April 2012 Kissimmee Basin Environmental and Restoration Features

Photography by Brent Anderson
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American alligator in the Phase I restoration area.
Huge flock of blue-winged teal (2000+ birds) was observed in the McArthur floodplain of the Phase I restoration area.

March 29, 2012
Blue-winged teal take flight in the McArthur floodplain of the Phase I restoration area as white pelicans fly overhead.
Blue-winged teal invasion!

March 29, 2012
Blue-winged teal in the McArthur floodplain of the Phase I restoration area.

March 29, 2012
American coots, blue-winged teal, shorebirds and other waders gather in the last remaining drying pools on the floodplain in the Phase I restoration area floodplain.
Ibis, egrets and red-winged blackbirds in the Phase I restoration area floodplain

March 29, 2012
American alligator on the move.

March 29, 2012
Once airboat trails during the wet season, now grown in with terrestrial vegetation in the Phase I restoration area floodplain.

March 29, 2012
White pelican party in the drying pools of the Phase I restoration area

April 16, 2012
White pelicans…not very white after sifting through the muddy drying pools in search of prey!
A few sizable broadleaf marshes still persist in late March as water stages on the floodplain decrease steadily.
Receding water stages in the Phase I restoration area floodplain exposes rich organic mud which is quickly colonized by terrestrial vegetation.

March 29, 2012
A rare sighting of a bobcat as he makes his way from the Pool B partially restored floodplain to the oak hammocks of the Kissimmee Prairie State Preserve.
A white-tail deer in the Kissimmee Prairie State Preserve

April 4, 2012
Sand bars in Phase I restoration area

April 11, 2012
Abandoned river channels in the Phase I restoration area
Abandoned river channels in the Phase I restoration area. The active river channel can be seen in the upper right.
Feral pigs take advantage of the shallow water on the floodplain of the Phase I restoration area.
Abandoned river channels in the Phase I restoration area are almost dried out

April 16, 2012
Phase I restoration area

April 16, 2012
Very little water is left on the floodplain of the Phase I restoration area.
Phase I restoration area abandoned river channels completely dried out

April 16, 2012
Various species of shorebirds flock to the floodplain where receding water levels are now optimal for foraging.
Dowitchers and yellowlegs flock to the floodplain where receding water levels are now optimal for foraging.
Yellowlegs and dowitchers congregate in the floodplain where receding water levels are now optimal for foraging.

March 29, 2012
Least sandpipers in the shallow waters of the Phase I restoration area floodplain.
MacArthur Impoundment area floodplain in the Phase I restoration area now holds only a few pools of water.
Drying floodplain in the Phase I restoration area

April 20, 2012
Feral hog tracks and rooting in Oak Creek area floodplain
Drying floodplain in the Phase I restoration area

April 20, 2012
White pelicans forage in a drying, abandoned river channel in the Phase I restoration area.
This alligator is in denial that his pool is drying up…
Algae bloom in Pool E C-38 canal, a channelized section of the river

April 10, 2012
Algae bloom in Pool E C-38 canal, a channelized section of the river

April 10, 2012
Construction Update

Contract 10A – Reach 2
river channel recarve

Contract 10A – Reach 3 north
river channel recarve

Contract 10A – Reach 3 south
river channel recarve

Area of Detail

- Lower Limits Phase I Backfill
- Upper Limits Phase II/III Backfill
- S-65C
- Pool C
- Pool D

Map showing the construction areas and locations.
Contract 10A (Reach 3 south) – Chandler Run recarve construction.
Clearing and grubbing at the 10A reach 3 north site. The last section of river channel recarve for Phase II/III.
Clearing and grubbing at the 10A reach 3 north site

April 12, 2012
Contract 10A – Reach 3 South – Chandler Run recarve clearing and grubbing
Contract 10A Reach 2 river channel recarve

April 11, 2012
Contract 10A Reach 2 river channel recarve
CSX railroad bridge construction

April 11, 2012