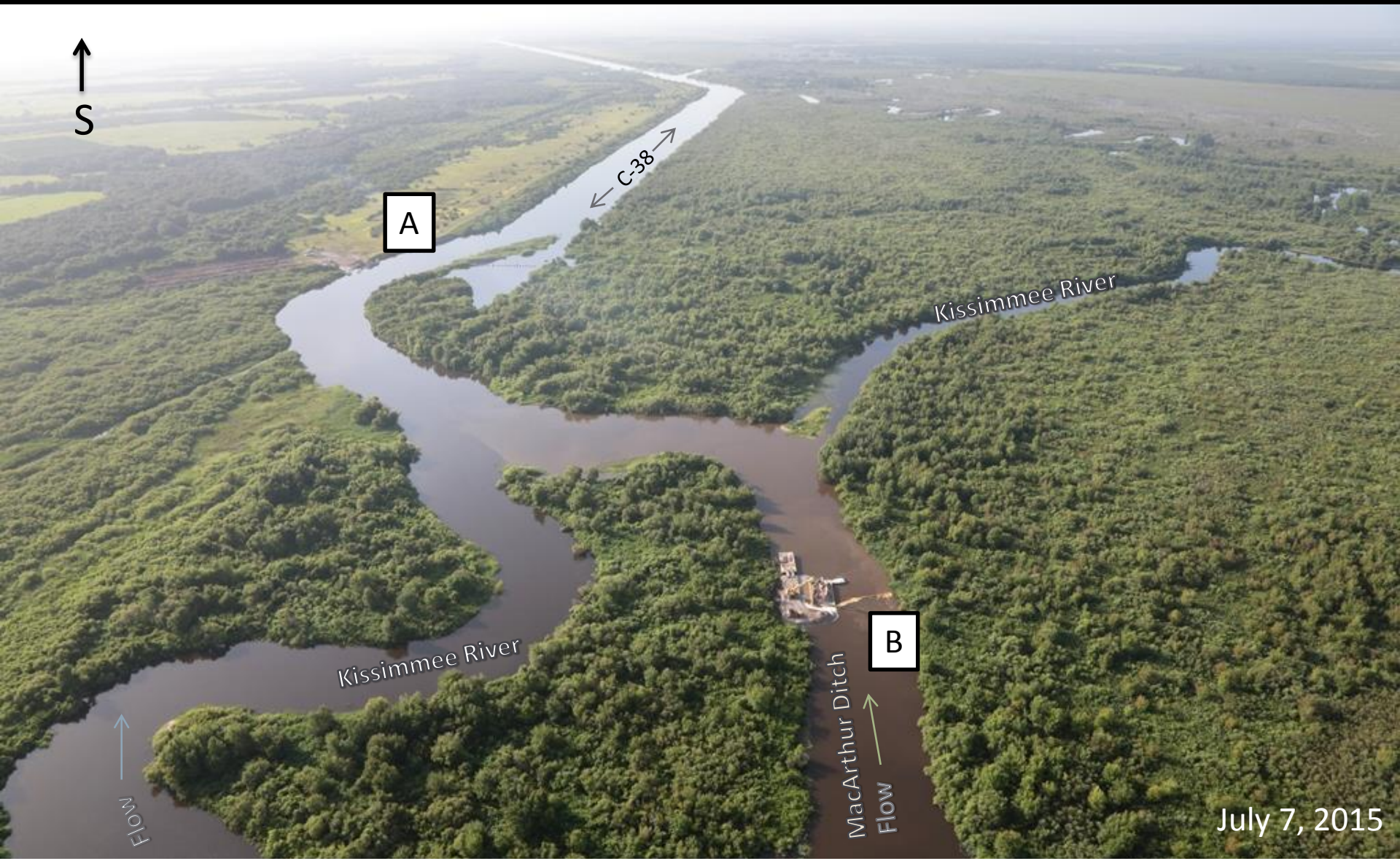
SOUTH FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

July - September 2015
Kissimmee River Restoration Project and Kissimmee Basin Environmental and Restoration Features



Construction of the MacArthur Ditch backfill project, part of the Kissimmee River Restoration Project, began in late June by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. The purpose is to fill the ditch, which extends to the north. The ditch is being filled because it drains water from the surrounding floodplain and is disrupting flow to the south. The work begins at the south end of the MacArthur Ditch (location B) where spoil is brought in by barges from an existing spoil pile along the C-38 canal (location A).

Construction of the Kissimmee River Restoration Project MacArthur Ditch contract continued through July as barges loaded down with fill made their way to the backfill area.

Excavators on the Kissimmee River Restoration Project MacArthur Ditch backfill project unload fill from a barge. Spoil is brought to the backfill site from spoil piles roughly 0.5 miles downstream long the C-38 canal.

Kissimmee River Restoration Project MacArthur Ditch backfill borrow site is where spoil is excavated and barged to the backfill site roughly 0.5 miles upstream.

SOUTH FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

Looking at the construction of the MacArthur Ditch backfill project:. A spoil plug has been placed across the south end of the ditch and the backfill continues northward into the Kissimmee River Restoration Project Phase I restoration area floodplain.

Looking south at construction of the MacArthur Ditch backfill project: The initial work of a spoil plug has been placed on the south end of the ditch and the backfill continues northward.

Looking north at construction of the MacArthur Ditch backfill profect.

Looking north at construction of the MacArthur Ditch contract (B) and borrow site (A): The backfill continues northward into the Kissimmee River Restoration Project Phase I restoration area floodplain.

Looking south down the MacArthur Ditch contract area: The backfill will continue up the entire length of the ditch in the Kissimmee River Restoration Project Phase I restoration area floodplain.

Looking south at construction of the MacArthur Ditch contract. A spoil plug has been placed on the south end of the ditch and the backfill continues northward into the Kissimmee River Restoration Phase I restoration area floodplain.

Backfilling for the MacAuthur ditch contract continued through August until increased velocities through the ditch washed away the spoil plug. This resulted in a 30 day suspension of the contract while a hard material (limestone plug) is incorporated into the plan. Construction by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is scheduled to resume again in mid-October now that flow has subsided.

Extra-wet conditions and high flow in the Kissimmee River brought the MacArthur Ditch backfill contract to stop from September into early October. Construction is scheduled to resume in mid-October.

Construction of the MacArthur Ditch backfill is halted and suspended as high seasonal discharge has broke through the plug and has begun to erode the backfill.

A hatch of mayflies emerges from the littoral zone of Lake Hatchineha.

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The short lifespan of the adult mayflies (usually one day or less) leave the surface of Lake Hatchineha blanketed with hundreds of thousands of the insects. Each female mayfly will lay 400 to 2000 eggs until she becomes fish food.

A massive storm sweeps across the Kissimmee River floodplain.

Kissimmee River Restoration Phase I restoration area floodplain and river channel viewed from the air. Discharge at the S65A water control structure was 6,228 water cubic feet per second (cfs).

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The invasion of exotic apple snails is now evident in the Phase I restoration area, which has attracted snail kites to move into the area. A snail kite sits perched in the button bush in the background. Forty-nine snail kites were observed in this area on September 3.

Exotic apple snail eggs are now evident in the Phase I restoration area cover much of the emergent vegetation, which has attracted snail kites to move into the area. A snail kite flies overhead as one sits perched in the button bush in the background. Forty-nine snail kites were observed in this area on September 3.

Exotic apple snail eggs wait to hatch on bulrush in the Kissimmee River Restoration Phase I area floodplain.

A congregation of snail kites roost in the Phase I restoration area.

Broadleaf mash in the Oak Creek area floodplain Phase I restoration area

SOUTH FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

A native green anole blends in the Kissimmee River Restoration Phase I restoration area floodplain.

Fields of blooming white twinevine blanket button bush marshes in the Phase I restoration area floodplain.