



An acquisition opportunity, and...  
An opportunity for the *Revival of the River*

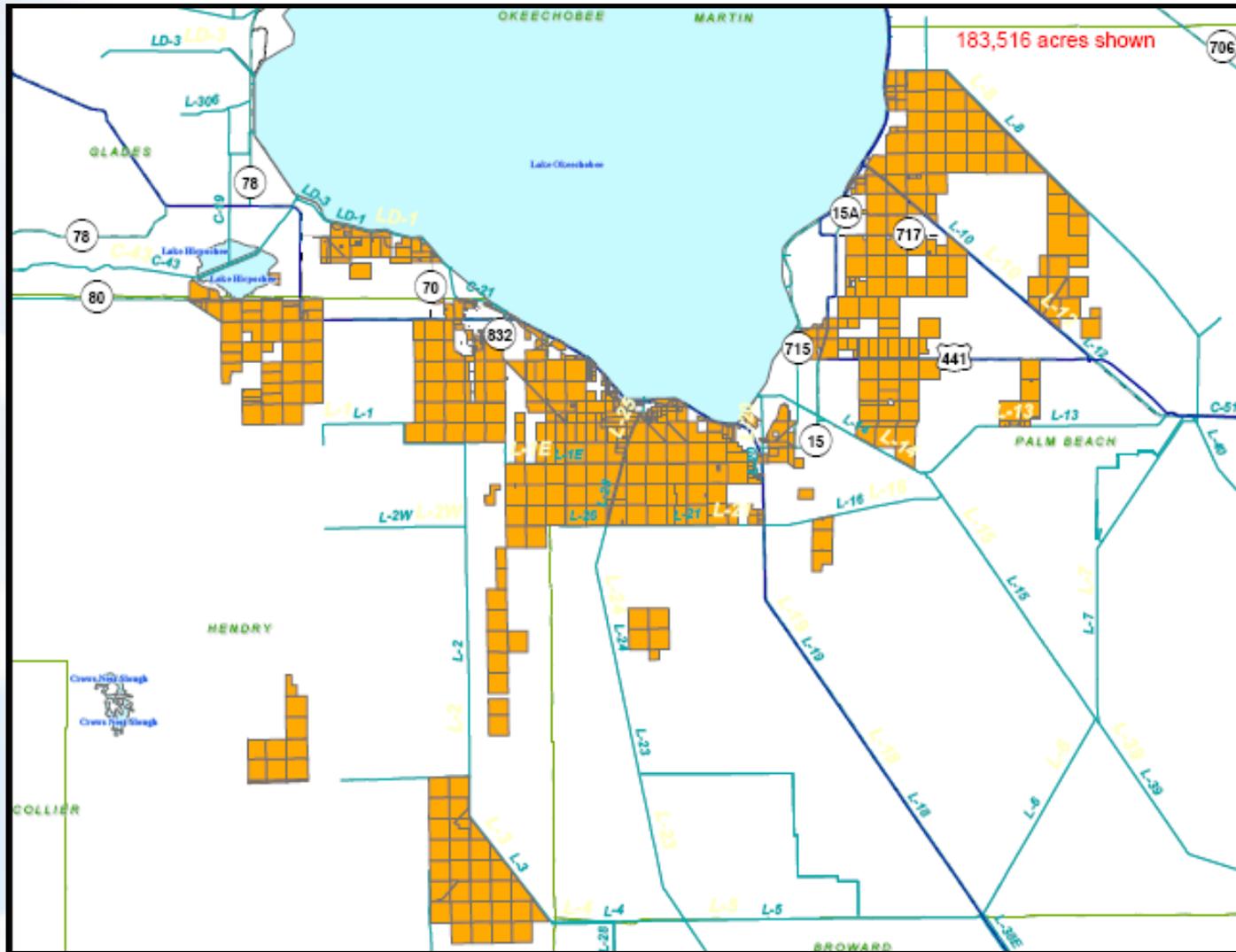
## What is the Announcement?

- A proposed real estate transaction of historic proportions between the South Florida Water Management District and United States Sugar Corporation
- Witnessed by Governor Crist, the two parties today agreed to negotiate a contract for acquiring the pre-eminent “missing link” in Everglades Restoration

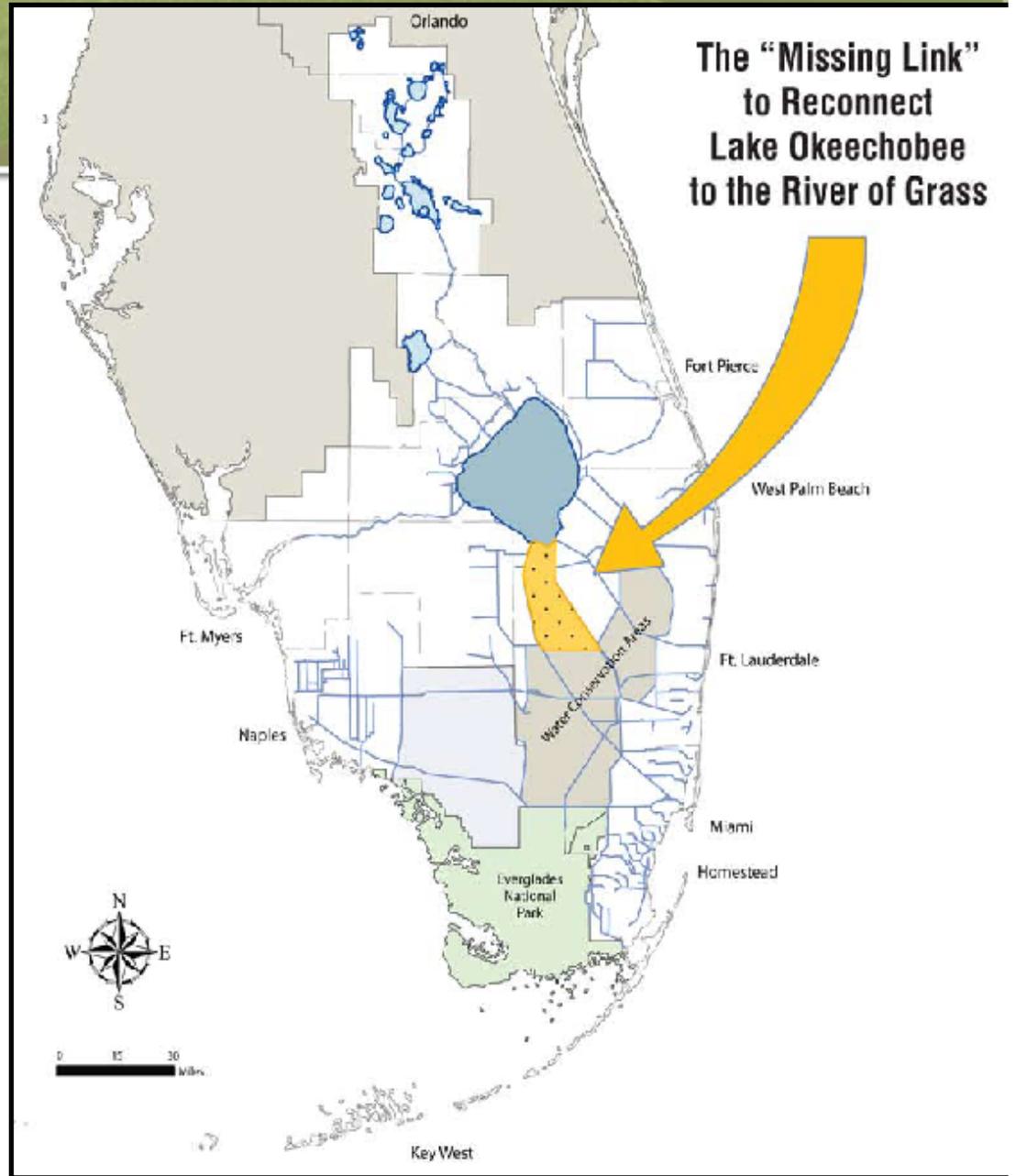
# What are the Highlights?

- Acquisition of 187,000 acres of agricultural land
  - Larger than the City of Chicago (292 square miles !)
- Acquisition of other company assets including:
  - A sugar mill & refinery
  - A citrus processing plant
  - A 220 mile long railroad
- Estimated cost (subject to appraisals and Board approval) is \$1.75 billion

# Location of Properties



Vast tracts of land in the Everglades Agricultural Area have long been considered the “missing link” of real estate needed to protect our coastal estuaries and to revive the Everglades



# Acquisition Benefits

- Provides an opportunity to reestablish a historical connection between Lake Okeechobee and the remnant southern Everglades ecosystem through a massive, managed system of water storage and water quality treatment
- Allows for the delivery of cleaner water to the Everglades during dry times and greater water storage to protect the natural system during wet years

# Acquisition Benefits

- Significantly reduces the potential for harmful discharges from Lake Okeechobee to the St. Lucie and Caloosahatchee rivers and estuaries
- Prevents thousands of tons of phosphorus from entering the Everglades every year
- Eliminates the need for “backpumping”

# Acquisition Benefits

- Provides additional water storage alternatives, relieving some pressures on the Herbert Hoover Dike while the federal government undertakes repairs
- Sustainability of agriculture in the region and potential for green energy production in the EAA

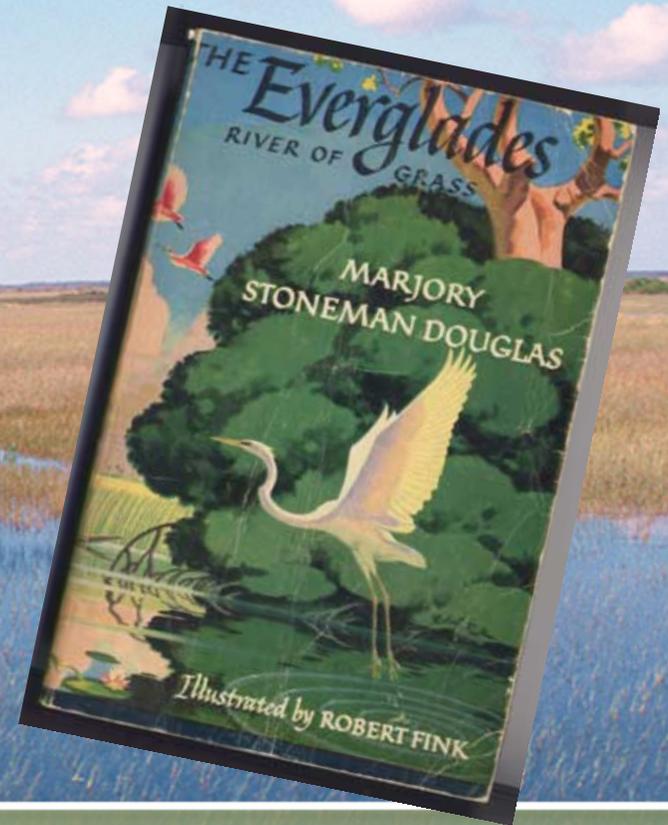
## History in the Making...

- This acquisition is likely the single action that could most significantly and positively influence Everglades Restoration into the future
- Its historical significance is comparable to the designation of Everglades National Park sixty years ago
- The vast acreage may now present opportunities for storage and treatment not originally considered feasible in previous restoration plans

## Now What?

- We will present to the Governing Board for consideration and public discussion
- Future use of the agricultural lands
- Funding considerations
- The effect of the purchase on the schedule and completion of existing restoration projects

The *revival* begins...



*There are no other Everglades in the world. They are...one of the unique regions of the earth; remote, never wholly known. Nothing anywhere else is like them.*

Marjory S. Douglas