



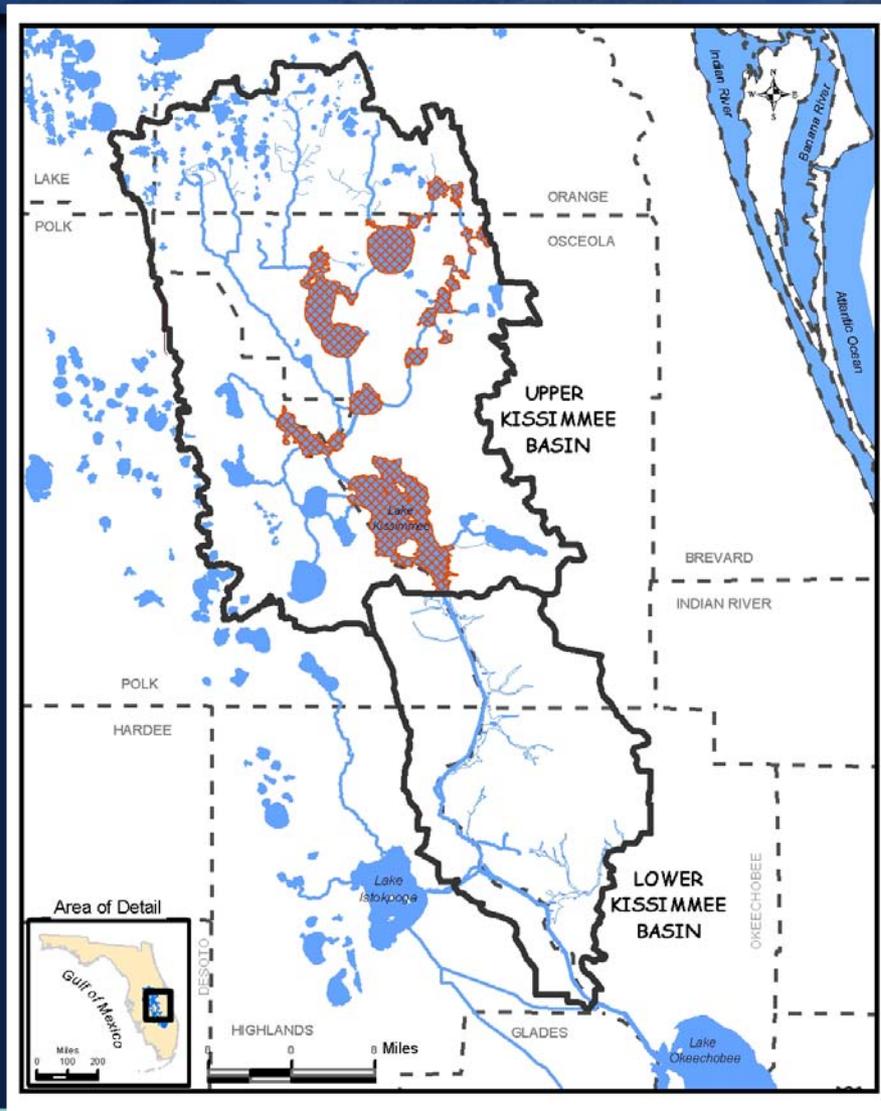
System-Wide Ecological Conditions Status
Update
May 15, 2008



*Susan Gray, Ph.D., Deputy Director,
Watershed Management Department*



Upper and Lower Kissimmee Basins





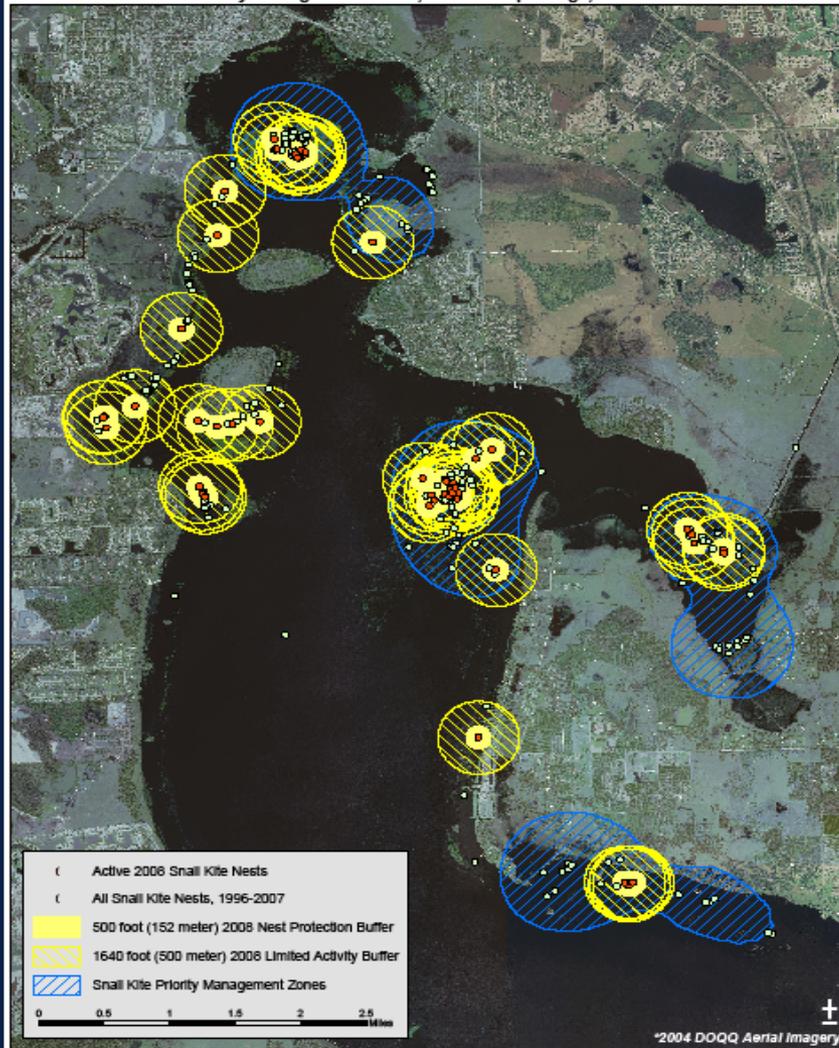
Snail Kite Nesting continues in the Upper Basin



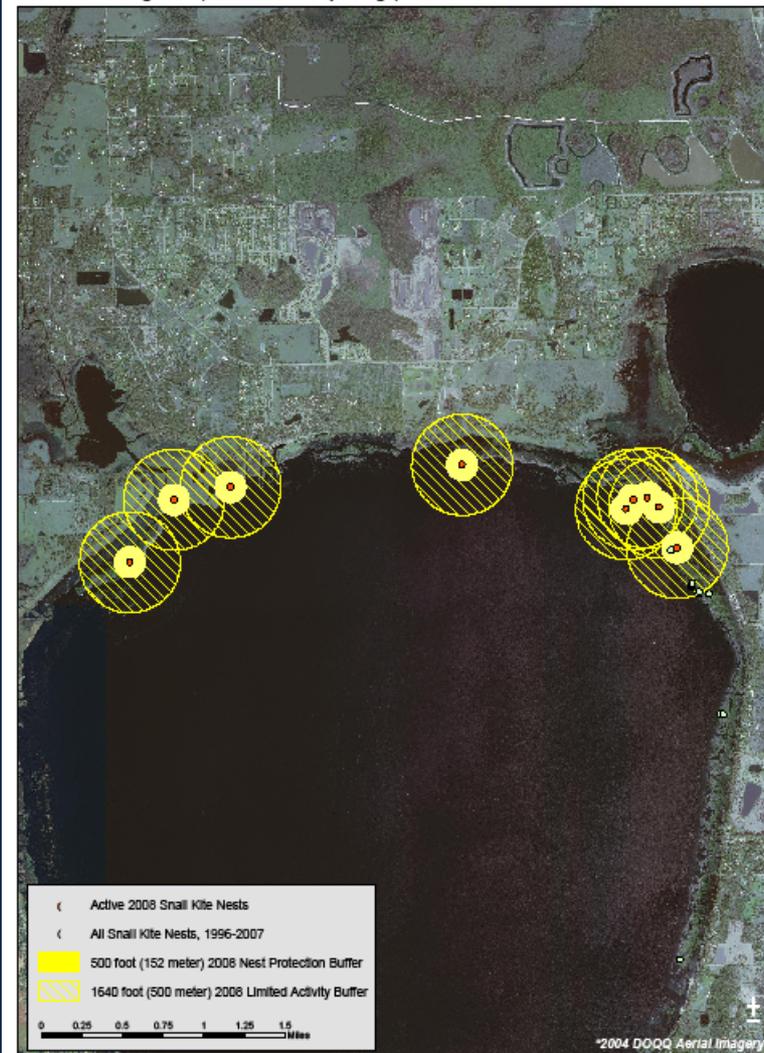


Snail Kite nesting sites

Snail Kite Nests and Priority Management Areas, Lake Tohopekaliga, 05/07/2008



Snail Kite Nesting Areas, East Lake Tohopekaliga, 05/07/2008





Kissimmee River Restoration

- Increased seasonal bird use
 - Wading birds: 30 birds/km²
 - Waterfowl: 8 birds/km²
 - 10 shorebird species
- USACE construction delay
 - Construction end-date shift from 2012 to 2013





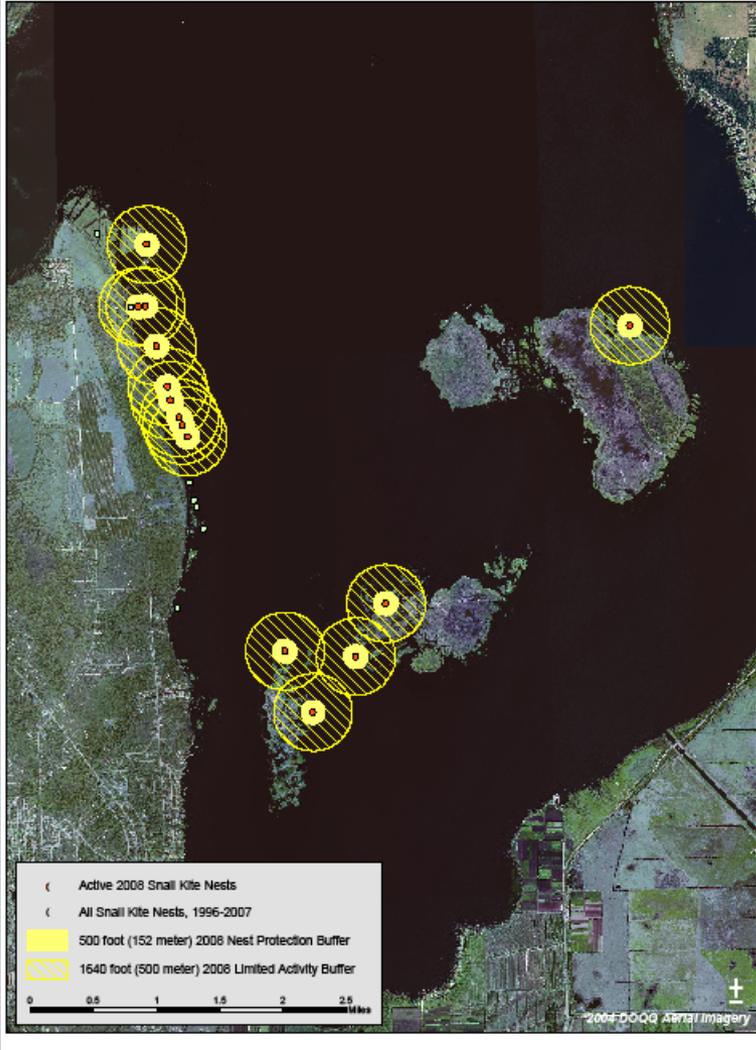
Lake Okeechobee and Lake Istokpoga





Snail Kites on Lake Istokpoga

Snail Kite Nesting Areas, Lake Istokpoga, 05/07/2008





Return of Submerged Aquatic Vegetation





Fire Coverage



Pahoee Marina

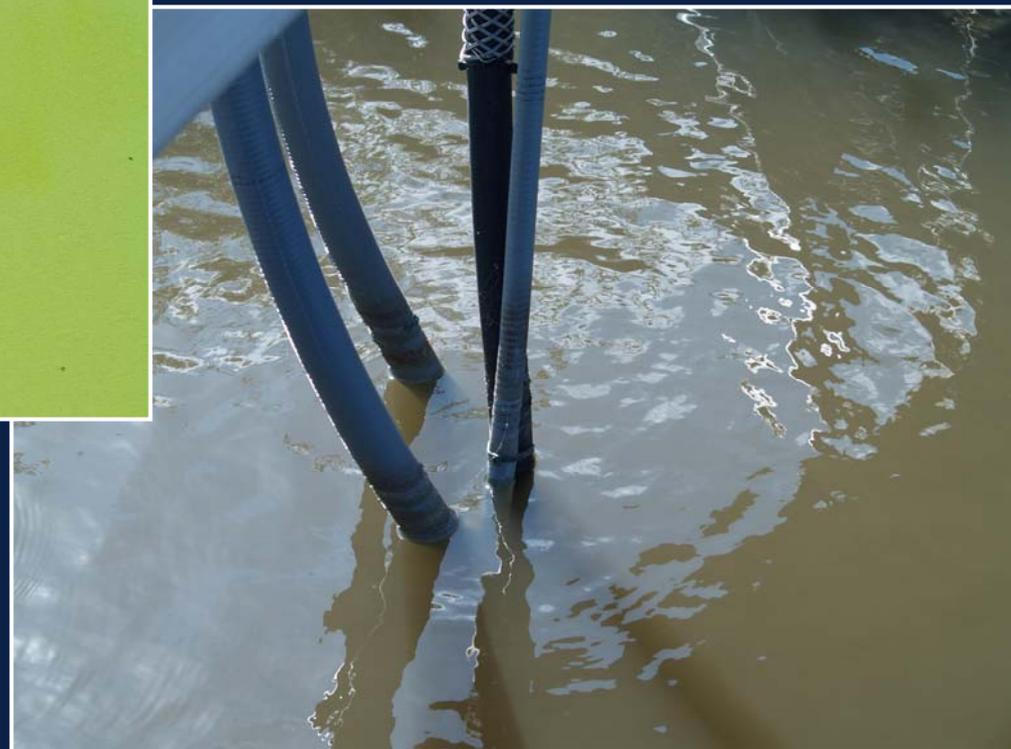




Algal Bloom on Lake Okeechobee



← Pahokee Marina
April 22, 2008



Pahokee Marina →
May 1, 2008



Fire near Moorehaven





Tape Grass Restoration in Caloosahatchee River

Objective:

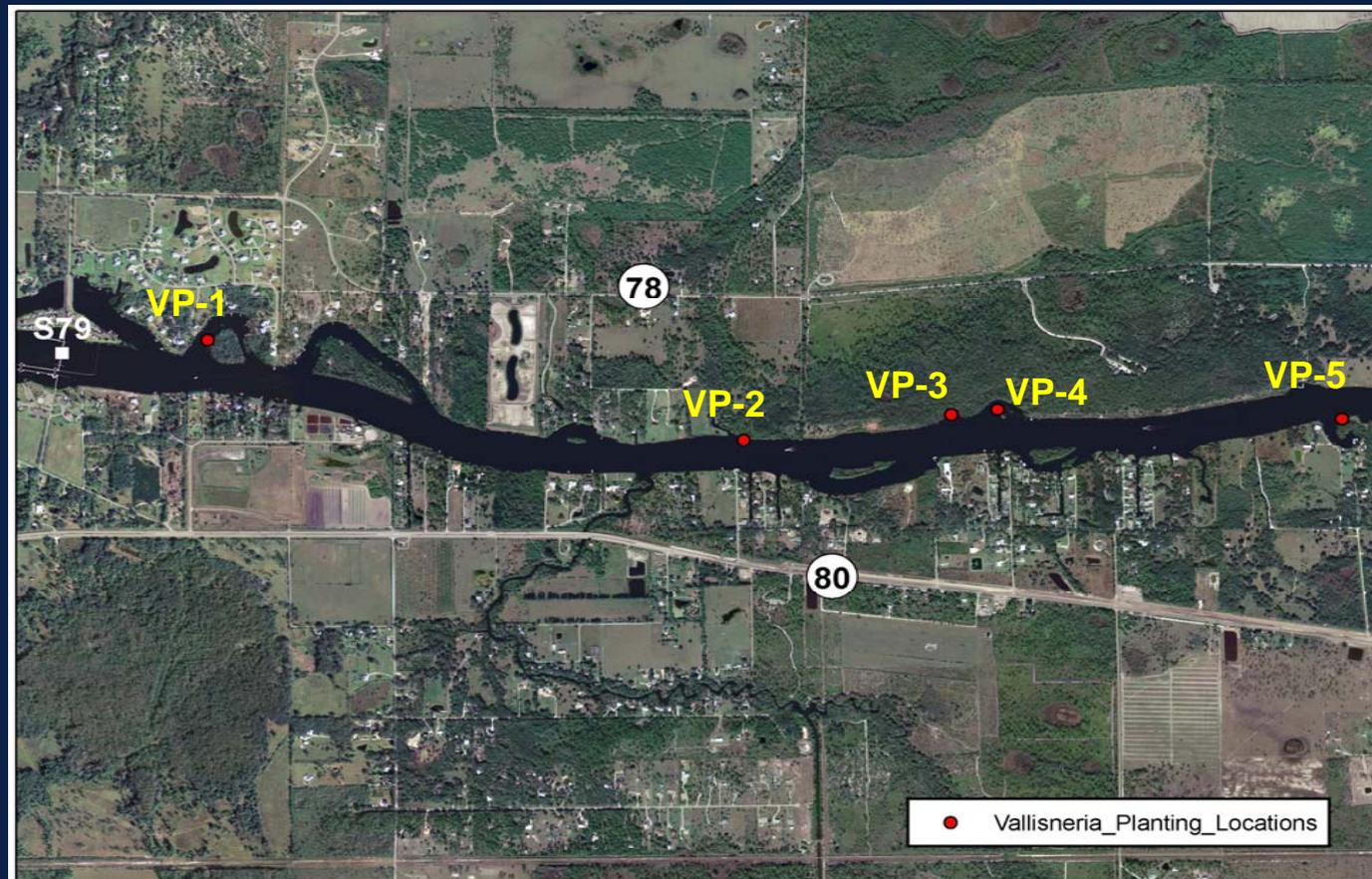
- Establish a viable reproductive population of Tape Grass (*Vallisneria americana*) above the Franklin Lock and Dam (S-79)





Tape Grass Restoration in Caloosahatchee River

- Plants were relocated above S-79 where they would not be exposed to the elevated salinities and may have a better opportunity for survival





Tape Grass Restoration in Caloosahatchee River

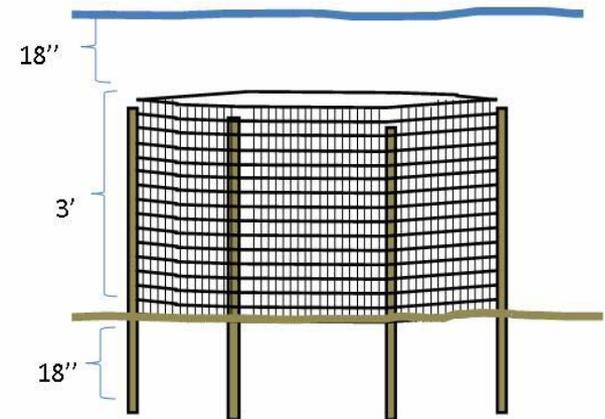
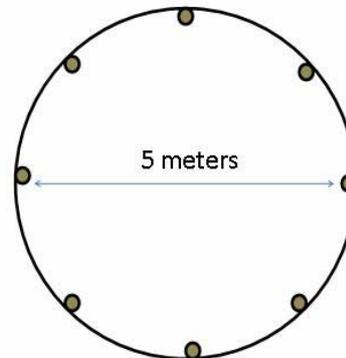
- One of the experimental plots at each site was covered by cages to exclude herbivores such as turtles, grass carp and manatees.
- Transplanted Tape Grass rosettes will be monitored



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estuaries and shorelines*

Exclusion Cages – Caloosahatchee River Project

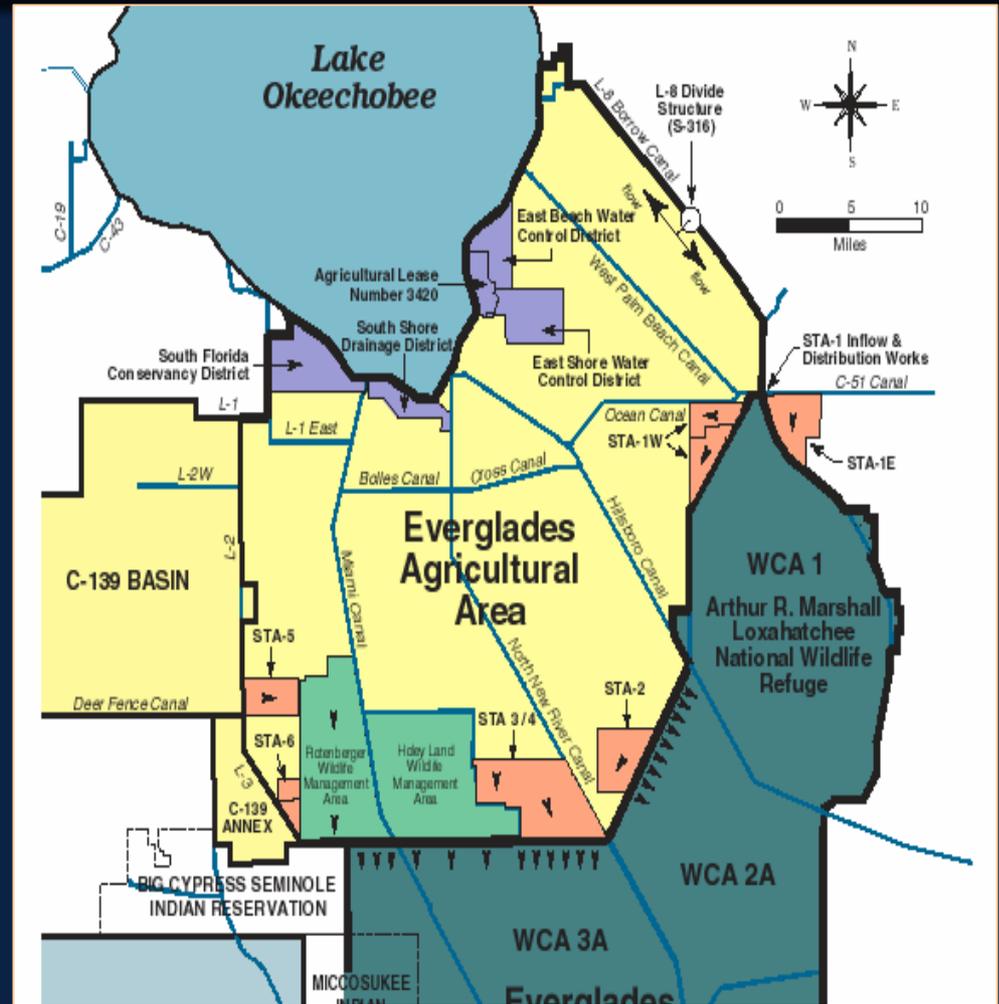
- Cage Exterior made from Galvanized Steel
- Mesh opening is 2" x 4"
- Circumference of the cage is ~50 ft or ~15.24 meters in length
- The diameter of the cage is ~15.91 ft or 4.85 meters
- 8 stakes per cage will be secured into the river bottom and are made from wood or PVC
- Approximately 3 ft of cage will be above the river bottom, which the stakes being buried 18 inches into the river bottom
- The top portions of the PVC will be painted with a reflective color and buoys will be placed at the site to educate boaters of the presence.





Everglades Construction Project (ECP) Stormwater Treatment Areas

Water Yr	Operational STAs
1995-97	STA-1W
1998-99	STA-1W , STA-6
2000	STA-1W, 5, 6
2001-03	STA-1W, 2, 5, 6
2004-05	STA-1W, 2, 3/4, 5, 6
2006-07	STA-1W, 1E, 2, 3/4, 5, 6





Black-Necked Stilts Nesting in STAs

STA-2 Cell 4



Typical Stilt Nest



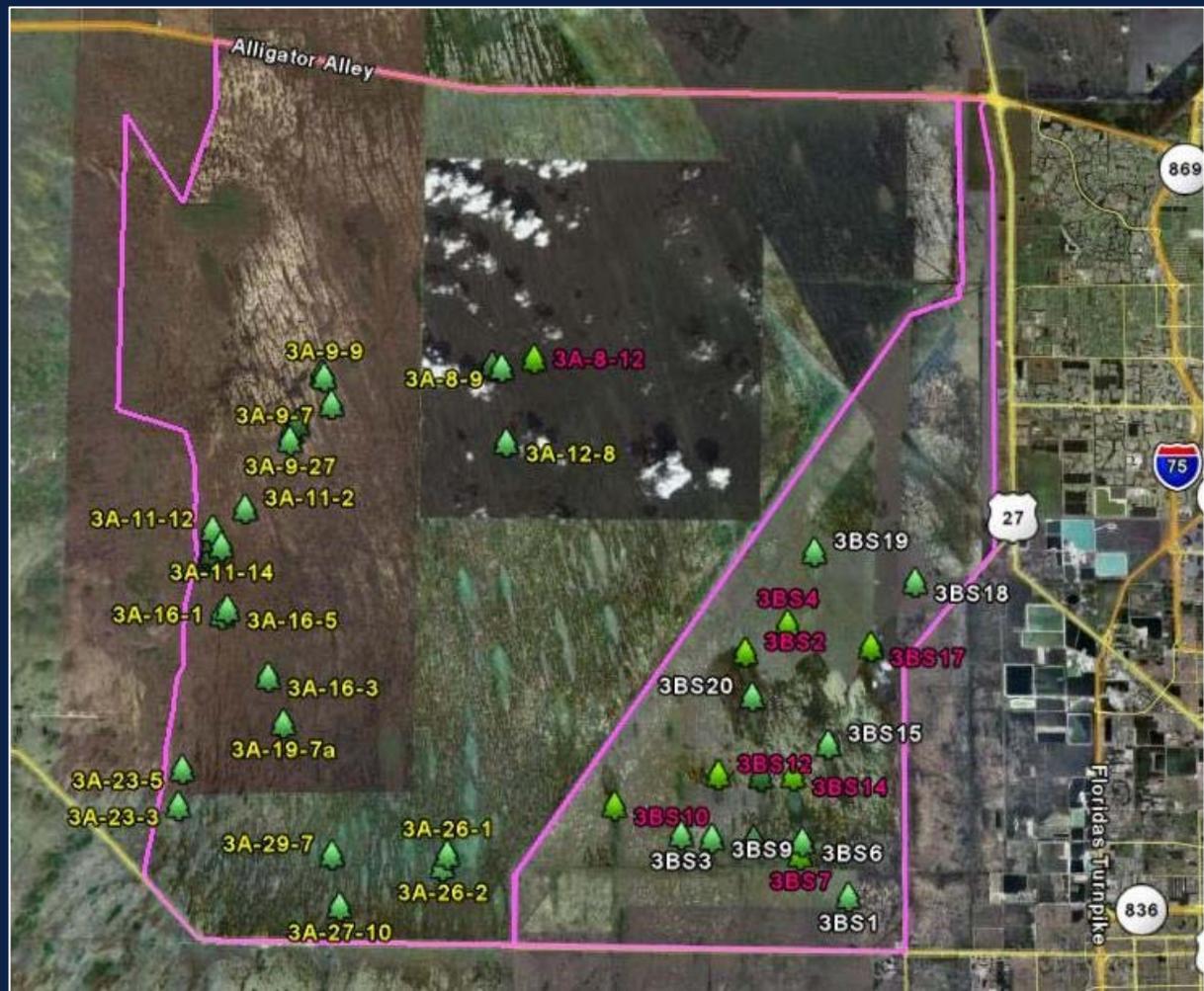


Tree Islands and Old World Climbing Fern

40 Tree Islands have been surveyed in the WCA-3A and 3B

Lygodium found on 8 Tree Islands (red font)

Lygodium observed growing on elevated areas, either on dead stumps or on bases of native ferns and trees





Lygodium found in Water Conservation Area 3B



Lygodium on the ground



Lygodium on the canopy



Roseate Spoonbill Nesting in Florida Bay: 2004-2008

