

August – October 2014 Quarterly Kissimmee Basin Environmental and Restoration Features





August 12, 2014

Phase I restoration area floodplain.



August 12, 2014

Phase I restoration area river channel above bankfull conditions.



August 12, 2014

Lower Phase I restoration area river channel.



August 12, 2014

Phase I restoration area river channel at bankfull conditions.



August 12, 2014

Phase I restoration area river channel at bankfull conditions.



July 29, 2014

Water flowing off the Phase I restoration area floodplain into the MacArthur ditch during high flows.



September 5, 2014

Phase I restoration area floodplain where the MacArthur floodplain flows into the MacArthur ditch. This particular area is showing erosion from recent high flows event.



September 5, 2014

MacArthur floodplain outfall into the MacArthur ditch.



September 5, 2014

Phase I restoration area MacArthur river channel showing sandy banks as a result of recent high flows



September 5, 2014

An environmental scientist documents changes in the landscape of the Phase I restoration area river channel as the result of seasonal high velocities of water cutting through the floodplain.



September 10, 2014

Two snail kites were observed in the Phase I restoration area in upper Pool C. This year marks the first time snail kites were observed in the Phase I restoration area by KRREP scientists. Two other snail kites were observed farther downstream in previous weeks.



September 5, 2014

Phase I restoration area river channel.



September 25, 2014

Kissimmee Prairie State Park floodplain just north of the Phase IVB restoration backfill area. During high-flow events, a backwater effect inundates the floodplain in this non-backfilled area.



September 25, 2014

A snail kite forages in the Avon Park Air Force Range floodplain in the Phase IVB restoration area. During this flight, 30 snail kites were observed in the area in and around the fence line.



September 25, 2014

At the north end of the Phase I restoration area looking south at over-bankfull conditions.



September 25, 2014

Phase I restoration area looking south at over-bankfull conditions.



September 25, 2014

Phase I restoration area floodplain under stormy skies.



October 1, 2014

Phase I restoration area floodplain.



October 1, 2014

Phase I restoration area floodplain near Starvation Slough where water has reached into the oaks.



October 1, 2014

Kissimmee Prairie floodplain just north of the Phase IVB restoration area.



October 1, 2014

Snail kite in the Kissimmee Prairie floodplain just north of the Phase IVB restoration area.



October 1, 2014

A snail kite balances on a persimmon branch in the Kissimmee Prairie floodplain just north of the Phase IVB restoration area.



October 1, 2014

A male snail kite scans the wetlands below for apple snails in the Kissimmee Prairie floodplain just north of the Phase IVB restoration area.



October 1, 2014

A snail kite scoops up and feeds on an apple snail in the Kissimmee Prairie floodplain just north of the Phase IVB restoration area.



October 14, 2014

A large flock of wading birds, mainly snowy and great egrets, forage in a drying wetland in the MacArthur Impoundment floodplain of the Phase I restoration area.



October 14, 2014

A large flock of wading birds forage in a drying wetland in the MacArthur Impoundment floodplain of the Phase I restoration area.



October 16, 2014

Looking north into the Phase I restoration area – Micco Run and Oak Creek junction.



October 14, 2014

A large flock of wading birds take flight from a drying wetland in the MacArthur Impoundment floodplain of the Phase I restoration area.



October 14, 2014

Snail kites in the Phase IV restoration area on the Avon Park Air Force Range.



October 14, 2014

Snail kites in the Phase IV restoration area on the Avon Park Air Force Range.



October 14, 2014

A snail kite flies over the Phase IV restoration area in the Avon Park Air Force Range floodplain.



October 14, 2014

A snail kite searching for apple snails in the Phase IV restoration area.



October 16, 2014

Phase I restoration area looking north up Montsdeoca Run.



October 16, 2014

Phase I restoration area looking south at abandoned channels in the Montsdeoca Floodplain.



October 16, 2014

Lake Kissimmee.



October 30, 2014

Shallow airboat trails in MacArthur floodplain of the Phase I restoration area demonstrate the recession into the dry season.



October 30, 2014

Herons, ibis, egrets and teal forage together in large flocks throughout the Phase I restoration area floodplain.



October 30, 2014

Signs of erosion are evident along the banks of the Phase I restoration area where discharges near 7,000 cfs stripped the vegetation from the banks and cut away at the sandy shoreline on this outer bend river channel.



October 30, 2014

Spoonbills, ibis, herons and egrets work through drying pools across the Phase I restoration area floodplain in search of fish and invertebrates that have been trapped by the receding water levels.



The beginning formation of a meander cutoff in Micco Run in the Kissimmee River. The cutoff formed sometime in the two weeks prior to the photo date and may ultimately form an oxbow lake. A cross-section survey transect was set up to capture monthly changes in the cutoff channel.



May 13, 2014

The meander cutoff has almost doubled in width in a month and a half since the previous slide as flows begin to increase into the wet season.



July 16, 2014

The same shot one month later in July shows that the meander cutoff continues to become more defined.



August 12, 2014

Significant scouring has continued in the Micco Bluff Run breakthrough with higher flows through July and August. Also, a sandbar has formed on the downstream point of the breakthrough.



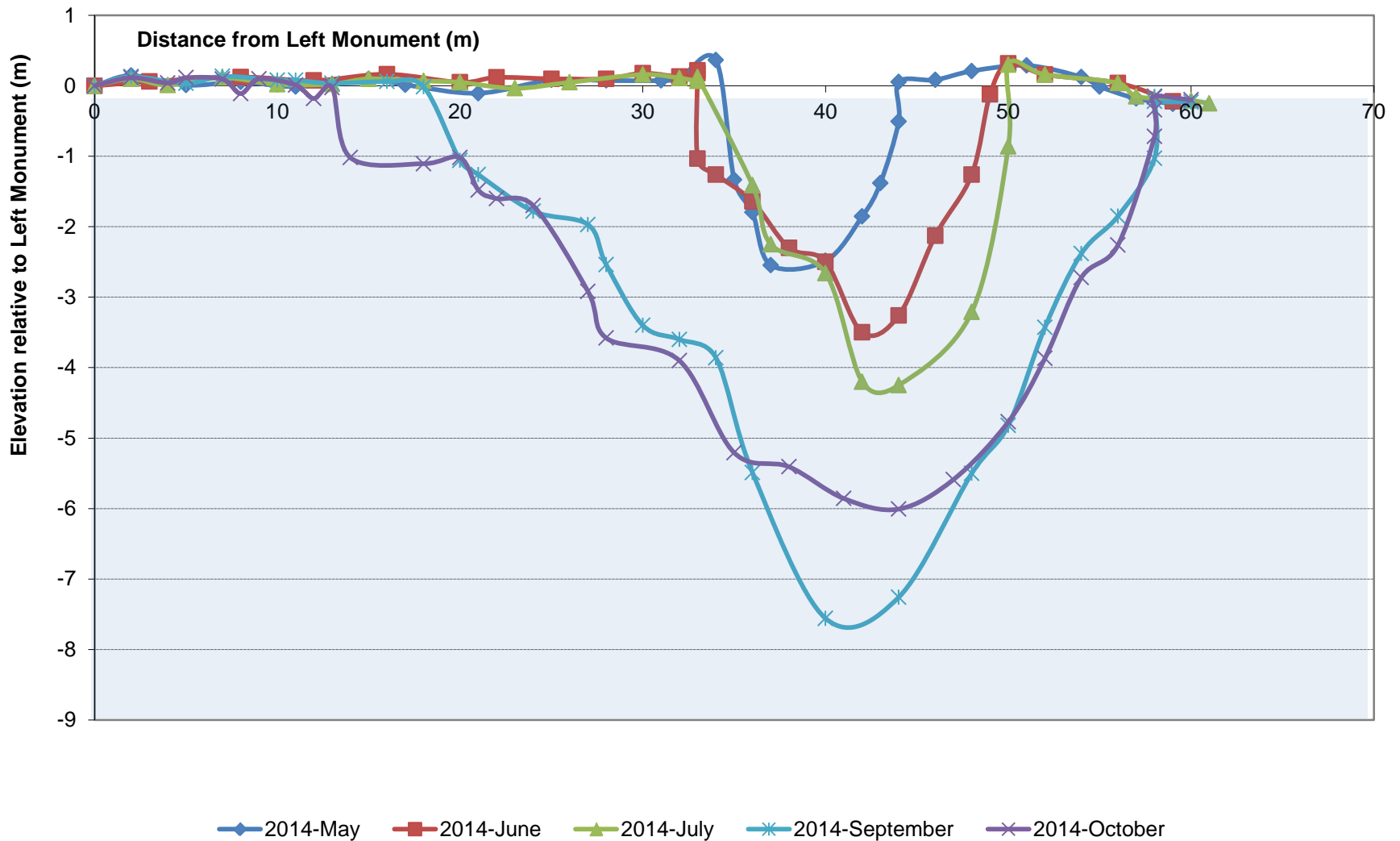
September 25, 2014



October 16, 2014

A second sandbar is beginning to form downstream of the breakthrough next to the island. This feature is new since the 7,000 cfs event.

Micco Breakthrough Cross-section





Later in May with higher flows you can see the current in the cutoff as it continuously widens.



September 25, 2014

Drastic widening has occurred in the Micco cutoff channel since May (previous slide).



September 5, 2014

Looking downstream from inside the Micco breakthrough, a large sandbar formed just below the Micco Run oxbow cutoff.



October 14, 2014

Wading birds take flight from a drying wetland in the MacArthur Impoundment floodplain of the Phase I restoration area.