SOUTH FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

Sam Jones – Abiaki Prairie Restoration

Lake Belt Mitigation Committee
August 18, 2022

Presenter

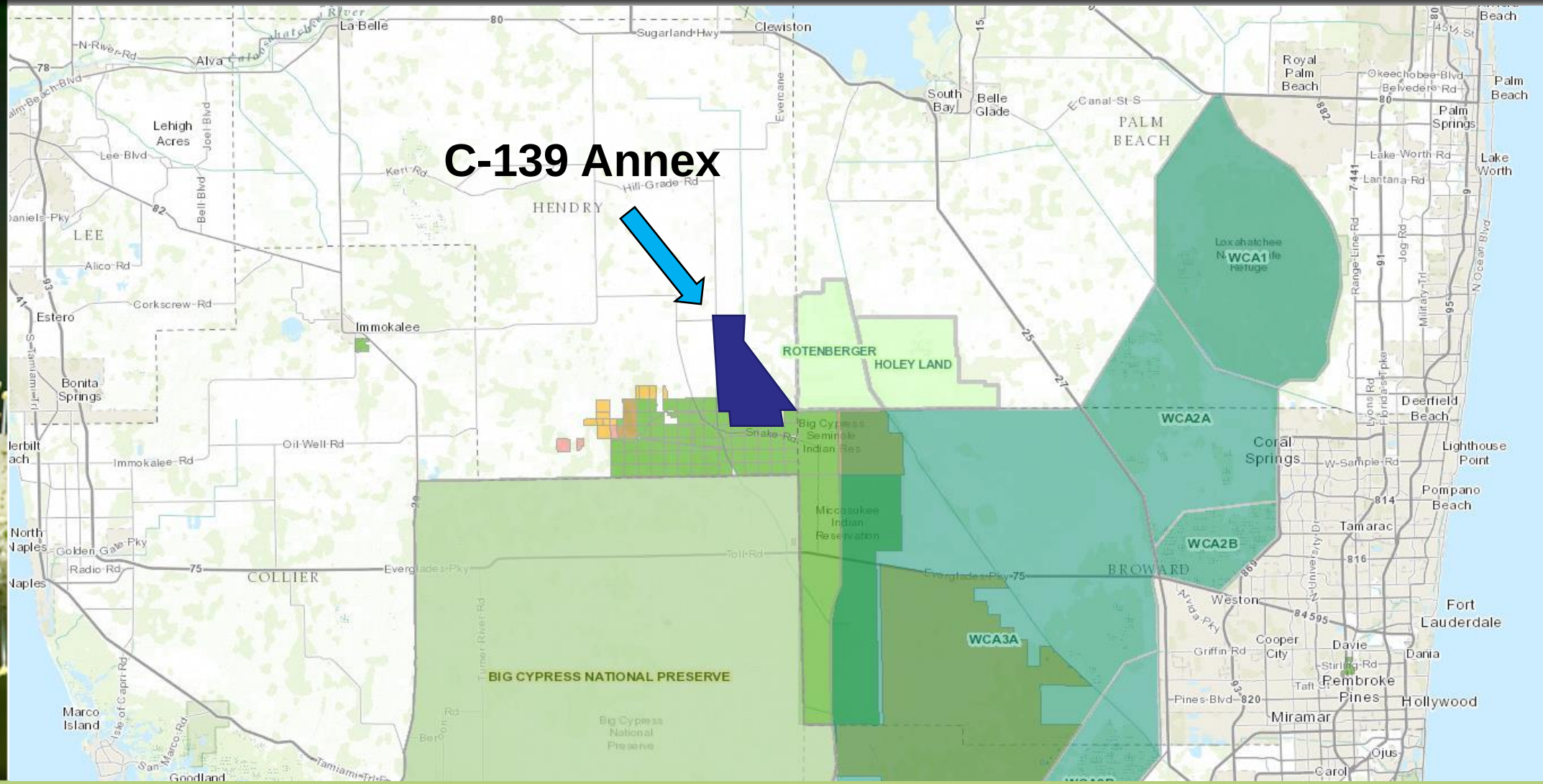
Karyn Allman, Lead Scientist, Land Stewardship

SOUTH FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

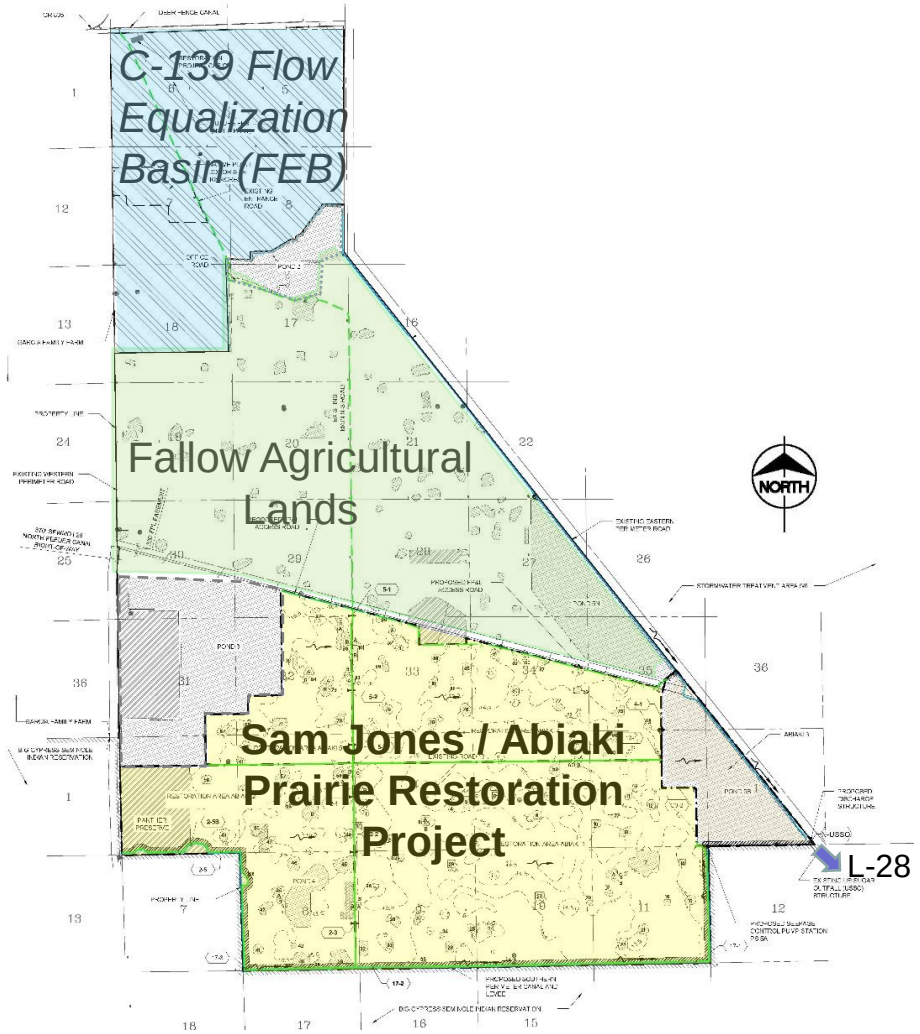
Sam Jones – Abiaki Prairie Restoration

Project Background

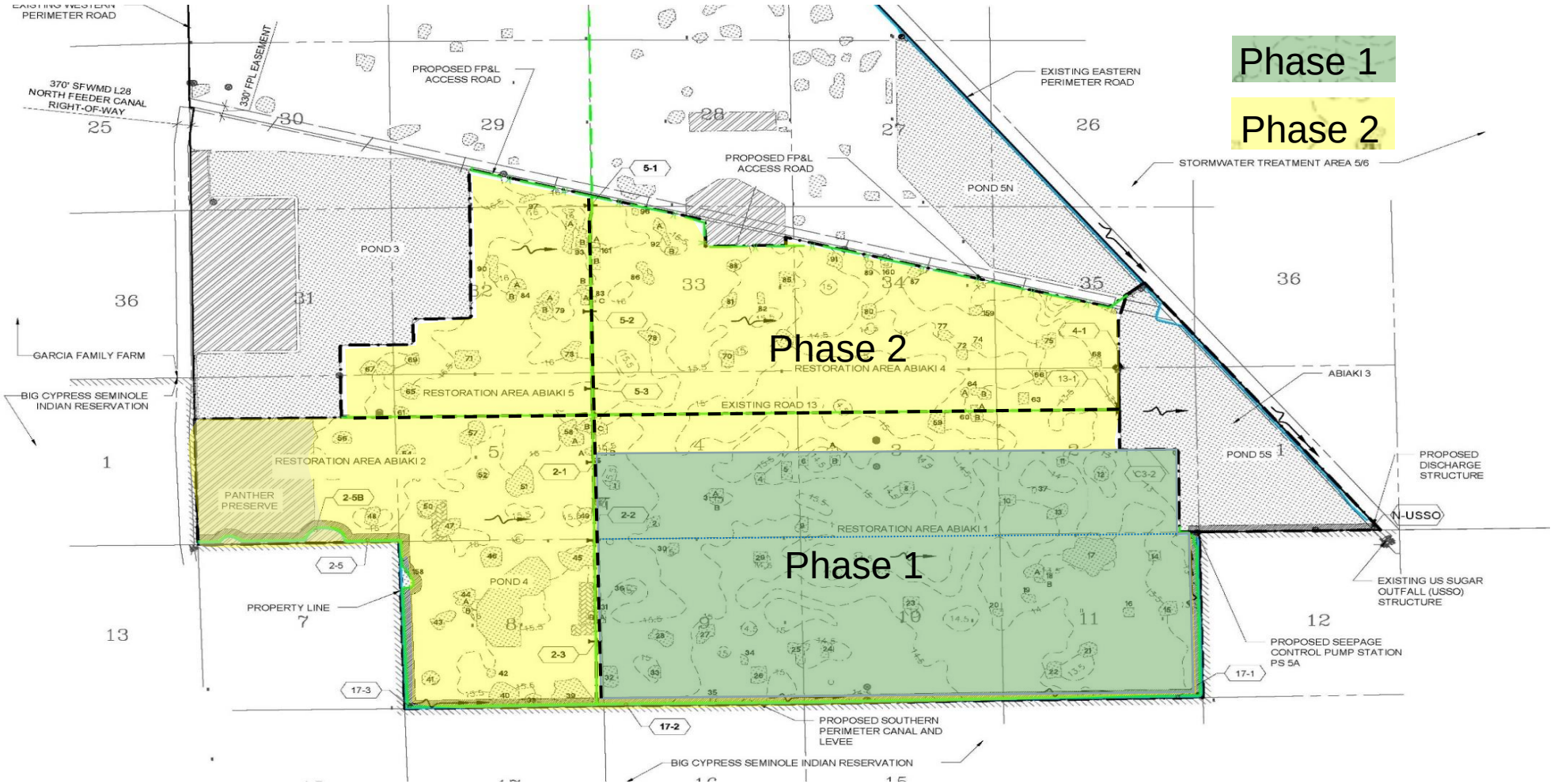
Project Location



C-139 Annex Components



Sam Jones – Abiaki Prairie Project Phases



Sam Jones – Abiaki Prairie Project

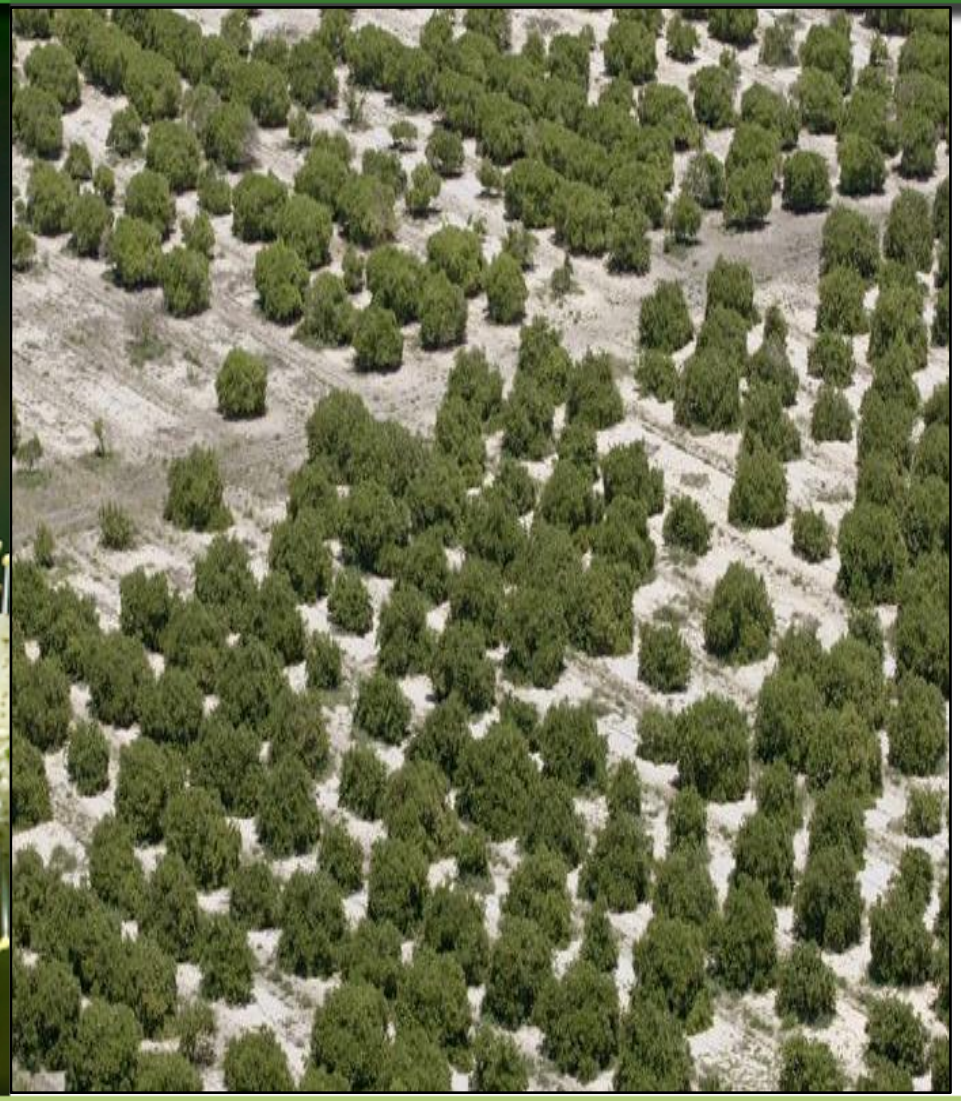
Project Goal:

Restore citrus groves to Everglades wetland habitat.

Project Funding:

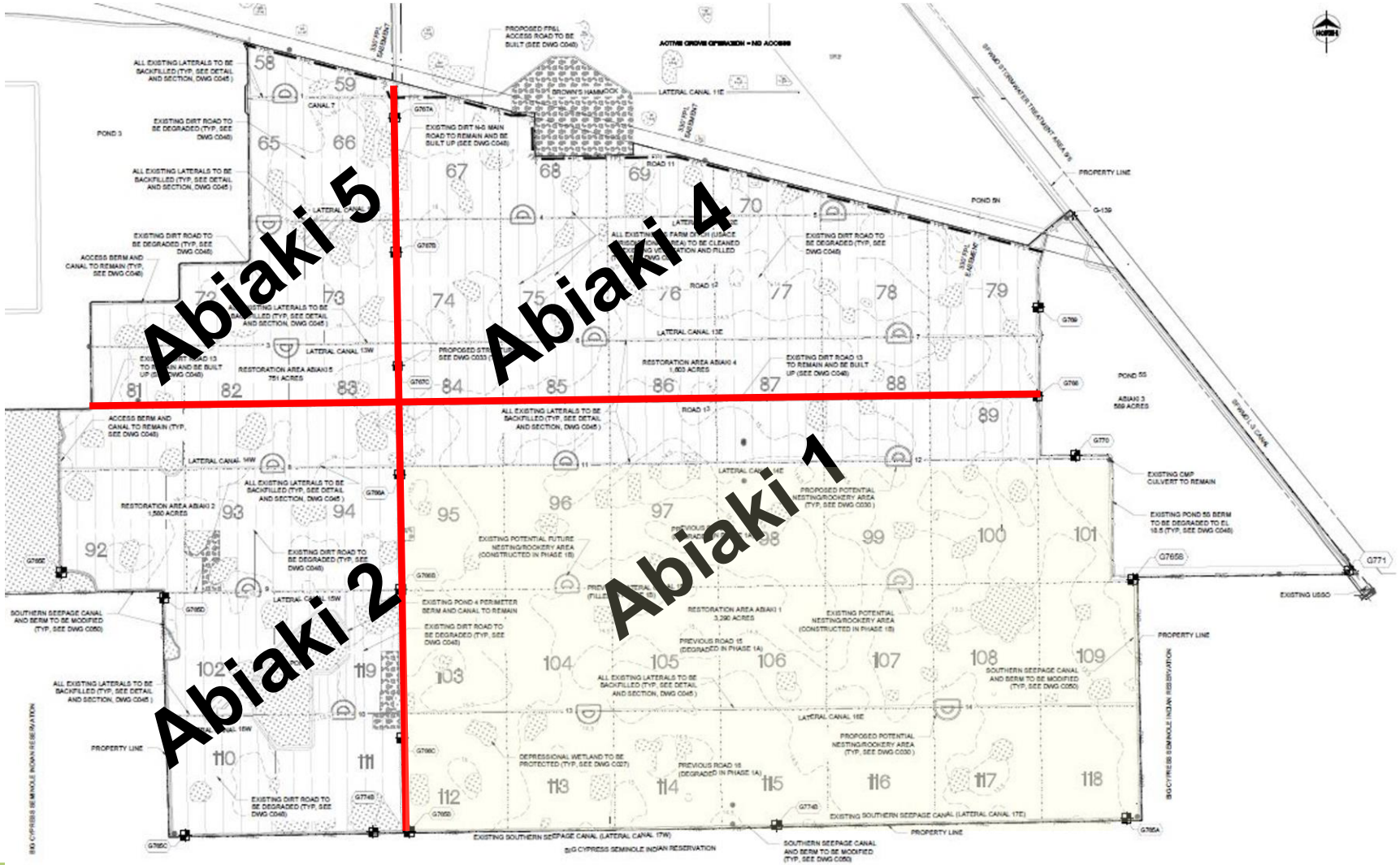
Miami-Dade Limestone Products Association will reimburse SFWMD for the design, construction, land acquisition, and long-term operations and maintenance costs as wetland mitigation.

Sam Jones – Abiaki Prairie Project

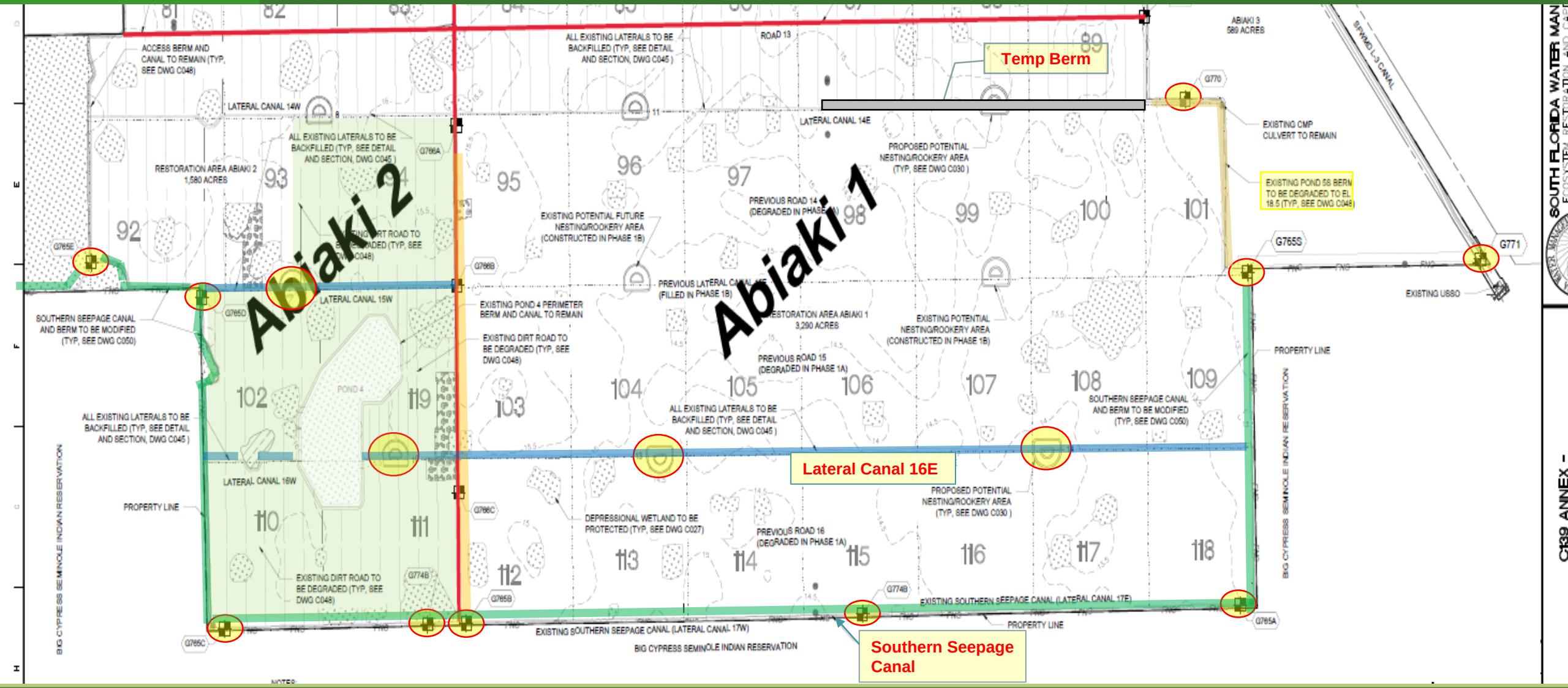


Construction Update

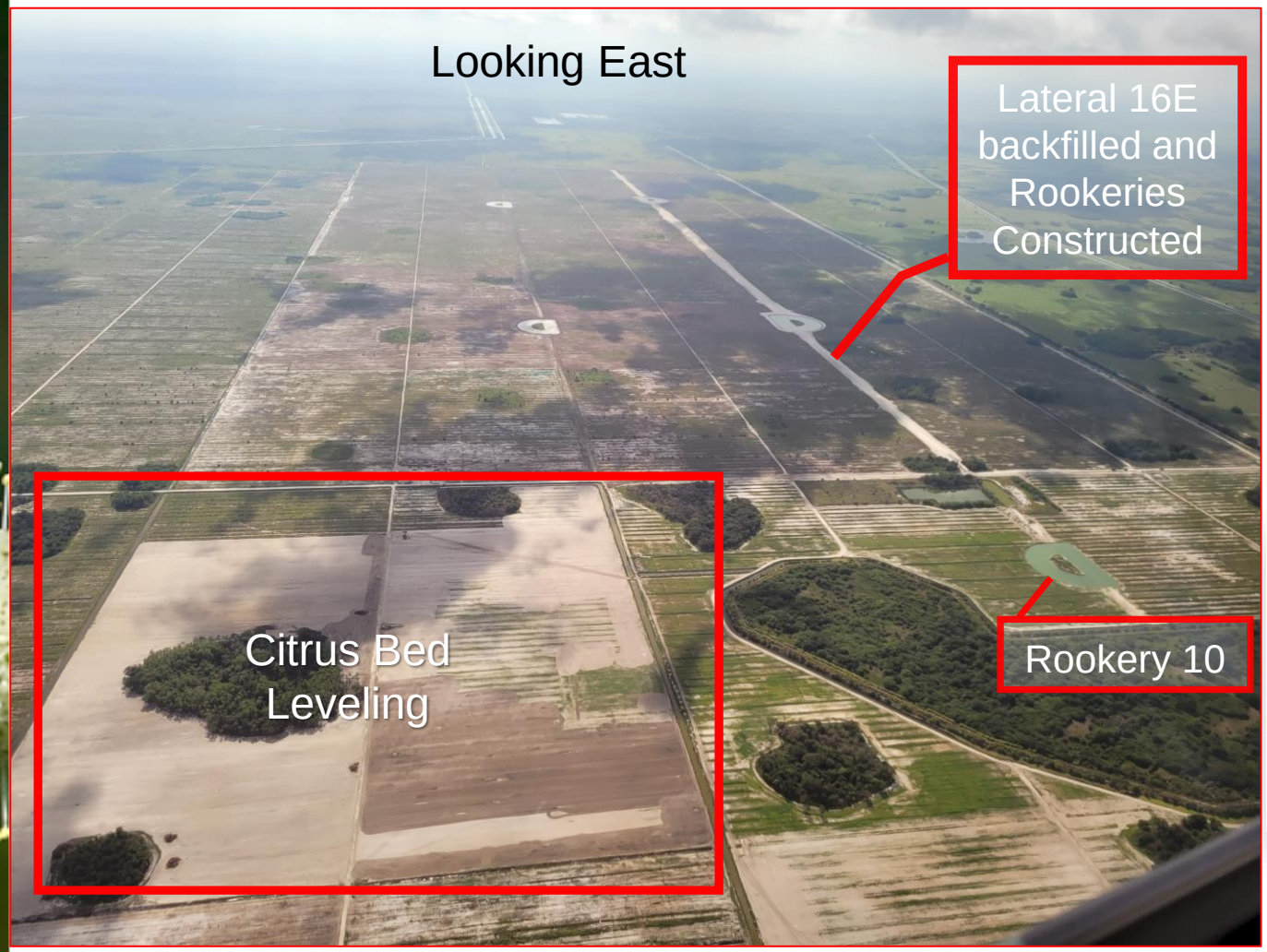
Construction Sequencing

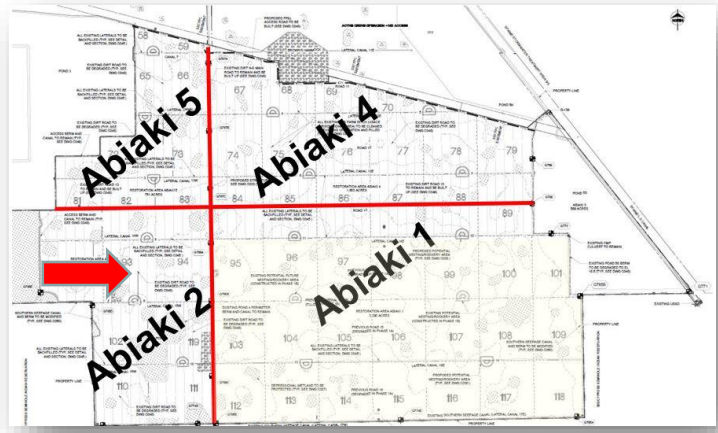


Construction Status



Construction Progress





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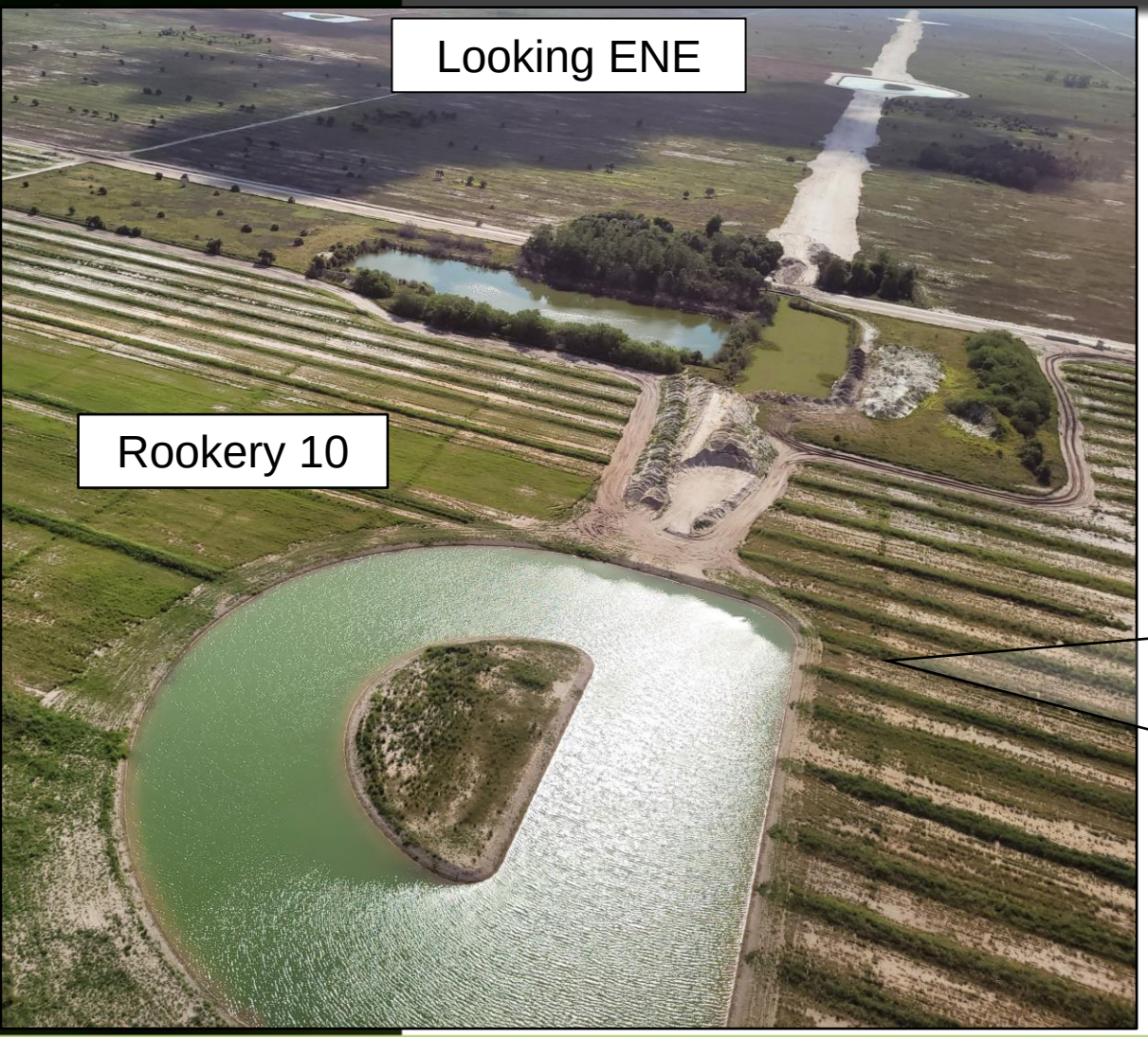

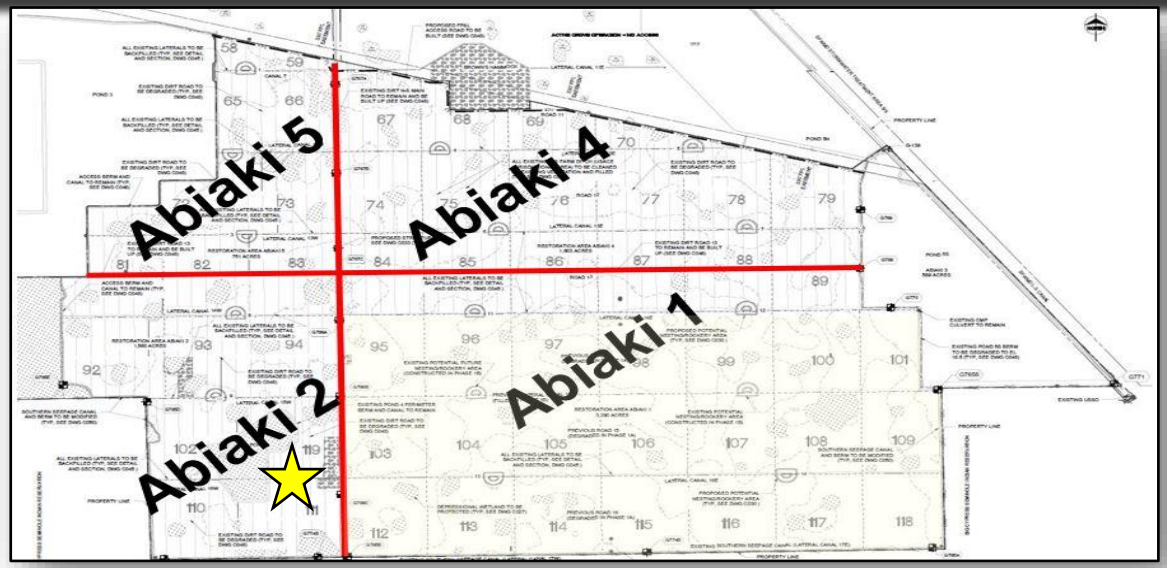

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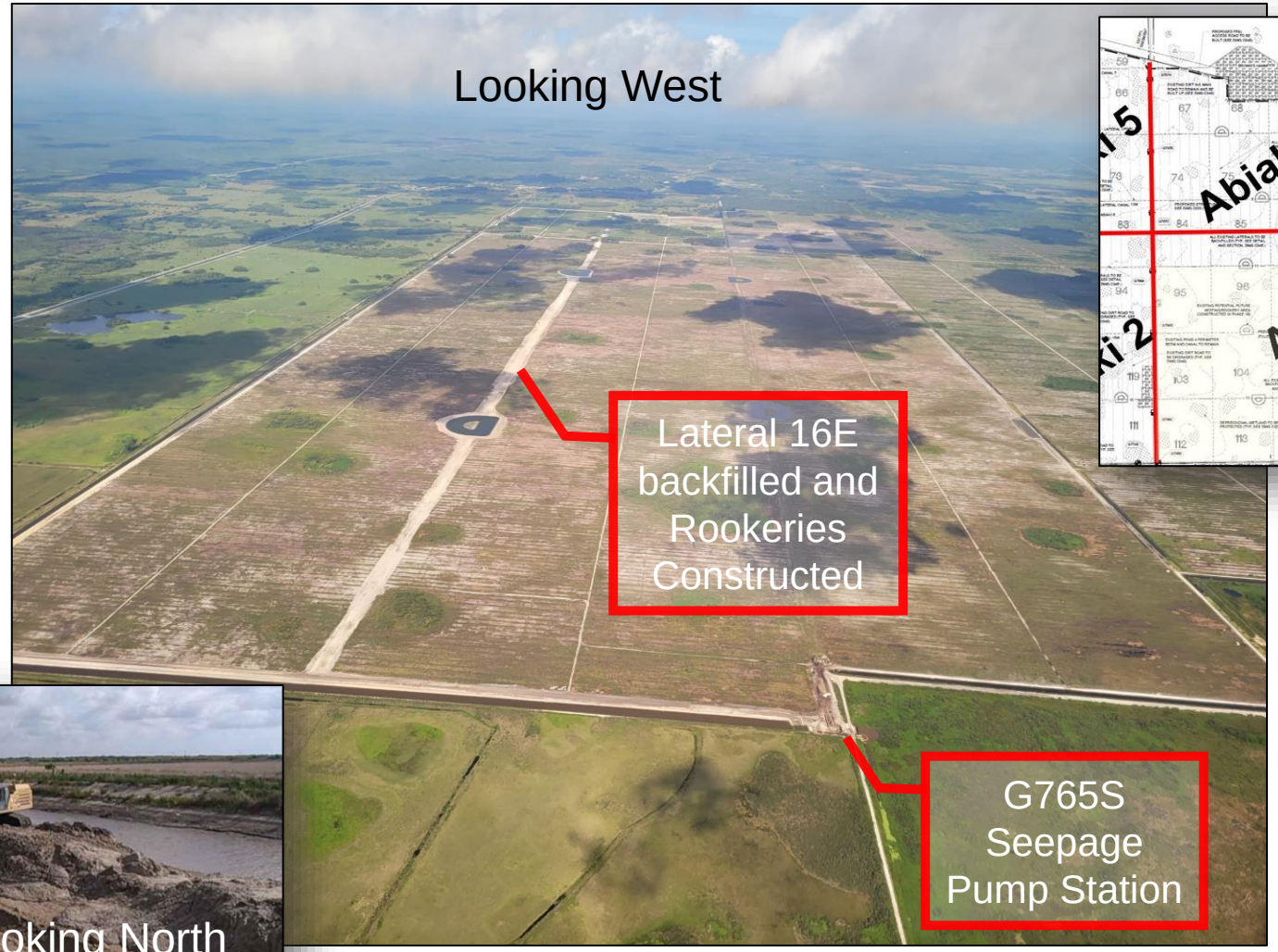
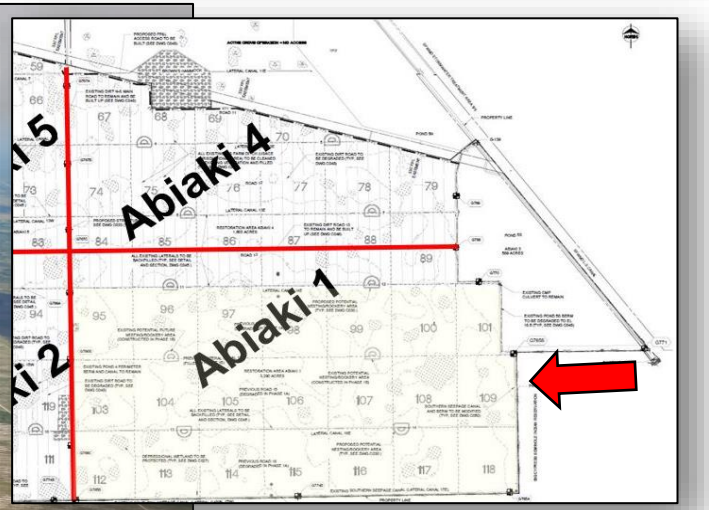
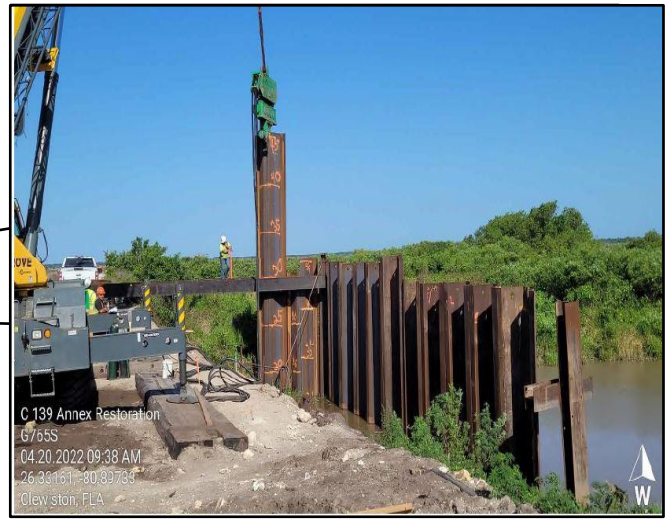
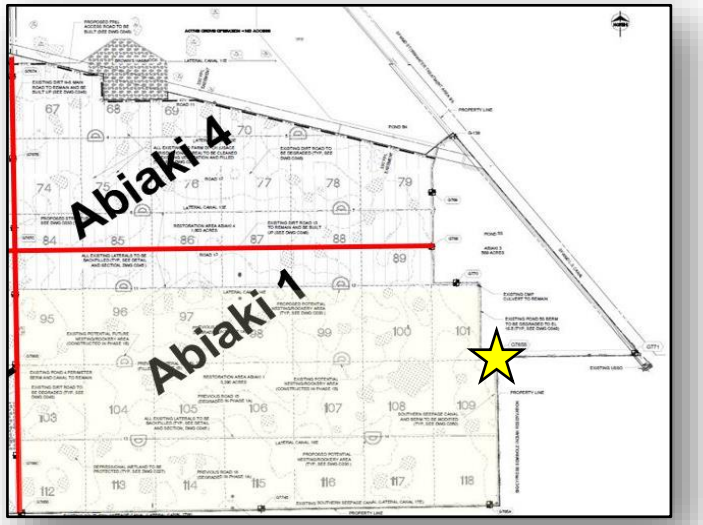


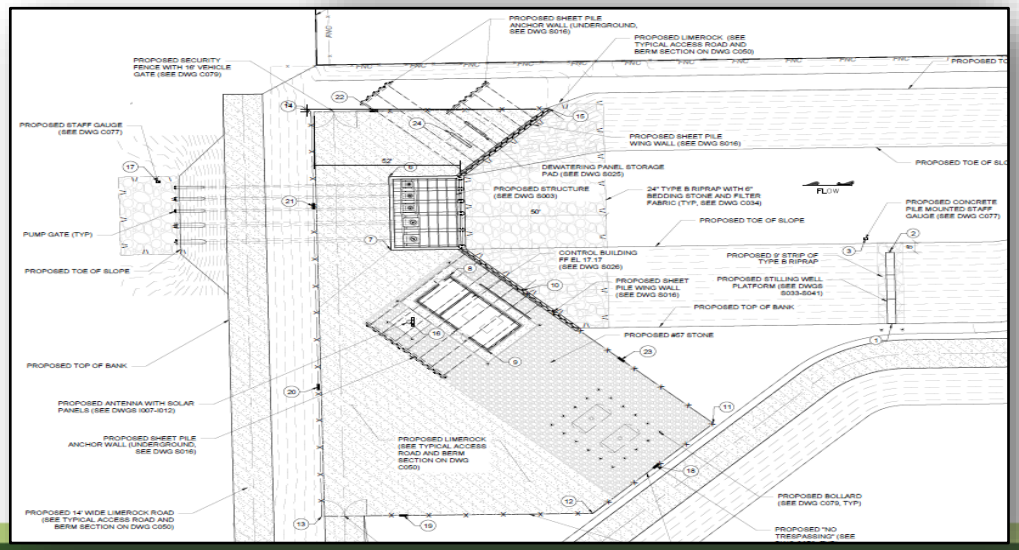



Seepage Canal, looking North

Construction Progress







Construction Progress

Southern Seepage Canal

Looking West

Looking North

Looking North

Sam Jones – Abiaki Prairie Restoration Budget

Budget Estimate from Two-Party Agreement

DESCRIPTION	ESTIMATED COST*	EXPENDED (May 2022)
Design and Construction	$80,600,866	$21.2M (~26%)
Long Term Management	$17,135,010	$0
Long Term Management – Contingency	$4,285,627	$0
Land Reimbursement of 6,314 acres	$49,697,494	$0
TOTAL	$151,718,997	$21.2M (~26%)

*Adjustments to the budget are anticipated due to increasing costs associated with construction and restoration.

Land Management Update

Native Plantings

- Approximately 2,300 acres of Maidencane planted as of Feb. 2022 in Abiaki 1 and portions of Abiaki 2
- Natural native plant recruitment and expansion of previously planted species
- Invasive species treatments

Newly planted Maidencane Abiaki 2

Invasive species treatment in Abiaki 1

Maidencane Harvest & Planting

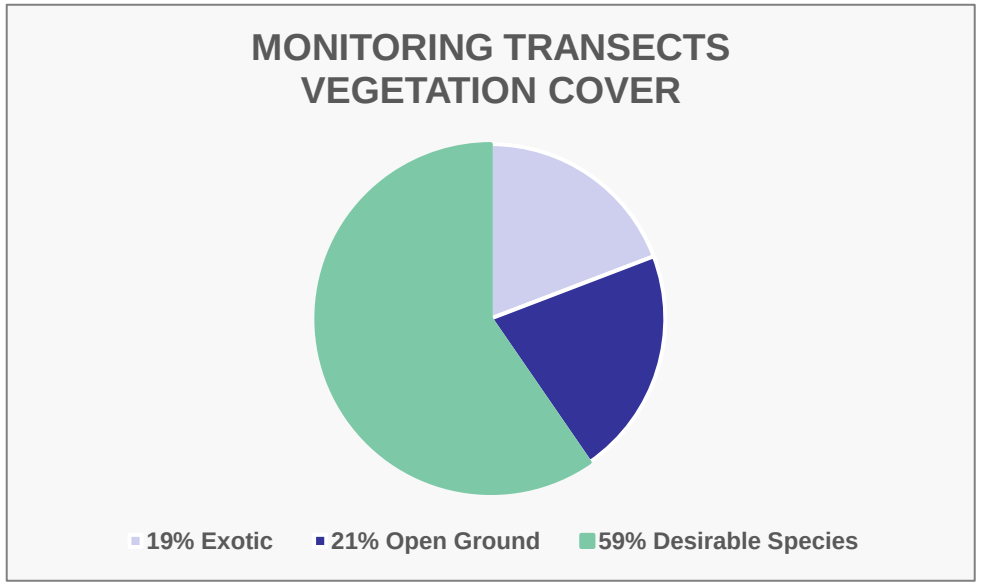
Maidencane Harvest & Planting

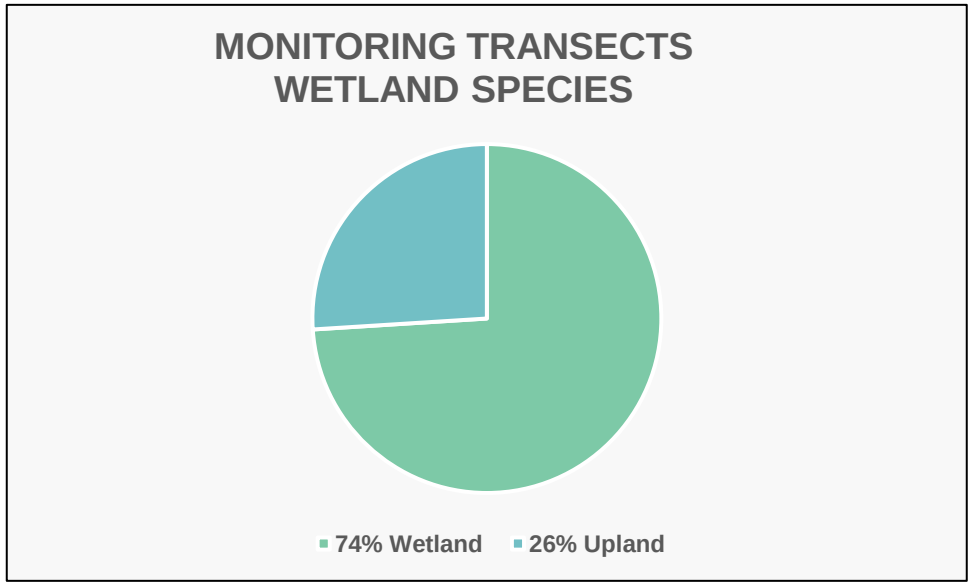
Wildflower Diversity Planting

Wildflower/diversity plantings are evaluated and continue to multiply/re-seed around the project

Vegetation Monitoring

- Vegetation transect monitoring indicates Abiaki Phase 1 is trending towards success





Hydrology

- Remote access monitoring wells installed in Abiaki 1
- Additional monitoring wells to be installed in Abiaki 2

New Well Abiaki 1

New Well Abiaki 1

Wildlife Usage

Sixty-two species of birds were documented in the Phase I area during 2021 wildlife monitoring surveys

Thirteen species of mammals, including the Florida panther *(Puma concolor coryi)* were documented in 2021.

Wildlife Usage

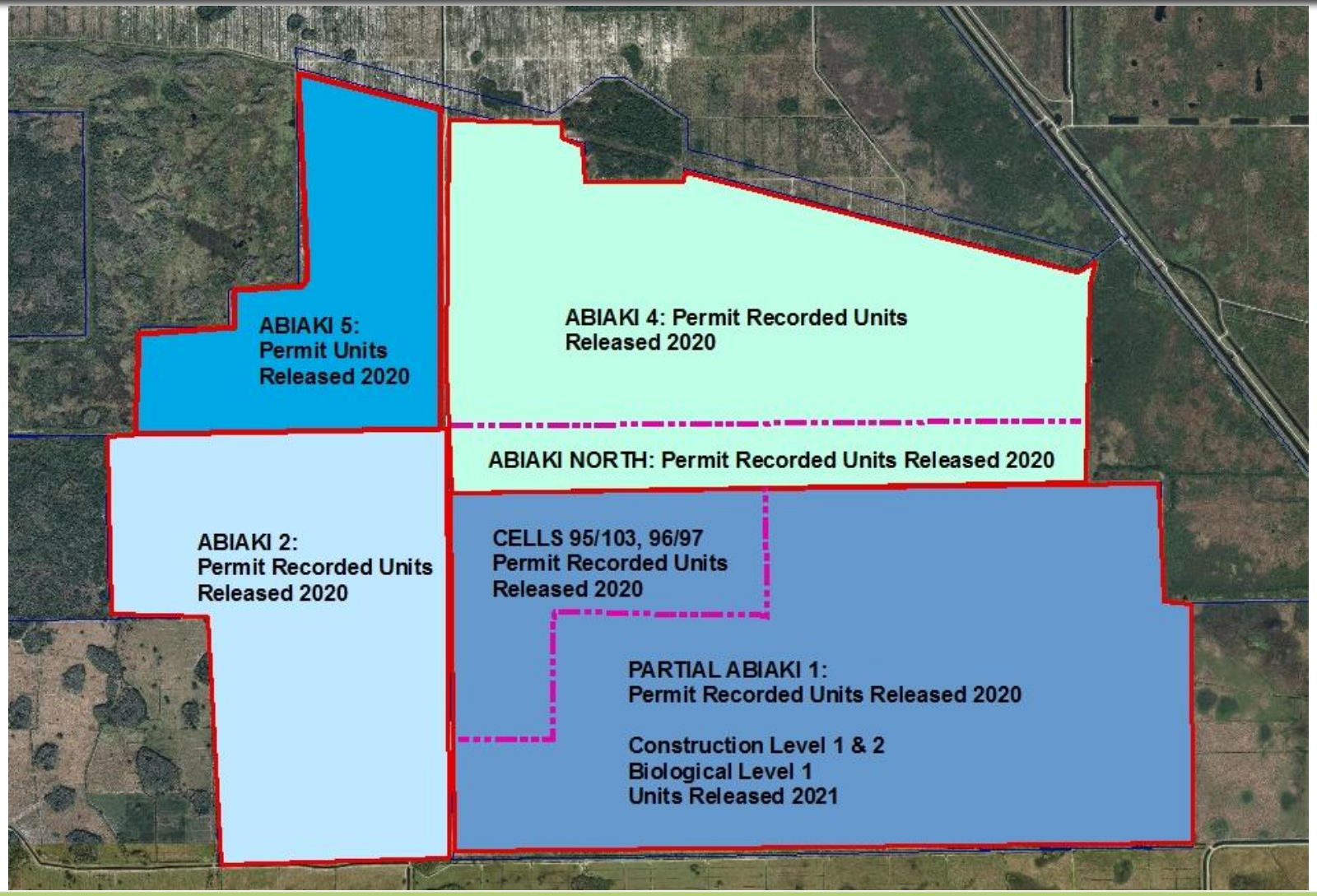
Wildlife Usage

Functional Unit Releases

Functional Unit Disbursement Criteria

Restoration Activity	Benchmark/Percent of Units Released	
Administrative/Legal	Record Permit	5%
Construction: Level 1	Clear Citrus Groves	10%
Construction: Level 2	Level Beds	15%
Construction: Level 3	Backbone Infrastructure	25%
Biological: Level 1	Restoration Planting	20%
Biological: Level 2	Ongoing Restoration Activities	15%
Biological: Level 3	Final Permit Compliance	10%
	TOTAL	**100%**

Functional Unit Releases 2020-2021



Functional Unit Release Estimated Timetable

MDLPA Needed Project Functional Units: **~4,000**

Total Functional Units Projected to Be Released by 2025: **1955.76 (~49% of total needed)**

CREDITS RELEASED AS OF 2021			
Date	Activity Description	Units Released	% of FUs
7/28/2020	Permit Recorded (5%)	215.17	5%
4/1/2021	Partial Phase I - Construction (Level 1)	147.57	4%
4/1/2021	Partial Phase I - Construction (Level 2)	221.36	6%
4/1/2021	Partial Phase I - Biological (Level 1)	295.14	7%
	TOTAL	**879.24**	**22%**

Pending / Anticipated Functional Unit Release 2022 - 2025		
Year	Pending units	% of FUs
2023	161.46	4%
2024	399.58	10%
2025	515.48	13%
Subtotal	**1,076.52**	**27%**

Remaining Construction and Restoration Activities

- Backfill remaining lateral canals
- Modify surface water system and decommission agricultural ponds
- Complete seepage management berm and pump station
- Replace USSO structure with G-771
- Complete clearing and leveling of agricultural beds AB4 and AB5
- Install internal water control structures
- Continue to plant with appropriate native vegetation
- Continue invasive/nuisance vegetation control
- Monitoring and adaptive management to optimize success

Estimated construction completion date: 2027-2028

DISCUSSION