

Pal-Mar

Partnerships & Regional Incentives

Palm Beach, Martin

<i>Year Added to Priority List</i>	1992
<i>Project Acres</i>	36,229
<i>Acquired Acres</i>	26,897
<i>Cost of Acquired Acres</i>	\$16,044,487
<i>Remaining Project Acres</i>	9,333
<i>2020 Assessed Value of Remaining Acres</i>	\$24,015,170

Purpose for State Acquisition

The Pal Mar project will protect one of the largest and best natural areas left in southeast Florida. It will protect what was once a transition zone between uplands dominated by pine flatwoods and the sawgrass marshes of the Everglades. This project will ensure habitat for the rare species and protect the Loxahatchee River, a federally designated National Wild and Scenic River. The project will provide critical connectivity between the J. W. Corbett Wildlife Management Area with Jonathan Dickinson State Park and other public conservation lands, as well as provide land to the public of this fast-growing region for resource-based outdoor recreation.

General Description

The project is within 100 miles of the three most populous counties in the state and includes some of the highest quality, most intact pine flatwoods in southern Florida and protects an ecotone between these flatwoods and the treeless Everglades. The project area includes high-quality examples of basin marsh, depression marsh, wet prairie, dome swamp, and mesic and wet flatwoods, all with exceptional ground-cover diversity. The project provides habitat for at least eight federally endangered or threatened animals including the Everglades snail kite, red-cockaded woodpecker, and wood stork. The project area includes Pine Glades Natural Area and Hungryland WEA and is contiguous with J.W. Corbett WMA, the private Pratt-Whitney Preserve and Cypress Creek conservation lands owned by South Florida Water Management District (FWMD), Martin County and Palm Beach County. The project area also includes a mile-wide connector to Jonathan Dickinson State Park. The project also contains a segment of the historic Jupiter-Indiantown Road. Urbanization is rapidly impacting the surrounding public conservation lands and the growth pressure on the properties within the project is intense.

FNAI Element Occurrence Summary

FNAI Elements	Score
Snail kite	G4G5/S2
<i>celestial lily</i>	G2/S2
Florida sandhill crane	G5T2/S2
Round-tailed muskrat	G2/S2
<i>many-flowered grass-pink</i>	G2G3/S2S3
<i>meadow jointvetch</i>	G4T3/S3
<i>piedmont jointgrass</i>	G3/S3
Wood stork	G4/S2
Bachman's sparrow	G3/S3
<i>banded wild-pine</i>	G5/S3
Glossy ibis	G5/S3
Limpkin	G5/S3

Public Use

Most of this project has been designated for use as a wildlife management and environmental area. Plans are for the easternmost portion of the project area to be added to Jonathan Dickinson State Park. Public uses allowed within the wildlife and environmental area include hunting, fishing, hiking, bicycling, horseback riding, environmental education and nature appreciation. The project area south of Indiantown Road is the part of the Pine Glades Natural Area, managed by PBC. Public uses permitted within Pine Glades Natural Area include hiking, fishing, canoeing, environmental education and nature appreciation.

Acquisition Planning

Phase I of this project consisted of approximately five larger ownerships, including tracts adjacent to J.W. Corbett WMA, FDIC (acquired by SFWMD and Martin County), MacArthur (acquired by PBC), Pal-Mar Water Control District (acquired), Lara (acquired by PBC) and Florida National Bank. The MacArthur lands north of Indiantown Road were sold to the State by PBC. Phase II consists of subdivided areas and a corridor to Jonathan Dickinson State Park. On October 21, 1999, the Council added 1,280 acres to the project boundary as essential parcels.

There is very little property remaining to acquire in the Palm Beach County side of the project. Martin County and SFWMD have acquired most of the property on the Martin County side of the project.

In July 2007, SFWMD acquired a 427-acre parcel from Indiantown Realty Partners LP. The parcel is part of the John C. and Mariana Jones/Hungryland WEA.

On December 9, 2011, the ARC placed this project in the Partnerships and Regional Incentives category of Florida Forever.



Coordination

SFWMD, PBC and Martin County are acquisition partners in this project. Most of the larger ownerships have been acquired. PBC has acquired several the smaller parcels, totaling 223.63 acres that are located north of Indiantown Road.

Management Policy Statement

The primary goals of management of the Pal-Mar Florida Forever project are to conserve and protect environmentally unique and irreplaceable lands that contain native, relatively unaltered flora and fauna representing a natural area unique to, or scarce within, a region of this state or a larger geographic area; to conserve and protect significant habitat for native species or endangered and threatened species; to conserve, protect, manage, or restore important ecosystems, landscapes, and forests, in order to enhance or protect significant surface water, coastal, recreational, timber, fish or wildlife resources which local or state regulatory programs cannot adequately protect; and to provide areas, including recreational trails, for natural resource-based recreation.

Manager(s)

FWC manages west of I-95 and north of Indiantown Road (Hungryland WEA [Wildlife and Environmental Area]). DRP manages east of I-95. Palm Beach County (PBC) manages south of Indiantown Road.

Management Prospectus

Qualifications for state designation

Preventing isolation of natural lands is important in enabling genetic interchange among plant and animal populations. This project is a large natural area connecting the J.W. Corbett WMA on the west with SFWMD and PBC Cypress Creek lands and Jonathan Dickinson State Park on the east. The size, quality of wildlife resources and location next to the Corbett WMA of the northwestern part qualify it as a WMA. The part that lies south of Indiantown Road is part of the PBC Pine Glades Natural Area. The part of the project east of Interstate 95 is adjacent to Jonathan Dickinson and is a logical addition to that park.

Conditions affecting intensity of management

For the project area west of I-95 and north of Indiantown Road, no known conditions would result in the need for intensive management. The land could be managed as a normal component of the WMA system. The portion of the project east of I-95 will be added to Jonathan Dickinson State Park, which is a high-need management area. The portion of the project south of Indiantown Road is being managed by PBC, that completed a multi-year restoration program within this portion of the project area.

Management implementation, Public access, Site security and Protection of infrastructure

Initial management of the area west of I-95 involved posting and otherwise securing the tract against trespassing and vandalism, preparing roads and other infrastructure for public recreation, performing resource inventories and initiating the planning process. Subsequent resource and recreation management have occurred since the portion of the project north of Indiantown Road has been added



to an existing WEA (Hungryland). Management activities, after acquisition of the eastern part, were concentrated on site security, natural and cultural resource protection, and the development of a plan for long-term public use and resource management. Most of the remaining lands to be acquired would represent an addition to an existing WMA (J.W. Corbett) or an existing WEA (Hungryland).

Revenue-generating potential

Revenue potential for the western part (excluding the lands owned by PBC) would be moderate to low since it does not contain significant upland (timber) resources. However, some revenue could be generated from recreational use (over and above licenses and permits sold by FWC) if the Legislature could approve user fees for non-consumptive recreational activities. The eastern part will be added to Jonathan Dickinson State Park. No significant revenue is expected to be generated by these lands on their own.

Cooperators in management activities

PBC manages the property south of Indiantown Road, which is called the Pine Glades Natural Area.

Management Cost Summary

<u>FWC</u>	<u>Startup</u>	<u>Recurring</u>
Source of Funds	CARL	CARL
Salary	\$45,000	\$100,000
OPS	\$5,000	\$5,000
Expense	\$30,000	\$65,000
OCO	\$30,000	\$15,000
FCO	\$0	\$40,000
TOTAL	\$110,000	\$225,000

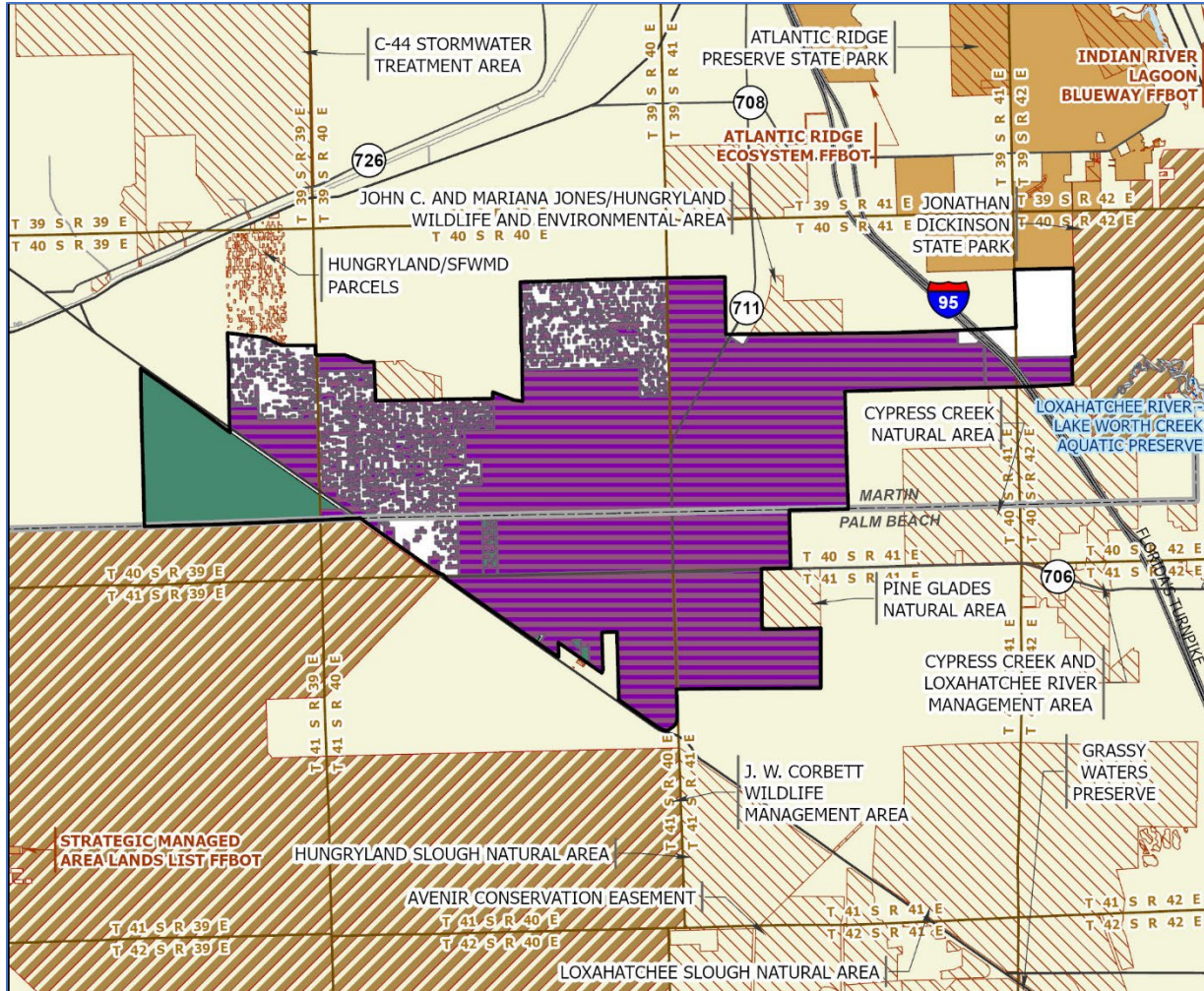
Source: Management Prospectus as originally submitted

Management Cost Summary

<u>DRP</u>	<u>Startup</u>	<u>Recurring</u>
Source of Funds	CARL	CARL
Salary	\$0	\$0
OPS	\$12,000	\$12,000
Expense	\$0	\$0
OCO	\$20,000	\$1,000
FCO	\$60,000	\$5,000
TOTAL	\$92,000	\$18,000

Source: Management Prospectus as originally submitted

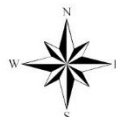




PAL-MAR

MARTIN AND PALM BEACH COUNTIES

-  Florida Forever BOT Project Boundary
-  Acquired for Conservation (Fee Simple)
-  Acquired for Conservation (Less-Than-Fee)
-  Essential Parcel(s) Remaining
-  State Owned Conservation Lands
-  Other Conservation Lands
-  Other Florida Forever BOT Projects
-  State Aquatic Preserve



FEBRUARY 2022

Map 1: FNAI, February 2022

