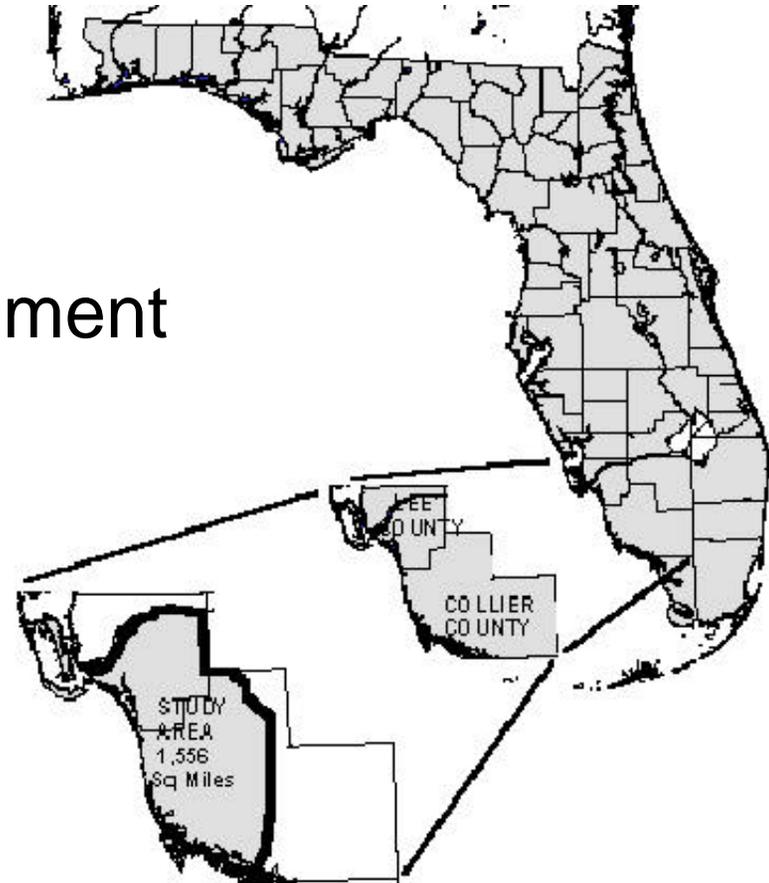




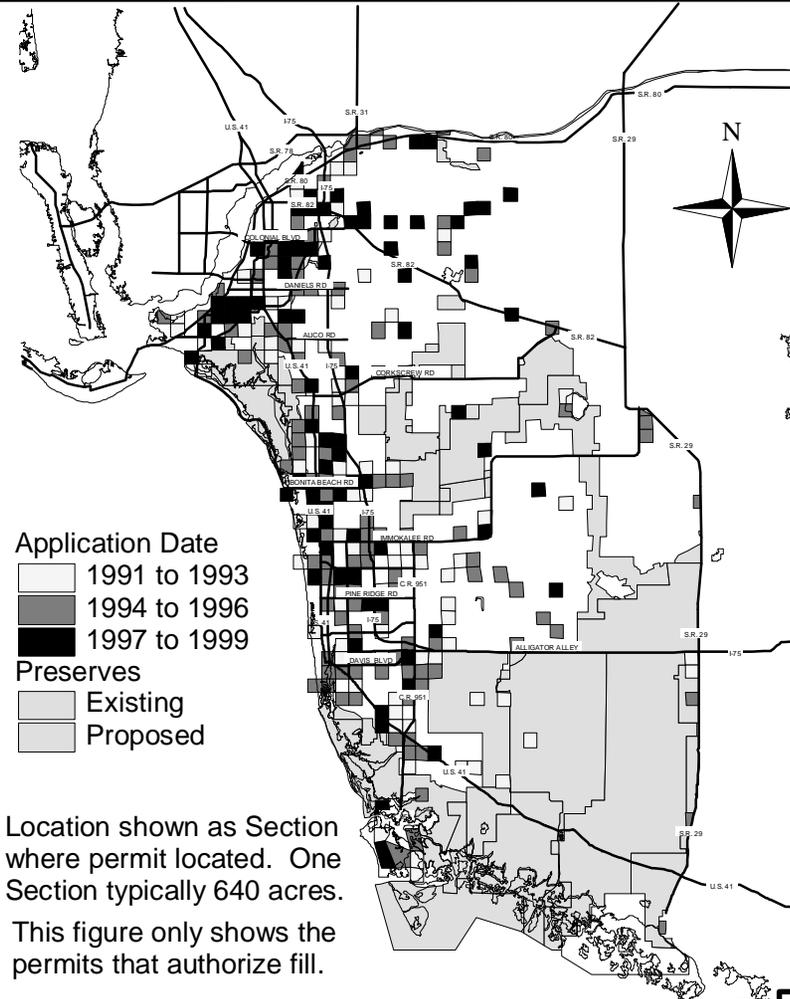
**US Army Corps
of Engineers**
Jacksonville District

**Environmental Impact Statement
(EIS)
for Improving the
Regulatory Process
in
Southwest Florida**

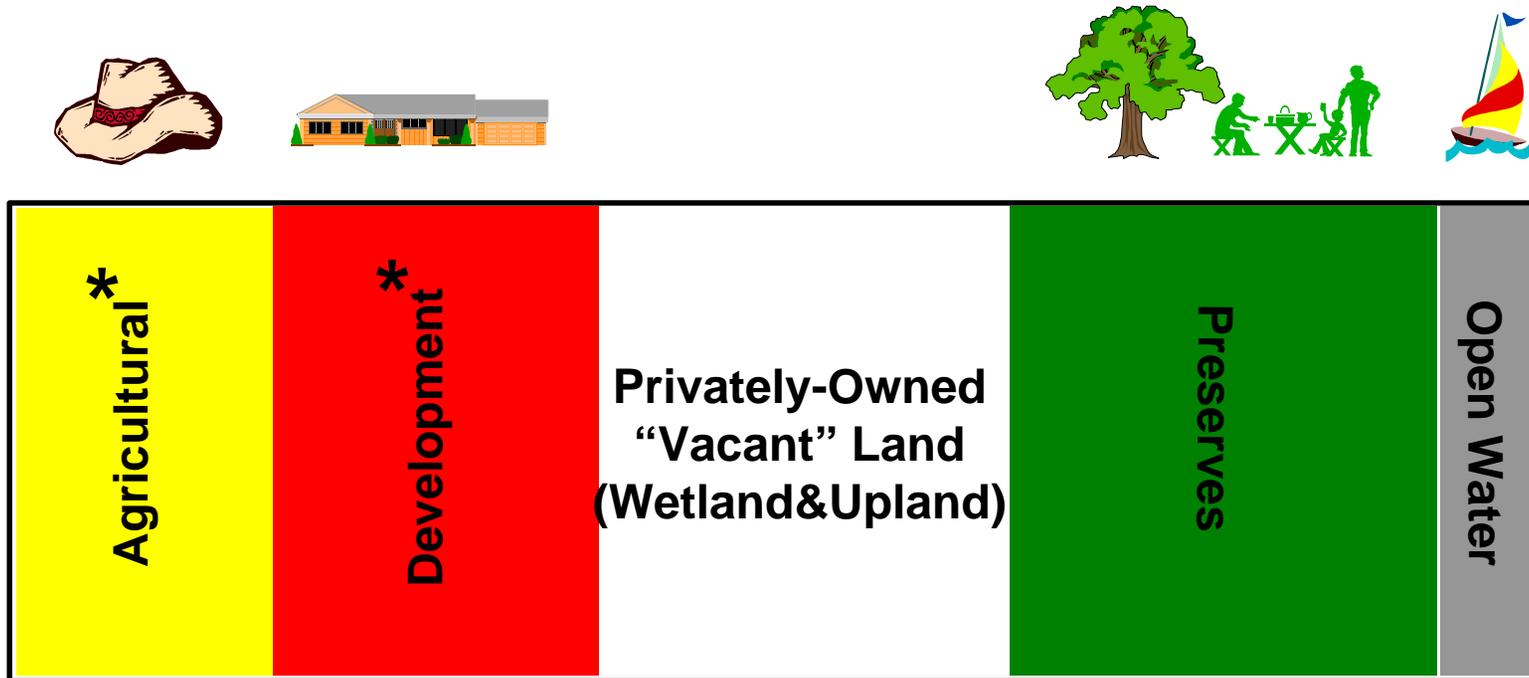


To Address Cumulative Effects in Permit Reviews

- ◆ EIS to support future Corps decisions whether or not to issue Department of the Army Permits.
- ◆ Application must be submitted and Permit issued prior to placing of fill in wetlands or other Waters.
- ◆ Concern is permit-by-permit review not adequately addressing cumulative effects of decisions.
- ◆ Many applications.
- ◆ Recurring issues: wetland loss; wildlife habitat, and water quality.



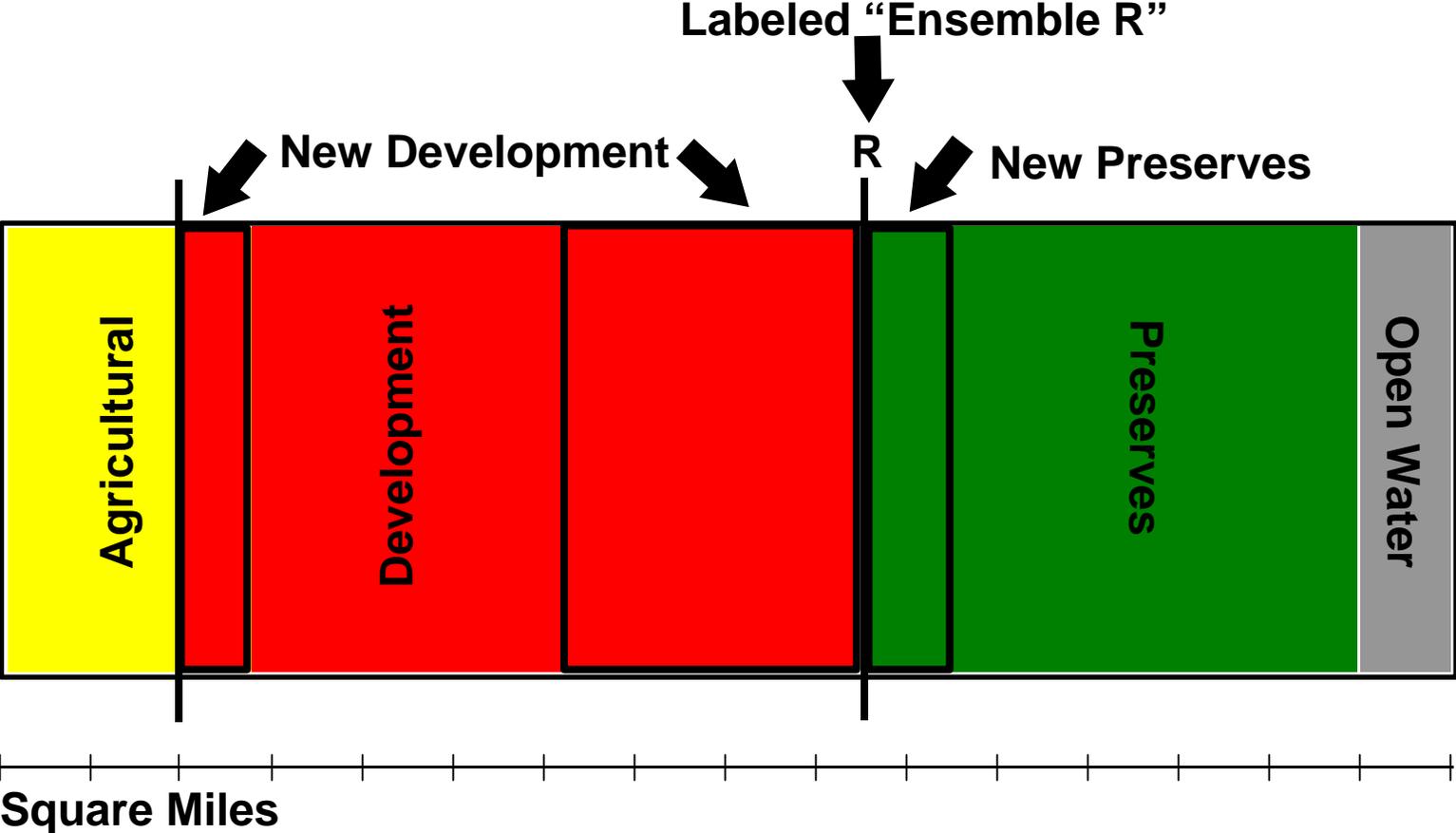
Existing (1995) Land Cover



1,556 Square Miles

*Includes on-site wetland and upland preserves

Comprehensive Plan Prediction (20 years)



Alternatives Development Group (ADG)

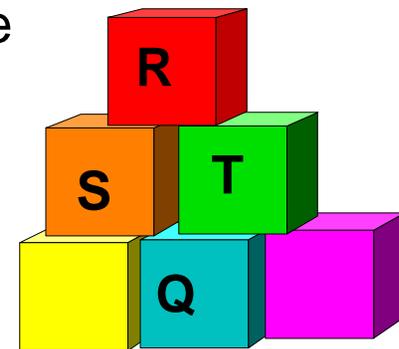
- ◆ To identify the total effects, the Corps must predict the total set of applications that will be submitted.



- ◆ Corps asked a group of local citizens and agency representatives to identify issues, develop criteria, create several predictions (“alternatives”) and evaluate effects.

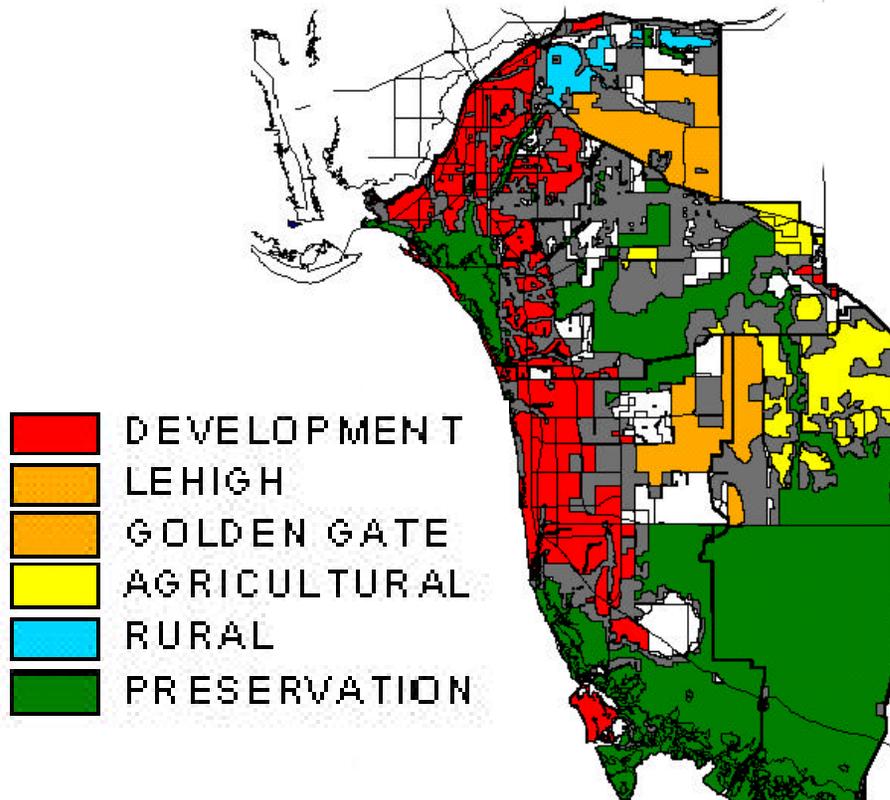
- ◆ One alternative represents the Comprehensive Plans for Lee and Collier Counties.

- ◆ Other alternatives include ideas that the group collectively or individually thought might occur or would like to see occur.



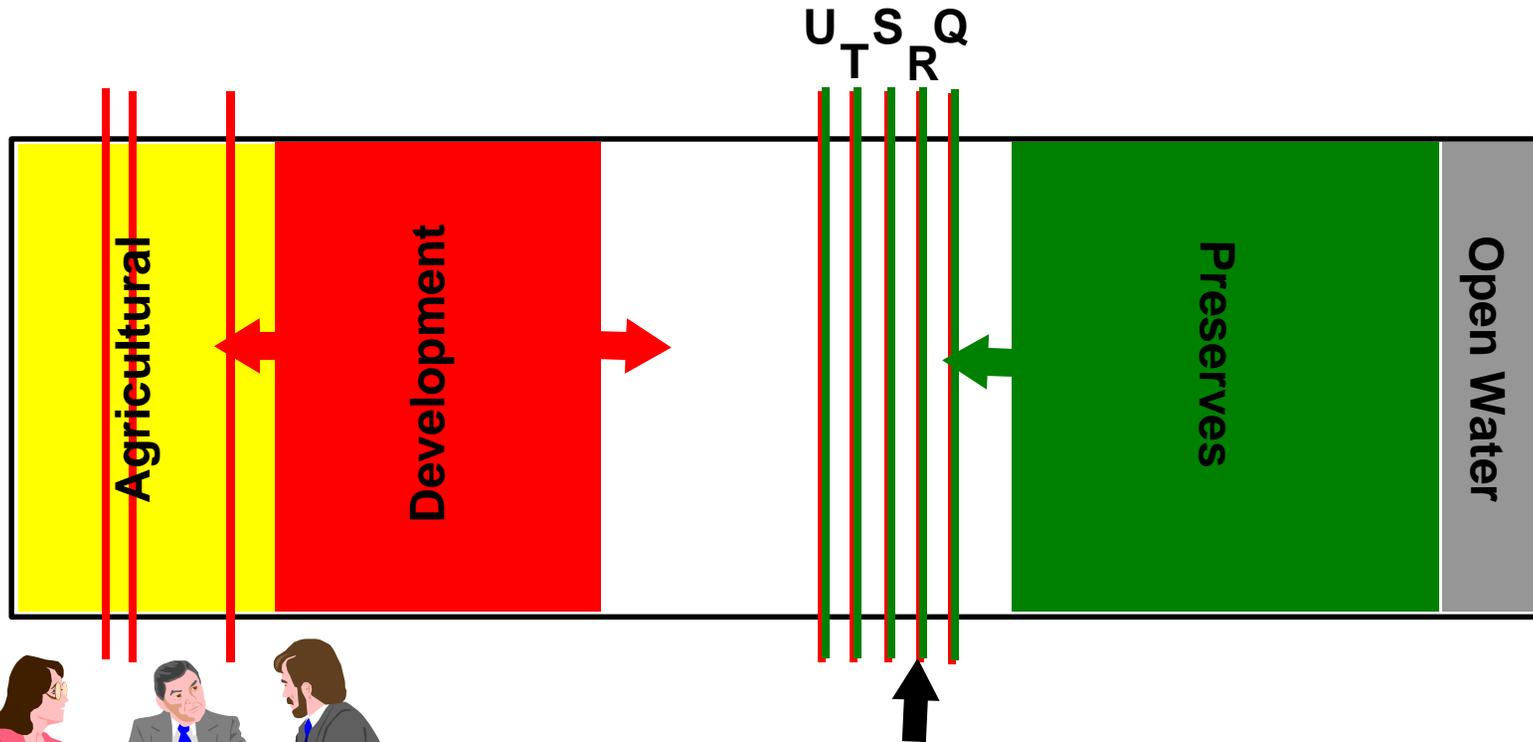
ADG's Work Identifies Areas of Concern

- ◆ Overlay of ADG Alternatives shows shared vision of future land cover types for large portion of area



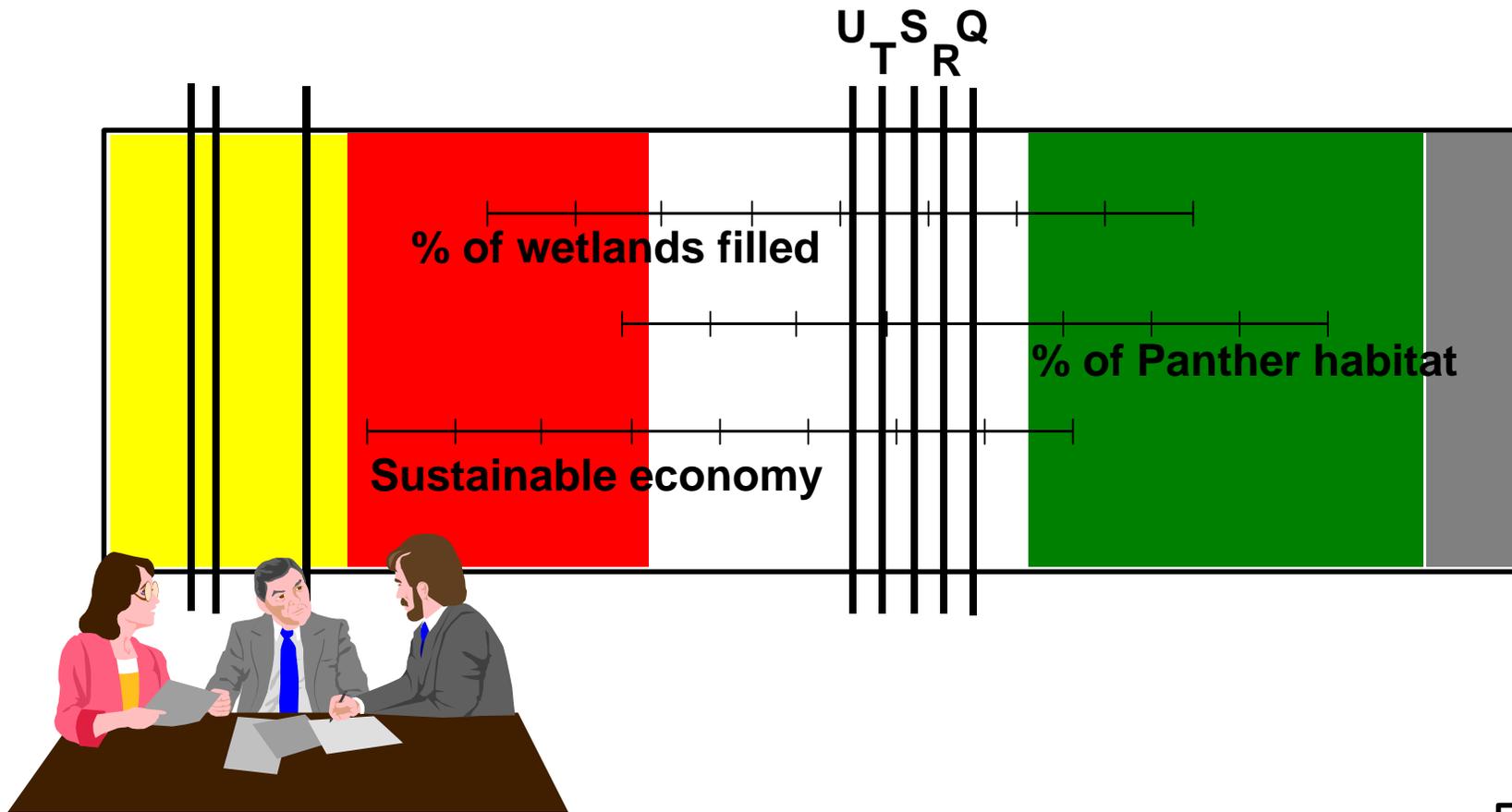
- ◆ Colored areas: where permitting could be expedited.
- ◆ Gray areas: where some ADG alternatives envisioned preserve but others expect non-preserve uses.
- ◆ White areas: where multiple visions presented. Expect challenging permitting.

Many Predictions of How Will “Fill In” (20 Years)

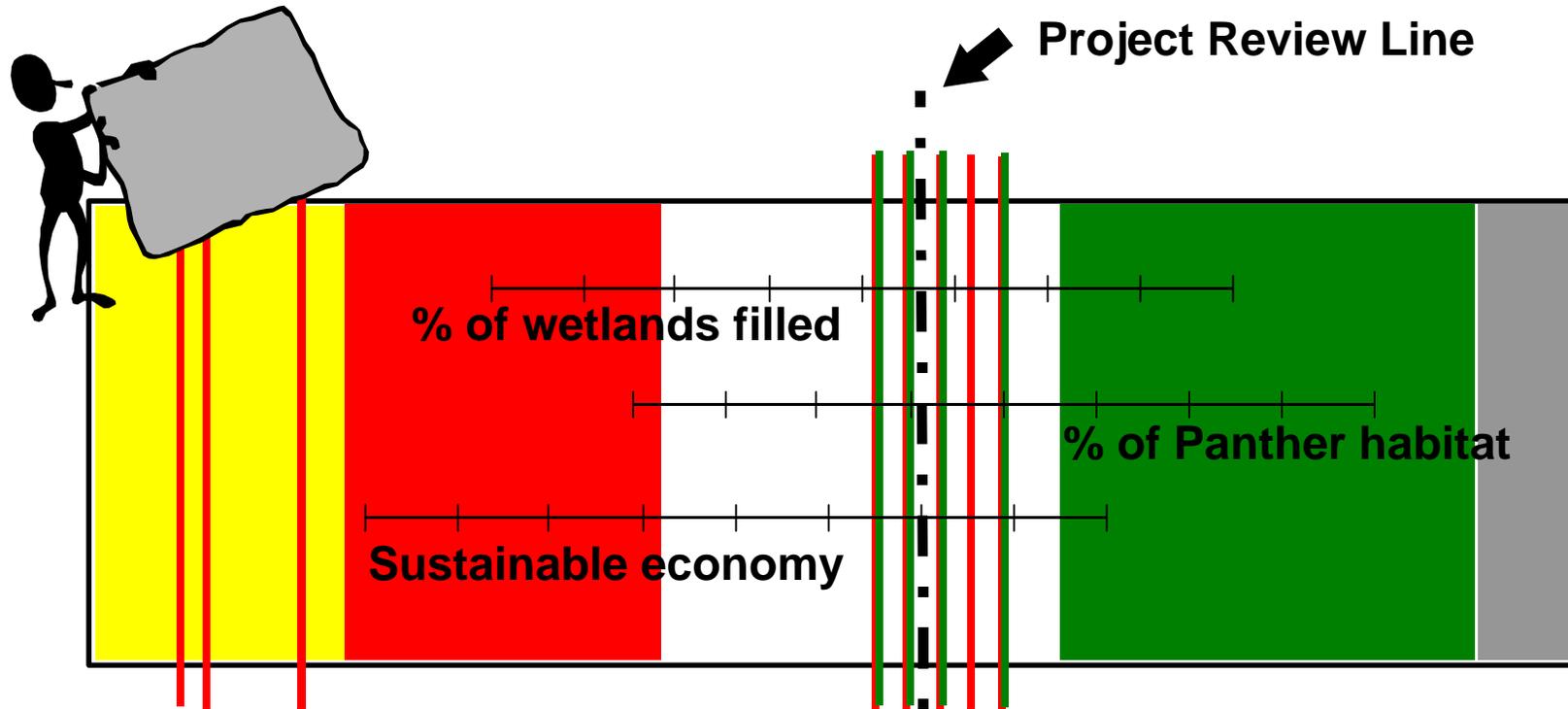


“R” represents the local preferred alternative
(County Comprehensive Plans)

ADG Identified Many Evaluation Factors



Corps Chooses a Project Review Line

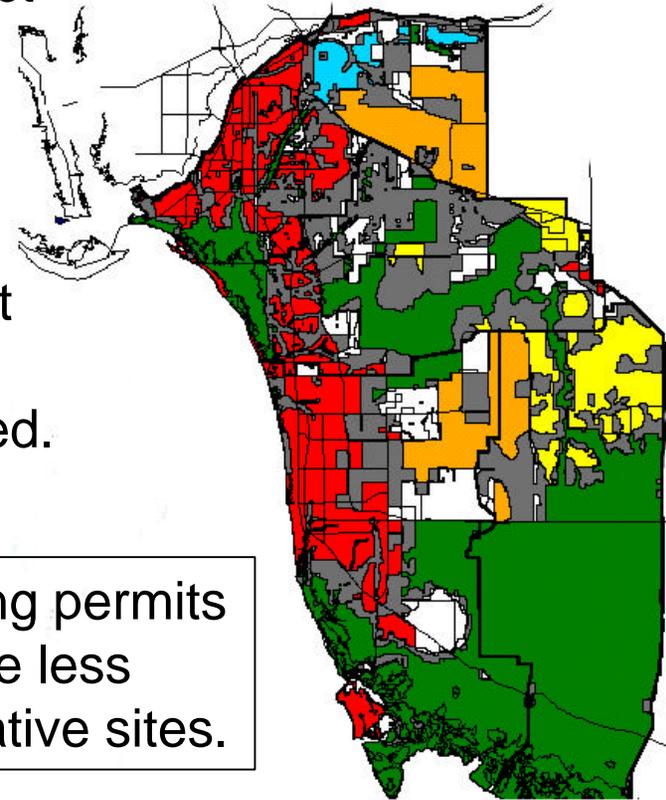


- ◆ Corps developed 44 Evaluation Criteria from the 69 evaluation factors used by the citizen/agency group to evaluate their alternatives

Review depends on location of project

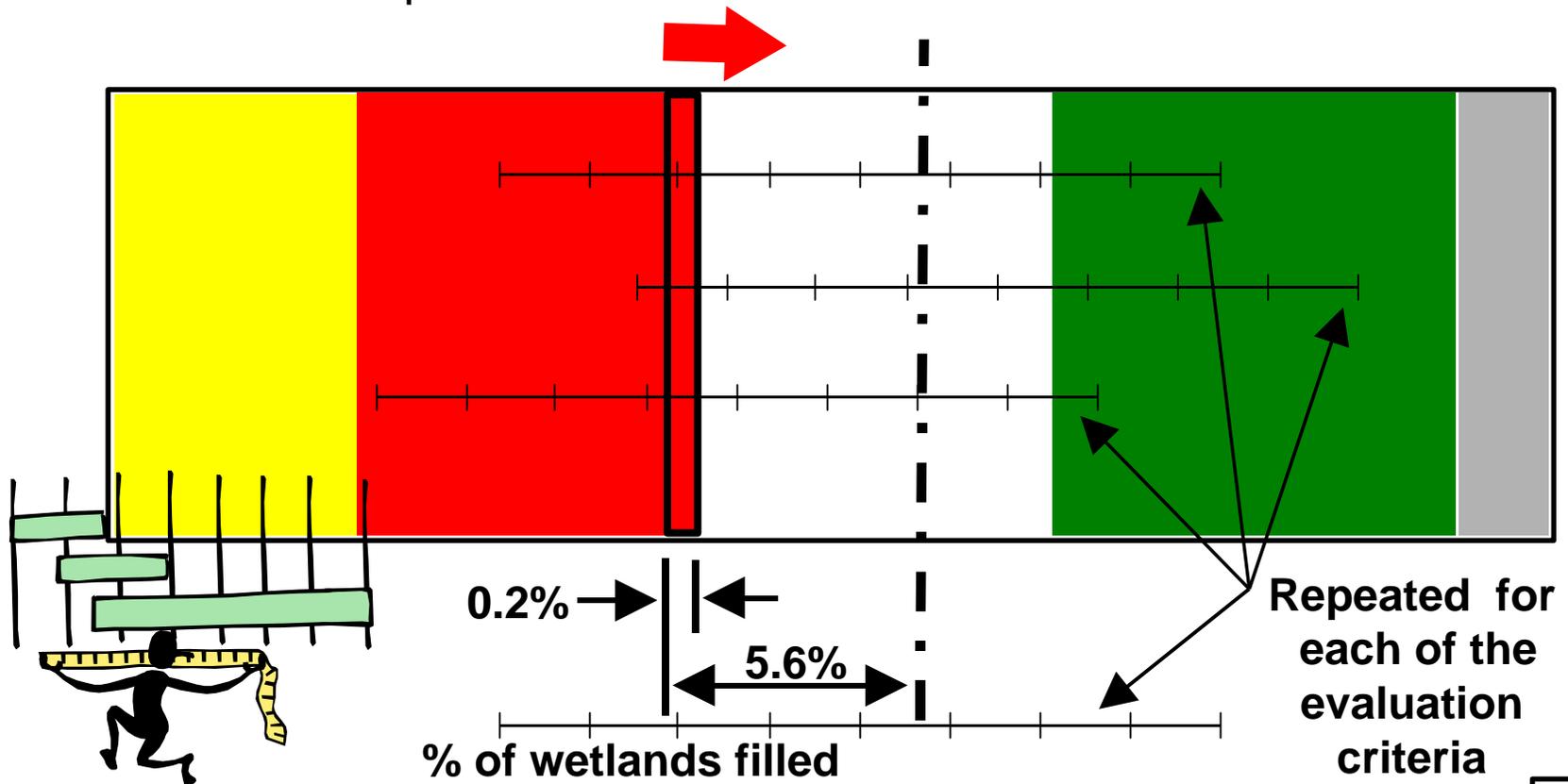
- ◆ Criteria is keyed to location on the Project Review Map.
- ◆ Gray and white areas “colored in”
 - ◆ NOT saying what the Corps will permit
 - ◆ IS saying which questions will be asked.

Example: applications in red area requesting permits to fill wetlands for housing would receive less rigorous questioning of availability of alternative sites.



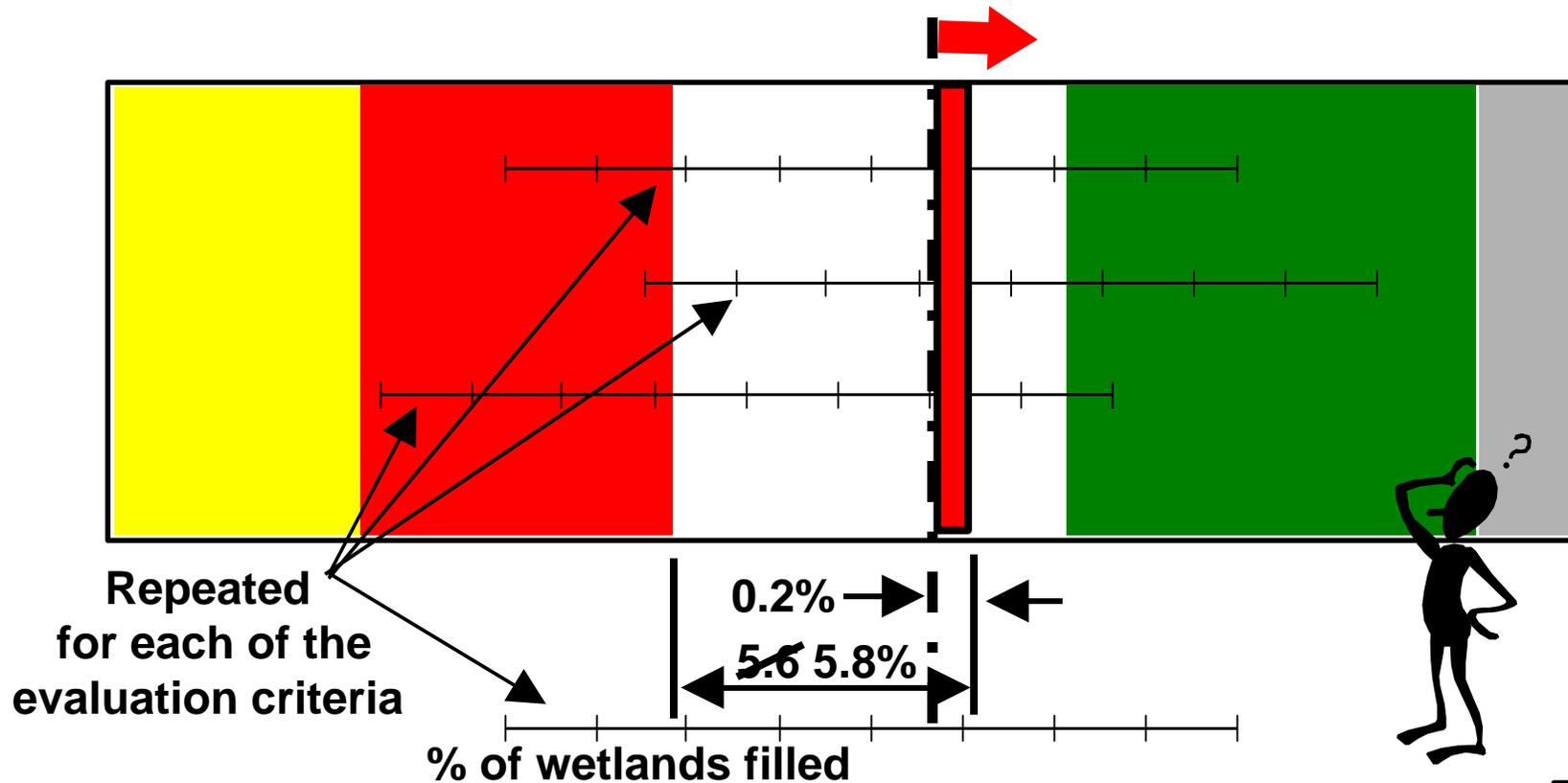
#1 Houses within Development Area

- ◆ Corps evaluation will consider that proposed project is incremental advance to the predicted total cumulative effect.



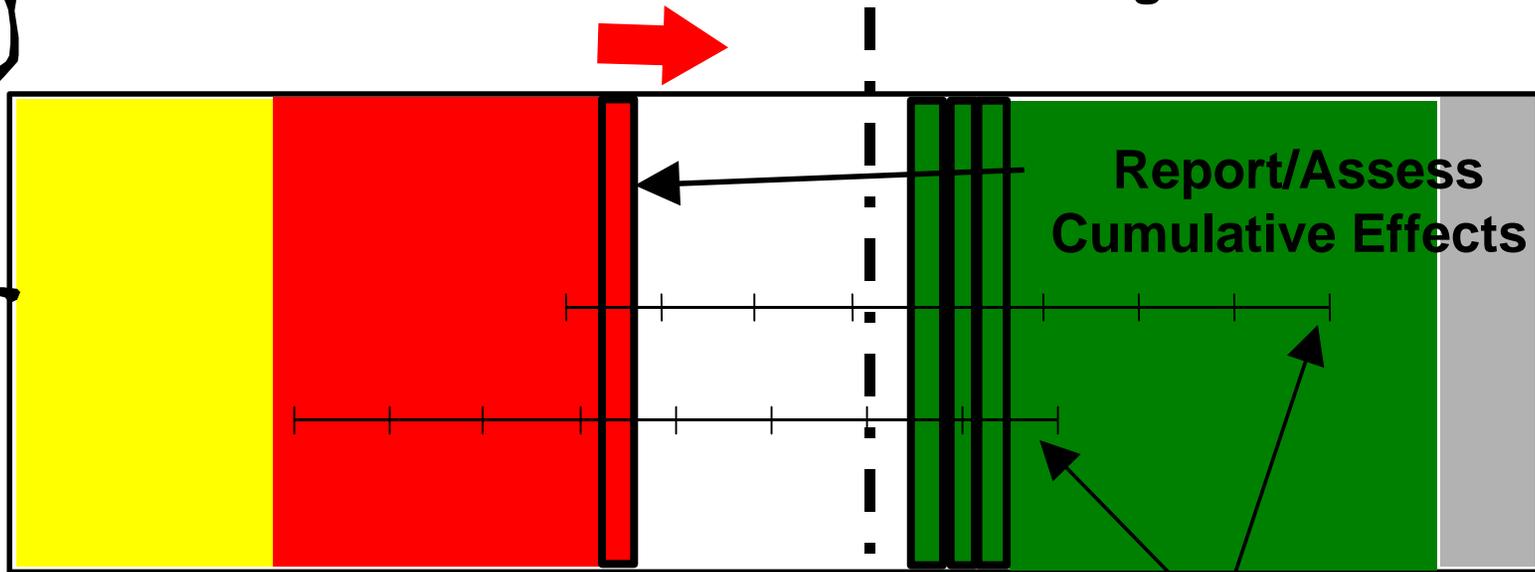
#2 Houses within Preservation Area

- ◆ Corps evaluation will consider that the proposed project will increase the predicted cumulative effect.



What is Next?

Corps and community can better coordinate actions to conserve natural resources on a watershed or regional basis.



Identify Opportunities

Public Acquisition and Preservation
+ Permit #1 Compensatory Mitigation
+ Compensation via Mitigation Bank(s)

**Report/Assess
Cumulative Effects**

**Develop
standards and
guidelines**

Step Out Together

- ◆ NOT a Comprehensive Plan. Counties designate land use. The Corps does not. Corps has received and must accept applications for uses contrary to County Plans.

- ◆ FIRST STEP. The results from this EIS (Permit Review Criteria) will improve Corps' assessment of cumulative effects.
 1. Increased certainty for applicant.
 2. Efficient review of permit applications.
 3. Effective resolution of natural resource concerns.

- ◆ SECOND STEP. Corps committed to working with other agencies to build on this work by expanding and refining the criteria.