

Surplus Lands Team Directive

BACKGROUND: The Federal Agriculture Improvement and Reform Act of 1996 (Farm Bill) states that the Secretary of the Interior is entitled to receive funds, not to exceed \$100 million from the disposal of surplus federal real property located in the State of Florida. These funds will be used by Interior to (1) conduct restoration activities in the Everglades ecosystem, including the acquisition of real property and interest in real property located in the Everglades ecosystem, and (2) fund resource protection and maintenance activities in the Everglades ecosystem. Section 390(g) of the Farm Bill requires that: "The Secretary shall conduct an investigation to determine what if any, unreserved and unappropriated Federal lands (or mineral interests in any such lands) under the administrative jurisdiction of the Secretary are suitable for disposal or exchange for the purpose of conducting restoration activities in the Everglades region.... a report on Interior's investigation is due to Congress on April 4, 1997."

PURPOSE: To develop and implement procedures to assist the Department of Interior in identifying parcels and assessing their suitability for disposal. Each parcel shall be appraised as to its potential use and value using a holistic, system-wide approach. The knowledge and expertise of each team member's agency shall be used in this effort

MEMBERS:

Chairperson: John Folks, FDACS

Don Nelson, USACE

Isabel Cosio Carballo, FDCA

John Outland, FDEP

Fred Davis, SFWMD

Mary Anne Poole, FG&FWFC

Elaine Hall, ENP

Any Working Group member may appoint a representative to the team by notifying John Folks at (850) 414-9928.

GUIDANCE

- a. The team will assist the DOI and GSA in identifying potential parcels for disposal.
- b. The team will quantify and qualify the attributes of each parcel and the potential "best use" for each parcel will be determined.
- c. The team shall meet as often as needed.

d. As issues develop that may impede the disposal or exchange of identified parcels, these issues will be presented to the Working Group for assistance. The team chair shall coordinate with the Working Group Chair and the OED to arrange briefings at appropriate Working Group meetings.

e. All team meetings will be open to the public and will include opportunity for public comment.

f. Deliverables:

1. The team will make recommendations to the Working Group on each parcel. These recommendations could range from retaining in federal ownership to some form of conditions for disposal. Working Group approved recommendations will be supplied to the Task Force for their approval. Once approved the recommendation will be forwarded to the Secretary of Interior for his consideration.

2. The team will provide assistance to DOI and GSA in the identification, determination of feasibility, and disposal of federal real property in Florida.

ADMINISTRATIVE INSTRUCTIONS:

a. The Chair will appoint a Public Affairs member to the team:

The public affairs member will coordinate with the Office of the Executive Director for additional instructions as soon as possible, but no later than one week prior to the initial meeting. This member will be responsible for providing public affairs support to the team, to include: Providing adequate public notice of team meetings, facilitating public comment and providing a summary of all meetings that is suitable for publication on the Task Force Home Page.