SOUTH FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

March - July 2015
Kissimmee Basin Environmental and Restoration Features

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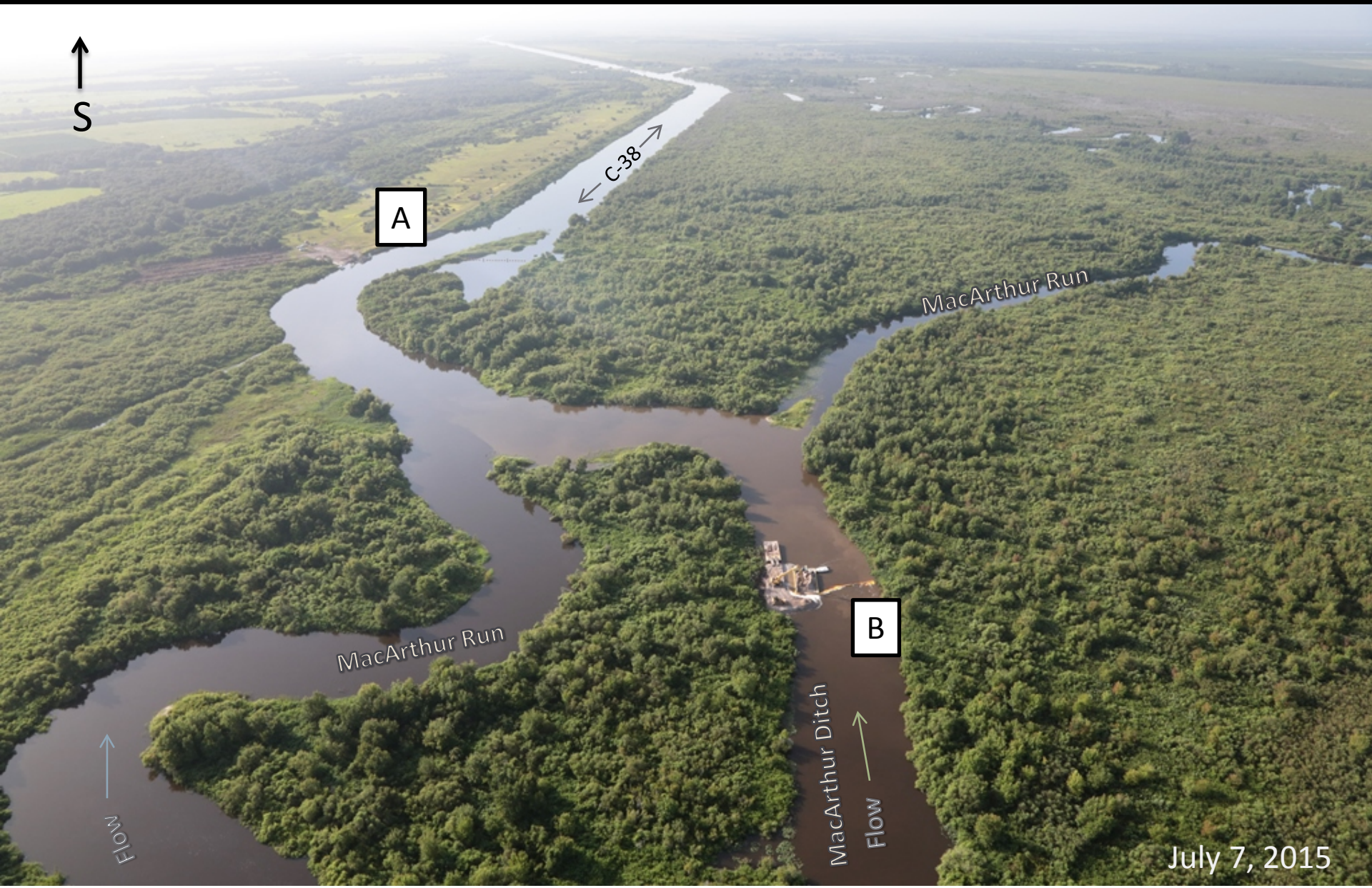

Construction of the MacArthur Ditch restoration project began in late June. The work begins at the south end of the MacArthur Ditch (location B) where spoil is brought in by barges from an existing spoil pile along the C-38 canal (location A).

Looking north up the MacArthur Ditch, contractors are in the process of completing a plug across the ditch at location B. Once the plug is complete, they will continue to backfill to the north the entire length of the ditch.

Construction of an initial plug for the MacArthur Ditch backfill. Spoil is being barged in from the south to backfill the ditch.

A barge loaded with spoil heads upstream towards the worksite of the MacArthur Ditch backfilling contract, part of the Kissimmee River Restoration Project.

MacArthur Ditch restoration progress.

MacArthur Ditch backfilling progress

MacArthur Ditch backfilling – initial plug construction

Looking south over the Phase I restoration area from Montsdeoca Run area. Recent localized rains have filled up many of the low-lying areas of the floodplain (discharge was ~425 cfs at s65A).

An afternoon storm cell explodes over the Phase I restoration area floodplain.

A yellow rat snake scales its way up a dead cabbage palm in search of prey along the river bank of the Phase I restoration area. It eventually made his way into the hole in the tree but may have been in for a disappointment as I saw wasps beginning to attack it as it got closer. Chances are the tree cavity was abandoned and was inhabited by wasps.

An alligator makes a meal out of a tilapia in the Kissimmee River Restoration Project Phase I restoration area floodplain.

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. Two survey monuments were placed on either side of the breakthrough channel to monitor its growth as it continues to cut through.

A second sandbar is beginning to form downstream of the Micco breakthrough next to the newly formed island.

Micco breakthrough under lower discharge exposes sand deposits resulting from both the former and new routes that flow has taken. (Discharge was ~300 cfs for about 6 weeks prior to this photo.)

Micco breakthrough under lower discharge exposes sand deposits resulting from both the former and new routes that flow has taken. (Discharge was ~300 cfs at s65A since May 8.)

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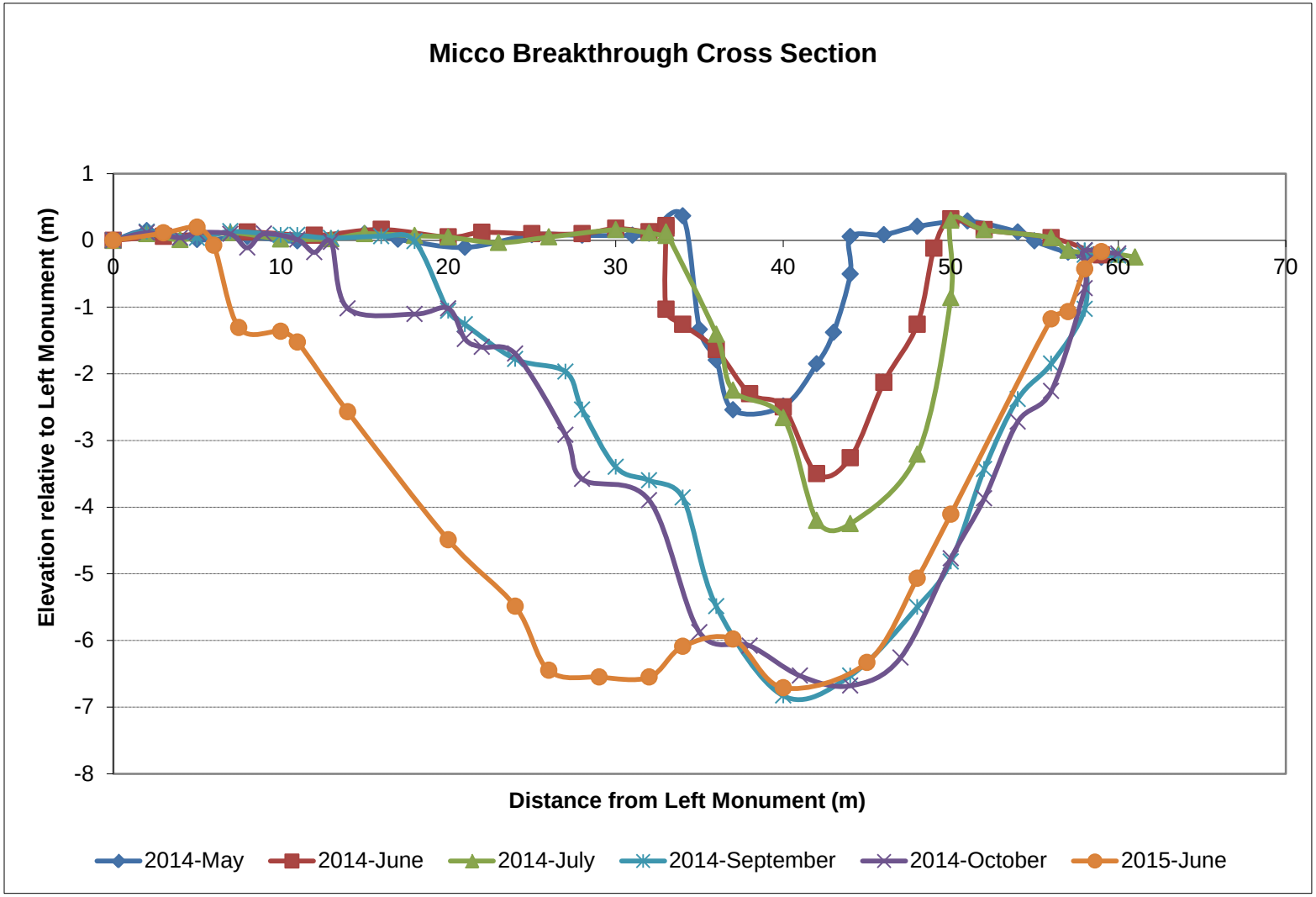

Periodic cross-sectional surveys throughout the formation of the new river channel here show the progress of the widening throughout time. In only a years time the newly formed channel has widened to 60 meters and has cut to nearly 7 meters deep.

Micco breakthrough (discharge ~300 cfs at S65A since May 8)

Micco Run breakthrough in the Phase I restoration area .(Discharge was ~425 cfs at s65A.)

Large flocks of wading birds congregate in drying floodplain pools in the Phase I restoration area (discharge ~300 cfs at S65A since May 8).

Phase I restoration area floodplain and river channel (discharge ~300 cfs at S65A since May 8).

Phase IV restoration area floodplain and river channel at Avon Park (discharge ~300 cfs at S65A since May 8).

Phase IV restoration area where the stage has dropped and drained the floodplain into the river channel exposing many fish nests (discharge ~300 cfs at S65A since May 8).

Phase IV restoration area backfill and recarved river channel (discharge ~300 cfs at S65A since May 8).

A popular fish nesting location was exposed here in the Phase IV restoration area where stages dropped significantly in the last couple weeks (discharge ~300 cfs at S65A since May 8).

Looking north up Micco Bluff Run in the Phase I restoration area (discharge ~300 cfs at S65A since May 8).

Common moorhen chicks follow their mother in the floodplain of the Phase I restoration area.

The common moorhen chick learns from its mother how to forage for prey in the floodplain of the Phase I restoration area.

Little chick better learn quick, because mamma isn't sharing!

Wading birds forage in the Phase I restoration area floodplain drying pools

Wading birds forage in the Phase I restoration area floodplain as prey congregates in the shallow isolated drying pools.

Wading birds forage in the Phase I restoration area floodplain drying pools.

A newly fledged black-crowned night heron on its own now forages in a drying pool in the Phase I restoration area floodplain.