

Valuing Nature for Decision-Making and Policy

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Presentation Outline

- Overview
- Monroe County Natural Resource-Based Adaptation Strategies
- Miami-Dade Waterfront Recreation Access Plan: Willingness to Pay Study
- Florida Wildlife Corridor Payment for Ecosystem Services

Ecosystem Service Values

- Ecosystem services provide benefits that are not bought or sold in commercial markets, e.g., water quality, flood control, habitat
- Benefits of these ES are increasingly being accounted for in decision-making:
 - Public Willingness to Pay for Programmatic Management of Public Natural Resources
 - Benefit-Cost Analyses
 - Design of Landowner Incentive Programs



Miami (FL, USA) Waterfront Recreation Access Survey

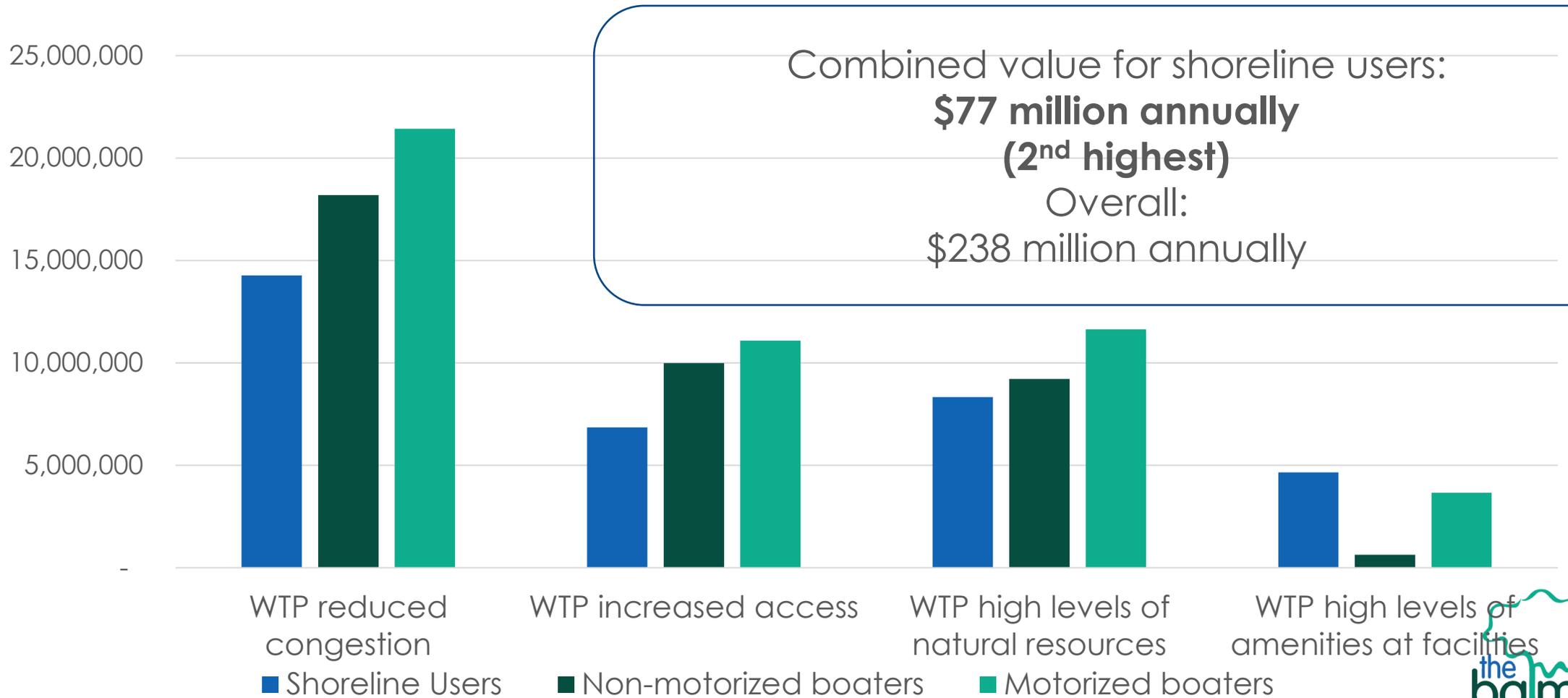


Waterfront Recreation Access Survey



- **Goal:** Multiple points of access with varied levels of amenities for every segment of the community:
 - relieve pressure on environmentally sensitive lands
 - increase opportunities for all demographic strata
 - provide recreational options that otherwise may be unreachable to some social strata
 - ultimately, increase overall community well-being and potentially stability

Miami-Dade Resident's Annual WTP



Source: The Balmoral Group 2022



Findings & Policy Implications

- There is significant desire among boaters for less crowded, more accessible boat launches; more amenities, less boater density, and more natural resources
- Motorized boaters were willing to pay the most for increased recreational amenities
- The WTP expressed by respondents presents an opportunity for the county to implement programs that could improve waterfront access, e.g., grants programs funded by user fees, to improve waterbody conditions and improve recreational user experience

Cost-Effectiveness of Natural Resource-Based Adaptation Strategies in the Florida Keys



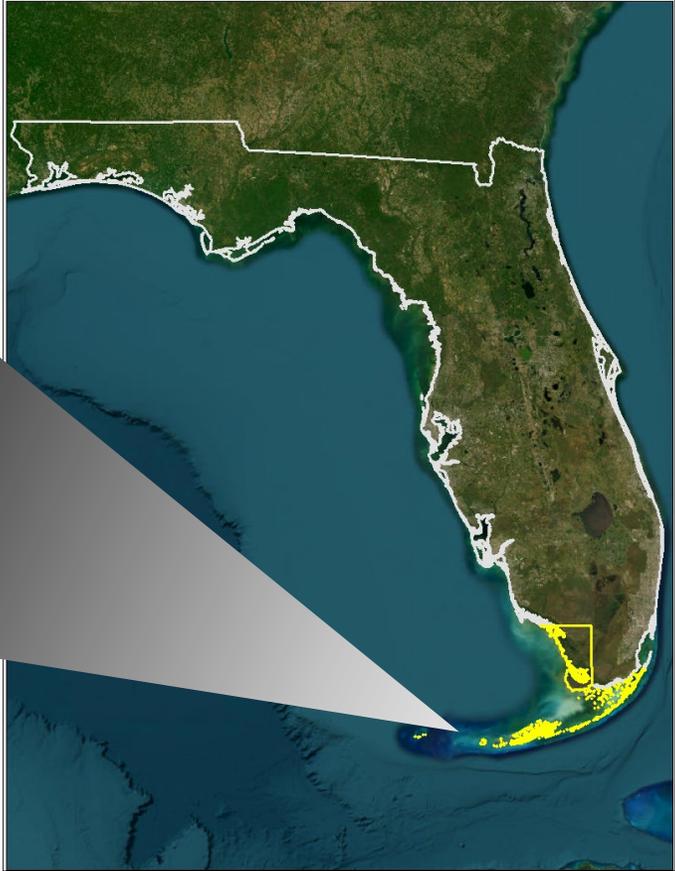
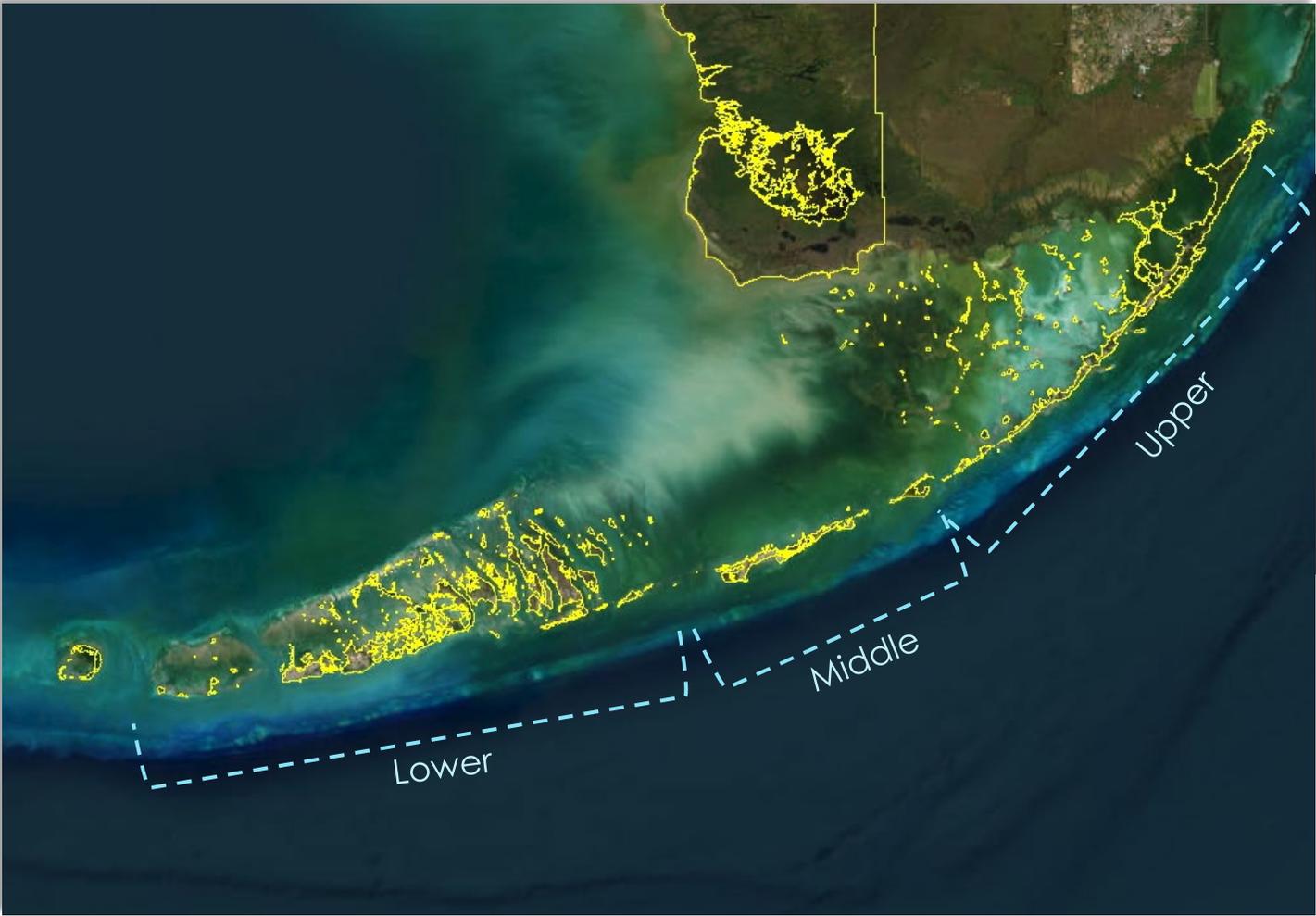
Cost-Benefit Analysis: Natural Resource-Based Adaptation Strategies

The Florida Keys (Monroe County) is home to **unique ecosystems** that are experiencing **impacts from climate change and sea level rise**.

In its **2021 Vulnerability Assessment (VA)**, Monroe County identified the need to develop an **adaptation strategy focused specifically on its natural resources** to guide future planning efforts.

The Balmoral Group (TBG) was contracted to conduct a **cost-benefit analysis (CBA) of the natural resource adaptation strategies** identified in the Monroe County 2021 VA. TBG was sub to WSP.

Study Area: Monroe County/Florida Keys



Findings & Recommendations



Overall

- CBA provides guidance in prioritizing strategies and specific sites for natural resource adaptation



Land Acquisition

- Larger, forested areas tend to provide greater ecosystem services benefits
- Consider prioritizing these lands for acquisition



Rainwater harvesting

- Most cost-effective and considered urgent for protection of wildlife
- Consider prioritizing this low-cost strategy



Wetland Restoration

- Freshwater wetlands are critical habitat for several species; vulnerable to SLR
- Site specific results can inform prioritization



Green infrastructure

- Mangroves provide wide array of benefits for habitat protection & resilience
- Site specific results can inform prioritization



Living Shorelines

- Provide valuable habitats and stabilize shoreline to enhance resilience
- Carefully consider predicted shoreline conditions in project selection

Cross-Cutting Finding:
“Keys Factor” Construction Costs Important Consideration for Project Planning

Florida Wildlife Corridor Payment for Ecosystem Services



Wildlife Corridor PES: Objectives

Maintain connectivity for critical Wildlife Corridor linkages

Pay landowners to ***not sell land*** at high risk of conversion & maintain ecosystem services (**additionality**)

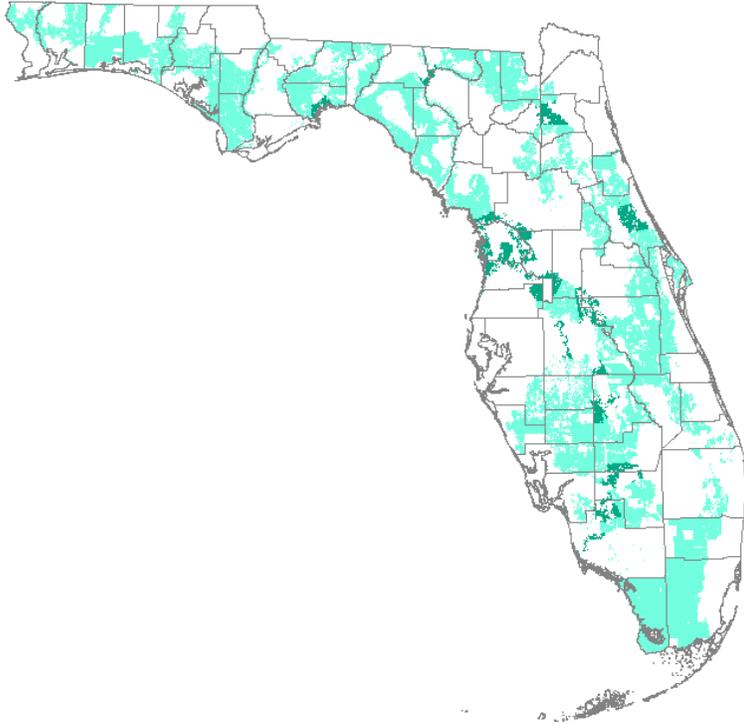
Increase PES awareness & participation

Context:

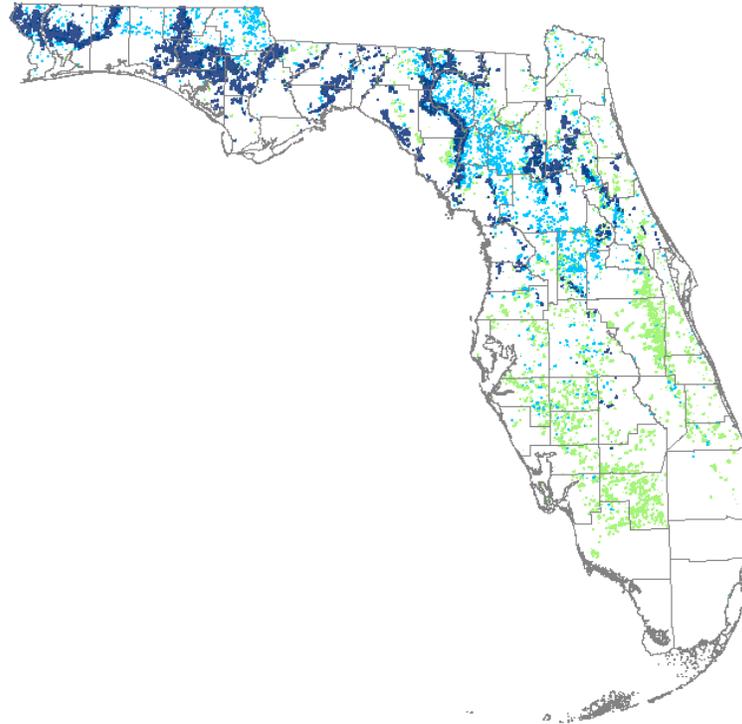
Alternative costs:
Loss of **3.5 million acres**
\$18 billion in Ecosystem services

Approach: Use Existing Data, Valuations

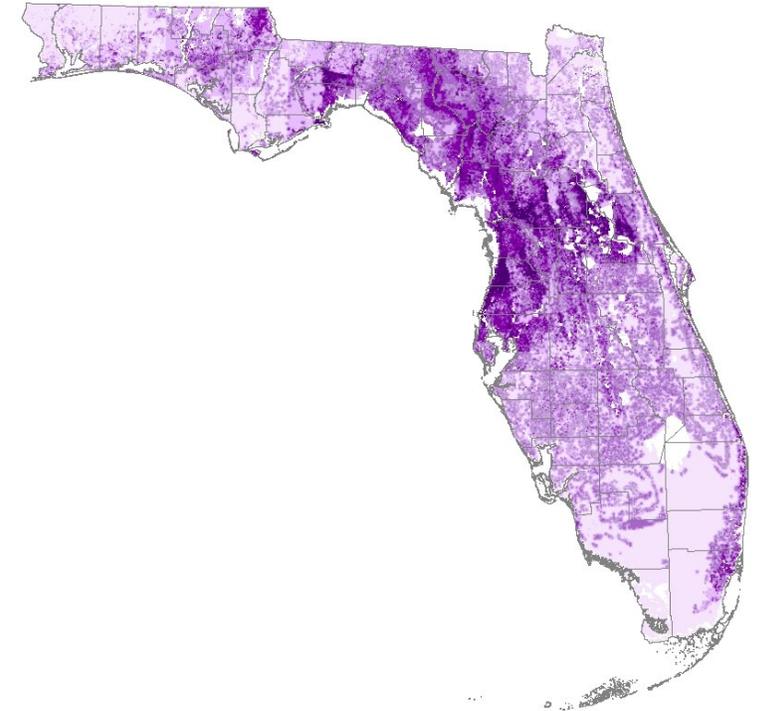
Wildlife Habitat



Water Quality



Aquifer Recharge



Source: TBG work product; FEGN

Wildlife Corridor PES Summary

- Stakeholder input is key component of research and program design
- Important to understand the successes and challenges experienced by other PES programs
- Partnerships across public and private sector are critical to program success; Pilot transactions with initial funding are pending

Questions?

Thank you!

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