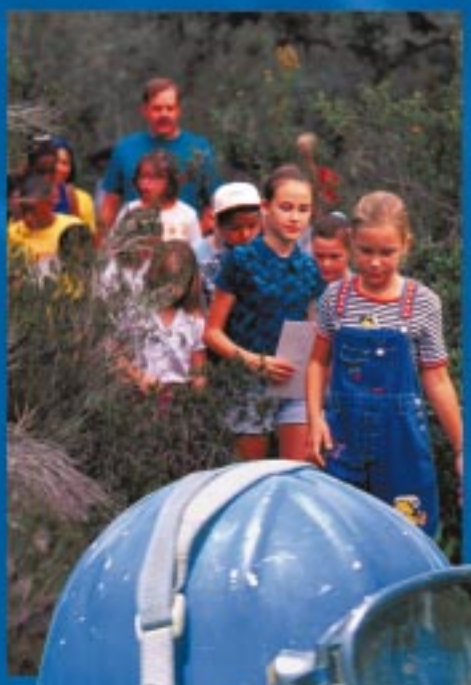
Save Our Rivers



2000 Land Acquisition & Management Plan

SOUTH FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

Contents

Online Information

For more information and Save Our Rivers general maps, please visit the South Florida Water Management District's Land Stewardship web site at: http://www.sfwmd.gov, select ***Major Project***s, select ***Save Our Rivers***, then ***Save Our Rivers Maps (***http://www.sfwmd.gov/org/clm/lsd/lsd.html)

Land Acquisition and Management Plan Message

During one of my first governing board meetings as executive director of the South Florida Water Management District (District), the governing board approved the purchase of over 2,500 acres of environmentally sensitive land in Martin County along Florida's Treasure Coast. This Atlantic Ridge Ecosystem project is at the very heart of the Save Our Rivers (SOR) program.

The land contains one of the last remnant scrub parcels on the Atlantic coastal ridge that serves as an aquifer recharge area. It is a major tributary to both the South Fork St. Lucie and the Loxahatchee rivers.

The Atlantic Ridge project exemplifies the shared funding partnerships that have formed throughout the state to buy environmentally sensitive lands. The state of Florida will contribute 50% through the Conservation and Recreation Lands (CARL) program. The county will pay for 25 percent with money from a one-percent sales tax approved last year by voters earmarked for conservation projects and the remaining 25% will come from the SOR program.

The state's Division of Recreation and Parks and the county will share in the management of the property -- outdoor enthusiasts will be able to enjoy hiking, canoeing, camping, and bird watching on both sides of the St. Lucie River. Allowing public access and managing the properties appropriately is critical to the success of the SOR program.

It was a banner year for the SOR program. Nearly 115,000 acres of environmentally sensitive lands and lands critical to water resources development were acquired. Some of these purchases are:

- Lake Walk-in-Water – 4,000 acres in Polk County that encompass four miles of lakeshore as well as extensive pine flatwoods, wetlands, and the remains of the 1920s "timber town" of Sumica.
- Pal Mar – 7,500 acres in Martin and Palm Beach counties that are an expanse of flatwoods and wet prairies which store excess flood waters and serve as feeding and foraging habitat for wildlife. (Palm Beach County bought an additional 7,500 acres to protect the largest remaining natural area in the two-county area.) The property forms a critical link in the greenway corridor covering more than 100,000 acres and extending from Lake Okeechobee to the Atlantic Ocean.
- Stormwater Treatment Areas (STAs) – 14,000 in Palm Beach County which nearly complete the total acquisition in that area. More than 45,000 acres in District ownership are being transformed into filter marshes to treat runoff from the Everglades Agricultural Area – a key component of the Everglades Restoration Project.
- Talisman – 50,000 acres south of Lake Okeechobee in Palm Beach County are a vital component of the Everglades Construction Project. These lands will store runoff from the Everglades Agricultural Area to be reused for agricultural irrigation, retain water previously lost to the ocean, and reduce freshwater impacts to coastal estuaries.

Florida is committed to having the largest program in the nation dedicated to the protection and management of environmentally sensitive lands. Since 1985 the District has acquired more than 400,000 acres and spent $700 million from the Water Management Lands Trust Fund and Preservation 2000.

This year the Florida Legislature enacted Florida Forever, a $300 million per year funding source to assure the continuation of the state's resource protection efforts. Florida Forever will be a critical source of funding for many of the District's large-scale projects including those recommended by the Central and Southern Florida Restudy – a monumental project that will revamp the canal and pump system from the Kissimmee Valley to Florida Bay. The original flood control system built 50 years ago was planned for a population of two million people; today almost six million call south Florida home. The goal is to restore the Kissimmee River-Lake Okeechobee-Everglades ecosystems while providing the water-related needs of the entire region.

Florida Forever will focus on purchasing lands to develop water resources components -- such as reservoirs for water supply and filtering marshes for stormwater runoff. This will reduce the volume of water lost to tide and provide water quality treatment before it enters sensitive natural areas like Florida Bay, Estero Bay, and the Indian River Lagoon.

Passage of this visionary act will enable the Restudy to move forward and provide the momentum to carry us into the next century with a real opportunity to solve the water resource needs of south Florida.

Frank R. Finch, P.E.
Executive Director

This publication was produced by the South Florida Water Management District.
Editorial Contributors: Save Our Rivers Program Staff • Graphics, Photography and Printing: SFWMD Visual Communications Division

Introduction

As part of its mission, the South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) protects and manages the wetlands, lakes, bays, and rivers of south and central Florida. The District, a regional agency, is the largest of five water management districts established across Florida to safeguard the quality and supply of each region's water resources.

State law requires the water management districts to manage water and related resources for the benefit of the public. The mission of the SFWMD is to manage water resources for the benefit of the region, balancing the needs of the present generation with those of future generations. Equally important elements of this stewardship are the conservation and development of water supply, the protection and improvement of water quality, the mitigation of impacts from flood and drought, and the restoration and preservation of natural resources.

In 1981, the Florida Legislature created the Save Our Rivers (SOR) program for the water management districts to acquire environmentally sensitive land. The legislation produced Section 373.59, Florida Statutes, known as the Water Management Lands Trust Fund. The trust fund receives revenues from the documentary stamp tax, which the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) administers. The statute enables the water management districts to use the trust fund to acquire fee title or other interest in lands needed to manage, protect, and conserve the state's water resources. The act specifies an allocation formula for each district and the process for them to use the fund.

Preservation 2000, enacted by the Legislature in 1990, also added land-acquisition funds to the Save Our Rivers program. P-2000 created the Florida Preservation Trust Fund, which DEP also administers. Land acquisition with P-2000 money requires that projects meet criteria of both the P-2000 and the Save Our Rivers programs.

As part of its process in acquiring these lands, the District considers the property's management challenges, surface and groundwater systems, and the formation of corridors for the critical interaction of wildlife populations. In managing these public lands, the District ensures the maintenance of water resources, fish and wildlife populations, and native plant communities in an environmentally acceptable manner. The District also opens these lands for appropriate public use consistent with their environmental sensitivity. The District may contract with other government agencies and/or the private sector to manage lands and implement the appropriate stewardship plans and programs.

Evaluation and Selection Process

Moneys from the Water Management Lands Trust Fund of the SOR and Florida Forever programs shall be used to acquire fee title or other interest inlands necessary for water management, water supply and the conservation and protection of water resources. In addition, lands that include other features are eligible as well. These include, but are not limited to:

- River and stream flood plains and flow ways
- River and stream flood hazard areas
- Littoral zones
- Springs and lakes
- Aquifer recharge areas
- Wetlands
- Wellfields
- Unique water features

Each January, the South Florida Water Management District must submit to the Legislature and the Department of Environmental Protection, pursuant to requirements of the Water Management Lands Trust Fund, and annual update to its Save Our Rivers Land Acquisition and Management Plan. The agency reviews Save Our Rivers applications from private and public groups, and staff considers other sites based on the District's strategic planning needs.

Land Evaluation Matrix

The District uses an evaluation matrix that addresses the water and natural resource values of each parcel. The matrix consists of the following 10 parameters:

- Water management
- Water supply
- Conservation and protection of water resources
- Manageability
- Habitat diversity
- Species diversity
- Connectedness
- Rarity
- Vulnerability
- Public use


Kissimmee River Restoration

In addition to the resource matrix, the District uses a project benefits criteria system to address projects that protect the integrity of ecological systems and provide multiple on and off-site benefits. This projects benefits criteria system applies to projects designed primarily to supply off-site water resource benefits. Thus, the District doesn't evaluate the environmental features of the lands themselves, as with the resource- based matrix, but it considers how these lands will be used within a described project. Examples for benefits provided by such lands would be:

a. Distribution, detention and water quality treatment systems using managed or unmanaged wetlands.

b. Groundwater recharge and/or water table control to allow recharge to aquifers or retain seepage from water storage facilities.

c. Buffers or transitional areas necessary to protect core lands from adverse impacts, provide wildlife corridors, provide for public enjoyment of the core land, or isolate certain management practices, such as flooding and prescribed burning.

Approval Process for the Save Our Rivers Land Acquisition and Management Plan

The District's Construction and Land Management Department receives and evaluates all Save Our Rivers project applications and boundary modifications. A multi-departmental evaluation team made up of senior technical staff, review and score each project. The team makes Recommendations to the Construction and Land Management director, who circulates them for comment to each District department. Following District comment and widely publicized notification, public workshops are held in geographical locations represented by the new projects.

In July of each year, the staff presents the revised Save Our Rivers Land Acquisition and Management Plan to the District Governing Board in workshop session. Final Governing Board adoption of the plan is scheduled for September of each year at a public hearing.

Florida Forever

During the 1999 session, the Florida Legislature created the Florida Forever program, which will replace Preservation 2000. Florida Forever will provide the primary funding source for land acquisition when P-2000 terminates. The five year work plan required by the new program will integrate all major water management district projects, including Surface Water Improvement and Management (SWIM) plans, water resource development projects, water body restoration projects, and other projects that meet the goals of the Florida Forever Act. Each project identified in the work plan shall address 14 items of information, including numeric performance measures that reflect the Florida Forever goals. Until P-2000 is concluded and all the funds have been expended or committed, the SOR program will continue to file its five-year plan of acquisition and land management activity by January 15 each year.

Kissimmee River

Land Stewardship Report

The Florida Resource Rivers Act specifically states that lands acquired with money from the Water Management Lands Trust 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 and make them available to the public for appropriate recreational purposes. District activities directed at achieving this level of management are part of the stewardship program.

Mission Statement

The mission of the Land Stewardship Program is to plan and implement measures necessary for the proper management of land and associated water areas owned or controlled by the District. These lands generally include those acquired through the Save Our Rivers program and other large holdings not utilized for operational or administrative purposes.

As steward of District lands, the program is responsible for their protection, enhancement, restoration, and preservation for the beneficial use and enjoyment of existing and future generations. A prime requisite in managing these public lands is to ensure that the water, fish and wildlife populations, native plant communities, and related resources are maintained in an environmentally acceptable manner and made available for appropriate outdoor recreational activities consistent with protection of the water resources.

The program is primarily directed by the Land Stewardship Division with assistance from several other District departments, service centers and field stations. Considerable assistance in managing the lands is provided by other governmental agencies and volunteers through cooperative agreements. Where appropriate, the private sector is encouraged to undertake certain management activities through leases and concession contracts.

The Program's Mission is composed of six major functions:

1. Strategic, project, and management planning
2. Operation and maintenance of land resources
3. Development of public use programs
4. Development of restoration projects
5. Evaluation of management activities (monitoring)
6. Administration of land management service contracts

In the following pages, progress in each of these six major functions will be outlined.

Stewardship Report

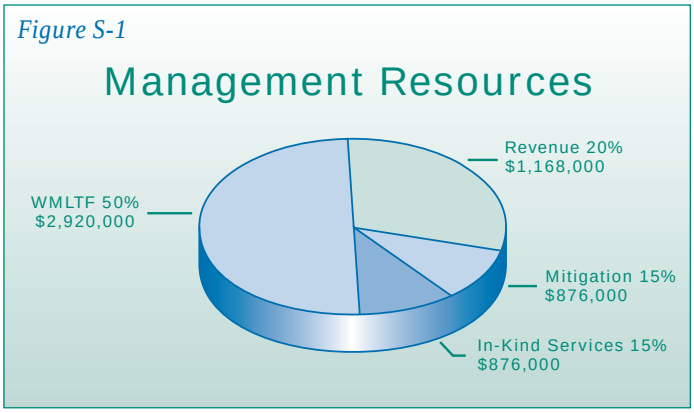
The Land Stewardship Program uses an adaptive ecosystem management approach with strong consideration for multiple use and renewable resources concepts. We seek and receive considerable assistance in managing our lands from both the public and private sector in funded, voluntary, and revenue-type partnerships.

Acquisition from October 1, 1998 to September 30, 1999 added nearly 115,000 acres. Total acquisition since 1981 now includes more than 400,000 acres.

Program Resources

A variety of sources pay the District's land management costs. (See Figure S-1 below) The principal source is the Water Management Lands Trust Fund. This state documentary tax stamp revenue totals about $12 million per year for the SFWMD. Of that, nearly $8 million is committed to covering the debt service on revenue bonds that were previously sold to increase the purchasing power of the SOR program. Funding sources other than the trust fund paid 50% of the program's operating costs in 1999. As a result of our policy to seek management partnerships, the District receives about $876,000 per year in in-kind services from the state (Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, Division of Forestry and Department of Environmental Protection), as well as several local governments. These in-kind services equate to 15% of the total management budget for our current ownership. The remaining 35% of the budget is made of revenue from leases of renewable resources ($1,170,000, 20%) and off-site mitigation funds ($ 876,000, 15%). District assistance from ad valorem taxes is mostly in the form of administrative and managerial support. The total expenditures for FY 99 are estimated to be just under $6,650,000 for350,000 acres of managed land, which is $19.00/acre/year. This average rate is similar to the state CARL land management budget. It should be noted however, that individual management areas require both substantially more or less than this average due to the particular circumstances of each area at the current time. (Figure S-1 below)

Figure S-1



Stewardship Elements

1. Strategic, Project and Management Planning

Strategic—The stewardship planning unit prepares and coordinates the development of the SOR Land Acquisition and Management Plan. This group then integrates the plan with other District planning processes and the land-acquisition and management programs of various state, county, and local government agencies. The District's Land Stewardship Division works closely with the agency's Regulation Department to locate suitable off-site mitigation areas.

Project Planning—The District must evaluate all potential

SOR projects before they are placed on the Land Acquisition and Management Plan. Each year, a team of District professionals, under the direction of the Land Stewardship Division, conducts resource-based evaluations of proposed new projects and project boundary revisions.

Preliminary Management Strategies and Conceptual Management Plans (CMP)—The District develops preliminary management strategies to guide initial management activities immediately after acquiring the property and before preparing more detailed plans. Conceptual management plans incorporates all relevant information about the project, including resource data, access, past and present land uses, public use potential, restoration and management needs, and goals and objectives to guide management actions. The District may prepare separate planning documents for restoration projects or substantial recreation programs. Restoration projects typically consist of hydrologic restoration but may also include upland restoration. Conceptual management plans, restoration plans, and public use plans may be produced in-house or by outside contractors.

FY 99 PLANNING HIGHLIGHTS

Strategic Planning

- Governing Board approved 2000 Land Acquisition and Management Plan (LAMP), including the addition of four new projects and boundary revisions to four existing projects. These changes added 26,576 acres to the District's land acquisition plan.
- Use of the Internet was increased to make available more information from Save Our Rivers publications, including more detailed maps and links to other organizations.
- Two facilitated planning sessions were held which resulted in a revised mission statement, standards by which to evaluate the Land Stewardship Program over the next three years, goals for the next three years, and a more streamlined and standardized process for developing land management plans.
- Management reviews of five SOR projects were completed in compliance with HB 1119

Project Planning

- Draft management plans were prepared for Blind Creek (Indian River Lagoon-prepared by St. Lucie County) and Kissimmee River Pools C and D.
- Provided technical assistance to Real Estate Division on numerous projects regarding management, access, and public use issues.
- Prepared application to CARL program in order to leverage SOR acquisition funds.

FY 00 OBJECTIVES

- Prepare 2000 Land Acquisition and Management Plan
- Provide pre-acquisition planning assistance to Real Estate Division on matters regarding parcel priorities, access, and management
- Complete management team reviews at five management areas
- Complete management plans for East Coast Buffer (Broward) and Kissimmee River Pools C and D.
- Update management plan for DuPuis management area.

2. Operation and Maintenance of Land Resources

The land maintenance program involves a wide range of activities to protect, maintain, and enhance the natural resources on District owned lands. The major goal of the program is to manage these lands in an environmentally acceptable manner and to provide public recreational opportunities that are compatible with natural resources protection. The program is implemented by a professional staff based in the service centers and at District headquarters. Major program components include:

Security and Resource Protection

An integrated program of contractual law enforcement, on-site caretakers, lessees' vigilance, and employer inspections protects the natural resources and District assets. Following proper survey and establishment of legal boundaries, all properties are fenced and posted with District ownership signs. A major emphasis of the land management program is to provide public access and security. Controlled access is critical to reduce illegal activity on District lands and direct the public to safe access points. This requires the clearing, removal and construction of a variety of fencing and the installation of fence gates. To enforce District public use rules and regulations, SOR properties must be properly posted.

Natural Resource Management

Exotic Plant Control—The exotic plant management program's goal is to reduce the proliferation of existing infestations and eradicate the problem where possible. Exotic plant control consists of proper application of various environmentally acceptable chemical herbicides combined with mechanical techniques performed by staff or private contractors. Cooperators who manage District lands under contract are strongly encouraged to apply a similarly aggressive approach to exotic plant control.

Prescribed Burning—Periodic fire is a natural element of native Florida ecosystems. The District uses prescribed burning to reduce hazardous buildup of vegetative fuel loads, enhance wildlife habitat, and encourage restoration of native plant communities. The District burns its lands with the intent of simulating natural fire cycles for native plant communities. In addition, the District staff has initiated growing season burning to mimic the natural occurrence of lightning season fires. The fire management program is based on ecological research and proven safety standards. It requires trained and experienced staff familiar with the diverse and unique fire management needs of the Florida landscape.

Management Evaluation—Tracking environmental response to prescribed fire, grazing, hydrologic restoration and exotic vegetation control provides valuable information on pre-management condition and progress towards meeting land management objectives. Information obtained by monitoring specific sites assists land managers in making sound ecological choices on District lands.

General Maintenance of Improvements, Restoration Structures, and Public Use Facilities

General maintenance on District lands include disking fire lines, mowing road sides, grading roads, replacing and repairing

culverts, and repairing and replacing perimeter fences. Staff will continue to work aggressively to provide public recreation on all actively managed lands through the development of campgrounds, trailheads and parking areas, and environmental education facilities.

FY 99 HIGHLIGHTS

Exotic Control

- District contractors and field staff treated exotic plants on 35,000 acres and initiated aerial herbicide treatments for Lygodium

Prescribed Burning

- District field crews conducted prescribed burns on nearly 7,000 acres and assisted in the control of several wildfires.

Forest Management

- A forest management plan was completed in 1998 and the District's first timber sale was conducted at DuPuis. The sale was necessary to control the spread of destructive beetles and restore habitat structure for the reintroduction of endangered red-cockaded woodpeckers. The sale encompassed 1,200 acres and generated over $50,000 in revenue.

Vegetation Management

- District contractors and field crew roller chopped 1,200 acres at DuPuis in conjunction with prescribed burning to reduce vegetative fuel and restore breeding habitat for the reintroduction of the red-cockaded woodpecker, a federally-listed endangered species.

Security

- District staff posted 35 miles of property boundary
- The District entered into a contract agreement with the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission to provide law enforcement on all District lands.

FY 00 OBJECTIVES

Exotic Control

- Conduct additional control activities for Lygodium
- Conduct follow-up exotic control activities for Melaleuca and Brazilian pepper on 35,000 acres

Prescribed Burning

- Conduct prescribed burns on 10,000 acres

Vegetation Management

- Conduct timber harvest on 300 acres of pine plantation at KICCO
- Roller chop and mow 2,500 acres

Security

- Develop additional opportunities for on-site occupancy by law enforcement officers
- Construct 35 miles of fence
- Post 42 miles of boundary

3. Development of Public Use Programs

The District encourages public access and use of its lands for appropriate outdoor recreational activities, consistent with the agency's legal interest, preservation and management of the water and environmental resources, and the purpose for which it was acquired.

Recreational development focuses on the provision of basic facilities for access, health and safety, and interpretation. Special consideration is given to the provision of outdoor recreational opportunities for persons with disabilities. Where appropriate, the District considers the provision of needed facilities and services through concession contracts and/or agreements with private non-profit organizations.

These activities are described for each management unit in the District's Public Use Guide.

FY 99 PUBLIC USE HIGHLIGHTS

- New public use facilities developed at West Jupiter Wetlands, DuPuis, Upper Lakes Basin, Corkscrew Marsh, Yates Marsh
- 1,700 acres opened to public use
- Additional hiking trails developed by Florida Trail Association in Kissimmee Chain of Lakes and along Kissimmee River
- Based on recommendations from User Fee Study, staff determined it is not feasible to charge for public use on District lands beyond what now exists at DuPuis
- DuPuis Equestrian Center was upgraded with a new community use well and dump station
- Received Governing Board approval to revise Public Use Guide (PUG) Rule bi-annually, rather than annually and published the 1999 PUG.
- 234,000 acres of SOR land open for public use
- 15,000 additional acres opened for hunting
- 34,000 counted users on SOR lands; numerous uncounted
- 700 volunteers performed 1,700 hours of work on SOR lands

FY 00 OBJECTIVES

- Implement partnership agreement with Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission to manage a public use area along the Kissimmee River corridor.
- Work with DEP and FWC to complete the legislative mandated process for hunt camps in WCA 2 and 3.

Introduced into Florida from Australia in the early 1900s, Melaleuca is one of the greatest threats to the biological integrity of the Everglades. Studies indicate that melaleuca can overtake a one square mile area within 25 years.

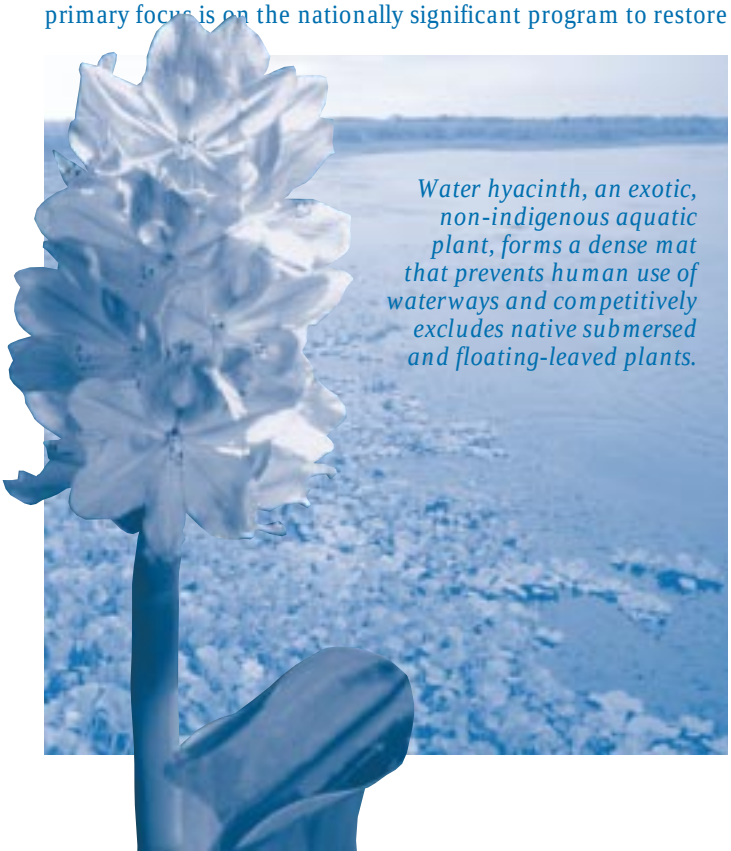
- Work with DOT, DEP, USACE, and county and local governments to develop the Lake Okeechobee east and west segments of the Florida National Scenic Trail.
- Continue to partner with FTA to complete the missing segments of the Florida National Scenic Trail from the Big Cypress to northern boundary of the District.
- Complete the pedestrian bridge over the boat basin on Bluff Hammock management area in Pool C Kissimmee River.
- Continue working with DEP, FWC, and Palm Beach County to develop an integrated public use corridor from Jonathan Dickinson State Park to the Okeechobee Dike Trail.
- Continue upgrading access areas to all land management areas.
- Complete DuPuis visitor center/nature trail.

4. Development of Restoration Projects

Natural features of south Florida's landscape are rapidly disappearing because of encroaching agricultural and urban development. A major thrust of the Save Our Rivers program is to protect and restore the flowways, watersheds, and wetlands, all critical to the water resources of the District. Common disturbances to SOR lands include exotic vegetation and drainage improvements. The Land Stewardship Division assesses SOR lands for hydrologic and environmental restoration needs and recommends how to correct those impacts. Restoration projects may be funded, designed, constructed, and maintained by the District, by developers as mitigation, or by a combination of methods.

Habitat enhancement on SOR lands includes a combination of hydrologic restoration in wetlands, prescribed burning to improve forage for wildlife and maintain native plant communities, and control of exotic vegetation.

A major stewardship task is to return SOR lands as close to their original natural state, hydrologically, as possible. This improves water storage in wetlands, water quality by slowing runoff, and habitat for fish and wildlife. The SOR program is conducting several small hydrologic restorations, but the primary focus is on the nationally significant program to restore the Kissimmee River/Lake Okeechobee/Everglades Ecosystem. Several SOR acquisition projects are contributing directly to the effort to restore and protect the vital water and natural resources of South Florida.



Water hyacinth, an exotic, non-indigenous aquatic plant, forms a dense mat that prevents human use of waterways and competitively excludes native submersed and floating-leaved plants.

FY 99 RESTORATION HIGHLIGHTS

- Continued mitigation bank development/permitting of Loxahatchee and Corkscrew Regional Banks.
- Developed standard off-site mitigation procedures. Osceola County portion of Shingle Creek is viewed as best opportunity for upland restoration. District staff is trying to acquire suitable lands in conjunction with Osceola County and Florida Communities Trust.

FY 00 RESTORATION OBJECTIVES

- Treatment of approximately 200 acres of Melaleuca in the Pennsuco mitigation area
- Initiate and follow-up treatment on 13,000 acres in the CREW mitigation area
- Reforest 300 acres with south Florida slash pine
- Restore firelines at Snell Creek that were plowed to control summer wildfires; consider scrub restoration
- Pursue reintroduction of red-cockaded woodpeckers at DuPuis
- Design upland restoration project
- Acquisition of mitigation lands in CREW and Pennsuco during FY 98 and FY 99 will support restoration work in FY 99.
- Implement mitigation bank restoration with Corkscrew Regional and Loxahatchee banks
- Conduct acquisition and exotic removal in offsite regional mitigation areas: CREW and Pennsuco
- Construct Johnson Island mitigation project
- Complete DuPuis/Corbett hydrolic connection

5. Evaluation of Management Activities (Monitoring)

A major objective of the Save Our Rivers program is to restore or preserve the natural condition of SOR land resources. The Land Stewardship Division has an established monitoring program to evaluate its management and restoration activities, including hydrologic restoration, prescribed burning, and exotic vegetation control. Sample data is stored on GIS databases for future analysis that provides feedback to improve the efficiency of management activities.

FY 99 HIGHLIGHTS

- Completed resource inventories on 28,000 acres in CREW and Kissimmee Chain of Lakes (KCOL)

FY 00 OBJECTIVES

- Conduct archaeological inventory at DuPuis
- Conduct resource inventories on South Fork St. Lucie River, Chandler Slough (Kissimmee River), Rough Island (KCOL), scattered sites in CREW, scattered sites in Lake Marion and Reedy creeks

6. Administration of Land Management Service Contracts

Contractual agreements for management services and leases on District land are an important part of the stewardship program. The program currently administers more than 90 contracts, agreements, leases, and reservations. The program

prepares contract specifications, negotiates terms, and monitors compliance. Managing the number and diversity of these contracts is a substantial task.

FY 99 HIGHLIGHTS

- Initiated management lease agreements with DEP-Atlantic Ridge Ecosystem, DOF-Okaloacoochee Slough, FWC-Pal-Mar, and Palm Beach County-Loxahatchee Slough
- Executed management lease agreement with St. Lucie County-Indian River Lagoon

FY 00 OBJECTIVES

- Continue to administer the 16 existing land management service agreements
- Execute management lease agreements with DEP-Atlantic Ridge Ecosystem, DOF-Okaloacoochee Slough, FWC-Pal-Mar, and Palm Beach County-Loxahatchee Slough
- Complete report that summarizes grazing program and includes recommendations for properties suitable for future leases
- Encourage grazing lessees to provide maintenance services (fencing, mowing, roller chopping, exotic plant control) in lieu of payment

Interim Property Management Program

Background

The Land Stewardship Program is responsible for properties ultimately planned for use as stormwater treatment areas, water management/storage areas, or buffer lands (East Coast Buffer) between the Everglades and urban development. For the most part, their environmental value is low. These lands will eventually be used as surface water storage reservoirs, groundwater recharge areas, or filter marshes. They are not designated for environmental enhancement, restoration, or preservation, and generally are not proposed for recreational or other public uses. During the interim period while acquisition, planning, design, and construction are taking place, the Land Management Division has developed a management approach that protects the resource and minimizes management expense.

The Interim Property Management Program was developed in 1997 to manage the Stormwater Treatment Area (STA's), Water Preserve Management Areas (WPA, WMA) and East Coast Buffer lands. It is currently staffed by seven professionals with expertise in real estate, engineering, finance, property management, planning, regulation, and business administration. Generally, a competitive bid process is used to solicit proposals and award contracts, which include the appropriate cancellation clauses so the land is available when it is needed. In some cases leases are negotiated as part of the acquisition package. Typically, these leases provide for the continuation of existing agricultural land uses such as grazing, sod, vegetable and sugar cane farming, and nurseries and tree farms.

Mission

This program is tasked to develop strategies and implement plans to responsibly manage the STA, WPA and East Coast Buffer properties during the interim planning period. Its purpose is to reduce management costs and/or increase revenue from non-government sources that will offset the District's management, maintenance, and resource protection expenses for these lands. Specific benefits of the Interim Property Management Program include:

- On-site property manager provided at no cost to the District
- On-site exotic control, Best Management Practices (BMPs), fencing, etc. provided at no cost to the District as a condition of the lease
- Income generated helps to offset District acquisition and future project costs
- Property remains on the local county tax rolls until it is actually needed by the District
- Continued use of the property supports the local agricultural economy

Results

During the program's second year of operation, a total of 23,587.30 acres were under lease or management agreement, a 70% increase over the initial 1997-98 total of 13,846 acres. Of these, 33 were new leases or management agreements while 28 were continuing leases or management agreements. They included the continuation of an existing management agreement with one of the local Soil and Water Conservation Districts and the execution of a second management agreement with another local Soil and Water Conservation District, in compliance with Chapter 373.1391(1)(d), FS.

At an average cost of $20.00 per acre, the program has resulted in the avoidance of approximately $471,746.00 in management costs for security, exotic control, fencing and other related management costs. The program has also generated approximately $1,456, 943.25 in property lease income to further offset SOR land management expenses.

Implementation Strategies

The District employs a diversified strategy to implement its land stewardship program. The ever-increasing size and complexity of the program's management needs require this approach. The foundations of this program are: (a) a core professional management group, (b) internal contracting, (c) cooperative management agreements, and (d) alternative funding.

Controlled Burn

A. Core Professional Management Group

A select number of District employees' plan and manage the functions of the land stewardship program. This group includes professional land managers assigned to regional service centers. These employees have specific geographical responsibilities for comprehensive management in their respective areas. They also have special areas of management expertise that they share with other managers throughout the agency.

A highly trained field crew supports the professional staff by performing diversified tasks throughout the District. Crew members prepare and execute the fire-management plans for each area. They also control exotic plants and conduct general operations and maintenance services, as time permits.

District staff carries out the planning functions previously described and evaluates and monitors the District's natural resources and the effectiveness of the management program.

B. Contractual Services

Personnel limitations and an ever-increasing land base are limiting the District's ability to provide the necessary management functions on all of its SOR lands. Private contractors are being used to prepare resource inventories, to treat exotic vegetation, construct fences, and do roller chopping and mowing. When available, District field stations provide general operations and maintenance support in the form of roadside mowing, road maintenance, and culvert and ditch repair. The Land Stewardship program relies on the Vegetation Management Division to coordinate large exotic treatment jobs.

The District's land acquisition efforts in water resource projects such as Frog Pond/L-31 N, East Coast Buffer and the Stormwater Treatment Areas require interim stewardship of thousands of acres of agricultural lands that will later be converted to stormwater attenuation areas and filtration marshes. The District's Land Management Division (LMD) has taken responsibility for these areas and has leased out many of them for revenue-generation agricultural uses until such time as they come on-line for their final intended use. LMD also manages and disposes of real property assets that are not integral to the SOR mission.

C. Cooperative Management Agreements

The District has numerous land management service agreements, primarily with other local, state, and federal agencies. They vary from complete management responsibility to specific services and may or may not be District-funded.

There are several advantages to these agreements that include the following:

1. Expertise—Other agencies provide knowledge, experience, and capabilities not available to the District. It is more cost effective to use this expertise from other agencies than to develop it.

2. Location—In several cases, local governments or other agencies are more conveniently located to provide essential services than the District.

3. Continuity of Program—District land adjacent to other public lands can be managed as part of the larger ownership.

4. Local Benefits—When people in a particular area almost exclusively use some District lands, it is appropriate for local programs to manage these lands because they are the ones who directly benefit.

D. Alternative Funding

Since 1989, the District's policy has been to pay for SOR stewardship functions out of the Water Management Lands Trust Fund. The policy restricts the use of District ad valorem taxes to administrative and general support services. The District has augmented these funds in several ways:

1. In-Kind Services—As previously noted, several management agreements are at no cost to the District for either complete management services or selected services such as surveillance and law enforcement. More than 30% (85,000 acres) of District-owned land is managed entirely at no cost by state and local partners.

2. Revenue Agreements/Leases—The District has various land-use leases that it obtained with the land purchase or that it developed to use renewable resources. These include cattle grazing, vegetable farming and sod farming on lands that are under interim management. In addition to the revenue generated, leases provide the on-site management of 10% (29,000 Acres) of District Ownership.

3. User Fees and Volunteers—User groups are willing to contribute in-kind services. The District has good experiences with several user groups on developing and maintaining trails, trailheads, and primitive camping areas. The District collects user fees at the DuPuis Reserve to offset expenses of public use facilities at that site.

4. Mitigation Funding—Acquisition, preservation, and enhancement or restoration, and management of the East Coast Buffer, CREW, Shingle Creek, Reedy Creek and DuPuis Reserve projects has been and will continue to be partially funded with mitigation money generated in accordance with Section 373.414 (1) (b) 1., F.S. The Land Stewardship staff has developed detailed plans for the use of these funds to restore, preserve and manage substantial acreage within the above listed projects.

2001 Land Acquisition Planning Process

April 28, 2000	Deadline for new project/boundary revision applications
July 12, 2000	Governing Board Workshop on new projects/boundary changes
September 14, 2000	Governing Board public hearing to adopt changes to Land Acquisition Plan

Acquisition Summary

Acquisition during the 1999 plan period (October 1, 1998 - September 30, 1999) added approximately 114,868 acres. See the table below for details of which lands were purchased during the reporting period. These acquisitions bring the total District ownership through September 30, 1999 to 426,314 acres.

PROJECTS	Acres Acquired FY 99	Total Acres Acquired to Date
Atlantic Ridge Ecosystem	3,451	3,451
CREW**	2,370	24,175
East Coast Buffer*	15,760	16,416
Everglades Agricultural Area***	49,541	51,210
Frog Pond/L-31	1,274	9,129
Lake Walk-in-Water*	4,009	4,009
Loxahatchee Slough	1,425	1,425
Model Lands Basin*	141	4,364
North Fork St. Lucie River*	99	378
Okaloacoochee Slough**	12,727	34,982
Pal-Mar*	7,743	10,294
Southern Glades*	765	32,583
Stormwater Treatment Areas	14,263	45,519

The 1996 Legislative changes to the SOR program required that projects requiring full fee acquisition must be identified in the Land Acquisition plan. Other projects shown in the plan are either complete or could be acquired using less-than-fee.

PROJECTS REQUIRING FULL FEE ACQUISITION	APPROVED ACRES
Caloosahatchee Basin Storage Reservoir	8,700
East Coast Buffer	66,809
Frog Pond/L-31	10,450
Indian River Lagoon	1,550
Kissimmee River (Lower Basin)	62,628
Kissimmee River (Upper Basin)	33,919
New Palm Dairy	1,900
Stormwater Treatment Areas	47,630
Ten Mile Creek	1,266
Water Conservation Areas	103,635
Wellington/Acme Marsh	1,050

Acquisition Plan Changes

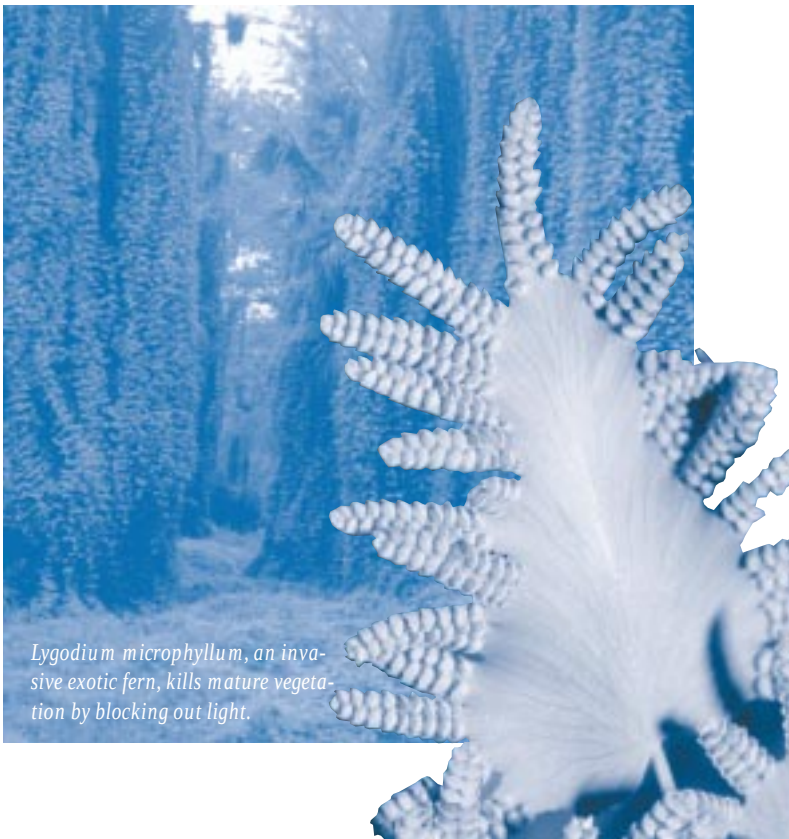
1999 Changes to 2000 Land Acquisition and Management Plan

In 1999, the South Florida Water Management District Governing Board authorized the addition of four new projects to the Land Acquisition and Management Plan, as well as boundary modifications to four existing projects.

NEW PROJECTS	ACRES
Caloosahatchee Basin Storage Reservoir	8,700
Cypress Creek/Loxahatchee	4,184
Unit 11	1,700
Wellington/Acme Marsh	1,050

PROJECT ADDITIONS (Boundary Modifications)	ACRES
Atlantic Ridge Ecosystem	822
East Coast Buffer	640
Model Lands	3,210
Pal-Mar	1,310

PROJECT DELETIONS	ACRES
8.5 Square Mile Area	4,381



Lygodium microphyllum, an invasive exotic fern, kills mature vegetation by blocking out light.

Acquisition Plan

The 1999 SOR Land Acquisition and Management Plan includes District staff anticipation that significant cost-sharing will occur with the state and local governments. For the 1999 SOR Land Acquisition and Management Plan, the staff used the following criteria to establish the general acquisition priority for qualified SOR projects.

1. Standing on the District Strategic Plan

SOR land acquisition is an integral element of the District's overall strategic plan for resource management. The priority of SOR land acquisition needs, as established by the Plan, must be directly translated to the SOR acquisition priority.

2. Potential for Resource Loss

Continued development activity in and around identified SOR projects raises concerns about loss of resource values for these projects if they are not protected by outright purchase or conservation easements. The Departments of Planning and Regulation, as well as local governments, are consulted annually as to the trend in development pressures around various SOR projects.

3. Potential for Cooperative Acquisitions

Several SOR projects are potentially qualified for cost sharing with other state and local agencies. Other projects are located in counties with land acquisition programs. Projects that can be acquired and/or managed with cost-sharing programs and remain consistent with SOR objectives receive priority consideration. It is important to establish the intent of the potential partner before granting a priority status.

4. Disposition of Owner(s)

The expressed willingness of the owner(s) of specific tracts within an SOR project is a factor in the acquisition priority consideration. Conversely, well managed lands owned by private interests reluctant to sell are given a low priority, even if the resource values are high.

Although this priority analysis applies to SOR projects, it may be necessary to single out certain key tracts within a project as the critical factor for a priority; that is, the status or priority of certain core tracts within a project may determine the priority of the overall project. In these cases, the commitment of funds to the project should be to acquire the core pieces.

The Priority Acquisition Plan was developed using these criteria. The acquisition resources of the District will be specifically directed to accomplish this plan. However, any qualified SOR project may be considered for acquisition during the life of this plan as conditions and circumstances warrant.

The objective of the Save Our Rivers program is to acquire necessary interests in lands for water management, water supply, conservation and protection of water resources. The Land Acquisition and Management Plan shows projects that have been determined to meet the Save Our Rivers objectives. Projects have been submitted from a variety of sources and analyzed through the District Save Our Rivers matrix. However, financial and other constraints may not allow acquisition of all lands included in the Land Acquisition and Management Plan.

The Land Acquisition and Management Plan indicates to local governments that certain lands within their jurisdiction meet the criteria for Save Our Rivers project consideration. Budget, or other considerations, may constrain the acquisition of these lands. Accordingly, local governments should use the Land Acquisition and Management Plan as only one of the many criteria in making land use planning evaluations.

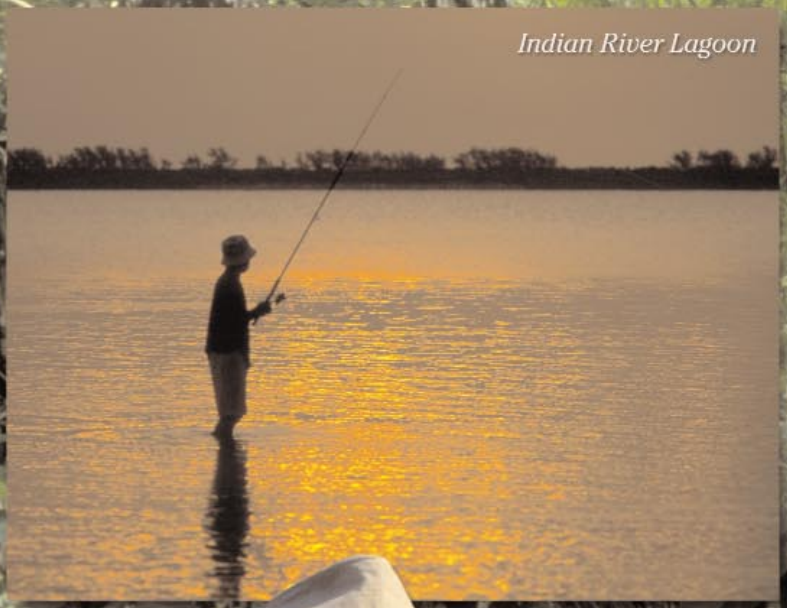
2000 Priority Projects

PROJECTS	ACQUISITION PARTNERS
Atlantic Ridge Ecosystem	CARL/Martin County
Biscayne Coastal Wetlands	Miami-Dade County
Caloosahatchee Basin Storage Reservoir	Federal Government
CREW	CARL/Federal Govt.
Cypress Creek/Loxahatchee	Palm Beach County
East Coast Buffer	CARL/Federal Govt.
Florida Bay (Southern Glades, Model Lands, L-31 N)	CARL/Federal Govt.
Kissimmee River	None
Lake Walk-in-Water	Polk County
McDaniel Ranch	None
New Palm Dairy	None
North Fork St. Lucie River	CARL/St. Lucie County
Pal-Mar	CARL/Martin County
Shingle Creek	Mitigation
Ten Mile Creek	Federal Government

Stormwater Treatment Area construction

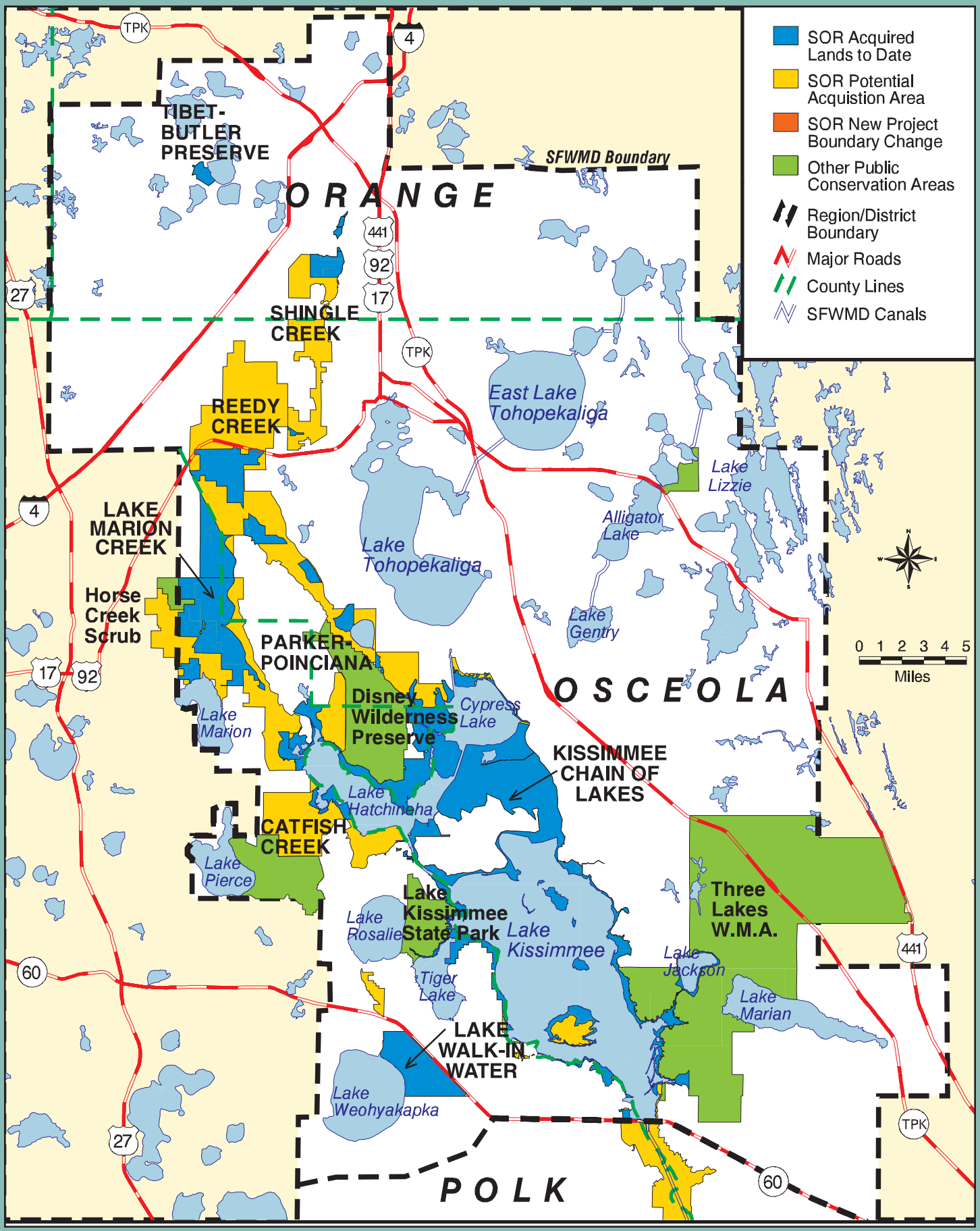
PROJECT MAPS

South Fork High School Students
South Fork Property



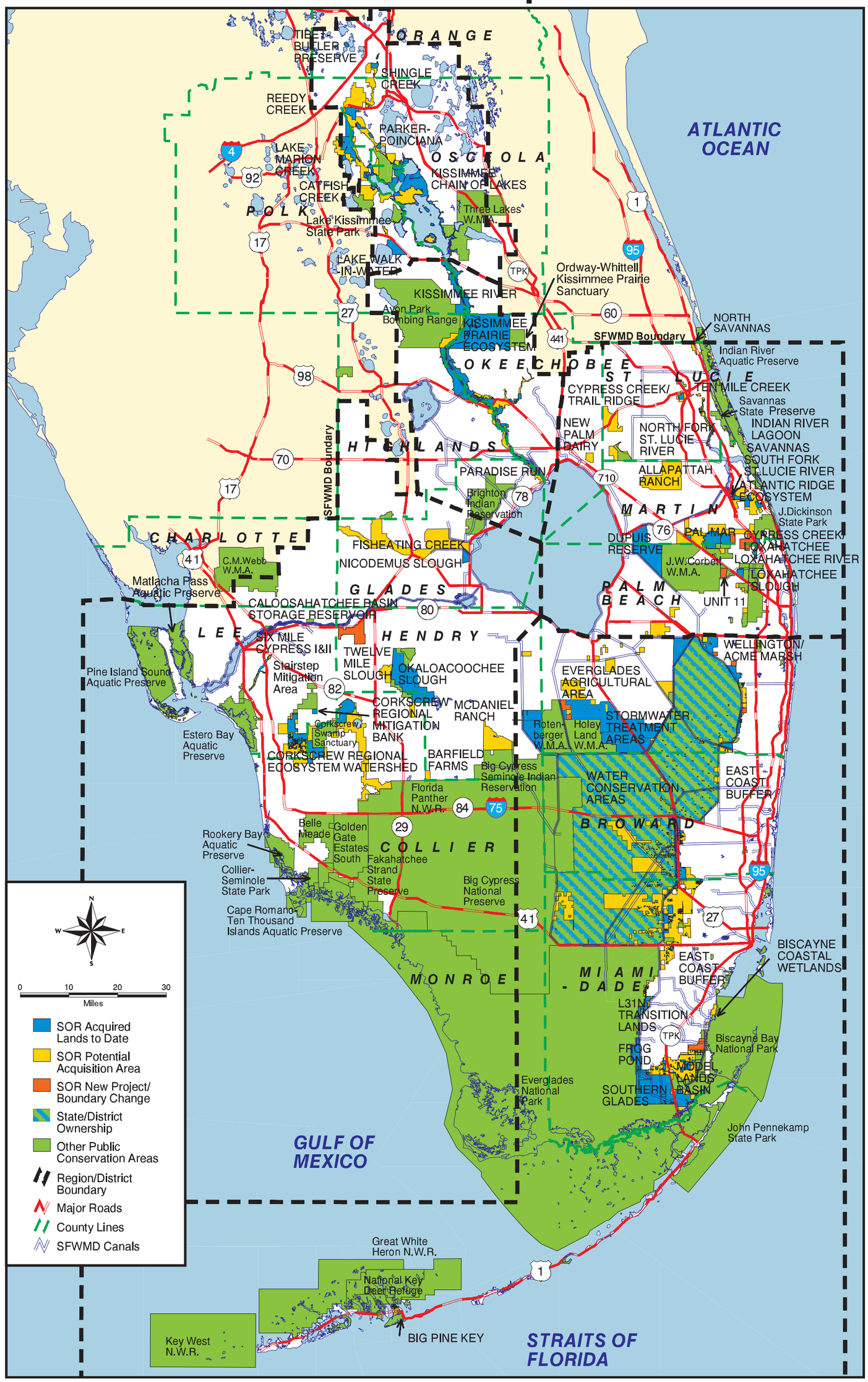
Indian River Lagoon

Upper Lakes Land Management Region

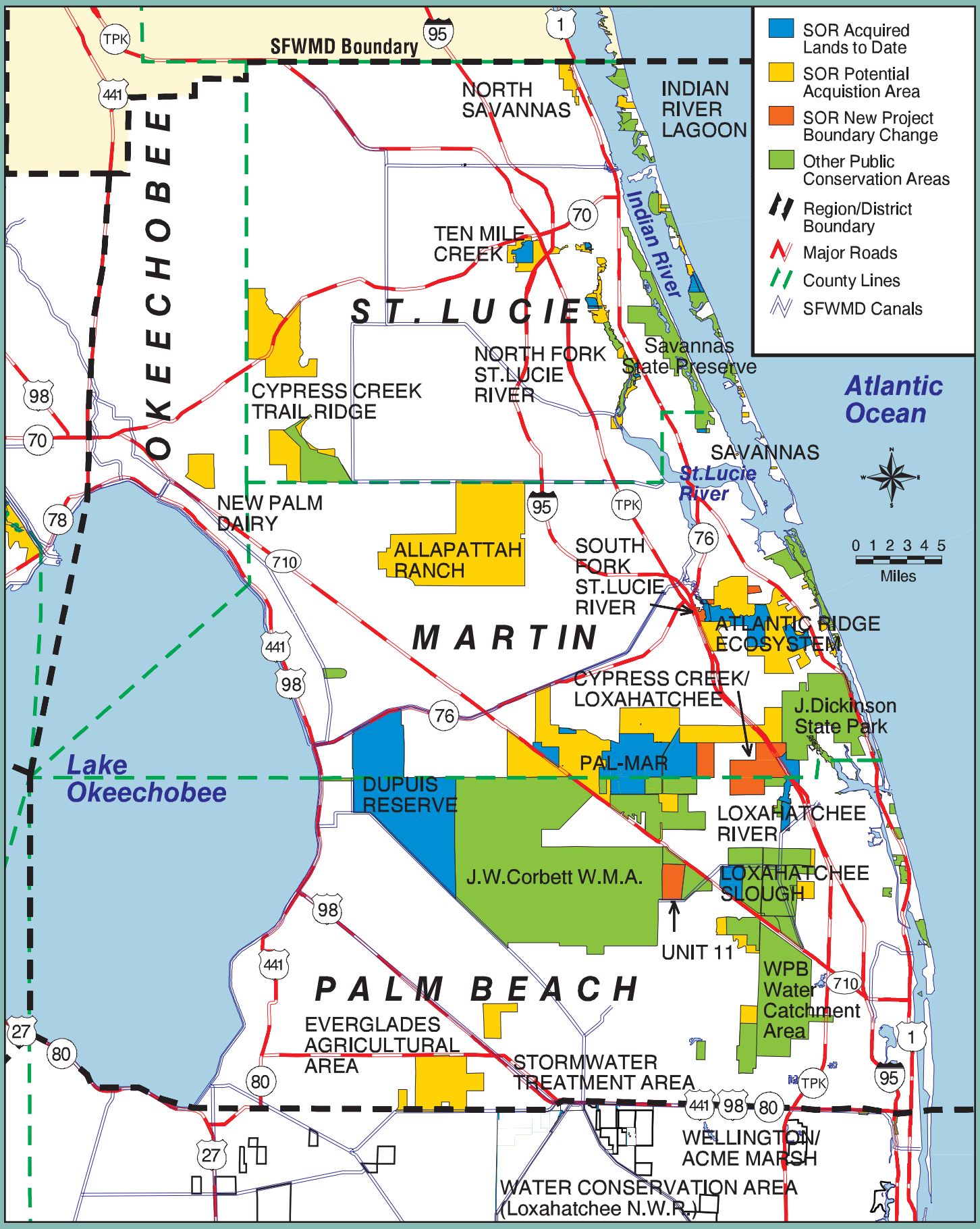


Kissimmee/Okeechobee Land Management Region

Save Our Rivers 2000 Acquisition Status

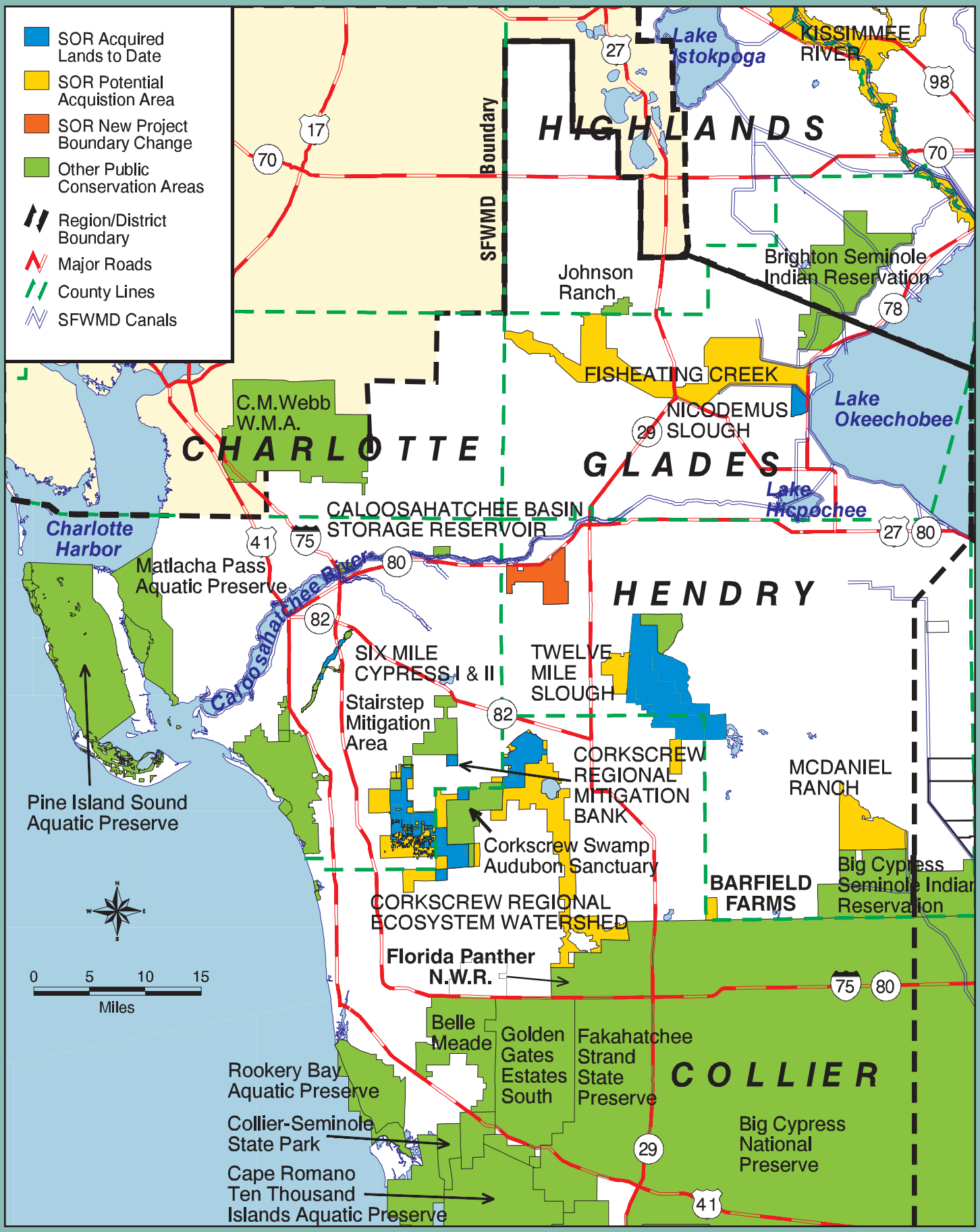


East Coast Land Management Region



Everglades Land Management Region

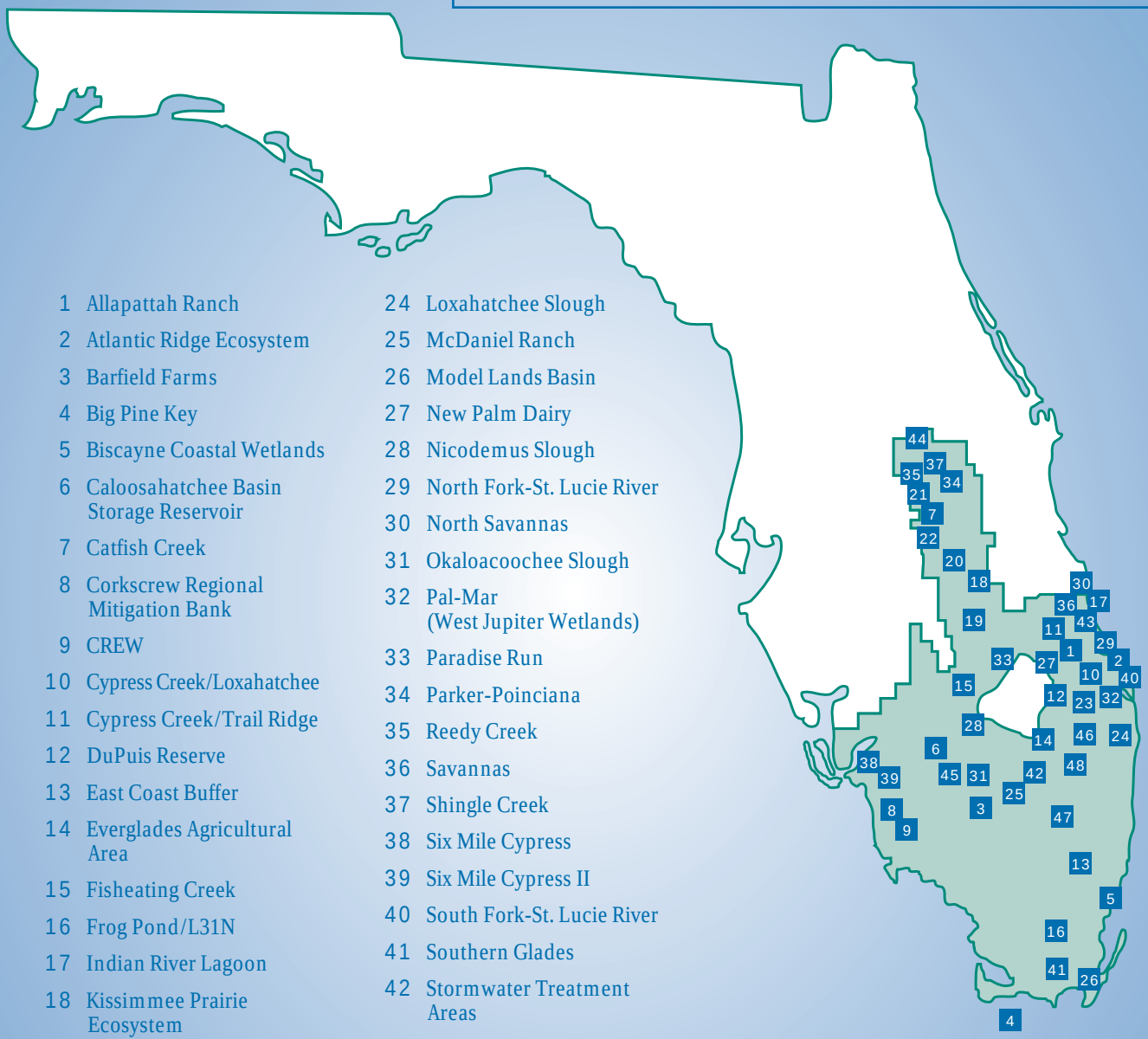
West Coast Land Management Region



Project Locations

Online Information

For more information and Save Our Rivers general maps, please visit the South Florida Water Management District's Land Stewardship web site at: http://www.sfwmd.gov, select ***Major Projects***, select ***Save Our Rivers***, then ***Save Our Rivers Maps*** (http://www.sfwmd.gov/org/clm/lsd/lsd.html)



1 Allapattah Ranch
2 Atlantic Ridge Ecosystem
3 Barfield Farms
4 Big Pine Key
5 Biscayne Coastal Wetlands
6 Caloosahatchee Basin Storage Reservoir
7 Catfish Creek
8 Corkscrew Regional Mitigation Bank
9 CREW
10 Cypress Creek/Loxahatchee
11 Cypress Creek/Trail Ridge
12 DuPuis Reserve
13 East Coast Buffer
14 Everglades Agricultural Area
15 Fisheating Creek
16 Frog Pond/L31N
17 Indian River Lagoon
18 Kissimmee Prairie Ecosystem
19 Kissimmee River (Lower Basin)
20 Kissimmee River (Kissimmee Chain of Lakes)
21 Lake Marion Creek
22 Lake Walk-in-Water
23 Loxahatchee River
24 Loxahatchee Slough
25 McDaniel Ranch
26 Model Lands Basin
27 New Palm Dairy
28 Nicodemus Slough
29 North Fork-St. Lucie River
30 North Savannas
31 Okaloacoochee Slough
32 Pal-Mar (West Jupiter Wetlands)
33 Paradise Run
34 Parker-Poinciana
35 Reedy Creek
36 Savannas
37 Shingle Creek
38 Six Mile Cypress
39 Six Mile Cypress II
40 South Fork-St. Lucie River
41 Southern Glades
42 Stormwater Treatment Areas
43 Ten Mile Creek
44 Tibet-Butler Preserve
45 Twelve Mile Slough
46 Unit 11
47 Water Conservation Areas
48 Wellington/Acme Marsh

Projects

1 Allapattah Ranch

Allapattah Ranch is dominated by poorly drained flatwoods soils, which are saturated for much of the wet season. Historically, this area was a flatwoods matrix, interspersed with depression marshes and wet prairies. Over the past 30 years the project area has undergone a change in land use from native range grazing to improved pasture, sod farms, and row crops. Most of the shrub understory has been cleared and planted in non-native pasture grasses. The pine flatwoods that remain are open and sparse. Most of the depression marshes remain; however, many of the wet prairies have been drained and the depression marshes have been significantly impacted by drainage. If acquired, approximately 8,000 acres of the most impacted area along the St. Lucie Canal will be converted to a flood attenuation reservoir to reduce freshwater discharges to the St. Lucie Estuary and Indian River Lagoon.

❖ 22,560 ✧ 0 ★ 22,560

2 Atlantic Ridge Ecosystem

Atlantic Ridge Ecosystem is located in southern Martin County, between US 1 and Interstate 95. Community types include scrub, pine flatwoods, and forested sloughs. In 1999 the first acquisitions were made as a joint SOR/CARL project. The purchase areas included high quality wetlands, pine flatwoods, and sand pine scrub. The Atlantic Ridge project contains some of the most significant natural areas in all of Martin County. In 1999 the District governing board approved the addition of 633 acres to the project, including the lands that lie between the South Fork SOR project and I-95. DEP Division of Recreation and Parks will manage the property. It is not yet open for public use.

❖ 13,122 ✧ 3,451 ★ 9671

3 Barfield Farms

Barfield Farms is located in extreme southwestern Hendry County, along the edge of Okaloacoochee Slough, and immediately north of the Big Cypress National Preserve. The owner proposes two sections, approximately 1367 acres, for sale as a conservation easement. The property consists of cypress-dominated strand swamp, deep spikerush/pickerelweed marshes, and maple/cabbage palm hydric hammocks. The owner reports that panthers frequently use the property, and FWC has designated it Priority 1 panther habitat.

❖ 1,367 ✧ 0 ★ 1,367

4 Big Pine Key

The Big Pine Key project is designed to complement the existing Key Deer National Wildlife Refuge. The State of Florida is in the process of buying the District's ownership in the project. It is now and will continue to be managed by US Fish and Wildlife Service as part of the Key Deer Refuge.

❖ 189 ✧ 189 ★ 0

❖ = PROJECT SIZE ✧ = ACREAGE ACQUIRED
★ = REMAINING LAND ✪ = ACREAGE ACQUIRED BY OTHERS

5 Biscayne Coastal Wetlands

The Biscayne Coastal Wetlands are divided into three units that total 2241 acres. The units lie east of L-31E canal, and adjacent to other protected lands acquired as part of Biscayne National Park and Homestead Bayfront Park. All are a mixture of red, black, and white mangroves. The three units appeared to be in good condition and relatively exotic-free, except along the western edge and along mosquito ditches, where there are Brazilian Pepper and Australian Pine. Acquisition of these areas would add another layer of protection to Biscayne National Park and provide opportunities for a better distribution of freshwater from L-31E.

❖ 2,241 ✧ 0 ★ 2,241

6 Caloosahatchee Basin Storage Reservoir (Berry Groves)

The project is an existing citrus grove in Hendry County, along the south bank of the Caloosahatchee River (C-43 canal). The Restudy identifies the need for 20,000-acres water storage reservoirs in the Caloosahatchee basin. Berry Groves is ideally located downstream of 81% of the total basin runoff. The grove is adjacent to the Caloosahatchee River and the Townsend and Roberts Canals, which could direct water into the reservoir, and the northern portions of the canals, could be used to direct water back to the Caloosahatchee River.

❖ 8,700 ✧ 0 ★ 8,700

7 Catfish Creek

Catfish Creek is located in Polk County and connects with a 6,400 acre CARL project (same name). More than 4,000 acres of the CARL project have been purchased. Current land use is native range grazing, with some areas of improved pasture. This tract contains a diversity of community types, including scrub, seepage slopes, several types of wetlands, and pine flatwoods.

❖ 4,000 ✧ 0 ★ 4,000

Biscayne Coastal Wetlands

8 Corkscrew Regional Mitigation Bank

The Corkscrew Regional Mitigation bank is located in southern Lee County, along Corkscrew Road (SR 850). It is adjacent to Lee County's Stairstep Mitigation Area, which has been established to offset impacts associated with the Southwest Florida Regional Airport. The District is in a public/private contract to develop the site as a mitigation bank. The contract provides for the restoration and perpetual management of the site.

✦ 633 ✧ 633 ★ 0

9 CREW

Corkscrew Regional Ecosystem Watershed is located in Lee and Collier counties. The CREW lands surround the National Audubon Society's Corkscrew Swamp Sanctuary, which is not included in the project boundary. The CREW lands include a variety of community types, including extensive cypress-dominated dome and basin swamps in Lee County, and second growth cypress/red maple swamps and large basin marshes in Collier County. CREW is jointly managed by the District and the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission. The property is open for public use, but access is limited. The District Public Use Guide contains more specific information about public use on each management area. Copies are available at District offices and on the District web site: www.sfwmd.gov.

✦ 58,528 ✧ 24,175 ★ 34,353

10 Cypress Creek/Loxahatchee

The project is located in southern Martin and northern Palm Beach Counties, near lands recently acquired in Pal-Mar, and adjacent to Jonathan Dickinson State Park. It is a mixture of land uses and community types. Nearly 3,000 acres are mostly undisturbed natural area, containing a mixture of pine flatwoods, cypress swamps, depression marshes, and wet prairies. This area forms the headwaters of Cypress Creek, which drains to the Northwest Fork of the Loxahatchee River. The remainder of the site is cleared and drained for intense agriculture, including row crops and citrus. The Palm Beach County portion has been approved for acquisition under the county's Environmentally Sensitive Lands program, and the county would be 50% acquisition partner of that portion.

✦ 4,184 ✧ 0 ★ 4,184

11 Cypress Creek/Trail Ridge

Cypress Creek/Trail Ridge is in southwestern St. Lucie County. It is divided into three major tracts that lie north and south of State Road 70. Two tracts (Cypress Creek portion) are contiguous and the third (Trail Ridge) is not. The project gets its name from a large forested wetland system that once extended along the entire eastern edge of the Orlando Ridge south of Indian River County, through Allapattah Flats, and drained into the South Fork St. Lucie River. The Cypress Creek portion is also a CARL project. In 1998 St. Lucie County acquired 3,285 acres through their environmentally sensitive lands program. That portion is managed by the county and is open to nature-based outdoor recreation. For more information, contact St. Lucie Co. Leisure Services 561-462-1513.

✦ 13,788 ✧ 0 ★ 10,503

12 DuPuis Reserve

The DuPuis Reserve encompasses 21,875 acres in northwestern Palm Beach and southwestern Martin Counties. The property is interspersed with numerous ponds, wet prairies, cypress domes, pine flatwoods, and remnant Everglades marsh. DuPuis is actively managed by the District and the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission. Numerous public use opportunities are available, including hiking, horseback riding, hunting, fishing, and bicycling. The District Public Use Guide contains more specific information about public use on each management area. Copies are available at District offices and on the District web site at www.sfwmd.gov.

✦ 21,875 ✧ 21,875 ★ 0

13 East Coast Buffer

The East Coast Buffer is located east of the water conservation areas in Palm Beach, Broward, and Miami-Dade counties. In 1999, the District Governing Board amended the project boundary around the 8.5 Square Mile Area portion of the project. The Phase II portion of the 8.5 Square Mile Area - 4,714 acres - was deleted. Land uses and community types vary widely, and include disturbed Everglades sawgrass marshes invaded with exotic vegetation, pasture land, and active agricultural fields. The conceptual plan is to construct a series of impoundments that will include shallow marshes and deepwater storage reservoirs that will be utilized to capture and biologically treat stormwater runoff from urban areas to the east and release it back into the water conservation areas. Interim land management continues the historic agricultural land use on many parcels and provides site security, prevents the spread of exotic vegetation, and keeps the property on local tax rolls. Limited public use is available only within the Everglades Buffer Strip portion of the property in Broward County.

✦ 66,809 ✧ 16,416 ✪ 50,393

14 Everglades Agricultural Area

The EAA Lands consist of the real estate holdings of the Talisman Sugar Corporation Inc. The property was purchased in 1999 with assistance from the federal government and the State of Florida. The Talisman holdings are located south of Lake Okeechobee in Palm Beach County. These lands will be used to create surface water impoundments that will store runoff from the Everglades Agricultural Area to be re-used for agricultural irrigation and they will retain water previously lost to tide and reduce impacts to coastal estuaries.

✦ 51,210 ✧ 51,210 ★ 0

15 Fisheating Creek

Fisheating Creek is a riverine swamp system flowing through Glades County. The creek and its headwaters form an extensive

Kissimmee River Restoration

watershed covering hundreds of square miles. The project includes the floodplain swamp as well as extensive upland areas. A contract is pending between the owners and the state CARL program for purchase of fee title in the floodplain corridor and fringe uplands, and a conservation easement over an extensive upland area.

✦ 43,872 ✧ 0 ★ 43,872

16 Frog Pond/L31N

The Frog Pond and L-31N Transition Lands cover approximately 10,450 acres and are located in south Dade County. The project includes 5,200 acres of agricultural lands known as the Frog Pond, which lie immediately north of the C-111 SOR project. It also contains 5,250 acres of "transitional lands," located east of C-111 and L-31N, north of the Frog Pond, and south of the 8.5 Square Mile Area.

✦ 10,450 ✧ 9,146 ★ 1,304

17 Indian River Lagoon

The Indian River Lagoon project consists of two tracts on Hutchinson Island in St. Lucie County that include mosquito impoundments located between State Road A1A and the Indian River. In 1999 nearly 400 acres were purchased a funding partnership that included St. Lucie County, US Fish and Wildlife Service, CARL, and the District. The project lands represent the only undeveloped parcels along the Indian River in St. Lucie County not in public ownership or for which no attempts for acquisition have been made. Public ownership allows the county mosquito-control program to manage the impoundments under best management practices prescribed in the Indian River Lagoon SWIM Plan. BMPs include installation of operable water-control structures that allow flushing of the mosquito impoundments during most of the year (eight months), which have dramatically improved water quality, seagrass beds, and fish populations in the impoundments and surrounding lagoon waters. The purchase area is actively managed by St. Lucie Co. Mosquito Control and is heavily used by the public for fishing, crabbing, and bird watching. For more information contact St. Lucie county Mosquito Control at 561-462-1692.

✦ 1,550 ✧ 397 ★ 1,153

18 Kissimmee Prairie Ecosystem

The Kissimmee Prairie Ecosystem is in Okeechobee County, east of the C-38 canal. In 1998 the District and CARL purchased the entire tract. Approximately 7,000 acres of the purchase lie within the boundary of the Kissimmee River Restoration Project. The remaining 39,000 acres form one of the most unique land mosaics in the state. The dominant community type is dry prairie and, according to the Florida Natural Areas Inventory, is endangered at the state and global levels. Because of the conversion of similar lands to citrus and improved pasture, this tract is likely the largest and best example of its type remaining in the world. DEP Division of Recreation and Parks as the Kissimmee Prairie State Preserve actively manages this project. For more information call the Preserve at 941-642-5360.

✦ 45,631 ✧ 38,284 ★ 0 ✪ 7,347

Kissimmee River Introduction

The Kissimmee River Save Our Rivers Project includes lands in the Kissimmee Chain of Lakes and lands along the Kissimmee River. The SOR project contains the Kissimmee River restoration project, which encompasses land in the upper and lower basins and covers an estimated 88,000 acres. The District's objective is to acquire lands necessary to accomplish this restoration. First phase of the river restoration project began in 1999 with portions of C-38 canal being filled. Extensive areas within the Chain of Lakes and Kissimmee River are open for public use. The District Public Use Guide contains more specific information about public use on each management area. Copies are available at District offices and on the District web site: www.sfwmd.gov.

19 Kissimmee River (Lower Basin)

The Lower Basin project includes those lands in the historic river floodplain and along the C-38 canal in Pools B, C, and D that are required for the Kissimmee River Restoration Project. It also includes lands outside the boundaries of the restoration project in Pools A and E. A few isolated tracts are closed to public use due to cattle leases; however, most of the lands are open to a wide variety of public uses, including hiking, hunting, and fishing.

✦ 62,628 ✧ 54,724 ✪ 7,904

20 Kissimmee River (Kissimmee Chain of Lakes)

The District is buying lands along the shoreline of the Kissimmee Chain of Lakes in order to raise the regulation water schedule in the lakes. Raising the lake schedules will allow the District to store more water in the lakes making it available for release to the Kissimmee River. The additional water is necessary in order to provide a year round flow when the river is restored.

✦ 33,919 ✧ 27,256 ★ 4963 ✪ 1,700

✦ = PROJECT SIZE ✧ = ACREAGE ACQUIRED
★ = REMAINING LAND ✪ = ACREAGE ACQUIRED BY OTHERS

21 Lake Marion Creek

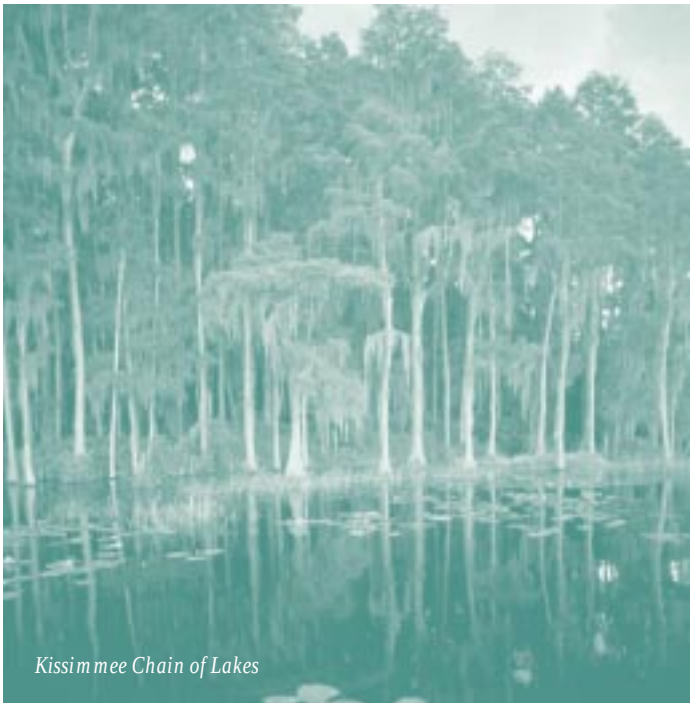
Lake Marion Creek is in Polk County and flows from Lake Marion to Lake Hatchineha. Approximately 3,800 acres of the project are within the Southwest Florida Water Management District. Lake Marion Creek includes the 1,324-acre Horse Creek Scrub, designated for acquisition under the CARL program, and the Snell Creek Drainage Basin. Lands in this project have been acquired with assistance from Polk Co., Southwest Florida Water Management District, and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Contained within the project are sand hills, pine flatwoods, and riverine swamp forests. The property is actively managed by the District and is available for public uses that include hiking, wilderness camping, and bicycling. The District Public Use Guide contains more specific information about public use on each management area. Copies are available at District offices and on the District web site: www.sfwmd.gov.

❖ 17,300 ✧ 6,736 ★ 10, 289 ✪ 275

22 Lake Walk-in-Water

The Lake Walk-in-Water project covers land between the northeast shore of Lake Weohyakapka (Walk-in-Water) and SR 60. The retirement communities of Nalcrest and Fedhaven border the property to the west and the community of Indian Lake Estates lies to the south. The project has extensive frontage along SR 60 and Lake Walk-in-Water and contains a large expanse of dry prairie, interspersed with small, isolated depression marshes, a very large basin marsh along the highway, and large pine stands that have grown back since being logged in the 1920s. In 1999 the District and Polk County partnered to make the initial 4,000-acre purchase. The project is historically significant to Polk County since it contains the remains of the 1920s "timber town" of Sumica. Polk County is actively managing the property with financial assistance from the District. The property is open to limited public use. For more information contact the Polk County Environmental Lands Program at 863-534-7377.

❖ 4,652 ✧ 4,009 ✪ 643



Kissimmee Chain of Lakes

23 Loxahatchee River

This project is in Palm Beach and Martin Counties, and is adjacent to Jonathan Dickinson State Park and Palm Beach County's Riverbend Park. The property includes the floodplain of the Northwest Fork of the Loxahatchee River; Florida's first federally designated Wild and Scenic River. The District and DEP are working to implement the Loxahatchee River Wild and Scenic River Management Plan, which was prepared in 1985 (revised 1997) as a requirement for inclusion of this portion of the river in the National Wild and Scenic River System. DEP Division of Recreation and Parks manages lands north of Indiantown Road (State Road 706) as part of Jonathan Dickinson State Park. Lands south of the highway are managed by Palm Beach County Parks and Recreation Department, and are being incorporated into the plan for Riverbend Park. For public use information on lands north of SR 706 please contact Jonathan Dickinson State Park at 561-546-2771. The area south of SR 706 is not yet open to the public.

❖ 1,936 ✧ 1,926 ★ 10

24 Loxahatchee Slough

Loxahatchee Slough is in Palm Beach County and covers more than 15,000 acres. It contains a mixture of habitats, including pine flatwoods, cypress forest, and wet prairie. Palm Beach County has acquired more than 13,000 acres through their Environmentally Sensitive Lands program. In 1999 the District purchased 1,425 acres that lie adjacent to the county purchases, an area known as the Sandhill Crane tract. Agricultural ditches have impacted the site over the years, and it is now overdrained and infested with exotic vegetation. The District is pursuing an agreement with the county whereby the county will be the lead manager and the District will plan and retain responsibility for hydrologic restoration. The property is not yet open for public use.

❖ 15,200 ✧ 1,425 ★ 673 ✪ 13,102

25 McDaniel Ranch

McDaniel Ranch covers nearly 23,000 acres in southeastern Hendry County. However, the area under consideration as an SOR project is 5,000-6,000 acres. The property owners have approached the District about selling a conservation easement in conjunction with an application for a surface water management permit. As proposed, the conservation easement would include only those lands not required for the surface water management system. The easement would grant the McDaniel family the following rights: timber management, cattle grazing, lease hunting, and eco-tourism.

❖ 7,000 ✧ 0 ★ 7,000

26 Model Lands Basin

This project is located in Miami-Dade County and encompasses the lands between US 1 and Biscayne National Park. The project area includes a variety of habitats, both freshwater and estuarine. In 1999 the governing board approved the addition of 3,210 acres to the project. The addition lands were identified in the Restudy as necessary for treatment of stormwater from the north and L-31E canal prior to releasing it to tide or into other project lands to the south. The northern portions of the project and the areas near canals, roads, and other areas of disturbance are heavily infested with Australian Pine and Brazilian Pepper. The majority

of the tract is undisturbed fresh and saltwater wetlands. These lands form a contiguous habitat corridor with Everglades National Park, Southern Glades SOR project, Biscayne National Park, Crocodile Lakes National Wildlife Refuge, and John Pennekamp State Park. The property is not yet open to public use.

✦ 42,138 ✧ 4,364 ★ 32,774 ✪ 5,000

27 New Palm Dairy

New Palm Dairy is located along Nubbin Slough in Okeechobee County and covers 1900 acres. It has been identified in numerous water quality studies regarding phosphorus loading to Lake Okeechobee, as well as the Lake Okeechobee SWIM Plan. Nubbin Slough has long been noted as having the poorest quality water of all the lake's watersheds. Nubbin Slough contributes 29% of the lake's phosphorus loading yet only 4% of its total inflow. This is still an active dairy which lies less than two miles north of the lake. It has numerous small ditches that drain to Nubbin Slough. Acquisition would allow immediately blocking of the ditches and removal of waste from the sludge pits and lagoons

✦ 1,900 ✧ 0 ★ 1,900

28 Nicodemus Slough

Nicodemus Slough consists of wet prairie, broadleaf marsh, and prairie hammock south of the Herbert Hoover Dike (LD-3) and west of State Road 78. Until recently, the construction of the Herbert Hoover Dike, coupled with the maintenance of lower stages in Lake Okeechobee, resulted in a shortened hydroperiod and general lowering of water levels in Nicodemus Slough. This in turn altered vegetative patterns on the property and allowed the spread of transitional and upland species. Nicodemus Slough is being managed under contract by a private firm, and is open for public use. The District Public Use Guide contains specific information about public use on each management area. Copies are available at District offices and on the District web site: www.sfwmd.gov.

✦ 2,219 ✧ 2,219 ★ 0

29 North Fork of the St. Lucie River

The stretch of North Fork of the St. Lucie River under consideration is approximately six miles long and extends from the White City Bridge to the C-24 canal. More than 80% of the project covers wetlands with the river floodplain, with the remainder in high quality uplands, such as pine flatwoods, hammock and scrub. Some areas are heavily infested with exotic vegetation. St. Lucie County is constructing an environmental education facility and is also an acquisition partner. The property is being managed by DEP in conjunction with the North Fork Aquatic Preserve. Limited public use is available at this time. For more information regarding public use contact DEP at 561-398-2806.

✦ 3,800 ✧ 378 ★ 3,422

30 North Savannas

The site contains a 930-acre remnant of the historic savannas community type in St. Lucie County. It is completely separated from the Savannas State Preserve by the City of Ft. Pierce. St. Lucie County owns two adjacent tracts, totaling 353 acres, which were purchased as mitigation for expansion of the St. Lucie County Airport.

Monitoring Controlled Burn

✦ 930 ✧ 0 ★ 930

31 Okaloacoochee Slough

In 1996, the District purchased 21,000 contiguous acres in the project. In 1999 the District acted as the purchasing agent for CARL, FWC, and the Division of Forestry and acquired nearly 13,000 additional acres. The 1999 purchase greatly increases the amount of uplands and improves public access. The project contains large areas of sawgrass marsh fringed with hydric hammock and pine flatwoods. Okaloacoochee Slough is under joint management by the Division of Forestry and the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission and is open for public use. For more information contact the Division of Forestry at 941-694-2181.

✦ 37,210 ✧ 34,429 ★ 2,781

32 Pal-Mar (West Jupiter Wetlands)

In 1999 the District, CARL, and Palm Beach County purchased more than 15,000 acres in the project, bringing public ownership in the project to more than 18,000 acres. Pal-Mar contains the largest contiguous complex of high quality depression marshes and wet flatwoods in Martin and Palm Beach counties. Pal-Mar forms a key link in a 125,000-acre greenbelt that would extend from DuPuis Reserve, across the Corbett Wildlife Management Area, and connect with Jonathan Dickinson State Park. The Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission is identified as the lead manager under the CARL plan. FWC will manage that portion of the project in Martin County and Palm Beach County Department of Environmental Resources Management will manage the 6,900 acres in Palm Beach County. The District's Pal-Mar Management Area off Indiantown Road is open for public use. The District Public Use Guide contains more specific information about public use on each management area. Copies are available at District offices and on the District web site: www.sfwmd.gov.

✦ 36,745 ✧ 10,294 ★ 19,507 ✪ 6,944

✦ = PROJECT SIZE ✧ = ACREAGE ACQUIRED
★ = REMAINING LAND ✪ = ACREAGE ACQUIRED BY OTHERS

33 Paradise Run

The project lies west of Canal-38, between Structure-65 E and Lake Okeechobee. Unlike the other pools of the Kissimmee River, Level II Backfilling will not reflood Paradise Run, since it is controlled by the stage in Lake Okeechobee. Remnant river oxbows are still present, although the surrounding land has been drained and is now improved pasture.

✦ 4,265 ✧ 1,673 ✪ 2,592

34 Parker-Poinciana

Parker-Poinciana is located in Osceola and Polk counties, and is located between the Disney Wilderness Preserve and District-owned lands already acquired as part of the Kissimmee Chain of Lakes SOR project along the north shore of Lake Hatchineha. It contains a variety of community types, including mesic flatwoods, a large cypress/bay head, logged-over flatwoods, and hydric hammock along the Lake Hatchineha shoreline.

✦ 1,970 ✧ 0 ★ 1,970

35 Reedy Creek

The Reedy Creek project is an extensive area of mixed hardwood/cypress swamp forest running for nearly 25 miles through western Osceola County, from the boundary of the Reedy Creek Improvement District to Cypress Lake. In most areas Reedy Creek Swamp has a floodplain that is several miles wide. Reedy Creek is the headwaters to the entire Kissimmee-Lake Okeechobee-Everglades Ecosystem, and it performs important water resource functions. Peak discharges from major storm events are modified and stored within the swamps to provide year-round base for downstream lakes and the Kissimmee River. There are numerous recreational opportunities on District-owned lands in Reedy Creek. The District Public Use Guide contains more specific information about public use on each management area. Copies are available at District offices and on the District web site: www.sfwmd.gov.

✦ 30,000 ✧ 5,838 ✪ 24,162

36 Savannas

The Savannas forms a chain of marshes and lakes that separate the inland pine flatwoods from the coastal scrub on the Atlantic Ridge in St. Lucie and Martin counties. The State has acquired most of the lands within the project through the CARL program. The District's ownership is restricted to a single 77-acre tract in Martin County. The State is in the process of buying the District's ownership in the project. It is now and will continue to be managed by the Department of Environmental Protection as the Savannas State Preserve. The property is open for public use. Please contact the Department of Environmental Protection, Savannas State Preserve, at 561-340-7530.

✦ 5,900 ✧ 77 ★ 0 ✪ 4,968

37 Shingle Creek

Shingle Creek Swamp is located in southern Orange and northern Osceola counties. It is a major receiving body for storm water runoff from areas south and southwest of Orlando. The Orange County portion of the swamp is more than 1.5 miles wide, and is dominated by Cypress, Loblolly Bay, and Red Maple. Water depths of 24" are common during much of the year. The swamp is bisected in the north-south and east-west directions by an Orlando Utility Authority transmission line and access road. Shingle Creek itself was channelized in the 1920's and it borders the eastern edge of the swamp. Most of the floodplain in Osceola County is intact, but adjacent uplands, which historically were wiregrass/longleaf pine-dominated systems, have been cleared and planted as improved pasture. As mitigation for the Orlando Beltway Southern Connector, a hydrologic restoration plan was implemented in 1995 which equalizes water levels and sheetflow across the Orange County portion of Shingle Creek Swamp. These lands are not open to public use at this time due to a lack of legal access.

✦ 7,655 ✧1,132 ★ 6,523

38 Six Mile Cypress

Six Mile Cypress Slough is located in Lee County southeast of the City of Ft. Myers. It extends from State Road 82 southwesterly for approximately nine miles to Ten Mile Canal. The slough averages 1,500 feet in width, and consists of cypress swamp, interspersed with numerous open ponds. It is fringed with pine flatwoods, transitional hardwoods, wet prairies, and stands of Melaleuca. The project is managed by Lee County Division of

Parks and Recreation and is open for public use. For additional information, please contact Lee County at 941-338-3300.
✦ 1,741 ✧ 839 ★ 902

39 Six Mile Cypress II

Six Mile Cypress II is a transitional arm of the main slough. It extends to the east for approximately two miles and varies in width from 400' - 1000'. The arm collects runoff from the north and areas east of I-75. Box culverts under the interstate direct runoff through the arm and into the main strand of Six Mile Cypress. The slough consists of cypress swamp, interspersed with numerous open ponds. It is fringed with pine flatwoods, transitional hardwoods, and wet prairies, many of which are infested with Melaleuca.
✦ 225 ✧ 0 ★ 225

40 South Fork of the St. Lucie River

The project extends along both sides of the river for approximately 1.25 miles. The South Fork is one of south Florida's few remaining freeflowing blackwater streams. It is characterized by numerous curves with an overhanging canopy of cabbage palms, oaks, and maples. District-owned property along the west bank of the river includes scrub, pine flatwoods, floodplain hammock, and a hiking trail that runs through each of the community types. Lands along the east bank consist of floodplain swamp and mesic flatwoods. A District/CARL purchase in late 1999 in the Atlantic Ridge Ecosystem project includes lands adjacent to the South Fork project on both sides of the river. The South Fork property is open for public use, but is only accessible by canoe at this time. The District Public Use Guide contains more specific information about public use on each management area. Copies are available at District offices and on the District web site: www.sfwmd.gov.
✦ 184 ✧ 184 ★ 0

41 Southern Glades

The lands in this project are adjacent to the C-111 canal, between Everglades National Park and west of U.S. 1. The project will benefit the flow of water into Everglades National Park and Northeast Florida Bay. The project is dominated by Everglades sawgrass marsh and tropical hardwood hammock. Southern Glades is managed by the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission and is open for public use. Please see the District Public Use Guide for more specific information about public use on each management area, or contact the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission at 954-746-1789. Copies of the District Public Use Guide are available at District offices and on the District web site: www.sfwmd.gov.
✦ 37,620 ✧ 32,583 ★ 5,037

42 Stormwater Treatment Areas

The Stormwater Treatment Areas (STAs) are filter marshes that will naturally remove nutrients from stormwater runoff flowing from the Everglades Agricultural Area before the water enters the Everglades Protection Area. The 1994 Everglades Forever Act mandated construction of the STAs. The large manmade marshes are key to improving the water quality in the Everglades.

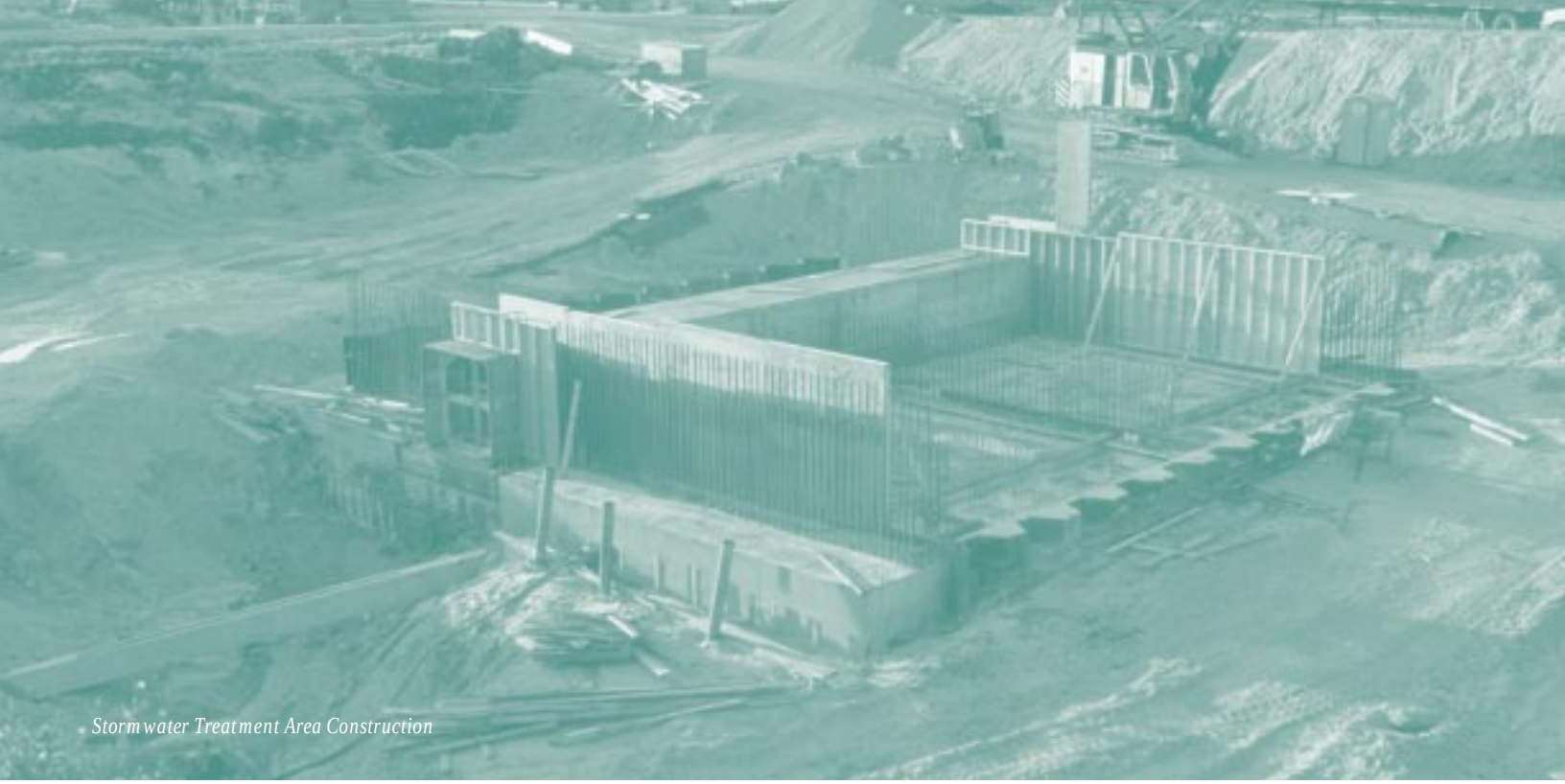

St. Lucie River

Some of this property is open for public use. The District Public Use Guide contains more specific information about public use on each management area. Copies are available at District offices and on the District web site: www.sfwmd.gov.
✦ 47,630 ✧ 45,519 ★ 2,111

43 Ten Mile Creek

Ten Mile Creek is located in St. Lucie County, just south of the creek and west of Florida's Turnpike. Ten Mile Creek is a major tributary to the North Fork of the St. Lucie River, and it contributes nearly 25 percent of the river's flow. The site presently consists of an old citrus grove and some creek floodplain. This project has been identified in the Restudy for construction of a stormwater attenuation reservoir to restore more natural hydroperiods to the St. Lucie Estuary and Indian River Lagoon. Ten Mile Creek is a water resource project and is not open to public use.
✦ 1,266 ✧ 728 ★ 538

✦ = PROJECT SIZE ✧ = ACREAGE ACQUIRED
★ = REMAINING LAND ✪ = ACREAGE ACQUIRED BY OTHERS



Stormwater Treatment Area Construction

44 Tibet-Butler Preserve

The Preserve covers 439 acres along the southwest shore of Lake Tibet-Butler in Orange County. The vegetative communities include bay swamp, pine flatwoods, cypress swamp, and smaller areas of xeric oak and freshwater marsh. The Tibet-Butler Preserve site includes approximately 4,000 feet of shoreline on Lake Tibet. Orange County Parks and Recreation Department manage Tibet Butler Preserve as an environmental education facility. The property is open for public use. For more information contact Orange County at 407-876-6696, or see the District Public Use Guide which contains more specific information about public use on each management area. Copies are available at District offices and on the District web site: www.sfwmd.gov.

✦ 439 ✧ 439 ★ 0

45 Twelve Mile Slough

The property known as Twelve Mile Slough is located in Hendry County and is tributary to the much larger and regionally significant Okaloacoochee Slough. It covers 3,300 acres and contains a mosaic of uplands and wetlands, as well as improved pasture areas that are reverting to native range.

✦ 3,300 ✧ 0 ★ 3,300

46 Unit 11

Unit 11 is located in Palm Beach County, along SR 710, adjacent to the Corbett Wildlife Management Area and lands previously acquired by Palm Beach County through their Environmentally Sensitive Lands program. Unit 11 was originally platted for development as part of Royal Palm Beach Colony in the late 1960s. It is divided into approximately 700 lots, with a network of unpaved roads and drainage ditches that discharge into the west leg of C-18 canal. Palm Beach County has acquired 670 acres in the northern 1/3 of the project as part of their Beeline Corridor Natural Area, and is requesting District assistance for the purchase of the remaining 1,100 acres. The site still has numerous depression marshes, wet prairies, and pine flatwoods. Not having to provide drainage capacity in C-18 canal for Unit 11 will have important hydrologic benefits for the Loxahatchee River. County-owned property is not open to public use.

✦ 1,700 ✧ 0 ★ 1,700

47 Water Conservation Areas

The three water conservation areas are part of the original Central and Southern Florida Flood Control Project. The large areas of remnant Everglades surrounded by levees and canals were created to provide water supply and flood control to south Florida. The SOR project is designed to complete the public acquisition of outstanding land interests to protect this area's role in long-term water-resource management. The US fish and Wildlife Service manages conservation Area 1. The Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission manages WCAs 2 and 3. All areas are open for public use. Please contact the US Fish and Wildlife Service at 561-743-8303, or the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission at 561-625-5122.

✦ 103,635 ✧ 51,421 ★ 52,214

48 Wellington/Acme Marsh

This project consists of two tracts, totaling approximately 1,050 acres in Palm Beach County, near STA 1E. The 410-acre tract adjacent to STA 1E is planted in sugar cane. The Restudy identifies 930 acres needed in Acme Improvement District Basin B to treat and store 3,800 acre-feet of runoff prior to discharge to the Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge. The Restudy proposes two reservoirs, one fluctuating up to four feet in depth, the other to eight feet deep.

✦ 1,050 ✧ 0 ✦ 1,050

✦ = PROJECT SIZE ✧ = ACREAGE ACQUIRED
★ = REMAINING LAND ✪ = ACREAGE ACQUIRED BY OTHERS

SOR PROJECT PROPOSAL FORM

Online Information

For more information and Save Our Rivers general maps, please visit the South Florida Water Management District's Land Stewardship web site at: http://www.sfwmd.gov, select ***Major Projects***, select ***Save Our Rivers***, then ***Land Acquisition and Management Plan***

Please return two copies of this form with two copies of all referenced attachments to:
Director, Land Stewardship Division, South Florida Water Management District
P.O. 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.

A. General Information

1. Name and Location

Property Name (commonly known as) _____

County (or counties) _____ Within Municipal Boundaries - Yes ☐ No ☐

Please attach a location map (8.5" x 11") specifying the property location and include a north arrow (map drawn to scale if possible); also please provide with any additional property maps or aerial photography which may further clarify the suggested product.

2. Size

Estimated Number of Acres _____ Estimated Number of Parcels _____ 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 and telephone number (if available) _____

_____

5. Survey Information

Are surveys and/or legal descriptions available? Yes ☐ No ☐ 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. Buildings

Describe types and occupancy, if any: _____

_____

8. General History Influences

What are the historical and archaeological values of the property?

_____

_____

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, grazing, mowing, or other site disturbances; also 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, and agency).

_____

_____

9. Planning and Zoning

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

_____

Identify any other adopted state, regional and local plans that may affect the project; is it compatible with the State Water Use Plan?

_____

B. Evaluation Data/Information: For projects to be evaluated on natural and water resources attributes.

1. 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, or endangered or threatened species, identified by federal or state programs or unique geological features, etc.

_____

_____

2. Provide information on reports prepared by any other agencies on the physical and ecological characteristics of the property; if possible, attach a copy of the report.

_____

3. Describe the water resources of the project in terms of:

a) Flood storage management/watershed function
b) Water supply protection
c) Conservation and protection of water resources for environmental uses

4. Provide comments/information on the following additional areas:
   a) Manageability - access, exotics, infrastructure, maintenance
   b) Habitat diversity - number, extent and quality of habitat type
   c) Species diversity
   d) Connectedness - part of larger system; other existing/planned project
   e) Rarity - uniqueness of property
   f) Vulnerability - threat of development
5. Are funds available from other sources for land acquisition? Please list source and amount

_____

_____

6. Who are the proposed mangers? What will be the source and level of management funding?

_____

_____

C. Evaluation Data/Information: For projects to be evaluated on water resource benefits.

1. General Description of how proposed project land will be used to benefit water resources of the area/region.

_____

_____

2. Describe how proposed design features utilize natural functions to protect/preserve water resources, directly or indirectly.

_____

_____

3. Show net increase of natural resource benefits by any capital improvement planned for the project such as canals, levees, or water control structures.

_____

_____

4. How are any such capital improvements being limited? Show use of natural functions in place of structural solutions.

_____

_____

5. What specific studies or plans have been completed to support this project? Where these studies/plans approved? By whom? When?

_____

_____

6. What are the sources and levels of funding for this project?

Design _____

Land Acquisition _____

Construction _____

Operation _____

D. Attachments

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

Attachment A: _____

Attachment B: _____

Attachment C: _____

Attachment D: _____

Attachment E: _____

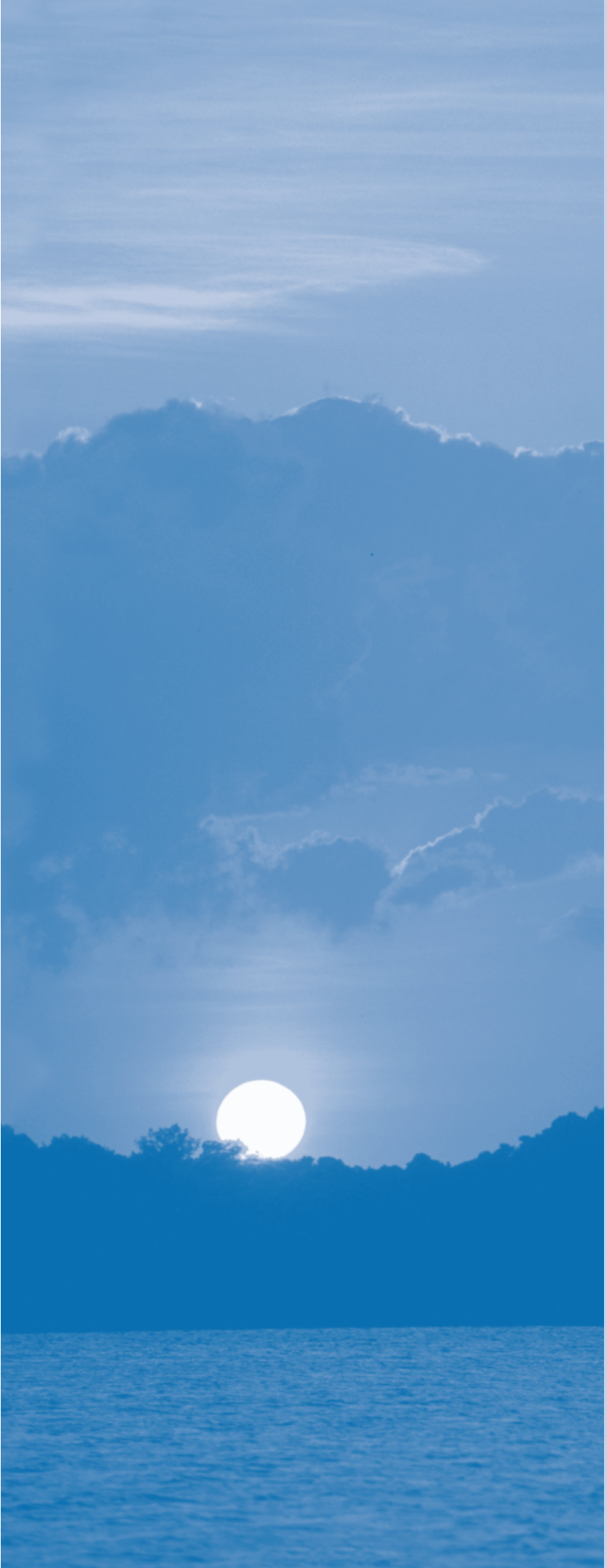
It is the policy of the Governing Board that inclusion of a property within the Land Acquisition and Management Plan pursuant to Section 373.59, F.S. does not reflect a definite intention by the South Florida Water Management District to acquire said property. Inclusion within the plan indicates that 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.

E. Form Completed by:

Name: _____ Phone: (_____) _____

Address: _____

Affiliation to owner(s):_____



SOUTH FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

3301 Gun Club Road, West Palm Beach, Florida 33406
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 24680
West Palm Beach, FL 33416-4680
(561) 686-8800 • FL WATS (800) 432-2045
www.sfwmd.gov

This publication was produced by the
SFWMD Visual Communications Division

SOUTH FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT
3301 Gun Club Road, West Palm Beach, FL 33406
P.O. Box 24680, West Palm Beach, FL 33416-4680
(561) 686-8800 FL WATS (800) 432-2045
www.sfwmd.gov