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Lee Commissioners approve Conservation 20/20 Program acquisitions

Fort Myers, FL, April. 1, 2025 – The Lee Board of County Commissioners voted Tuesday to approve the purchase of two parcels – including a nearly 130-acre parcel in East Fort Myers – and an additional donation for the Conservation 20/20 land acquisition program.

The parcels include:

- 129.56 acres just southeast of the intersection of Orange River Boulevard and Staley Road in the Buckingham area. The land includes mesic hammock, pine flatwoods, basin swamp, strand swamp, hydric hammock and improved pasture. The purchase price of this land is about \$10.5 million.
- 2.5 acres in the Corkscrew Regional Ecosystem Watershed (CREW). The purchase price of this land is \$4,250. The land is south of Sand Road in southeast Lee County. There is no improved access to the land.
- 5 acres donated to Conservation 20/20 is also in CREW located northeast of the smaller parcel above.

The Conservation Land Acquisition and Stewardship Advisory Committee (CLASAC) recommended approval of each of the purchase agreements.

Efforts to preserve land in CREW began in 1989 and now include more than 60,000 acres in both Lee and Collier counties. The land provides natural flood protection, water purification and critical aquifer recharge. The watershed also serves as important habitat for animal species such as the endangered Florida panther, snail kite and wood stork.

Under an existing Memorandum of Understanding, the South Florida Water Management District agrees to undertake responsibility of managing Lee County's Conservation 20/20 properties within the CREW wildlife and environmental area.

Lee County's Conservation 20/20 program includes more than 31,580 acres and 52 preserves. More information on the Conservation 20/20 profile is available here: www.leegov.com/parks/conservation2020

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