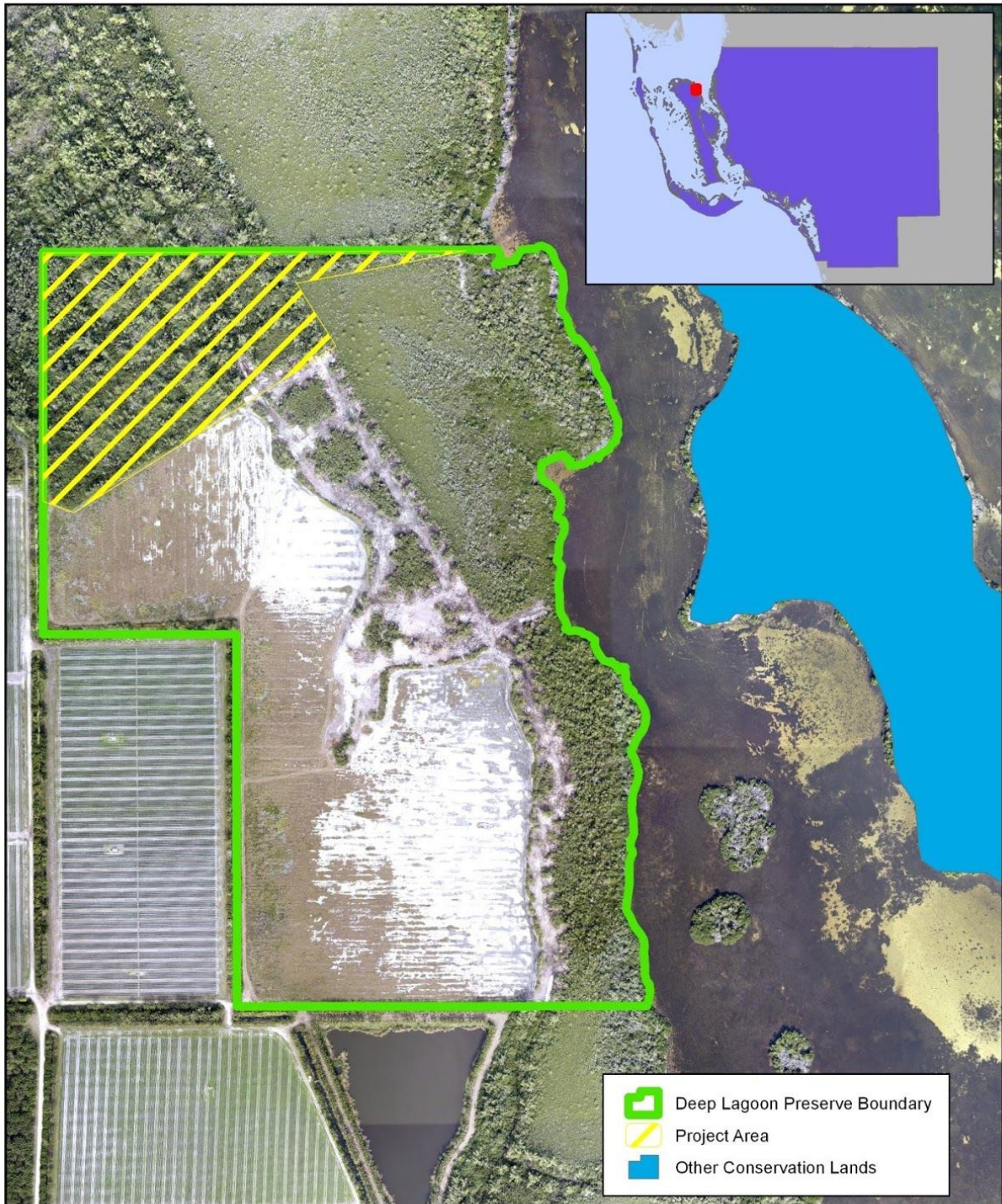


RESTORE Act Ecosystem Restoration Project Proposals
for consideration in the Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Council's Comprehensive Plan
2012

Contact Information: Cathy Olson, Lee County Conservation 20/20 Program, colson@leegov.com 239-533 7455					Date of Submittal: 11/1/12		
Name of Project: Smokehouse Bay Preserve mosquito ditch backfilling					Org and Rank: Lee County C20/20 #2		
Project Description: The proposed project is the final restoration phase for this preserve. The project consists of backfilling 5,084 linear feet of antiquated mosquito ditches that run through the mangroves. In accordance with permit conditions, exotic invasive plants (Australian pines, melaleuca and Brazilian pepper) growing on the ditch spoil will be placed at the bottom of the existing ditches and the spoil material from the original excavation will be placed in the ditch. This backfilling will allow historic hydrological and tidal actions to occur on the preserve. Currently, the perimeter spoil piles prevent all but the highest tides from entering the adjacent salt marsh. The project has been fully permitted by the US Army Corps of Engineers and South Florida Water Management District. A total of 5,232 linear feet was filled in 2012 and the tides now flow through the mangroves and into the adjacent salt marsh allowing the adjacent communities to rebound. This final phase will allow the entire preserve to function naturally.							
Project Location: Lee County 26, 41' 2.15", -82, 7' 15.21"							
Responsible Party: Lee County Conservation 20/20				Partners: USFWS (ARRA grant), CHNEP were funding partners on the first phases. The Cape Coral High School Environmental Club and 4H have helped with mangrove plantings.			
NEP: CHNEP		Project Cost: \$355,000 (total project; all phases)			Dollars Needed: \$90,000 for final phase		
Start: as soon as money is available				Completion: 2 month construction time			
Status of Project Design and Permitting: permits obtained							
What Date or Year could Construction Feasibly Begin: as soon as funding is available							
Your Proposed Timing of Funding (given permits, phasing, staging, etc.)							
FY	Previous	12/13	13/14	14/15	15/16	16/17	Total
	\$265,000	\$90,000					
Quantify Environmental Results and How to Measure Them: This final construction phase will complete restoration on this coastal preserve. The last 5,084 feet of mosquito ditches will be returned to grade and allow tidal function to return to the mangroves and the marsh, thus providing better fish and wildlife habitat.							
Economic Benefits (including ecosystem services): Benefits mangrove, salt marsh and saltern communities. Benefits for wildlife including wading birds (wood stork, roseate spoonbill, little blue heron, tricolored heron, white ibis etc.), smalltooth sawfish, recreationally and commercially important fish, neotropical migrants and shorebirds. Fish caught commercially and recreationally are a major job and tourism generator in the Gulf of Mexico and the surrounding waters. Restoring the communities upon which juvenile fish depend is important to these fisheries.							

Estimated number of Jobs Created or Preserved: 2 full time positions for 2 months
How much Habitat will be restored and conserved?: Once the final phase is complete 28 acres of impacted mangroves and 51 acres of saltern and salt marsh will benefit. The seaward 16 acres without mosquito ditches may also benefit from complete restoration.
Quantify pollutant reductions: n/a
What living coastal/marine resources will be improved and by how much?: Ditches that directly impact the hydrology of 14 acres of mangroves will be backfilled allowing natural tides to wash over the mangroves and into the adjacent 50 acre salt marsh.
How will community resilience be enhanced? Improving the mangroves and salt marshes will allow the communities to move landward with rising sea levels.
Additional Justification: The permits for this shovel ready project expire at the end of 2013. Once funding is secured the project can be completed quickly and benefits to coastal communities will be quick.

Add any photos or maps that explain project:



Smokehouse Bay Preserve



Path: M:\GISLAYERS\Projects\Parks_ReclC2020\Smokehouse_Bay_Preserve\SBP_Restore_grant_2012.mxd
Date Saved: 9/26/2012 10:36:19 AM

