

## **Agenda**

07/15/2025

## **Subject**

Conservation Land Acquisition Selection Advisory Committee (CLASAC) recommendations on the following sites nominated to the Environmental Lands Program are to pursue acquisition on EL-139-25: Hancock Lake Ranch, EL-140 -25: Smith Bros Peace River, EL-141-25: Marston Ranch, EL-142-25: Wheeler Sandhill, EL-143-25: Shores of Lake Pierce, EL-144 -25: Mountain Lake NE Sandhill, EL-145-25: Lassiter Family Trust, EL-146-25: Ingram Hatchineha Property, and EL-147-25: Davis-Ingram Ranch.

## **Description**

The Polk County Board of County Commissioners ("Board") adopted Polk County Ordinance No.22-050 ("Ordinance") calling for a bond referendum on November 8, 2022, to finance capital projects related to the acquisition, preservation, protection, management, operation, and restoration of environmental lands, water resources and important fish and wildlife habitat ("Bond Referendum").

A majority of voters of Polk County approved of the Bond Referendum. The Ordinance provides that upon passing of the Bond Referendum, the Board shall create the Polk County Conservation Land Acquisition Advisory Committee ("CLASAC") by resolution; and the Board in determining the acquisition of land in accordance with the Ordinance.

The Ordinance provides that each proposed site will undergo a preliminary site assessment by the County to ensure the lands meet the basic criteria of environmental lands; and provides the criteria which will be considered in evaluation lands include (A) Water Resources, (B) Natural Communities and Landscape, (C) Plants Animals, (D) Human Values, and (E) Management.

Resolution No.2023-009 authorizes CLASAC to create subcommittees consisting of members and non-members of the CLASAC. CLASAC created a technical advisory group (TAG) to assist CLASAC in the technical fact-finding that is necessary in evaluating lands in accordance with the criteria provided in the ordinance.

The following sites have been evaluated by TAG and the recommendations made by CLASAC. These sites are now presented to the Board, for Board to determine if Stall should pursue acquisition or not pursue acquisition.

EL-139-25: Hancock Lake Ranch/ TAG 87/ CLASAC = YES to Pursue Acquisition  
EL-140 -25: Smith Bros Peace River/ TAG 92/ CLASAC = YES to Pursue Acquisition  
EL-141-25: Marston Ranch/ TAG 96/ CLASAC = YES to Pursue Acquisition  
EL-142-25: Wheeler Sandhill/ TAG 84/ CLASAC = YES to Pursue Acquisition

EL-143-25: Shores of Lake Pierce/ TAG 96/ CLASAC = YES to Pursue Acquisition  
EL-144 -25: Mountain Lake NE Sandhill/ TAG 79/ CLASAC = YES to Pursue Acquisition  
EL-145-25: Lassiter Family Trust/ TAG 77/ CLASAC = YES to Pursue Acquisition  
EL-146-25: Ingram Hatchineha Property/ TAG 83/ CLASAC = YES to Pursue Acquisition  
EL-147-25: Davis-Ingram Ranch/ TAG 93/ CLASAC = YES to Pursue Acquisition

If the Board approves staff to pursue acquisition, staff will enter discussions with the property owners, seek acquisition partners as appropriate and conduct due diligence. Then any agreement drafted will be brought back to the Board for consideration of approval for acquisition.

### **Recommendation**

Approve Conservation Land Acquisition Advisory Committee ("CLASAC") recommendation of the following:

1. Approve staff to pursue acquisition under the Environmental Lands Program for EL-139-25, EL-140 -25, EL-141-25, EL-142-25, EL-143-25, EL-144 -25, EL-145-25, EL-146-25, and EL-147-25.

### **Fiscal Impact**

No Fiscal Impact

### **Contact Information**

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