

Summary of Decisions and Action Items
South Florida Ecosystem Restoration Land Acquisition Task Team
Tuesday, February 2, 2010

9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

South Florida Water Management District Headquarters (SFWMD) B-1
3301 Gun Club Road
West Palm Beach, FL
B-1 2-B Bridge Conference Room

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

Meeting materials at http://www.sfrestore.org/issueteams/latt/documents/handouts_latt.html

Attendees

Sylvia Pelizza, Co-Chair	USFWS	By phone:	
Theresa Woody	Task Force	John Outland, Co-Chair	FDEP
Wanda Caffie-Simpson	SFWMD	Gary Cochran	FWC
Frank Razem	SFWMD	Marsha Bansee	Task Force
Sheryl Jones	FDEP		
Sally Jue	FNAI		
Dave Gillings	Palm Beach County		
Jim Muller	Muller & Associates		

Welcome/Introductions

Sylvia Pelizza and Theresa Woody welcomed everyone. Introductions were made of those in the room and on the phone. Theresa Woody explained that this meeting was primarily for the core Land Acquisition Task Team (LATT) members to discuss details on the Land Acquisition Strategy (LAS) data, and some discrepancies between the different data sources.

Special thanks were extended to Frank Razem for his quick action in securing a conference room with audio-visual equipment capable of projecting the GIS information.

DECISION: Make sure that all 2010 LATT meetings have the same computer/audio-visual capability.

ACTION: Theresa Woody will work with Beth McArdle to reserve meeting rooms at the SFWMD for all the 2010 LATT meetings.

Review of DSL table & spreadsheet with data discrepancies

Jim Muller began with a review of data sources used for the mapping and the Natural Habitat and Species Land Acquisition Update table (aka the DSL table). Sheryl Jones, FL Dept. of Environmental Protection (FDEP), Division of State Lands (DSL), produces the table. The team reviewed the process for updating this table:

- Sheryl uses information from the DSL land acquisition data base, the Florida Forever/Board of Trustees (FFBOT) Five-Year Plan, and GIS information provided by FNAI.
- Wanda Caffie-Simpson provides Sheryl with acres and costs related to the South FL Water Management District land acquisitions, with support provided by the District's GIS.
- Information related to local government land acquisitions is provided by the Counties (through Theresa), DEP, FNAI and SFWMD.
- FNAI obtains information on federal boundaries and holdings from the federal agencies.
- Sheryl uses the project profiles to determine project size and acreage acquired for the DSL table. Sheryl uses deed acres when calculating the acres acquired.

Cost and acreage information on the DSL table is reviewed by Marsha Bansee (Task Force) to ensure that CERP acreage and costs are not double reported in the annual Total Cost Estimate prepared for Congress and posted on the Task Force web page. She needs to know how much CERP expenditures and acreage acquired are included in the DSL table. Some of the discrepancies to be addressed today were discovered as Marsha prepared her report.

Sally Jue (FNAI) used GIS to calculate acreages using data from FNAI and SFWMD which revealed some discrepancies. Jim Muller, Muller and Associates, reviewed the FNAI analyses and highlighted additional discrepancies. Jim categorized each discrepancy as major, small or minor. A minor discrepancy was assumed to be due to differences between GIS-calculated acreage and deed acres.

One complicating factor is that a single geographic area may be included in more than one land acquisition project boundary. CERP project boundaries often overlap with SFWMD Natural Lands Project boundaries. There may also be overlap with a FFBOT project.

In the past, when a SFWMD project and FFBOT project overlapped, Sheryl selected the larger project to use in reporting project size on her table. Some team members had thought that the project size was based on the composite boundary of the projects, since the composite boundary is usually larger than any one project.

DECISION: "Project Size" on the DSL table will be based on the total acreage of overlapping projects, with no double-counting of acres. The overlapping projects will be reported under one project name. For example, if a 200-acre project has a 50-acre overlap with a 300-acre project, the project will be represented with a single project name with a size of 450 acres (200 acres + 300 acres - 50 acre overlap = 450 acres).

DECISION: Resolve all significant discrepancies related to the DSL table by the end of July so that the information will be available for the Land Acquisition Strategy and the report that Marsha prepares.

DECISION: On the DSL table, change "State/SFWMD completed projects" to State/SFWMD completed projects >90% completed". This name-change is being done to accommodate FFBOT projects greater than 90% completed that are no longer on the FFBOT list but may still have additional acres acquired.

The team began to review several spreadsheets highlighting the data differences. The primary focus of this review was the January 28 FNAL spreadsheet "*Overlap Analysis of Selected Florida Forever BOT Projects and SFWMD Natural Lands Projects with CERP Project Footprints.*" All spreadsheets are posted on the team's web site. Below are the results of that project-by-project review.

Allapattah Flats SFWMD Natural Lands Project

Overlapping CERP Projects: *IRL-Allapattah Complex Natural Storage & Water Quality Area and IRL- C-44 West STA*

DECISION: The data differences are very minor between the GIS data and the acres on the DSL table. Project Size will remain 40,363 acres.

Atlantic Ridge Ecosystem SFWMD Natural Lands Project

Overlapping CERP Project: *IRL – Southfork Natural Storage & Water Quality Area*

The current Atlantic Ridge Ecosystem project on the DSL table currently includes the South Fork of the St. Lucie River project, which is completed. The South Fork acreage accounts for the difference between the DSL table acres-acquired and the GIS acres-acquired. The inclusion of Halpatiokee Park in the project boundaries and its effect on reported project acreage and expenditures was discussed.

DECISION: Project Size will be a combination of the FFBOT and the SFWMD Natural Lands Project (Nattlands) Boundary (17,630 acres) minus the South Fork of the St. Lucie River(SFSLR) Nattlands project (205 acres) = 17,425 acres (GIS calculated from composite boundary).

DECISION: Acquired Acres will use the SFWMD figure of 5,905 acres. The GIS-calculated acres figure is higher because it includes the SFSLR acres which should not be included in the Atlantic Ridge Ecosystem project.

UNRESOLVED: Wanda suggested that since there are several components of the Atlantic Ridge CERP project on the CERP MASTER, this document may be the best source for Marsha. We did not resolve how to proceed and will need to discuss this on the March 15 telephone call.

Biscayne Coastal Wetlands SFWMD Natural Lands Project

Overlapping CERP Project: *Biscayne Bay Coastal Wetlands*

INFORMATION: The discrepancy in DSL acres-acquired for the Biscayne Coastal Wetlands project compared to the GIS acres-acquired is probably due to Wanda including some Biscayne National Park lands that are outside the natural lands project but within the CERP project boundaries. These BNP lands will be impacted by the CERP project activities (water flow changes).

ACTION: Wanda will review the Biscayne Coastal Wetlands "acres acquired" and revise as appropriate. The project size/boundaries will also be reviewed, and most of the Biscayne NP acres will not be included.

DECISION: Project Size on the 2009 DSL table is 2,026 acres; the boundary for 2010 will be revised to 2,073 acres.

DECISION: Acquired Acres were reviewed and the SFWMD number is now close to the GIS figure of 1,445 acres.

Cypress Creek/Trail Ridge SFWMD Natural Lands Project

Overlapping CERP Project: *Cypress Creek/Trail Ridge Complex Natural Storage & Water Quality Area*

DECISION: Project Size remains 31,999.

DECISION: Acquired Acres will be 5,168 acres; SFWMD reviewed the deed acreage and arrived at 5,168 acres that includes Cypress Creek Complex (1,233 acres), St. Lucie Pinelands (650 acres minus the 104 outside SFWMD boundary), and Bluefield Ranch (3,285 acres).

DECISION: Do not include the 104 acres in the St. Lucie Pinelands outside of the SFWMD boundary.

DECISION: Do not count the Bluefield Ranch private Mitigation Bank acreage as acquired (or the cost of this acquisition). This land is still within the project boundary, but the SFWMD does not intend to purchase the land, since it is protected by conservation easements. The GIS-calculated figure for acquired acres on the FNAI analysis is higher because it includes the mitigation bank.

ACTION: Add a note on the Cypress Creek/Trail Ridge project profile that the project includes the privately-owned Bluefield Ranch Mitigation Bank.

East Coast Buffer SFWMD Natural Lands Project

Overlapping CERP Project: *multiple CERP projects*

No discussion

Model Lands Basin SFWMD Natural Lands Project

Overlapping CERP Projects: *C-111 Spreader Canal & Biscayne Bay Coastal Wetlands*

No discussion

North Fork of the St. Lucie River SFMWD Natural Lands Project

Overlapping CERP project: *IRL – Northfork Floodplain Restoration*

No discussion

Pal-Mar (FFBOT & SFWMD Natural Lands Project combined)

Overlapping CERP project: *Pal-Mar Complex Natural Storage & Water Quality Area*

DECISION: Project Size will be a combination of the FFBOT and SFWMD Natlands projects = 39,155 GIS- calculated acres.

DECISION: Acquired Acres will remain the same (26,982). The overlap with CERP projects is so minor, no dollar adjustment is necessary for Marsha's report.