



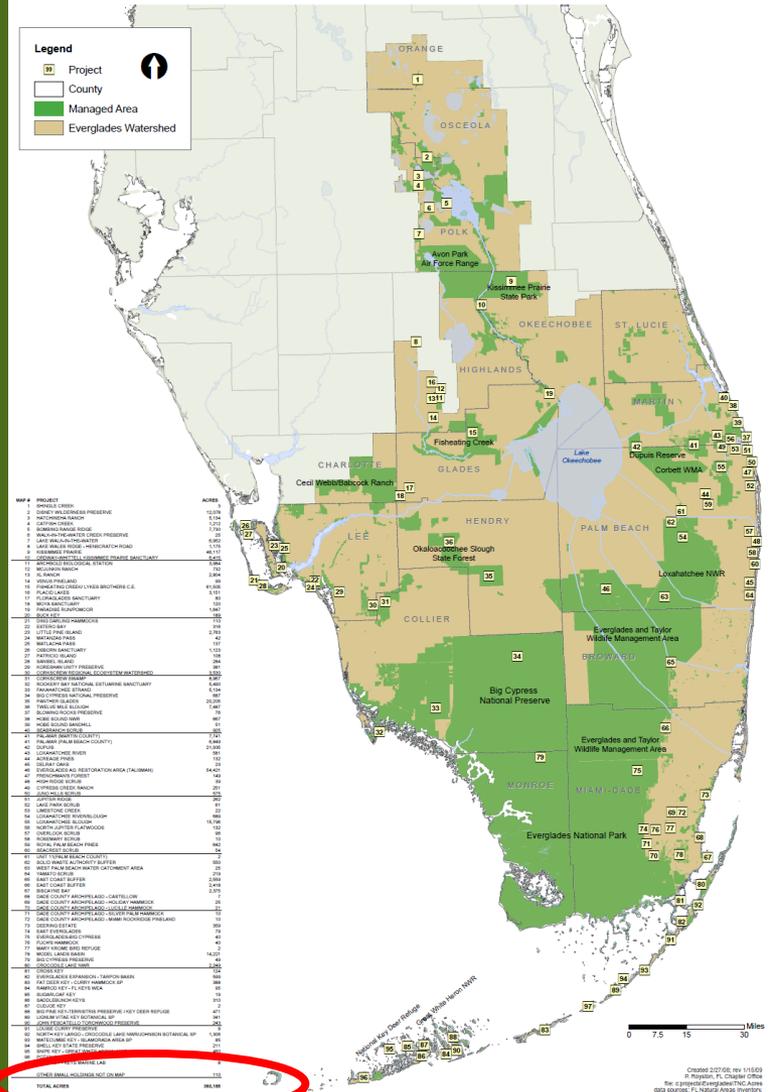
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Conservancy Land Protection in South Florida

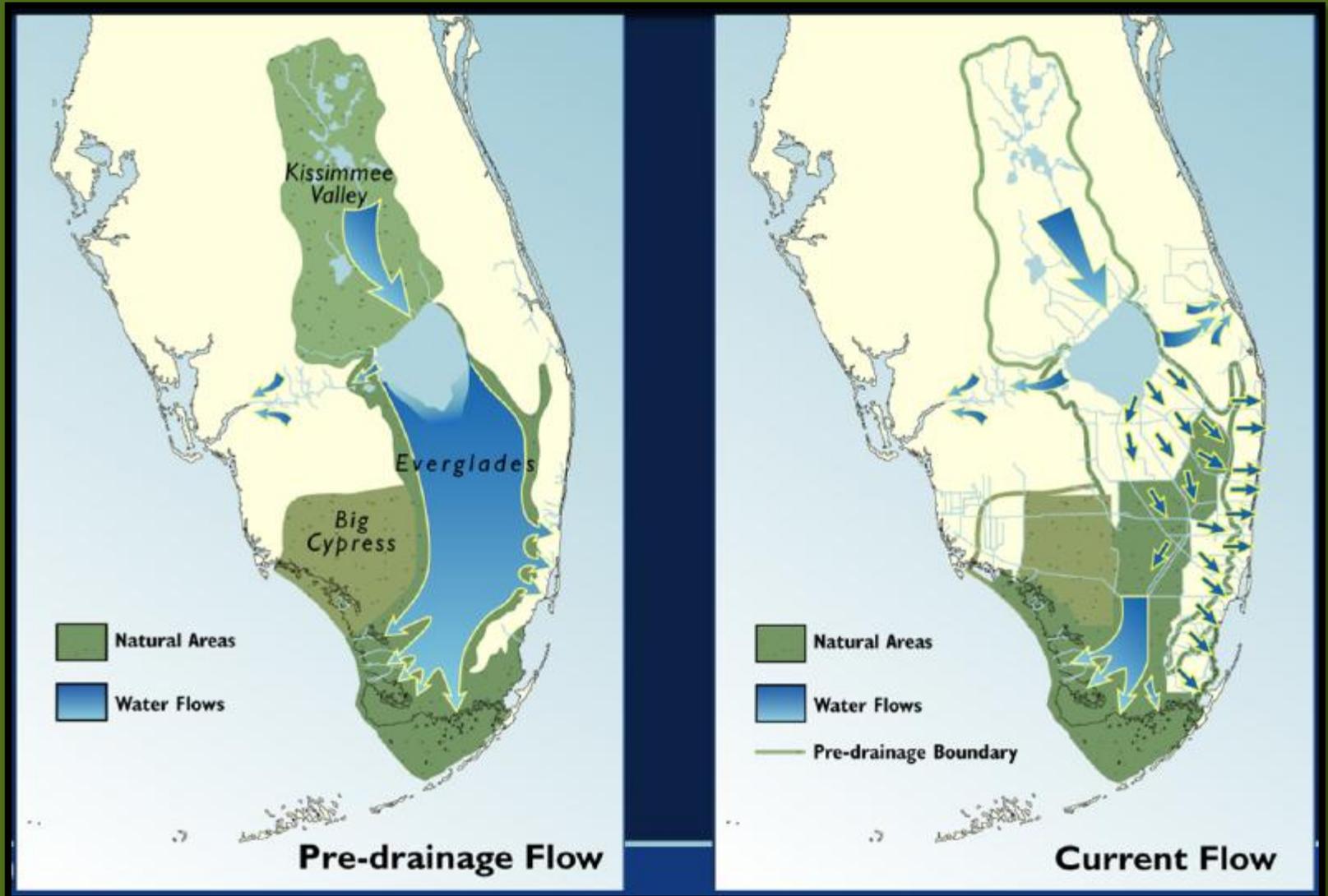
360,000 acres protected in Everglades watershed



A Legacy of Land Protection in the Greater Everglades Ecosystem



Everglades Hydrology: Past & Present



Florida's Lands & Outstanding Waters

Protection

*Perpetual Conservation
Easements*

Restoration

Design & Construction

Management

*Annual Management
Payments*



Upper Kissimmee River Basin



Disney Wilderness Preserve

Avatar

Poinciana Properties

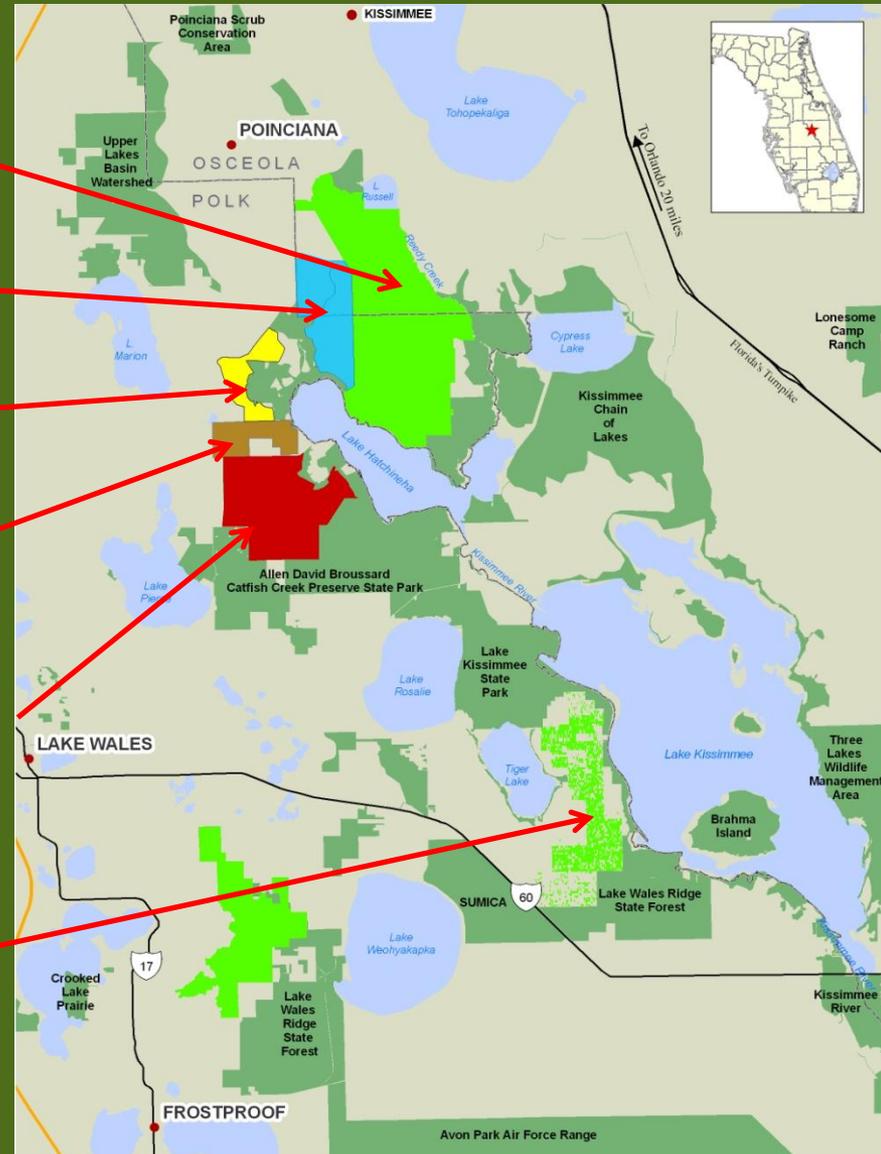
Creek Ranch



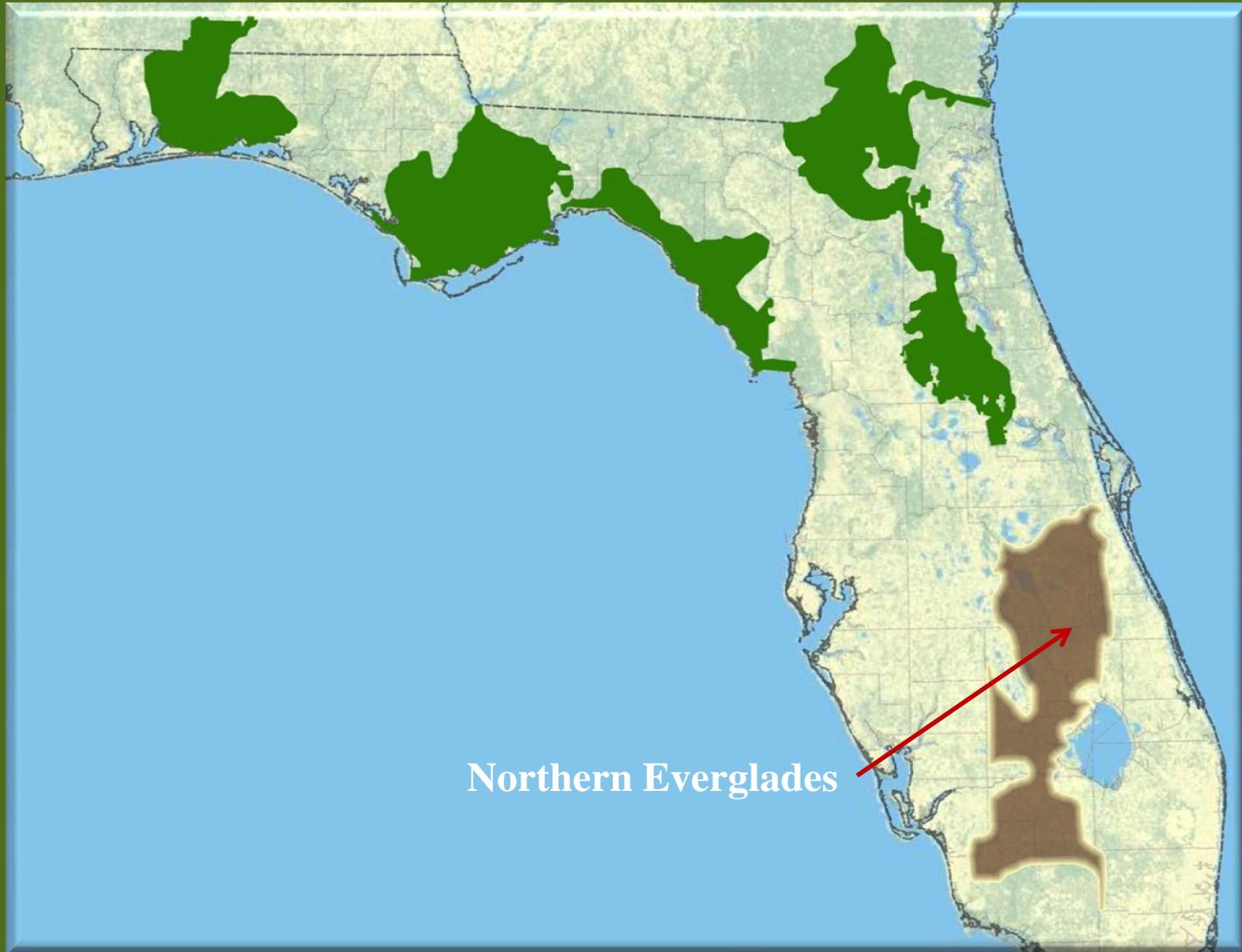
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Hatchineha Ranch

Bombing Range Ridge



Florida's Priority Landscapes



Northern Everglades

Northern Everglades Program Objectives

Hydrological restoration



Protection and linkage of
high quality habitats



Ensure
sustainability of
Florida's cattle
industry



Immediate Opportunities

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Establishment of new national wildlife refuge(s)

Natural Resources Conservation Service

Fisheating Creek

Department of Defense

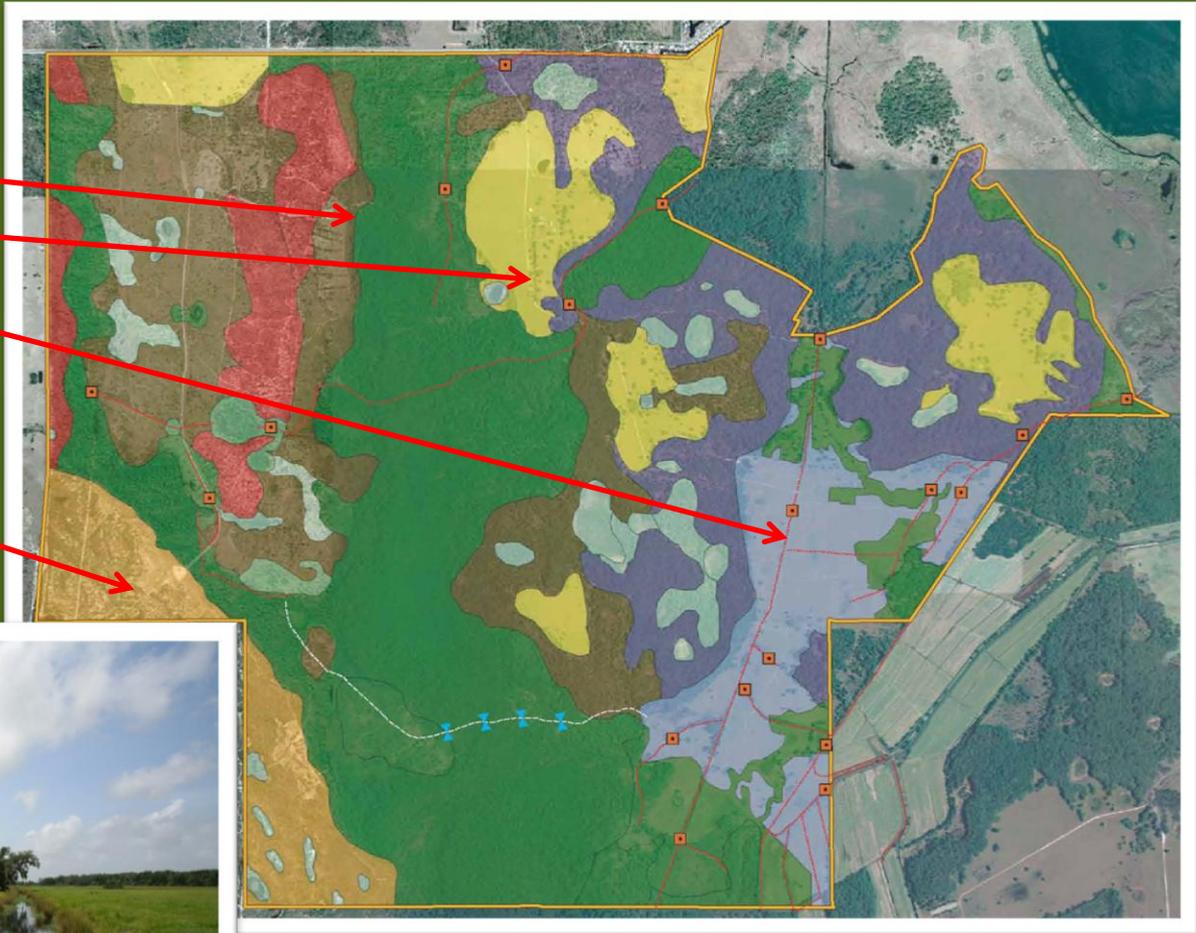
Readiness and Environmental Protection Initiative

Hatchineha Ranch

Mitigation Bank

- Prescribed fire
- Pasture restoration
- Ditch plugs/filling

Conservation Bank

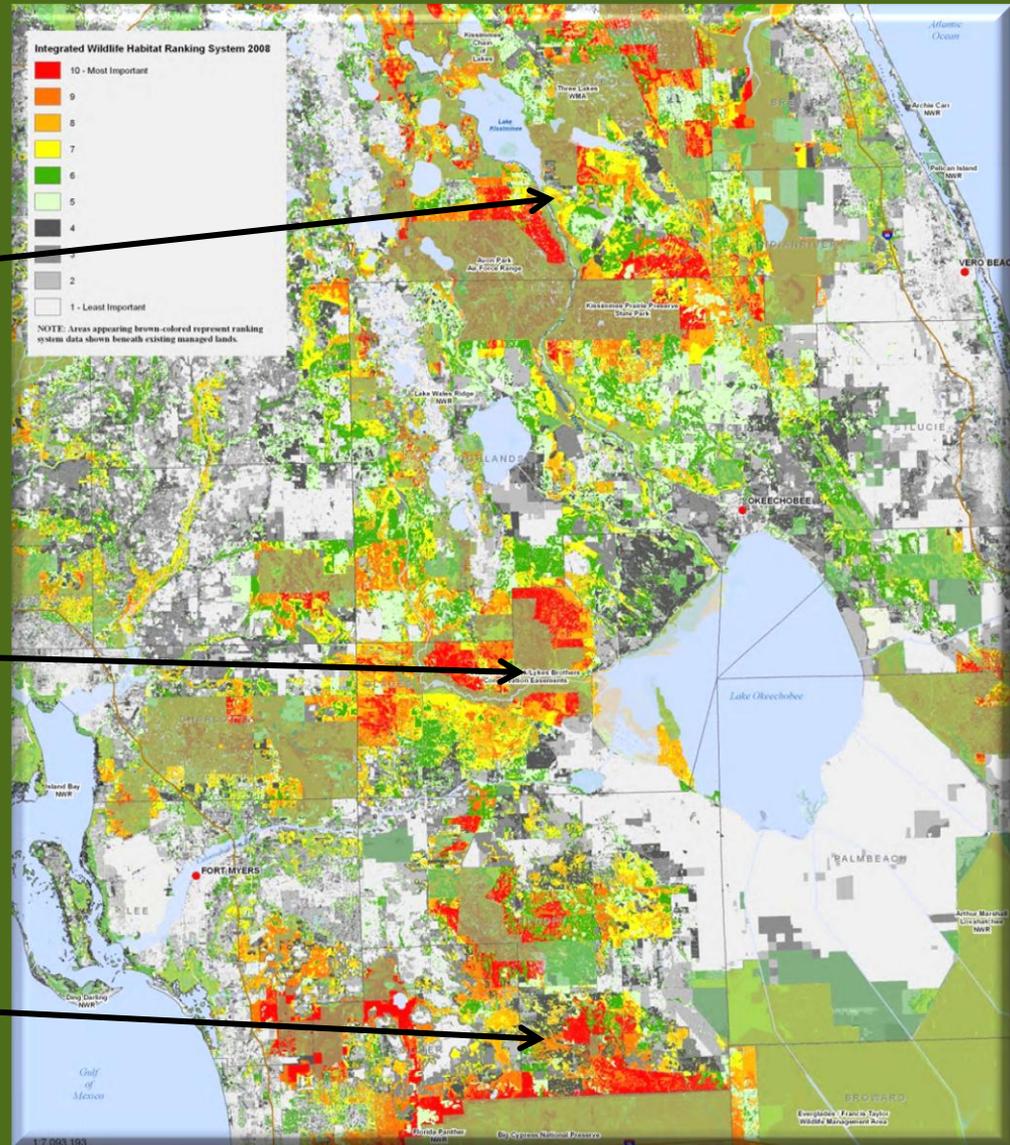


Integrated Wildlife Habitat Ranking System

Everglades
Headwaters
NWR

Fisheating
Creek Basin

Primary &
Secondary
Panther
Zones



Wetland Reserve Program

<u>Year</u>	<u>Florida Allocation</u>
2002	\$32,070,000
2003	\$15,369,200
2004	\$15,000,001
2005	\$12,420,000
2006	\$22,905,565
2007	\$49,750,143
2008	\$35,451,525
2009	\$76,303,257



Wetland Reserve Program

100% funding for **perpetual** conservation easements

Protection of adjacent high quality habitats

Funds hydrological restoration resulting in **dispersed storage**

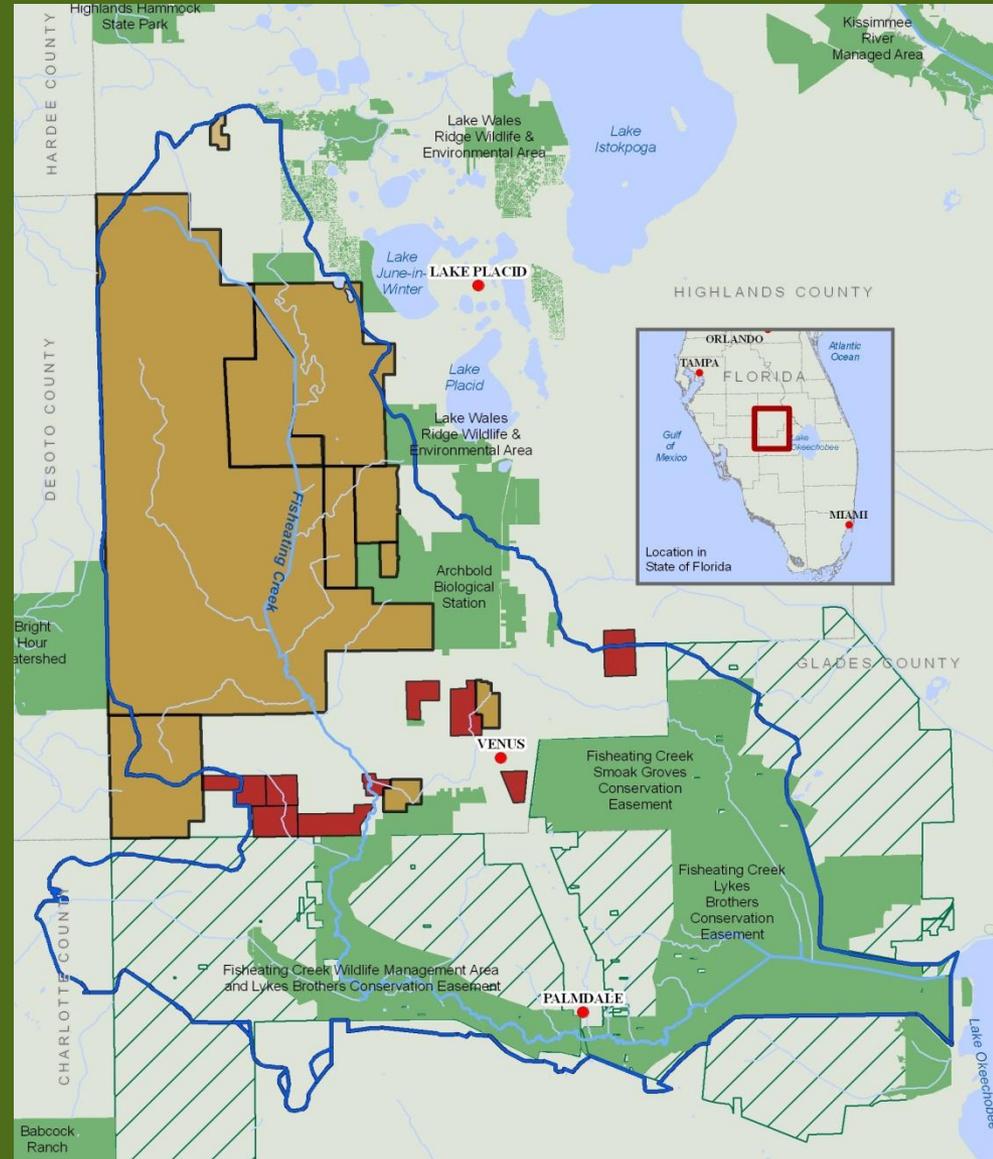
Restores **historical timing** of water delivery to Lake Okeechobee

Continued economic activity (cattle grazing)



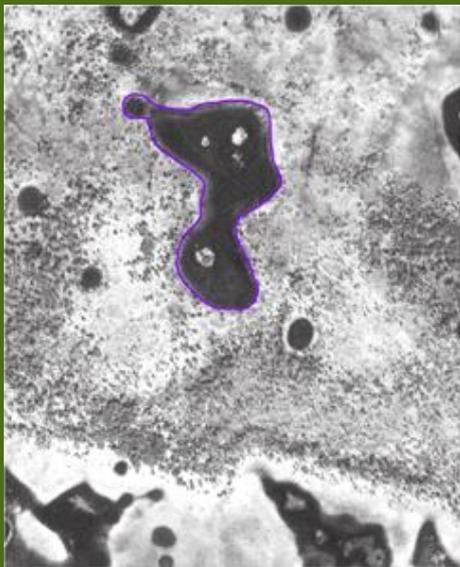
Fisheating Creek Basin

- Many ranchers interested in conservation easements
- More than 100,000 acres
- 16 miles of Fisheating Creek
- Lower creek already protected (Lykes Bros)
- High density of restorable wetlands
- Dry prairie, pine flatwoods, floodplain swamps, prairie hammocks, depression marsh and cutthroat seeps
- Crested caracara, grasshopper sparrow, swallow-tailed kite



Upper Fisheating Creek Basin

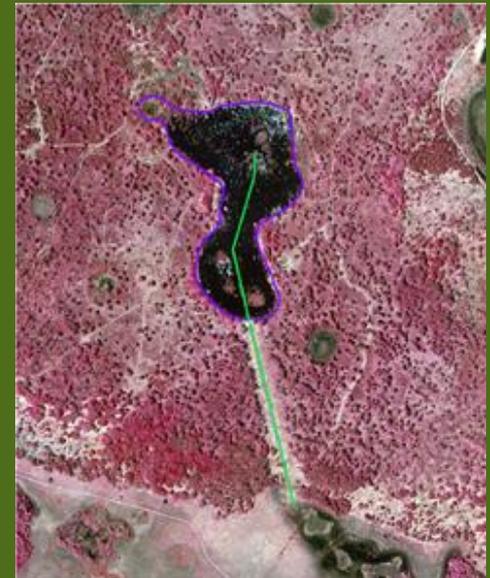
- Significant restoration opportunities available for marsh, tributaries, ditched wetlands
- 18,000 acre-feet of storage at Fisheating Marsh
- Landscape connectivity:
 - Fisheating Creek headwaters to Lake Okeechobee
 - Rum Creek (Bright Hour) Ranch to Archbold Biological Station



1941



1993



1995

Results / Actions

Hatchineha Ranch → Everglades Headwaters NWR →
Regional analysis of potential refuges

NRCS Success w/WRP + Landowner Outreach + Global
Economy = Fisheating Creek opportunity → Landscape-scale
consideration by NRCS



“Promote and support innovative community-level efforts to conserve outdoor spaces and to reconnect Americans to the outdoors”

1. Everglades Headwaters NWR
2. NRCS Farm Bill Programs – Fisheating Creek
3. “Working landscape”
4. Greater Everglades Ecosystem restoration
5. Historical and potential participation by South Florida Water Management District and Florida

The Nature Conservancy



Protecting nature. Preserving life.™