

Kissimmee River Restoration Project

FYi



PROJECT PURPOSE: The Kissimmee River Basin encompasses more than two dozen lakes, tributary streams, associated marshes, the Kissimmee River and its floodplain. The basin forms the headwaters of Lake Okeechobee and the Everglades. In the 1960s, the Central and Southern Florida (C&SF) Flood Control Project modified the natural system extensively, through the construction of channelized canals and water control structures to achieve flood control. This had negative effects on the ecosystem. This project seeks to restore portions of the river's natural flow and floodplain. Three phases are complete, and continuous flow has been re-established to 24 miles of the meandering Kissimmee River. Seasonal rains and flows now inundate the floodplain in the restored area enhancing the basin's ecology.

Project Benefits

- ❑ Restores more than 40 square miles of the Kissimmee River floodplain ecosystem, including more than 12,000 acres of wetlands and 40 miles of historic river channel
- ❑ Returns the Kissimmee River's historic flow pattern and inundated wetlands
- ❑ Benefits more than 320 species of fish and other wildlife

Key Project Milestones

1999

Construction begins in June

2001-2010

Reach 1, restoring the lower Kissimmee Basin, is completed in 2001. Reach 4 is completed in 2010. The two reaches combined restore water flows to almost 24 miles of the river

2020

Construction is expected to be complete. The river's new operating schedule aimed at revitalizing its headwaters will begin after construction is completed



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