



FUNDED PRIORITIES LIST 3B

Florida Strategic Gulf Coast Land Acquisition Program

Funded Priorities List (FPL) 3b is part of a two-phase approach used by the Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Council (Council) to respond to ecosystem needs and take advantage of important partnership opportunities to advance large-scale ecosystem restoration.

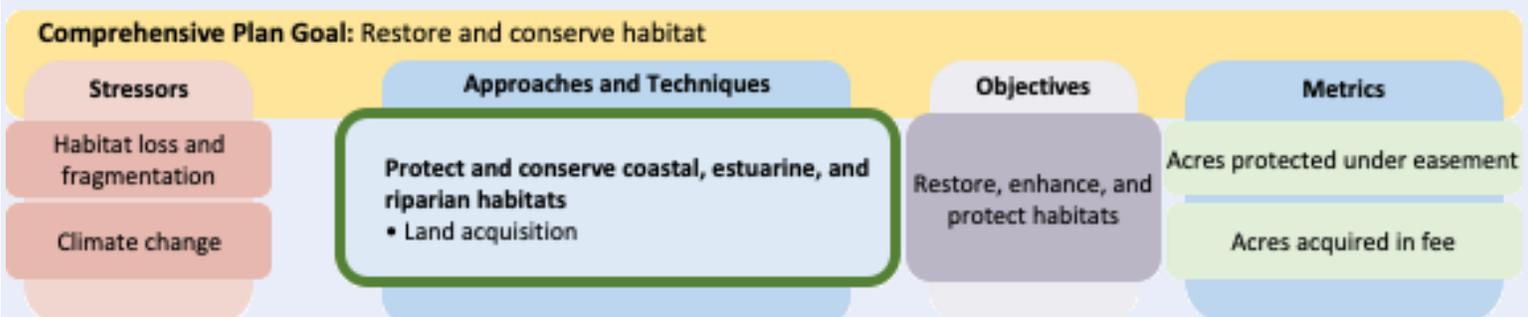
The Council is considering approval of \$1.4M in planning funds as FPL Category 1 for the *Florida Strategic Gulf Coast Land Acquisition Program*. In addition, the Council is considering an implementation component for potential future funding as an FPL Category 2 activity, and proposes to reserve \$12.6M for this component, pending further review and a Council vote. The *Florida Strategic Gulf Coast Land Acquisition Program* would utilize the Planning Framework techniques and approaches outlined in the figure below to address environmental stressors in Florida. Florida, through the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP), is the sponsor of this proposed program.

The program would include a suite of linked conservation activities that will increase conserved and protected State owned or managed lands by 10,000 to 20,000 acres. Program activities include implementation of land acquisitions, partnering with the existing Florida Forever Program (FF), Florida’s premier conservation and recreation lands acquisition program. The program will utilize the FF priority list to identify parcels for acquisition. Parcels on the FF priority list, updated annually, are ranked using a thorough scientific review and a comprehensive natural resource analysis.

FDEP would target lands draining into the Gulf of Mexico that are in the FF Critical Natural Lands and Climate Change Lands categories or other FF parcels with similar attributes. Land acquisitions could include both fee simple acquisition and conservation easements from willing sellers. Program activities will result in significant environmental benefits to Florida’s natural resources and ecosystems by protecting critical habitats, preserving native biodiversity and ecosystem function, mitigating sea level rise, flooding, and other current and future risks to coastal communities.

Program at a Glance

The *Florida Strategic Gulf Coast Land Acquisition Program* applies Planning Framework approaches and techniques to support Comprehensive Plan goals and objectives. In support of the primary objective to *Restore, enhance, and protect habitats*, stressors such as habitat loss, habitat fragmentation, and climate change will be addressed using the *Land acquisition* technique. Success using land acquisition to *Restore, enhance, and protect habitats* may be tracked using acres protected under easement and acres acquired in fee as metrics.



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