CONSERVANCY OF SOUTHWEST FLORIDA

Protecting Southwest Florida's unique natural environment and quality of life...now and forever.

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RLSA Myths vs. Reality
Myth 1: The RLSA is at risk of being developed as solid swath of 5-acre ranchettes
REALITY: Five-acre platted development is too costly and too difficult to permit.

“What person in their right mind would go out there and try to develop this stuff at one unit per five acres, and eventually platted subdivisions, knowing that they’re facing years and years of permitting and virtually no market for it, as compared to being able to get some credit for protecting that, and going and taking those rights and clustering them into a development pattern that’s proven to add value, be more cost effective, be more economically sound, who’s going to do that? If you do this right, nobody’s going to do the baseline conditions, that’s my point.”

~ Al Reynolds, Stantec (formerly WilsonMiller)
Myth 2: 50,000+ acres of SSAs have been placed in conservation.
REALITY: Only 1% of SSA lands have been placed in conservation.
Myth 3: Restoration is occurring in RLSA

Photo: Old florida Wetland Mitigation Bank
REALITY: Less than 1% of SSA lands have been restored.
Myth 4: Habitat connectivity will be retained and enhanced

Photos: Don Brouillard
“Panther corridors will be severely fragmented, narrowed, and shortened as a result of HCP development.” ~ Frakes (2018)
Myth 5: The HCP will protect listed species.
**REALITY:** The HCP development will gravely impact all listed species, not just the panther.

“The increased traffic volume, which would result from implementation of this HCP, poses a grave risk not only to the panther, but to most of the other Covered Species.”
~ Dr. Reed Noss
Myth 6: 5,000 acres of land was set aside as conservation in exchange for one Rivergrass Village.
REALITY:
5,000 acres of land was set aside as agricultural preservation which will pave the way for FIVE Rivergrass villages, not one.
The RLSA needs to be fixed now:

Current credits pending/approved = 37 Rivergrass Villages

The RLSA is 37/45<sup>th</sup> the way to the 45,000 acre cap