

# Public Use on SFWMD Stormwater Treatment Areas

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16<sup>th</sup> Annual Public Meeting of the Long-Term Plan  
for Achieving Water Quality Goals for Everglades  
Protection Area Tributary Basins  
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# Public Use On STAs

- Public Use on District Lands
  - Why have Public Use?
  - Policy and Rules
  - Recreation Partnerships
  - STA



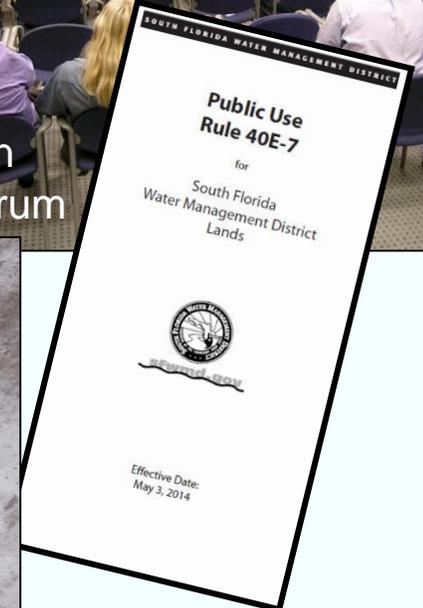
# Public Use Program Background Information

- Why Have Public Use?
  - 373.4592 “the district shall allow these areas to be used by the public for recreational purposes... unless such uses are incompatible with the restoration goals of the Everglades Construction Project..”
  - SFWMD Created
    - Public Use Policy, 2004
    - Public Use Rules, 2006



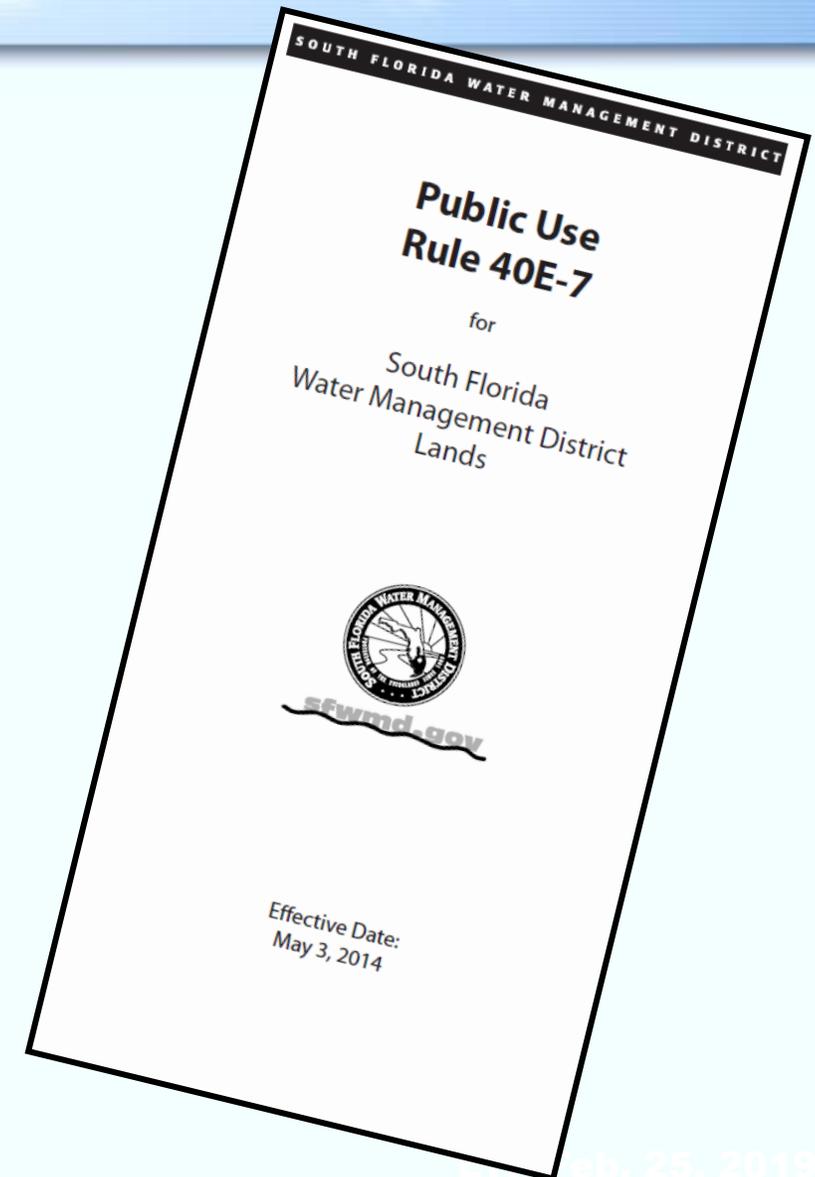
# Public Use Program Background Information

- Public Use Policy
  - Public Participation
    - Recreation Issues Forum
  - Project Purposes First
    - Different rules for different types of lands
  - Project Planning, Design and Construction
    - Incorporate recreation facilities



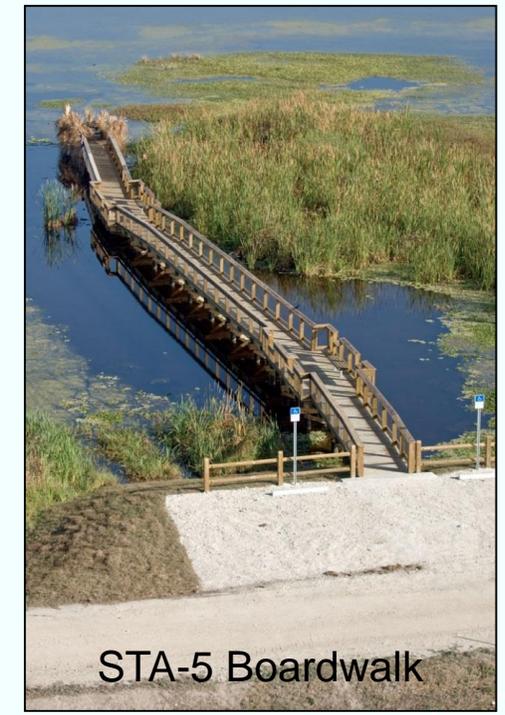
# Public Use Program Background Information

- Public Use Rule 40E-7
  - Rules provide commitment for public access and nature-based recreation on District lands consistent with state statutes and District policy
  - Types of Land include
    - Conservation
    - Interim
    - Right of Way
    - Project Lands



# STA Activities and Facilities

- Public access, open on “extended weekends” Friday – Monday
- Daylight hours
- Bird watching, hiking, biking
- Fishing
- FWC hunting alligator and waterfowl
  - Friday waterfowl hunts
    - STA-1W and STA-3/4



# Public Use Program Partnerships – Audubon, Florida Trail

- Audubon Society- Cooperative guided bird-watching tours on the STAs.
  - 1<sup>st</sup> Audubon tour in 2005 at STA-5, now 3 Chapters leading over 65 tours with 1,600+ participants at STA-1E, STA-2 and STA-5/6
- Florida Trail Association



# Public Use Program Partnerships- FWC

- Florida Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission
  - Waterfowl & alligator, quotas
  - Specialty hunts
    - Youth and wounded warrior
  - Enforce all public use rules



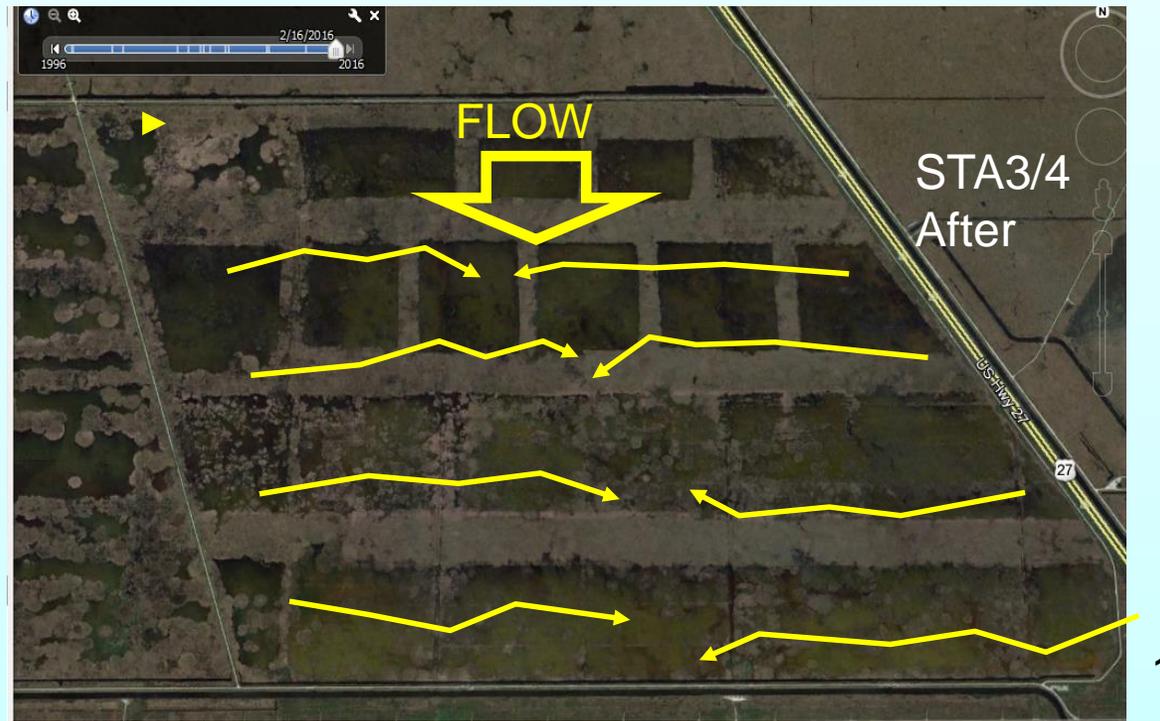
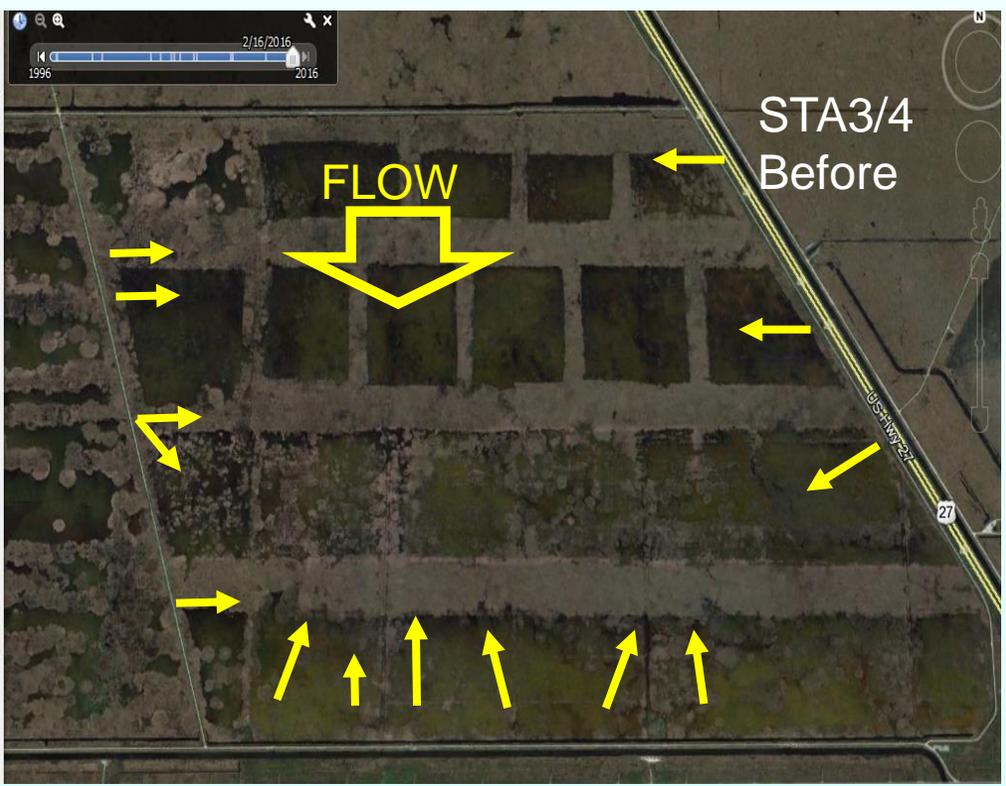
# Public Use on STAs

- Project / Constructed Wetlands
  - Stormwater Treatment Areas



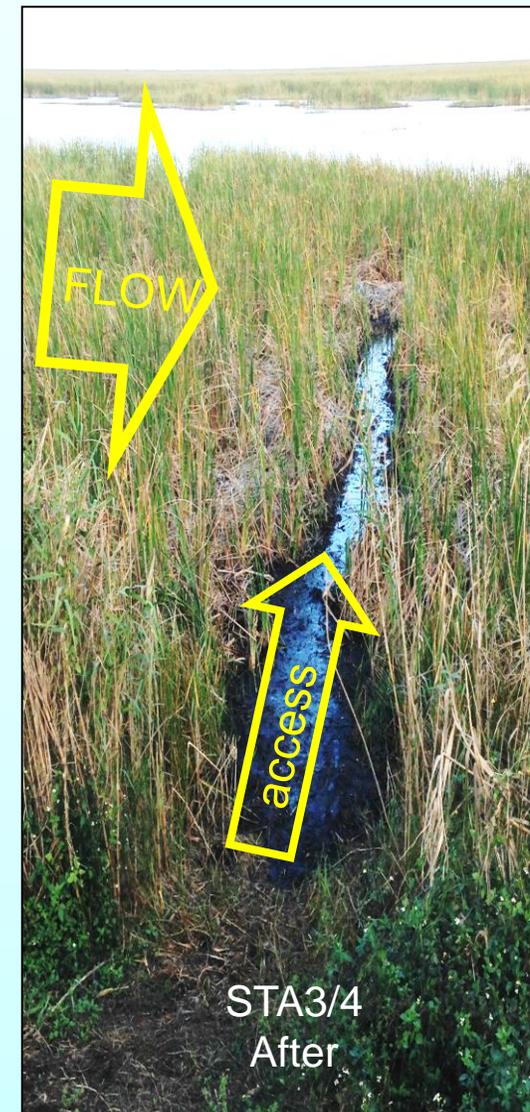
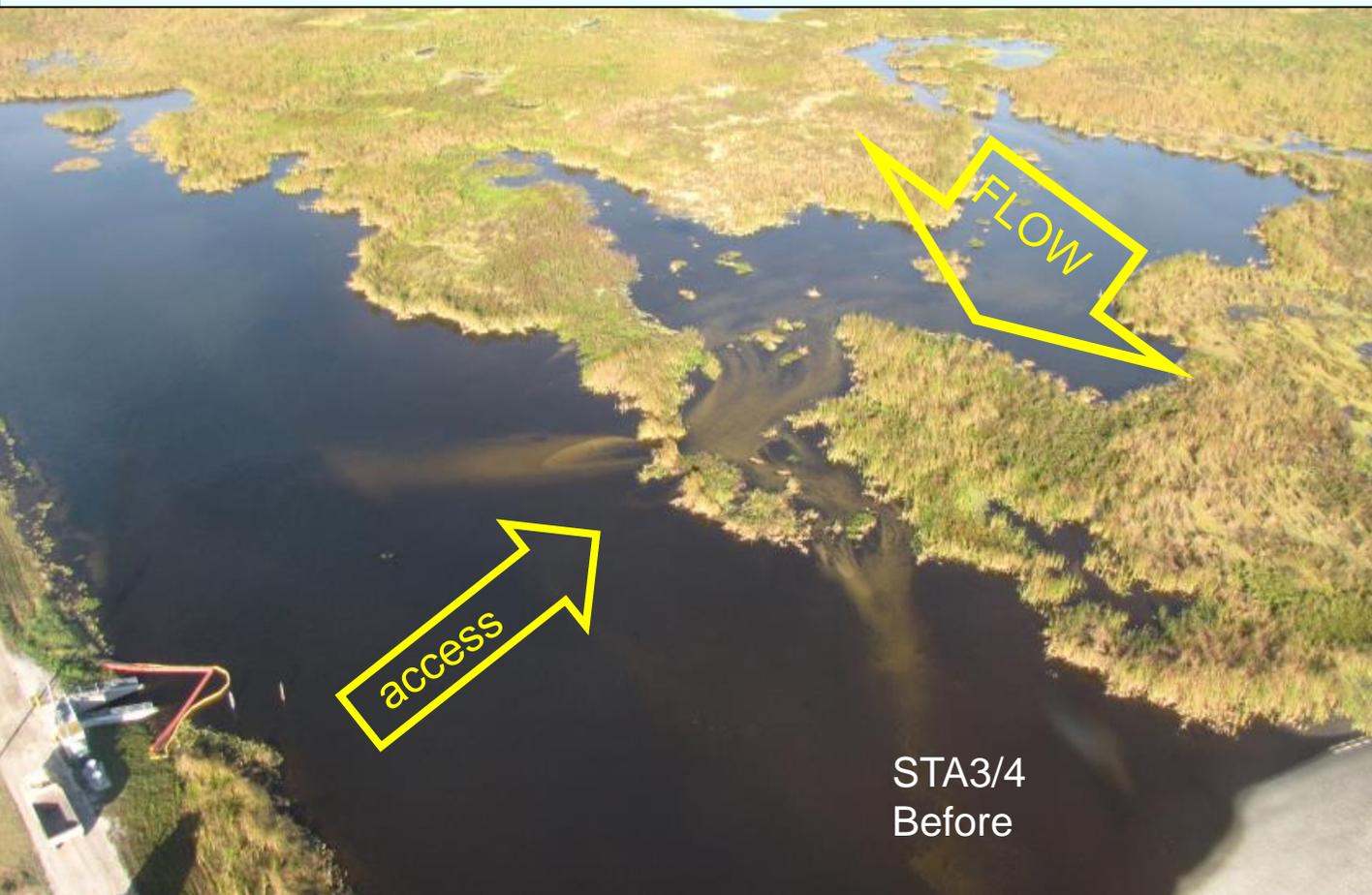
# STA Waterfowl Hunting, Project Purposes First 2016-17 Season Change Pattern of Access

- Typical access was through openings in emergent plants
- Using access site parallel to flow contributes to short circuits



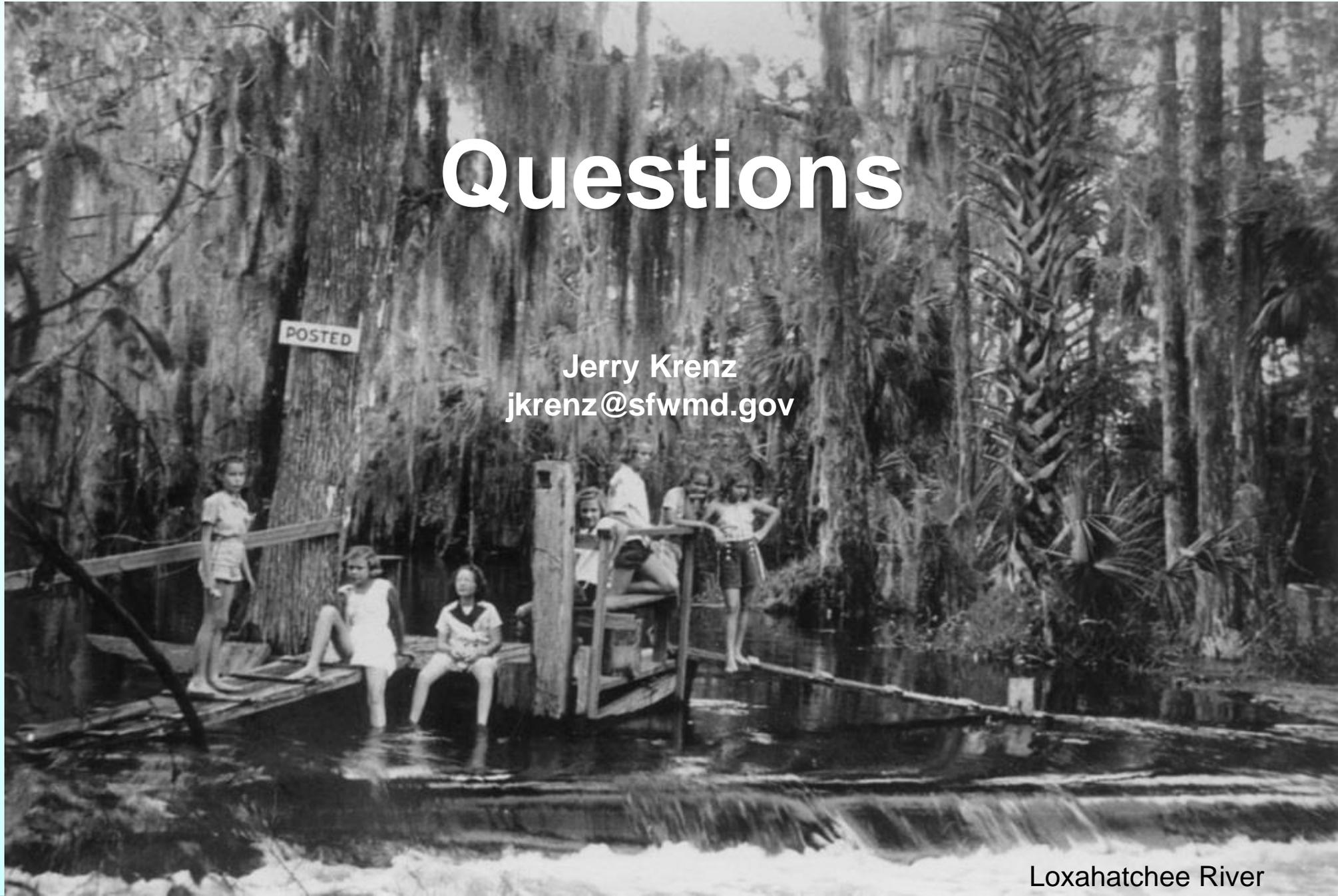
- Change access to cross flow
- Access through vegetation not openings

# Change Access on STA Waterfowl Hunting to Cross Flow



# Questions

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Loxahatchee River