



***CEDS Department***

**Worksession  
State Funding for Conservation  
Lands**

**January 24, 2017**



# Presentation Outline

- Background
- Draft Resolution
- Board Direction





# Presentation Outline

- Background
- Draft Resolution
- Board Direction





# Background

- **December 13, 2016**
  - District 5 Commissioner brought forward League of Women Voters request
  - Draft Resolution to State Legislature
    - Support for a minimum state funding amount
    - Specifically for conservation land acquisition
- **Mayor instructed staff to provide a presentation on the issues**



# Background

- **State Conservation Land Funding Programs**



# Background

- **State Conservation Land Funding Programs**
  - **Prior to 1963 – no specific program existed**
    - Legislative line item appropriations
    - Donations from private individuals
    - Donations from federal government



# Background

- **State Conservation Land Funding Programs**
  - Prior to 1963 – no specific program existed
  - 1963 - Land Acquisition Trust Fund
    - Funded the Outdoor Recreation and Conservation Program
    - Designed to purchase parks and recreation areas
    - Tax on outdoor clothing and equipment
    - Later changed to sale of recreation bonds (\$20M)
    - Paid for by doc stamps



# Background

- **State Conservation Land Funding Programs**
  - Prior to 1963 – no specific program existed
  - 1963 - Land Acquisition Trust Fund
  - 1972 - Environmentally Endangered Lands Program
    - Ballot referendum authorizing the sale of \$240M in bonds
    - Designed for “unique and irreplaceable lands”
    - Paid for by doc stamps





# Background

- **State Conservation Land Funding Programs**
  - Prior to 1963 – no specific program existed
  - 1963 - Land Acquisition Trust Fund
  - 1972 - Environmentally Endangered Lands Program
  - 1979 - Conservation and Recreation Lands Program
    - Recurring revenue stream (instead of bond revenues)
    - Excise tax on mineral extraction – later added doc stamps
    - Protected 181,000 acres at a cost of \$356M



# Background

- **State Conservation Land Funding Programs**
  - Prior to 1963 – no specific program existed
  - 1963 - Land Acquisition Trust Fund
  - 1972 - Environmentally Endangered Lands Program
  - 1979 - Conservation and Recreation Lands Program
  - 1990 - Preservation 2000
    - 10 year plan to collect \$3B in bonds
    - \$300M annual budget
    - Funded existing programs (CARL, Save Our Rivers, etc.)
    - Managed by FDEP
    - Protected 1.8M acres



# Background

- **State Conservation Land Funding Programs**
  - Prior to 1963 – no specific program existed
  - 1963 - Land Acquisition Trust Fund
  - 1972 - Environmentally Endangered Lands Program
  - 1979 - Conservation and Recreation Lands Program
  - 1990 - Preservation 2000
  - 2000 - Florida Forever (*current program*)
    - Funded through doc stamps
    - \$300M annual budget
    - Over 718,000 acres protected

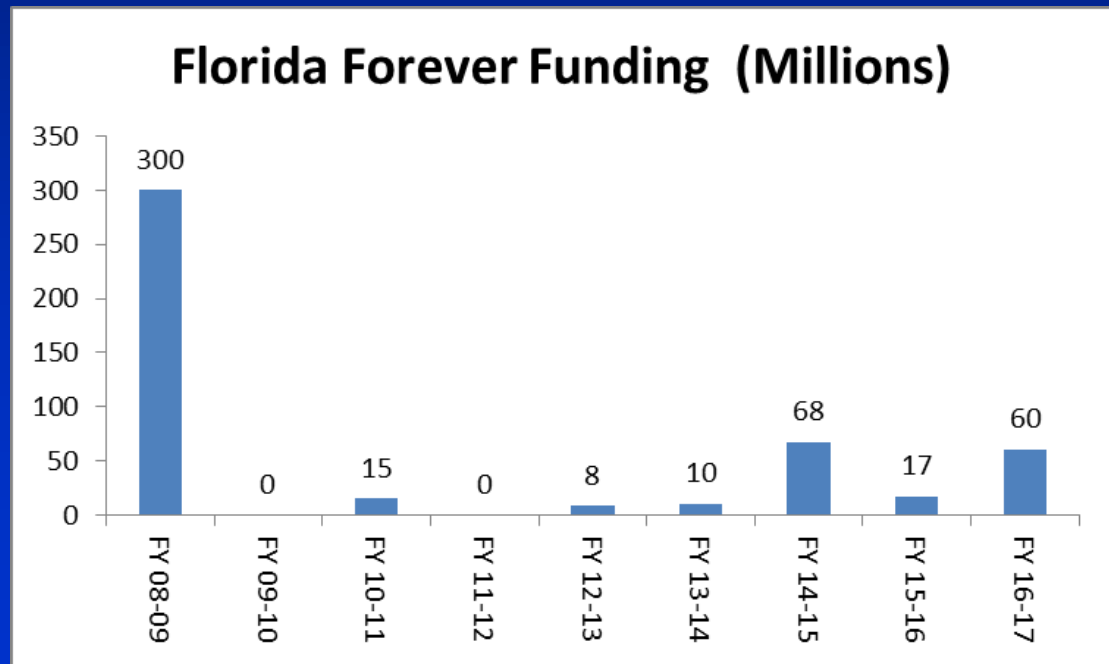


# Background

## ■ Florida Forever

### —Funding history

- \$300M from 2001 to 2009
- Great Recession
- Funding reduced





# Background

## ■ County Program

- 1990-2003 Environmental Sensitive Lands program
  - 12 parcels (TM Ranch, Savage Christmas Creek)
- 2003-Present “*Green PLACE*”
  - 18 parcels (Johns Lake, Eagles Roost)
  - \$20M - Initial funding
  - \$125M - Invest in Orange funding
- Funding from various partnerships







# Background

## ■ County Program





# Background

## ■ Constitutional “Amendment 1”

### —2014 Ballot Initiative

- Title: Water and Land Conservation – Dedicates funds to acquire and restore Florida conservation and recreation lands
- Allocates 33% of net revenues from doc stamps
- 20 year period
- Overwhelmingly approved by voters – 75%
- Legislature responsible for appropriations





# Background

## ■ Constitutional Amendment

### —Limits funds to:

- acquisition and improvement of land, water areas, and related property interests;
- wildlife management areas;
- lands that protect water resources and drinking water sources;
- lands in the Everglades; beaches and shores; outdoor recreation lands, including recreational trails, parks, and urban open space; rural landscapes; working farms.





# Background

## ▪ Court Challenge

- 2015 appropriations bill approved less than \$20M for Florida Forever
- 2 lawsuits filed
  - House and Senate
  - Regulatory Agencies
- Alleging misspending of \$300M in funds
- Both suits recently combined
- No decision likely in short term



# Background

## ■ Funding Challenge

- 2017-18 LATF estimate – \$814M
  - \$646M after debt service payment
  - \$438M after Everglades, springs and Lake Apopka payments
  - \$105M after agency operations and land management costs
  - \$20M after leadership priorities currently proposed for bills
- Likely shortfall for other conservation priorities



# Presentation Outline

- Background
- **Draft Resolution**
- Board Direction





# Draft Resolution

## ■ Proposed Resolution

- Support a minimum annual \$300M funding
- Strictly for land acquisition
- Regional benefits
  - 1<sup>st</sup> magnitude springs
  - Pine Island Slough
  - Adams Ranch
  - Wekiva-Ocala Greenway





# Presentation Outline

- Background
- Draft Resolution
- **Board Direction**





# Board Direction

- **Bring back as proposed**
- **Possible amendments:**
  - add local interests (Wekiva Basin, Econ, etc.)
  - add reference to Sustainability Plan
  - consider “funding goal” for conservation programs
  - request flexibility of funding for local acquisition and management

***CEDS Department***

# **Worksession State Funding for Conservation Lands**

**January 24, 2017**