

CHAPTER 5

ENVIRONMENTAL DATA COLLECTION

5.1 GENERAL

Collection of data for this Application utilized existing sources. Pertinent information was readily available from the public and private sector throughout the region and the state. Therefore, original work in data gathering was deemed unnecessary except for one field investigation trip by the consultant and preliminary investigations in proximity to the Little Gator Creek rookery.

Various individuals were involved with the preparation of this Application, which included data collection and analysis for their respective area of expertise. Disciplines represented included: wildlife; fisheries and plant biology; forestry; visual analysis; land use/photo interpretation; archeology/history; water quality; hydrology/geology; engineering; and electrical effects.

In addition to the usual tools utilized for data collection and analysis, i.e., USGS 7.5 minute quadrangle maps, Florida DOT county highway maps, and 1979 and 1980 aerial photography, color aerial video tapes of the proposed corridor and environs were available to the project team. Flown in the spring of 1980, the tapes enabled researchers to observe the proposed corridor and its natural characteristics from an aerial perspective. They also offered views of inaccessible areas which otherwise would not have been available during field investigations.

5.2 DATA COLLECTION

Actual data collection involved three basic steps: (1) archive and literature search, (2) agency contacts and personal communications, and (3) field investigations. Contacts were made with numerous county, regional, state and federal agencies, universities, and knowledgeable individuals (see Appendix B). Many of these contacts provided information unique to the local environment and pertinent to the problems encountered in the transmission line route and corridor selection process. The disparate functions of the various agencies suggested

that some would only be sources of information, while others would be able to supply pertinent ideas about the kinds of information that should be considered. Thus, some meetings were informal and often resulted only in the acquisition of publications or documents. Other meetings were more formal, such as with the Department of Environmental Regulation, the Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and involved a discussion of project plans. The information as acquired was noted, located, and recorded for future reference.

Documents obtained were reviewed and appropriate information was incorporated (on maps and in text) into this transmission line corridor application. When deemed necessary or warranted, collected information and data interpreted from aerial photography was cross-checked and ground-truthed through field investigations. These data collection and agency contacts were an ongoing process up to the time of final draft application preparation.

Each of the various corridor options was field inspected. Observations were made as to existing conditions and potential problems and conflicts with the proposed project. Fieldwork was conducted on public lands and along roadways, and was coordinated with data presented and illustrated on USGS quadrangle maps and with 1979 aerial photography. Field notes were then used to refine collected and mapped data, and to readjust portions of corridor alignments. On-site verification of data was incorporated into the project prior to the inventory of land use and cover classifications in the proposed corridor (based on *The Florida Land Use and Cover Classification System: A Technical Report*, Level I for land use and Level III for vegetation).

Upon completion of the application, FPC will continue to communicate with the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, Division of Forestry, regarding maintenance and management of right-of-way in the Withlacoochee State Forest.

5.2.1 Water

No specific measurements were made for background physical and chemical parameters of surface water and groundwaters in the study area or the proposed corridor. Existing information, as presented in Sections 2.2.7.1 and 2.2.7.2, was considered suitable to address Section 2.7, and impacts to water (if any) are expected to be minimal.

5.2.2 Ecology

The presence and distribution of wildlife and plant species reported in Section 2.2.8 was determined for the most part from published records and from personal communications with local authorities. These are cited, where applicable, in the section. Additionally, field reconnaissance was undertaken at selected sites throughout the corridor. Selection of the sites was based on the presence of typical or sensitive/unique habitats. These habitats were determined by evaluating aerial photography, USGS quadrangle maps, and discussions with the previously mentioned local authorities. Field reconnaissance consisted of qualitative observations only, that is, no collections were made of plant or animal specimens, except where deemed necessary to confirm identification. Such collections involved only animal remains, (i.e., skulls or skeletons) or individual plants. Further information on selection of field study sites and activities is presented in Section 2.2.8.

5.2.3 Noise

As the proposed corridor does not include, or pass near, any developed residential areas, ambient noise levels were not determined. Noise impacts from construction activity to individual residences, though temporary and short-term in duration, are addressed in Sections 3.6 and 3.7.



CHAPTER 6

VARIANCES, EXCEPTIONS, EXEMPTIONS

Except as otherwise stated in this Certification Application, there would not be other variances, exceptions or exemptions required for the transmission line if the transmission line was not subject to the Transmission Line Siting Act. Any variance, exception or exemption which would otherwise be required would be for the construction and operational phase of the transmission line.



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APPENDIX A

AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHY OF THE PROPOSED CORRIDOR

IMAGE QUALITY

AS YOU REVIEW THE NEXT FEW PAGES,
PLEASE NOTE THAT THE ORIGINAL
DOCUMENT WAS OF POOR QUALITY.

AERIAL PHOTOGRAPH - A



AERIAL
PHOTOGRAPH - B



EXISTING TRANSMISSION LINE

SUMTER COUNTY
LAKE COUNTY

SUNSHINE
STATE PARKWAY



0

1000 FEET

0

300 METERS

SOURCE
Aerial Photography 12-18-80

AERIAL
PHOTOGRAPH - C

EXISTING TRAIL
SUNSHINE STATE PARKWAY

SUMMIT COUNTY
LAKE COUNTY

470



0
0

1000 FEET
300 METERS

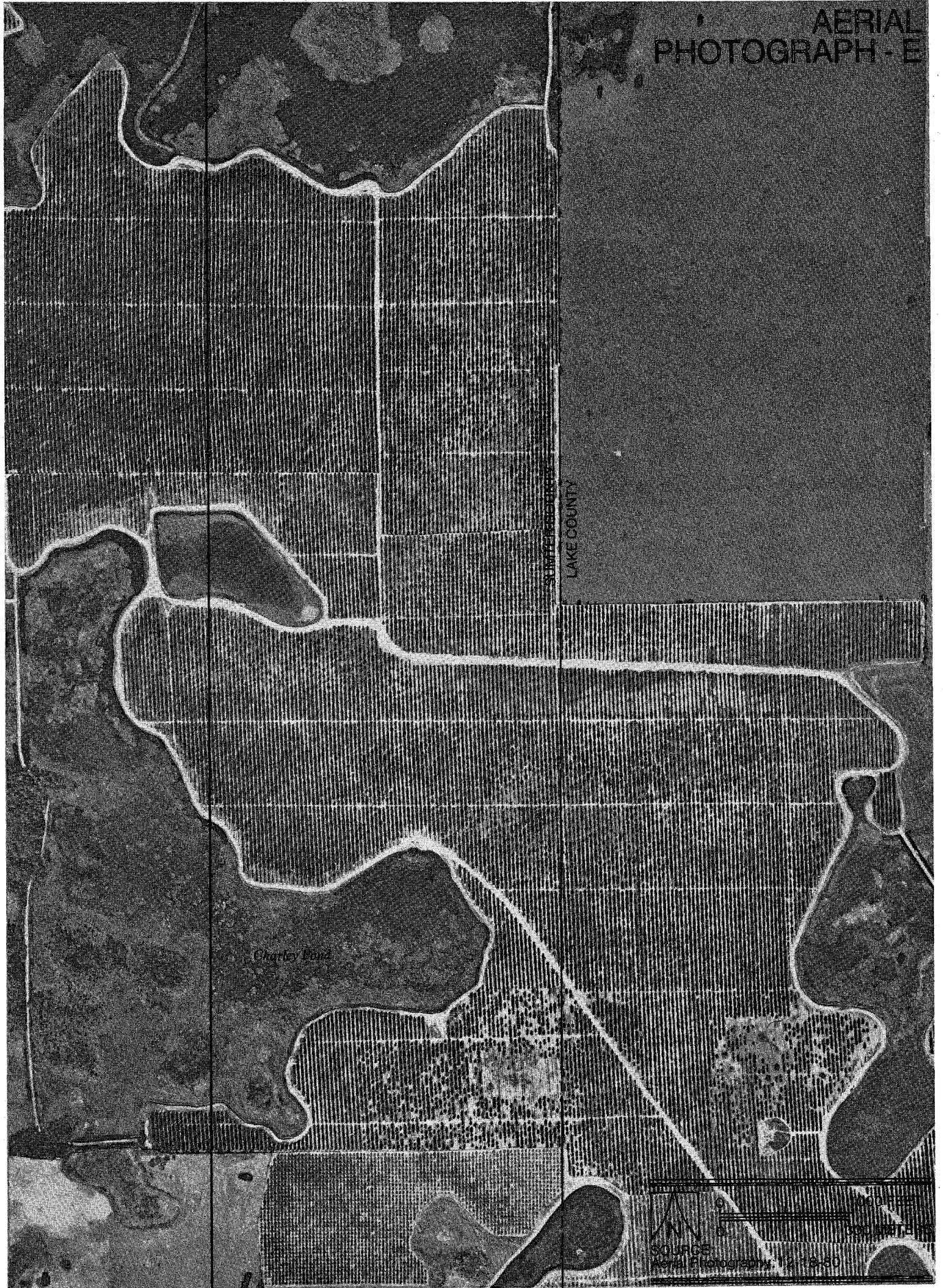
SOURCE: Aerial Photography 12-18-80

AERIAL
PHOTOGRAPH - D

SUMMIT COUNTY
LAKE COUNTY

0 1000 FEET
300 METERS
SOURCE: U.S. Army
Aerial Photography 68-18-80

AERIAL
PHOTOGRAPH - E

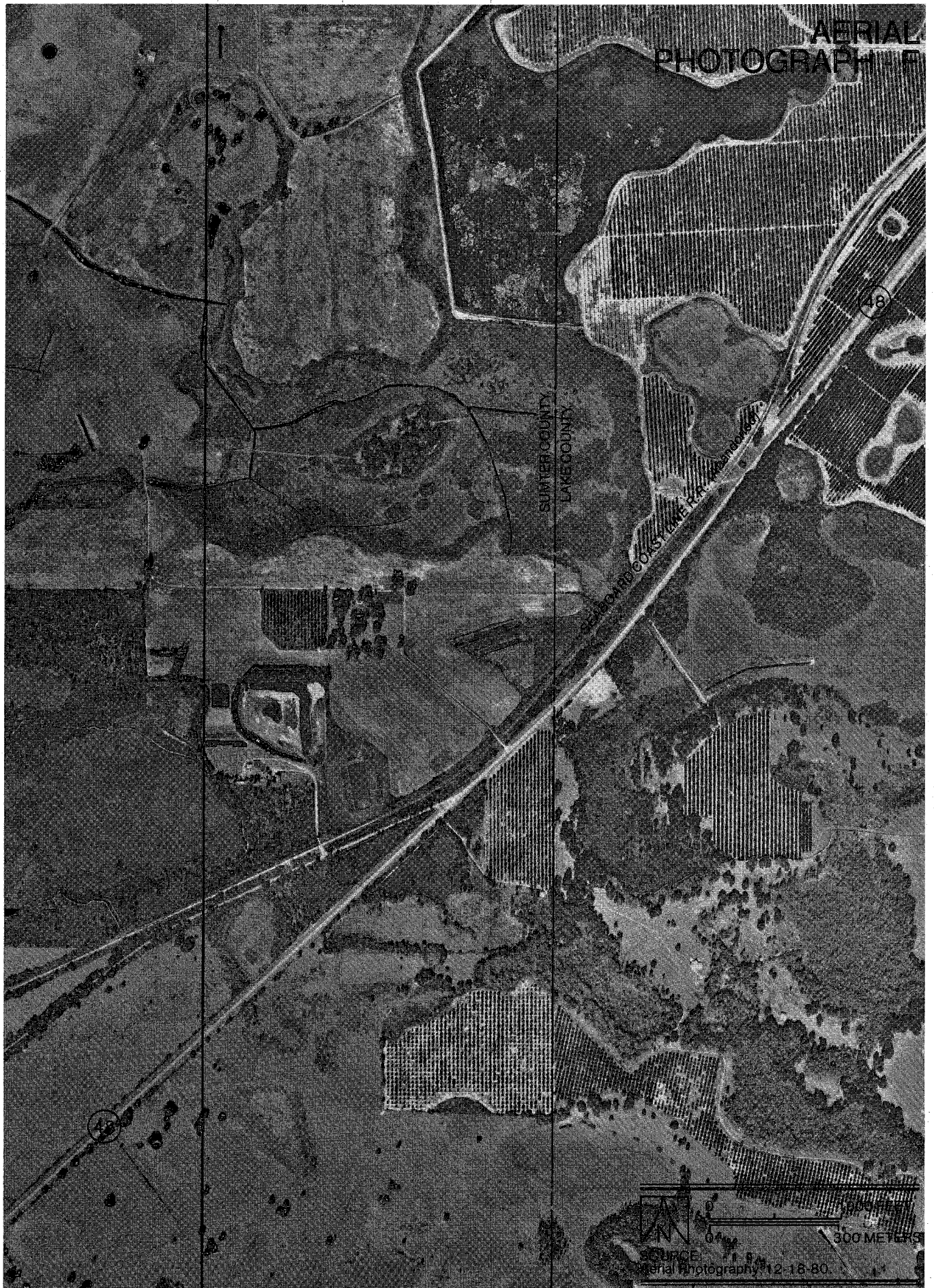


Charley Pond

SUNFIRE RD
LAKE COUNTY

0 1000 FEET
0 300 METERS
SOURCE
Aerial Photography, 12-12-80

AERIAL
PHOTOGRAPH



AERIAL
PHOTOGRAPH - G



1000 FEET
500 METERS
SOURCE: Aerial Photograph, 12-12-50

AERIAL
PHOTOGRAPH



SUMMIT COUNTY
LAKE COUNTY



SOURCE
Aerial Photography 12-18-80

0 1000 FEET
0 300 METERS

AERIAL
PHOTOGRAPH - I



0 1000 FEET
300 METERS
SOURCE: Aerial Photography, 12-15-80

AERIAL
PHOTOGRAPH - J



0 1000 FEET
0 300 METERS

SOURCE
Aerial Photography 12-13-58

AERIAL
PHOTOGRAPH - K



1000 FEET
300 METERS
SOURCE:
Aerial Photography, 12-18-60

AERIAL
PHOTOGRAPH

SEMIER COUNTY
LAKE COUNTY

WITH LAGOOCHEE STATE FOREST



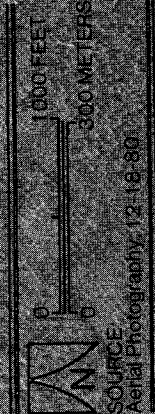
AERIAL
PHOTOGRAPH - M

WITH LACCOOCHEE STATE FOREST



AERIAL
PHOTOGRAPH - N

WITHLAOOOCHEE STATE FOREST



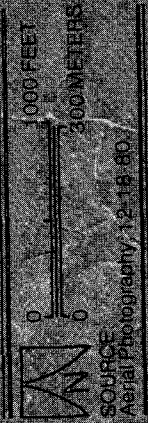
Lake Withlacoochee River

COAST AERIAL
PHOTOGRAPH



WITHLACOOCHIEE STATE FOREST

W. H. H. H.



C-079

AERIAL
PHOTOGRAPH - P

WITHLACOOCHEE

HERNANDO COUNTY
SUMTER COUNTY

STATE

FOREST

(471)



AERIAL PHOTOGRAPH - Q

LANDING FIELD
(Abandoned)

NORTH GRADE ROAD

STATE
FISH
HATCHERY

HERNANDO COUNTY
PASCO COUNTY

471

WITHLACOGGHEE STATE FOREST



0 1000 FEET
0 300 METERS

SOURCE
Aerial Photography: 12-18-80

AERIAL
PHOTOGRAPH - R

CENTER GRADE ROAD

17

WILHLACOOCHEE

STATE

FOREST

STATE FOREST BOUNDARY

SUMTER COUNTY

SOUTH

GRADE

ROAD



0 1000 FEET
0 300 METERS

SOURCE:
Aerial Photography, 12-18-80

AERIAL
PHOTOGRAPH S

WITLACOGGHEE
STATE
FOREST

47

STATE FOREST BOUNDARY

FRISCO COUNTY
SUMTER COUNTY



SOURCE
Aerial Photography 12-16-80

AERIAL
PHOTOGRAPH - T

PASCO COUNTY
SUMTER COUNTY

47

WILLIAMS ROAD

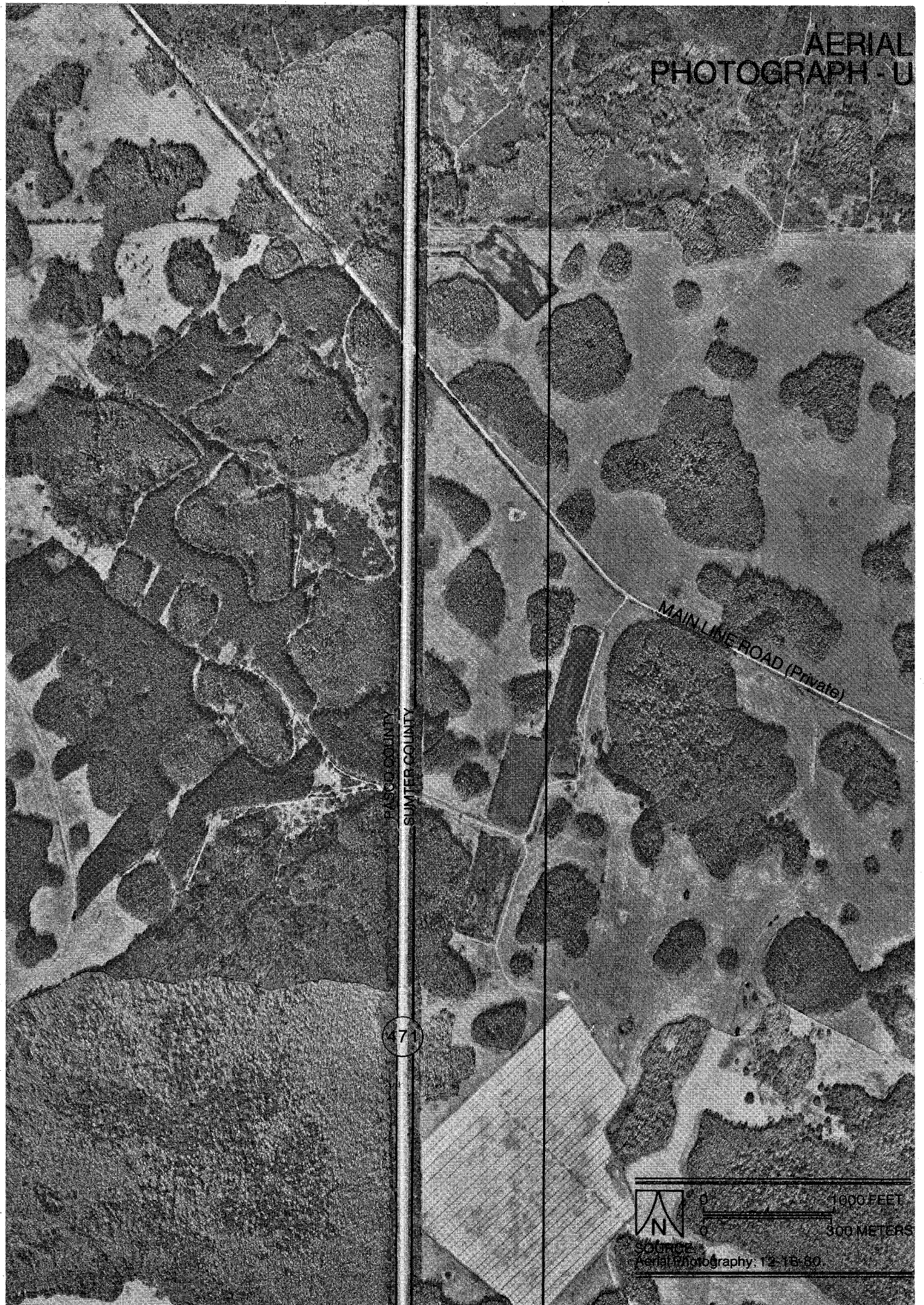


1000 FEET

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SOURCE:
Aerial Photography 1/2 19-80

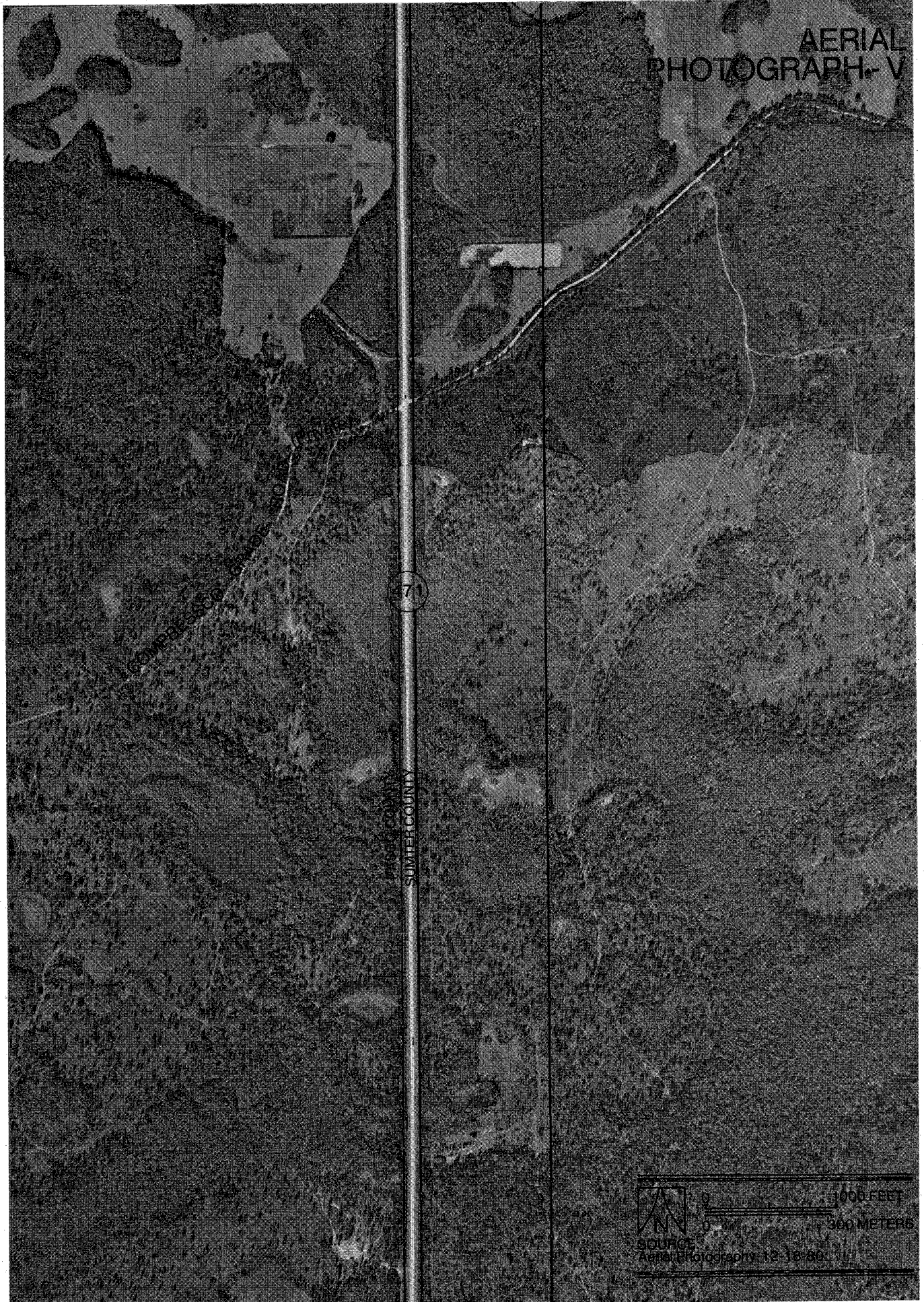
AERIAL
PHOTOGRAPH - U



1000 FEET
300 METERS

Source:
Aerial Photography 12-18-80

AERIAL
PHOTOGRAPH - V

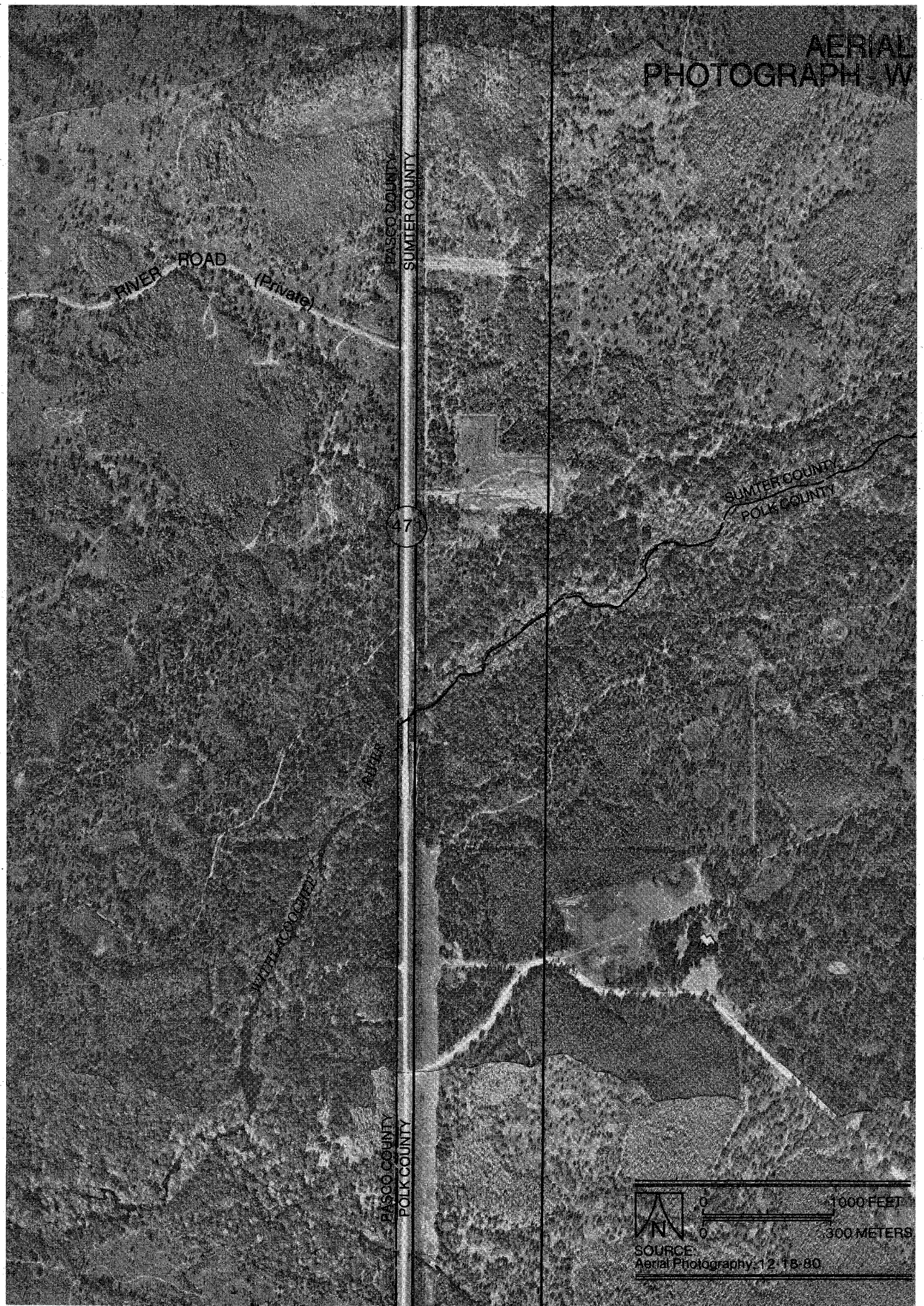


71

DESSA COUNTY
SUMTER COUNTY

0 1000 FEET
0 300 METERS
SOURCE
Aerial Photography 12-18-80

AERIAL
PHOTOGRAPH - W



0 1000 FEET
0 300 METERS

SOURCE:
Aerial Photography: 12 TB-80

AERIAL
PHOTOGRAPH - X

LITTLE
GATOR CREEK
BOOKERY

471

PASCO COUNTY
POLK COUNTY



SOURCE

Aerial Photography 719-18-80

1000 FEET

300 METERS

AERIAL
PHOTOGRAPH - Y

PRIVATE ROAD

PASCO COUNTY
POLK COUNTY

PROPOSED
KATHLEEN
SUBSTATION





APPENDIX B

CONSULTATION AND COORDINATION WITH OTHERS

The following agencies and individuals were contacted and/or provided input during the preparation of the Central Florida — Kathleen 500 kV Application for Certification of a Proposed Electrical Transmission Corridor for the Florida Power Corporation.

FEDERAL

Department of Agriculture

Forest Research Station, Tallahassee

Soil Conservation Service

Gray Roane

Department of Commerce

Bureau of the Census

James C. Jones

Department of the Interior

Fish and Wildlife Service

Atlanta

Andrew F. Robinson, Jr.

Jacksonville

Gail Baker
Larry Goldman
Don Palmer

STATE

Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services

Division of Forestry

George A. Allbritton
Roy Clardy
Ray Gieger
George Montgomery

Division of Plant Industry

Kenneth R. Langdon

Department of Community Affairs

Sara Golinveaux
Sharon Rauch

Department of Environmental Regulation

Karen Anthony
Buck Oven
Suzanne P. Walker

Department of Natural Resources

Duane Bradford

Department of State

Division of Archives, History and
Records Management

Janice Bordelon
Rowan Commer-Tesar
George W. Percy
Rolla Queen

Department of Transportation

Chuck Allen
Gary Cink
Bill Kuyper
Ed McNeely
Martin Stone
Herb Zebeth

Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission

Robert Barbee
L. Carlton Chappell
Stephen B. Fickett, Jr.
Vic Heller
Randy Kautz
Anne B. Shapiro

Public Service Commission

Margaret Meeter

REGIONAL

Central Florida Regional Planning Council

James Duane
Ken Ford

East Central Florida Regional Planning Council

Bob Keating

Southwest Florida Water Management District

P. M. Dooris
Bob Evans
Robert Haight
Manual Lopez
Marcia K. Penman
John Rickerson
Theodore Rockow

Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council

Ann Harter
Michael P. McKinley
Scott Wilson

Withlacoochee Regional Planning Council

Richard Harris
Jackson Sullivan
Vivian A. Whittier

COUNTY

Hernando County

Department of Development, Planning and Zoning

Larry Jennings
E. Lynn Mosura
Vicki Scott

Lake County

Planning Commission

Jerry Grief
Larry Schuster

Pasco County

Planning and Zoning Department

Jim Edwards
Rod Pomp

Polk County

Building and Zoning Codes

Mark Bishop
Arlene Clark

Division of Development Coordination

Merle Bishop
George Stahlman

Sumter County

Planning, Zoning and Building Division

Kenneth L. Ackett

OTHERS

Florida State University

Peter Krafft
James Stoutamire

University of Florida

Mark Brown
Tony Jensen
Walter S. Judd
Kent Perkins

University of South Florida

Bushnell

St. Petersburg

Ray Williams
Richard Wunderlin

Vernon Berry
Broward Miller

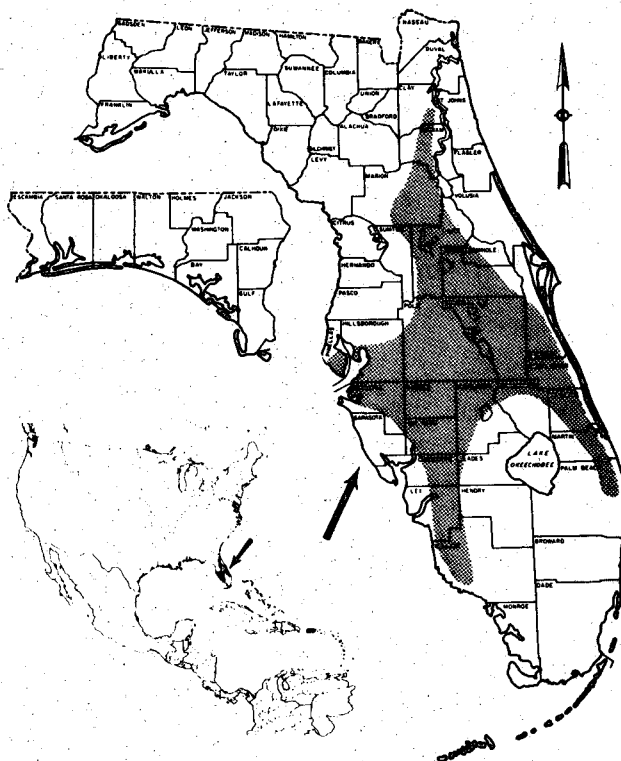
Harry Piper



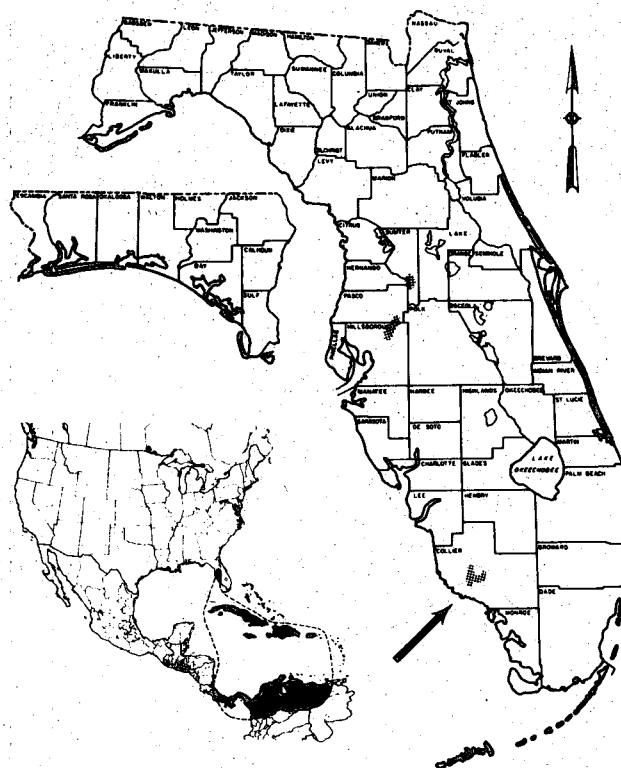
APPENDIX C

SPECIES RANGE MAPS

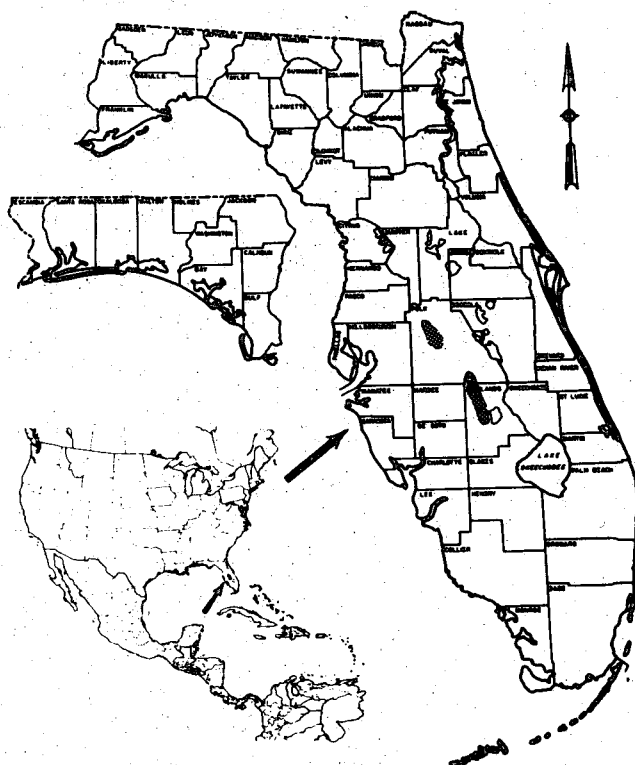
PLATE 1



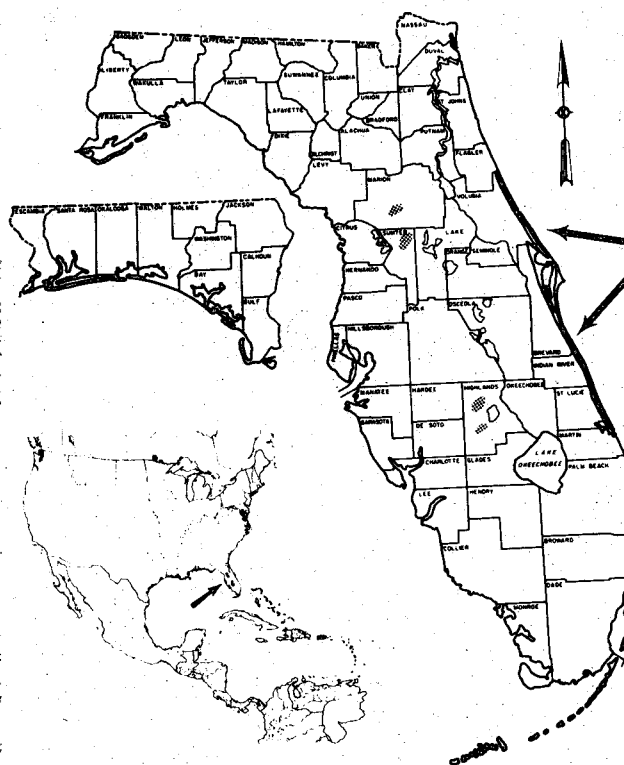
Curtiss Milkweed (*Asclepias curtissii*)



Auricled Spleenwort (*Asplenium auritum*)

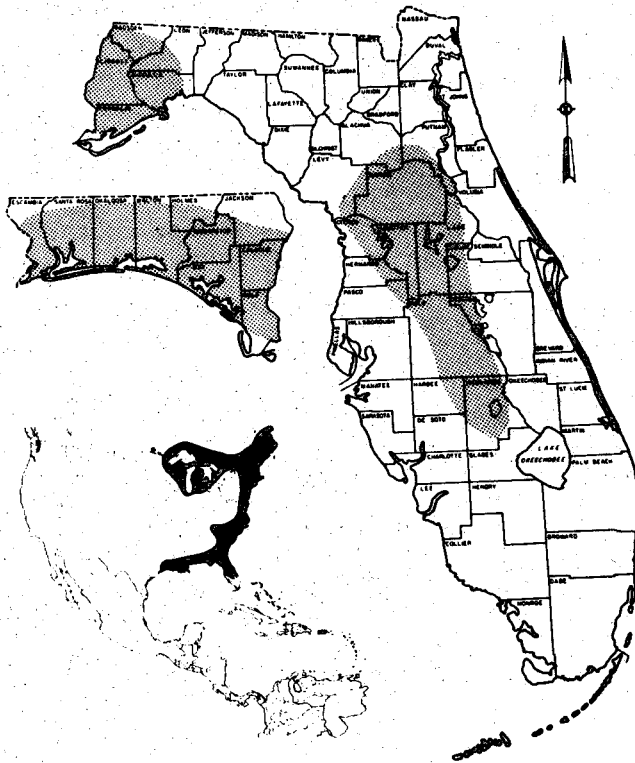


Pigeon-wing (*Clitoria fragrans*)

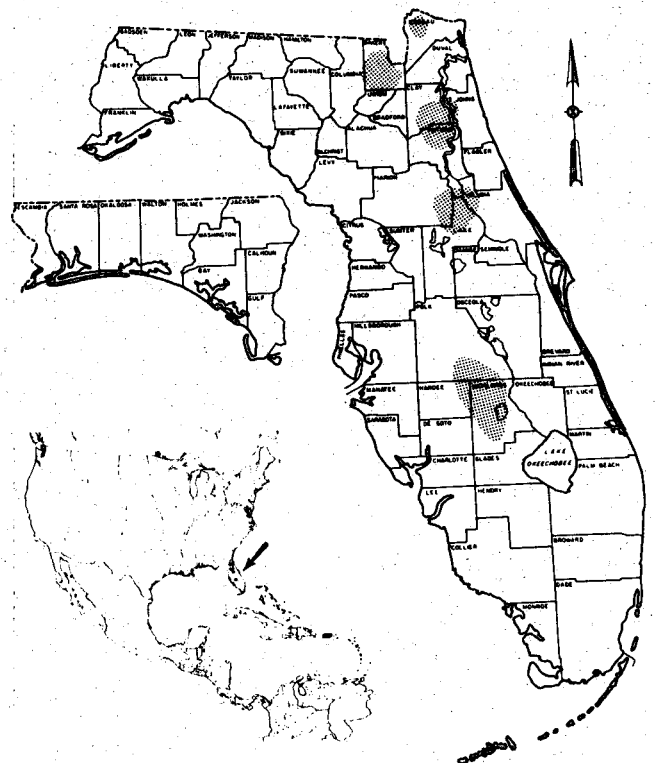


Scrub Balm (*Dicerandra frutescens*)

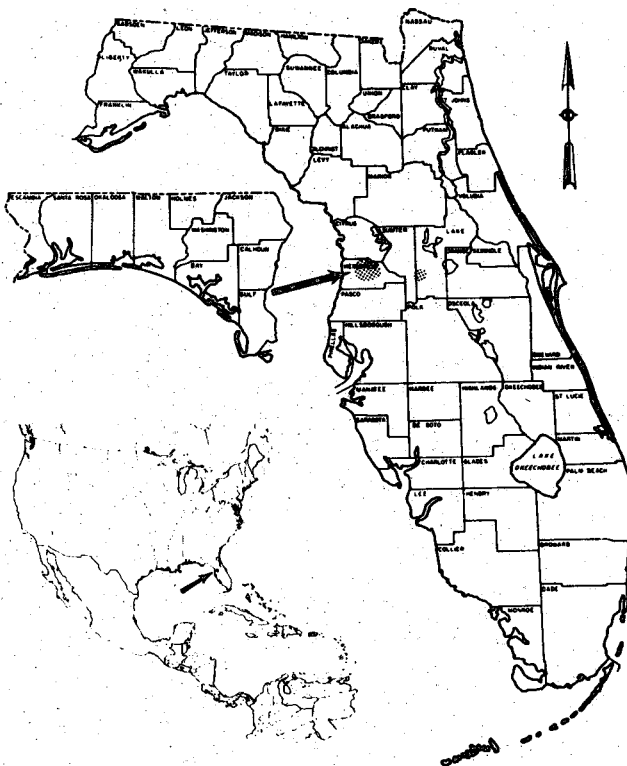
PLATE 2



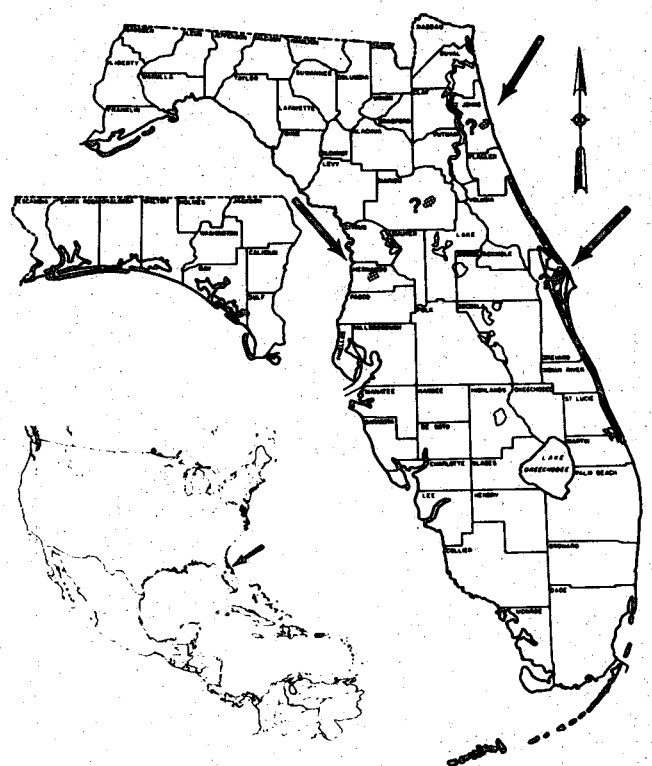
Water Sundew (*Drosera intermedia*)



Hartwrightia (*Hartwrightia floridana*)



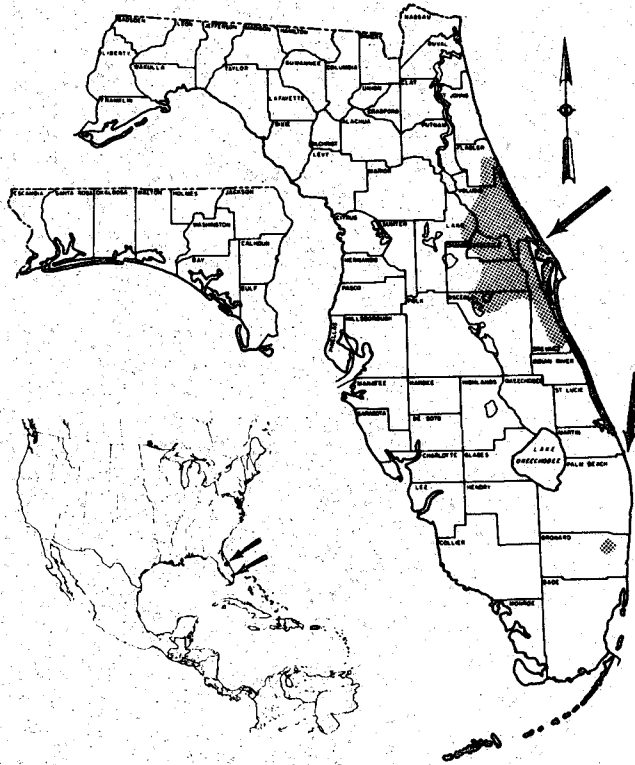
Cooley's Justicia (*Justicia cooleyi*)



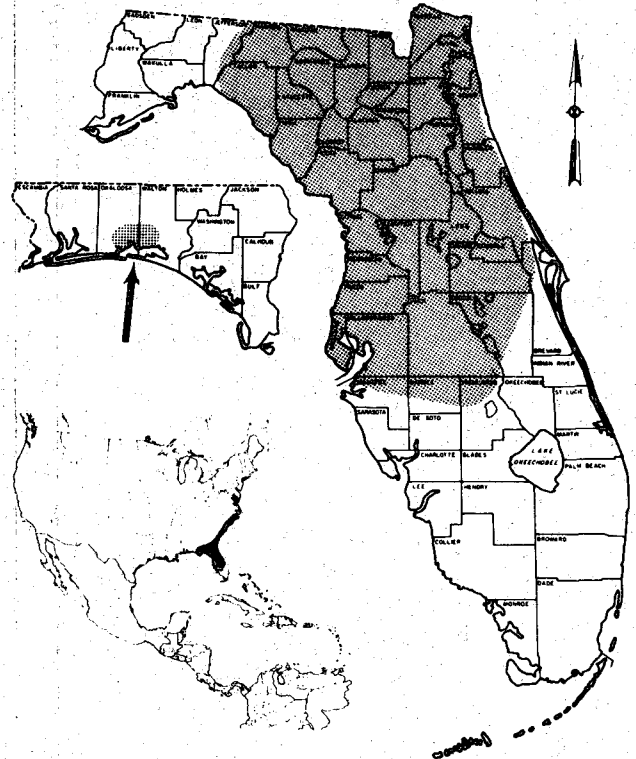
Pigmy-pipes (*Monotropis reynoldsiae*)

SOURCE:
Florida Committee on Rare and
Endangered Plants and Animals.

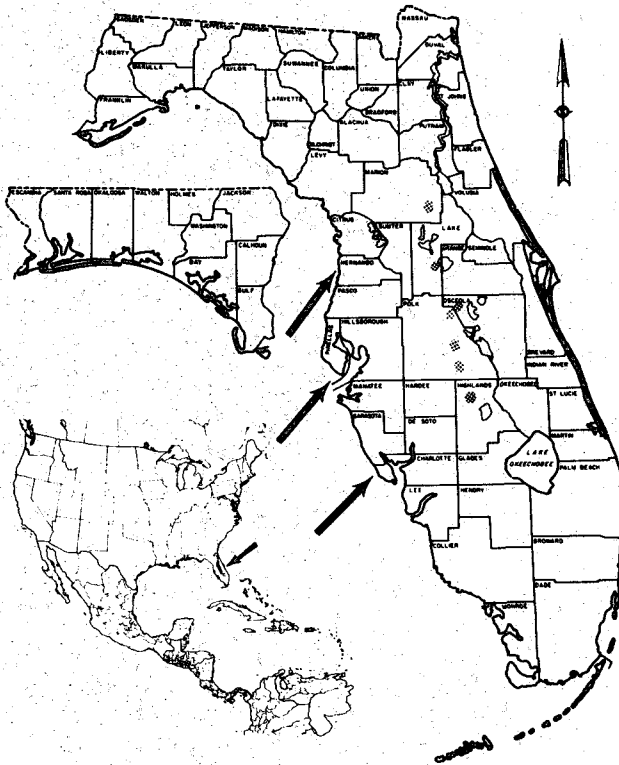
PLATE 3



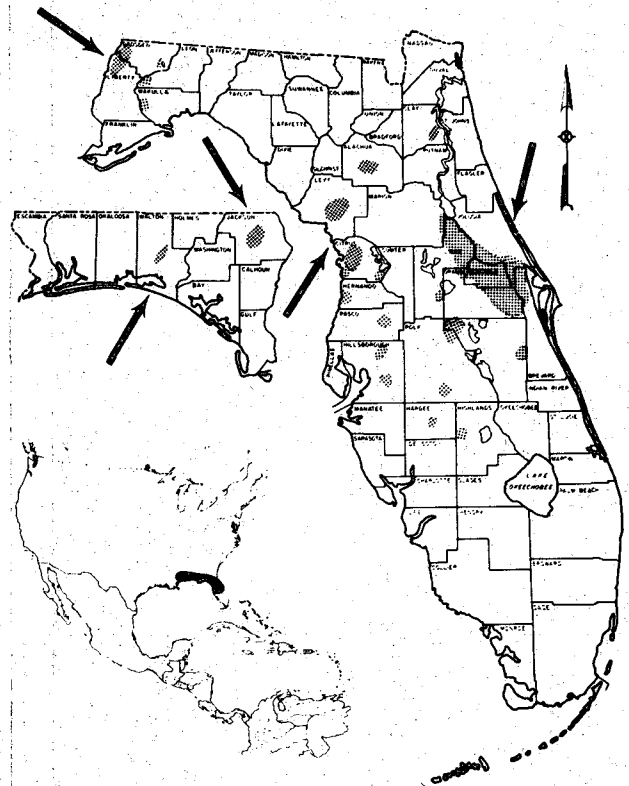
Fall-flowering Ixia (*Nemastylis floridana*)



Spoon-flower (*Peltandra sagittifolia*)

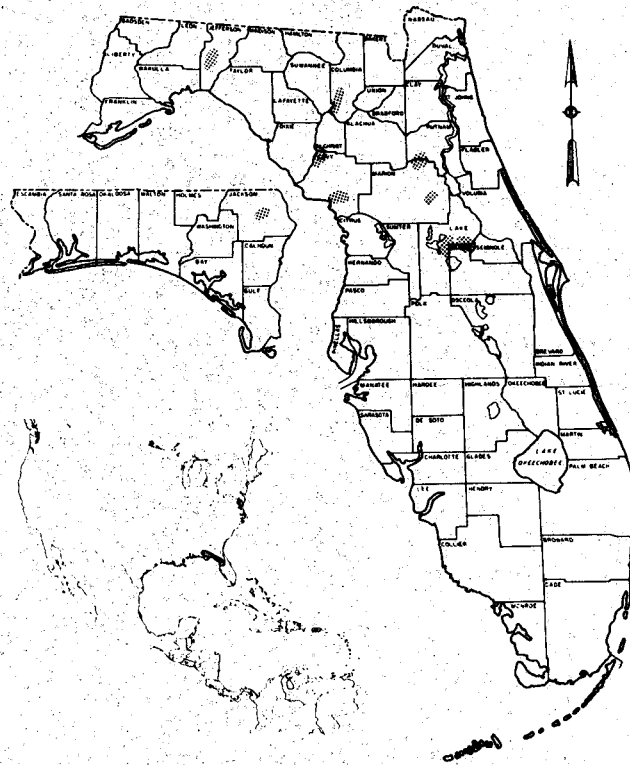


Lewton's Polygala (*Polygala lewtonii*)

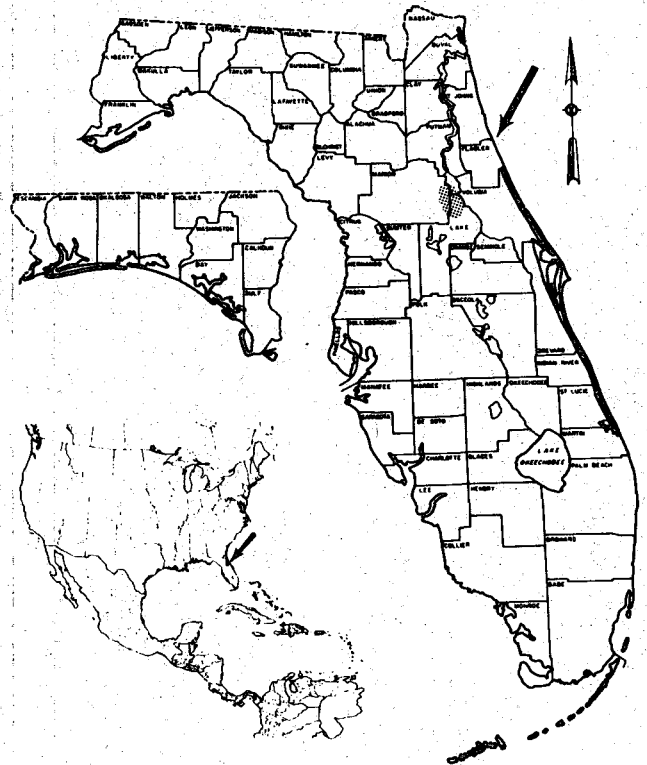


Needle Palm (*Rhapidophyllum hystrix*)

PLATE 4

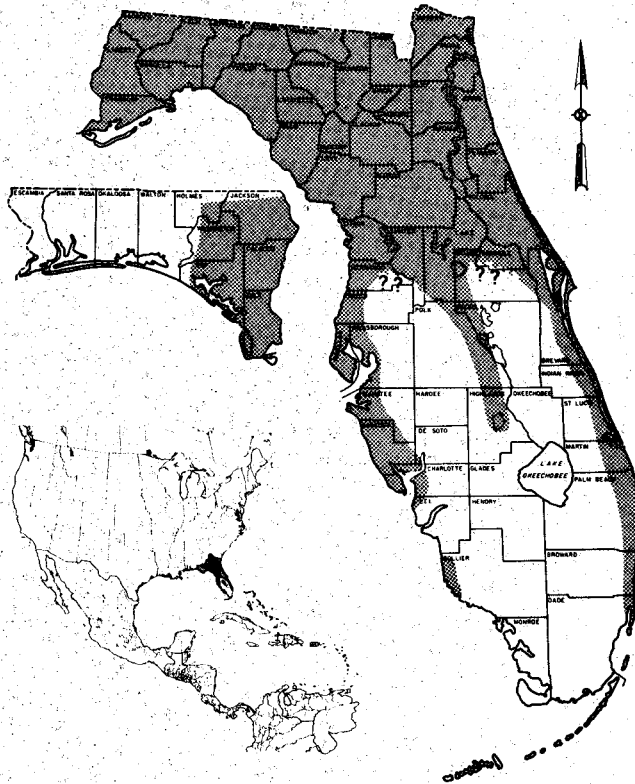


Florida Willow (*Salix floridana*)

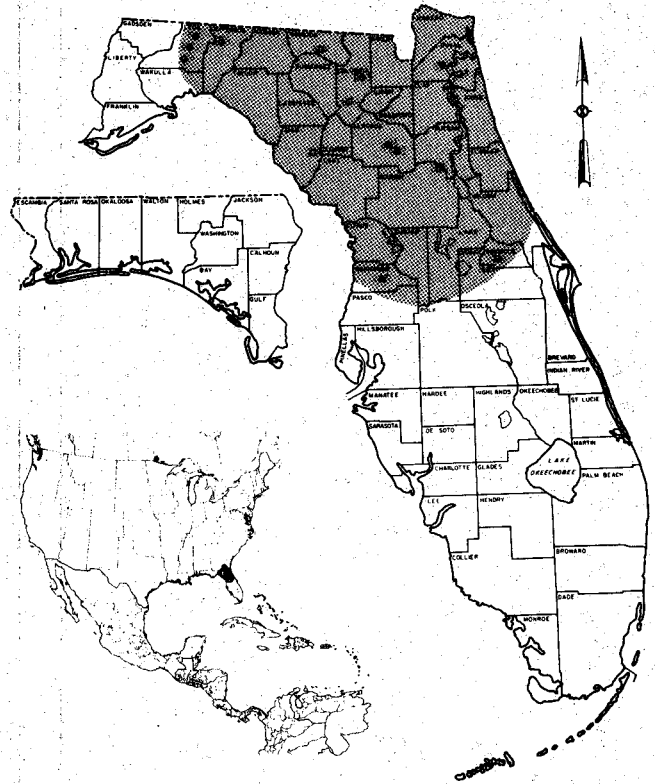


Ocala Vetch (*Vicia ocalensis*)

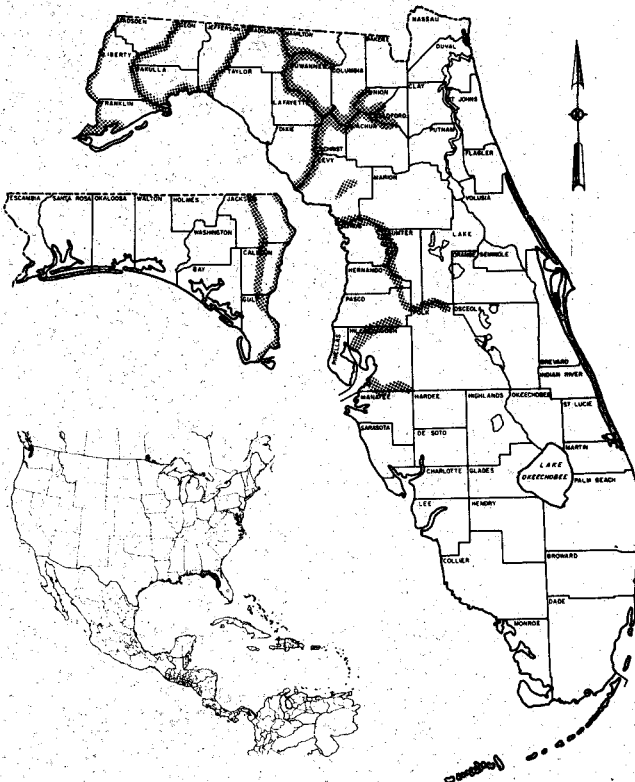
PLATE 5



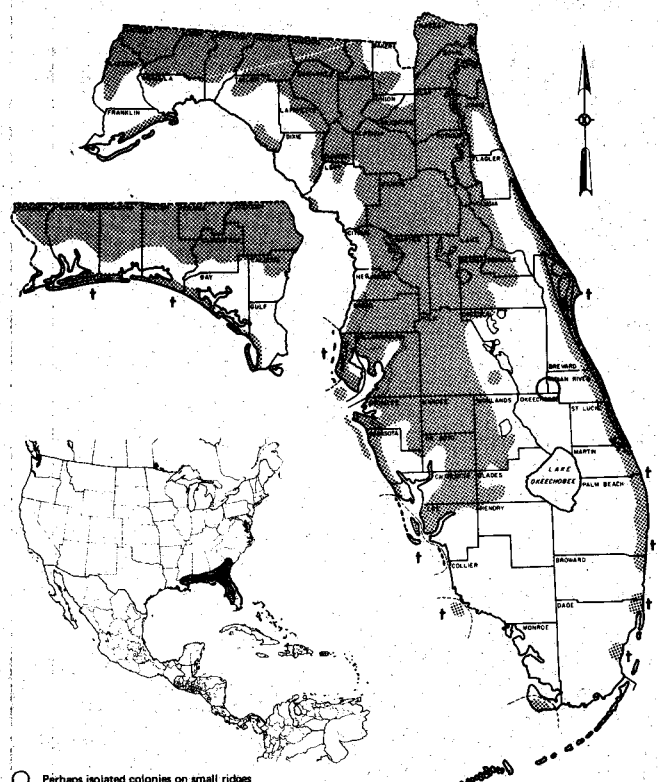
FLORIDA GOPHER FROG (*RANA AREOLATA AESOPUS*)



STRIPED NEWT (*NOTOPHTHALMUS PERSTRIATUS*)



SUWANNEE COOTER (*CHRYSEMYS CONCINNA SUWANNIENSIS*)

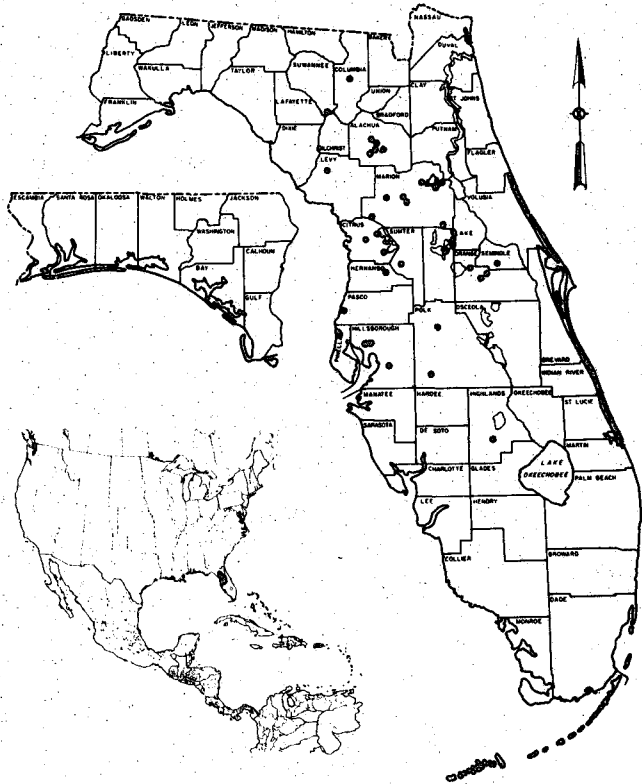


GOPHER TORTOISE (*GOPHERUS POLYPHEMUS*)

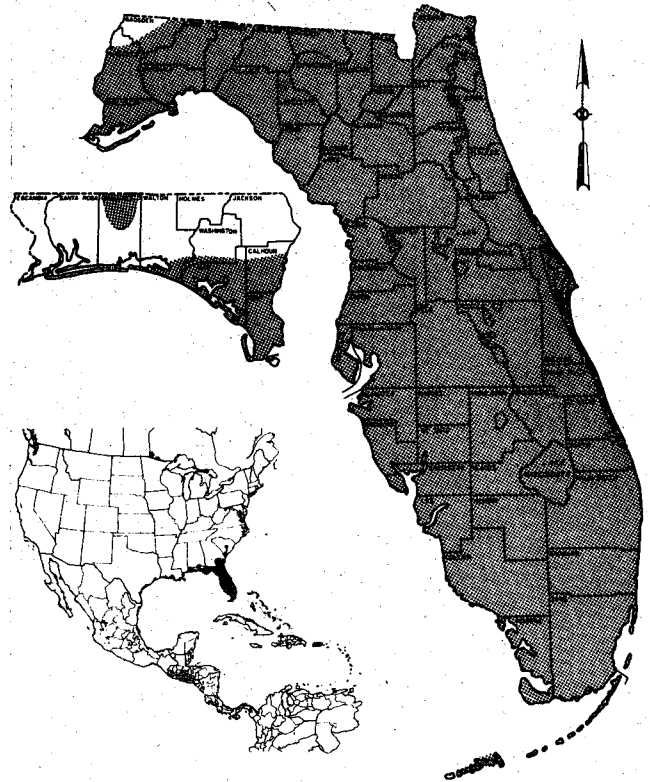
○ Perhaps isolated colonies on small ridges
† Extinct, or nearly so

SOURCE:
Florida Committee on Rare and
Endangered Plants and Animals.

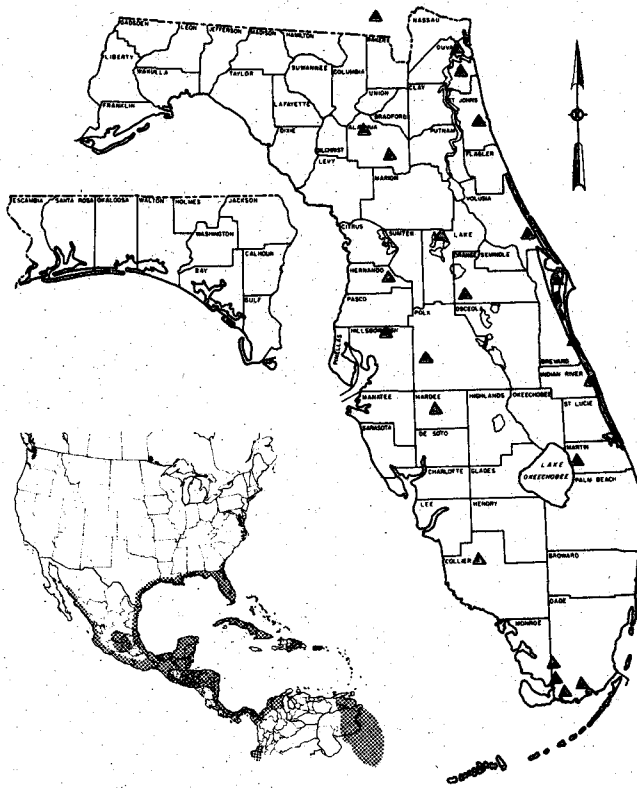
PLATE 6



SHORT-TAILED SNAKE (*STILOSOMA EXTENUATUM*)

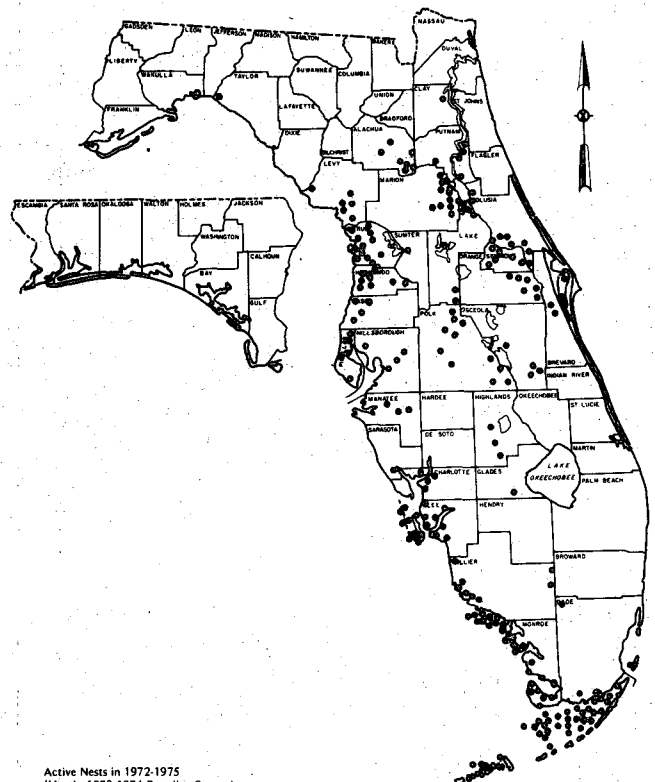


EASTERN INDIGO SNAKE (*DRYMARCHON CORAIS COUPERI*)



WOOD STORK (*MYCTERIA AMERICANA*)

▲ 1972-1975 Breeding Colonies

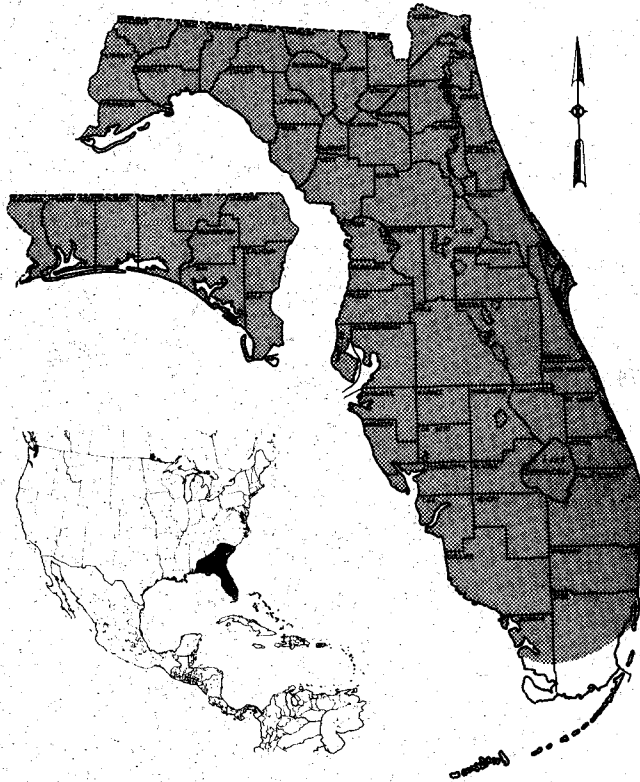


Active Nests in 1972-1975
(Mostly 1973-1974 Breeding Season)

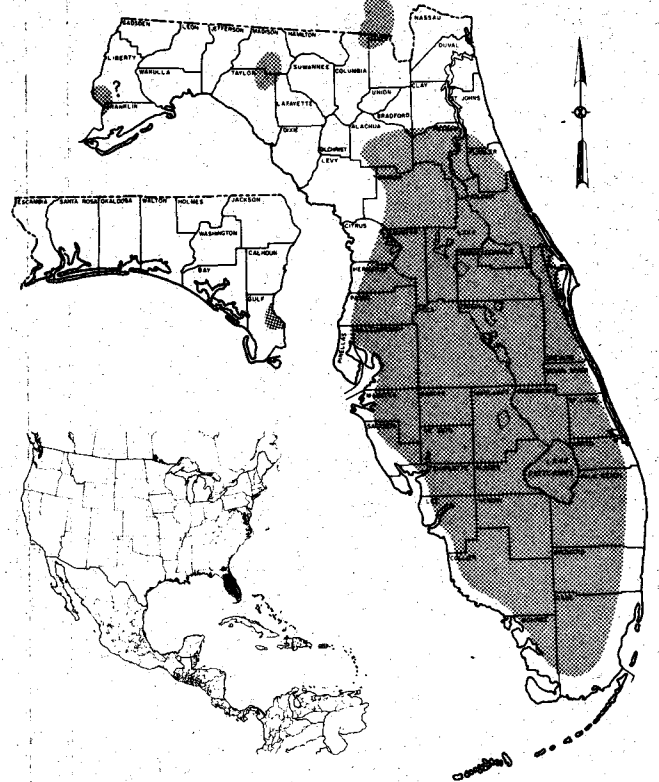
SOUTHERN BALD EAGLE (*HALIAEETUS L. LEUCOCEPHALUS*)

SOURCE:
Florida Committee on Rare and
Endangered Plants and Animals.

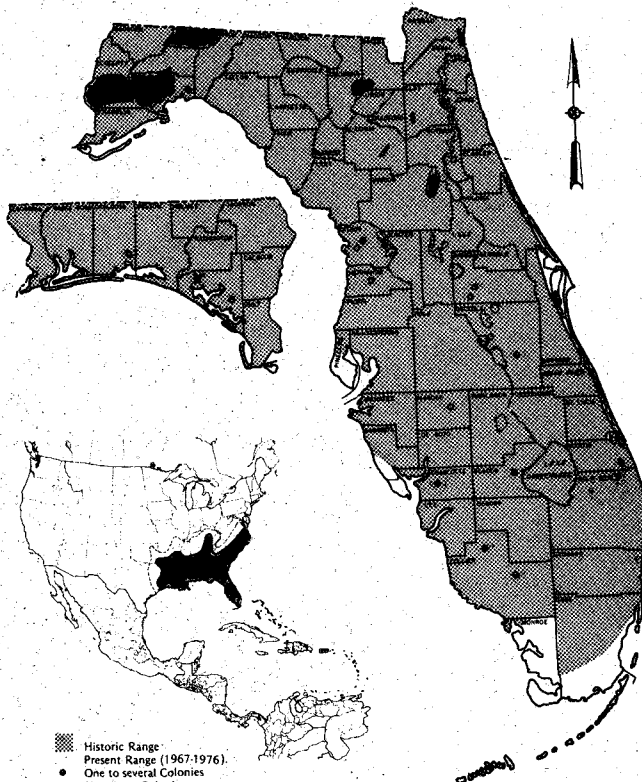
PLATE 7



AMERICAN KESTREL (*FALCO SPARVERIUS PAULUS*)
(Breeding Range)

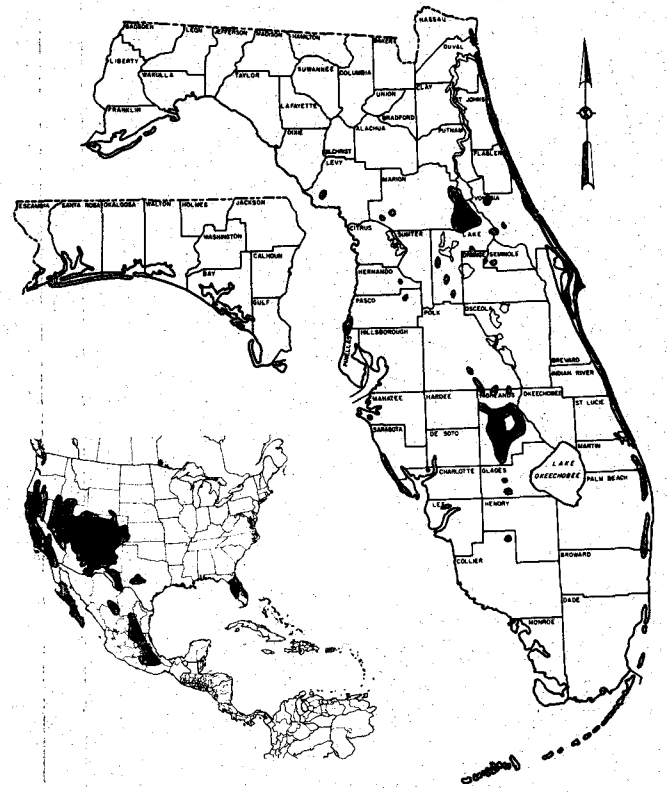


FLORIDA SANDHILL CRANE (*GRUS CANADENSIS PRATENSIS*)



Historic Range
 Present Range (1967-1976)
 One to several Colonies
 Numerous Colonies

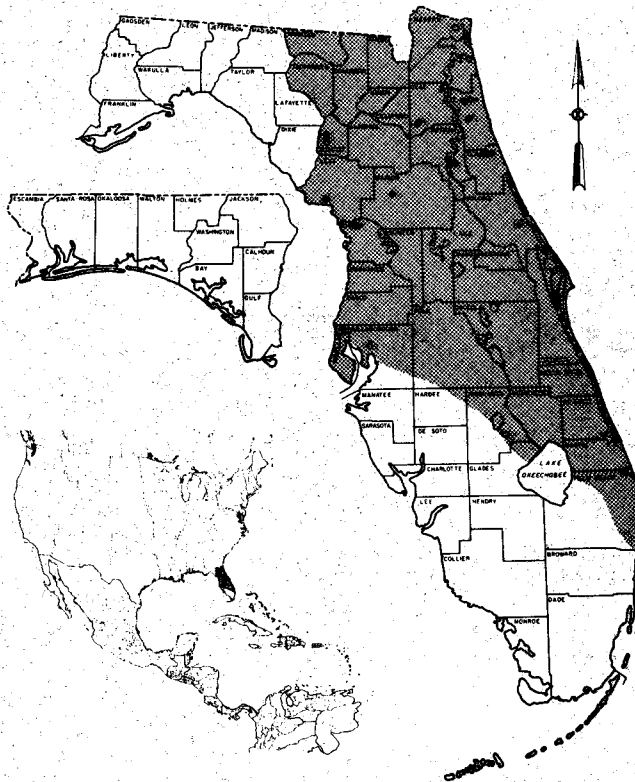
RED-COCKADED WOODPECKER (*PICOIDES BOREALIS*)



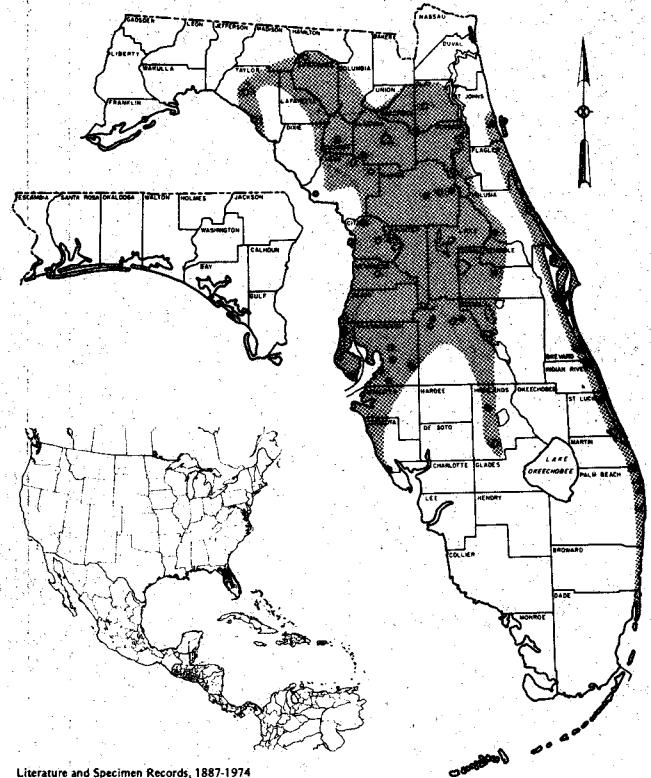
FLORIDA SCRUB JAY (*APHELOCOMA COERULESCENS COERULESCENS*)

SOURCE:
Florida Committee on Rare and
Endangered Plants and Animals.

PLATE 8

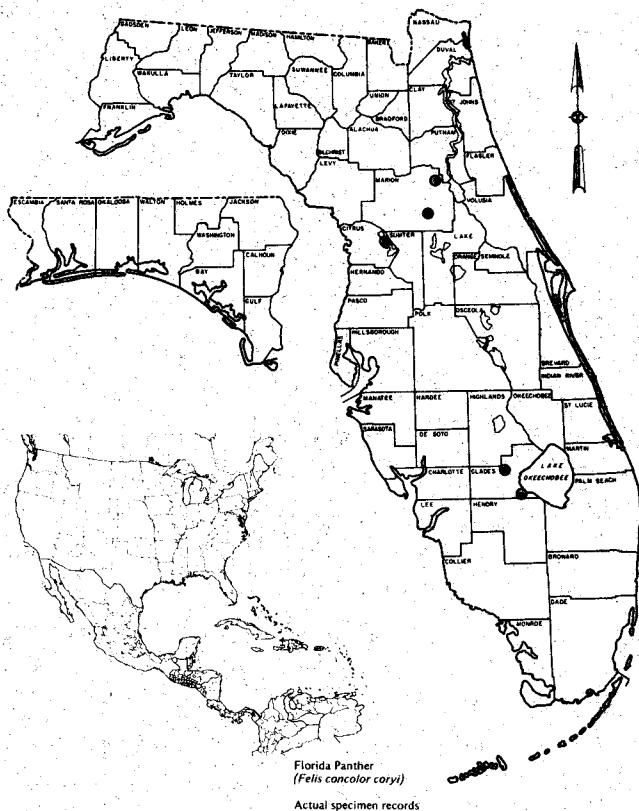


SHERMAN'S FOX SQUIRREL (*SCIURUS NIGER SHERMANI*)



Literature and Specimen Records, 1887-1974

FLORIDA MOUSE (*PEROMYSCUS FLORIDANUS*)



Florida Panther
(*Felis concolor coryi*)
Actual specimen records

Localities of the five positive panther records in Florida from 1967 through 1975. There are a large number of credible but unsupported reports from Collier County.

SOURCE:
Florida Committee on Rare and
Endangered Plants and Animals.

IMAGE QUALITY

AS YOU REVIEW THE NEXT FEW PAGES,
PLEASE NOTE THAT THE ORIGINAL
DOCUMENT WAS OF POOR QUALITY.

RECEIVED

JUN 17 1982

Dept. of Environmental Regulation
Office of General Counsel

STATE OF FLORIDA
DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS

IN RE: FLORIDA POWER CORPORATION)
CENTRAL FLORIDA-TO-KATHLEEN)
TRANSMISSION LINE CORRIDOR) Case No. 81-1713
SITE CERTIFICATION APPLICATION)
_____)

FINDINGS OF FACT, CONCLUSIONS
OF LAW AND RECOMMENDED ORDER

This proceeding was held pursuant to the Transmission Line Siting Act, Sections 403.52 - 403.536, Florida Statutes (1980 Supp.), and Chapter 17-17, Florida Administrative Code, to consider the application of Florida Power Corporation for site certification of a 500 kV transmission line running between Central Florida Substation in Sumter County and the proposed Kathleen Substation in Polk County. This line has been designated as Central Florida-to-Kathleen 500 kV transmission line. Pursuant to proper notice, this certification hearing was held on December 10 and 11, 1981, in Bushnell, Florida, for the purpose of receiving testimony and evidence concerning whether the location and maintenance of the proposed transmission line corridor, and the construction of the transmission lines, will produce minimal adverse effects on the environment and public health, safety, and welfare, and effect a reasonable balance between the need for the facility as a means of providing abundant, low-cost electrical energy, and the environmental impact.

The following parties entered appearances at the certification hearing:

1. Applicant, Florida Power Corporation (FPC);
2. Florida Department of Environmental Regulation (DER);

7. Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, Division of Forestry;
8. Southwest Florida Water Management District (SWFWMD); and
9. C. M. Overstreet and B. K. Overstreet, his wife.

Having considered all testimony and evidence properly admitted, having heard argument of counsel, and being otherwise fully apprised herein, the following Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law, and Recommended Order are entered.

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. The proposed transmission line corridor is for the purpose of locating a 500 kV transmission line to provide dispersion of the additional power generated at the Crystal River Electric Power Plant when Unit 5 becomes operational in the fourth quarter of 1984. The northern terminus of the corridor is in Sumter County at the Central Florida Substation, located immediately south of State Road 44 in Section 24, Township 19 South, Range 23 East. The southern terminus of the corridor is in Polk County at the proposed Kathleen Substation, to be located north of U.S. Highway 98 in either Section 8 or 17, Township 26 South, Range 23 East. The length of the corridor is approximately 43 miles.

2. The purpose of the corridor is to provide a 190 foot wide right-of-way for a 500 kV transmission line constructed upon steel lattice guyed V structures and four-legged, self-supporting steel lattice tower structures, with an approximate span between the structures of 1,200 feet.

3. Pursuant to the requirements of Section 403.537, Florida

- (2) The proposed transmission line will improve the availability of low-cost electric energy within the State of Florida.
- (3) The Central Florida Substation and the proposed Kathleen Substation are the appropriate starting and ending points of the transmission line.

The Public Service Commission then determined that the proposed transmission line is needed.

4. Notice of the final certification hearing was published on October 9, 1981, in the Leesburg Commercial, a daily newspaper published at Leesburg in Lake County, Florida, and on October 11, 1981, in The Ledger, a daily newspaper published at Lakeland in Polk County, Florida.

5. For the purposes of this Recommended Order, the corridor for which FPC seeks certification will be broken down into three segments - the North Corridor Segment, the Central Corridor Segment, and the South Corridor Segment. The entire corridor for which FPC seeks certification is depicted on Attachment 1 hereto. The segments are generally described as follows:

(1) The North Corridor Segment begins at the Central Florida Substation and continues to the northeast corner of the Withlacoochee State Forest and is 2,600 feet wide;

(2) The Central Corridor Segment begins at the northeast corner of the Withlacoochee State Forest and goes to a point which is the southeast corner of Section 8, Township 25 South, Range 23 East, which is generally 2 miles east of State Road 471 and south of the Withlacoochee River; and

(3) The South Corridor Segment begins at the termination of the Central Corridor Segment and continues to the proposed Kathleen Substation north of U.S. Highway 98.

meet the requirements for site certification under the Transmission Line Site Certification Act. However, a dispute exists between the parties with regard to the certification of the Central Corridor Segment as proposed by FPC.

The Applicant, the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, Division of Forestry, the Department of Natural Resources, the Florida Department of Transportation and C. M. Overstreet, et ux., argue in favor of the Central Corridor Segment as proposed by FPC. The Department of Environmental Regulation has proposed an alternative alignment to the Central Corridor Segment for which FPC seeks site certification. For purposes of this Recommended Order, this proposal by DER shall be referred to as the "DER Proposed Corridor." The Florida Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission and the Florida Department of Veteran and Community Affairs argue in favor of the DER Proposed Corridor.

7. The DER Proposed Corridor begins at the northeast corner of the Withlacoochee State Forest and, proceeding in a westerly direction, the corridor parallels the northern boundary of the Withlacoochee State Forest and crosses North Grade Road. After approximately 6 miles (10 kilometers), the corridor crosses SR 471 and the Little Withlacoochee River, enters Hernando County, and turns due south, entering the Withlacoochee State Forest. Proceeding south on the west side of Route 471, the corridor crosses an unnamed dirt road in Section 1 (Hernando County), Richloam Clay Sink Road, and Center Grade Road, enters Pasco County 3 miles (4.8 kilometers) south of the Little Withlacoochee River crossing, and crosses unnamed roads in

southwest corner of Section 6, Township 25 South, Range 23 East, where it turns east southeasterly to go along the north-easterly side of a straight line connecting the southwest corner of Section 6, Township 25 South, Range 23 East and the northeast corner of Section 17, Township 25 South, Range 23 East where it joins the southern segment. This southeastern diagonal alignment crosses the Withlacoochee River in the vicinity of Trail Ford Bridge and enters Polk County. This corridor is 1,000 feet wide.

8. The Department of Environmental Regulation has also proposed, as a second alternative to the Central Corridor Segment, deflections of that Central Corridor Segment in the area of Bayroot Slough and Cross Creek Swamp. For the purposes of this Recommended Order this proposal will be referred to as the "DER Preferred Alternate Corridor." The DER Preferred Alternate Corridor is the same as the Central Corridor Segment proposed by FPC except that the Central Corridor Segment is routed around Bayroot Slough and Cross Creek Swamp as follows:

(1) The Bayroot Slough bypass begins at the northeastern corner of Section 12, Township 23 South, Range 23 East and parallels on the south of a line from that point to the southwest corner at the same section, hence it parallels on the east a line from that point to the northeast corner of Section 24. This bypass corridor is 190 feet wide.

(2) The Cross Creek Swamp bypass begins at the northeast corner of the southeastern quarter of the southeastern quarter of Section 32, Township 24 South, Range 23 East and parallels on the northern side of a southwesterly line from that point to the northeast corner of the southwestern quarter of the southeastern quarter

9. The land uses in the North Corridor Segment consist primarily of agricultural uses, improved pasture, orange groves, row crops and some hardwood hammocks. The prevalent land uses in that part of the Central Florida Segment within the Withlacoochee State Forest are timber management and game management. The prevalent land uses within that part of the Central Florida Segment south of the Withlacoochee State Forest are private timber management and cattle operations.

10. The DER Proposed Corridor and the Central Corridor Segment, south of the Withlacoochee State Forest, are composed of approximately the same types and amounts of wetland and forested areas. The proposed corridor in the Central Corridor Segment crosses two large wetland systems, Cross Creek Swamp and Bayroot Slough.

11. The entire corridor proposed by the Applicant contains approximately 1,100 acres of cypress wetland. Altering the FPC corridor in the manner suggested by DER in the DER Proposed Corridor would increase the cypress wetland acreage encompassed by the corridor to 1,300 acres. A similar comparison of the two corridors with regard to fresh water marsh indicates that the DER Proposed Corridor would reduce the acreage of fresh water marsh encompassed by the corridor from 800 acres in the FPC corridor to 600 acres. Both corridors contain similar amounts of fresh water swamp.

12. There are three large wetland systems in the FPC Proposed Corridor. They are Bayroot Slough, Devils Creek Swamp, and Cross Creek Swamp. Bayroot Slough is approximately 3,600 acres in area, Devils Creek Swamp is 8,800 acres in area and Cross Creek Swamp,

constructed in the area by the Southwest Florida Water Management District. This access/maintenance road would require the filling of approximately 9 acres, or one-tenth of one percent, of Devils Creek Swamp. In Bayroot Slough and Cross Creek Swamp, as well as all other major wetland areas, with the exception of Devils Creek Swamp, the Applicant proposes to use keyhold fills for the placement of its towers and to leave the span between towers open with no placement of fill. These construction techniques are designed to permit sheet flow to continue in a near natural state, thus minimizing adverse impact on those wetland areas. In Bayroot Slough, approximately six acres, or less than two-tenths of one percent, are proposed to be filled in connection with construction of the subject line. In Cross Creek Swamp, approximately four acres, or less than four-tenths of one percent of the total swamp area, will be filled for the construction of an access/maintenance road.

13. The DER Proposed Corridor would require approximately four additional miles of transmission line than would the corridor proposed by FPC. That would increase the cost of construction of the transmission line from approximately \$23,174,000.00 to \$25,824,000.00. Thus, the DER Proposed Corridor would cost \$2,650,000.00 more to construct than would the corridor proposed by the Applicant. The DER Preferred Alternate Corridor, which contains deflections around Bayroot Slough and Cross Creek Swamp, would require approximately .87 miles more transmission line than would the FPC Proposed Corridor and because of that additional length and the number of turning angles necessary, would cost approximately \$1,344,000.00 more to construct than would the

25,000 acres in size. Approximately 96 acres would be cleared and 19 acres filled with the construction of a transmission line along the corridor proposed by the Applicant.

15. The right-of-way required for the proposed 500 kV transmission line will measure 190 feet in width. The transmission line will consist of one single circuit 500 kV line. The basic structure type selected for the proposed transmission line is a steel lattice guyed V. This structure will be used to support the conductors on straight portions of the line. At angles in the transmission line, the conductors will be supported by a four-legged, self-supporting steel lattice tower. These angle structures are significantly more expensive than the steel lattice guyed V structures. The structures will be constructed of steel angle sections and will be galvanized. The guy wires for the guyed V structure will be either aluminum coated steel cable or an aluminum cable with an approximate diameter of 1.0 to 2.0 inches. A four-legged self-supporting steel lattice structure may be used on some straight portions of the transmission line where required due to soil conditions, clearances, or other engineering or environmental considerations. The structures will support a single three-phase alternating current, 500,000 volt circuit. Three conductors will be included in each phase, resulting in a total of nine conductors for the circuit. The structure also supports two overhead ground wires which protect the circuit from lightning strikes. The conductor will be supported in the structure by insulator and hardware assemblies. A typical foundation for the guyed V structure will be a cast-in-place reinforced concrete foundation. Guy wires will be attached. The angle structure will be supported on cast-in-place reinforced concrete cylinder foundations. The structures will

Construction of the transmission line will be done in three phases. The first phase will consist of clearing the right-of-way and access/maintenance road construction. The second phase will consist of construction of the towers, and the third phase will consist of the actual stringing of the conductors.

16. Because of the very small amount of the total aquifer recharge area proposed to be filled by the Applicant, there will be no significant adverse impact to aquifer recharge capabilities because of the construction of the transmission line.

17. If constructed with an adequate amount of culverting, the access/maintenance roads proposed to be constructed by the Applicant will not significantly affect the surface regime in the areas within the FPC Proposed Corridor.

18. Outside of the 190 foot transmission line right-of-way there will be essentially no change in existing vegetation. Within the 190 foot right-of-way, only the inside 150 feet will be cleared with the outer 20 feet on each side being cleared only of "danger" trees; that is, trees that might fall on to the line because they are diseased, dead or leaning toward the line.

19. Benthic organisms (microscopic, microinvertebrates, which are aquatic organisms on the lower levels of the food chain) could be adversely impacted if the wetland they inhabit is relatively small compared to the amount of fill required in that wetland for the construction activities associated with the transmission line. If the wetland is relatively large, however,

the FPC Proposed Corridor.

20. No evidence was presented to establish any adverse impact by construction of a transmission line to upland wildlife habitat or upland wildlife species with the exception of the American wood stork. Although the evidence did establish that construction of a transmission line through wetland wildlife habitat could adversely affect some wildlife species within that habitat, the evidence did not establish that the extent of such an impact on any species would be significant in either the FPC Proposed Corridor, the DER Proposed Corridor or the DER Preferred Alternate Corridor.

21. Witnesses for the Department of Environmental Regulation and the Florida Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission expressed a concern that placement of a transmission line in the FPC Proposed Corridor will allow increased human access to the large wetland areas within that corridor. The evidence considered overall, however, does not establish that placement of a transmission line in the FPC Proposed Corridor will in fact result in any significant increased human access to the large wetland areas within that corridor or that such access per se would result in some significant adverse environmental impact.

22. In order to attenuate potential flood damage along the Withlacoochee River, the Southwest Florida Water Management District proposes the construction of a levee to capture and hold 25-year and greater storm events in headwater areas of the Withlacoochee River. This is an ongoing project of SWFWMD which, at best, is several years from construction. In the area of Devils Creek Swamp, the Central Corridor Segment proposed by the Applicant would co-locate the transmission

minimizing effect outlined above. However, because of the prospective nature of the SWFWMD project, the ultimate co-location of the transmission line and the SWFWMD levee is too speculative to assign much weight to its significance.

23. Should a transmission line be placed adjacent to Highway 471 as proposed as an alternative by the Department of Environmental Regulation, some of that transmission line would cross property which is intended for residential development by its owners.

24. The Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Affairs, Division of Forestry, has indicated its hope that the alignment of the transmission corridor as proposed by the Applicant in the area of the Withlacoochee State Forest would provide a fire break beneficial to the Division for forest management purposes.

25. There are three endangered species to which special attention should be paid with regard to the construction of a transmission line and associated facilities. These are the scrub jay, the red-cockaded woodpecker, and the wood stork.

The scrub jay is found in vegetation typically less than 25 feet tall so that except for tower placement, scrub jay habitat will be essentially unaffected. The Applicant has agreed to a Condition of Certification to further protect the scrub jay and its habitat by avoiding colonies where found or by leaving the oak scrub in place under the wires.

The red-cockaded woodpecker nests and roosts in mature and over-mature pines. Such trees may occur within the proposed corridor. To protect colonies that may exist, a survey needs to

None of the proposed corridors cross a known wood stork rookery. However, a former rookery exists at Clay Sink wading bird site and will probably again become a rookery in the future when favorable conditions again exist. The FPC Proposed Corridor is more than a mile from any known wood stork rookery which should eliminate any significant adverse impact on such a site.

26. A 500 kV transmission line is an extra high voltage line. The highest electrical field strength directly underneath the proposed Central Florida-to-Kathleen 500 kV transmission line at ground level will be less than 10,000 volts per meter, and the field strength will diminish with distance from the line. The magnetic field associated with the proposed transmission line will be less than 0.5 gauss. Testimony and evidence establishes that the electric and magnetic field forces encountered in the vicinity of the transmission line at ground level will have essentially no biological effect and will be no stronger than similar forces encountered in the normal course of modern daily life.

Because of the size of the conductors to be used on the proposed transmission line, the ozone produced by that line will be negligible and will be well below the maximum ozone concentration level (0.12 ppm) recommended by the United States Environmental Protection Agency. During fair weather, the line will be virtually silent. During wet weather, when the conductors are wet, the noise level will be approximately 38 dBA at the edge of the right-of-way. This is a low noise level. At locations near the edge of the right-of-way, some interference

27. Except as otherwise noticed in the Findings of Fact herein, the testimony and evidence in this cause establishes that the proposed transmission line, if constructed along a right-of-way in the corridor as proposed by the Applicant, pursuant to the Conditions of Certification, would have no significant adverse effect on the environment, public health, safety or welfare. Similarly, neither the DER Proposed Corridor nor the DER preferred Alternate Corridor would have any significant adverse effect on the environment, public health safety or welfare. The evidence does not establish that the two alternative corridors proposed by DER would have an appreciably reduced effect on the environment, public health, safety or welfare. The evidence does establish, as set forth in Paragraph 13 above, that the two DER alternatives would be significantly more expensive to construct than would the FPC proposed corridor.

28. The corridor as proposed by FPC and depicted on Appendix 1 is 2,600 feet wide from its starting point at the existing Central Florida Substation to the northeast corner of Section 1, Township 23 South, Range 23 East, also the northeast corner of the Withlacoochee State Forest. At that point, the corridor narrows to 1,000 feet and continues to proceed southerly immediately west of the Sumter/Lake County line. At a point identified as the northeast corner of Section 1, Township 24 South, Range 23 East, the corridor narrows to 500 feet and proceeds in a southwesterly direction with 250 feet on either side of a line running from the northeast corner of Section 1, Township 24 South, Range 23 East, to the southwest corner of Section 4, Township 24

narrows to 1,000 feet and proceeds directly south immediately west of the SWFWMD west property line to the proposed Kathleen Substation site.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

29. This proceeding was held pursuant to the Transmission Line Siting Act, Sections 403.52 - 403.536, Florida Statutes (1980 Supp.), and Chapter 17-17, Florida Administrative Code.

30. Notice in accordance with Chapter 403 and Chapter 120, Florida Statutes, and Chapter 17-17, Florida Administrative Code, has been given to all persons and parties entitled thereto, as well as to the general public.

31. The purpose of this site certification hearing was to receive testimony and evidence concerning whether the location and maintenance of the transmission line corridor and the construction of the transmission lines with pertinent maintenance, will produce minimal adverse effects on the environment and public health, safety and welfare, and to fully balance the need for transmission lines with the broad interest of the public in order to effect a reasonable balance between the need for the facility as a means of providing abundant low-cost electrical energy, and the environmental impact resulting from the construction of the line and the location and maintenance of the corridor.

32. The record of this hearing consists of all pleadings and papers filed herein, including the site certification application as amended, the transcript of all hearings, all orders entered by the Hearing Officer, and all evidence and exhibits properly admitted to the record.

33. Section 403.526(6), Florida Statutes (1980 Supp.), requires the Florida Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission to

34. Section 403.526(3), Florida Statutes (1980 Supp.), requires that the Florida Department of Natural Resources prepare a report as to the impact of each proposed transmission line or corridor on matters within its jurisdiction. Such a report was timely made, submitted and introduced into evidence. That report is included in the Department of Environmental Regulation's report.

35. The Southwest Florida Water Management District is required by Section 403.526(4), Florida Statutes (1980 Supp.), to submit a report with regard to the impact on water resources of the proposed corridor. That water management district has timely submitted such a report, and it is included in the Department of Environmental Regulation's report.

36. The report of the Department of Veteran and Community Affairs required by Section 403.526(5), Florida Statutes (1980 Supp.), as to the impact of the proposed transmission line or corridor on land use and other matters within its jurisdiction was timely made, submitted and introduced into evidence. That report is included in the Department of Environmental Regulation's report.

37. The report of the Department of Environmental Regulation required by Section 403.526(2), Florida Statutes (1980 Supp.), as to the impact of the proposed transmission line or corridor as it relates to matters within the Department's jurisdiction was timely made, submitted, and introduced into evidence.

38. Need for the subject transmission line has

39. The Conditions of Certification proposed by the Department of Environmental Regulation and attached hereto as Attachment II have been agreed to by the Applicant with one exception. At the behest of the Florida Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission, a Condition of Certification with regard to red-cockaded woodpeckers has been proposed as follows:

Prior to ROW siting, all sandhills and flat-woods in the corridor shall be surveyed for the possible occurrence of red-cockaded woodpeckers and colony trees. If woodpeckers or such trees are found, the permittee shall notify the Florida Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission and the ROW shall be routed around the woodpecker colony.

Because of the significantly increased cost of constructing a transmission line that contains turning angles versus a straight line, it is concluded that such a Condition of Certification is not reasonable. Rather, it would be reasonable to include a Condition of Certification with regard to red-cockaded woodpeckers as follows:

Prior to right-of-way siting, all sandhills and flat woods in the corridor shall be surveyed for the possible occurrence of red-cockaded woodpeckers and colony trees. If woodpeckers or such trees are found, the permittee shall notify the Florida Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission and in cooperation with that Commission attempt to site the right-of-way so that the identified red-cockaded woodpecker colony shall be avoided if such siting can occur without the addition of otherwise unnecessary turning angles in the transmission line. In any event, construction of the transmission line will be conducted in such a manner as to preserve, if possible, red-cockaded woodpecker colony trees when such are identified within the right-of-way selected.

The Conditions of Certification proposed by the Department of Environmental Regulation and agreed to by the Applicant are reasonable.

40. The location and maintenance of the proposed

41. It is noted that, pursuant to the requirements of Section 403.531(3), Florida Statutes (1980 Supp.), this certification proceeding does not preempt the jurisdiction of the Board of Trustees of the Internal Improvement Trust Fund or eliminate the need for any license, easement or other interest in State lands which would ordinarily be sought from the Trustees. Further, as provided by the above statute, it is proper to condition this certification upon the issuance by the Trustees of the appropriate interest in State land as may be required to effect construction of the proposed lines.

42. All proposed Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law not embodied herein have been considered by the Hearing Officer and rejected as either irrelevant, unsupported by competent substantial evidence, or otherwise not necessary to the determination of this cause.

RECOMMENDED ORDER

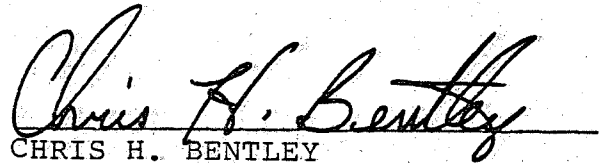
Having reviewed the record of this proceeding, and based upon the Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law set forth herein, it is

RECOMMENDED that certification, pursuant to the Transmission Line Siting Act, Chapter 403, Florida Statutes (1980 Supp.), be GRANTED to the Florida Power Corporation for location of the transmission line corridor, the construction of the transmission lines, and the maintenance of the transmission line and right-of-way as proposed in the application as amended, and the evidence admitted to the record.

It is further RECOMMENDED that such certification be made

State lands, the title to which is vested in the Board of Trustees of the Internal Improvement Trust Fund, from the Board prior to engaging in any activity on or affecting such lands.

ENTERED this 15TH day of June, 1982, in Tallahassee, Florida.



CHRIS H. BENTLEY
Hearing Officer
Division of Administrative Hearings
The Oakland Building
2009 Apalachee Parkway
Tallahassee, Florida 32301
(904) 488-9675

Filed with the Clerk of the Division of Administrative Hearings this 15TH day of June, 1982.

Copies furnished:

See attached page

Case No. 81-1713
Copies furnished:

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Tampa, Florida 33601

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Department of Natural Resources
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Tallahassee, Florida 32303

C. Laurence Keesey, Esquire
Department of Veteran and
Community Affairs
Room 530 Carlton Building
Tallahassee, Florida 32301

Ken Gilleland, Esquire
Game and Freshwater Fish
Commission
Bryant Building
Tallahassee, Florida 32301

Paul Sexton, Esquire
Florida Public Service Commission
Fletcher Building
101 East Gaines Street
Tallahassee, Florida 32301

Robert Chastain, Esquire
Department of Agriculture
and Consumer Services
Mayo Building
Tallahassee, Florida 32301

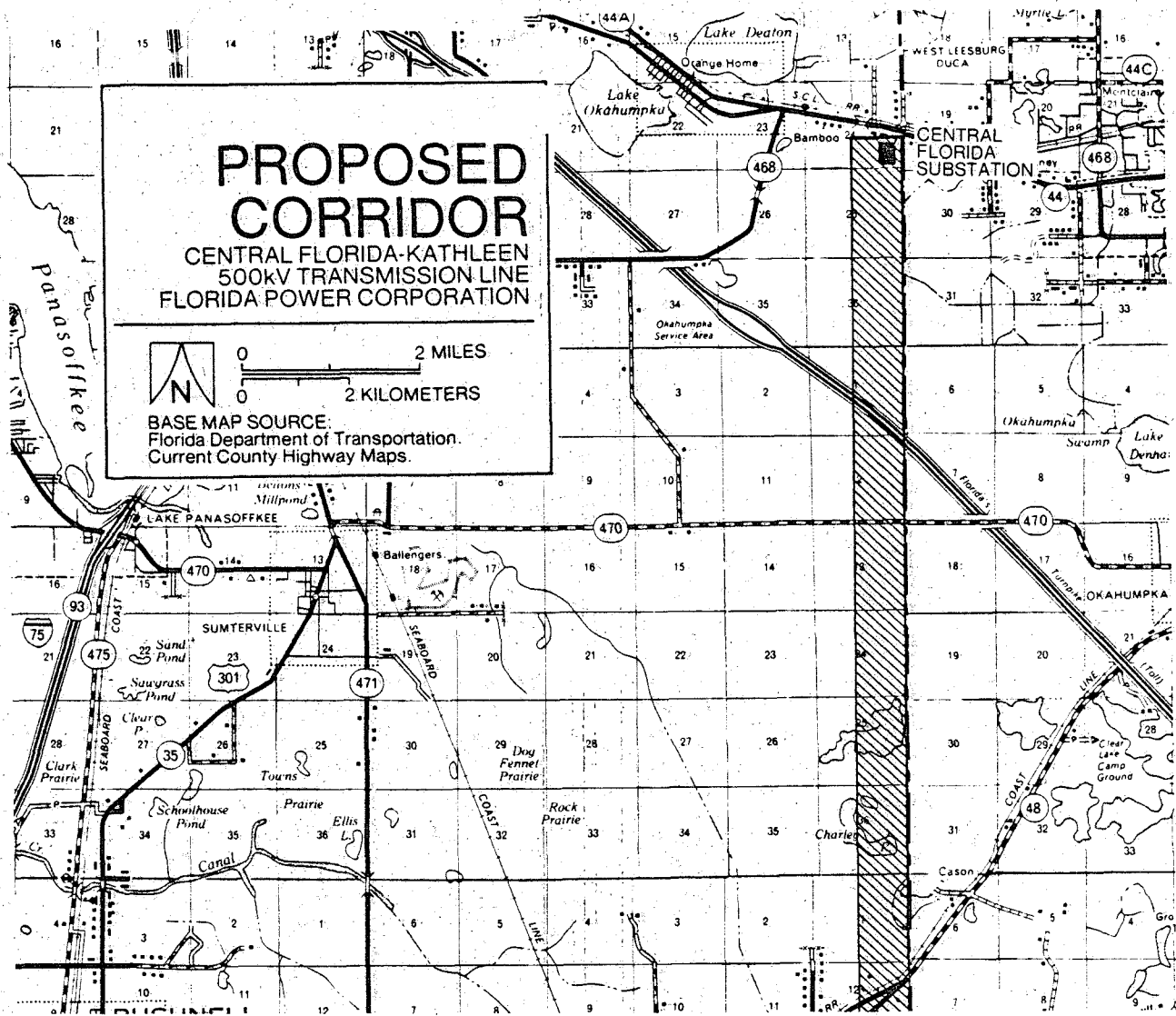
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CENTRAL FLORIDA
500KV TRANSM
FLORIDA POWER CO

BASE MAP SOURCE:
USGS 1:24,000 Topograph

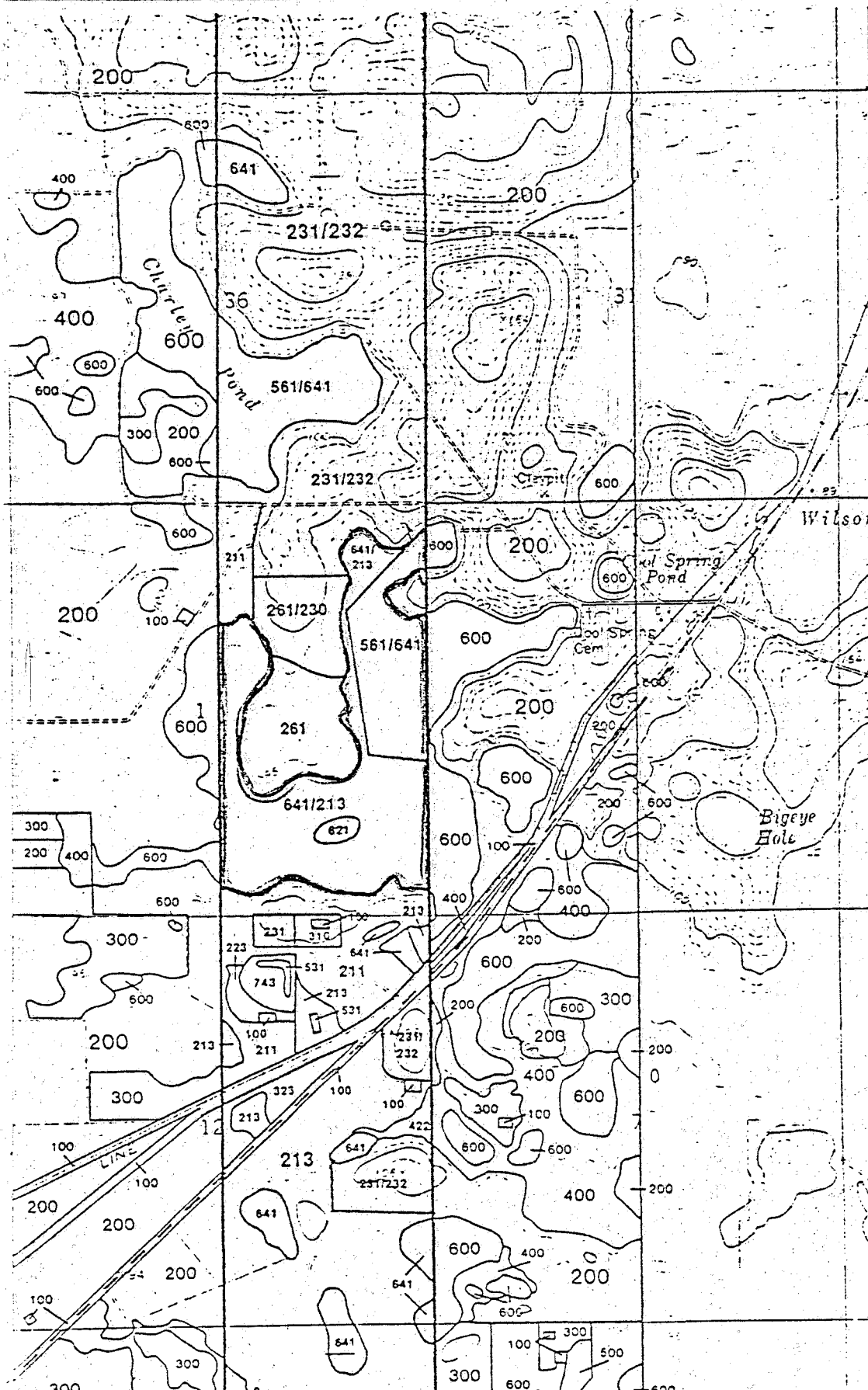


FIGURE A2-2B LAND USE AND VEGETATION

CENTRAL FLORIDA-KATHLEEN
500KV TRANSMISSION LINE
FLORIDA POWER CORPORATION

Proposed Corridor Boundary

LAND USE (Level I)

- | | |
|-----------------------|-----------------|
| 100 Urban or Built-up | 500 Water |
| 200 Agriculture | 600 Wetland |
| 300 Rangeland | 700 Barren Land |
| 400 Forested Upland | |

VEGETATION COVER (Level III)

- 100 Urban or Built-up
- 211 Row Crops
- 212 Field Crops
- 213 Improved Pasture
- 221 Tropical Fruit Orchard
- 222 Deciduous Fruit Orchard
- 223 Nursery
- 230 Citrus Grove
- 231 Orange Grove
- 232 Grapefruit Grove
- 233 Other Citrus Grove
- 261 Inactive Agricultural Land
- 262 Other Agricultural Land
- 310 Grassland
- 323 Scrub and Brush
- 411 Pine Flatwood Forest
- 422 Hardwood Forest
- 431 Mixed Forest
- 441 Planted Forest-Coniferous
- 451 Clearcut Area
- 531 Reservoir
- 561 Pond
- 611 Wetland-Cypress Forest
- 621 Freshwater Swamp
- 631 Wetland-Mixed Forest
- 641 Freshwater Marsh
- 743 Spoil Bank
- 753 Extractive-Sand, Gravel, Clay
- 755 Abandoned Mining Operation

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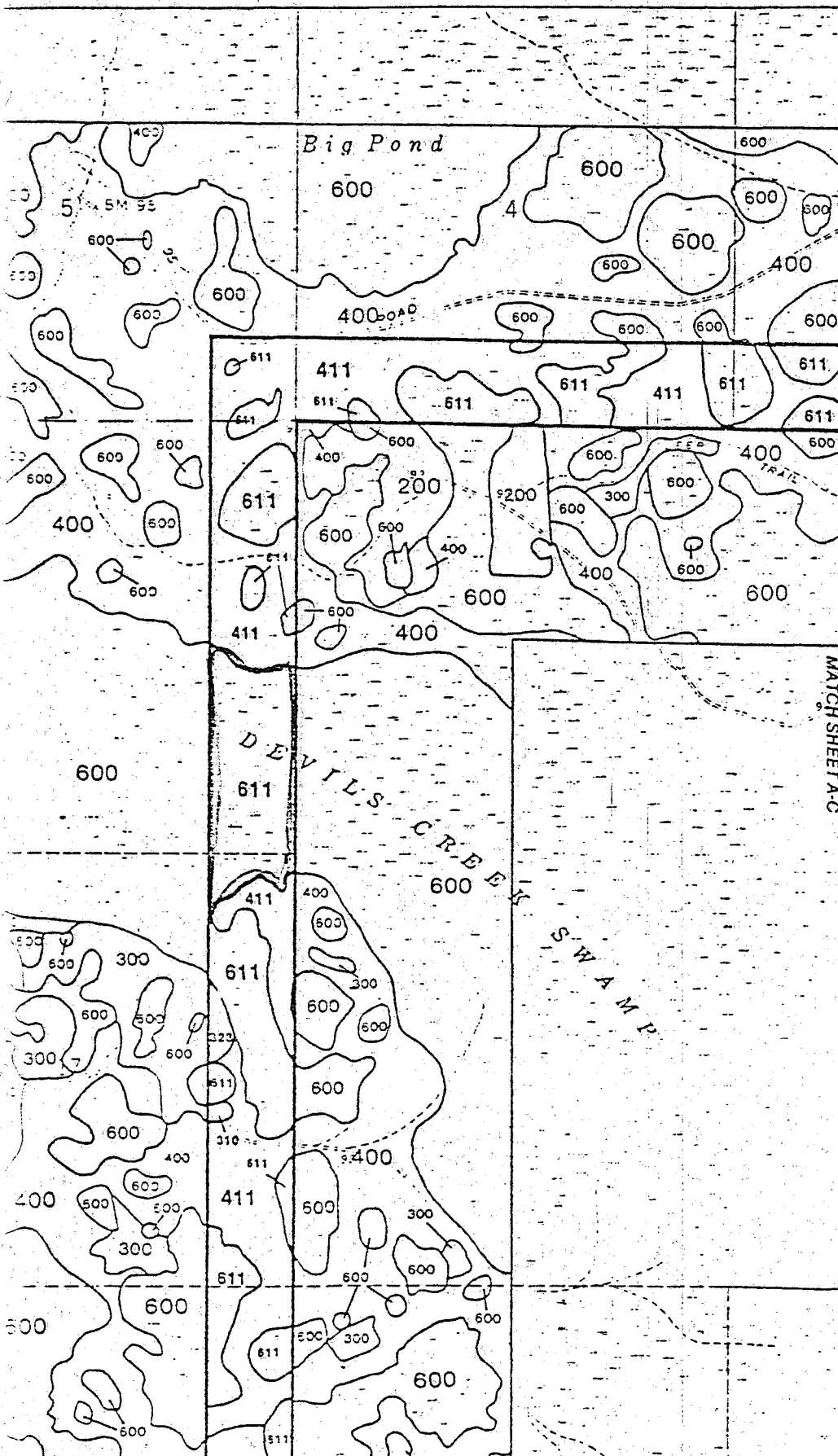
1:24,000
2000 FEET
500 METERS

SOURCE:
Aerial Photography; December 1979.
Commonwealth Associates, Inc., 1981.

BASE MAP SOURCE:
USGS 1:24,000 Topographic Maps.

FIGURE A2- LAND USE AND VEGETATION

CENTRAL FLORIDA-KATHI
500KV TRANSMISSION
FLORIDA POWER CORPORATION



Proposed Corridor Boundary

LAND USE (Level I)

- | | |
|-----------------------|-----------------|
| 100 Urban or Built-up | 500 Water |
| 200 Agriculture | 600 Wetland |
| 300 Rangeland | 700 Barren Land |
| 400 Forested Upland | |

VEGETATION COVER (Level III)

- | |
|-----------------------------------|
| 100 Urban or Built-up |
| 211 Row Crops |
| 212 Field Crops |
| 213 Improved Pasture |
| 221 Tropical Fruit Orchard |
| 222 Deciduous Fruit Orchard |
| 223 Nursery |
| 230 Citrus Grove |
| 231 Orange Grove |
| 232 Grapefruit Grove |
| 233 Other Citrus Grove |
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| 743 Spoil Bank |
| 753 Extractive-Sand, Gravel, Clay |
| 755 Abandoned Mining Operation |

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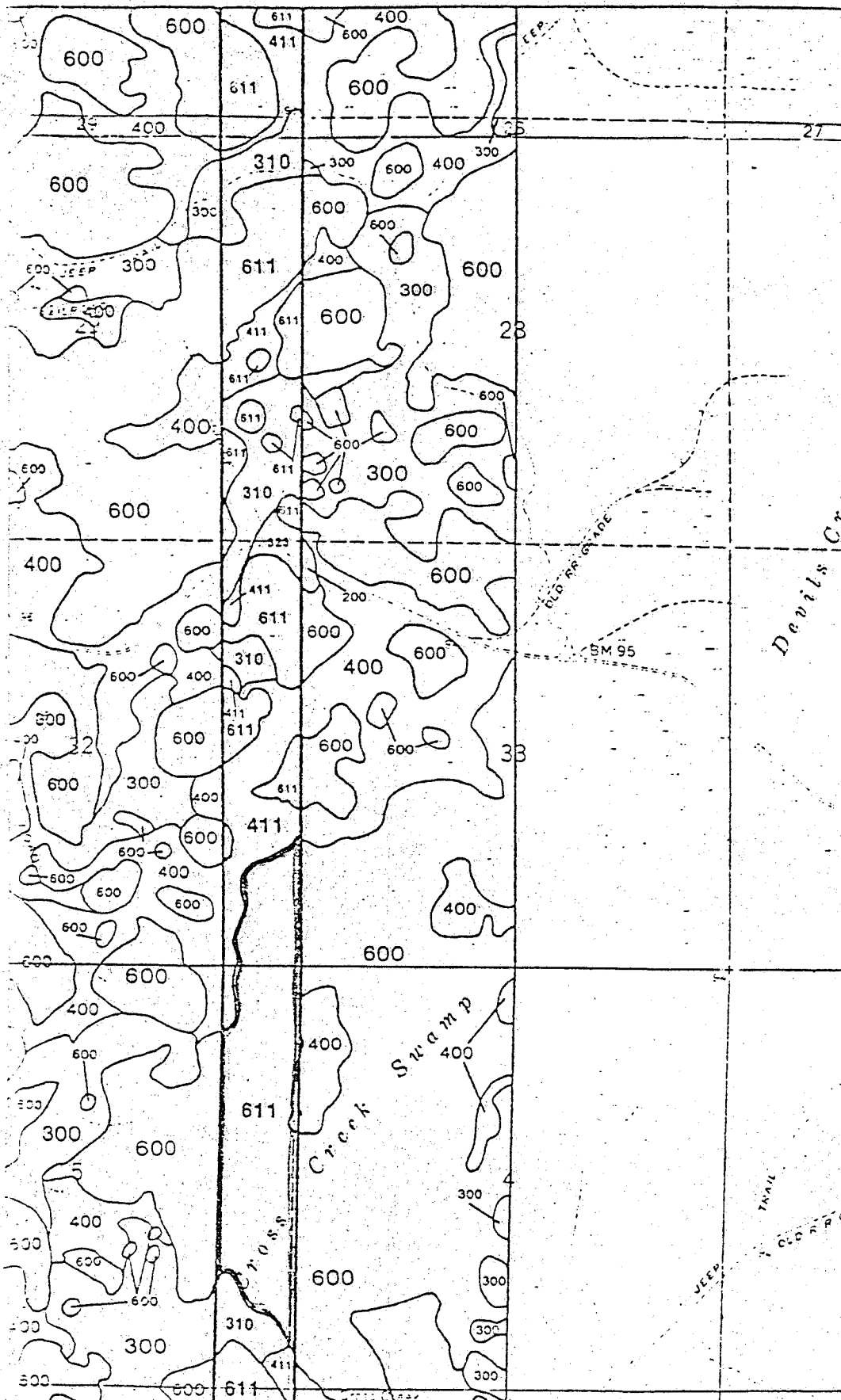
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SOURCE:
Aerial Photography; December 1979.
Commonwealth Associates, Inc., 198

BASE MAP SOURCE:
USGS 1:24,000 Topographic Maps.

FIGURE A2 LAND USE AND VEGETATION

CENTRAL FLORIDA-KAT
500KV TRANSMISSION
FLORIDA POWER CORPORATION



Proposed Corridor Boundary

LAND USE (Level I)

- | | |
|-----------------------|-----------------|
| 100 Urban or Built-up | 500 Water |
| 200 Agriculture | 600 Wetland |
| 300 Rangeland | 700 Barren Land |
| 400 Forested Upland | |

VEGETATION COVER (Level III)

- 100 Urban or Built-up
- 211 Row Crops
- 212 Field Crops
- 213 Improved Pasture
- 221 Tropical Fruit Orchard
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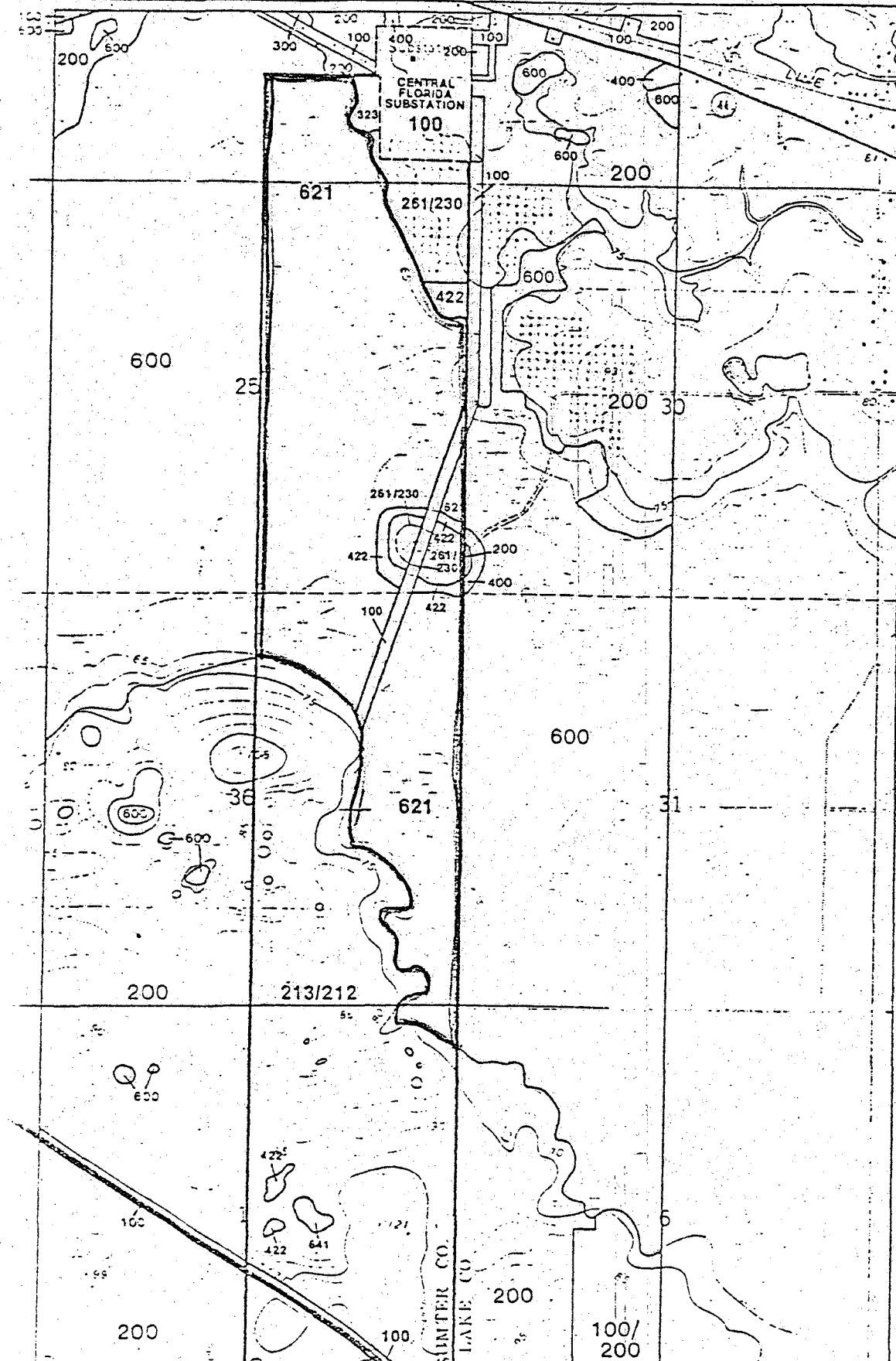
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SOURCE:
Aerial Photography; December 1971
Commonwealth Associates, Inc., 19

BASE MAP SOURCE:
USGS 1:24,000 Topographic Maps

FIGURE LAND AND VEGETATION

CENTRAL FLORIDA
500KV TRANSMISSION
FLORIDA POWER & LIGHT



Proposed Corridor Boundary

LAND USE (Level II)

- | | |
|-----------------------|-------------|
| 100 Urban or Built-up | 500 Water |
| 200 Agriculture | 600 Wetland |
| 300 Rangeland | 700 Barren |
| 400 Forested Upland | |

VEGETATION COVER (Level III)

- | |
|-----------------------------------|
| 100 Urban or Built-up |
| 211 Row Crops |
| 212 Field Crops |
| 213 Improved Pasture |
| 221 Tropical Fruit Orchard |
| 222 Deciduous Fruit Orchard |
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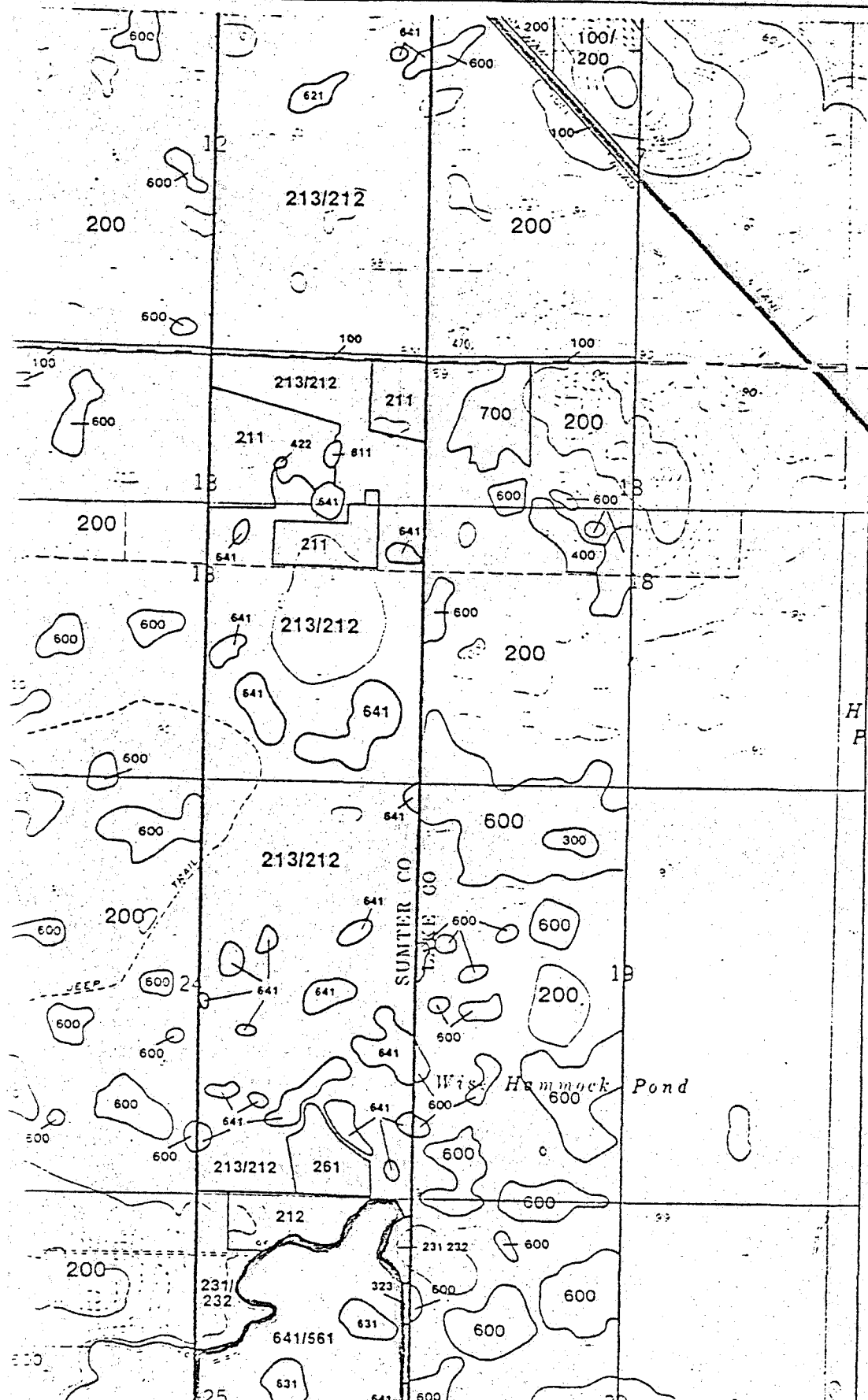
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SOURCE:
Aerial Photography; 8-22-7
Commonwealth Associates

BASE MAP SOURCE:
USGS 1:24,000 Topographic

FIGURE LAND USE AND VEGETATION

CENTRAL FLORIDA-KA
500KV TRANSMISSION
FLORIDA POWER CORP



Proposed Corridor Boundary

LAND USE (Level I)

- | | |
|-----------------------|-----------------|
| 100 Urban or Built-up | 500 Water |
| 200 Agriculture | 600 Wetland |
| 300 Rangeland | 700 Barren Land |
| 400 Forested Upland | |

VEGETATION COVER (Level III)

- 100 Urban or Built-up
- 211 Row Crops
- 212 Field Crops
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- 755 Abandoned Mining Operation

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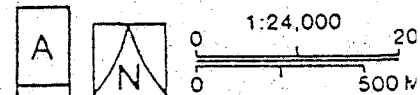
SOURCE:
Aerial Photography: 8-22-79 and 11
Commonwealth Associates, Inc. 19

BASE MAP SOURCE:
USGS 1:24,000 Topographic Maps

FIGURE A2 LAND USE AND VEGETATION

CENTRAL FLORIDA-KA
500KV TRANSMISSION
FLORIDA POWER CORPO

- Proposed Corridor Boundary
- LAND USE (Level I)
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| 100 Urban or Built-up | 500 Water |
| 200 Agriculture | 600 Wetland |
| 300 Rangeland | 700 Barren Land |
| 400 Forested Upland | |
- VEGETATION COVER (Level III)
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|-----------------------------------|
| 100 Urban or Built-up |
| 211 Row Crops |
| 212 Field Crops |
| 213 Improved Pasture |
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| 641 Freshwater Marsh |
| 743 Spoil Bank |
| 753 Extractive-Sand, Gravel, Clay |
| 755 Abandoned Mining Operation |



SOURCE:
Aerial Photography; December 19
Commonwealth Associates, Inc.,

BASE MAP SOURCE:
USGS 1:24,000 Topographic Map

ATTACHMENT II

GENERAL CONDITIONS OF CERTIFICATION

I. Definitions

The meaning of terms used herein shall be governed by the definitions contained in Chapters 403, 373 and 253, Florida Statutes, and any regulation adopted pursuant thereto and the statutes and regulations of any party. In the event of any dispute over the meaning of a term used in these general or special conditions which is not defined in such statutes or regulations, such dispute shall be resolved by reference to the most relevant definitions contained in any other state or federal statute or regulation or, in the alternative, by the use of the commonly accepted meaning as determined by law.

The term "keyhole fill" as used herein shall mean the leaving of a span no less than 1,150 feet between two towers without an access/maintenance road.

The term "ROW" means the transmission line right-of-way to be selected by the permittee within the corridor in accordance with the conditions of certification.

The term "DER" means the Florida Department of Environmental Regulation.

II. Performance Criteria

Certification, including conditions of certification, is predicated upon design and performance criteria indicated in the application. Thus, conformance to those criteria, unless specifically amended, modified, or as DER and the parties are otherwise notified, is binding upon the permittee in the preparation, construction and maintenance of the certified project. In those instances where a conflict occurs between the application's design criteria and the conditions of certification, the conditions shall prevail.

III. Property Rights

Except as otherwise provided herein and under the Transmission Line Siting Act and rules thereunder, the issuance of this certification does not convey any property rights in either real or personal property, tangible or intangible, nor any exclusive privileges, nor does it authorize any injury to public or private property or any invasion of personal rights nor any infringement of federal, state or local laws or regulations. The permittee must obtain title, lease or right of use from the State of Florida to any sovereign lands submerged or otherwise, occupied by the ROW for the transmission line and structures.

IV. Adverse Impact

The permittee shall take all reasonable steps to minimize any adverse impact resulting from the construction,

V. Right of Entry

The permittee shall allow the Secretary of DER and/or authorized representatives, upon the presentation of credentials:

- A. To enter upon the ROW where any construction or maintenance is being undertaken or upon the permittee's premises in which records are required to be kept under the terms and conditions of this permit; and
- B. To have access to and copy all records required to be kept under the conditions of this certification.

VI. Civil and Criminal Liability

This certification does not relieve the permittee from civil or criminal responsibility or liability for non-compliance with any conditions of this certification, applicable rules or regulations in accordance with Chapter 403, F.S.

VII. Severability

The provisions of this certification are severable, and if any provision of this certification or the application of any provision of this certification to any circumstances is held invalid, the application of such provision to other circumstances and the remainder of the certification shall not be affected thereby.

VIII. Revocation or Suspension

IX. Compliance

Except as otherwise provided herein, construction and maintenance shall comply with the applicable nonprocedural rules and regulations of DER and those agencies specified in 17-17.54(2)(a) and (b), F.A.C., which would otherwise be applicable to the construction and maintenance of the transmission line, access roads and ROW.

X. Right-of-Way Delineation and Compliance Verification

Aerial photographs of at least 1:24000 scale shall be submitted to DER delineating the ROW route acquired. These photographs shall be submitted prior to commencement of construction on the various segments of the line; it is recommended that this information be submitted in segments rather than waiting until the entire ROW is acquired. DER and any other party which requests to do so shall have 30 days from receipt by DER to review the photographs and to call any apparent conflicts with the requirements of these conditions to the permittee's attention.

If DER or any party has reason to believe that the construction of the transmission line and access roads within the permittee's designated ROW cannot be accomplished in compliance with applicable statutes and rules of DER or of the party, the permittee shall be so notified in writing. Failure of such a notice to be served on permittee within 30 days from filing the various segments in the aerial photographs with DER constitutes approval for construction within the designated ROW or

The acquisition of a particular ROW or the expenditure of funds toward acquisition of a particular ROW prior to DER's review will be at the permittee's risk, and DER or any other party is not estopped from disapproving the construction of the transmission line or access road within the ROW.

XI. Other Construction Activities

- A. Existing access roads shall be used wherever practicable rather than constructing new roads.
- B. No borrow ponds shall be constructed in hardwood hammocks.
- C. The outer 20 feet of the ROW shall not be clear-cut but rather selectively cleared of danger trees. Danger trees are tall dead or diseased trees, or trees leaning toward the line which would contact the line by falling.
- D. Compliance with the most recent version of the National Electric Safety Code adopted by the Public Service Commission is required.
- E. Open burning in connection with land clearing shall be in accordance with the applicable rules of the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services.

XII. Maintenance

- A. If chemicals or herbicides are to be used for vege-

tions and manner of application shall be in accordance with state and federal regulations. None shall be applied to waters of the State.

- B. When maintenance trimming is necessary the outer 20 feet shall be selectively cleared of danger trees and not clear-cut.

XIII. Archaeological Sites

Any archaeological sites discovered during construction of the transmission lines shall be disturbed as little as possible and such discovery shall be communicated to the Department of State, Division of Archives, History and Record Management (DAHRM). Potentially affected areas crossed by the ROW deemed likely to contain archaeological or historic sites as identified by DAHRM shall be investigated by pedestrian survey, and if a significant site is located, the site shall be protected and reported to DAHRM.

XIV. Road Crossings

- A. For all locations where the transmission line will cross state highways, the permittee shall submit materials pursuant to the Department of Transportation's (DOT) "Utility Accommodation Guide" to DOT's district office within 30 days prior to starting construction for a particular crossing. The permittee shall comply with the criteria in the Utility Accommodation Guide and with all applicable regulations pertaining to roadway crossings by transmission

- B. All crossings of state highways shall be as nearly perpendicular to, and all towers as far from, state, county and city roads' rights-of-way as practicable and still maintain proper road clearance, in order to allow future widening and expansion of those roads.
- C. The transmission line shall not be constructed across any state, county or city bridge which is supported by pilings.
- D. For all locations where the transmission line will cross county roads, and in counties where crossing permits are generally required, the permittee shall submit the applicable road crossing information to the County Engineer as normally required by the county for such permit. The permittee shall comply with all applicable county regulations pertaining to roadway crossings by transmission lines.

XV. Modifications of Conditions

- A. Notwithstanding Section XV.B. herein, the DER Secretary is delegated the authority pursuant to 403.5315(1), F.S., to modify conditions of certification relating to:
 - 1. A modification of the project that would not cause any significant adverse environmental impact.

2. Modifications necessary to meet licensing conditions or requirements imposed on the permittee by any federal regulatory agency. The permittee shall notify DER at least thirty (30) days prior to the issuance of the federal license that would require such a modification.
 3. A reconstruction of the ROW or transmission line necessary to avoid or mitigate an emergency involving the loss of human life or property resulting from any natural or manmade cause, including hurricane, tornado, fire, flood, explosion, windstorm or other calamitous accident when new right-of-way or access facilities are necessary.
- B. Unless objected to by a party to these proceedings 20 days after notification by DER or the permittee, the DER Secretary is delegated the authority pursuant to 403.5315(1), F.S., to modify these conditions of certification. To comply with applicable non-procedural regulations of agencies, the permittee may be required to use different construction or maintenance techniques other than those represented in the application.

XVI. Emergency Reporting

Emergency replacement of previously existing ROW or transmission lines shall not be considered a modification pursuant to 403.5315, F.S. A verbal report of the emergency shall be made to DER as soon as possible.

Within fourteen (14) calendar days after correction of the emergency which would require the permittee to perform an activity not in accordance with the conditions of certification, a report to DER shall be made outlining the details of the emergency and the steps taken for its temporary relief. The relief shall be a written description of all of the work performed and shall set forth any pollution control measures or mitigative measures which were utilized or are being utilized to prevent pollution of waters, harm to sensitive areas or alteration of archaeological or historical resources.

SPECIAL CONDITIONS OF CERTIFICATION

These special conditions are predicated upon the particular facts and issues in this transmission line corridor certification proceeding and as such are not expected to have applicability to future certifications.

I. Certified Corridor

The corridor for which certification is granted is depicted in Attachment I.

II. Right-of-Way Route Selection

- A. Prior to right-of-way siting, all sandhills and flatwoods in the corridor shall be surveyed for the possible occurrence of red-cockaded woodpeckers and colony trees. If woodpeckers or such trees are found, the permittee shall notify the Florida Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission and in cooperation with that Commission attempt to site the right-of-way so that the identified red-cockaded woodpecker colony shall be avoided if such siting can occur without the addition of otherwise unnecessary turning angles in the transmission line. In any event, construction of the transmission line will be conducted in such a manner as to preserve, if possible, red-cockaded woodpecker colony trees when such are identified within the right-of-way selected.
- B. The ROW shall be located along the county line in the vicinity of SR 48 such that minimal disturbance is made to the R-1-M zoning area (Mobile Home Residential) and C-1 zoning area (Neighborhood Commercial) located thereabouts.
- C. The ROW shall be located parallel and immediately contiguous to the west side of the existing Central Florida to Windermere transmission line in the area delineated in the map attached as Figure 1 in Appendix III.
- D. The ROW shall be located along the county line south of SR 50 in Section 24, Township 22S, Range 23E, to avoid the hardwood hammock.

III. Activities in Submerged and Transition Zones of Waters of the State

- A. Swales shall not be used if possible. However, where swales are used, swale plugs shall be provided between low areas to prevent drainage.

B. Turbidity Control. Turbidity control measures, including but not limited to, hay bales, sodding, mulching and seeding, or turbidity screens, shall be employed as needed to prevent violation of water quality standards.

C. Vegetation Removal/Planting

1. Where the transmission line crosses water-courses (rivers, creeks, sloughs, etc., in which water usually flows in a defined bed or channel), existing vegetation not in excess of 25 feet in height shall be left undisturbed within 100 feet of the ordinary high water mark of the bed or channel, but in any case it shall not exceed more than 150 feet from either side of the centerline of the open water. If it is necessary to remove trees, the root mat shall be left undisturbed.
2. The slope of the maintenance/access roads built on new fill in waters of the State shall be seeded or planted immediately after construction with endemic or benign non-endemic species to prevent potential erosion and subsequent water quality degradation.

D. Site-Specific Dredge/Fill Information and Compliance Verification

For all construction activities in submerged and transition zones of waters of the State as defined in Subsection 17-4.02(17), F.A.C., the permittee

shall file a copy of the Dredge/Fill Joint Application, Department of Army/Florida Department of Environmental Regulation for Activities in Waters of the State, SAJ Form 983 (July 21, 1977) with the DER, Bureau of Permitting, Power Plant Siting Section. The application form shall also be forwarded by DER to the Corps of Engineers, identifying that certification has already been granted by the State.

Within 45 days of filing of complete information, DER shall determine whether or not a probable violation of the conditions of certification would occur if the plans were executed as filed. If it is determined that a probable violation would occur, the permittee shall be notified and the probable violation specified with particularity as well as possible corrective measures suggested. Failure to notify the permittee in writing within 45 days shall constitute a compliance verification. Since certification is the only form of permit required by the State, it is understood that the permittee and DER shall strive to resolve such matters by mutual agreement. If mutual agreement cannot be reached, then the matter shall be referred to the Division of Administrative Hearings (DOAH) for disposition in accordance with the provisions of Chapter 120, F.S. The hearing pursuant to Section 120.57, F.S., shall be held within 30 days after its referral to DOAH. The Hearing Officer shall issue the decision 15 days after termination of such hearing. Referral of an issue to DOAH pursuant to this condition shall neither affect other

E. Water Quality Certifications

Any necessary water quality certification which must be provided to the Corps of Engineers and the permittee by DER shall be made at the time of a finding of compliance for specific work at specific locations.

IV. Areas for Further Consideration

Those areas delineated in red on the Appendix III maps are areas where DER finds that construction in certain Dredge/Fill Jurisdiction Areas is acceptable, but only with conditions. More detailed review as provided by Special Condition III.D. will be necessary before a final determination can be made. In general, however, it will be DER's policy, except in the Devils Creek Swamp area, to only approve keyhole fills rather than continuous access roads which bisect the areas delineated in red on the Appendix III maps. In the Devils Creek Swamp area the permittee will build a continuous access/maintenance road in the easternmost 20 feet of the ROW. If, prior to construction of the access/maintenance road, the SWFWMD Board votes to drop its plan to build a levee in the Devils Creek Swamp area, the permittee shall construct keyhole fills in Devils Creek Swamp.

V. Access/Maintenance Roads

A. Access/maintenance roads shall not be constructed in waters of the State where DER has dredge and fill jurisdiction pursuant to Chapter 17-4, F.A.C.,

1. Where the permittee would not have access to other portions of the ROW adjacent to such waters of the State, except by constructing roads or acquiring easements outside of the ROW; provided that the cost of constructing the access/maintenance roads in the waters of the State does not exceed the cost of obtaining any necessary easements and construction of roads outside of the permittee's ROW. An affidavit of the cost comparison shall be submitted with the dredge/fill informational filing required by Special Condition III.D. in these instances. OR
2. Where by-passing the waters of the State would require the permittee to travel a distance outside of its ROW in excess of three miles to return to the next tower structure. A map indicating the route to be traveled and the distance shall be submitted with the dredge/fill informational filing required by Special Condition III.D. in these instances. OR
3. Where more environmental harm would result from routing the access/maintenance road outside the waters of the State than in the waters of the State. Justification for this decision shall be submitted with the dredge/fill informational filing required by Special Condition III.D. in these instances. OR
4. Where the environmental benefits to be gained

land use factors. Justification for this decision shall be submitted with the dredge/fill informational filing required by Special Condition III.D. in these instances.

B. Where access/maintenance roads are constructed in waters of the State, the permittee shall comply with the following conditions:

1. Access/maintenance roads shall be constructed and maintained to provide reasonable assurances of compliance with water quality standards; turbidity control measures, including but not limited to, hay bales, sodding, mulching and seeding, shall be employed as necessary to prevent violations of water quality standards;
2. Access/maintenance roads shall be constructed and maintained to provide reasonable assurances for the passage of flood waters equal in volume to the 1-in-25 year storm and that post-construction flow volumes will not vary significantly from pre-construction flow volumes;
3. The slope of access/maintenance roads constructed in waters of the State shall be planted with vegetation to prevent potential erosion and subsequent water quality degradation.

VI. Scrub Jay Habitat

Prior to final ROW clearing, the scrub oak thickets near

within the broad area depicted as possible locations for the Kathleen Substation, with the exception of the substation itself, shall be located on the best available aerial photographs with the aid of soils maps which depict soils types which support scrub jay habitat. These scrub oak thickets shall be then surveyed for the occurrence of scrub jays. Where the scrub jays are found, the oak understory shorter than 25 feet in height beneath the transmission line shall be left intact with the exception of a 20-foot wide access/maintenance road pathway.

VII. Activities Within Works of the Southwest Florida Water Management District

A. For all construction activity in works of the District, the permittee shall file, at least forty-five (45) days prior to commencement of construction in the works of the District with the Southwest Florida Water Management District (SWFWMD) in Brooksville, Florida, a copy of the Dredge/Fill Joint Application, Department of Army/Florida Department of Environmental Regulation, for Activities in the Waters of the State, SAJ Form 983 (July 21, 1977) or, at the permittee's option, the following information:

1. A centerline profile of existing topographic features along proposed access road(s).
2. Preliminary design of proposed access road(s) with elevation marked.

3. Typical cross-section of access road(s)

4. Cross-section of each stream or creek at those points to be crossed by access road(s) or other facilities.
5. Specifications showing size and type of water control structure (pipe, culvert, etc.) to be placed within or on the works of the District, with proposed flowline elevation marked.
6. Specifications showing design capacity of all water control structures to be employed.
7. Specifications showing location and type of each transmission tower and access road(s) to be constructed within or on the works of the District.

If the permittee chooses to submit a DER/Corps dredge/fill form, the specific information detailed in this paragraph must be incorporated with the DER/Corps dredge/fill form. SWFWMD and the permittee may jointly agree to vary the informational requirements herein for good cause shown.

- B. "Construction activities in works of the District" means the placement of a structure, e.g. access/maintenance roads, tower structures, culverts and fill materials in a works of the District. Construction activity shall not include any activity exempted from Chapter 40 D-6, F.A.C., by § 40 D-6.051(3), F.A.C.

- C. "Works of the District" means the following works

1. Devils Creek Swamp, in Sections 8 and 17, Township 24 South, Range 23 East, as shown on the U.S.G.S. Quadrangle Map-Clay Sink, Florida (1960).
2. Cross Creek Swamp in Section 5, Township 25 South, Range 23 East, and Section 32, Township 24 South, Range 23 East, as shown on U.S.G.S. Quadrangle Map-Branchborough, Florida (1960).
3. Cross Creek in Section 8, Township 25 South, Range 23 East, as shown on U.S.G.S. Quadrangle Map-Branchborough, Florida (1960).
4. Withlacoochee River in Section 8, Township 25 South, Range 23 East, as shown on U.S.G.S. Quadrangle Map-Branchborough, Florida (1960).
5. Colt Creek in Sections 20 and 17, Township 25 South, Range 23 East, as shown on U.S.G.S. Quadrangle Map-Branchborough, Florida (1960).
6. Gator Creek in Section 32, Township 25 South, Range 23 East, as shown on U.S.G.S. Quadrangle Map-Branchborough, Florida (1960).

D. Within forty-five (45) days of filing all the information required herein, SWFWMD shall determine, and notify the permittee in writing, whether the permittee has provided reasonable assurances that the conditions of certification would not be violated by the proposed construction activity. If SWFWMD determines that reasonable assurances have not been given, SWFWMD

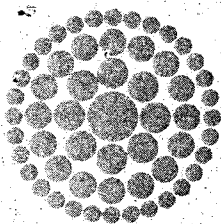
shall notify the permittee in writing of the probable violation specified with particularity, as well as specify corrective measures. Failure to notify the permittee in writing within forty-five (45) days shall constitute compliance verification. Since certification is the only form of permit required by any agency, it is understood that the permittee and the SWFWMD shall strive to resolve such matters by mutual agreement. If mutual agreement cannot be reached, then the matter shall be immediately referred to the Division of Administrative Hearings (DOAH) for disposition in accordance with the provisions of Chapter 120, Florida Statutes. A hearing under § 120.57, Florida Statutes, shall be held within thirty (30) days after its referral to DOAH. The Hearing Officer shall issue the decision fifteen (15) days after the termination of such hearing. All exceptions to the Hearing Officer's order shall be filed with the Governor and Cabinet within ten (10) days of the issuance of such order. The Governor and Cabinet shall issue a decision within thirty (30) days of the filing of the exception. Construction shall not commence in the works of the districts affected until final agency action. Referral of an issue to DOAH pursuant to this paragraph shall neither affect other conditions nor operate as a stay on any other portion of the transmission line certified.

- E. Where the transmission line crosses the site of the proposed SWFWMD levee in Sections 4 and 5 of Township 24 South, Range 23 East, the permittee shall coordinate construction with SWFWMD. The term "coordinate"

shall mean that the permittee will disclose to SWFWMD the construction specifications of the transmission line for the crossing of that part of the levee described above prior to construction, and that the transmission line will be constructed so that the tower placement, height of the conductors, and other construction or placement of structures within the ROW, will not unreasonably interfere with the construction and operation of the SWFWMD levee. SWFWMD understands that the permittee will construct an overhead 500 kV transmission line over the SWFWMD levee in the area described in this paragraph, and that the term "coordinate" is limited to the placement of any structure within the ROW so that such structure does not unreasonably interfere with the construction and operation of the SWFWMD levee. It is agreed that, for the purposes of this condition, the design height of the SWFWMD levee will not be greater than 108 feet above the National Geodetic Vertical Datum (NGVD).

VIII. Other Construction Activities

General Condition XI.C. shall not apply to those ROW areas where the ROW is immediately contiguous to the SWFWMD levee.



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**DIV. ENVIRONMENTAL
PERMITTING**

October 27, 1981

Ms. Karen Anthony
Florida Department of Environmental Regulation
Twin Towers Office Building
2600 Blair Stone Road
Tallahassee, FL 32301

Dear Ms. Anthony:

Subject: Central Florida-Kathleen 500 KV Transmission Line
Certification Application

Pursuant to the DER's request for additional information as contained in your letter of October 5, 1981, to Mr. Chris Bentley, Director, Division of Administrative Hearings, we offer the following.

Question #1

Is the zoning still agricultural for the amended corridor?

Response

Yes. According to conversations between our consultant, Commonwealth Associates, Inc., and zoning officials in Sumter and Polk Counties on September 10, 1981, that portion of the amended corridor in Sumter County is zoned A-5 Agriculture, and in Polk, RC Rural Conservation.

Question #2

Was the Division of Archives, History and Records Management contacted regarding providing information on potential archaeological sites in the new corridor?

Response

The Division was contacted on four different occasions for site information: July 21 by letter, July 22 and 28 by telephone, and August 3 by letter. Information was provided in a manner similar to that used in data gathering for the primary application, i.e., project area maps were sent to the Division with the amended corridor delineated. They in turn plotted all known and recorded sites and returned the maps to Commonwealth. However, no areas of potential sites were identified by the Division for the amended corridor. Communication with the Division will be maintained throughout this effort so that potentially sensitive areas (if they do exist) will not be overlooked.

Ms. Karen Anthony
Page 2
October 27, 1981

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Question #3

Was the amended corridor surveyed for red-cockaded woodpecker habitat?

Response

Field surveys were conducted to identify various habitats, including that for the red-cockaded woodpecker. Only submarginal habitat for the woodpecker was identified in the amended corridor, this occurring in the NE Quarter of Section 29, T. 25 S., R. 23 E. Good habitat was not observed in or near the amended corridor. No red-cockaded woodpeckers or cavity trees were identified.

Enclosed is a letter dated October 8, 1981, from Ms. Anne Shapiro, Florida Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission, which includes a table entitled "1981 Status of the Red-cockaded Woodpecker in Florida." Please note that the table shows there are no known colonies within the vicinity of our proposed corridor.

Question #4

Describe possible mitigative measures to alleviate impacts on major wetlands such as Cross Creek Swamp and Devils Creek Swamp. These measures could include placement of towers via "matting in/out" rather than constructing access roads, or use of elevated causeways.

Response

Possible mitigative measures in wetlands could be:

1. Where access or construction roads restrict flow, culverts can be placed in the roadbed at regular intervals with the flowline. Culverts would be large enough to avoid ponding action of the moving waters.
2. Collector ditches can be developed on the upstream side of the roadbed with a discharge channel on the downstream side, with a minimum one-foot fall, which will aid in avoiding backwater effects.
3. Given the proposed 1200-foot span length, judicious structure placement could avoid prime waterflow areas of the swamps. For example, a structure could be located near the northern and southern limits of Devils Creek Swamp, thus spanning the center of the swamp (which usually is the area with waterflow) and avoiding the need to traverse such wet areas with construction equipment. Similar structure spotting can be applied in Cross Creek Swamp, also.
4. Various types of construction equipment, such as all wheel drive articulated vehicles to auger holes and install anchors, have been customized for use in wetlands are now available and can be incorporated into the project when and where possible.

Ms. Karen Anthony
Page 3
October 27, 1981

Matting equipment in is a long, tedious process, and we are certain that the foundations would not cure at designed strength. Three important conditions that have to be met to ensure high strength concrete are mix time, temperature, and slump (or consistency of mix). All three are time related; therefore, we have a concern about the time required to mat concrete trucks into the foundation location.

During installation of foundations, and in some cases the anchors, a heavy drilling rig is used to auger the hole for the pile or caisson (refer to Section 1.3., page 6 and Figure 1.2). The drilling rig remains in place until the concrete arrives to ensure that the material used to replace the cuttings stays in suspension. Often more than one concrete truck is required; therefore, all must be in proximity to ensure a continuous pour. Otherwise, there is a risk of a laminated pile, and under load the foundation separates at the laminated level.

5. An elevated causeway is not economically feasible when other less costly methods are available to minimize construction impacts to wetlands.

We hope these responses adequately address your concerns. If you have any questions, please let me know.

Sincerely,


G. W. Schaefer
Licensing Administrator

GWS/kd

Enclosure

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PERMITTING**

FLORIDA GAME AND FRESH WATER FISH COMMISSION

THOMAS L. HIRLS SR.
Chairman, Tampa

C. TOM RAINEY D.V.M.
Vice Chairman, Miami

CECIL C. BAILEY
Jacksonville

R. BERNARD PARRISH JR.
Tallahassee

WILLIAM G. BOSTICK JR.
Winter Haven

ROBERT M. BRANTLY, Executive Director
F. G. BANKS, Assistant Executive Director



FARRIS BRYANT BUILDING
620 South Meridian Street
Tallahassee, Florida 32301

FILE: ESC 4-1

October 8, 1981

MEMORANDUM

TO: Interested Persons

FROM: Anne E. Shapiro, Endangered Species Biologist

SUBJECT: 1981 Status of the Red-cockaded Woodpecker in Florida

Attached is a table depicting the 1981 status of known red-cockaded woodpecker colonies in Florida. Contributing data thus far have been Jim Garrison, Deb Jansen, Mark Elliott, Dave Pylant, Ray McCracken, Stephen Nesbitt, Larry Campbell, Bruce Bowman, Pam Skoog and Don Wood of the Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission; Dick Thompson and Joe Reinman of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; Don Bethancourt of the U.S. Forest Service; Roy Barker and Sam Van Hook of the U.S. Air Force; Bill Robertson and Gary Patterson of the National Park Service; George Albritton of the Florida Division of Forestry; Greg Brock, Dick Roberts and John Dodrill of the Department of Natural Resources; and Becky Payne and Roy DeLotelle.

Should you find any errors or have any additional information, please let me know.

W742/RW4/k
Attachment

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1981 Status of the Red-cockaded Woodpecker in Florida

Area	Estimated Active Colonies	Known Abandoned Colonies	Estimated Active Cavity Trees	Estimated ^{1/} Population (min. - max.)
<u>National Forests</u>				
Apalachicola	556		1,751	1,112-2,780
Ocala	41 ^{2/}		129	82-205
Osceola	98		309	196-490
<u>Military Lands</u>				
Avon Park	17 ^{2/}	24	65	34-85
Camp Blanding	17	5	43	34-85
Eglin	243		500+	486-1,215
<u>National Parks</u>				
Big Cypress	17	0	40	34-85
<u>State Forests</u>				
Blackwater	17	0	69	34-85
Withlacoochee (Croom and Citrus Tracts)	14	0	63	28-70
<u>National Wildlife Refuges</u>				
St. Marks	3	0	6	6-11
<u>State Parks</u>				
Ochlockonee	1	0	1	3-5
Jonathan Dickinson	2			4-10
Prairie Lakes	1	1		2-5
Tosohatchee		1		
<u>Wildlife Management Areas</u>				
J. W. Corbett	20	1	54	40-100
Cecil M. Webb	16			32-80
Three Lakes	5-7			10-35
Bull Creek	1			2-5
Ed Ball	3		2	6-15
Point Washington	4		16	8-20
<u>Private Lands</u>	34	1	48	68-170?
<u>TOTALS</u>	1,111	33	3,096	2,221-5,556

1 Minimum is two birds per colony; maximum is five birds per colony unless otherwise known.

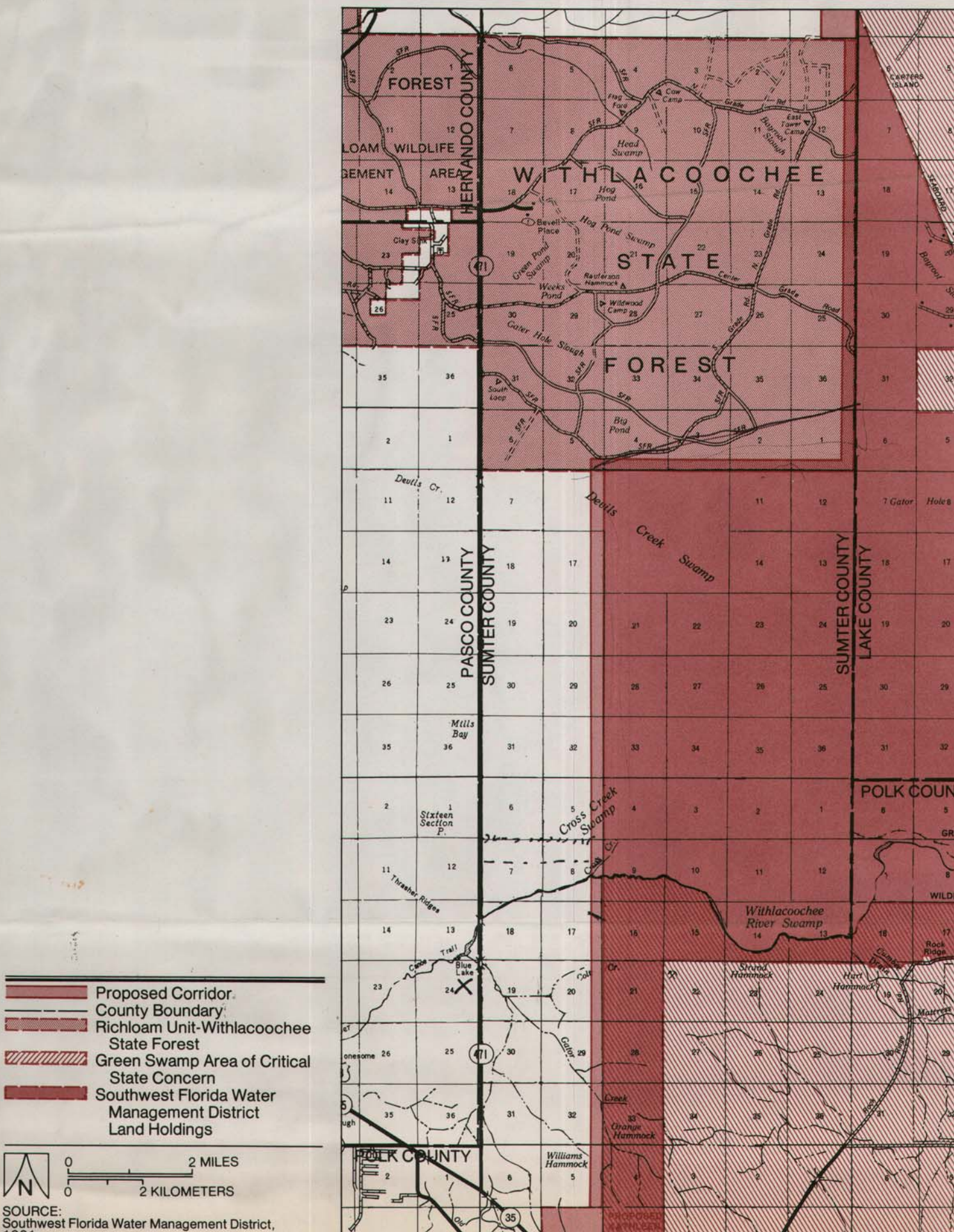
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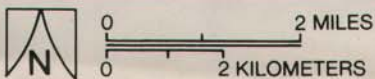
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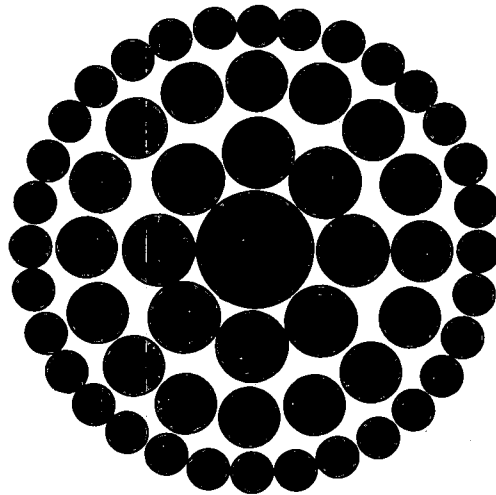
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- Proposed Corridor
- County Boundary
- Richloam Unit-Withlacoochee State Forest
- Green Swamp Area of Critical State Concern
- Southwest Florida Water Management District Land Holdings



SOURCE:
Southwest Florida Water Management District,



Florida Power

CORPORATION

**AMENDMENT TO
APPLICATION FOR CERTIFICATION
OF A PROPOSED ELECTRICAL
TRANSMISSION LINE CORRIDOR
CENTRAL FLORIDA-
KATHLEEN 500kV
TRANSMISSION LINE**

AMENDMENT TO

**APPLICATION FOR CERTIFICATION OF A PROPOSED
ELECTRICAL TRANSMISSION LINE CORRIDOR**

CENTRAL FLORIDA — KATHLEEN 500 kV TRANSMISSION PROJECT

**FLORIDA POWER CORPORATION
ST. PETERSBURG, FLORIDA**

SEPTEMBER 1981

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CHAPTER 1

PROJECT OVERVIEW

1.1 PROJECT INTRODUCTION

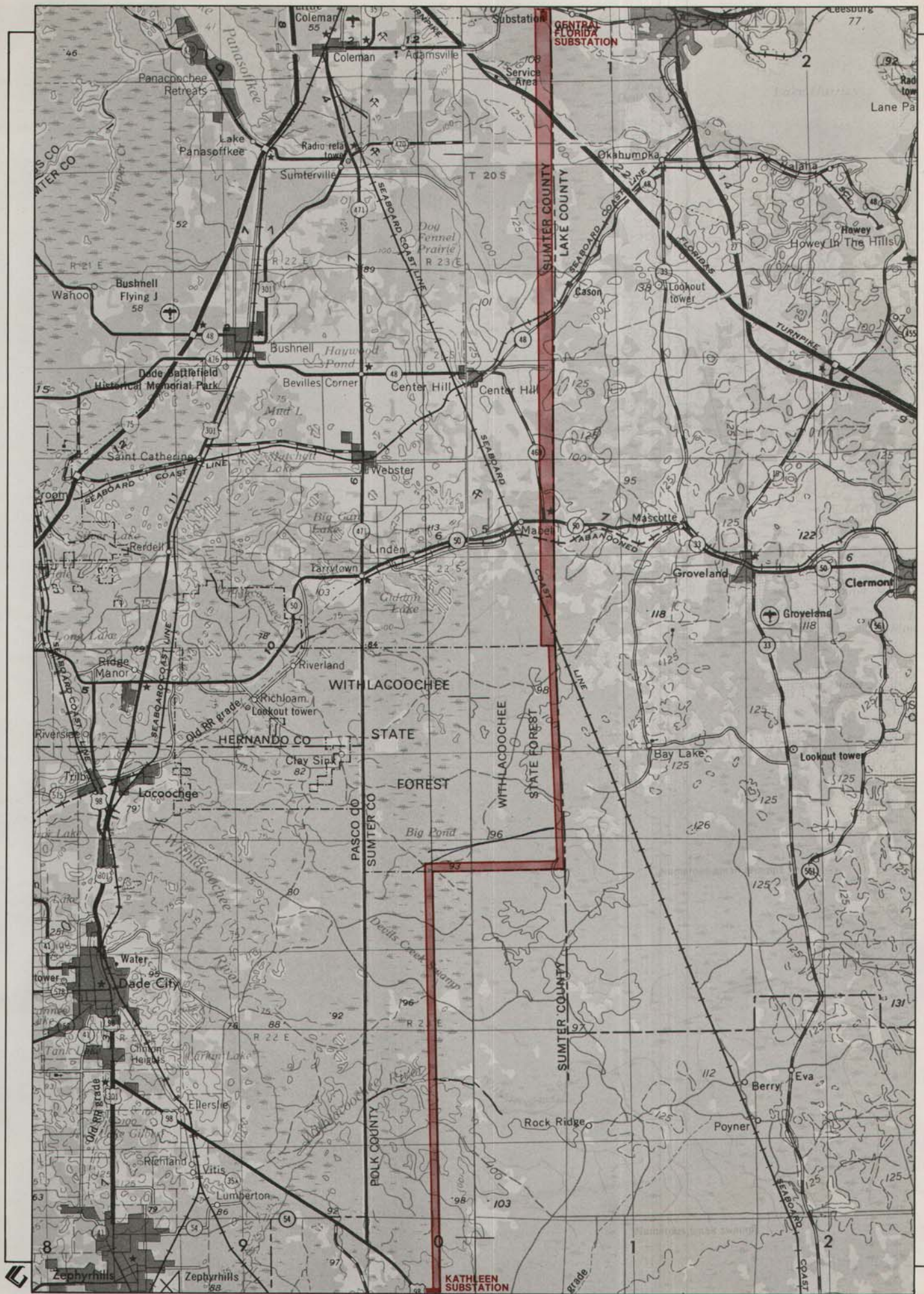
Florida Power Corporation (FPC) proposed to construct and operate a single circuit 500 kV transmission line from its existing Central Florida Substation in Sumter County to their proposed Kathleen Substation to be located in Polk County.

Pursuant to the recently enacted Florida Transmission Line Siting Act, FPC submitted its Application for Certification of a Proposed Electrical Transmission Line Corridor (hereinafter referred to as the Application) in June, 1981. This Application identified a proposed route and several alternatives for the Central Florida — Kathleen project. Following the guidelines presented in DER Form 17-1.122(118), the Application presented an overview of the proposed project, background features of the proposed corridor, environmental effects of right-of-way preparation, construction, maintenance, and operation, and a brief discussion of data collection techniques.

Subsequent to submittal of the Application, additional data collection and agency responses indicated that another corridor alignment may in fact be more appropriate in order to alleviate specific environmental issues associated with the Application's proposed corridor. Therefore, upon conclusion of additional surveys and analysis, it was determined that the FPC Application would be amended to reflect the new proposed corridor. This amendment addresses that corridor.

1.2 CORRIDOR LOCATION AND LAYOUT

The proposed (amended) corridor from Central Florida to Kathleen measures approximately 43 miles (69.2 kilometers) (Figure A1-1). However, as the Kathleen Substation site has not been determined, total length of the proposed corridor could increase an additional 1.5 miles (2.4 kilometers).



Beginning at the northeast corner of the Withlacoochee State Forest in Section 1, T23S, R23E, the new corridor leaves the original alignment and proceeds due south for 7 miles (11 kilometers). Along this alignment, it crosses North Grade Road, an unnamed road, and Center Grade Road in the state forest. In the southeast corner of the state forest (Section 1, T24S, R23E), the alignment turns due west, following the southern forest boundary for 4 miles (6.4 kilometers).

In the extreme southeast corner of Section 5, T24S, R23E, the corridor turns due south again. It then follows section lines for 12 miles (19.3 kilometers) to an undetermined substation site. The proposed Kathleen Substation will be located in either Section 8 or 17, T26, R23E. If the site is located in Section 17, approximately one additional mile will be added to corridor length. The corridor crosses several unnamed and sometimes unimproved, private dirt roads and trails. Proceeding from north to south, these crossings occur in Sections 8, 17, 29, and 32, T24S, R23E; 5, 8 and 29, T25S, R23E; and Section 5, T26S, R23E.

The amended alignment crosses Devils Creek Swamp just south of the state forest, Cross Creek Swamp, Cross Creek, the Withlacoochee River, Colt Creek, Gator Creek, and portions of Orange Hammock and Williams Hammock.

The northern portion of the original proposed corridor, i.e. from the state forest north, remains as originally delineated in Section 1.2 of the Application. Detailed corridor alignments appear in Figure A2-2 A-G at a scale of 1:24,000 and on aerial photography in Appendix A-A.

1.2.1 Size

Corridor width for the amended alignment will remain at 1,000 feet (305 meters). The right-of-way required for the proposed 500 kV transmission line will measure 190 feet (58 meters) in width. It will be acquired in fee and/or easements by the Florida Power Corporation. Where the right-of-way crosses state lands, Florida Power will negotiate a lease arrangement with the State of Florida.

1.3 TRANSMISSION LINE DESIGN CHARACTERISTICS

(Refer to Section 1.3 of the Application.)

CHAPTER 2

BACKGROUND FEATURES OF THE PROPOSED CORRIDOR

2.1 CORRIDOR SELECTION

2.1.1 Corridor Selection Methodology

Several factors influenced the location of the amended corridor. Of primary concern was the Little Gator Creek rookery and one of its principal inhabitants, the state endangered wood stork. As observations continued at the rookery, and further agency contacts brought forth additional information on the wading birds' activities, in particular the wood stork, it became apparent that there were many unknown and unanswered questions regarding the potential adverse impact, i.e. bird mortality due to collisions, resulting from locating the proposed transmission line in a corridor adjacent to this particular rookery. Therefore, the area to the east was examined for a potential corridor alignment.

After reviewing several options, the corridor as presented in Section 1.2 of this amendment was identified for further study. The location 2 miles (3.2 kilometers) east of SR 471 avoided splitting major landholdings. The alignment provides the opportunity to parallel property lines for its entire length. The Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, Division of Forestry expressed favorable interest in this alignment because it provided "improved accessibility for management purposes" and "a potential 190-foot wide firebreak along the forest boundaries affected" within the Withlacoochee State Forest (August, 1981).

Further agency contacts were made regarding its location and it was field evaluated by a team of environmental and biological scientists. Evaluations were also made from 1979 aerial photography at a scale of 1 inch equals 1,000 feet (1" = 1,000'). Therefore, the alignment was designated as the proposed corridor.

2.1.2 Major Alternative Corridors

As a result of the abovementioned findings and subsequent relocation of the proposed corridor 2 miles east of SR 471, that corridor identified in the Application as "proposed" is now considered to be a primary alternative. All other alternatives presented in the Application (Section 2.1.2) remain the same.

2.2 CORRIDOR DESCRIPTION

2.2.1 Governmental Jurisdictions

Governmental jurisdictions associated with the amended alignment are shown in Figure A2-1. The proposed corridor is now situated in only two counties: Sumter and Polk. Approximately 37.5 miles (28 kilometers) will be located in Sumter County, with the remaining 6.5 miles (10 kilometers) in Polk County. No incorporated cities or villages are situated in or within one-half mile of the amended corridor.

Of the major public landholdings in the area, the Withlacoochee State Forest will be most affected. The proposed corridor will now pass through approximately 11 miles (17.7 kilometers) of the state forest. Portions of the Green Swamp Area of Critical State Concern are adjacent to the alignment of the new proposed corridor, and that portion which has been amended is now parallel and immediately adjacent to Southwest Florida Water Management District (SWFWMD) landholdings.

2.2.2 Easements, Titles, Agency Works, Zoning and Land Use Plans

(Refer to Section 2.2.2 of the Application.)

2.2.3 Land Use

Land use along the amended alignment is dominated by silviculture and improved pasture. Within the state forest, timber production is the prime land use activity. Occasionally, a fallow field is located near the corridor. However, from the state forest south, forestry management practices and cattle grazing far surpass any other land use activity (Figure A2-2A-G).