

1                                   A bill to be entitled  
2           An act relating to state lands; amending s. 253.034,  
3           F.S.; providing legislative findings; revising  
4           measurable objectives for management goals to include  
5           the preservation of low-impact agriculture; requiring  
6           updated land management plans to identify conservation  
7           lands that could support low-impact agriculture and  
8           conservation lands that are no longer needed and could  
9           be disposed of; requiring that exchanges of  
10          conservation lands result in an equal or greater  
11          conservation benefit; requiring the Division of State  
12          Lands to review state-owned conservation lands and  
13          determine if such lands could support low-impact  
14          agriculture or be disposed of; requiring the division  
15          to submit a list of such lands to the Acquisition and  
16          Restoration Council; requiring the council to provide  
17          recommendations to the division and the Board of  
18          Trustees of the Internal Improvement Trust Fund;  
19          requiring that the division direct managing agencies  
20          to offer agreements for low-impact agriculture on such  
21          lands under certain conditions; providing  
22          applicability of such agreements; directing the board  
23          to dispose of such lands under certain conditions;  
24          requiring the division to review certain  
25          nonconservation lands and make recommendations to the  
26          board as to whether such lands should be retained in

27 public ownership or disposed of; amending s. 253.42,  
28 F.S.; providing for private lands contiguous to state-  
29 owned lands to be exchanged for a permanent  
30 conservation easement over all or a portion of the  
31 privately owned lands; authorizing the use of such  
32 lands for low-impact agricultural purposes; providing  
33 conditions for approval of such exchanges; requiring  
34 that special consideration be given to exchanges that  
35 maintain public access for recreational purposes;  
36 providing limited liability for persons maintaining  
37 such public access; providing that permanent  
38 conservation easements over privately owned lands are  
39 subject to certain inspection; creating s. 253.87,  
40 F.S.; directing the Department of Environmental  
41 Protection to include certain county, municipal,  
42 state, and federal lands in the Florida State-Owned  
43 Lands and Records Information System (SOLARIS)  
44 database and to update the database at specified  
45 intervals; requiring counties, municipalities, and  
46 financially disadvantaged small communities to submit  
47 a list of certain lands to the department by a  
48 specified date and at specified intervals; directing  
49 the department to conduct a study and submit a report  
50 to the Governor and Legislature on the technical and  
51 economic feasibility of including certain lands in the  
52 database or a similar public lands inventory; amending

53 s. 259.105, F.S.; deleting obsolete provisions;  
 54 requiring the council to give weight and increased  
 55 priority to certain projects when developing proposed  
 56 rules relating to Florida Forever funding and  
 57 additions to the Conservation and Recreation Lands  
 58 list; providing for the appeal of decisions made by  
 59 the council; authorizing the board to direct the  
 60 council to include certain lands on such list under  
 61 certain conditions; amending ss. 259.035 and 373.199,  
 62 F.S.; conforming cross-references; directing the  
 63 department to consolidate specified parcels of  
 64 conservation lands under a single, unified title and  
 65 legal description by a specified date; providing an  
 66 effective date.

67

68 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

69

70 Section 1. Subsection (1), paragraphs (b) and (e) of  
 71 subsection (5), and subsection (6) of section 253.034, Florida  
 72 Statutes, are amended to read:

73 253.034 State-owned lands; uses.—

74 (1) (a) The Legislature finds that the total land area of  
 75 the state is approximately 34.7 million acres and, as of January  
 76 1, 2014, approximately 3.2 million acres of conservation lands  
 77 are titled in the name of the Board of Trustees of the Internal  
 78 Improvement Trust Fund. Approximately 1.2 million acres of these

79 conservation lands, which equal approximately 3.4 percent of the  
80 total land area of the state, are uplands located above the  
81 boundary of jurisdictional wetlands.

82 (b) All lands acquired pursuant to chapter 259 shall be  
83 managed to serve the public interest by protecting and  
84 conserving land, air, water, and the state's natural resources,  
85 which contribute to the public health, welfare, and economy of  
86 the state. These lands shall be managed to provide for areas of  
87 natural resource based recreation, and to ensure the survival of  
88 plant and animal species and the conservation of finite and  
89 renewable natural resources. The state's lands and natural  
90 resources shall be managed using a stewardship ethic that  
91 assures these resources will be available for the benefit and  
92 enjoyment of all people of the state, both present and future.  
93 It is the intent of the Legislature that, where feasible and  
94 consistent with the goals of protection and conservation of  
95 natural resources associated with lands held in the public trust  
96 by the Board of Trustees of the Internal Improvement Trust Fund,  
97 public land not designated for single-use purposes pursuant to  
98 paragraph (2) (b) be managed for multiple-use purposes. All  
99 multiple-use land management strategies shall address public  
100 access and enjoyment, resource conservation and protection,  
101 ecosystem maintenance and protection, and protection of  
102 threatened and endangered species, and the degree to which  
103 public-private partnerships or endowments may allow the entity  
104 with management responsibility to enhance its ability to manage

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105 | these lands. The Acquisition and Restoration Council created in  
106 | s. 259.035 shall recommend rules to the board of trustees, and  
107 | the board shall adopt rules necessary to carry out the purposes  
108 | of this section.

109 |         (5) Each manager of conservation lands shall submit to the  
110 | Division of State Lands a land management plan at least every 10  
111 | years in a form and manner prescribed by rule by the board and  
112 | in accordance with the provisions of s. 259.032. Each manager of  
113 | conservation lands shall also update a land management plan  
114 | whenever the manager proposes to add new facilities or make  
115 | substantive land use or management changes that were not  
116 | addressed in the approved plan, or within 1 year of the addition  
117 | of significant new lands. Each manager of nonconservation lands  
118 | shall submit to the Division of State Lands a land use plan at  
119 | least every 10 years in a form and manner prescribed by rule by  
120 | the board. The division shall review each plan for compliance  
121 | with the requirements of this subsection and the requirements of  
122 | the rules established by the board pursuant to this section. All  
123 | land use plans, whether for single-use or multiple-use  
124 | properties, shall include an analysis of the property to  
125 | determine if any significant natural or cultural resources are  
126 | located on the property. Such resources include archaeological  
127 | and historic sites, state and federally listed plant and animal  
128 | species, and imperiled natural communities and unique natural  
129 | features. If such resources occur on the property, the manager  
130 | shall consult with the Division of State Lands and other

131 appropriate agencies to develop management strategies to protect  
132 such resources. Land use plans shall also provide for the  
133 control of invasive nonnative plants and conservation of soil  
134 and water resources, including a description of how the manager  
135 plans to control and prevent soil erosion and soil or water  
136 contamination. Land use plans submitted by a manager shall  
137 include reference to appropriate statutory authority for such  
138 use or uses and shall conform to the appropriate policies and  
139 guidelines of the state land management plan. Plans for managed  
140 areas larger than 1,000 acres shall contain an analysis of the  
141 multiple-use potential of the property, which analysis shall  
142 include the potential of the property to generate revenues to  
143 enhance the management of the property. Additionally, the plan  
144 shall contain an analysis of the potential use of private land  
145 managers to facilitate the restoration or management of these  
146 lands. In those cases where a newly acquired property has a  
147 valid conservation plan that was developed by a soil and  
148 conservation district, such plan shall be used to guide  
149 management of the property until a formal land use plan is  
150 completed.

151 (b) Short-term and long-term management goals shall  
152 include measurable objectives for the following, as appropriate:

- 153 1. Habitat restoration and improvement.
- 154 2. Public access and recreational opportunities.
- 155 3. Hydrological preservation and restoration.
- 156 4. Sustainable forest management.

157 5. Exotic and invasive species maintenance and control.

158 6. Capital facilities and infrastructure.

159 7. Cultural and historical resources.

160 8. Imperiled species habitat maintenance, enhancement,  
161 restoration, or population restoration.

162 9. Preservation of low-impact agriculture.

163 (e) Land management plans are to be updated every 10 years  
164 on a rotating basis. Each updated land management plan must  
165 identify conservation lands under the plan, in part or in whole:

166 1. That could support low-impact agricultural uses while  
167 maintaining the land's conservation purposes.

168 2. That are no longer needed for conservation purposes and  
169 could be disposed of in fee simple or with the state retaining a  
170 permanent conservation easement.

171 (6) The board ~~of Trustees of the Internal Improvement~~  
172 ~~Trust Fund~~ shall determine which lands titled to, ~~the title to~~  
173 ~~which is vested in the board~~, may be surplused. For conservation  
174 lands, the board shall determine whether the lands are no longer  
175 needed for conservation purposes and may dispose of them by an  
176 affirmative vote of at least three members. In the case of a  
177 land exchange involving the disposition of conservation lands,  
178 the board must determine by an affirmative vote of at least  
179 three members that the exchange will result in an equal or  
180 greater ~~a net positive~~ conservation benefit. For all other  
181 lands, the board shall determine whether the lands are no longer  
182 needed and may dispose of them by an affirmative vote of at

183 least three members.

184 (a) For the purposes of this subsection, all lands  
185 acquired by the state before July 1, 1999, using proceeds from  
186 Preservation 2000 bonds, the Conservation and Recreation Lands  
187 Trust Fund, the Water Management Lands Trust Fund,  
188 Environmentally Endangered Lands Program, and the Save Our Coast  
189 Program and titled to the board which are identified as core  
190 parcels or within original project boundaries are deemed to have  
191 been acquired for conservation purposes.

192 (b) For any lands purchased by the state on or after July  
193 1, 1999, before acquisition, the board must determine which  
194 parcels must be designated as having been acquired for  
195 conservation purposes. Lands acquired for use by the Department  
196 of Corrections, the Department of Management Services for use as  
197 state offices, the Department of Transportation, except those  
198 specifically managed for conservation or recreation purposes, or  
199 the State University System or the Florida College System may  
200 not be designated as having been purchased for conservation  
201 purposes.

202 (c)1. At least every 10 years, the division shall review  
203 all state-owned conservation lands titled to the board to  
204 determine whether any such lands could support low-impact  
205 agricultural uses while maintaining the land's conservation  
206 purposes. After such review, the division shall submit a list of  
207 such lands, including any additional lands identified in any  
208 updated land management plan pursuant to subparagraph (5)(e)1.,



209 to the council. Within 9 months after receiving the list, the  
 210 council shall provide recommendations to the division as to  
 211 whether any such lands could support low-impact agricultural  
 212 uses while maintaining the land's conservation purposes. After  
 213 considering such recommendations, the division shall direct  
 214 managing agencies to offer agreements for low-impact agriculture  
 215 on lands that it determines could support such agriculture while  
 216 maintaining the land's conservation purposes. This section does  
 217 not prohibit a managing agency from entering into agreements as  
 218 otherwise provided by law. An agreement entered into pursuant to  
 219 this paragraph may not exceed a term of 10 years. However, an  
 220 agreement may be renewed with the consent of the division as a  
 221 ~~component of each land management plan or land use plan and in a~~  
 222 ~~form and manner prescribed by rule by the board, each manager~~  
 223 ~~shall evaluate and indicate to the board those lands that are~~  
 224 ~~not being used for the purpose for which they were originally~~  
 225 ~~leased. For conservation lands, the council shall review and~~  
 226 ~~recommend to the board whether such lands should be retained in~~  
 227 ~~public ownership or disposed of by the board. For~~  
 228 ~~nonconservation lands, the division shall review such lands and~~  
 229 ~~recommend to the board whether such lands should be retained in~~  
 230 ~~public ownership or disposed of by the board.~~

231 2. At least every 10 years, the division shall review all  
 232 state-owned conservation lands titled to the board to determine  
 233 whether any such lands are no longer needed for conservation  
 234 purposes and could be disposed of in fee simple or with the

235 state retaining a permanent conservation easement. After such  
236 review, the division shall submit a list of such lands,  
237 including additional conservation lands identified in an updated  
238 land management plan pursuant to subparagraph (5)(e)2., to the  
239 council. Within 9 months after receiving the list, the council  
240 shall provide recommendations to the board as to whether any  
241 such lands are no longer needed for conservation purposes and  
242 could be disposed of in fee simple or with the state retaining a  
243 permanent conservation easement. After reviewing such list and  
244 considering such recommendations, if the board determines by an  
245 affirmative vote of at least three members of the board that any  
246 such lands are no longer needed for conservation purposes, the  
247 board shall dispose of the lands in fee simple or with the state  
248 retaining a permanent conservation easement.

249 3. At least every 10 years, the division shall review all  
250 encumbered and unencumbered nonconservation lands titled to the  
251 board and recommend to the board whether any such lands should  
252 be retained in public ownership or disposed of by the board. The  
253 board may dispose of nonconservation lands under this paragraph  
254 by a majority vote of the board.

255 (d) Lands titled to ~~owned by~~ the board which are not  
256 actively managed by any state agency or for which a land  
257 management plan has not been completed pursuant to subsection  
258 (5) must be reviewed by the council or its successor for its  
259 recommendation as to whether such lands should be disposed of by  
260 the board.

261 (e) Before any decision by the board to surplus lands, the  
 262 ~~Acquisition and Restoration~~ council shall review and make  
 263 recommendations to the board concerning the request for  
 264 surplusings. The council shall determine whether the request for  
 265 surplusings is compatible with the resource values of and  
 266 management objectives for such lands.

267 (f) In reviewing lands titled to ~~owned by~~ the board, the  
 268 council shall consider whether such lands would be more  
 269 appropriately owned or managed by the county or other unit of  
 270 local government in which the land is located. The council shall  
 271 recommend to the board whether a sale, lease, or other  
 272 conveyance to a local government would be in the best interests  
 273 of the state and local government. ~~The provisions of This~~  
 274 paragraph does not in no way limit the provisions of ss. 253.111  
 275 and 253.115. Such lands shall be offered to the state, county,  
 276 or local government for ~~a period of~~ 45 days. Permittable uses  
 277 for such surplus lands may include public schools; public  
 278 libraries; fire or law enforcement substations; governmental,  
 279 judicial, or recreational centers; and affordable housing  
 280 meeting the criteria of s. 420.0004(3). County or local  
 281 government requests for surplus lands shall be expedited  
 282 throughout the surplusings process. If the county or local  
 283 government does not elect to purchase such lands in accordance  
 284 with s. 253.111, any surplusings determination involving other  
 285 governmental agencies shall be made when the board decides the  
 286 best public use of the lands. Surplus lands ~~properties~~ in which

287 governmental agencies have not expressed an ~~no~~ interest must  
 288 ~~then~~ be available for sale on the private market.

289 (g) The sale price of lands determined to be surplus  
 290 pursuant to this subsection and s. 253.82 shall be determined by  
 291 the division, which shall consider an appraisal of the property,  
 292 or, if the estimated value of the land is \$500,000 or less, a  
 293 comparable sales analysis or a broker's opinion of value. The  
 294 division may require a second appraisal. The individual or  
 295 entity that requests to purchase the surplus parcel shall pay  
 296 all costs associated with determining the property's value, if  
 297 any.

298 1. A written valuation of land determined to be surplus  
 299 pursuant to this subsection and s. 253.82, and related documents  
 300 used to form the valuation or which pertain to the valuation,  
 301 are confidential and exempt from s. 119.07(1) and s. 24(a), Art.  
 302 I of the State Constitution.

303 a. The exemption expires 2 weeks before the contract or  
 304 agreement regarding the purchase, exchange, or disposal of the  
 305 surplus land is first considered for approval by the board.

306 b. Before expiration of the exemption, the division may  
 307 disclose confidential and exempt appraisals, valuations, or  
 308 valuation information regarding surplus land:

309 (I) During negotiations for the sale or exchange of the  
 310 land.

311 (II) During the marketing effort or bidding process  
 312 associated with the sale, disposal, or exchange of the land to

313 facilitate closure of such effort or process.

314 (III) When the passage of time has made the conclusions of  
315 value invalid.

316 (IV) When negotiations or marketing efforts concerning the  
317 land are concluded.

318 2. A unit of government that acquires title to lands  
319 pursuant to this paragraph ~~hereunder~~ for less than appraised  
320 value may not sell or transfer title to all or any portion of  
321 the lands to any private owner for 10 years. Any unit of  
322 government seeking to transfer or sell lands pursuant to this  
323 paragraph must first allow the board ~~of trustees~~ to reacquire  
324 such lands for the price at which the board sold such lands.

325 (h) Parcels with a market value over \$500,000 must be  
326 initially offered for sale by competitive bid. The division may  
327 use agents, as authorized by s. 253.431, for this process. Any  
328 parcels unsuccessfully offered for sale by competitive bid, and  
329 parcels with a market value of \$500,000 or less, may be sold by  
330 any reasonable means, including procuring real estate services,  
331 open or exclusive listings, competitive bid, auction, negotiated  
332 direct sales, or other appropriate services, to facilitate the  
333 sale.

334 (i) After reviewing the recommendations of the council,  
335 the board shall determine whether lands identified for surplus  
336 are to be held for other public purposes or are no longer  
337 needed. The board may require an agency to release its interest  
338 in such lands. A state agency, county, or local government that

339 has requested the use of a property that was to be declared as  
340 surplus must secure the property under lease within 90 days  
341 after being notified that it may use such property.

342 (j) Requests for surplusizing may be made by any public or  
343 private entity or person. All requests shall be submitted to the  
344 lead managing agency for review and recommendation to the  
345 council or its successor. Lead managing agencies have 90 days to  
346 review such requests and make recommendations. Any surplusizing  
347 requests that have not been acted upon within the 90-day ~~time~~  
348 period shall be immediately scheduled for hearing at the next  
349 regularly scheduled meeting of the council or its successor.  
350 Requests for surplusizing pursuant to this paragraph are not  
351 required to be offered to local or state governments as provided  
352 in paragraph (f).

353 (k) Proceeds from any sale of surplus lands pursuant to  
354 this subsection shall be deposited into the fund from which such  
355 lands were acquired. However, if the fund from which the lands  
356 were originally acquired no longer exists, such proceeds shall  
357 be deposited into an appropriate account to be used for land  
358 management by the lead managing agency assigned the lands before  
359 the lands were declared surplus. Funds received from the sale of  
360 surplus nonconservation lands, or lands that were acquired by  
361 gift, by donation, or for no consideration, shall be deposited  
362 into the Internal Improvement Trust Fund.

363 (l) Notwithstanding this subsection, such disposition of  
364 land may not be made if it would have the effect of causing all

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365 or any portion of the interest on any revenue bonds issued to  
366 lose the exclusion from gross income for federal income tax  
367 purposes.

368 (m) The sale of filled, formerly submerged land that does  
369 not exceed 5 acres in area is not subject to review by the  
370 council or its successor.

371 (n) The board may adopt rules to administer this section  
372 which may include procedures for administering surplus land  
373 requests and criteria for when the division may approve requests  
374 to surplus nonconservation lands on behalf of the board.

375 Section 2. Subsection (4) is added to section 253.42,  
376 Florida Statutes, to read:

377 253.42 Board of trustees may exchange lands.—The  
378 provisions of this section apply to all lands owned by, vested  
379 in, or titled in the name of the board whether the lands were  
380 acquired by the state as a purchase, or through gift, donation,  
381 or any other conveyance for which no consideration was paid.

382 (4) (a) A person who owns land contiguous to state-owned  
383 land titled to the board may submit a request directly to the  
384 board to exchange all or a portion of such state-owned land with  
385 the state retaining a permanent conservation easement for a  
386 permanent conservation easement over all or a portion of the  
387 privately owned land. State-owned land exchanged pursuant to  
388 this subsection shall be contiguous to the privately owned land  
389 upon which the state retains a permanent conservation easement.  
390 Such conservation easements shall allow the person to use the

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391 land for low-impact agriculture. The Division of State Lands  
392 shall review such requests and provide recommendations to the  
393 board. This subsection does not apply to state-owned sovereign  
394 submerged land.

395 (b) The number of acres of state-owned land being  
396 exchanged must be equal to or less than the number of acres of  
397 privately held land that the person is willing to put under a  
398 permanent conservation easement.

399 (c) The board shall consider a request within 180 days  
400 after receipt of the request and may approve the request if:

401 1. At least 30 percent of the perimeter of the privately  
402 held land is bordered by state-owned land and the exchange does  
403 not create an inholding.

404 2. The approval does not result in a violation of the  
405 terms of a preexisting lease or agreement by the board, the  
406 department, the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services,  
407 or the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission.

408 3. For state-owned land that was purchased for  
409 conservation purposes, the board makes a determination that the  
410 land is no longer needed for conservation purposes.

411 4. The approval does not conflict with any existing  
412 flowage easement.

413 5. The request is approved by at least three members of  
414 the board.

415 (d) Special consideration shall be given to a request that  
416 maintains public access for any recreational purpose allowed on



417 the state-owned land at the time the request is submitted to the  
418 board. A person who maintains public access pursuant to this  
419 paragraph is entitled to the limitation on liability provided in  
420 s. 375.251.

421 (e) Land subject to a permanent conservation easement  
422 granted pursuant to this subsection is subject to inspection by  
423 the department to ensure compliance with the terms of the  
424 permanent conservation easement.

425 Section 3. Section 253.87, Florida Statutes, is created to  
426 read:

427 253.87 Inventory of state, federal, and local government  
428 conservation lands by the Department of Environmental  
429 Protection.—

430 (1) By July 1, 2017, the Department of Environmental  
431 Protection shall include in the Florida State-Owned Lands and  
432 Records Information System (SOLARIS) database all federally  
433 owned conservation lands, all lands on which the federal  
434 government retains a permanent conservation easement, and all  
435 lands on which the state retains a permanent conservation  
436 easement. The department shall update the database at least  
437 every 5 years.

438 (2) (a) By July 1, 2017, for counties and municipalities,  
439 and by July 1, 2018, for financially disadvantaged small  
440 communities, as defined in s. 403.1838, and at least every 5  
441 years thereafter, respectively, each county, municipality, and  
442 financially disadvantaged small community shall identify all

443 conservation lands that it owns in fee simple and all lands on  
444 which it retains a permanent conservation easement and submit,  
445 in a manner determined by the department, a list of such lands  
446 to the department. Within 6 months after receiving such list,  
447 the department shall add such lands to the SOLARIS database.

448 (3) By January 1, 2017, the department shall conduct a  
449 study and submit a report to the Governor, the President of the  
450 Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives on the  
451 technical and economic feasibility of including the following  
452 lands in the SOLARIS database or a similar public lands  
453 inventory:

454 (a) All lands on which local comprehensive plans, land use  
455 restrictions, zoning ordinances, or land development regulations  
456 prohibit the land from being developed or limit the amount of  
457 development to one unit per 40 or more acres.

458 (b) All publicly and privately owned lands for which  
459 development rights have been transferred.

460 (c) All privately owned lands under a permanent  
461 conservation easement.

462 (d) All lands owned by a nonprofit or nongovernmental  
463 organization for conservation purposes.

464 (e) All lands that are part of a mitigation bank.

465 Section 4. Subsections (5) through (21) of section  
466 259.105, Florida Statutes, are renumbered as subsections (4)  
467 through (20), respectively, present subsections (4), (11), and  
468 (14) are amended, and paragraph (m) is added to present

469 subsection (10) of that section, to read:

470 259.105 The Florida Forever Act.—

471 ~~(4) Notwithstanding subsection (3) and for the 2014-2015~~  
472 ~~fiscal year only, the funds appropriated in section 56 of the~~  
473 ~~2014-2015 General Appropriations Act may be provided to water~~  
474 ~~management districts for land acquisitions, including less than~~  
475 ~~fee interest, identified by water management districts as being~~  
476 ~~needed for water resource protection or ecosystem restoration.~~  
477 ~~This subsection expires July 1, 2015.~~

478 (9) ~~(10)~~ The Acquisition and Restoration Council shall  
479 recommend rules for adoption by the board of trustees to  
480 competitively evaluate, select, and rank projects eligible for  
481 Florida Forever funds pursuant to paragraph (3) (b) and for  
482 additions to the Conservation and Recreation Lands list pursuant  
483 to ss. 259.032 and 259.101(4). In developing these proposed  
484 rules, the Acquisition and Restoration Council shall give weight  
485 to the following criteria:

486 (m) The project allows the state to purchase a permanent  
487 conservation easement that would authorize existing low-impact  
488 agricultural uses to continue while achieving the intended  
489 conservation purpose.

490 (10) ~~(11)~~ The Acquisition and Restoration Council shall  
491 give increased priority to:

492 (a) those Projects for which matching funds are available.

493 (b) and to Project elements previously identified on an  
494 acquisition list pursuant to this section that can be acquired

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495 at 80 percent or less of appraised value.

496 (c) Projects that can be acquired in less than fee  
497 ownership, such as a permanent conservation easement.

498 (d) Projects that contribute to improving the quality and  
499 quantity of groundwater.

500 (e) Projects that contribute to improving the water  
501 quality and flow of springs.

502 (f) The council shall also give increased priority to  
503 ~~those~~ Projects where the state's land conservation plans overlap  
504 with the military's need to protect lands, water, and habitat to  
505 ensure the sustainability of military missions including:

506 1.(a) Protecting habitat on nonmilitary land for any  
507 species found on military land that is designated as threatened  
508 or endangered, or is a candidate for such designation under the  
509 Endangered Species Act or any Florida statute;

510 2.(b) Protecting areas underlying low-level military air  
511 corridors or operating areas; and

512 3.(e) Protecting areas identified as clear zones, accident  
513 potential zones, and air installation compatible use buffer  
514 zones delineated by our military partners, and for which federal  
515 or other funding is available to assist with the project.

516 (13)-(14) An affirmative vote of at least five members of  
517 the Acquisition and Restoration Council shall be required in  
518 order to place a ~~proposed~~ project submitted pursuant to  
519 subsection (6) on the proposed project list developed pursuant  
520 to subsection (7) ~~(8)~~. Any member of the council who by family

521 or a business relationship has a connection with any project  
 522 proposed to be ranked shall declare such interest before ~~prior~~  
 523 ~~to~~ voting for a project's inclusion on the list. A decision by  
 524 the council to not place a project on the proposed list may be  
 525 appealed directly to the Board of Trustees of the Internal  
 526 Improvement Trust Fund. Pursuant to such an appeal, the board,  
 527 by an affirmative vote of at least three members of the board,  
 528 may direct the council to place the project on the proposed  
 529 project list.

530 Section 5. Paragraph (c) of subsection (4) of section  
 531 259.035, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

532 259.035 Acquisition and Restoration Council.—

533 (4)

534 (c) In developing or amending rules, the council shall  
 535 give weight to the criteria included in s. 259.105(9)  
 536 ~~259.105(10)~~. The board of trustees shall review the  
 537 recommendations and shall adopt rules necessary to administer  
 538 this section.

539 Section 6. Paragraph (i) of subsection (4) of section  
 540 373.199, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

541 373.199 Florida Forever Water Management District Work  
 542 Plan.—

543 (4) The list submitted by the districts shall include,  
 544 where applicable, the following information for each project:

545 (i) Numeric performance measures for each project. Each  
 546 performance measure shall include a baseline measurement, which

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547 | is the current situation; a performance standard, which water  
548 | management district staff anticipates the project will achieve;  
549 | and the performance measurement itself, which should reflect the  
550 | incremental improvements the project accomplishes towards  
551 | achieving the performance standard. These measures shall reflect  
552 | the relevant goals detailed in s. 259.105 ~~259.105(4)~~.

553 |       Section 7. Consolidating titles to state-owned  
554 | conservation lands.—As expeditiously as possible, but not later  
555 | than July 1, 2018, the Department of Environmental Protection  
556 | shall consolidate under a single, unified title and legal  
557 | description all individually titled parcels of conservation  
558 | lands solely owned by the Board of Trustees of the Internal  
559 | Improvement Trust Fund that are contiguous to other parcels of  
560 | conservation lands solely owned by the board.

561 |       Section 8. This act shall take effect July 1, 2015.