



Collier Soil and Water Conservation District

Gazetteer

June 2013

In July 2012, President Obama signed the "Resources and Ecosystem Sustainability, Tourist Opportunities, and Revived Economies of the Gulf Coast States Act of 2012," commonly known as The RESTORE Act. The RESTORE Act:

- Created a Trust Fund to hold 80 percent of any civil and administrative penalties paid to the United States under the Clean Water Act (CWA) by the parties responsible for the Deepwater Horizon/BP Oil Spill;
- Established an intergovernmental Ecosystem Restoration Council to identify restoration and recovery projects eligible for funding;
- Set forth a formula for how the money would be divided between the five Gulf States (Florida, Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana, and Texas), the Restoration Council, and regional research and monitoring programs, and

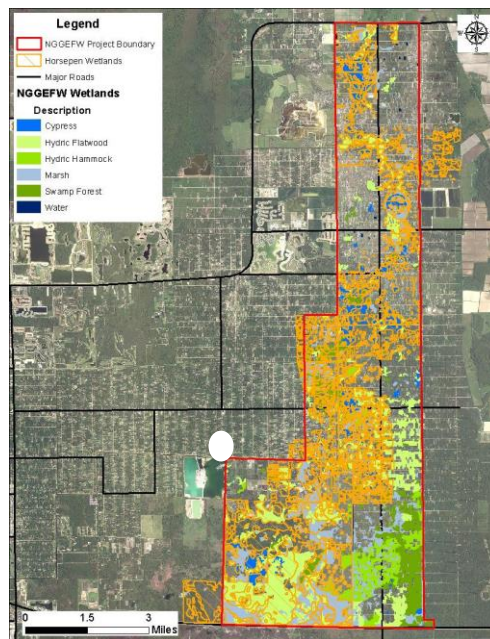
The county made a case to get funding.

Project Area

- The project area includes land that currently drains into the Golden Gate Canal which flows to the west and eventually into Naples Bay; and the Miller and Faka Union canals which flow south to the Ten Thousand Islands estuary through the Picayune Strand State Forest.

North Belle Meade Restoration Area project

The historic flowways of the Northern Golden Gate Estates (NGGE) have been virtually eliminated by the network of roads and drainage canals built to accommodate residential and agricultural developments. The overall impacts on the hydrology and ecology of the region have been phenomenal and remnant flowways, such as Winchester Head and Horsepen Strand, have become isolated patches with limited functionality of wetlands.

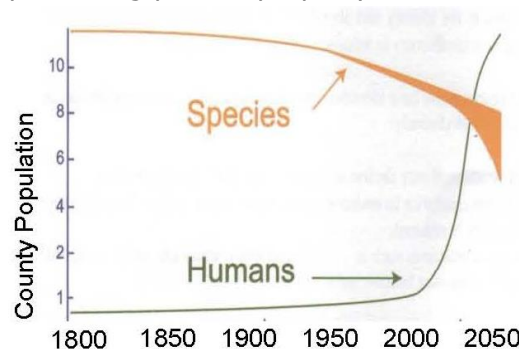


A preliminary layout of a restoration plan known as Horsepen Area Restoration Plan was developed in 2008 by an assessment of the hydrology and vegetation characteristics of a 34 square mile area of NGGE and northern Belle Meade.

Florida Department of Environmental Protection and Collier County recently completed Phase II of a North Belle Meade Restoration Area project. As designed, the project will accept storm water runoff from the surrounding areas to create a "continuous and flowing" ecological service essential to sustain native ecosystems as interconnected natural areas that will filter pollutants from the air, water and soil.

The North Belle Meade Restoration Area project will produce a wetland flowway improvement plan consisting of various alternatives to connect existing native ecosystems by corridors of wetland flowways without impact to the Base Flood Elevation.

Critical elements of this restoration plan include emphasis on stormwater conveyance and habitat protection, together with maintaining existing and/or restoring historical overland sheetflow and stream patterns, protecting and enhancing water quality in canals, lakes, wetlands and soils, recharging groundwater aquifers, while buffering developed areas from floodwaters and protecting private property.



What's Important?

Project decisions that are within the constraints of social, environmental and economic impact--while protecting species--will make huge progress.

Represented in the illustration on the left is a presumed decline in biodiversity due to increases in human population.

