

Chapter 6B: 2007 Land Stewardship Annual Report

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SUMMARY

In accordance with the Land Stewardship policy, lands acquired 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.

The Land Stewardship Program is responsible for the planning and management of the South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD or District) lands, including Save Our Rivers (SOR) and other conservation/natural lands and water resource project lands, as well as the implementation and administration of mitigation banks and regional off-site mitigation areas and recreation on District lands. The project lands component of the Land Stewardship Program is responsible for managing those properties acquired by the District for future Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (CERP) and other restoration projects until the land is needed for construction. Major functions of the natural lands component of the Land Stewardship Program include hydrologic and habitat restoration, exotic plant and animal control, prescribed burns, public use, environmental education, and mitigation.

The program's principal source of management funding has been the Water Management Lands Trust Fund, which uses a portion of the state's documentary tax revenue to pay for land management activities. Other funding sources include off-site mitigation, mitigation bank revenues, lease revenues, grants for wetland restoration and exotic control projects, the Everglades Restoration Trust Fund, and *ad valorem* tax revenue for CERP recreational programs.

The Fiscal Year 2007 (FY2007) (October 1, 2006 through September 30, 2007) budget for the Land Stewardship Program was \$10.9 million, or a unit cost of \$20.6 per acre. Revenue generated from agricultural leases, sale of products, mitigation banks, and other alternative sources for this fiscal year was in excess of \$4.6 million. Management activities for FY2008 are anticipated to be an estimated total cost of \$11.5 million, or a unit cost of \$21.8 per acre.

BACKGROUND

The District owns a wide variety of land assets that are a reflection of its many programs, functions, and responsibilities. They all have a relationship to water resources but otherwise have very different functions. The Save Our Rivers (SOR) Program began in 1981 with the legislative enactment of the Water Management Lands Trust Fund [Chapter 373.59, Florida Statutes (F.S.)], which enabled the state's five water management districts to buy lands needed for water management, water supply, and the conservation and protection of water resources, and to make them available for appropriate public use. Other funding for land acquisition has come from the Florida Forever Trust Fund (Chapter 259.1051, F.S.), Preservation 2000 (Chapter 259.101, F.S.), and the Save Our Everglades Trust Fund (Chapter 373.472, F.S.). In addition, the District has leveraged these funds with federal grants including special appropriations within the Water Resources Development Act and the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Wetland Reserve Program. Additionally, the District has been able to share acquisition costs with partners including local government, the Trustees of the Internal Improvement Trust Fund, and the Florida Communities Trust.

Over the course of its history, the District has acquired a real interest in 1,340,101 acres of land for conservation or for the development of water resource improvement projects. It is with these lands that the primary responsibilities of the Land Stewardship Program reside.

Although any given tract of land will have a diverse set of physical, legal, and policy attributes that define the Land Stewardship Program's involvement, most of the tracts can be grouped into one of five broad categories:

- Natural lands that have the District as the lead manager with partners in a supporting role; 208,695 acres
- Natural lands that have a partner as the lead manager with the District in a supporting role; 956,526 acres
- Project lands with a commercial/agricultural lease; 51,604 acres
- Vacant project lands; 19,163 acres
- Project lands that are under construction or completed; 104,196 acres

The stewardship of each of these broad land categories involves a unique management approach and a set of ongoing management activities. Each category presents unique challenges and opportunities for the District and its management partners.

The District also owns land along its canal rights-of-way, land around its structures and facilities; dredge spoil and staging areas adjacent to major canals, and fringing lands and islands inside of the Herbert Hoover Dike at Lake Okeechobee. The Land Stewardship Program's responsibilities with these lands are primarily limited to planning and administering recreation programs.

Natural Lands: District as Lead Manager

208,695 acres, 22 management areas

District natural lands (**Figure 6B-1**) were acquired to protect and enhance water resources by buffering critical flow-ways from urban development and by maintaining large wetland areas for aquifer recharge and additional storage of surface water. Land Stewardship's primary focus on these lands is in restoring and maintaining their ecological function so that they are able to provide the benefits for which they were acquired.

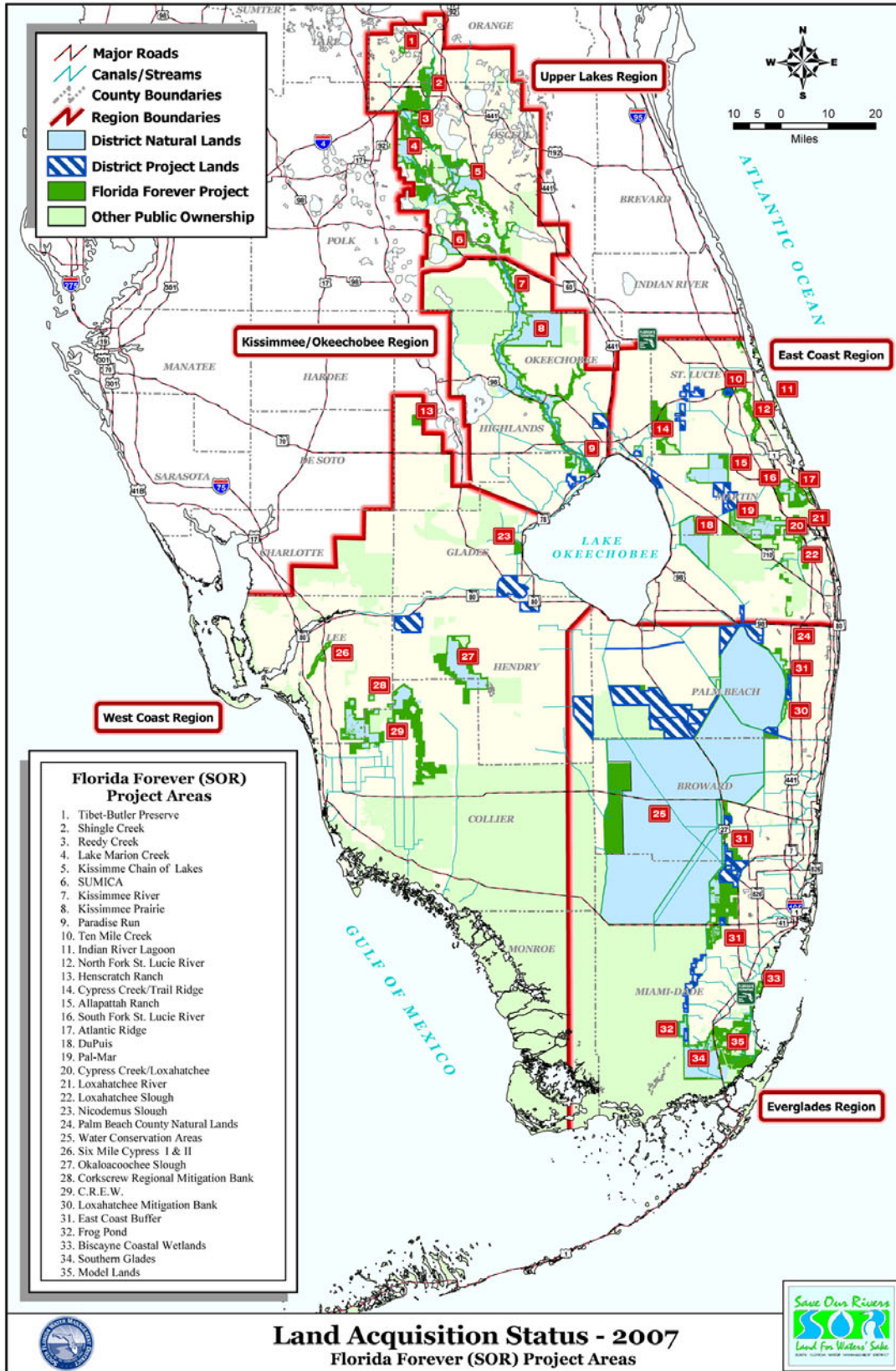


Figure 6B-1. Natural lands acquisition status.

In order to keep these lands in their natural state and preserve their ecological function, Land Stewardship Program managers take actions to compensate for the loss of natural processes and conditions no longer present due to both historic and ongoing alterations to the landscape. These processes and conditions are essential to keeping native plant communities in a healthy and vibrant condition that both supports the greatest diversity of plant and animal life and provides the greatest benefit to the water resources of the District; they include:

- Burning the fire-dependent communities with a fire return interval that provides the most ecological benefit; this is as frequent as every other year for pine flatwoods and dry prairie communities.
- Restoring hydrologic alterations to bring back a more natural hydroperiod.
- Eradicating nonnative or nuisance vegetation, sparse in some areas and extremely dense and threatening in others.
- Restoring the physical structure of plant communities through vegetation management.

Some of the District's natural lands are former ranch lands with a mixture of native range and improved pasture. Most of these former ranch lands have been put under cattle-grazing leases through which the lessee takes on some of the management responsibilities of the site, particularly with internal infrastructure maintenance. The District maintains an active role in resource management, recreation issues, and exotic species control. Another significant role for the District is administrative, ensuring compliance with the lease terms and conditions of these properties, making sure the lessees pay the appropriate property taxes, and making periodic adjustments to the leases, all of which represent a significant effort on the part of the Land Stewardship Program. At the end of Fiscal Year 2007 (FY2007) (October 1, 2006 through September 30, 2007), the District maintained 49 leases on natural lands covering 49,866 acres.

Natural Lands: Partner as Lead Manager

956,526 acres, 25 management areas

The District has been fortunate to have partners who have been willing and able to adopt the lead manager role on many of its natural lands. Entities such as the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC), the Florida Park Service, local land preservation programs, and private mitigation bankers have missions that are complementary and compatible with the District's.

Land Stewardship's role in the ongoing operations of a site is significantly reduced by having another entity designated as a lead manager, but the program's role does not entirely go away. The legal instruments that grant the lead manager designation (leases, management agreements, Memorandums of Understanding, etc.) define the relationship between the District and its partners. Usually the Land Stewardship Program retains a supporting resource management role as needed. There is also an ongoing commitment to provide the necessary administrative services with the agreements, such as compliance and management reviews.

Project Lands: Commercial Leases

51,604 acres, 36 leases

The District administers agricultural leases or commercial reservations on as many water resource project lands as possible. The leases are an important source of revenue for the District and keep the properties in productive use and on the tax rolls until they are ready to be turned over to a project development team. The lessee takes on most of the management responsibilities

for these lands. However, the Land Stewardship Program devotes significant time and resources toward compliance inspections and the administration and financial management of the leases.

Project Lands: Vacant Lands

19,163 acres

Project lands that are unable to accommodate or recruit an agricultural lessee are managed by the Land Stewardship Division with a goal toward site security and general maintenance. Land managers ensure that the access is secured, environmental hazards are remediated, proper signage is installed, and law enforcement issues are addressed.

These lands are meant to be kept in a “mothballed” state until construction on the property begins. Many of these lands are on the fringe of urban areas and experience ongoing issues related to illegal use, such as dumping and squatting. These lands are physically inspected at least twice a year, once they are secured, to monitor their condition and take corrective actions as necessary.

Project Lands: Under Construction and Completed Projects

104,196 acres

Most of the project lands that are under construction or have been completed are Stormwater Treatment Areas (STAs) and reservoirs. The STAs are large constructed wetlands designed to remove phosphorus from surrounding agricultural areas before the runoff reaches the Everglades. The treatment areas are divided into several cells, each with varying degrees of water quality treatment to maximize the cleanup. The Land Stewardship Program provides recreation planning during project development and administers the recreation programs following the completion of the project. The program manages organized bird-watching trips with the Pine Jog Environmental Center and the Audubon Society in STA-1W and STA-5, respectively; Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission manages waterfowl hunts in STA-1W, STA-3/4, and STA-5. During 2007, alligator hunts occurred in STA-5 and STA-1W.

Reservoirs are components that are designed to store large quantities of water during wet periods with the ability to have some sediment and pollutants settle out of suspension, and then provide timed releases that more closely mimic natural conditions. As with STAs, the Land Stewardship Program provides recreation planning during project development, and administers recreation programs following the completion of the project.

THE LAND STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM AND GOALS

The Land Stewardship Program is responsible for the planning and management of District lands, including natural lands and project lands, the implementation and administration of mitigation banks and regional off-site mitigation areas, and recreation on District lands and canal rights-of-way. Many District-owned properties include upland areas that are disturbed and dominated by undesirable nonnative plants. Restoring such areas with diverse native understory is challenging, but the rewards for wildlife habitat are great. In order to accomplish its mission of managing and protecting water resources, the District is moving ahead on restoration of critical natural lands across South Florida.

The major goals of the program are to restore the natural lands to their natural state and condition, manage them in an environmentally acceptable manner, and provide public recreational opportunities that are compatible with natural resources protection. Additionally, the Land Stewardship Program includes activities to manage those properties acquired by the District for future CERP or other project uses until needed for construction. The program is implemented

by a professional staff of 34 based in three service centers: two field offices, including the DuPuis Management Area in Martin County and the Corkscrew Regional Ecosystem Watershed (CREW) Management Center in Lee County, and the District headquarters in West Palm Beach. Additional background information on the Land Stewardship Program can be found on the District's web site at www.sfwmd.gov under the *What We Do, Land Resources, Land Stewardship & Management* section.

Program Objectives

- Complete/update management plans for all projects
- Control invasive exotics
- Restore natural fire regime
- Restore native plant communities
- Employ multiple use practices
- Manage interim agricultural uses through reservations, lease agreements, or license agreements
- Open lands for appropriate public use
- Implement two mitigation banks and off-site mitigation per permit conditions

Program Finances

Since its inception in the early 1980s, the Land Stewardship Program has been funded by a variety of sources. The principal source of management funding has been the Water Management Lands Trust Fund, which uses a portion of the state's documentary tax revenue to pay for land management activities. The fund reimburses actual expenditures based on quarterly invoices to the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP), which administers the fund. Appropriate expenditures are identified in the District's annual budget and approved by the District's Governing Board by a resolution to the FDEP. Since 2000, use of these funds has been limited to land management costs, the payment in lieu of taxes program, capital programs, the Surface Water Improvement and Management Program, and the retirement of the District's land acquisition bonds.

Other funding sources include off-site mitigation, mitigation bank revenues, lease revenues, grants for wetland restoration and exotic control projects, the Everglades Restoration Trust Fund, and *ad valorem* tax revenue for the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan recreational programs. Off-site mitigation funds are collected as a result of site-specific conditions placed on Environmental Resource Permits approved by the District's Governing Board for authorized impacts to wetlands. These funds must be spent strictly in accordance with the permit requirements for land acquisition, restoration, and general maintenance of the mitigation lands. This form of mitigation allows the District to direct mitigation funds where they most benefit the South Florida ecosystem. The Land Stewardship Program has obtained several grants to fund specific restoration projects on District lands. Additionally, substantial in-kind services are provided by the lessees, state and local governments, as well as numerous recreational groups and individual volunteers.

The FY2007 budget for the Land Stewardship Program was \$10.9 Million. This included personnel costs and contractual expenses for land management activities such as exotic control, cleanup, security, capital improvements, and general administrative costs.

Revenue generated from agricultural leases, sale of products, mitigation banks, and other alternative sources for the year was in excess of \$4.6 million. This was in addition to the \$2,130,870 (calculated at an average cost of \$21 per acre) in management costs avoided due to

the 85 leases and agreements in place for the 101,470 acres under a commercial lease; and \$3,031,518 avoided from conservation lands managed by a partner [144,358 acres, excluding the Water Conservation Areas (WCAs)]. By maintaining the leased properties on the local tax rolls, lessees paid \$2.3 million in property taxes for a total contribution of over \$12 million. Management activities for the Land Stewardship Program in FY2008 are anticipated to occur on 527,933 acres of land at an estimated total cost of \$11.5 million.

LAND STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM ACTIVITIES

Hydrologic/Habitat Restoration

Beyond the demands of routine land management activities, land managers in the Land Stewardship Program are involved in restoring altered land to natural condition. Extraordinary measures are often required to restore land that has been used for agriculture, transportation, housing or other intensive purposes. This work may involve reestablishing hydrology, removal of debris and altered soil, treating inappropriate vegetation and replanting native plants, applying specific burn regimes or other specialized techniques. Experimentation is often required to find a cost-effective way to restore a particular kind of disturbed land. Permits have been obtained for three large hydrologic restoration projects around Lake Kissimmee: Rough Island, Otter Slough, and Gardner-Cobb Marsh. These projects will be substantially funded by grants from the USDA NRCS. In addition, FWC completed four marsh restoration projects on 32 acres of District land on Lake Kissimmee.

Fiscal Year 2007 Restoration Highlights

Conversion of Bahia Pasture Land to Native Vegetation

Thousands of acres of Bahia pasture exist on District land. Two pilot projects are under way to test different ways to restore this pasture: one at Starvation Slough, the other at DuPuis Management Area.

Gulfstream Gas Pipeline (Kissimmee River)

This project will remove bahia grass and other nonnative cover and plant with native groundcover seed on 40 acres in a linear strip on six District management units on the Kissimmee River. The native seeding did not take due to the drought and will need to be reseeded in FY2008.

River Runt Scrub Restoration (Kissimmee River)

About ten acres were herbicided and replanted with native groundcover seed. Two 1,000 ft long by 30 ft wide by 20 ft deep ditches were filled to restore the hydrology of this area. Significant quantities of debris and solid waste, including a bus and a bulldozer, were removed from the site.

Starvation Slough Groundcover Restoration (Kissimmee River)

The District is attempting to restore the native dry prairie ground cover on what had been improved pasture using sod removal, native seeding, and natural recruitment. All 160 acres were mowed in 2007 and spot-treated with herbicide to remove invasive exotic plant species. Recruitment of desirable native species continues to increase each year.

East Bonita/Southern CREW

District contractors completed follow-up melaleuca treatment on 4 square miles of the project. This area was severely degraded by exotic plants after the hydrology was interrupted by

an attempt to build a subdivision in wetlands during the early 1960s. An intense wildfire six years ago killed most native vegetation in the area. This area was subsequently aerially treated, and ground crews are nearly finished with the follow-up treatment.

East Corkscrew Marsh Ground Cover Restoration

Native recruitment increased dramatically in 2007, after four years of disappointing results. Rare ground cover species such as lopsided Indian grass were observed for the first time since the native seeding occurred in the fall of 2003.

DuPuis Ground Cover Restoration

The ground cover restoration plot was in a monitoring phase this year, following two glyphosate treatments in FY2006.

Nine Gems Restoration (PalMar)

Approximately 900 acres of Brazilian pepper, melaleuca, and Old World climbing fern (*Lygodium*) were treated. A conceptual design and cost estimate was completed for the hydrologic restoration.

Vegetation Management

Vegetation management is a program component where the composition or structure of a vegetative community is physically altered to meet a management objective. The techniques used in vegetation management include mowing, disking, shredding, roller-chopping, timber thinning, and planting. These techniques are applied to one or more management objectives that may include:

- Restoring a degraded vegetative community
- Improving an area's suitability as wildlife habitat, or for game management
- Exotic species control or weed management
- Fuel management in relation to prescribed fire or wildfires
- Clearing for maintenance or project management purposes

Fiscal Year 2007 Vegetation Management Highlights

- Several Land Stewardship staff completed training to assess and coordinate the removal of hurricane debris.
- Vegetation management activities occurred on 22,050 acres of District-managed lands.
- Drought conditions provided an excellent opportunity for heavy equipment to get into the Loxahatchee Mitigation Bank to windrow several hundred acres of Brazilian pepper.
- Mowing occurred within the L-31N Transition Lands and on the C-23/C-24 Project lands that are being managed in the interim as small-game hunting areas.
- 465 acres of overgrown understory and hardwoods were shredded in the Packingham/Buttermilk Slough area of KICCO (property name, pronounced "Kiss-oh").
- Shredding for habitat management occurred at KICCO, Kissimmee River Pools C&D, and DuPuis.

- Maintenance mowing and fire-break disking occurred throughout the District.
- Weed-control mowing occurred throughout the Kissimmee Chain of Lakes properties.
- 350 acres of pine timber thinning to minimize the impact of a pine-beetle infestation, and 590 acres of palm thinning to improve wildlife habitat occurred at DuPuis through two revenue-generating contracts.

Exotic Plant and Animal Control

The District is committed to reducing the proliferation of exotic plant infestations and controlling the problem where possible (see Volume I, Chapter 9 of this report). Exotic control consists of the 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 or lease are strongly encouraged to apply a similarly aggressive approach to exotic plant control.

Exotic control is consistently the single-largest item in the Land Stewardship Program annual budget. In FY2007 67,501 acres were treated for exotics, which exceeded the goal in the strategic plan of 32,000 acres. Biologic control of exotics took a big step forward in FY2007 with the widespread release of the Lygodium moth in the East Coast region and the tropical soda apple leaf beetles in the Kissimmee and Upper Lakes regions. The tropical soda apple leaf beetle has made a big impact in the control of tropical soda apple in areas where the beetles have been released with significant mortality of affected plants.

The District also has tools to reduce the impact of exotic animals such as hogs through hunting programs and contracted trappers. Burmese pythons are a grave and growing threat to the Everglades; District staff assists FWC and National Park Service staff to rid the region of this dangerous exotic reptile.

Prescribed Burns

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 to simulate natural fire cycles which benefit native plant communities. Our goal is to conduct at least 50 percent of District prescribed burns during the growing season to mimic the natural occurrence of lightning season fires. Many of the early acquired Save Our Rivers lands have now had a decade and a half of a return to a more natural fire regime. 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.

In FY2007, 66,850 acres were burned through the application of prescribed fire, which exceeded the goal in the strategic plan of 17,000 acres. Of this amount, 55,000 acres occurred by using prescribed fire to rob a wildfire of fuel within the marshes on the western edge of Lake Okeechobee that were dry and exposed due to the drought. The drought that made these burns possible made burning impossible for the rest of the District from March to mid-June, due to a statewide burn ban.

Fiscal Year 2007 Prescribed Fire Highlights

- The National Prescribed Fire Training Center assisted the District's prescribed fire program by sending a self-contained fire team as off-season training for West Coast and Mountain Region firefighters.

- Over 55,000 acres were burned in Lake Okeechobee to back-burn fuels ahead of advancing wildfires. These were the largest burns ever conducted by District staff and will provide significant ecological benefits to the overall lake ecology, as many areas within the marsh had become degraded and overgrown due to a prolonged absence of fire.
- A 4,000-acre burn using aerial ignition was conducted at DuPuis. These larger and more cost-effective burns are possible due to the light fuels on the ground from frequent burning.
- The first prescribed fire in the Kissimmee River floodplain occurred in 2007 with the establishment of new monitoring protocols developed in cooperation with the Kissimmee River Restoration Program.
- All together nearly 60,000 acres burned on District lands as a result of wildfires in the 2007 drought. Damage from these fires was minimal; in fact, they were mostly beneficial thanks in large part to the active prescribed fire program that has reduced fuel loads across District lands since the Save Our Rivers program began in the mid-1980s.

Wildlife Management

Wildlife management on District lands is directed toward production of natural species diversity consistent with the biological community types present. The Land Stewardship Program accomplishes this in several ways:

- Performing land management activities that maintain and/or improve native wildlife habitat
- Conducting specific management beneficial to protected species
- Following management guidelines for listed species protection as determined by the Multi-species Recovery Plan for the Threatened and Endangered Species of South Florida, Volume 1 (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 1998)
- Reducing nonnative pest species populations where appropriate
- Maintaining a master file of confirmed and potential wildlife species
- Cooperating with the FWC on wildlife management issues
- Using best snag management practices: removing snags only when they pose a safety hazard

Wildlife management through these actions primarily occurs through regular prescribed fires and the control of exotic species. In addition, the Land Stewardship Division partners with the FWC on many wildlife management issues. This partnership has resulted in several District-managed lands being established as Wildlife Management Areas, Wildlife and Environmental Areas, Public Use Areas, and Small-Game Hunting Areas. These designations allow the FWC to dedicate biological staff and resources toward the well-being of wildlife on District lands, and enforce a stricter set of wildlife protection rules. Since management actions that meet the needs of wildlife often further the District's objectives, the biological staff has been a significant supplement to the District's land managers.

Fiscal Year 2007 Wildlife Management Highlights

- After a decade and a half of restoration efforts, the DuPuis Management Area was determined to be an acceptable location for the reestablishment of the federally endangered red-cockaded woodpeckers. Five pairs were transferred to

prefabricated nest cavities in trees at DuPuis; of these, one pair had a chick that fledged from its new home.

- Allapattah was established as a Wildlife Management Area with a full-time Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission biologist.
- The first alligator hunt occurred at STA-5 in October.
- Small-Game Hunting Areas were established on STA-1, STA-3, STA-4, and STA-5; the C-23/24 South Reservoir project in St. Lucie County; and at Rocky Glades in Miami-Dade County
- A new three-year multi-site agreement with the FWC was signed in 2007 that covers most of the lands where hunting programs have been established and administered by the commission.
- Two juvenile bald eagles were relocated by the National Audubon Society to KICCO from the Sanford Airport.
- Worm lizards were discovered for the first time at the Ft. Basinger and River Runt scrub sites along the Kissimmee River.
- Eight nesting platforms for osprey were constructed and installed along the Kissimmee River.
- Monitoring by FWC biologists included caracaras, quail and turkey, mourning doves, small mammals, scrub jay, red-cockaded woodpeckers, wading birds, burrowing owls, herptiles, white-tail deer, and bald eagles.

Recreation

The District encourages use of its lands for appropriate outdoor recreational activities. All lands are available for public use, except in rare instances where there is no legal public access or where contract or lease restrictions prohibit the public. The vast majority are managed as natural areas, with very limited vehicular access other than roadside parking. Opportunities include hiking, primitive camping, canoeing, fishing, and horseback riding, with volunteers from various user groups maintaining the trails and wilderness campsites.

Cooperative agreements with the FWC enable high-quality, low-impact hunting on nearly 683,411 acres. Acquisition and management partners from several counties have constructed environmental education centers, boardwalks, and interpretive trails, all at no cost to the District, that are used by thousands of school children and adults annually.

In July 2006, new public use rules were adopted to capture all types of land designations within the District. This endeavor required considerable coordination and several public workshops to ensure a balance between public access, nature-based recreation opportunities, project compatibility, and restoration and protection of the natural state and conditions of the land. Public access and recreational use rules have been established for management areas, rights-of-ways, STAs, impoundment areas, and vacant undesignated lands. Following a similar process, in 2007 the District created a five-year recreation management and partnership plan that outlined proposed recreation capital improvements and new partnership programs that will be pursued over the 2007–2011 time frame.

Fiscal Year 2007 Recreation Highlights

- Alligator-hunting occurred for the second year at STA-5, and for the first time on STA-1W. A total of 150 permits were issued with two alligator takings allowed per permit.

- A new recreation access area at Allapattah was completed and opened to the public through a partnership with Martin County.
- A new recreation area was designed and constructed at the “Governor’s House” site within the DuPuis Management Area.
- St. Lucie County opened the Gordy Road Recreation Area. This District-owned property is associated with the 10-mile Creek Reservoir and Treatment Area critical project.
- Allapattah was established as a Wildlife Management Area.
- An archery range and an airfield for radio-controlled model aircraft opened at the West Delray Regional Park that is being constructed on the District’s Palm Beach Downs property.
- A new partnership was initiated with Okeechobee County on recreation management on the 193-acre Taylor Creek Stormwater Treatment Area.
- A new pedestrian bridge was constructed and installed by volunteers from the Florida Trail Association at Tick Island Slough in KICCO over a three-day work weekend.
- The District completed construction of the Bird Rookery Swamp boardwalk at CREW.
- A recreation stakeholders meeting was held to discuss public recreation opportunities at Chandler Slough.
- A working group of stakeholders was established to aid recreation planning within the Kissimmee Chain of Lakes.
- A new partnership was entered into with Polk County to construct and operate a new boat ramp facility on Lake Kissimmee.
- A regional equine herpes scare temporarily closed down equestrian facilities at Hickory Hammock and DuPuis as a preventative measure, although no sign of the disease appeared at either facility.
- The District’s recreation web page was updated to include 360-degree panoramic photos that were taken at District recreation facilities.

Environmental Education

Land Stewardship creates environmental education kiosks and displays and builds partnerships with other entities to provide many of its environmental education programs. The partnerships that have developed have created a large network of facilities and programs that have increased exposure of the District’s mission and programs to students, educators, and the public. This network features the following partnerships:

Shingle Creek

A public access point with a boardwalk and pedestrian bridges was constructed behind Hunter’s Creek Middle School in Orange County. The school benefited from providing this public access in off-hours by expanding the opportunities for ecological field studies for its science program in their own backyard.

Reedy Creek/Lake Russell Unit

The Osceola County School Board operates an environmental education center on the Lake Russell unit of the Reedy Creek Management Area. This center provides summer camps and several other ongoing programs for county students.

Tibet-Butler Preserve

The Tibet-Butler Preserve is managed by the Orange County Parks and Recreation Department as an environmental education facility. It has a full-time staff and infrastructure that includes a museum facility and classrooms. The center provided dozens of educational programs and several special events in FY2007. These programs included hiking programs, programs designed for Pre-Kindergarten students, and more advanced programs on reptiles, aquatic life, mammals, birds, and insects.

Kissimmee River/Riverwoods

The Florida Center for Environmental Studies operates under a contract with the District to provide Kissimmee River Restoration-based programming from the Riverwoods complex. Programs include public boat and eco-tours, water resource education for teachers, student field studies, service learning, and public outreach.

Ox-Bow Eco-Center

St. Lucie County operates the Ox-Bow Eco-Center on the North Fork of the St. Lucie River. The eco-center provides a variety of nature-based educational programs for thousands of students and members of the general public. The center also hosts special events several times a year including an Earth Day event that brings out as many as 2,000 visitors.

DuPuis Management Area Visitors' Center

As with Riverwoods, the DuPuis Management Area Visitors' Center is operated under a contract with the Florida Center for Environmental Studies. In addition to keeping normal operating hours, it provides an array of programs related to natural lands management and Everglades restoration including a nature-based lecture series, service learning, field studies for students, and special events. An increase of funding for the contract in 2003 from \$25K to \$75K has led to a tenfold increase in visitors.

Six Mile Cypress

Lee County manages environmental education programs at the Six Mile Cypress property that has attracted more than 100,000 visitors in a year. Lee County staff at Six Mile Cypress makes dozens of classroom visits throughout the school district and receives thousands of students on-site for educational programs, including all seventh-grade students. The District entered into an agreement with Lee County to cost share the construction of a new environmental education center on the property.

CREW Land and Water Trust

The District maintains a contract with the CREW Land and Water Trust on the CREW Management Area to provide public outreach and education programs. The programs include guided nature walks, sky-watching events, a large spring wildflower festival, teacher training, classroom visits, and service learning. During FY2007, CREW Land and Water Trust proposed expanding its education and outreach capacity through a new capital campaign.

Kiosk Installations

The Land Stewardship Division has been increasing its outreach exposure by installing new informative kiosks near public access points and trail heads in most of the District's management areas. In FY2007, a total of four new kiosks were installed, including three at STA-3/4, and one at the Taylor Creek Stormwater Treatment Area.

Law Enforcement

The Land Stewardship Division is committed to protecting the natural and cultural resources on District land. Primary problems encountered on District lands by law enforcement are:

- illegal entry
- dumping
- poaching
- all-terrain vehicle operation
- cultural resource artifact collecting
- open gates
- cut fences
- vandalism
- District and contractor employees recreating where prohibited
- Burmese pythons

The District is in its eighth year of a contract with the FWC, Law Enforcement Division, to provide law enforcement patrols on District lands. The District also funds four full-time law enforcement positions within the FWC for officers to patrol District lands exclusively. There are approximately 13,000 hours of patrols performed annually by 85 officers throughout the District.

The Land Stewardship Division role is to coordinate with the FWC on where patrols should occur and the number of patrol hours for each area, advise on issues in each area, coordinate details to target problem areas, and pass on information/issues from the land managers to law enforcement. In addition to working with the FWC, the division works with county law-enforcement agencies to protect resources on District lands.

Law enforcement officers from three different agencies reside on District property in 12 locations to provide an additional law enforcement presence. Officers living on District property have proven to be an effective deterrent to illegal uses. Additional District property that can benefit from an officer living on the property is being identified due to the success of this program.

Fiscal Year 2007 Enforcement Highlights

- A new agreement with the FWC was executed that funds enhanced patrols of District properties for another three years.
- A federal judge in Fort Myers fined five hunters \$24,000 for poaching more than 50 ducks, following an undercover sting operation by undercover commission officers.
- Two new trailer pads and utility hookups began to be installed for on-site officer housing on District properties.
- A draft five-year enforcement plan was created and will be finalized in FY2008.

Mitigation

Under Chapter 373, F.S., the District is authorized to participate in and encourage the development of private and public mitigation banks and regional off-site mitigation areas. Chapter 62-342, Florida Administrative Code, of the state's mitigation banking rule also encourages each water management district to establish two mitigation banks. The use of mitigation and mitigation banking offers opportunities to generate supplemental revenue for the District's land acquisition, restoration, and management programs.

The District's mitigation bank sites include the Loxahatchee Mitigation Bank in Palm Beach County and the Corkscrew Regional Mitigation Bank in Lee County. The District is developing each bank in a public/private contractual agreement. Private bankers obtain permits, restore the land, reimburse the District for its land acquisition and staff costs, and then provide a revenue stream to the District for future projects. The total revenue collected during FY2007 from the Loxahatchee Mitigation Bank was \$615,000. Chapter 7 of this volume details the status of mitigation funds at the CREW and Pennsuco mitigation areas.

Infrastructure Management

The Land Stewardship Division not only has a wide variety of lands to manage, but also a wide variety of infrastructure on those lands, each with a unique set of management needs. District Policy 140-25(3)(k) states that "Infrastructure support shall be developed and maintained to provide safe access for responsible management and public use on District lands." The infrastructure on District lands includes the following:

- roads
- parking areas
- officer housing
- historic structures
- recreation facilities
- gates
- fences
- field offices and maintenance staging areas
- water-related structures

In addition, the division often receives acquired lands with pre-existing structures that are incompatible with the purpose for which the land was acquired. Dealing effectively with this type of infrastructure has led to the development of an active demolition and environmental cleanup program, including:

- Demolitions of a barn at Allapattah, old trailers at Cypress Creek, an old building at DuPuis, old trailers and an old Federal Aviation Administration building in the East Coast Buffer, a house and metal building at Site 1, a derelict structure along the Kissimmee River, a house at Grape Hammock, a house in the 8 ½-Square-Mile Area in Miami-Dade County, and a house at Palm Beach Downs
- Installation of a new roof on the Pearce-Lockett Estate garage
- Installation of new fencing at Trail Ridge, No-Name Slough, KICCO, Putnam Groves, the Kissimmee Chain of Lakes, Chandler Slough, and Paradise Run
- Renovation of MacArthur Road leading to the new Hickory Hammock Campground

- Identification and preparation of temporary storm debris storage sites for use on District lands

Planning

Land management planning is an important first step along the path of effective stewardship of District land resources. Management plans are required by Florida statutes to be written for all District conservation lands over 1,000 acres. These plans are to be reviewed by a multiparty review team and updated every 10 years, although the District is committed to exceed this standard by having management reviews every five years. A management plan review team consists of one member each from these entities:

- South Florida Water Management District
- Private land manager
- Local soil and water conservation district board of supervisors
- Florida Division of Forestry (DOF)
- FWC
- FDEP
- Conservation organization
- Representative from the county where the property is located

The Land Stewardship Division participates on the management review teams for the conservation lands that are managed by a partner and creates and updates management plans on conservation lands where the District is the lead manager. Management activities are designed for each site based on the Land Stewardship Program mission for conservation lands: “to provide natural resource protection and management while allowing compatible multiple uses on designated public lands.” The Land Stewardship Program has three primary goals for managing the District’s conservation lands: conserve and protect water resources, protect and/or restore land to its natural state and condition, and provide public use.

The general management plans include goals and objectives, past and present land uses, resource data, restoration and management needs, public use programs, compatible multiple uses, monitoring programs, site security, and administrative duties to guide management actions for the five-year period. As such, general management plans serve as a collective information source for District management staff, agency partners, and the general public.

Monitoring

The primary purpose of the Land Stewardship monitoring program is to evaluate and document the effects of land management activities. Fire is the most important tool used. It maintains a desirable structure in the forests and marshes by preventing shrubs and trees from becoming too dense and forming thickets. Normal burning does not require extensive monitoring, but burn managers always collect data before, during, and after a fire. This helps them understand the relationships between variables such as weather, fuel accumulation, season, and water levels in the ground and the way fire behaves and how it affects the vegetation. All this data is stored and available to study before future fires and is especially valuable to new burners when there is staff turnover.

In addition to gathering data on fires, Land Stewardship staff monitor the condition and structure of habitats to detect gradual desirable or undesirable changes. Such changes are often related to burning but are the cumulative effect of many fires. Of course, other factors such as changes in hydrology or population fluctuations in deer also affect the overall condition of the

forest. Monitoring for habitat changes is efficiently done by repeatedly taking panoramic photos at fixed locations. The high-resolution digital photos show general size and density of vegetation and can also be blown up to allow identification of most plant species. Locations are permanently marked with iron pipes and GPS coordinates are recorded to ensure they can be accurately relocated over extended periods of time.

Restoration projects are more complex, difficult, expensive and uncertain in outcome than regular land management. Hence, more intensive monitoring is appropriate. Panoramic photos are effective in documenting restoration, both showing step-by-step progress of the project and long-term outcome. Scientific methods for measuring vegetation are used to document initial conditions that require restoration and achievement of desired changes. Ongoing wildlife monitoring on District lands is normally performed by FWC staff. Deer, hogs, and other game are counted and variously measured and inspected as they are removed by hunters. Quail and general breeding bird populations are estimated by listening surveys. Eagles and wading birds are counted from airplanes.

Project Lands

The project lands component of the Land Stewardship Program is responsible for managing those properties acquired by the District for future Everglades restoration and other projects until the land is needed for construction. These lands will ultimately be used as Stormwater Treatment Areas, surface water reservoirs, groundwater recharge areas, and/or buffer lands between the Everglades and other sensitive areas and urban development. These lands are not specifically acquired or designated for environmental enhancement, restoration, or preservation purposes and generally are not proposed for recreational or other public uses except on a limited basis that is consistent with their designated future use. The project lands component has developed a multifaceted management approach to accomplish the following:

- protect the natural resource
- provide on-site management and security for District-owned lands at a minimal cost to the District
- minimize District expenses by increasing revenue from nongovernmental sources to offset District management, maintenance, and resource protection costs
- generate additional funding for future acquisition
- minimize impacts to the local agricultural economy by keeping viable agricultural lands in active production for as long as possible
- minimize fiscal impacts to the local government by keeping lands on the tax roll until they are actually needed for construction

Historical property uses such as grazing, sod, vegetable, sugar-cane farming, nurseries, and tree farms are allowed to continue using reservations, leases, or similar agreements where appropriate. Generally, a competitive bid process is used to solicit proposals and award contracts, which include the appropriate cancellation clauses to make the land quickly available when needed. In some cases, short-term leases (five years or less) are negotiated as part of the acquisition package. Lessees are typically required to actively manage the property, control exotics, provide security for the property, implement applicable Best Management Practices, keep the property and facilities in good repair and condition, obtain all required permits and approvals for their activities, maintain required insurance coverage, and pay applicable taxes.

The District has approximately 8,000 acres leased for citrus, which have been impacted by multiple hurricanes and the spread of citrus canker. Industry experts say that in the Indian River region the hurricanes did more damage than the seven cold waves of the 1980s combined. Some

of the grove operators have requested approval to convert to other types of agricultural activities due to the devastation of the groves, and began clearing properties of damaged groves.

PROJECT STATUS

The following project summary section provides a brief description of each SOR project, organized by the five land management regions: Upper Lakes, Kissimmee/Okeechobee, East Coast, Everglades, and West Coast. This section also includes regional maps for each of these management areas (**Figures 6B-2** through **6B-6**). **Table 6B-1** summarizes the FY2007 land acquisition status according to project for natural lands under the District's Land Stewardship Program. **Table 6B-2** highlights current and recreational use opportunities for the public, according to land management region.

Table 6B-1. Land Stewardship Program natural lands acquisition status for FY2007.

Project Name	County	Project Size (Acres)	District Ownership (Acres)	Acquisition Partners
Allapattah Flats	Martin	23,226	20,945	Martin County/federal
Atlantic Ridge Ecosystem ^(a)	Martin	14,975	5,910	Martin County/CARL
Biscayne Coastal Wetlands	Miami-Dade	2,035	496	Miami-Dade County
Corkscrew Mitigation Bank	Lee	633	633	None
CREW	Lee/Collier	65,716	24,439	CARL/Lee County
Cypress Creek/Loxahatchee	Martin/Palm Beach	4,374	3,547	Martin County/ Palm Beach County
Cypress Creek /Trail Ridge	St. Lucie	14,455	1,233	None
DuPuis	Palm Beach/Martin	22,025	21,878	None
East Coast Buffer – Natural Lands ^(b)	Broward/ Miami-Dade	53,573	13,037	Broward County /Miami-Dade County/federal
Frog Pond– Natural Lands ^(d)	Miami-Dade	1,914	1,914	None
Henscratch Ranch*	Highlands	3,296	1,308	None
Indian River Lagoon	Martin/St. Lucie	653	653	St. Lucie County/CARL/federal
Kissimmee Chain of Lakes	Polk/Osceola	40,727	36,373	None
Kissimmee Prairie	Okeechobee	38,603	38,284	CARL
Kissimmee River	Highlands/Okeechobee/Polk/Osceola	82,064	72,435	None
Lake Marion Creek	Polk	16,938	7,077	Polk County/ SWFWMD/USFWS
Loxahatchee Mitigation Bank	Palm Beach	1,256	1,256	Palm Beach County
Loxahatchee River	Palm Beach	1,998	1,545	Palm Beach County
Loxahatchee Slough	Palm Beach	13,099	1,823	Palm Beach County
Model Lands	Miami-Dade	56,378	4,899	Miami-Dade County
Nicodemus Slough*	Glades	2,231	2,231	None
North Fork St. Lucie River	St. Lucie	4,086	482	St. Lucie County/CARL
Okaloacoochee Slough	Hendry/Collier	37,221	22,255	CARL/DOF/FWC
Palm Beach County Natural Lands*	Palm Beach	1,252	1,252	Palm Beach County
Pal-Mar	Palm Beach/Martin	39,325	17,807	CARL/Palm Beach County/Martin County/FCT/federal
Paradise Run	Glades	3,960	3,308	None
Reedy Creek	Osceola	27,612	5,838	None
Shingle Creek	Orange/Osceola	7,846	2,079	City of Kissimmee
Six Mile Cypress	Lee	2,254	843	Lee County
Southern Glades	Miami-Dade	36,474	32,536	None
South Fork St. Lucie River ^(a)	Martin	184	184	CARL
SUMICA	Polk	4,009	4,009	Polk County
Ten Mile Creek– Natural Lands ^(e)	St. Lucie	1,238	106	St. Lucie County
Tibet-Butler Preserve	Orange	439	439	None
Water Conservation Areas ^(c)	Broward/Palm Beach	847,423	812,168	None
Totals		1,473,492	1,165,221	

*Conservation Easement interest only. ^(a) Portions of the Atlantic Ridge Ecosystem (247 acres) and South Fork of the St. Lucie River (100 acres) projects form the 347-acre Halpatickee Park. ^(b) Approximately 21,595 acres of the East Coast Buffer project are designated for construction projects and are not included in the natural lands table. ^(c) Includes Water Conservation Areas 1, 2, and 3. ^(d) Approximately 3,360 acres of the Frog Pond are designated for construction of the C-111 Spreader Canal, Frog Pond Reservoir. ^(e) Approximately 811

Table 6B-2. Public use opportunities for land management regions.

Public Use Opportunities											
Land Management Region	Lead Manager	Airboating	Bicycling	Canoeing	Camping	Education / Visitor Center	Equestrian	Fishing	Hiking	Hunting	Picnic Tables
Upper Lakes Region											
Kissimmee Chain of Lakes	SFWMD	•	•	•	•		•	•	•	•	•
Lake Marion Creek	SFWMD		•		•			•	•	•	•
Reedy Creek	SFWMD	•		•	•	•		•	•	•	•
Shingle Creek	SFWMD		•	•				•	•		
SUMICA	Polk County		•		•		•	•	•	•	•
Tibet Butler Preserve	Orange County					•			•		
Kissimmee-Okeechobee Region											
Kissimmee Prairie	FDEP		•		•	•	•	•	•		•
Kissimmee River	SFWMD	•	•	•	•		•	•	•	•	•
Paradise Run	SFWMD		•	•				•	•	•	•
East Coast Region											
Allapattah Flats	SFWMD								•	•	
Atlantic Ridge	FDEP										
DuPuis	SFWMD		•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Halpatokee Park	Martin County		•	•	•			•	•		•
Indian River Lagoon	St. Lucie County			•					•		
Loxahatchee River	FDEP		•	•	•		•	•	•		•
Loxahatchee Slough	Palm Beach County								•		
North Fork St. Lucie River	FDEP					•		•	•		
Pal-Mar	FWC			•	•			•	•	•	
Riverbend Park	Palm Beach County		•	•			•	•	•		•
Ten Mile Creek	St. Lucie County		•	•			•	•	•		•
Everglades Region											
Arthur R. Marshall Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge (Water Conservation Area 1)	USFWS		•	•		•		•	•	•	
Everglades and Francis S. Taylor Wildlife Management Area (Water Conservation Areas 2 and 3)	FWC	•	•	•				•	•	•	
Everglades Buffer Strip	SFWMD							•	•		
Model Lands	SFWMD								•	•	
Southern Glades	FWC	•	•	•			•	•	•	•	•
Stormwater Treatment Area 1W	SFWMD		•						•	•	
Stormwater Treatment Area 3/4	SFWMD		•						•	•	
Stormwater Treatment Area 5	SFWMD		•						•	•	
West Coast Region											
CREW	SFWMD				•				•	•	
Okaloacoochee Slough	DOF		•		•		•	•	•	•	
Six Mile Cypress Slough	Lee County					•			•		•

UPPER LAKES LAND MANAGEMENT REGION, ORLANDO SERVICE CENTER

KISSIMMEE CHAIN OF LAKES (MANAGED BY THE DISTRICT)

- County: Osceola and Polk
- Project size: 40,727 acres
- District ownership: 36,373 acres
- Acquisition partners: None

Acquisition of the Kissimmee Chain of Lakes project was designed to provide the capacity to store and flow water up to the 54-foot National Geodetic Vertical Datum 1929 contour line. Public access to most of the land is by boat, and several cattle leases and grazing reservations are within the Kissimmee Chain of Lakes Management Area. Resource management goals for the management area are to maintain and, where possible, restore native plant communities, provide cost-effective resource protection, and provide opportunities for compatible public use. In FY2007, a new agreement was executed with Polk County to cost-share the construction of a new boat ramp park on Lake Kissimmee. A lease agreement transferred management of 3,000 acres to the FDEP Florida Park Service as an addition to Allen David Broussard Catfish Creek Preserve State Park. For exotic plants, approximately 36,750 acres were treated. In addition, 10,000 acres of semi-improved pasture were mowed to reduce nuisance native and exotic plants, and to improve the conditions of the altered wet prairie communities on Gardner-Cobb Marsh, Lightsey Units, Catfish Creek, Rough Island, Johnson Island, and Lake Kissimmee East Shoreline. Approximately 4,830 acres were burned through the application of prescribed fire. For FY2008, three NRCS restoration projects will continue to restore approximately 3,000 acres. It is anticipated that 10,000 acres of exotics will be treated and 4,000 acres will be burned.

LAKE MARION CREEK (MANAGED BY THE DISTRICT)

- County: Polk
- Project size: 16,938 acres
- District ownership: 7,077 acres
- Acquisition partners: Polk County, SWFWMD, and USFWS

Polk County's Lake Marion Creek flows from Lake Marion to Lake Hatchineha. Contained within the project area are scrub, sand hills, pine flatwoods, and riverine swamp forests. The majority of the property is open for year-round hiking; camping is available by special use license. Lands in this project have been acquired with the assistance from Polk County, the Southwest Florida Water Management District (SWFWMD), and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Primary stewardship activities include prescribed burns, exotic plant control, resource protection, and public use. The FWC participates as a cooperative management partner by conducting a hunt program and security patrols. The area is managed as a Type 1 Wildlife Management Area.

In FY2007, exotic treatment occurred on approximately 1,690 acres of Old World climbing fern (*Lygodium*), Caesar weed (*Urena lobata*), and cogon grass (*Imperata cylindrica*). Approximately 1,000 acres were burned through the application of prescribed fire. In FY2008, it is anticipated that 500 acres of exotics will be treated and 500 acres will be burned.

SUMICA (MANAGED BY POLK COUNTY)

- County: Polk
- Project size: 4,009 acres
- District ownership: 4,009 acres
- Acquisition partners: Polk County

Polk County participated as a 50 percent acquisition partner under its Environmental Lands Program, and Polk County is also lead manager. A five-year management plan was prepared by Polk County and approved by the District. SUMICA, formerly known as Lake Walk-in-Water, is named after the historic logging town that existed on the site in the 1920s. Current public uses include hiking, hunting, camping, and horseback riding. There is an elevated walking trail to access the old elevated railroad tram and observation area.

REEDY CREEK (MANAGED BY THE DISTRICT)

- County: Osceola
- Project size: 27,612 acres
- District ownership: 5,838 acres
- Acquisition partners: None

For management purposes, the project is divided into Upper and Lower Reedy Creek. The Upper Reedy Creek Management Area includes those lands north of Pleasant Hill Road, the Lower Reedy Creek Management Area encompasses approximately seven miles of creek corridor. There are two cattle leases and grazing reservations within the Reedy Creek Management Area. Management goals for both areas are to conserve and protect water resources and supplies, protect and restore the land in its natural state and condition, and provide compatible public use opportunities. The Lake Russell Management Unit in Poinciana is jointly managed by Osceola County Schools as an environmental education facility. A center with classrooms and displays provides interpretation to the scrub, Lake Russell, and the floodplain swamp communities that exist on-site. An interpretive hiking trail describes the unique plant communities and wildlife that exist in the scrub habitat of the site. The FWC has identified the area of Lower Reedy Creek as a “Strategic Habitat Conservation Area,” a “Biodiversity Hotspot,” and a “Priority Wetland for Listed Species.” These designations make the area a priority for preservation based on known occurrences of rare or listed species.

District staff treated approximately 1,200 acres of exotic vegetation in FY2007. Cooperative management of exotics along Reedy Creek with the Nature Conservancy continues. Old World climbing fern (*Lygodium*), tropical soda apple (*Solanum viarum*), and Chinese tallow (*Sapium sebiferum*) follow-up treatments have been implemented. Approximately 450 acres were burned through the application of prescribed fire. In FY2008, it is anticipated that 100 acres of exotics will be treated and 200 acres will be burned.

SHINGLE CREEK (MANAGED BY THE DISTRICT AND OSCEOLA COUNTY)

- County: Orange and Osceola
- Project size: 7,846 acres
- District ownership: 2,079 acres
- Acquisition partners: City of Kissimmee

The District has undertaken several successful restoration projects within Shingle Creek Swamp that were funded as mitigation to offset wetland impacts associated with the construction of the Orlando Beltway. The management plan was adopted at the December 2005 District Governing Board meeting. In FY2007, the entire 1,828 acres that are managed by the District were surveyed and spot-treated for exotic vegetation, including Old World climbing fern (*Lygodium*), Para grass (*Urochloa mutica*), Caesar weed (*Urena lobata*), and primrose willow (*Ludwigia peruviana*).

Also in FY2007, the well-publicized expedition headwaters that took participants from Orlando to Okeechobee began aboard kayaks from Shingle Creek. The District is now working with Osceola County to open the Babb, Ruba, Stefee, and St. Clair properties for public recreation. Approximately 200 acres were burned through the application of prescribed fire. In FY2008 it is anticipated that 300 acres of exotics will be treated and 50 acres will be burned.

TIBET-BUTLER PRESERVE (MANAGED BY ORANGE COUNTY)

- County: Orange
- Project size: 439 acres
- District ownership: 439 acres
- Acquisition partners: None

The Tibet-Butler Preserve covers 439 acres along the southwest shore of Lake Tibet-Butler in Orange County. This site includes approximately 4,000 feet of shoreline on Lake Tibet. Vegetative communities include bay swamp, pine flatwoods, cypress swamp, and smaller areas of xeric oak and freshwater marsh.

The Orange County Parks and Recreation Department manages Tibet-Butler Preserve as an environmental education facility that is open for public use. A museum with a classroom was constructed in 1994. It has a full-time staff, which conducts programs for thousands of students each year. Land managers also treat exotic vegetation and maintain the system of hiking trails and boardwalks that lead to the many community types on the property. In FY2007, exotic plants were treated on 52 acres.

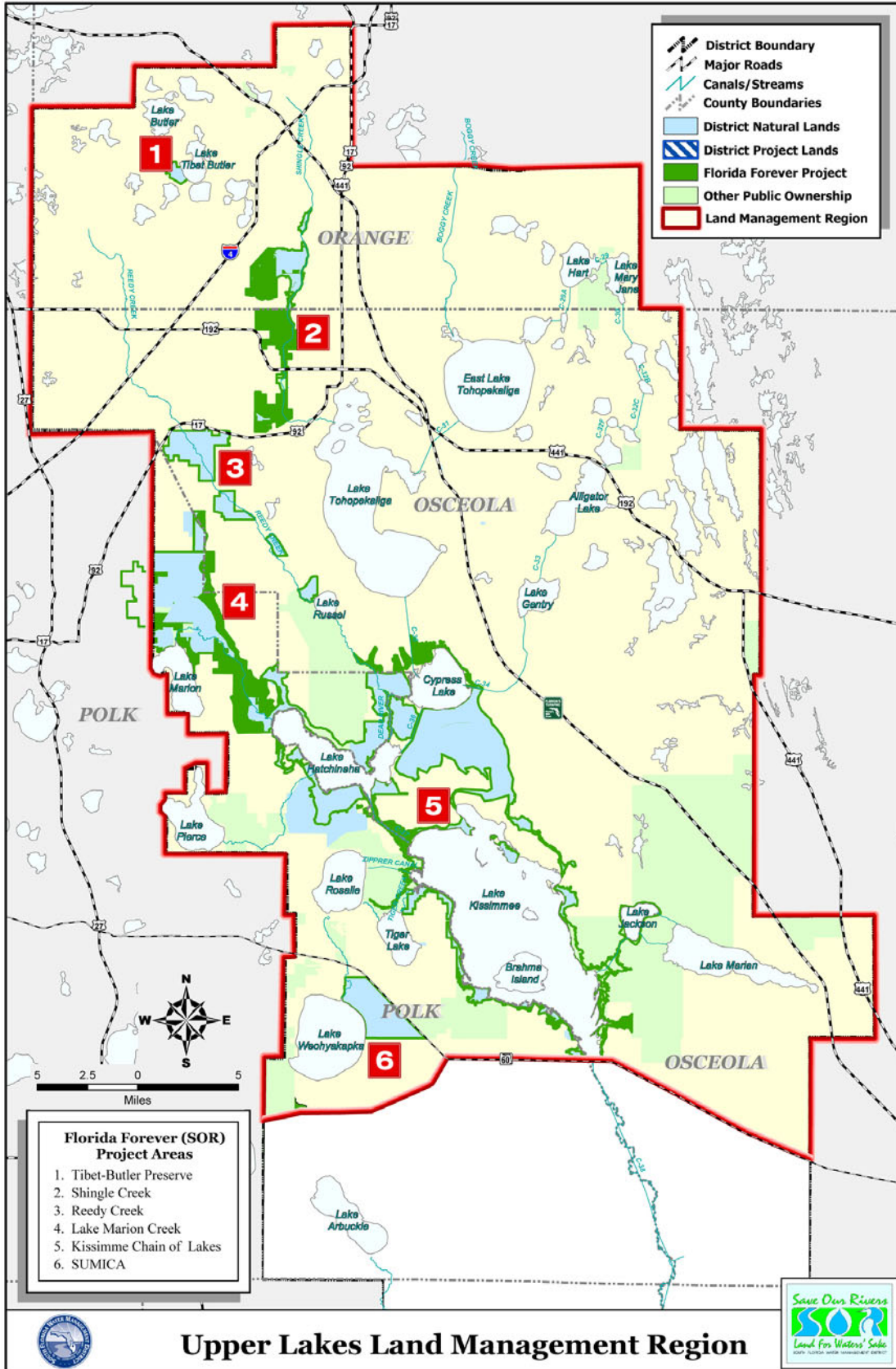


Figure 6B-2. Upper Lakes Land Management Region.

KISSIMMEE/OKEECHOBEE LAND MANAGEMENT REGION, OKEECHOBEE SERVICE CENTER

KISSIMMEE PRAIRIE ECOSYSTEM (MANAGED BY THE FDEP FLORIDA PARK SERVICE)

- County: Okeechobee
- Project size: 38,603 acres
- District ownership: 38,284 acres
- Acquisition partners: CARL

Known as the Kissimmee Prairie Preserve State Park, the project is managed by the FDEP, Florida Park Service under lease from the District and state. Recreational uses include hiking, bicycling, camping, horseback riding, and astronomy. A state-approved management plan is in place that addresses prescribed burns, exotic control, and public use. Exotic treatments and prescribed burns are ongoing.

KISSIMMEE RIVER (MANAGED BY THE DISTRICT AND THE FWC)

- County: Osceola, Polk, Highlands, and Okeechobee
- Project size: 82,064 acres
- District ownership: 72,435 acres
- Acquisition partners: None

The Kissimmee River is cooperatively managed by the District and the FWC. The five-year plan for both areas includes prescribed burns, exotic plant control, upland shrub control, wildlife management, and forest management. In FY2007, 1,120 acres were prescribed burned and 2,608 acres were chemically treated for exotic plants. Two juvenile bald eagles were released in KICCO and eight osprey nesting platforms were constructed and installed along the Kissimmee River.

An extensive public use program on the river attracted hundreds of visitors to the area and included hunting, fishing, horseback riding, nature watching, hiking, camping, boating, and education programs through the Riverwoods Field lab. Development of a campground for equestrian use has been completed and the road leading to the campground was improved in FY2007. In FY2008, Chandler Slough will be surveyed, fenced, and opened to the public. It is anticipated that 2,500 acres of exotics will be treated and 4,000 acres will be burned. A new post-burn monitoring program was developed in partnership with the Kissimmee River Restoration Program and resulted in the first prescribed fire of overgrown marsh in the floodplain in the Packingham Slough and Buttermilk Slough area of KICCO. In FY2008, floodplain burning is anticipated to expand to include Rattlesnake Marsh and Boney Marsh.

PARADISE RUN (MANAGED BY THE DISTRICT)

- County: Glades
- Project size: 3,960 acres
- District ownership: 3,308 acres
- Acquisition partners: None

Paradise Run lies west of the C-38 canal, between structure S-65E and Lake Okeechobee, and is open for public use, including hunting, under the FWC's Public Use Area concept. There are also two cattle leases on the property. Along with Pool A of the C-38 canal, the Paradise Run area of the C-38 canal will not be backfilled. However, a plan is being considered in the District's Lake Okeechobee Division to hydrologically restore Paradise Run without backfilling the C-38 canal. Remnant river oxbows are still present, although the surrounding land has been drained and is now improved pasture and spoil. During FY2007, new fencing was installed in Paradise Run.

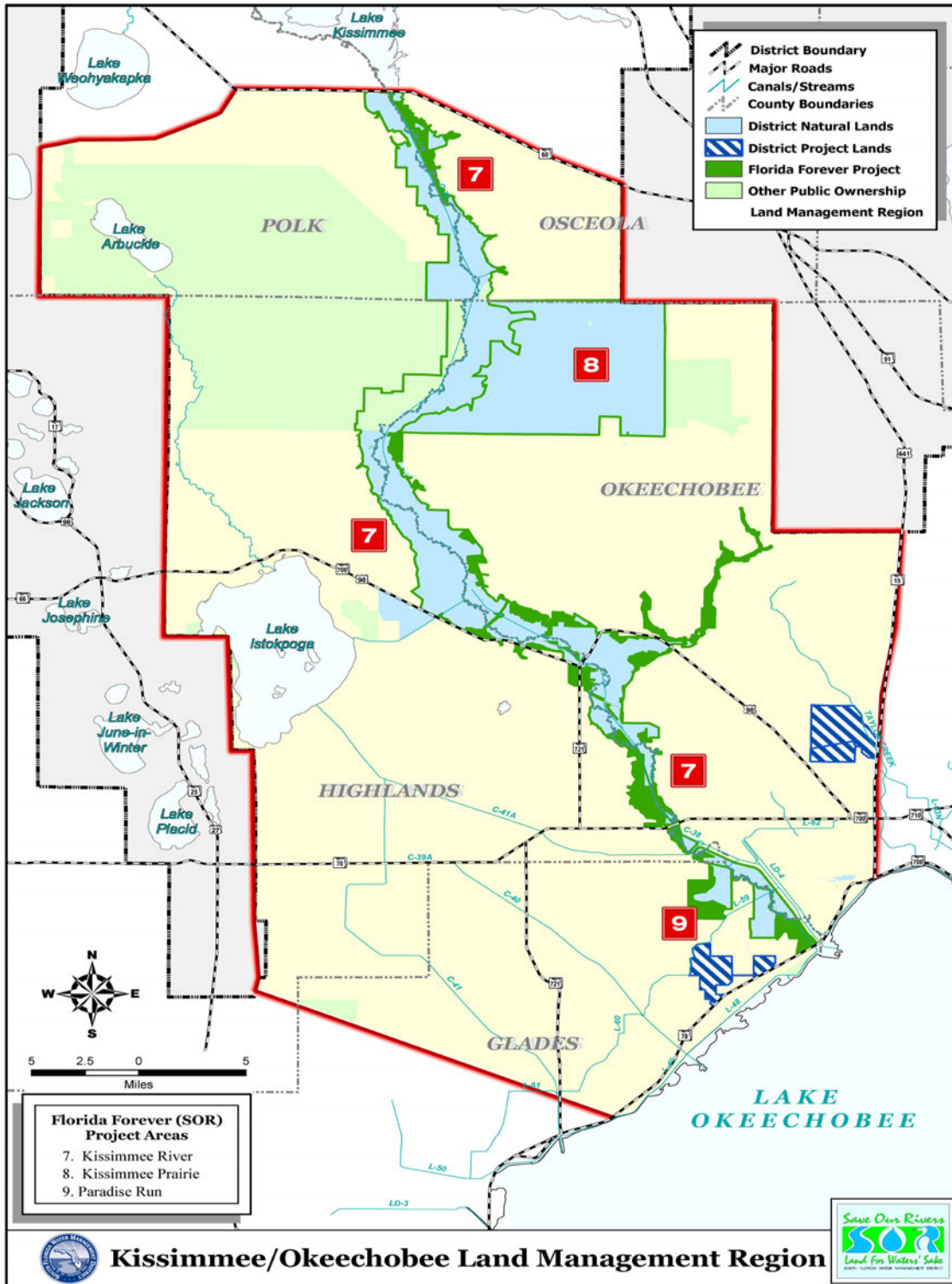


Figure 6B-3. Kissimmee/Okeechobee Land Management Region.

EAST COAST LAND MANAGEMENT REGION, WEST PALM BEACH/DUPUIS

ALLAPATTAH FLATS (MANAGED BY THE DISTRICT AND THE FWC)

- County: Martin
- Project size: 23,226 acres
- District ownership: 20,945 acres
- Acquisition partners: Martin County and the federal government

With funding assistance from Martin County and the federal government, Allapattah was purchased as part of CERP's Indian River Lagoon – South, Project Implementation Report Recommended Plan. The Allapattah Flats is also known as the Allapattah Complex Natural Water Storage and Treatment Area. It is proposed that the ditches and swales that were excavated to drain and improve the property for cattle grazing will be plugged and filled. Afterward, a low berm will be constructed at strategic locations to protect roadways and water control structures will be replaced to affect greater control of the site's water resources, allowing rehydration of the property's extensive wetland systems. Restoration will be partially funded through the NRCS Wetland Reserve Program. The project is anticipated to provide the benefits of flood attenuation, improved water quality, and reduction of discharge into the C-23 canal and eventually the Indian River Lagoon.

Management activities included continued treatment of exotic vegetation in FY2007 with 3,843 acres treated. Fifty-five acres burned due to wildfires. Wetland restoration activities were continued on Parcel A, and a new trail head was completed and opened to the public. In FY2008, it is anticipated that 900 acres of exotics will be treated and 1,500 acres will be burned.

The FWC implemented rules establishing the property as a Wildlife Management Area and has posted the property boundaries. A parking area was constructed by Martin County north of County Road 714 to facilitate public use activities including hiking, bicycling, equestrian use, hunting, and fishing.

ATLANTIC RIDGE ECOSYSTEM (MANAGED BY THE FDEP FLORIDA PARK SERVICE)

- County: Martin
- Project size: 14,975 acres
- District ownership: 5,910 acres (247 of which are being managed by Martin County as an addition to Halpatiokee Regional Park)
- Acquisition partners: CARL

Atlantic Ridge is being managed by the FDEP's Florida Park Service, under a joint management lease from the District and the FDEP, Division of State Lands, and will be eventually designated as the Atlantic Ridge Preserve State Park. The management plan outlines the goals and objectives for the park. This plan describes hydrologic restoration and staffing needs, plans for exotic control and prescribed burns, and a public use program. It is proposed that initial public facilities will include a trailhead, small shelter, parking area, and restroom. Public access to the property was constructed in FY2007 through a new residential development off Cove Road and will be opened to the public in FY2008. The five-year update to the resource

management component of the park's unit management plan was updated in 2007 and an interagency management review team meeting was conducted.

CYPRESS CREEK/LOXAHATCHEE (MANAGED BY THE DISTRICT AND PALM BEACH COUNTY)

- County: Martin and Palm Beach
- Project size: 4,374 acres
- District ownership: 3,547 acres
- Acquisition partners: Martin and Palm Beach counties

The project is divided between Martin and Palm Beach counties and forms connections with Pal-Mar and District-owned lands in Jonathan Dickinson State Park. Nearly 3,000 acres are high quality natural area, containing a mixture of pine flatwoods, cypress swamps, and freshwater marshes. The area is the headwaters to Cypress Creek, a major tributary to the Northwest Fork of the Loxahatchee River. The remainder of the site has been cleared and used for intensive agriculture for many years. In FY2007, 1,400 acres of Old World climbing fern (*Lygodium*), tropical soda apple (*Solanum viarum*), guava (*Psidium*), pickerelweed (*Pontederia cordata*), downy rose myrtle (*Rhodomyrtus tomentosa*), Australian pine (*Casuarina*), Brazilian pepper (*Schinus terebinthifolius*), and melaleuca (*Melaleuca quinquenervia*) were chemically treated. Restoration plans are under way to enhance the impacted natural areas and convert the agricultural lands to reestablish sheetflow across them as a component of CERP. In FY2008, the 1,400-acre natural area within the site will undergo a follow-up treatment for exotics.

CYPRESS CREEK/TRAIL RIDGE (MANAGED BY THE DISTRICT)

- County: St. Lucie
- Project size: 14,455 acres
- District ownership: 1,233 acres
- Acquisition partners: None

The Cypress Creek/Trail Ridge Complex is a component of CERP's Indian River Lagoon – South, Project Implementation Report Recommended Plan. It is also known as the Cypress Creek/Trail Ridge Natural Water Storage and Treatment Area. Some of the property identified within the Cypress Creek/Trail Ridge footprint includes the St. Lucie County-owned Bluefield Ranch property and Pinelands. The District acquired 1,233 acres along the eastern edge of the proposed project in late 2005. It is proposed that many of the ditches and swales that were excavated to drain and improve the property for cattle grazing will be plugged and filled to improve the wetland character of the property and minimize flows to the canal system and ultimately the St. Lucie and Indian River Lagoon estuaries. No restoration activities were completed in FY2007, as authorization and funding for the Indian River Lagoon – South project plan is still pending congressional approval. However, two cattle-grazing leases were executed, as most of the property is improved pasture. Tropical soda apple leaf beetles were released onto the property as a biocontrol agent and are making a significant reduction in the coverage of this invasive exotic plant. In addition, a conceptual management plan was created for the area in Fiscal Year 2007. In FY2008, it is anticipated that 50 acres of exotics will be treated.

DUPUIS MANAGEMENT AREA (MANAGED BY THE DISTRICT AND THE FWC)

- County: Palm Beach and Martin
- Project size: 22,025 acres
- District ownership: 21,875 acres
- Acquisition partners: None

The DuPuis Management Area is cooperatively managed by the District and the FWC. The DuPuis five-year management plan includes prescribed burns, exotic plant control, upland shrub control, wildlife management, and forest management. In FY2007, approximately 2,225 acres were prescribed burned, 1,352 acres were chemically treated for exotic plants, and 540 acres of overgrown shrub vegetation were mechanically shredded, roller-chopped, or mowed. A total of 590 acres of over dense stands of cabbage palms and more than 350 acres of pine trees were thinned to improve habitat quality and prevent the spread of pine bark beetles. In a major milestone, red-cockaded woodpeckers (*Picoides borealis*) were reintroduced to the area with 10 birds being released in the fall of 2006. Three pairs established territories and one pair produced a female fledgling. An additional 10 birds will be released in FY2008. In addition, an extensive public use program at DuPuis attracted thousands of visitors to the area and included activities such as hunting, fishing, horseback riding, nature watching, hiking, camping, and education programs through the DuPuis Visitors' Center. Public use was enhanced in 2007 with the construction of a new recreation area at the "Governor's House," and will be enhanced further in 2008 with the construction of a new boardwalk. In FY2008, it is anticipated that 1,500 acres of exotics will be treated and 7,000 acres will be burned.

HALPATIOKEE REGIONAL PARK (MANAGED BY MARTIN COUNTY)

- County: Martin
- Project size: 347 acres
- District ownership: 347 acres
- Acquisition partners: None

Halpatiokee is composed of a portion of the Atlantic Ridge Ecosystem Project (247 acres) and a portion of the South Fork of the St. Lucie River Project (100 acres). Martin County manages the natural area in conjunction with Halpatiokee Regional Park staff. The property consists of pine flatwoods that surround a series of lakes that were originally excavated to provide fill for the construction of Interstate 95. The South Fork property is a mixture of river floodplain, pine flatwoods, and scrub. In FY2007, the county treated Old World climbing fern (*Lygodium*), Brazilian pepper (*Schinus terebinthifolius*), ear-leaf acacia (*Acacia auriculiformis*), cogon grass (*Imperata cylindrica*), melaleuca (*Melaleuca quinquenervia*), and downy rose myrtle (*Rhodomyrtus tomentosa*). In addition, Martin County installed a composting restroom at the campground.

INDIAN RIVER LAGOON (MANAGED BY ST. LUCIE COUNTY)

- County: St. Lucie/Martin
- Project size: 653 acres
- District ownership: 653 acres
- Acquisition partners: St. Lucie County, CARL, and the federal government

Indian River Lagoon is managed by St. Lucie County under a lease from the District and the FDEP Florida Park Service. The Indian River Lagoon property has been included for participation in the county's nonchemical mosquito control efforts, which has greatly improved water quality, wildlife, and fisheries habitat in the lagoon. Mosquito impoundment berms are accessible to the public and provide excellent opportunities for fishing, crabbing, and bird watching. The Blind Creek property includes ocean beachfront access and a dune crossover. During FY2007, approximately 10 acres of Blind Creek were treated for exotics.

LOXAHATCHEE RIVER (MANAGED BY PALM BEACH COUNTY AND THE FDEP FLORIDA PARK SERVICE)

- County: Palm Beach
- Project size: 1,998 acres
- District ownership: 1,545 acres
- Acquisition partners: Palm Beach County

District-owned lands along the river are managed by the FDEP Florida Park Service and the Palm Beach County Parks and Recreation Department. The Florida Park Service manages the area north of State Road 706 (Indiantown Road) as part of Jonathan Dickinson State Park, while Palm Beach County manages the lands south of the road as Riverbend County Park. Both land managers have extensively treated exotics. Palm Beach County, in cooperation with the District, is completing hydrologic restoration of its management area in an attempt to restore the Eastern Slough, a historic tributary to the Loxahatchee River. The restoration project will enable water to be delivered to the Loxahatchee River through a more natural flow-way. Palm Beach County opened Riverbend Park for public use in FY2007.

LOXAHATCHEE SLOUGH (MANAGED BY PALM BEACH COUNTY)

- County: Palm Beach
- Project size: 13,099 acres
- District ownership: 1,823 acres
- Acquisition partners: None

Palm Beach County's Department of Environmental Resources Management is currently managing the Sandhill Crane portion of the project—a 1,488-acre tract purchased by the District, and a 335-acre conservation easement. The transfer of ownership from the District to Palm Beach County is forthcoming. The county owns more than 10,000 acres in the Loxahatchee Slough Natural Area, which adjoins the Sandhill tract. In FY2007, more than 1,000 acres of exotic vegetation in the Sandhill tract were treated by Palm Beach County.

NORTH FORK ST. LUCIE RIVER (MANAGED BY ST. LUCIE COUNTY AND THE FDEP FLORIDA PARK SERVICE)

- County: St. Lucie
- Project size: 4,086 acres
- District ownership: 482 acres
- Acquisition partners: St. Lucie County and CARL

State of Florida, St. Lucie County, and District-owned lands along the North Fork are being managed by St. Lucie County and the FDEP as part of the North Fork Aquatic Preserve. Both agencies are treating exotics and conducting limited prescribed burns, which is extremely difficult due to the surrounding urban development area. In FY2007, 33 acres were retreated for exotics. In addition to the exotic plant treatment, 71 hogs were trapped from the site in 2007.

St. Lucie County has constructed and now operates the Oxbow Eco-Center, which is an environmental education facility along the North Fork of the St. Lucie River in Port St. Lucie. This facility incorporates indoor displays with outdoor programming that uses interpretive trails, towers, and boardwalks. Approximately 26,420 students and visitors participated in classes, workshops, and special events at the facility.

PAL-MAR (MANAGED BY THE DISTRICT, FWC, AND PALM BEACH COUNTY)

- County: Palm Beach and Martin
- Project size: 39,325 acres
- District ownership: 17,807 acres
- Acquisition partners: CARL, Palm Beach County, Martin County, the Florida Communities Trust, and the federal government

State and District-owned lands are under management lease to the FWC using an approved management plan as the John C. and Mariana Jones/Hungryland Wildlife and Environmental Area. Palm Beach County manages its lands south of Indiantown Road as the Trail Glades Natural Area. The property is open for public use activities, including hiking, primitive camping, hunting, fishing, bicycling, and horseback riding. The FWC is conducting resource inventories and has mapped exotic infestations.

The nine-gems property, or PalMar East, is being managed cooperatively by the District, Martin County, and the FWC. The District is conducting resource management and restoration activities, Martin County is developing the recreation facilities, and the FWC is administering the hunt programs. In FY2008, it is anticipated that 150 acres of exotics will be treated and 640 acres will be burned. Additionally, the District will be completing the engineering and design work associated with restoring the hydrology of the site under a NRCS, Wetland Reserve Program grant.

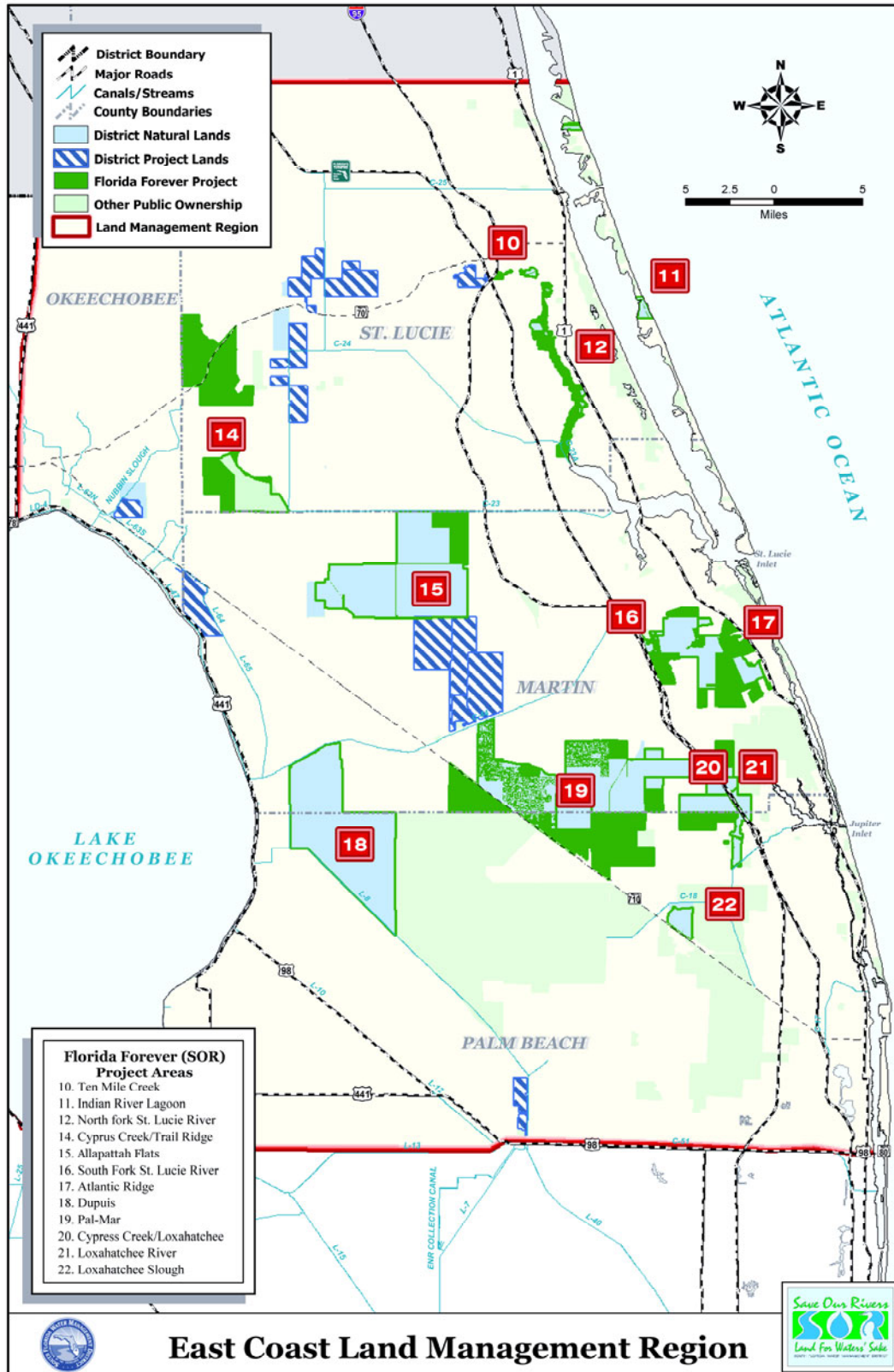


Figure 6B-4. East Coast Land Management Region.

EVERGLADES LAND MANAGEMENT REGION, MIAMI SERVICE CENTER/WEST PALM BEACH

BISCAYNE COASTAL WETLANDS (MANAGED BY THE DISTRICT)

- County: Miami-Dade
- Project size: 2,035 acres
- District ownership: 496 acres
- Acquisition partners: Miami-Dade County

The Biscayne Coastal Wetlands project provides an opportunity to reestablish sheetflow through coastal wetlands and provide a buffer between Biscayne Bay and metropolitan Miami-Dade County through an Acceler8 restoration project. Most of the land within the Biscayne Coastal Wetlands project will be used by the Acceler8 project. During FY2007, the primary management activity was exotic control with 144 acres treated. In FY2008, it is anticipated that 50 acres of exotics will be treated.

EAST COAST BUFFER NATURAL LANDS (MANAGED BY THE DISTRICT)

- County: Broward and Miami-Dade
- Project size: 49,896 acres
- District ownership: 13,037 acres
- Acquisition partners: Broward and Miami-Dade counties and the federal government

The East Coast Buffer project provides a buffer between the developed areas and the Everglades. Initially, the Audubon Society proposed the storage of excess waters currently being discharged to tide. Instead, the excess waters would discharge into a series of storage areas that would then be incorporated into a larger system of regional marshes. This concept, known as the East Coast Buffer, was furthered by the District as a continuous buffer between the Everglades and the urban metropolis in the Lower East Coast. The primary goal is to raise water levels to minimize seepage from the WCAs, reestablish natural hydroperiod patterns, and maintain flood protection for urban and agricultural areas. The project integrates the development of deep water reservoirs located along the edge of the east coast urban service area with a series of shallower, connecting wetland marshes. The later represents the natural lands component of the East Coast Buffer. These properties include the Strazulla Wetlands, the Everglades Buffer Strip, the Bird Drive Recharge area, the Pennsuco wetlands, and a few other parcels that lie outside of the proposed reservoir facilities. During FY2007, the primary management activity was exotic control with 11,846 acres treated. In FY2008, it is anticipated that exotic control treatments will occur on Strazulla, Bird Drive, the Everglades Buffer Strip, and the Pennsuco wetlands.

LOXAHATCHEE MITIGATION BANK (MANAGED BY TETRA TECH EC, INC.)

- County: Palm Beach
- Project size: 1,256 acres
- District ownership: 1,256 acres
- Acquisition partners: Palm Beach County

The Loxahatchee Mitigation Bank site lies adjacent to the Arthur R. Marshall Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge. This site provides habitat connectivity that augments existing Everglades wetland systems. Unfortunately, Brazilian pepper and other exotics have degraded the area, adversely impacting native wildlife habitat including a number of threatened and endangered species. The goal of the bank is to restore habitat values and provide enhancement of a degraded Everglades ecosystem through hydroperiod restoration, exotic vegetation removal, revegetation with desired species, and prescribed burns. Through an open and competitive solicitation process, Tetra Tech EC, Inc. (Tetra Tech) was selected to establish the Loxahatchee Mitigation Bank. Permitting and construction have been completed; exotic vegetation removal and native community enhancements are ongoing. As of November 2007, the Loxahatchee Mitigation Bank completed its fifth year of monitoring toward attainment of the success criteria. In May 2007, the fourth revenue disbursement, amounting to \$615,000, was provided by Tetra Tech to the District; the total received to date has been \$1,435,000. During FY2007, the primary management activities were exotic control and the clearing and windrowing of dead Brazilian pepper. Exotic treatments occurred over 1,127 acres.

MODEL LANDS (MANAGED BY THE DISTRICT)

- County: Miami-Dade
- Project size: 56,378 acres
- District ownership: 4,899 acres
- Acquisition partners: Miami-Dade County

The Model Lands project will play a vital role in conveying and treating sheetflow from the southern Miami-Dade County area to the downstream estuaries into Biscayne Bay and Biscayne National Park. The project area is a combination of fresh and saltwater wetlands, with portions heavily infested with exotic vegetation. Although more than 15,500 acres are in public ownership, there is no public use program due to lack of legal access and scattered ownership. The major management activities have been treating exotic vegetation and restricting detrimental activities, such as off-road vehicular use, which can cause long-term ecological impacts, poaching, and dumping. The primary management focus for the District and Miami-Dade County is the treatment of exotic species including coral ardisia (*Ardisia crenata*), Brazilian pepper (*Schinus terebinthifolius*), melaleuca (*Melaleuca quinquenervia*), Australian pine (*Casuarina*), and the increasingly observed patches of Japanese climbing fern (*Lygodium japonicum*). In FY2007, over 162 acres of exotics were treated for the first time. In FY2008, it is anticipated that 250 acres of exotics will be treated.

SOUTHERN GLADES (MANAGED BY THE DISTRICT, THE FWC, AND MIAMI-DADE COUNTY)

- County: Miami-Dade
- Project size: 36,474 acres
- District ownership: 32,536 acres
- Acquisition partners: Miami-Dade County

Southern Glades is cooperatively managed by the FWC, under a lease agreement as the Southern Glades Wildlife and Environmental Area. It is publicly open to hiking, wildlife viewing, fishing, hunting, airboating, bicycling, and horseback riding. The District performed exotic plant control over 115 acres using aerial and ground crews in FY2007. In FY2008, it is anticipated that 75 acres of exotics will be treated.

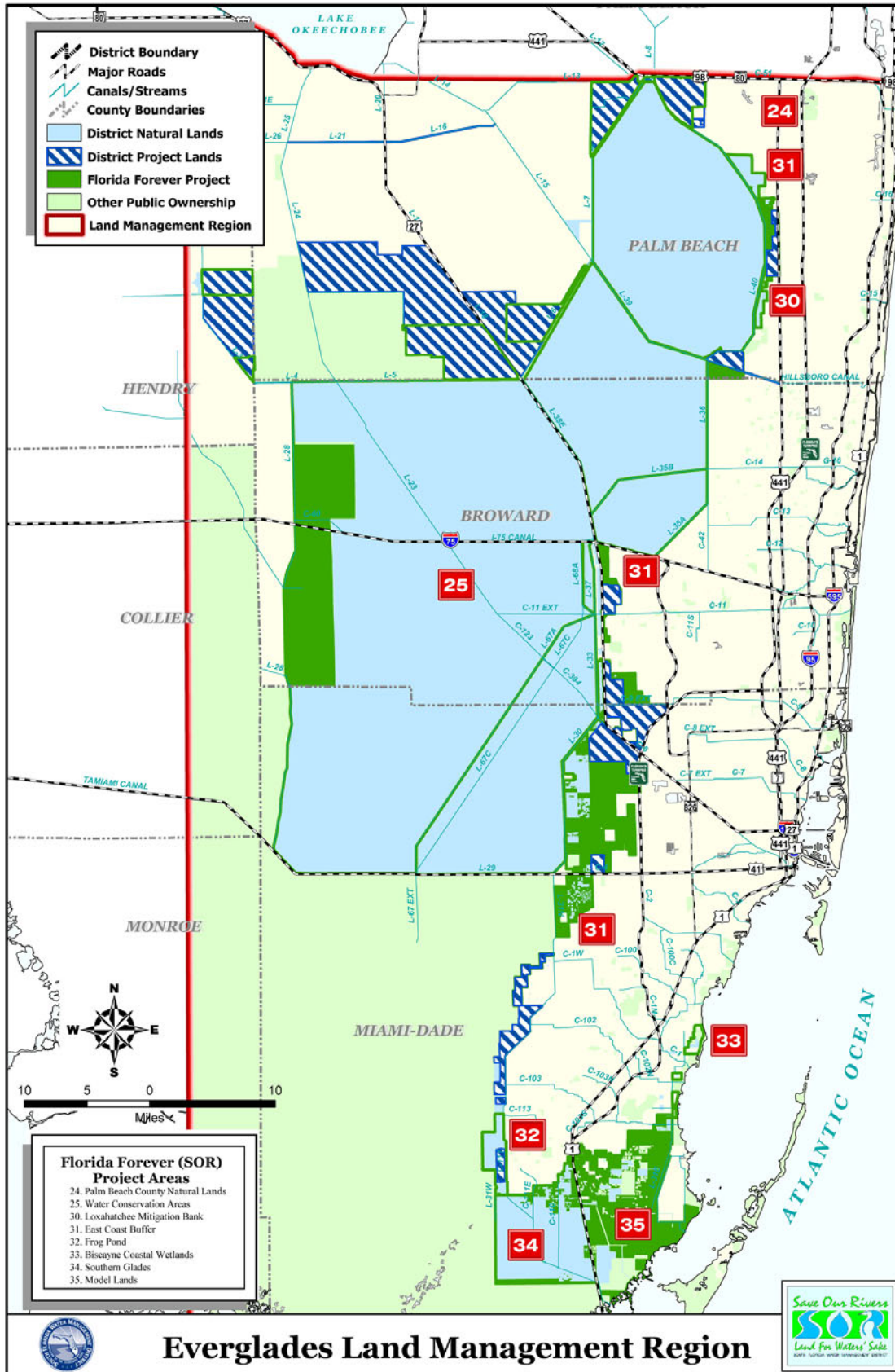


Figure 6B-5. Everglades Land Management Region.

WEST COAST LAND MANAGEMENT REGION, CREW MANAGEMENT CENTER

CORKSCREW REGIONAL MITIGATION BANK (MANAGED BY MARINER PROPERTIES DEVELOPMENT, INC.)

- County: Lee
- Project size: 633 acres
- District ownership: 633 acres
- Acquisition partners: None

The Corkscrew Regional Mitigation Bank is located in southern Lee County along Corkscrew Road (State Road 850). It is adjacent to the Imperial Marsh/Stairstep mitigation area, established to offset impacts associated with the Southwest Florida Regional Airport. The goal of the bank is to improve habitat values and restore the historic function of the upland/wetland mosaic through hydroperiod restoration, revegetation, exotic vegetation removal, and prescribed burns. The bank site contributes to corridor building and the green infrastructure within the regional context. Mariner Properties Development, Inc., selected through an open and competitive solicitation process, is establishing the bank. During FY2007, the bank continued herbicide treatment of pasture grass and other exotic plants. Pasture areas continued to be planted with mixed native seed collected from natural areas; good germination of these native seeds was achieved. In FY2008, restoration progress will continue.

CORKSCREW REGIONAL ECOSYSTEM WATERSHED (MANAGED BY THE DISTRICT AND THE FWC)

- County: Lee, Collier
- Project size: 65,716 acres
- District ownership: 24,439 acres (2,183 additional acres are leased from the Trustees of the Internal Improvement Trust Fund)
- Acquisition partners: Lee County and CARL

The District and FWC jointly manage the Corkscrew Regional Ecosystem Watershed (CREW). Property boundaries are posted, and FWC's wildlife officers patrol the property. The public use and environmental education program is directed by the CREW Land and Water Trust. In FY2007, approximately 5,888 acres were prescribed burned and 2,523 acres of exotics were treated. Restoration work continued on the CREW Management Center (288 acres), East Corkscrew Marsh (80 acres), East Bird Rookery Swamp (70 acres), and Tree Wizard (10 acres) using both mechanical shrub control and exotic plant control techniques. Three miles of earthen berm were graded back into borrow ditches on the 640-acre Gordon Swamp cattle lease area. During FY2007, a 1,400-foot boardwalk into Bird Rookery Swamp was completed, and a parking area was designed to provide future access to ten miles of old logging tram roads that will be used for hiking and biking trails. In FY2008, it is anticipated that 4,000 acres of exotics will be treated and 1,000 acres will be burned.

OKALOACOOCHEE SLOUGH (MANAGED BY THE DOF AND FWC)

- County: Hendry and Collier
- Project size: 37,218 acres
- District ownership: 34,982 acres
- Acquisition partners: CARL, FWC, and DOF

The DOF and FWC purchased additional lands in the project that expand the original purchase by the District and the state. The project is managed as Okaloacoochee Slough State Forest with the DOF as lead manager, and the FWC responsible for wildlife management under a four-party lease agreement with the FDEP, Division of State Lands and the District. The FWC also manages the project as a Type 1 Wildlife Management Area and conducts a public hunt program. An approved management plan is in place.

SIX MILE CYPRESS (MANAGED BY LEE COUNTY)

- County: Lee
- Project size: 2,254 acres
- District ownership: 843 acres
- Acquisition partners: Lee County

The Six Mile Cypress property is jointly owned by Lee County and the District. Since acquisition the property has been managed by Lee County Parks and Recreation. The management plan was updated in 2002. Six Mile Cypress likely has the highest rate of public visitation of any District project. Each year approximately 50,000 Lee County students and visitors use the outdoor classroom facility and boardwalk built and maintained by Lee County. In FY2007, construction began on a new interpretive building to be built on-site.

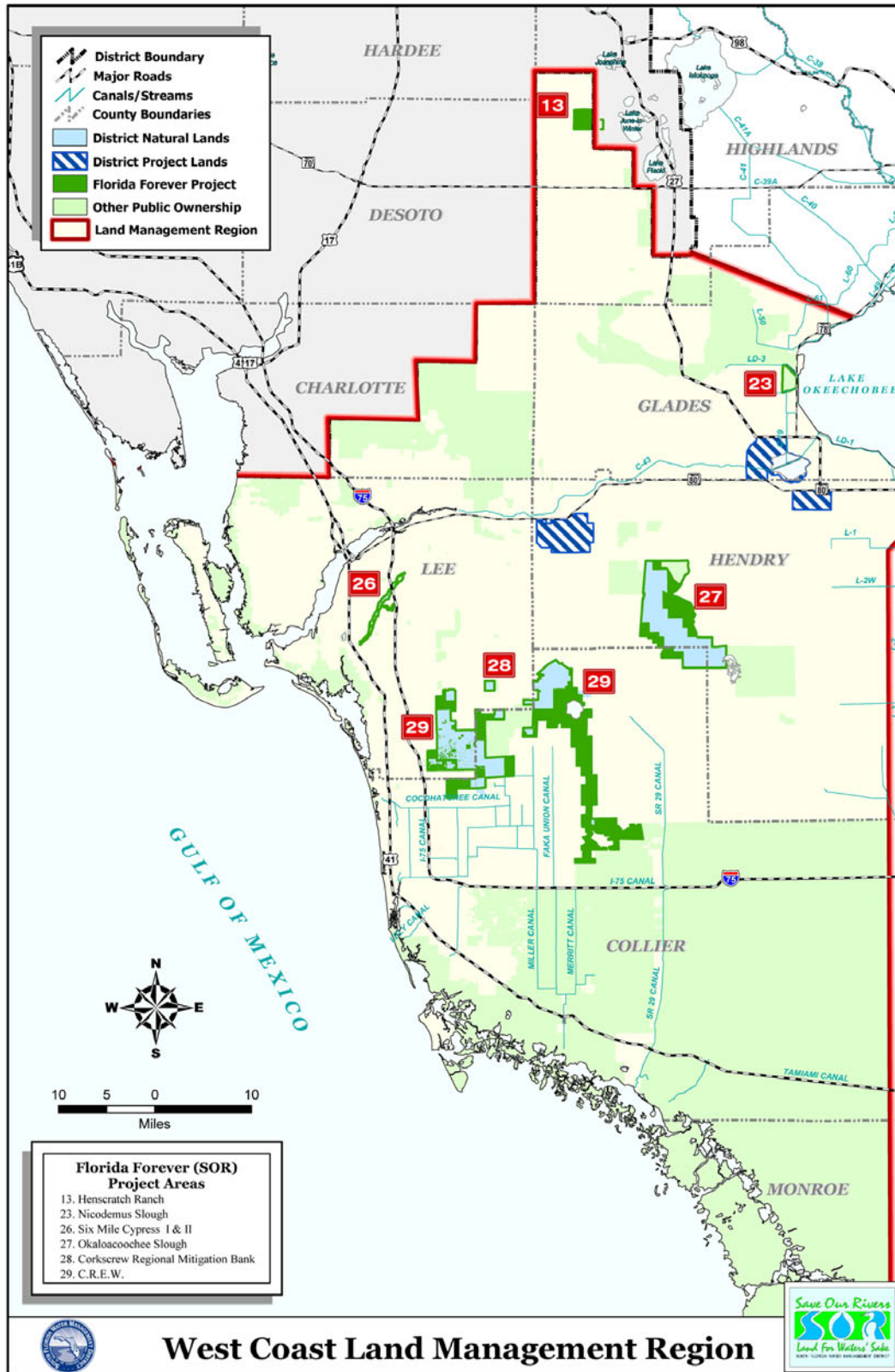


Figure 6B-6. West Coast Land Management Region.