



SFWMD Lake Okeechobee Projects Update

Lesley Bertolotti, Office of State & Agricultural Policy, Northern Everglades Unit

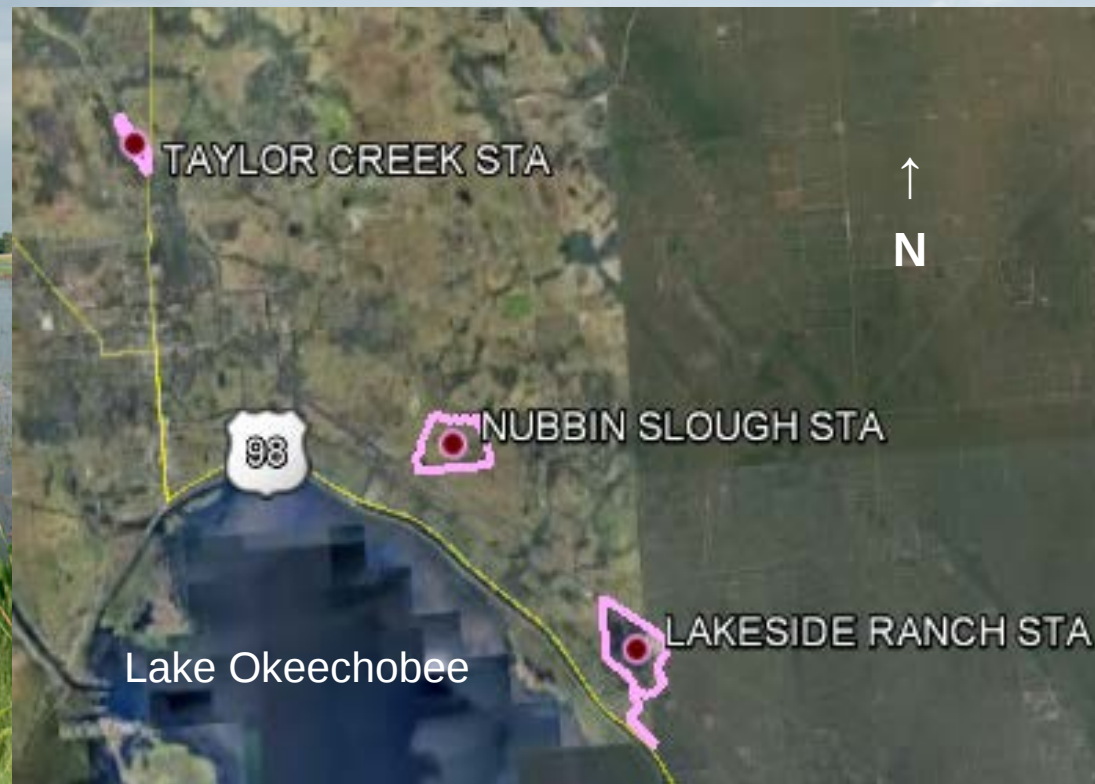
South Florida Environmental Report (SFER)

- Host of restoration work in Lake Okeechobee Watershed moved forward in 2015
 - Stormwater Treatment Area (STAs) Operations
 - Construction commencement of Lakeside Ranch Phase II
 - Kissimmee River Restoration
 - Rolling Meadows Wetland Restoration
 - Dispersed Water Management Projects
 - Other Restoration Initiatives



www.sfwmd.gov/SFER

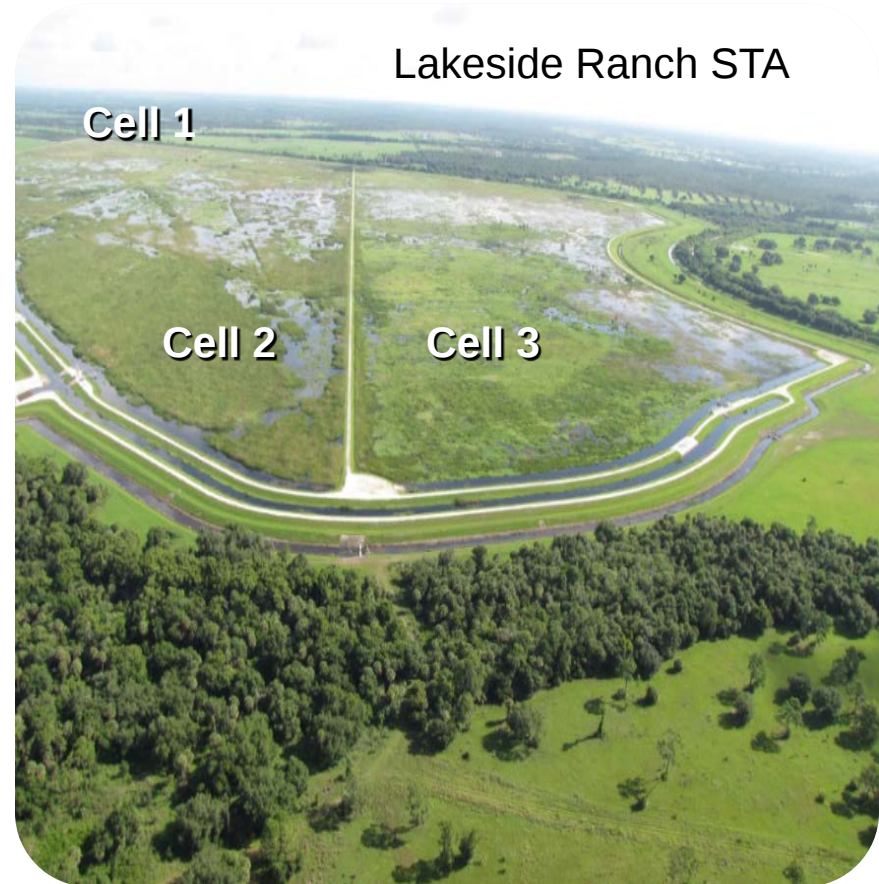
Northern Everglades STAs



Picture: Taylor Creek STA

Lakeside Ranch STA

- Purpose: Total phosphorus (TP) removal from S-191 Basin
- Phase I – Northern STA & Inflow Pump Station
 - ~1,200 acres
 - Began operating in 2012
- STA removed 23 metric tons (MT) of TP in two years (Jul. 2013 – Jun. 2015)
- During BMAP reporting period (Jan. – Dec. 2015), STA removed 12.5 MT of TP (70% of the total load received)



Lakeside Ranch STA (cont.)

- Phase II – Southern STA & Pump Station (S-191A)
 - ~1,500 acres
- STA under construction
 - USACE permit obtained in July 2015
 - Completion planned by early 2018
 - Planned design removal efficiency – est. 10 MT/yr
- Pump Station is designed



Lakeside Ranch,
South STA Construction



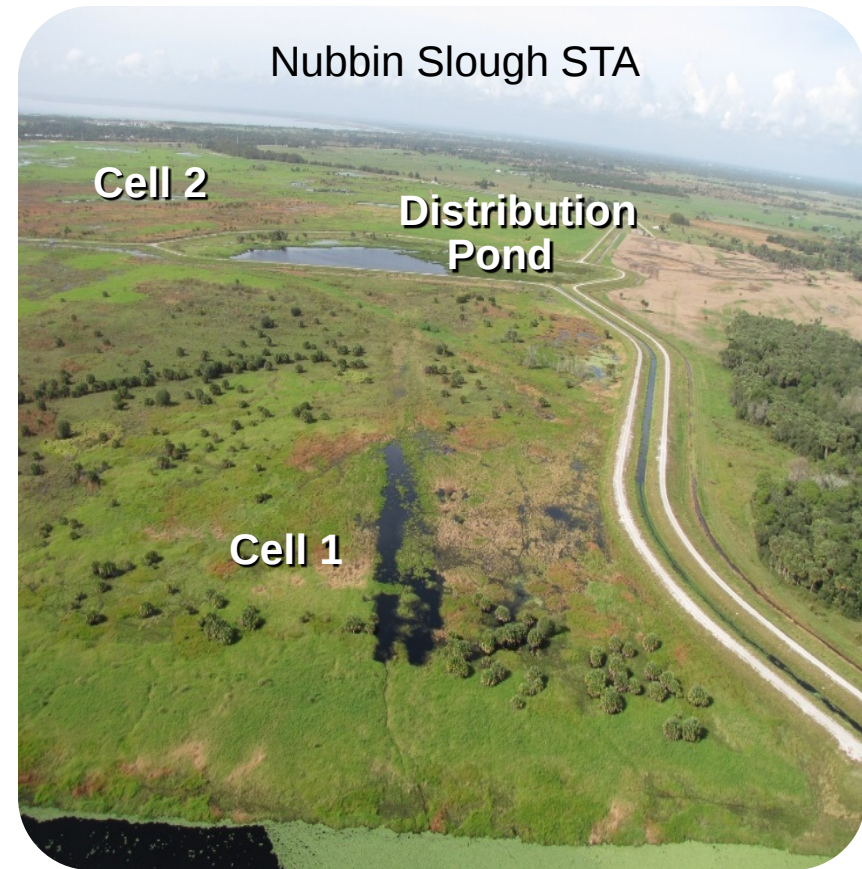
Taylor Creek STA

- Purpose: TP removal from Taylor Creek drainage basin (118-ac treatment area)
 - Operations began in 2008
- As of Dec. 2015, STA retained ~7 MT of TP over its 68 months of flow-through operations (35% of total load received)
- During BMAP reporting period (Jan. – Dec. 2015), STA removed 1.5 MT of TP (60% of the total load received)



Nubbin Slough STA

- Purpose: TP removal from Nubbin Slough drainage basin (773-ac treatment area)
- 2015 Status
 - Modifications and repairs were recently completed
 - In March 2015, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers transferred this STA to the District.
 - Start-up monitoring under way



Kissimmee River Restoration Project (KRRP)

■ Purpose

- Restore ecological integrity to ~1/3 of river and its floodplain that existed before river channelized (pre-1960s)

■ 50/50 Cost-Share

- USACE: Engineering & Construction
- SFWMD/State: Land Acquisition (>102,000 acres) & Restoration Evaluation

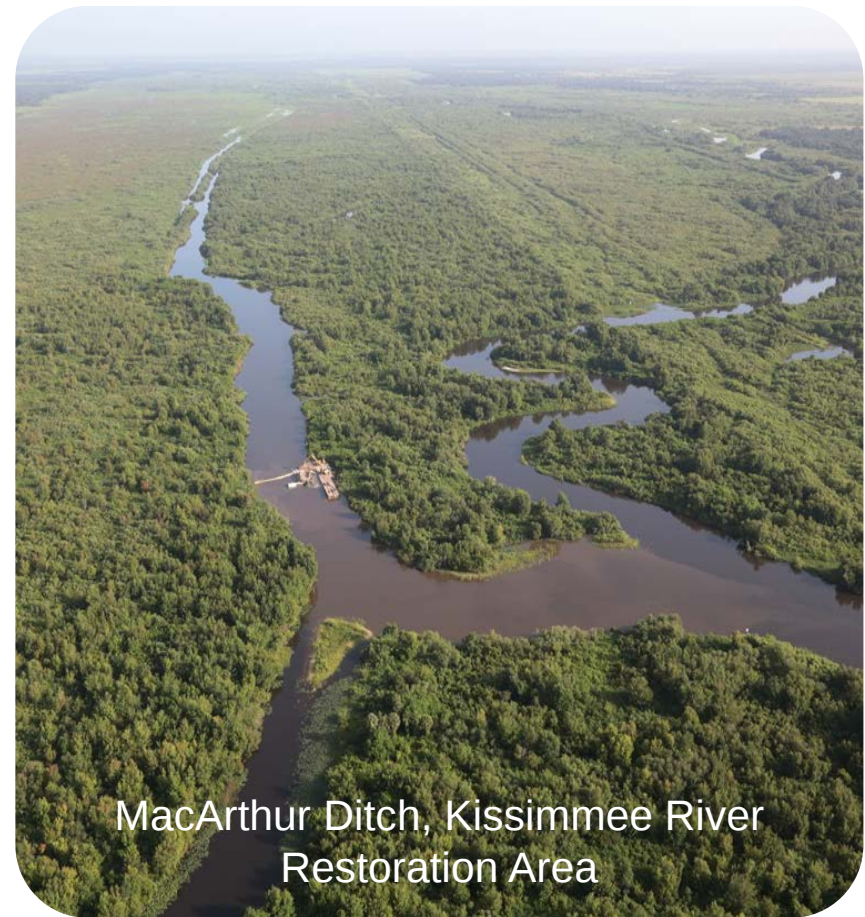
■ Key Components

- Backfill 22 miles of C-38 canal
- Reconnect remnant section of original river channel (45 miles)
- Remove 2 water control structures
- Implement Headwaters Regulation Schedule to meet KRRP goals



Kissimmee River Restoration Project (cont.)

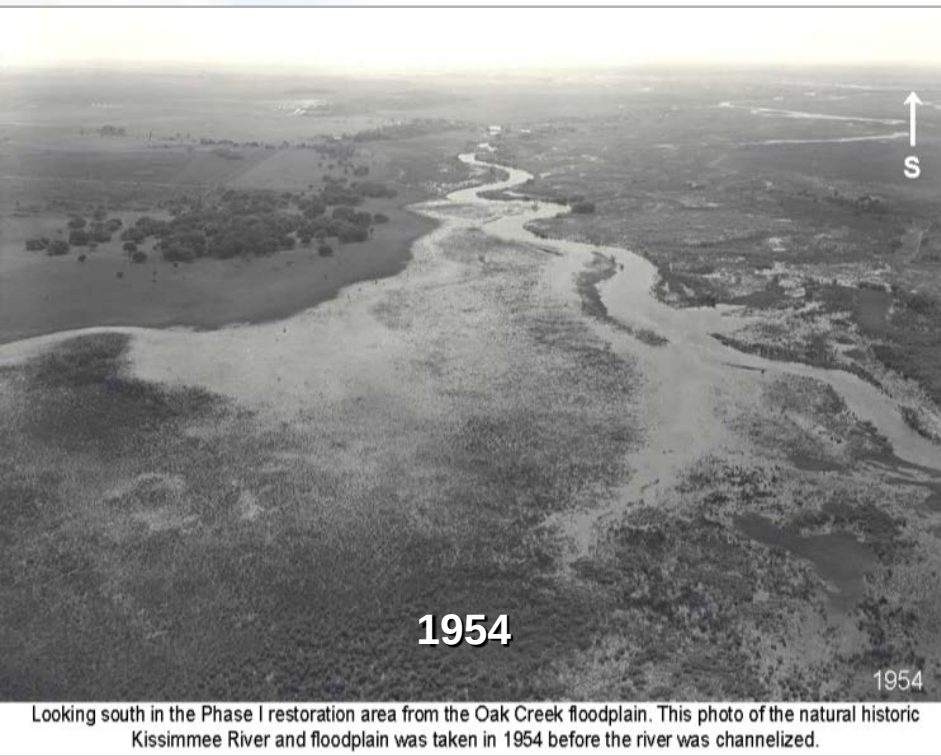
- 2015 Status
 - Construction: Last major portions of construction anticipated to be complete in 2020
 - Headwaters planned for implementation after construction is completed (2020)
- Post-construction Activities
 - Mimic historical flows – 2020
 - Restoration Evaluation Program through 2025
 - Evaluate restoration success



MacArthur Ditch, Kissimmee River
Restoration Area

Kissimmee River Restoration Project (cont.)

Kissimmee River & Floodplain Pre/Post Phase I Restoration Area



Rolling Meadows Wetland Restoration

■ Purpose

- Restore historical Lake Hatchineha floodplain wetlands on Rolling Meadows property
 - Storage & Water Quality benefits

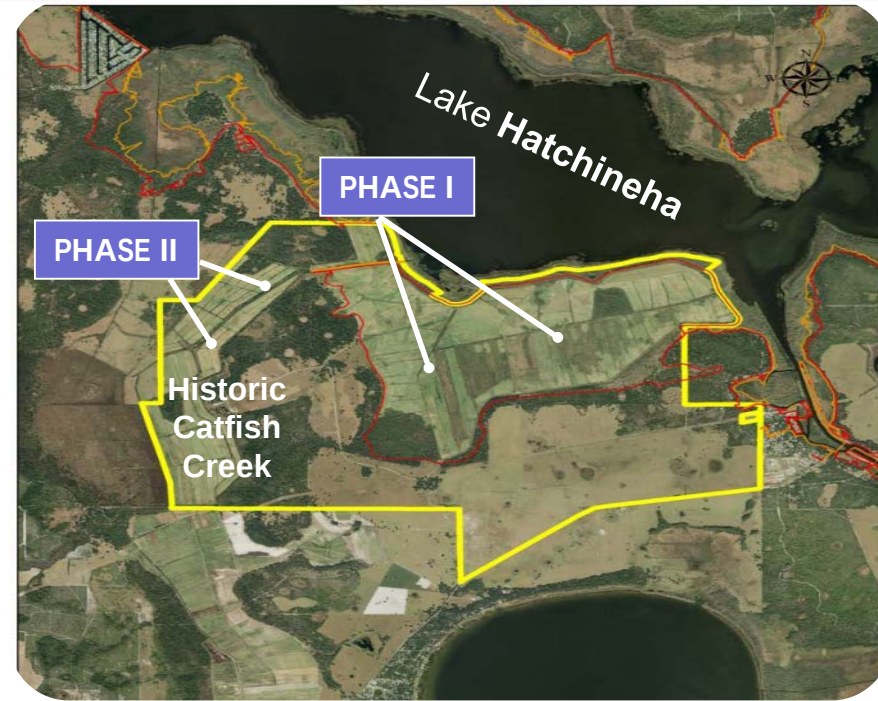
■ 2015 Status

Phase I: ~1,900-ac impacted area

- Design and permitting finalized
- Construction began in late 2015, completion by end of 2016

Phase II: ~580-ac wetland area

- Pending future funding



Dispersed Water Management (DWM) Program

■ Purpose

- Shallow water storage, retention and detention to enhance lake/estuary health
 - Minimize runoff/discharge
 - Reduce nutrient loads
 - Expand groundwater recharge opportunities

■ DWM Project Types in BMAP

- Northern Everglades Payment for Environmental Services (NE-PES)
- Florida Ranchlands Environmental Services Projects (FRESP)
- Retention on Private Lands



Dixie Ranch,
DWM Project
(fl.audubon.org)

Nicodemus Slough

- Nicodemus Slough
 - South of Fisheating Creek and West of the Lake
 - Operational in 2015
 - Largest estimated annual storage benefit (33,860 acre-feet/yr) of any DWM project in BMAP



Lykes West Waterhole Marsh

- Located on the C-41A Canal in the Indian Prairie Sub-watershed
- Operational since 2006
- Estimated BMAP annual TP reduction - 4.17 MT/yr
 - 38% of TP reductions estimated from DWM projects in BMAP



West Waterhole Marsh,
DWM Project

Other Restoration Initiatives

- CERP Lake Okeechobee Watershed Project (LOWP)
 - Focus on regional projects to improve the quantity, quality, timing and distribution of water
 - LOW Project Implementation Report (PIR) identified as one of next CERP studies to be conducted (USACE Integrated Delivery Schedule)
 - USACE's SMART Planning Feasibility Process expected to begin in 2016
- Lake Low Water Level Habitat Enhancement Plan
 - Drafted a plan that serves as guide for future preparation of event-specific (i.e., drought conditions) habitat enhancement project plans (e.g., prescribed burns)



Thank You

Eagle Bay Marsh,
Lake Okeechobee Watershed

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