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quick facts on...

Western Basins

Water Resources Evaluation Study

SEPTEMBER 2015

The South Florida Water Management District

is a regional, governmental agency that oversees the water resources in the southern half of the state. It is the oldest and largest of the state's five water management districts.

Our Mission is to manage and protect water resources of the region by balancing and improving water quality, flood control, natural systems and water supply.

The South Florida Water Management District (District) is currently conducting a water resources evaluation study in the Western Basins Region to identify opportunities for potential hydrologic and water quality improvements. The Western Basins Region is defined as lands and water bodies within the Feeder Canal Drainage Basin, the C-139 Annex Drainage Basin and the L-28 Interceptor Drainage Basin. The region is located adjacent to the western edge of the Everglades Agricultural Area (EAA), northwest of Water Conservation Area 3A (WCA 3A), south of the C-139 Drainage Basin and north of the Big Cypress National

water resources in these basins have been moderately developed and include water supply and drainage augmentations.

There have been several recent and ongoing efforts in the Western Basins Region to improve water resources such as the completed expansion of the District's Storm Water Treatment Area (STA) 5/6 and the current Sam Jones/Abiaki Prairie (C-139 Annex Restoration Project) initiative to restore citrus to natural wet prairie habitat. Additionally, a future Restoration Strategies project, the C-139 Flow Equalization Basin, will attenuate peak stormwater flows from the C-139 basin prior to treatment in STA-5/6.

Preserve in southeastern Hendry County and northwestern Collier County.

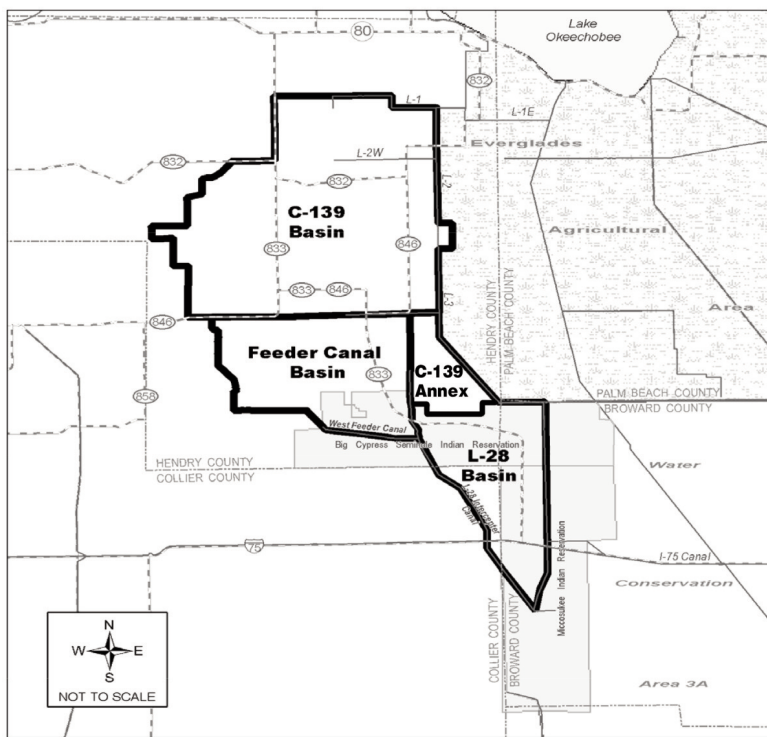
Land use in the Western Basins is a mix of citrus farming, cattle ranching and "natural" lands. Land ownership is by private individuals, the Miccosukee Tribe of Indians of Florida, the Seminole Tribe of Indians of Florida and the Big Cypress Preserve. The

The Study

The water resources evaluation study will specifically focus on the Feeder Canal Basin and the C-139 Annex. The Feeder Canal Basin, for purposes of this study, is divided into a western portion for flows through the Feeder Weir structure into the West Feeder Canal and an eastern portion for flows through the PC17A structure into the North Feeder Canal. For the C-139 Annex, the study will identify methods to quantify the improvements in water quality leaving the C-139 Annex and flowing through the USSO structure into the L-28 Canal as a result of the ongoing restoration initiative.

The primary objectives are:

1. Identify and acquire the additional data needed to facilitate hydrologic modeling of various project alternatives that could be matched with state or federal funding opportunities.



C-139 and Western Basin Area Map

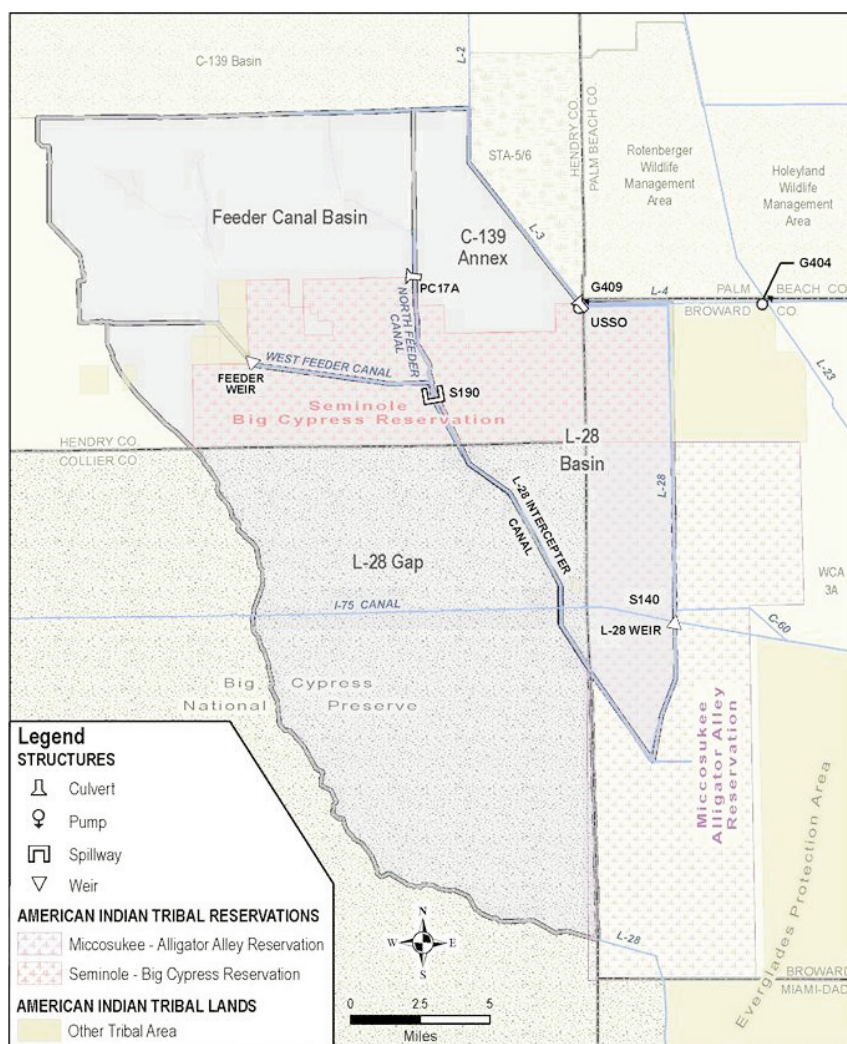
2. Quantitative estimation of potential water quality benefits as a result of “Best Management Practices” and/or local structural improvements and sub-regional options.
3. Predictive and quantitative estimation of water quality improvements in discharges from the C-139 Annex as a result of restoration efforts.
4. Identify potential opportunities to link state and federal funding with identified project alternatives.

For additional information about restoration projects in the Western Basin Area, see [Quick Facts](#) on Sam Jones/Abiaki Prairie – C-139 Annex Restoration Project and visit www.sfwmd.gov/restorationstrategies.

Funding Sources for Alternative Solutions

Historically, the South Florida Water Management District (District) has partnered with the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP), the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (FDACS) and the Natural Resources Conservation Services (NRCS) to implement voluntary cooperative water resource improvement measures in the Western Basins Region.

The District intends to continue exploring alternative cooperative funding solutions with these agencies and identify opportunities and partnerships with other federal and state entities and local stakeholders.



This map depicts the location of the water resources evaluation study in the Feeder Canal Basin for water flowing through the Feeder Weir and PC17A and the C-139 Annex USSO structure.



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