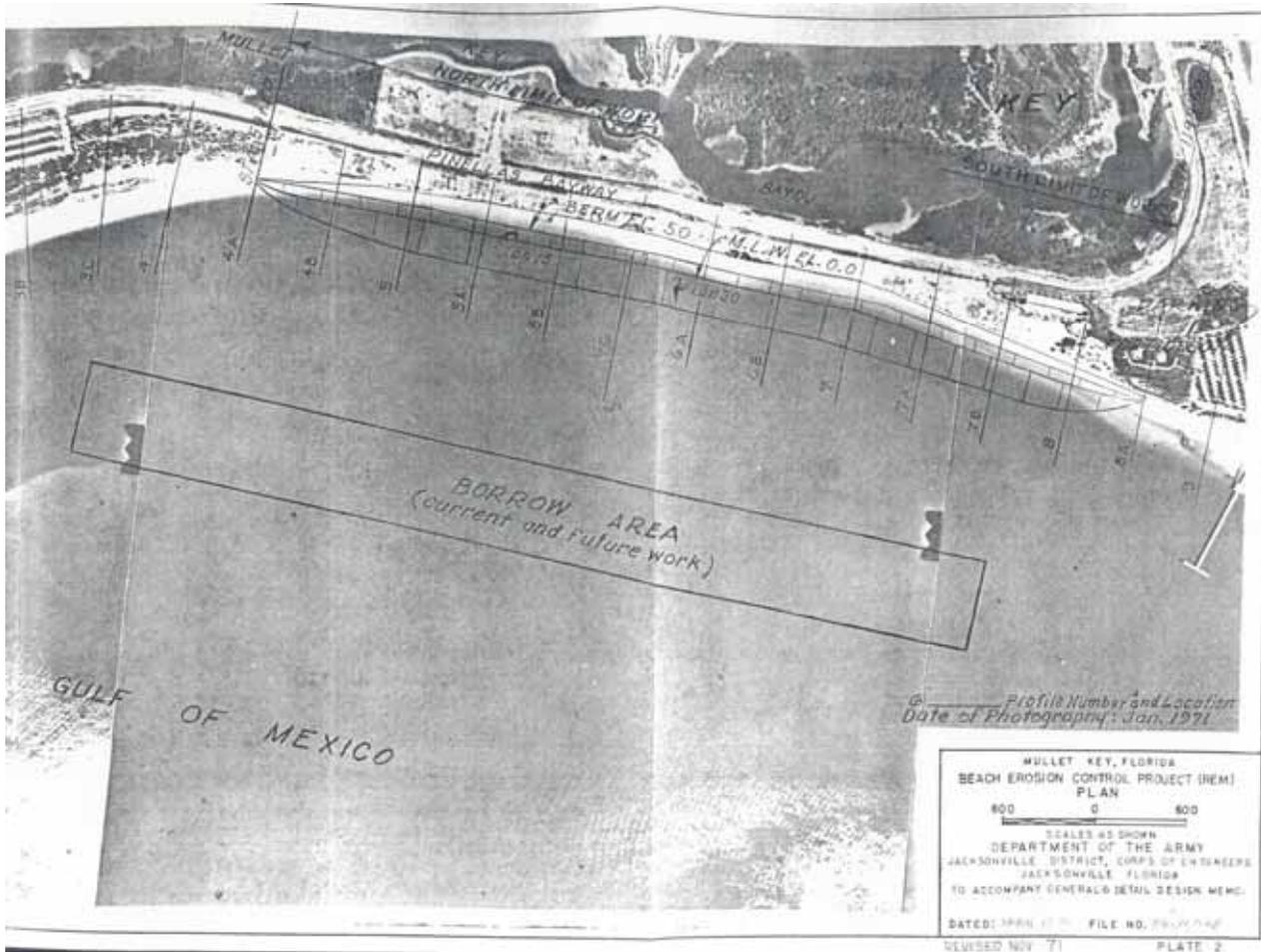


Mullet Key Coastal Management History

Pinellas County purchased Mullet Key, which had formerly been used as a bombing range during WWII, from the federal government in 1948. Ft DeSoto Park was dedicated into service in May 1963. Following dedication, the county dredged the back barrier bay in 1964 to nourish the beach and constructed the L-shaped groin shown north of the Gulf Pier in the photo below.





The federal government authorized the Mullet Key Beach Erosion Control Study was authorized in 1963. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers published a General Design Memorandum (GDM) in 1971. The GDM recommended the use of a shore parallel borrow pit (above) as the sand source for nourishment of the southwest beaches of Mullet Key. This was a common practice in the 1960's. The shore-parallel pit was a cheap and efficient way to build a beach, and it was an improvement over dredging the productive mangrove and tidal flat ecosystems in the back barrier bays.

Two federal nourishment projects were constructed in 1973 and 77 using the shore-parallel borrow pit and design shown above. Then in 1990, the federal shore protection project was deauthorized.

Due to continued erosion of the southwest beaches, Pinellas County partnered with the Army Corps on a beneficial use of dredged material project to construct the [2006 Ft. DeSoto Park Beach Restoration](#).