

26 | Agriculture and Consumer Services to submit an updated
27 | priority list for the acquisition of certain
28 | agricultural lands to the Acquisition and Restoration
29 | Council by a specified date; providing construction;
30 | conforming cross-references; deleting an obsolete
31 | provision; requiring the council to give increased
32 | priority to specified projects; amending s. 375.041,
33 | F.S.; requiring an annual appropriation from the Land
34 | Acquisition Trust Fund to the department for the
35 | acquisition of specified lands; deleting an obsolete
36 | provision; amending s. 570.71, F.S.; requiring the
37 | Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, in
38 | consultation with the Department of Environmental
39 | Protection, the water management districts, the
40 | Department of Economic Opportunity, and the Florida
41 | Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, to adopt
42 | rules giving funding priority and preference to
43 | specified lands; requiring the Department of
44 | Agriculture and Consumer Services to submit certain
45 | purchase agreements to the Board of Trustees of the
46 | Internal Improvement Trust Fund for approval; amending
47 | s. 570.715, F.S.; increasing the estimated value
48 | threshold for the appraisal of specified conservation
49 | easement acquisitions; requiring, rather than
50 | authorizing, the Department of Agriculture and

51 Consumer Services to disclose appraisal reports to
 52 private landowners or their representatives during
 53 negotiations for certain land acquisitions; providing
 54 an effective date.

55
 56 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

57
 58 Section 1. Subsection (4) and paragraphs (b), (f), and (j)
 59 of subsection (8) of section 253.025, Florida Statutes, are
 60 amended to read:

61 253.025 Acquisition of state lands.—

62 (4) An agreement to acquire real property for the purposes
 63 described in this chapter, chapter 259, chapter 260, or chapter
 64 375, title to which will vest in the board of trustees, may not
 65 bind the state before the agreement is reviewed and approved by
 66 the Department of Environmental Protection as complying with
 67 this section and any rules adopted pursuant to this section. If
 68 any of the following conditions exist, the agreement must ~~shall~~
 69 be submitted to and approved by the board of trustees:

70 (a) The purchase price agreed to by the seller exceeds the
 71 value as established pursuant to the rules of the board of
 72 trustees;

73 (b) The contract price agreed to by the seller and the
 74 acquiring agency exceeds \$5 ~~\$1~~ million;

75 ~~(c) The acquisition is the initial purchase in a Florida~~

76 ~~Forever project;~~ or

77 (c)~~(d)~~ Other conditions that the board of trustees may
 78 adopt by rule. Such conditions may include, but are not limited
 79 to, Florida Forever projects when title to the property being
 80 acquired is considered nonmarketable or is encumbered in such a
 81 way as to significantly affect its management.

82
 83 If approval of the board of trustees is required pursuant to
 84 this subsection, the acquiring agency must provide a
 85 justification as to why it is in the public's interest to
 86 acquire the parcel or Florida Forever project. Approval of the
 87 board of trustees is also required for Florida Forever projects
 88 the department recommends acquiring pursuant to subsections (11)
 89 and (22). Review and approval of agreements for acquisitions for
 90 Florida Greenways and Trails Program properties pursuant to
 91 chapter 260 may be waived by the department in any contract with
 92 nonprofit corporations that have agreed to assist the department
 93 with this program. If the contribution of the acquiring agency
 94 exceeds \$100 million in any one fiscal year, the agreement shall
 95 be submitted to and approved by the Legislative Budget
 96 Commission.

97 (8) Before approval by the board of trustees, or, when
 98 applicable, the Department of Environmental Protection, of any
 99 agreement to purchase land pursuant to this chapter, chapter
 100 259, chapter 260, or chapter 375, and before negotiations with

101 the parcel owner to purchase any other land, title to which will
 102 vest in the board of trustees, an appraisal of the parcel shall
 103 be required as follows:

104 (b) Each parcel to be acquired must ~~shall~~ have at least
 105 one appraisal. Two appraisals are required when the estimated
 106 value of the parcel exceeds \$5 ~~\$1~~ million. However, if both
 107 appraisals exceed \$5 ~~\$1~~ million and differ significantly, a
 108 third appraisal may be obtained. If a parcel is estimated to be
 109 worth \$100,000 or less and the director of the Division of State
 110 Lands finds that the cost of an outside appraisal is not
 111 justified, a comparable sales analysis, an appraisal prepared by
 112 the division, or other reasonably prudent procedures may be used
 113 by the division to estimate the value of the parcel, provided
 114 the public's interest is reasonably protected. The state is not
 115 required to appraise the value of lands and appurtenances that
 116 are being donated to the state.

117 (f) Appraisal reports are confidential and exempt from s.
 118 119.07(1), for use by the agency and the board of trustees,
 119 until an option contract is executed or, if no option contract
 120 is executed, until 2 weeks before a contract or agreement for
 121 purchase is considered for approval by the board of trustees.
 122 However, the Department of Environmental Protection shall ~~may~~
 123 disclose appraisal reports to private landowners or their
 124 representatives during negotiations for acquisitions ~~using~~
 125 ~~alternatives to fee simple techniques, if the department~~

126 ~~determines that disclosure of such reports will bring the~~
127 ~~proposed acquisition to closure. However, the private landowner~~
128 ~~must agree to maintain the confidentiality of the reports or~~
129 ~~information.~~ The department may also disclose appraisal
130 information to public agencies or nonprofit organizations that
131 agree to maintain the confidentiality of the reports or
132 information when joint acquisition of property is contemplated,
133 or when a public agency or nonprofit organization enters into a
134 written agreement with the department to purchase and hold
135 property for subsequent resale to the board of trustees. In
136 addition, the department may use, as its own, appraisals
137 obtained by a public agency or nonprofit organization, if the
138 appraiser is selected from the department's list of appraisers
139 and the appraisal is reviewed and approved by the department.
140 For purposes of this paragraph, the term "nonprofit
141 organization" means an organization that is exempt from federal
142 income tax under s. 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code and,
143 for purposes of the acquisition of conservation lands, an
144 organization whose purpose must include the preservation of
145 natural resources. The agency may release an appraisal report
146 when the passage of time has rendered the conclusions of value
147 in the report invalid or when the acquiring agency has
148 terminated negotiations.

149 (j)1. The board of trustees shall adopt by rule the method
150 for determining the value of parcels sought to be acquired by

151 state agencies pursuant to this section. An offer by a state
152 agency may not exceed the value for that parcel as determined
153 pursuant to the highest approved appraisal or the value
154 determined pursuant to the rules of the board of trustees,
155 whichever value is less.

156 2. The board of trustees or, when applicable, the
157 Department of Environmental Protection, may acquire parcels
158 pursuant to this chapter and chapter 259 for the full value of
159 that parcel as determined pursuant to the highest approved
160 appraisal.

161 ~~3.2.~~ For a joint acquisition by a state agency and a local
162 government or other entity apart from the state, the joint
163 purchase price may not exceed 150 percent of the value for a
164 parcel as determined in accordance with the limits in
165 subparagraph 1. The state agency share of a joint purchase offer
166 may not exceed what the agency may offer singly pursuant to
167 subparagraph 1.

168 ~~4.3.~~ This paragraph does not apply to the acquisition of
169 historically unique or significant property as determined by the
170 Division of Historical Resources of the Department of State.

171
172 Notwithstanding this subsection, on behalf of the board of
173 trustees and before the appraisal of parcels approved for
174 purchase under this chapter or chapter 259, the Secretary of
175 Environmental Protection or the director of the Division of

176 State Lands may enter into option contracts to buy such parcels.
 177 Any such option contract shall state that the final purchase
 178 price is subject to approval by the board of trustees or, if
 179 applicable, the Secretary of Environmental Protection, and that
 180 the final purchase price may not exceed the maximum offer
 181 allowed by law. Any such option contract presented to the board
 182 of trustees for final purchase price approval shall explicitly
 183 state that payment of the final purchase price is subject to an
 184 appropriation from the Legislature. The consideration for such
 185 an option may not exceed \$1,000 or 0.01 percent of the estimate
 186 by the department of the value of the parcel, whichever amount
 187 is greater.

188 Section 2. Subsections (2) and (7), paragraph (b) of
 189 subsection (8), and paragraph (d) of subsection (9) of section
 190 259.032, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

191 259.032 Conservation and recreation lands.—

192 (2) The Governor and Cabinet, sitting as the Board of
 193 Trustees of the Internal Improvement Trust Fund, may expend
 194 moneys appropriated by the Legislature to acquire the fee or any
 195 lesser interest in lands for any of the following public
 196 purposes:

197 (a) To conserve and protect environmentally unique and
 198 irreplaceable lands that contain native, relatively unaltered
 199 flora and fauna representing a natural area unique to, or scarce
 200 within, a region of this state or a larger geographic area;

201 (b) To conserve and protect lands within designated areas
 202 of critical state concern, if the proposed acquisition relates
 203 to the natural resource protection purposes of the designation;

204 (c) To conserve and protect native species habitat or
 205 endangered or threatened species, emphasizing long-term
 206 protection for endangered or threatened species designated G-1
 207 or G-2 by the Florida Natural Areas Inventory, and especially
 208 those areas that are special locations for breeding and
 209 reproduction;

210 (d) To conserve, protect, manage, or restore important
 211 ecosystems, landscapes, and forests, if the protection and
 212 conservation of such lands is necessary to enhance or protect
 213 significant surface water, groundwater, coastal, recreational,
 214 timber, or fish or wildlife resources which cannot otherwise be
 215 accomplished through local and state regulatory programs;

216 (e) To promote water resource development that benefits
 217 natural systems and citizens of the state;

218 (f) To facilitate the restoration and subsequent health
 219 and vitality of the Florida Everglades;

220 (g) To provide areas, including recreational trails, for
 221 natural resource-based recreation and other outdoor recreation
 222 on any part of any site compatible with conservation purposes;

223 (h) To preserve significant archaeological or historic
 224 sites;

225 (i) To conserve urban open spaces suitable for greenways
 226 or outdoor recreation which are compatible with conservation
 227 purposes; ~~or~~

228 (j) To preserve agricultural lands under threat of
 229 conversion to development through less-than-fee acquisitions; or

230 (k) To complete critical linkages through fee or less than
 231 fee acquisition that will help preserve and protect the green
 232 and blue infrastructure and vital habitat for wide-ranging
 233 wildlife, such as the Florida panther, within the Florida
 234 wildlife corridor as defined in s. 259.1055(4).

235 (7) (a) All lands managed under this chapter and s. 253.034
 236 must ~~shall~~ be:

237 1. (a) Managed in a manner that will provide the greatest
 238 combination of benefits to the public and to the resources.

239 2. (b) Managed for public outdoor recreation which is
 240 compatible with the conservation and protection of public lands.
 241 Such management may include, but not be limited to, the
 242 following public recreational uses: fishing, hunting, camping,
 243 bicycling, hiking, nature study, swimming, boating, canoeing,
 244 horseback riding, diving, model hobbyist activities, birding,
 245 sailing, jogging, and other related outdoor activities.

246 (b) (e) Concurrent with its adoption of the annual list of
 247 acquisition projects pursuant to s. 259.035, the board shall
 248 adopt a management prospectus for each project. The management
 249 prospectus shall delineate:

- 250 1. The management goals for the property;
- 251 2. The conditions that will affect the intensity of
- 252 management;
- 253 3. An estimate of the revenue-generating potential of the
- 254 property, if appropriate;
- 255 4. A timetable for implementing the various stages of
- 256 management and for providing access to the public, if
- 257 applicable;
- 258 5. A description of potential multiple-use activities as
- 259 described in this section and s. 253.034;
- 260 6. Provisions for protecting existing infrastructure and
- 261 for ensuring the security of the project upon acquisition;
- 262 7. The anticipated costs of management and projected
- 263 sources of revenue, including legislative appropriations, to
- 264 fund management needs; and
- 265 8. Recommendations as to how many employees will be needed
- 266 to manage the property, and recommendations as to whether local
- 267 governments, volunteer groups, the former landowner, or other
- 268 interested parties can be involved in the management.
- 269 ~~(c)-(d)~~ Concurrent with the approval of the acquisition
- 270 contract pursuant to s. 253.025(4) ~~s. 253.025(4)(e)~~ for any
- 271 interest in lands except those lands acquired pursuant to s.
- 272 259.1052, the board shall designate an agency or agencies to
- 273 manage such lands. The board shall evaluate and amend, as
- 274 appropriate, the management policy statement for the project as

275 provided by s. 259.035 to ensure that the policy statement is
276 compatible with conservation, recreation, or both. For any fee
277 simple acquisition of a parcel which is or will be leased back
278 for agricultural purposes, or any acquisition of a less than fee
279 interest in land that is or will be used for agricultural
280 purposes, the board shall first consider having a soil and water
281 conservation district, created pursuant to chapter 582, manage
282 and monitor such interests.

283 (d)~~(e)~~ State agencies designated to manage lands acquired
284 under this chapter or with funds deposited into the Land
285 Acquisition Trust Fund, except those lands acquired under s.
286 259.1052, may contract with local governments and soil and water
287 conservation districts to assist in management activities,
288 including the responsibility of being the lead land manager.
289 Such land management contracts may include a provision for the
290 transfer of management funding to the local government or soil
291 and water conservation district from the land acquisition trust
292 fund of the lead land managing agency in an amount adequate for
293 the local government or soil and water conservation district to
294 perform its contractual land management responsibilities and
295 proportionate to its responsibilities, and which otherwise would
296 have been expended by the state agency to manage the property.

297 (e)~~(f)~~ Immediately following the acquisition of any
298 interest in conservation and recreation lands, the department,
299 acting on behalf of the board, may issue to the lead managing

300 entity an interim assignment letter to be effective until the
301 execution of a formal lease.

302 (8)

303 (b) Individual management plans required by s. 253.034(5),
304 for parcels over 160 acres, shall be developed with input from
305 an advisory group. Members of this advisory group shall include,
306 at a minimum, representatives of the lead land managing agency,
307 comanaging entities, local private property owners, the
308 appropriate soil and water conservation district, a local
309 conservation organization, and a local elected official. If
310 habitat or potentially restorable habitat for imperiled species
311 is located on state lands, the Fish and Wildlife Conservation
312 Commission and the Department of Agriculture and Consumer
313 Services shall be included on any advisory group required under
314 chapter 253, and the short-term and long-term management goals
315 required under chapter 253 must advance the goals and objectives
316 of imperiled species management without restricting other uses
317 identified in the management plan. The advisory group shall
318 conduct at least one public hearing within the county in which
319 the parcel or project is located. For those parcels or projects
320 that are within more than one county, at least one areawide
321 public hearing shall be acceptable and the lead managing agency
322 shall invite a local elected official from each county. The
323 areawide public hearing shall be held in the county in which the
324 core parcels are located. Notice of such public hearing shall be

325 posted on the parcel or project designated for management,
326 advertised in a paper of general circulation, and announced at a
327 scheduled meeting of the local governing body before the actual
328 public hearing. The management prospectus required pursuant to
329 paragraph (7)(b) ~~(7)(e)~~ shall be available to the public for a
330 period of 30 days before the public hearing.

331 By July 1 of each year, each governmental agency and each
332 private entity designated to manage lands shall report to the
333 Secretary of Environmental Protection on the progress of
334 funding, staffing, and resource management of every project for
335 which the agency or entity is responsible.

336 (9)

337 (d) Up to one-fifth of the funds appropriated for the
338 purposes identified in paragraph (b) shall be reserved by the
339 board for interim management of acquisitions and for associated
340 contractual services, to ensure the conservation and protection
341 of natural resources on project sites and to allow limited
342 public recreational use of lands. Interim management activities
343 may include, but not be limited to, resource assessments,
344 control of invasive, nonnative species, habitat restoration,
345 fencing, law enforcement, controlled burning, and public access
346 consistent with preliminary determinations made pursuant to
347 paragraph (7)(e) ~~(7)(f)~~. The board shall make these interim
348 funds available immediately upon purchase.

349 Section 3. Paragraphs (i), (l), and (m) of subsection (3),

350 paragraph (a) of subsection (5), and paragraph (i) of subsection
351 (15) of section 259.105, Florida Statutes, are amended, and
352 paragraphs (g) and (h) are added to subsection (10) of that
353 section, to read:

354 259.105 The Florida Forever Act.—

355 (3) Less the costs of issuing and the costs of funding
356 reserve accounts and other costs associated with bonds, the
357 proceeds of cash payments or bonds issued pursuant to this
358 section shall be deposited into the Florida Forever Trust Fund
359 created by s. 259.1051. The proceeds shall be distributed by the
360 Department of Environmental Protection in the following manner:

361 (i) Three and five-tenths percent to the Department of
362 Agriculture and Consumer Services for the acquisition of
363 agricultural lands, through perpetual conservation easements and
364 other perpetual less than fee techniques, which will achieve the
365 objectives of Florida Forever and s. 570.71. Rules concerning
366 the application, acquisition, and priority ranking process for
367 such easements shall be developed pursuant to s. 570.71(10) and
368 as provided by this paragraph. The board shall ensure that such
369 rules are consistent with the acquisition process provided for
370 in s. 570.715. The rules developed pursuant to s. 570.71(10),
371 shall also provide for the following:

372 1. An annual priority list shall be developed pursuant to
373 s. 570.71(10), submitted to the council for review, and approved
374 by the board pursuant to s. 259.04. By March 1, 2024, the

375 Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services shall submit an
 376 updated priority list to the council. Any acquisitions for which
 377 funds have been obligated before July 1, 2023, to pay for an
 378 appraisal may not be impacted by the updated priority list.

379 2. Terms of easements and acquisitions proposed pursuant
 380 to this paragraph shall be approved by the board and may not be
 381 delegated by the board to any other entity receiving funds under
 382 this section.

383 3. All acquisitions pursuant to this paragraph shall
 384 contain a clear statement that they are subject to legislative
 385 appropriation.

386
 387 Funds provided under this paragraph may not be expended until
 388 final adoption of rules by the board pursuant to s. 570.71.

389 (1) For the purposes of paragraphs (e), (f), (g), and (h),
 390 the agencies that receive the funds shall develop their
 391 individual acquisition or restoration lists in accordance with
 392 specific criteria and numeric performance measures developed
 393 pursuant to s. 259.035(4). Proposed additions may be acquired if
 394 they are identified within the original project boundary, the
 395 management plan required pursuant to s. 253.034(5), or the
 396 management prospectus required pursuant to s. 259.032(7)(b) ~~s.~~
 397 ~~259.032(7)(c)~~. Proposed additions not meeting the requirements
 398 of this paragraph shall be submitted to the council for
 399 approval. The council may only approve the proposed addition if

400 it meets two or more of the following criteria: serves as a link
 401 or corridor to other publicly owned property; enhances the
 402 protection or management of the property; would add a desirable
 403 resource to the property; would create a more manageable
 404 boundary configuration; has a high resource value that otherwise
 405 would be unprotected; or can be acquired at less than fair
 406 market value.

407 ~~(m) Notwithstanding paragraphs (a) – (j) and for the 2021–~~
 408 ~~2022 fiscal year, the amount of \$1,998,100 to only the~~
 409 ~~Department of Environmental Protection for grants pursuant to s.~~
 410 ~~375.075. This paragraph expires July 1, 2022.~~

411 (5) (a) All lands acquired pursuant to this section shall
 412 be managed for multiple-use purposes, where compatible with the
 413 resource values of and management objectives for such lands. As
 414 used in this section, "multiple-use" includes, but is not
 415 limited to, outdoor recreational activities as described in ss.
 416 253.034 and 259.032(7) (a) 2. ~~259.032(7) (b)~~, water resource
 417 development projects, sustainable forestry management, carbon
 418 sequestration, carbon mitigation, or carbon offsets.

419 (10) The council shall give increased priority to:

420 (g) Projects in imminent danger of development, loss of
 421 significant natural attributes or recreational open space, or
 422 subdivision, which would result in multiple ownership and make
 423 acquisition of the project costly or less likely to be
 424 accomplished.

425 (h) Projects located within the Florida wildlife corridor
 426 as defined in s. 259.1055(4).

427 (15) The council shall submit to the board, with its list
 428 of projects, a report that includes, but need not be limited to,
 429 the following information for each project listed:

430 (i) A management policy statement for the project and a
 431 management prospectus pursuant to s. 259.032(7) (b) ~~s.~~
 432 ~~259.032(7) (c).~~

433 Section 4. Paragraph (b) of subsection (3) of section
 434 375.041, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

435 375.041 Land Acquisition Trust Fund.—

436 (3) Funds distributed into the Land Acquisition Trust Fund
 437 pursuant to s. 201.15 shall be applied:

438 (b) Of the funds remaining after the payments required
 439 under paragraph (a), but before funds may be appropriated,
 440 pledged, or dedicated for other uses:

441 1. A minimum of the lesser of 25 percent or \$200 million
 442 shall be appropriated annually for Everglades projects that
 443 implement the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan as set
 444 forth in s. 373.470, including the Central Everglades Planning
 445 Project subject to congressional authorization; the Long-Term
 446 Plan as defined in s. 373.4592(2); and the Northern Everglades
 447 and Estuaries Protection Program as set forth in s. 373.4595.
 448 From these funds, \$32 million shall be distributed each fiscal
 449 year through the 2023-2024 fiscal year to the South Florida

450 Water Management District for the Long-Term Plan as defined in
451 s. 373.4592(2). After deducting the \$32 million distributed
452 under this subparagraph, from the funds remaining, a minimum of
453 the lesser of 76.5 percent or \$100 million shall be appropriated
454 each fiscal year through the 2025-2026 fiscal year for the
455 planning, design, engineering, and construction of the
456 Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan as set forth in s.
457 373.470, including the Central Everglades Planning Project, the
458 Everglades Agricultural Area Storage Reservoir Project, the Lake
459 Okeechobee Watershed Project, the C-43 West Basin Storage
460 Reservoir Project, the Indian River Lagoon-South Project, the
461 Western Everglades Restoration Project, and the Picayune Strand
462 Restoration Project. The Department of Environmental Protection
463 and the South Florida Water Management District shall give
464 preference to those Everglades restoration projects that reduce
465 harmful discharges of water from Lake Okeechobee to the St.
466 Lucie or Caloosahatchee estuaries in a timely manner. For the
467 purpose of performing the calculation provided in this
468 subparagraph, the amount of debt service paid pursuant to
469 paragraph (a) for bonds issued after July 1, 2016, for the
470 purposes set forth under this paragraph shall be added to the
471 amount remaining after the payments required under paragraph
472 (a). The amount of the distribution calculated shall then be
473 reduced by an amount equal to the debt service paid pursuant to
474 paragraph (a) on bonds issued after July 1, 2016, for the

475 | purposes set forth under this subparagraph.

476 | 2. A minimum of the lesser of 7.6 percent or \$50 million
 477 | shall be appropriated annually for spring restoration,
 478 | protection, and management projects. For the purpose of
 479 | performing the calculation provided in this subparagraph, the
 480 | amount of debt service paid pursuant to paragraph (a) for bonds
 481 | issued after July 1, 2016, for the purposes set forth under this
 482 | paragraph shall be added to the amount remaining after the
 483 | payments required under paragraph (a). The amount of the
 484 | distribution calculated shall then be reduced by an amount equal
 485 | to the debt service paid pursuant to paragraph (a) on bonds
 486 | issued after July 1, 2016, for the purposes set forth under this
 487 | subparagraph.

488 | 3. The sum of \$5 million shall be appropriated annually
 489 | each fiscal year through the 2025-2026 fiscal year to the St.
 490 | Johns River Water Management District for projects dedicated to
 491 | the restoration of Lake Apopka. This distribution shall be
 492 | reduced by an amount equal to the debt service paid pursuant to
 493 | paragraph (a) on bonds issued after July 1, 2016, for the
 494 | purposes set forth in this subparagraph.

495 | 4. The sum of \$64 million is appropriated and shall be
 496 | transferred to the Everglades Trust Fund for the 2018-2019
 497 | fiscal year, and each fiscal year thereafter, for the EAA
 498 | reservoir project pursuant to s. 373.4598. Any funds remaining
 499 | in any fiscal year shall be made available only for Phase II of

500 the C-51 reservoir project or projects identified in
 501 subparagraph 1. and must be used in accordance with laws
 502 relating to such projects. Any funds made available for such
 503 purposes in a fiscal year are in addition to the amount
 504 appropriated under subparagraph 1. This distribution shall be
 505 reduced by an amount equal to the debt service paid pursuant to
 506 paragraph (a) on bonds issued after July 1, 2017, for the
 507 purposes set forth in this subparagraph.

508 5. The sum of \$50 million shall be appropriated annually
 509 to the South Florida Water Management District for the Lake
 510 Okeechobee Watershed Restoration Project in accordance with s.
 511 373.4599. This distribution must be reduced by an amount equal
 512 to the debt service paid pursuant to paragraph (a) on bonds
 513 issued after July 1, 2021, for the purposes set forth in this
 514 subparagraph.

515 6. The sum of \$100 million shall be appropriated annually
 516 to the Department of Environmental Protection for the
 517 acquisition of land pursuant to s. 259.105 ~~Notwithstanding~~
 518 ~~subparagraph 3., for the 2022-2023 fiscal year, funds shall be~~
 519 ~~appropriated as provided in the General Appropriations Act. This~~
 520 ~~subparagraph expires July 1, 2023.~~

521 Section 5. Subsection (10) of section 570.71, Florida
 522 Statutes, is amended, and subsection (14) is added to that
 523 section, to read:

524 570.71 Conservation easements and agreements.-

525 (10) The department, in consultation with the Department
 526 of Environmental Protection, the water management districts, the
 527 Department of Economic Opportunity, and the Florida Fish and
 528 Wildlife Conservation Commission, shall adopt rules that
 529 establish an application process; ~~a process and criteria for~~
 530 setting priorities for use of funds consistent with the purposes
 531 specified in subsection (1) and giving preference to ranch and
 532 timber lands managed using sustainable practices, lands in
 533 imminent danger of development or degradation, or lands within
 534 the Florida wildlife corridor as defined in s. 259.1055(4); an
 535 appraisal process; ~~and a process for title review and~~
 536 compliance and approval of the rules by the Board of Trustees of
 537 the Internal Improvement Trust Fund.

538 (14) Notwithstanding any other law or rule, the department
 539 shall submit a purchase agreement authorized by this section to
 540 the Board of Trustees of the Internal Improvement Trust Fund for
 541 approval only if the purchase price exceeds \$5 million.

542 Section 6. Paragraph (b) of subsection (1) and subsection
 543 (5) of section 570.715, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

544 570.715 Conservation easement acquisition procedures.—

545 (1) For less than fee simple acquisitions pursuant to s.
 546 570.71, the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services
 547 shall comply with the following acquisition procedures:

548 (b) Before approval by the board of trustees of an
 549 agreement to purchase less than fee simple title to land

550 pursuant to s. 570.71, an appraisal of the parcel shall be
 551 required as follows:

552 1. Each parcel to be acquired shall have at least one
 553 appraisal. Two appraisals are required when the estimated value
 554 of the parcel exceeds \$5 ~~\$1~~ million. However, when both
 555 appraisals exceed \$5 ~~\$1~~ million and differ significantly, a
 556 third appraisal may be obtained.

557 2. Appraisal fees and associated costs shall be paid by
 558 the department. All appraisals used for the acquisition of less
 559 than fee simple interest in lands pursuant to this section shall
 560 be prepared by a state-certified appraiser who meets the
 561 standards and criteria established by rule of the board of
 562 trustees. Each appraiser selected to appraise a particular
 563 parcel shall, before contracting with the department or a
 564 participant in a multiparty agreement, submit to the department
 565 or participant an affidavit substantiating that he or she has no
 566 vested or fiduciary interest in such parcel.

567 (5) Appraisal reports are confidential and exempt from s.
 568 119.07(1), for use by the department and the board of trustees,
 569 until an option contract is executed or, if an option contract
 570 is not executed, until 2 weeks before a contract or agreement
 571 for purchase is considered for approval by the board of
 572 trustees. However, the department shall ~~has the authority, at~~
 573 ~~its discretion, to~~ disclose appraisal reports to private
 574 landowners or their representatives during negotiations for

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575 | ~~acquisitions using alternatives to fee simple techniques, if the~~
576 | ~~department determines that disclosure of such reports will bring~~
577 | ~~the proposed acquisition to closure.~~ The department may also
578 | disclose appraisal information to public agencies or nonprofit
579 | organizations that agree to maintain the confidentiality of the
580 | reports or information when joint acquisition of property is
581 | contemplated, or when a public agency or nonprofit organization
582 | enters into a written multiparty agreement with the department.
583 | For purposes of this subsection, the term "nonprofit
584 | organization" means an organization whose purposes include the
585 | preservation of natural resources, and which is exempt from
586 | federal income tax under s. 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue
587 | Code. The department may release an appraisal report when the
588 | passage of time has rendered the conclusions of value in the
589 | report invalid or when the department has terminated
590 | negotiations.

591 | Section 7. This act shall take effect July 1, 2023.