NOTE: THIS IS THE **PHASE I-TECHNICAL REPORT** COMPLETED BY THE RURAL LANDS STEWARDSHIP AREA REVIEW COMMITTEE DATED FEBRUARY, 2008.



In 2002 the Collier County Rural Lands Stewardship Area (RLSA) was adopted into the County's growth management initiatives. Nowhere in Florida or the nation had this type of landmark planning initiative taken place, and the implementation and outcome were uncertain. Over the past three months, the Rural Lands Stewardship Area Review Committee has had the opportunity to assess the achievements of the program during its first five years in operation.

The learning curve was steep, and a great deal of committee time and energy was spent on becoming reacquainted with the complex mechanics of the program. I am glad to say the committee was successful in absorbing the details of the program and evaluating the status to date.

The report before you, provides a quantitative synopsis of how far along the program has come in protecting environmentally valuable lands and establishing communities in the far eastern lands of the county. This Phase I Technical Review is the first step in a comprehensive review of the program. It lays the foundation to evaluate how the objectives and policies have resulted in reaching the goals of the RLSA.

The Committee has worked very well together, and on Feb 5th, voted unanimously to forward the Phase I Technical Review to the Environmental Advisory Council, the Collier County Planning Commission, the Board of County Commissioners, and the Department of Community Affairs.

Ron Hamel, Chairman Rural Lands Stewardship Area Review Committee

RURAL LANDS STEWARDSHIP AREA FIVE-YEAR REVIEW

PHASE I - TECHNICAL REVIEW

This Phase I - Technical Review is a requirement of the Collier County Growth Management Plan (GMP FLUE RLSA 1.22). The review is intended to provide an assessment of activity that has occurred within the Rural Lands Stewardship Area (RLSA) over the past five years, 2003-2008. It is the role of the committee to assist in determining whether the activity presented in the review supports or does not support the goals of the Collier County RLSA, which is to:

- protect agricultural activities and to prevent the premature conversion of agricultural land to non-agricultural uses
- direct incompatible uses away from wetlands and upland habitat
- enable the conversion of rural land to other uses in appropriate locations
- discourage urban sprawl and to encourage development that utilizes creative land use planning techniques

The Phase I review is intended to focus on the specific items detailed in Policy 1.22 (see below.) An evaluation of the RLSA Group 1-5 policies will occur during the Phase II of the review process.

The information presented in this report represents the current status of the RLSA program. The intention of the program is to encourage the designation of Stewardship Sending Areas (SSA) that private landowners voluntarily limit land-uses on through a Stewardship Easement in exchange for Stewardship Credits that can be used to entitle Stewardship Receiving Areas (SRA).

GMP FLUE 1.22: The RLSA Overlay was designed to be a long-term strategic plan with a planning horizon Year of 2025. Many of the tools, techniques and strategies of the Overlay are new, innovative, incentive based, and have yet to be tested in actual implementation. A comprehensive review of the Overlay shall be prepared for and reviewed by Collier County and the Department of Community Affairs upon the five-year anniversary of the adoption of the Stewardship District in the LDC. The purpose of the review shall be to assess the participation in and effectiveness of the RLSA program in meeting the Goal, Objective and Policies set forth herein.

- 1. The amount and location of land designated as FSAs, HSAs, WRAs and other SSAs.
- 2. The amount and location of land designated as SRAs.
- 3. The number of Stewardship Credits generated, assigned or held for future use.
- 4. A comparison of the amount, location and type of Agriculture that existed at the time of a Study and time of review.
- 5. The amount, location and type of land converted to non-agricultural use with and without participation in the Stewardship Credit System since its adoption.
- 6. The extent and use of funding provided by Collier County and other sources Local, State, Federal and private revenues described in Policy 1.18.
- 7. The amount, location and type of restoration through participation in the Stewardship Credit System since its adoption.
- 8. The potential for use of Credits in urban areas.

Definitions (LDC 4.08.01):

ACSC. Area of Critical State Concern

Agricultural Group 1 Uses (4.08.06 B4). Generally higher intensity agricultural uses including: row crops, citrus, nurseries, and related support uses.

Agricultural Group 2 Uses (4.08.06 B4). Generally lower intensity agricultural uses including: pasture, forestry, hunting cabins, cultural and recreational facilities, and related support uses.

Early Entry Bonus Credits (FLUE RLSA Policy 1.21). The bonus shall be in the form of an additional one Stewardship Credit per acre of land designated as a HSA located outside of the ACSC and one-half Stewardship Credit per acre of land designated as HSA located inside the ACSC. The early entry bonus shall be available for five years from the effective date of the adoption of the Stewardship Credit System in the LDC.

Fallow. Farmland that is not currently being farmed but has been in the past and could be in the future.

FSA - Flow way Stewardship Area. Privately owned lands delineated on the RLSA Overlay Map, which primarily include privately owned wetlands that are located within the Camp Keais Strand and Okaloacoochee Slough. FSAs form the primary wetland flow way systems in the RLSA District.

Future Land Use Map (FLUE). Two maps of Collier County are provided as exhibit 1 (2007 GMP FLUE RLSA submap) and exhibit 5 (2002 FLUE).

HSA - Habitat Stewardship Area. Privately owned lands delineated on the RLSA Overlay Map, which include both areas with natural characteristics that make them suitable habitat for listed species and areas without these characteristics. These latter areas are included because they are located contiguous to habitat with natural characteristics, thus forming a continuum of landscape that can augment habitat values.

Land Use Layer. Permitted and conditional land uses within the Baseline Standards that are of a similar type or intensity and that are grouped together in the same column on the Land Use Matrix. Layers are removed in order from higher to lower intensity and include: Residential Land Uses, General Conditional Uses, Earth Mining and Processing Uses, Recreational Uses, Agriculture - Group 1, Agriculture – Support Uses, Agriculture - Group 2.

Land Use Matrix (Matrix). The tabulation of the permitted and conditional land uses within the Baseline Standards set forth in Section 4.08.06 B.4., with each Land Use Layer displayed as a single column.

Natural Resource Index (Index). A measurement system that establishes the relative natural resource value of each acre of land by objectively measuring six different characteristics of land and assigning an index factor based on each characteristic. The sum of these six factors is the Index value for the land. The six characteristics measured are: Stewardship Overlay Delineation, Proximity to Sending Area (HSA, FSA, WRA), Listed Species Habitat, Soils/Surface Water, Restoration Potential, and Land Use/Land Cover.

Open Lands. Areas outside the ACSC or HSA, FSA, or WRA with Natural Resource Index values less than 1.2.

Restoration Zone. Privately owned lands delineated on the RLSA Overlay Map that are located within 500 feet of an FSA, but are not otherwise included in an HSA or WRA.

R1. (GMP RLSA Policy 3.1). Lands are designated by the property owner for restoration activities. The actual implementation of restoration improvements is not required for the owner to receive credits.

R2. Lands are designated and undertaken by the landowner for restoration activities. Credits are assigned but not available for transfer until the restoration activities have met applicable success criteria.

SRA - Stewardship Receiving Area. A designated area within the RLSA District that has been approved for the development of a Hamlet, Village, Town or CRD and that requires the consumption of Stewardship Credits.

SSA - Stewardship Sending Area. A designated area within the RLSA District that has been approved for the generation of Stewardship Credits in exchange for the elimination of one or more Land Use Layers.

Stewardship Credit (Credit). A transferable unit of measure generated by an SSA and consumed by an SRA. Eight credits are transferred to an SRA in exchange for the development of one acre of land as provided in Section 4.08.06 B.

Stewardship Credit System. A system that creates incentives to protect and preserve natural resources and agricultural areas in exchange for the generating and use of credits to entitle compact forms of rural development. The greater the value of the natural resources being preserved and the higher the degree of preservation, the greater the number of credits that can be generated. Credits are generated through the designation of SSAs and consumed through the designation of SRAs.

WRA - Water Retention Area. Privately owned lands delineated on the RLSA Overlay Map, that have been permitted by the SFWMD to function as agricultural water retention areas and that provide surface water quality and other natural resource value.

Identify the amount of land designated as Flow way Stewardship Areas (FSA), Habitat Stewardship Areas (HSA), Water Retention Areas (WRA), and other* Stewardship Sending Areas (SSA). *Other SSA lands include Open designated lands

Attached Map 1 shows an overview of the entire Rural Land Stewardship Area (RLSA) with lands designated as FSA, HSA, WRA and Open. Table 1-A provides a summary of the acreage of each designation and the acres that have been protected through Stewardship Sending Areas since the RLSA program inception (5-yrs). The 5-yr percentage column shows that of all lands within the RLSA designations, a total of thirteen percent have been protected to date within a SSA. Thirty percent of all FSA and HSA designated land has been protected to date. The acreages in this report have been rounded to the nearest acre, except in Table 1D where exact acreages are reported to the one-hundredth of an acre.

Table 1-A Summary of RLSA Designations within Sending Areas Approved

RLSA Designation	Total RLSA Acres	SSA Acres Approved	5-yr Percentage
FSA	31,100	9,206	30%
HSA	40,000	12,283	31%
WRA	18,200	44	0.2%
Open	93,100	2,593	3%
Total	182,400	24,126	13%

Source: Recorded SSA Easement Agreements

Note- Acreages listed in this report have been rounded to the nearest acre, except in Table 1D where exact acreages are reported to the one-hundredth of an acre. Margin of error may be +/- 1%.

Table 1-B Summary of RLSA Designations within Sending Areas Pending

RLSA Designation	Total Acres	SSA Acres Pending	5-yr Percentage
FSA	31,100	10,619	34%
HSA	40,000	17,703	44%
WRA	18,200	3,034	17%
Open	93,100	474	< 1%
Total	182,400	31,830	17%

Source: SSAs under review and property owners

Table 1-C

Summary of RLSA Designations within Sending Areas Approved & Pending

RLSA Designation	Total Acres	SSA Acres Approved & Pending	5-yr Percentage
FSA	31,100	19,825	64%
HSA	40,000	29,986	75%
WRA	18,200	3,078	17%
Open	93,100	3,067	3%
Total	182,400	55,956	31%

Source: Recorded SSA Easement Agreements, SSAs under review, and property owners

A series of maps have been prepared to illustrate the location of the protected lands and their designations.

- Map 1A illustrates the 19,825 acres of FSA within SSAs approved and pending;
- Map 1B illustrates the 29,986 acres of HSA within SSAs approved and pending;
- Map 1C illustrates the 3,078 acres of WRA within SSAs approved and pending;

- Map 1D illustrates the 3,067 acres of Open, including 500-foot restoration buffer zones, within SSAs approved and pending; and
- Map 1E illustrates all 55,956 acres of all lands within SSAs approved and pending.

Note- all map acreages are rounded to the nearest acre, margin of error +/-1%.

To provide further information on the approved and pending Stewardship Sending Areas, Table1-D provides detailed information for each SSA including acreage designation type and land uses remaining as set forth in each recorded SSA easement agreement that has been approved by the county.

Each SSA is subject to a perpetual restrictive easement (Stewardship Easement) that runs with the land. The Stewardship Easements are required to be in favor of Collier County and one of the following: Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, SFWMD, or a recognized statewide land trust. The Stewardship Easement sets forth the land uses that have been eliminated and which the SSA property is prohibited from utilizing. The Stewardship Easement also sets forth the land uses that remain on the SSA property, the specific land management measures that must be undertaken, and the party responsible for implementing those measures.

Table 1-D shows Ag-1, which includes agricultural uses remain, including: row crops, citrus, specialty farms, horticulture, plant nurseries, improved pastures for grazing, and similar activities, including agricultural support uses. Ag-2 includes these agricultural activities remain, including: unimproved pastures for grazing and ranching, forestry, and similar uses and related support uses. In summary, the SSAs approved have protected 23,422.4 acres of agriculture use. All other more intensive uses not otherwise indicated have been removed from the land.

SSA #	Acreage Type	Acres	Ag – 1	Ag - 2	Other	Total Acres
SSA 1	FSA	146.58		146.58		146.58
SSA 2	FSA	653.65		704.14		704.14
55A 2	HSA	50.49		704.14		/04.14
SSA 3	FSA	509	1,078.64	2,116.91		3,195.54
55A 5	HSA	2,686	1,078.04	2,110.91		5,195.54
SSA 3a	HSA	248.9		220.6		n/a*
SSA 4	FSA	198.18	654.01	585.91		1,239.92
55A 4	HSA	1,041.74	034.01	565.91		1,239.92
	FSA	196.0				
SSA 5	HSA	1,629.8		1,852.3		1,852.3
	Open	26.5				
SSA 5a	FSA	1.7			651.3	n/a*
55A 5a	HSA	649.6			Conservation	n/a**
SSA 6	FSA	4,926.2	2,712.7	7,198.4		9,911.1
55A 0	HSA	4,984.9	2,112.1	/ /,198.4		9,911.1
SSA 7	FSA	399.6		985.4		985.4
55A /	HSA	486.5		903.4		965.4

Table 1-D Each SSA Approved & Pending Acreage Type and Land Use Levels Remaining

SSA #	Acreage Type	Acres	Ag – 1	Ag - 2	Other	Total Acres
	Open	99.3				
	FSA	1,619.9				
SSA 8	HSA	1,247.9	815.0	4,484.5		5,299.5
	Open	2,432.0				
	Open	34.2				
	FSA	556.5		720.2	50.1	700.4
SSA 9	WRA	43.5		739.3	Earth Mining	789.4
	HSA	155.2				
Total Approved		24,123.88	5,260.35	19,034.04	701.40	24,123.88
	FSA	0				
SSA 10**	HSA	5,854				5.061
Application Submitted	WRA	1				5,861
Submitted	Open	6				
	FSA	1,191				
SSA 11**	HSA	2,212				
Application Submitted	WRA	198				3,700
Submitted	Open	99				
	FSA	1,788				
SSA 12**	HSA	2,933				4 701
Pre-app meeting held	WRA	0				4,791
	Open	70				
	FSA	4,232				
SSA 13**	HSA	1,313				7,430
Pre-app meeting held	WRA	1,616 269				
	Open FSA	1,048				
SSA 14**	HSA	663				
Application Submitted	WRA	1				1,713
Submitted	Open	0				
	FSA	2,196				
SSA 15**	HSA	1,827				5,259
Pre-app meeting held	WRA	1,209				5,257
	Open	27				
SSA 16** Pre-app meeting held	FSA	164				
	HSA WRA	2,901				3,077
	Open	3				
Total Pending	· · · · ·	31,830	n/a**	n/a**	n/a**	31,830
Total Approved + Pending		55,953.88				55,953.88

Source: Recorded SSA Easement Agreements, Collier County SSA Land Characteristics Summary, SSAs under review, and property owners

* SSAs 3A & 5A are amended applications to include restoration areas. Acreage is already included in 3 & 5.

** SSAs 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, & 16 have yet to be approved by the county and data is included where available as informational only.

The FSA and HSA overlays were designed to incentivize protection of the major regional flowways within the RLSA and the large landscape-scale mosaic of native habitats and

agricultural lands adjacent to the FSAs. These lands provide major hydrological and ecological linkages within the region.

As depicted on Map 1E, of the 31,100 acres designated as FSA, 19,825 acres of FSA (64% of total FSA) are protected via approved and pending SSA designations. Approved and pending SSAs also account for 29,986 acres of HSA overlay areas (75% of total HSA).

Map 1F illustrates the existing and pending SSA lands protect from intensive development a large extent of lands targeted for public acquisition by Florida Forever and its predecessor programs. SSAs 1, 2, 6, 7, 9, 13, 14, and 15 protect the vast majority of Corkscrew Regional Ecosystem Watershed (CREW) lands within the RLSA, which were first delineated in the 1970's. SSAs 8 and 11 protect lands within the Collier County portion of the Devil's Garden Florida Forever project.

Additionally, SSAs 3, 4, and 5 were designated specifically to protect an important landscape linkage for the Florida panther across CR 846, which has a high incidence of panther-vehicle interactions. These designated SSAs will allow for the eventual establishment of fenced wildlife crossings. SSAs 6, 10, and 12 comprise 20,000 acres along the southern portion of the RLSA, protecting high-quality panther habitats that are directly adjacent to the Florida Panther National Wildlife Refuge (FPNWR) and Big Cypress National Preserve (BCNP).

2. The amount and location of land designated as Stewardship Receiving Areas (SRA).

As shown in Table 2-A, the Town of Ave Marie SRA approved by the county in 2002 contains 5,027 acres. Over 1,000 of the total acres are public benefit uses, including Ave Maria University.

The proposed Town of Big Cypress is anticipated to be the second SRA proposed in the Collier RLSA. The pre-application and DRI information list the town as 2,798 acres. The SRA application is expected to be filed in the summer of 2008.

SRA Designation	Acres	Public Benefit Uses (Acres)
Town of Ave Maria SRA	4,000	1,027
Town of Big Cypress SRA*	2,798	pending
Total	6,798	1,027
*proposed		

Table 2-A SRA Acreage

*proposed

The attached Map 2 shows the location of the existing Town of Ave Maria SRA and the proposed location of the Town of Big Cypress.

3. The number of Stewardship Credits generated, assigned or held for future use.

Stewardship Credits (Credits) are created from any lands within the RLSA District from which one or more Land Use Layers are removed and are designated as an SSA. All privately owned lands within the RLSA are a candidate for designation as a SSA, however, lands having high ecological vale, such as lands within an FSA or HSA, generate more credits per acre than the "Open" designated lands. Stewardship Credits can only be generated through the approval of

Stewardship Sending Areas using the methodology for the calculation of Credits. The methodology includes:

- 1) The Natural Resource Index Value of the land being designated as a SSA; and
- 2) The number of land use layers being eliminated.

There are also additional incentive Credits to encourage the voluntary designation of SSAs within the RLSA District; such as early entry bonus Credits, slough/strand index upgrade (buffer area Credits), and restoration (R1 and R-2) Credits.

Eight Credits are required for each acre of land included in a SRA, except for open space in excess of the required thirty-five percent as described in Policy 4.10 or for land that is designated for a public benefit use described in Policy 4.19.

A. STEWARDSHIP CREDITS ASSIGNED

As of December, 2007, there have been a total of 9 SSAs that have been approved; totaling 24,126 acres. As shown in Table 3-A these 9 SSAs have been assigned a total of 59,451.49 Stewardship Credits including Early Entry, R-1 and R-2 Credits. However, the R-2 Credits that have been assigned are not available for utilization and transfer until the restoration work has been successfully completed.

SSA #	Acres	Total Credits Assigned	R-2 Credits
1	146.58	263.6	0
2	704.14	1,268.1	0
3	3,195.54	4,675.3	0
3A*	0	606.6	0
4	1,239.92	1,676.7	0
5	1,852.3	2,938.3	0
5A*	0	1,504.9	0
6	9,911.1	25,525.1	4,286.4
7	985.4	5,870.1	1,835.9
8	5,299.5	7,876.1	299.6
9	789.4	7,246.6	2,765.5
TOTAL	24,123.88	59,451.49	9,187.4

Table 3-A Stewardship Credit Summary

Source: Recorded SSA Easement Agreements

* SSAs 3A & 5A are amended applications to designate restoration areas. Acreage is already included in SSAs 3 & 5.

B. STEWARDSHIP CREDITS ASSIGNED OR HELD FOR FUTURE USE

As of December 11, 2007, the Town of Ave Maria (4,000 ac) is the only approved Stewardship Receiving Area (SRA) within the RLSA. The Town of Ave Maria utilized 28,658.4 Stewardship Credits generated from SSAs 1 through 6 (See Table 3-B).

Table 3-B Summary of Credits Transferred and Utilized for the Town of Ave Maria

SSA #	Acres	Total Credits Assigned	Credits Transferred and Utilized for Town of Ave Maria	Credits Held for Future Use (includes R-2)
1	146.58	263.6	263.6	0
2	704.14	1,268.1	1,268.1	0
3*	3,195.54	4,675.2	4,675.3	0
4	1,239.92	1,676.7	1,676.7	0
5*	1,852.3	2,938.3	2,938.3	0
6	9,911.1	25,525.1	17,836.5	7,688.6

Source: Collier County data included in the Rural Land Stewardship Sending Area (SSA) Land Characteristics Summary and Recorded SSA Easement Agreements.

*SSAs 3A and 5A post dated the approval of Ave Maria SRA, therefore no Credits were transferred and utilized for Ave Maria.

SSAs 6, 7, 8, and 9 have been approved and contain a total of 16,985.4 acres (See Table 3-C). The total Credits assigned to these SSAs are 46,517.9. Of this total, 9,187.4 are R-2 Credits and are not available for utilization and transfer until the restoration work has been successfully completed. There are 28,681.4 total assigned Credits held for future use, including unused and R-2 Credits.

SSA #	Acres	Total Credits Assigned and not Utilized	R-2 Credits Assigned	Credits Currently Available for Utilization
ЗA	0	606.6	0	606.6
5A	0	1,504.9	0	1,504.9
6	9,911.1	7,688.6	4,286.4	3,402.2
7	985.4	5,870.1	1,835.9	4,034.2
8	5,299.5	7,876.1	299.6	7,576.5
9	789.4	7,246.6	2,765.5	4,481.1
TOTAL	16,985.4	30,792.9	9,187.4	21,605.5

Table 3-C Summary of Approved Credits Held for Future Use

Source: Collier County data included in the Rural Land Stewardship Sending Area (SSA) Land Characteristics Summary and Recorded SSA Easement Agreements

Map 3 shows the location of each SSA and the associated Credits assigned to each.

4. A comparison of the amount, location and type of Agriculture that existed at the time of study and time of review.

Maps 4, 4A and 4B illustrate a comparison between the type of Agriculture that existed in 2002, and the agriculture uses that exist in 2007. As shown on the maps there has been some change in the agricultural land cover and Ave Maria now exists in place of the agriculture land cover that existed there in 2002 (Map 4C).

Table 4-A below summarizes the type of agricultural uses in 2002 compared to the type of agriculture uses in 2007. Additionally, conversions in agricultural land use within and without

the RLSA program are shown. The agricultural land cover categories include all FLUCCS 200level codes, and the FLUCCS 310, 329, and 330 rangeland codes. Free-range cattle grazing within naturally vegetated communities accounts for approximately 65,000 acres, but are not included in the 2002 or 2007 data. It should be noted that of the 65,000 free-range cattle grazing acres, the approved SSAs have protected 15,690 acres of this agriculture use.

Table 4-A below summarizes agricultural uses in 2002 compared to the uses 2007 and shows the relative percentage change of each.

Agricultural Type	2002 ACRES	With RLSA	Without RLSA	New Ag	2007 ACRES	% CHANGE
Citrus	39,468				38,233	-3.13%
Fallow	7,974				8,799	10.35%
Pasture/Rangeland	17,863				16,129	-9.71%
Row Crop	27,542				25,035	-9.10%
Specialty	1,651				1,201	-27.26%
TOTAL	94,498	-0058	-480	+427	89,397±.01%	-5.40%

Table 4-A2002/2007 Agricultural Type Comparison

Sources: 2002 and 2007 RLSA land cover/land use GIS data, RLSA Property Owners, and aerial photo interpretation.

Table 4-B	
2002 Ave Maria Agricultural Uses	5

Agricultural Type		2002 ACRES
Citrus		839
Fallow		177
Natural Wetlands and Uplands (Non Ag)		572
Pasture/Rangeland		429
Row Crop		2,562
Specialty		449
	TOTAL	5,027±

5. The amount, location and type of land converted to non-agricultural use with, and without participation in the Stewardship Credit System since its adoption.

Conversion of Agricultural lands using the RLSA program-

Approximately 5,058 acres of land has been converted from agriculture to non-agriculture uses since 2002. As shown on Table 5-A, Ave Maria accounts for 4,455 acres, conservation uses within an SSA accounts for 553 acres, and 50 acres was converted to mining. Map 4 illustrates the location of all Ag to Non-Ag land use conversions.

Conversion of Agricultural lands without using the RLSA program-

A total of 480 acres of land within the RLSA have been approved for conversion from agricultural usage without using the RLSA program. Two areas totaling 233 acres received

Conditional Use approval from Collier County to convert from agricultural use to earth mining and recreational activities. Land was purchased by Collier County and converted to conservation containing 237 acres of agriculture. Two conditional use excavations are pending and total 1,126.65 acres. In addition, there is 427 acres of new agriculture.

Ag Land Conversion	Without RLSA Program	With RLSA Program	
Conditional Use for earth mining	-210		
Conditional Use for recreation	-33		
Starnes Property Conservation (not entirely zoned			
ag)	-237		
Ave Maria		-4,455	
SSA Conservation		-553	
SSA mining		-50	
TOTAL ACRES	-480	5,058058	
New Agriculture	+427		
Sources: Conditional Use Approvals CU-02-AR-3537.	CU-01-AR1225	. Ave Maria	

Table 5-A2007 Land Converted to Non-agricultural Use

Sources: Conditional Use Approvals CU-02-AR-3537. CU-01-AR1225, Ave Maria Stewardship Receiving Area Resolution, SSA 3A and 5A, SSA 9 and Collier County Property Appraiser

Map 4 illustrates the location of all Ag to Non-Ag land use conversions.

6. The extent and use of funding provided by Collier County and other sources of Local, State, Federal and private revenues described in Policy 1.18.

A total of 15 acres have been purchased in the RLSA by the South Florida Water Management District (unknown amount). Conservation Collier purchased 367.7 acres. The total purchase price of the property was \$5.3 million, with a \$300,000 contribution from the Corkscrew Regional Ecosystem Watershed (CREW) Trust.

7. The amount, location and type of restoration through participation in the Stewardship Credit System since its adoption.

Table 7-A documents the amount, location, and type of proposed restoration activities within approved SSAs. To date, restoration activities have been initiated on SSAs 6, 8, and 9.

Two types of restoration credits are available within the RLSA program. Restoration 1 (R1) lands are designated by the property owner for restoration activities. The actual implementation of restoration improvements is not required for the owner to receive (R1) credits (GMP RLSA Policy 3.11). Restoration 2 (R2) lands are designated and undertaken by the landowner for restoration activities. Credits are assigned but not available for transfer until the restoration activities have met applicable success criteria.

To the extent restoration is designated and is to be undertaken by the landowner, a Restoration Program is attached to the Stewardship Easement as an exhibit. The Restoration Program details the required restoration improvements, success criteria, and the additional land management measures required after restoration occurs.

The proposed restoration activities often require lengthy timeframes for the detailed restoration design, data collection (e.g., water table data), obtaining of state and federal permits for restoration, and/or multiple years of actual restoration work to achieve success criteria.

The types of restoration listed in Table7-A are described below:

Flowway: Restoration in areas that have been impeded or constricted by past activities resulting in a functional increase in the Camp Keais or Okaloacochee flowways. May also include areas where additional land is needed to enhance wildlife corridors.

Wading birds: Includes hydrologic restoration, and or exotic removal within drained areas or excavation of shallow marsh in farm fields planted with native aquatic plants within foraging distance of a rookery.

Other Listed species: Restoration, exotic removal, and or management of pasture areas to support prairie species such as caracara, burrowing owls, and sand hill cranes. Could include restoration or creation of habitat for any listed species documented to occur within the RLSA.

Large mammal corridor: Restoration or creation of "preferred" habitat adjacent to or connecting with existing occupied habitat.

See Map 3A for the location of all areas designated for restoration.

Location	Restoration Type	Acres	
SSA 3A	Wading Bird (R1)	248.9	
SSA 5A	Wading Bird (R1)	651.3	
	Flow way (R1, R2)	575.0	
SSA 6	Other Listed Species (R1, R2)	619.2	
	Wading Bird (R1, R2)	24.8	
	Large Mammal Corridor (R1, R2)	331.9	
SSA 7	Other Listed Species (R1, R2)	75.7	
	Wading Bird (R1, R2)	51.4	
SSA 8	Wading Bird (R1, R2)	74.9	
	Flow way (R1, R2)	571.5	
SSA 9	Large Mammal Corridor (R1, R2)	61.0	
	Wading Bird (R1, R2)	58.9	
	TOTAL	3344.5	
	Total R1 acres = 900±		
	Total R2 acres = 2444.5±		

Table 7-AAmount and Types of Restoration in SSAs

Source: SSA applications

8. The potential for use of Credits in urban areas.

The RLSA Program as adopted does not allow for the use of Credits outside of the RLSA Overlay Area, nor is there any existing method to use such Credits in the Urban designation of the Collier County Growth Management Plan (GMP). Such a change would require thorough analysis and an amendment to the GMP and RLSA Overlay Area Goals, Objectives and Policies.





























