

# 2020 Florida Forever Five-Year Plan



Summary of Recommendations and Status as of December 2019

Corkscrew Regional Ecosystem Watershed

Division of State Lands

Florida Department of Environmental Protection



*As approved by the Board of Trustees Internal Improvement Trust Fund  
May 2020*

## 2016

At the December 2016 ARC meeting, the members voted to add the CREW Headwaters proposal to the existing Corkscrew Regional Ecosystem Watershed project as an amendment. This adds 2,841 acres to CREW in the southeastern corner of Lee County in a plan to use willing sellers of groves to make hydrologic fixes to drainage areas that affected downstream areas. The goals for the addition included conserving fresh water that has run off into other areas, restoring water levels of the Corkscrew Swamp, improving habitat for such species as the Florida panther and the wood stork, and creating public recreation and wildlife viewing opportunities. FDOT is coordinating with South Florida Water Management District staff to possibly use this area as mitigation for the widening of State Road 82.

### Coordination

Acquisition partners are SFWMD, Lee and Collier Counties. Both the Nature Conservancy (TNC) and the Trust for Public Land (TPL) have been intermediaries in the acquisition of some tracts. Resolutions in support of this project include a pledge from Lee County for \$1.5 million.

### Management Policy Statement

The primary goals of management of the CREW project are to conserve and protect significant habitat for native species or endangered and threatened species; and 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.

### Management Prospectus

#### *Qualifications for state designation*

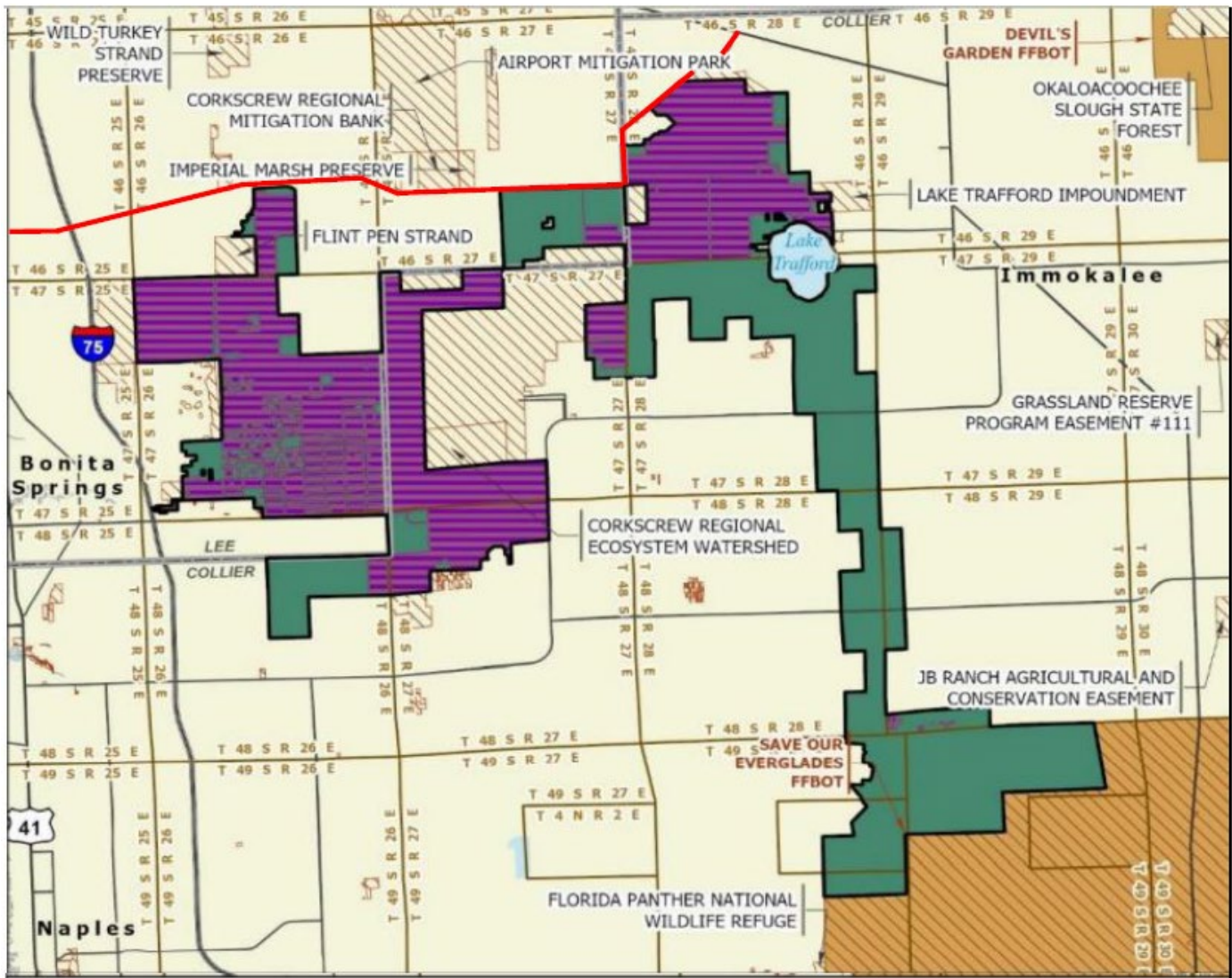
The project's size, natural communities, and extremely sensitive wildlife resources qualify it as a wildlife and environmental area.

#### *Manager*

The South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) is lead Manager.

#### *Conditions affecting intensity of management*

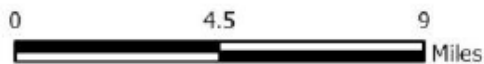
There are various intensities of management required for lands in CREW. There are low-need parcels such as virgin stands of cypress that require little or no management. Also, within CREW are moderate- need tracts that need basic resource management such as prescribed burning, and high- need tracts that have been completely altered. Severely altered tracts, such as agricultural fields, must be ecologically restored.



## CORKSCREW REGIONAL ECOSYSTEM WATERSHED

### COLLIER AND LEE COUNTIES

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



JANUARY 2020

Project Map 45: Source → Florida Natural Areas Inventory (FNAI, January 2020)