

**Summary of Decisions and Action Items**  
**South Florida Ecosystem Restoration Land Acquisition Task Team**  
**Wednesday, August 12, 2009**  
**12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.**  
**South Florida Water Management District Headquarters (SFWMD) Bldg. B-1**  
**3301 Gun Club Road**  
**West Palm Beach, FL 33406**  
**B-1 3-B Conference Room**

**Toll Free Call in number: 888-808-6959; Conference Code 0661984#**

*Meeting materials at [http://www.sfrestore.org/issuetteams/latt/documents/handouts\\_latt.html](http://www.sfrestore.org/issuetteams/latt/documents/handouts_latt.html)*

**Attendees**

John Outland, Co-Chair	FDEP	By Phone:	
Sylvia Pelizza, Co-Chair	USFWS	Gary Cochran	FWC
Theresa Woody	Task Force	Sheryl Jones	FDEP
Wanda Caffie-Simpson	SFWMD	Sally Jue	FNAI
Jude Muse	SFWMD		
Jim Muller	Muller & Associates		

**Welcome/Introductions**

Sylvia Pelizza and John Outland welcomed everyone. Introductions were made of those in the room and on the phone. The origins, purpose and uses of the *Land Acquisition Strategy* were discussed. Since the Task Force has new members, more of this history and uses will be included in the presentation of the *Strategy* to the Task Force. The Task Force will decide whether or not to continue producing the *Strategy*.

**Review Draft Maps for the Strategy**

Sally Jue led the discussion of the three maps:

**South Florida Ecosystem Restoration Land Acquisition Update Map (Graham Map)**

Sally indicated that all projects on the *Natural Habitat and Species Land Acquisition Update table* produced by Sheryl Jones/FDEP table are labeled on the map. This map includes all conservation lands acquired and state and SFWMD project boundaries.

Main changes

- Rookery Bay,
- Corbett WMA acquisition funding sources were revised,
- New Florida Forever projects not yet approved by the Cabinet were removed;
- Lykes flowage easements are not conservation easements and so will be removed from the map. Kissimmee River Pool C is related to a project, but won't be acquired in fee or restored for conservation purposes; the team decided to leave coded as a SFWMD Natural Lands Project.
- Adjustment was made to tribal lands boundaries since some land was sold to a private company. The WRP files have not yet been updated, pending information from NRCS through a FOIA request. There was no FRPP activity this past year.

**DECISION:** The Broward County WPA and C-111 spreader canal project boundaries are okay for now, according to Frank Razem/SFWMD

**DECISION:** Leave the Kissimmee River Pool C area coded as a SFWMD Natural Lands Project

**ACTION:** Sally will update WRP files to reflect the addition of more than 5000 acres this past year when she receives the files from NRCS

**ACTION:** Sally will modify the map to signify expedited projects by blue cross-hatching. The project will not be labeled unless that project is on the *Natural Habitat and Species Land Acquisition Update table*

#### SFER LAS Federal Projects and Joint Federal/State Projects Map (CERP Map)

The team reviewed the CERP Map.

**ACTION:** Remove cross-hatching from newly-added features to SGGE Plus project as the boundaries are incorrect. Frank Razem and Jude Law will send the new GIS boundaries to Sally Jue

**DECISION:** The Biscayne Bay Coastal Wetlands CERP project should be shown as a joint project.

**DECISION:** the 10,000 Islands should not be shown as a joint project because the feds are not putting any land in the project, just letting some more water go on federal lands

#### SFER LAS Land Protected through Mitigation Map (Mitigation Map)

The largest SFWMD mitigation lands have been labeled. Sally Jue would like a comprehensive mitigation lands map from SFWMD. SFWMD will provide this to Sally. No mitigation information has been received from Collier or Polk County. Theresa Woody reported that there are few new data layers from the counties for this map. She asked about Broward and Charlotte counties data.

**ACTION:** SFWMD is to provide FNAI with a comprehensive mitigation lands map

**ACTION:** Sally Jue will add Broward County mitigation lands to the map, and will follow up with Broward County to determine the mitigation categories for the additional 7200. This information is needed by August 21 to be included in the Task Force draft

#### Review Habitat & Species Lands Table (Appendix D)

**Sheryl Jones/FDEP**

The team discussed the status/overlap between the FL Forever/Board of Trustees Lake Wales Ridge project and SFWMD's Henscratch project. This has been discussed in previous years as well. The District's Henscratch project is approximately 3000 acres, which are within the boundary of the FFBOT Lake Wales Ridge project. Because of its common ownership and importance, SFWMD bought approximately 640 acres outside of SFWMD boundaries for the District's Henscratch project. The team also discussed the Lake Wales Ridge National Wildlife Refuge (NWR), most of which is outside of SFWMD, and expressed their desire to document any portion of it within the SFWMD that is being managed by FWS, even though the boundaries are included within the Lake Marion Creek project and other projects that are already represented on the *Natural Habitat* table.

**ACTION:** Increase Lake Wales Ridge project size and acres acquired by the acreage of Henscratch that SFWMD bought outside of SFWMD by the 640 acres outside of the boundaries of the District.

**ACTION:** Change footnote 3 on the *Natural Habitat* table to show that part of the Henscratch project is outside SFWMD bounds

**ACTION:** Loxahatchee NWR acreages – use numbers provided earlier by Sylvia Pelizza, which are from the approved conservation plan. Sylvia and Susan Trokey are to get more detailed numbers for next year. The total acreage for the ARM Loxahatchee NWR is 145,788 acres of which 143,238 are owned by the South Florida Management District and 2,550 acres is owned in fee title by the Refuge. The 1,693 acres identified in the 2008 report still to be acquired is correct – add this number to the project size, giving 147,481 acres as the new project size

**ACTION:** Revise Footnote 8 of the *Natural Habitat and Species Land Acquisition Update* table to specify that state-owned acres include Water Conservation Area 1 (WCA 1)

**ACTION:** Include the 147-acre portion of Lake Wales Ridge NWR within the SFWMD that is owned and managed by the FWS on the *Natural Habitat* table. Address overlaps for this project (and other overlaps already on the table) in next year's edition of the LAS. (S Jones/FDEP, S Jue/FNAI)

**ACTION:** The number of acres to be acquired in the Biscayne National Park project needs to be changed, and the total estimated federal cost is incorrect. Theresa Woody will coordinate with Brian Coleman from NPS

#### **Review Mitigation Lands Map and Table**

Jim Muller led this discussion. He reported that little new mitigation information has been received and it is believed that all major mitigation lands are documented in the *Strategy*. The major updates were inclusion of FWS Conservation Banks information, and labeling of some previously unlabeled SFWMD mitigation lands.

**ACTION:** Remove Little Pine Island mitigation bank from the mitigation map; the land was not bought by mitigation money, just restored through mitigation

#### **Review Draft Project Summary Table**

Jim Muller led this discussion. He reported that we have received all project profiles except for the projects from the USACE.

**ACTION:** After receiving project profiles from the USACE, Jim Muller will produce the draft project summary table and pie charts for the *Strategy*.

#### **Status of Land Acquisition Strategy Text and Edits**

Theresa Woody led this discussion. Team members went through the draft *Land Acquisition Strategy* and suggested edits.

**ACTION:** In Appendix D, include a statement that the labeled projects on the *South Florida Ecosystem Restoration Land Acquisition Update Map (Graham Map)* correlate with the projects listed on the *Natural Habitat* table

**ACTION:** For all appendices with maps, include an overview of what the information the map presents

**ACTION:** Theresa Woody will incorporate all edits and distribute the next draft of the *Strategy* by August 21. Jim Muller will provide his notes from the team discussion to incorporate into the August 21 draft

#### **Status of project profile sheets, county program summaries, county project tables, county maps**

Theresa Woody reported that all updated project profile sheets except those for the Army Corps projects have been received. All county program summaries, county project tables and county maps have been received.

#### **Review Benchmarks for Strategy/Revisions**

Theresa Woody reviewed the remaining benchmarks for the *Land Acquisition Strategy*. The next draft of the *Strategy* will be distributed on August 21. Comments are due August 28 and the final draft of the *Strategy* will be distributed on September 9, unless the Task Force meeting is moved from September 23 to September 30/October 1. The Task Force is expected to approve the *Strategy* at its September meeting.

**NOTE:** The Task Force meeting was subsequently moved from September 23 to September 30/October 1. Comments on the August 21 draft are due by September 9. The final draft will be submitted to the Task Force on September 16 as a read-ahead document. The Task Force is expected to approve the *Strategy* on October 1.

### **Public Comment**

Opportunity for public comment was provided during each agenda item. No further public comment was offered at this time.

### **Logistics**

John Outland stated that no additional Task Team meetings will be held this year. The next draft of the LAS will be distributed on Friday, August 21. The LAS will be presented to the Task Force at its next meeting, tentatively scheduled for September 23.

**NOTE:** The Task Force meeting was subsequently moved from September 23 to September 30/October 1. Comments on the August 21 draft are due by September 9. The final draft will be submitted to the Task Force on September 16 as a read-ahead document. The Task Force is expected to approve the *Strategy* on October 1.

### **Adjourn**

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 4:30 pm.