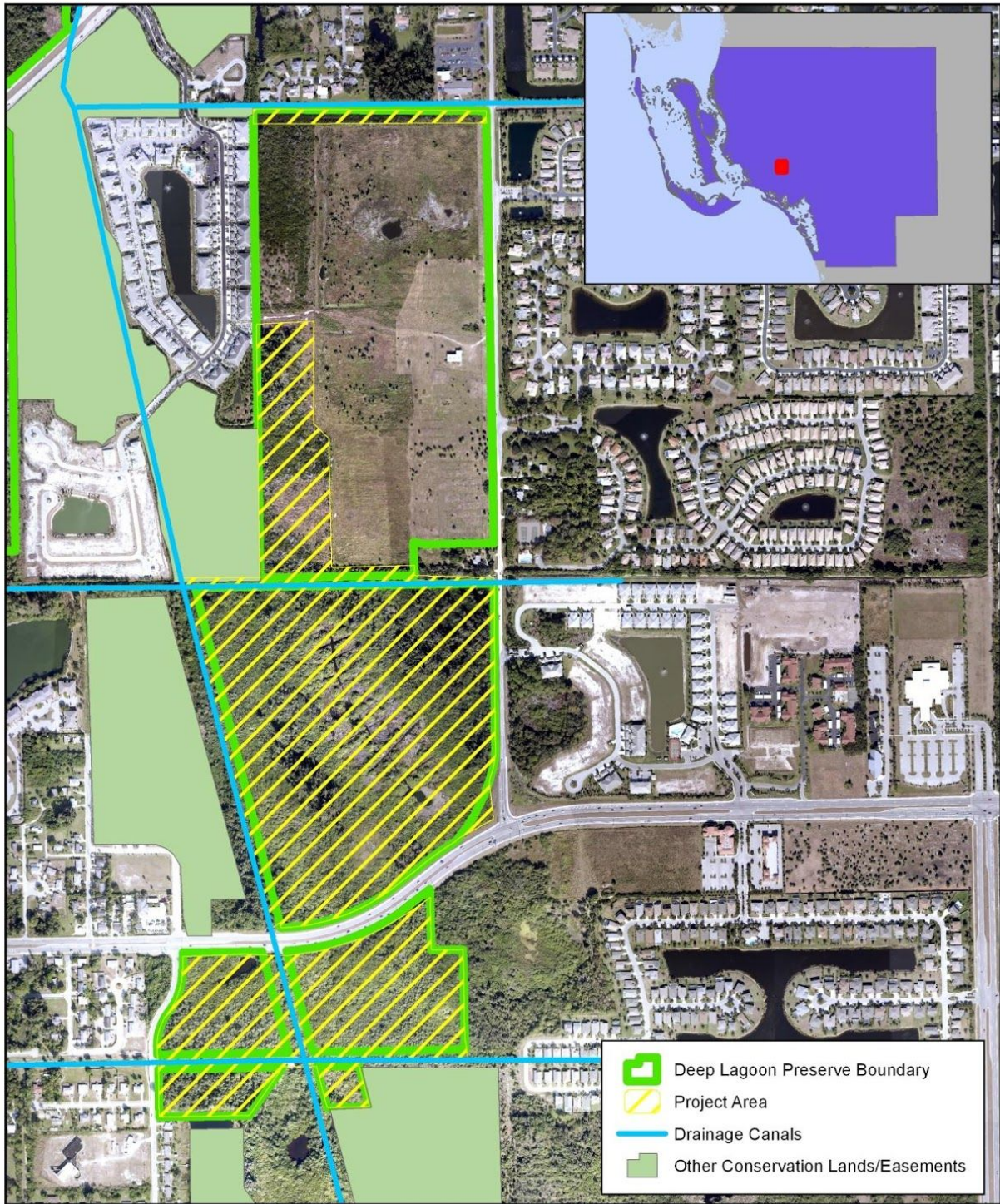


RESTORE Act Ecosystem Restoration Project Proposals
for consideration in the Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Council's Comprehensive Plan
2012

Contact Information: Cathy Olson, Senior Supervisor, Conservation 20/20 colson@leegov.com 239 533-7455					Date of Submittal: November 1, 2012		
Name of Project: Deep Lagoon Preserve Restoration including drainage canals.					Org and Rank: C20/20: 6		
Project Description: This project is the final phase in removing invasive exotic plants from 104 acres of Deep Lagoon Preserve and replanting with native vegetation. This would include removing invasive exotic plants from the edges of 11,500 linear feet of drainage canals (dug in the 1920s) and replanting with mangroves or upland coastal species (depending on bank elevation). In areas where invasive exotics are the primary plant coverage, native species will be planted to help filter sheet flow before it enters the canal system.							
Project Location: The project is located in Lee County, on the 272-acre Deep Lagoon Preserve, a Conservation 20/20 preserve. This preserve and the adjacent conservation lands creates a 460 acre corridor of mangrove swamps, fresh and saltwater marshes, coastal uplands, hammocks and flatwoods that stretches from the Caloosahatchee River to the Estero Bay Preserve State Park. Latitude 26° 31' 14.68", Longitude -81° 55' 23.50"							
Responsible Party: Lee County Conservation 20/20				Partners: SFWMD is supportive of removing exotics from adjacent mitigation areas they oversee.			
NEP: CHNEP		Project Cost: \$500,000			Dollars Needed: 500,000		
Start: January 2013				Completion: Two years thereafter			
Status of Project Design and Permitting: Restoration permits will need to be secured from the SFWMD and ACOE for exotic plant removal in wetland areas (only a portion of the site). We will wait to conduct all exotic work during the same time period. Restoration permits are routinely applied for and granted quickly. A follow up exotic plant treatment would be done in year two and native plants would be installed in areas where natural recruitment was slow in year three.							
What Date or Year could Construction Feasibly Begin: January 2013							
Your Proposed Timing of Funding (given permits, phasing, staging, etc.)							
FY	12/13	13/14	14/15	15/16	16/17	17/18	Total
		\$300,000	\$150,000	\$50,000			
Quantify Environmental Results and How to Measure Them: A 104 acre portion of the preserve that is nearly dominated by exotic invasive plants would be removed and will be returned to more natural communities. Photo points will be established throughout the project site and vegetation plots would be established at each photo point to monitor exotic removal and plant recruitment.							
Economic Benefits (including ecosystem services): A total of 104 acres of exotic plant impacted conservation land would be treated and portions would be replanted. Exotic plant monocultures will be replaced with natural plant diversity, thus benefitting wildlife. By removing the invasive exotics from the canals, exotic plant spread along the entire canal system and into Estero Bay Preserve State Park will be reduced. Invasive exotic plant spread into adjacent							

conservation lands would also be reduced. Additionally, water quality improvements would be expected by allowing water to sheet flow through plantings in the Preserve.
Estimated number of Jobs Created or Preserved: 5 positions throughout the project with removal of exotics and installing plantings.
How much Habitat will be restored and conserved?: 104 acres
Quantify pollutant reductions: There will likely be some reduction of pollutants from adjacent roads into the drainage canals as well as the plantings of mangroves along the canal edges.
What living coastal/marine resources will be improved and by how much?: Currently 79% of the coastal grasslands, coastal hydric hammock, mangrove swamp, and salt marsh communities in the project area have a 50-100% coverage in invasive exotic plants.
How will community resilience be enhanced? There is a concern, particularly with the Australian pines, during a hurricane. Replacing the exotics with mangroves and other wind-adapted native species would improve the resilience of this conservation corridor.
Additional Justification: The preserve has 13 state and/or federally listed species that would benefit from the additional habitat improvements. There are 28 plants listed by the Institute of Regional Conservation and 5 by the state of Florida that have been documented on the Preserve. The Conservation 20/20 program has already restored 63% of the Preserve and has shown a commitment to continued maintenance once the restoration work has taken place.

Add any photos or maps that explain project:



Deep Lagoon Preserve

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