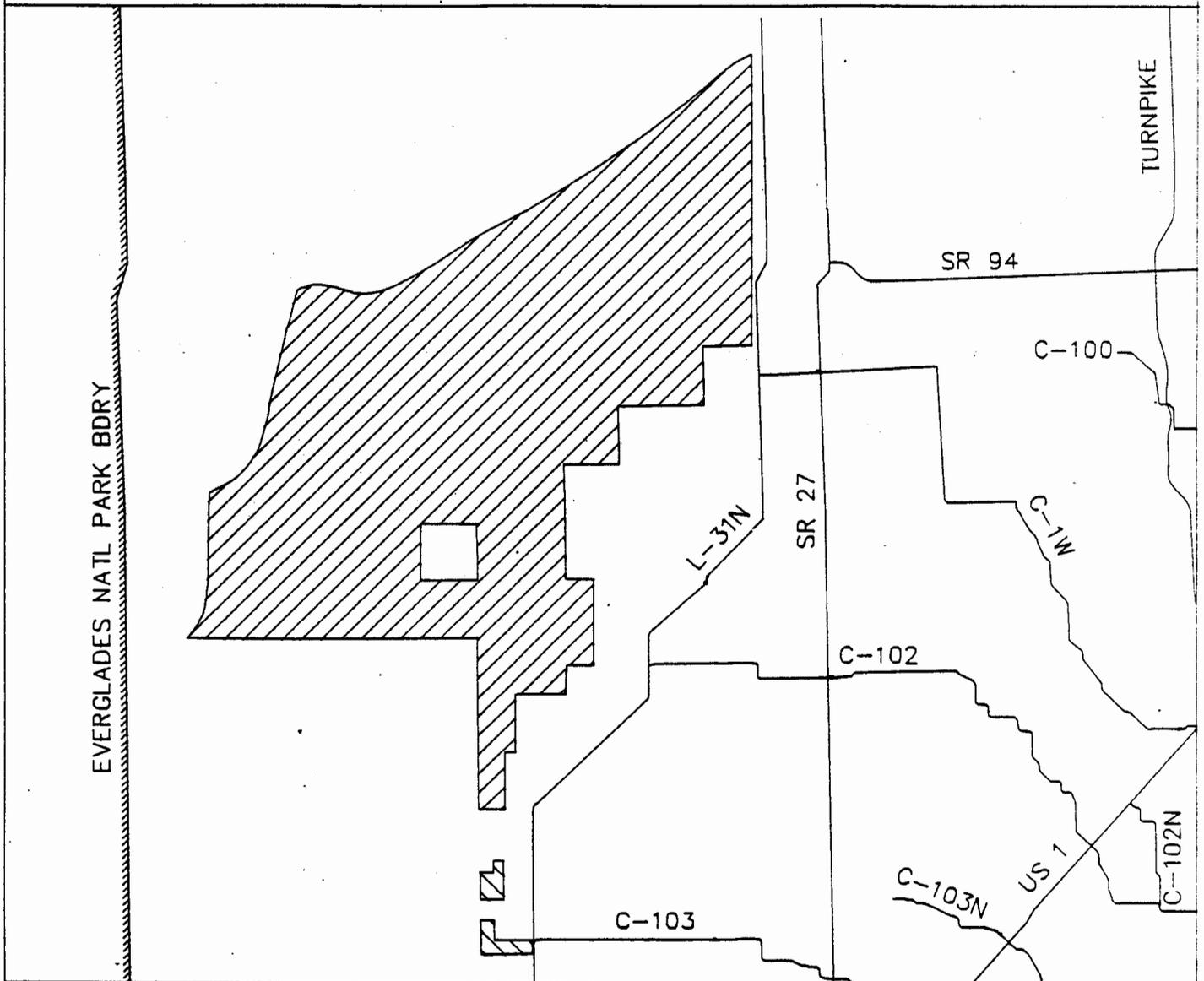
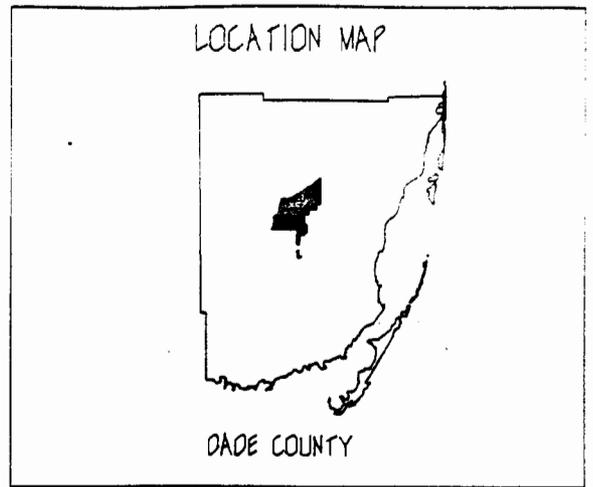
1. Area of Potential Acquisition: SENIOR CORP. LANDS
2. County: DADE
3. Acres Under Consideration: 344 ACRES
4. Estimated Assessed Value: \$0.3 MILLION
5. Description of Area:

These are four small parcels of land which extend east of the East Everglades project boundary. Adjacent lands on the north and east sides are developed for agriculture. The habitat type is very similar to the remainder of the East Everglades. It is under very heavy agricultural development pressure. Habitat and species diversity are both relatively low. Florida panthers have been reported to range all across the eastern edge of the East Everglades, so they probably use these areas occasionally, as well. Their small size and outparcel nature should not limit the range or population of the panther. Management requirements would be minimal, unless Melaleuca becomes a problem. At the present time it is not. Recreational value would probably be low.

# East Everglades Senior Corp Lands



-  EAST EVERGLADES AREA = 35481 ACRES
-  SENIOR CORP LANDS AREA = 344 ACRES



# SAVE OUR RIVERS

## DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED ACQUISITION

1. Area of Potential Acquisition: SHINGLE CREEK SWAMP
2. County: ORANGE
3. Acres Under Consideration: 2,855 ACRES
4. Estimated Assessed Value: \$2 MILLION
5. Description of Area:

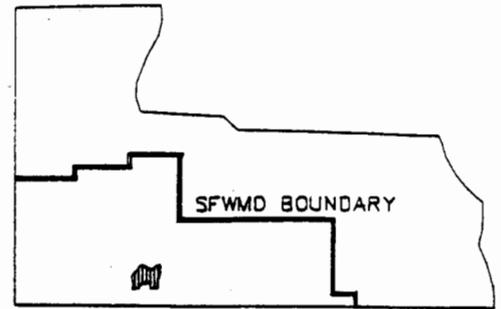
Shingle Creek Swamp covers approximately 700 acres. Other than its connection with Shingle Creek, which is largely channelized, the swamp is isolated. It has several habitat types, but it has been cup up by powerline easements which run through it. It provides water quality improvement for the upper Shingle Creek basin. Water quality treatment and water management capability could be improved by placing water control structures in the creek and backing up more water into the swamp. The swamp is in relatively undisturbed condition, except for the transmission line corridors, and would require minimal management. Canoeing in Shingle Creek, adjacent to the swamp is a popular pastime. Without boardwalks or trails, public use of the swamp would probably be low.

# Shingle Creek Swamp

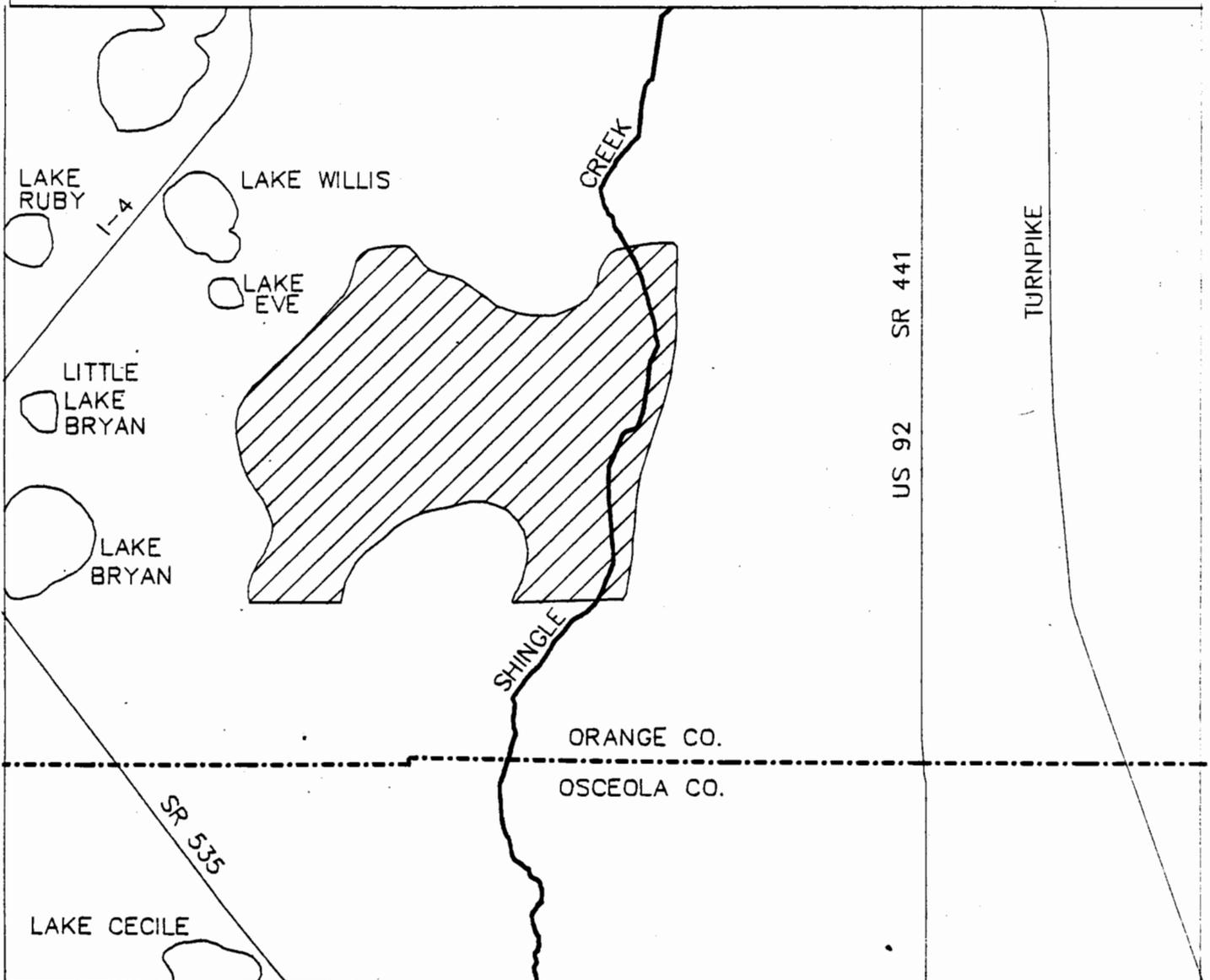


 SHINGLE CREEK AREA = 2055 ACRES

## LOCATION MAP



ORANGE COUNTY



## SAVE OUR RIVERS

### COMPLETED ACQUISITIONS

<u>PROJECT</u>	<u>COUNTIES</u>	<u>LAND ACQUIRED</u> (Acres)	<u>TOTAL COST</u> (Millions)
DuPuis Reserve	Palm Beach Martin	21,875	23.0
Lake Forest Preserve	Orange	439	3.7
Loxahatchee River	Martin/ Palm Beach	1,461	9.0
Nicodemus Slough	Glades	2,219	1.8
Strazzulla	Palm Beach	<u>1,225</u>	<u>3.0</u>
<b>TOTAL:</b>		27,219 Acres	\$41.3 Million

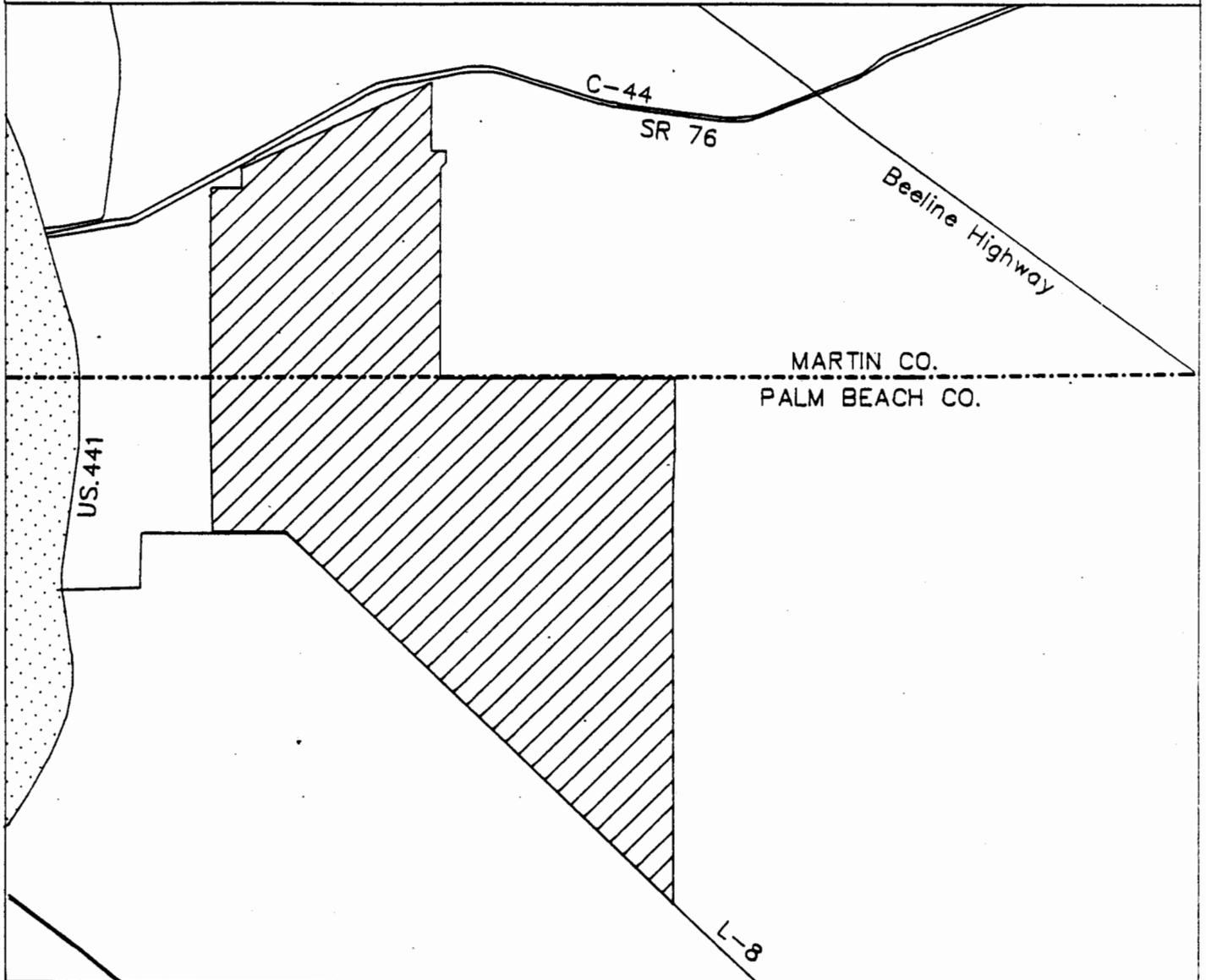
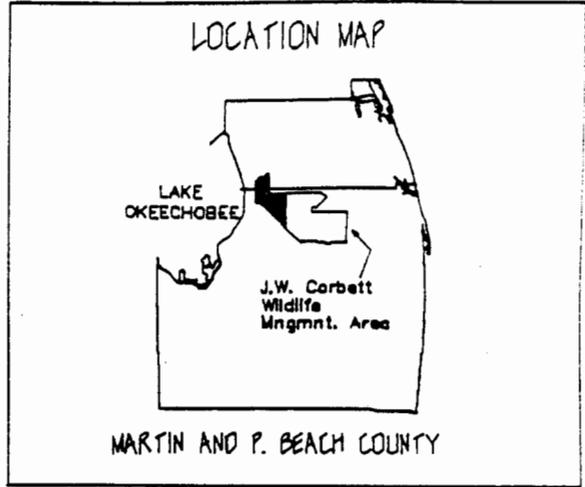
### PARTIAL ACQUISITIONS

<u>PROJECT</u>	<u>COUNTIES</u>	<u>LAND ACQUIRED</u> (Acres)	<u>REMAINING TO BE</u> <u>ACQUIRED</u> (Acres)
East Everglades C-111	Dade	43,935	2,896
East Everglades/ North and West	Dade	0	31,000
Kissimmee River Floodplain	Osceola, Polk Okee. & Highlands	27,000	30,000
Paradise Run	Glades/Okee	0	4,800
Six Mile Cypress	Lee	550	300
South Fork St. Lucie River	Martin	100	84
Water Conser- vation Area	Palm Beach, Broward & Dade	<u>47,051</u>	<u>220,000</u>
<b>TOTAL:</b>		118,636 Acres	289,080 Acres

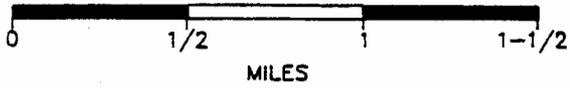
# Dupuis Reserve



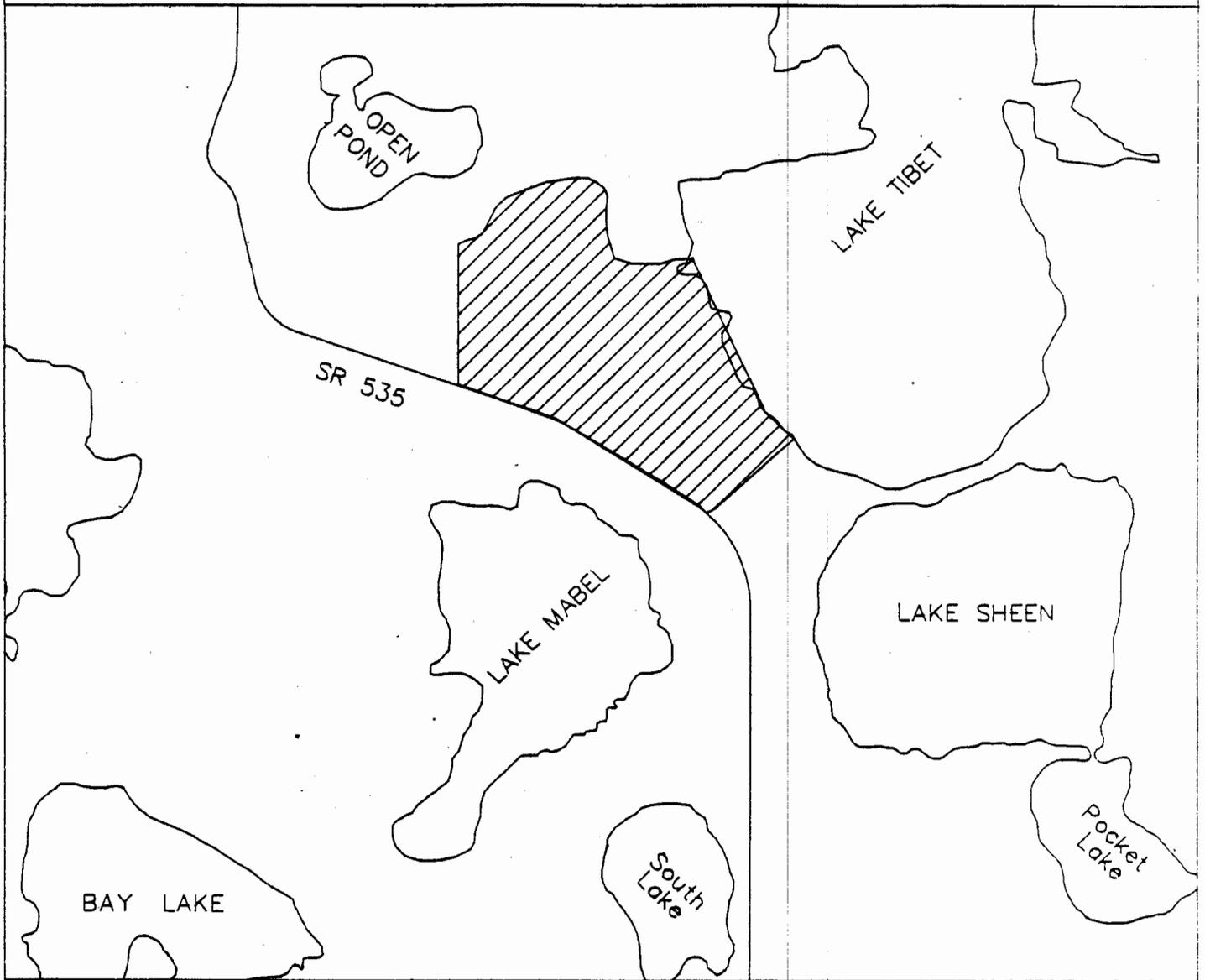
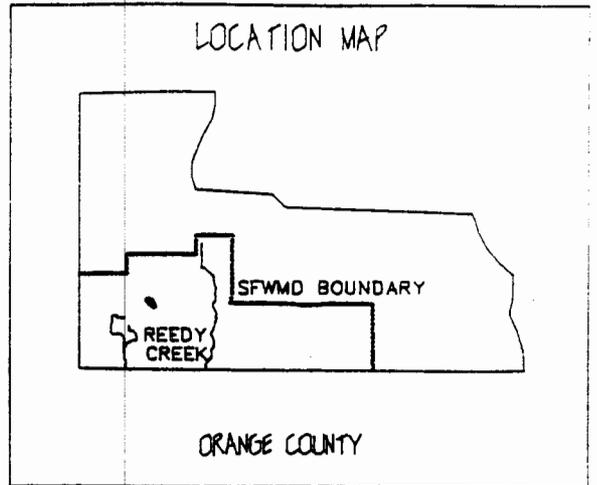
-  DUPUIS RESERVE AREA = 21930 ACRES
-  LAKE OKEECHOBEE



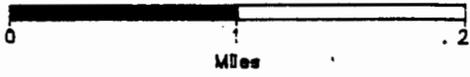
# Lake Forest Preserve



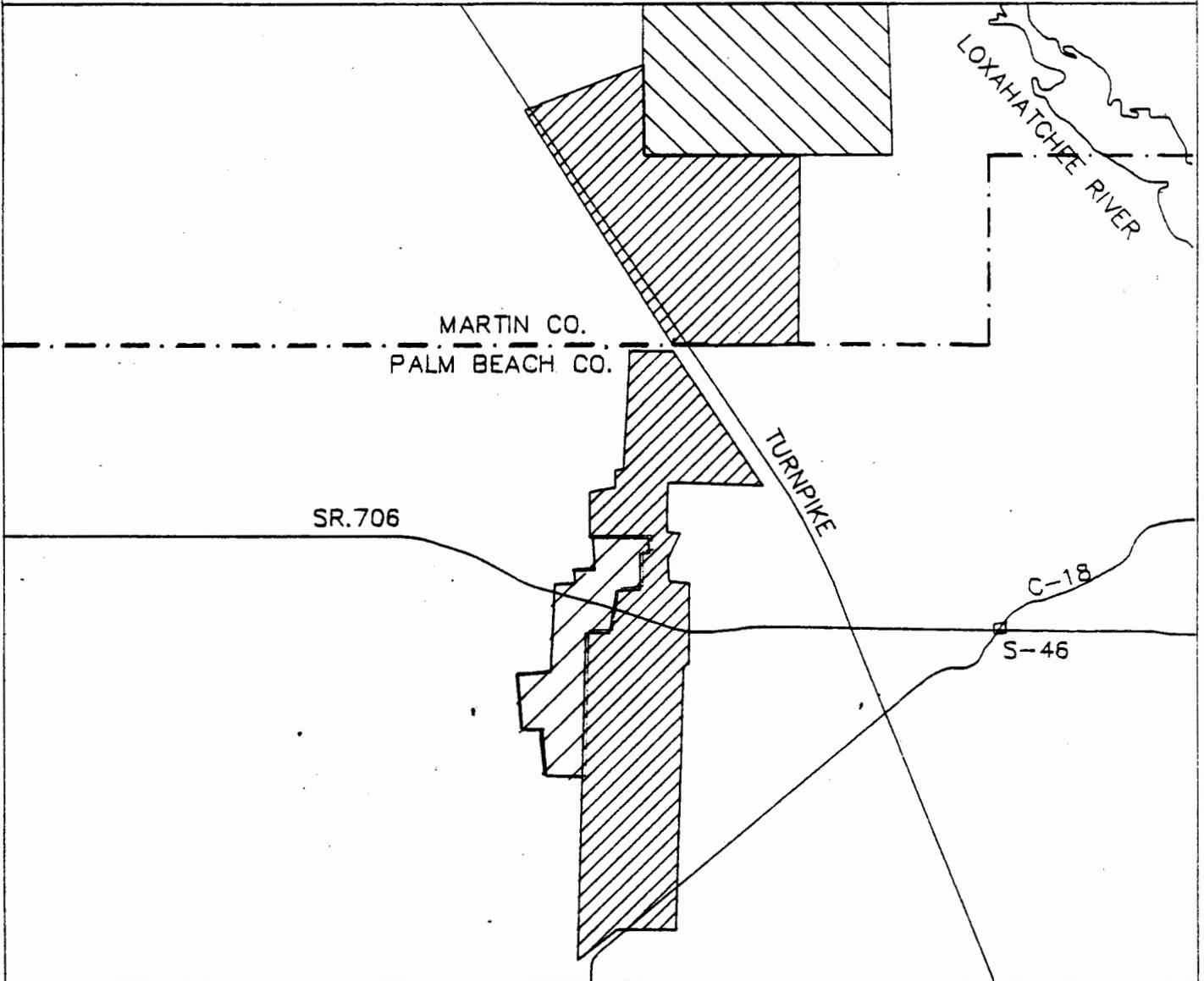
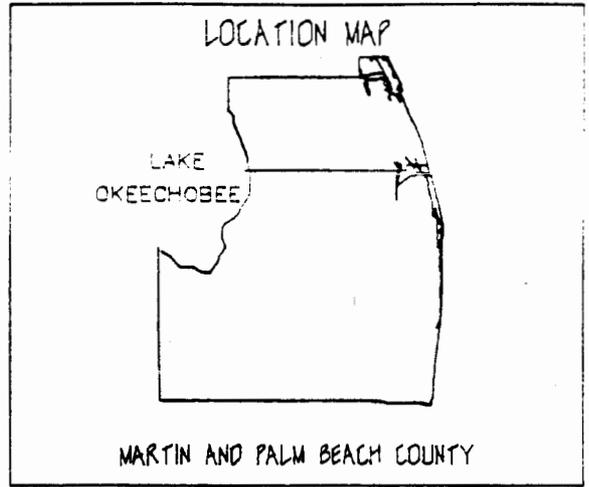
 LAKE FOREST PRESERVE AREA = 386 ACRES



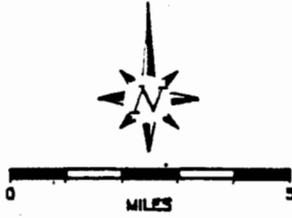
# Loxahatchee River



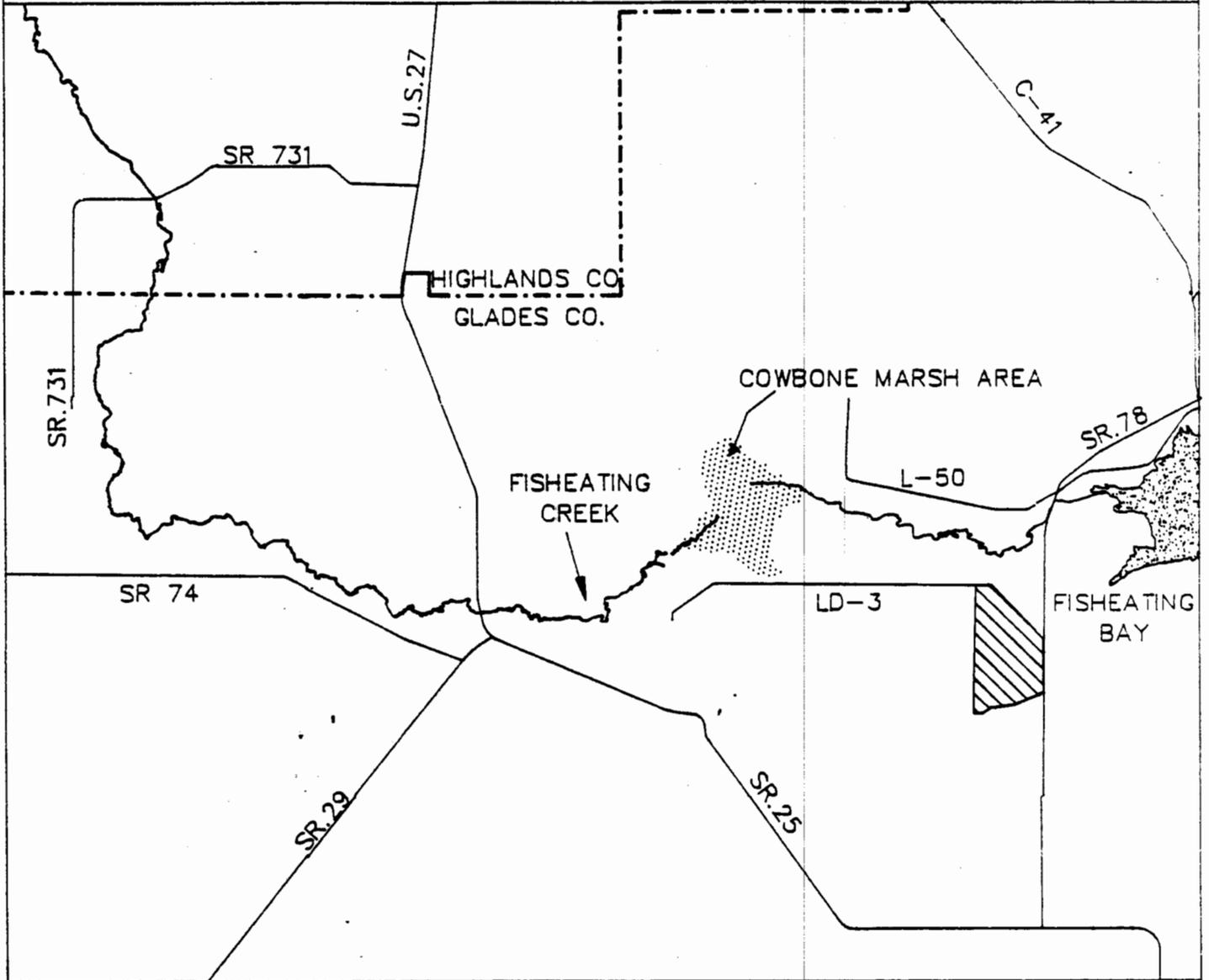
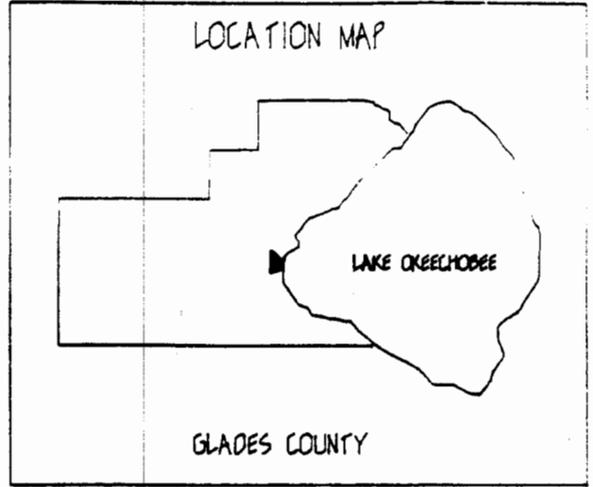
-  LOXAHATCHEE RIVER AREA = 1647 ACRES
-  JONATHAN DICKINSON STATE PARK
-  RIVER BEND COUNTY PARK



# Nicodemus Slough



 NICODEMUS SLOUGH AREA = 2010 ACRES

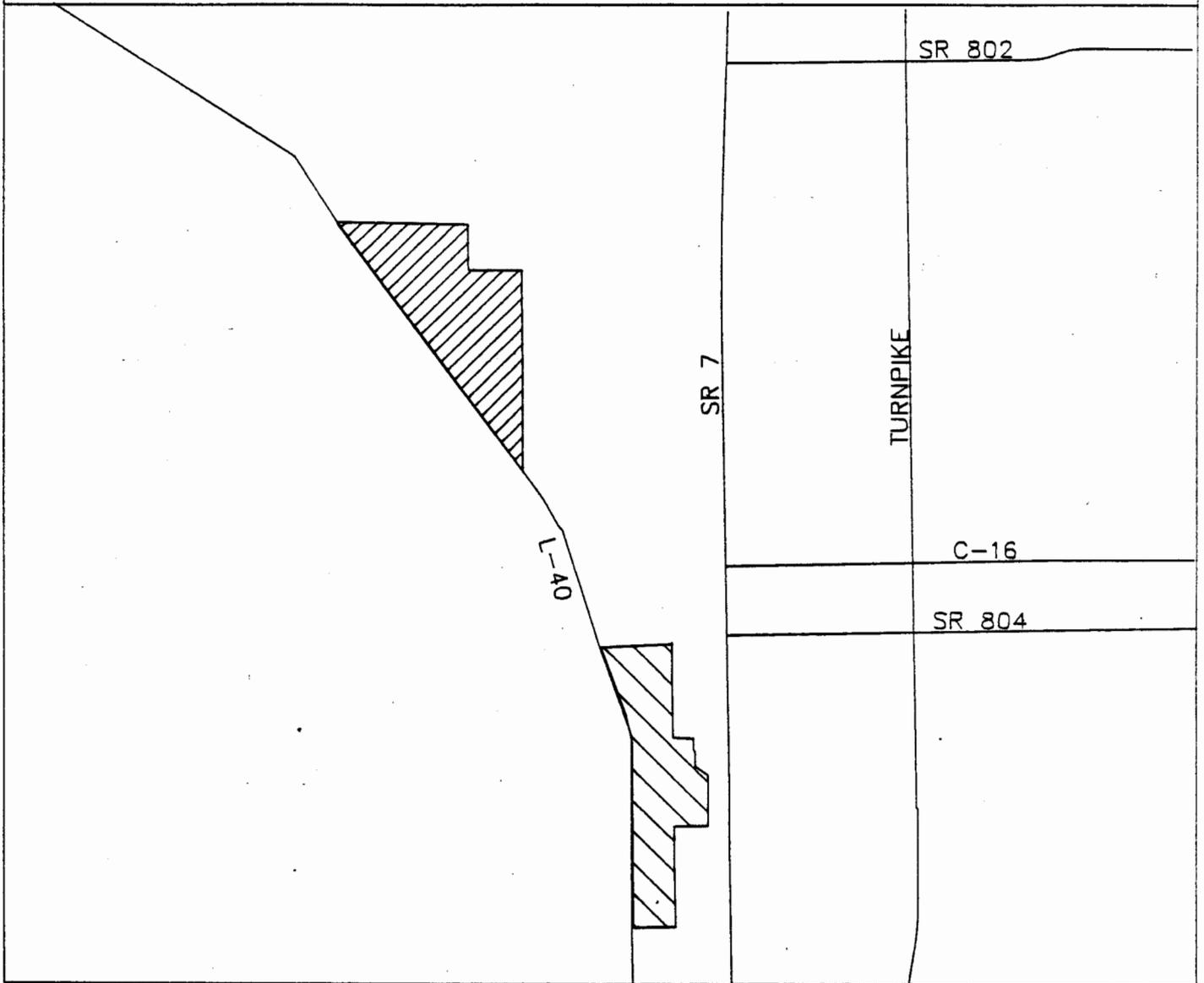
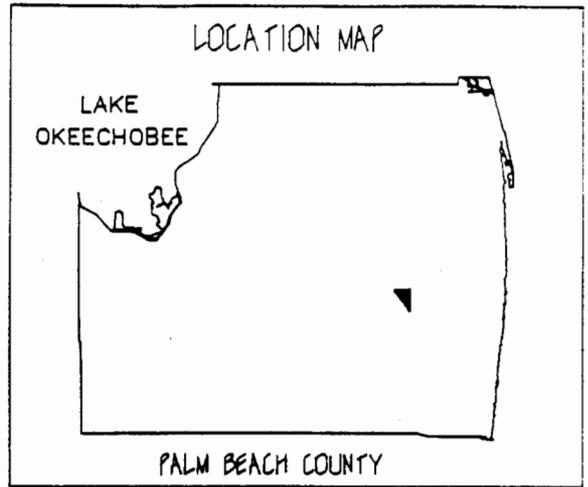


# Strazzulla



 STRAZZULLA AREA = 1685 ACRES

 LOXAMATCHEE WILDLIFE REFUGE



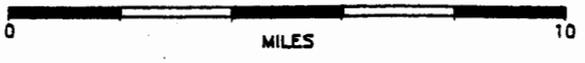
## SAVE OUR RIVERS

### DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED ACQUISITION

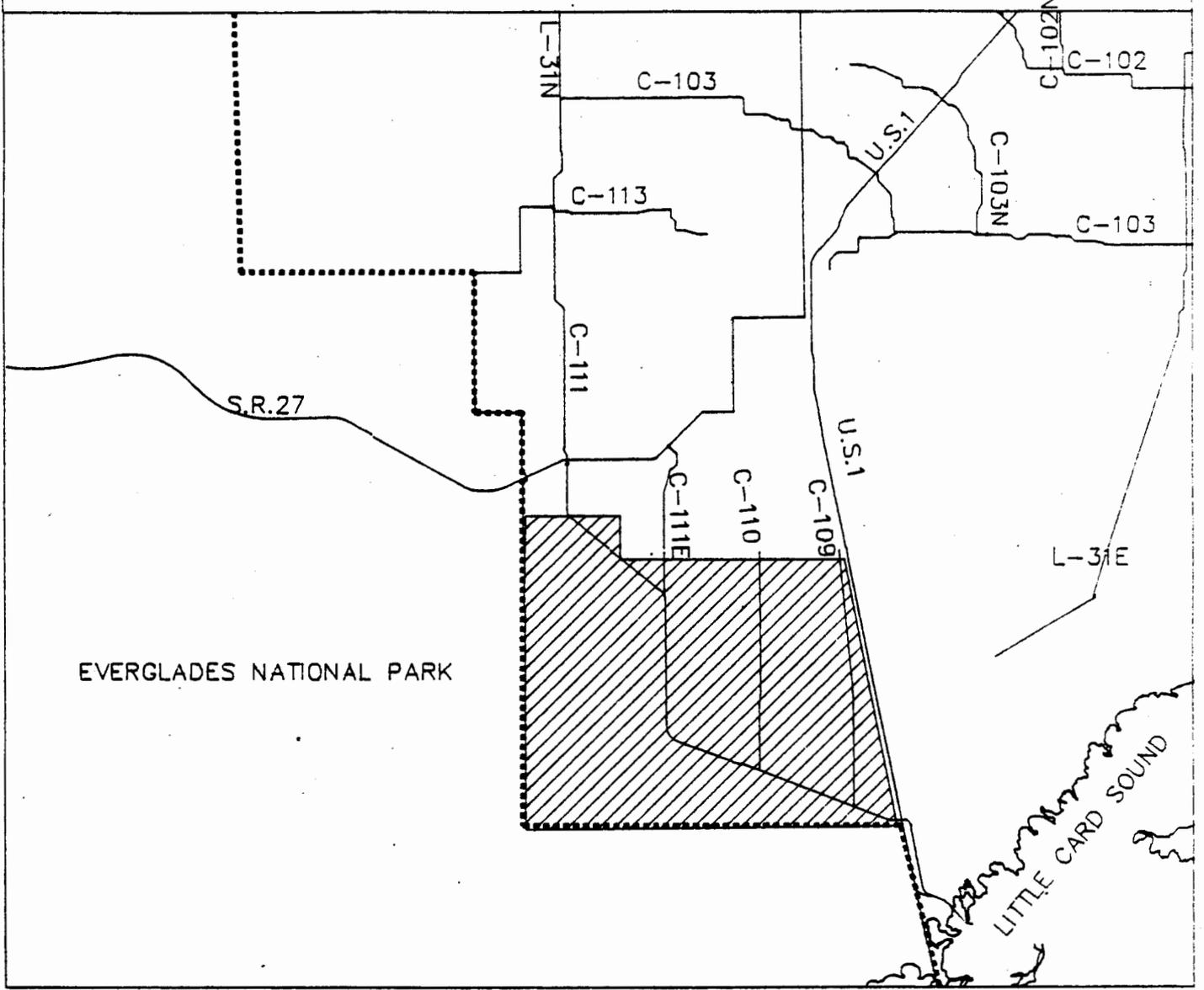
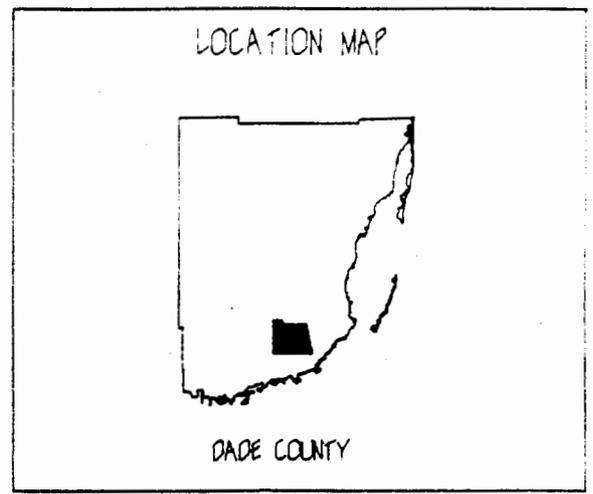
1. Area of Acquisition: EAST EVERGLADES/CANAL-111
2. County: DADE
3. Acres Under Consideration: 7,990 ACRES
4. Estimated Assessed Value: \$1,606 MILLION
5. Description of Area:

These lands are necessary for proper water management of the fresh water entering ENP and Northeast Florida Bay and for continuing flood control for agriculture and urban development in the upper reaches of the C-111 watershed. These lands are currently flooded in the rainy season and form marshes contiguous with our present SOR purchases in the area. Acquisition would aid the management of water entering the Everglades National Park and provide flood control for agriculture and urban development. Lands have been used informally for hunting, fishing, target shooting, airboating and Off Road Vehicles (ORV'S). Currently under a cooperative management agreement between the District and the Florida Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission. Will be managed as a wildlife and environmental area. Proposed uses include fishing and boating in C-111, airboating, controlled hunting and nature appreciation. ORV's and permanent camps will be prohibited.

# C-111 Basin



 C-111 BASIN AREA = 28818 ACRES



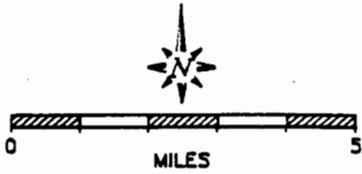
# SAVE OUR RIVERS

## DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED ACQUISITION

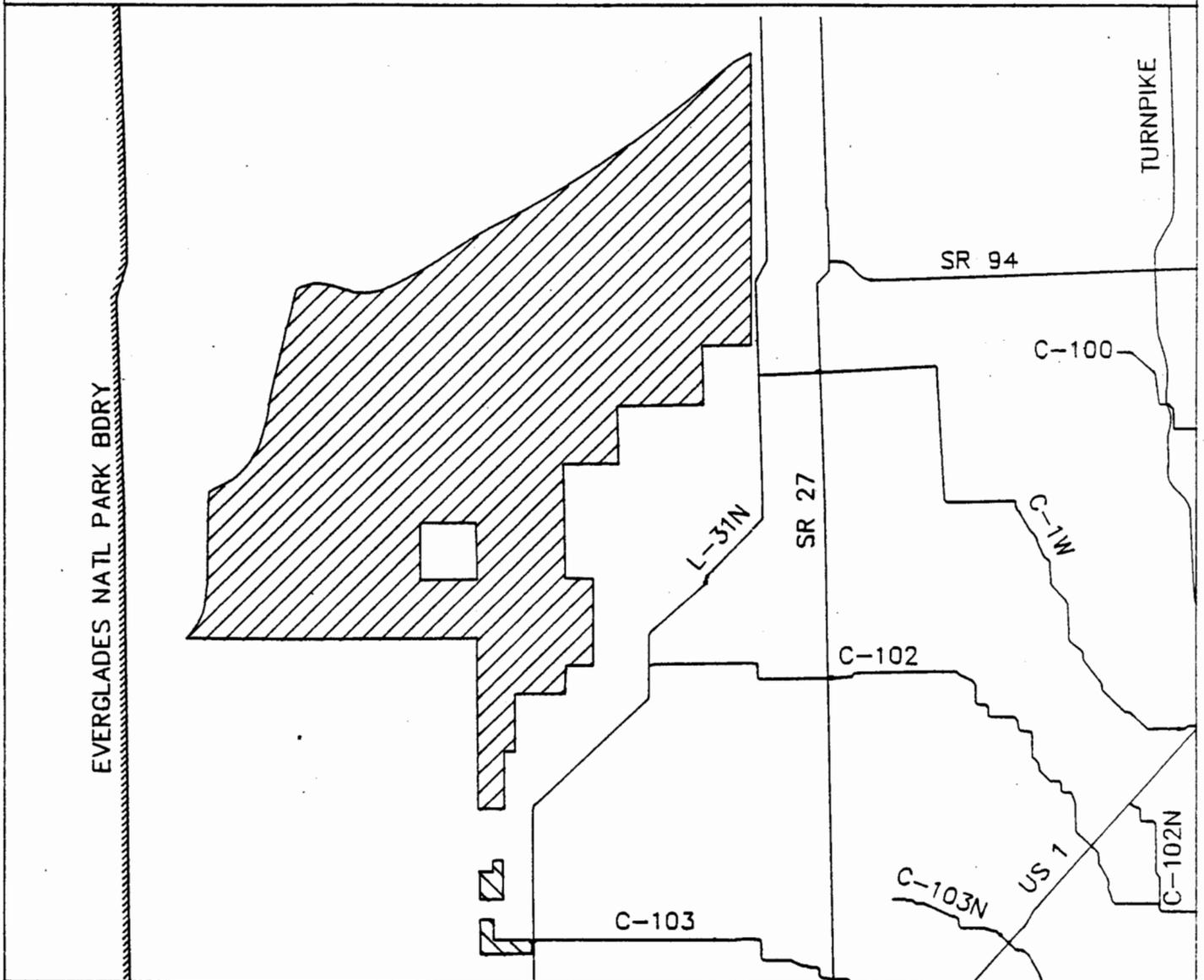
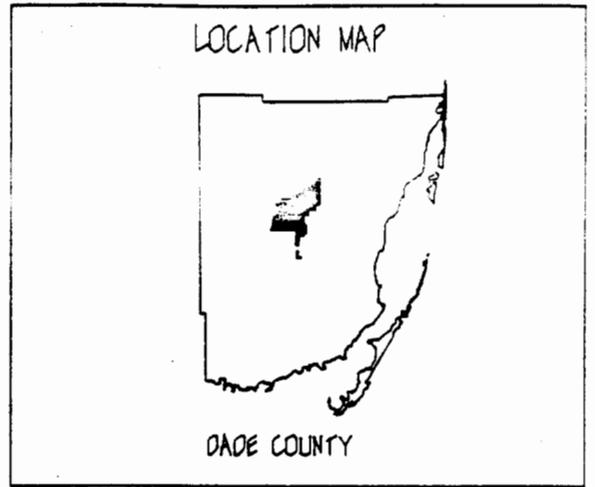
1. **Area of Acquisition:** EAST EVERGLADES NORTH AND WEST OF PRESENT OWNERSHIP
2. **County:** DADE
3. **Acres Under Consideration:** 31,000 ACRES
4. **Estimated Assessed Value:** \$20 MILLION
5. **Description of Area:**

These properties lie along the eastern boundary of the Northeast Shark Slough and are comprised of slightly altered Everglades. These lands are essential for proper water management of flows to ENP and discharges from WCA 3A. The lands under consideration for purchase are adjacent to a proposed wellfield for potable water and will thereby form an extremely valuable water supply recharge function. Acquisition would provide natural flood control and water storage while protecting wetlands, water quality and recharge areas. The area would have minimal recreation potential because of limited access and the configuration of the acquisition.

# East Everglades N. and W. Senior Corp Lands



-  EAST EVERGLADES AREA = 35481 ACRES
-  SENIOR CORP LANDS AREA = 344 ACRES



## SAVE OUR RIVERS

### DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED ACQUISITION

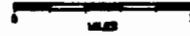
1. Area of Acquisition: KISSIMMEE RIVER FLOODPLAIN
2. County: OSCEOLA, POLK, OKEECHOBEE AND HIGHLANDS
3. Acres Under Consideration: 31,725 ACRES
4. Estimated Assessed Value: \$25 MILLION
5. Description of Area:

Approximately 50,000 acres in Osceola, Polk, Okeechobee and Highlands Counties. This area represents the historic floodplain of the Kissimmee River. This land is necessary for the restoration program for the Kissimmee River under the Governor's Save Our Everglades Program. It is essential for the proper management of water in the Kissimmee Valley. It accomplishes water supply and storage objectives by allowing greater flexibility of water level control. The property would allow for the restoration of the natural values of the Kissimmee River and hence meet the objectives of conservation and protection of the water resources. Existing public recreational activities along the Kissimmee River consist primarily of power boating and fishing in Canal 38 and those oxbows of the river that were not cut off as a result of project construction. Controlled hunting is allowed along the river floodplain within the Avon Park Bombing Range, and there are opportunities for bank fishing and picnicking at several access sites along the river. Improvement of flows into the river oxbows, together with the restoration of a more natural hydroperiod in the adjacent floodplains, will increase the opportunities for fishing, canoeing, nature observation and waterfowl hunting. The potential for additional recreational opportunities on upland areas that may be purchased as a requirement for specific land transactions will also be evaluated. Currently, several sections of the Florida Trail are located along the Kissimmee River, and an attempt is being made by the Florida Trail Association to complete the missing links. Suitable sections of the trail may be incorporated as part of the Florida National Scenic Trail.

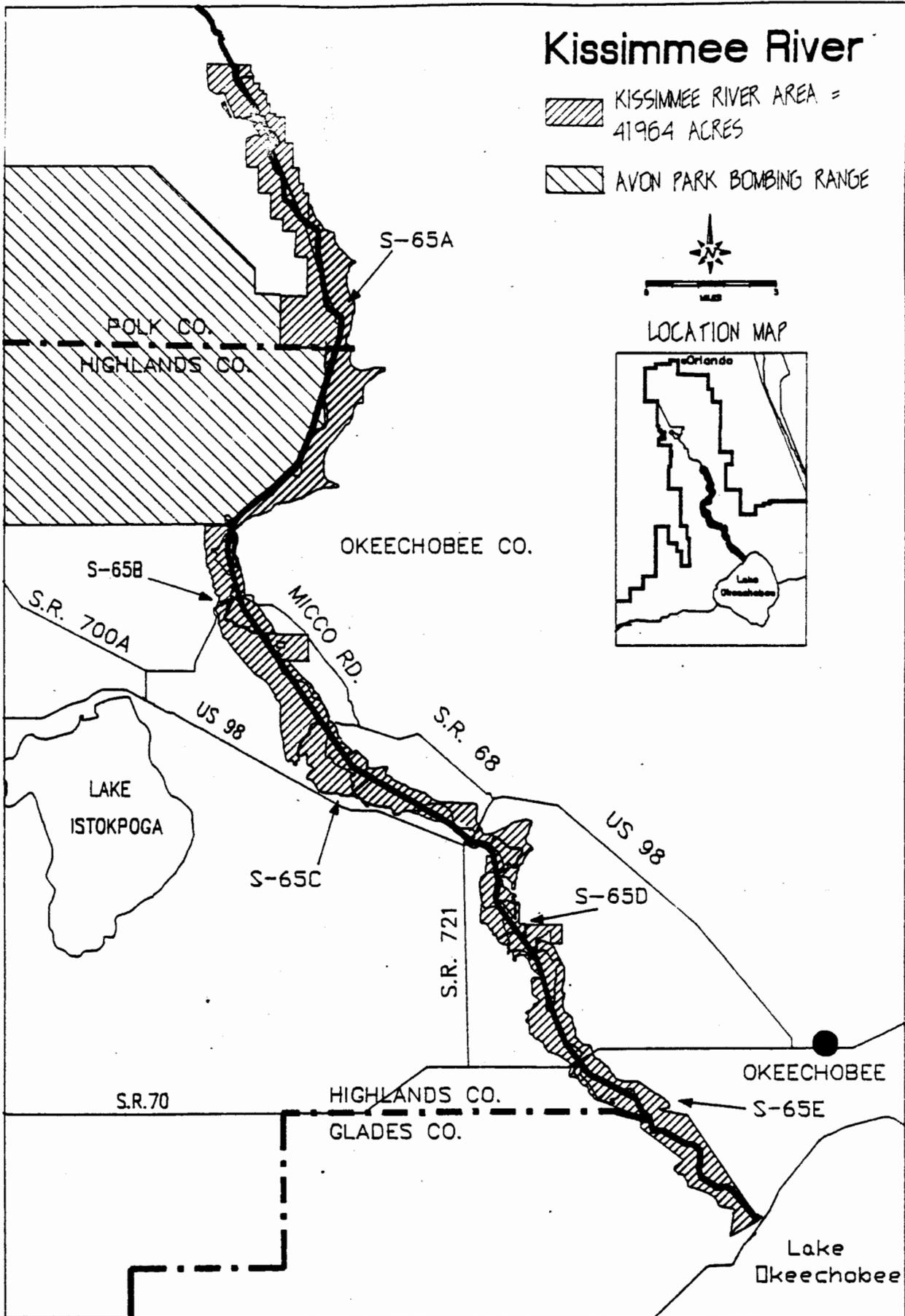
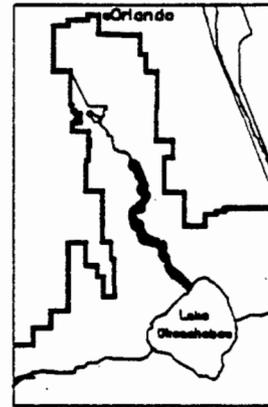
# Kissimmee River

 KISSIMMEE RIVER AREA = 41964 ACRES

 AVON PARK BOMBING RANGE



LOCATION MAP



**SAVE OUR RIVERS**  
**DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED ACQUISITION**

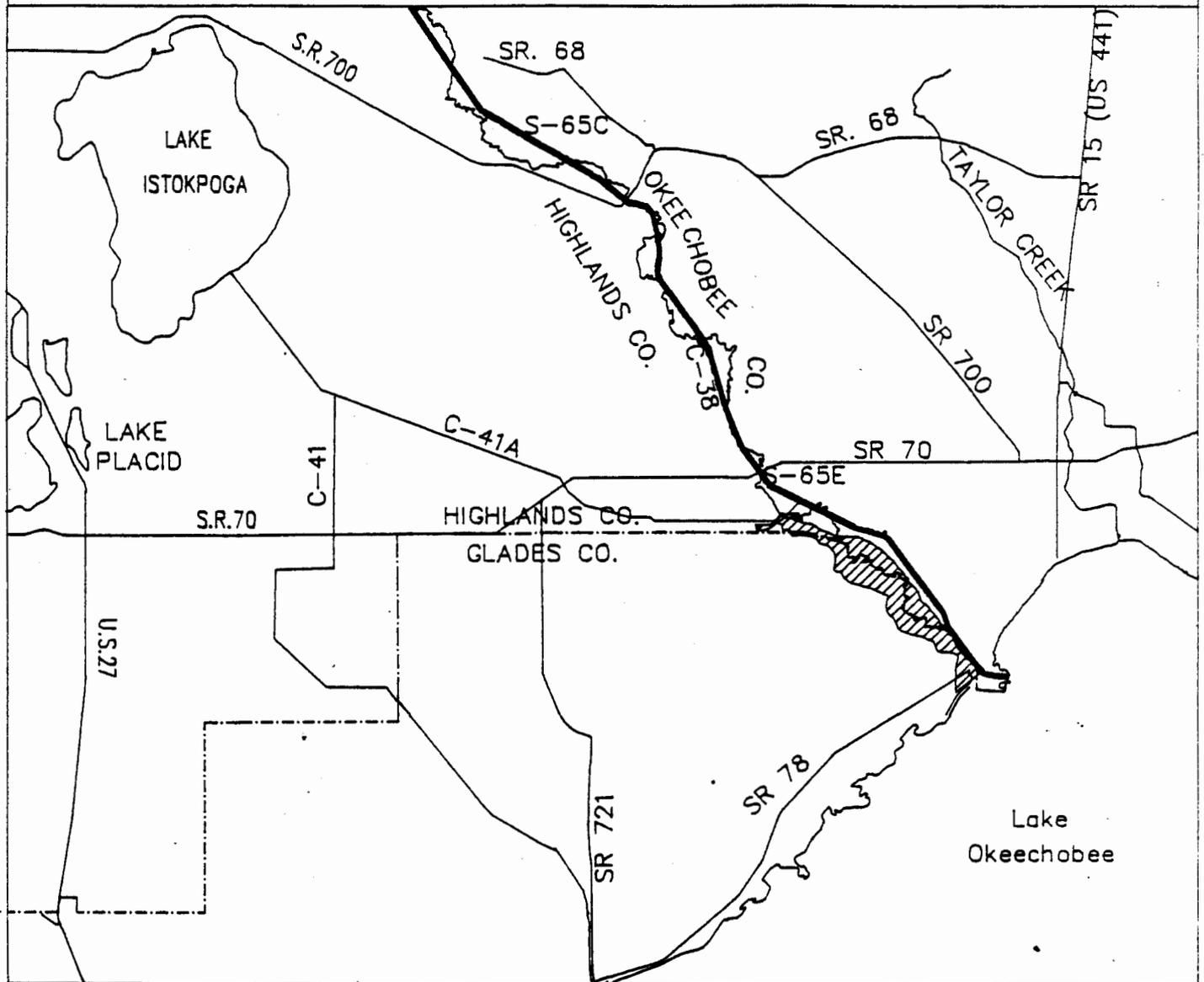
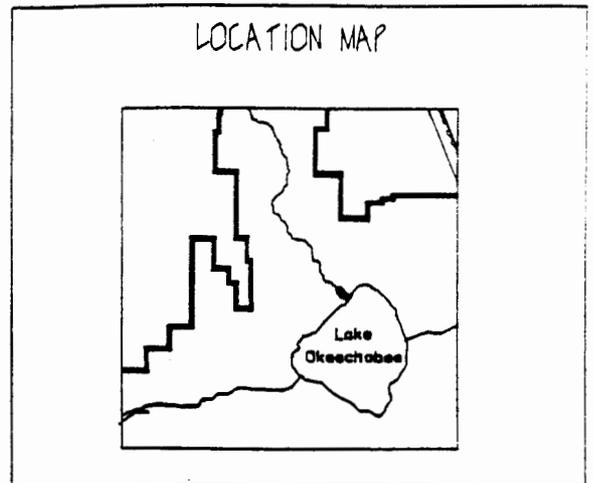
1. **Area of Acquisition:** PARADISE RUN
2. **County:** OKEECHOBEE AND GLADES
3. **Acres Under Consideration:** 4,800 ACRES
4. **Estimated Assessed Value:** \$3 MILLION
5. **Description of Area:**

This is 4,800 acres of original Kissimmee River floodplain which has been drained. This property is part of the concept of restoration of the Kissimmee River. It is also necessary for restoration and management of the Kissimmee River as a whole. Water quality benefits would accrue from the establishment of a marsh flow-way here. Restoration of hydroperiod and flows into cutoff portions of the Kissimmee River and adjacent floodplain would enhance opportunities for canoeing, fishing and nature appreciation. A potential waterfowl hunting area is currently being managed by the Florida Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission.

# Paradise Run



 PARADISE RUN AREA = 4200 ACRES



SAVE OUR RIVERS

DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED ACQUISITION

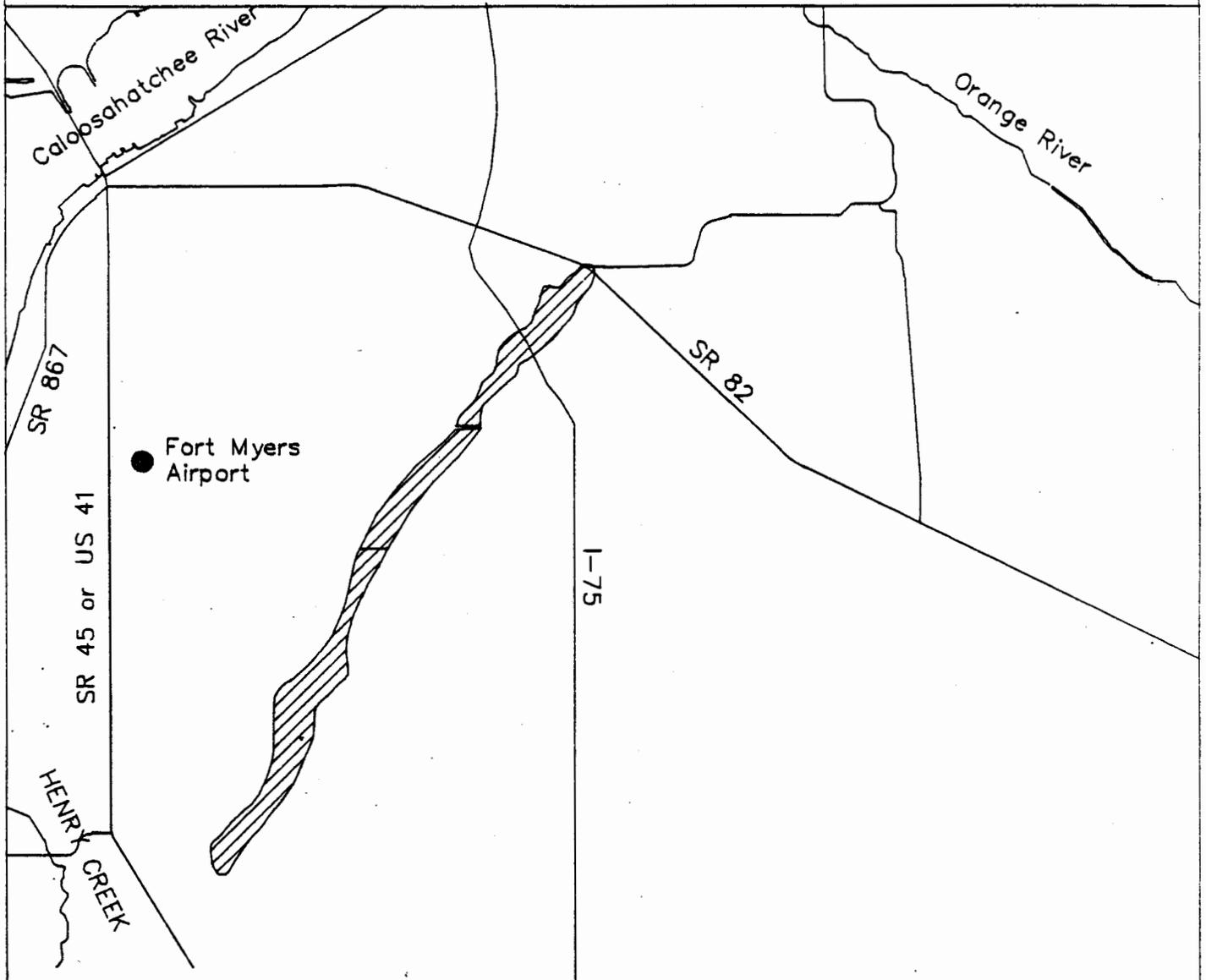
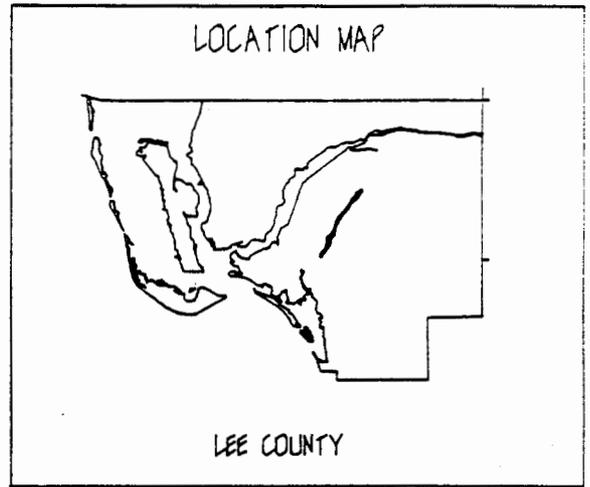
1. Area of Acquisition: SIX MILE CYPRESS SLOUGH
2. County: LEE
3. Cost to Date: \$1,221,221
4. Acres Under Consideration: 300 ACRES
5. Estimated Assessed Value: \$600,000
6. Description of Area:

This project is consistent with 373.59 F.S. because it will help with water management, conservation and protection of water resources. This acquisition will facilitate long range management objectives of water resources. Acquisition would provide natural flood control and water storage while protecting wetlands, water quality and recharge areas. This is a natural area in close proximity to the heavily populated Fort Myers area. It is to be managed by Lee County as a nature appreciation area with trails, boardwalks, wildlife observation structures and related interpretive facilities. The area has potential picnicking and fishing opportunities in conjunction with existing borrow pits.

# Six Mile Cypress



 SIX MILE CYPRESS AREA = 1742 ACRES

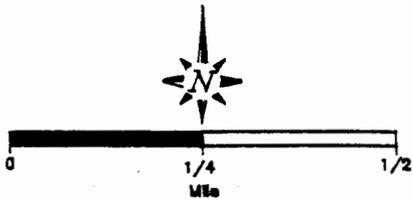


**SAVE OUR RIVERS**  
**DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED ACQUISITION**

- |    |                                          |                               |
|----|------------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1. | <b><u>Area of Acquisition:</u></b>       | SOUTH FORK<br>ST. LUCIE RIVER |
| 2. | <b><u>County:</u></b>                    | MARTIN                        |
| 3. | <b><u>Cost to Date:</u></b>              | \$2 MILLION                   |
| 4. | <b><u>Acres Under Consideration:</u></b> | 84 ACRES                      |
| 5. | <b><u>Estimated Assessed Value:</u></b>  | \$89,000                      |
| 6. | <b><u>Description of Area:</u></b>       |                               |

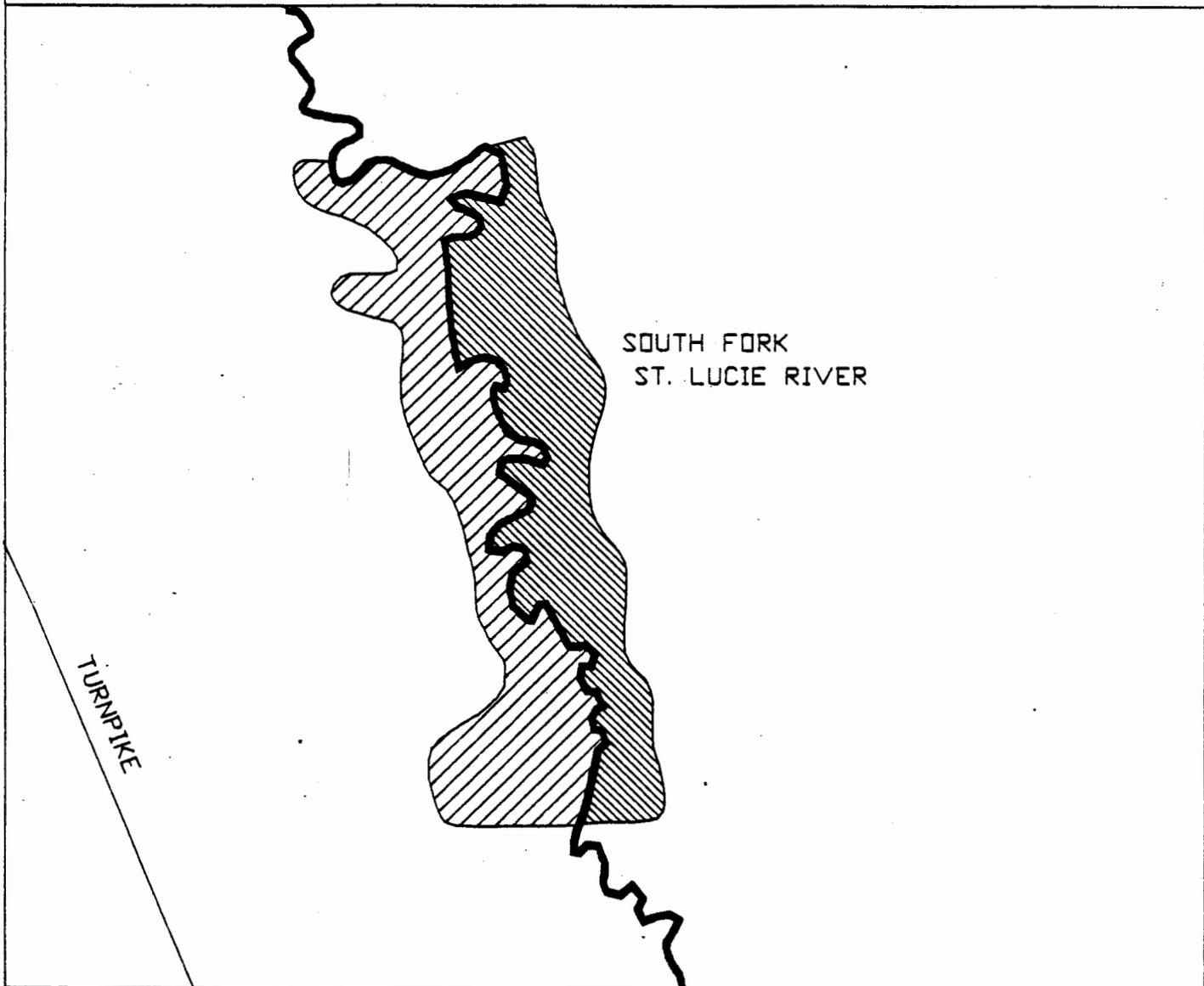
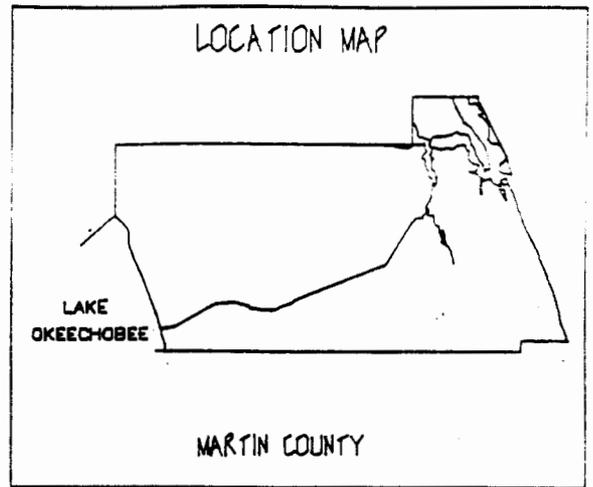
This is an undisturbed river flowing from south to north. The east side of this natural meandering river is characterized by gentle slopes and a relatively wide and wet flood plain. The west side rises more rapidly, resulting in a steep bluff with only narrow portions of flood plain. The west side is buffered from improved pasture by a hammock system 75 feet to 300 feet wide. Acquisition is complete along the west side of the river. Completion of this acquisition program will protect the quality of the water resources and the natural integrity of the river and provide a buffer from future development to the east. The South Fork of the St. Lucie River provides an excellent canoe trail that can be experienced by novice canoeists. As one of South Florida's remaining natural rivers, the lands provide opportunities for non-consumptive, passive recreational activities. These include hiking, photography and nature appreciation. The county is the proposed management entity for the area through a cooperative agreement.

# South Fork St. Lucie River



 SOR PROJECT AREA = 98 ACRES

 MOBIL OIL BUFFER = 84 ACRES

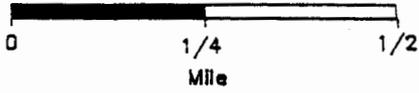


**SAVE OUR RIVERS**  
**DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED ACQUISITION**

1. **Area of Acquisition:** WATER CONSERVATION AREAS
2. **County:** DADE, BROWARD AND PALM BEACH
3. **Acres Under Consideration:** 85,078 ACRES IN FEE TITLE AND 135,000 ACRES OF MINERAL RIGHTS
4. **Estimated Assessed Value:** \$20 MILLION
5. **Description of Area:**

The three Water Conservation Areas comprise the bulk of the remaining Everglades marsh and 50% of the original pre-drainage Everglades. They are wilderness havens for fish and wildlife, and Water Conservation Area One is also known as the Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge. These Water Conservation Areas are an integral part of the flood control and water supply management activities of the South Florida Water Management District. Flood waters from agricultural and urban areas are pumped into the WCA's for storage, and water is released from the WCA's to the lower east coast for direct water supply purposes and to prevent salt water intrusion at the coastal structures. Much of the WCA system overlies the Biscayne Aquifer, and seepage from the WCA's aids in replenishment of the aquifer. The WCA's are also used to directly add water into Everglades National Park and are extremely important to the overall conservation and protection of South Florida's water resource. Acquisition would provide natural flood control and water storage while aiding the replenishment of the Biscayne Aquifer. These areas have historically provided fishing, hunting, nature appreciation and boating opportunities under management of the Florida Game & Fresh Water Fish Commission and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. These recreational opportunities will continue.

# Water Conservation Areas



 WATER CONSERVATION AREAS = 790,000 ACRES

 EVERGLADES NATIONAL PARK

