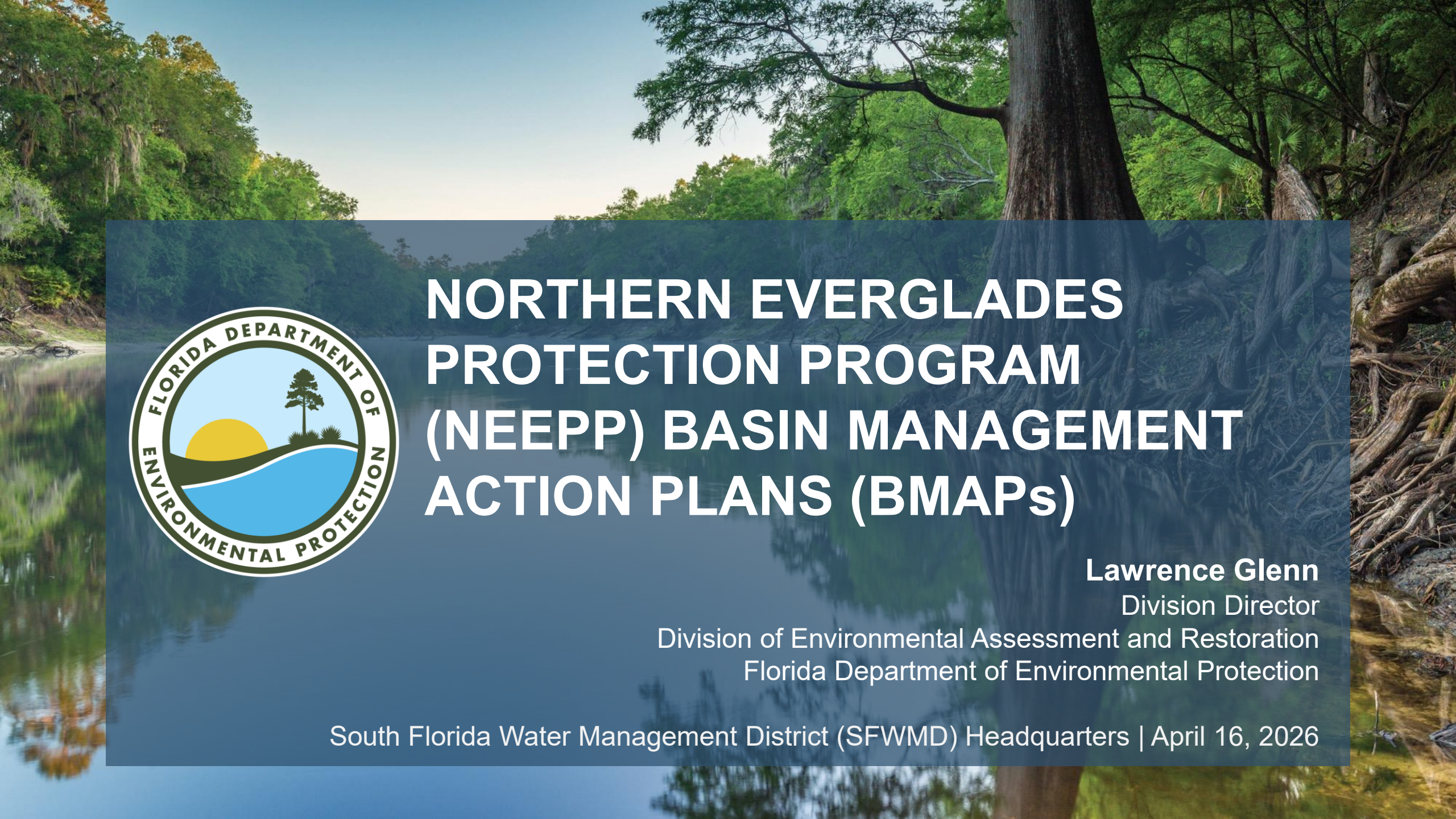


NORTHERN EVERGLADES PROTECTION PROGRAM (NEEPP) BASIN MANAGEMENT ACTION PLANS (BMAPs)

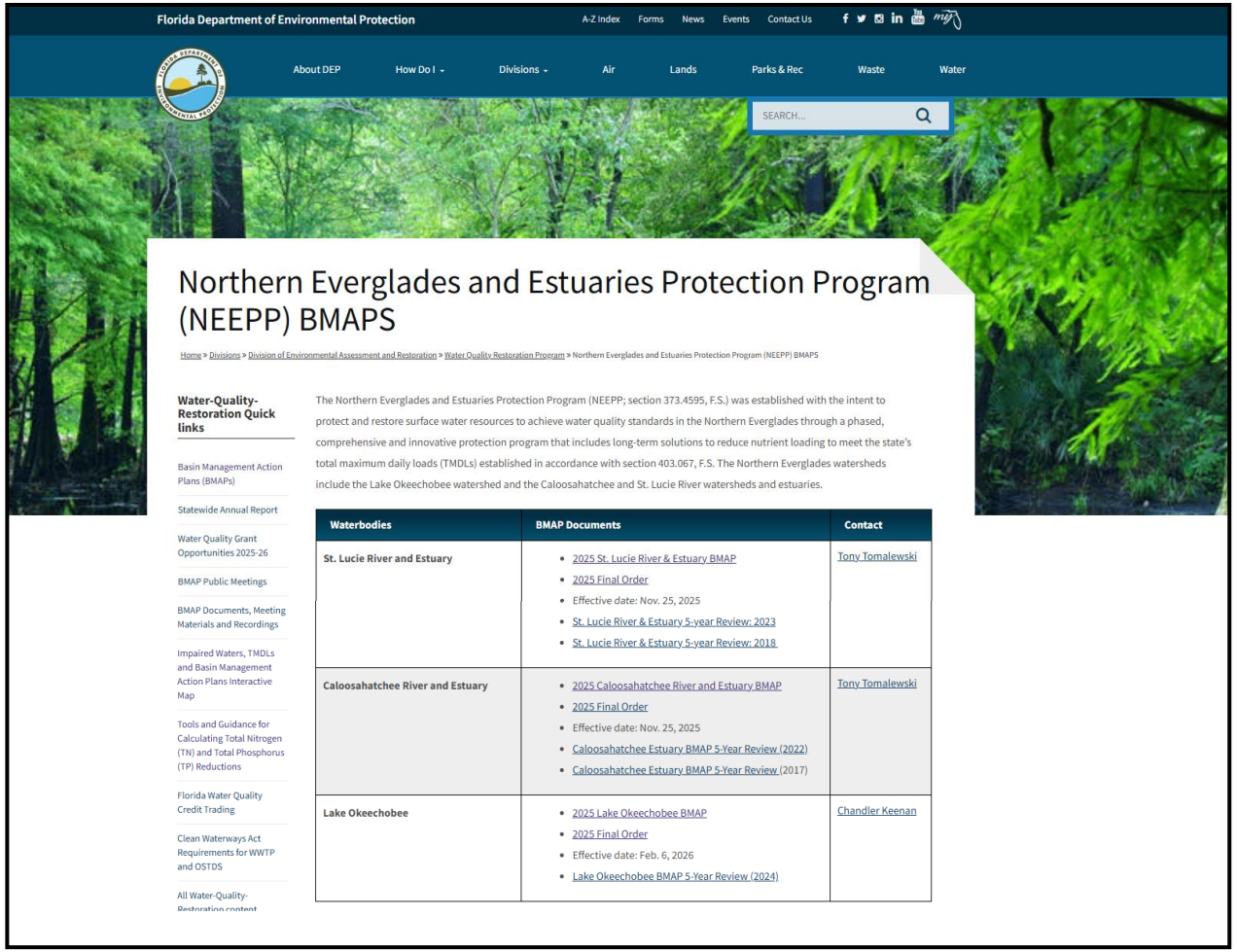
Lawrence Glenn
Division Director
Division of Environmental Assessment and Restoration
Florida Department of Environmental Protection

South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) Headquarters | April 16, 2026

BMAP UPDATES

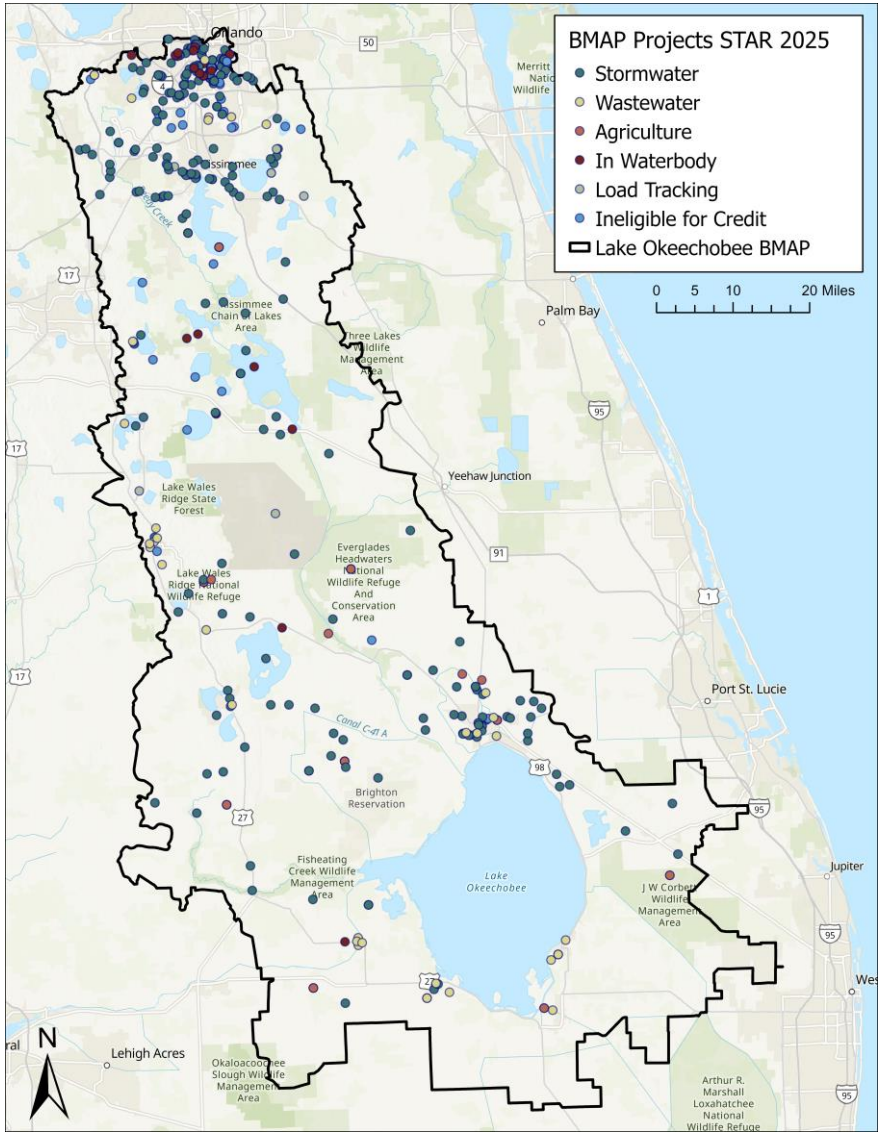
COMPLETED AND ONGOING EFFORTS

- Water quality data evaluation.
- Water quality trend analyses.
- Hotspot analysis.
- Evaluation of the monitoring network.
- Planning and development of regional projects with partner agencies.
- Identification of projects for BMAP milestones.
- Increased outreach to local governments and special districts.
- Incorporation of Clean Waterways Act requirements.
- Incorporation of House Bill (HB) 1379 and HB 1557 requirements.



LAKE OKEECHOBEE BMAP

- Originally adopted 2014.
- Updated per Executive Order (EO) 19-12 in 2020.
- Completed Five-Year Review in 2024.
- Water quality impairment:
  - Total phosphorus (TP) total maximum daily load (TMDL) of 140 metric tons.
- Updated in 2025.

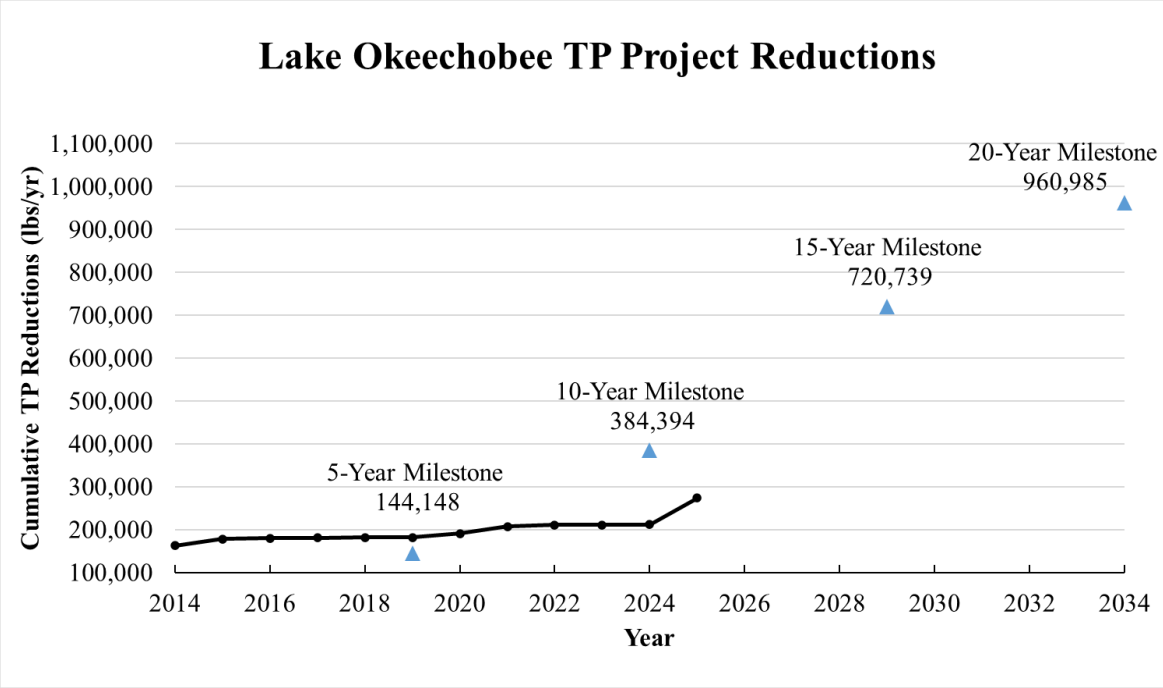


LAKE OKEECHOBEE BMAP

DRAFT ESTIMATED REDUCTIONS

Through December 31, 2025:

- 245 projects were completed.
- 74 ongoing activities listed.
- 107 projects are underway or planned.
- Estimated reductions of 273,865 lbs/yr TP.

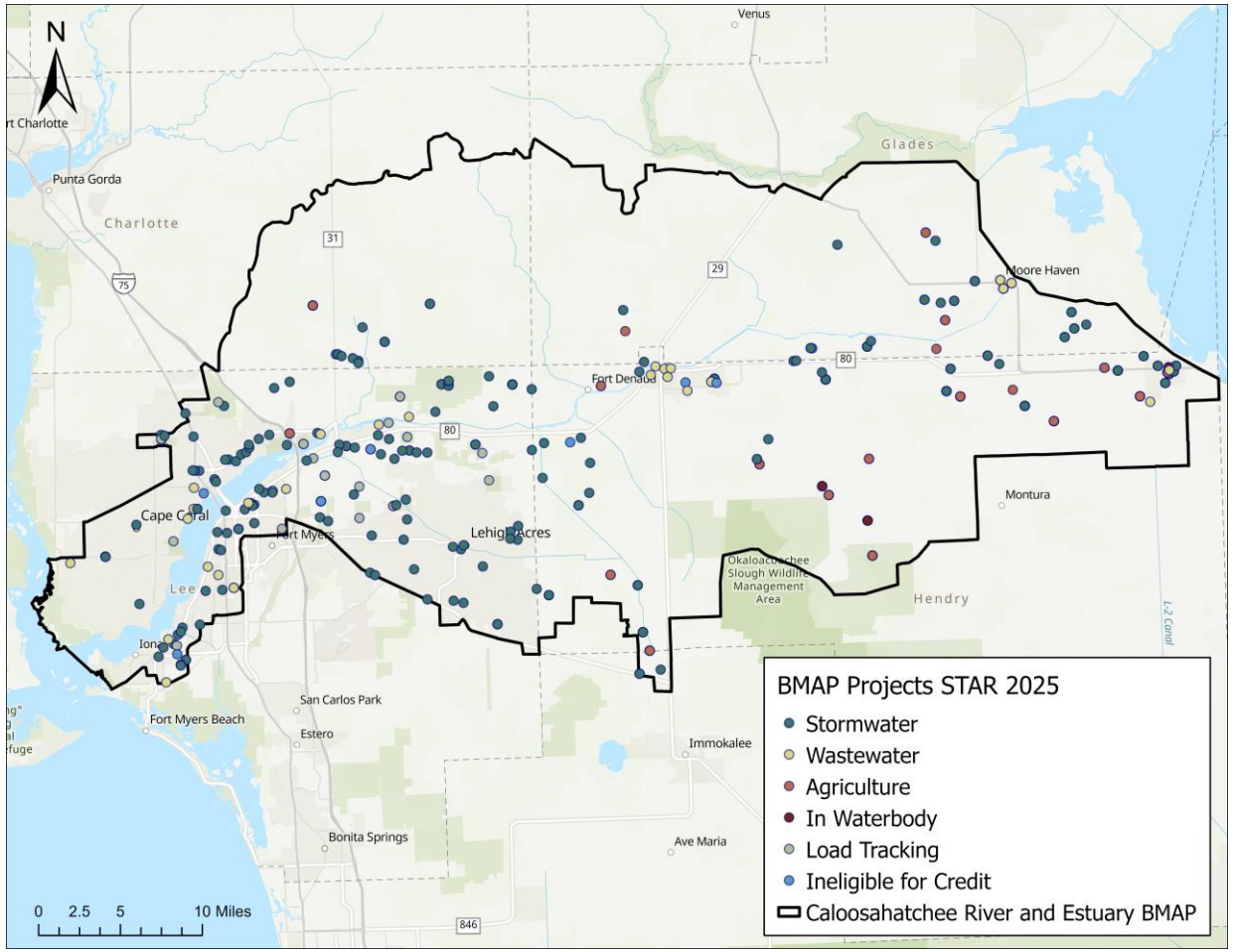


lbs/yr = pounds/year

Subwatershed	TP Reductions Achieved (lbs/yr)	% Progress
East Lake Okeechobee	6,498	14%
Fisheating Creek	21,942	20%
Indian Prairie	61,787	29%
Lake Istokpoga	6,005	8%
Lower Kissimmee	41,453	38%
South Lake Okeechobee	6,358	11%
Taylor Creek/ Nubbin Slough	86,166	50%
Upper Kissimmee	41,507	26%
West Lake Okeechobee	1,611	21%
Multi-Basin	538	NA
Grand Total	**273,865**	**28%**

CALOOSAHATCHEE RIVER AND ESTUARY BMAP

- Originally adopted 2012.
- Updated per EO 19-12 in 2020.
- Completed Five-Year Review in 2022.
- Estuary TMDL:
  - Total Nitrogen (TN) – 9,086,094 lbs/yr.
- Updated in 2025.

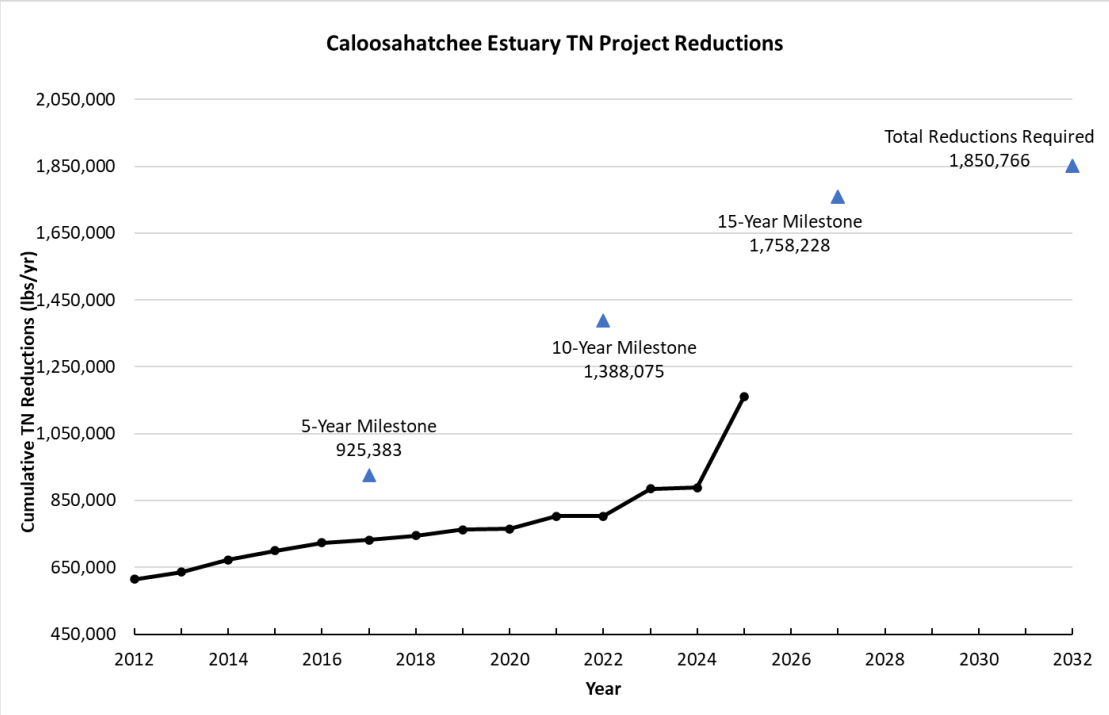


CALOOSAHATCHEE RIVER AND ESTUARY BMAP

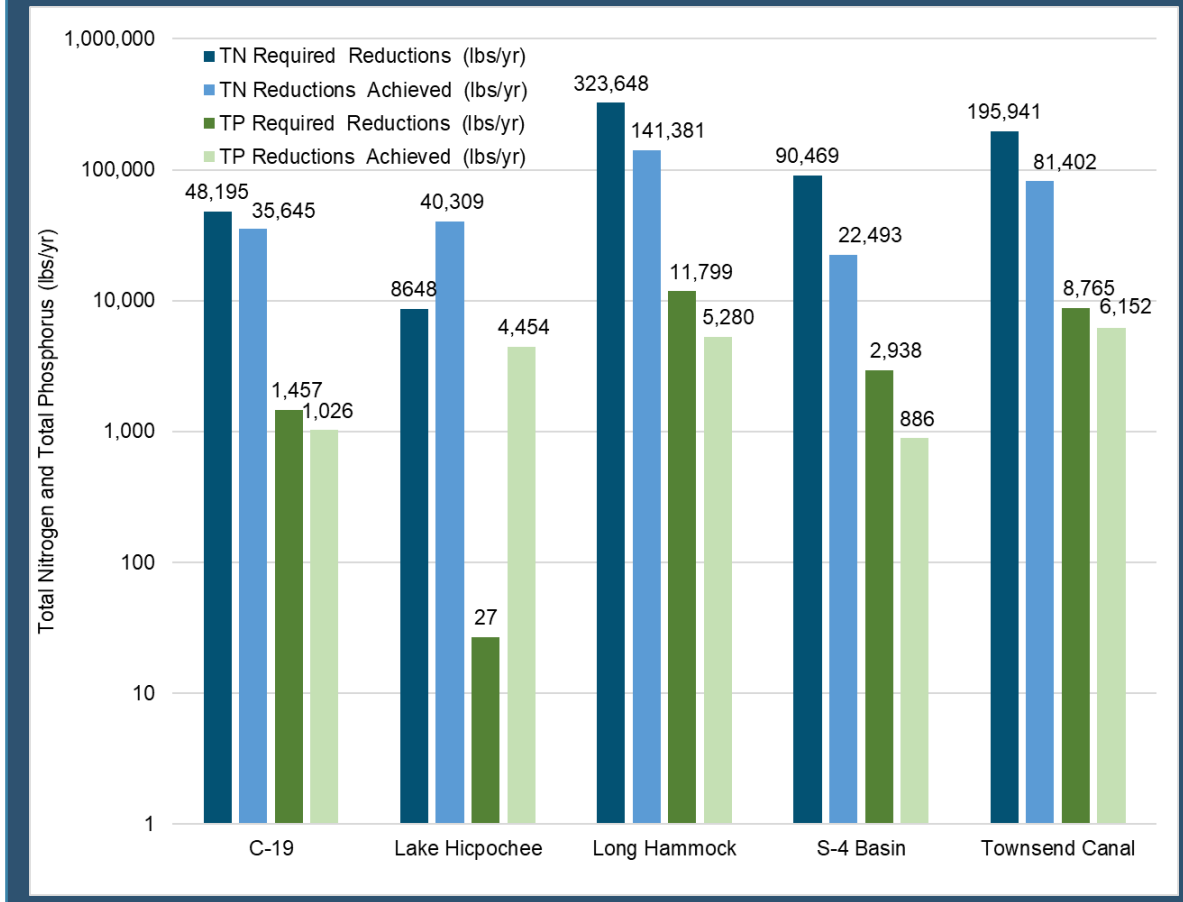
DRAFT ESTIMATED REDUCTIONS

Through December 31, 2025:

- 165 projects were completed.
- 45 ongoing activities listed.
- 82 projects are underway or planned.
- Estimated reductions of 1,159,866 lbs/yr TN.

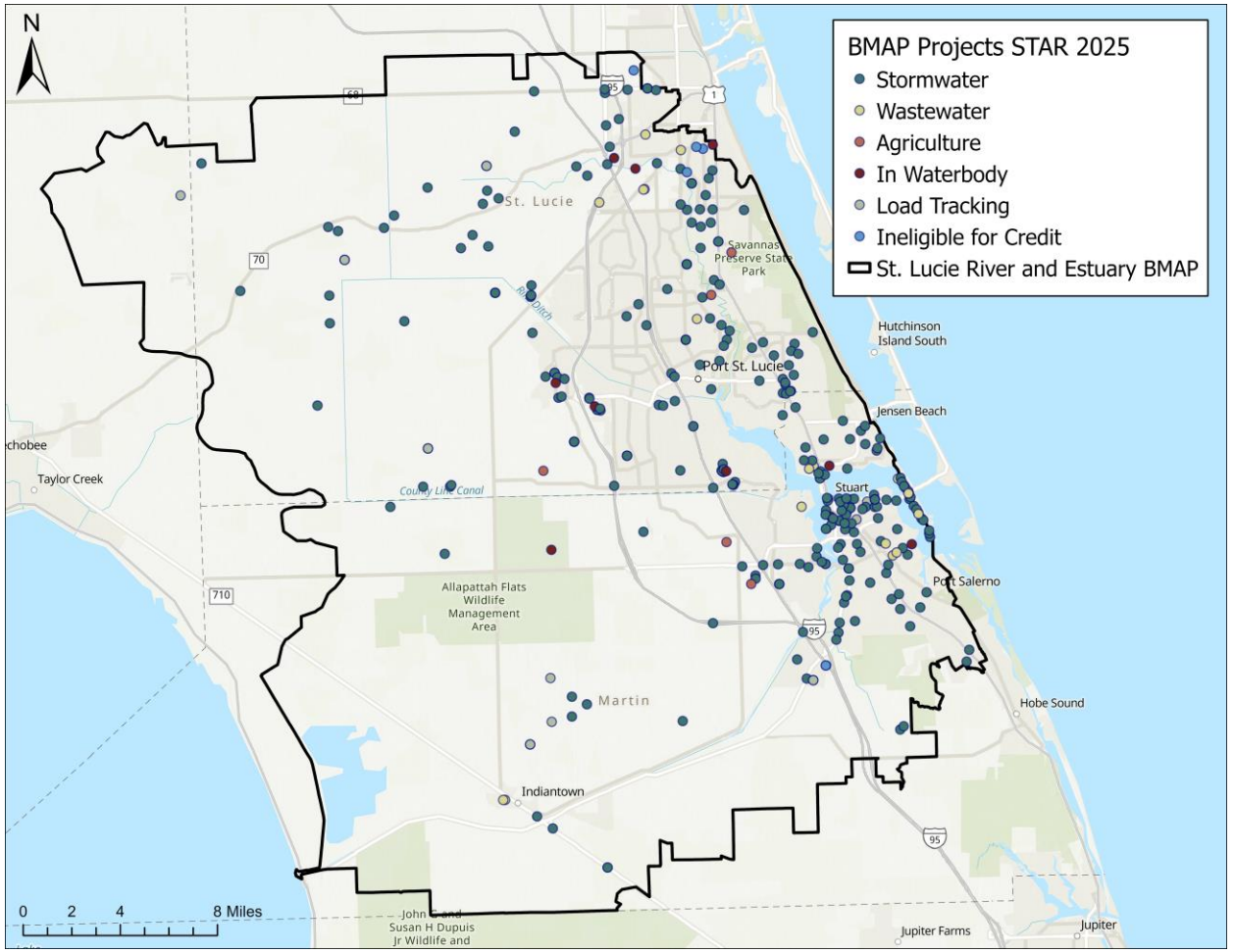


Progress in the Caloosahatchee Tributaries



ST. LUCIE RIVER AND ESTUARY BMAP

- Originally adopted 2013.
- Updated per EO 19-12 in 2020.
- Completed Five-Year Review in 2023.
- TMDLs:
  - TN: 0.72 mg/L.
  - TP: 0.081 mg/L.
- Updated in 2025.

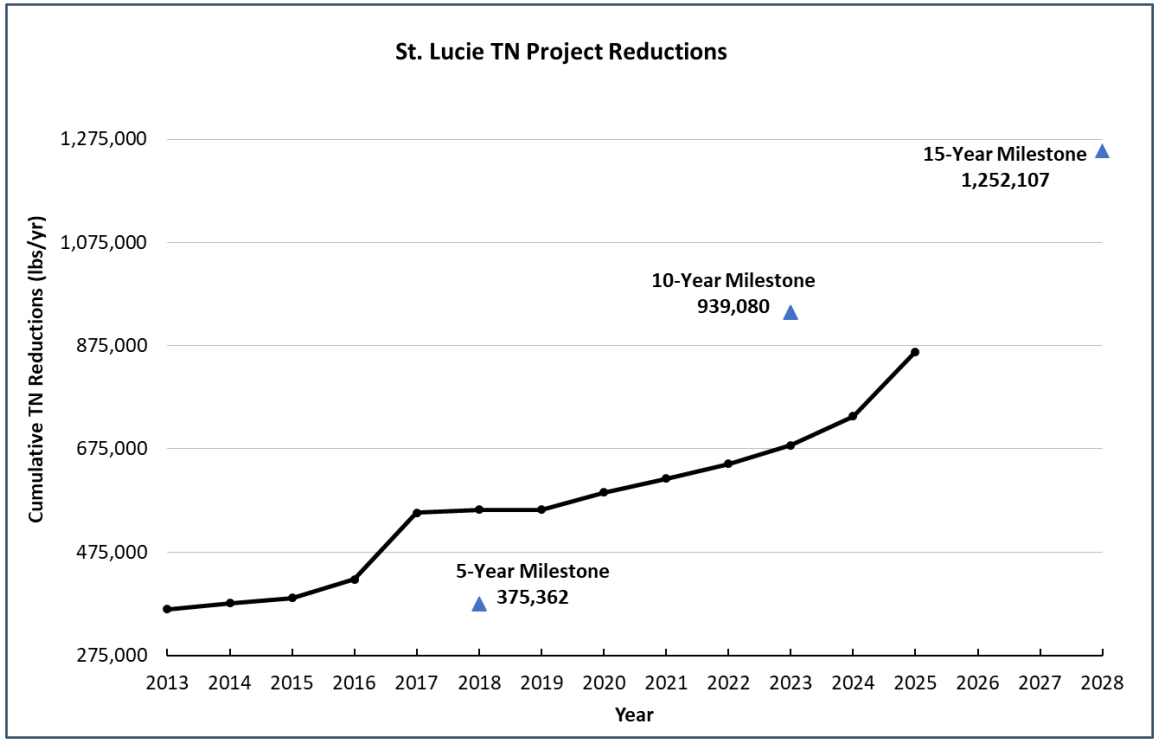


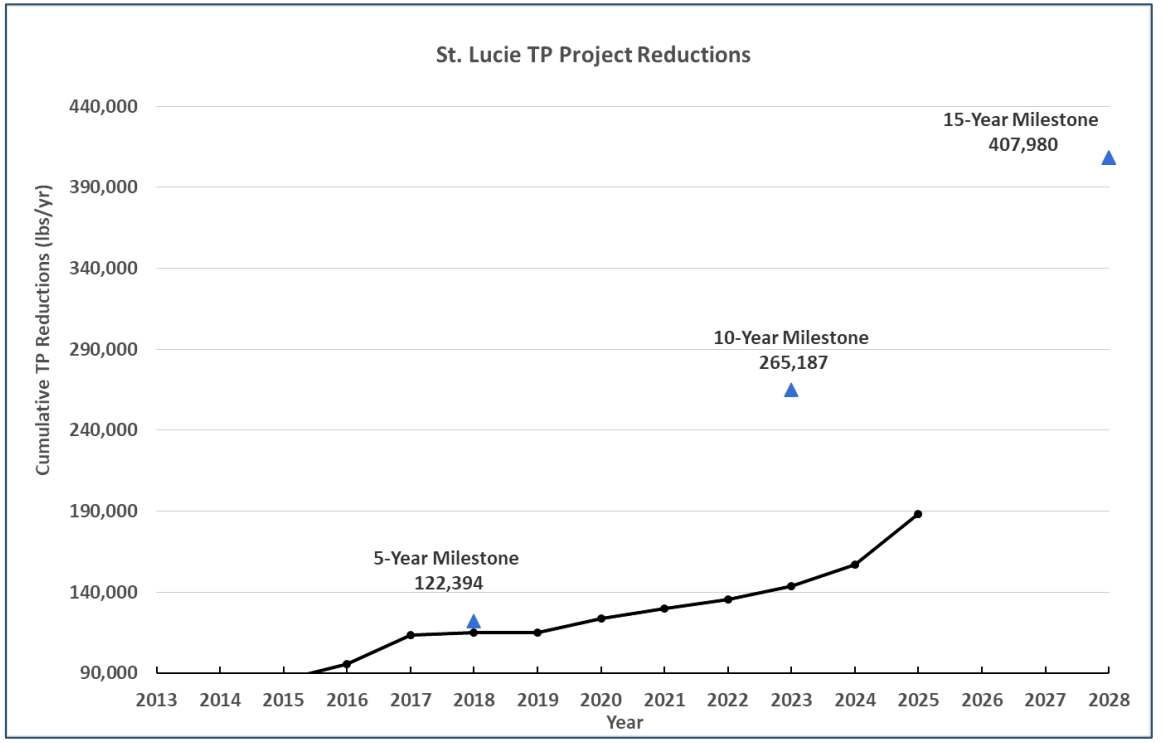
ST. LUCIE RIVER AND ESTUARY BMAP

DRAFT ESTIMATED REDUCTIONS

Through December 31, 2025:

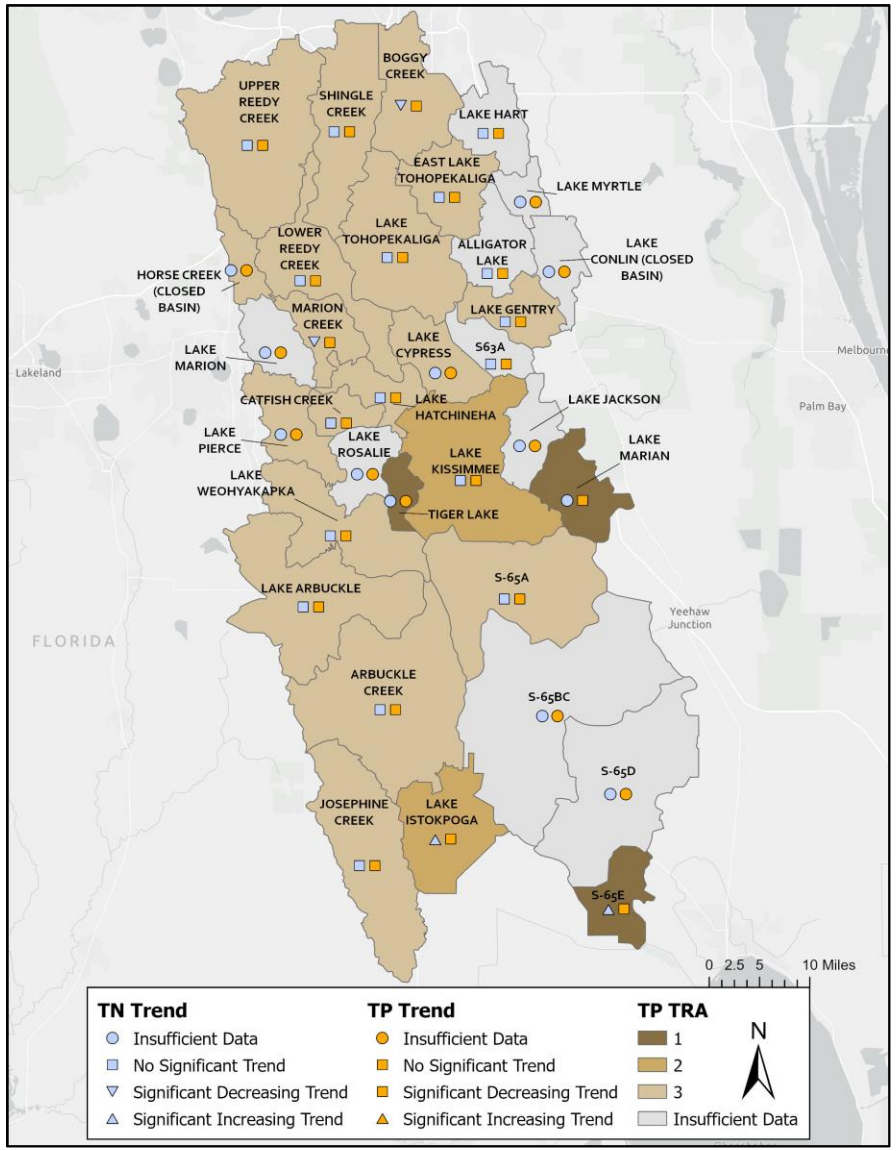
- 225 projects were completed.
- 46 ongoing activities listed.
- 101 projects are underway or planned.
- Estimated reductions of 862,875 lbs/yr TN and 188,129 lbs/yr TP.

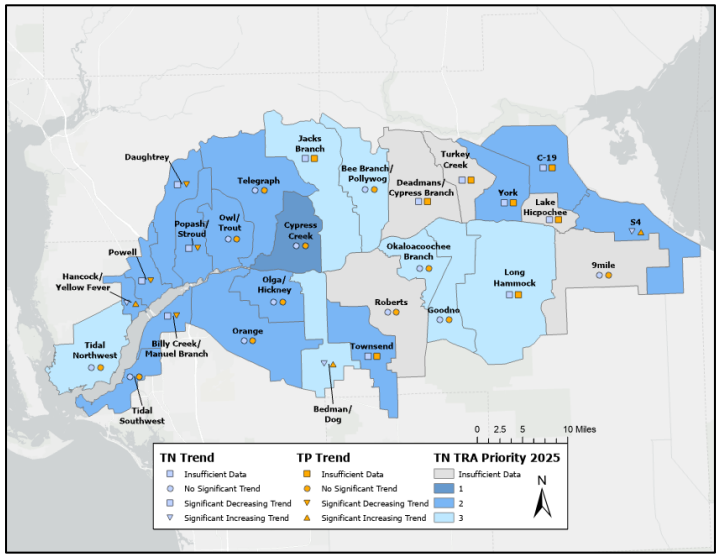


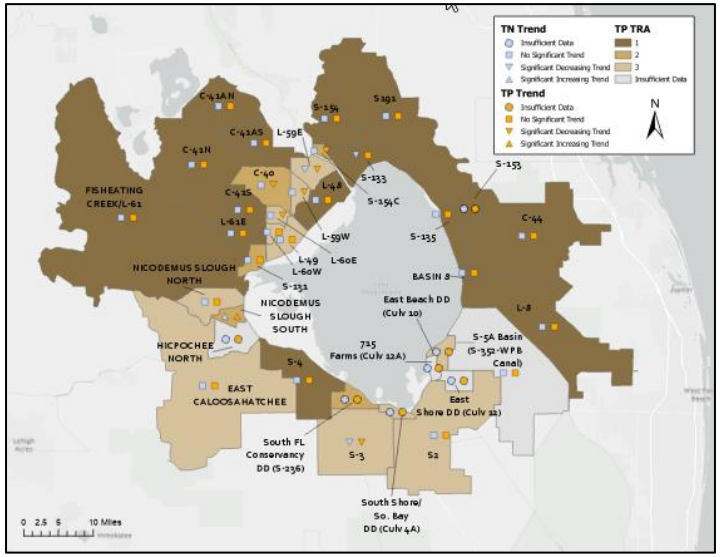


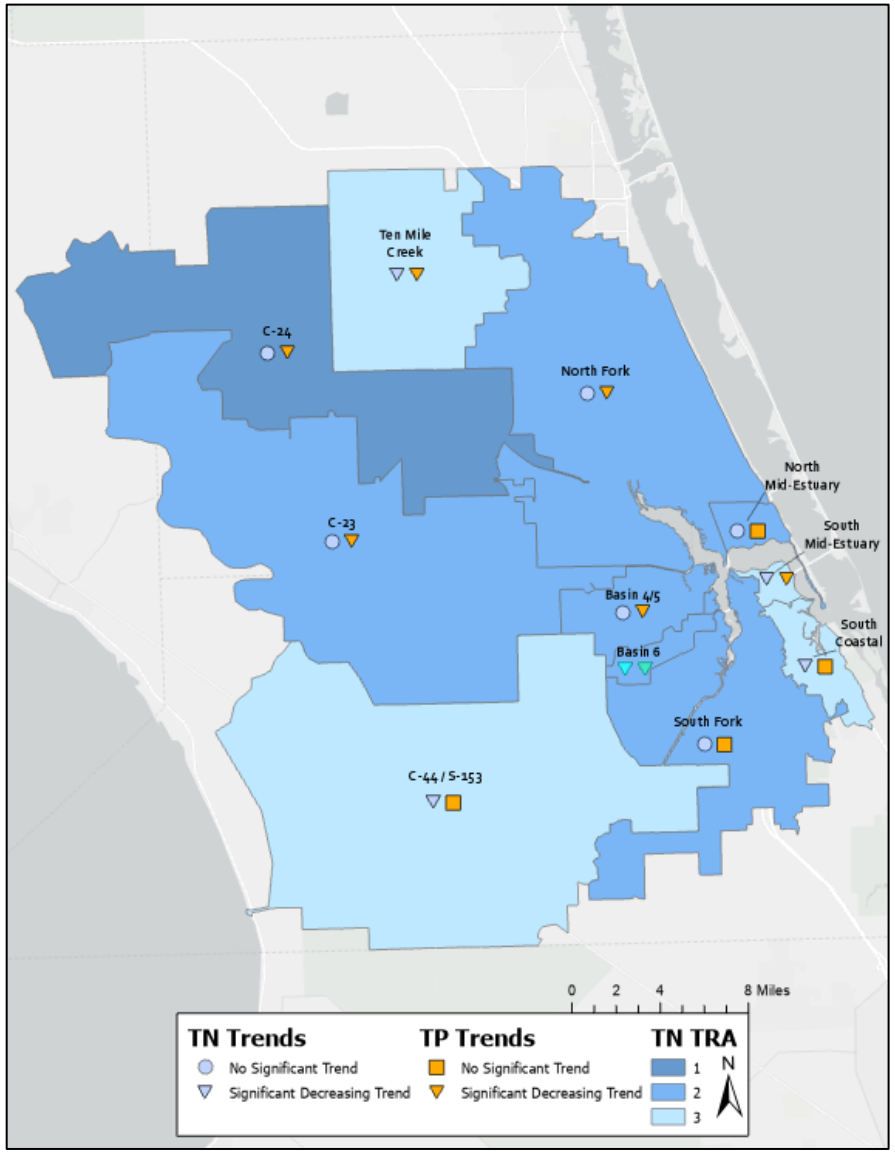
NEEPP BMAPs

WATER QUALITY ANALYSES









NEEPP BMAPs
UPCOMING EFFORTS

Technical work:

- Model updates for unified framework across NEEPP BMAPs.
- Development/revision of allocations in BMAPs.
- Assessment of compliance with entity milestones.
- New approach for estimating future loading under growth scenarios.

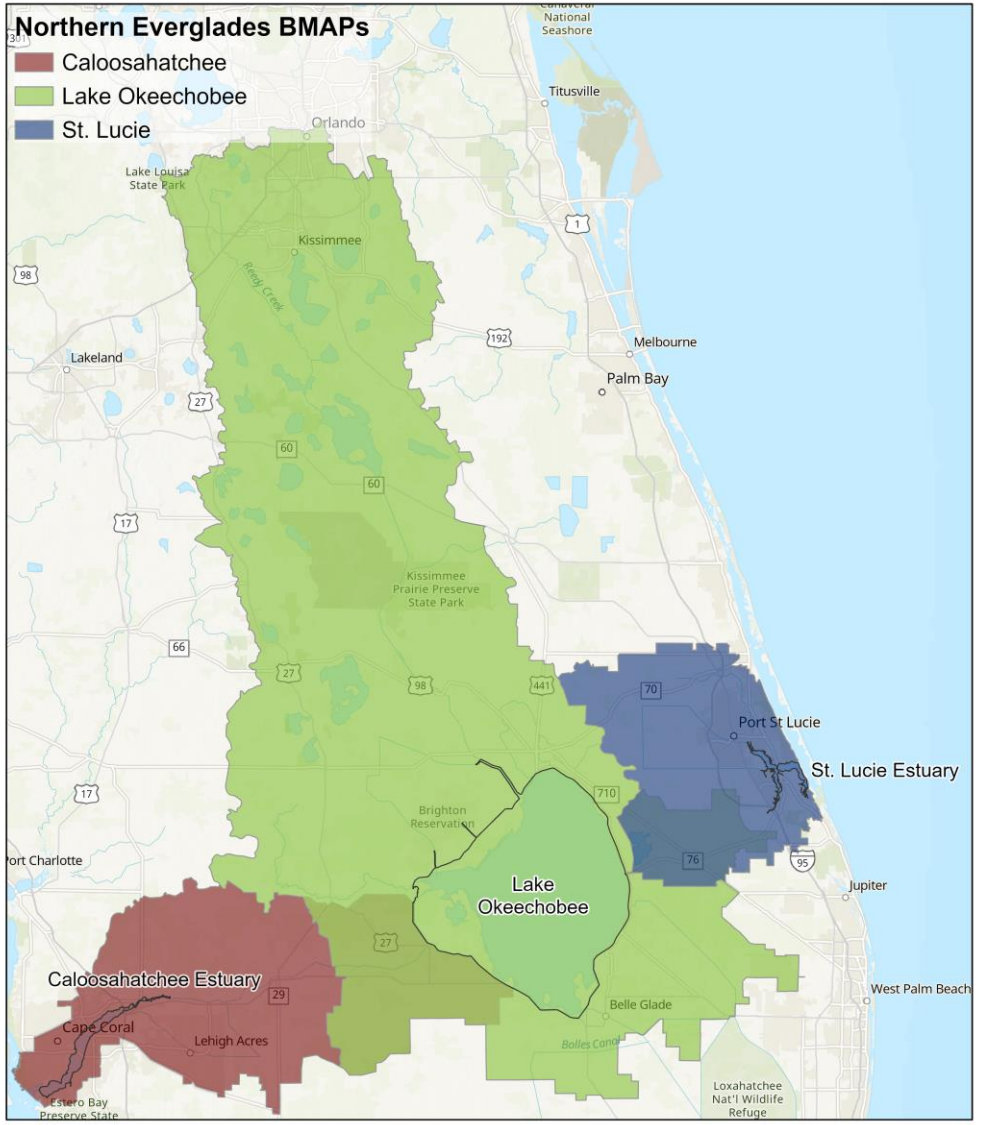

Source: SFWMD; Caloosahatchee River


Source: SFWMD; St. Lucie Estuary


Source: SFWMD; Lake Okeechobee

NEEPP BMAPs
UPCOMING EFFORTS

- Caloosahatchee River and Estuary
  - Updated 2017 Hydrologic Simulation Program-FORTRAN (HSPF) model - completed in fall 2025.
  - Anticipate reassessing allocations fall 2026.
- St. Lucie River and Estuary
  - Building new HSPF model.
  - Anticipate model will be completed by fall 2026.
- Lake Okeechobee
  - Building new series of HSPF models.
  - Anticipate model will be completed by winter 2027.
- Models will include ArcNLET spatial layer for project planning and septic remediation.



UPCOMING SCHEDULE
TECHNICAL AND PROGRESS UPDATES

BMAP	Next Milestone	Next Update
Caloosahatchee	15 Year Milestone – 2027 (95%)* Reassess progress after modeling update.	Five-Year Review in 2027
St. Lucie	Final Milestone – 2028 (100%) Reassess progress after modeling update.	Five-Year Review in 2028
Lake Okeechobee	15 Year Milestone – 2029 (75%) Reassess progress and allocation approach after modeling update.	Five-Year Review in 2029

*For Tidal subwatershed. East and West Subwatersheds are on a modified implementation timeline.

BMAP UPDATES
UPCOMING EFFORTS

Management strategies:

- Updated wastewater effluent standards.
- New golf course requirements.
- Increased coordination with DEP industrial wastewater permit staff and dairy operations.

Table 15. Nitrogen effluent limits for WWTFs

mgd = Million gallons per day
mg/L = milligrams per liter
* Including rapid-rate land application systems permitted under Part V of Chapter 62-610, F.A.C.

Facility Capacity (mgd)	Surface Water Discharges (mg/L)	WWTFs Listed in Appendix E (mg/L)	WWTFs Not Listed in Appendix E – Slow-Rate Land Application (SRLA) and Rapid-Rate Land Application (RRLA) Effluent Disposal Systems (mg/L)	WWTFs Not Listed in Appendix E – All Other Reuse or Effluent Disposal Methods, excluding SRLA and RRLA (mg/L)*
Greater than or equal to 0.5	3	3	3	10
Less than 0.5 and greater than or equal to 0.01	3	3	6	10
Less than 0.01	3	Not applicable (NA)	10	10

Table 16. Phosphorus effluent limits for WWTFs

mgd = Million gallons per day
mg/L = milligrams per liter
* Including rapid-rate land application systems permitted under Part V of Chapter 62-610, F.A.C.

Facility Capacity (mgd)	Surface Water Discharges (mg/L)	WWTFs Listed in Appendix E (mg/L)	WWTFs Not Listed in Appendix E –SRLA and RRLA Effluent Disposal Systems (mg/L)	WWTFs Not Listed in Appendix E – All Other Reuse of Effluent Disposal Methods, excluding SRLA and RRLA (mg/L)*
Greater than or equal to 0.5	1	1	1	6
Less than 0.5 and greater than or equal to 0.01	1	1	3	6
Less than 0.01	1	NA	6	6

Nutrient Application Log

Only complete green cells

Turf Type	Turf Species	Acreage
Tees		
Greens		
Fairway		
Roughs		
Total		0

Fertilizer Application

Month	Turf Type	TN Application Rate (lbs/acre)	TP Application Rate (lbs/acre)	Number of Applications	Total TN Applied (lbs)	Total TP Applied (lbs)
January	Tees				0	0
	Greens				0	0
	Fairway				0	0
	Roughs				0	0
February	Tees				0	0
	Greens				0	0
	Fairway				0	0
	Roughs				0	0
March	Tees				0	0
	Greens				0	0
	Fairway				0	0
	Roughs				0	0
April	Tees				0	0
	Greens				0	0
	Fairway				0	0
	Roughs				0	0
May	Tees				0	0

Source: South Florida Water Management District

EXISTING DATA AND TOOLS

TOOLS AND INFORMATION FOR STAKEHOLDERS

B18 | Required pieces of information (listed below)*

11/8/2021

BMP Verification Helper

First: Select a BMAP in the orange cell below, for the earliest acceptable start date (year).

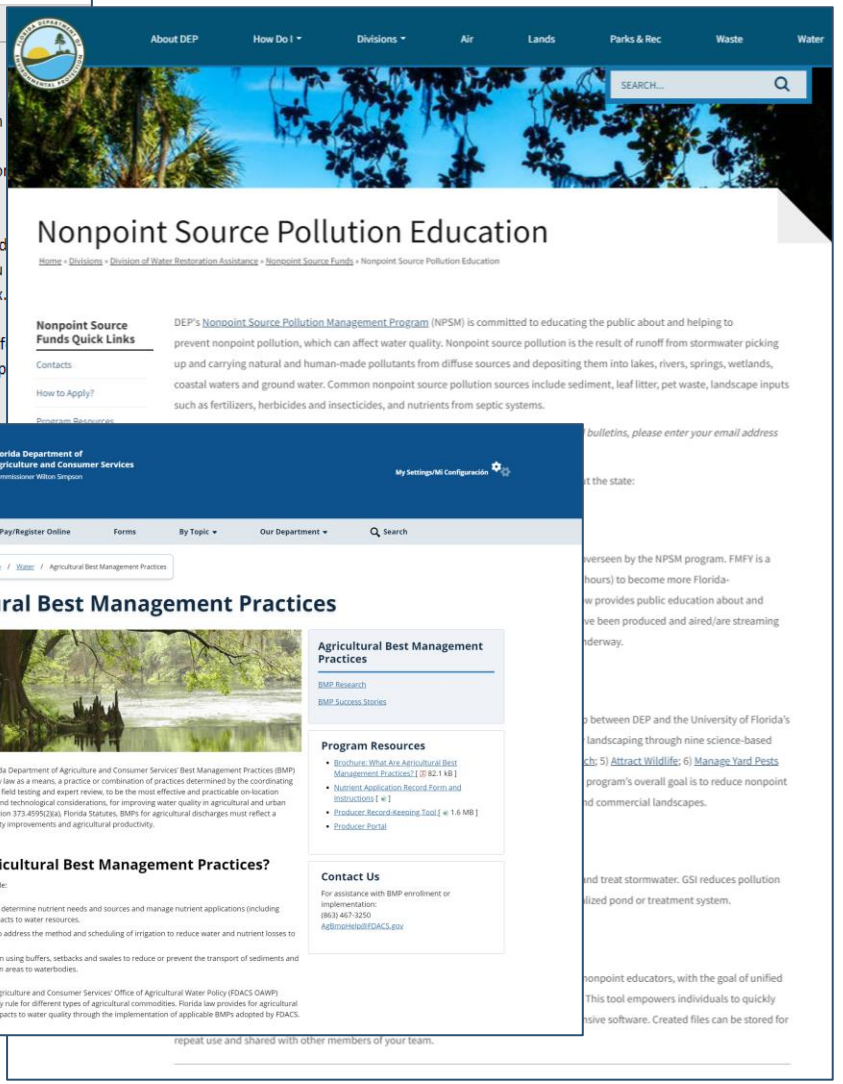
BMAP List

Select a project type from pick list in the cell below.
Select a Project Type by clicking this cell and choosing from this dropdown list.
Category 1: Select a project type in cell B10
Category 2: Select a project type in cell B10
Message about the project type selected: / **Definition of the project type selected:**
Please select a project type in the yellow cell at the top of this table and have a great day!
Select a project type in cell B10 / *Select a project type in cell B10*
Required pieces of information (listed below)*
Select a project type in cell B10

Instructions:

1. Will this project be eligible based on start date? Each BMAP tracks projects starting with a specific year and forward. Projects that began before this date are not typically eligible for credit. Select the BMAP basin in the orange cell, B4. As always, contact your BMAP coordinator if you are unsure.

2. What is the project type? Review the project types table (tab called Project Types) and identify the project type that suits the project you are submitting. Project types are categorized for easier identification (ex. stormwater or wastewater). Click on a project type to read the definition in a pop-up. Pop-ups for project types currently ineligible for credit suggest the reader review definitions for creditable project types with similar names.



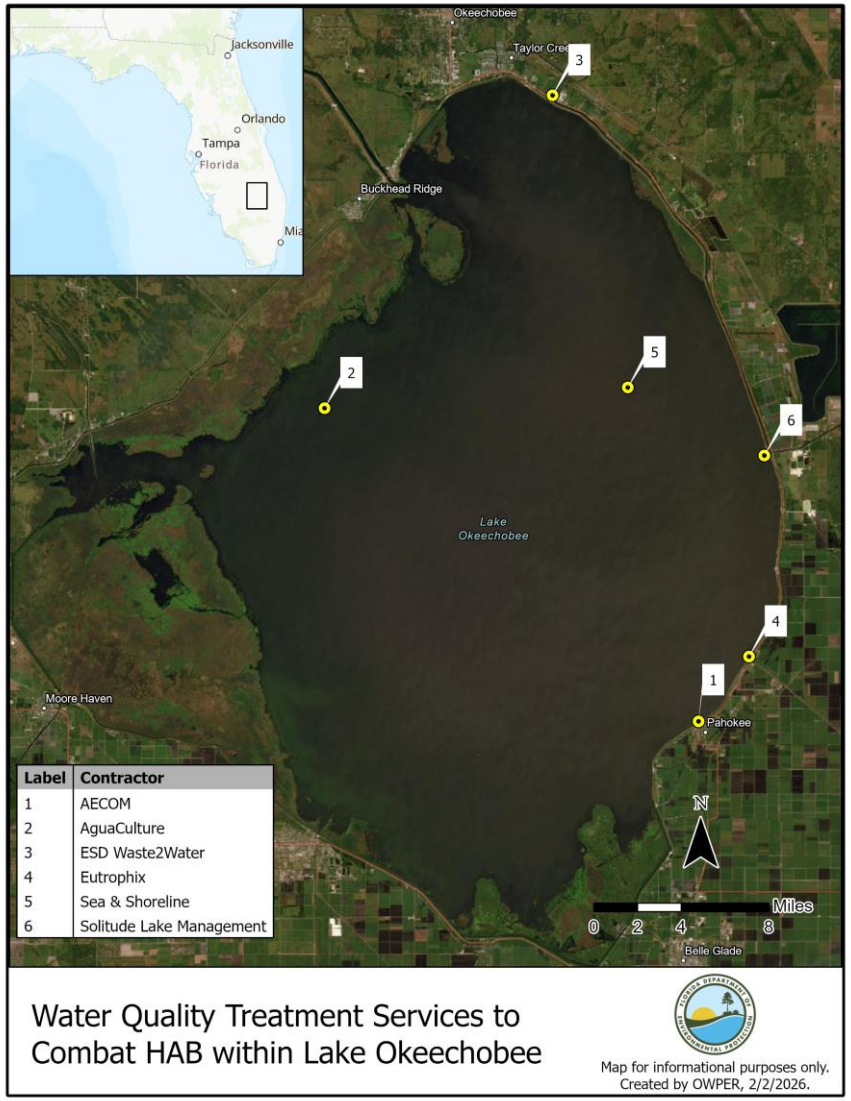
INNOVATIVE NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT
CONTRACTS FOR LAKE OKEECHOBEE

DEP recently executed contracts with six vendors to begin nutrient mitigation in Lake Okeechobee to reduce the development of harmful algal blooms within the lake.

The vendors each bring a unique and innovative approach to nutrient mitigation including:

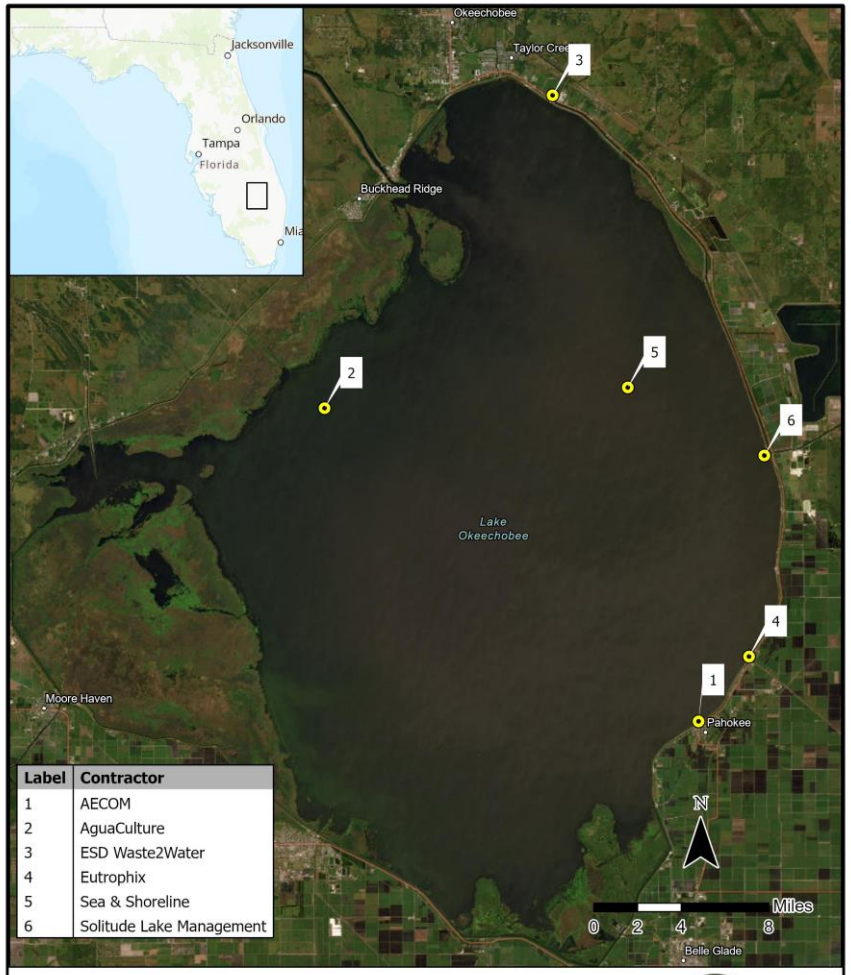
- Addressing legacy nutrients within lake sediments.
- Removing nutrients from lake water.
- Preventing nutrients from entering the lake in “hot spot” areas.

All vendors to begin their nutrient mitigation efforts by June of this year



INNOVATIVE NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT
CONTRACTS FOR LAKE OKEECHOBEE

1. **AECOM** – Uses an algal bloom harvester to remove algae and other organic material.
2. **AguaCulture** – Uses a suction system to remove floc from the lake bottom and harvest nuisance aquatic vegetation.
3. **ESD Waste2Water** – Intercepts high nutrient water and removes nutrients via a two-step chemical treatment process.
4. **Eutrophix** – Sequesters phosphorus using a lanthanum-based product that the DEP has been evaluating through the Innovative Technology grant program.
5. **Sea & Shoreline** – Uses a two-step process to remove unconsolidated muck via a vacuum dredge followed by planting of native aquatic vegetation.
6. **SOLitude Lake Management** – Sequesters phosphorus using an alum-based product, making it unavailable to support algal bloom growth.



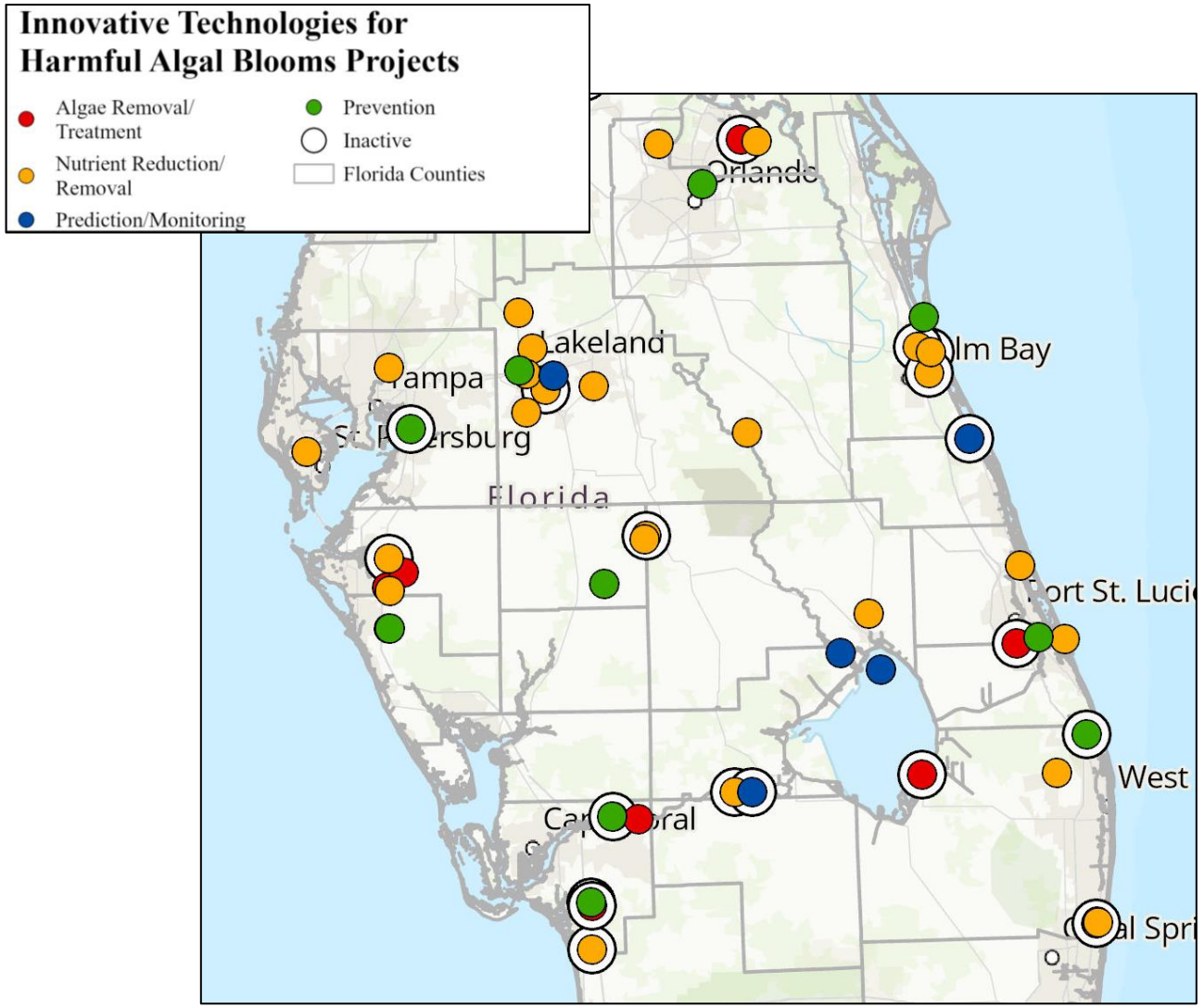
INNOVATIVE NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT
INNOVATIVE TECHNOLOGIES GRANT PROGRAM

- Blue-Green Algae Task Force recommendations: invest in technologies that aid in prevention, cleanup and mitigation of harmful algal blooms.
- Program History and Milestones
  - Started in 2019.
  - 84 Grants Awards as of April 2026.
  - $75 million appropriated.
  - 27 projects completed.
  - 51 projects under evaluation.

STORY MAP LINK -- HTTPS://STORYMAPS.ARCGIS.COM/STORIES/4B3D92570E9148CEAB05384ECDE678DA .

INNOVATIVE NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT
INNOVATIVE TECHNOLOGIES GRANT PROGRAM

- Nutrient Reduction/Removal:
  43 Grant Awards – 9 completed
- Prevention:
  13 Grant Awards – 4 completed
- Algae Removal and Treatment:
  13 Grant Awards – 6 completed
- Prediction and Monitoring:
  9 Grant Awards – 5 completed



MORE BMAP INFORMATION

BMAP webpage

Includes all BMAPs and other relevant documents/resources.

StoryMaps for each basin.

Tools for responsible entities – BMPs, reporting forms and project guidance.

Statewide Annual Report (STAR)

Updated annually

All project data

BMAP progress

THANK YOU

Lawrence Glenn
Division Director
Division of Environmental Assessment and Restoration
Florida Department of Environmental Protection

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Lawrence.Glenn@FloridaDEP.gov


FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

Progress Update on the Northern Everglades and Estuaries Protection Program (NEEPP) Public Workshop

April 16, 2026

Yesenia Escribano

Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services

Office of Agricultural Water Policy

Overview

Office of Agricultural Water Policy (OAWP) Staff

OAWP Mission and Strategic Goals

BMPs - Manuals, Enrollment, and IVs

Water Supply – FSAID & MILs

Cost Share

Agricultural Regional Projects Program

Research

Rulemaking

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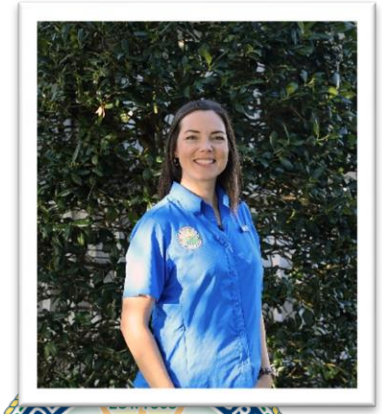

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Yesenia Escribano
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Mission

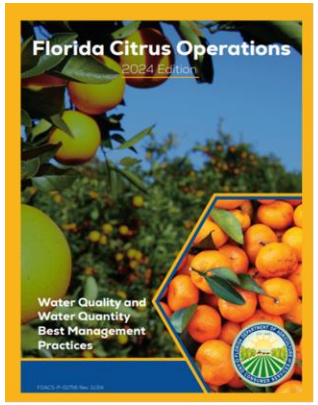
Implement strategies that protect Florida's water resources while promoting the sustainability of agriculture.

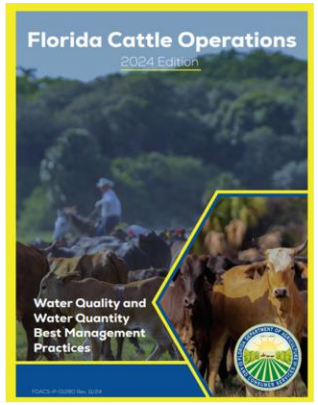
Strategic Goals

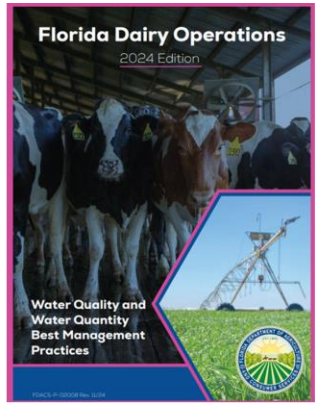
- Expand and enhance agricultural Best Management Practice (BMP) implementation.
- Ensure the availability of an adequate and sustainable agricultural water supply.
- Manage cost share programs that support agricultural non-point source BMP implementation and water resource protection projects.

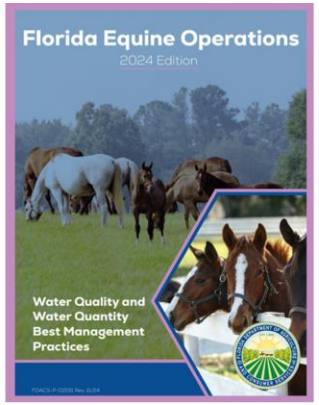
BMP Manuals

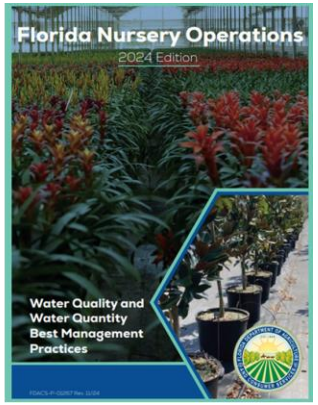
OAWP recently updated 9 manuals and adopted a 10th, new manual for Small Farms and Specialty Livestock

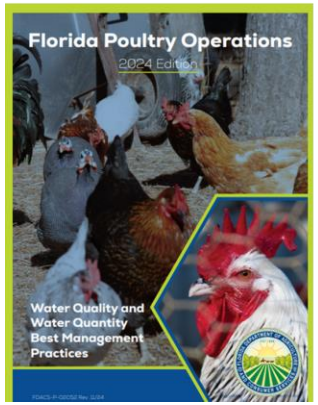


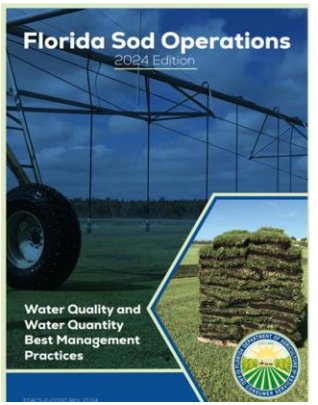


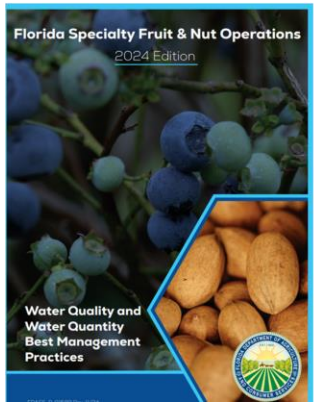


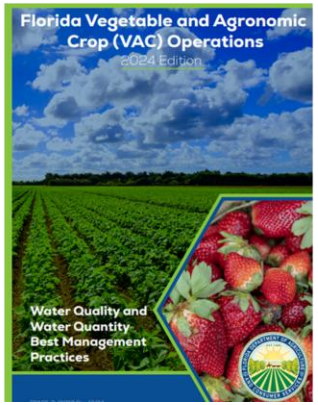


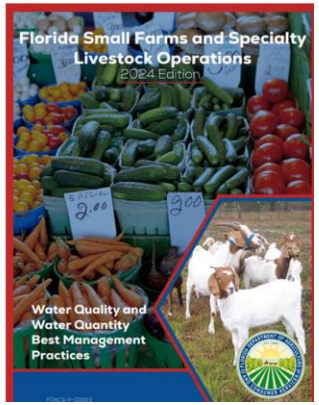










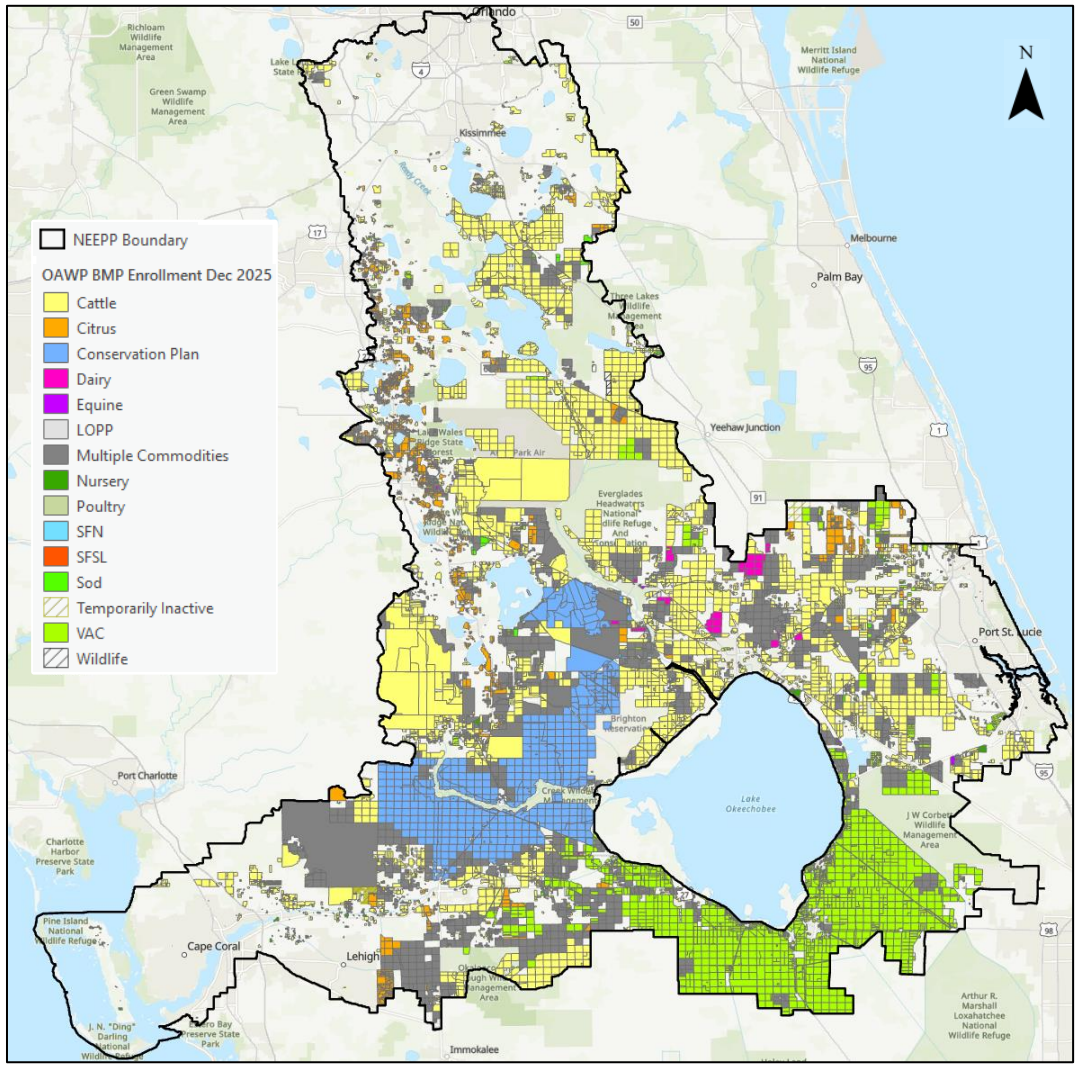


Manual	Last Updated	Stage	Date
Sod	2008	Rule Effective	November 12, 2024
Cattle	2009	Rule Effective	December 22, 2024
Procedures (5M-1)	2021	Rule Effective	October 30, 2024
Small Farms and Specialty Livestock	New!	Rule Effective	February 23, 2025
Specialty Fruit and Nut	2011	Rule Effective	February 24, 2025
Citrus	2013	Rule Effective	March 4, 2025
Nursery	2014	Rule Effective	March 12, 2025
Vegetable and Agronomic Crop	2015	Rule Effective	February 27, 2025
Poultry	2016	Rule Effective	February 13, 2025
Dairy	2016	Rule Effective	March 5, 2025
Equine	2012	Rule Effective	March 12, 2025

https://www.fdacs.gov/Water/Agricultural-Water-Field-Services/Agricultural-Best-Management-Practices

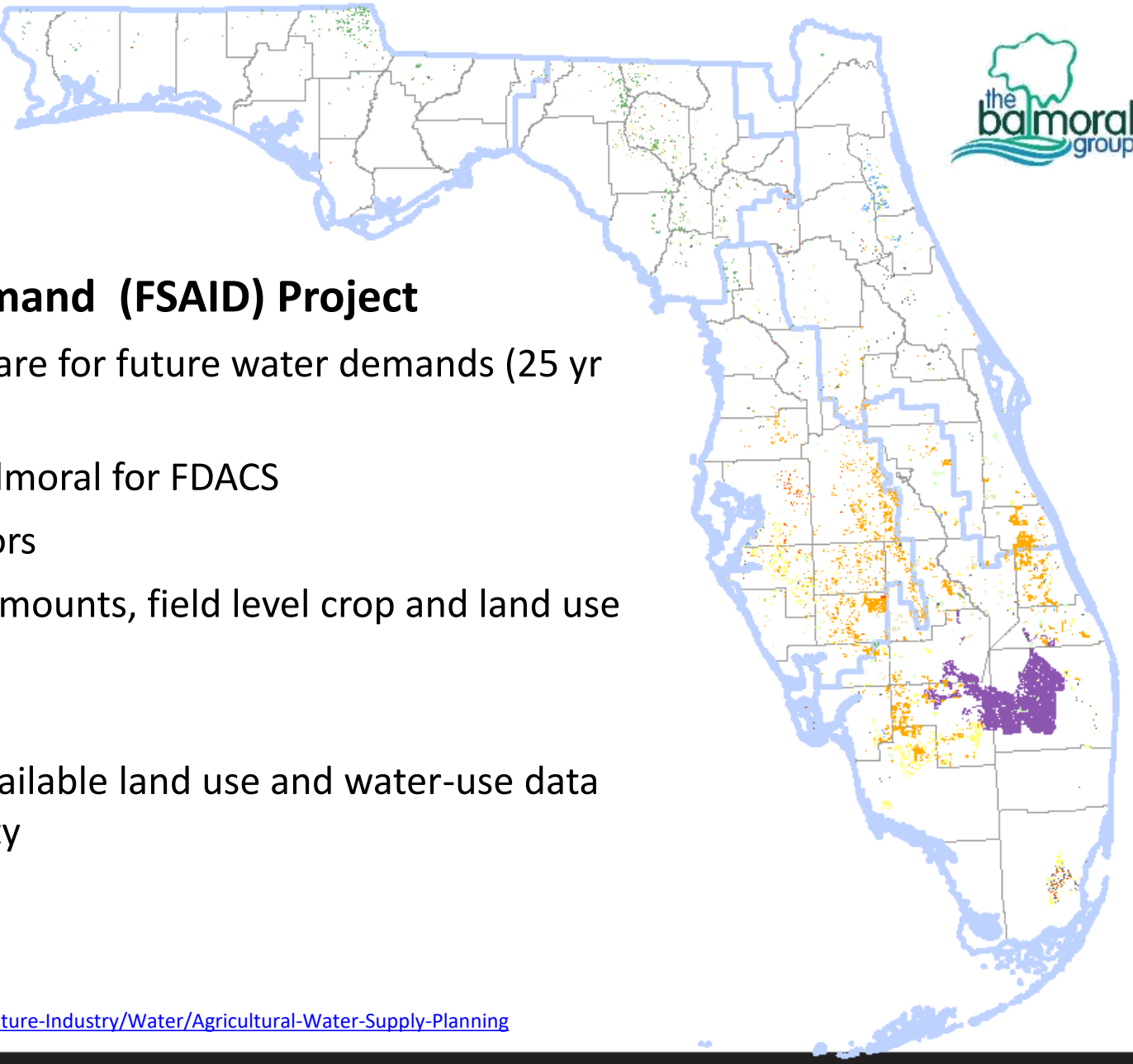
BMP Progress in NEEPP

NEEPP Progress as of Dec 2025	
Total Ag Acres	2,315,719
Enrolled Ag Acres	1,878,974
Percent Enrolled	81%
Total Irrigated Ag Acres	691,838
Enrolled Irrigated Ag Acres	633,854
Percent Enrolled	92%
2-yr Reporting Period Percent IVs Completed	62%



FDACS BMP Program enrollment as of Dec 2025 and the Draft 13th FSAID Geodatabase

Agricultural Water Supply I



Florida Statewide Agricultural Irrigation Demand (FSAID) Project

- FSAID is a **planning tool** to understand and prepare for future water demands (25 yr outlook)
- **GIS-based econometric model** developed by Balmoral for FDACS
  - Incorporates agronomic and economic factors
  - Includes irrigation system types, irrigation amounts, field level crop and land use information
- Updated **annually,** FSAID XIII ready by **July 2026**
- Each annual FSAID update integrates the best available land use and water-use data for a more accurate picture of agricultural activity

https://www.fdacs.gov/Agriculture-Industry/Water/Agricultural-Water-Supply-Planning

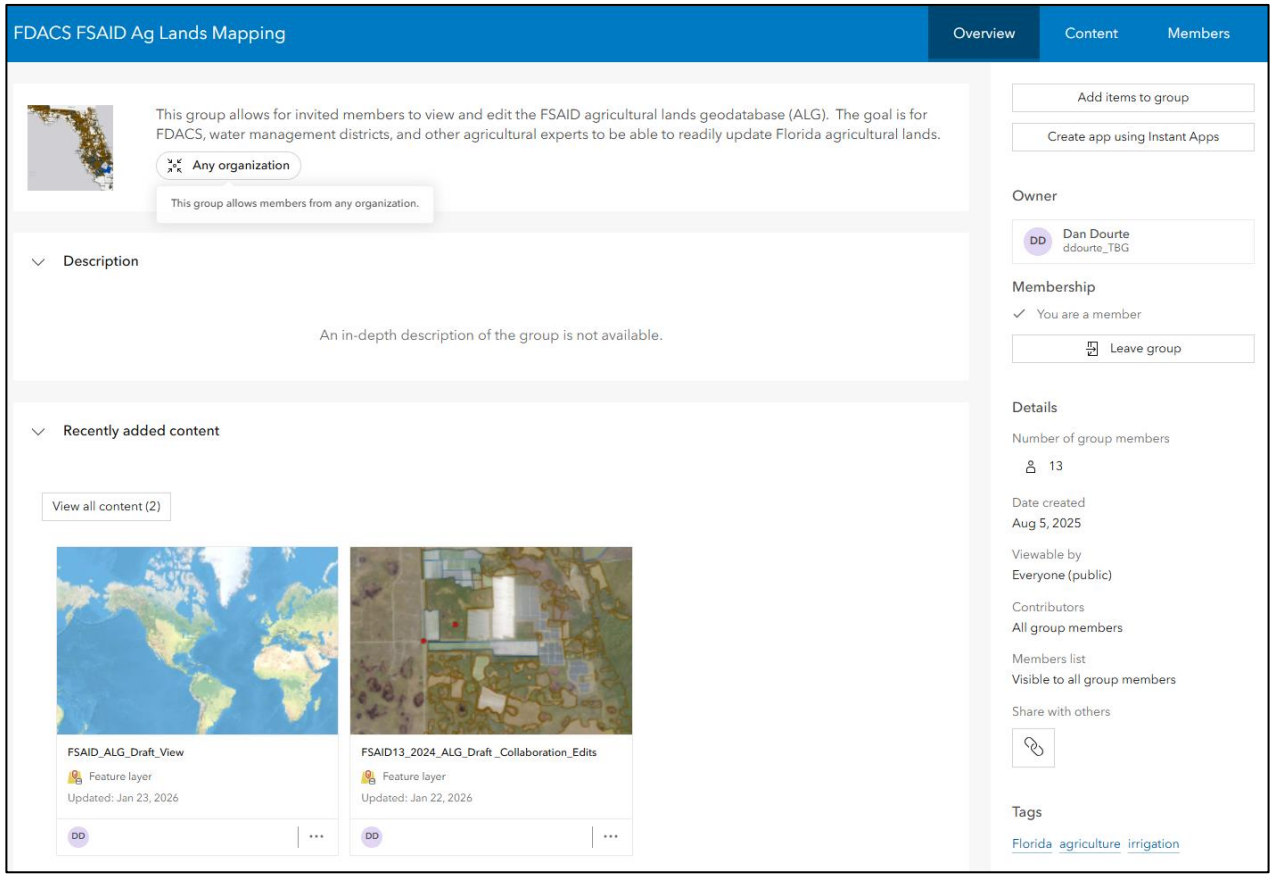
Agricultural Water Supply II

Industry Trends

Solar panels	Citrus Under Protective Screens	New citrus plantings	Strawberry expansion

WMD Permits & staff feedback, Aerial Imagery BMP Enrollment, DPI, DEP Land Use, Field Verification, USGS Data, Comprehensive Plan Updates, Property Appraiser Data

FSAID



Modernized data-sharing through a new collaboration platform which provides enhanced real-time editing and commenting tools for partner agencies.

https://www.fdacs.gov/Agriculture-Industry/Water/Agricultural-Water-Supply-Planning

Mobile Irrigation Labs

On Website

- FDACS Approved Mobile Irrigations Lands Near you
- Program Resources
  - MIL Database
  - MIL Handbook – Administration
  - MIL Handbook – Technical

FDACS MILs provide services in South Dade, Palm Beach, Highlands and Collier county.

Mobile Irrigation Labs Provide Cost-Free Agricultural Irrigation Evaluations

Mobile Irrigation Labs (MILs) provide free, site-specific irrigation expertise in analyzing irrigation systems and educating agricultural property owners on how to improve the efficiency of their water use. The MILs provide recommendations on the improvement of existing irrigation systems and equipment and educate their customers and the general public on water conservation, irrigation planning and irrigation management.

In addition to providing recommendations on irrigation system improvements and management regarding water quantity and efficiency of use, the MILs assist agricultural producers by identifying water quality improvement opportunities available through the application of Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (FDACS) Best Management Practices.

https://www.fdacs.gov/Water/Agricultural-Water-Field-Services/Mobile-Irrigation-Labs

BMP Cost Share Program

On Website

- Applicant Eligibility Requirements
- Project Eligibility Requirements
- Additional Project Considerations
- List of Eligible Project Types
- Opportunity for New Project Types
- Cost Share Funding Percentages and Data Requirements
- How to Request Project Funding
- FAQs

The Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services' (FDACS) Office of Agricultural Water Policy (OAWP) administers the Agricultural Best Management Practices (BMP) Cost Share Program to assist eligible applicants with implementation of BMPs. FDACS OAWP will provide funding for eligible projects on a continuous basis until program funds are fully encumbered.

Applicants must submit a complete Cost Share Program Application (application), including all required documentation, in order to be considered for program funding. Funding decisions will be based on the evaluation of all information submitted in the application in accordance with the criteria set forth below. FDACS OAWP will review completed applications in the order in which they are received, and may request additional information from an applicant, including a site visit, before a funding decision is made.

Program Funding Criteria

FDACS OAWP will review completed applications based on the following minimum criteria:

1. Confirmation of applicant eligibility.
2. Confirmation of project eligibility.
3. Evaluation of additional project considerations.

https://www.fdacs.gov/Water/Agricultural-Water-Field-Services/Agricultural-Best-Management-Practices/BMP-Cost-Share-Program

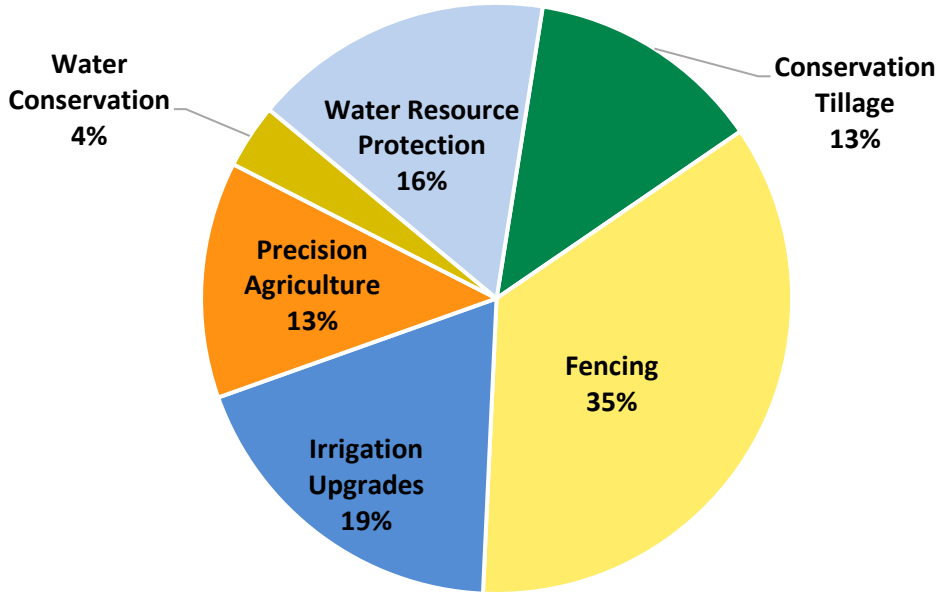
BMP Cost Share within NEEPP

Since October 2024

Project Count: 89

Reimbursement: $4,046,090

Producers: 71



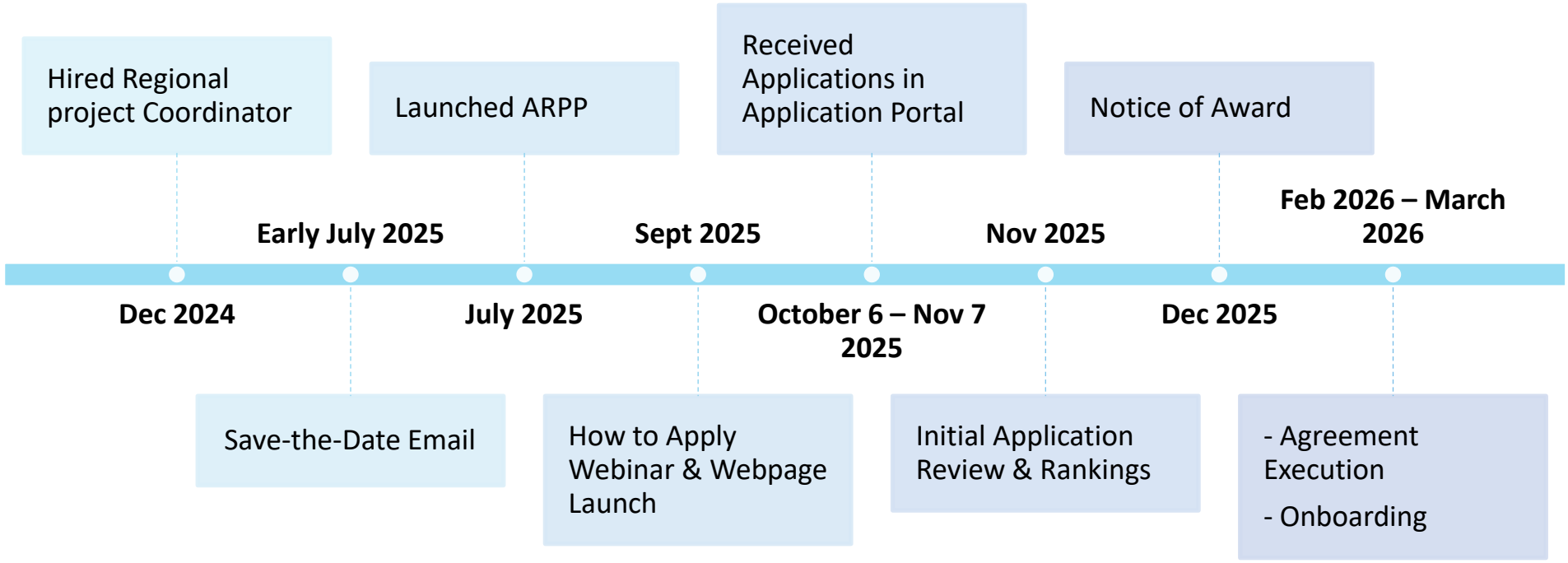
Category	Examples of Information Collected
Fencing	Grazing schedule; Map of fence cost-share; Map of resource concerns on site; Stocking rate (greater/less than threshold depending on species and property size); Sensitive features on the property; Purpose of fencing (e.g., rotational grazing)
Irrigation Upgrades (often automated)	Mobile Irrigation Lab (MIL) data; Irrigated acres; Irrigation frequency; Whether fertigating; Nitrogen and phosphorus rates from fertigation; Prior irrigation type; Whether irrigation systems are automated; Number of automated vs. non-automated systems
Alternative Water for Livestock	GPS location; Sensitive features on the property; Whether rotational grazing will be used year-round; Presence of cross-fencing; Top three benefits for the operation
Culverts	Volume; Whether a nutrient reduction has been calculated (and whether one could be calculated to support funding); Active time of year; Presence of open culverts (if applicable)

Agricultural Regional Projects Program

Purpose: Address nonpoint source pollution from agricultural operations by reducing nutrient loading and enhancing water quality/quantity on a regional scale.

Target Outcomes:

- Nutrient reductions
- Water conservation
- Support for BMAP and TMDL goals
- Enhanced agricultural sustainability



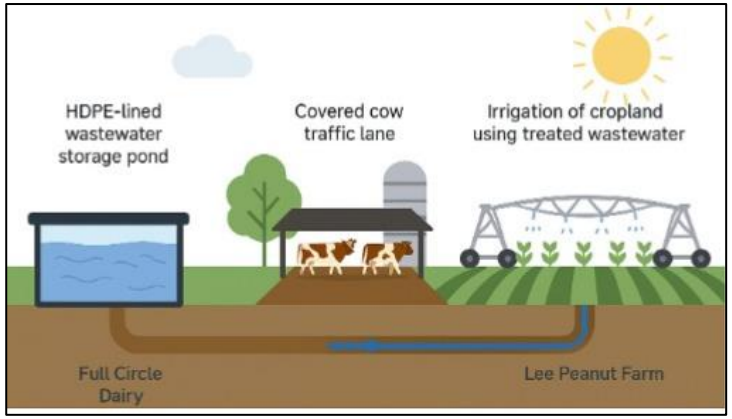
https://www.fdacs.gov/Water/Agricultural-Water-Field-Services/Agricultural-Best-Management-Practices/Agricultural-Regional-Projects-Program

Agricultural Regional Projects Program II

Project Selection Criteria	
🛠️	Project Type
📍	Strategic Location
🧪	Nutrient Load/Leaching Reductions
💰	Cost Benefit ($/lbs/year)
💧	Water Quantity
✅	Project Readiness
📊	Data Collection, Monitoring, & Reporting
🌱	Innovation and Sustainability
🤝	Collaboration and Partnerships
💵	Availability of Matching Dollars

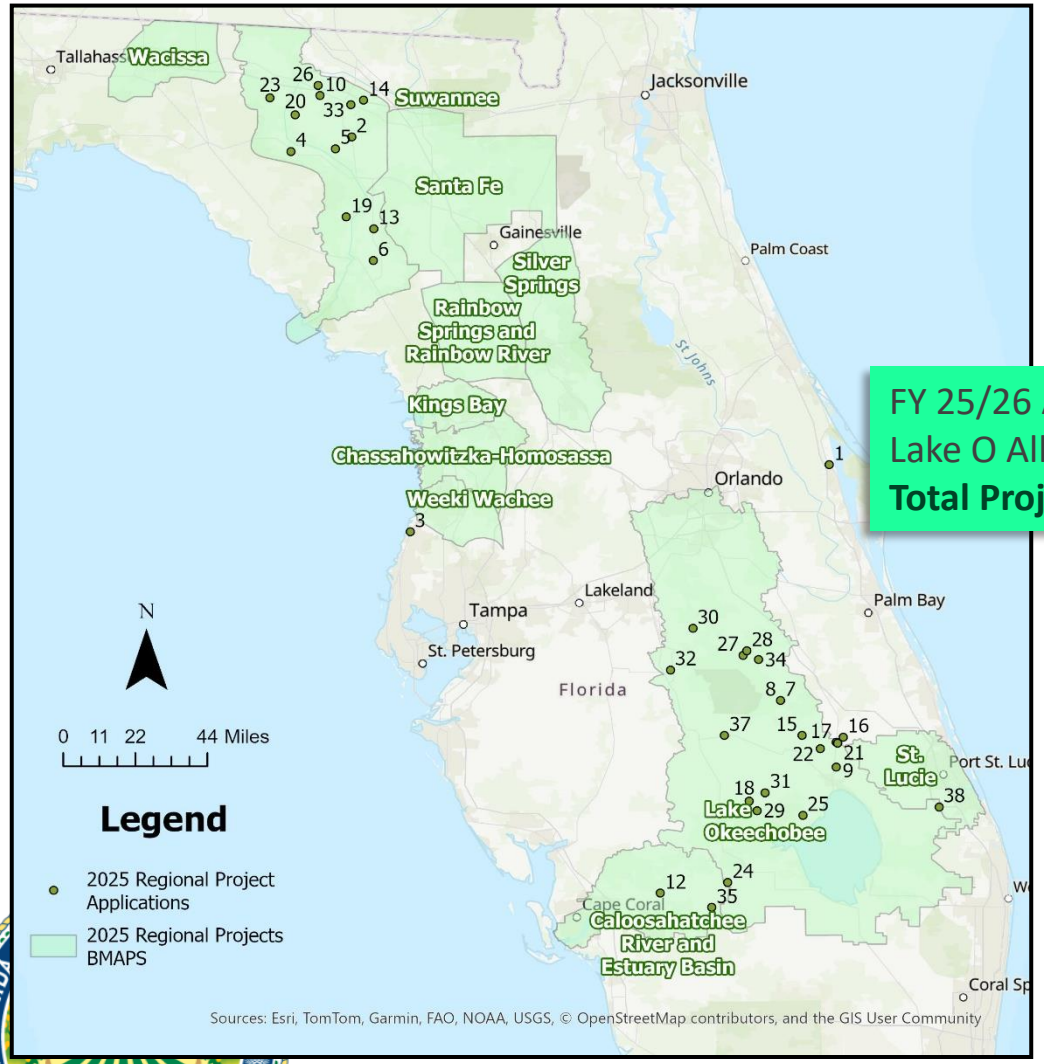
Water Treatment and Infrastructure

Enhanced BMP Implementation

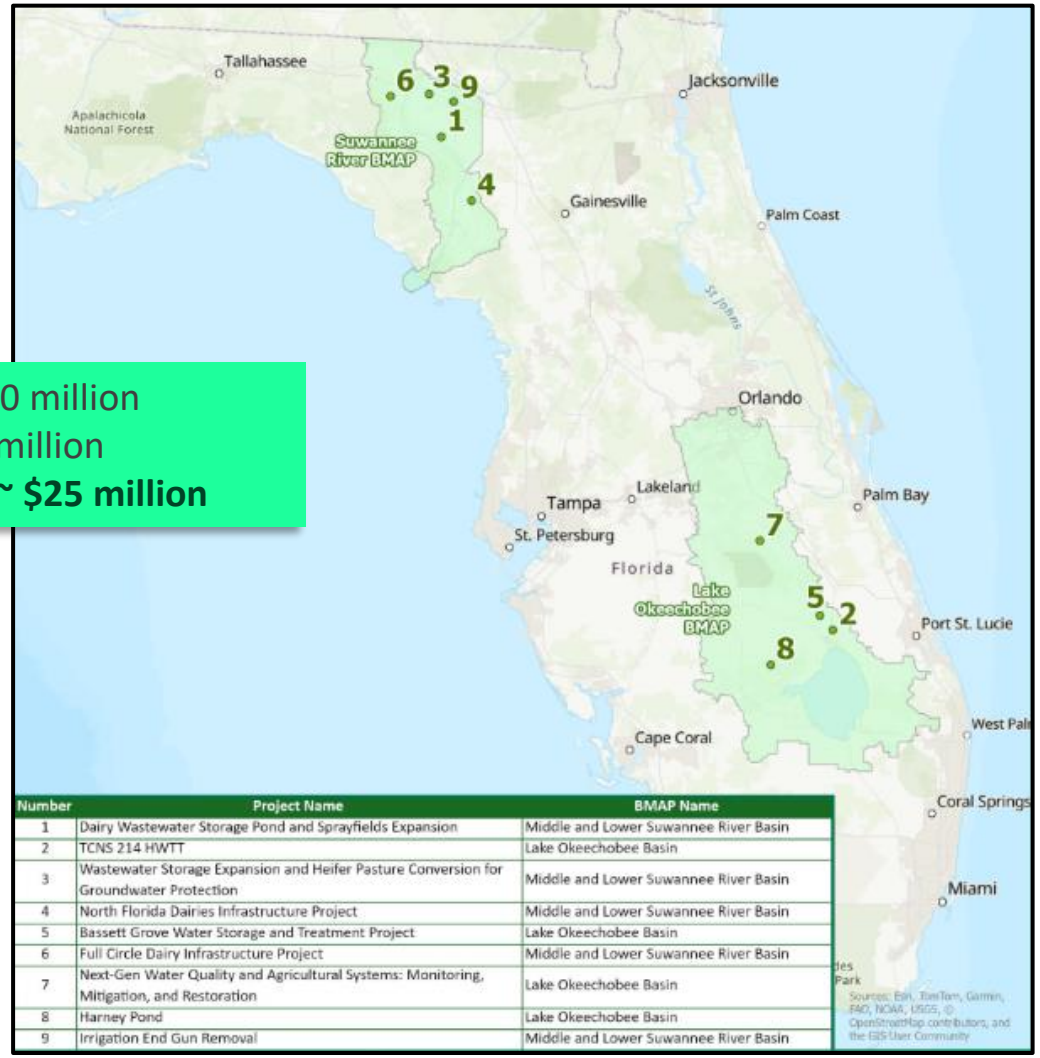


Water Treatment and Infrastructure		Regional Enhanced BMP Implementation	
Rapid Infiltration Basins	Water Storage and Attenuation Facilities	Regional Manure Management	Bioretention, Bioreactors, and Biofiltration systems
Water Storage and Treatment Ponds	Dispersed Water Projects	Precision nutrient application	Cover cropping
Hydrologic Restoration Projects	Hybrid Wetland Treatment Technology (HWTT)	Integrated Crop Livestock Systems (ICLS)	Controlled Release Fertilizer (CRF)
Floating Aquatic Vegetative Tiling (FAVT)	Watershed Improvement Impoundments		

Agricultural Regional Projects Program III



FY 25/26 Allocation: $20 million
Lake O Allocation: ~$5 million
Total Project Funding: ~ $25 million



Number	Project Name	BMAP Name
1	Dairy Wastewater Storage Pond and Sprayfields Expansion	Middle and Lower Suwannee River Basin
2	TCNS 214 HWTT	Lake Okeechobee Basin
3	Wastewater Storage Expansion and Heifer Pasture Conversion for Groundwater Protection	Middle and Lower Suwannee River Basin
4	North Florida Dairies Infrastructure Project	Middle and Lower Suwannee River Basin
5	Bassett Grove Water Storage and Treatment Project	Lake Okeechobee Basin
6	Full Circle Dairy Infrastructure Project	Middle and Lower Suwannee River Basin
7	Next-Gen Water Quality and Agricultural Systems: Monitoring, Mitigation, and Restoration	Lake Okeechobee Basin
8	Harney Pond	Lake Okeechobee Basin
9	Irrigation End Gun Removal	Middle and Lower Suwannee River Basin

BMP Research I

Current research projects focus on improving agricultural sustainability by optimizing fertilizer use, irrigation technologies, soil health practices, cover cropping, grazing management, and decision-support tools to BMPs across diverse crops and production systems.

Past Research: Identifying Hotspots of Soil Legacy Phosphorus and Implementing Targeted Vegetation Harvest for Soil P Remediation on a Cattle Ranch in the Headwaters of the Everglades

Project Description	Commodity Focus	Location
Blueberry agronomic rate adjustment	Blueberries	Gainesville, FL
Simulation of plant and soil P for BMPs	Modeling	Gainesville, FL
Computer modeling to develop BMPs	Modeling	Gainesville, FL
Controlled-release fertilizer placement for tomatoes	Tomatoes	Gulf Coast Research and Education Center
Automated Seepage irrigation control on potatoes	Potatoes	Hastings, FL
Enhancing the Soil Moisture Sensor network	Precision Ag	Indian River Research and Education Center
Evaluation of compost amendments for turfgrass	Sod	Multiple
New UF Mini Grants for Extension Agents	Multiple	Multiple
Corn BMPs - evaluation of irrigation technologies	Corn	North FL Research and Education Center
Nitrogen savings through a decision support framework	Nutrient Management	North FL Research and Education Center
Malone Farm monitoring ICLS	ICLS	North FL Research and Education Center
Stakeholder Engagement Project for cotton	Cotton	North FL Research and Education Center
Cover crops for soil health and to reduce N fertilizer	Cover Crops	North FL Research and Education Center
Redefining leaching rain events	Policy / Definitions	North FL Research and Education Center
Optimizing corn irrigation with soil moisture sensors	Corn	North FL Research and Education Center
BMPs to reduce nitrate leaching with livestock	ICLS	North FL Research and Education Center
Quantify nitrate leaching in corn in precision ag systems	Corn	North FL Research and Education Center
Rotational cover crop BMPs	Cover Crops	North FL Research and Education Center
Precision Ag Soil Moisture Sensors for Cold Hardy Citrus	Precision Ag / Citrus	North FL Research and Education Center
Decision Support System for BMPs on Rangelands	Pasture Management	Range Cattle Research and Education Center - Ona, FL
BMPs and soil health on grazing lands	Pasture	Range Cattle Research and Education Center - Ona, FL
Sustainable Grazing and N for Bahia grass pastures	Precision Ag/Bahia Grass	Southwest FL Research and Education Center
Nitrogen Reduction using rotational production	-	Suwanee Valley Extension Center
Remote sensing for BMP Suitability	Multiple	Tallahassee
Hemp - impact of fertilizer application rate and timing	Hemp	Tropical Research and Education Center
Cover crops impacts on sensor-based irrigated fields	Cover Crops	Tropical Research and Education Center
Enhanced irrigation and nutrient management in nurseries	Nursery	Tropical Research and Education Center
No Till	-	West FL Research and Education Center
Evaluating enhanced efficiency N fertilizer for cotton	Cotton	West FL Research and Education Center
Perennial ground cover as BMP for cotton	Cotton	West FL Research and Education Center

BMP Research II

Integrating Data to Enhance Agricultural (IDEA) Best Management Practices (BMP)

GOAL: Use agricultural data and technologies to quantify nutrient and water use efficiencies in a format acceptable for reporting purposes while supporting an **economically viable** agricultural industry in Florida.

Desired Outcome:

- Develop science-based field tools for OAWP staff and agricultural partners to improve management practices
- Produce defensible water quality and conservation metrics aligned with FDEP and OAWP analytical needs
- Improve data management and record-keeping capabilities for producers
- Ensure all data produced meet FAIR data principles

Florida Crop BMP Data Template

FDACS researcher partners have started using the Florida Crop BMP Data Template for FDACS-funded studies to help meet FAIR data principles (Findable, Accessible, Interoperable, Reusable). The template captures metadata, management practices (e.g., planting, irrigation, fertilization), measurements, soil descriptions and daily weather. Each sheet includes guidance on content, variable names, units or formats (e.g., date or text), and example values.

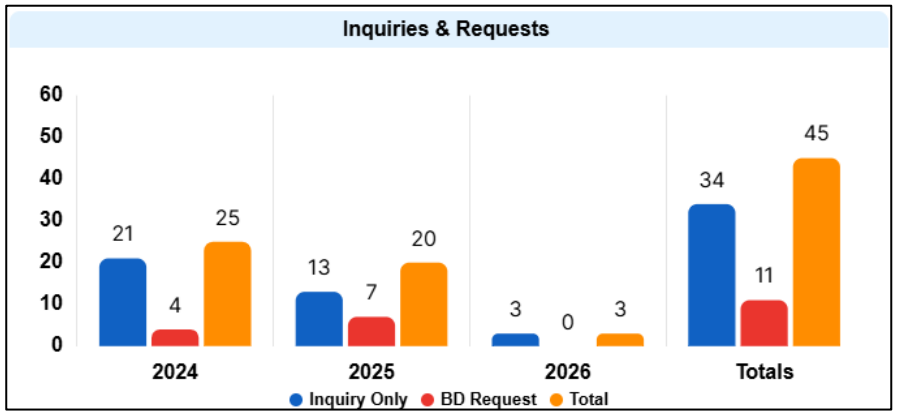
Watch these videos to learn more:

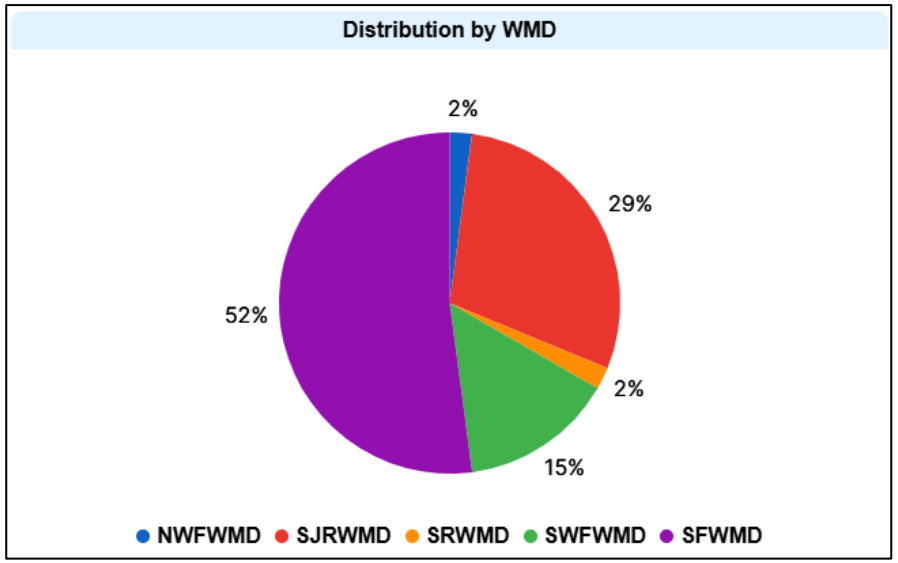
https://www.fdacs.gov/Water/Agricultural-Water-Field-Services/Agricultural-Best-Management-Practices/BMP-Research

Rulemaking In Progress: 5M-15 Ag Permit Exemptions

Why are we updating Rule 5M-15 Procedures for Binding Determinations of Agricultural Exemptions?

- clarify definitions
- streamline and specify the request process
- shift responsibility to the requester to demonstrate eligibility
- expand required submission materials
- add review/response timelines for landowners and Water Management Districts
- outline when requests are ineligible





https://www.fdacs.gov/Agriculture-Industry/Water/Water-Resource-Agricultural-Permit-Exemption-Determinations

Rulemaking Coming Soon: 5M-1 Enrollment By Rule (EBR)

Why are we developing Enrollment By Rule?

- A recent amendment to section 403.067(7)(d)4. Florida Statutes, authorizes FDACS to adopt rules establishing an enrollment in best management practices (BMP) by rule (EBR) process
- A Producer or Landowner whose operation meets certain requirements may use EBR in lieu of enrolling in one of the adopted agricultural BMP Manuals
- Reduces administrative burden and refocus field staff on larger, higher-intensity operations

Section 403.067(7)(d)4., F.S. (2025) – Criteria to qualify for EBR (a through f) and

(a) Not more than 25 acres in size

(b) Designated as agricultural land use OR
is granted agricultural tax classification

(c) Water use does not exceed 100,000 gpd unless utilizing reuse

(d) Agricultural activity not a vegetable crop, an agronomic crop, a nursery, or a dairy operation

(e) Does not abut impaired water body

(f) Not part of a larger operation that is enrolled FDACS BMPs or conducting WQ monitoring under DEP or WMD

Parcel is not participating in an Equivalent Program as defined in subsection 5M-1.001(7), F.A.C.

Parcel is not permitted for the land application of biosolids in accordance with Chapter 62-640, F.A.C

Agricultural activity is not aquaculture or silviculture

https://www.fdacs.gov/Divisions-Offices/Agricultural-Water-Policy/Rule-Development-Activities

Thank You!

http://www.fdacs.gov/Divisions-Offices/Agricultural-Water-Policy

Yesenia Escribano, Chief, Bureau of Policy Planning and Coordination

Yesenia.Escribano@fdacs.gov – (850) 617-1732

Jennifer Thera, NEEPP Coordinator

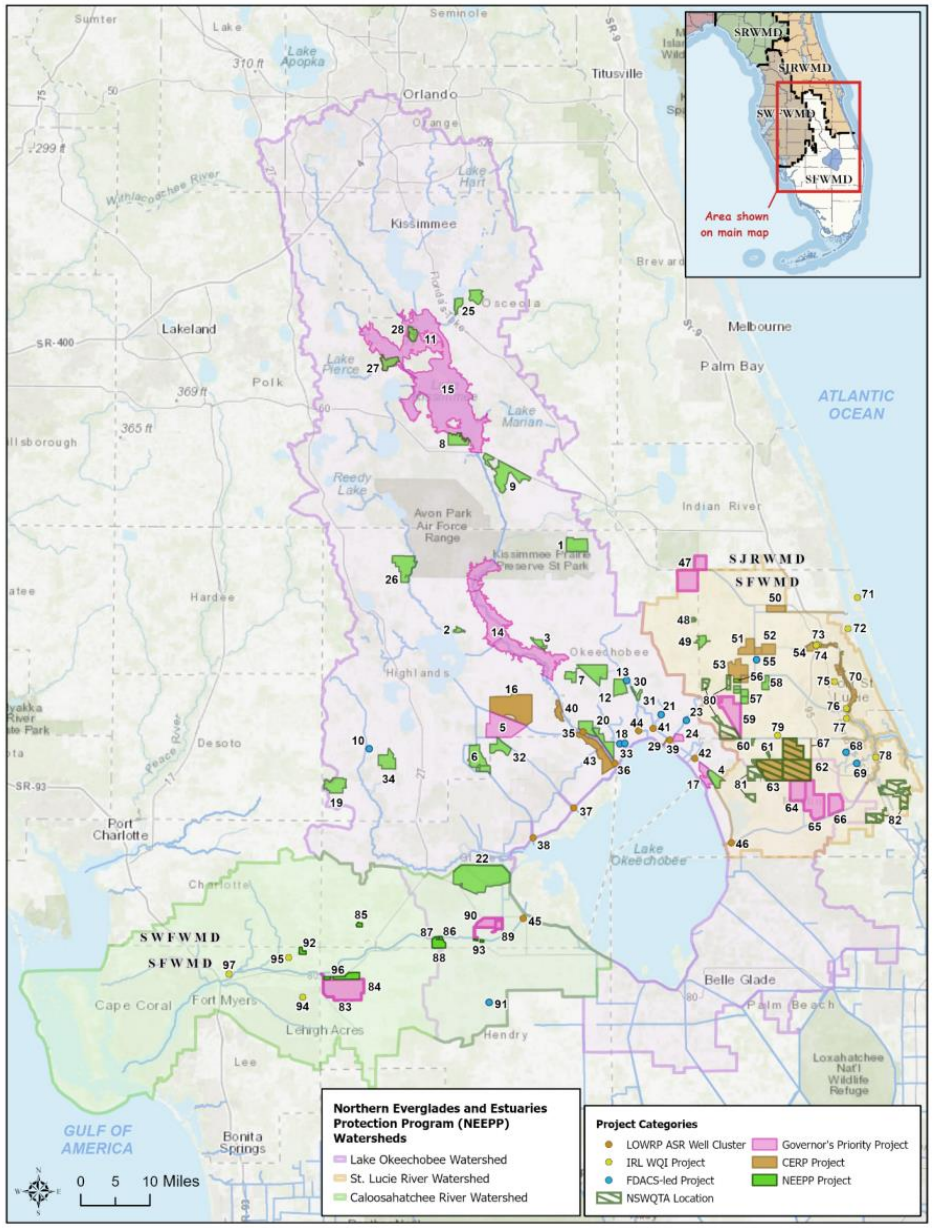
Jennifer.Thera@FDACS.gov – (850) 617-1722

SFWMD UPDATE

NEEPP PUBLIC WORKSHOP

April 16, 2026

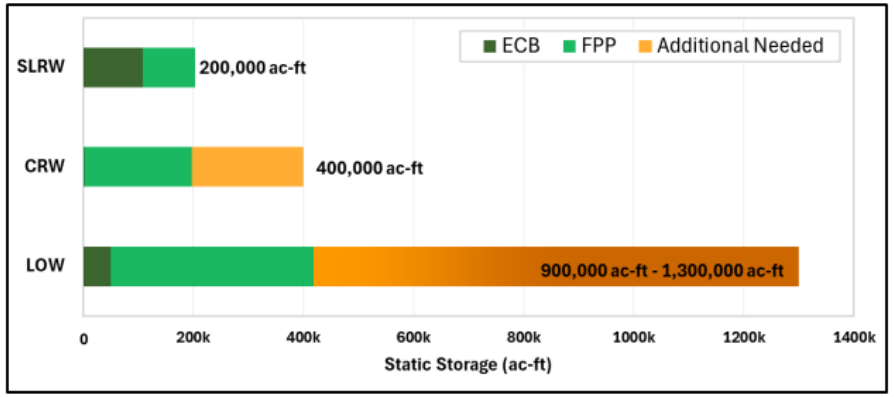
Anthony Betts
Everglades & Estuaries Protection Bureau



SOUTH FLORIDA ENVIRONMENTAL REPORT

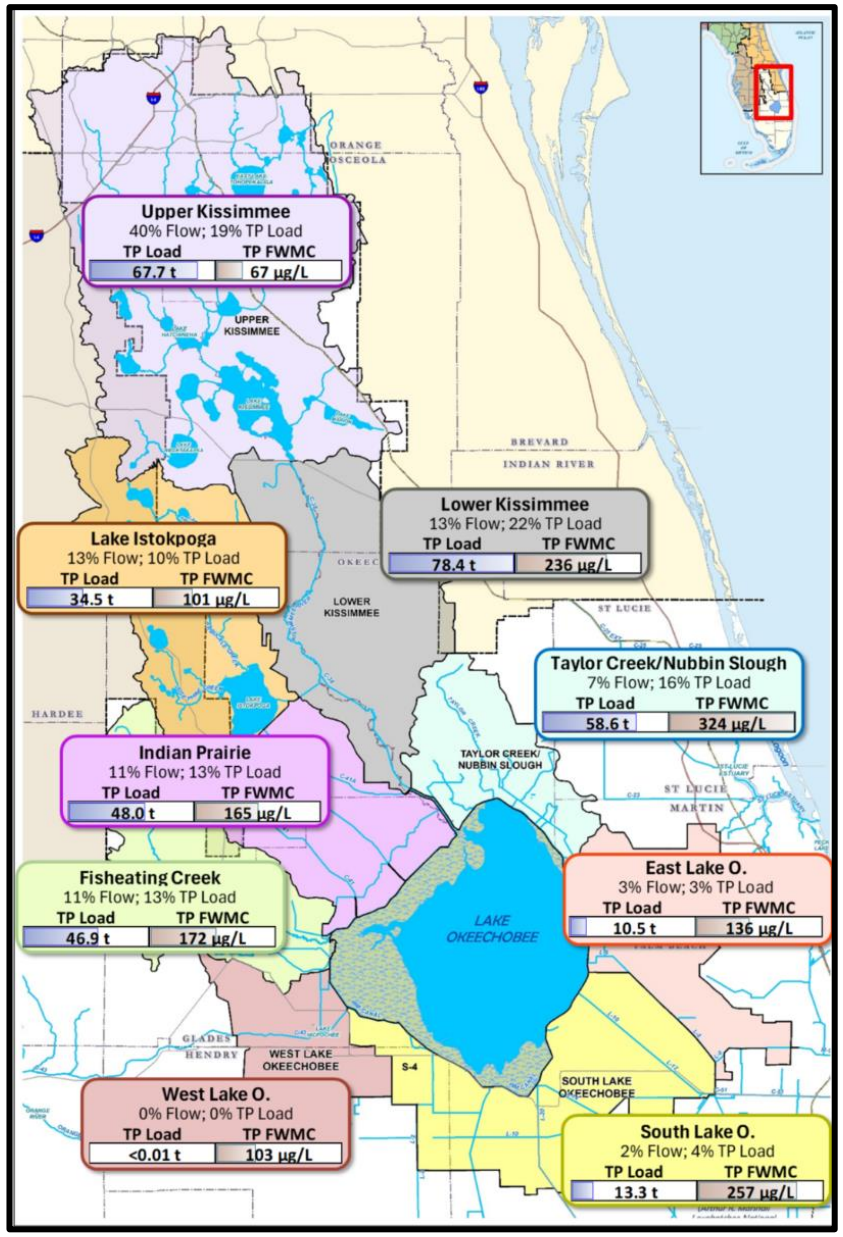
2025 Watershed Protection Plan Updates

- Regional simulation model



Annual Progress Reports (sfwmd.gov/sfer)

- Research & Water Quality Monitoring
- Watershed Construction Project

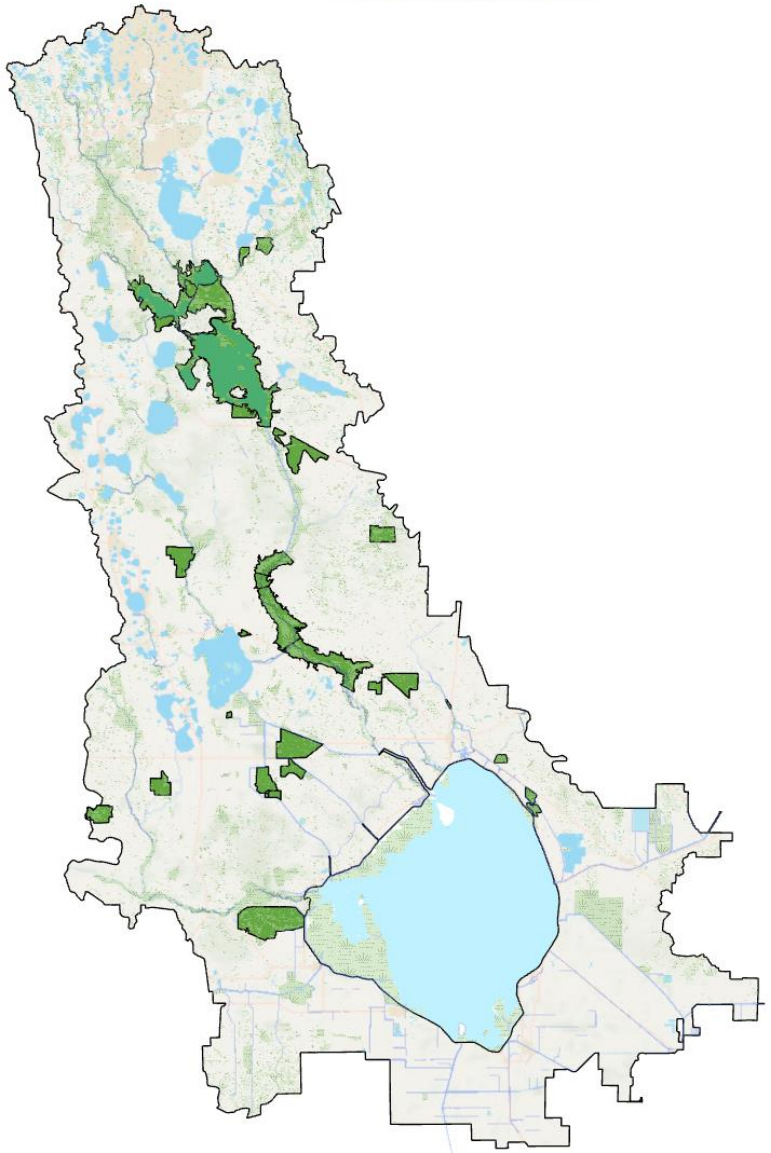


RESEARCH & MONITORING

Monitoring Network

- Watershed: flow and water quality
- Monthly in-lake stations
- In-estuary: salinity and water quality
- Vegetation, wading birds, fish, oysters, and more

<u>Informs operations & project development</u>



LAKE OKEECHOBEE WATERSHED

LAKE OKEECHOBEE WATERSHED

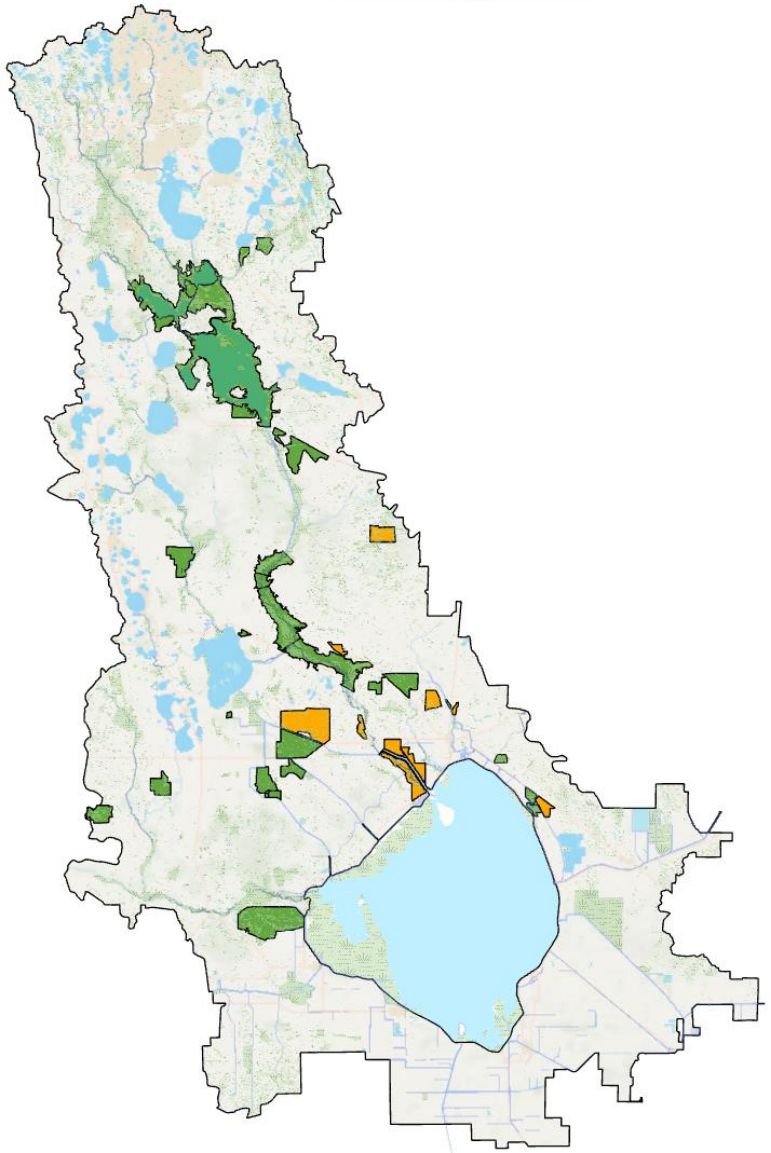
25 projects operational in WY2025
(including 6 FDACS HWTT/FAVT)

Storage
>95k
acre-feet

TP
~29
metric tons

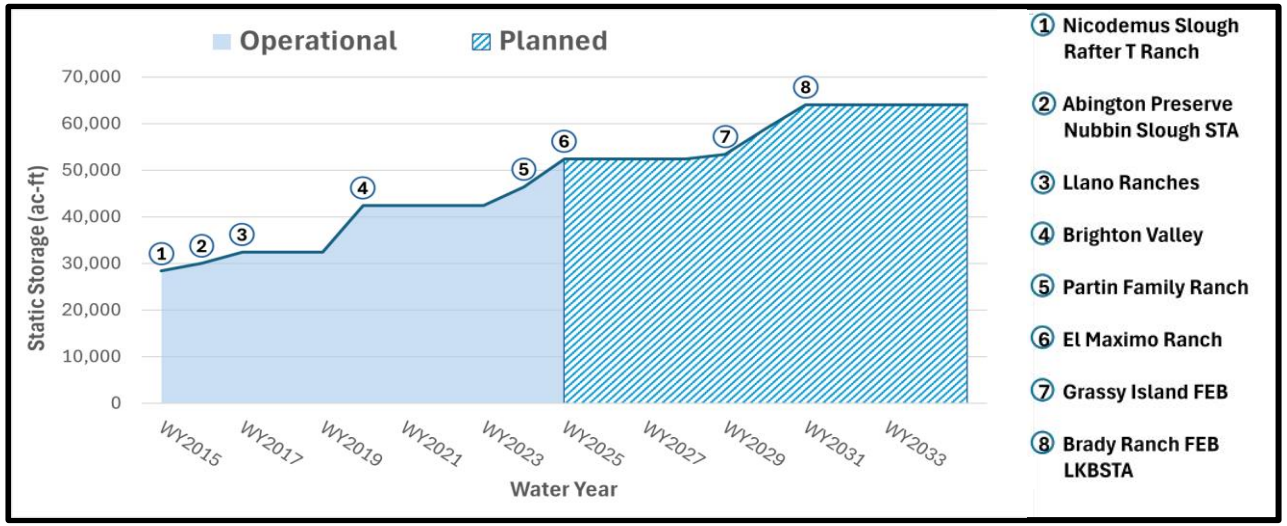
TN
~266
metric tons

LAKE OKEECHOBEE WATERSHED

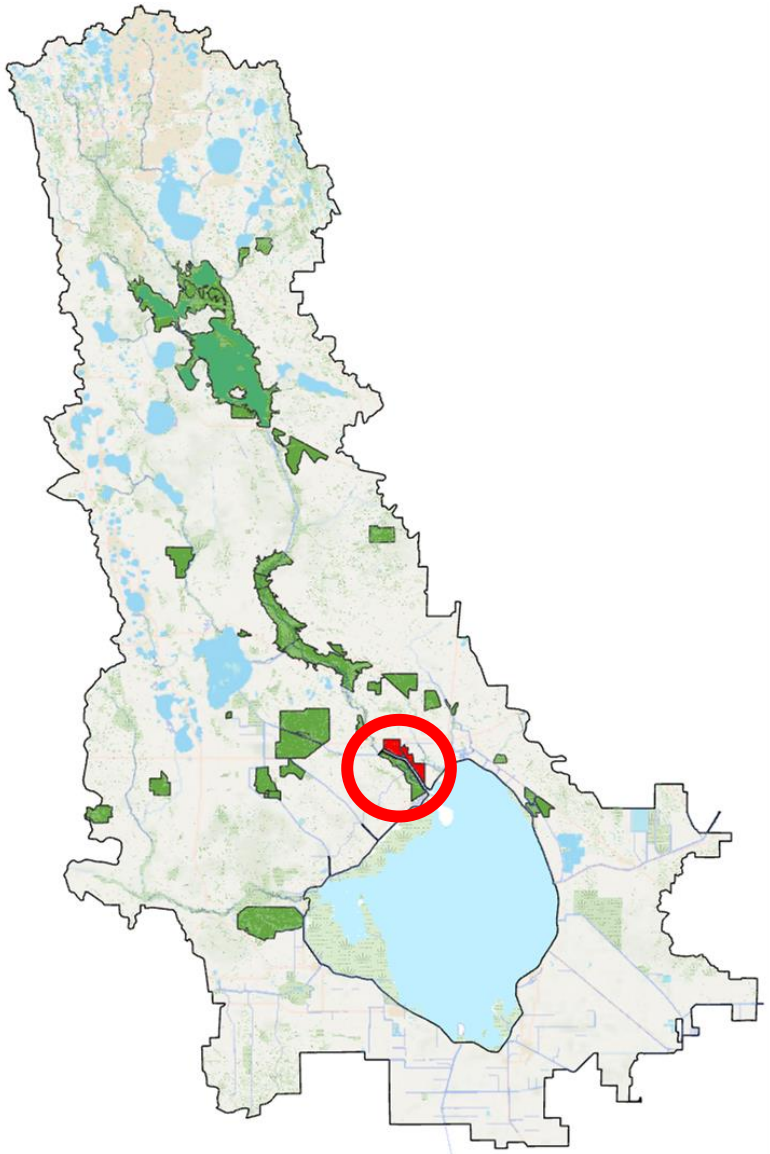


LAKE OKEECHOBEE WATERSHED

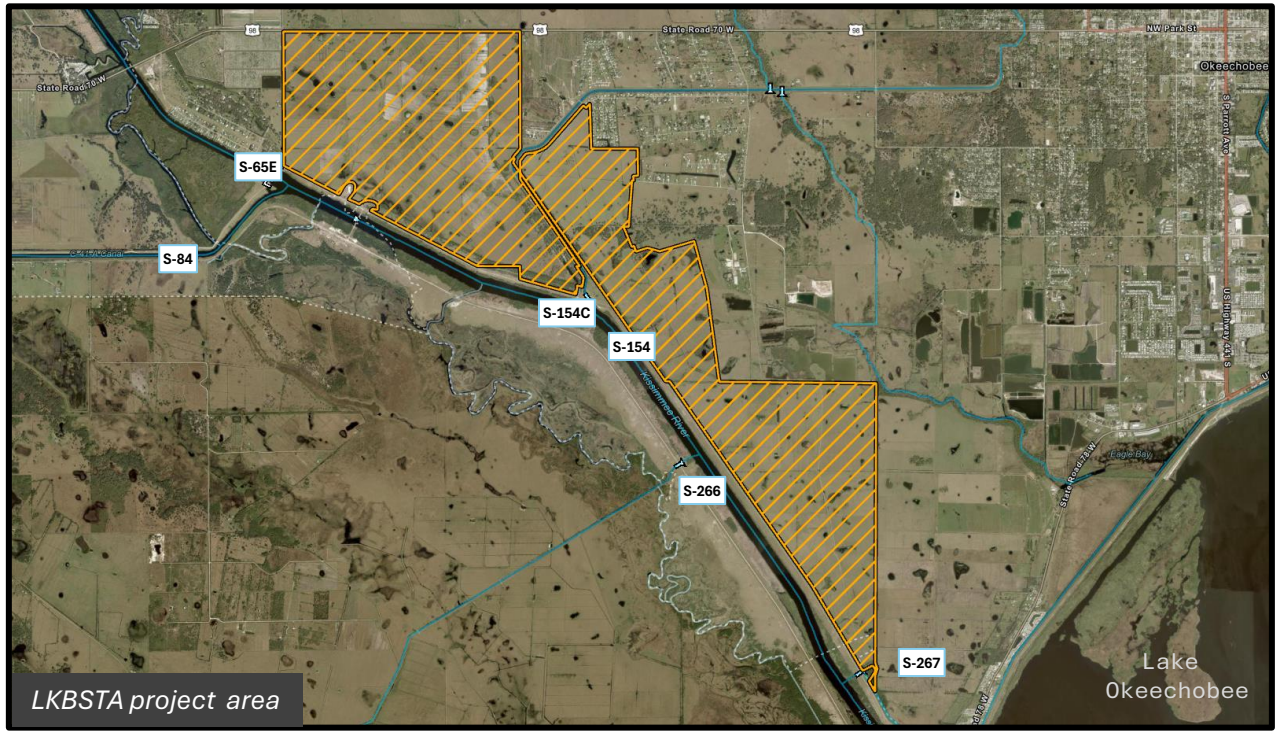
Additional projects in progress:
+ >360,000 ac-ft of static storage



Lower Kissimmee Basin Stormwater Treatment & Recreation Area



LAKE OKEECHOBEE WATERSHED

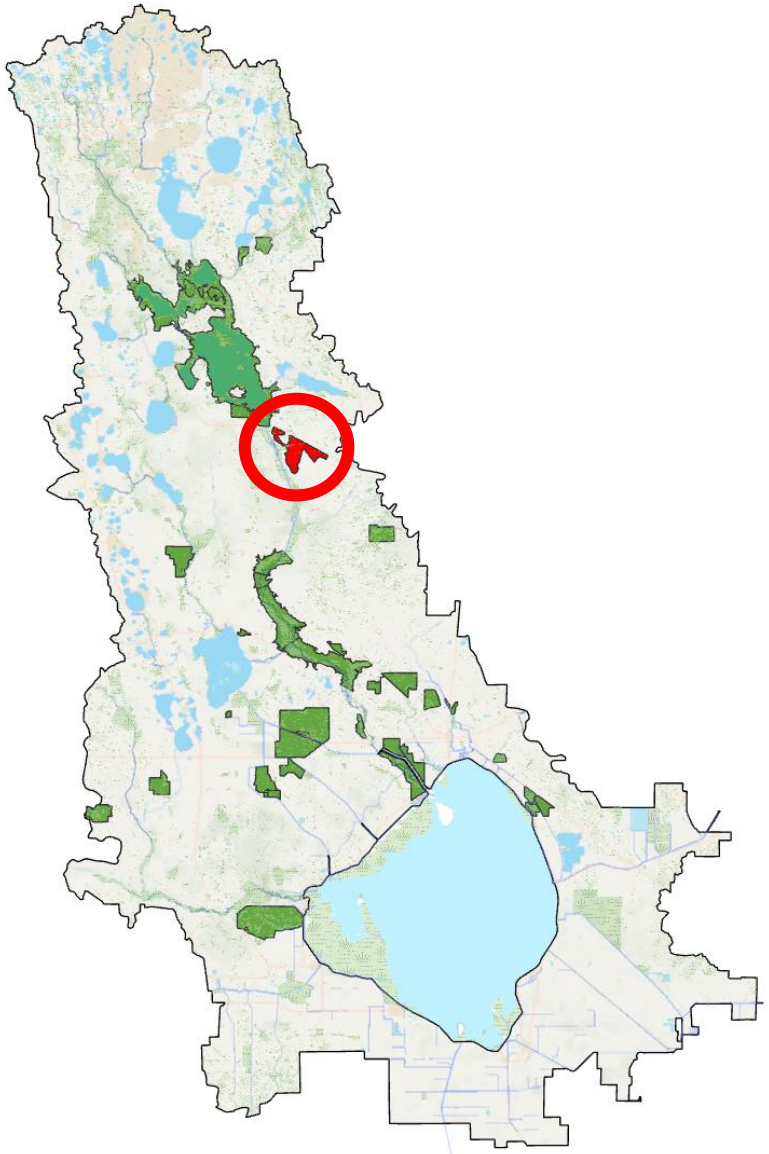


3,600-acre Stormwater Treatment Area

- Estimated 21 metric tons/year TP removal

- Final Design underway
- SFWMD completed land purchase in Feb. 2026

El Maximo Ranch



El Maximo Ranch ribbon cutting

Public-private partnership

- 7,000-acre storage & treatment

Year 1 operations concluded Dec 2025:

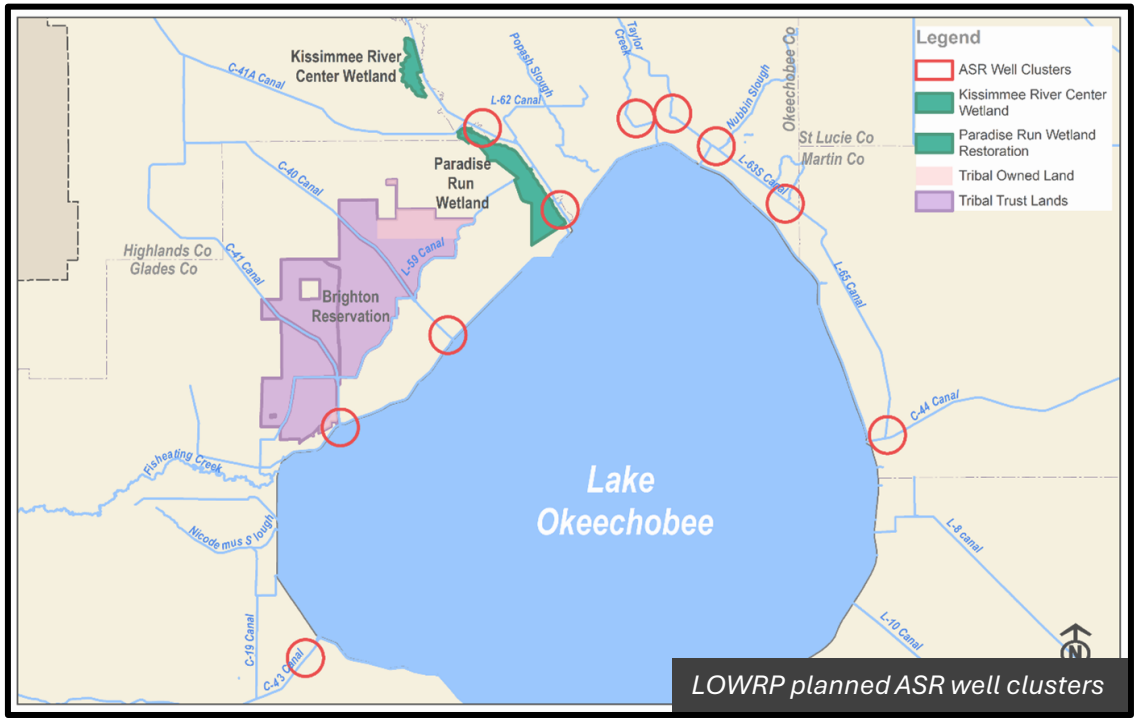
- >7k ac-ft of dynamic storage
- 2.2 mt TP & 12.8 mt TN

El Maximo Ranch

El Maximo Ranch treatment cells at full storage capacity

LOWRP - Aquifer Storage & Recovery

ASR test well construction at L-63N



LOWRP planned ASR well clusters

ASR construction continues:

- Completed test wells 1& 2 at C-38S, C-38N, and L-63N
- Additional wells 3 & 4 at C-38S underway
- Demonstration facility at C-38S in design

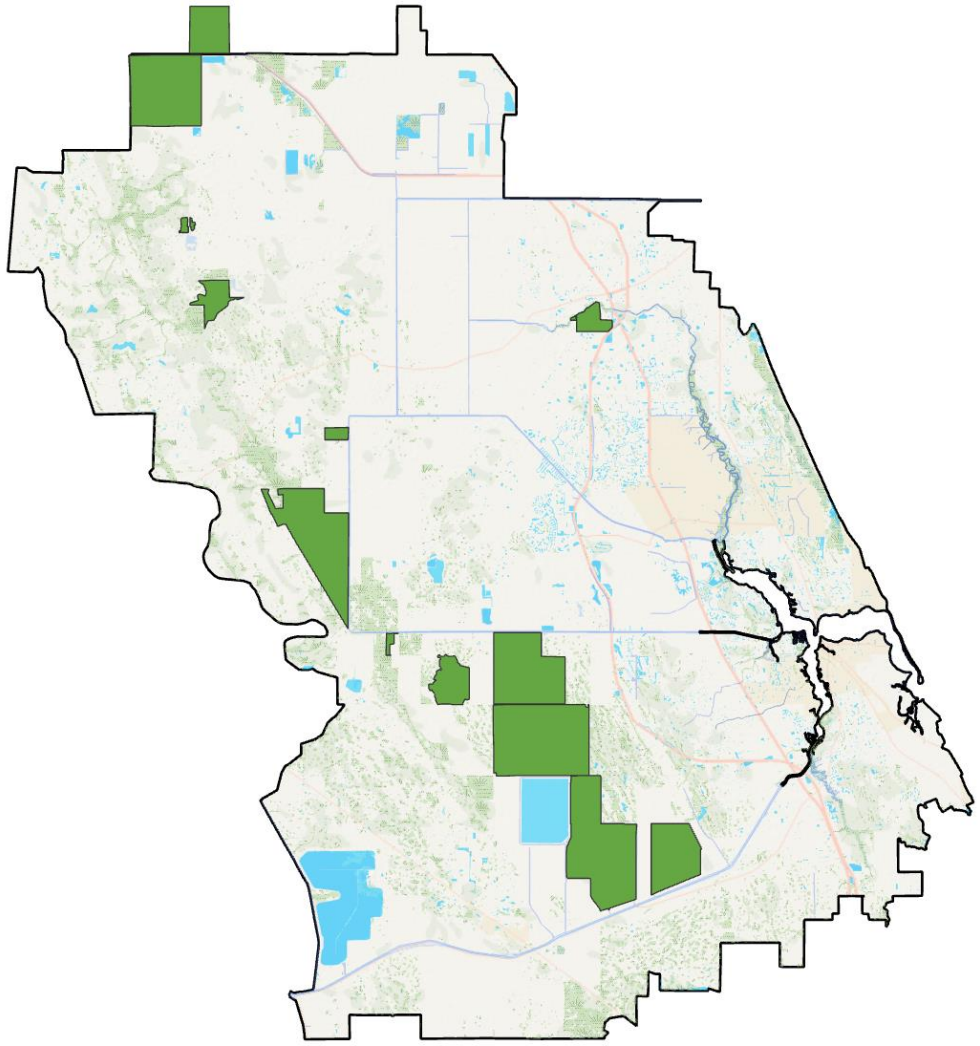
SUBMERGED AQUATIC VEGETATION

Turbidity curtain pilot study
- Improve water clarity & light penetration
- Promote SAV growth

Habitat restoration in Fisheating Bay
- Low Lake Level Enhancement Plan
- Partnership with FWC
- Planted >30k eelgrass/bulrush

Floating turbidity curtains in lake marsh pilot study

Planting eelgrass in Fisheating Bay



ST LUCIE RIVER WATERSHED

ST LUCIE RIVER WATERSHED

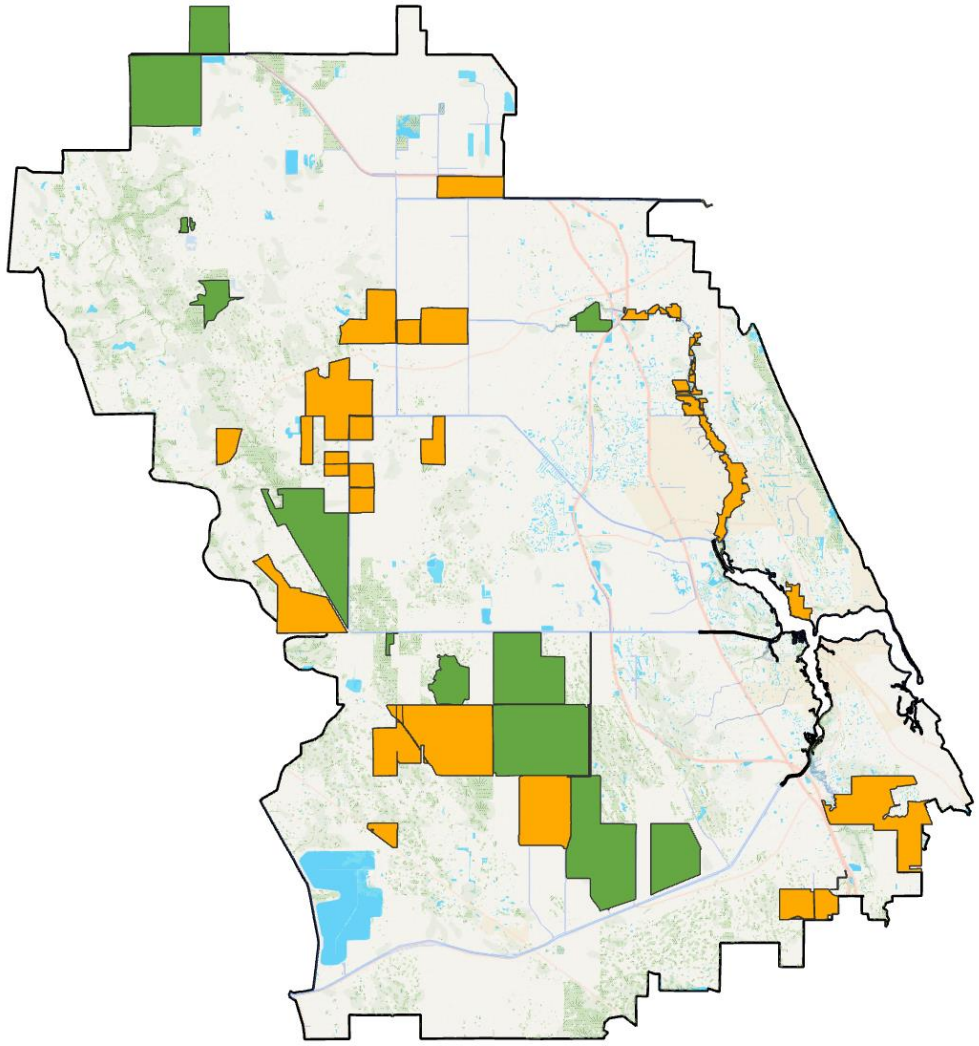
15 projects operational in WY2025
(including 3 FDACS HWTT)

Storage
>70k
acre-feet

TP
~22
metric tons

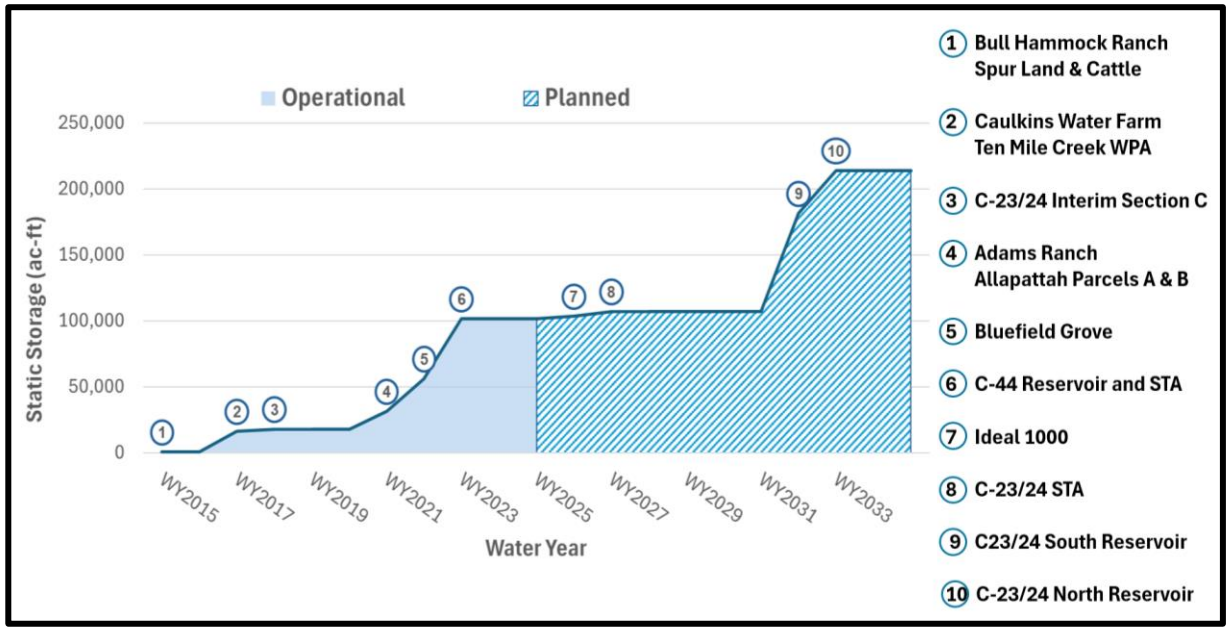
TN
~128
metric tons

ST LUCIE RIVER WATERSHED

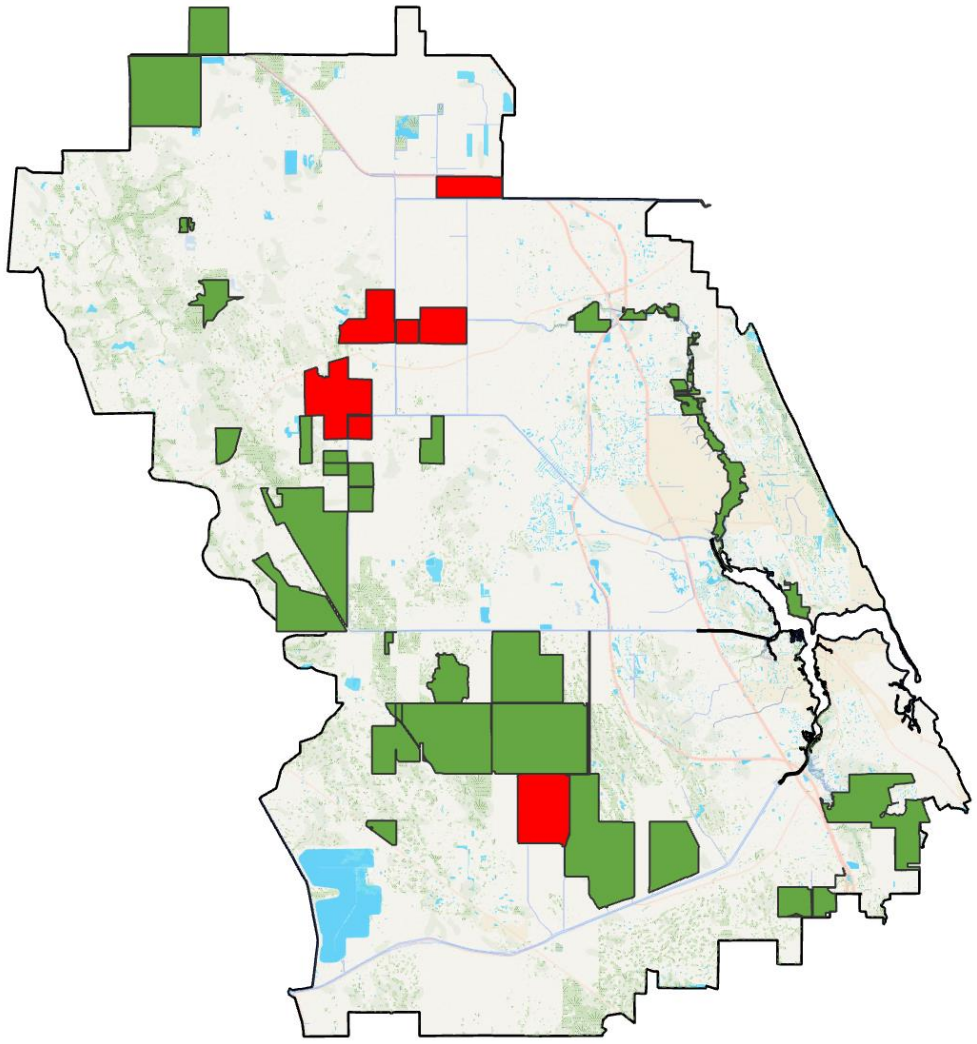


ST LUCIE RIVER WATERSHED

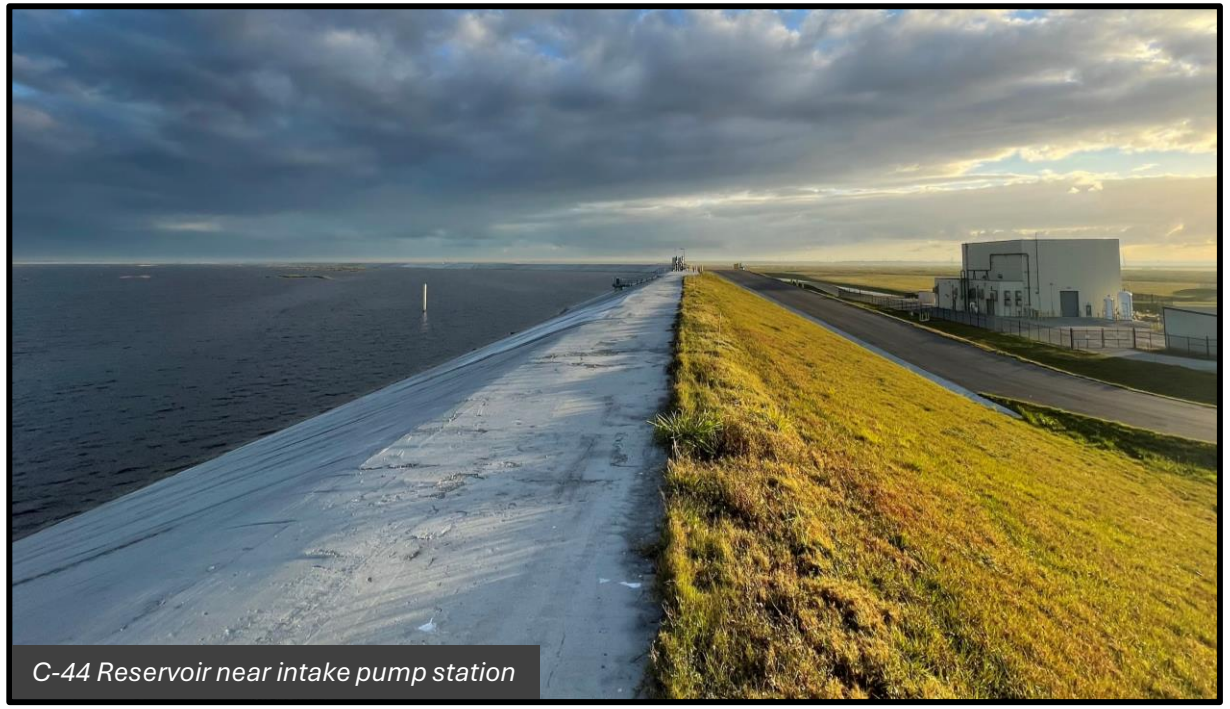
Additional projects in progress
+ >150,000 ac-ft of static storage



Indian River Lagoon - South



ST LUCIE RIVER WATERSHED



C-44 Reservoir near intake pump station

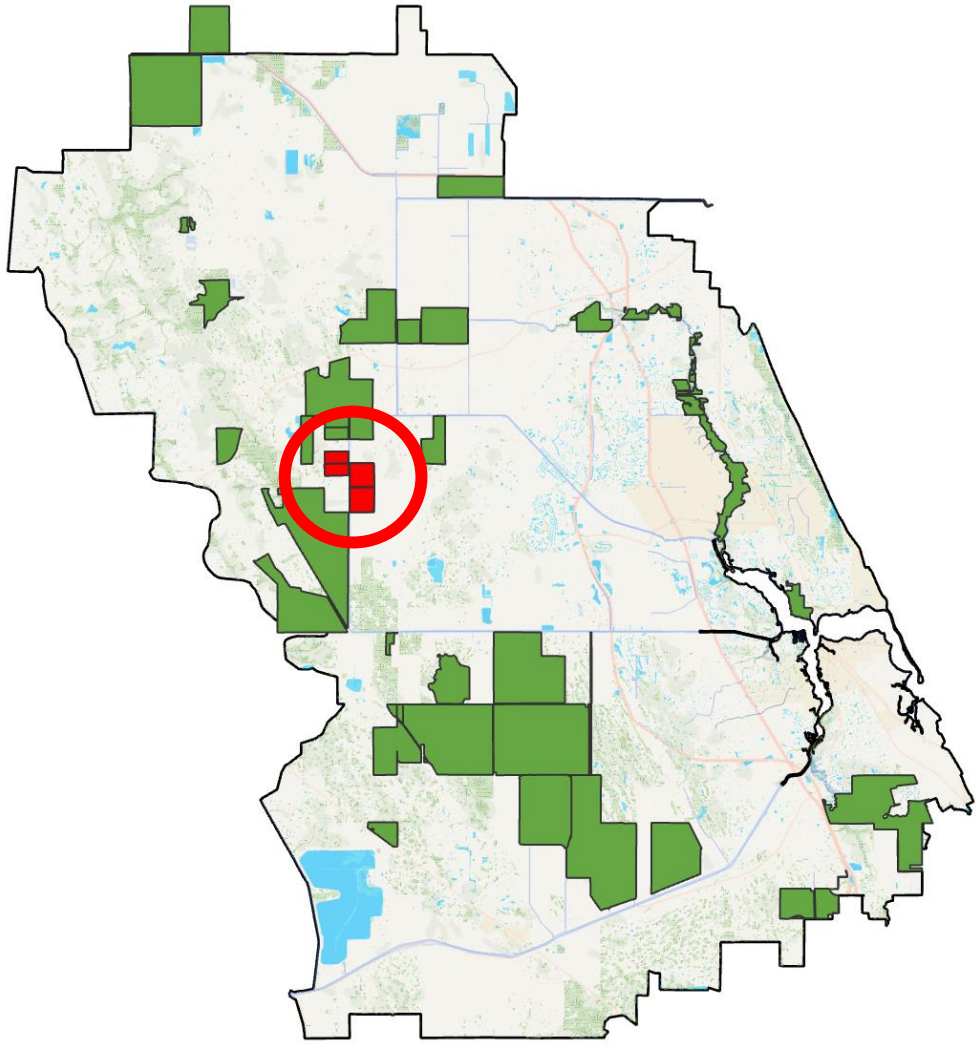
Major progress on regional IRL-S components:

- Operational Testing = C44 Reservoir
- Construction Progress:
  - C23/24 North & South Reservoirs & STA
  - C25 Reservoir & STA
  - C23 Estuary Discharge Diversion

Indian River Lagoon - South

C23 Estuary Discharge Diversion S-457 pump station nears completion

C23/24 District Lands Hydrologic Enhancement



ST LUCIE RIVER WATERSHED

C23/24 public lands - Sections A and B

Stormwater retention on District-owned lands

- 1,900 acres across four parcels
- Design initiated August 2025
- Construction start = Fall 2026

IRL Water Quality Improvement Grants


NSLRWCD – Ten Mile Creek Restoration

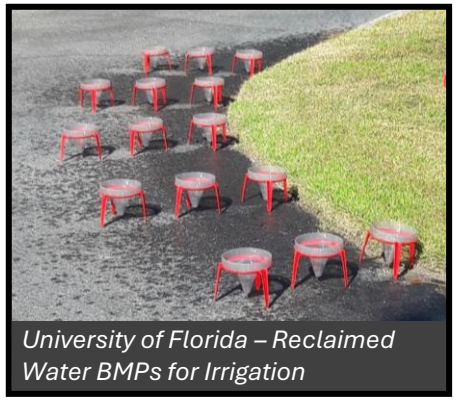

NSLRWCD – Gordy Road Structure Retrofit


City of PSL – Floresta Drive Baffle Box


City of PSL – Sagamore Basin STAs


City of Fort Pierce – Georgia Ave. Basin Improvements


City of PSL – C23 Water Quality Restoration


University of Florida – Reclaimed Water BMPs for Irrigation


St. Lucie County – North Hutchinson Island Septic to Sewer Conversion

Martin County – Old Palm City Septic to Sewer Conversion

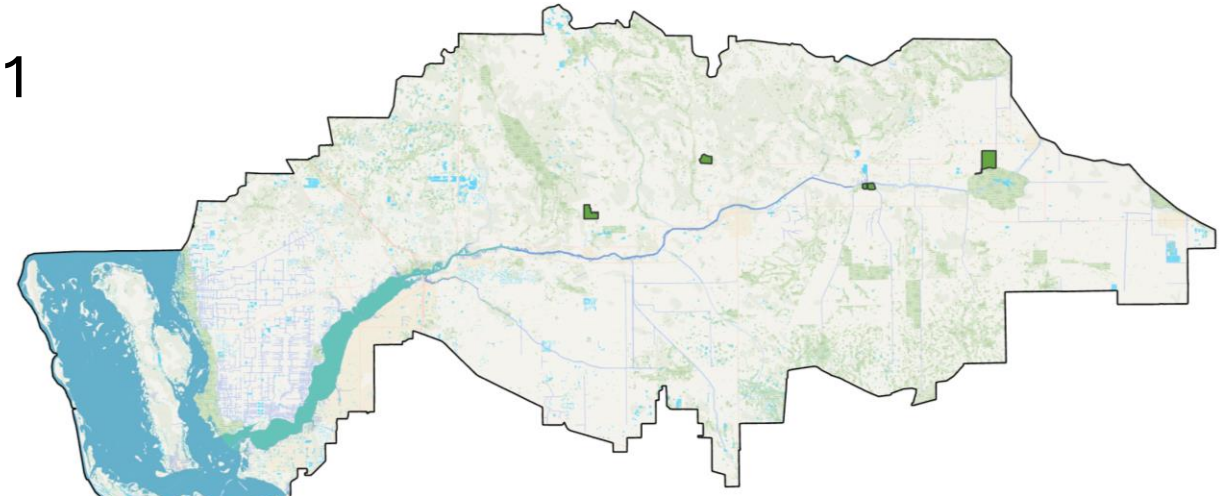
Grant partnerships with local governments

- $25M for water quality improvements
- 8 of 9 projects completed

Support SLRW BMAP objectives

CALOOSAHATCHEE RIVER WATERSHED

Six projects operational in WY2025 (including 1 FDACS FAVT)



CALOOSAHATCHEE RIVER WATERSHED

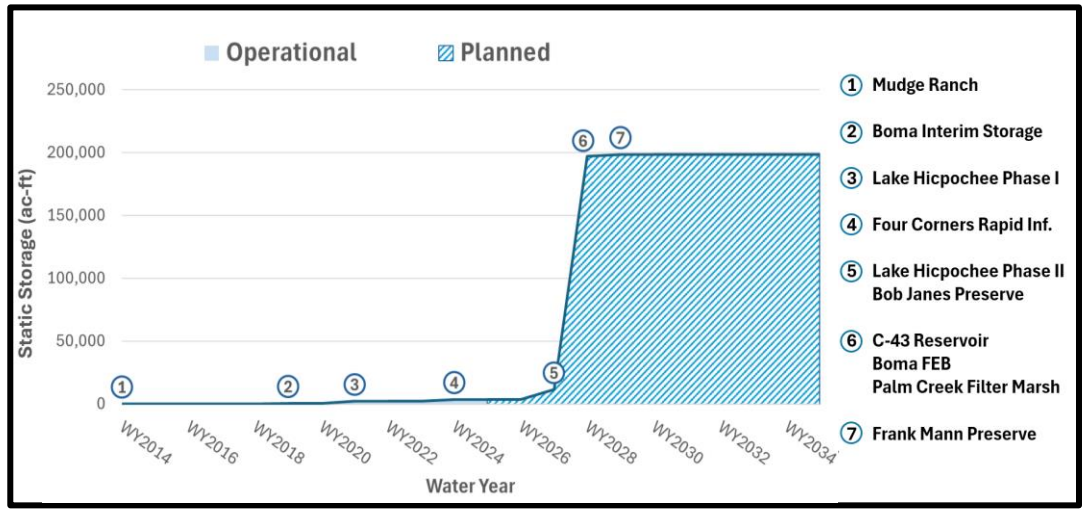
Storage
>26k
acre-feet

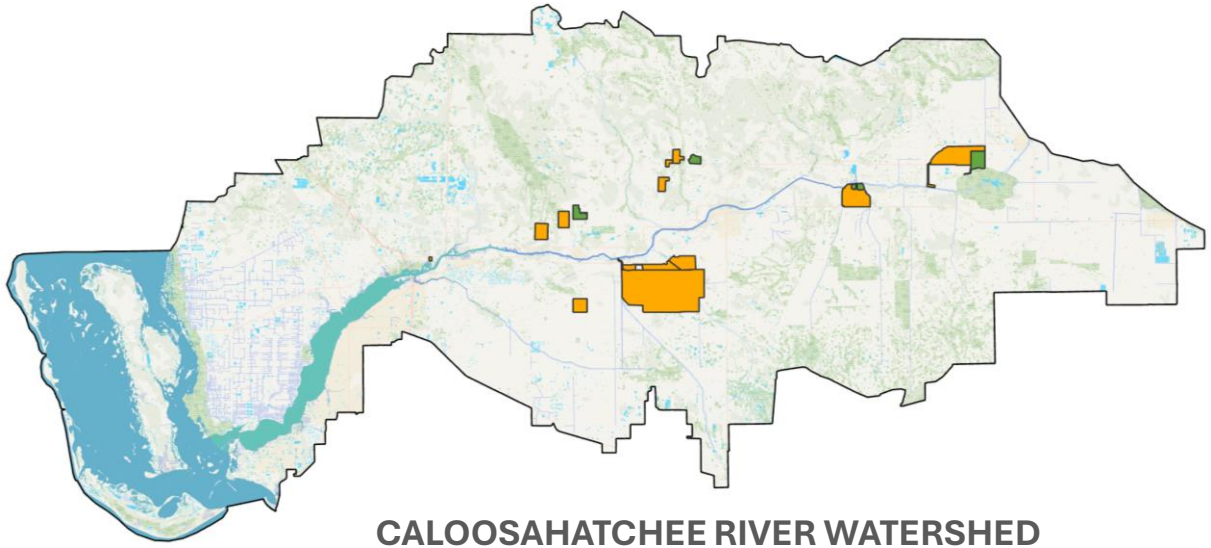
TP
~8
metric tons

TN
~54
metric tons

CALOOSAHATCHEE RIVER WATERSHED

Eight additional projects in progress
+ >190,000 ac-ft of static storage

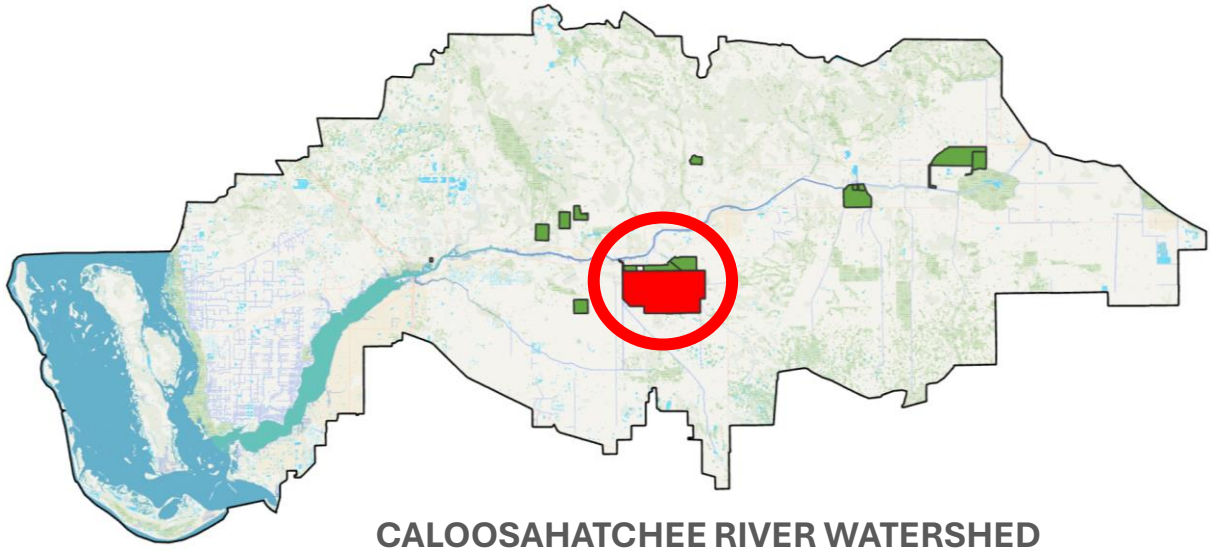




CALOOSAHATCHEE RIVER WATERSHED

Caloosahatchee West Basin Storage Reservoir

Townsend Canal at Caloosahatchee West Basin Storage Reservoir complex



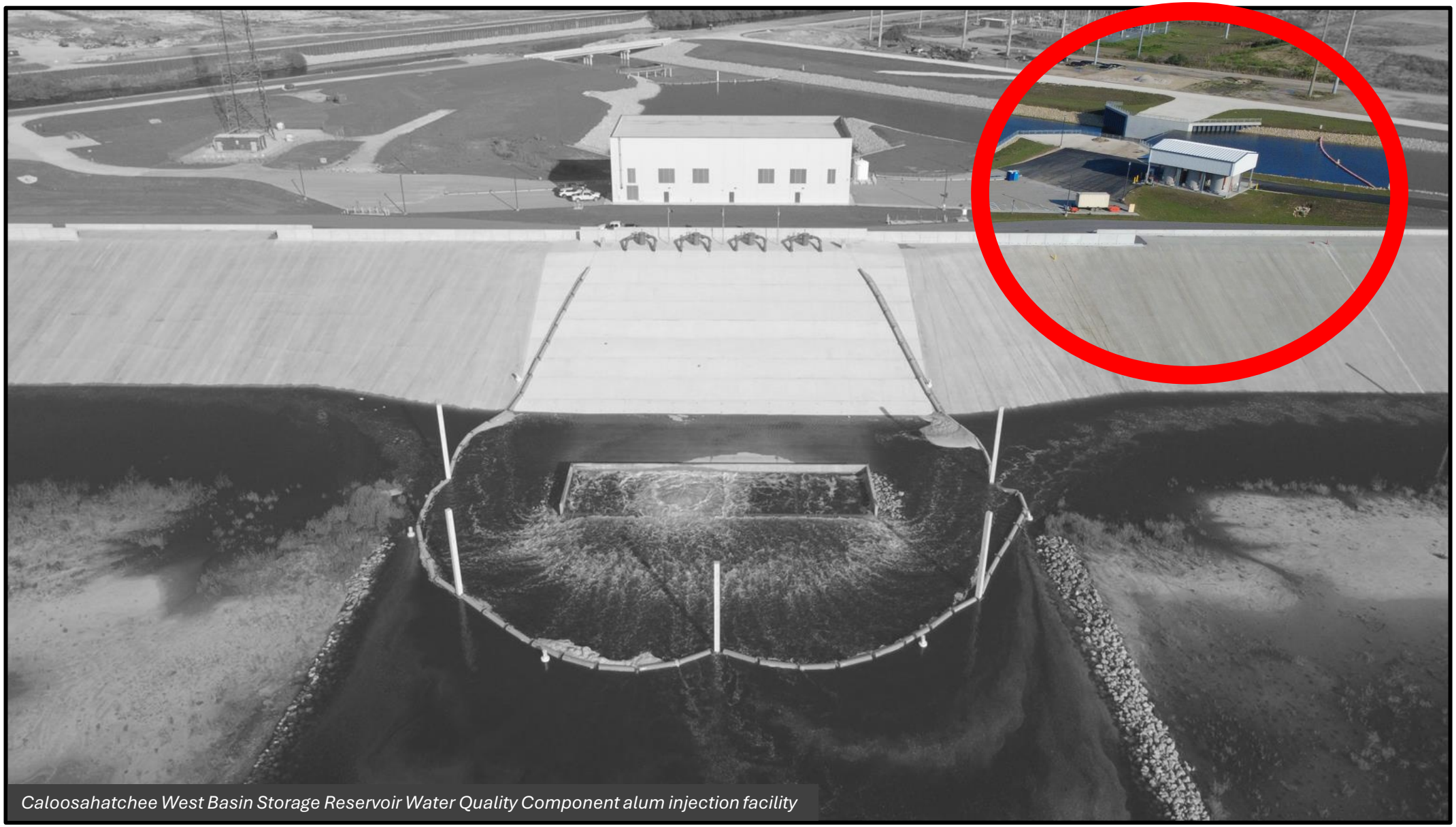
Maintain beneficial freshwater flow to the Caloosahatchee Estuary

- 170k ac-ft static storage
- Opened summer 2025

Caloosahatchee West Basin Storage Reservoir

S-470 pump station inflow to Caloosahatchee West Basin Storage Reservoir

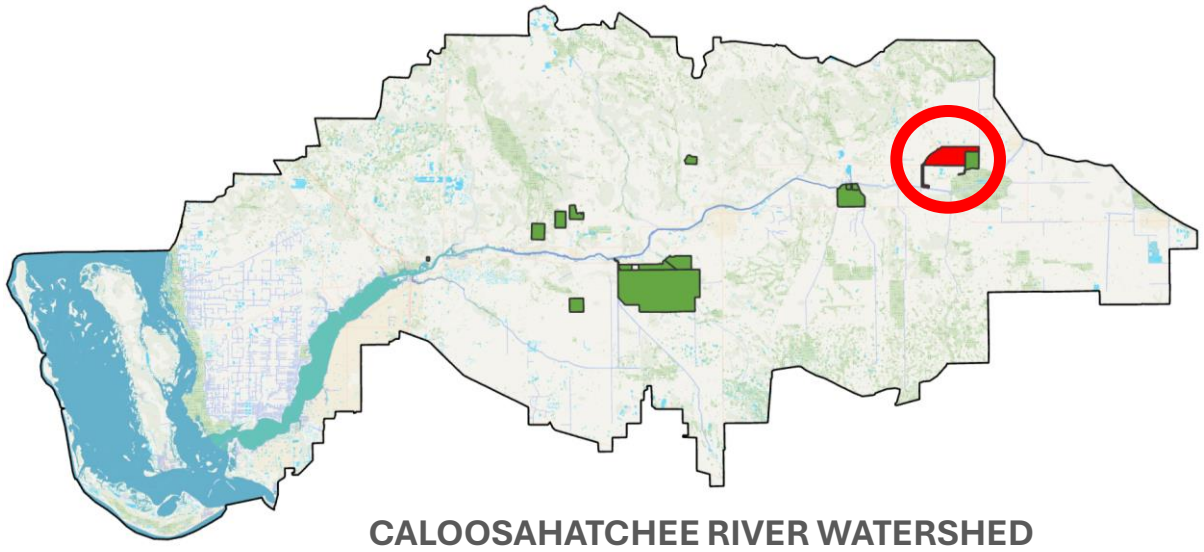
CWBSR - Water Quality Component



Caloosahatchee West Basin Storage Reservoir Water Quality Component alum injection facility

Lake Hicpochee Hydrologic Enhancement Phase II

G-795 pump station under construction

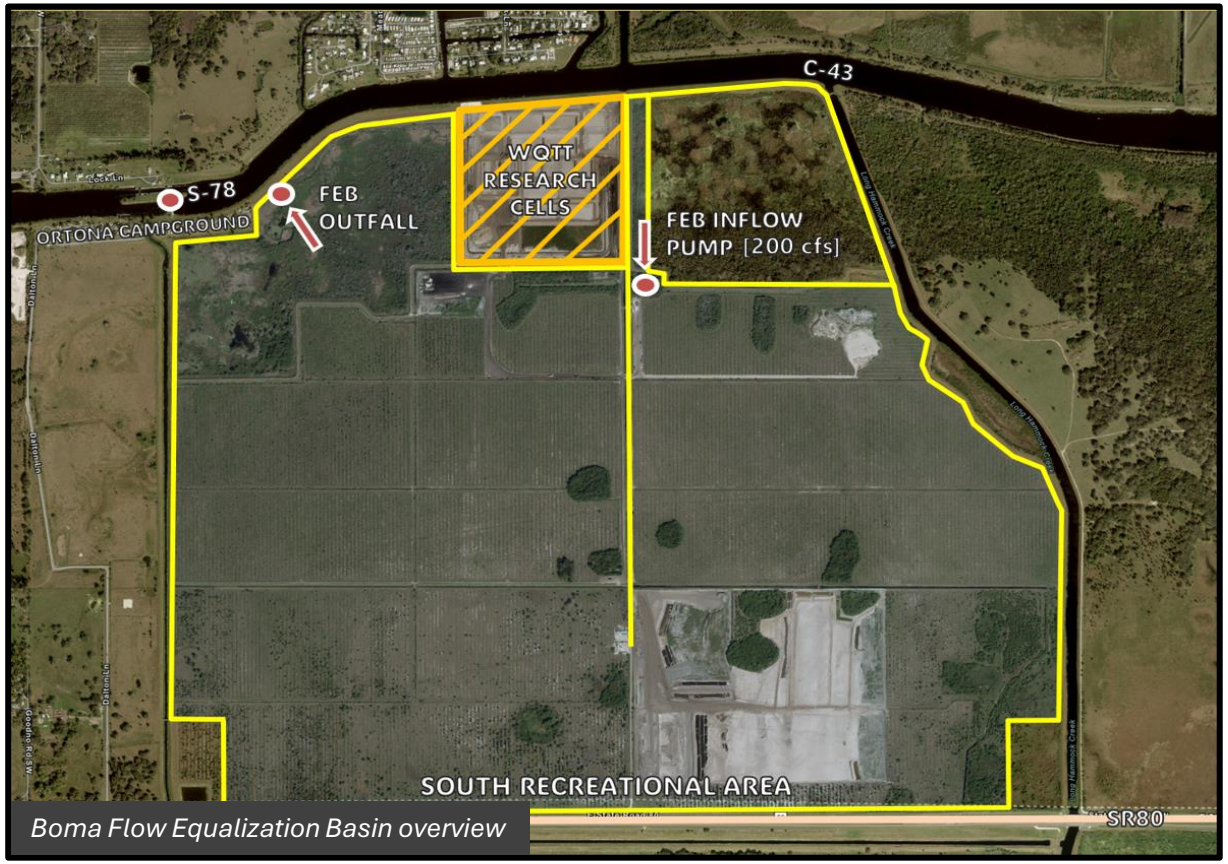


Maintain beneficial flows to CRE:

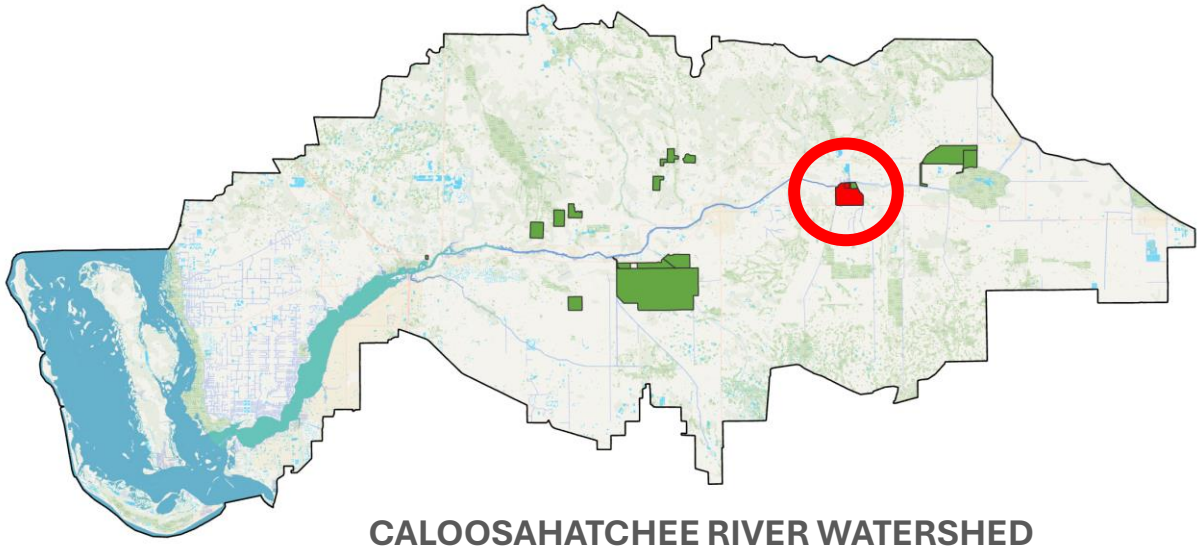
- 2,200-acre Flow Equalization Basin
  - 7,600 ac-ft static storage

- Construction began Summer 2025; Completion = 2028

Boma Flow Equalization Basin



Boma Flow Equalization Basin overview



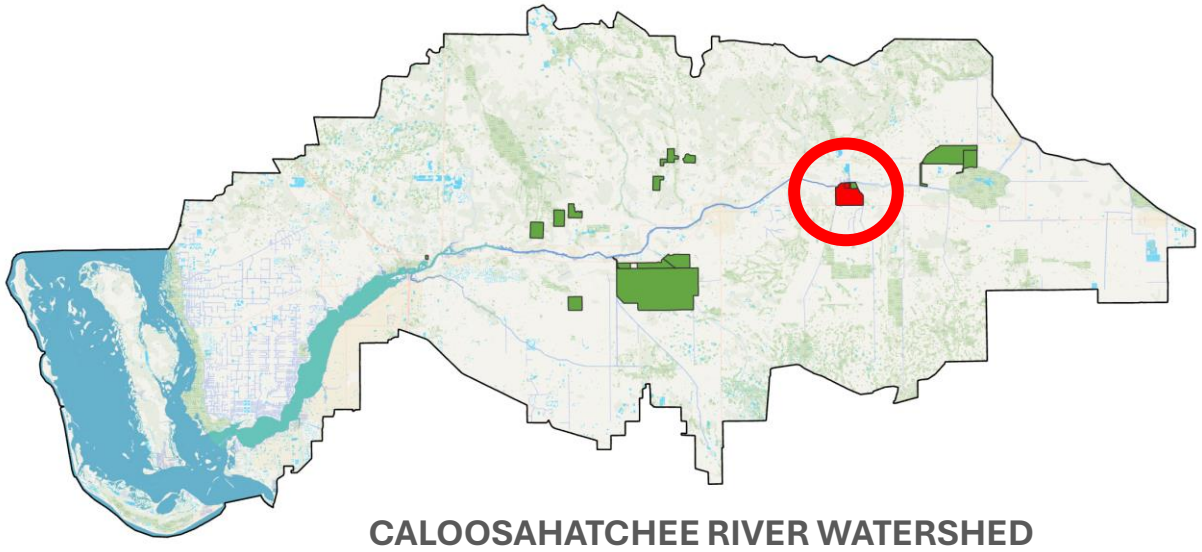
1,800 acres purchased with Lee County

- Flow Equalization Basin with 200 cfs inflow pump station
- Final design ongoing
- Construction start = 2026

C-43 Water Quality Treatment & Testing Facility

C43 WQTT Test Cells research facility

- 80-acre research facility
  - Construction completed = Early 2025
- Multi-year research effort to support Caloosahatchee BMAP objectives



CALOOSAHATCHEE RIVER WATERSHED

C-43 Water Quality Treatment & Testing Facility

Emergent aquatic vegetation growing in newly established test cells

Caloosahatchee Estuary

sfwmd.gov/SFER

Ch8A: NEEPP Overview
Ch8B: LOWPP
Ch8C: SLRWPP
Ch8D: CRWPP