LAKE OKEECHOBEE WATERSHED RESTORATION PROJECT

DRAFT INTEGRATED PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION REPORT & ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY ACT (NEPA) PUBLIC MEETING

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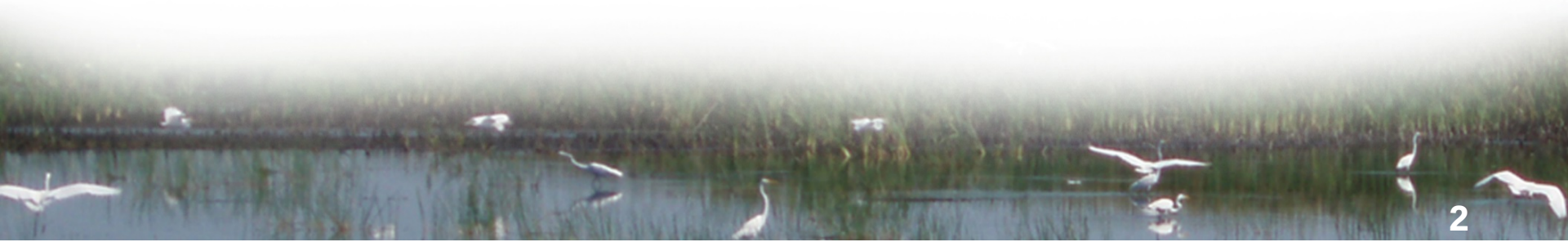
SOUTH FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

MEETING AGENDA

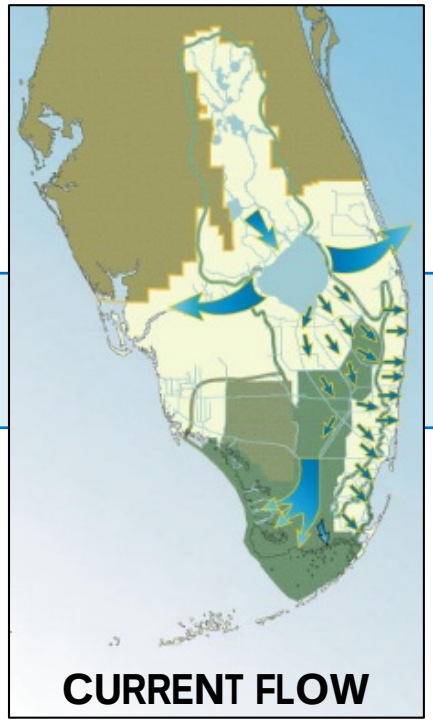
LAKE OKEECHOBEE WATERSHED RESTORATION PROJECT

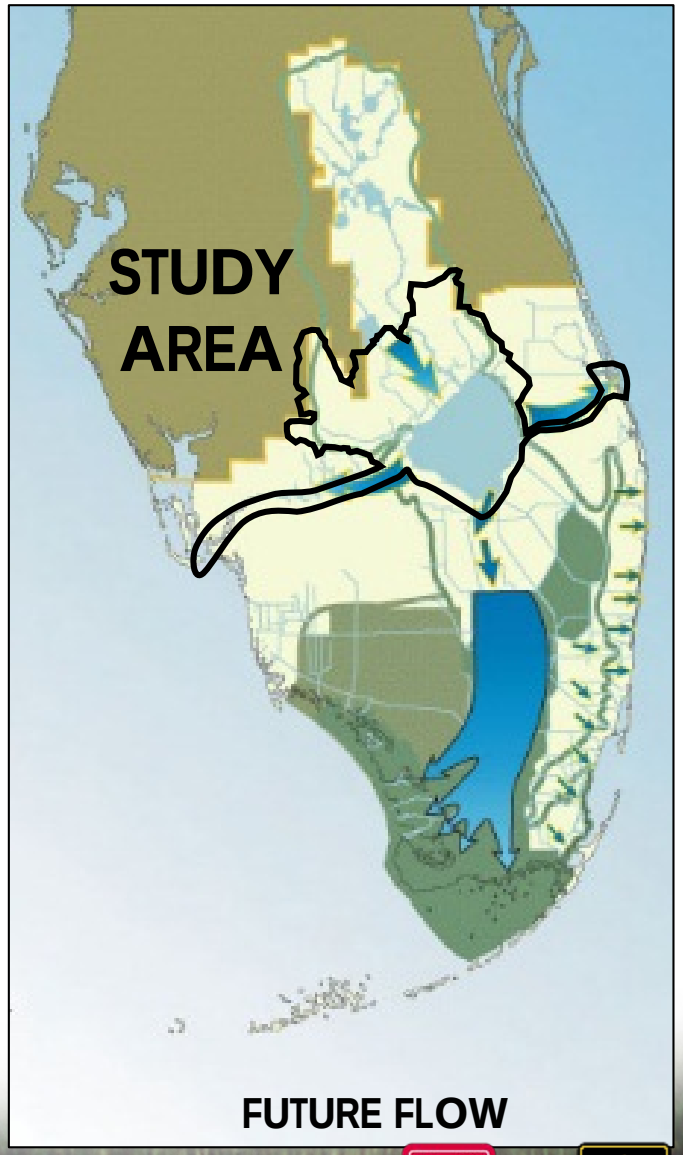
DRAFT PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION REPORT & ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

6:00 p.m.	Open House
6:30 p.m.	Welcome and Introductions
6:35 p.m.	Presentation/Public Comments
8:00 p.m.	Adjourn



SYSTEM-WIDE PERSPECTIVE





ST. LUCIE
ESTUARY

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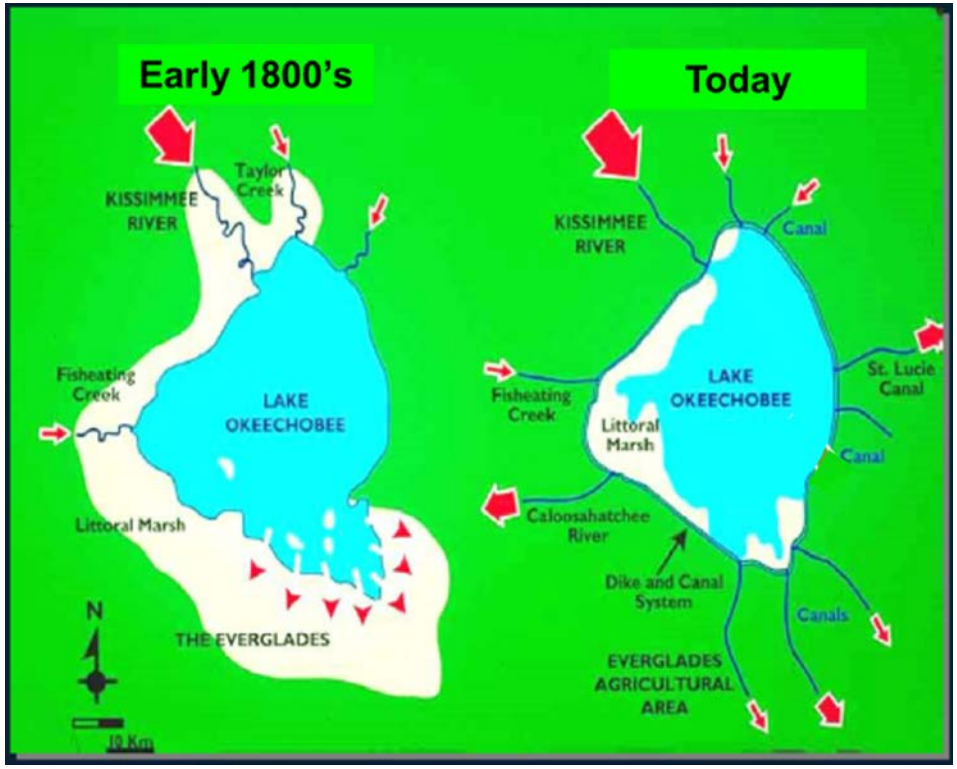
OVERVIEW OF PROBLEMS

PREVIOUS FLOOD RISK MANAGEMENT PROJECTS HAVE CHANGED FLORIDA'S NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

OVERVIEW OF PROBLEMS

Drainage projects and an overall loss of wetlands/natural storage areas has harmed Lake Okeechobee and estuary ecosystems



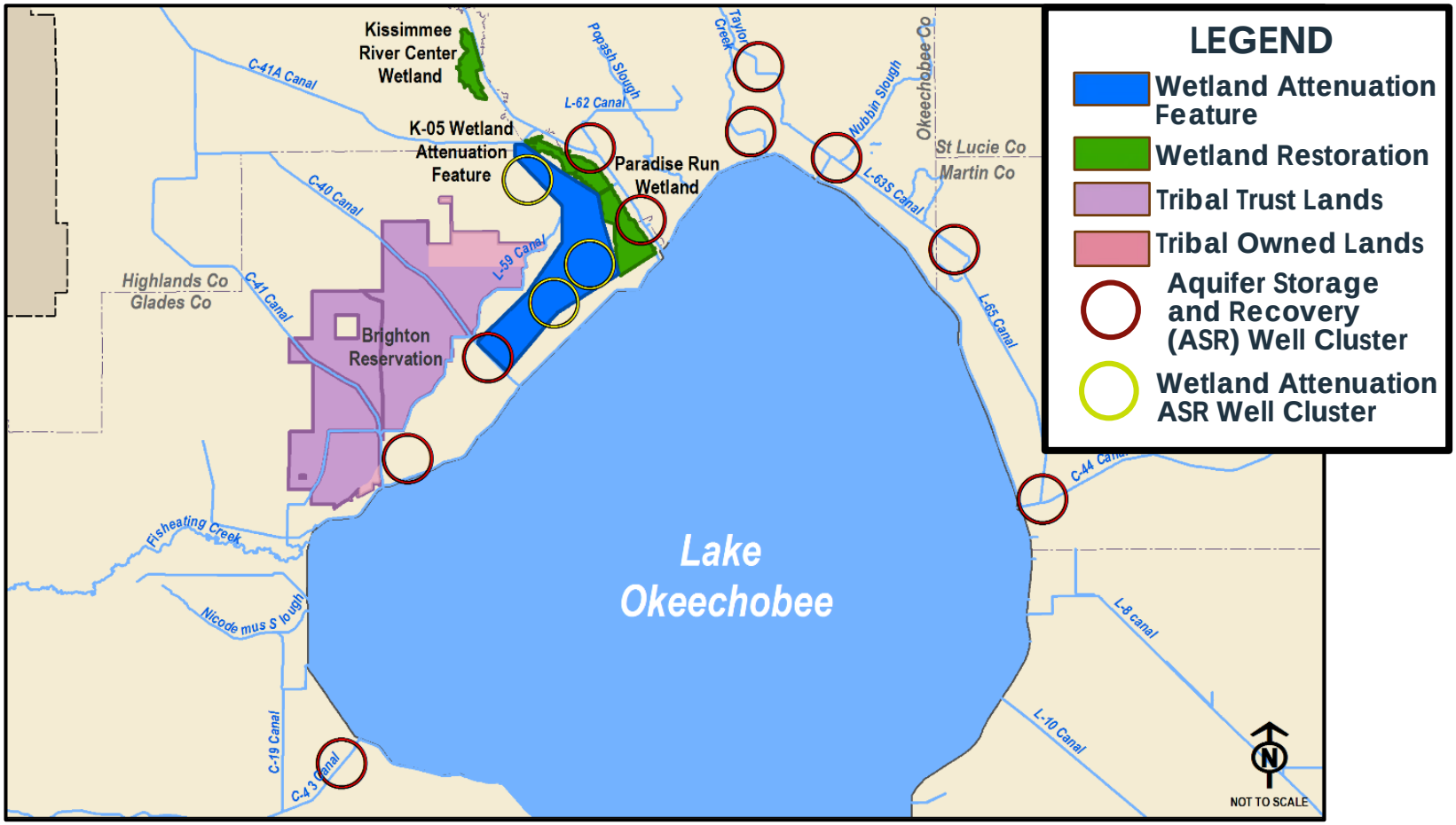
REDUCED LAKE OKEECHOBEE FLOODPLAIN

DECLINING HABITAT IN ESTUARIES

PROJECT OBJECTIVES

- More flexibility in Lake Okeechobee water management
- Improve the quantity and timing of lake discharges to the St. Lucie and Caloosahatchee estuaries
- Restore wetlands
- Improve water supply for existing legal users of Lake Okeechobee

TENTATIVELY SELECTED PLAN



PRELIMINARY CONSTRUCTION COST ESTIMATE $1.4 BILLION

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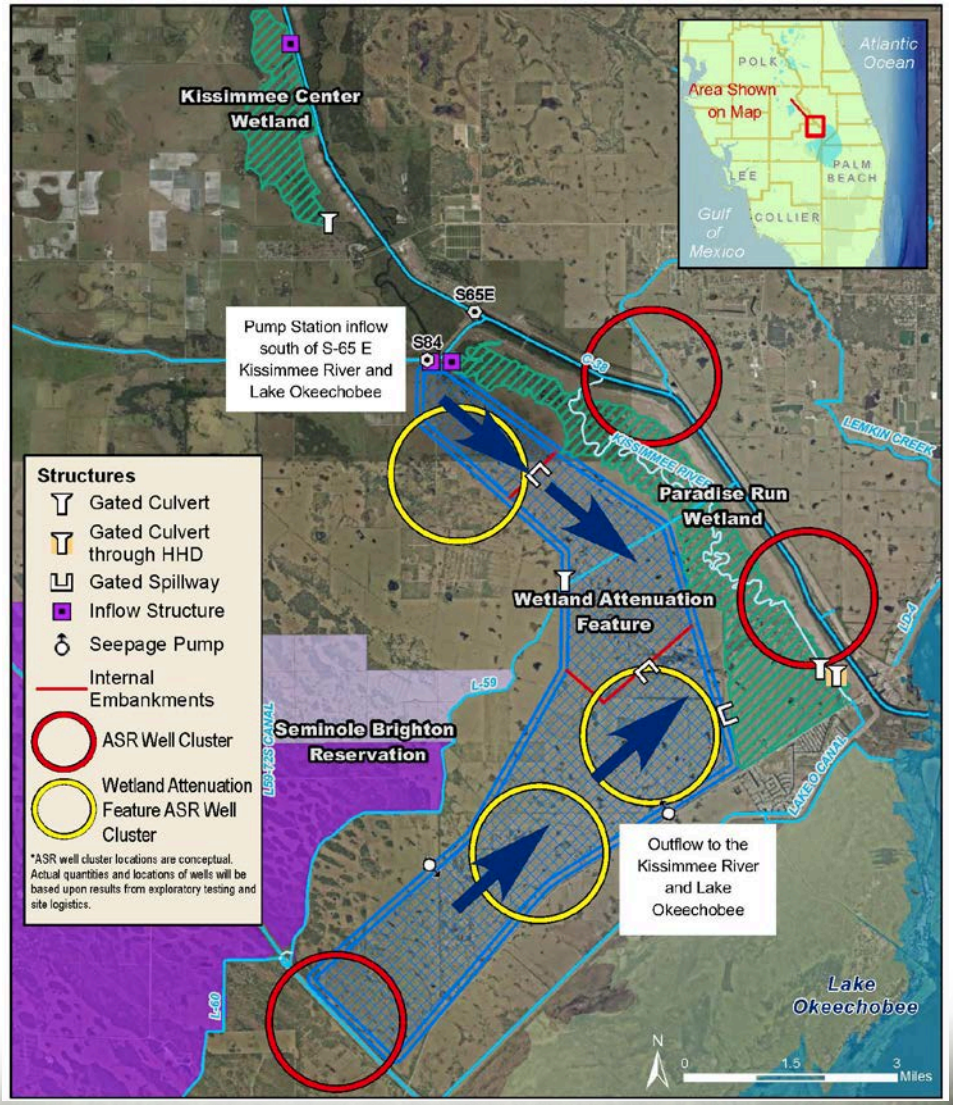
TENTATIVELY SELECTED PLAN

WETLAND ATTENUATION FEATURE

1. Surface water storage to better manage flows into Lake Okeechobee and to provide wetland habitat
2. 43,000 ac-ft. storage capacity



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TENTATIVELY SELECTED PLAN

AQUIFER STORAGE AND RECOVERY (ASR) WELLS

1. Below ground water storage to better manage flows into Lake Okeechobee
2. 80 wells proposed

KISSIMMEE RIVER ASR WELL

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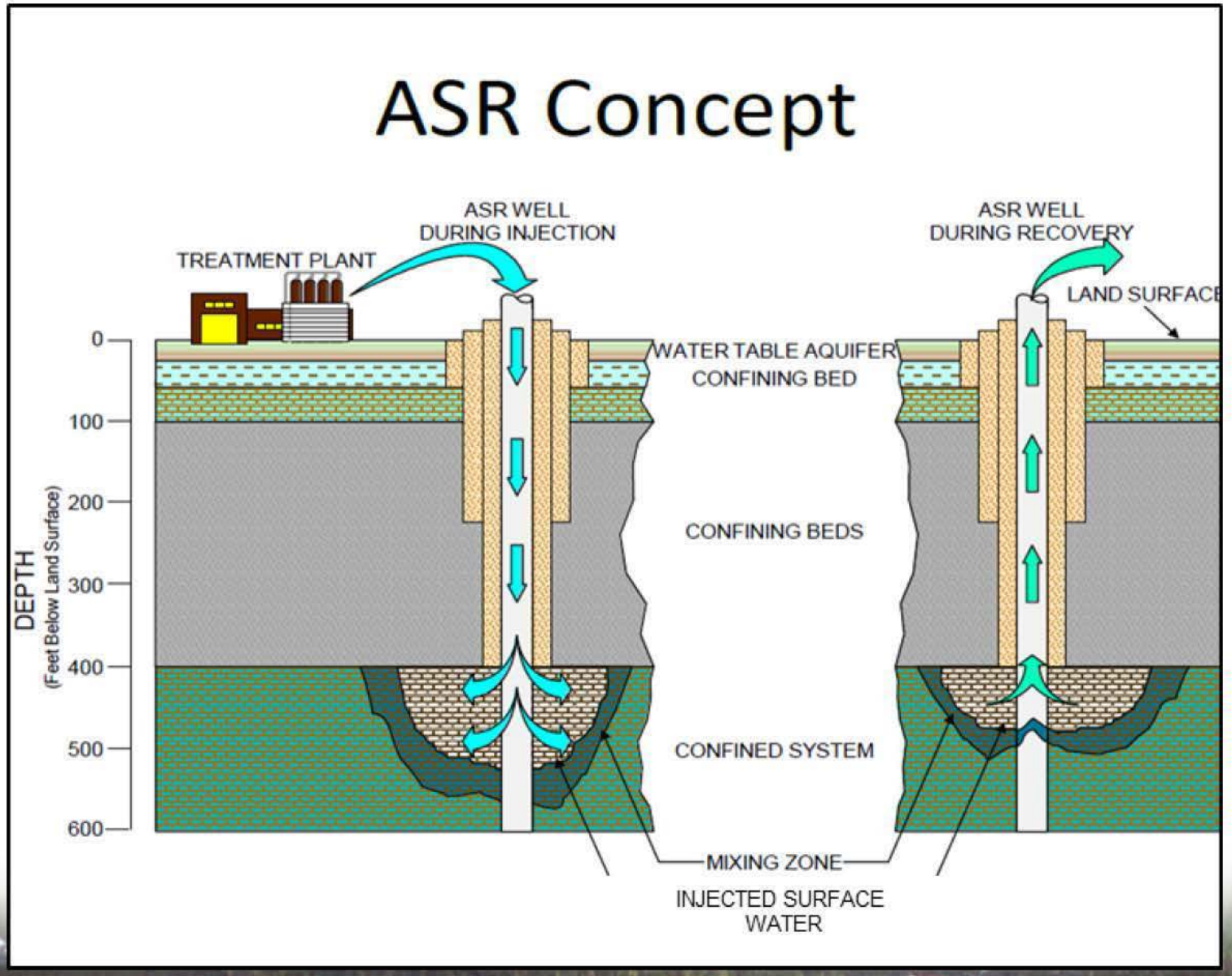
TENTATIVELY SELECTED PLAN

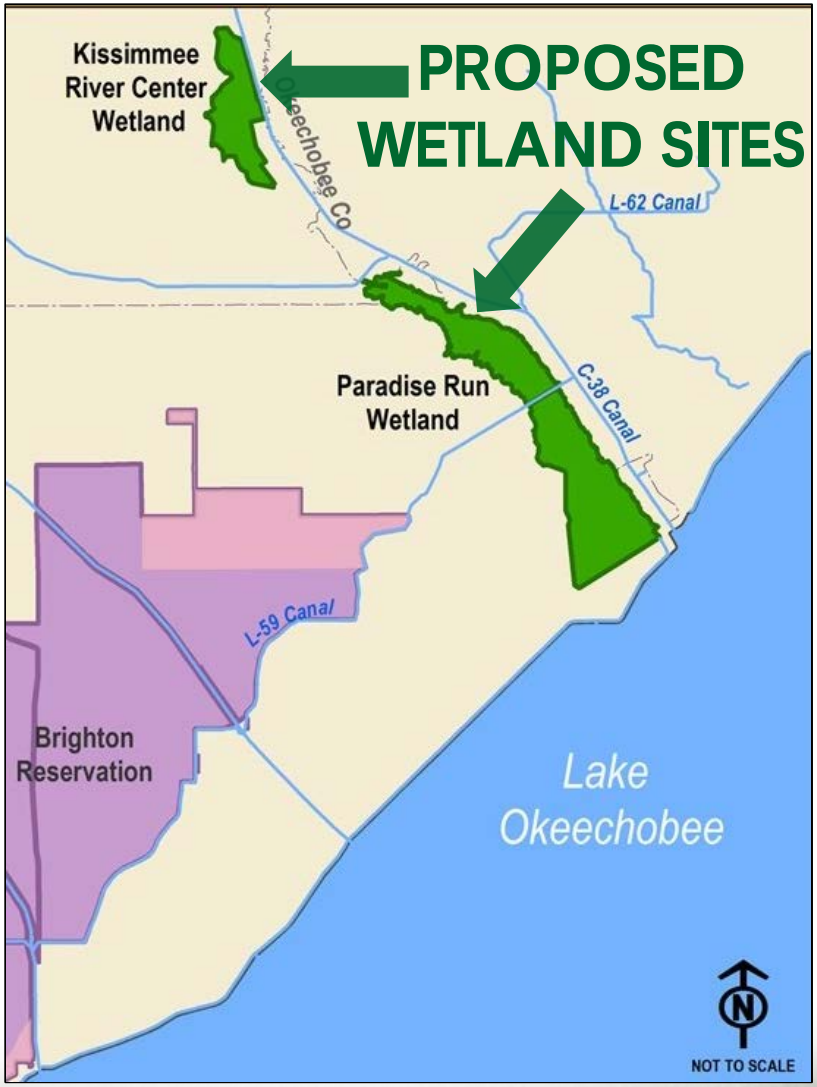


TENTATIVELY SELECTED PLAN

WETLAND RESTORATION

Restore the hydrology of isolated and riverine wetlands.

WETLAND RESTORATION SITES MAY LOOK SIMILAR TO THIS



PROJECT BENEFITS

Improved Lake Okeechobee Ecology and Water Supply

- Increased time Lake Okeechobee water levels are healthy for the lake
- Improved habitat for fisheries and wading bird foraging
- Reduced frequency of cutbacks to water supply for existing legal users

PROJECT BENEFITS

Improved Estuary Health

Reduced number and duration of undesirable lake discharges:

- **Reduces flow volumes**
- **Improves salinity**
- **Allows estuaries time to recover and become more resilient between discharge events**
- **Improves habitat (seagrass and oyster) for numerous species of fish (e.g., snook, redfish, spotted seatrout) and shellfish (e.g., blue crabs and shrimp)**

PROJECT BENEFITS

Increased Amount and Quality of Wetlands

- Restores ~5,300 acres of wetlands along the historic Kissimmee River channel
- Provides ~10,000 acres of marsh habitat within Wetland Attenuation Feature footprint
- Benefits species including state-listed species like little blue heron, roseate spoonbill, and tricolored heron; and the federally listed wood stork and snail kite.

NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY ACT (NEPA)

Federal law requiring Federal agencies to consider the environmental impacts of a proposed project that are:

- **Major Federal actions that may have a significant effect on the quality of the human environment**
- **Requires Federal agencies to consider environmental consequences before making final decisions**
- **Solicit and consider Tribal, State, local government and public views on proposals**

COMPONENTS ANALYZED IN THE LOWRP ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT (EIS)

- Climate
- Geology & Soils
- Hydrology
- Water Quality
- Flood Control
- Wetlands
- Vegetation
- Fish & Wildlife
- Protected Species
- Air Quality
- Noise
- Aesthetics
- Recreation
- Land Use
- Socioeconomics
- Environmental Justice
- Agriculture
- Hazardous, Toxic & Radioactive Waste
- Cultural Resources
- Cumulative Effects
- Unavoidable Adverse Impacts
- Irreversible & Irretrievable Commitments of Resources

NEPA PROCESS

- **45 day public review of draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) - Due August 20, 2018**
- **Public meetings to present the Draft EIS**
- **All comments addressed and incorporated into Final EIS**

COMMENT OPPORTUNITIES

- **Public Comment Cards**
- **Email:** OkeechobeeWatershedRestoration@usace.army.mil

  Dr. Gretchen Ehlinger
  U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
  P.O. Box 4970
  Jacksonville, FL 32232-0019
- **Public Comment Period Ends August 20, 2018**
- **Additional Information Available at:** http://www.saj.usace.army.mil/LOWRP/