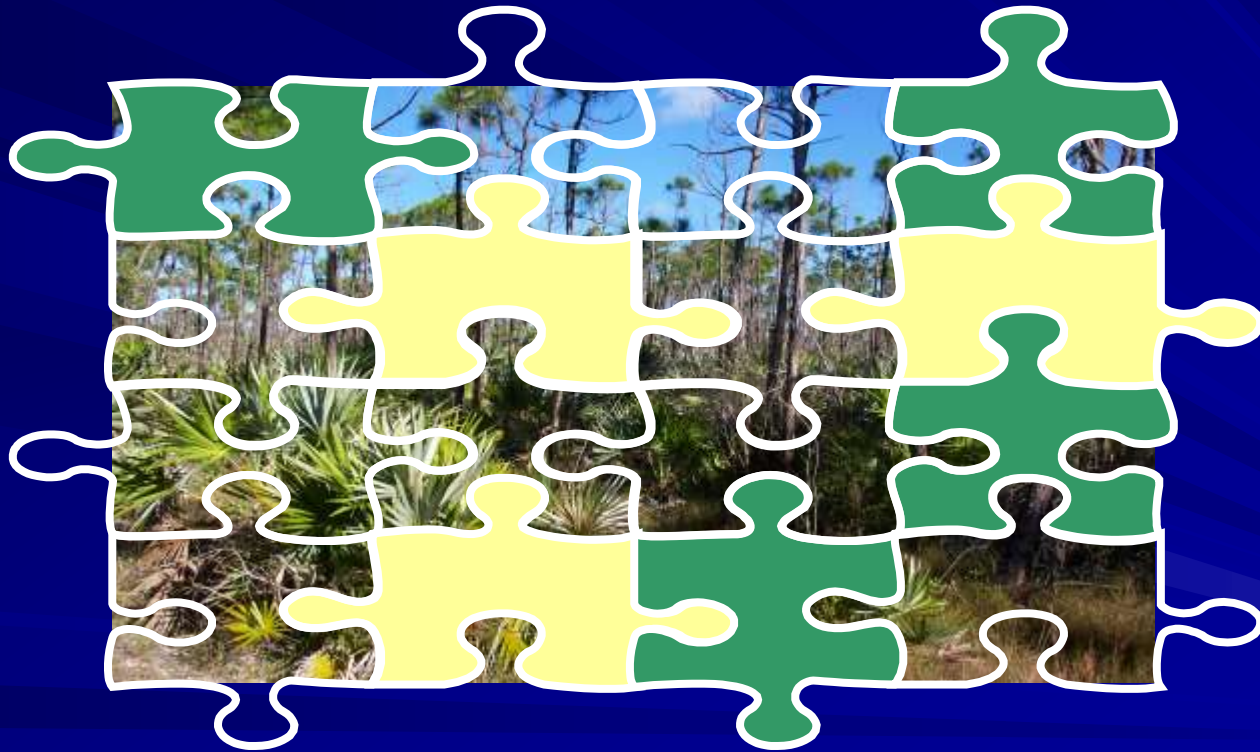


2007 Public Land Acquisition & Management Partnership Conference

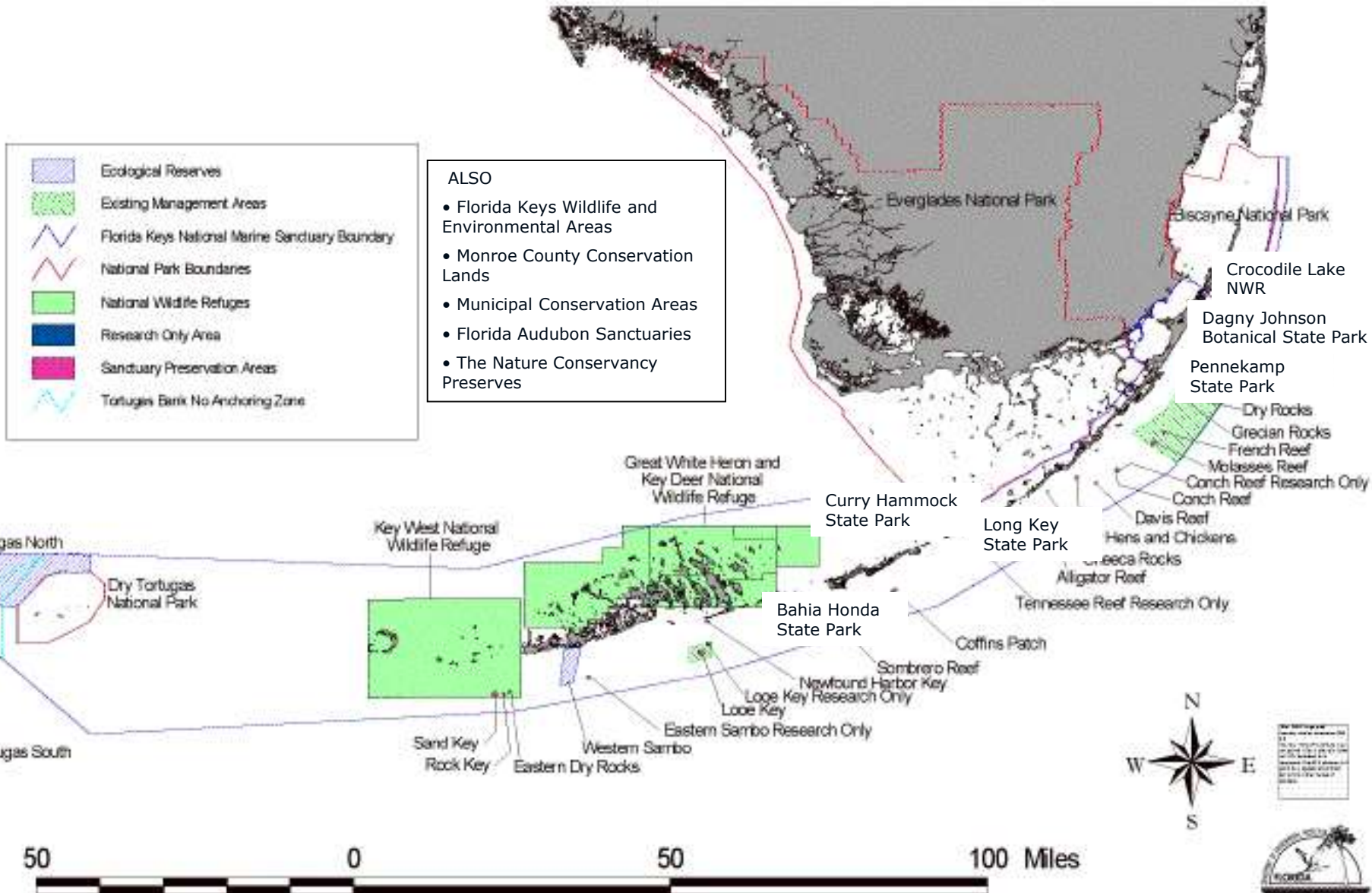
*Completing the Puzzle:
Conserving the Florida Keys Ecosystem
One Parcel At a Time*



Anne Morkill
Florida Keys National Wildlife Refuges Complex
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service



Conservation Areas in the Florida Keys



Acres of Conservation Land in Monroe County

Data courtesy of Florida Natural Areas Inventory (www.fnai.org)

Lead Managing Agency	Land Acres
Local	150
State	12,730
Federal	598,070
Private	1,560
Total	612,510

Monroe County Total Land Acres	638,080
Percent of County in Conservation	96%

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
National Wildlife Refuge System
Land Acquisition Funding Sources

- Land and Water Conservation Fund
- Migratory Bird Conservation Fund
- North American Wetlands Conservation Fund

Sources of revenue for these accounts include Federal duck stamp sales, refuge entrance fees, Fish and Wildlife fines, import taxes on arms and ammunition, offshore oil and gas leases, and Congressional appropriations.

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Other Land Acquisition Funding Sources

- Cooperative Endangered Species Conservation Fund (ESA Section 6)
- Coastal Wetlands Planning, Protection and Response Act
- Federal Assistance



National Wildlife Refuge System

Land Acquisition Priority System

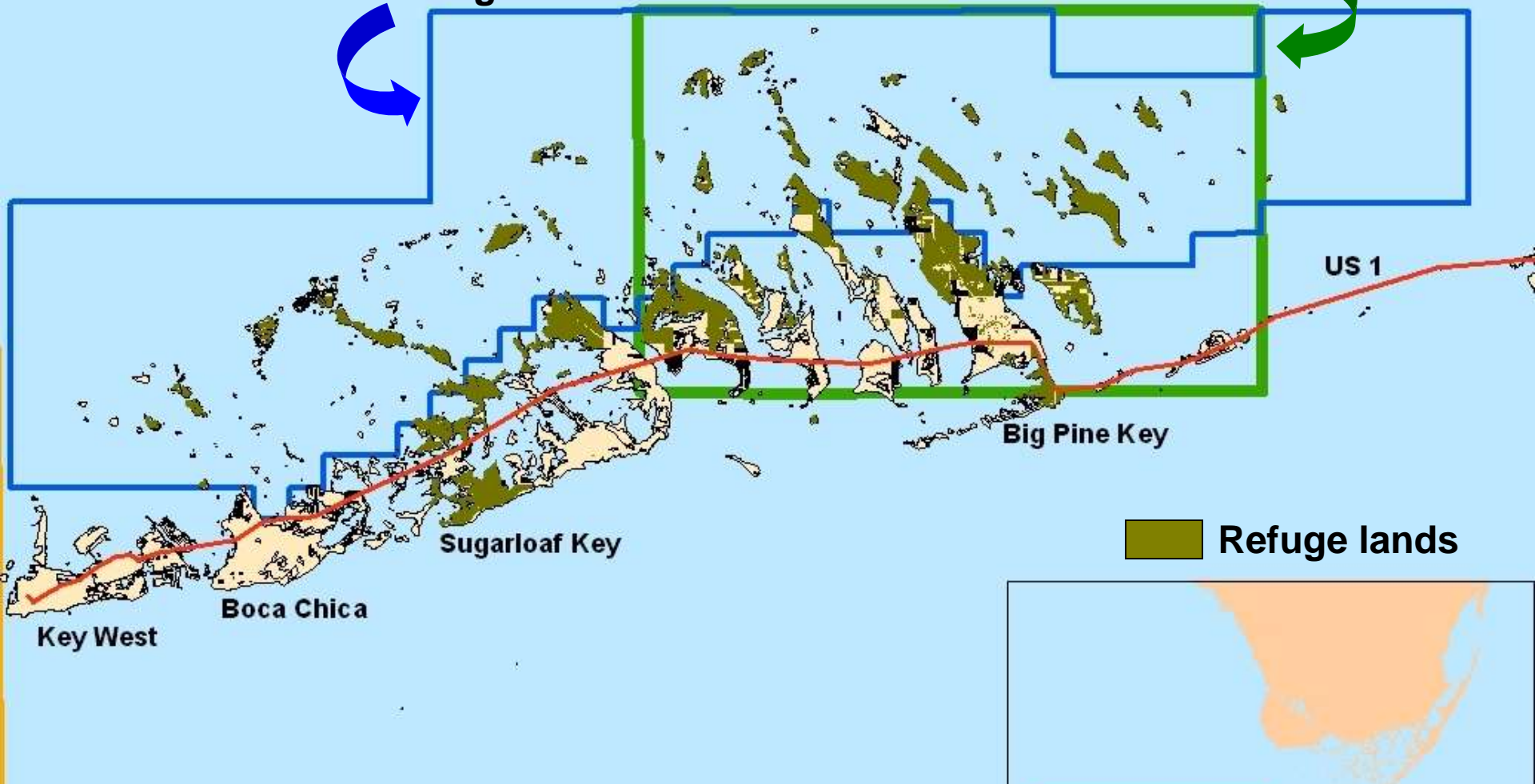
Evaluation Criteria

- Fisheries and Aquatic Resources
- Endangered and Threatened Species
- Bird Conservation
- Ecosystem Conservation



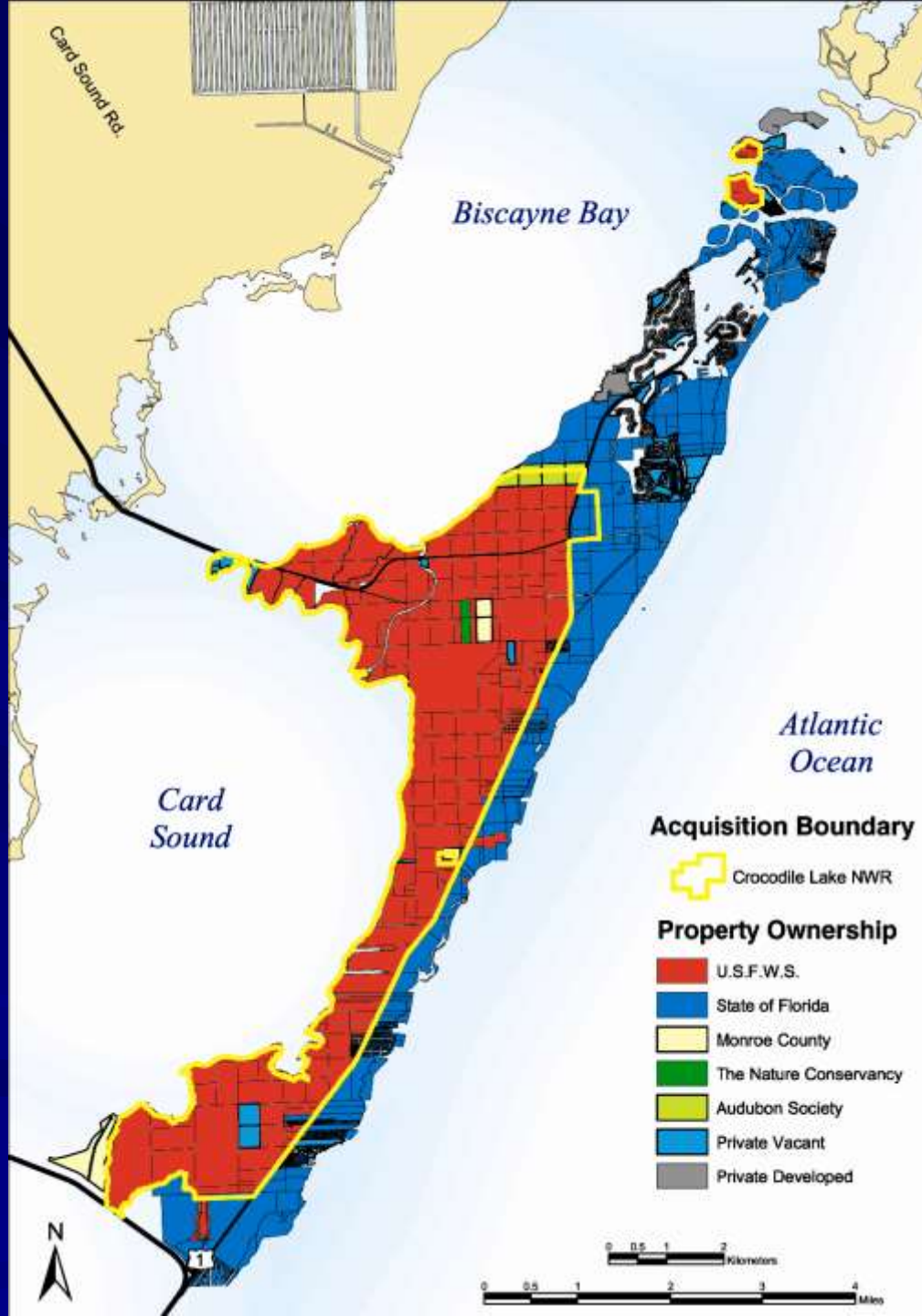
**Great White Heron
National Wildlife Refuge**

National Key Deer Refuge



Refuge Acquisition Boundaries





National Wildlife Refuge System

Acquisition Types

- Simple fee (full ownership)
- Conservation easement
- Donation
- Lease
- Life-use reservation
- Condemnation (only 1% nationally)

National Wildlife Refuge System
Acquisition Types
Florida Keys

- Simple fee
- Donation
- Lease



Florida Keys

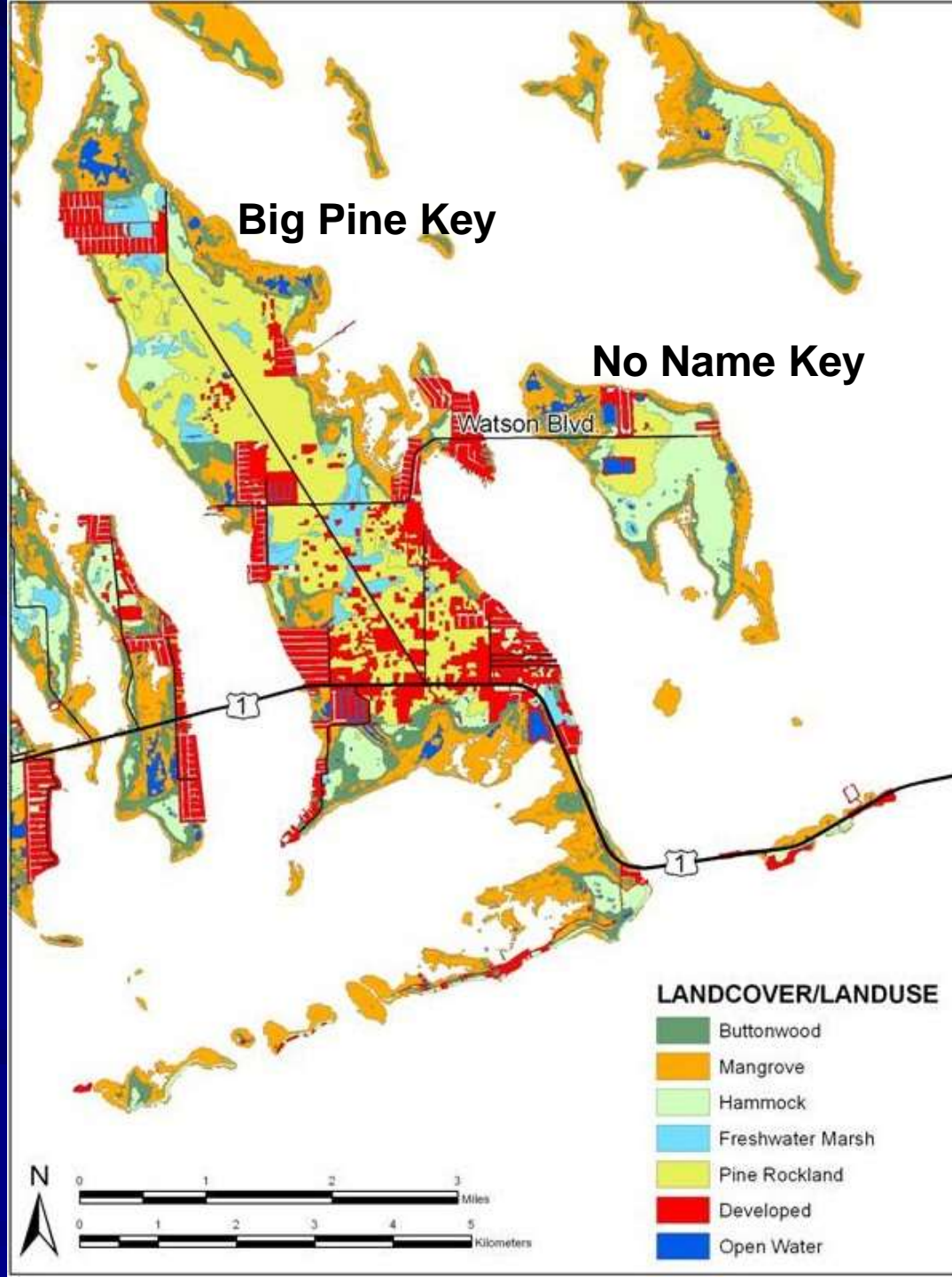
Land Acquisition Partnerships

- Florida Forever's Florida Keys Ecosystem Project
 - Focus on imperiled species habitats supporting state threatened white-crowned pigeon and federally endangered Lower Keys marsh rabbit, silver rice rat, and Florida Key deer
- Monroe County Land Authority
- South Florida Water Management District
- Trust For Public Lands
- The Nature Conservancy
- The Conservation Fund
- Keys Environmental Restoration Fund (Audubon)
 - Manages ACOE Land Acquisition Funds targeted for wetlands and coastal habitat in the Florida Keys (new in 2007)

Florida Keys

Acquisition Challenges

- Declining federal appropriations + increasing property values = acquisition costs exceed available funds
- Differing state vs. federal acquisition authorities affect seller expectations
- Opportunistic vs. strategic acquisition
- 3:1 mitigation requirements under Big Pine/No Name Key Habitat Conservation Plan creates competition for willing sellers & parcels with habitat values



Florida Keys Management Challenges

- Prescribed Fire
 - Wildfire
 - Feeding Wildlife
 - Invasive Exotic Plants
 - Feral & Exotic Animals
 - Trespass/Encroachment
 - Debris
- etcetera...



Florida Keys Management Challenges

- Prescribed Fire
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Florida Keys Management Challenges

- Prescribed Fire
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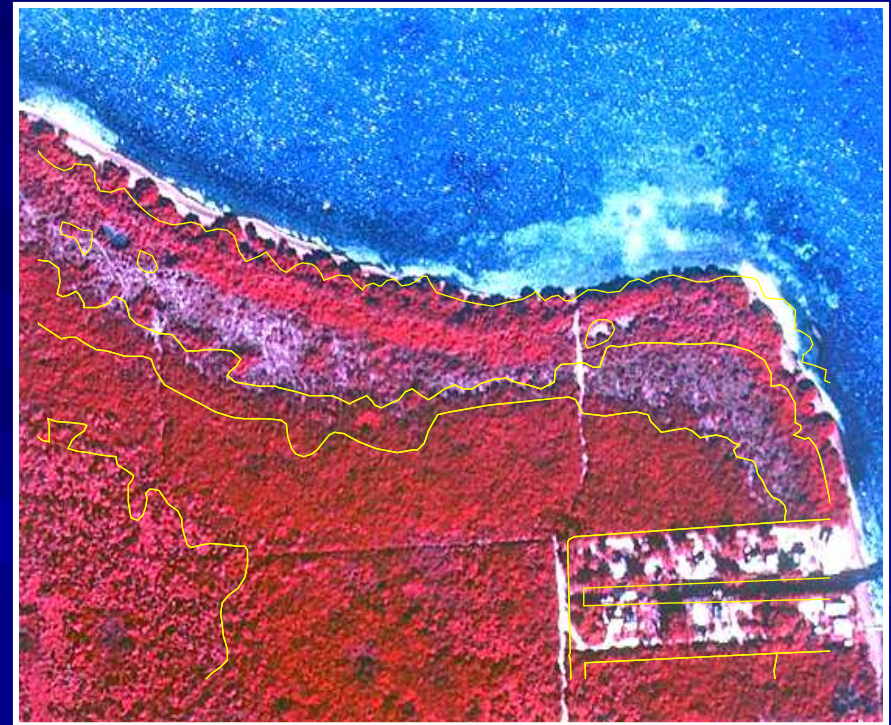
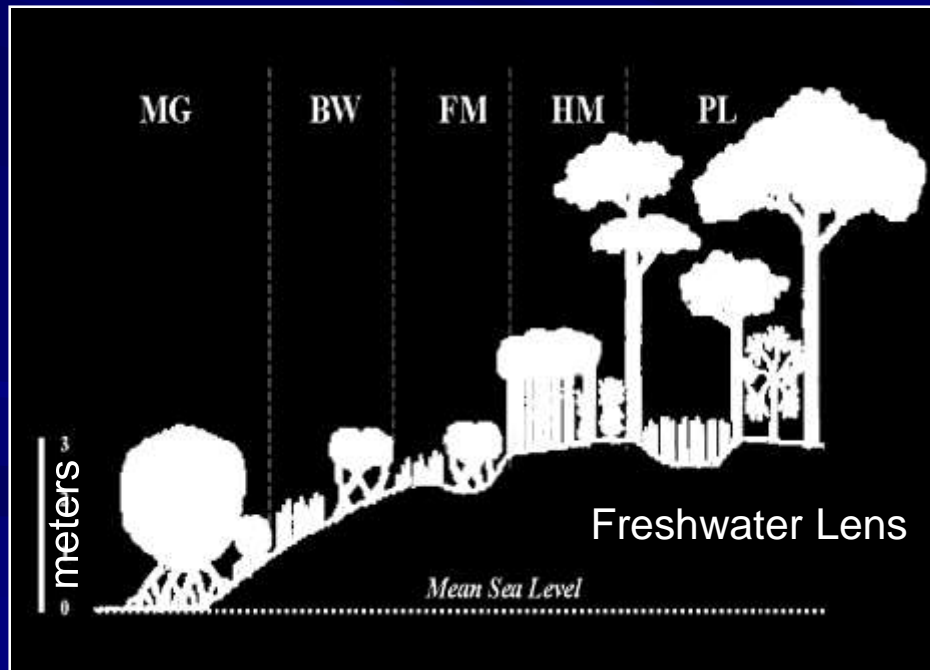


Florida Keys Management Challenges

- Prescribed Fire
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- **Feral & Exotic Animals**
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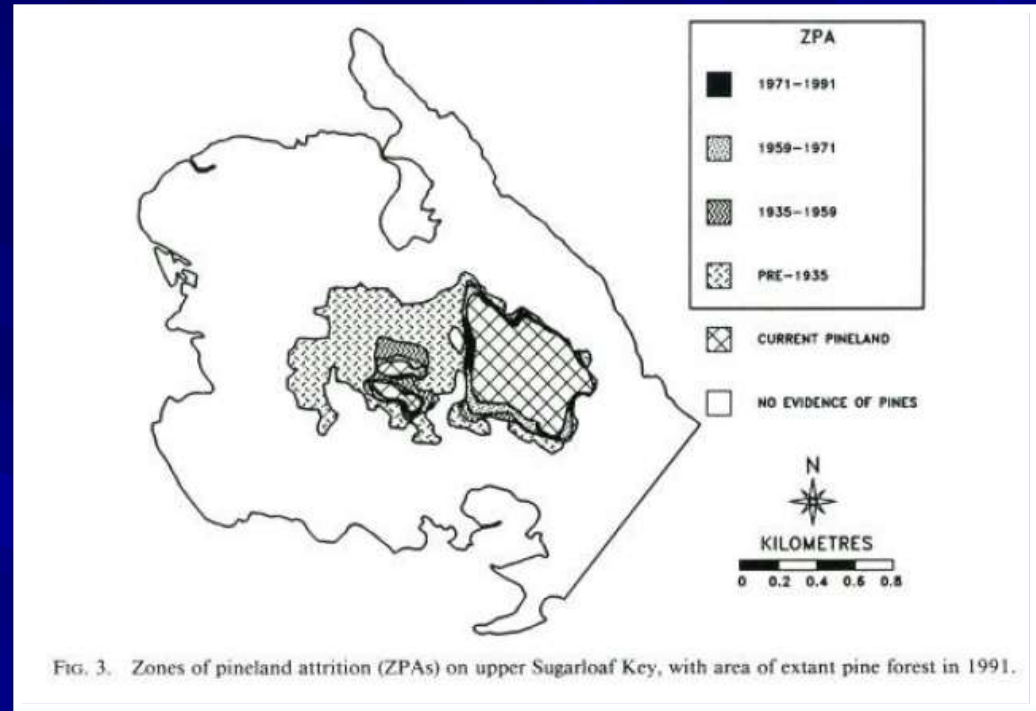
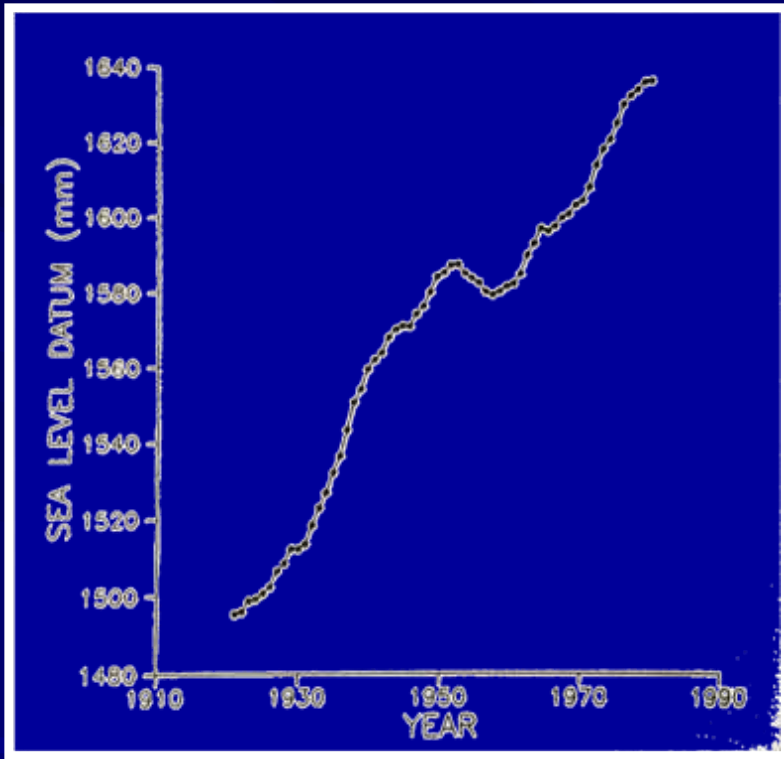


Future Management Challenge: Climate Change



Courtesy Roel Lopez, TAMU

Future Management Challenge: Climate Change



Recession of Sugarloaf Key pine rockland forest due to saltwater inundation of freshwater lens

Courtesy Mike Ross, FIU

Future Management Challenge: Climate Change





Questions?