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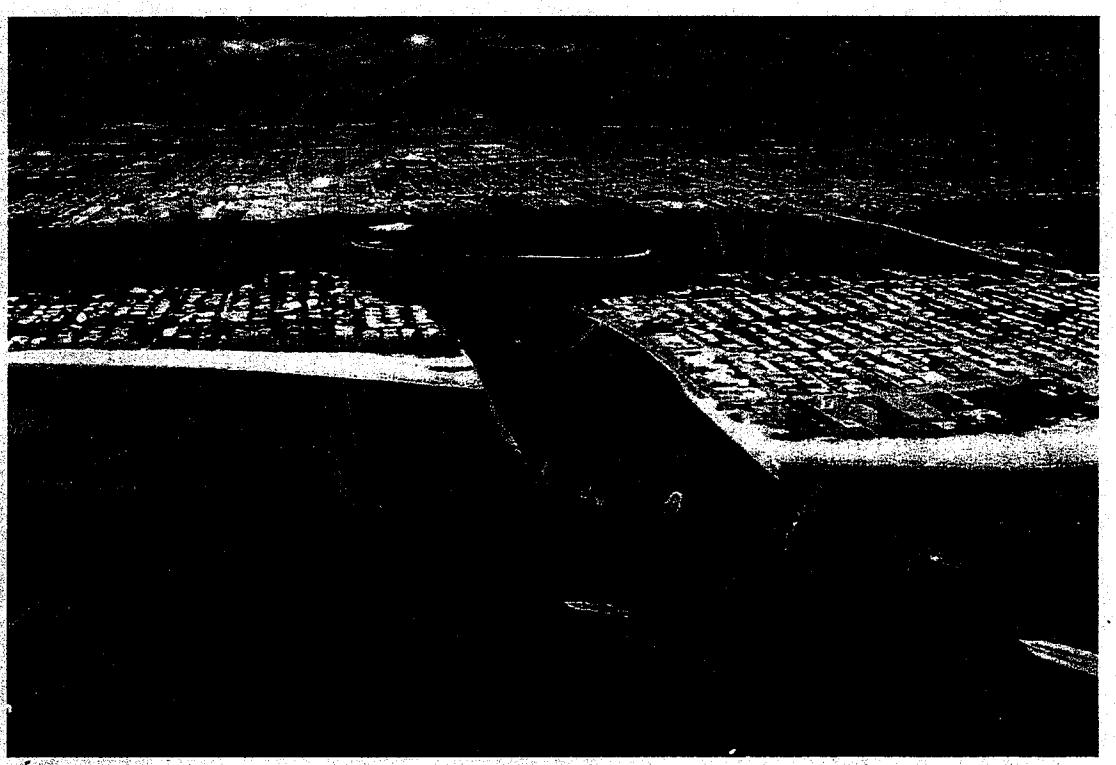
MARCH 2000

PEANUT ISLAND
PALM BEACH COUNTY, FLORIDA

FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL RESTORATION REPORT
AND
FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT



US Army Corps of Engineers
Jacksonville District
South Atlantic Division

ENVIRONMENTAL RESTORATION
SECTION 1135

SECTION 1135
ENVIRONMENTAL RESTORATION REPORT
AND
ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

PEANUT ISLAND
PALM BEACH COUNTY, FLORIDA

MAIN REPORT

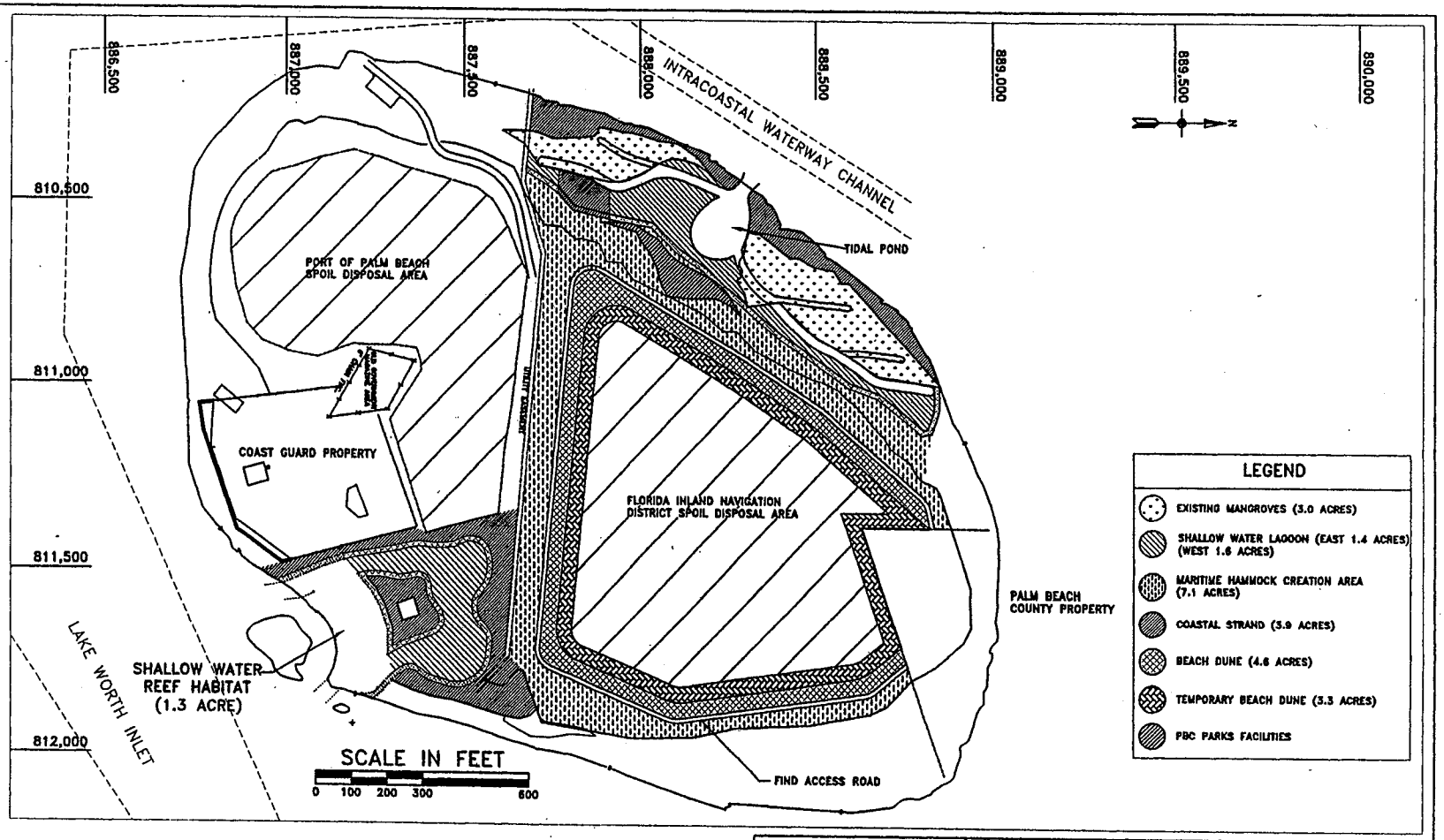
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Originally, the area that Peanut Island occupies was a submerged shallow water habitat. As a result of fill placement from numerous dredging projects, the island today comprises 79 acres and has subsequently become dominated by a monoculture of the exotic tree, Australian pine (*Casuarina equisetifolia).* U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' records show that maintenance of the Lake Worth Inlet between 1929 and 1993 has resulted in the disposal of over 1.2 million cubic yards of dredged material on the Peanut Island area, and the disposal of approximately 2.8 million cubic yards at sea (much of the Peanut Island disposal was sand mixed with rock and/or finer sediments, and therefore, was not suitable for beach disposal). Since 1934, the Corps has maintained the Palm Beach Harbor Navigation Project and has used Peanut Island as a disposal site for the maintenance of the Intracoastal Waterway (IWW), turning basin, jetties and inlet revetments.

This report provides the results of engineering and environmental studies for implementing the Section 1135 Peanut Island Environmental Restoration Plan in Palm Beach County, Florida. The following page illustrates the environmental restoration components of the recommended plan. The purpose of the project is to restore the submerged shallow water habitat for fisheries and wildlife. The recommended plan consists of excavation and removal of dredged material deposits, construction of an exterior reef stabilization/breakwater, clearing and chipping of exotic vegetation, revegetation with native plant species, and the addition of recreation development features.

The environmental restoration will result in the creation of a 1.3 acre shallow water reef and 3.0 acres shallow-water lagoon habitat; restoration of 3.0 acres of existing mangrove habitat through the creation of an inlet, tidal pond, and flushing channels (1.5 acres). Creation of 7.1 acres of maritime hammock, 3.9 acres of Coastal Strand, 4.6 acres of Beach Dune, and 22 acres of seagrasses. The environmental restoration and recreation development features have a total estimated cost of $5,881,608. This project will benefit reef fish, birds, invertebrates, benthic organisms, seagrasses, mangroves, and maritime hammocks. Also, this project will provide environmental education to the public and give the public an unique opportunity to experience a variety of native habitats that have been rapidly depleted in South Florida.

RECOMMENDED PLAN



DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT

PEANUT ISLAND

ENVIRONMENTAL RESTORATION RECOMMENDED PLAN

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SECTION 1135
PEANUT ISLAND ENVIRONMENTAL RESTORATION

FEASIBILITY REPORT
AND
ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

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I. MCACES