

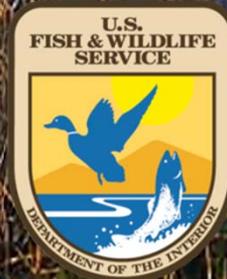
# **Environmental Assessment**

# **Strazzulla Public Use**

# **Recreational Opportunities**

**For**

**Arthur R. Marshall Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge**  
**Palm Beach County, Florida**

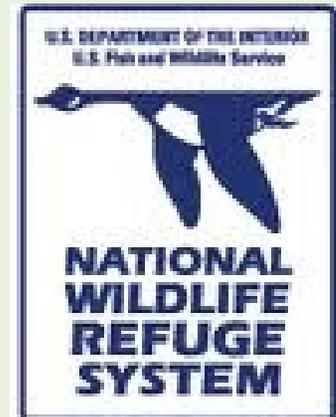


# Arthur R. Marshall Loxahatchee NWR

## National Wildlife Refuge System Mission:

“To administer a national network of lands and waters for the **conservation, management, and** where appropriate, **restoration of the fish, wildlife, and plant resources and their habitats** within the United States for the benefit of present and future generations of Americans.”

“...working with others to conserve, protect, and enhance fish and wildlife and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people.”



(Photo: USFWS, Sarah Martinez)





# Arthur R. Marshall Loxahatchee NWR Public Use Opportunities

The National Wildlife Refuge Improvement Act of 1997 identifies six priority public uses that are appropriate on National Wildlife Refuges, including hunting, fishing, wildlife observation, wildlife photography, environmental interpretation, and environmental education.

(Photo: USFWS, Sarah Martinez)



# Arthur R. Marshall Loxahatchee NWR

## Refuge includes:

- Interior marsh, canal (141,374 ac): Water Conservation Area 1
- Other (2,550 ac): Visitor center, several impoundments, public use areas, Compartment D

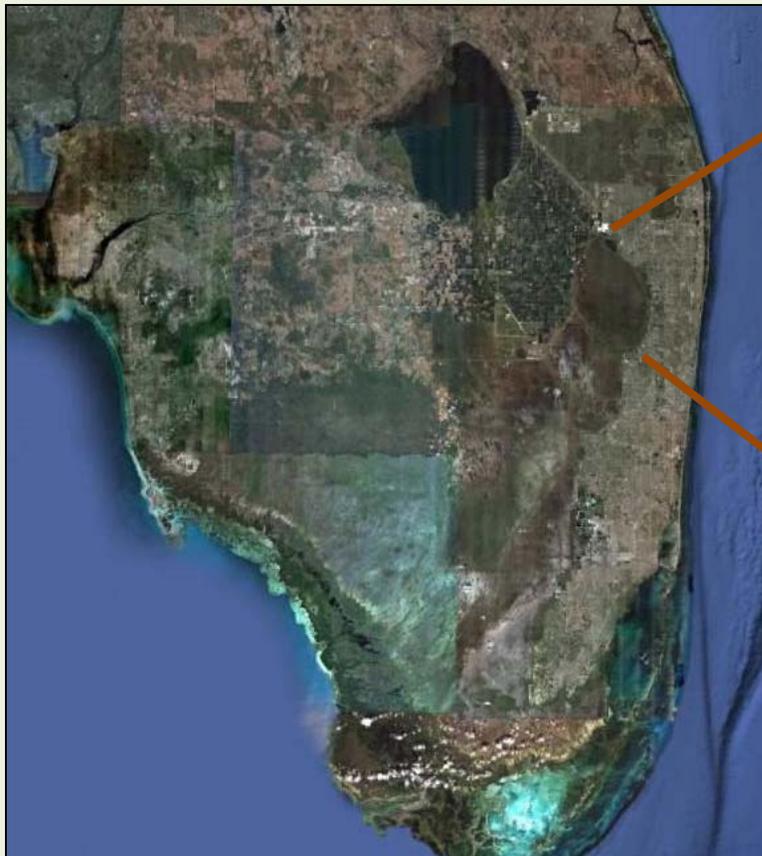
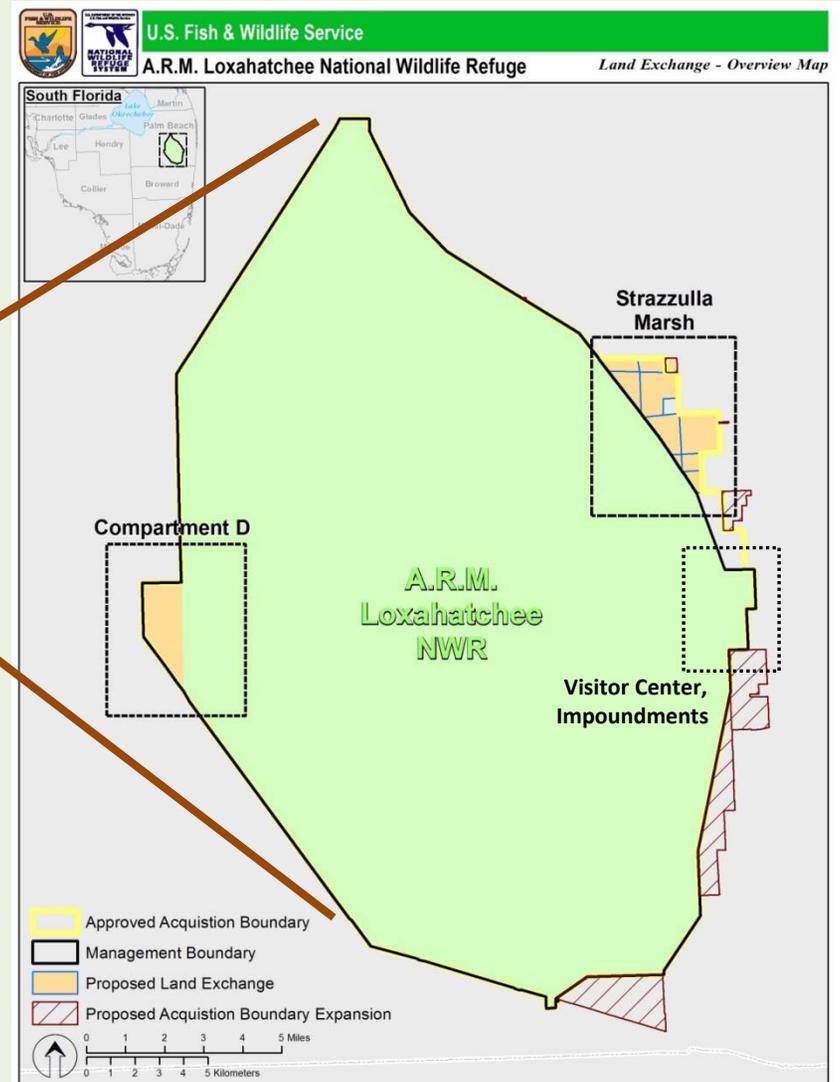


Photo credit: GoogleEarth



# Arthur R. Marshall Loxahatchee NWR

## Land exchange:

- Compartment D (1,327 acres)
- Strazzulla Marsh (2,586 acres).

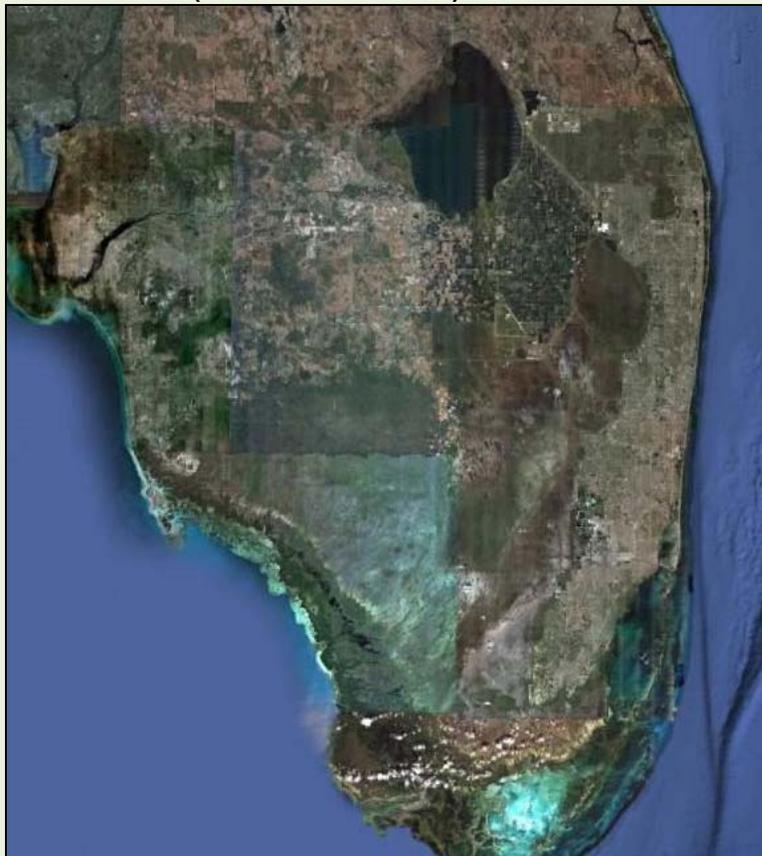
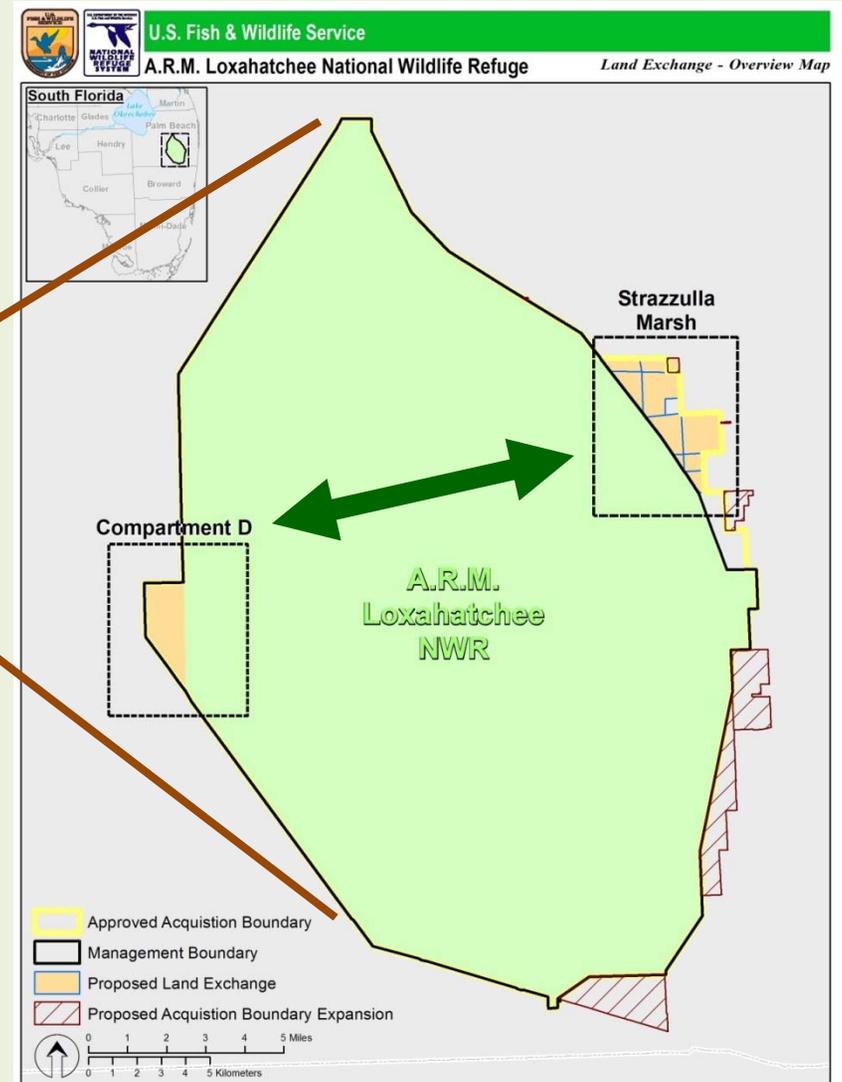


Photo credit: GoogleEarth



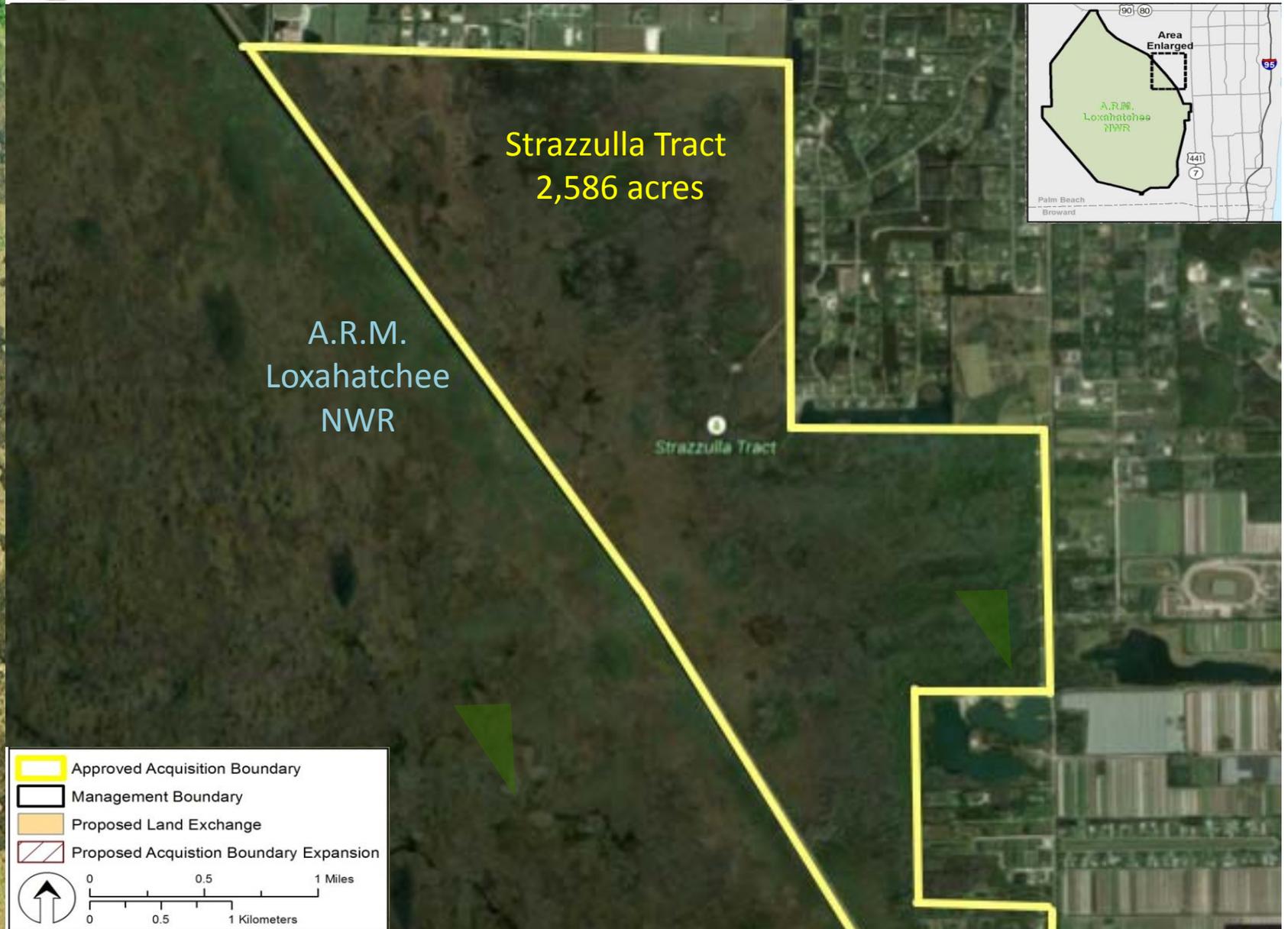
# Strazzula Marsh

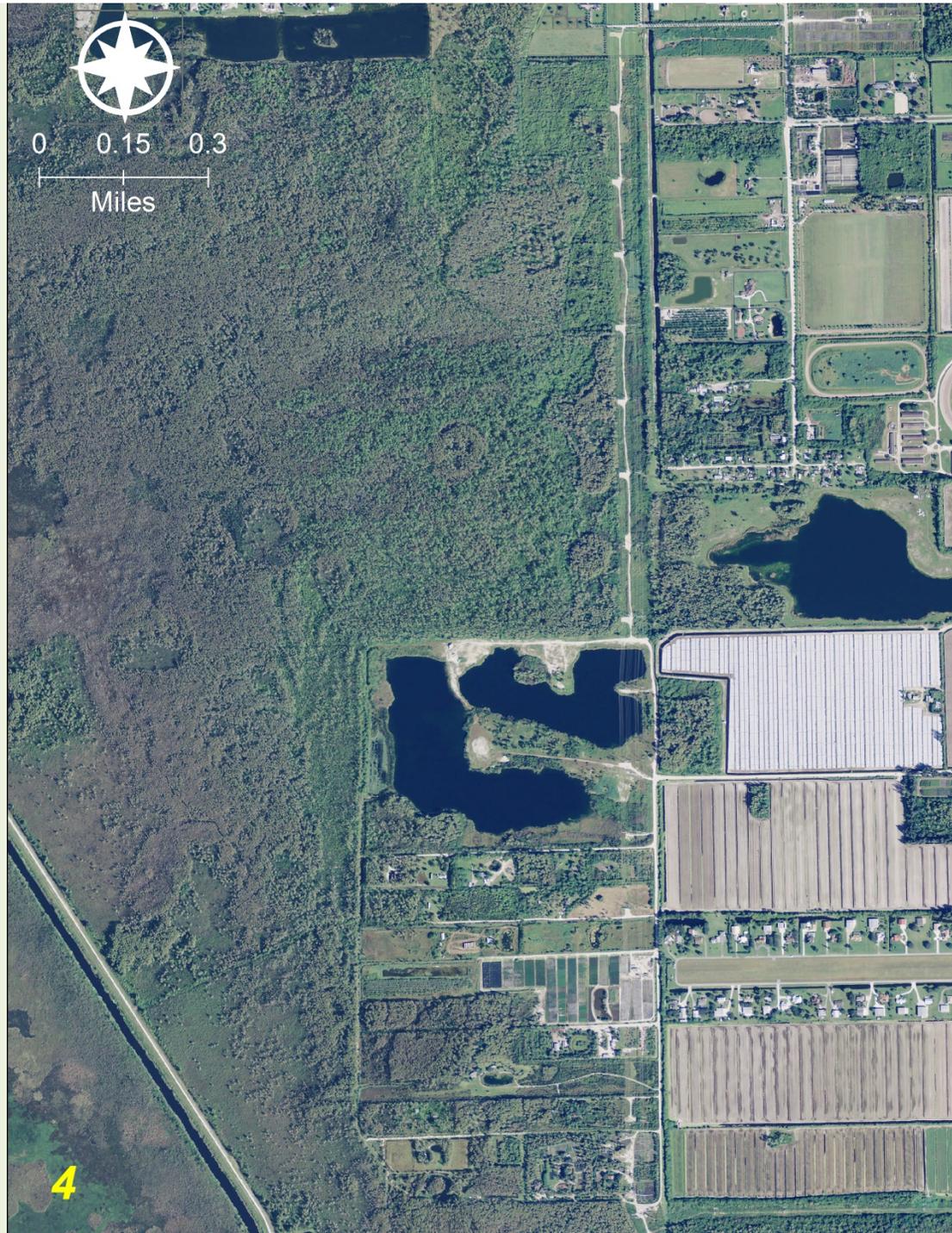
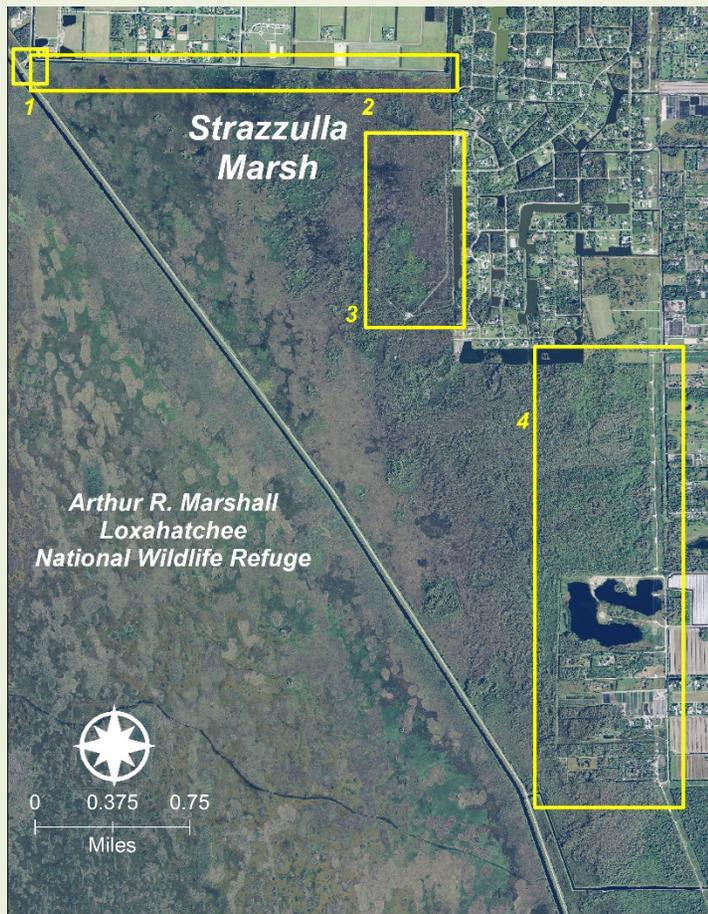


U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

A.R.M. Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge

Land Exchange - Strazzula Marsh





# Environmental Assessment Alternatives

- Alternative A
  - No Action – No Public Use Opportunities.
- Alternative B – Proposed Alternative.
  - Interpretation, Environmental Education, Wildlife Observation, Photography, Hiking, Bicycling, Hunting, Youth Camping, Fishing Pier in L-40 Canal, Canoe/Kayak Launch in L-40 Canal, Horseback Riding, Scientific Research and Monitoring.
- Alternative C
  - Primitive Camping for the general public.

Strazzulla Marsh (Photo: USFWS, Sarah Martinez)



Compartment D (Photo: USFWS)



# Possible Public Opportunities

- **Interpretation and environmental education**
- **Wildlife Observation And Photography**
  - Photo Blinds.
  - Observation Tower.
  - Boardwalks.
- **Hiking**
  - On existing roads and trails.
  - On Boardwalks.
- **Bicycling**
  - On existing roads and trails.
  - Not on Boardwalks.

(Photo: USFWS, Sarah Martinez)



# Possible Public Opportunities

- **Hunting.**
  - Deer and Hog only.
  - Follow Fish and Wildlife Commission (FWC) regulations but more restrictive.
  - Archery season and crossbow only. **No firearms or muzzleloaders allowed.**
  - Minimum of 2, four day hunts. One in early archery season, other in late general season.
  - Maximum number of days would not exceed those allowed by FWC for this zone.
- **Hunting opportunities will be implemented no sooner than 18 months from date of land exchange.**

(Photo: USFWS, Sarah Martinez)



# Possible Public Opportunities

- **Fishing Pier in L-40 Canal.**
  - In the L-40 canal near Acme 2.
  - ADA Accessible.
  - Dependent on a parking area and access across SFWMD and Village of Wellington property.
- **Fishing**
  - Currently allowed along the L-40 Levee and L-40 canal.
  - Along the northern edge of Strazzulla and near Acme 2. Most of this will be on Village of Wellington or Acme Drainage District Property.
  - Dependent on Village of Wellington and/or Acme Drainage District partnership.

(Photo: USFWS, Sarah Martinez)



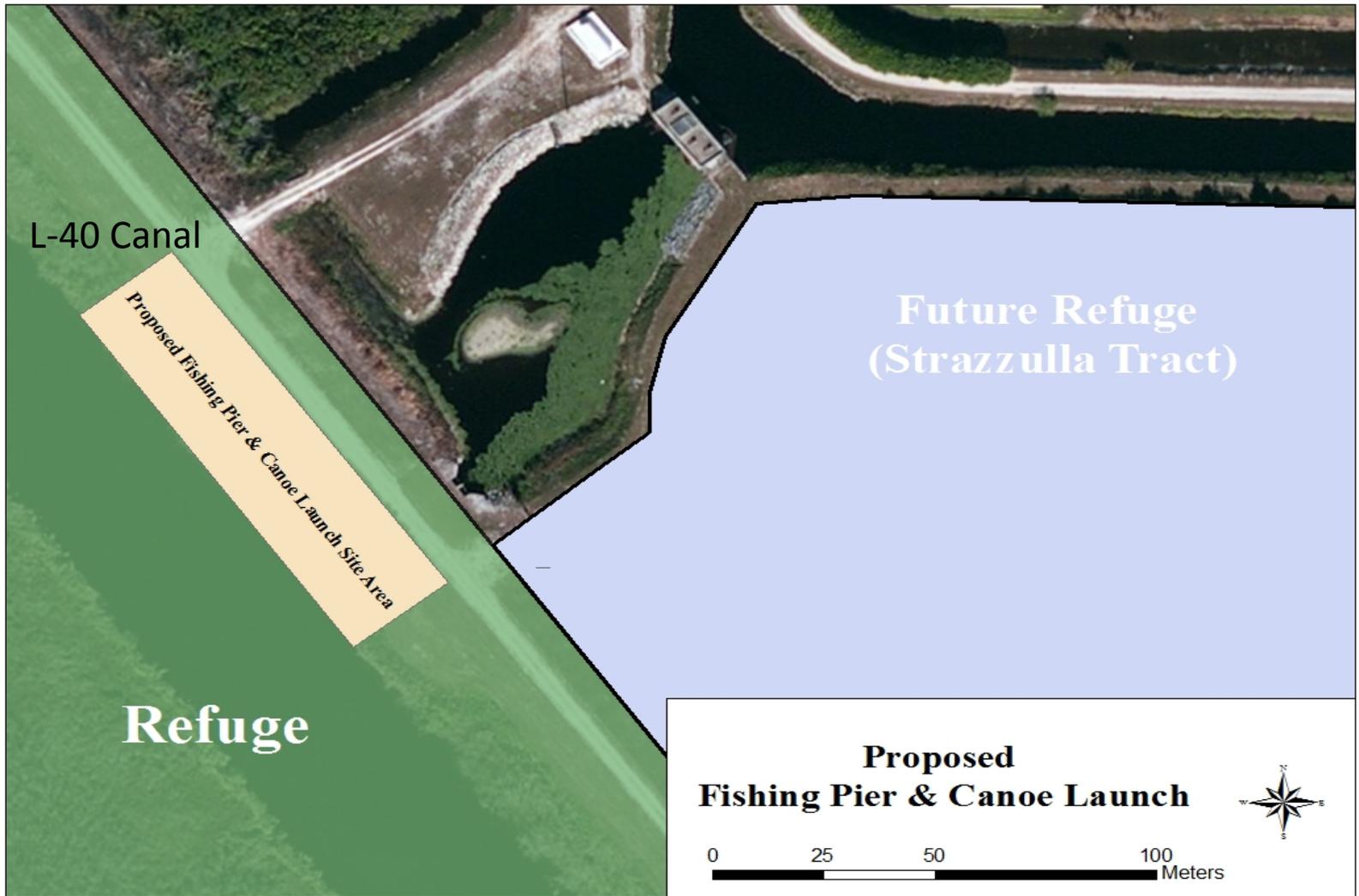
# Possible Public Opportunities

- **Canoe/Kayak Launch in the L-40 Canal.**
  - In the L-40 canal near Acme 2.
  - ADA Accessible.
  - Dependent on a parking area and access across SFWMD and Village of Wellington Property.
- **Youth Camping**
  - Very primitive camping for youth groups, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, Junior R.O.T.C. Boys and Girls Club, etc.
  - No developed facilities provided for this type of camping.

(Photo: USFWS, Sarah Martinez)



# Proposed Fishing Pier/Boat Launch



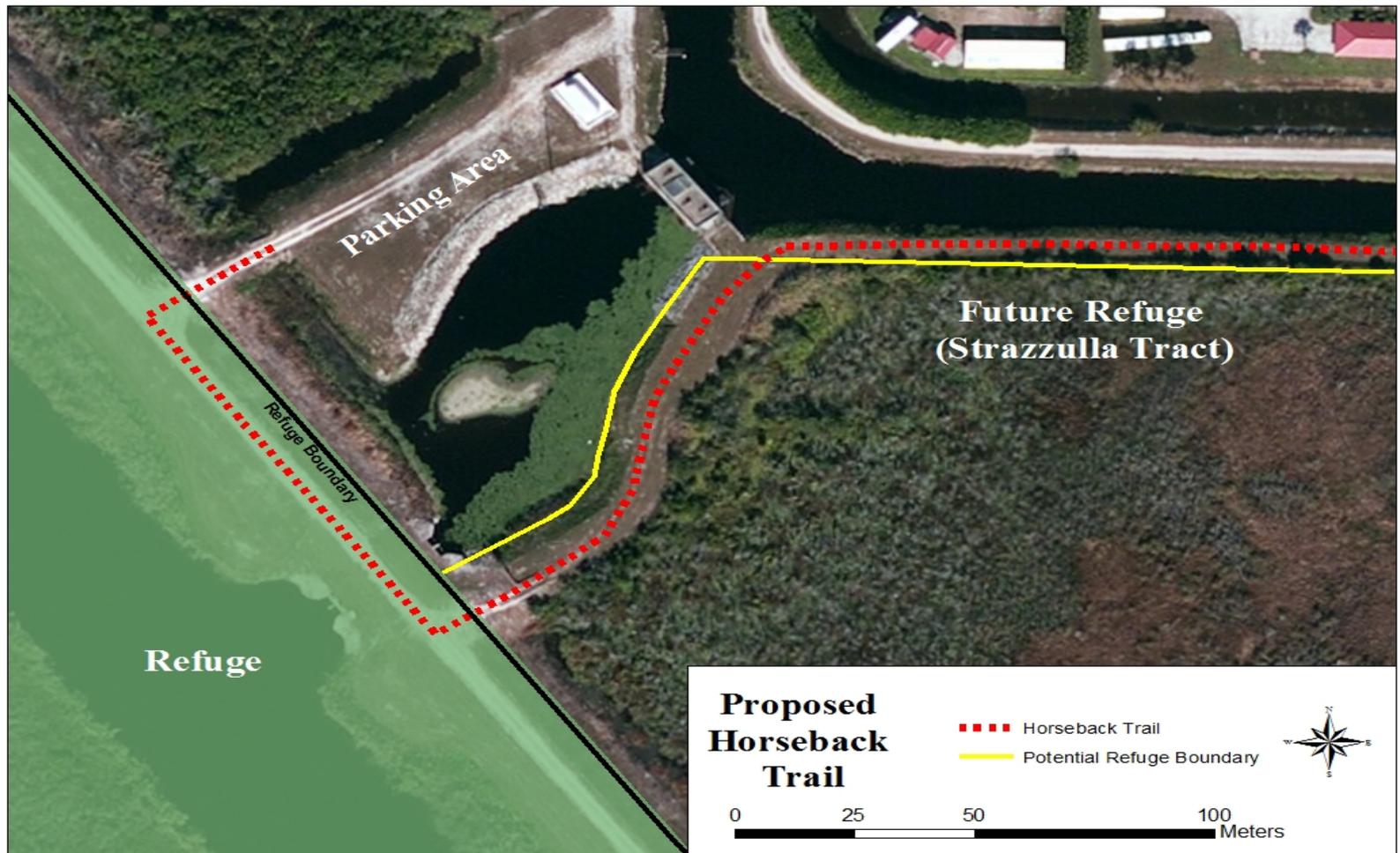
# Possible Public Opportunities

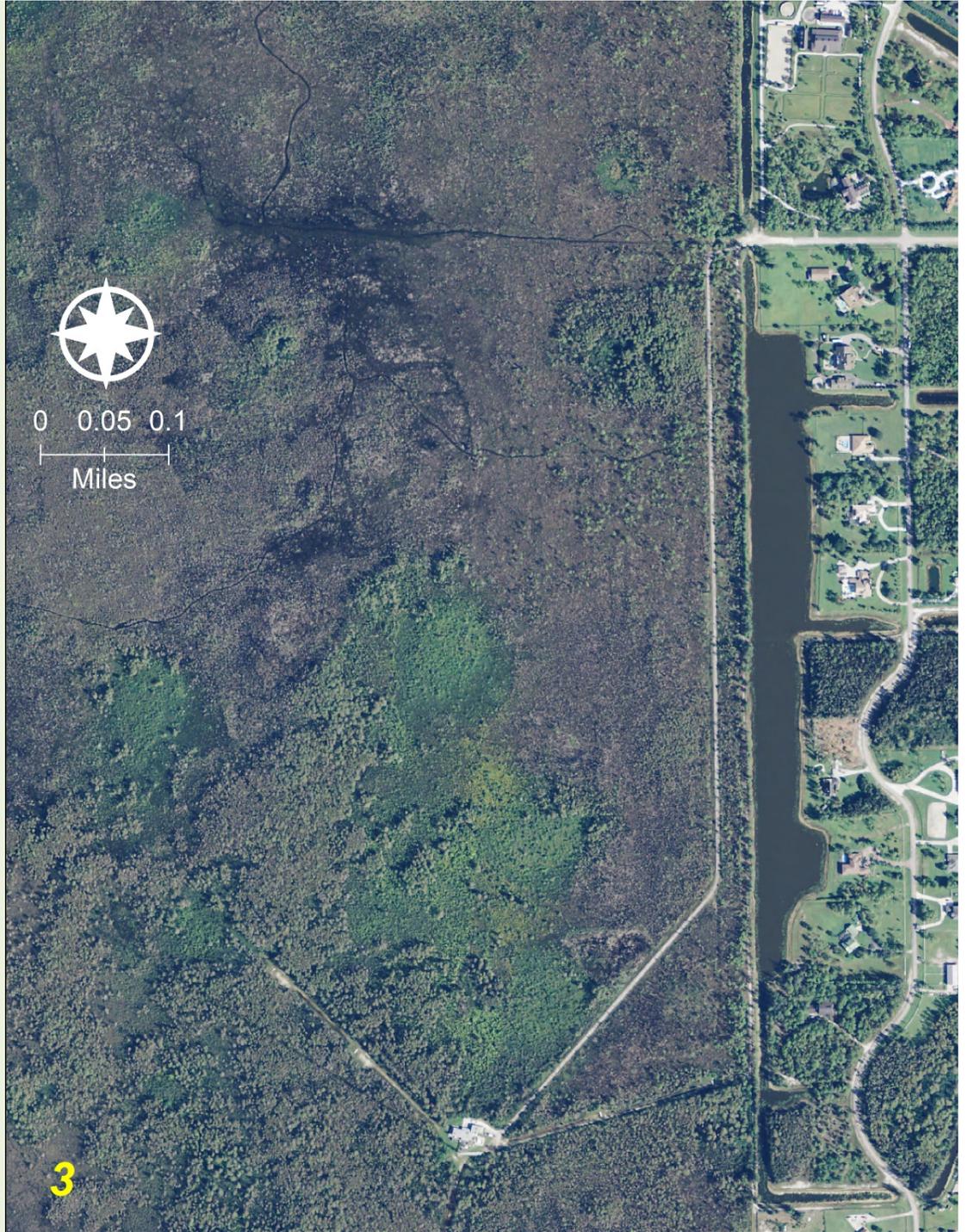
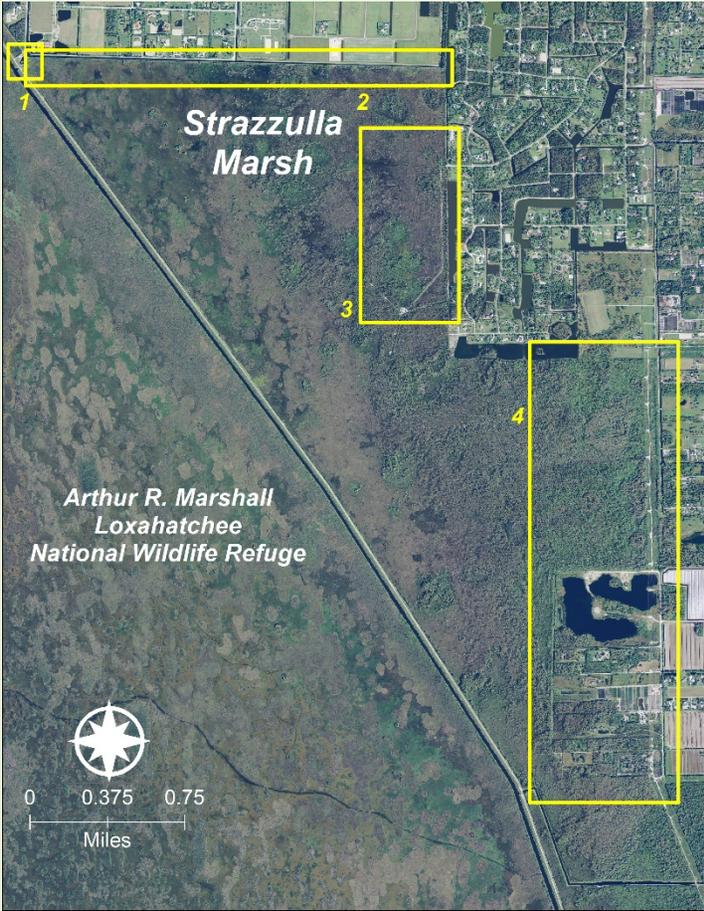
- **Horseback Riding.**
  - Starting at Acme 2.
  - Dependent on a parking area and access across SFWMD and Village of Wellington property.
  - Along the Northern edge of Strazzulla. Most of this will be on Village of Wellington or Acme Drainage District property.
  - Dependent on Village of Wellington and/or Acme Drainage District.
- **Scientific Research and Monitoring.**
  - Strazzulla will open to approved and permitted scientific research and monitoring.
  - Research and monitoring would be conducted and approved in a manner consistent with the rest of the Refuge.

(Photo: USFWS, Sarah Martinez)



# Proposed Equestrian Trail





# Recreational Uses Public Meeting

- *Comment period ending September 25, 2015.*
- *Final Approved Plan by **January 29, 2016.***
- *Implementation as funding allows.*
- *Download EA from:*  
<http://www.fws.gov/southeast/planning/EA/StrazullaPublicUseDraft.html>

Strazulla Marsh (Photo: USFWS, Sarah Martinez)



Compartment D (Photo: USFWS)



# Public Comments

## Strazzulla Marsh Environmental Assessment for Public Use Opportunities

Send Comments to:  
Steve Henry, Deputy Project Leader  
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
Arthur R. Marshall Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge  
10216 Lee Road, Boynton Beach, Florida 33473  
[Steven\\_S\\_Henry@fws.gov](mailto:Steven_S_Henry@fws.gov)

