

LAND ASSESSMENT UPDATE

Governing Board

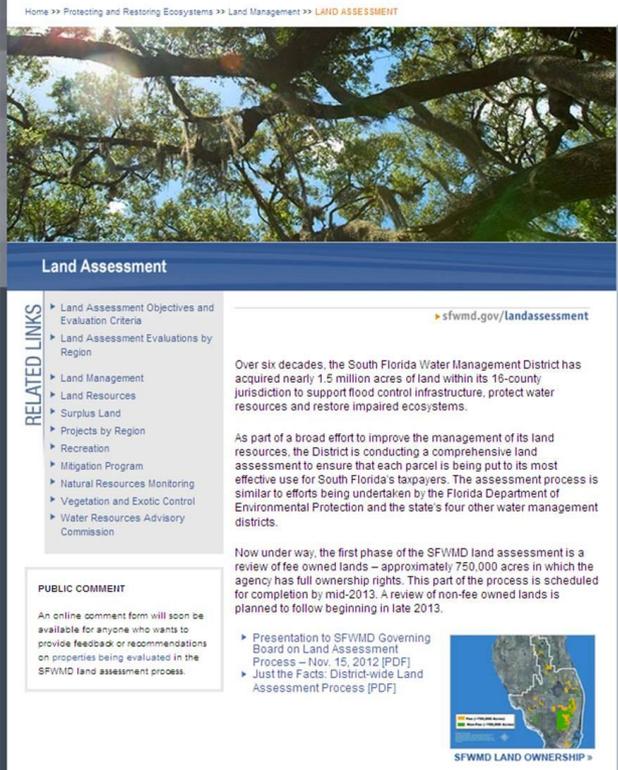
January 10, 2013

Ray Palmer, Section Leader, Real Estate

Item #24

Land Assessment Website

- Website active next week
 - Same information available to staff and public
 - Public and staff feedback forms
- Assessment Process and Methodology
- Detailed information by region
 - Presented in three levels: Projects, Units and Parcels
 - Photos, maps and site evaluations



Home >> Protecting and Restoring Ecosystems >> Land Management >> LAND ASSESSMENT

Land Assessment

sfwmd.gov/landassessment

Over six decades, the South Florida Water Management District has acquired nearly 1.5 million acres of land within its 18-county jurisdiction to support flood control infrastructure, protect water resources and restore impaired ecosystems.

As part of a broad effort to improve the management of its land resources, the District is conducting a comprehensive land assessment to ensure that each parcel is being put to its most effective use for South Florida's taxpayers. The assessment process is similar to efforts being undertaken by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection and the state's four other water management districts.

Now under way, the first phase of the SFWMD land assessment is a review of fee owned lands – approximately 750,000 acres in which the agency has full ownership rights. This part of the process is scheduled for completion by mid-2013. A review of non-fee owned lands is planned to follow beginning in late 2013.

▶ Presentation to SFWMD Governing Board on Land Assessment Process – Nov. 15, 2012 [PDF]
▶ Just the Facts: District-wide Land Assessment Process [PDF]

RELATED LINKS

- ▶ Land Assessment Objectives and Evaluation Criteria
- ▶ Land Assessment Evaluations by Region
- ▶ Land Management
- ▶ Land Resources
- ▶ Surplus Land
- ▶ Projects by Region
- ▶ Recreation
- ▶ Mitigation Program
- ▶ Natural Resources Monitoring
- ▶ Vegetation and Exotic Control
- ▶ Water Resources Advisory Commission

PUBLIC COMMENT

An online comment form will soon be available for anyone who wants to provide feedback or recommendations on properties being evaluated in the SFWMD land assessment process.

SFWMD LAND OWNERSHIP



Land Assessment

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SFWMD LAND OWNERSHIP »

Links to additional resources

Shortcut address to website

Public feedback link

Introductory information

Link to presentations and other materials

Webpage provides details of assessment objectives and criteria

Objectives and Evaluation Criteria

The land assessment process will thoroughly analyze each parcel of SFWMD land to determine how its current use contributes to the agency's core mission of balancing and improving water quality, flood control, natural systems and water supply.

To provide the most benefit to taxpayers, lands that do not directly support the core mission may be considered for alternative uses or recommended to the SFWMD Governing Board for surplus. The surplus process may result in lands being swapped for more needed properties or offered for public bid to raise revenue that could support ecosystem restoration projects, which may include acquisition of additional lands.

The District is utilizing a variety of criteria to evaluate its lands, including:

- ▶ Analyzing statewide and SFWMD-specific geographic information system (GIS) mapping layers to identify each parcel's environmental value and its value related to water resource management
- ▶ Examining the intended uses of the parcels when they were acquired
- ▶ Soliciting input from SFWMD subject matter experts with direct knowledge of individual lands
- ▶ Receiving feedback and recommendations from stakeholders, nearby landowners, local governments and members of the public

The District is committed to making the land assessment transparent and providing multiple opportunities for public involvement. The Water Resources Advisory Commission (WRAC) will receive periodic updates on the process. In addition, the public will be able to review draft evaluations and submit comments on specific properties.

Study Objectives and Criteria

- Analyze District owned lands to determine contribution to core mission of balancing water quality, flood control, natural systems and water supply
- Assess statewide, District and site specific mapping information
- Examine uses when properties were acquired
- Solicit input from SFWMD subject matter experts with direct knowledge of subject lands
- Receive feedback and recommendations from stakeholders, local governments and members of the public

Land Assessment Process

Step 1:

- Lands Inventory, Data Collection and Investigation
 - Examine and describe contribution to core mission values, significance of resource, land management issues, and public use and recreation value
 - Develop overviews of analysis areas within each region: project areas / assessment units / individual parcels

Land Assessment Process

Step 2:

- Presentation of Findings and Receipt of Comments
 - Upload data gathered during Step 1 for each region to website and concurrently solicit internal and external comments (30 days)
 - Comments will provide information regarding relative value of lands for ongoing purposes and generate suggestions regarding future uses including retention, potential alternative use, donation, exchange or surplus

Land Assessment Process

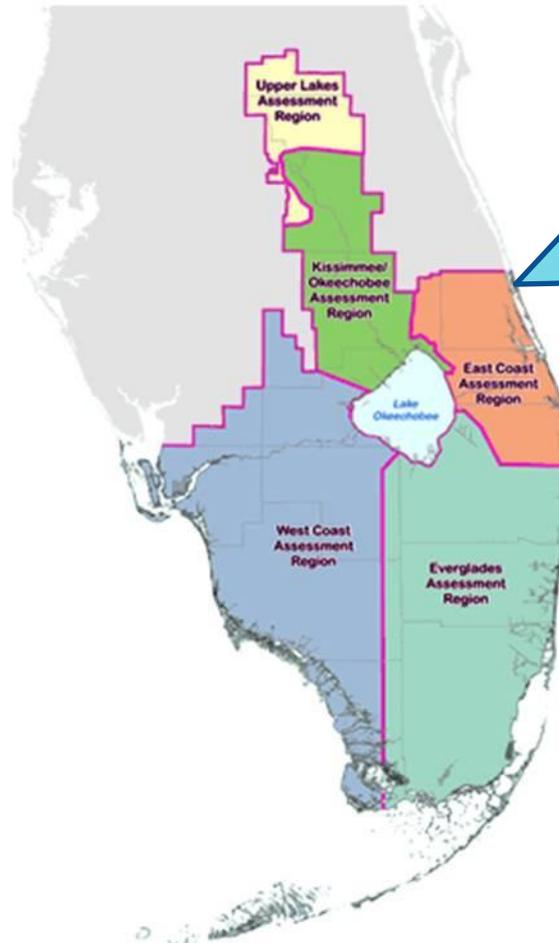
Step 3:

- Presentation of Recommendations and Proposals
 - Recommendations and strategies for optimal utilization of each area presented in the regional analysis will be developed and proposed

Land Assessment Evaluations by Region

For the land assessment process, the 16-county District has been divided into five geographic regions. As they become available, draft evaluations for each region will be posted below for public review. An online comment form will soon be available for anyone who wants to provide feedback or recommendations on specific properties.

- ▶ Upper Lakes Assessment Region
 - ▶ Kissimmee/Okeechobee Assessment Region
 - ▶ West Coast Assessment Region
 - ▶ East Coast Assessment Region
 - ▶ Everglades Assessment Region
- ▶ [Printable Map \[PDF\]](#)



**Interactive
map of
assessment
regions**

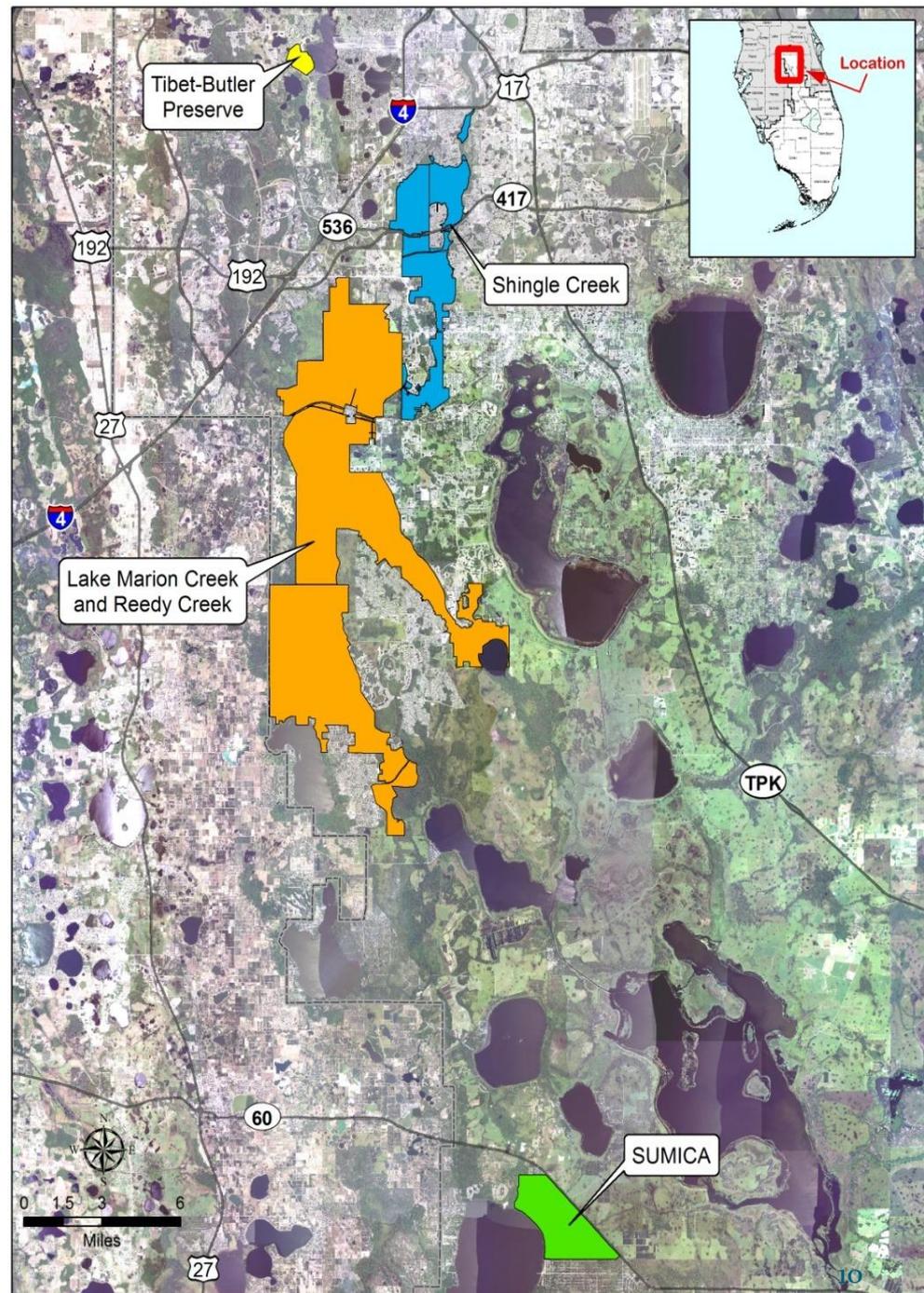
**Click on an
available
region for
link to more
information**

Upper Lakes Region

Sites Evaluated

19,788 acres in fee-simple ownership

- Tibet-Butler Preserve
- Shingle Creek
 - 3 assessment units
- Lake Marion Creek and Reedy Creek
 - 5 assessment units
- SUMICA
 - Named after a 1920's logging town formerly on the site



Assessment Schedule Update

- ONGOING: Feedback from all sources (Stakeholders, WRAC, Staff, Leadership, Governing Board, etc.)
- JANUARY : Website launch – 30-day public and staff feedback for Region 1
- FEBRUARY - JULY: Assessment of Regions to be reported approximated every 30 days
- AUGUST: Planned completion of all fee owned land assessments

QUESTIONS and COMMENTS