

# How to Address Sovereignty Lands Issues in Florida

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of

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### How To Address Sovereignty Lands Issues In Florida

Linda Monaco, B.C.S. Legal Education Attorney

#### **Overview**

- History
- General Sovereignty Lands Exception (GSL)
- Example 1 locating water
- Example 2 addressing water issues
- Commitment
- Resources





#### **History – Equal Footing Doctrine**

- On March 3, 1845, Florida became a state
  - Lands under navigable water became property of Florida
- Lands under navigable water intended to be retained by the state, but could be transferred to private ownership
- United States retained right to regulate use of navigable waters





#### History - Swamp & Overflow Lands



- 1850 Swamp and Overflow Lands Act passed
  - This land was unfit for cultivation
- Title to swamp and overflow land in Florida was transferred to the state
- This transfer was 20 million acres
  - Florida consists of 36 million acres
  - Almost 2/3 of entire state
- These lands were intended to be transferred to private ownership



#### History – Title from Florida

- By act of the legislature, trustees were appointed to the Internal Improvement Trust Fund (TIIF)
- Land was sold to encourage people to settle in Florida
  - To dredge and fill uninhabitable swamps
  - Proceeds to the Internal Improvement Trust Fund
- Submerged lands must be specifically conveyed
  - Coastal Petroleum Co. v. Am. Cyanamid Co., 492
     So. 2d 342 (Fla. 1986)





#### Coastal Petroleum

- Conveyance of "swamp and overflow land" by TIIF did not include any lands under navigable waters, such as a river, because TIIF had no legal authority to convey such lands in 1883
- Marketable Record Title Act (MRTA) did not apply
- If river (or water body) is navigable, then subsurface is sovereignty land
- Note: a valid TIIF deed must expressly refer to the land as "submerged" or otherwise



#### **Effect on Title Insurance**

- Coastal Petroleum reinforced the need to consider water issues when issuing title policies
- Failure to check for water issues has led to paying policy limits
- Land that is now dry could still be sovereignty land
  - Kissimmee River was "straightened out"
  - Old riverbeds belong to the state unless specifically deeded as submerged land
  - Now largest river restoration in the world



#### **Kissimmee River**





#### **Title Insurance**

- Need to review the status of the land at statehood (March 3, 1845)
- Spoil islands
  - Created by dredging (i.e., Intracoastal Waterway)
  - State owned until specifically deeded as submerged land
- United States and Florida always have right to regulate use of navigable waters







#### **Title Search**

- ALWAYS check
  - Legal access to public road
  - Water issues
- Pictured right
  - No access to public road
  - Note possible water issues





#### **Title Search**

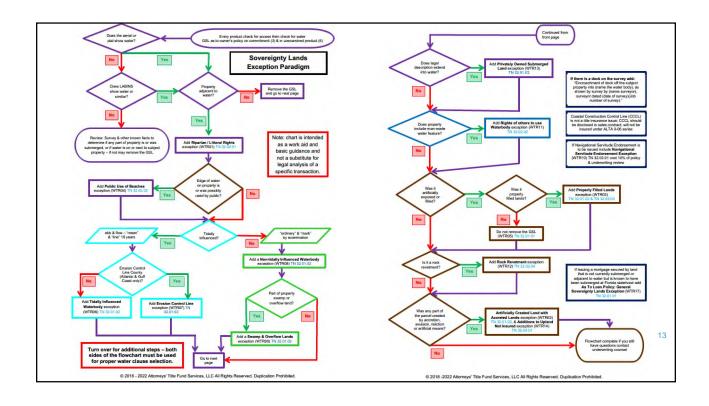


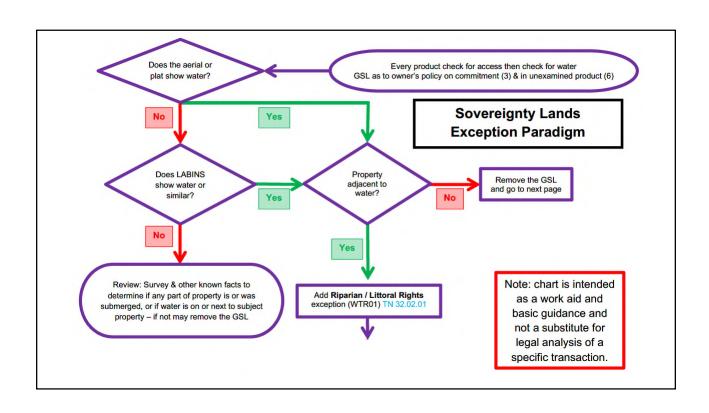


#### **General Sovereignty Lands Exception (GSL)**

- "Any Owner's Policy issued pursuant hereto will contain under Schedule B the following exception: 'Any adverse ownership claim by the State of Florida by right of sovereignty to any portion of the Land insured hereunder, including submerged, filled and artificially exposed lands and lands accreted to such lands.'"
  - As a reminder to check for water issues
  - Preprinted on commitment and included on unexamined Fund products
  - Determine if GSL may be eliminated or replaced by specific exceptions







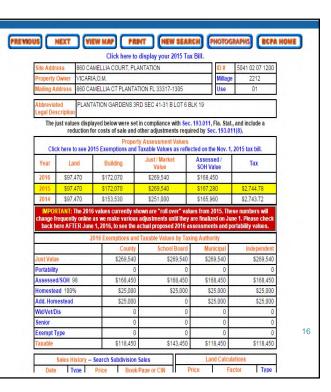
#### **Looking for Water: Check**

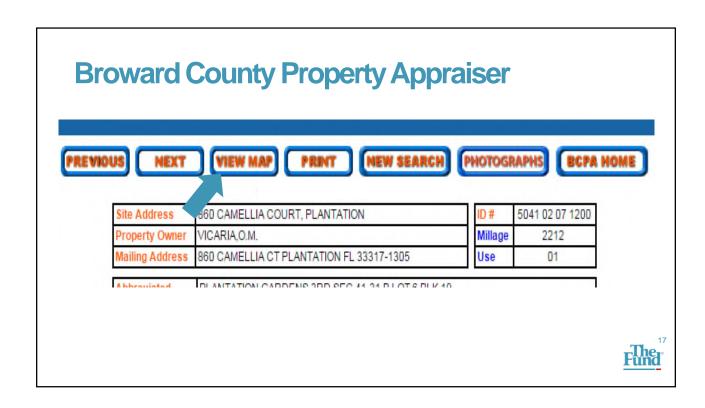
- Aerial photographs
  - County property appraiser or
  - Other aerial photographs
- Plat
- Land Boundary Information Systems -LABINS
  - Early survey records
  - Historical aerial photographs
- Example 1
  - 860 Camellia Court, Plantation





860 Camellia Court Plantation Broward County Property Appraiser





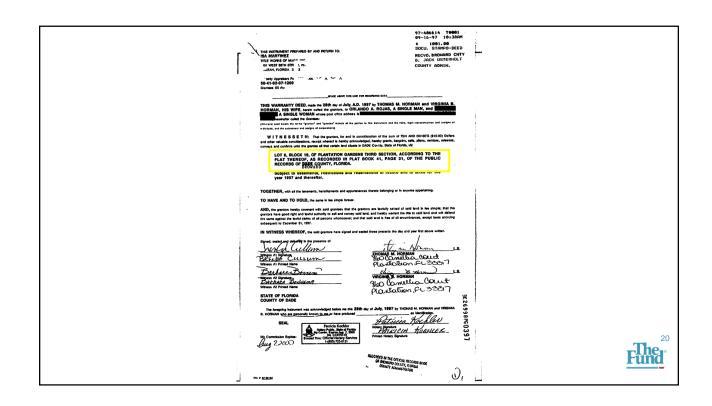


#### **Aerial - Google**









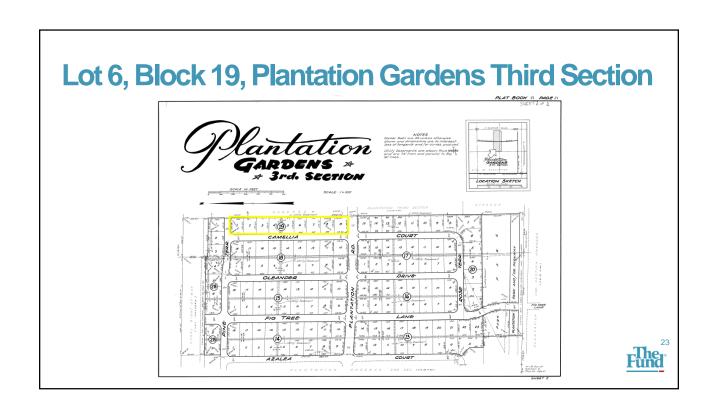
#### Finding the Plat – Legal

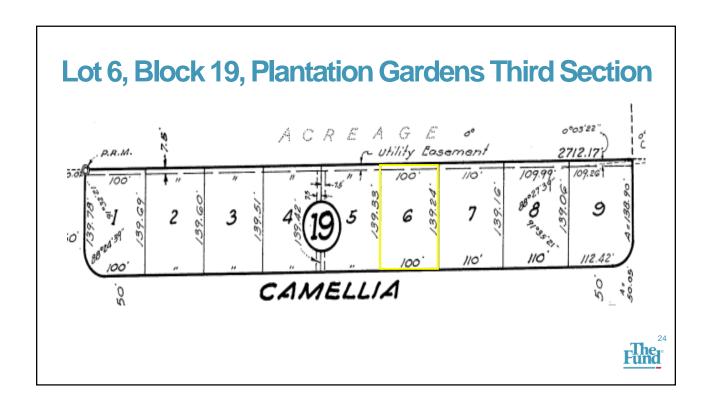
LOT 6, BLOCK 19, OF PLANTATION GARDENS THIRD SECTION, ACCORDING TO THE PLAT THEREOF, AS RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 41, PAGE 31, OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS OF DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA.

Subject to essements, restrictions and reservations of record and to taxes for the year 1997 and thereafter.



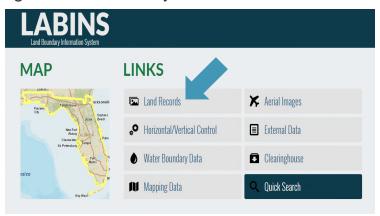
# Plat Older Control Control Garber Service G



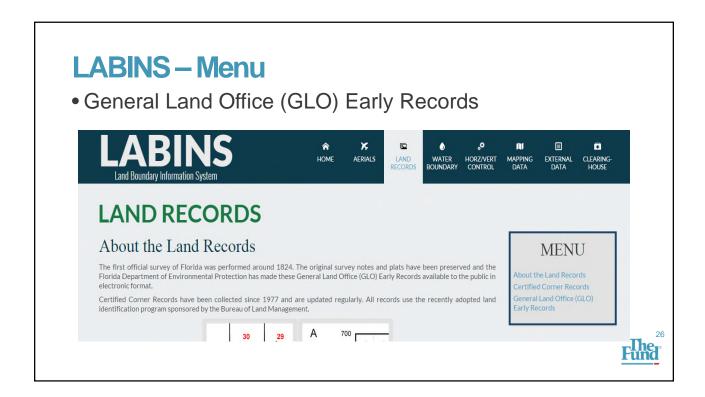


#### **Historical Check**

- Check Land Boundary Information System LABINS
  - www.labins.org
  - Original government surveys







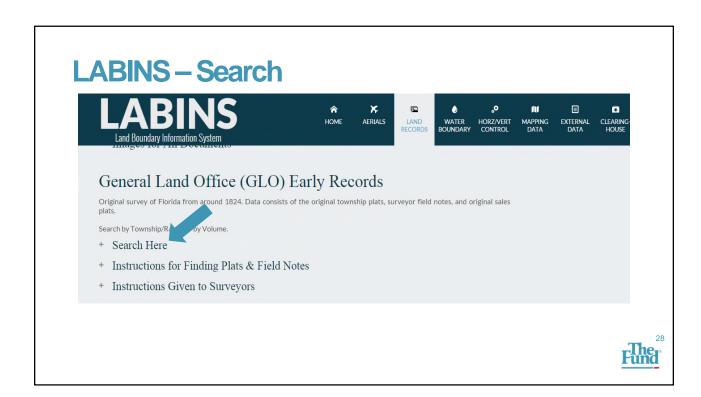
#### **LABINS**

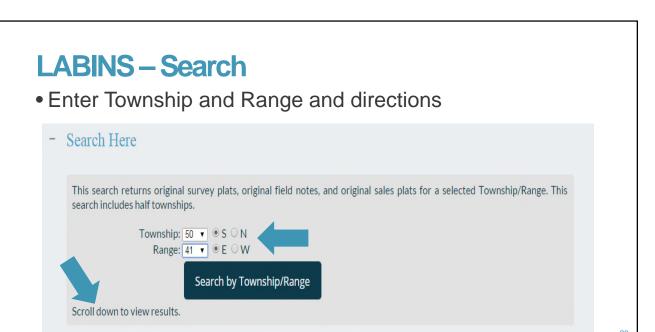
• General Land Office (GLO) Early Records

#### **MENU**

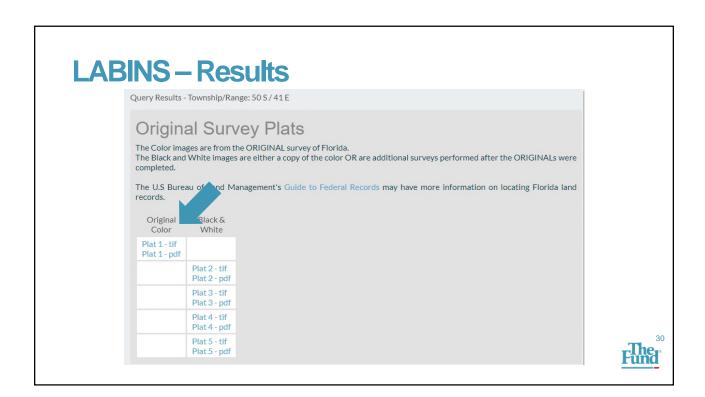
About the Land Records
Certified Corner Records
General Land Office (GLO)
Early Records

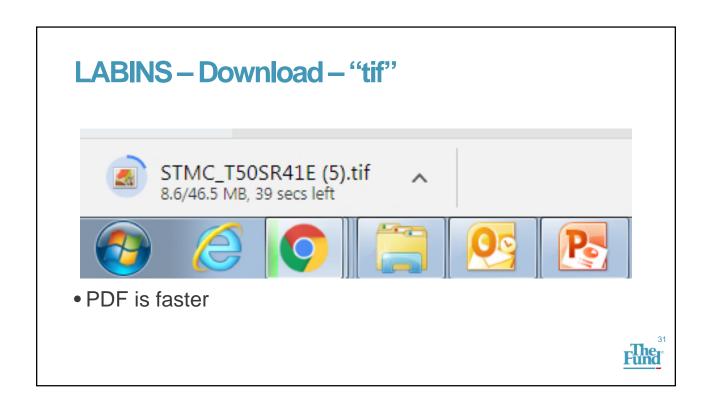


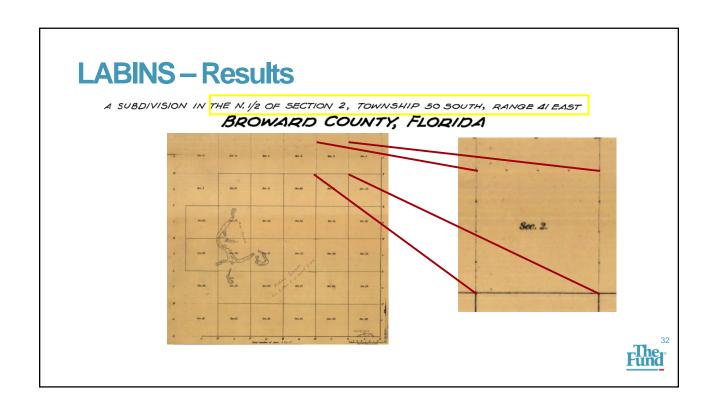


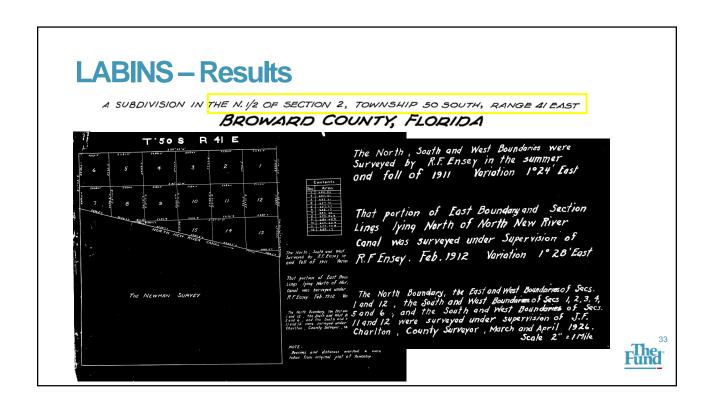


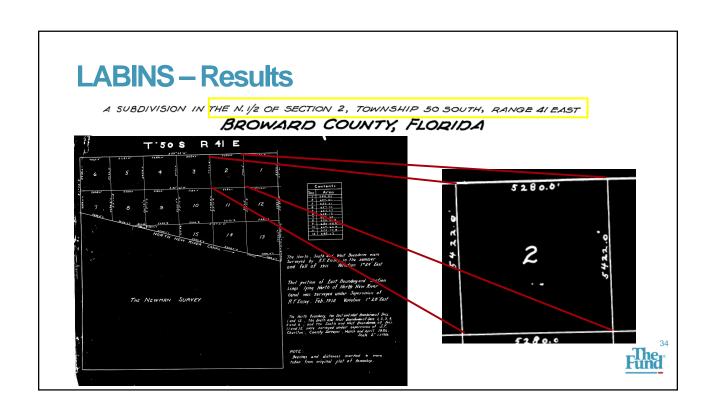
**The Fund** 

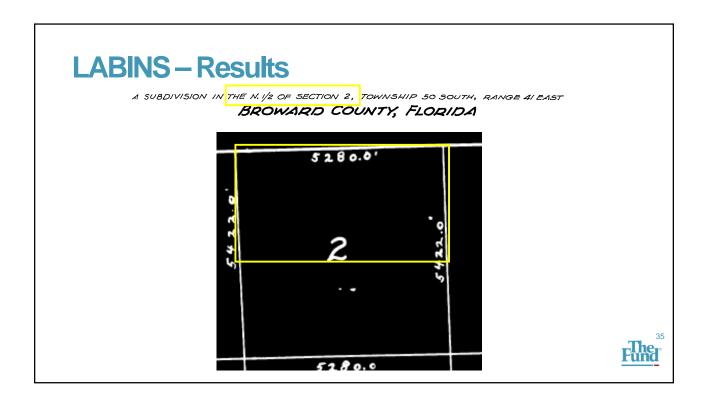










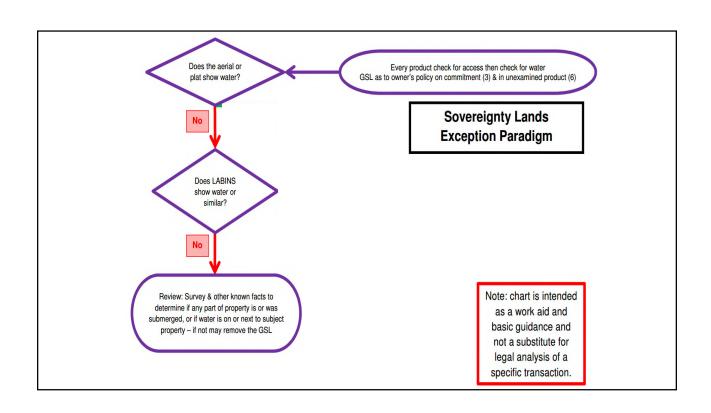


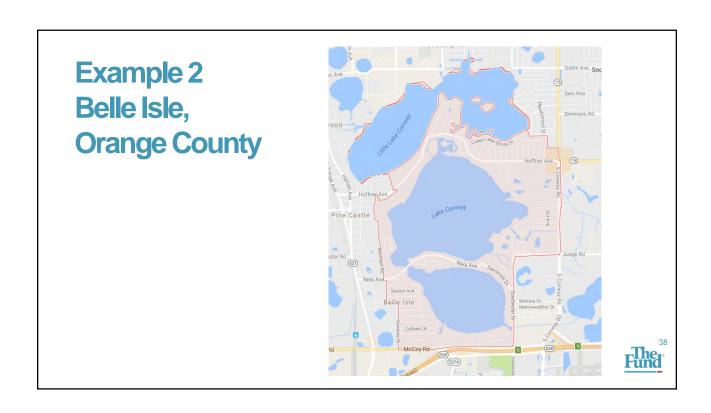
#### **Deleting GSL**

- First step
  - Aerial views for current evidence of water body
  - Plat
    - Water bodies
    - Section, Township and Range information
  - LABINS
    - Historical information

- Second step
  - Review survey
  - Apply known facts
  - If no part of subject property
    - Is or was at any time submerged or
    - Adjacent to water
- Then may delete GSL







#### Example 2 – 5423 Pasadena Drive, Belle Isle

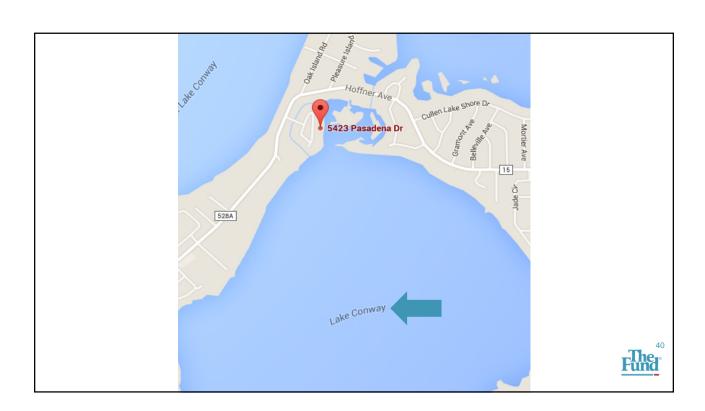






• Check aerial (Google, Zillow, etc.)





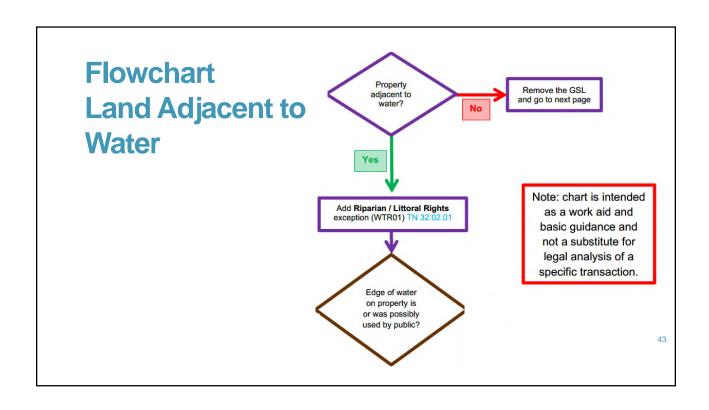
The Policy will not insure against loss or damage resulting from the terms and provisions of any lease or easement identified in Schedule A and will include the following Exceptions unless cleared to the satisfaction of the Company:

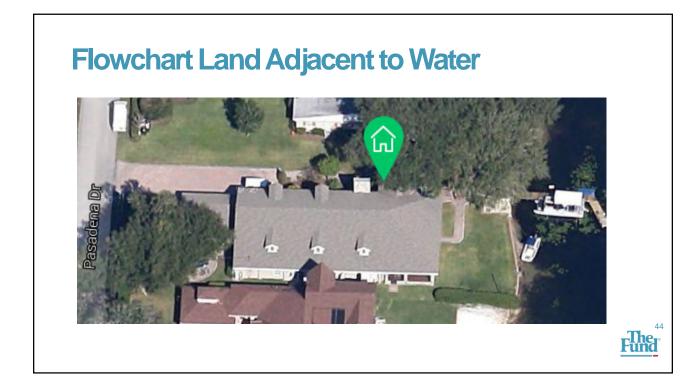
- Defects, liens, encumbrances, adverse claims or other matters, if any, created, first appearing in the Public Records or attaching subsequent to the Effective Date hereof but prior to the date the Proposed Insured acquires for value of record the estate or interest or Mortgage thereon covered by this Commitment.
- 2. a. The lien of all taxes or special assessments for the year and thereafter, which are not yet due and payable.
  - b. Rights or claims of parties in possession not recorded in the Public Records.
  - c. Any encroachment, encumbrance, violation, variation, or adverse circumstance that would be disclosed by an inspection or an accurate and complete land survey of the Land and inspection of the Land.
  - d. Easements, or claims of easements, not recorded in the Public Records.
  - e. Any lien, or right to a lien, for services, labor, or material furnished, imposed by <u>law</u> and not recorded in the Public Records.
- 3. Any Owner's Policy issued pursuant hereto will contain under Schedule B the following exception: Any adverse ownership claim by the State of Florida by right of sovereignty to any portion of the Land insured hereunder, including submerged, filled and artificially exposed lands, and lands accreted to such lands.



- Defects, liens, encumbrances, adverse claims or other matters, if any, created, first appearing in the Public Records or attaching subsequent to the Effective Date hereof but prior to the date the Proposed Insured acquires for value of record the estate or interest or Mortgage thereon covered by this Commitment.
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  - e. Any lien, or right to a lien, for services, labor, or material furnished, imposed by <u>law</u> and not recorded in the Public Records.
- 3. INTENTIONALLY DELETED







#### Land Adjacent to Water Landowner's Rights

- Exception for riparian/littoral rights
  - Littoral rights rights which run with the land adjacent to ocean, gulf or lakes
    - Swimming, irrigation, boating, fishing, etc.
  - Riparian rights rights which run with the land adjacent to rivers or streams
    - Swimming, irrigation, boating, fishing, etc.
- Add "Riparian/Littoral Rights" exception
  - (WTR01) TN 32.02.01



- Defects, liens, encumbrances, adverse claims or other matters, if any, created, first appearing in the Public Records or attaching subsequent to the Effective Date hereof but prior to the date the Proposed Insured acquires for value of record the estate or interest or Mortgage thereon covered by this Commitment.
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  - e. Any lien, or right to a lien, for services, labor, or material furnished, imposed by <u>law</u> and not recorded in the Public Records.
- 3. INTENTIONALLY DELETED
- 4. Riparian and littoral rights are not insured.



#### Land Adjacent to Water Public Rights

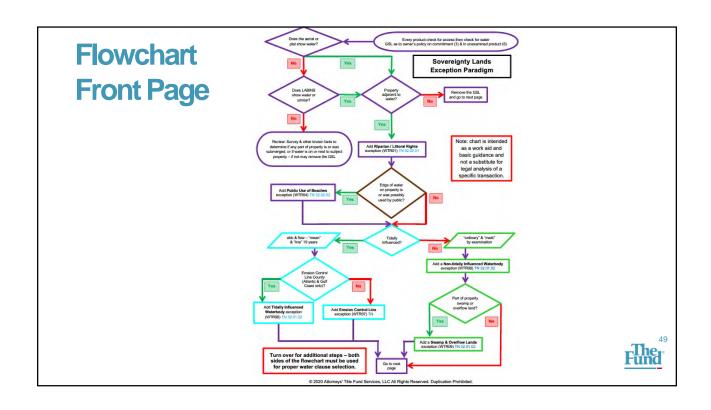
- Recreational public rights
  - Exception applies if water is
    - Ocean
    - Gulf
    - Bay
    - Lake
    - River, etc.
  - Add proper exception
    - "Public Use of Beaches" (WTR04)
    - TN 32.02.02

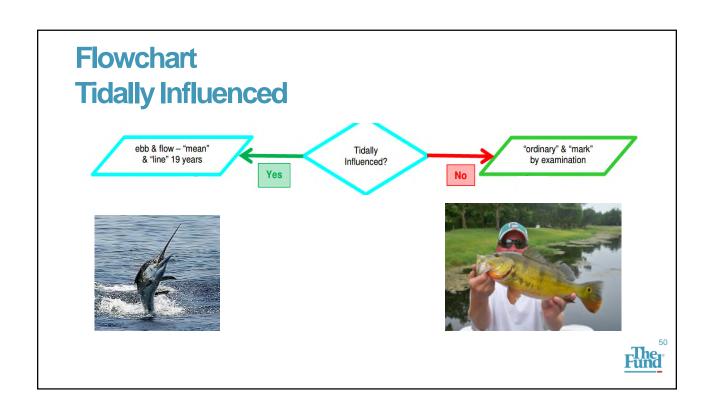




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  - e. Any lien, or right to a lien, for services, labor, or material furnished, imposed by <u>law</u> and not recorded in the Public Records.
- 3. INTENTIONALLY DELETED
- 4. Riparian and littoral rights are not insured.
- Possible right of the public to use that part of the Land adjacent to the water's edge that is now, or was formerly, regularly used by the public for recreational purposes.







#### **Tidally Influenced**

- Affected by the ebb and flow of tides
  - Typically saltwater
  - Examples
    - Ocean
    - Gulf
    - Bay
    - Intracoastal
    - Brackish water
    - Swamp (sometimes)
    - River (sometimes)
  - Usually larger bodies of water
  - Land beneath mostly acquired at statehood
- Exception to include: "mean-high water line"



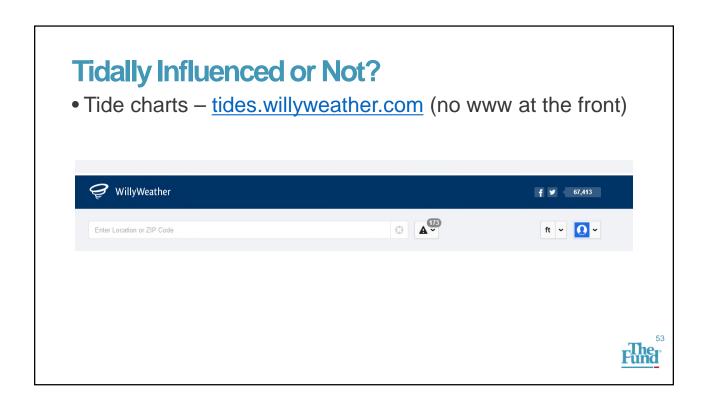


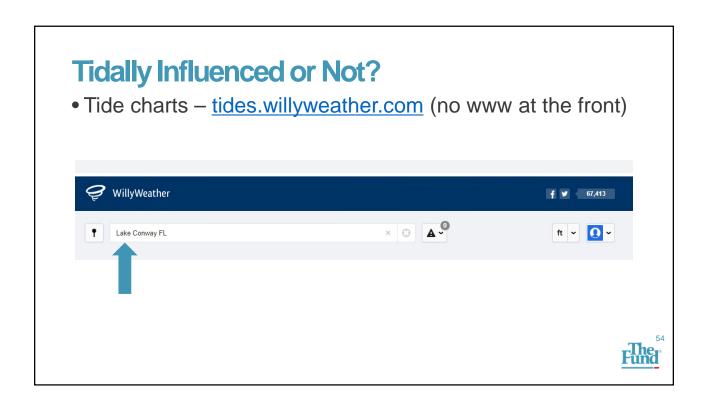
#### Non-Tidally Influenced

- Not effected by ebb and flow
  - Typically freshwater
  - Examples
    - Lake (Statehood)
    - River (Statehood) (usually)
    - Stream (Statehood) (usually)
    - Pond (Statehood) (usually)
    - Swamp (1850) (usually)
  - Land beneath acquired at navigable
- Exception to include: "ordinary high water mark"



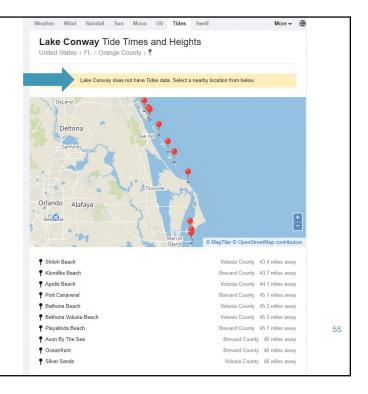






## Tidally Influenced or Not?

• Results



#### Tidally Influenced or Not?

Lake Conway is not tidally influenced





#### Ordinary High Water Mark - Defined by Case Law

- "A high water mark, as a line between the riparian owner and the public, is to be determined by examining the bed and banks, and ascertaining where the presence and action of the water are so common and usual, and so long continued in all ordinary years, as to mark upon the soil of the bed a character distinct from that of the banks, in respect to vegetation as well as respects the nature of the soil itself." *Tilden v. Smith*, 113 So. 708, 712 (Fla. 1927)
- ADDITIONALLY . . .





#### **Ordinary High Water Mark - Determination**

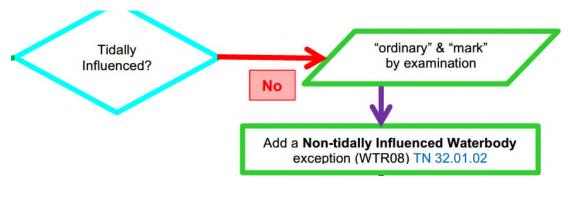
- Surveyors can not define the ordinary high water mark by rule
- Only courts may determine upon facts and circumstances
- If the subject land abuts freshwater use the proper exception
- If the lake or pond is very small, underwriting counsel may be able to delete the exception





#### Flowchart - Non-Tidally Influenced

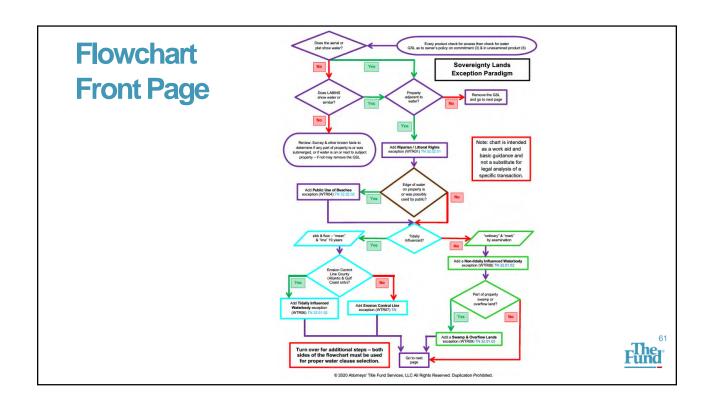
• Add water exception clause for lake

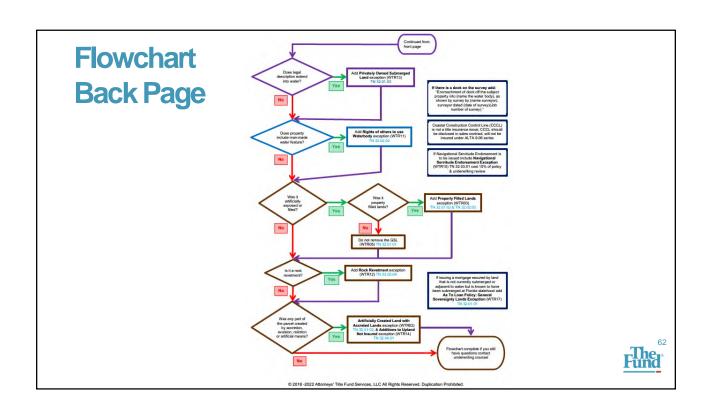


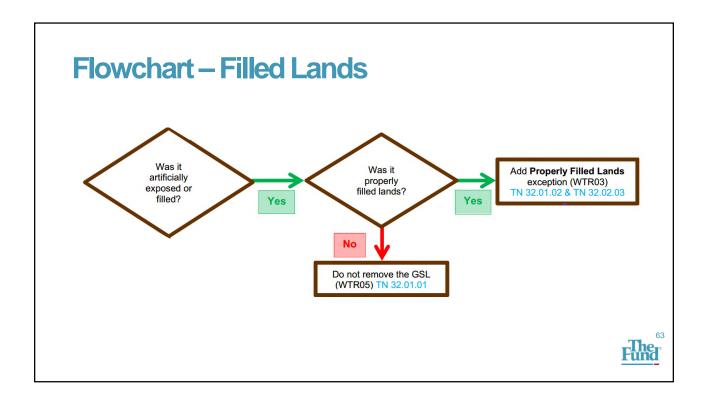


- Defects, liens, encumbrances, adverse claims or other matters, if any, created, first appearing in the Public Records or attaching subsequent to the Effective Date hereof but prior to the date the Proposed Insured acquires for value of record the estate or interest or Mortgage thereon covered by this Commitment.
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  - e. Any lien, or right to a lien, for services, labor, or material furnished, imposed by <u>law</u> and not recorded in the Public Records.
- 3. INTENTIONALLY DELETED
- Riparian and littoral rights are not insured.
- Possible right of the public to use that part of the Land adjacent to the water's edge that is now, or was formerly, regularly used by the public for recreational purposes.
- 6. Any portion of the Land lying waterward of the ordinary high water mark of Lake Conway, and lands accreted thereto.









#### **Filled Lands**

- Lands filled during the time permitted by law can be properly filled lands
  - Deemed owned by upland owner
- Lands filled outside the time permitted by law remain the property of the State of Florida
- Butler Act of 1921 (repealed by "Bulkhead Act" of 1957)
  - Allowed upland riparian owner to obtain title to filled lands
  - Only applied to
    - Bulkheaded lands
    - Filled-in lands
    - Permanently improved lands





#### Properly Filled Lands Criteria - Tidally Influenced

- Filling complete by July 1, 1975
  - Check historical aerial photographs on LABINS
- Owner who filled not owner on January 1, 1993
- Cannot be
  - "Spoil island" island created by dredging
  - Land on the state's official acquisition list as of July 1, 1993
  - · Land maintained as a state or local recreation area
  - Shore protection structure
- Fla. Stat. §253.12 (9)
- TN 32.01.02 A. 2.





# Properly Filled Lands Criteria – Non-Tidally Influenced

- No special grandfathering
- Owner would have to receive title in the form of TIIF deed

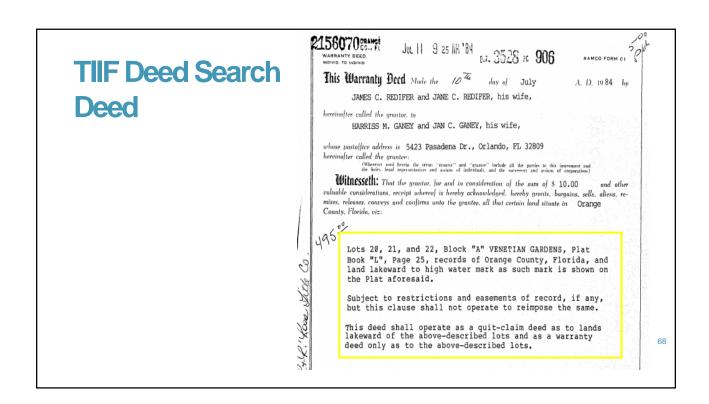




### **Transfer of Properly Filled Lands - Via Deed**

- Conveyance from sovereign submerged lands
  - Clear intent
  - Authority
  - Specifically mentions submerged lands
  - Will be closely scrutinized by courts
    - Doubt or ambiguity will be found in favor of the state
    - Pre-1919, TIIF could not convey sovereignty lands, only the legislature could convey
- Public still has right to use water if land is still submerged





### TIIF Deed Search Deed

Lots 20, 21, and 22, Block "A" VENETIAN GARDENS, Plat Book "L", Page 25, records of Orange County, Florida, and land lakeward to high water mark as such mark is shown on the Plat aforesaid.

Subject to restrictions and easements of record, if any, but this clause shall not operate to reimpose the same.

This deed shall operate as a quit-claim deed as to lands lakeward of the above-described lots and as a warranty deed only as to the above-described lots.



# Plat VENETIAN GARDENS Plat VENETIAN GARDENS Plate Pla

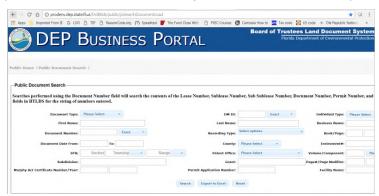
## TIIF Deed Search Plat

OF ABOVE DESCRIBED LANDS BEING IN SECTION 18, TOWNSHIP 23 SOUTH, RANGE 30 EAST.

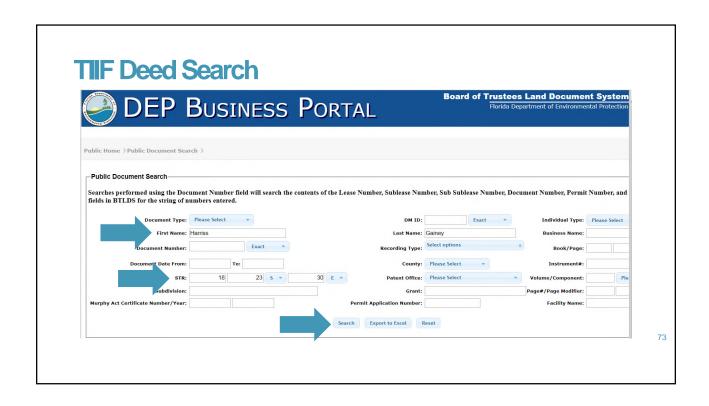


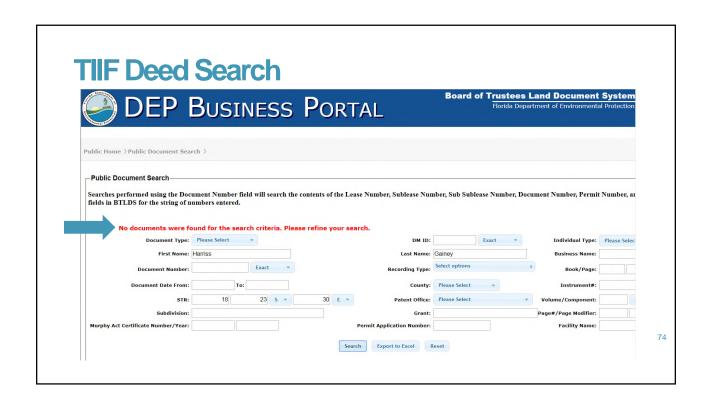
### TIIF Deed Search

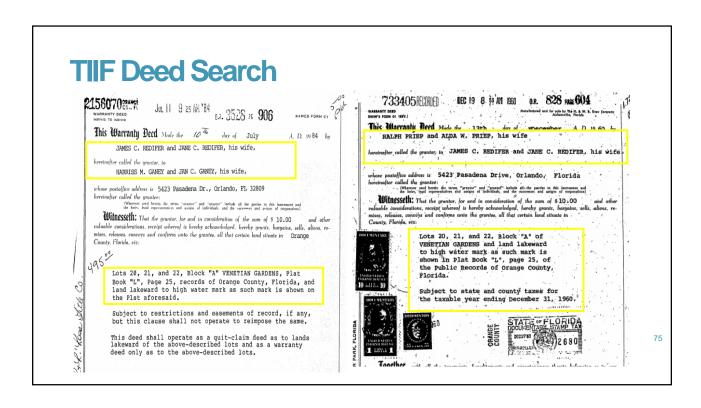
- Land document search - <a href="http://prodenv.dep.state.fl.us/DslBtlds/public/piSearchDocumentLoad">http://prodenv.dep.state.fl.us/DslBtlds/public/piSearchDocumentLoad</a>
  - TIIF (Trustees of the Internal Improvement Trust Fund) Deed











### **TIIF Deed Search**

JAMES C. REDIFER and JANE C. REDIFER, his wife,

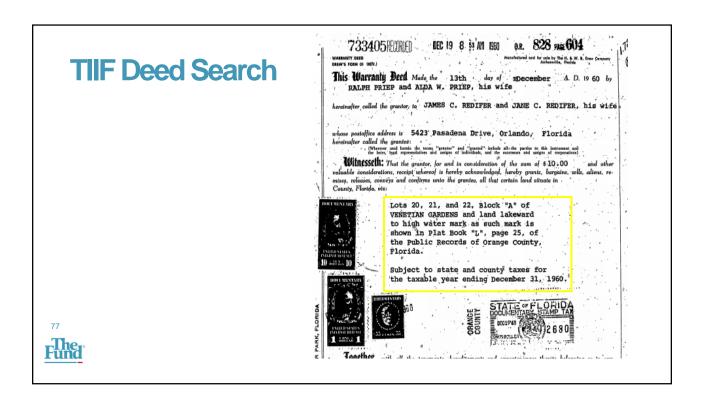
hereinafter called the grantor, to

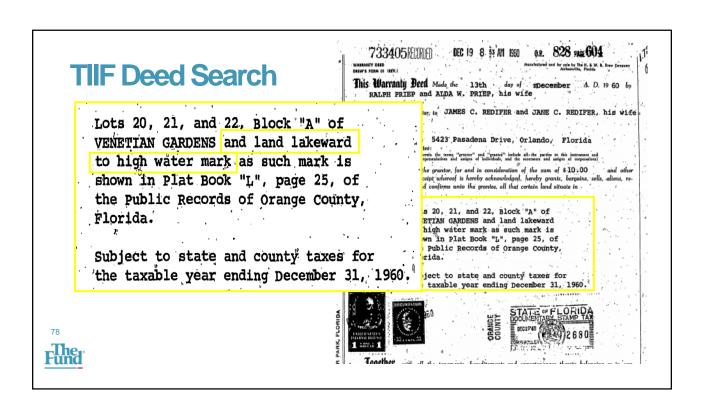
HARRISS M. GANEY and JAN C. GANEY, his wife,

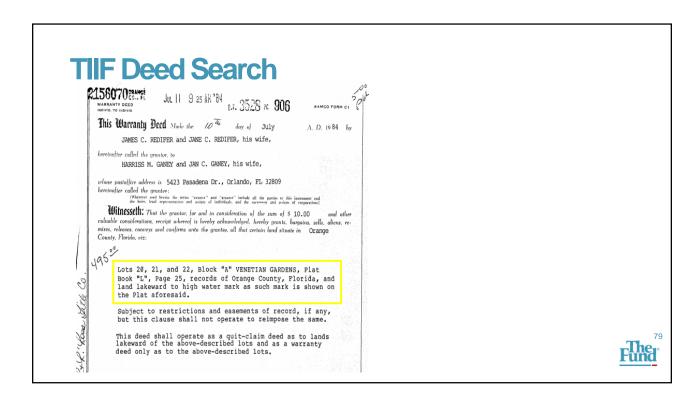
RALPH PRIEP and ALDA W. PRIEP, his wife

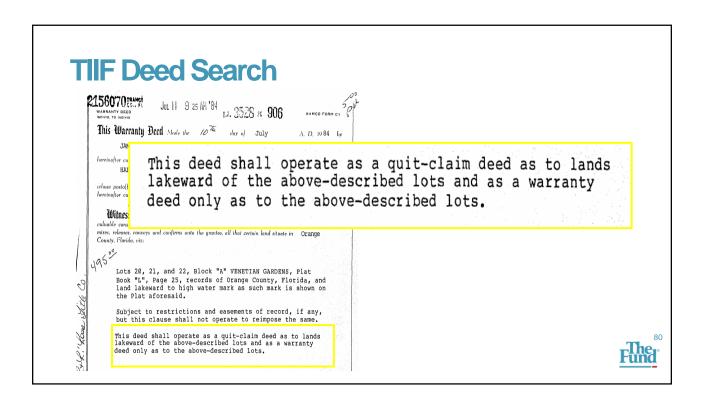
hereinafter called the grantor, to JAMES C. REDIFER and JANE C. REDIFER, his wife

The Fund

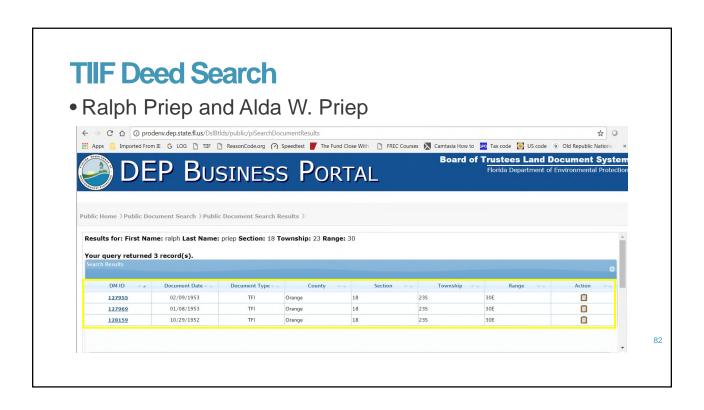


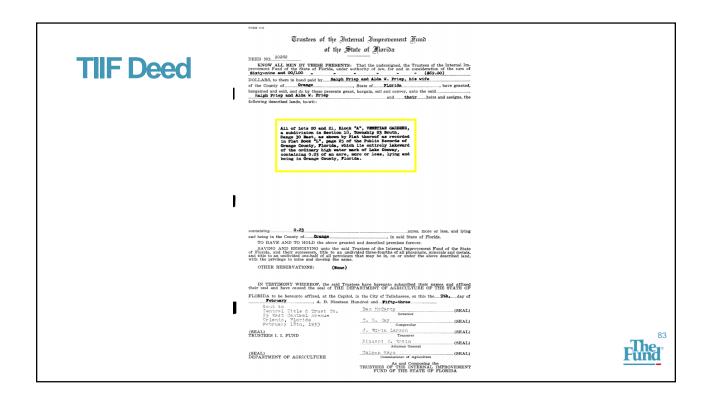






## TIIF Deed Search • Ralph Priep and Alda W. Priep DEP BUSINESS PORTAL Board of Trustees Land Document System Forda Department of Environmental Protection Public Home : Public Document Search : Public Document Search Searches performed using the Document Number field will search the contents of the Lease Number, Sublease Number, Sub Sublease Number, Document Number, Permit Number, and fields in BTLDs for the string of numbers entered. Document Type: | First Number | Document Type: | First Number | Document Date From: | Start | To | Document Date From: | Start | To | Document Office: | Document Date From: | Start | To | Document Date





### **TIIF Deed**

All of Lots 20 and 21, Block "A", VENETIAN GARDENS, a subdivision in Section 18, Township 23 South, Range 30 East, as shown by Plat thereof as recorded in Plat Book "L", page 25 of the Public Records of Orange County, Florida, which lie entirely lakeward of the ordinary high water mark of Lake Conway, containing 0.23 of an acre, more or less, lying and being in Orange County, Florida.



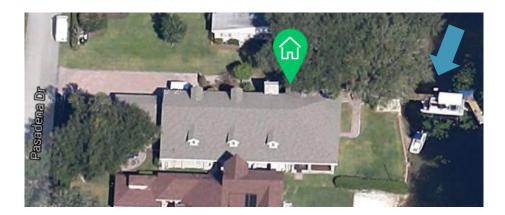
## Flowchart – Filled Lands Was it artificially exposed or filled? No Do not remove the GSL (WTR05) TN 32.01.01

The Policy will not insure against loss or damage resulting from the terms and provisions of any lease or easement identified in Schedule A and will include the following Exceptions unless cleared to the satisfaction of the Company:

- Defects, liens, encumbrances, adverse claims or other matters, if any, created, first appearing in the Public Records or attaching subsequent to the Effective Date hereof but prior to the date the Proposed Insured acquires for value of record the estate or interest or Mortgage thereon covered by this Commitment.
- 2. a. The lien of all taxes or special assessments for the year \_\_\_\_ and thereafter, which are not yet due and payable.
  - b. Rights or claims of parties in possession not recorded in the Public Records.
  - c. Any encroachment, encumbrance, violation, variation, or adverse circumstance that would be disclosed by an inspection or an accurate and complete land survey of the Land and inspection of the Land.
  - d. Easements, or claims of easements, not recorded in the Public Records.
  - e. Any lien, or right to a lien, for services, labor, or material furnished, imposed by <u>law</u> and not recorded in the Public Records.
- 3. INTENTIONALLY DELETED
- 4. Riparian and littoral rights are not insured.
- Possible right of the public to use that part of the Land adjacent to the water's edge that is now, or was formerly, regularly used by the public for recreational purposes.
- 6. Any portion of the Land lying waterward of the ordinary high water mark of Lake Conway, and lands accreted thereto.
- The right of the United States Government, in the interest of navigation and commerce, to regulate any portion of the Land that was formerly submerged by navigable waters.



## Flowchart Dock





### **Dock**

- If there is a dock shown on the survey add exception:
  - "Encroachment of dock off the subject property into (name the water body), as shown by survey by (name surveyor), surveyor dated (date of survey)(Job number of survey)."
- TN 8.05.05(C)
- Insuring Boat Docks and Boat Slips, 38 Fund Concept 121 (Sept. 2006)



### **Flowchart**

Flowchart complete if you still have questions contact underwriting counsel



### **Commitment is Complete**

- Subject property is near water
- "INTENTIONALLY DELETED" the GSL
- Added specific water exceptions
- Need to review survey
  - For additional exceptions
    - Such as the dock
  - To determine if some exceptions are not necessary



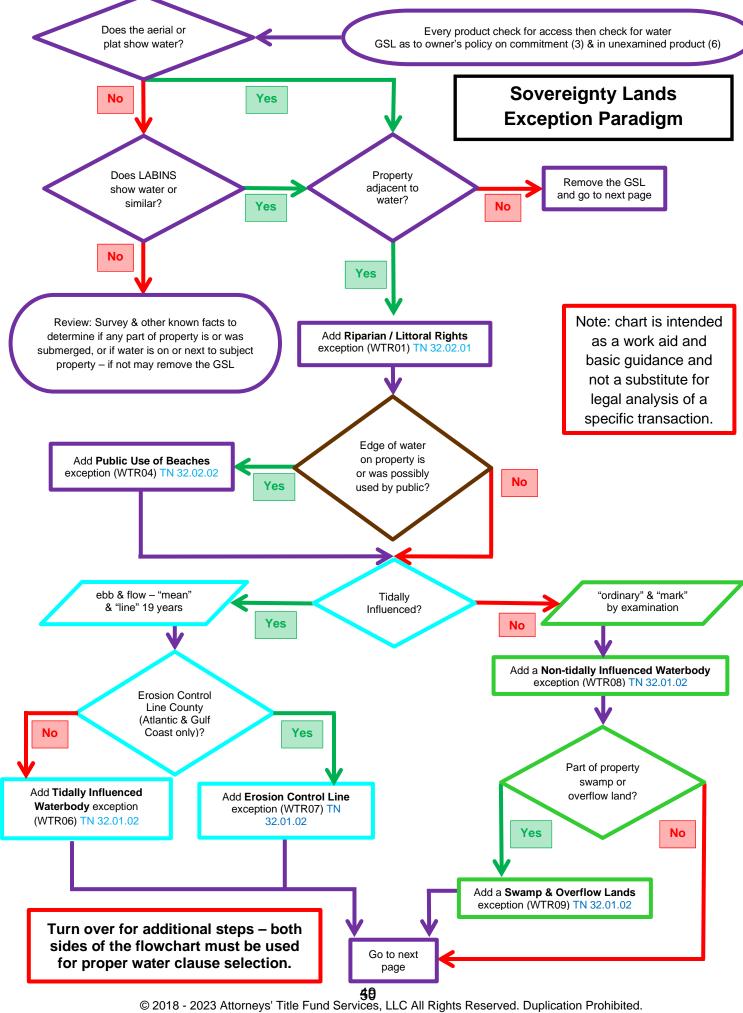
The Policy will not insure against loss or damage resulting from the terms and provisions of any lease or easement identified in Schedule A and will include the following Exceptions unless cleared to the satisfaction of the Company:

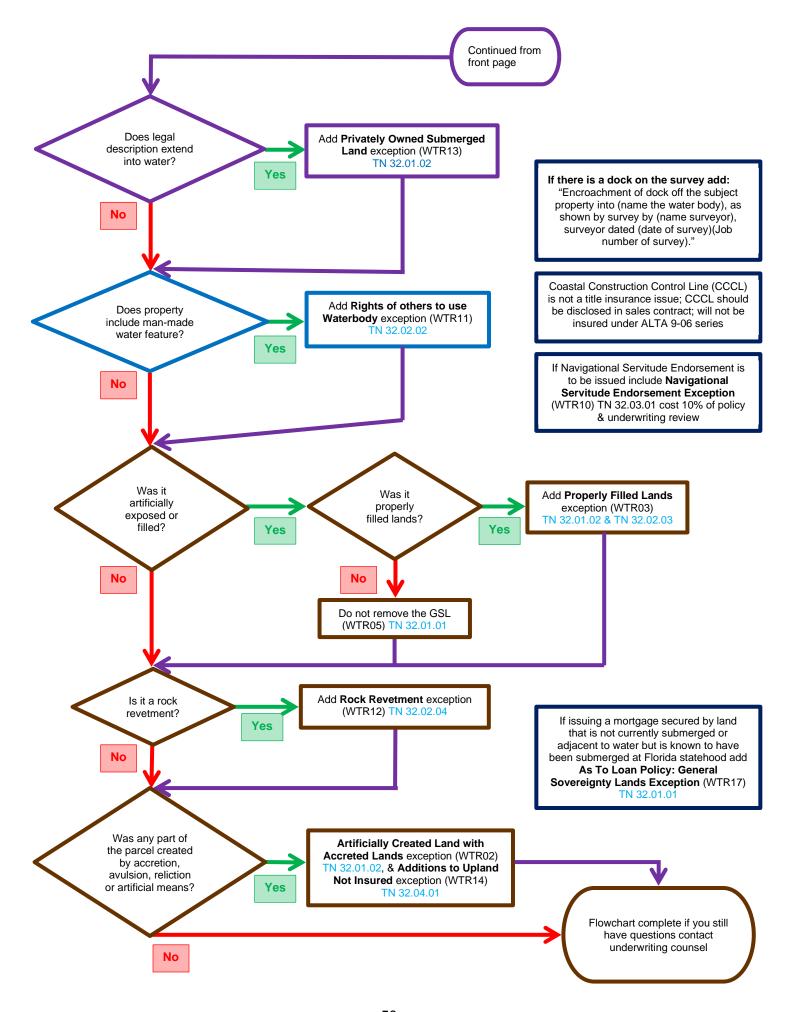
- Defects, liens, encumbrances, adverse claims or other matters, if any, created, first appearing in the Public Records or attaching subsequent to the Effective Date hereof but prior to the date the Proposed Insured acquires for value of record the estate or interest or Mortgage thereon covered by this Commitment.
- 2. a. The lien of all taxes or special assessments for the year \_\_\_\_ and thereafter, which are not yet due and payable.
  - b. Rights or claims of parties in possession not recorded in the Public Records.
  - c. Any encroachment, encumbrance, violation, variation, or adverse circumstance that would be disclosed by an inspection or an accurate and complete land survey of the Land and inspection of the Land.
  - d. Easements, or claims of easements, not recorded in the Public Records.
  - e. Any lien, or right to a lien, for services, labor, or material furnished, imposed by law and not recorded in the Public Records
- 3. INTENTIONALLY DELETED
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- 6. Any portion of the Land lying waterward of the ordinary high water mark of Lake Conway, and lands accreted thereto.
- The right of the United States Government, in the interest of navigation and commerce, to regulate any portion of the Land that was formerly submerged by navigable waters.



### Resources

- List of resources
  - Internet websites
  - Florida Statutes
  - Cases
  - Fund resources
    - Flowchart
    - Sovereignty lands definitions
    - Cross-reference chart
- To obtain a determination whether an existing or proposed structure or activity is located on sovereignty lands, contact DEP Title and Land Records Section at (850) 245-2788





### Resources

- Historical surveys and aerials Land Boundary Information System (LABINS) <a href="http://www.labins.org">http://www.labins.org</a>
- II. Land document search Trustees of the Internal Improvement Trust Fund (TIIF) Deed <a href="http://prodenv.dep.state.fl.us/DslBtlds/public/piSearchDocumentLoad">http://prodenv.dep.state.fl.us/DslBtlds/public/piSearchDocumentLoad</a>
- III. County property appraisers websites in Florida

http://floridarevenue.com/dor/property/appraisers.html

IV. U. S. Army Corps of Engineers http://www.usace.army.mil

- V. Current aerials
  - A. Google
  - B. Zillow
  - C. Trulia
- VI. Statutes, Constitution, & Laws of Florida
  - A. FLA. CONST. art. X, § 11
  - B. Riparian Rights Act of 1856, ch. 791, Laws of Fla. (1856) (repealed 1921)
  - C. Butler Act, ch. 8537, Laws of Fla. (1921) (repealed 1957)
  - D. FLA. STAT. ch. 161 Beach and Shore Preservation
  - E. FLA. STAT. ch. 253 State Lands
  - F. FLA. STAT. ch. 258 State Parks and Preserves
  - G. FLA. STAT. ch. 373 Water Resources
  - H. FLA. STAT. § 26.012 Jurisdiction of Circuit Court
  - I. FLA. STAT. § 177.25-177.40 Land Boundaries
  - J. FLA. STAT. § 177.27(14) "Mean high water"

### VII. Cases

- A. Navigability
  - 1. The Daniel Ball, 77 U.S. 557 (1870)
  - 2. Bucki v. Cone, 6 So. 160 (Fla. 1889)
  - 3. Broward v. Mabry, 50 So. 826 (Fla. 1909)
  - 4. Clement v. Watson, 58 So. 25 (Fla. 1912)
  - 5. Odom v. Deltona Corp., 341 So.2d 977 (Fla. 1977)
- B. Conveyance
  - 1. Sullivan v. Richardson, 14 So. 692 (Fla. 1894)
  - 2. State ex rel. Ellis v. Gerbing, 47 So. 353 (Fla. 1908)
  - 3. City of W. Palm Beach v. Bd. of Trs. of Internal Impvmt. Trust Fund, 714 So. 2d 1060 (Fla. 1998)
  - 4. Coastal Petroleum Co. v. Am. Cyanamid Co., 492 So.2d 339 (Fla. 1986)
  - 5. Phillips Petroleum Co. v. Mississippi, 108 S.Ct. 791 (1988)
- C. Boundary
  - 1. Martin v. Busch, 112 So. 274 (Fla. 1927)
  - 2. Tilden v. Smith, 113 So. 708 (Fla. 1927)

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- 3. Bd. of Trs. of Internal Improvement Trust Fund v. Bd. of Prof'l Land Surveyors, 566 So. 2d 1358 (Fla. 1st DCA 1990)
- 4. Mexico Beach Corp. v. St. Joe Paper Co., 97 So. 2d 708 (Fla. 1st DCA 1957)
- D. Upland rights
  - 1. City of Daytona Beach v. Tona-Rama, Inc., 294 So. 2d. 73 (Fla. 1974)
- VIII. Attorneys' Title Fund Services, LLC Publications
  - A. The Fund Concept articles
    - 1. Claims of State Sovereignty Lands Pandora's Box Opened?, 18 Fund Concept 65 (Sept. 1986)
    - 2. <u>Sovereignty Lands Exceptions Required in Fund Policies</u>, 22 *Fund Concept* 49 (June 1990)
    - 3. Navigational Servitude Endorsement, 23 Fund Concept 65 (July 1991)
    - 4. Insuring Filled Lands, 25 Fund Concept 73 (June 1993)
    - The Effect of Spanish Land Grants on Sovereignty Lands, 27 Fund Concept 7 (Jan. 1995)
    - 6. <u>Improvements Under the Butler Act Defined</u>, 28 *Fund Concept* 147 (Oct. 1996)
    - 7. Riparian Rights Are Not Insurable, 29 Fund Concept 179 (Dec. 1997)
    - 8. Insuring Boat Docks and Boat Slips, 38 Fund Concept 121 (Sept. 2006)
    - 9. Good Things to Know About Insuring Filled Lands, 45 Fund Concept 49 (June 2013)
    - Demystifying Water Rights: The General Sovereignty Lands Exception,
       47 Fund Concept 179 (Nov. 2015)
  - B. Fund Title Notes
    - 1. Chapter 26 Public Lands
      - a) TN 26.01.02 State Lands Trustees of the Internal Improvement Trust Fund
    - 2. Chapter 32 Waters and Watercourses
  - C. Standard Commitment Clauses Handbook
    - 1. Chapter 3 Exceptions (E)
      - a) L. Water / Submerged Land Rights(1) E-12.1 through E-12.17
  - D. Flowchart (attached)
  - E. Definitions (attached)
  - F. Cross-reference chart (attached)

### **Sovereignty Lands Definitions**

- a. **Accretion** extension of land due to natural, gradual and imperceptible addition of material.
- b. **Artificially exposed** lands which are exposed due to the course of water or water body having been artificially altered (e.g. dam).
- c. **Avulsion** sudden, perceptible addition of sand or sediment caused by a natural event.
- d. **Erosion control line** in some counties this line is established and replaces the high water line as the boundary between private and state-owned lands.
- e. **Equal Footing Doctrine** Constitutional doctrine that states admitted to the United States did so on "equal footing" with the 13 colonies that formed the United States. Since the original colonies retained sovereignty and jurisdiction over the navigable waters and the soil beneath them within their boundaries, newly admitted states retained that same sovereignty and jurisdiction. If this were not the case, there would need to be deeds from the United States as to those lands.
- f. **Filled lands** lands artificially filled may be found near tidally influenced water state may or may not have given up its interest but the United States did not give up their interest as to control of navigation rights.
- g. **General Sovereignty Lands (GSL) exception** an exception to owner's title policy coverage based upon the difficulty of ascertaining historical facts about the artificial alteration of water features by dredging, filling, draining, pumping, and other means. Also used as a reminder to check for water issues on the subject property.
- h. **Littoral rights** rights which run with the land adjacent to ocean, gulf or lakes up to the high water mark as established over 19 years (e.g. landowner's right to use the water for swimming, irrigation, boating, fishing, etc.).
- i. **Meandered lakes** one hundred-ninety lakes which were surveyed all the way around at the shoreline (not the boundary) at time of Florida's statehood, presumed to be navigable. Just because a lake was not meandered does not mean that the lake is not navigable.
- j. **Meandered rivers** rivers which were surveyed at the banks (not the boundary) at the time of statehood, presumed to be navigable. Just because a river was not meandered does not mean that the river is not navigable.

### k. Navigable

River, stream or creek – able to float a product to market in 1845.

Lakes – fresh water lakes are presumed to have been navigable in 1845.

- I. **Navigable for commercial purposes** could it have been used for commercial purposes at the time of statehood? If it is dry now what was it then? If so, it belongs to the state.
- m. **Non-tidally influenced** waters not influenced by the ebb and flow of the tides.
- n. **Reliction** lands which were covered by water and are now dry through natural, imperceptible recession of water.
- o. **Riparian rights** rights which run with the land adjacent to rivers or streams (e.g. landowner's right to use the water for swimming, irrigation, boating, fishing, etc.).
- p. **Rock revetment** rocks used to protect an embankment (e.g. jetty).

- q. **Seawall or bulkhead** strong wall of embankment to prevent encroachments of the sea.
- r. **Sovereignty lands** lands owned by the State of Florida or the United States.
- s. **Spoil islands** islands created from dredged materials.
- t. **Submerged lands** lands under water.
- u. Tidally influenced water water subject to the ebb and flow of the tides.
- V. **TIIF** (Trustees of the Internal Improvement Trust Fund) **deed** a deed from the state to private ownership needs to specifically transfer submerged lands to so transfer.

Clause Number	Name	Title Note
WTR01	Any Body of Water: Riparian / Littoral Rights	32.02.01
WTR02	Artificially Created Land with Accreted Lands	32.01.02
WTR03	Properly Filled Lands (Navigational Servitude Exception)	32.01.02
WTR04	Public Use of Beaches	32.02.02
WTR05	General Sovereignty Lands Exception se	32.01.01
WTR06	Tidally Influenced Waterbody	32.01.02
WTR07	Erosion Control Line	32.01.02
WTR08	Non-tidally Influenced (generally freshwater) Waterbody	32.01.02
WTR09	Swamp and Overflow Lands	32.01.02
WTR10	Navigational Servitude Endorsement Exception	32.03.01
WTR11	Rights of others to use Waterbody	32.02.02
WTR12	Rock Revetment	32.02.04
WTR13	Privately Owned Submerged Land	32.01.02
WTR14	Additions to Upland Not Insured	32.04.01



### CERTIFICATE OF ATTENDANCE

Certified Paralegals are required to record evidence of 50 hours of continuing legal education hours to renew the CP credential every 5 years. CLE hours are recorded in CPs' accounts through the NALA online portal. Of the 50 hours, 5 hours must be in legal ethics, and no more than 10 hours may be recorded in non-substantive areas. If attending a non-NALA sponsored educational event, this certificate may be used to obtain verification of attendance. Please be sure to obtain the required signatures for verification of attendance. The requirements to maintain the CP credential are available from NALA's web site at <a href="https://www.nala.org/certification/certtest2view">https://www.nala.org/certification/certtest2view</a>. Please keep this certificate in the event of a CLE audit or further information is needed.

### PLEASE COMPLETE THE SPACES BELOW AND ATTACH A PROGRAM

**Session Topics** 

Session Length

In Hours	(Description and Speakers)	of Attendance
1.0	How to Address Sovereignty Lands Issues in Florida /	Línda Monaco
	Linda Monaco	

Name of CP (Please Print)	NALA Account Number (On Mailing Label)	
	149113	
Signature of CP	Name of Seminar/Program Sponsor	
	How to Address Sovereignty Lands Issues in Fla / ATFS, Inc.	
Address	Authorized Signature of Sponsor Representative	
	Línda Monaco	
	Date of Educational Event:	
City: State (XX):		
Preferred e-mail address	Location:	
	Recorded Webinar	

For Office Use Only		
Substantive hours		
Non-substantive hours		
Ethics		

Validation



FL BAR Reference Number: 2408173N

Title: How to Address Sovereignty Lands Issues in Florida

Level: Intermediate

**Approval Period:** 10/01/2024 – 04/30/2026

### **CLE Credits**

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### **Certification Credits**

Real Estate 1.0

City, County & Local Government Law 1.0

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