

**National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior**

**Everglades National Park
Florida**



Acquisition of Florida Power & Light Company Land
in the East Everglades Expansion Area
Draft Environmental Impact Statement - Project Summary Package

February 19, 2014

To supplement the information provided in the meeting posters and presentation, the NPS has compiled several items in this information packet:

- two maps depicting the project area and the corridors being discussed (figures 4 and 5 from the DEIS);
- a summary table of each alternative (table 1 from the DEIS);
- an analysis of how each alternative meets the project objectives (table 2 from the DEIS); and
- a summary table of impacts from the NPS acquisition action, and the associated transmission line scenario, for each resource and alternative. (This is an abbreviated version of table 3 from the DEIS, with major adverse impacts noted in red and beneficial impacts in green. Cumulative impacts are not addressed in this condensed version. A fully detailed summary of impacts can be found in Chapter 4 of the DEIS.)

As a reminder, the NPS will be collecting comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement until March 18th. Electronic comments will be accepted through the NPS Planning, Environment and Public Comment website at: www.parkingplanning.gov/ever. All project information, including an electronic copy of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement document, is also available on this site. Written comments may be mailed to: (TBD, pending feedback from NPS).

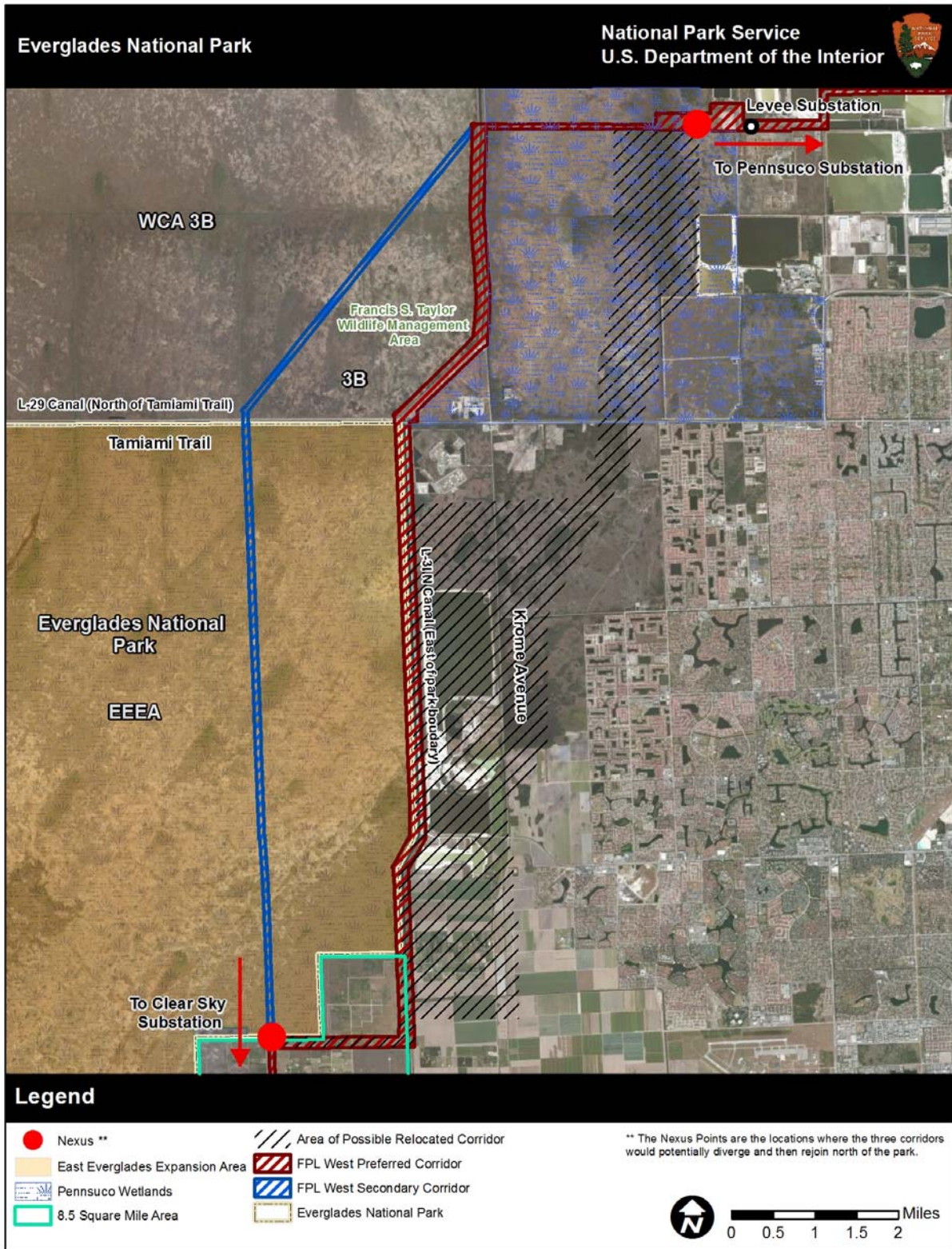
Your comments on the document and input on the alternatives will be greatly appreciated!

Summary of the Alternatives

Alternative 1a: No NPS Action – No FPL Construction	Alternative 1b: No NPS Action – FPL Construction in the Park*	Alternative 2: NPS Acquisition of FPL Land	Alternative 3: Fee for Fee Land Exchange	Alternative 4: Easement for Fee Land Exchange	Alternative 5: Perpetual Flowage Easement on FPL Property*
Action Taken by the NPS					
No action would be taken to acquire the FPL property (the 7.5-mile-long corridor) or a flowage easement on it within the boundary of the park.	No action would be taken to acquire the FPL property (the 7.5-mile-long corridor) within the boundary of the park or a flowage easement on it.	The FPL property within the boundary of the park would be acquired in fee.	The FPL property within the boundary of the park would be acquired in fee in exchange for giving FPL fee title ownership of the exchange corridor, and an adjacent 90-foot wide vegetation management easement.	The FPL property within the boundary of the park would be acquired in fee in exchange for giving FPL an easement for potential construction of transmission lines in the exchange corridor, and an adjacent 90-foot wide vegetation management easement.	The NPS would obtain a perpetual flowage easement over the FPL property within the boundary of the park that would allow for sufficient flow to support ecosystem restoration projects.
Terms and Conditions Linked to the Action					
None.	None.	None.	Terms and conditions would be established to protect park resources and values (see appendix G). These would potentially allow for other utility-related facilities (such as pipelines and communication facilities), in addition to electric transmission lines and appurtenant facilities, because FPL would own the property.	Terms and conditions would be established to protect park resources and values (see appendix H). These would be similar to those under alternative 3, but would differ in that allowable utility-related facilities would be limited to electric transmission lines and appurtenant facilities. NPS would retain approval rights for a number of FPL's stewardship plans for the FPL Utility Easement Area.	Terms would be incorporated in the perpetual flowage easement to ensure adequate flowage for resource protection.

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Gain or Loss of NPS Property within Everglades National Park					
None.	None.	NPS gain of 320 acres in the former FPL corridor location.	NPS gain of 320 acres in the former FPL corridor location, and a loss of 260 acres in the exchange corridor – net NPS gain of 60 acres.	NPS gain of 320 acres in the former FPL corridor location; no loss of property in the exchange corridor, but loss of unencumbered use where transmission lines could be built.	None.
Flowage in the EEEA					
No long-term flowage easement over the FPL property would be executed. Result: no additional flowage would be allowed over the EEEA.	No long-term flowage easement over the FPL property would be executed. Result: no additional flowage would be allowed over the EEEA.	Long-term additional flowage could occur over the EEEA, because the NPS would own the land.	Lands conveyed to FPL would be subject to a perpetual flowage easement as a condition of the exchange. FPL would allow the United States the right to flood and submerge lands conveyed to FPL consistent with hydrologic restoration requirements.	The FPL Utility Easement Area would be subject to a perpetual flowage easement as a condition of the exchange. The United States would retain the right to flood and submerge this area consistent with hydrologic restoration requirements.	Perpetual flowage easement over the FPL property would allow the United States the right to flood and submerge this area consistent with hydrologic restoration requirements.

*These scenarios could result if FPL were able to secure all federal, state, and local permits necessary to construct transmission lines, fill pads, and access roads in the West Secondary Corridor. Based on FPL's withdrawal of the West Secondary Corridor from its application for site certification and from its application for a Section 404 permit, this scenario is less likely than before; however it is included to provide a full range of alternatives and assessment of impacts.



Project Area



Everglades National Park Showing Various Corridors and Areas Addressed in Alternatives 1–5

SUMMARY OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES (IMPACTS)*

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HYDROLOGY					
<p>NPS action - Long-term indirect major adverse impacts because NPS would be unable to increase water levels in the NESRS, preventing restoration on a regional scale and obstructing implementation of regional ecosystem restoration activities.</p> <p>Transmission lines - no impacts (no transmission assumed)</p>	<p>NPS action - long-term indirect major adverse impacts, same as alternative 1a.</p> <p>Transmission lines - long-term major adverse impacts, because of the disruption of sheetflows due to construction of transmission lines and access roads and forcing of water through the culverts, and the likelihood that there would be reduced hydroperiods downstream of the culverts.</p> <p>Also localized long-term negligible to minor adverse impacts and short-term moderate adverse impacts related to small to large-scale interrupted hydrologic processes that would occur during construction.</p>	<p>NPS action - long-term indirect beneficial impacts because acquisition and change in ownership would provide additional protection to the land and NPS could allow the enhanced flows across the corridor called for in the ecosystem restoration plans.</p> <p>Transmission lines - short- and long-term negligible to moderate impacts in the area of possible relocated corridor from construction and temporary blockage of flow across the corridor, and longer-term fragmentation of the hydrologic processes around the new transmission lines. Impacts from transmission line construction inside the park would be avoided.</p>	<p>NPS action – substantial indirect long-term beneficial impacts from the ability to increase water levels across the acquired FPL property and implement flow-related ecosystem restoration activities.</p> <p>Transmission lines – Long term moderate adverse impacts. The transmission lines would be located adjacent to the L-31N levee, so impacts on hydrology throughout the NESRS would be less than if the lines were built in the existing FPL corridor further west. The hydroperiod would be maintained, but sheetflow patterns would be disrupted by the transmission line platforms. Localized long-term negligible to minor adverse impacts at the culverts where water is channelized and scour could occur. Short-term minor to moderate adverse construction-related impacts related to small to large-scale interrupted hydrologic processes.</p>	<p>NPS action - indirect long-term beneficial impacts, same as alternative 3.</p> <p>Transmission lines - Long-term moderate adverse impacts similar to alternative 3. Localized long-term negligible to minor adverse impacts at the culverts where water is channelized and scour could occur. Short-term minor to moderate adverse construction-related impacts related to small to large-scale interrupted hydrologic processes would also occur.</p>	<p>NPS action – substantial indirect long-term beneficial impacts from the easement and the ability for the NPS to increase water levels across the FPL property and implement flow-related ecosystem restoration activities.</p> <p>Transmission lines - long-term minor to major adverse impacts, similar to alternative 1b with localized negligible to minor adverse impacts related to scour around the culverts, and short-term moderate adverse construction-related impacts related to small to large-scale interrupted hydrologic processes.</p>
WATER QUALITY					
<p>NPS action - Long-term indirect minor adverse impacts from the absence of a flowage easement that would prevent or delay implementation of flow-dependent ecosystem restoration projects.</p> <p>Transmission lines – no impacts (no transmission line construction assumed)</p>	<p>NPS action - long-term indirect minor adverse impacts, same as alternative 1a.</p> <p>Transmission lines - long-term major adverse impacts because construction of the transmission lines without a flowage easement in the FPL corridor would permanently hinder the implementation and success of ecosystem restoration projects. There would also be short-term minor to moderate adverse impacts related to construction activities.</p>	<p>NPS action - long-term beneficial impacts because acquisition of the FPL corridor would allow the flow of additional water across the property.</p> <p>Transmission lines - similar to, but less intense than those described under alternative 1b with indirect, long-term negligible to minor adverse, and short-term negligible to minor adverse for construction activities. Impacts from transmission line construction inside the park would be avoided.</p>	<p>NPS action - long-term beneficial impacts as the result of being able to accommodate enhanced restoration flows, and placing a large area of connected land into NPS ownership, allowing for management of park resources, including water quality, consistently with park objectives.</p> <p>Transmission lines - long-term minor adverse impacts, and short-term minor to moderate adverse impacts. Impacts would be similar in nature to those discussed under alternatives 1b and 2 related to the construction of transmission lines in the FPL West Preferred Corridor.</p>	<p>NPS action - long-term beneficial impacts. Same as alternative 3 except no other utilities could be built in the corridor, which would lessen the risk of additional water quality impacts.</p> <p>Transmission lines - long-term minor adverse impacts, and short-term minor to moderate adverse impacts, same as alternative 3.</p>	<p>NPS action - long-term beneficial impacts from the flowage easement.</p> <p>Transmission lines - long-term major adverse impacts, and short-term minor to moderate adverse impacts related to the construction, similar to alternative 1b, although increased flows would attenuate some of these adverse impacts downstream of the culverts and transmission lines.</p>

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SOILS					
<p>NPS action - Long-term indirect major adverse impacts because of the lack of additional flowage and resultant loss of peat soils.</p> <p>Transmission lines – no impacts (no transmission line construction assumed)</p>	<p>NPS action - long-term indirect major adverse impacts - same as alternative 1a</p> <p>Transmission lines - long-term major adverse impacts from a permanent loss of about 182 acres of soils (180 in wetlands) including 89 acres in the park; also short- and long-term minor to moderate adverse impacts from construction, and negligible impacts from line maintenance.</p>	<p>NPS action - long-term indirect beneficial impacts from the acquisition itself and the ability to increase water levels over the area, which contributes to the development of soils.</p> <p>Transmission lines - long-term moderate adverse impacts from transmission line construction east of the park, which would result in the loss of about 164 acres of soils (107 in wetlands) outside the park. The severity of impacts would depend on where the transmission lines were located within the area of possible relocated corridor, and some soils in this area have been disturbed, drained, or cleared of vegetation. Impacts on soils would be greater along the eastern/ northern portions of the area and reduced along the western/ southern portions. There would also be minor adverse impacts on designated unique farmland soils in the southern portion of the route outside the park. Impacts from transmission line construction inside the park would be avoided.</p>	<p>NPS action - long-term indirect beneficial impacts from having all the EEEA under NPS ownership, resulting in the ability to go forward with Everglades ecosystem restoration projects and the enhancement of resource conservation and values of the park, including soil resources. However, these gains would be offset to some degree by long-term indirect moderate adverse impacts occurring from the removal of 260 acres of soils from the park and associated park management activities.</p> <p>Transmission lines - major adverse impacts from the construction of the transmission lines in the FPL West Preferred Corridor with a resulting permanent loss of about 194 acres of soils (181 in wetlands) including 80 acres in the park. There would also be long-term minor adverse impacts on unique farmland soils located in an agricultural area south of the park, and short-term minor to moderate adverse construction-related impacts.</p>	<p>NPS action – long-term indirect beneficial impacts. Same as alternative 3, but with easement terms and conditions that result in the reduced risk of having additional utility facilities on the exchange corridor and associated disturbance or removal of soils and gain in land and soils in the park.</p> <p>Transmission lines - Long-term major adverse impacts same as alternative 3 with impacts on soils within the footprint of towers and roads resulting in a loss of about 194 acres of soils (181 in wetlands) including 80 acres in the park. There would be long-term minor adverse impacts on designated unique farmland soils outside the park; and short-term minor to moderate adverse construction-related impacts.</p>	<p>NPS action - long-term indirect beneficial impacts from having a perpetual flowage easement agreement.</p> <p>Transmission lines - long-term major adverse impacts from the permanent loss of about 182 acres of soils (180 in wetlands) including 89 acres in the park. Also short- and long-term minor to moderate adverse impacts from construction and negligible impacts from line maintenance.</p>
VEGETATION AND WETLANDS					
<p>NPS action - Long-term indirect major adverse impacts because of the retention of ownership of land in the EEEA by FPL and continued habitat degradation from altered hydrology. Habitat restoration and exotic species management within the park would be hindered by the lack of a flowage easement, or sufficient interests in these properties, to increase water levels across the FPL West Secondary Corridor, thereby having a negative impact on vegetation and wetlands.</p> <p>Transmission lines – no impacts (no transmission line construction assumed)</p>	<p>NPS action - long-term indirect moderate to major adverse impacts-because FPL would retain ownership of land in the EEEA, as described under alternative 1a.</p> <p>Transmission lines – localized short and long-term major adverse impacts from the construction and operation of the transmission lines in the FPL West Secondary These impacts would include a permanent loss of about 180 acres of wetlands, of which 89 acres are within the park boundary.</p>	<p>NPS action - substantial indirect long-term beneficial impacts from the acquisition of FPL property in the EEEA, which would remove a large area of non-NPS land in the interior of the park, ensuring that no other development would be proposed in this area and that the various Everglades ecosystem restoration projects could occur.</p> <p>Transmission lines - short- and long-term negligible to moderate adverse impacts from the construction of the transmission lines in the area of possible relocated corridor. Depending on the location of the lines; impacts could be less due to fewer wetland acres in this area compared to the areas crossed by the other FPL corridors and the relative quality of the wetlands. On hypothetical corridor, would have 107 acres of wetland loss. Impacts from transmission line construction inside the park would be avoided.</p>	<p>NPS action - substantial indirect long-term beneficial impacts from having a net gain in wetland acreage to the park and having the main body of EEEA wetlands reconnected in NPS ownership, resulting in the ability to go forward with ecosystem restoration without any potential future obstacles from the FPL parcel. Placing the majority of the EEEA under NPS ownership would enhance the conservation of the resources and values of the park, including vegetation and wetlands. There would be a net gain of 60 acres, but a loss of 260 acres in the exchange corridor, which is a direct long-term, major adverse impact and negligible to minor adverse impacts from the loss of the ability to maintain wetlands/vegetation per NPS standards.</p> <p>Transmission lines –short and long term major adverse impacts from the construction of the transmission lines in the FPL West Preferred Corridor (about 181 acres of wetlands lost, including 80 in the park).</p>	<p>NPS action - indirect long-term beneficial impacts - Same as alternative 3, but with easement terms and conditions that result in the reduced risk of having additional utility facilities in the exchange corridor and associated disturbance or removal of wetlands. (There would be no major adverse impacts related to the land exchange because the acreage of vegetation would remain the same within the park.)</p> <p>Transmission lines - short and long term major adverse impacts same as described under alternative 3, because there are no substantial differences in the terms and conditions under this alternative and no expected differences in how wetlands would be treated under an easement compared to in fee, given the mitigation that FPL included in its SCA and expected conditions in the required resource stewardship plan. The park would have slightly more control over vegetation management in the exchange corridor than under alt. 3.</p>	<p>NPS action - substantial indirect long-term beneficial impacts from having a perpetual flowage easement agreement</p> <p>Transmission lines - short and long-term major adverse impacts (same as alternative 1b).</p>

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FLOODPLAINS					
<p>NPS action - Long-term indirect major adverse impacts related to the lack of a flowage easement and the inability to proceed with flow-dependent ecosystem restoration projects that would prevent moving additional water into the park.</p> <p>Transmission lines - no impacts (no transmission line construction assumed)</p>	<p>NPS action - long-term indirect major adverse impacts related to the lack of a flowage easement and the inability to proceed with flow-dependent ecosystem restoration projects that would prevent moving additional water into the park.</p> <p>Transmission lines - long term moderate adverse impacts on floodplain functions and values related to the construction of the transmission lines without a flowage easement in the FPL corridor.</p>	<p>NPS action - long-term indirect beneficial impacts from placing ownership of this area solely with the NPS and the ability to continue flow-dependent ecosystem restoration projects.</p> <p>Transmission lines - long-term negligible adverse impacts related to transmission line construction and presence in an area that has already been segmented hydrologically and disconnected from the natural floodplain. Impacts from transmission line construction inside the park would be avoided.</p>	<p>NPS action - long-term indirect beneficial impacts of acquiring the FPL land, which would enhance the conservation of the resources and values of the park, including floodplains and their values and functions, and allow for flow-dependent ecosystem restoration projects to proceed.</p> <p>Transmission lines - long-term moderate adverse impacts from construction and presence of transmission lines in the FPL West Preferred Corridor due to increased compartmentalization and the effects of the disrupted sheetflows on floodplain values, such as habitat.</p>	<p>NPS action – long-term indirect beneficial impacts - Same as alternative 3, except no other utilities could be built in the corridor, which would lessen the risk of additional floodplain impacts.</p> <p>Transmission lines - long term moderate adverse impacts -same as described under alternative 3.</p>	<p>NPS action - Similar to alternative 2, there would be long-term indirect beneficial impacts because the accommodation of enhanced flows would improve floodplain function and values.</p> <p>Transmission lines - long-term moderate adverse impacts on floodplain functions and values related to the construction of the transmission lines (like alternative 1b except that the flowage easement would allow for enhance flows to accommodate flow-related ecosystem restoration actions).</p>
SOUNDSCAPES					
<p>NPS action – no impacts on soundscapes.</p> <p>Transmission lines – no impacts (no transmission line construction assumed)</p>	<p>NPS action - no impacts on soundscapes.</p> <p>Transmission lines - short term, moderate, adverse impacts as a result of construction activities and long term, minor adverse impacts from corona discharge during wet weather. There would be short-term moderate adverse construction-related impacts in residential areas and long-term negligible adverse impacts from maintenance activities.</p>	<p>NPS action – no impacts on soundscapes.</p> <p>Transmission lines - short term, moderate, adverse impacts as a result of construction activities and long term, negligible to minor, adverse impacts from corona discharge during wet weather. There would be short-term moderate adverse construction-related impacts in residential areas and long-term negligible adverse impacts from maintenance activities. The geographic extent of impacts in the park and in residential areas would vary considerably depending on the exact route alignment.</p>	<p>NPS action – no impacts on soundscapes.</p> <p>Transmission lines - same as alternative 2 but in different location - short term, moderate, adverse impacts as a result of construction activities and long term, negligible to minor, adverse impacts from corona discharge during wet weather. There would be short-term moderate adverse construction-related impacts in residential areas and long-term negligible adverse impacts from maintenance activities.</p>	<p>NPS action - no impacts on soundscapes.</p> <p>Transmission lines - Same as alternative 3 except that no other utilities could be built in the corridor, which would lessen the risk of additional noise-related impacts of construction of these facilities.</p>	<p>NPS action – no impacts on soundscapes.</p> <p>Transmission lines – same as alternative 1b.</p>

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WILDLIFE					
<p>NPS action - Long-term indirect moderate to major indirect adverse impacts due to continued FPL ownership of land within the park and the lack of a flowage easement. FPL ownership of land within the park and the inability to increase water levels across the FPL West Secondary Corridor is expected to hinder habitat restoration efforts.</p> <p>Transmission lines - no impacts (no transmission line construction assumed)</p>	<p>NPS action - long-term indirect moderate to major indirect adverse impacts because of the inability to increase water levels across the FPL property, which is expected to hinder habitat restoration efforts.</p> <p>Transmission lines - Short- to long-term minor to moderate adverse impacts. Short-term impacts would typically be related to construction or maintenance activities and would generally be minor. Long-term moderate adverse impacts would be from permanent habitat loss due to transmission line structure pads and access roads. Avian collisions with transmission lines, guy wires, and structures and electrocution would be additional sources of long-term moderate adverse impacts. Certain groups of birds are more susceptible to collision and electrocution due to their behavior or morphology and may be impacted more from the construction and operation of the transmission lines than other groups of birds.</p>	<p>NPS action - long-term indirect beneficial impacts due to removal of a large area of non-NPS ownership of land in the interior of the park. This would ensure that no other development would be proposed in this area and that the various Everglades ecosystem restoration projects could occur.</p> <p>Transmission lines - short- and long-term minor to moderate adverse impacts on species dependent on wetland habitats and impacts on wading birds are expected to be less in the area of possible relocated corridor compared to construction within the park because of the reduced quality of the wetlands compared to those within the park, but species that utilize habitat outside the park would be adversely affected.</p>	<p>NPS action - substantial indirect long-term beneficial impacts because the exchange would remove a large area of non-NPS ownership of land in the interior of the park, ensuring that no other development would be proposed in the FPL corridor and that the various Everglades restoration projects could be implemented.</p> <p>Transmission lines - long-term major adverse impact of removing 260 acres of habitat from the park. Types of impacts on wildlife from transmission line construction under alternative 3 would be similar to those described for alternative 1b (Short- to long-term minor to moderate adverse impacts). However, impacts on wildlife would be reduced because the FPL West Preferred Corridor is generally less desirable habitat compared to the West Secondary Corridor, due to its proximity to already disturbed upland and wetland areas outside the park. Impacts on wading bird species are also expected to be less than alternative 1b because of the increased distance from the transmission lines to known nesting colonies. NPS acquisition of the FPL West Secondary Corridor would allow for application of NPS policies and procedures in this area. NPS would no longer control the exchange corridor; however, it is expected that application of the terms and conditions of the land exchange would minimize impacts on wildlife to the maximum extent practicable.</p>	<p>NPS action - indirect long-term beneficial impacts - as described under alternative 3 but with terms and conditions that result in the reduced risk of having additional utility facilities on the exchange corridor and associated disturbance or removal of wildlife habitat.</p> <p>Transmission lines - same as alternative 3, impacts on wildlife would be short- to long-term, minor to moderate adverse, and impacts on wildlife species may be reduced, especially for avian and bat species, due to requirements imposed by the terms and conditions of the land exchange.</p>	<p>NPS action - indirect long-term beneficial impacts from having a flowage easement that would allow ecosystem restoration projects that benefit park resources to proceed over time, similar to alternative 1b, but with long-term minor to moderate adverse impacts from the continued inability to manage the corridor as NPS lands.</p> <p>Transmission lines - Short and long-term minor to moderate adverse impacts (like alternative 1b).</p>

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SPECIAL-STATUS SPECIES					
<p>NPS action - Alternative 1a would result in a wide range of impacts on special-status species, as described for the individual species in the analysis in chapter 4. Impacts on these species that could potentially occur in the area of analysis are summarized for this and other alternatives in tables 27 and 28 in chapter 4 of the draft EIS. In general, the lack of a flowage easement or sufficient rights to increase water levels over the FPL West Secondary Corridor would have effects on many listed species in the area. Due to the potential degradation and loss of foraging habitat from the lack of hydrologic restoration in the EEEA, alternative 1a would have moderate to major adverse impacts on many avian species, especially wood storks and Everglade snail kites – major adverse impacts are predicted for these two species.</p> <p>The park would continue to coordinate with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and state resource agencies, to participate in the Turkey Point Power Plant Units 6 and 7 EIS project, and work to mitigate adverse impacts on these species. However, some losses may be unavoidable.</p> <p>Transmission lines – no impacts (no transmission line construction assumed)</p>	<p>NPS action - Impacts on special-status species would be varied as noted in the analysis in chapter 4. The Section 7 determinations for the federally listed species and the impacts on the state-listed species that could potentially occur in the area of analysis are summarized for this and other alternatives in tables 27 and 28. Impacts from the lack of a flowage easement or sufficient rights to increase water levels over the FPL West Secondary Corridor would be the same as described for alternative 1a- moderate to major adverse impacts on many avian species, especially wood storks and Everglade snail kite (major adverse impacts) - same as alternative 1a.</p> <p>Transmission lines - In general, construction and operation of transmission lines in the FPL West Secondary Corridor would have effects on many listed species in the area and have high risks to avian species, especially wood storks and Everglade snail kites (major adverse impacts) , due to proximity of the lines to nesting and foraging locations.</p> <p>The park would continue to coordinate with the USFWS and state resource agencies, to participate in the Turkey Point Power Plant Units 6 and 7 EIS project, and work to mitigate adverse impacts on these species. However, some losses may be unavoidable.</p>	<p>NPS action - long-term beneficial impacts on special-status species since this would mean no impediments to water restoration projects could occur from future use of this parcel. Impacts on special-status species would be varied as noted in the alternative 2 analysis. The Section 7 determinations for the federally listed species and the impacts on the state-listed species that could potentially occur in the area of analysis are summarized for this and other alternatives in tables 27 and 28 in chapter 4 of the draft EIS.</p> <p>Transmission lines - In general, construction and operation of transmission lines in the area of possible relocated corridor east of the park would have effects on many listed species in the area. Alternative 2 would have lower risks to wood storks and Everglade snail kites than construction on the FPL corridors due to the location of the lines farther away from nesting and foraging locations. Impacts on species that are known to inhabit disturbed or open areas would be expected to be higher due to the land uses in the area of possible relocated corridor. The park would continue to coordinate with USFWS and state resource agencies to participate in the Turkey Point Power Plant Units 6 and 7 EIS project, and work to mitigate adverse impacts on these species. However, some losses may be unavoidable.</p>	<p>NPS action - long-term beneficial impacts on special-status species since this would mean no impediments to water restoration projects could occur from future use of this parcel. Alternative 3 would result in a wide range of impacts on special-status species, as described for the individual species in the analysis in chapter 4. The Section 7 determinations for the federally listed species and the impacts on the state-listed species that could potentially occur in the area of analysis are summarized for this and other alternatives in tables 27 and 28 in chapter 4 of the draft EIS.</p> <p>Transmission lines - In general, construction and operation of transmission lines in the FPL West Preferred Corridor would have effects on many listed species in the area and has high risks to wood storks and Everglade snail kites (major adverse impacts for wood stork) due to proximity of the lines to nesting and foraging locations. The park would continue to coordinate with the USFWS and state resource agencies, to participate in the Turkey Point Power Plant Units 6 and 7 EIS project, and work to mitigate adverse impacts on these species. However, some losses may be unavoidable.</p>	<p>NPS action - long-term beneficial impacts essentially the same as described for alternative 3 except that no other utilities could be built in the corridor, which would lessen the risk of additional impacts of these facilities on special status species. A wide range of impacts would occur on special-status species, as described for the individual species in the analysis for alternative 3. The Section 7 determinations for the federally listed species and the impacts on the state-listed species that could potentially occur in the area of analysis are summarized for this and other alternatives in tables 27 and 28 in chapter 4 of the draft EIS.</p> <p>Transmission lines - In general, construction and operation of transmission lines in the FPL West Preferred Corridor would have effects on many listed species in the area and have high risks to wood storks and Everglade snail kites (major adverse impacts for wood stork) due to proximity of the lines to nesting and foraging locations. The park would continue to coordinate with USFWS and state resource agencies to participate in the Turkey Point Power Plant Units 6 and 7 EIS project, and work to mitigate adverse impacts on these species. However, some losses may be unavoidable.</p>	<p>NPS action - long-term beneficial impacts on special-status species since this would mean no impediments to ecosystem restoration projects could occur from future use of this parcel. A wide range of impacts would occur on special-status species from transmission line construction, as described for the individual species in the analysis for alternative 1b. The Section 7 determinations for the federally listed species and the impacts on the state-listed species that could potentially occur in the area of analysis are summarized for this and other alternatives in tables 27 and 28 in chapter 4 of the draft EIS.</p> <p>Transmission lines - In general, construction and operation of transmission lines in the FPL West Secondary Corridor would have impacts on many listed species in the area and have high risks to avian species, especially wood storks and Everglade snail kites (major adverse impacts) , due to proximity of the lines to nesting and foraging locations. The park would continue to coordinate with USFWS and state resource agencies to participate in the Turkey Point Power Plant Units 6 and 7 EIS project, and work to mitigate adverse impacts on these species. However, some losses may be unavoidable.</p>

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VIEWSHED (Visual Resources)					
<p>NPS action - no impacts on viewshed.</p> <p>Transmission lines - no impacts (no transmission line construction assumed)</p>	<p>NPS action - no impacts on viewshed.</p> <p>Transmission lines - short term, minor to moderate, adverse impacts during construction and long term, ranging from minor to major and adverse from the introduction of three transmission lines into a wilderness-like setting. The intensity of the adverse impact would vary with the location in the park and be greatest for recreationists such as canoeists near the Tamiami Trail and for others as they approach this area and the transmission lines from trails or on the roadway.</p>	<p>NPS action - no impacts on viewshed.</p> <p>Transmission lines - impacts range from no impact to a moderate adverse impact, depending on where the transmission lines were built in the area of possible relocated corridor. Short-term minor to moderate adverse impacts during construction. Generally, impacts on park visual resources would be greater along the western edge of the area and minimal along the eastern edge of the area of possible relocated corridor. Impacts on visual resources viewed from residential locations would be greater along portions of the line that occur in the area of possible relocated corridor. In the park, alternative 2 would contribute long-term adverse negligible impacts.</p>	<p>NPS action - no impacts on viewshed.</p> <p>Transmission lines - short-term minor to moderate adverse impacts during construction and minor to major adverse impacts from the introduction of three transmission lines in the current eastern park boundary. The most severe impacts would be where the transmission lines cross the Tamiami Trail and from the L-31N canal.</p>	<p>NPS action - no impacts on viewshed.</p> <p>Transmission lines - Impacts would be the same as described under alternative 3, with potential for slightly less adverse impacts under this alternative from the restriction to only three transmission lines with no other utility infrastructure within the corridor. Indirect impacts on visual resources would result from the construction of the transmission lines on the eastern edge of the park and would include short-term minor to moderate adverse impacts during construction and minor to major adverse impacts from the introduction of three transmission lines within the current eastern park boundary. The most severe impacts would be where the transmission lines cross the Tamiami Trail and from the L-31N canal.</p>	<p>NPS action - no impacts on viewshed.</p> <p>Transmission lines - impacts would be the same as described under alternative 1b and include short term, minor to moderate, adverse impacts during construction and long term, adverse impacts ranging from minor to major from the introduction of three transmission lines into a wilderness-like setting. The intensity of the adverse impact would vary with the location in the park and be greatest for recreationists such as canoeists near the Tamiami Trail and for others as they approach this area and the transmission lines from trails or on the roadway.</p>
WILDERNESS					
<p>NPS action –indirect long-term major adverse impacts because the FPL corridor would remain under FPL ownership, which precludes the area from being managed as part of a designated wilderness area, would result in the inability to restore natural water conditions to the area, preventing the reestablishment of wilderness character, and allows the introduction of disturbances to wilderness quality.</p> <p>Transmission lines – no impacts (no transmission assumed)</p>	<p>NPS action - indirect long-term major adverse impacts because the FPL corridor would remain under FPL ownership, which precludes the area from being managed as part of a designated wilderness area and allows the introduction of disturbances to wilderness quality.</p> <p>Transmission lines - short-term moderate adverse impacts during construction and long term major adverse impacts on wilderness characteristics from the presence and operation of the lines.</p>	<p>NPS action - indirect long-term beneficial impacts because the acquisition gives the NPS the ability to manage the acquired area consistent with wilderness goals.</p> <p>Transmission lines - short-term negligible to moderate adverse impacts and long-term negligible to moderate adverse impacts, depending on the location of the lines in the area and the proximity to the park.</p>	<p>NPS action - Indirect long-term beneficial impacts because the exchange would result in flow restoration that would benefit wilderness character and the ownership of this area being placed solely with the NPS, who could then manage the corridor as wilderness.</p> <p>Transmission lines - short-term moderate adverse impacts on the wilderness character of the EEEA from construction. The continued presence of the transmission lines in the FPL West Preferred Corridor would result in long-term moderate adverse impacts on the wilderness character of the EEEA, This could affect the wilderness designation of adjacent lands in the park.</p>	<p>NPS action - Indirect long-term beneficial impacts; essentially the same as described under alternative 3, with benefits occurring from the land exchange itself, except that no other utilities could be built in the corridor, which would lessen the risk of additional impacts of these facilities on wilderness in this area.</p> <p>Transmission lines – same as alternative 3; adverse impacts would include short- and long-term moderate adverse impacts on the wilderness character of the EEEA.</p>	<p>NPS action - indirect beneficial impacts from having a long-term flowage easement agreement, butt with long-term indirect moderate adverse impacts would occur as a result of the corridor remaining under FPL ownership, which would preclude the area from being managed as wilderness and overshadow any flowage benefits to wilderness character of the area.</p> <p>Transmission lines - short-term moderate and long-term major adverse impacts on wilderness characteristics (like alternative 1b).</p>

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VISITOR USE AND EXPERIENCE/RECREATIONAL RESOURCES					
<p>NPS action - indirect long-term major adverse impact because The lack of a flowage easement on the FPL property would prevent the implementation of ecosystem restoration activities. The resulting degradation of natural resources would prevent visitors from experiencing a healthy ecosystem and enhanced wildlife viewing opportunities in the EEEA and the Water Conservation Areas (WCAs) north of Tamiami Trail.</p> <p>Transmission lines - no impacts (no transmission line construction assumed)</p>	<p>NPS action - indirect long-term major adverse impacts would result from the inability to flow higher water levels across the FPL property.</p> <p>Transmission lines - short-term moderate to major adverse impacts during construction and long-term moderate to major adverse impacts from the introduction of three transmission lines into a backcountry setting as well as from noise and visual impacts along the L-29 canal and the lack of a restored ecosystem.</p>	<p>NPS action - indirect long-term beneficial impacts because the acquisition would allow ecosystem restoration projects to proceed and visitors to experience an improved ecosystem</p> <p>Transmission lines - short-term minor to moderate adverse impacts during construction and no impact to long-term moderate adverse impacts from the introduction of three transmission lines in an area that is somewhat undeveloped and is highly used by recreational users along the western boundary of the zone of possible relocated corridor.</p>	<p>NPS action - indirect long-term beneficial impacts from the exchange of property which would allow ecosystem restoration projects to proceed and visitors to experience an improved ecosystem.</p> <p>Transmission lines - short-term minor to moderate adverse impacts during construction and long-term minor to moderate adverse impacts on visitor use and experience and recreation resources from the introduction of three transmission lines along the L-31N canal (moderate adverse impacts on users and visitors along the L-31N canal; minor adverse impacts on visitors located in the park’s interior).</p>	<p>NPS action - indirect long-term beneficial impacts from the fee for easement exchange of property in the EEEA (like alternative 3).</p> <p>Transmission lines - short-term minor to moderate adverse impacts during construction and long-term moderate adverse impacts from the introduction of three transmission lines along the L-31N canal. Also, no other utilities could be built in the corridor, which would lessen the risk of additional impacts of these facilities on visitor use and experience in this area.</p>	<p>NPS action - indirect long-term beneficial impacts from the acquisition of a flowage easement on the FPL property in the EEEA, allowing ecosystem restoration projects to proceed and visitors to experience an improved ecosystem.</p> <p>Transmission lines - similar to as alternative 1b - short-term moderate to major adverse impacts during construction and long-term minor to moderate adverse impacts from the introduction of three transmission lines into a wilderness-like setting as well as from noise and visual impacts along the L-29 canal.</p>
ADJACENT LAND USES AND POLICIES					
<p>NPS action - indirect long-term major adverse impacts on land use policy at Everglades National Park through the retention of FPL lands within the park. These impacts would result because of the conflict with park’s long standing management direction in the Expansion Act and the Land Protection Act to acquire private properties in the Expansion Area and the elimination of incompatible uses from the area.</p> <p>Transmission lines - no impacts (no transmission line construction assumed)</p>	<p>NPS action - indirect long-term major adverse impacts on land use policy at Everglades National Park – same as 1a.</p> <p>Transmission lines - major adverse impacts on land use at Everglades National Park from transmission line construction through the park.</p>	<p>NPS action - indirect long-term beneficial impacts would occur as a result of fulfillment of the park’s long standing management direction to acquire private properties in the Expansion Area and the elimination of incompatible uses from the area.</p> <p>Transmission lines - long-term minor to major adverse impacts on uses in the area of relocated corridor, depending on the location in the area.</p>	<p>NPS action - indirect long-term beneficial impacts would accrue to land use from the change in land ownership from FPL to NPS; however, major adverse indirect impacts would also occur from removing 260 acres of land deemed critical to the park per the 1989 Expansion Act.</p> <p>Transmission lines - Indirect long – term major adverse impacts on land use would occur as a result of the subsequent construction of transmission lines along the FPL West Preferred Corridor because there are conflicts with County Comprehensive Plan language regarding transmission lines in the East Everglades Area of Critical Environmental Concern and the lines would be immediately adjacent to the park.</p>	<p>NPS action - indirect long-term beneficial impacts would accrue to land use from the fulfillment of the direction to acquire the FPL parcel in the park.</p> <p>Transmission lines - indirect long-term major adverse impacts would occur as a result of land use incompatibility issues following construction of transmission lines along the FPL West Preferred Corridor, although there would be some additional control by way of easement, as the park must approve any FPL construction in the easement.</p>	<p>NPS action - indirect long-term beneficial impacts would accrue to land use from acquiring the flowage easement but still have not acquired the corridor- major adverse impact.</p> <p>Transmission lines - indirect long-term major adverse impacts on land use from the introduction of a three transmission lines into a park-like setting and the presence of an incompatible land use within the park and in conflict with the county comprehensive development master plan designation of the area as an area of critical environmental concern.</p>

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TRIBAL LANDS INCLUDING INDIAN TRUST RESOURCES					
NPS action - no impacts on tribal lands. Transmission lines – no impacts (no transmission line construction assumed)	NPS action - no impacts on tribal lands. Transmission lines - long-term minor adverse impacts from the construction of transmission lines through the EEEA and WCA 3B management areas.	NPS action - no impacts on tribal lands. Transmission lines - long-term minor adverse impacts on tribal lands, including Indian trust resources due to the proximity to tribal lands and the change in viewshed from the casino property.	NPS action - no impacts on tribal lands. Transmission lines - long-term moderate adverse impacts on tribal lands, including Indian Trust resources due to the change in viewshed to the west from the Indian Gaming and Resort Facility property and other Indian Trust and tribal lands in that area.	NPS action - no impacts on tribal lands. Transmission lines - long-term moderate adverse impacts on tribal lands, including Indian Trust resources due to the change in viewshed to the west from the Indian Gaming and Resort Facility property and other Indian Trust and tribal lands in that area. Also, no other utilities could be built in the corridor, which would lessen the risk of additional impacts of these facilities on views in this area.	NPS action - no impacts on tribal lands. Transmission lines - long-term minor adverse impacts on tribal lands, including Indian Trust resources due to the change in viewshed to the west from the Indian Gaming and Resort Facility property.
SOCIOECONOMICS					
NPS action - no impacts on socioeconomics. Transmission lines – no impacts (no transmission line construction assumed)	NPS action - no impacts on socioeconomics. Transmission lines –short-term beneficial impacts during construction on jobs and income in the region and short-term negligible impacts on adjacent residents and property values. There are no expected impacts on electricity rates under alternative 1b.	NPS action - no impacts on socioeconomics. Transmission lines –short-term beneficial impacts on jobs and income during construction and possible short-term minor adverse impacts on adjacent residents and property values. Future FPL electrical generation and transmission development costs combined with the additional right-of-way costs under this alternative could have an adverse impact on electrical infrastructure development costs, although the extent of this effect is uncertain at this time. The impact of these costs on electricity rates is also uncertain.	NPS action - no impacts on socioeconomics. Transmission lines –short-term beneficial impacts on jobs and income in the region and short-term minor impacts on adjacent residents and property values. There are no expected impacts on electricity rates under alternative 3.	NPS action - no impacts on socioeconomics. Transmission lines –short-term beneficial impacts on jobs and income in the region and short-term minor impacts on adjacent residents and property values. There are no expected impacts on electricity rates under alternative 4.	NPS action - no impacts on socioeconomics. Transmission lines –short-term beneficial impacts on jobs and income in the region and short-term and possibly long-term negligible impacts on adjacent residents and property values. There are no expected impacts on electricity rates under alternative 5.
PARK OPERATIONS AND MANAGEMENT					
NPS action - continued minor to moderate adverse impacts from the inability to manage the EEEA as one contiguous parcel. Transmission lines – no impacts (no transmission line construction assumed)	NPS action - long-term minor to moderate adverse impacts from the FPL retention of property in the EEEA. Transmission lines - long-term minor to moderate adverse impacts from the construction of transmission lines in the FPL West Secondary Corridor; also short- and long-term minor to moderate adverse impacts both during the construction phase and following the completion of the lines.	NPS action - long-term beneficial impacts from the consolidation of ownership in the EEEA as well as short-term negligible to minor adverse impacts . Transmission lines - no impacts (no transmission line construction on NPS land).	NPS action - long-term beneficial impacts and negligible to minor adverse impacts as described in alternative 2. Transmission lines - short-term minor to moderate adverse impacts during the construction phase and long-term negligible to minor adverse impacts following the completion of the lines.	NPS action - Impacts would be the same as under alternative 3, with beneficial impacts from the land exchange except that this is an easement agreement that may require more staff involvement to monitor use of park property, so long-term minor adverse impacts . Transmission lines - short-term minor to moderate adverse impacts during the construction phase and long-term negligible to mostly minor adverse impacts following the completion of the lines.	NPS action - same as alternative 1b; and additional long-term minor impacts from the FPL retention of property in the EEEA and additional oversight and monitoring of easement. Transmission lines - short- and long-term minor to moderate adverse impacts both during the construction phase and following the completion of the lines.

*does not include cumulative impacts

Analysis of How the Alternatives Meet Project Objectives

Alternative 1a: No NPS Action – No FPL Construction	Alternative 1b: No NPS Action – FPL Construction in the Park	Alternative 2: NPS Acquisition of FPL Land	Alternative 3: Fee for Fee Land Exchange	Alternative 4: Easement for Fee Land Exchange	Alternative 5: Perpetual Flowage Easement on FPL Property
Objective: Ensure consistency with the Everglades National Park Protection and Expansion Act of 1989 (Expansion Act) and the 1991 Land Protection Plan (LPP) for the EEEA. This includes the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none">Increasing the level of protection of the outstanding natural values of the park and enhancing and restoring the ecological values, natural hydrologic conditions, and public enjoyment of such areas by adding the area commonly known as the NESRS and the East Everglades to the park (16 USC 410r-5), andAssuring that the park is managed in a way that maintains the natural abundance, diversity, and ecological integrity of native plants and animals, as well as the behavior of native animals, as part of its ecosystem (16 USC 410r-5).					
Because no acquisition or land exchange would occur, protection of the NESRS and EEEA would not be increased. There would be no perpetual flowage easement, so the ability to complete Everglades restoration projects would be in jeopardy. Although this alternative assumes for analytical purposes that no transmission lines would be built in the park, in the exchange corridor, or in any area outside the park, that scenario appears to be unlikely. Continuation of FPL ownership means that there would be the possibility of a transmission line being built in the corridor, which would have adverse effects on park resources. This alternative does not meet the objective.	Because no acquisition or land exchange would occur, protection of the NESRS and EEEA would not be increased. There would be no perpetual flowage easement, so the ability to complete Everglades restoration projects would be in jeopardy. This alternative assumes that a transmission line would be built in the corridor, which would have adverse effects on park resources. This alternative does not meet the objective.	Acquisition would be consistent with direction provided by the Expansion Act and the 1991 LPP for the East Everglades Addition. It would increase the level of protection of the park's resources and values. This alternative would facilitate Everglades restoration efforts by removing an obstacle that prevents hydrologic restoration in NESRS. Restoration currently planned under the MWD project would result in ecological benefits across 109,000 acres of Everglades National Park. This alternative would also facilitate future restoration efforts including Tamiami Trail Next Steps, Central Everglades Planning Project (CEPP), and CERP, which may result in benefits throughout much of the greater Everglades including nearly all of the freshwater wetlands in Everglades National Park, and extending into Florida Bay. This alternative fully meets the objective.	This alternative reduces potential impacts on NESRS by moving transmission line impacts on an area adjacent to more developed and less pristine areas east of the park. Protection of the NESRS and EEEA would be increased because this alternative provides for NPS ownership of the heart of the NESRS, which allows for flowage and restoration projects to occur. This alternative would facilitate Everglades restoration efforts by removing an obstacle that prevents hydrologic restoration in NESRS. Restoration currently planned under the MWD project would result in ecological benefits across 109,000 acres of Everglades National Park. This alternative would also facilitate future restoration efforts including Tamiami Trail Next Steps, CEPP, and CERP, which may result in benefits throughout much of the greater Everglades including nearly all of the freshwater wetlands in Everglades National Park, and extending into Florida Bay. The land that is exchanged would be removed from park protection and could be used for transmission lines and other utility uses, and these impacts would occur immediately adjacent to the eastern edge of the park, so this alternative does not avoid all adverse impacts on ecological values of the park. Construction and operation of transmission lines, and possibly other utilities in the exchange corridor would have major adverse impacts on park resources and values that would be inconsistent with the Expansion Act and LPP. Wetlands of international importance would be filled for access roads and tower pads that would segment the exchange corridor and adjacent SFWMD wetlands from NESRS and disrupt sheetflow on those lands. Endangered wood storks could experience a population level decline due to habitat loss or degradation and the risk of mortality from line collisions or electrocutions. The presence of the transmission lines and other utilities would permanently degrade the scenic viewshed and visitor enjoyment of the EEEA. This alternative partially meets the objective.	This alternative would have similar attributes with regard to this objective as alternative 3. With continued park ownership of the exchange corridor, there would be more assurance that that part of the EEEA could be managed in accordance with park goals, and development would be limited to transmission lines (no other utility uses, which are permitted in alternative 3). This alternative partially meets the objective.	Because there would be no acquisition of the FPL corridor within the boundary of the park, there would be no increased protection for the NESRS and EEEA with regard to ownership, but the flowage easement would allow the Everglades restoration projects to be completed. Continuation of FPL ownership with flowage permitted means that there is the possibility of transmission lines being built in the corridor, which would have adverse effects on park resources. Hydrological functions and values would be preserved with the flowage easement; however, if construction were to commence, there would be adverse impacts. This alternative partially meets the objective.

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Objective: Ensure consistency with the Congressional intent of the Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009 such that the Secretary of the Interior consider the land exchange with specified terms and conditions and after appropriate environmental review of the impacts of the exchange.					
The NPS would consider a land exchange under this or any alternative. Since the Omnibus Act conveys discretion to the Secretary of the Interior in effecting a land exchange, this and all alternatives meet this objective by the letter of the act and by the preparation of this EIS.	See alternative 1.	See alternative 1.	See alternative 1.	See alternative 1.	See alternative 1.
Objective: Support and facilitate implementation of the MWD project, the Tamiami Trail Next Steps Project, and the CERP.					
No long-term flowage easement over the FPL property would be executed. The lack of flowage would not support and facilitate any restoration efforts within the EEEA and Shark River Slough (SRS). This alternative would not meet the objective.	No long-term flowage easement over the FPL property would be executed. The lack of flowage would not support and facilitate any restoration efforts within the EEEA and SRS. This alternative would not meet the objective.	Current FPL land would be acquired through fee purchase, and this acquisition was directed by Congress to meet the objectives of the MWD project to improve the hydrologic conditions of the NESRS. The hydrologic functions of the acquired lands would be restored. The CERP is consistent with the MWD project. This alternative fully meets the objective.	The land exchange would support restoration objectives for the EEEA and give the NPS the ability to accommodate enhanced flows associated with restoration projects, thus providing ecosystem benefits to 109,000 acres in the NESRS. A perpetual flowage easement would be a condition of the exchange. FPL would grant the United States the right to allow for higher water levels consistent with restoration requirements. The flowage easement would help to meet the objectives of the MWD project to improve the hydrologic conditions of the NESRS. The removal of 260 acres of wetlands from the park and subsequent development of access roads and transmission lines, would disconnect this area from NESRS and disrupt sheetflow in the exchange corridor and adjacent SFWMD wetlands. These impacts would impede restoration of hydrologic functions in the exchange corridor and adjacent SFWMD wetlands along the eastern edge of NESRS. These impacts would be inconsistent with the objectives of the MWD, Next Steps, and CERP projects. This alternative partially meets the objective.	Same as alternative 3.	The perpetual flowage easement would allow hydrologic functions to be restored in the EEEA, but would still allow a transmission line to be constructed within the EEEA. This alternative meets the objective to a large degree.
Objective: Support the timely acquisition of existing FPL property within the EEEA, or sufficient interest in this property, to allow for flooding of the area to facilitate restoration efforts within the park.					
The existing FPL property within the EEEA or sufficient interest would not be acquired. This alternative would not meet the objective.	The existing FPL property within the EEEA or sufficient interest would not be acquired. This alternative would not meet the objective.	The FPL property within the EEEA would be acquired, but it may take additional time to acquire the FPL property without an exchange as part of the transaction, because this would put FPL in the position of having to find another route outside the park. This alternative may fully meet the objective , depending on the timing for completing all related land acquisitions and prerequisites needed to allow higher water stages in the EEEA.	The FPL property within the EEEA would be acquired, and it is expected that this could be accomplished in a timely manner and faster than alternative 2 because of the exchange benefits to FPL. This alternative fully meets the objective.	Same as alternative 3.	Sufficient interest in the FPL property within the EEEA to allow for flooding of the area to facilitate restoration efforts within the park would be acquired. This alternative fully meets the objective.