

C-139 Annex Restoration Plan

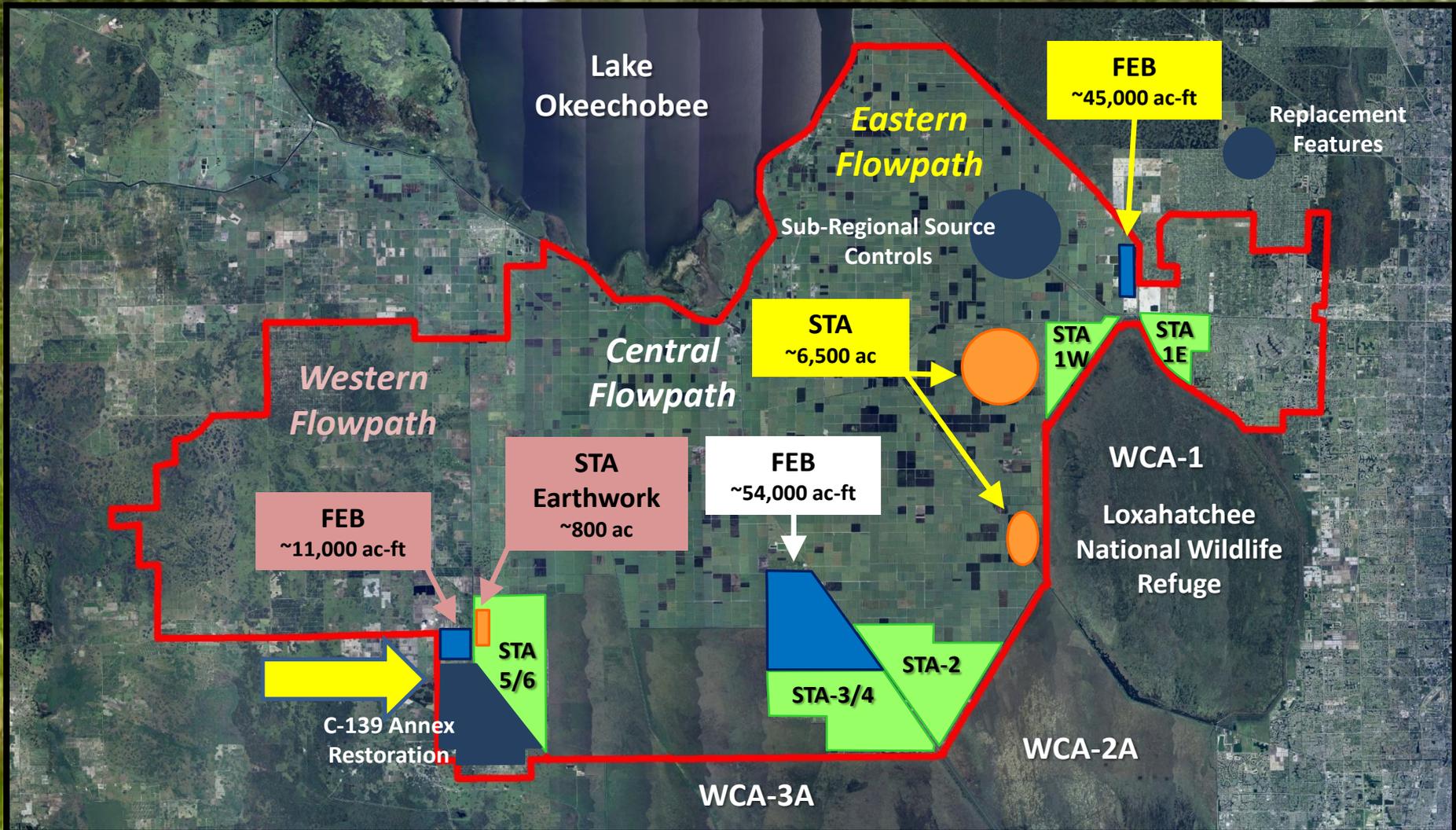


Ernie Barnett, Director Everglades Policy and Coordination



Governing Board
February 14, 2013

Restoration Strategies



C-139 Annex Restoration Mitigation Project

Restore historic Everglades hydrologic conditions to 15,000 acres of former citrus grove

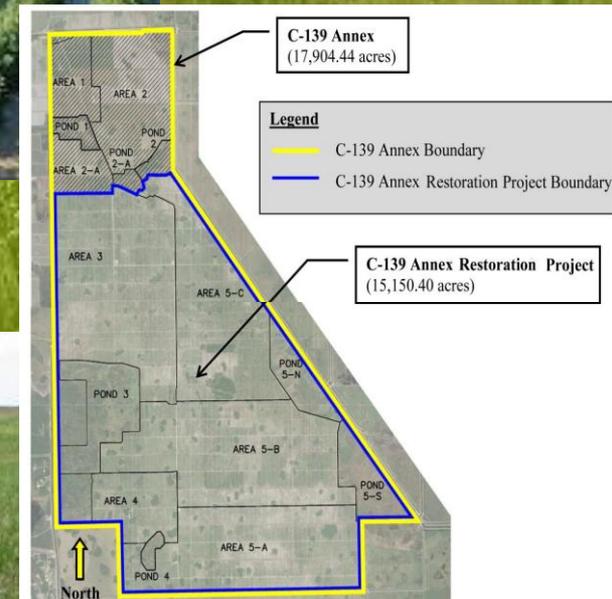
Contribute to the improvement of water quality in the Everglades

Restore historic wetlands and upland habitat

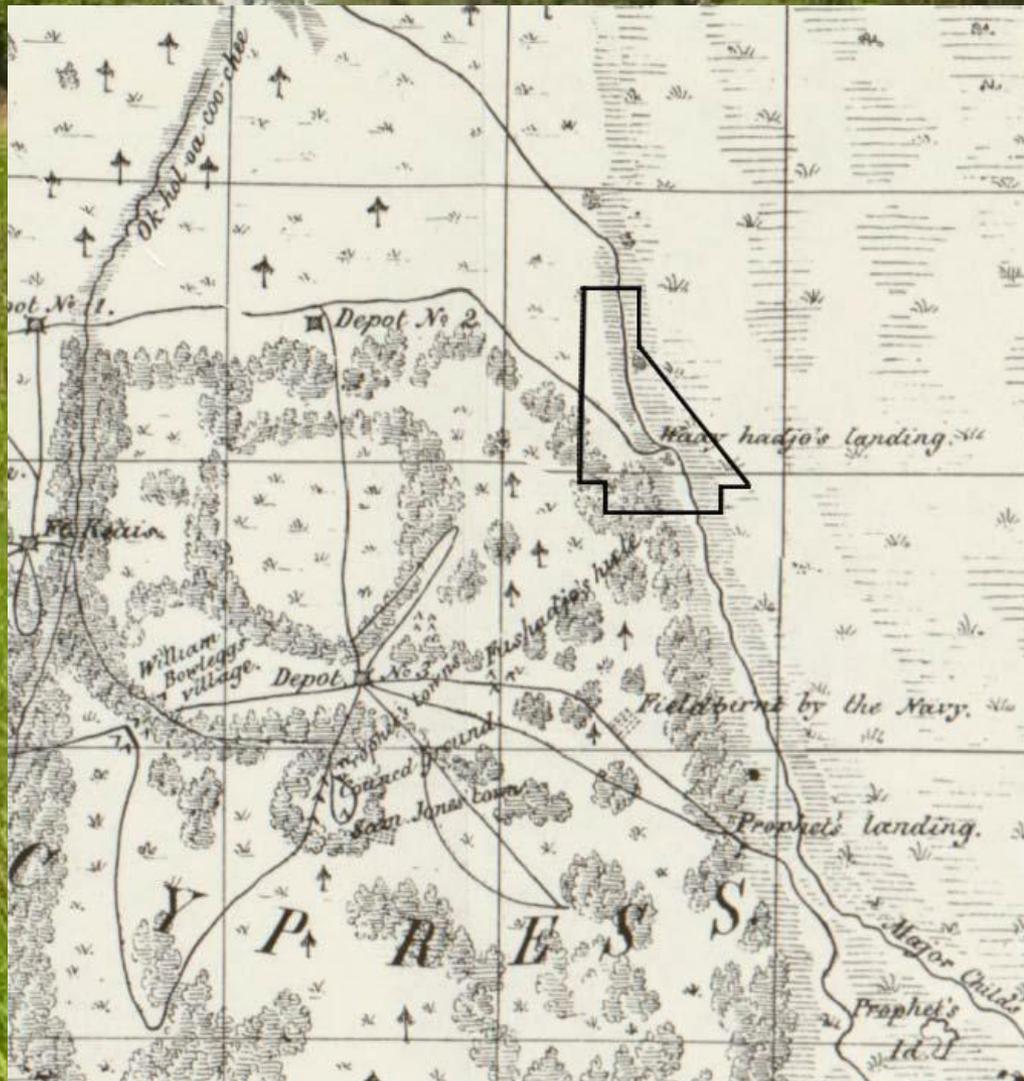
Expand habitat area for listed plant and animal species

Promote the restoration of a self-sustaining ecosystem

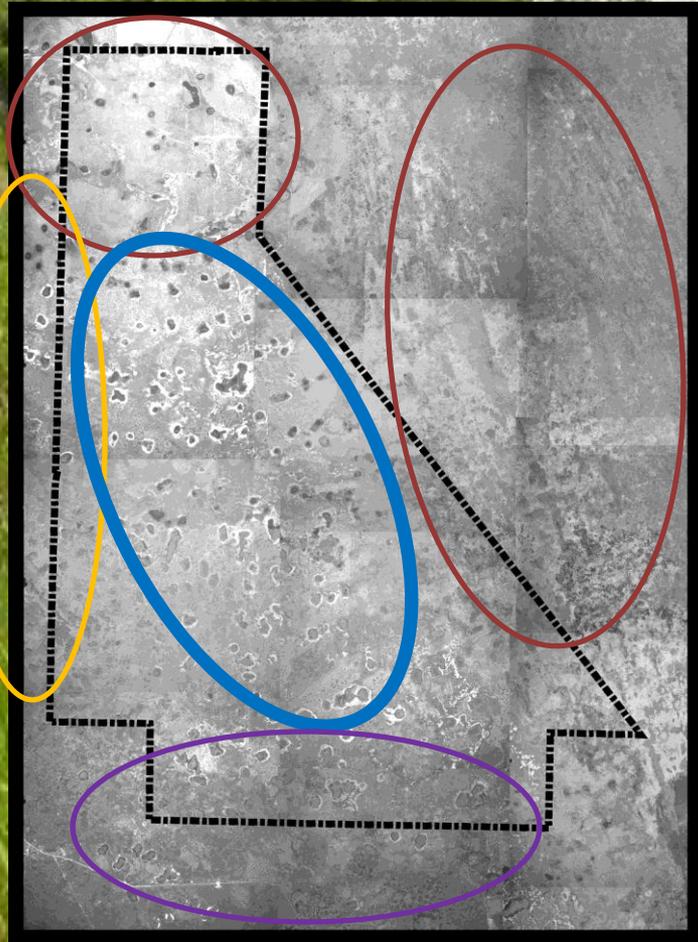
Maintain the current level of flood protection for surrounding properties



Portion of 1847 Endicott Map with C-139 Annex



Historic Site Conditions



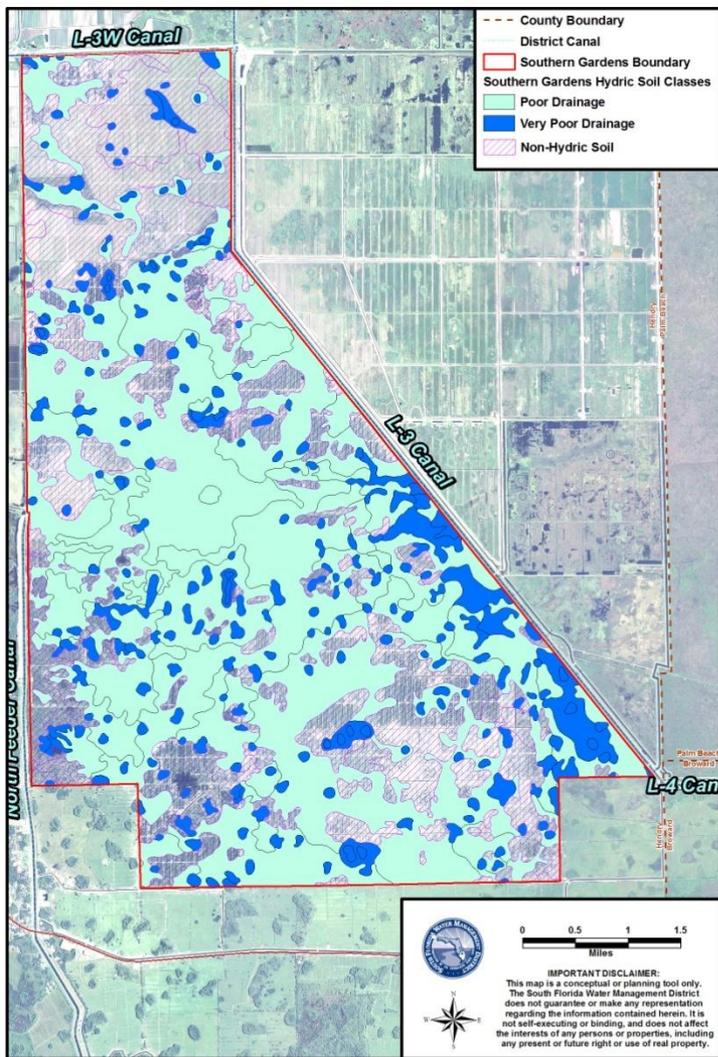
1953

Interior:

wet prairie with depression marshes,
and a couple tree islands

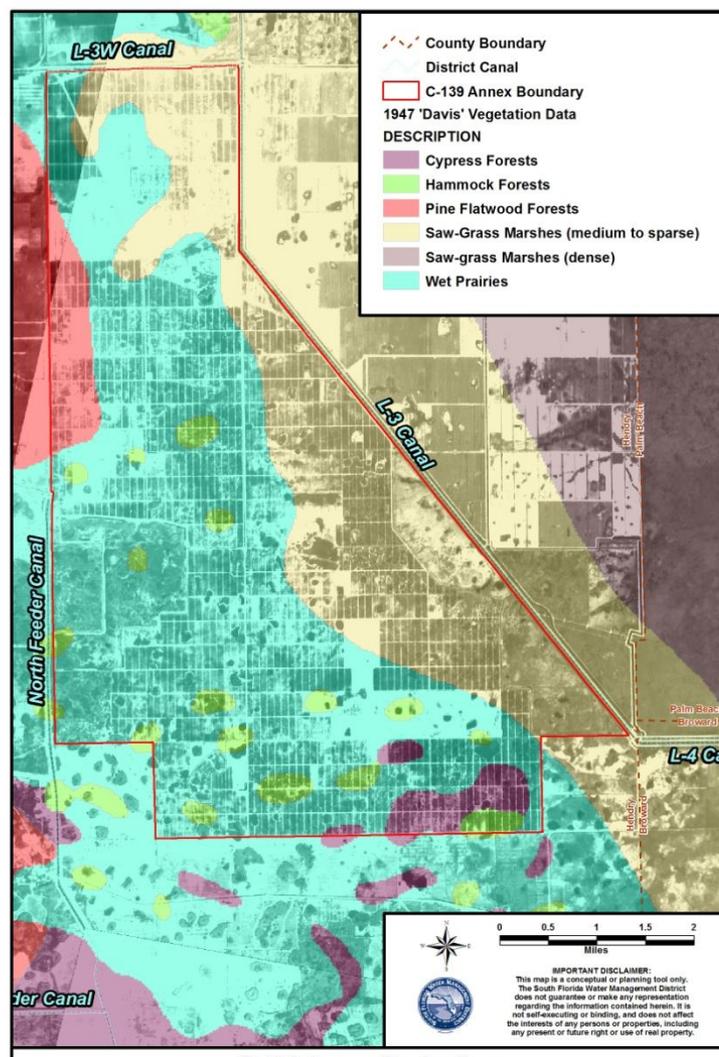
- Dry prairie, north
- Wet flatwood, west
- Everglades mosaic, east
- Cypress swamp, south

Soils and Historic Vegetation



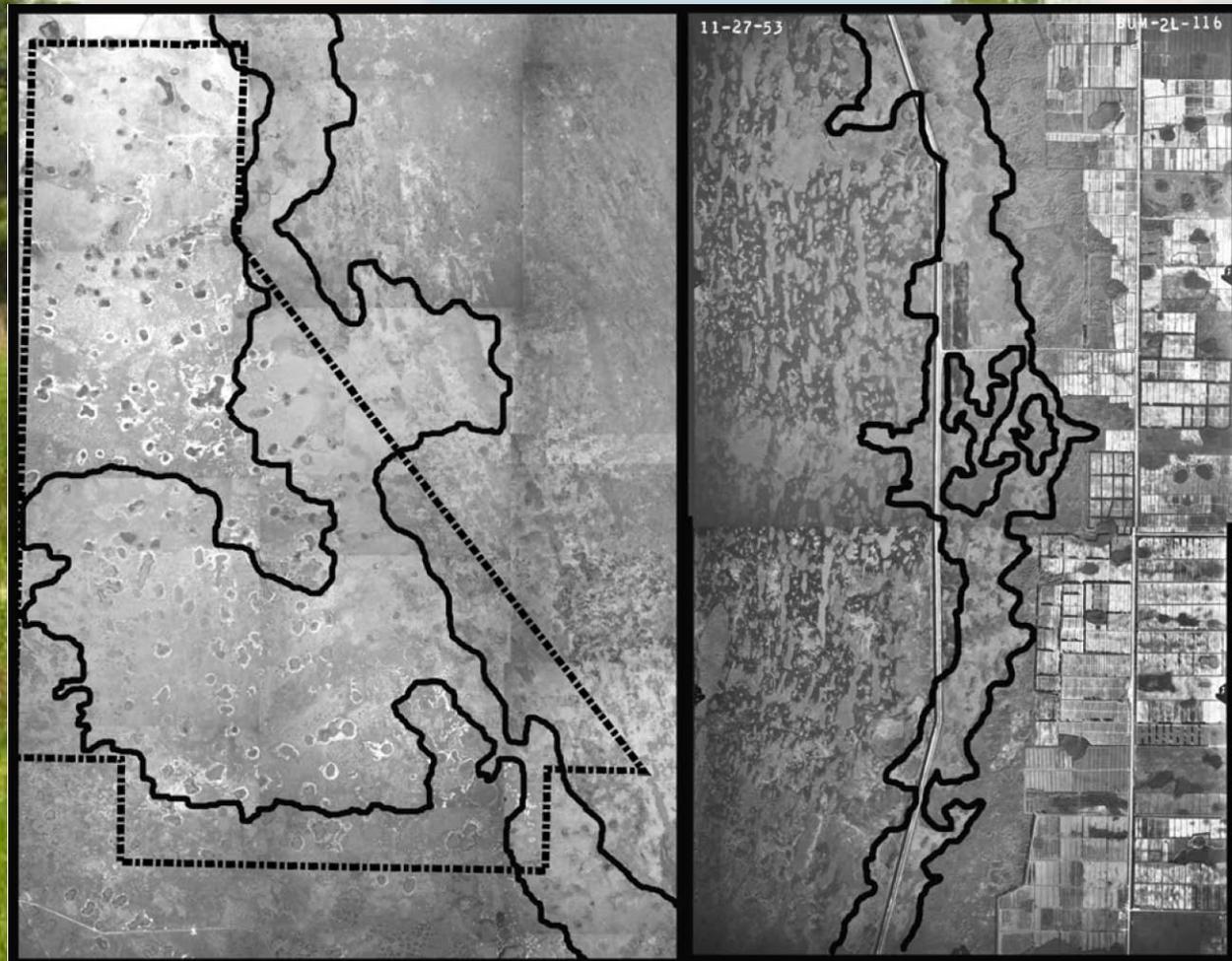
C-139 Annex Evaluation
 U.S.D.A./N.R.C.S. Hydric Soils Classification
 2010 1 Meter Resolution U.S.D.A./N.A.I.P. Natural Color Aerial Photography

Appendix C.2



C-139 Annex Evaluation
 1947 'Davis' Vegetation Classification Data
 (With 1987 10 Meter Resolution S.P.O.T. Panchromatic Satellite Imagery)

Appendix C.5



A side-by-side comparison of 1953 aerials showing the fringing prairie of the everglades: the nearly uniform prairie of the Annex (Left), and the narrow fringing prairie on the east side of the everglades described as “maidencane flats,” surrounding the newly built Levee 40, in a 1956 USFWS floristic survey (Right).

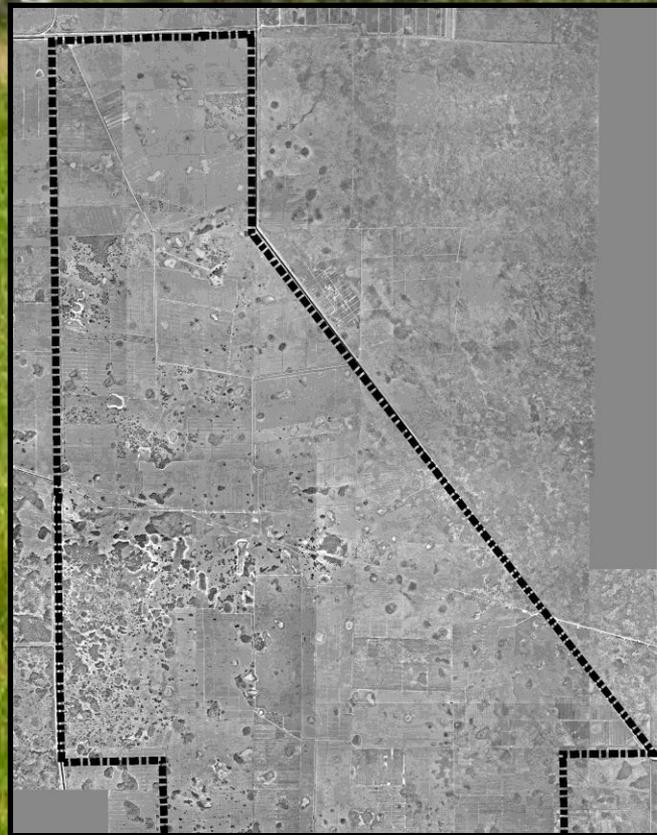
Photo of prairie at the north edge of the Big Cypress Swamp , circa 1919-1925



1968-83, Sod and Cattle



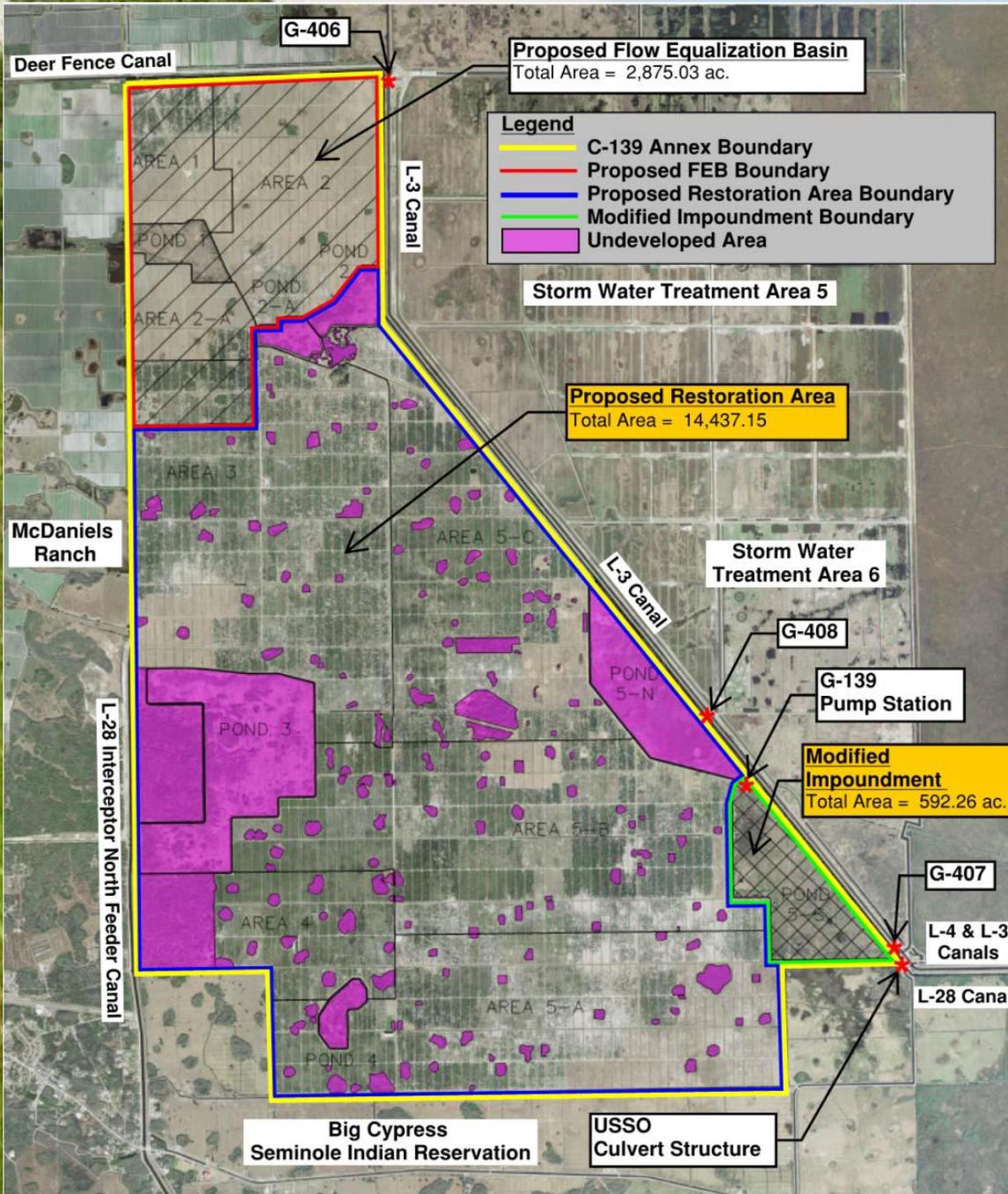
1968



1974



1982



Current Condition



Current Condition



Citrus: 10,733 acres

Current Condition



Ponds: Six impoundments within the area to be restored

Current Condition

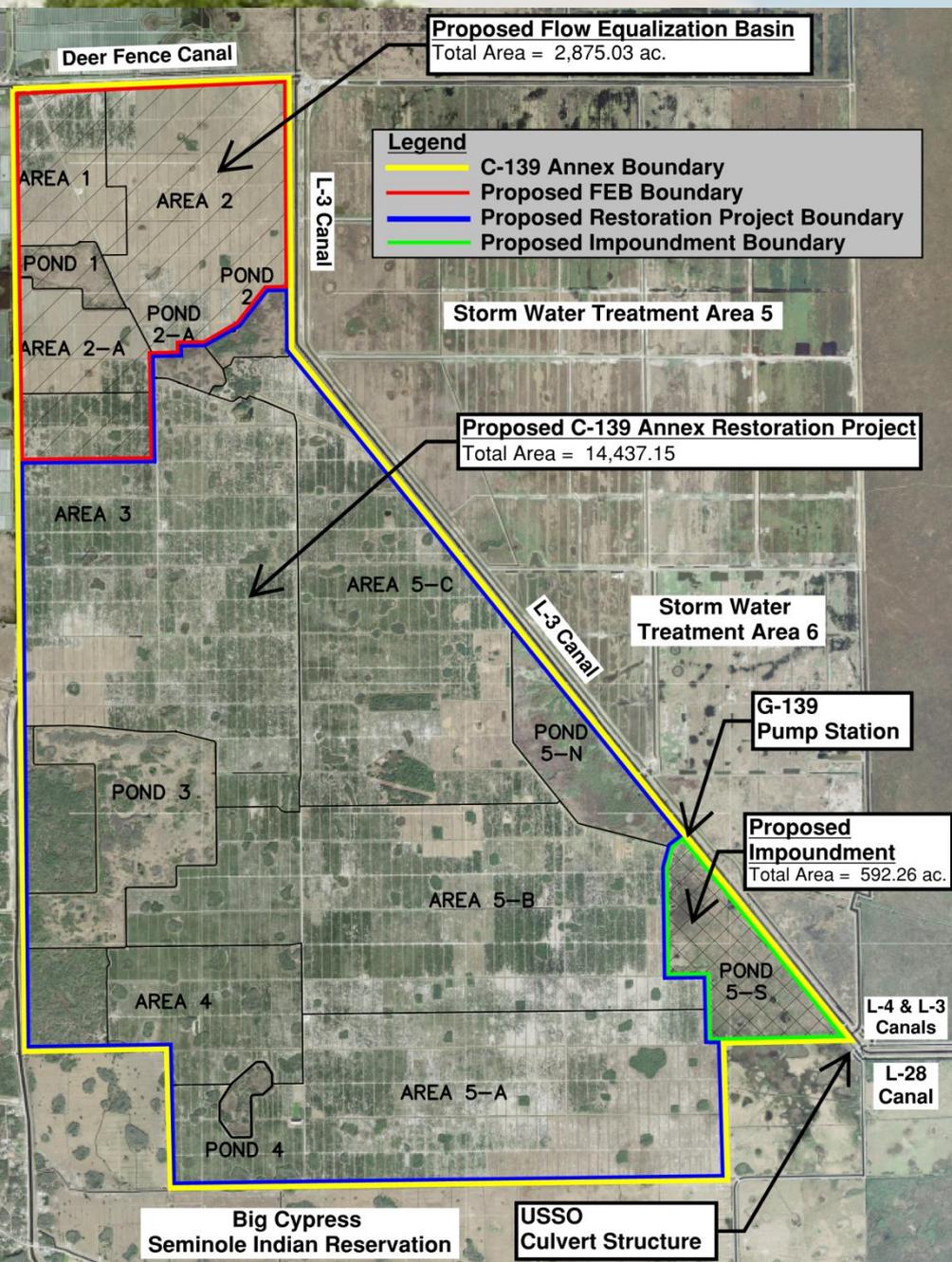


Former Depression Marsh: drained and covered with exotic plants

Current Condition



Mesic Flatwood: overgrown and fire-suppressed

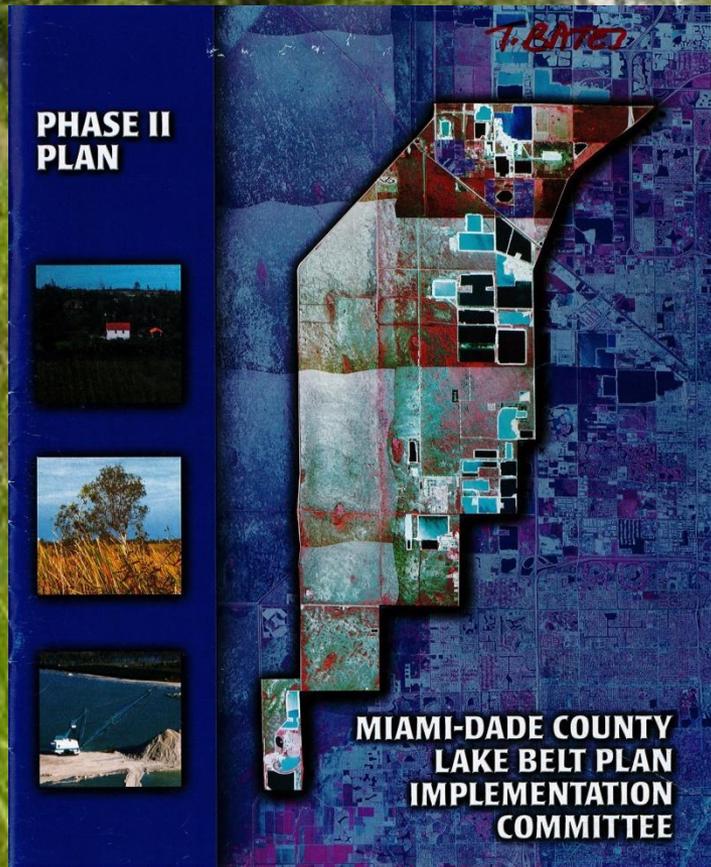


Project Summary

Restoration Component

- Area = 14,437 acres
- Remove buildings, tanks, solid waste & abandon wells
- Remove exotic & nuisance vegetation
- Clear citrus trees & level planting beds
- Remove irrigation system
- Backfill canals & degrade roads & levees to restore sheetflow
- Microtopography & replanting

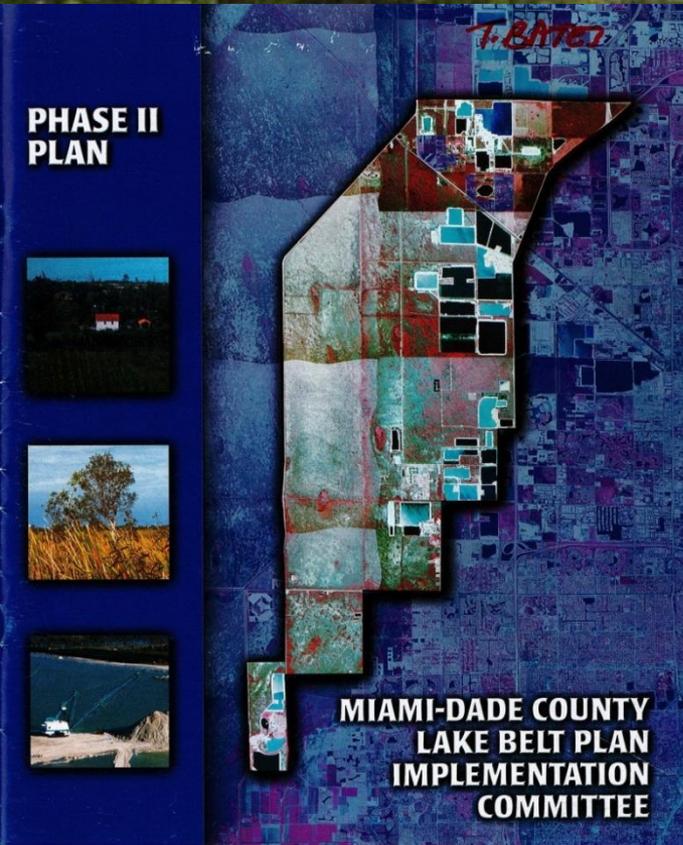
Lake Belt Mitigation Committee



LBMC spent several months evaluating the potential use of the C-139 Annex Restoration Project as a mitigation component for the Lake Belt area

- Multiple site visits
- WRAP wetland assessment & scoring
- Technical review of the Draft Feasibility Report
- Project estimated costs and cash flow analysis

Lake Belt Mitigation Committee Action taken on December 4, 2012



- Approved use of the C-139 Annex Restoration Project as mitigation for wetland impacts in the Lake Belt Region
- Approved the expenditure of \$3 million to fund the initial design, detailed site assessment and state and federal permitting for the project
- Anticipated that fewer than 4,000 WRAP credits would be needed from the Annex project as one component of the suite of mitigation options used to offset impacts
- Established a proposed funding approach
- Final WRAP credit determination will be made through the state and federal permitting processes

U.S. Sugar Citrus Lease



- October 8, 2010, the District leased 17,900 acres in Hendry County to US Sugar for 20 years
- This Lease was a requirement of the US Sugar purchase.
- US Sugar pays no rent but pays property taxes, utilities, and all other costs associated with the Lease.
- The District may terminate the lease, in whole or part, by providing written notice of termination prior to July 1 of any year with termination effective June 30 of the following year.

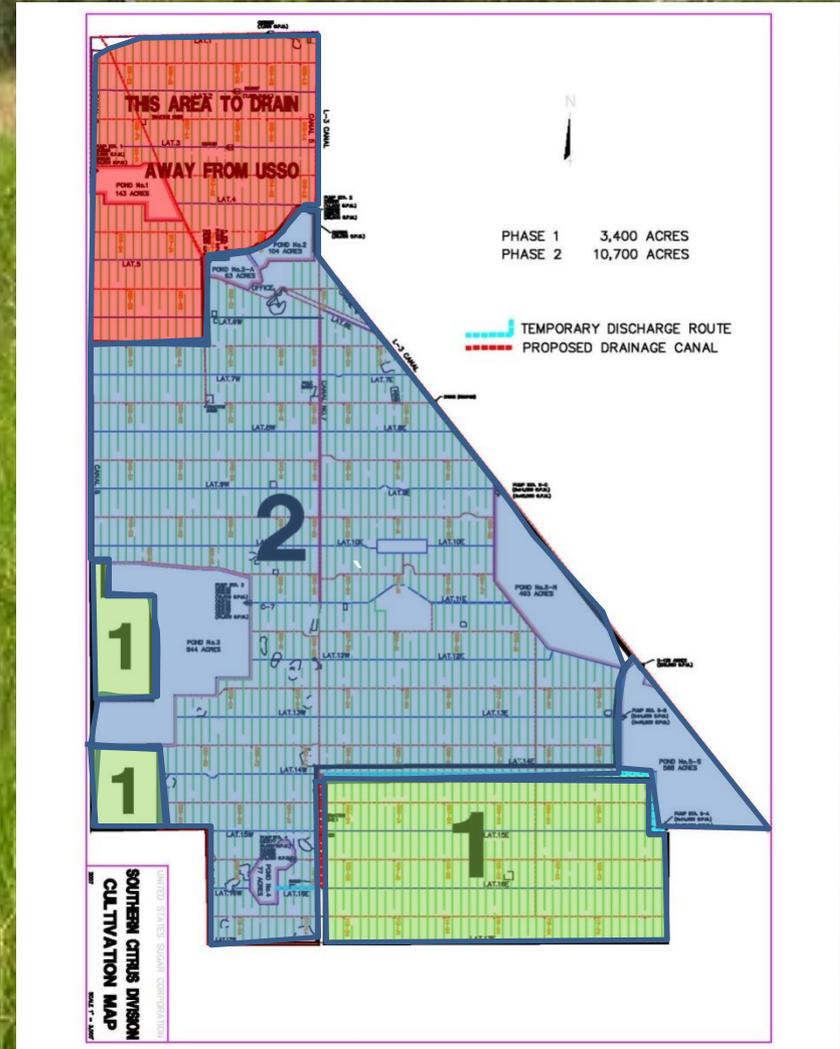
U.S. Sugar Citrus Lease

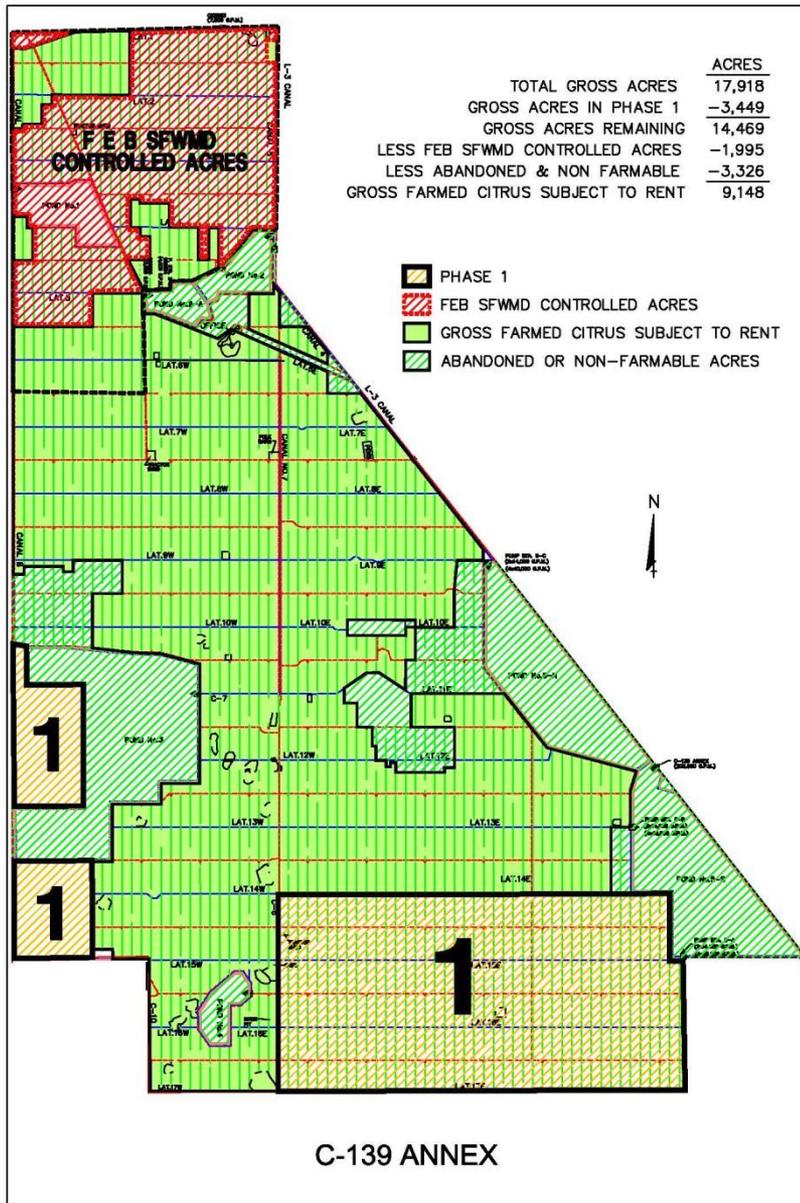
- On March 24, 2011, the District sent an initial notice of Lease termination to U.S Sugar whereby all but 20 acres (used for citrus tree research) of the Leased Premises would terminate effective **June 30, 2012**.
- On September 29, 2011, a revised termination notice extending the termination date two years to **June 30, 2014**.



Next Steps

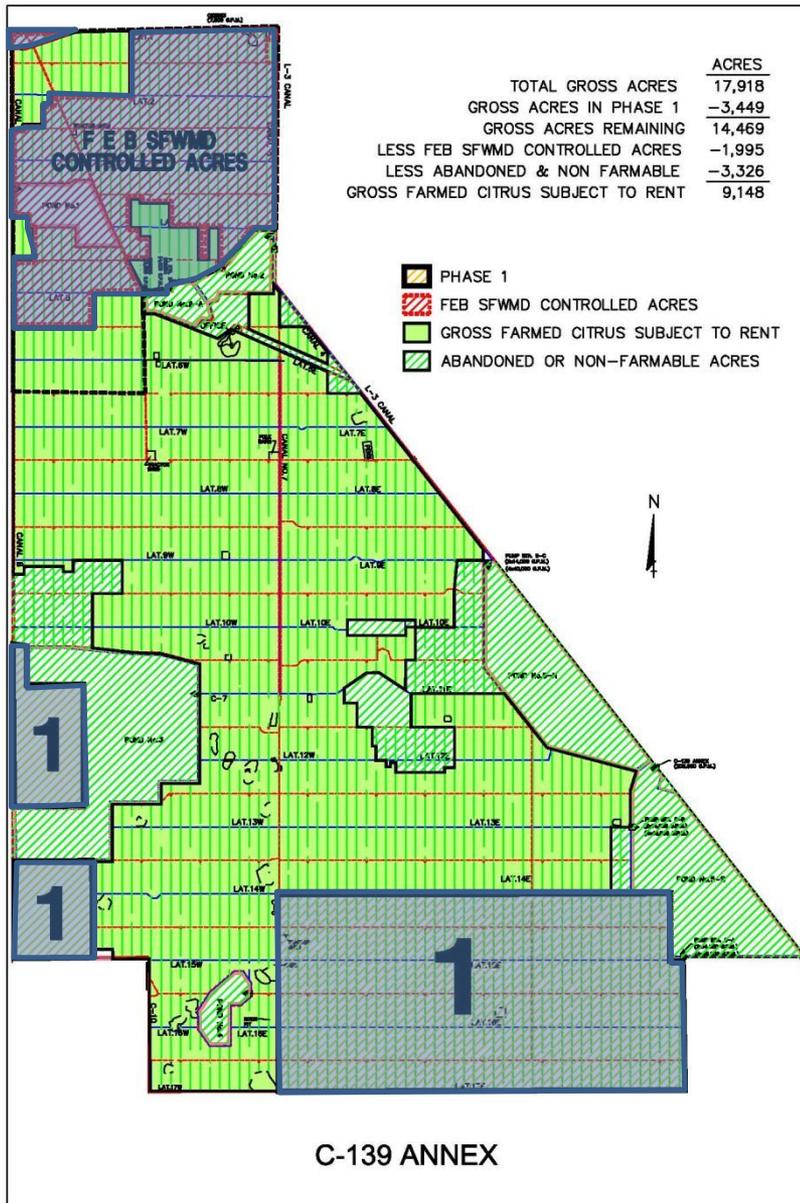
- Implement Restoration Plan in two phases
 - Phases align with cash flow from mitigation credits and funds needed for management
 - Initial Phase 1 will begin in 2014 and includes 3,400 acres
 - Construction on Phase 2 will begin in 2018 and includes 10,700 acres





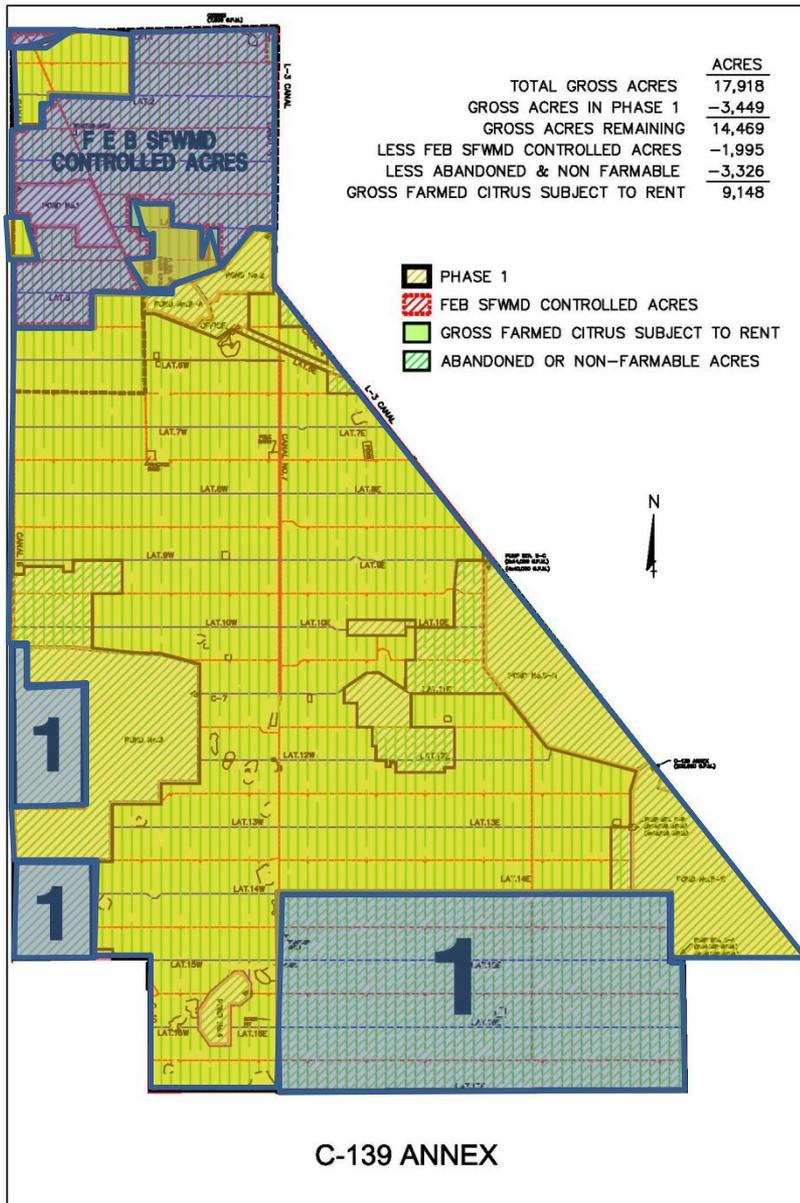
Next Steps

- Revise termination notice and amend existing lease with US Sugar
- Staff recommends:
 - Termination schedule phased to match restoration schedule
 - Add rental payment on gross farmed citrus area
 - ~9,148 acres subject to rent
- March, 2013 – Bring amended lease to Governing Board for Approval



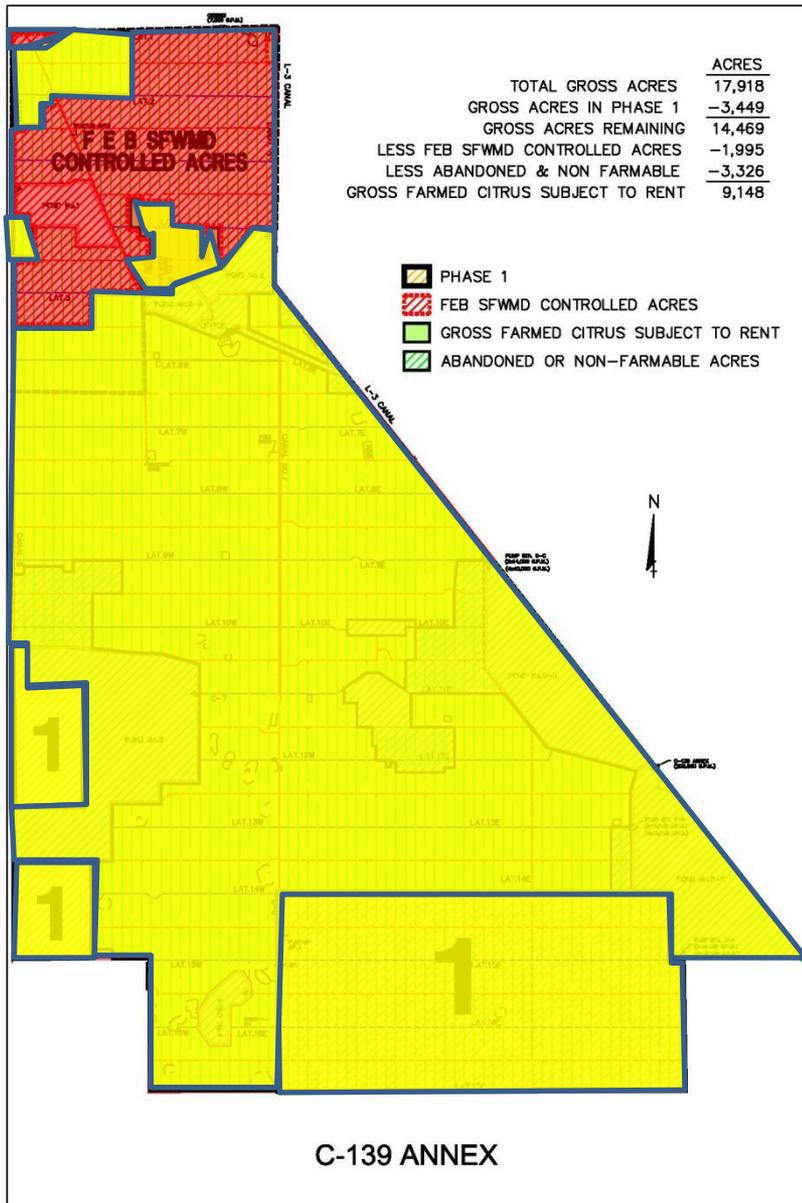
Next Steps

- Recommended Phased Termination Dates
 - 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



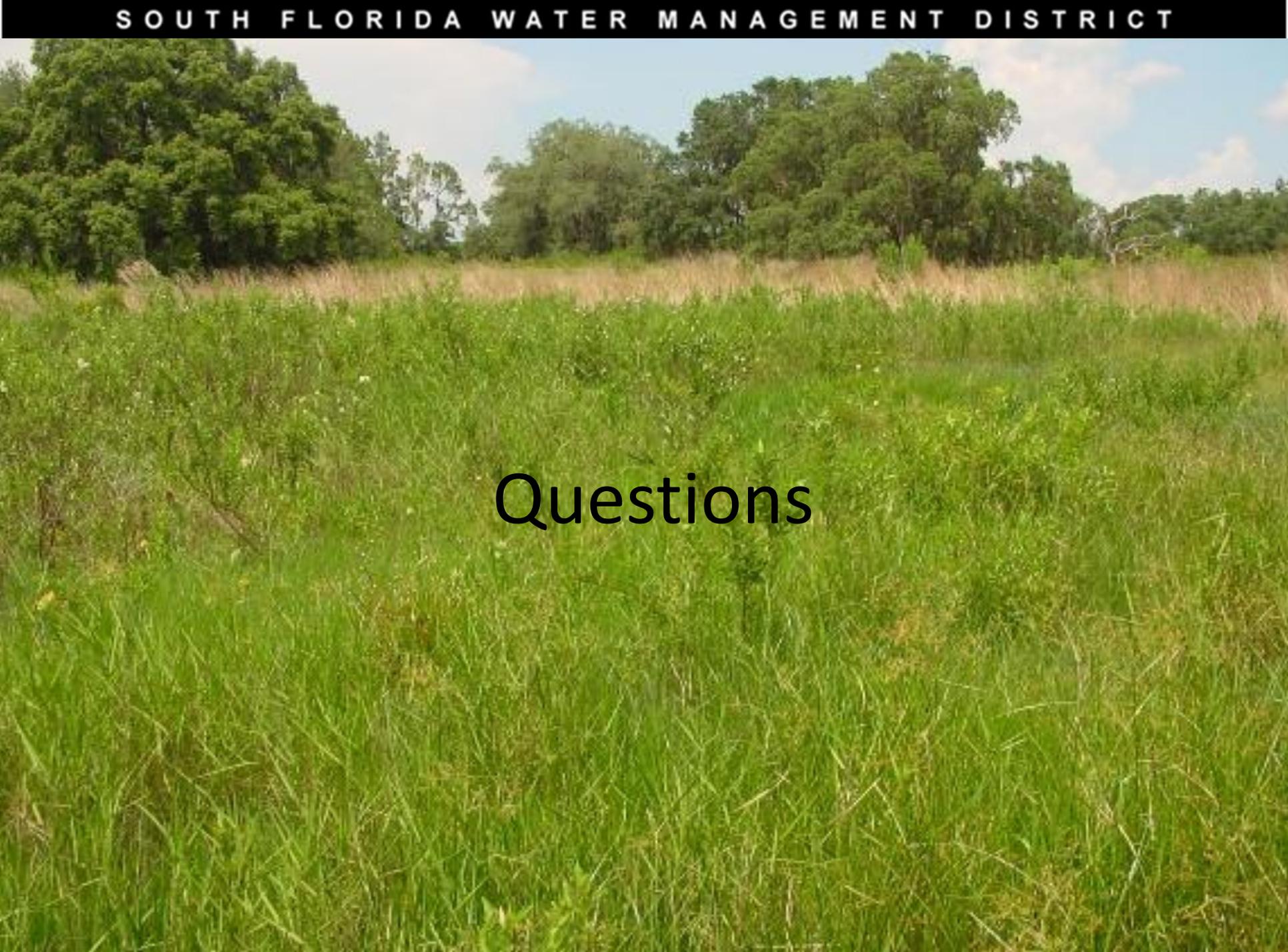
Next Steps

- Recommended Phased 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



Next Steps

- Identify Interim Land Use on ~1,995 acres in FEB tract
 - Competitively Bid
 - Compatible with FEB construction
 - Terminate in advance of FEB construction



Questions