



# **BURNING THE LAKE OKEECHOBEE MARSH**

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# Burning Lake Okeechobee Marsh



Take advantage of low lake levels. Window of opportunity

District has burned several times in the last 10 years.

Want to be proactive with a planned burn program instead of reactive.



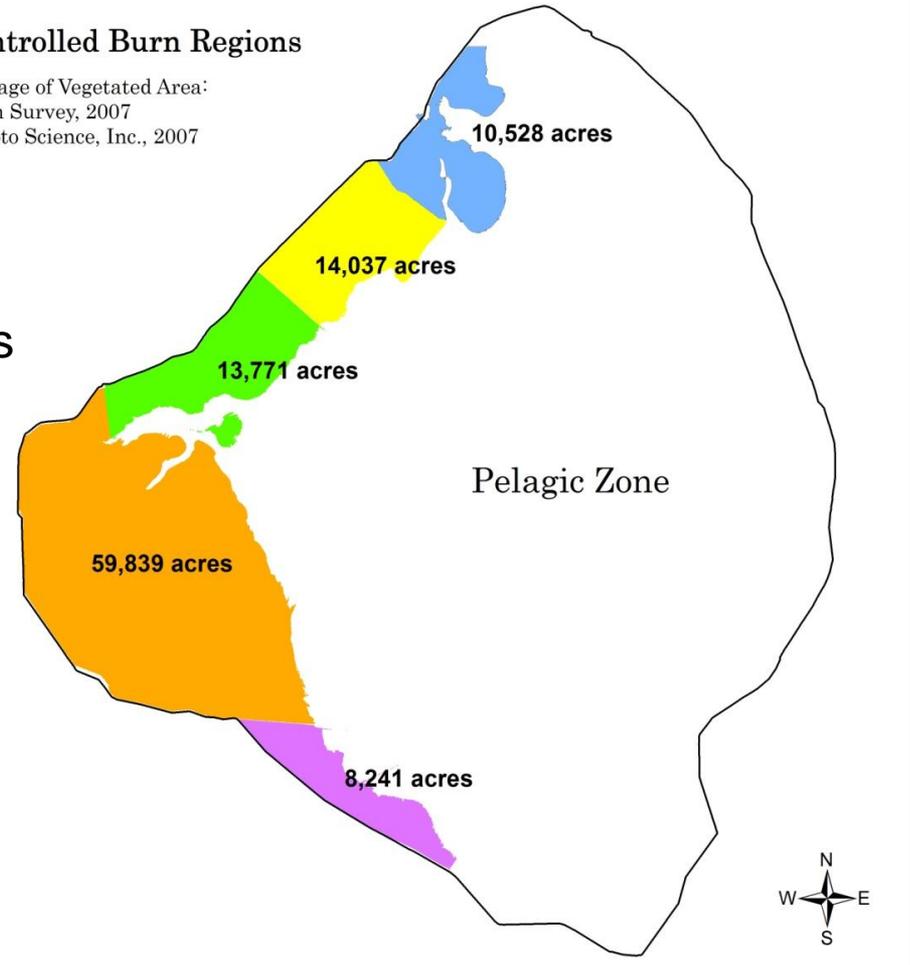
# Define the Burn Units



## Lake Okeechobee: Controlled Burn Regions

Data Sources for the Acreage of Vegetated Area:  
USGS Elevation Survey, 2007  
Vegetation Map by Photo Science, Inc., 2007

Canals used  
as boundaries

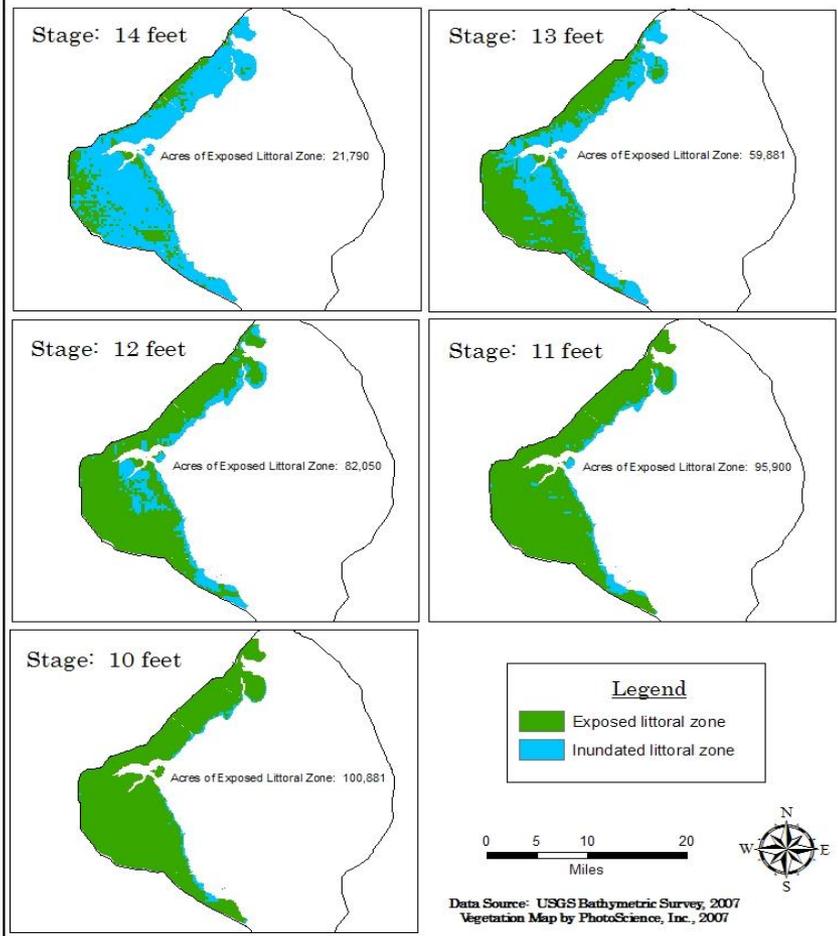


- Completed in a day
- Boundaries must be defensible
- Amount of smoke generated must be reasonable



# Define the Burn Units

Lake Okeechobee Exposed Vegetation by Water Stage:  
Stage Contours in Feet (NGVD 29)



Fluctuating water levels change size of burn unit



# Delineate Acceptable Burn Conditions

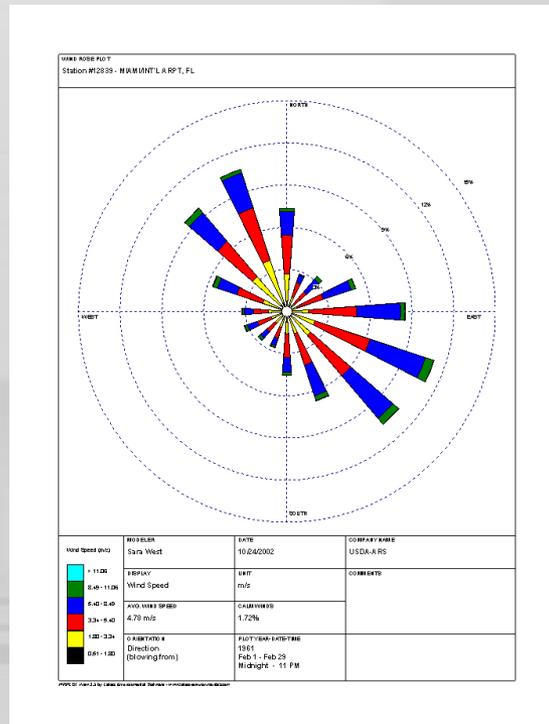
Wind is most important

- Only southwest, west, or northwest winds

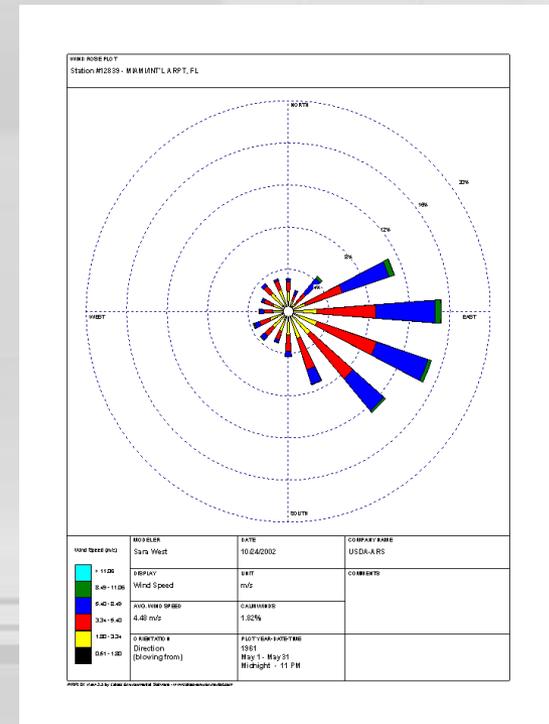
- The probability decreases from January to May

- Needed for two days

## January



## May



# Delineate Acceptable Burn Conditions



Correct wind direction will keep smoke off of local communities.

Smoke is not just inconvenient. Health and safety concern



# Organize Burn Crew and Equipment



Aerial ignition from helicopter carrying  
Aerial Ignition Device machine





# Organize Burn Crew and Equipment

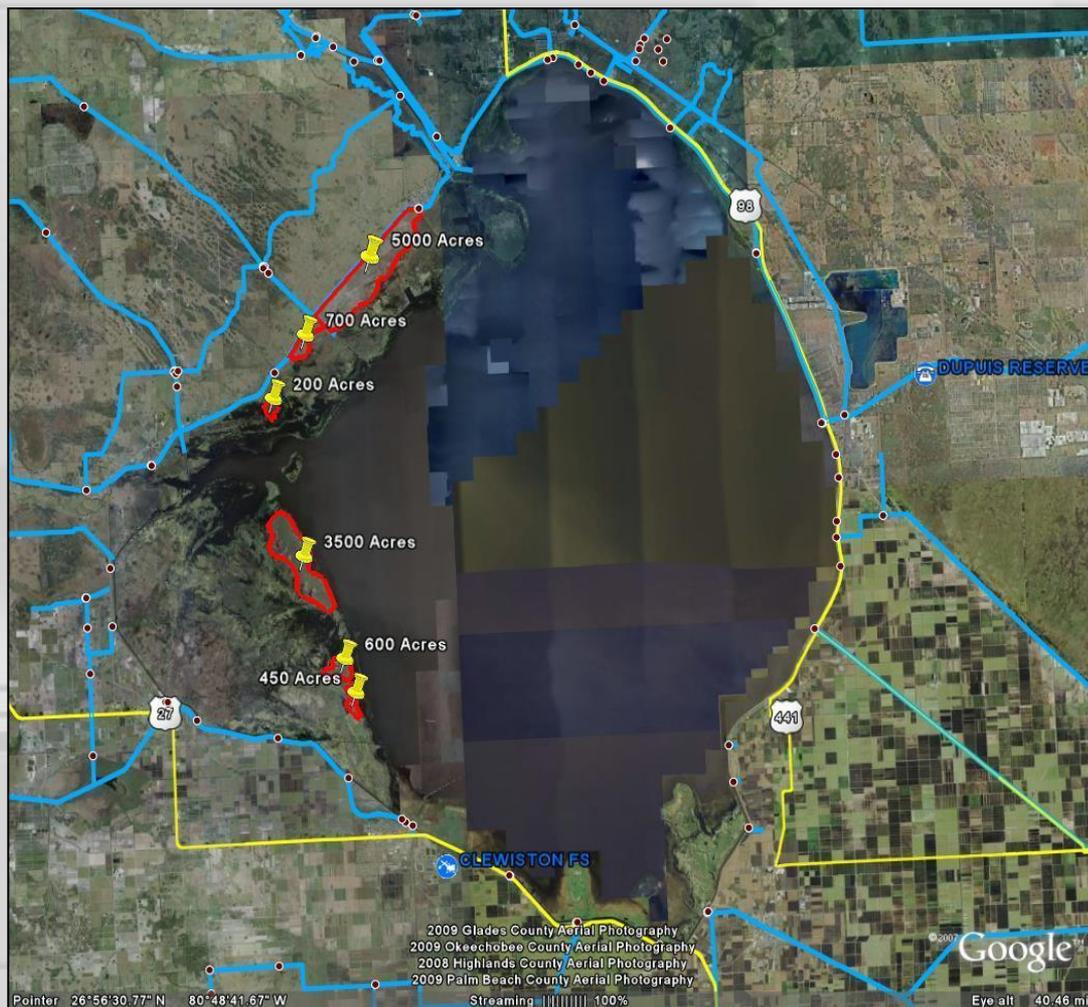
Aerial ignition creates grid of spot fires that burn together



# Where We Go From Here



Possible burn areas from  
January 26, 2011 survey  
flight





# Where We Go From Here

- Write the burn prescription
- Watch weather for acceptable forecast
- Alert participants of burn possibility. Include press release
- Day of burn:
  - Obtain permit
  - Notify locals
  - Onsite briefing
- Conduct burn





# Regular Burning Promotes a Healthy Marsh

