

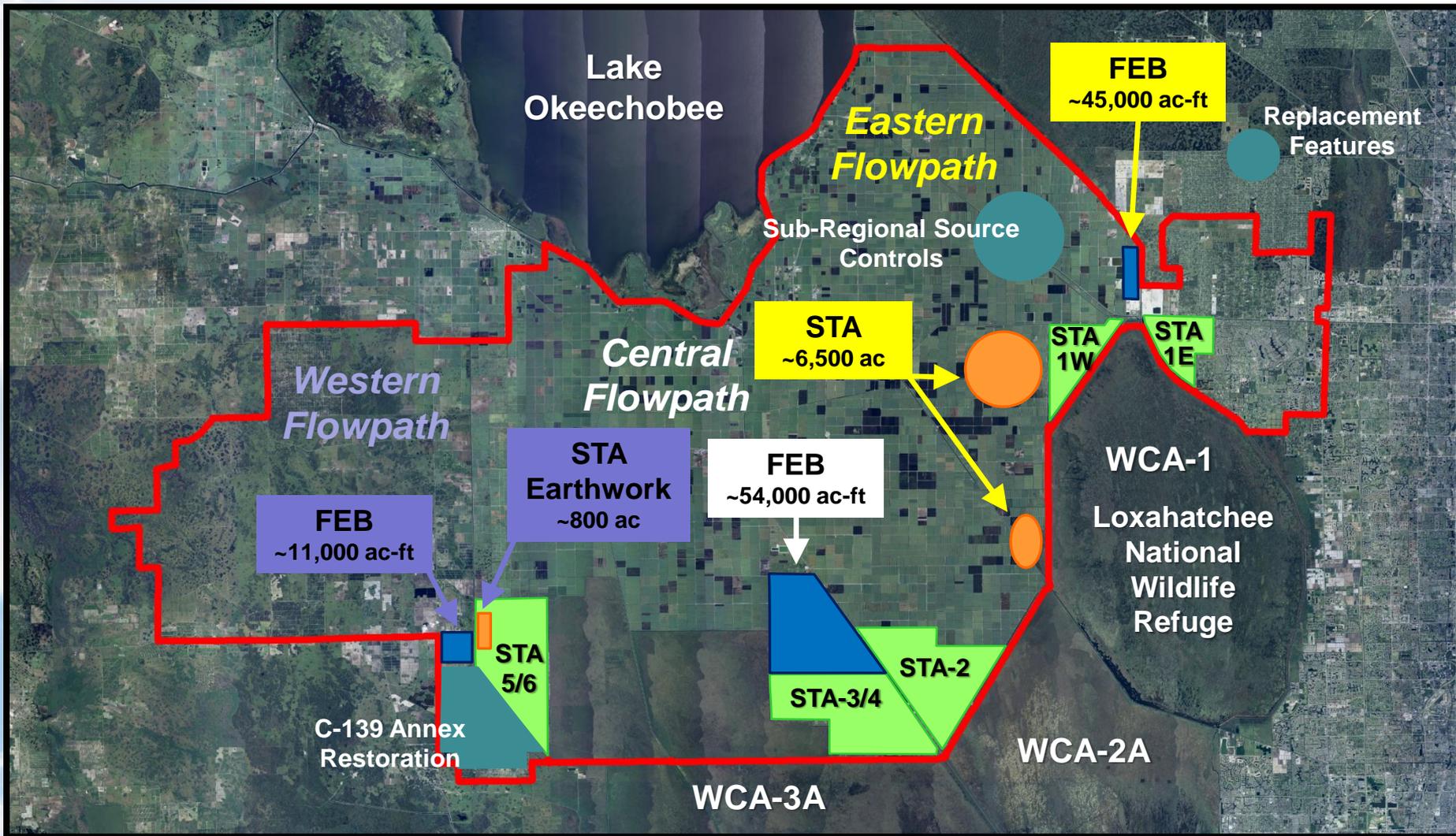


C-139 Annex Restoration Project

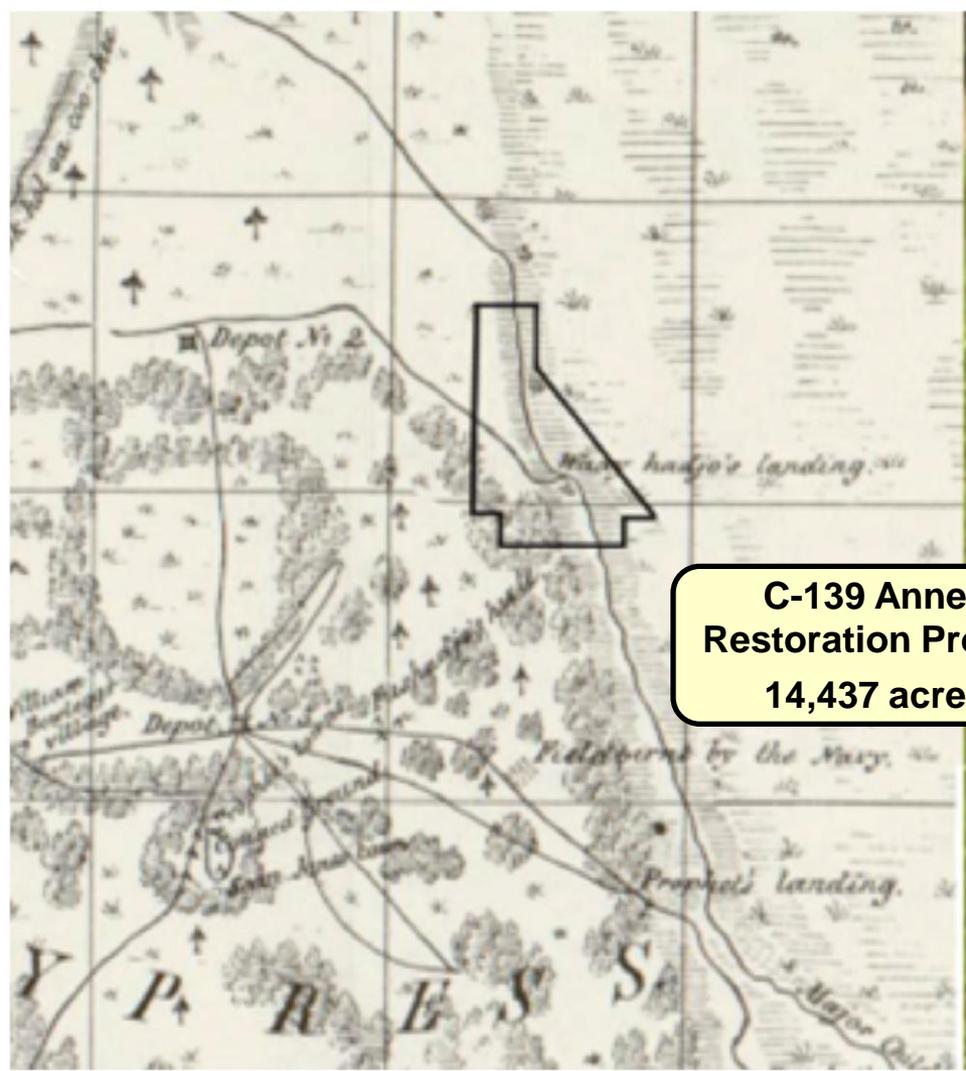
**WRAC Recreation Issues Workshop
March 17, 2014**

**Terrie Bates, Director
Water Resources Division**

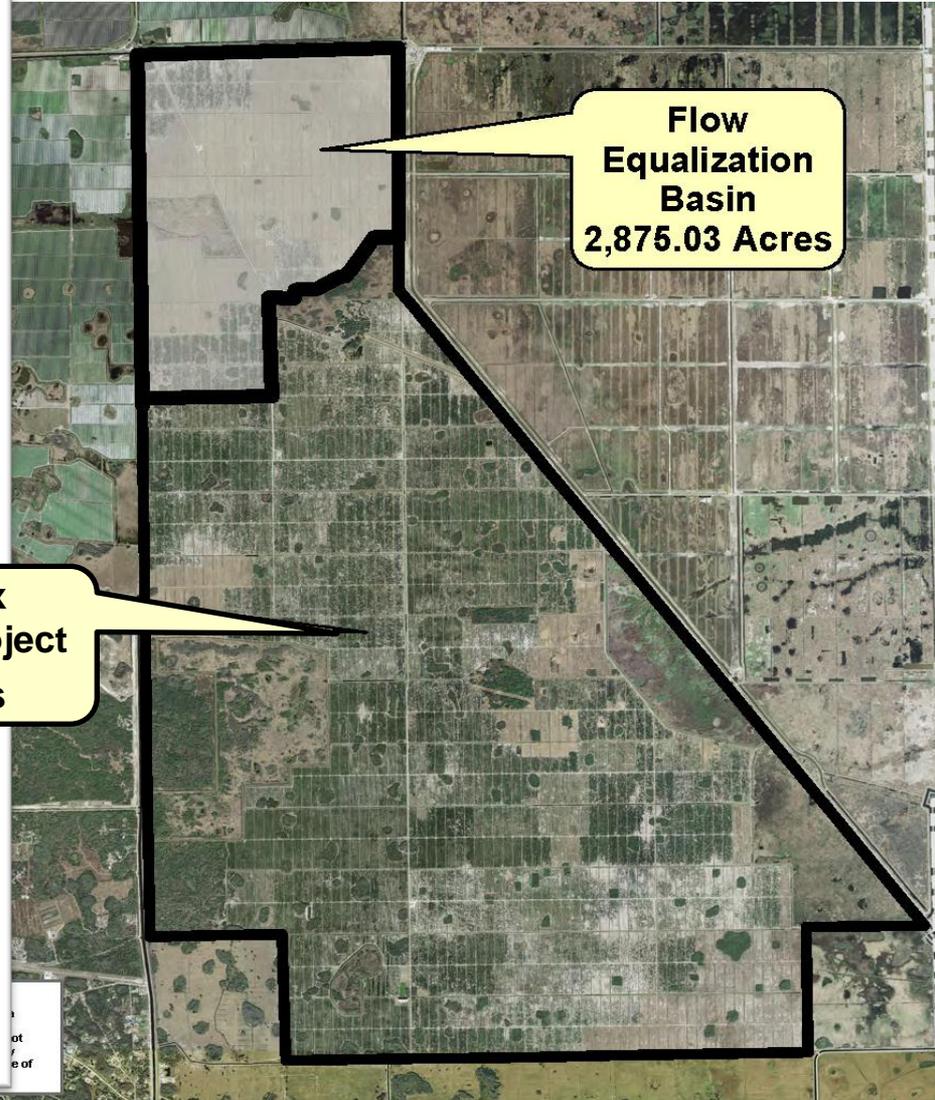
Restoration Strategies



C-139 Annex Restoration Project



**C-139 Annex
Restoration Project
14,437 acres**



**Flow
Equalization
Basin
2,875.03 Acres**

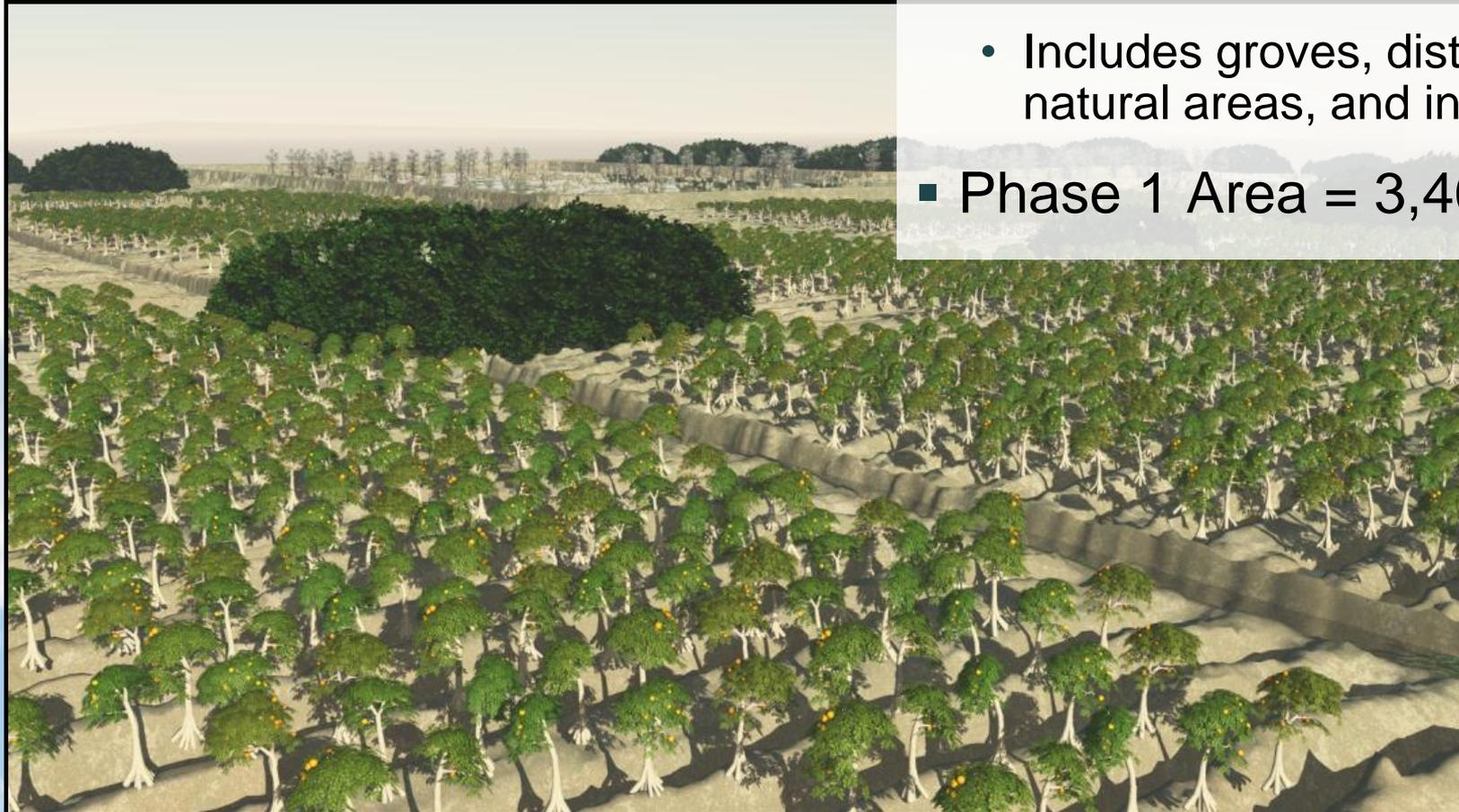
C-139 Annex Restoration Project Goals

- Restore historic Everglades hydrologic conditions to +14,000 acres of former citrus grove
- Contribute to the improvement of water quality in the Everglades
- Restore historic wetlands and upland habitat
- Expand habitat area for listed plant and animal species
- Promote the restoration of a self-sustaining ecosystem
- Maintain the current level of flood protection for surrounding properties



Project Summary – Restoration Plan

- Total Area = 14,437 acres
 - Includes groves, disturbed natural areas, and infrastructure
- Phase 1 Area = 3,400 acres

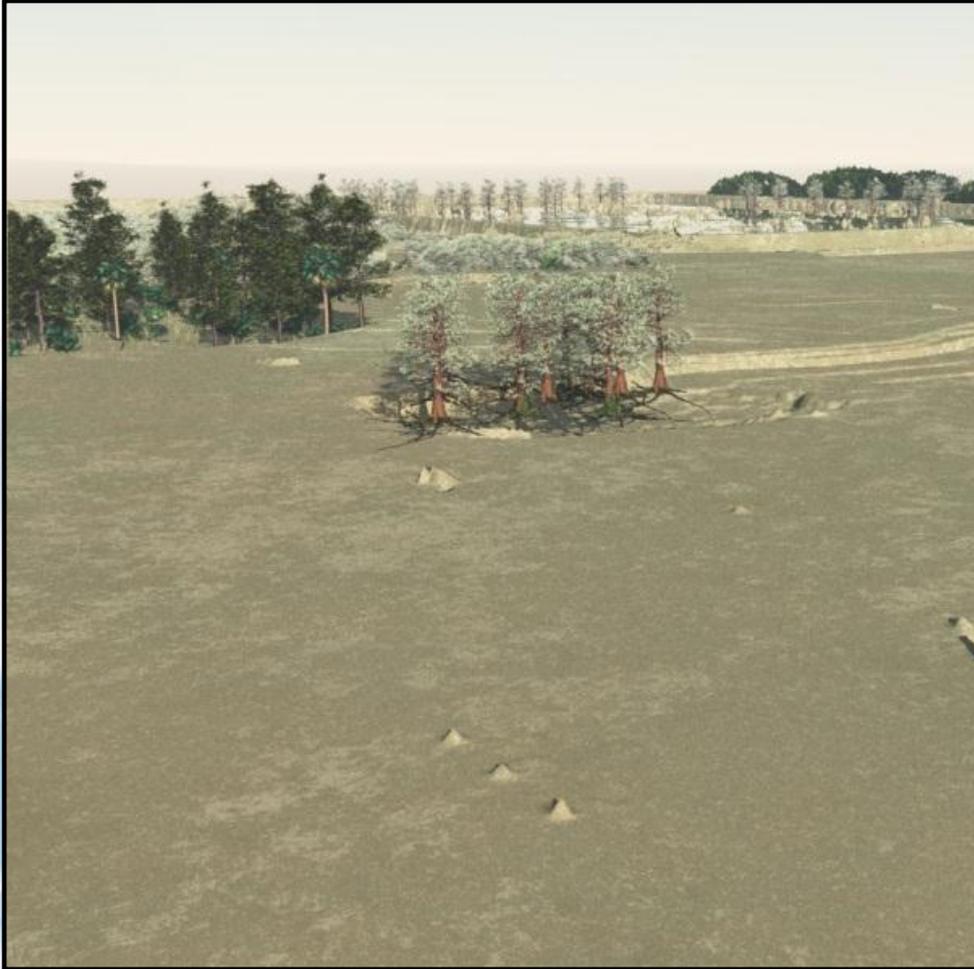


Project Summary – Restoration Components



- Remove buildings, tanks, solid waste & abandon wells
- Clear citrus trees & level planting beds

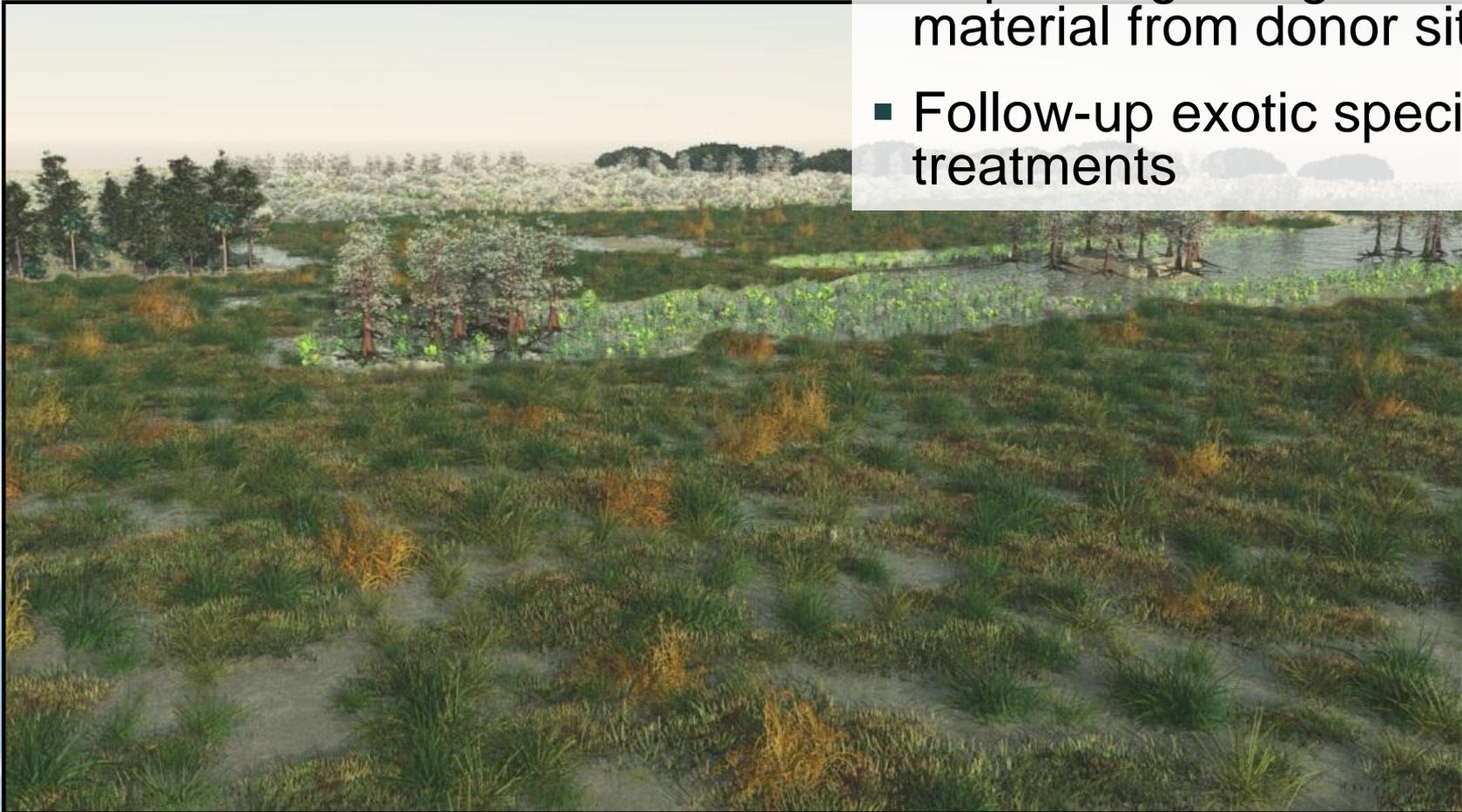
Project Summary – Restoration Components



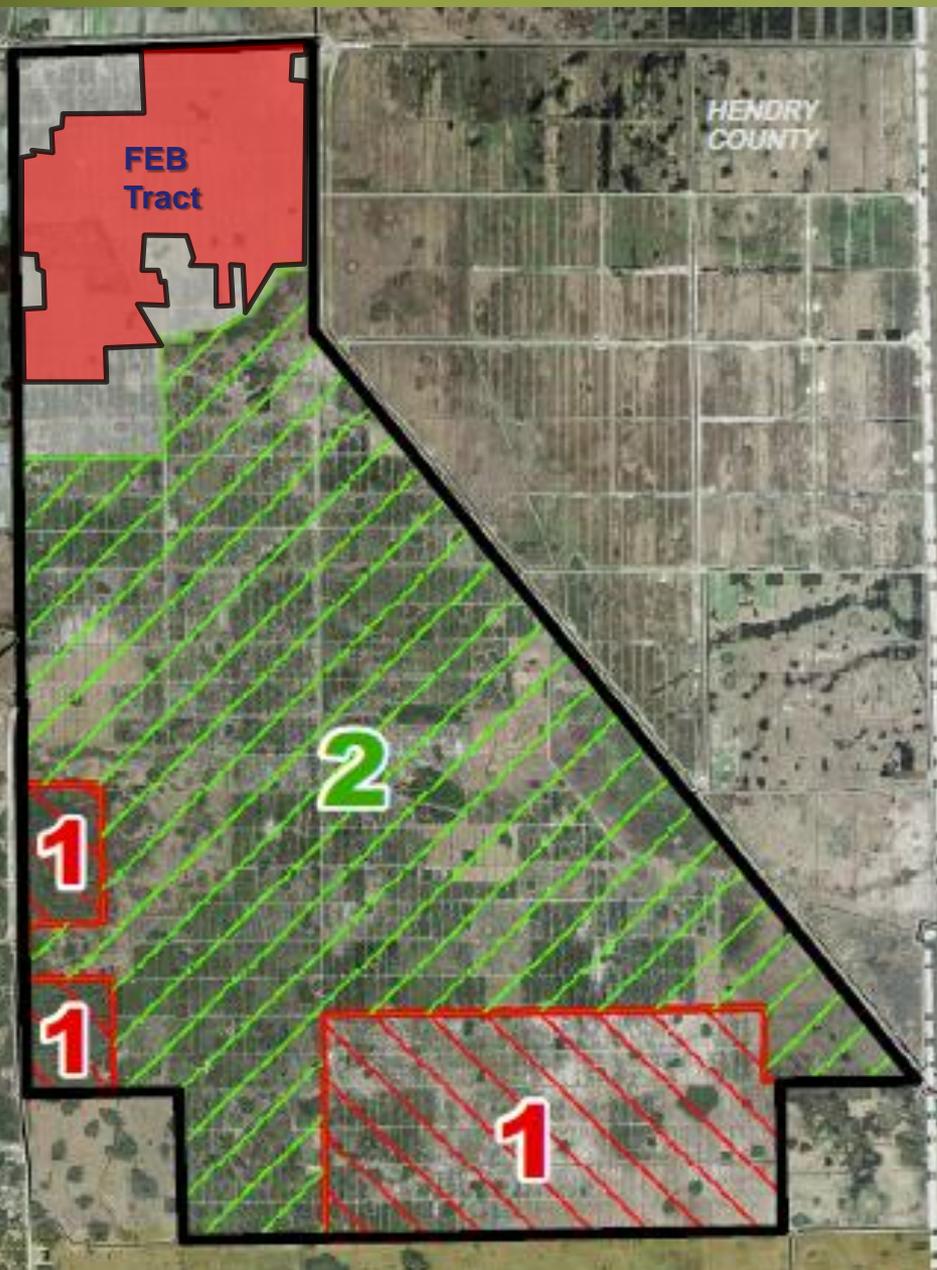
- Remove exotic & nuisance vegetation
- Microtopography earthwork interconnecting wetlands
- Backfill canals & degrade roads & levees to restore sheetflow

Project Summary – Restoration Components

- Replanting using harvested material from donor site
- Follow-up exotic species treatments



Phased Lease Termination



- 2014 - Take down 3,400 acres Phase 1 tracts and ~1,995 acres in the Flow Equalization Basin (FEB) tract
- 2018 – Take down remaining 10,700 acres for Phase 2 and ~1,000 acres of FEB

Restoration Progress - Detailed Site Assessment

- Site survey
- Geotechnical borings & evaluation
- Groundwater monitoring well installation
- Environmental assessment
- Collaboration with Seminole Tribe of Florida



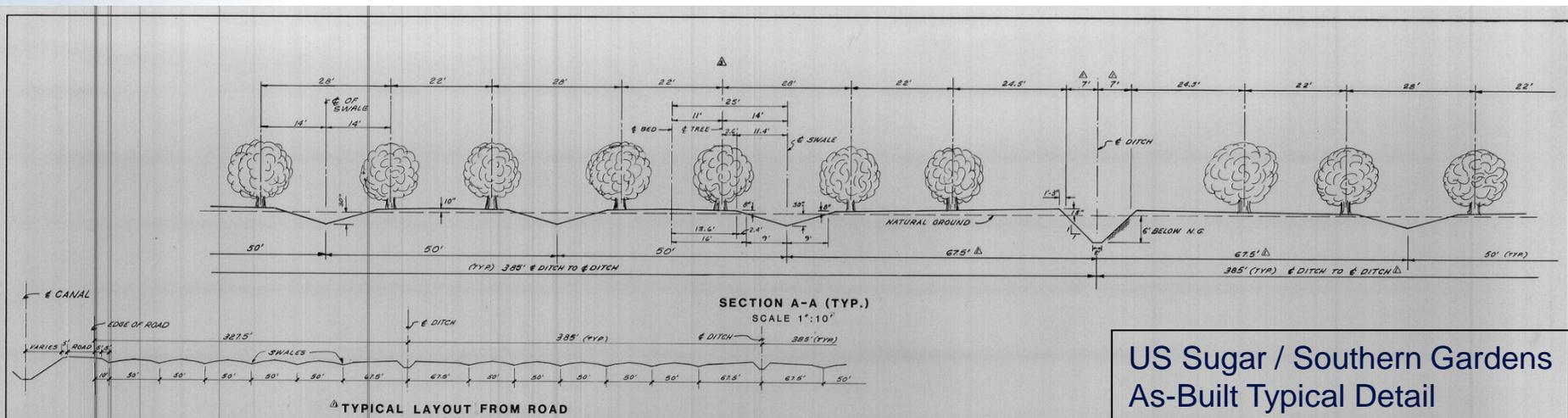
Restoration Progress - Donor Site

- Establishment of a 20-acre Donor Crop / Nursery site underway in the future FEB
- Donor crop will be expanded in future years to 300-acres
- Vegetation established in this expanding crop will propagate Phase 1 beginning 2015



Restoration Progress – Design

- Comprehensive design efforts will begin February 2014
- Design will be completed by in-house staff with 30%, 90% and Final submittal milestones
- Permit applications will begin after completion of 30% design package
- Site clearing for each phase will commence upon release of the respective area



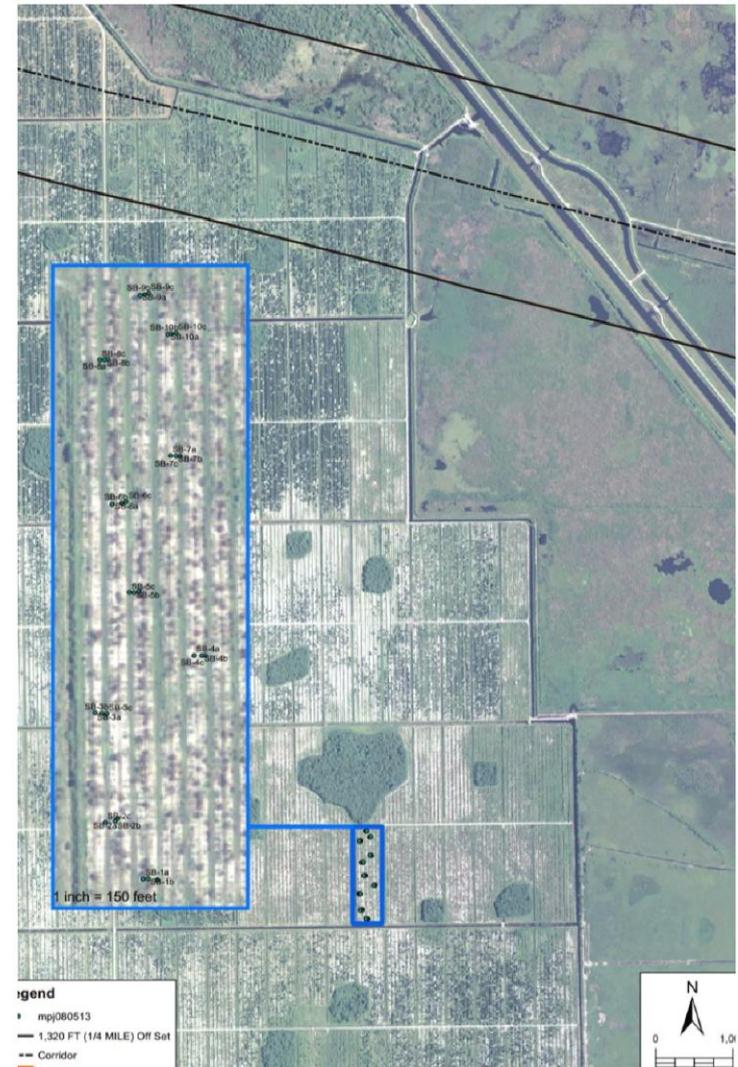
Restoration Progress - Testing & Remediation

- FPL corridor assessment report (completed 5/16/13). No environmental issues documented within the onsite transmission corridor
- Vertical delineation of copper completed. Copper impacts are limited to 0-12 inches
- Copper pilot study to assess remediation options is underway
- Corrective action associated with Tractor Shed No. 2 underway
- 8 Point source locations onsite
- 1 Point source is located within Phase I



Restoration Progress - Copper Remediation

- Copper Remediation Pilot Study underway
- Site clearing of vegetation, herbicide application and burning
- Removal of tree roots
- Disking 6" of surface soils
- Removal/scraping of surface soil
- Cap impacted soil within swale
- Site leveling/disking
- Remediation confirmation sampling



Restoration Progress - Facilities

- Existing houses on-site will be minimally reconditioned
- Houses will be used as Field Offices for Land and Construction Management activities
- Post project completion, these houses can be used for continued Land Management activities and potential FWC Officer housing



Restoration Project Funding

Land Acquisition - \$114 Million*

Restoration & Land Mgmt - \$36 Million



- Restoration anticipated to result in +/- 10,000 mitigation credits (*subject to ACOE & DEP permit determinations*)
- Lake Belt Mitigation Committee has conceptually approved \$81 million over 20 years to fund restoration project and +/- 4,000 mitigation credits (full cost accounting)
- Restoration costs “front-loaded”; land cost reimbursement in out-years
- Remainder mitigation for District works

(* 14,437 acres & associated costs)

Recreational Opportunities

- Incorporate nature-based activities consistent with the permitting requirements and project purposes
- Utilize management roads and levees for public access
- Site will be evaluated upon completion of the restoration



Restoration Project to be known as the Sam Jones / Abiaki Prairie

Seminole Tribe of Florida asked to name the project

- Sam Jones / Abiaki was a medicine man and powerful spiritual leader of the Seminole Tribe
- He was a major force of resistance against the U.S. during the Seminole wars of the 1800's; answering no flag of truce, no offer of compromise, no demand of surrender
- When fighting concluded, he was the only major Seminole leader to remain in Florida
- His final camp was in Big Cypress Swamp, not far from the Tribe's Big Cypress Reservation today



C-139 Annex Restoration Project



Questions?