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## South Florida Water Management District

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### RECREATIONAL PUBLIC FORUM AGENDA

March 20, 2023

5:00 PM

District Headquarters - B-1 Auditorium

3301 Gun Club Road

West Palm Beach, FL 33401

#### FINAL

1. Welcome and Opening Remarks - Drew Bartlett, Executive Director, SFWMD, and Newton Cook, Facilitator
2. Overview of the CREW Land & Water Trust - Robert Lucius, Ph.D., Executive Director, CREW Land & Water Trust
3. Public Access Update on Picayune Strand State Forest - Michael Weston, Forestry Resource Administrator, Florida Forest Service, Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services
4. Overview of the Cypress Creek (R&A Farms) Wetland Restoration Project - Jim Schuette, Science Supervisor, SFWMD
5. STA Updates - James Harbaugh, Recreation Planner, SFWMD
  - Summary of STA Waterfowl & Alligator 2022-2023 Hunting Season
6. Recreation Facility Design Updates - Mike Cheek, Recreation Project Manager, SFWMD
7. Public Use Project Updates - Dan Cotter, Section Leader, SFWMD
8. Recreational Discussion, Updates and Future Meeting Topics
9. Adjourn

Final presentations

**Agenda Item Background:**

- 2 Lucius CREW Land & Water Trust
- 3 Weston Picayune Strand State Forest
- 4 Schuette Cypress Creek Wetland Restoration Project
- 5 Harbaugh STA Hunting Season Update
- 6 Cheek Recreational Facility Design Updates
- 7 Cotter Recreational Public Use Project Updates



# *CREW Land & Water Trust Recreational & Education Programs Update*

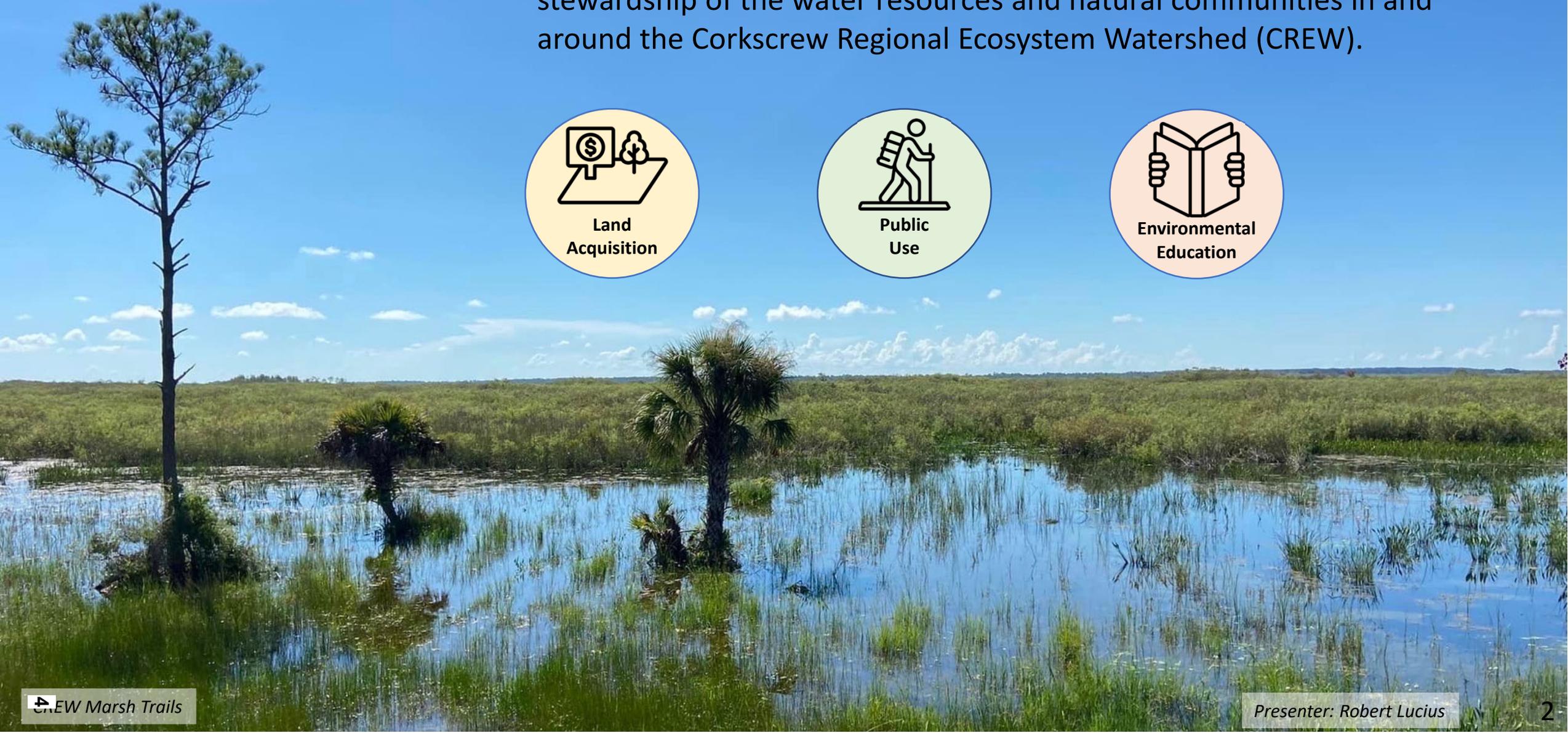


*Presenter: Robert Lucius, Ph.D.  
Executive Director  
CREW Land & Water Trust*

*CREW Marsh Trails*



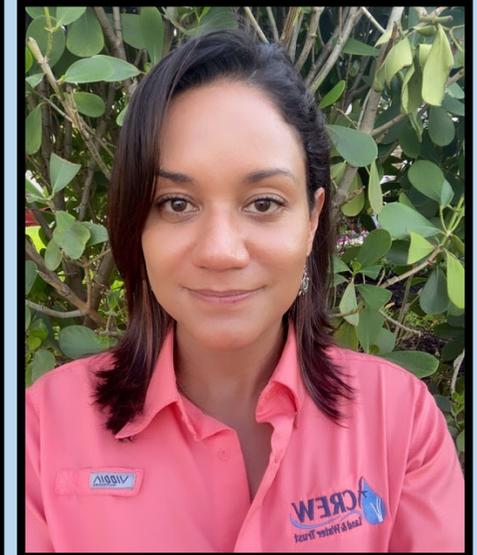
**Mission:** The CREW Land & Water Trust was founded in 1989 as a private, non-profit conservation organization dedicated to the preservation and stewardship of the water resources and natural communities in and around the Corkscrew Regional Ecosystem Watershed (CREW).





# CREW Land & Water Trust

- **3 Full-Time Staff**
  - Executive Director
  - Education Coordinator
  - Communications Director/Volunteer Coordinator
- **2 Part-Time Staff**
  - Environmental Educator
  - Membership Coordinator
- **2-3 Environmental Education interns (annually)**
- **60+ volunteers = 4,611 volunteer hours for FY22 (\$138K)**
- **30 Trustees representing diverse stakeholders**
- **360+ Members**



CREW Trust Staff & Interns



# SFWMD Partnership

- Since our establishment, CREW Trust has partnered with SFWMD to:
  - Assist with land management
  - Facilitate public use and communication
  - Design & deliver environmental education programs
- Current Amendment #5: 2023-2025 - \$159,272 annually since FY 2017
- Shared SFWMD-provided office space at the CREW Field Station helps facilitate day-to-day communication between CREW Trust staff and SFWMD and FWC colleagues.
- CREW Trust assists FWC as needed in their mandate to provide recreational hunting opportunities within the CREW Wildlife and Environmental Area (WEA) and assists with research and invasive species removal initiatives.
- SFWMD and FWC counterparts provide training for CREW Trust staff & volunteers (e.g., invasive species removal, species monitoring, etc.)

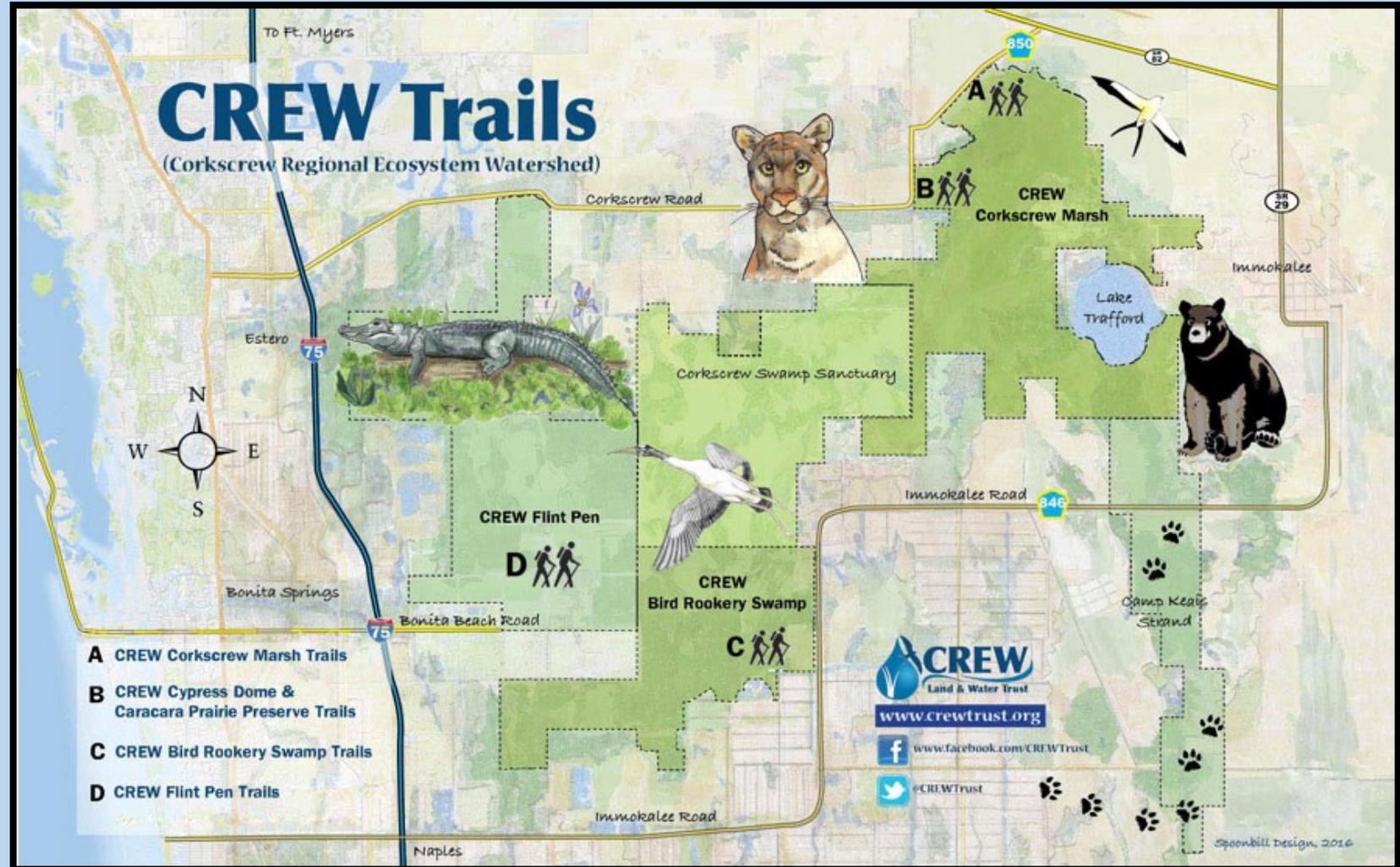


CREW Field Station

# Public Access & Recreation

- CREW Marsh Trails (CMT/1994)
- CREW Cypress Dome Trails (CDT/2009)
- CREW Bird Rookery Swamp (BRS/2011)
- CREW Flint Pen Strand (FPS/2018)
- CREW Purple Trail (FPS-BRS/2021)

<div data-bbox="81 625 254 782"><b>40+</b></div> <p>Miles of Trails</p>	<div data-bbox="318 625 484 782"><b>13</b></div> <p>Different Trails</p>	<div data-bbox="547 625 705 782"><b>35</b></div> <p>Miles of Biking Trails</p>
<div data-bbox="81 871 254 1028"><b>9</b></div> <p>Miles of Equestrian Trails</p>	<div data-bbox="318 871 484 1028"><b>2*</b></div> <p>Picnic Pavilions</p>	<div data-bbox="547 871 705 1028"><b>3</b></div> <p>Observation Decks</p>
<div data-bbox="198 1128 356 1285"><b>3</b></div> <p>Elevated Boardwalks</p>	<div data-bbox="428 1128 586 1285"><b>2</b></div> <p>Primitive Campsites</p>	



# Trail Stewardship

- Trail upkeep (40 miles)
- Litter collection
- Minor infrastructure repair
- Restocking kiosks at seven trailheads
- Monitor permitted usage of campsite and provide upkeep
- Survey & report trail conditions
- TrafX data collection
- Monthly gate code updates
- Accessibility enhancements in FY23/FY24

*CREW Bird Rookery Swamp*



*CREW Marsh Trails*



*CREW Flint Pen Strand*



*CREW Marsh Trails*

# Public Access & Recreation

- 60k+ annual visitors
- 75+ scheduled guided hikes, wet walks & bicycle tours every season at all four trail systems within the CREW MA.
- By request guided hikes for private groups and community associations (no charge).
- Self-guided tours at CMT & CDT – BRS self-guided tour in development.
- Talking trail boxes at CMT and BRS
- GeoCache/EarthCache events
- 4 Chronologs at CMT (6 more to install):  
Visit <https://www.chronolog.io/project/CRW>

*CREW Bird Rookery Swamp*



*CREW Flint Pen Strand*



*CREW Marsh Trails*



*CREW Bird Rookery Swamp*

# Environmental Education (K-12)

- **Walk Through a Watershed at CMT for Collier County Public Schools (CCPS) 3rd grade students (594 students in FY23)**
- **Soil Rocks! at CREW CDT for CCPS 2nd grade students (468 students so far in FY23) WINK News (2/9/23): <https://tinyurl.com/4p2mwedr>**
- **300+ other K-12 students for on-site programs.**
- **2000+ 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> graders for FGCU Wings of Hope/Panther Posse program at CMT this season.**
- **By request programs for charter and private schools, homeschool and other youth (K-12) ⇒ groups (no charge)**

CREW Cypress Dome Trails



CREW Cypress Dome Trails



CREW Cypress Dome Trails



CREW Cypress Dome Trails

# Environmental Education (Univ)

- 27 university classes in FY22 (CMT/FPS) – 16 classes (348 students) already this semester (Jan-Feb)
- By request programs for university groups (no charge)
- Service-Learning: 342 hours in FY22
- FGCU Water School GIS student projects
- Environmental education internship since 1999
- Communications internship beginning next fall
- Student membership program

*CREW Marsh Trails*



*CREW Cypress Dome Trails*



*CREW Marsh Trails*



*CREW Flint Pen Strand*

# Environmental Education (Adult)

- **Specialty Topic Treks:**
  - Fall/Spring Wildflower Walks
  - Carnivorous Botany
  - Seasonal Birding
  - In the Footsteps of Fire at Flint Pen Strand
- **Strolling Science Seminars:**
  - Moccasins, Rattlers, and Coral Snakes: Oh My!
  - From Plant to Plate: Wild Crop Relatives
  - Nature's Theatre: When Bugs and Plants Collide
  - Paleo Plants the Dinosaurs Ate
- **Special Events:**
  - Full moon hikes
  - Sunrise/Sunset hikes
  - Earth Night stargazing at the Marsh
  - Prescribed burns 101

*CREW Marsh Trails*



*CREW Cypress Dome Trails*



*CREW Cypress Dome Trails*



*CREW Flint Pen Strand*

# Environmental Education

- Family Guided Hikes @ CMT/FPS
- Strolling Science Seminars for Kids (Ages 8-13):
  - Outdoor Survival for Kids
  - Entomology for Kids
  - Wings over the Watershed: Birding for Kids
  - Herpetology for Kids
- Nature's Peace:
  - Safely shares the wonders of the 1400' CREW BRS boardwalk with visually impaired visitors and those experiencing early-stage Alzheimer's.
  - Coordinating with Wounded Warrior foundation to pilot a version of Nature's Peace for at-risk veterans.

*CREW Marsh Trails*



*CREW Marsh Trails*



*Nature's Peace: CREW Bird Rookery Swamp*

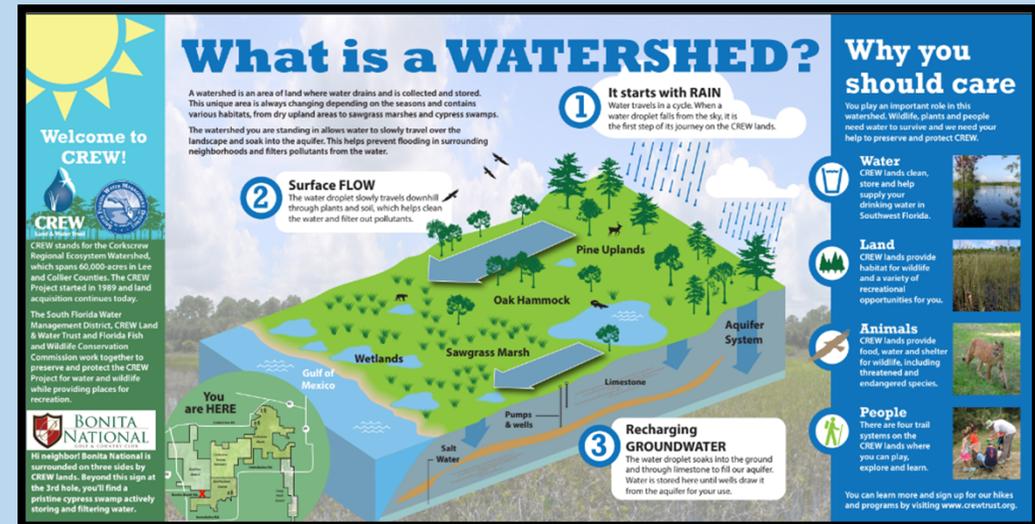
# Community Engagement

- 30 events in FY22: 3,120 individual engagements
- 25 events already scheduled for FY23
- Festivals and fairs
- Community presentations: Always seeking opportunities to visit or be visited!
- On-site “Lunch & Learns”
- It always comes back to the water...

Sabal Palm Elementary



Everglades City Seafood Festival



CREW Interpretive Signage

# Identified Needs

- Accessibility upgrades
- Outdoor Classrooms (CMT/FPS)
- Transportation Assets
- Discovery/Visitor Center
- Storage Units (FPS/BRS)



*Additional Benches*



*Utility Truck*



*2 pax ATV*



*15 pax van*

*Outdoor Classroom @ CREW Marsh Trails*



*Discovery/Visitor Center?*

*"I do not know whether it is possible to love the planet or not, but I do know that it is possible to love the places we can see, touch, smell and experience."  
- David Orr, Earth in Mind*

## CONNECT WITH US!



CREW Trust Website: [crewtrust.org](http://crewtrust.org)



Facebook: [CREW Trust](https://www.facebook.com/crewtrust)



Instagram: [@crewtrust](https://www.instagram.com/crewtrust)



YouTube: [@CrewLandWaterTrustEstero](https://www.youtube.com/@CrewLandWaterTrustEstero)



Eventbrite: [CREW Land & Water Trust](https://www.eventbrite.com/organization/crew-land-water-trust)



**CREW**  
Land & Water Trust

**Robert Lucius, Ph.D.**  
Executive Director

Phone: 239-657-2253  
Cell: 831-236-5518  
Email: [RLucius@CREWTrust.org](mailto:RLucius@CREWTrust.org)

23998 Corkscrew Road  
Estero, FL 33928



Roseate Spoonbill @ CREW Bird Rookery Swamp



# Picayune Strand State Forest



Michael Weston  
Forestry Resource Administrator



# Overview



- **Picayune Strand State Forest (PSSF) is comprised of 72,995 acres located in the SW Collier County, approximately 12 east of Naples, FL and about seven miles south of the intersection of Golden Gate Blvd. and Everglades Blvd. I-75 runs along the northern border of the forest, and US 41 runs along the southern border.**
- Land acquisition began in 1983 as part of the Save Our Everglades project under the Conservation and Recreation Lands (CARL) program. Acquisition continued in the following decades using funds from the Preservation 2000 and Florida Forever programs. Additional acquisition funds totaling approximately 38 million dollars were provided by the federal government (Department of the Interior, DOI). In addition to acquisitions, federal dollars were used to fund the relocation expenses of homeowners whose properties were acquired. Federal relocation funds provided compensation to each homeowner for the value of their home plus the difference between that value and those of comparable homes outside the project area, as well as reimbursement for moving expenses. Completed in 2006, acquisitions in SGGE totaled 19,993 parcels encompassing 55,371 acres. Parcels located to the south and east of the canal system (formerly Prairie Canal, east of Merritt Canal at roads numbered 126-134, and Faka-Union Canal to the south of 134 to US-41) are managed by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) as part of FSPSP.
- **The Forest's Diverse Ecological communities include strand swamp, marl prairie, basin swamp, pine flatwoods, hammocks, dome swamp, salt marsh, basin marsh, mangrove swamp, and wet prairie. PSSF also shares a 13-mile boundary to the east with Fakahatchee Strand State Preserve and a 3.5-mile boundary to the southwest with Collier-Seminole State Park.**

WILTON SIMPSON, COMMISSIONER



DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND CONSUMER SERVICES

Presenter: Michael Weston

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# Multiple Use Management

Chapter 253.034 F.S.

**“Multiple Use” is defined as the harmonious and coordinated management of timber, recreation, conservation of fish and wildlife, forage, archaeological and historic sites, habitat and other biological resources, or water resources so that they are utilized in the combination that will best serve the people of the state.**



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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND CONSUMER SERVICES



Presenter: Michael Weston

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# Picayune Strand State Forest

## Multiple-Use Management:

- Sustainable Forest Management
- **Recreational Opportunities**
- Natural Resource Conservation
- **Protection of Cultural Resources**
- Protection of Water Resources
- **Wildland Fire Protection**
- **Habitat Restoration**



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# Management Work



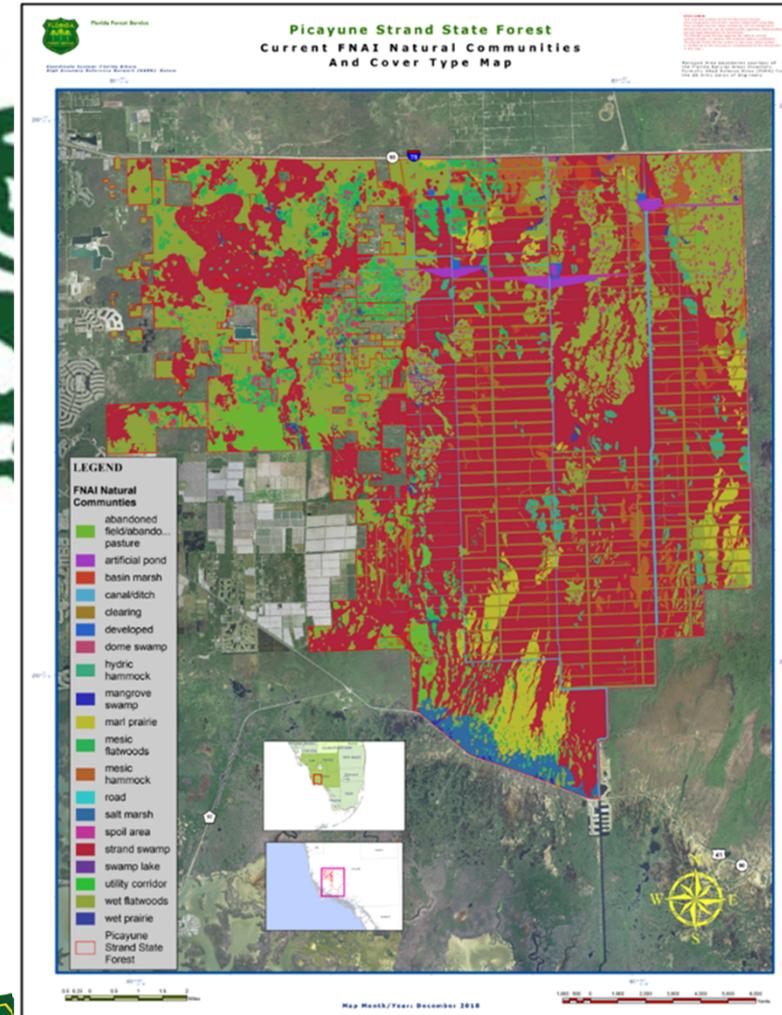
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# Natural Communities

<i>Historic Natural Communities</i>	<i>Approximate Acreage</i>
Strand Swamp	42,458
Dome Swamp	1,803
Basin Marsh	449
Depression Marsh	196
Wet prairie	310
Mesic Hammock	1,803
Mangrove Swamp	33
Swamp Lake	8
Wet flatwoods	16,394
Mesic Flatwoods	3,881
Sandhill	2,576
Hydric Hammock	1,157
Salt Marsh	855
Other lands	1,072
<b>Total</b>	<b>72,995</b>



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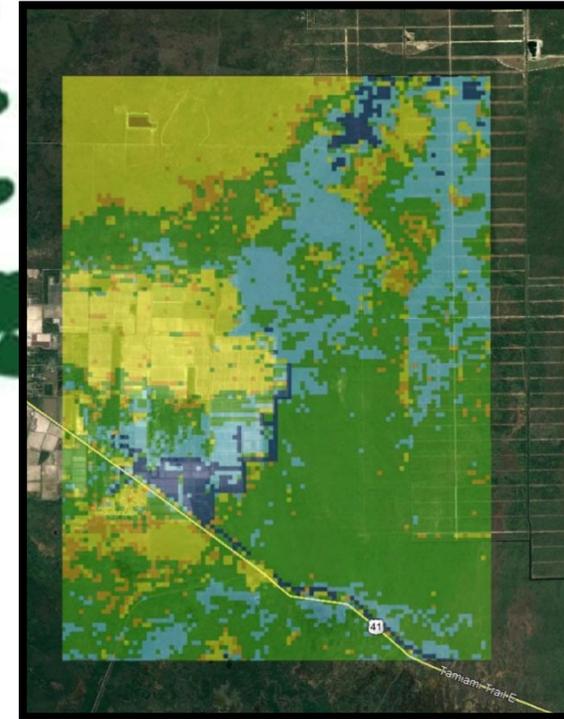
Presenter: Michael Weston

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# Picayune Strand Restoration Project

## Planned Activities:

- USACE and SFWMD have a hydrologic restoration plan, as part of the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (CERP), to restore overall hydrology in PSSF.
- **Efforts will be made to monitor and protect PSSF's waterbodies and their associated water quality, discharge, and native plants and animals.**
- Maintenance of wetland communities is a high priority and will be accomplished through best management practices and a cautious avoidance of activities that threaten the natural hydrology of these areas.



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# Management in the Field

- Non-native invasive plants
- Native cabbage palms



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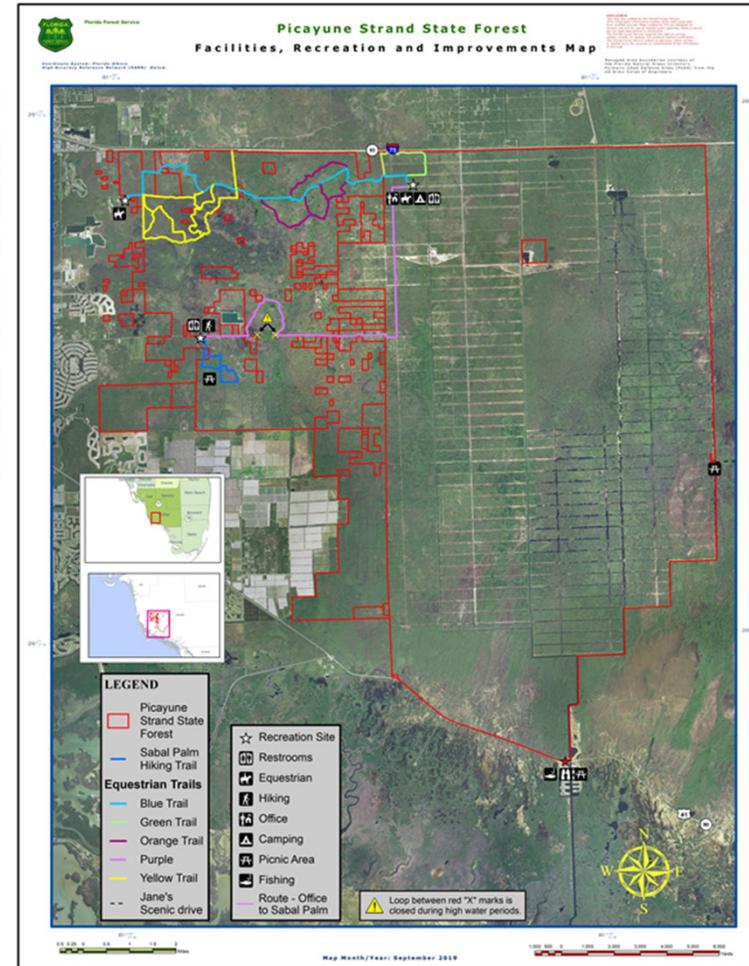
Presenter: Michael Weston

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# Current Recreation Facilities

## Current Status:

- Sabal Palm Hiking Trail is a 3.2 mile hiking trail
- Equestrian campground - 1 pavilion, 1 group camp site, 6 primitive campsites, 22 horse paddocks
- 12 Hunt Camp Sites
- 2 camp sites at Kirkland Hammock
- 22 miles of Equestrian trails
- 9.2 mile tie-back levy trail
- 4 parking sites: 2 on Golden Gate tract, 2 on Belle Meade tract



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# Recreation in the Forest



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# Planned Recreational Activities

- Develop additional public access and recreational opportunities to allow for a carrying capacity of 700 visitors per day for typical recreation while maintaining current facilities.
- Continue Hunter OHV access on named/numbered roads for quota hunts;
- Assess additional public access and recreational opportunities;
  - Additional camp sites: 48<sup>th</sup> Ave SE RV camping sites;
  - New camp sites: dry season sites at Miller Blvd./128<sup>th</sup> Ave. SE and Janes Scenic Drive; group camp near Miller Blvd.; Broken Wing camp sites; Quonset hut sites south of Merrit Blvd. and pump station
  - Boat ramp at Faka-Union canal and 52<sup>nd</sup> Ave. SE
  - Southern Support area at Stewart Blvd. and 52<sup>nd</sup> Ave. SE
  - Additional hiking trails: Port of the Isles, Tomato Road Hiking trail, Outback hiking trail, Bike Trails, Water Trails
  - Augment trails: lengthen Sabal Palm hiking trail, review vehicle use on horse trails and tertiary roads
- Continue to safely integrate human use into PSSF, follow the Five-Year Outdoor Recreation Plan and update annually.



# Campground at 48<sup>th</sup> Ave. SE

- 18 RV sites
- 20 Primitive Camping Sites
- Flush Bathrooms and Showers



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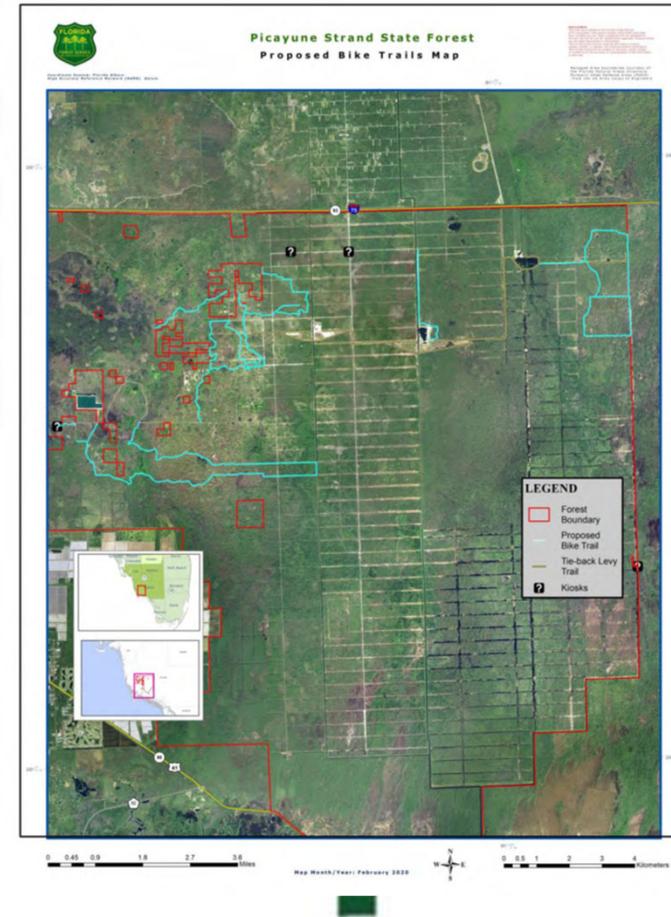
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# Picayune Strand State Forest

- 32 mile bike trail
- Marking began January 2023



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# Picayune Strand State Forest



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# Questions/Comments

## Zoom:

- If you're participating via Zoom, use the Raise Hand feature

## Phone:

- If you're participating via Phone,  
\*9 Raises Hand  
\*6 Mutes/Unmutes

[Michael.Weston@fdacs.gov](mailto:Michael.Weston@fdacs.gov)

(239) 690-8021



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# Cypress Creek Wetland Restoration Project

Lainhart Dam on  
Loxahatchee River

Recreational Public Forum  
March 20, 2023

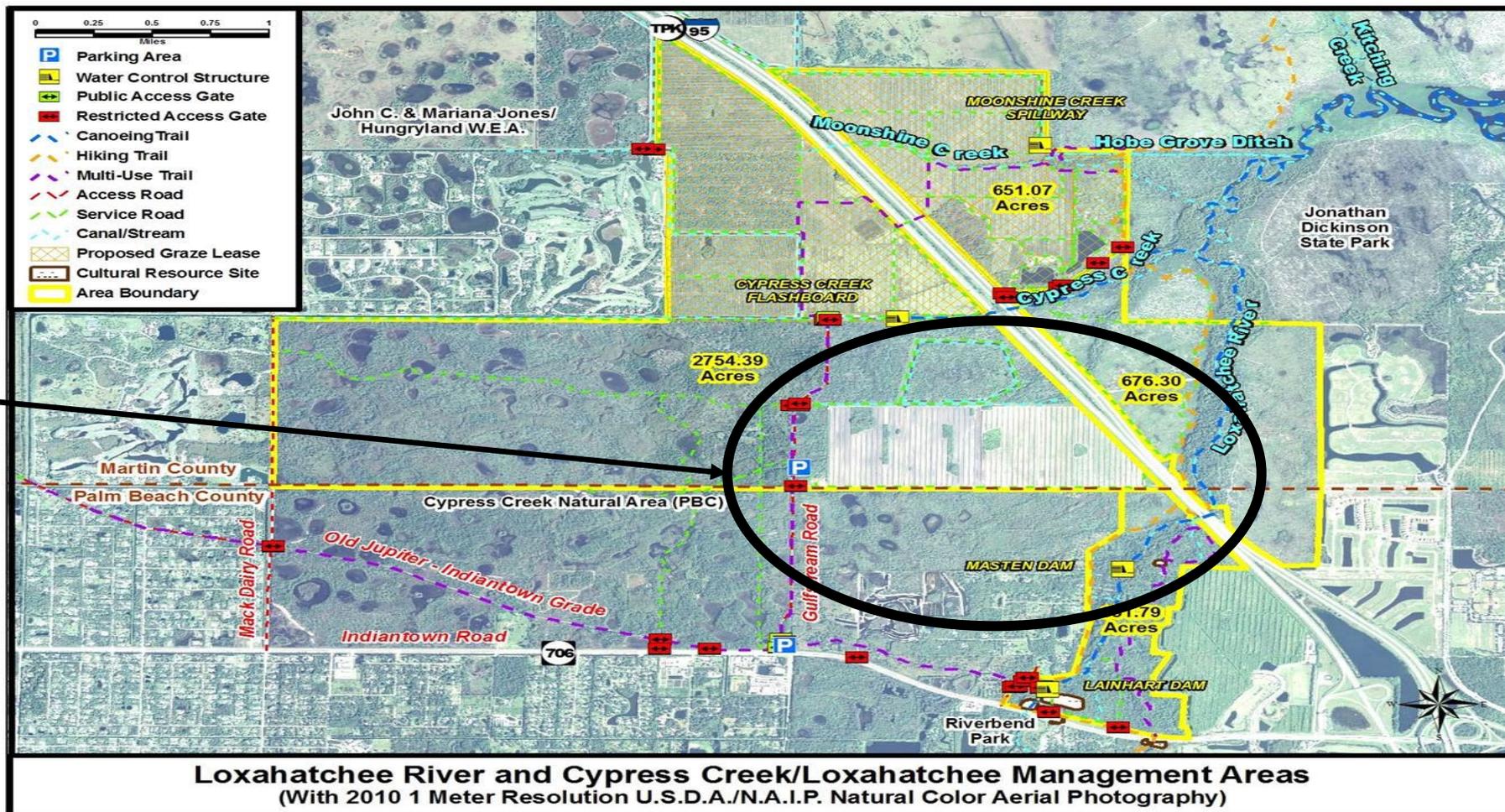
James Schuette



# Cypress Creek Restoration Project Location

## R&A Farm

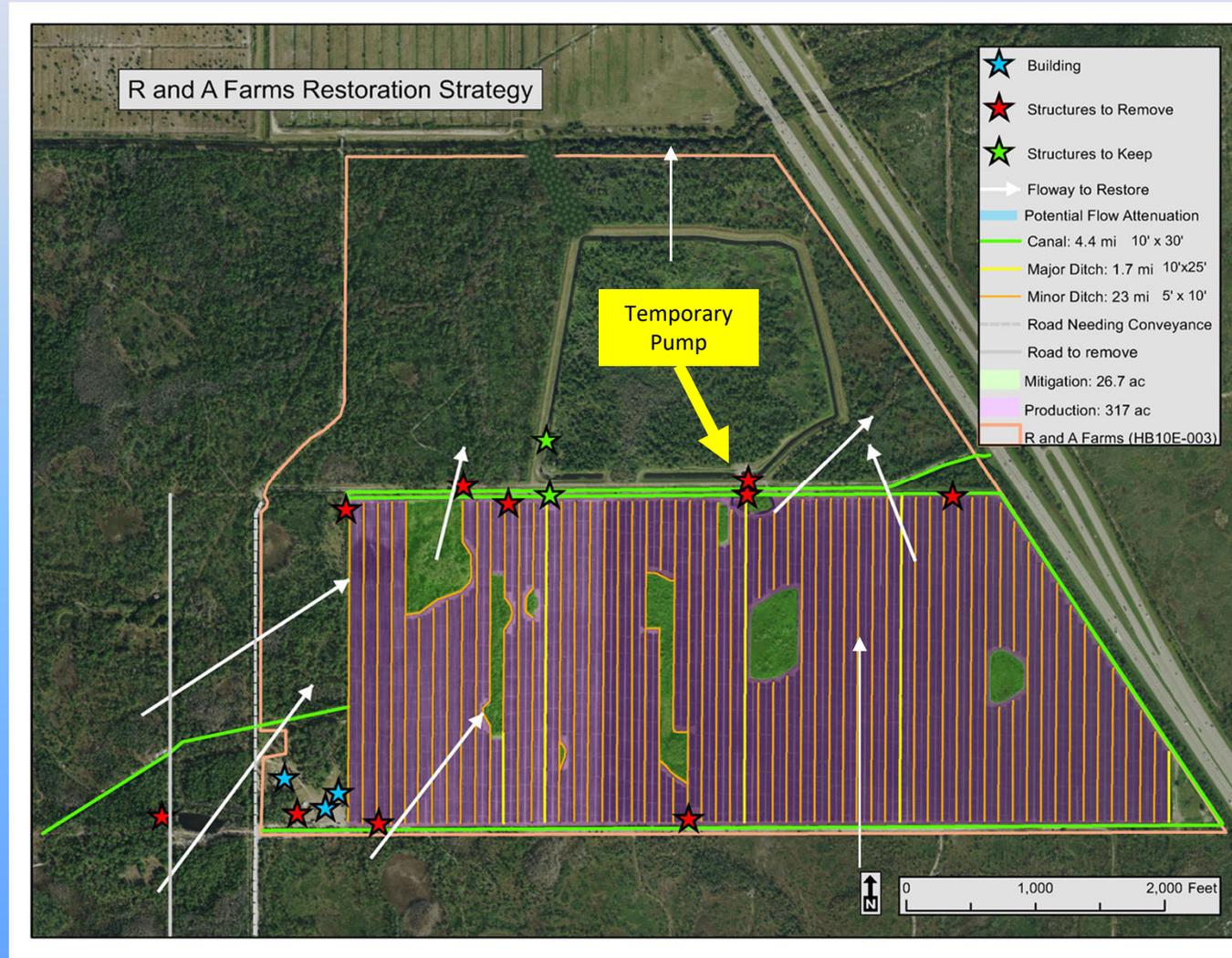
- Leased since acquisition
- Lease expired May 2022
- Peppers/Tomatoes
- 586 acres total
- 317 acres cultivated



# Project Concept

Hydrologically reconnect Cypress Creek natural area to Loxahatchee River by restoring historic flow-ways

- **The field was leveled for agriculture**
  - 30 miles of ditches/canals
  - Supportive infrastructure
  - Adjacent above-ground impoundment (AGI)
- **Property west of field also impacted**
  - 3 miles of canals from previous land use
  - Palm Beach County canals have been filled
- **Recreate historic elevation contours**
  - Reconnect historic flow-ways
  - Arrows indicate historic flow patterns



# Project Design

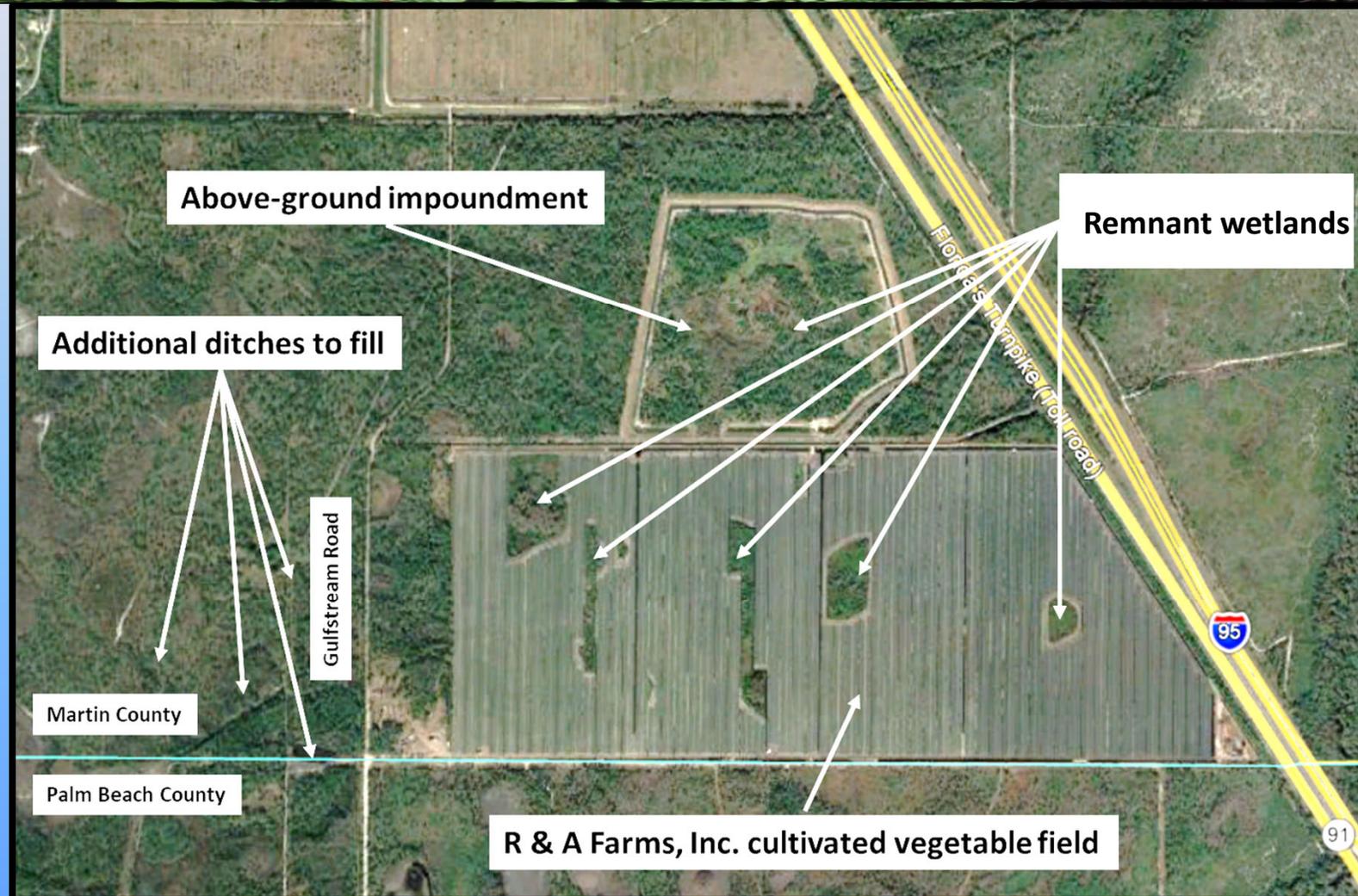
Remove Human Alterations to the Landscape

## ➤ Remove agricultural fields:

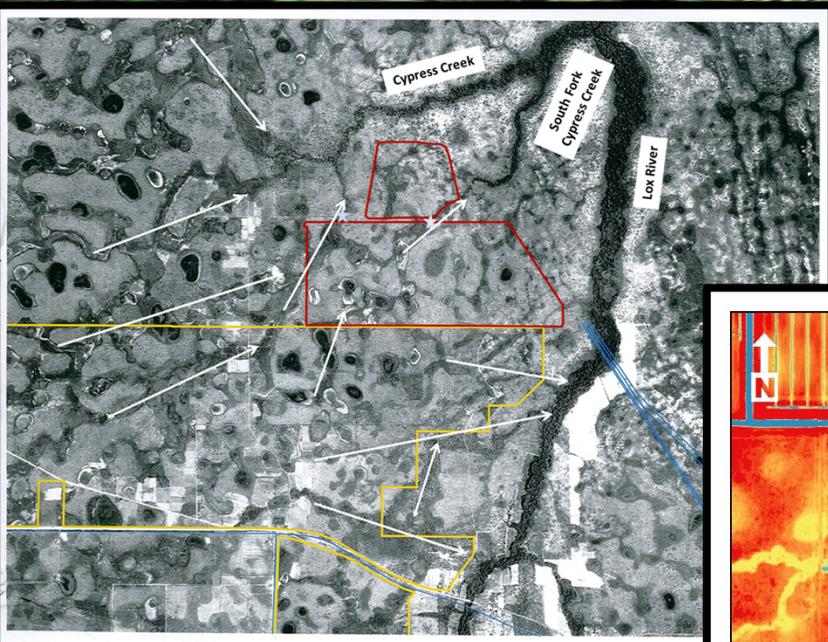
- Remove infrastructure
- Cap wells
- Soils management for contaminants
- Plant native vegetation
- Eliminates 4% of row crops in basin
  - Nutrients/agricultural chemicals

## ➤ Hydrologic improvements

- Remove AGI & all levees/ditches/canals
- Reconnect remanent wetlands
- Contour land to historic elevations
- Improve flows under Gulfstream Road
- Restore flows from PBC Natural Area
- Increase dynamic storage
- Restore seasonal flows to Lox. River

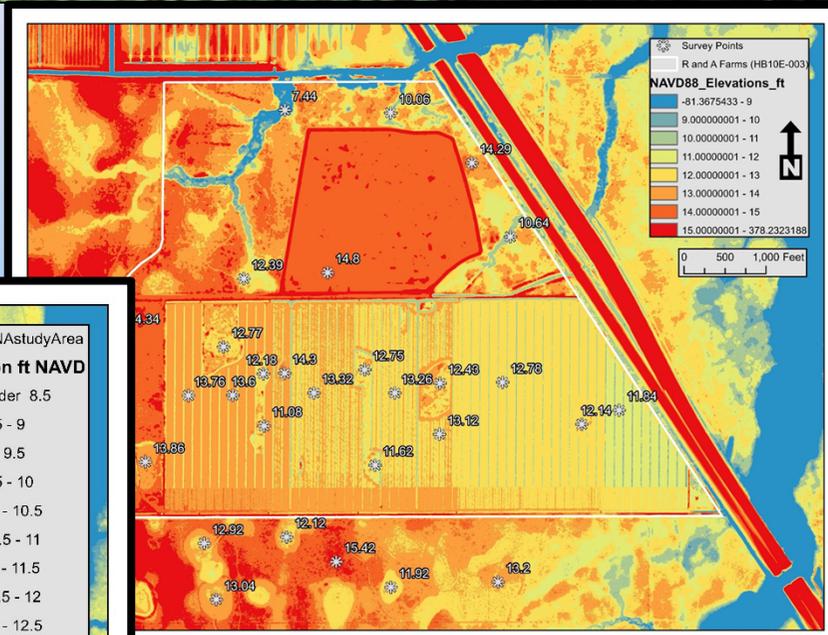
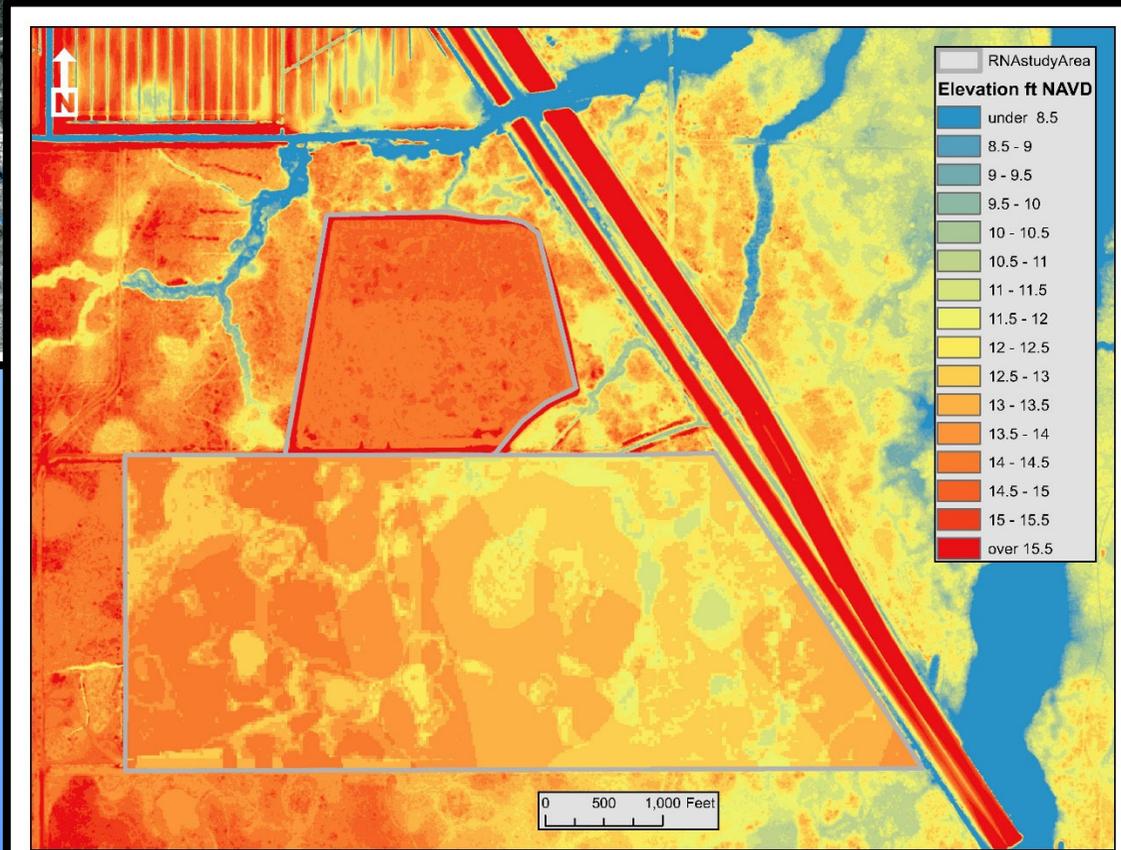


# Cypress Creek Restoration Target Elevations



Historic Flow-ways

Target Elevations

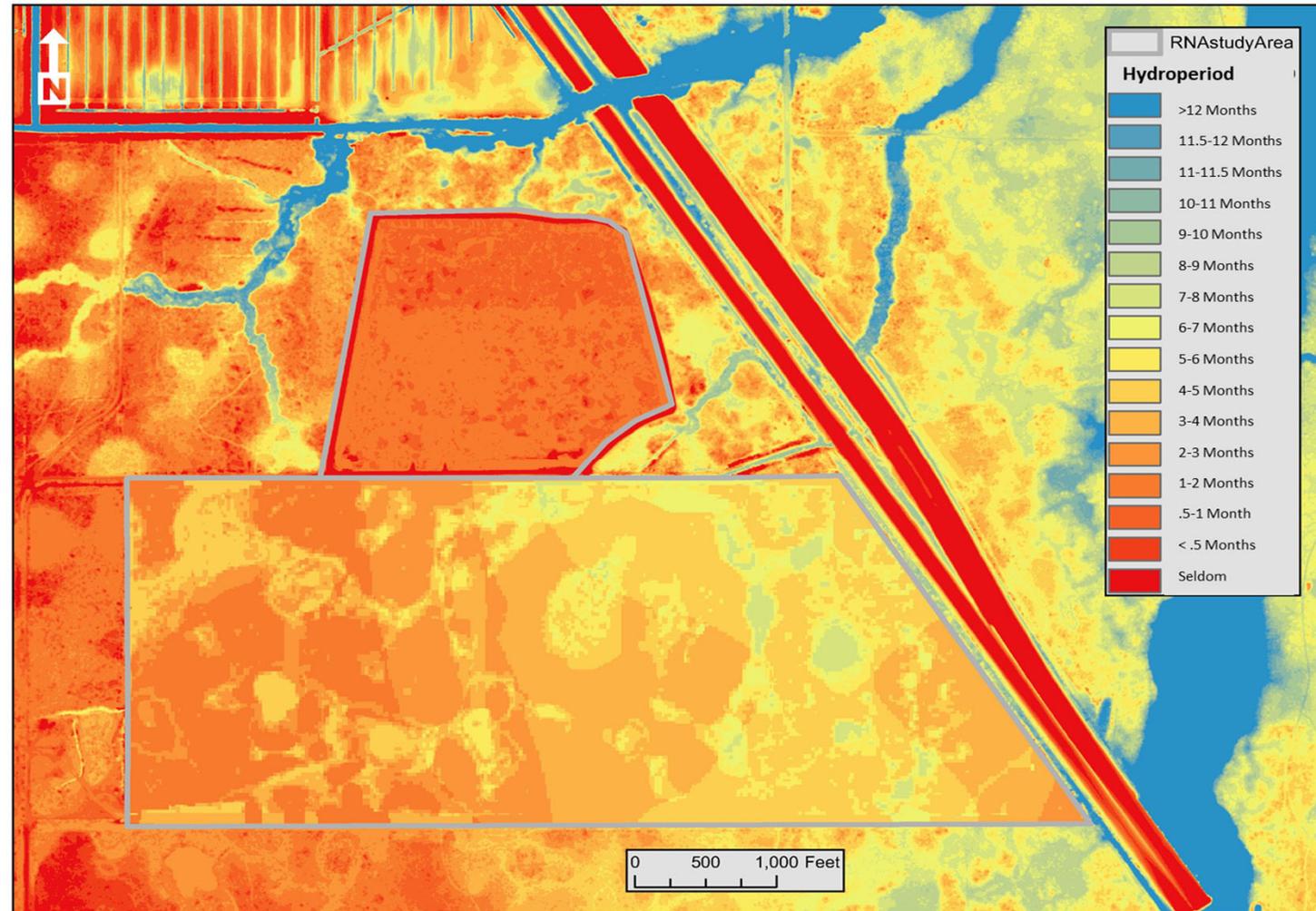


LIDAR Elevations

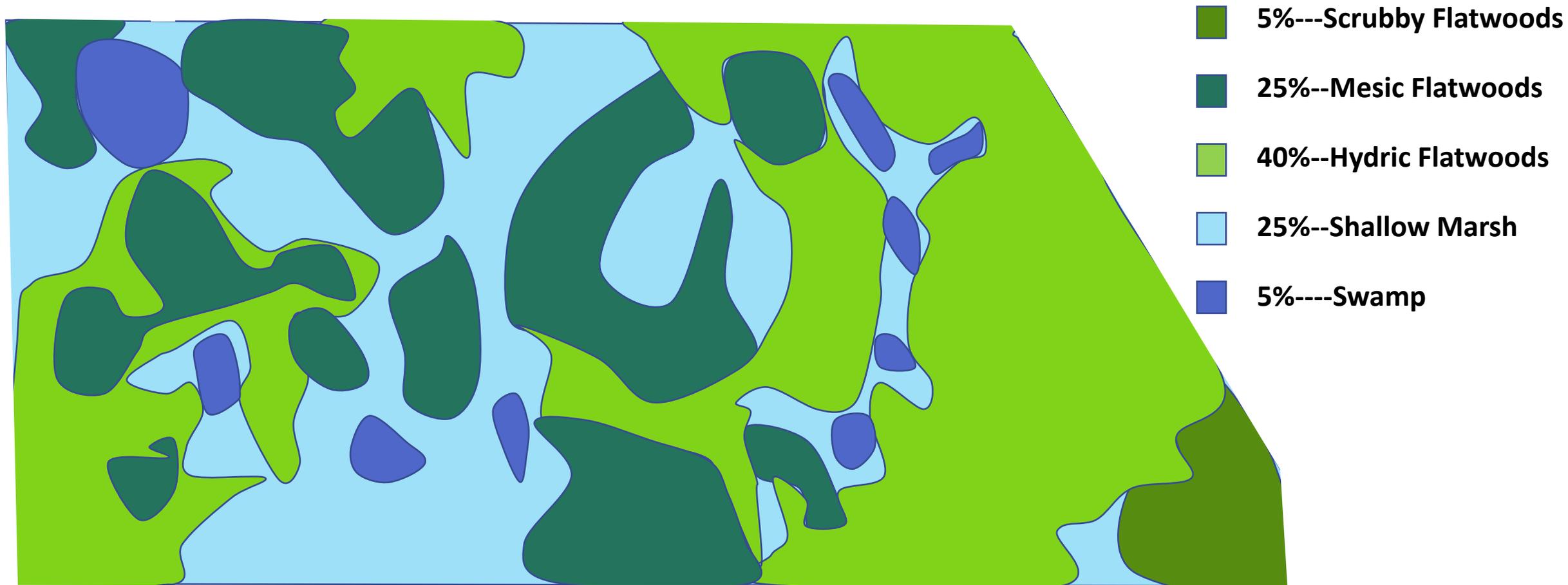
# Cypress Creek Restoration Target Hydroperiods

## ➤ Resulting habitats include:

- Creek channels
- Marsh
- Swamp
- Wet flatwoods
- Mesic flatwoods
- Scrubby flatwoods

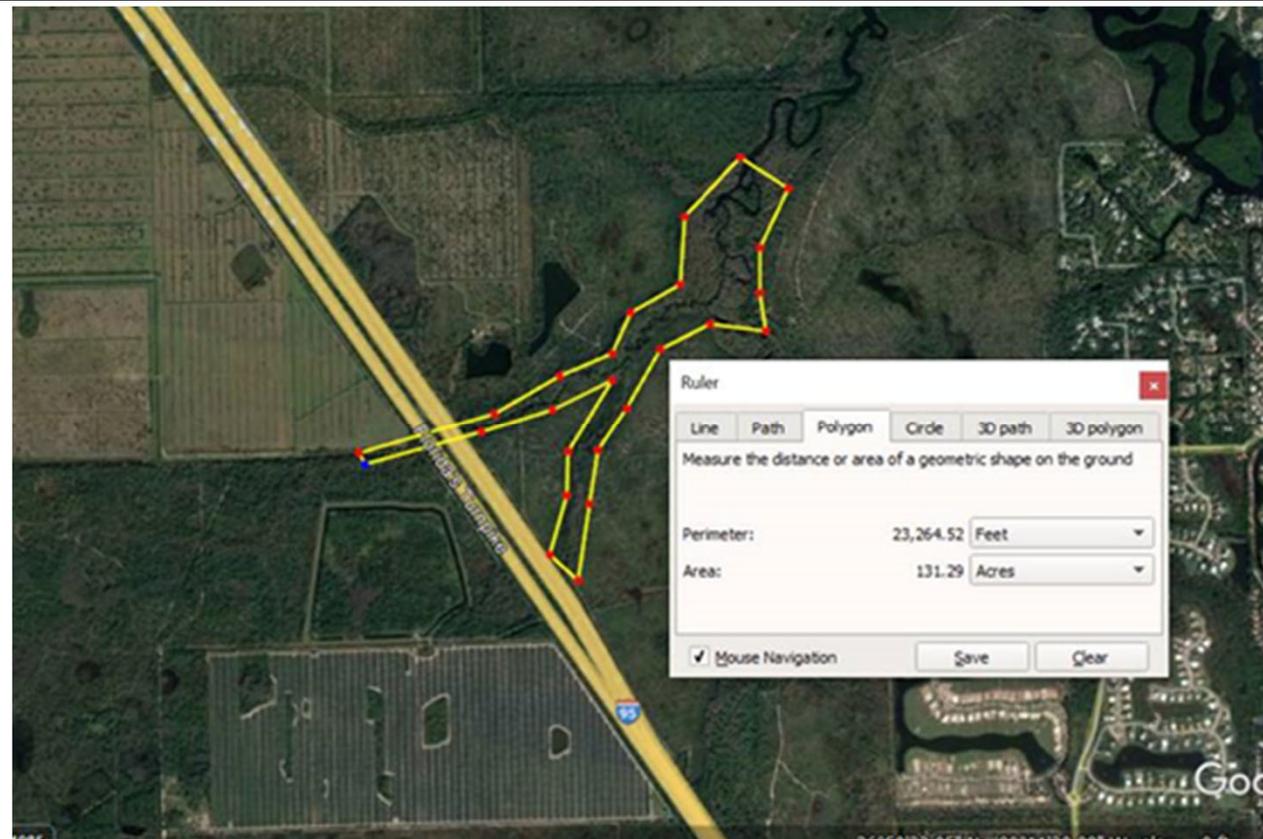


# Anticipated Resulting Habitats On Field



# On-site & Downstream Benefits

**654 acres directly improved on-site/downstream**



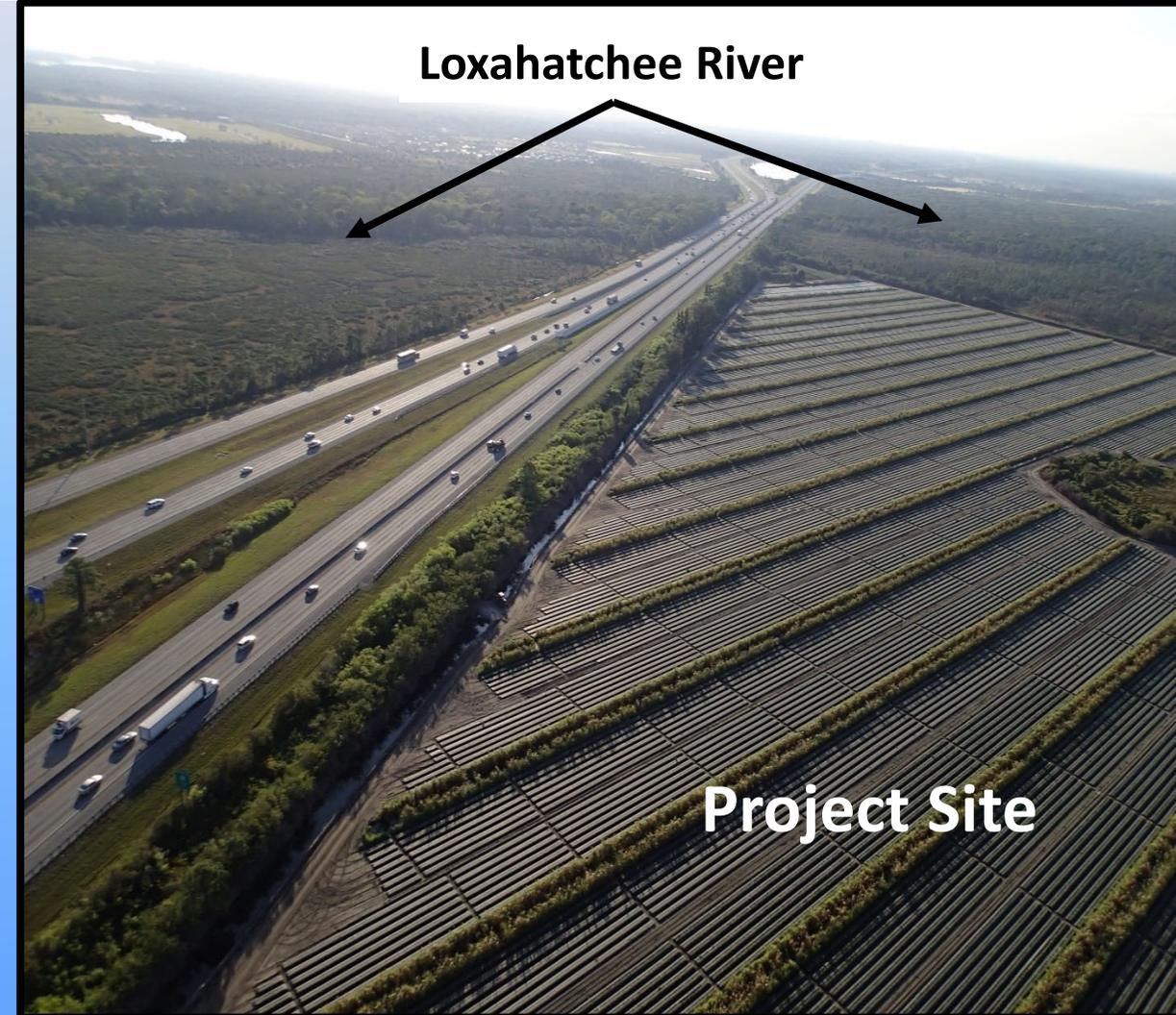
**Additional 131 acres of floodplain improvements**

# Potential Partners & Tasks

- **SFWMD (\$750,000)**
  - Soil management plan
  - Exotic plant control
  - Cap wells/remove septic
  - Interim water control
- **Aquatic Habitat Restoration and Enhancement Program-FWC (\$300,000)**
  - Contour field
  - Revegetation
- **North American Wetlands Conservation Act-DU (\$1,000,000)**
  - Add road culverts
  - Fill field ditches & all canals
  - Remove AGI
  - PBC modifications

# Timeline

- **2022**
  - May 31-Lease expired, most infrastructure removed
  - July-Disked field, planted cover crop
  - August-All permits secured
  - Reconnected flows to 2 Cypress Creek tributaries
- **2023**
  - March-Mow/disk field, herbicide ditches
  - May-Test soil, expand soil treatments if needed
  - June-Herbicide ditches, cap wells, remove septic
- **2024**
  - Fill western canals & AGI, relocate road culverts
- **2025**
  - January-Fill ditches & surrounding canals
  - February-Contour surface, vegetation plantings
  - Permit expires 12/22/2025



# Discussion

## Zoom:

- If you're participating via Zoom – use the Raise Hand feature

## Phone:

- If you're participating via Phone –
  - \*9 Raises Hand
  - \*6 Mutes/Unmutes

*Loxahatchee River Palm Beach County*

# Recreational Public Forum March 20, 2023

## Summary of STA Waterfowl & Alligator 2022-2023 Hunting Season

James R. Harbaugh  
Recreational Planner  
Land Stewardship  
[jharbaug@sfwmd.gov](mailto:jharbaug@sfwmd.gov)



## Waterfowl STA's overview

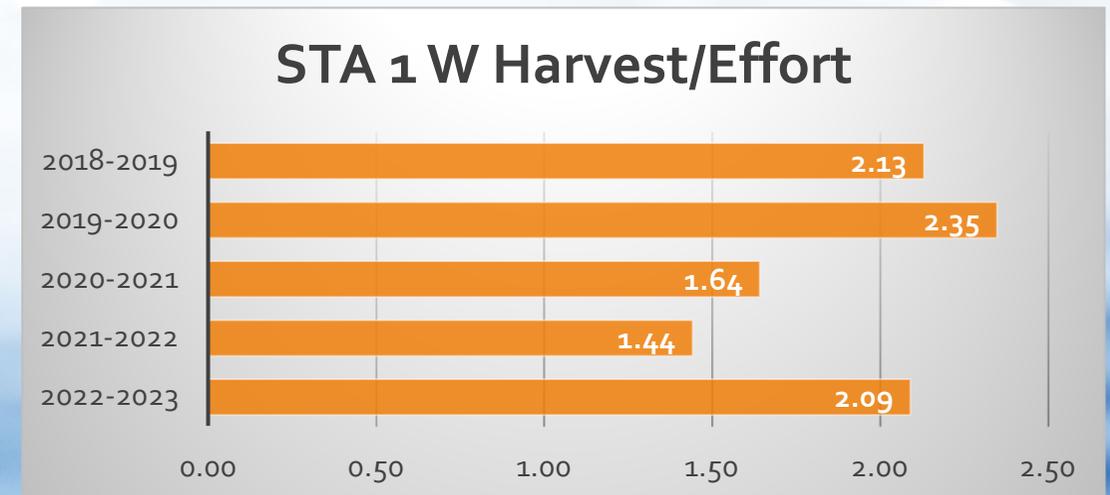
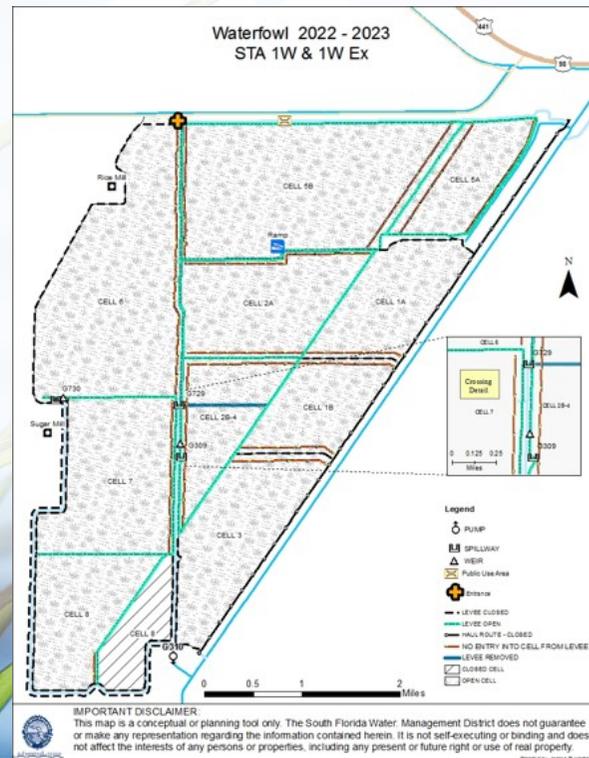
- Construction projects winding down
  - STA - 1W reopened
  - STA - 2 remained largely closed
  - STA 3/4 veg management
  - STA 5/6 same
- Overall hunters were consistently successful



# Waterfowl STA 1W

- STA1 W Units A and B open in 2022/23
- Harvest/Effort 4-year average 2.05 overall

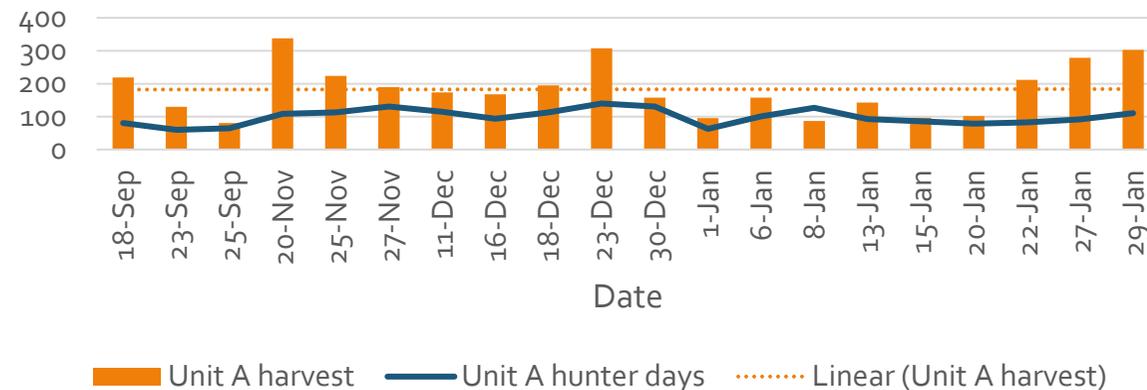
	Year	Scheduled Access Days	Hunter Days	Harvest	Success Rate	Quota
STA 1 West	2022-2023	64	3571	7462	2.09	160
STA 1 West	2021-2022	46	1459	2103	1.44	70
STA 1 West	2020-2021	45	2835	4653	1.64	70
STA 1 West	2019-2020	70	5089	11945	2.35	160
STA 1 West	2018-2019	69	5182	11038	2.13	160



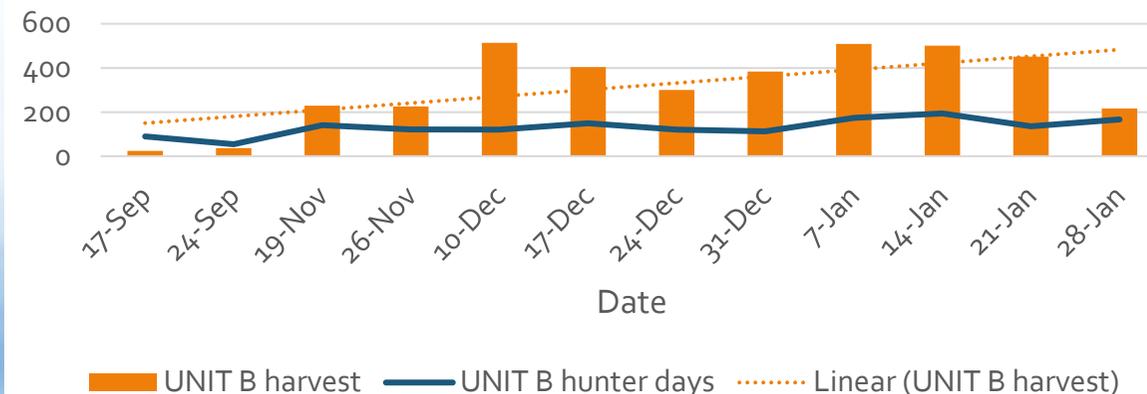
# STA-1 W and STA-1 W ex Hunter Effort vs Harvest

- Unit A = STA - 1W Ex
  - Friday and Sunday hunts
  - Stable throughout season
  - 1.54 Harvest/Effort average previous 2 years
  - 1.84 Harvest/Effort 2022/23
  
- Unit B = STA - 1W
  - Saturday hunts
  - Slow start
  - 2.39 Harvest/Effort

Fri/Sun Hunt: Unit A (STA1W EX)



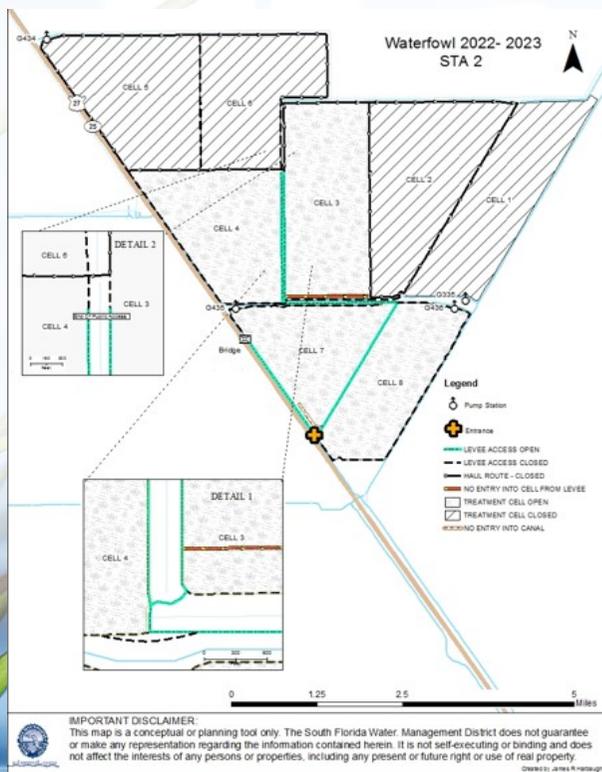
Saturday Hunt: Unit B (STA -1W, cell 5A)



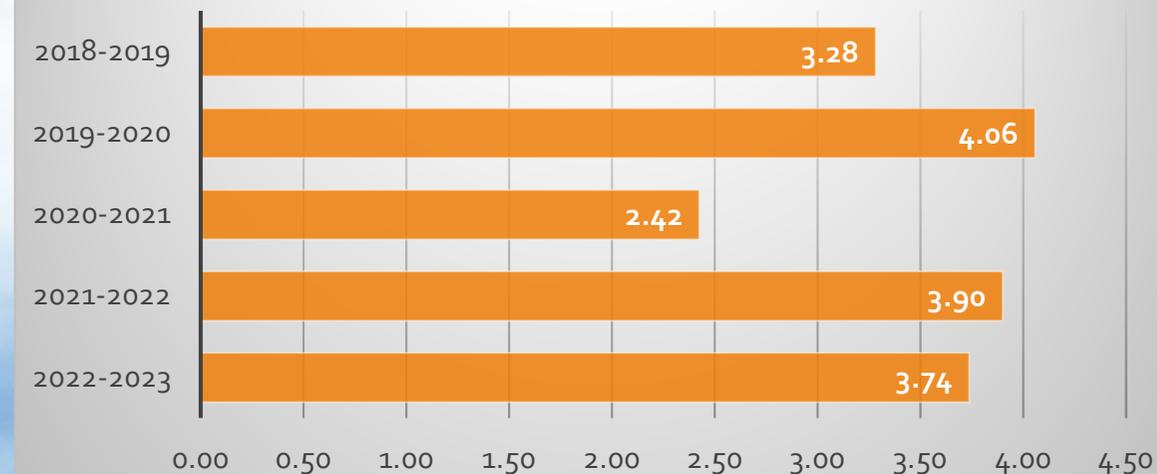
# Waterfowl STA 2

- Quota same as previous two years
- Harvest/Effort 4-year average 3.42

	Year	Scheduled Access Days	Hunter Days	Harvest	Success Rate	Quota
STA 2	2022-2023	24	620	2317	3.74	20
STA 2	2021-2022	25	608	2371	3.90	20
STA 2	2020-2021	25	393	953	2.42	20
STA 2	2019-2020	28	1867	7575	4.06	60
STA 2	2018-2019	26	1693	5558	3.28	60



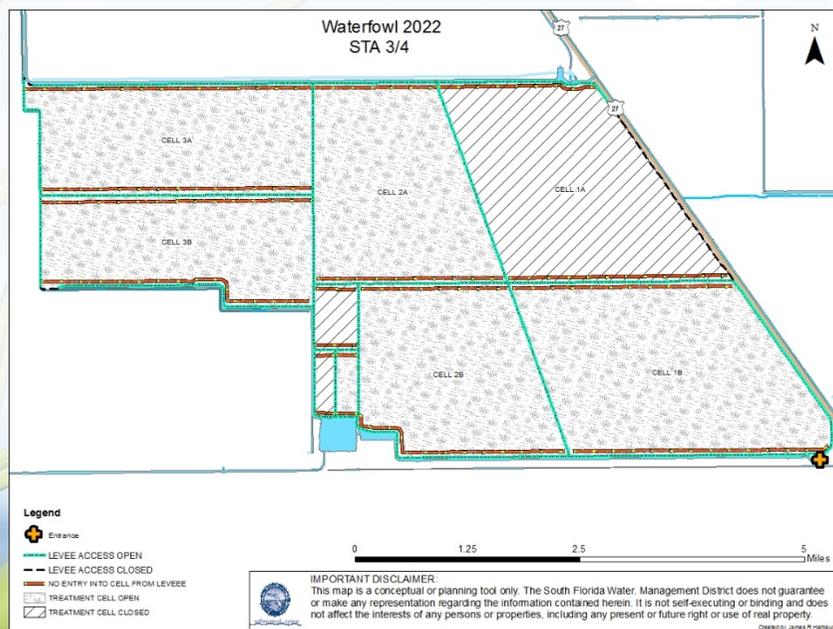
## STA 2 Harvest/Effort



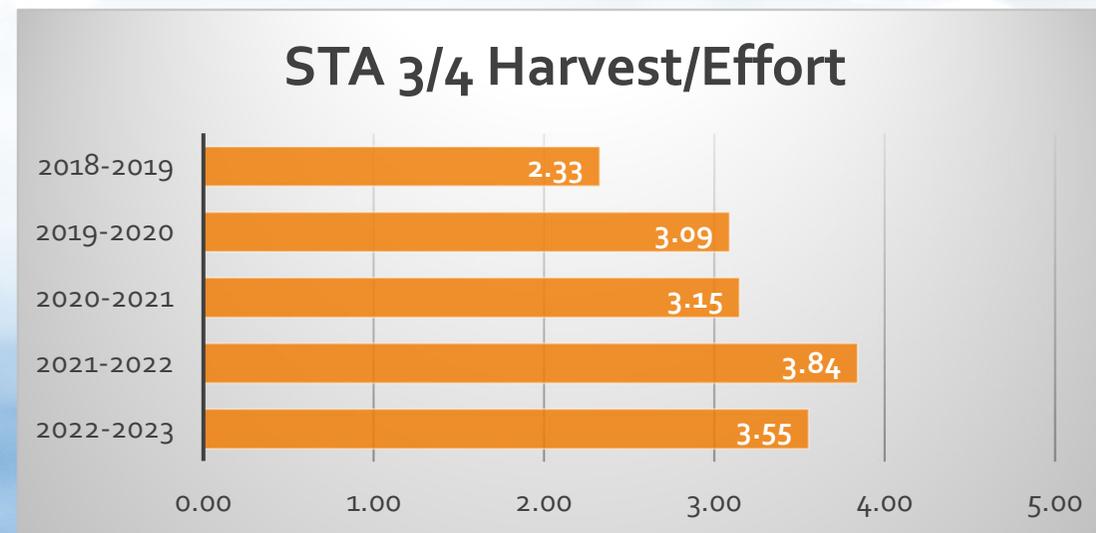
**IMPORTANT DISCLAIMER:**  
 This map is a conceptual or planning tool only. The South Florida Water Management District does not guarantee or make any representation regarding the information contained herein. It is not self-executing or binding and does not affect the interests of any persons or properties, including any present or future right or use of real property.

# Waterfowl STA 3/4

- Quota same as previous years
- Harvest/Effort 4-year average 3.10



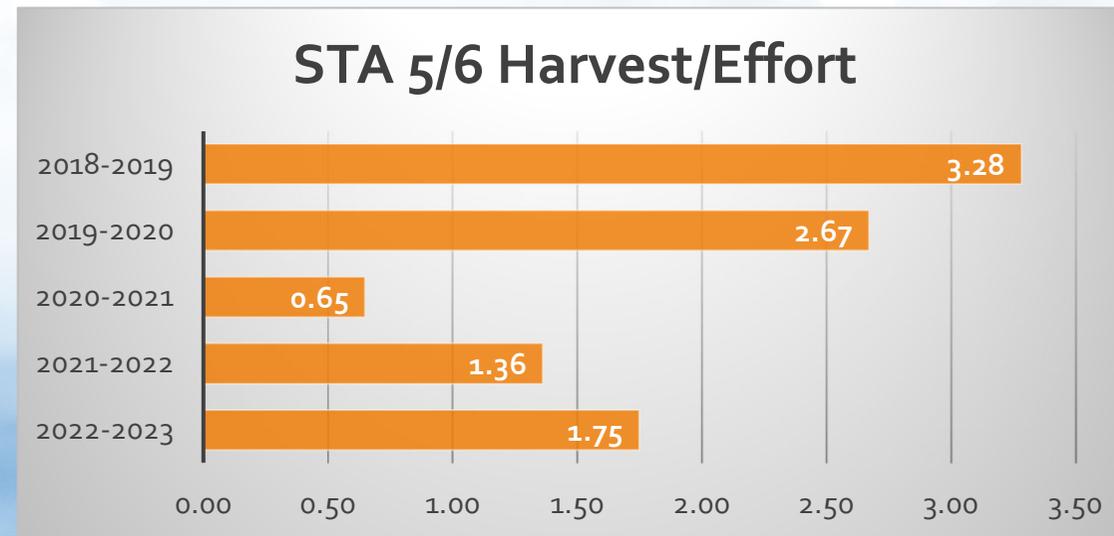
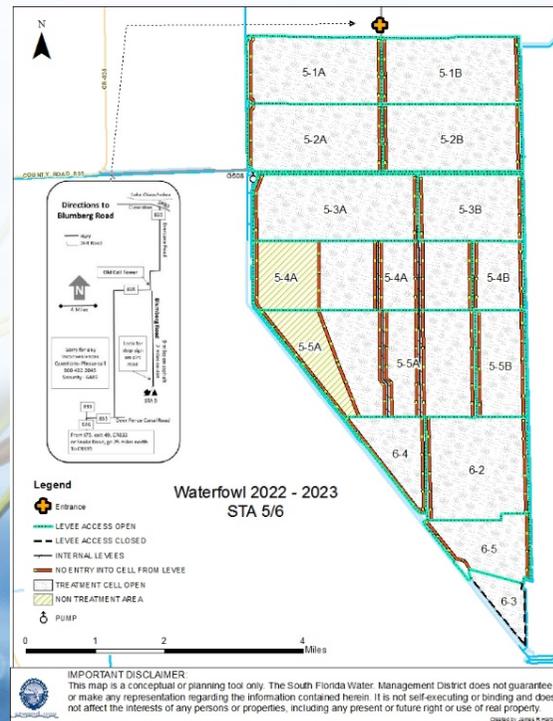
	Year	Scheduled Access Days	Hunter Days	Harvest	Success Rate	Quota
STA 3/4	2022-2023	40	2053	7295	3.55	40
STA 3/4	2021-2022	43	2003	7692	3.84	40
STA 3/4	2020-2021	45	1925	6059	3.15	40
STA 3/4	2019-2020	46	2262	6989	3.09	40
STA 3/4	2018-2019	43	1988	4628	2.33	40



# Waterfowl STA 5/6

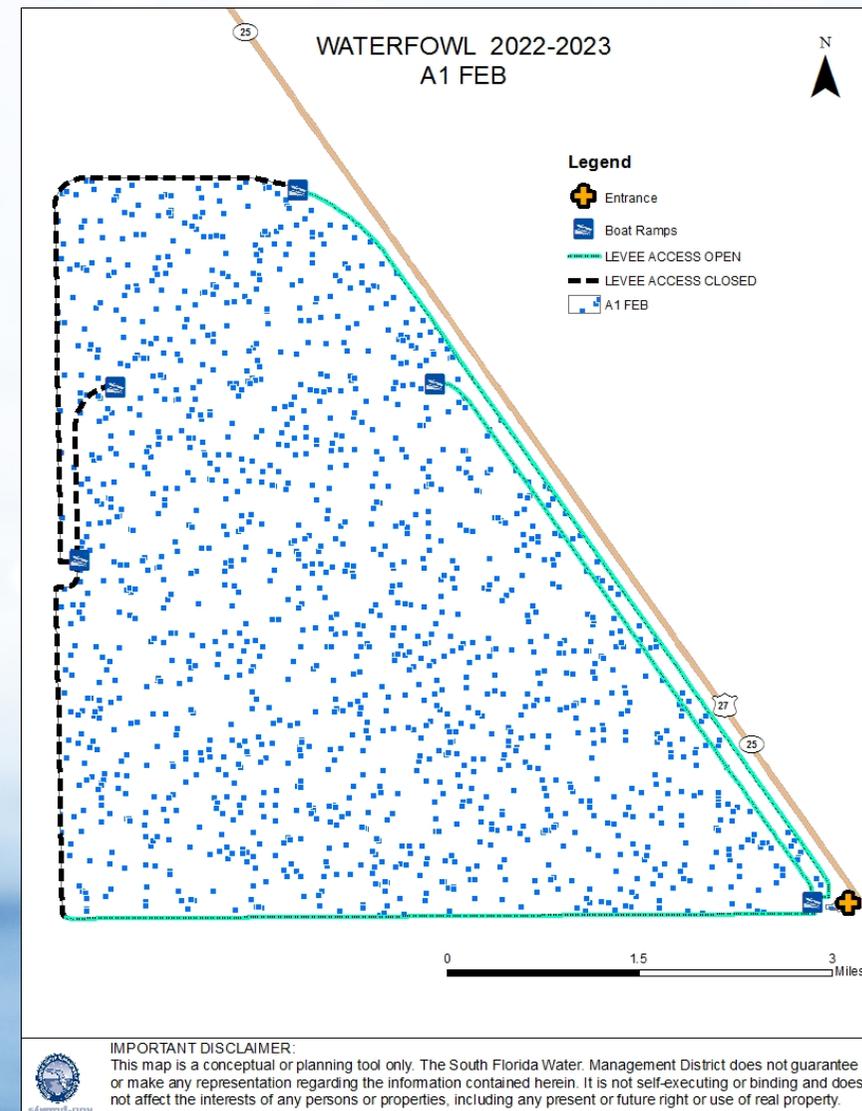
- Quota reduced 50%
- Hunter participation down
- Harvest/Effort 4-year average 1.99

	Year	Scheduled Access	Hunter Days	Harvest	Success Rate	Quota
STA 5/6	2022-2023	22	450	787	1.75	40
STA 5/6	2021-2022	26	641	873	1.36	80
STA 5/6	2020-2021	25	868	563	0.65	80
STA 5/6	2019-2020	24	1863	4975	2.67	80
STA 5/6	2018-2019	26	2008	6590	3.28	80



# Waterfowl A1 - FEB

- Partial Levee Closure due to Construction of A2 FEB
- Quota 100
  - No check station = No data



# Waterfowl Specialty Hunts

- Wounded Warrior
  - 2 events
  - Jan. 21<sup>st</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup>
- Federal Youth hunt
  - 2 events
  - Nov 12<sup>th</sup> & Feb 11<sup>th</sup>
  - United Waterfowlers of Florida



Youth hunt 2023



Wounded Warrior hunt



Presenter: James Harbaugh 9

# Unauthorized Access

- **Florida Statutes 373.4592** - Everglades improvement and management ... These lands shall be made available for recreational use **unless** ... such uses are **incompatible with the restoration goals** of the Everglades Construction Project or the water quality and hydrological purposes of the STAs or would otherwise adversely impact the implementation of the project.
- Parallel flow access
  - 10 total
  - STA 1W Ex
  - STA 3/4
- Cause for concern and reflects on the hunts as a whole



# Hurricane Ian - Alligator Hunting

- District properties closed Sept 26th thru Oct 3<sup>rd</sup>
  - Hunters only missed Sept. 30<sup>th</sup> thru Oct. 2<sup>nd</sup>
- FEMA disaster area residents offered refund
  - Only if hunters still had 2 unused tags
  - Extended alligator season conflicted with waterfowl season

## NOTICE TEMPORARY CLOSURE

This area is temporarily closed due to emergency conditions. The temporary closure of South Florida Water Management District managed lands is in effect until further notice.

SFWMD Order No. \_\_\_\_\_

Effective \_\_\_\_\_

40E-7 F.A.C. Public Use Rule

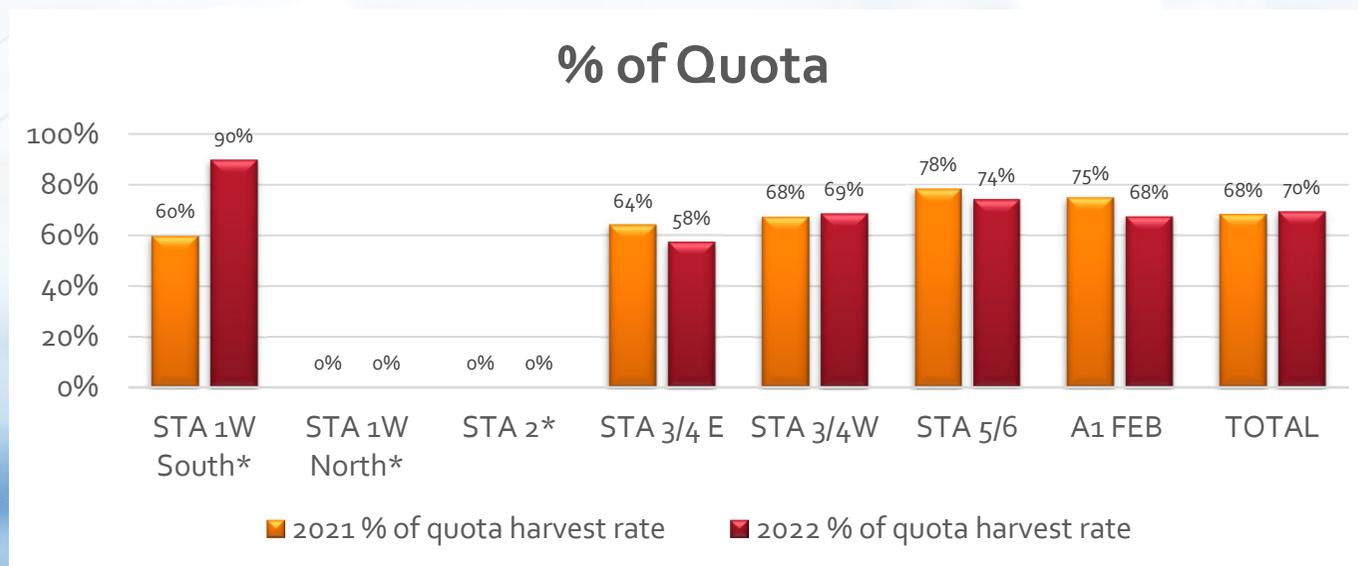
South Florida Water Management District



# Alligator STA's Overview

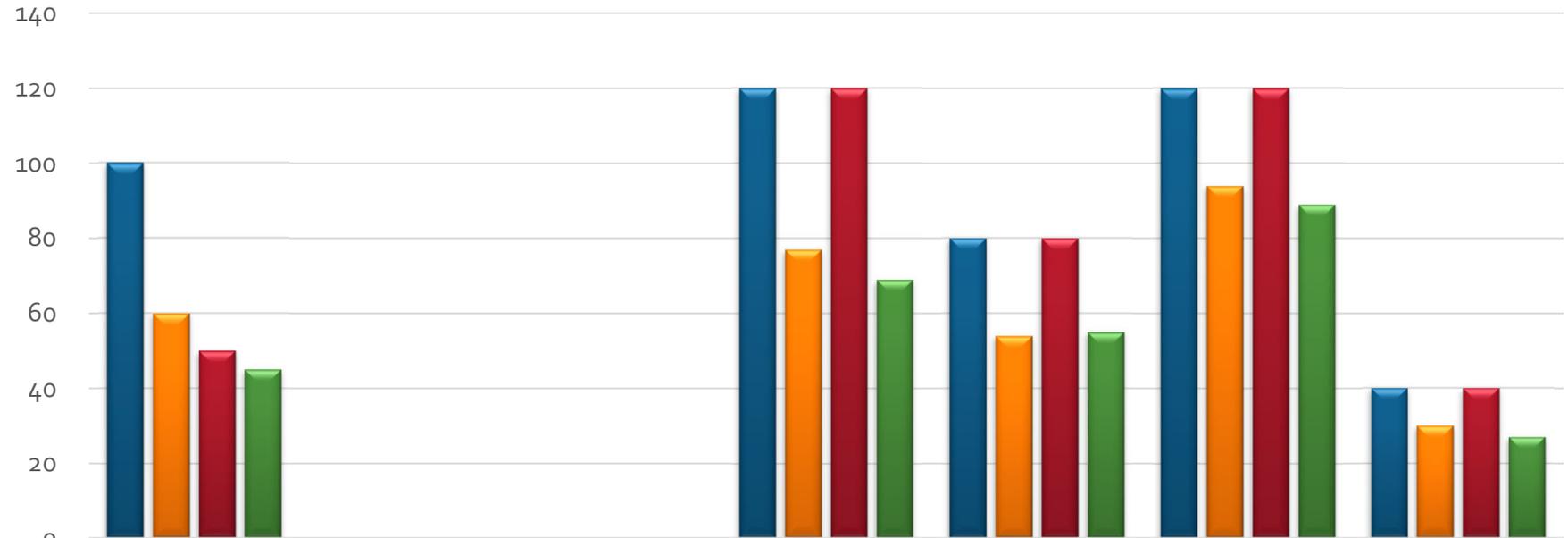
- STA 2 No hunt
  - On going cell refurbishment project
- Harvest/Quota = %
- STA 1E -2023
  - Regular season Quota likely 100

2021-2022 Alligator Harvest			
AMU Name	% of 2021 allowable harvest	% of 2022 Allowable Harvest	% of quota harvest difference
STA 1W South	60%	90%	30%
STA 1W North*	<null>	<null>	<null>
STA 2*	<null>	<null>	<null>
STA 3/4 E	64%	58%	-7%
STA 3/4W	68%	69%	1%
STA 5/6	78%	74%	-4%
A1 FEB	75%	68%	-8%
TOTAL	57%	54%	-3%



# Alligator Quota Harvest STA's

## STA- Quota vs Harvest



	STA 1W South*	STA 1W North*	STA 2*	STA 3/4 E	STA 3/4W	STA 5/6	A1 FEB
2021 Quota	100	0	0	120	80	120	40
2021 Harvest	60	0	0	77	54	94	30
2022 Quota	50			120	80	120	40
2022 Harvest	45			69	55	89	27

2021 Quota 2021 Harvest 2022 Quota 2022 Harvest

# Specialty Hunts Alligator

- 1st FWC Youth Hunt Program (YHP) held 2022 in STA 1E
- 2023 YHP at each STA
  - 4 total
- Wounded Warrior STA 5/6



Youth Hunt Program 2023 STA 5/6

# Want to Comment?

## Zoom:

- If you're participating via Zoom – use the Raise Hand feature

## Phone:

- If you're participating via Phone –  
\*9 Raises Hand  
\*6 Mutes/Unmutes



[jharbaug@sfwmd.gov](mailto:jharbaug@sfwmd.gov)



# Recreation Facility Design Updates



Recreational Public Forum  
West Palm Beach, FL  
March 20, 2023

**Michael Cheek**  
Recreation Project Manager  
Land Stewardship  
South Florida Water Management District



# RUNDOWN

- **Lake Hicpochee Phase II Expansion**
  - **Lower Kissimmee Basin STA**
  - **S-193 Navigation Lock Replacement and Pedestrian Crossover**
- 
- **New Campsite at 4E's Kissimmee River**
  - **Kissimmee River Navigation Signage Update**
  - **New bathroom at Hickory Hammock Equestrian Campground**
  - **Trash Cans at S-46**



Public driving route around structure with fishing picket railings.

Public parking area with post and rail fencing, vault restroom, info kiosk, and 2 boat ramps.

Public access point off US 27 & electric gate.

Filled corner

Filled corners on each side of wave break

Filled corner with small shelter

- 2,231 acres
- Attenuate high flows to Caloosahatchee and store runoff from C-19 basin
- Cell 1 (4.0' deep)
- Cell 2 (1.9' deep)
- Picnic shelter
- Informational kiosk
- Vault bathroom
- Boat ramp

**LAKE HICPOCHEE PHASE II EXPANSION RECREATION FEATURES (CONCEPTUAL)**



# LAKE HICPOCHEE PHASE II EXPANSION

## Recreation Opportunities

- Open extended weekends
- Hiking/Biking
- Fishing
- Boating (no combustion engines or trailers)
- Will assess for waterfowl and alligator hunts





# EXAMPLE RECREATION FEATURES

## Shelter on filled corner of STA cell





# EXAMPLE RECREATION FEATURES

## Articulated block mat boat ramp





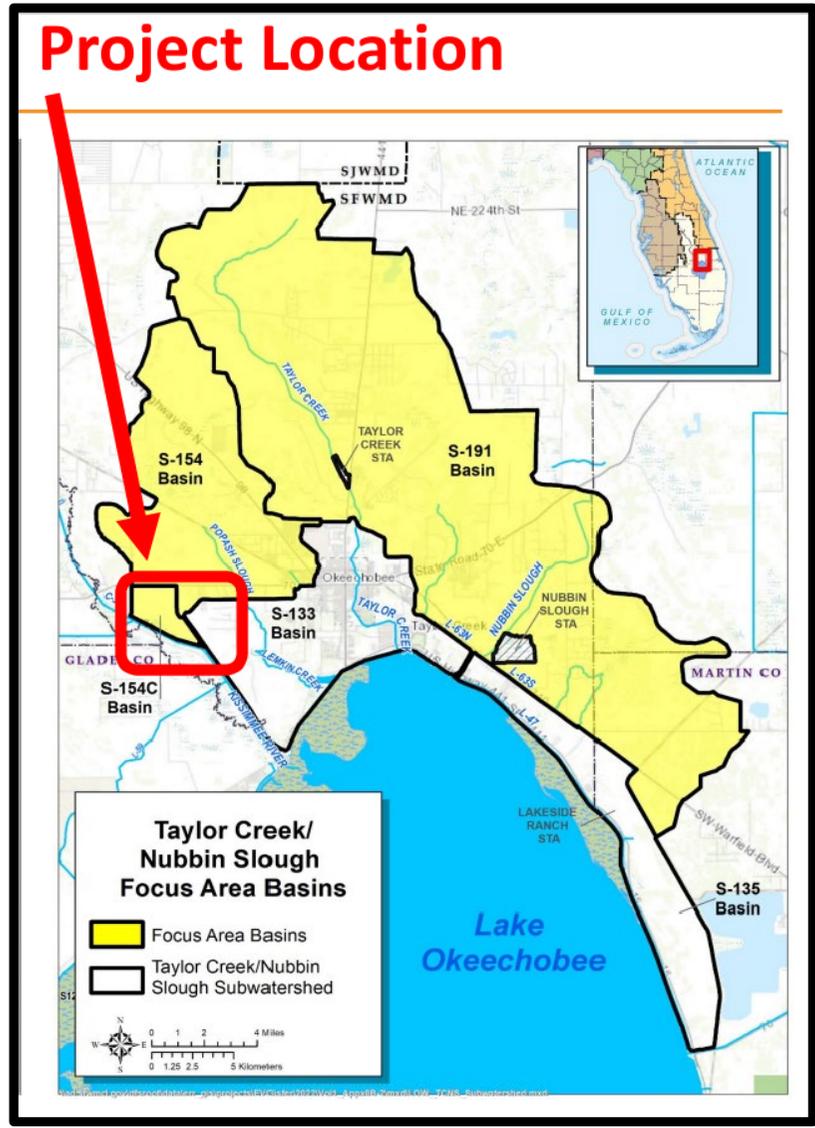
# EXAMPLE RECREATION FEATURES

## Informational kiosk and vault bathroom





# LOWER KISSIMMEE BASIN STORMWATER TREATMENT AREA





# LOWER KISSIMMEE

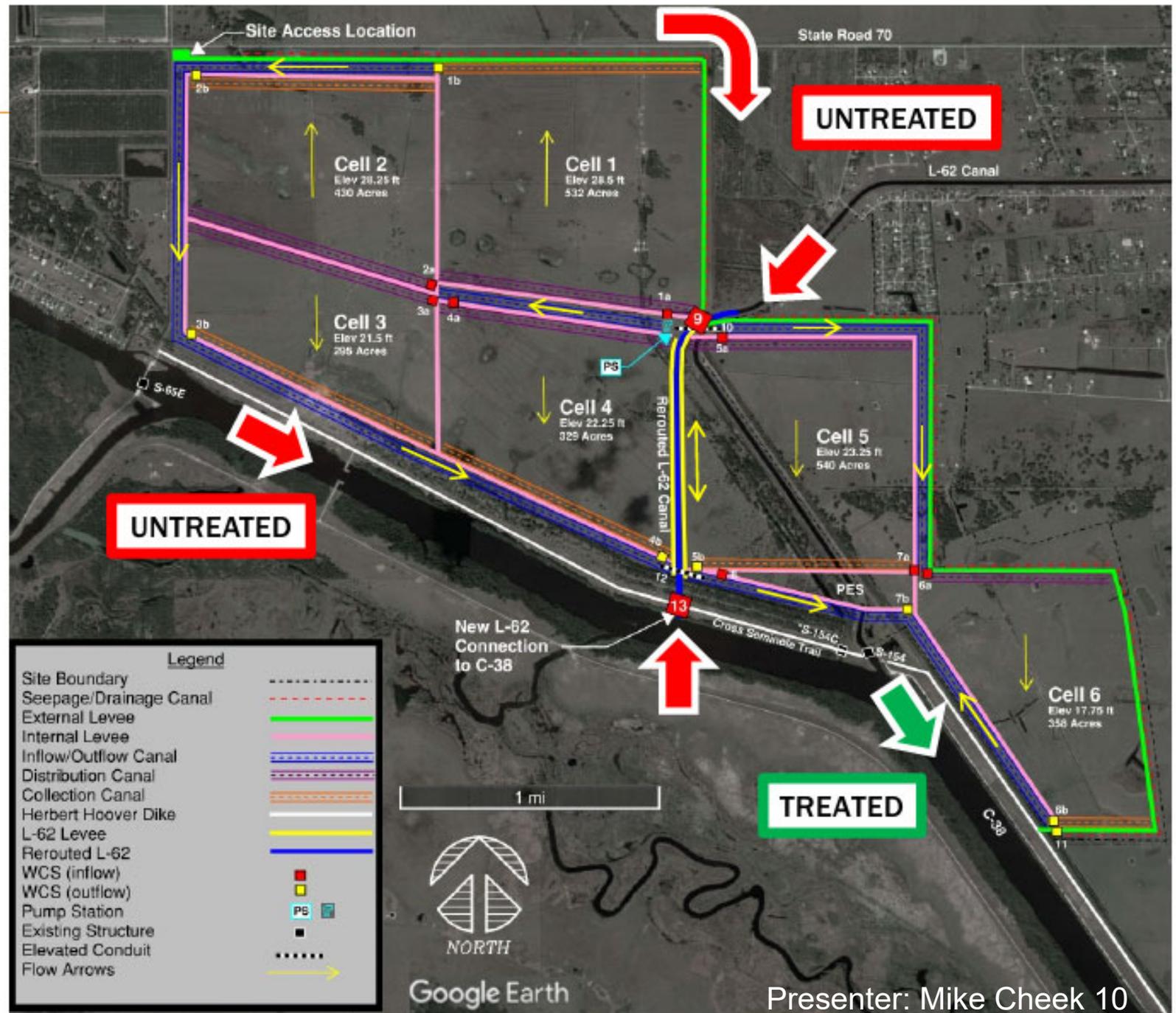
## BASIN

## STORMWATER

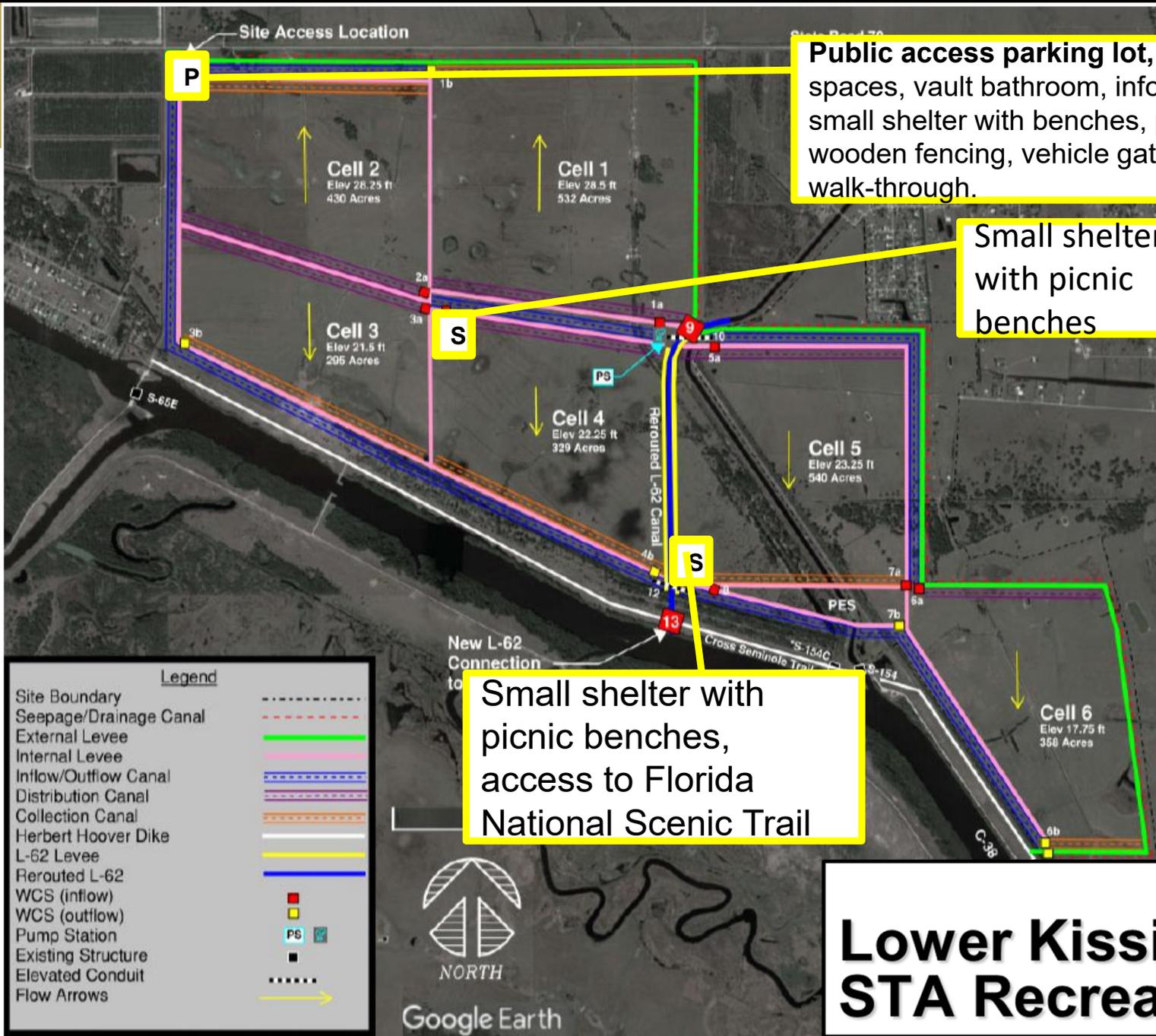
## TREATMENT

## AREA

- 2,500 acres of treatment wetland to reduce total phosphorous in Okeechobee Basin
- EIP-owned property in Okeechobee County (Ecosystem Investment Partners, LLC.)
- EIP builds and operates for 5-7 years prior to turnover to District



Presenter: Mike Cheek 10



**Public access parking lot, 2 ADA accessible spaces, vault bathroom, informational kiosk, small shelter with benches, post and rail wooden fencing, vehicle gate with pedestrian walk-through.**

**Small shelter with picnic benches**

**Small shelter with picnic benches, access to Florida National Scenic Trail**

Legend	
Site Boundary	--- --
Seepage/Drainage Canal	- - - -
External Levee	— — — —
Internal Levee	— — — —
Inflow/Outflow Canal	— — — —
Distribution Canal	— — — —
Collection Canal	— — — —
Herbert Hoover Dike	— — — —
L-62 Levee	— — — —
Rerouted L-62	— — — —
WCS (inflow)	■
WCS (outflow)	■
Pump Station	PS
Existing Structure	■
Elevated Conduit	■
Flow Arrows	→

Presenter: Mike Cheek 11

# Lower Kissimmee Basin STA Recreation Features

## Recreation Opportunities

- Open Extended Weekends
- Hiking/Biking
- Fishing
- Will assess for waterfowl and alligator hunting



# S-193 GATE REPLACEMENT WITH LOST PEDESTRIAN CROSSOVER



Figure 1.1 S-193NL Location Map

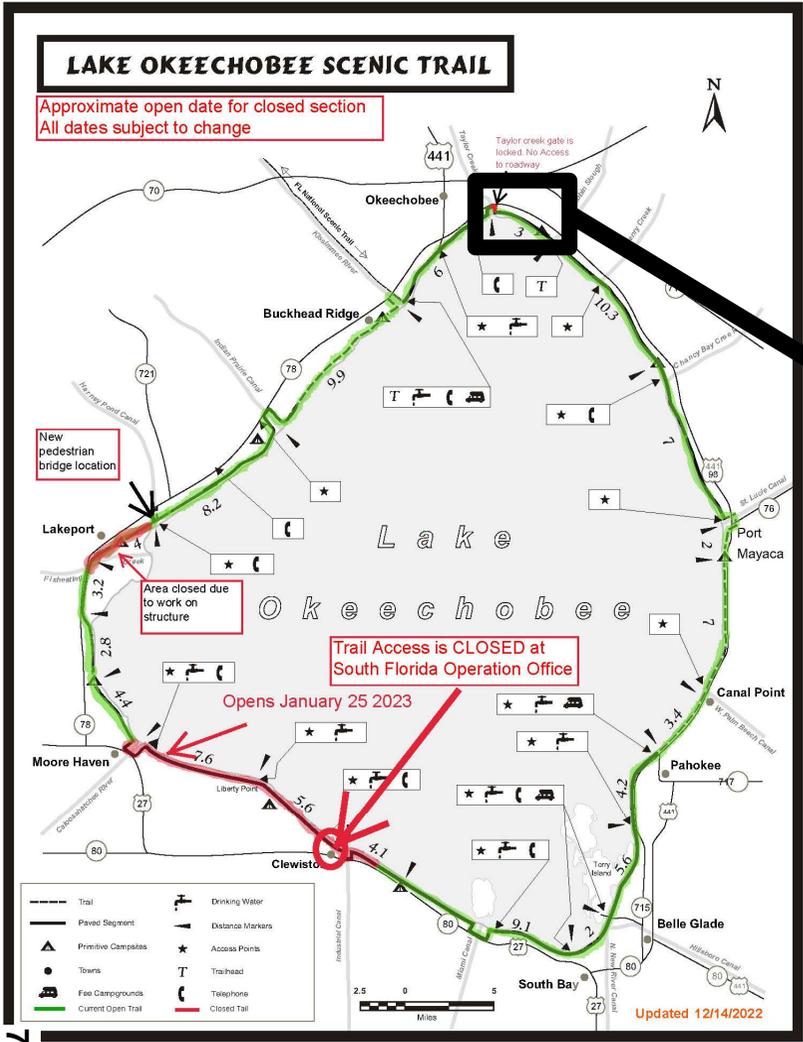


# S-193 GATE REPLACEMENT WITH LOST PEDESTRIAN CROSSOVER

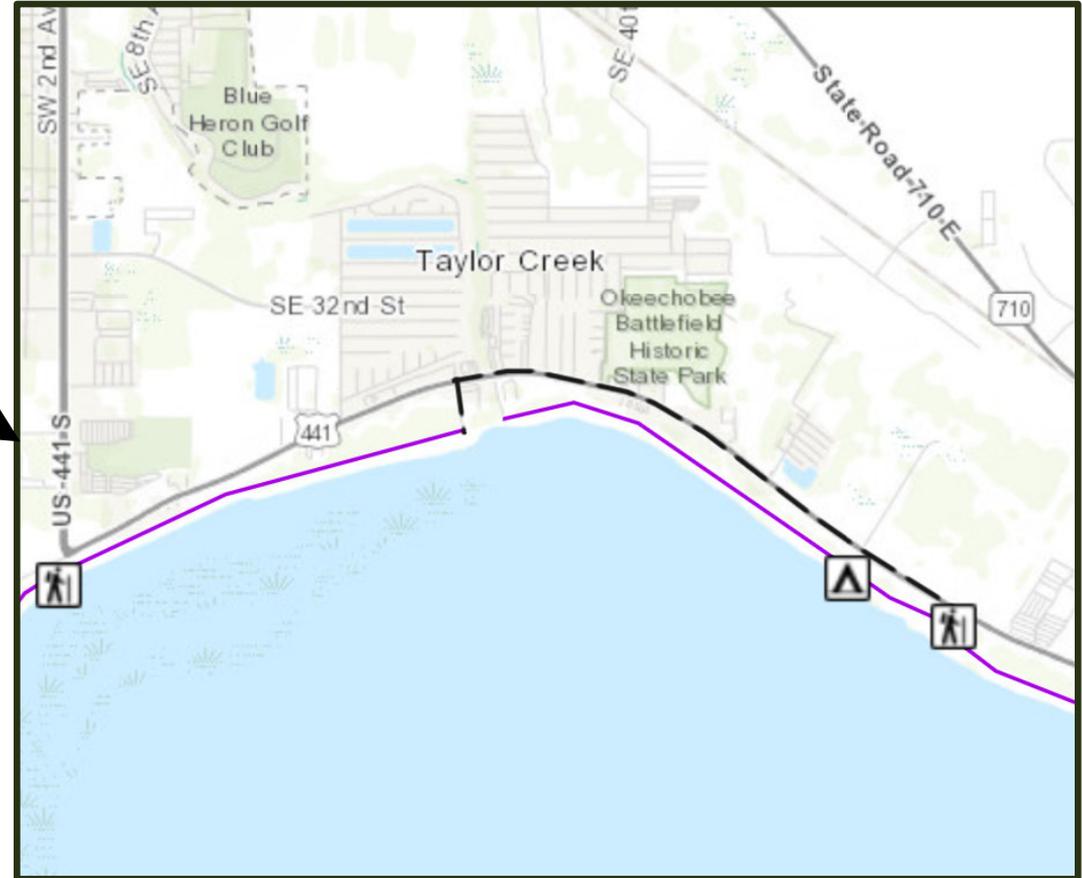




# S-193 GATE REPLACEMENT WITH LOST PEDESTRIAN CROSSOVER



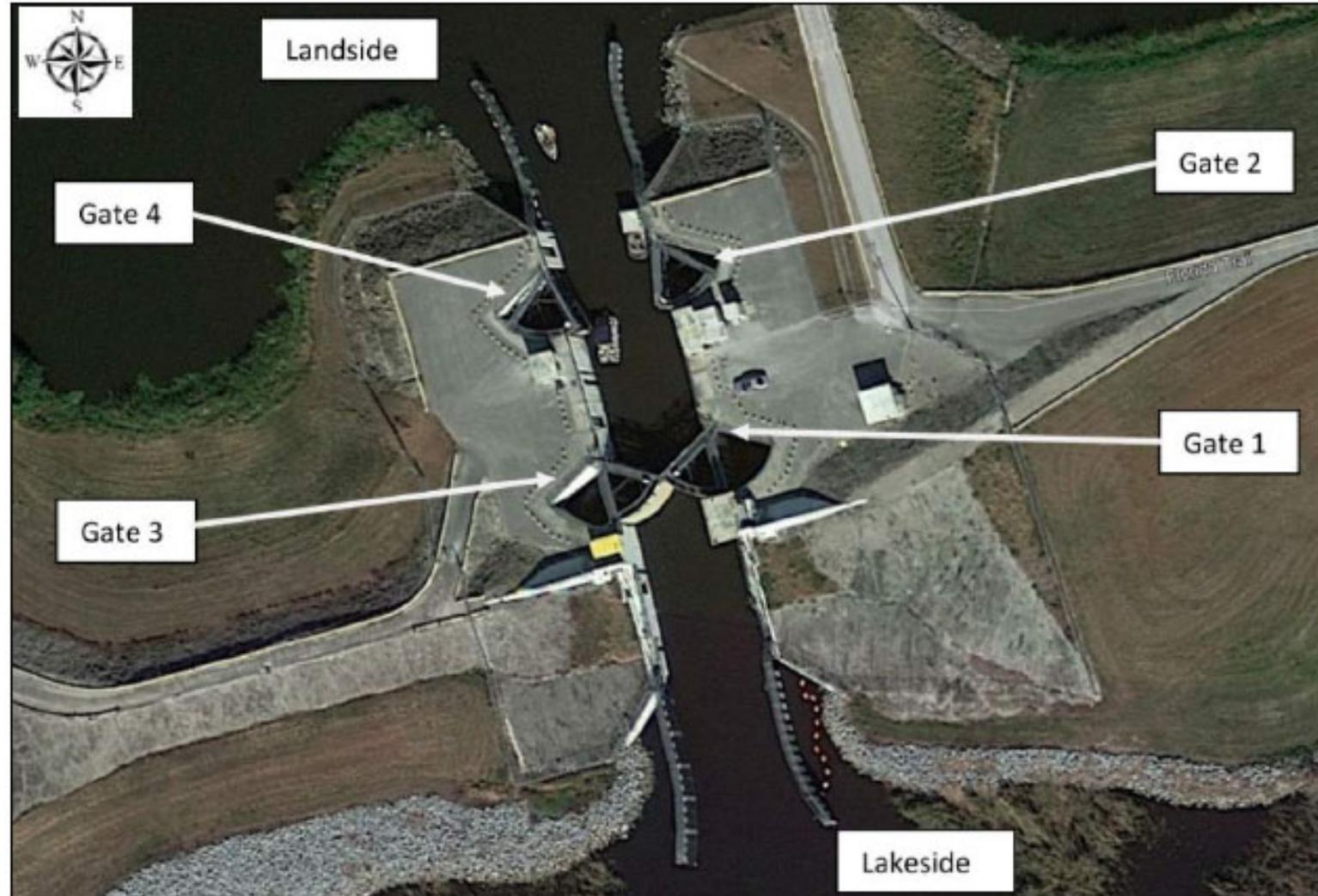
## Current US 441/Taylor Creek Lock Bypass (3 miles along US 441)





# S-193 GATE REPLACEMENT WITH LOST PEDESTRIAN CROSSOVER

- 2 Lakeside gates being replaced to address vibration, operational failure, and manatee entrapment
- Public pedestrian access walkway being installed on landside gates





# S-193 GATE REPLACEMENT WITH LOST PEDESTRIAN CROSSOVER



Figure 9.6 Example of Motorized Pedestrian Access Gate

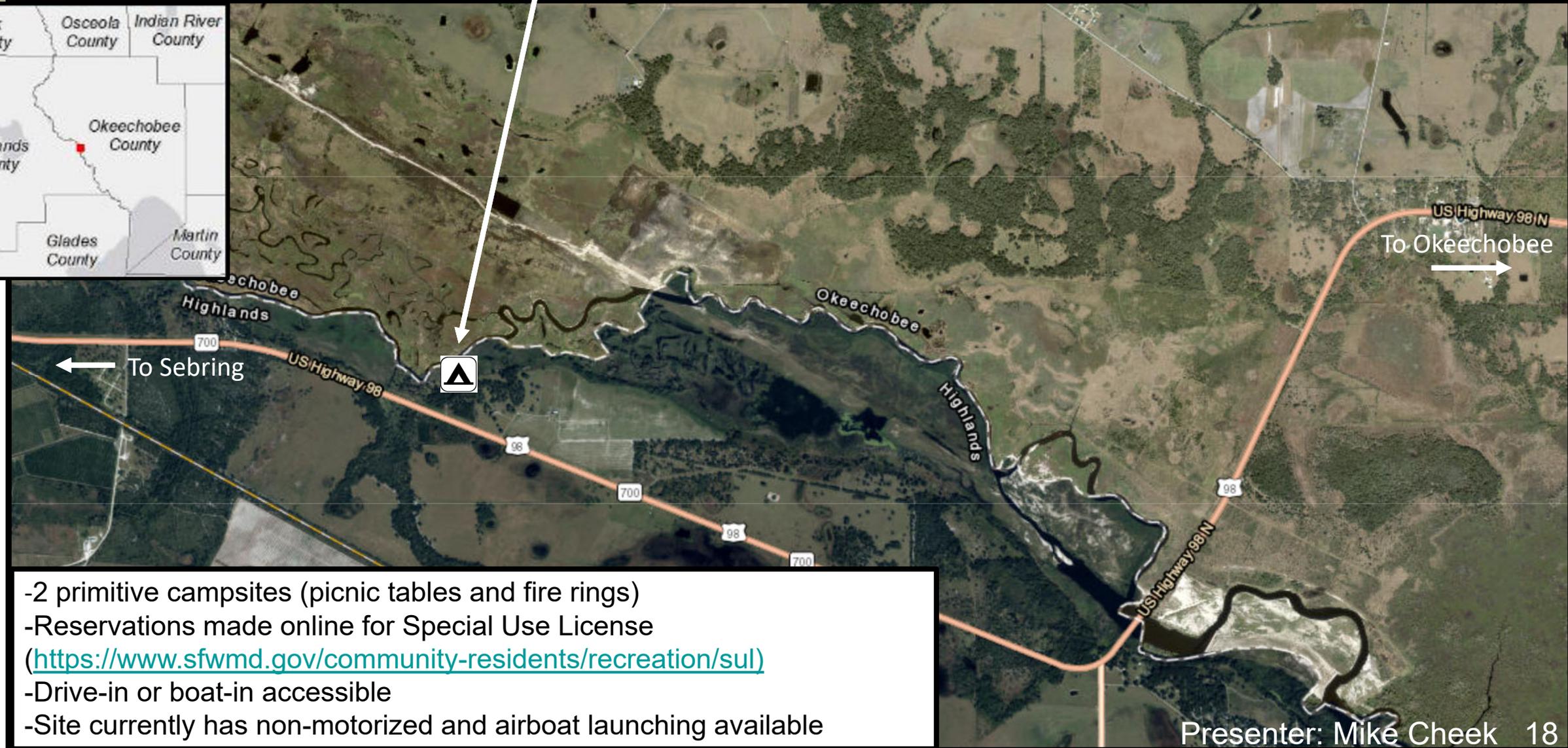


# NEW CAMPSITE AT 4E's KISSIMMEE RIVER





# New Primitive Campsite at 4E's Access Point, Kissimmee River Public Use Area



- 2 primitive campsites (picnic tables and fire rings)
- Reservations made online for Special Use License (<https://www.sfwmd.gov/community-residents/recreation/sul>)
- Drive-in or boat-in accessible
- Site currently has non-motorized and airboat launching available



# Proposed Primitive Campsites at 4E's Access Point, Kissimmee River Public Use Area



Campsites (2)  
in old-growth  
oak hammock

US Hwy 98



Phase II restoration area – Riverwoods floodplain.



# NEW CAMPSITE AT 4E'S KISSIMMEE RIVER, SITE 1





# NEW CAMPSITE AT 4E'S KISSIMMEE RIVER, SITE 2





# Kissimmee River Navigation Signage at Crossovers with Riprap (USACE Contractor)





# CONCRETE VAULT BATHROOM HICKORY HAMMOCK EQUESTRIAN CAMPGROUND KISSIMMEE RIVER PUA



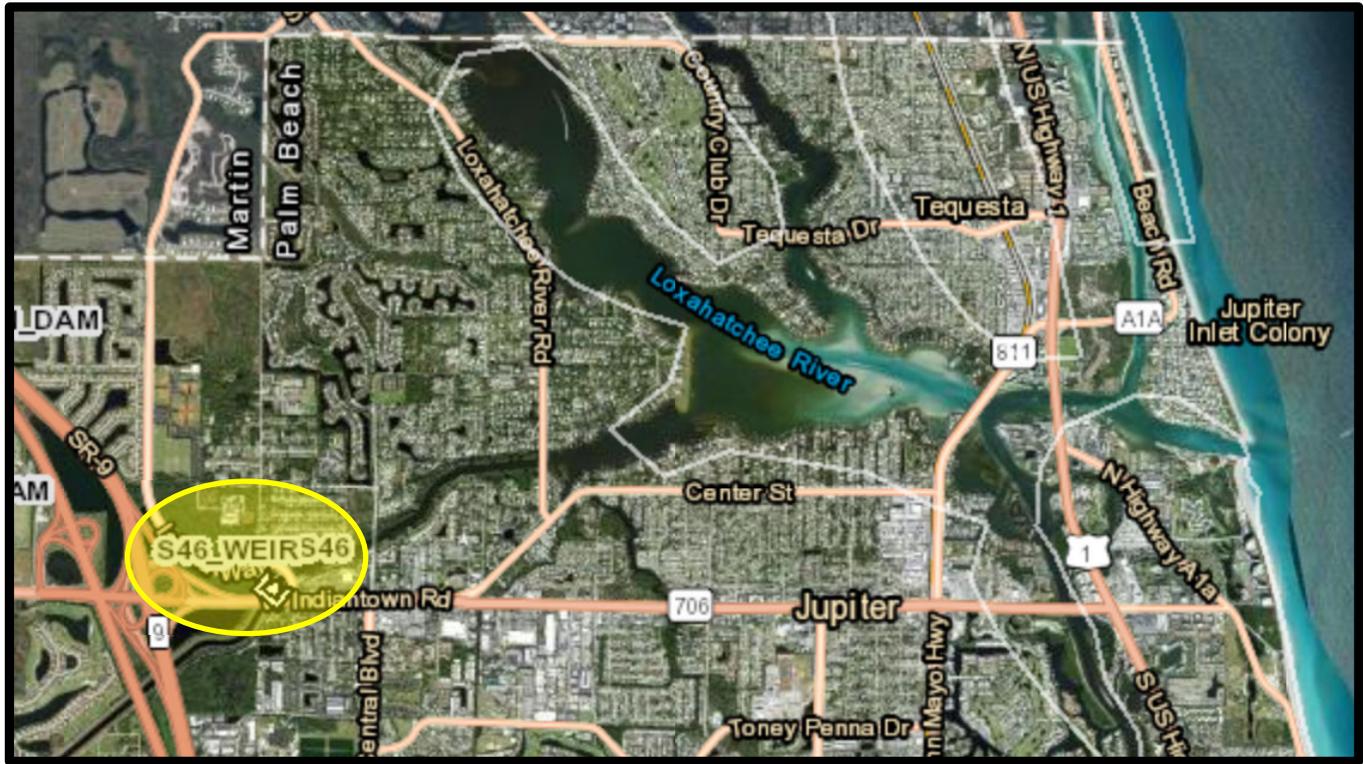
Bathrooms damaged by Hurricane Ian September 2022



New CXT Concrete vault bathroom installed in March 2023



# TRASH AT S-46 SPILLWAY TOWN OF JUPITER





# GARBAGE CANS INSTALLED AT S-46 SPILLWAY BY TOWN OF JUPITER



-3 new receptacles installed  
by Town of Jupiter off  
Indiantown Road



# COMMENTS/QUESTIONS?

## Zoom:

- If you're participating via Zoom – use the Raise Hand feature

## Phone:

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  - \*9 Raises Hand
  - \*6 Mutes/Unmutes

**THANK YOU!**



# Public Use Project Updates

## Recreational Public Forum

### March 20, 2023

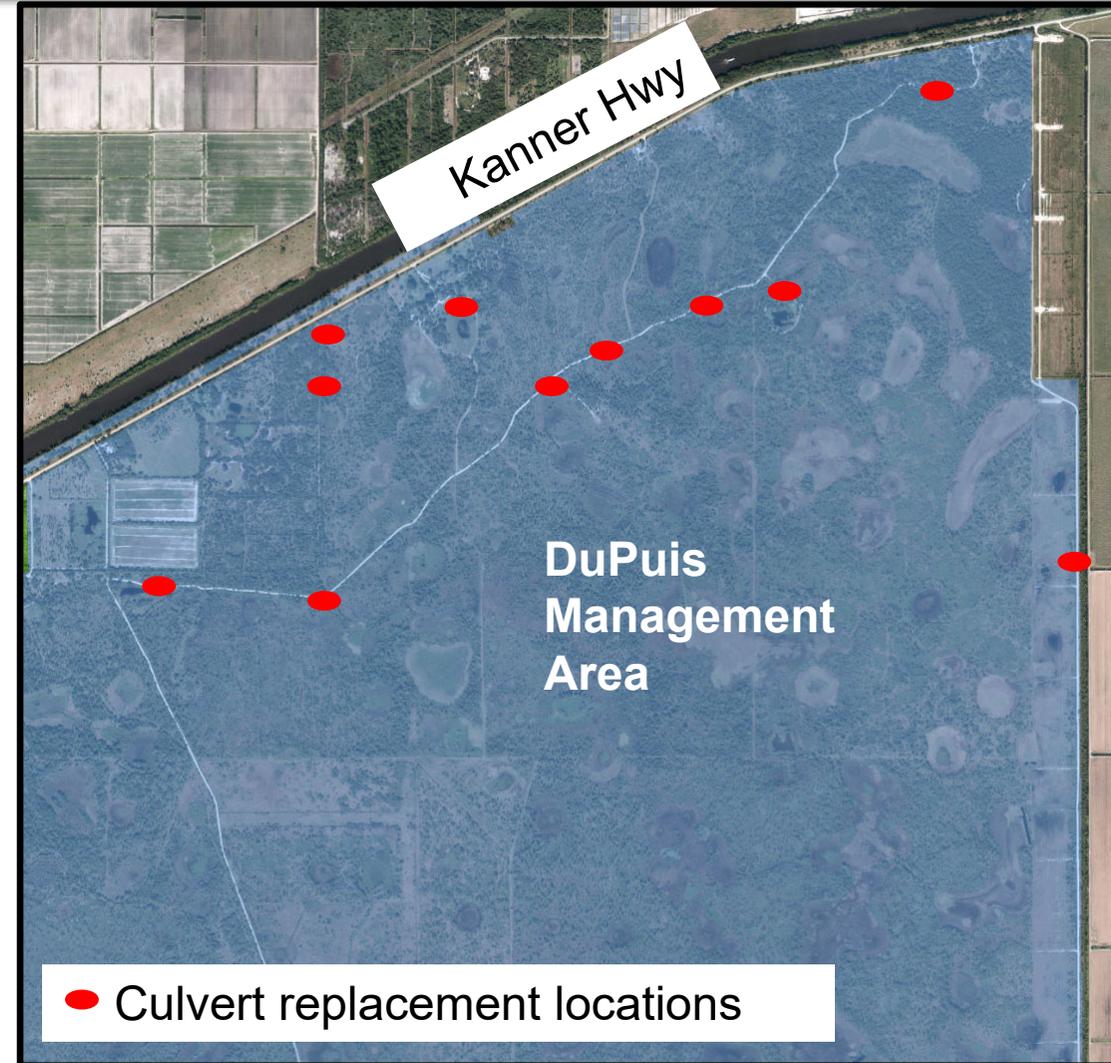
Dan Cotter  
SFWMD, Land Stewardship Section





# DuPuis – Culvert Replacement

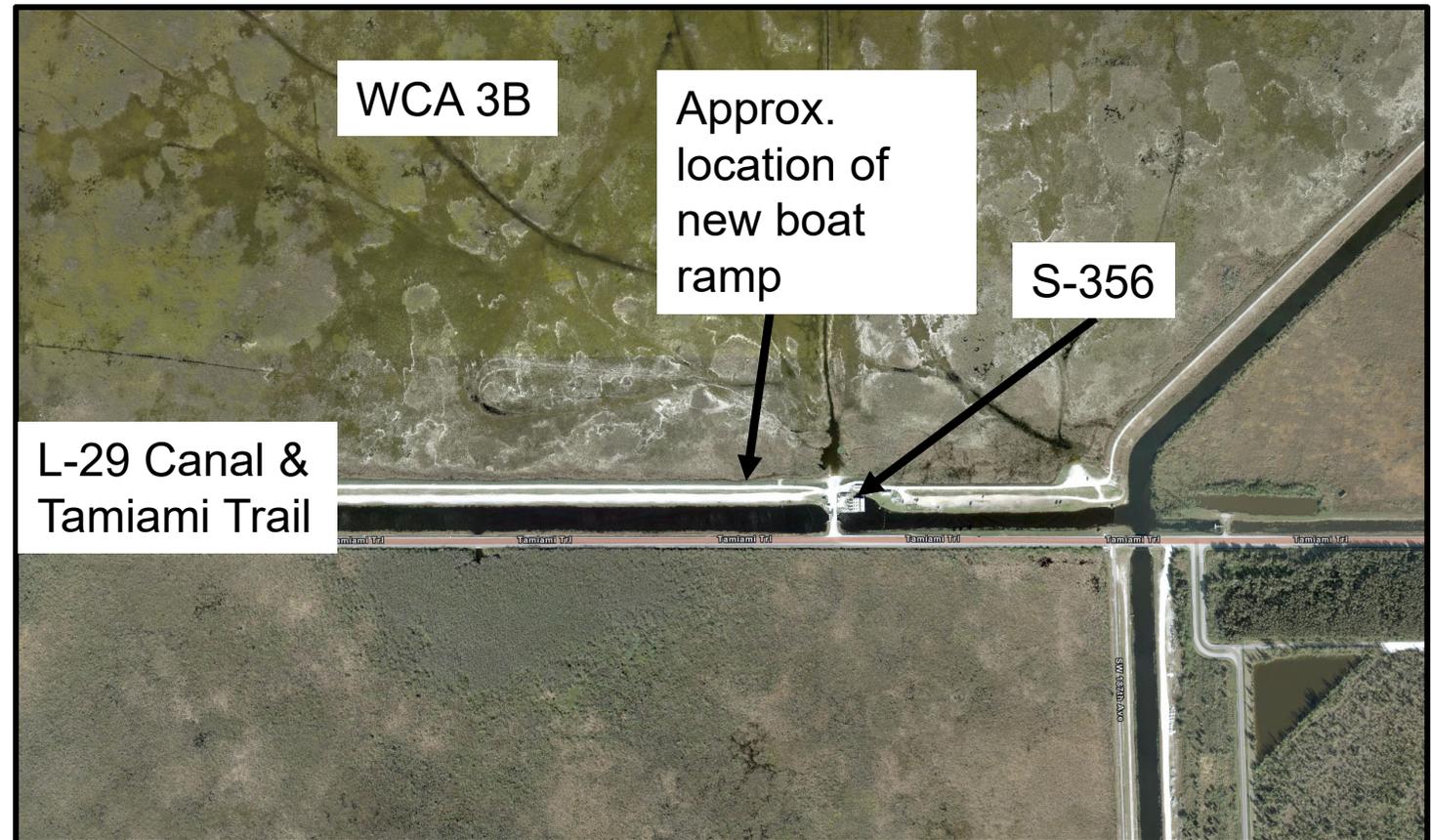
- DuPuis Management Area located off Kanner Hwy. in Martin County.
  - Replacement of several culverts and adding risers thru a \$330,000 grant from Ducks Unlimited.
  - Improve the areas long-term hydrology.
  - Timeframe approx. mid-April thru mid-May.
  - Certain times the public access grades/roads thru the site and on the eastern powerline grade may be temporarily closed for 1-3 days.





# S-356 Airboat Ramp

- S-356 located in Miami-Dade
  - New airboat ramp on schedule to tentatively begin construction in April 2023.
  - Boat ramp to be open to the public during construction of the new S-356.





# STA 2 Construction – Temp. Access Closure

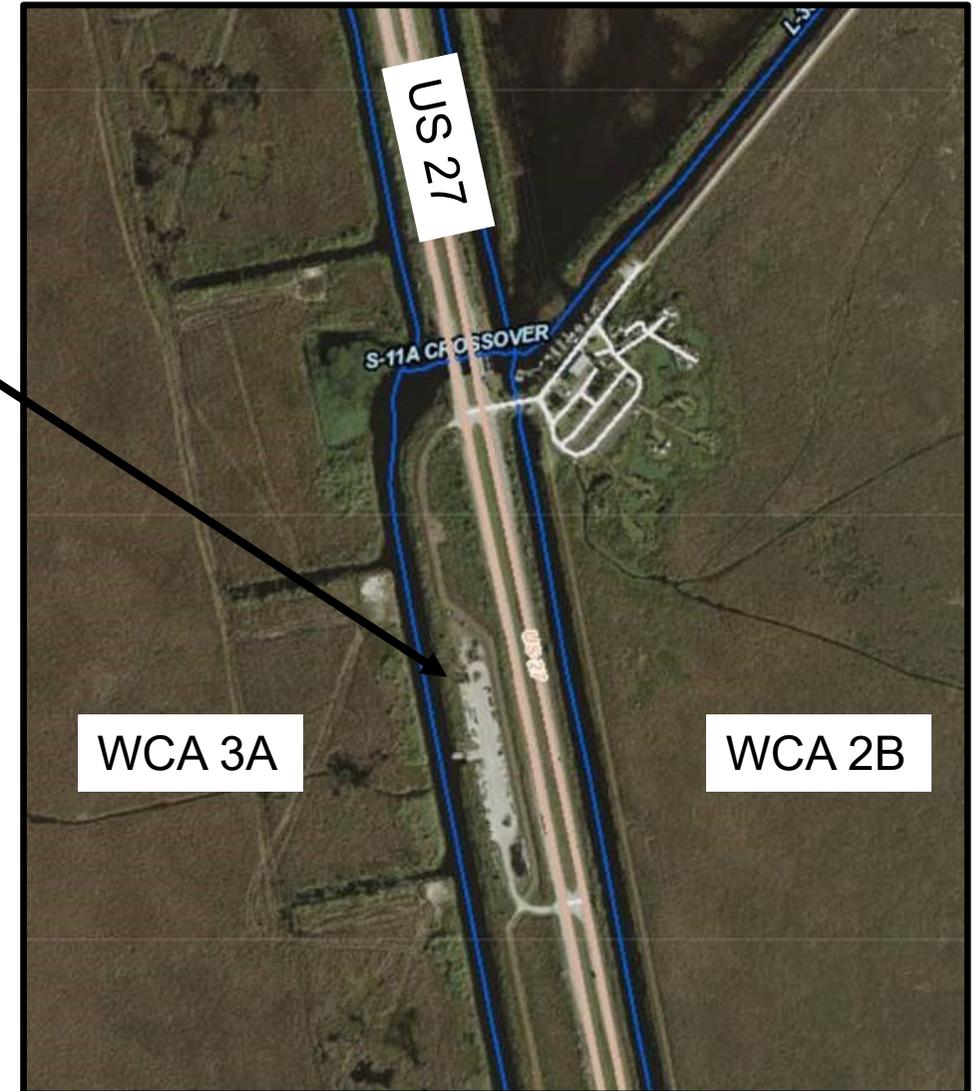
- Located in Palm Beach County.
- Public access gate along US 27 entering into STA 2 and the L-6 levee (Sportsman's Crossover Boat Ramp) will be temporarily closed due to extensive construction activities from March 8, 2023 through end of July 2023.





## US 27 Boat Ramp & Parking Area

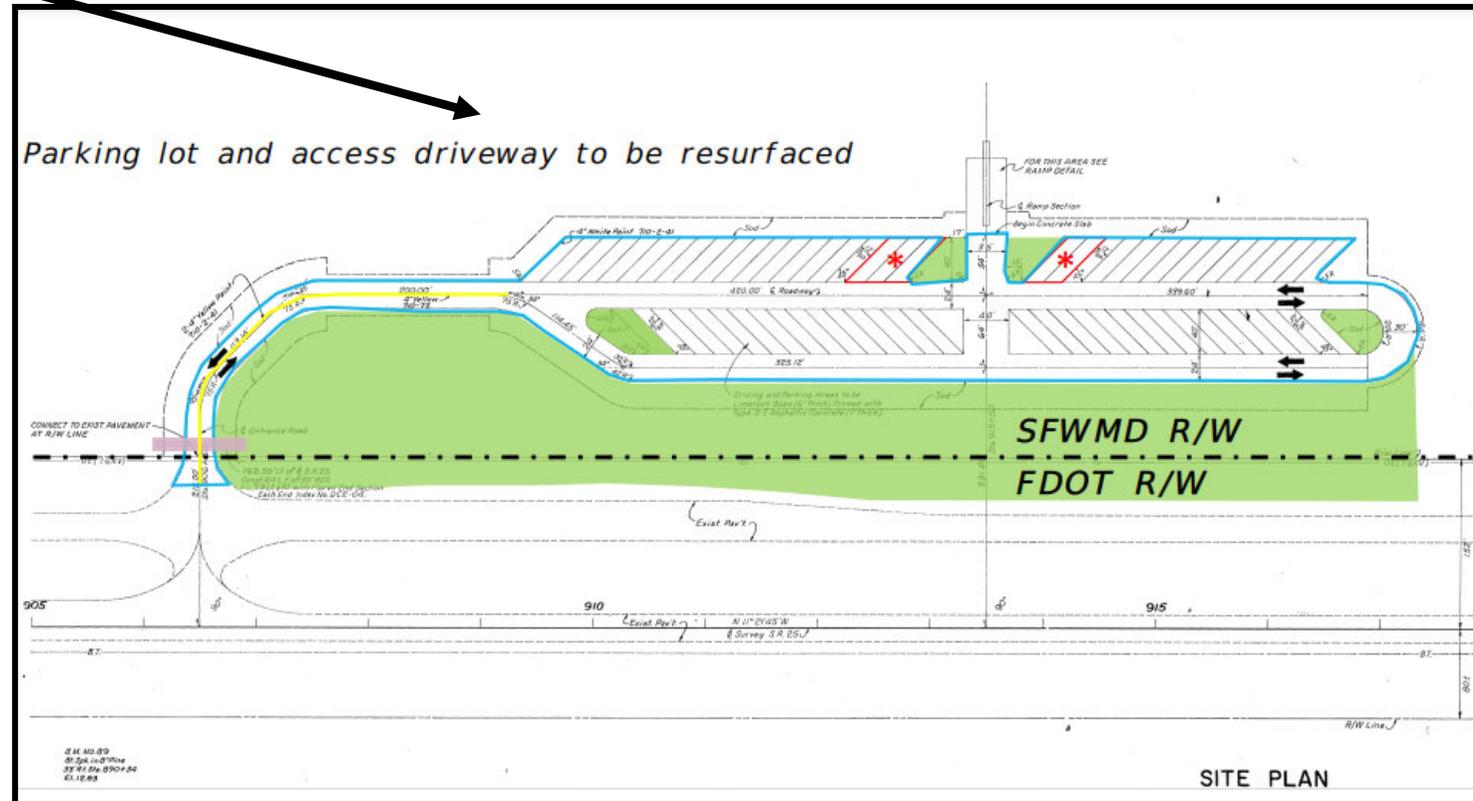
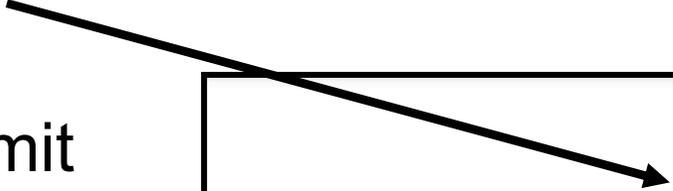
- Boat ramp and parking area located in Broward County off US 27.
  - Has been currently closed under FDOT.
  - District ROW permit recently issued to FDOT to make repairs to parking area.





# US 27 Boat Ramp & Parking Area

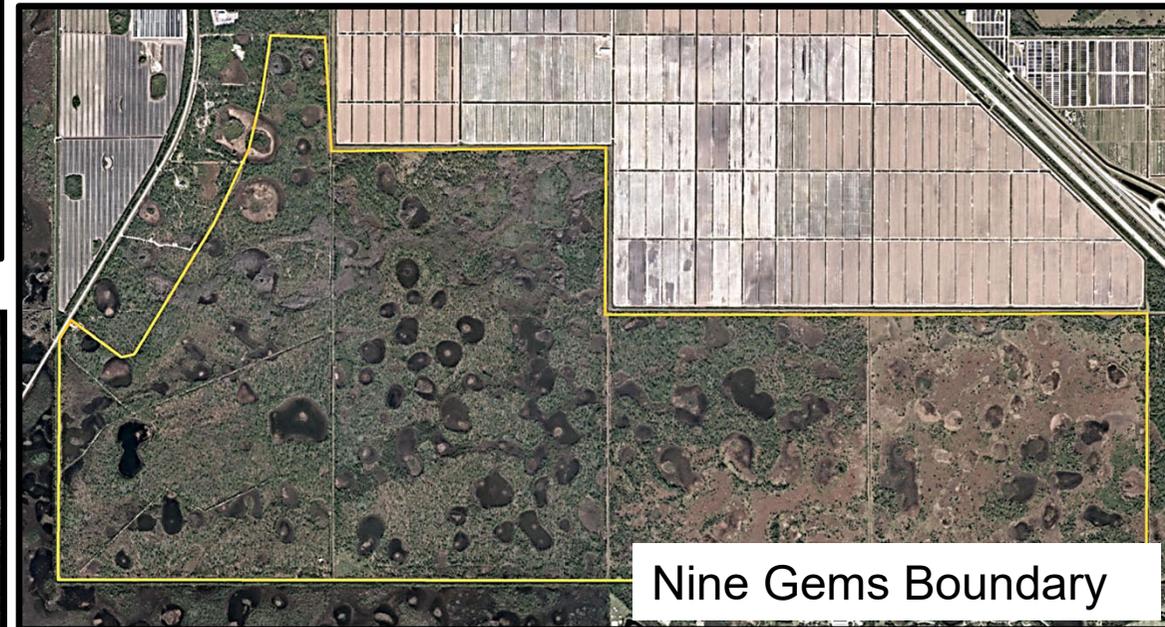
- FDOT improvements to paving and parking.
  - Once repairs and permit have been fulfilled then parking area and boat ramp transferred to Broward County for further improvements and management.





# Nine Gems / Hungryland

- Nine Gems / Hungryland located in Martin County.
  - New firebreaks were recently constructed and mowed.
  - Firebreaks will serve as future public use trail around the perimeter of the area.





# Florida National Scenic Trail Hiking Campsites

➤ Two new primitive backpacking campsites were recently added to the Florida National Scenic Trail (FNST) off the District's levee system located in Hendry County.

■ Locations:

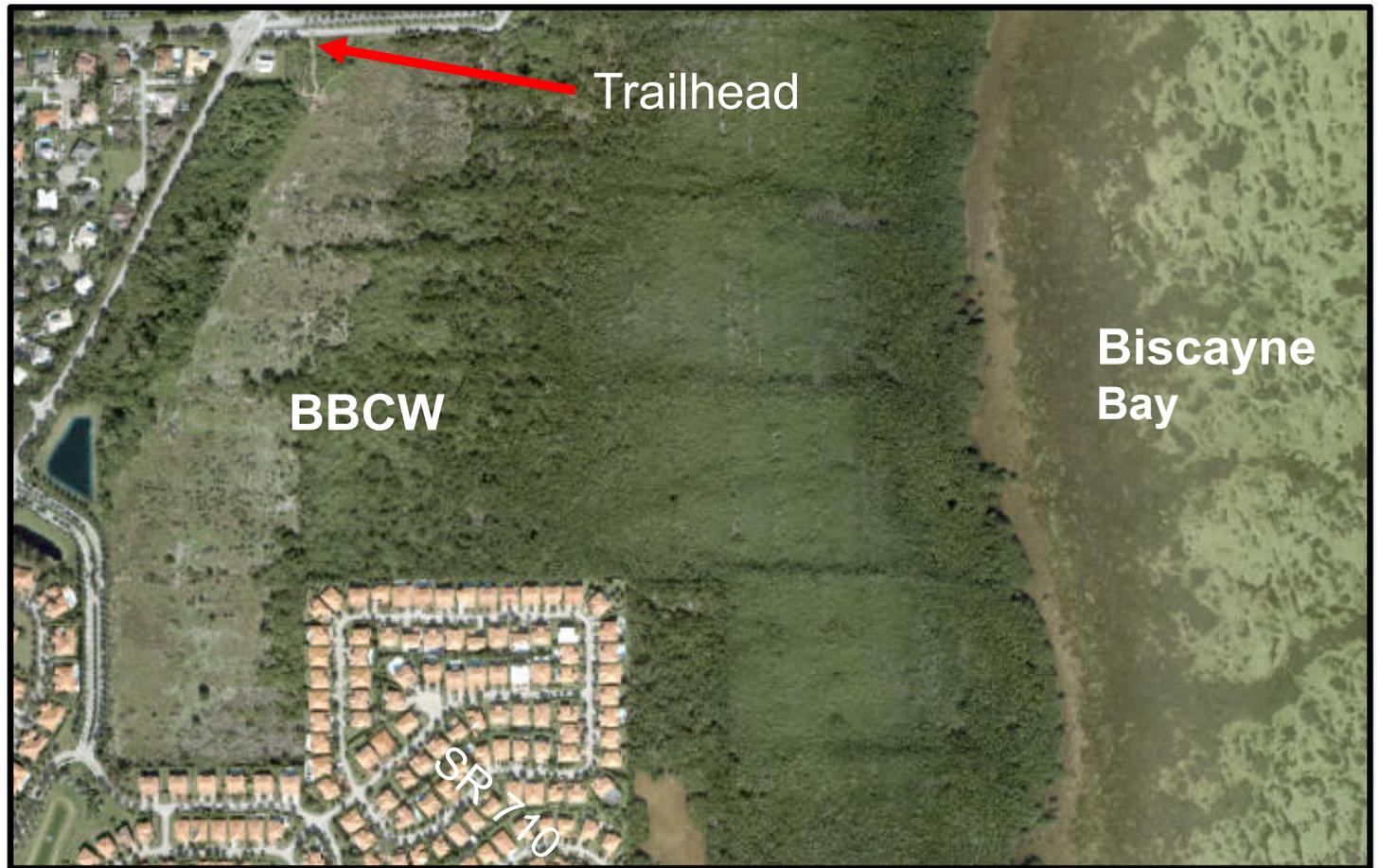
- Adjacent to the L-1E levee.
- Within public use area at STA 5/6 levee.





# Biscayne Bay Coastal Wetlands

- BBCW located in Miami-Dade County off SW 184<sup>th</sup> St. & Old Cutler Road.
  - Site restoration has been on-going including exotic plant control and native plantings.
  - Much community involvement from Town of Cutler Bay and Palmetto Bay.





# Biscayne Bay Coastal Wetlands

## ➤ Trail access:

- A 650' portion of the trail was stabilized for accessibility.
- Volunteers assisted by stabilizing the outside of the trail with a rock edge.

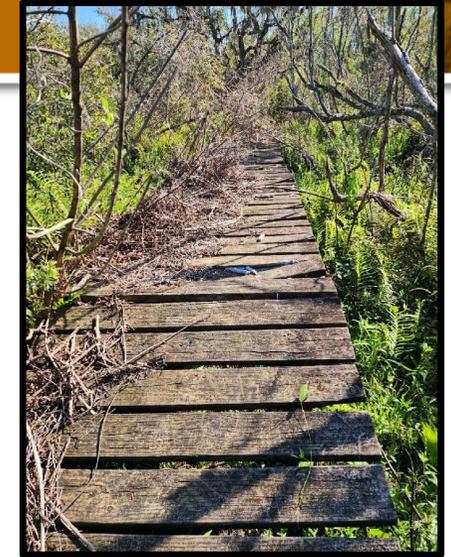
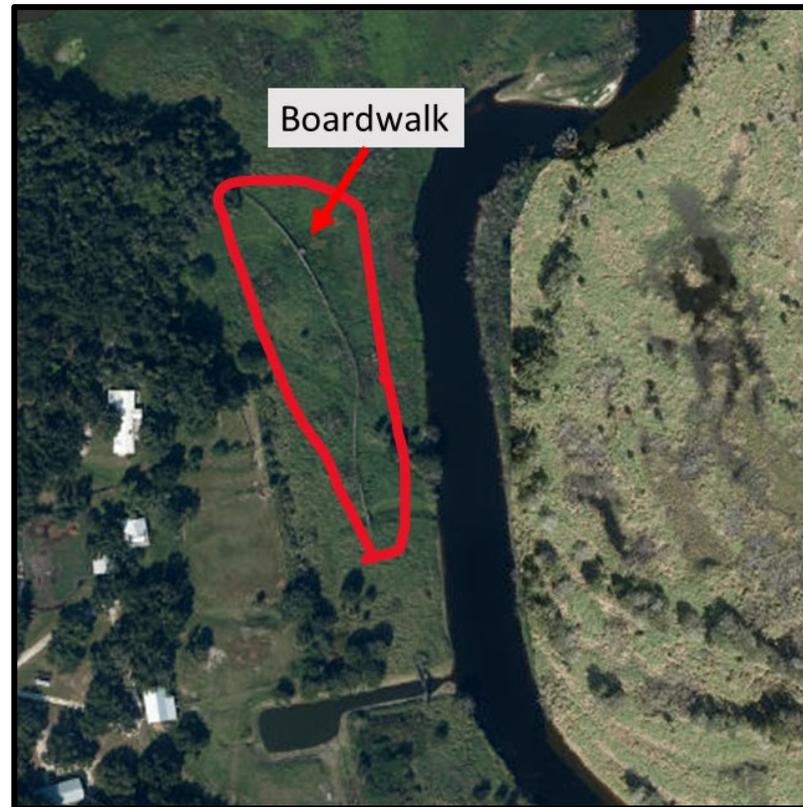




# Kissimmee River Volunteer Project

## ➤ Upcoming KR Volunteer Project

- Project is tentatively scheduled for Saturday May 6<sup>th</sup> west side of the River.
- Volunteers will remove old boardwalks and walkways which were installed when the FNST was located on the west side of the River. Also, old cross-fencing, posts, and debris to be removed as needed.





# District-Wide Volunteer Projects



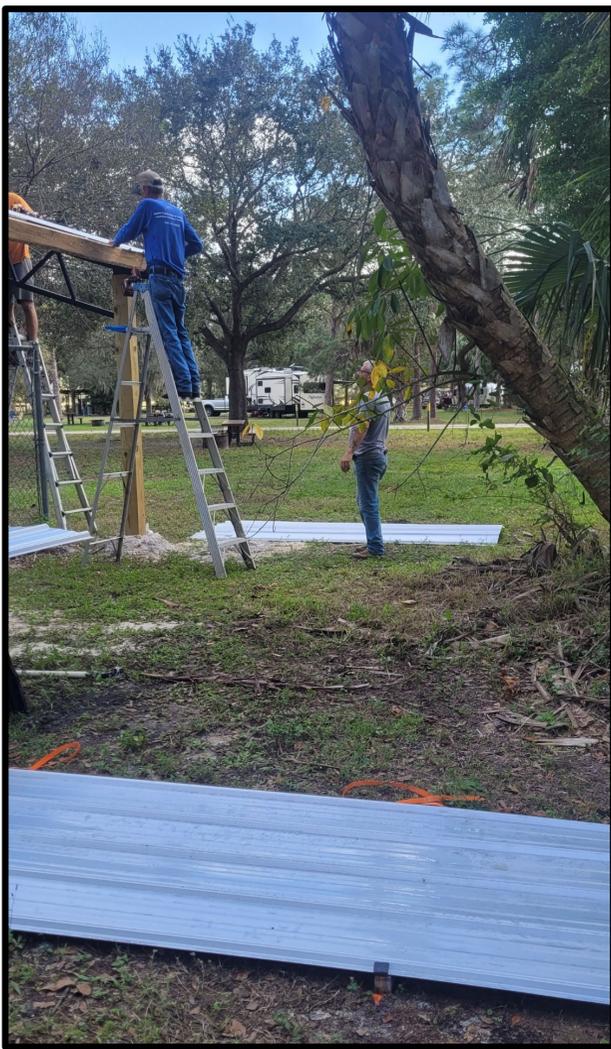
Volunteers at CREW Bird Rookery repairing parking area fencing



SORBA Bike Club –trail repairs in Shingle Creek



# District-Wide Volunteer Projects



Volunteers at DuPuis building shelter over new campground water system.



# District-Wide Volunteer Projects

➤ Kissimmee Chain of Lakes volunteer waterway / shoreline cleanup hosted by KRVSA.

- 47 volunteers including other clubs and organizations, and law enforcement support.
- Airboats, motorboats, side by sides used.
- Approx. 4,000 lbs. of trash removed from the lakes and shoreline.





# Temporary Burn Ban

## TEMPORARY PUBLIC BURN BAN IN EFFECT

### Campfires Prohibited

**The building or maintaining of fires in fireplaces or fire rings on South Florida Water Management District lands within Collier and Hendry Counties is temporarily prohibited pursuant to SFWMD Executive Order 2023-016-DAO, Effective 03-14-2023.**



# Want to Comment?

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## Phone:

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  - \*6 Mutes/Unmutes