

# East Lake Tohopekaliga Drawdown and Enhancement Project



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- *Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission*



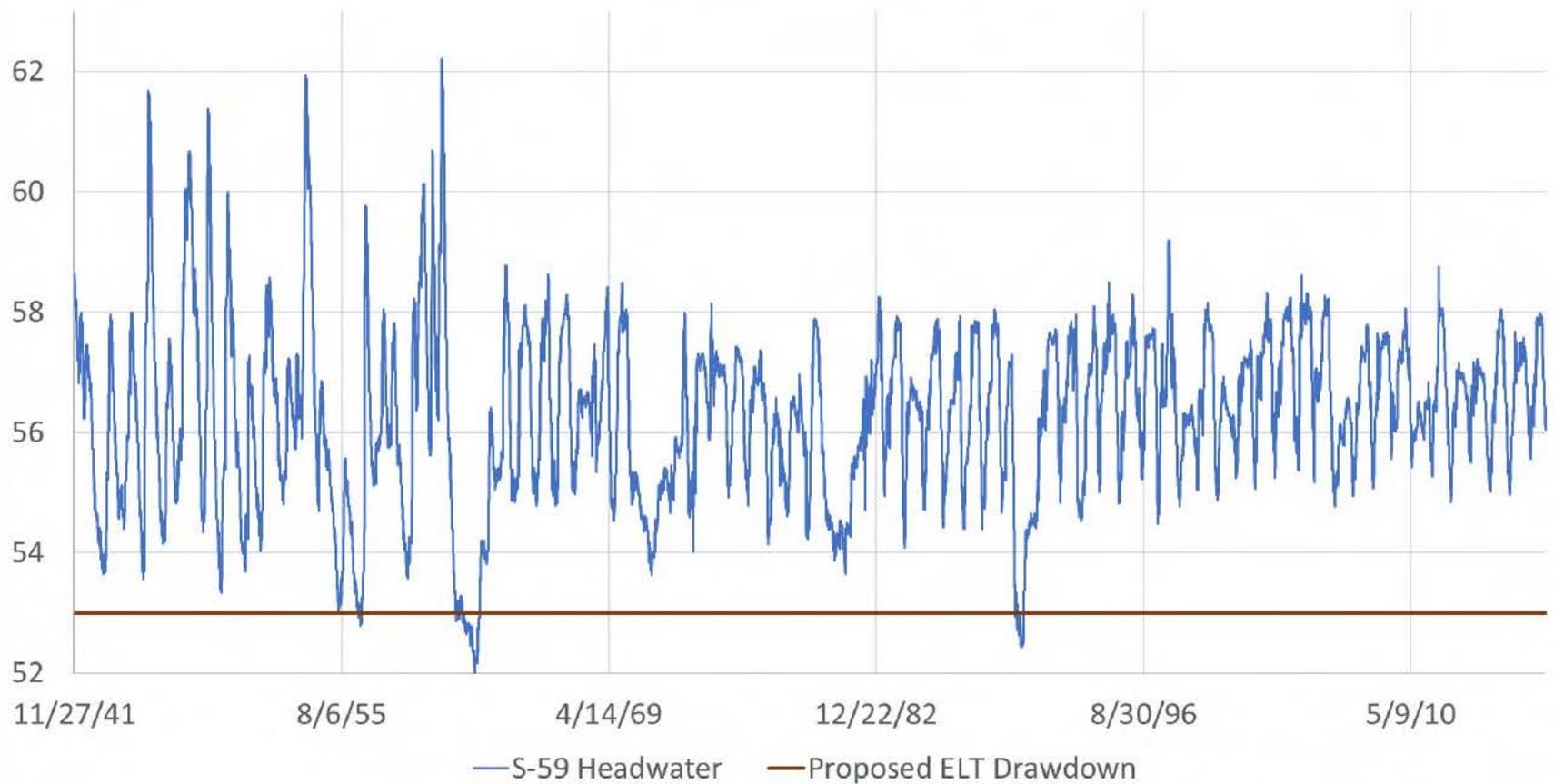
# Why we do drawdowns on the KCOL

- Water control structures & regulation schedules were created in the 1960's for flood control.
- Historically lakes on the Kissimmee Chain and other south Florida lakes would fluctuate up to 10 feet, but now only fluctuate 1.5 - 3 ft.
- Stabilized water levels have negative impacts on fish & wildlife habitat.
- To help mitigate these negative impacts, FWC has performed managed drawdowns.



# East Lake Tohopekaliga Historical Water Levels

East Lake Tohopekaliga Stage



# Lake Tohopekaliga 18,810 acres

Managed drawdowns:

1971

1979

1987

2004



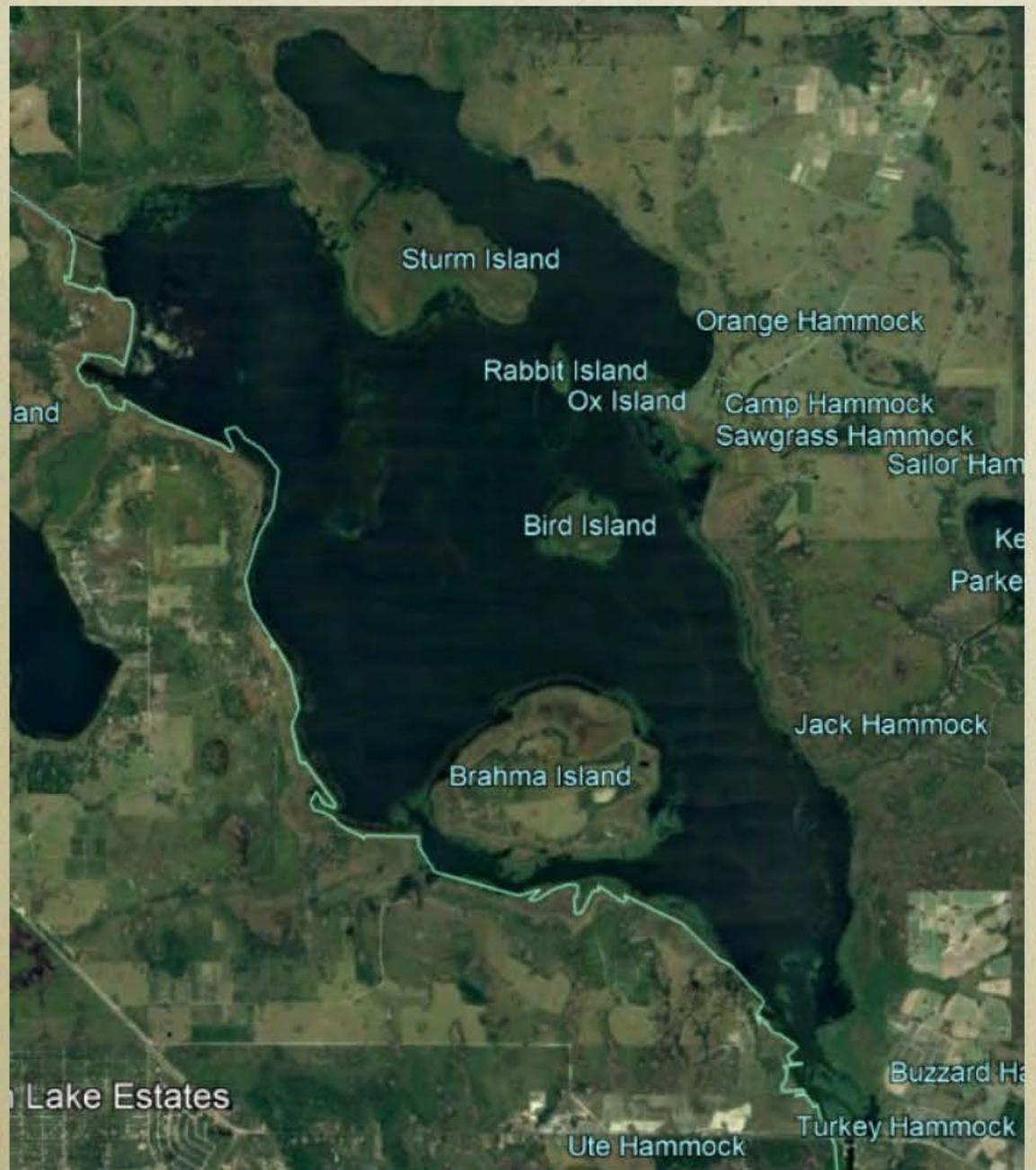
# Lake Kissimmee

34,948 acres

Managed drawdowns:

1977

1996



East Lake  
Tohopekaliga  
11,968 acres

Managed drawdowns:  
1990



May 2001





**May 2001**



July 2001

**August 2001**



The goal of this project is to manage the lake's aquatic habitat for the long-term benefit of fish and wildlife and the people who use those resources.



## Expected benefits of the project:

1. Removal of invasive aquatic plants and associated organic sediment to be replaced by native plants and sand substrate;
2. Enhancement of lake bottom as foraging, spawning, and protective habitat for invertebrate, fish, waterfowl, and wading bird populations;
3. Natural reestablishment of desirable native aquatic plant communities and increased diversity of plant species;
4. Improvement of water flow within littoral areas;



## Expected benefits of the project (cont.):

5. Improvement in water quality by reducing nutrient cycling through removal of organic material with associated improvement in dissolved oxygen levels;
6. Improvement in lake access for recreational users (anglers, hunters, wildlife watchers, pleasure boaters, etc.);
7. Increase in aesthetic value for the lake.





# ELT Enhancement Drawdown



# Time Frame (on or about):

- **September 2019:** Herbicide on ELT / Construction of Sheet Pile Weir @ Lake Runnymede
- **October 1, 2019:** Begin dewatering ELT
- **November 2019:** Begin recession on West Toho
- **December 2019:** Deploy pumps @ S59 for ELT pumpdown
- **February 2020:** Begin work with heavy equipment/burn
- **February 15, 2020:** Reach 53.0 ft (ELT) and maintain
- **April - May 2020:** Continue scraping with heavy equipment/revegetation
- **June 1, 2020:** Refill begins ( $\leq 1.0$  ft/month ascension)
- **November 1, 2020:** Water level reaches 58.0 (winter pool)



