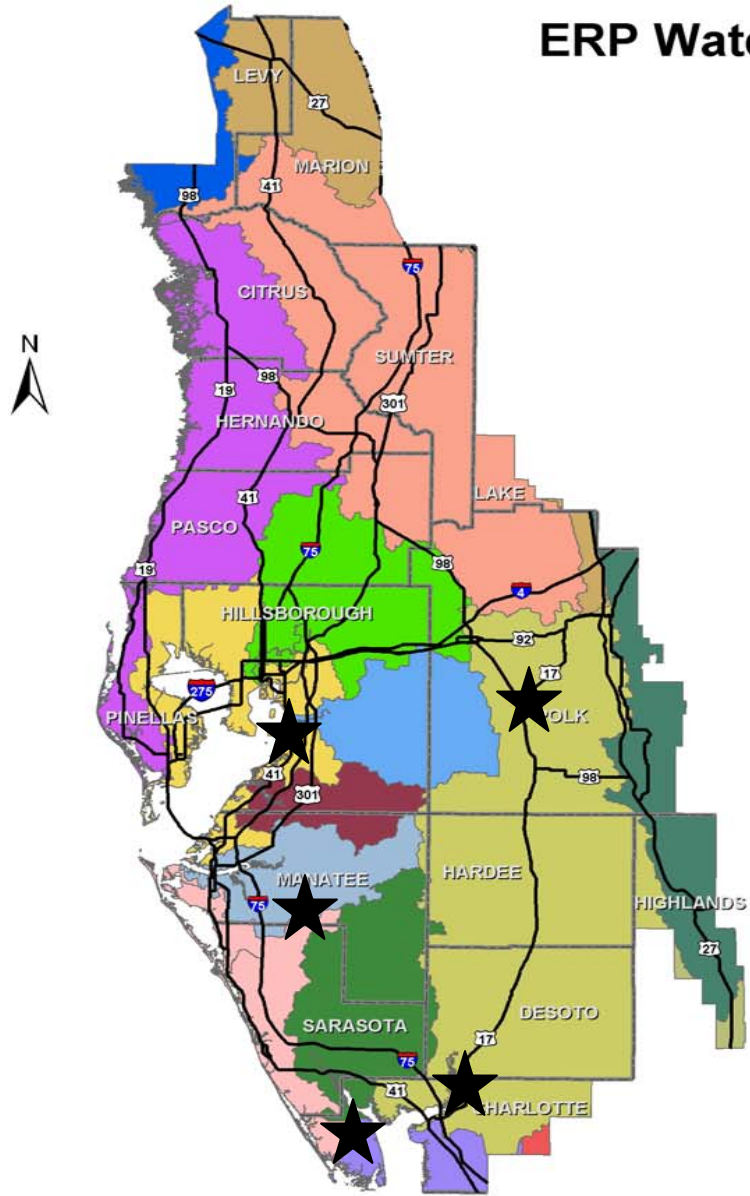


Mitigation Alternatives

Problem: Some basins (watersheds) have no available alternatives to traditional on-site mitigation.

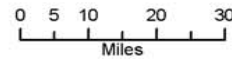
Goal: Promote establishment of ecologically meaningful mitigation alternatives where none presently exist


ERP Watersheds/Basins in the S.W.F.W.M.D.



WATERSHEDS

-  ALAFIA RIVER BASIN
-  CALOOSAHCHEE RIVER BASIN
-  CHARLOTTE HARBOR DRAINAGE
-  FISHEATING CREEK BASIN
-  HILLSBOROUGH RIVER BASIN
-  KISSIMMEE RIVER BASIN
-  LITTLE MANATEE RIVER BASIN
-  MANATEE RIVER BASIN
-  MYAKKA RIVER BASIN
-  OCKLAWAHA RIVER BASIN
-  PEACE RIVER BASIN
-  SARASOTA/LEMON BAY DRAINAGE
-  TAMPA BAY AND COASTAL AREAS
-  UPPER COASTAL AREAS
-  WACCASASSA RIVER BASIN
-  WITHLACOOCHEE RIVER BASIN




 Created by
 Southwest Florida
 Water Management District
 Mapping and GIS Section
 October 2003
 (wo4915)

★ Mitigation Bank

Section 373.4135, Florida Statutes

...the Department and the water management districts are directed to participate in and encourage the establishment of public and private mitigation banks and offsite regional mitigation.

Mitigation Alternatives Using District-Owned Lands

- District Mitigation Bank
- Public/Private Mitigation Bank
- Regional Offsite Mitigation Area(s)
(ROMA)
- Individual Mitigation Projects

Mitigation Alternatives

(Summary of previous Governing Board discussions)

- Providing ecologically meaningful mitigation alternatives to permit applicants would be beneficial to the economy and the environment.
- Statutory impediments exist which impair an agency's ability to collect money as mitigation to fund future land acquisition or restoration projects.
- Public agency involvement in providing mitigation alternatives should not undercut or provide market disincentives to private sector involvement.

Mitigation Alternatives

(Summary of previous Governing Board discussions)

- Private dollars spent for the environmental restoration of public lands are dollars diverted from the environmental restoration of private lands.
- Based on two examples in the South Florida Water Management District, it can take 5-8 years before a private-public mitigation bank is conducting restoration activities or selling mitigation credits.
- A recent SWFWMD study found that restoration of wetlands and aquatic habitats on current District-owned lands could be completed by 2011 without relying on mitigation funds to achieve the restoration goal.

Mitigation Alternatives

Question: Are there ways to provide alternative mitigation options to permit applicants in a way that:

- provides more ecological benefit than traditional mitigation options?
- doesn't undercut existing private sector mitigation providers or provide market disincentives for future private sector involvement?
- encourages preservation and restoration of privately-owned lands with private mitigation dollars?

Mitigation Alternatives

Two reasons cited by private mitigation bankers for not locating banks in northern Tampa Bay area:

- high land costs
- hydrologic uncertainties

Two additional reasons:

- time to obtain permits
- permitting uncertainties

Mitigation Alternatives

One option:

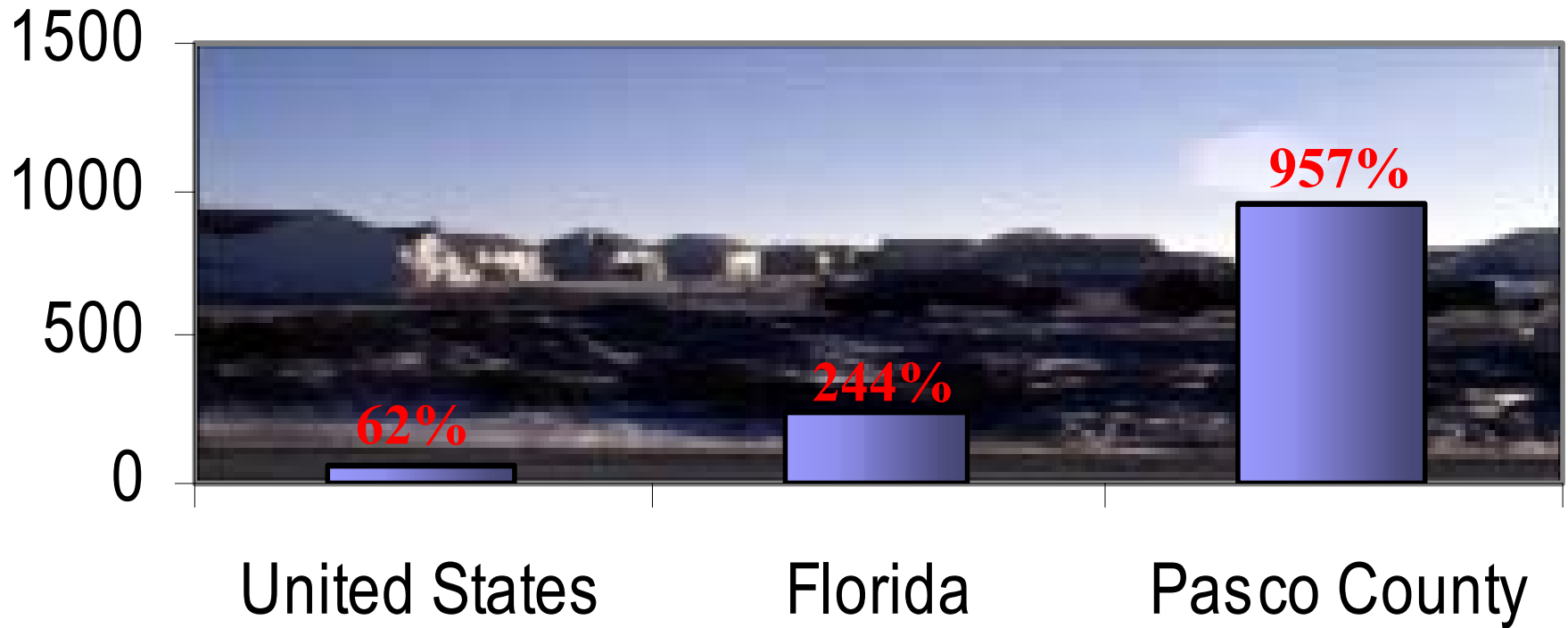
Collaborate with local governments and private sector interests to promote preservation of wildlife corridors linking public-owned lands as mitigation.

Mitigation Alternatives

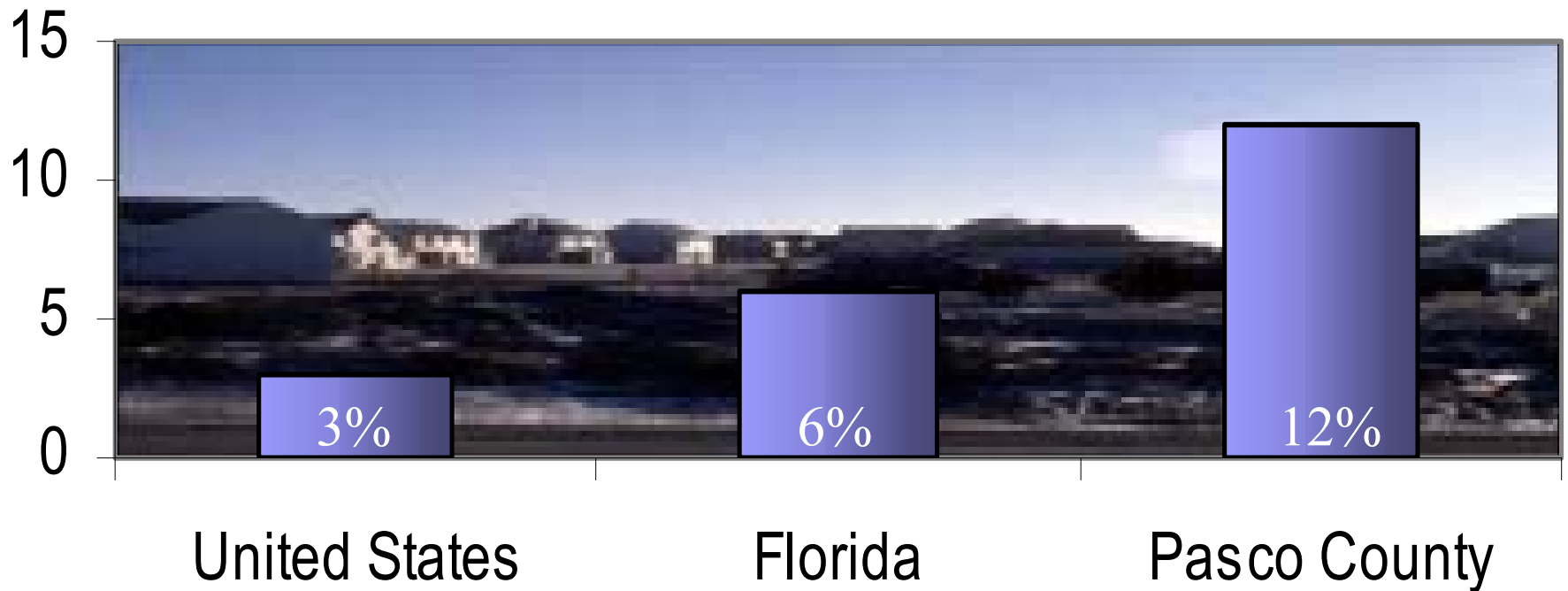
Staff Proposal: Authorize a pilot project to encourage preservation of wildlife corridors linking public-owned lands in Pasco County using private sector mitigation dollars.

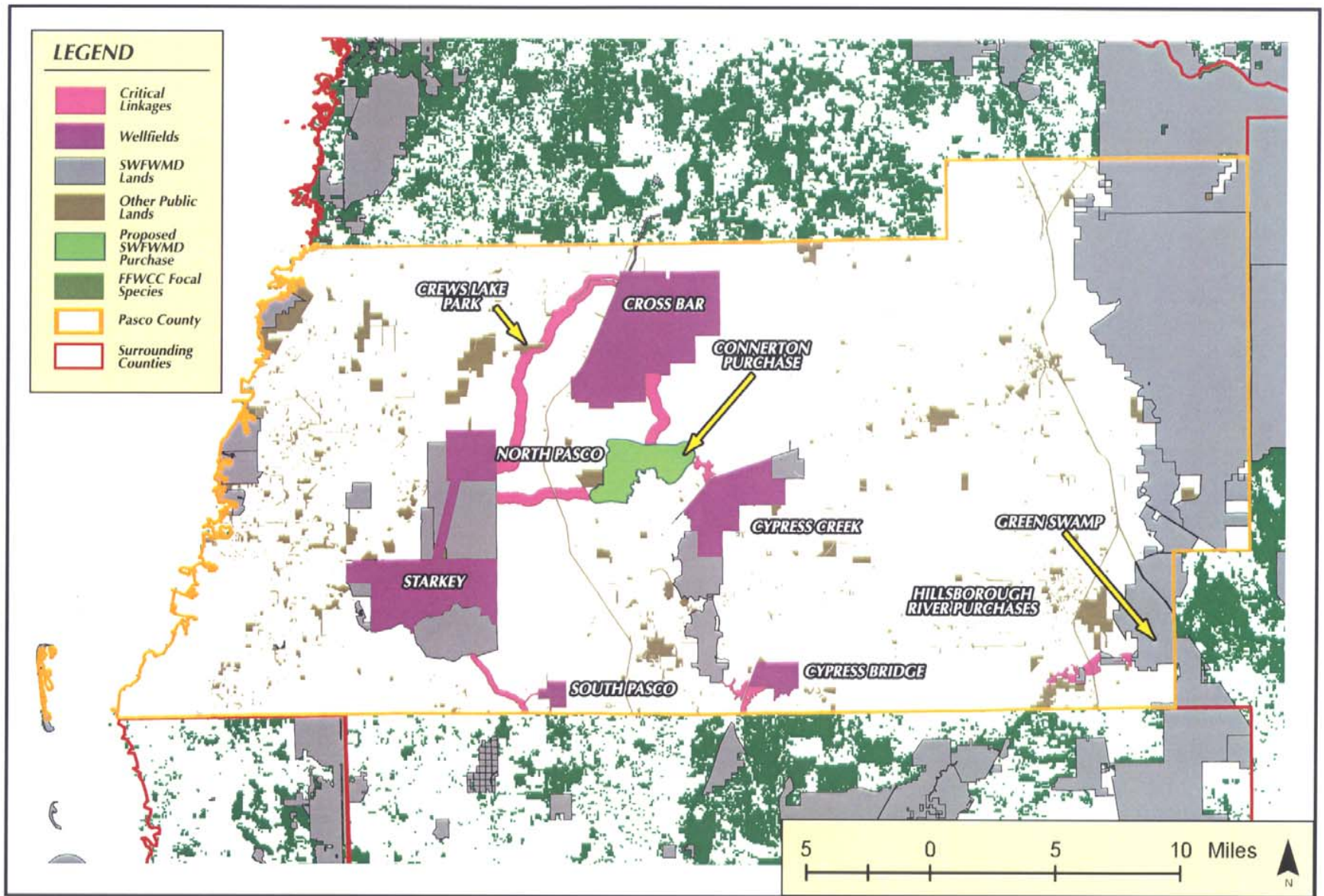
(Unanimously Approved)

% Population Growth 1960-2003



% Population Growth 2000-2003





Source: Glatting Jackson and Pasco County



Pasco County, Florida

Figure 7
Critical Linkages (Corridors) of Wildlife Habitat
Between Existing Public Lands

Mitigation Alternatives

“Kickoff” meeting July 29:

- SWFWMD
- ACOE
- Pasco County
- Private Sector representatives
- Citizen activist representative

Mitigation Alternatives

Kickoff” meeting July 29:

- Looking at 7 corridors
- Estimate mitigation credits up-front
- Federal agency involvement critical to success
- Interest from mitigation bankers
- Interest from large mitigation users
- Pasco County exploring additional incentives
- Complements “Penny for Pasco” tax

Mitigation Alternatives

Benefits of Pasco Corridors Pilot Project:

- identifies best bank locations
- doesn't compete with private sector
- uses private dollars to preserve private lands
- less affected by hydrologic uncertainties
- shortens permitting timeframes
- reduces permitting uncertainties
(appropriateness, # of credits, service area, use of credits)