

Helping restore flow to River of Grass

A \$1.75 billion agreement to buy U.S. Sugar's 187,000 acres eventually could allow the state to reclaim an unbroken stretch of rural land to reconnect Lake Okeechobee with the Everglades.

WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS?

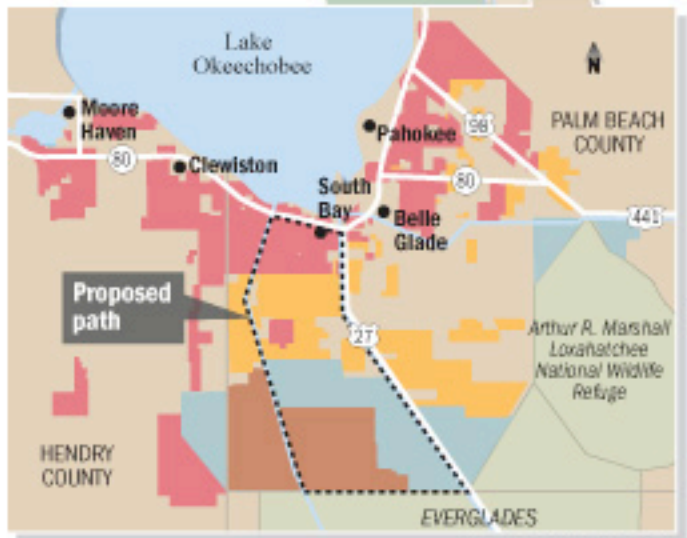
- It the land can hold and cleanse as much as 325 billion gallons, aiding the Everglades and South Florida's water supply.
- It would mean an 85 percent reduction in the wasteful dumping of Lake Okeechobee runoff into the St. Lucie and Caloosahatchee rivers.
- It would eliminate almost all pumping of Glades farm runoff into the lake.
- It could cut costs and speed the \$10.9 billion Everglades restoration by eliminating the need for a lot of construction.

WHAT ARE THE OBSTACLES?

- U.S. Sugar's land doesn't provide a solid path to the Everglades. The state may have to swap parcels with other growers, such as the Fanjul family.
- Water managers don't yet know how exactly the water would move. They have called a continuous flow way impractical.
- Environmental studies will be needed to ensure that the farmland doesn't harbor pollution that could harm wildlife.

- U.S. Sugar land
- Fanjul land in Palm Beach County
- Storm-water treatment areas
- State wildlife management areas

Sources: Everglades Foundation; Palm Beach Post research



CHRISTOPHER SMITH/Staff Artist