Loxahatchee River (CERP) Update

INTRODUCTION

- Northwest Fork of the Loxahatchee River is the last free flowing river in SE Florida
- Federally Designated Wild and Scenic River
- Known for its majestic floodplain forests

THREATS TO THE RIVER

- Human drainage system causes loss of freshwater during rainy season
- Lack of dry season flows causes saltwater intrusion
- Several miles of cypress floodplain have been lost

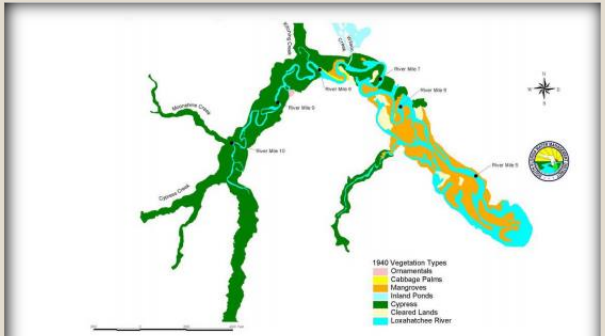
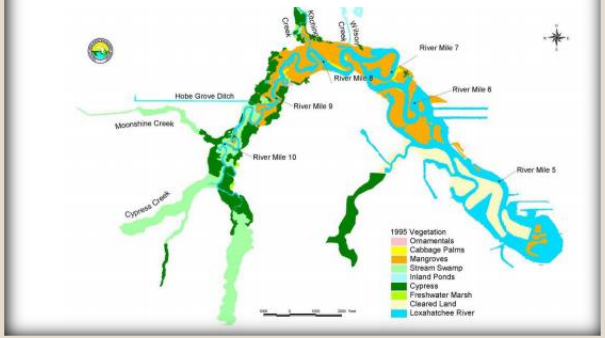


Figure 3-5. 1940 Aerial Interpretation of Floodplain Vegetative Communities Along the Northwest Fork of the Loxahatchee River.



RESTORATION STRATEGIES

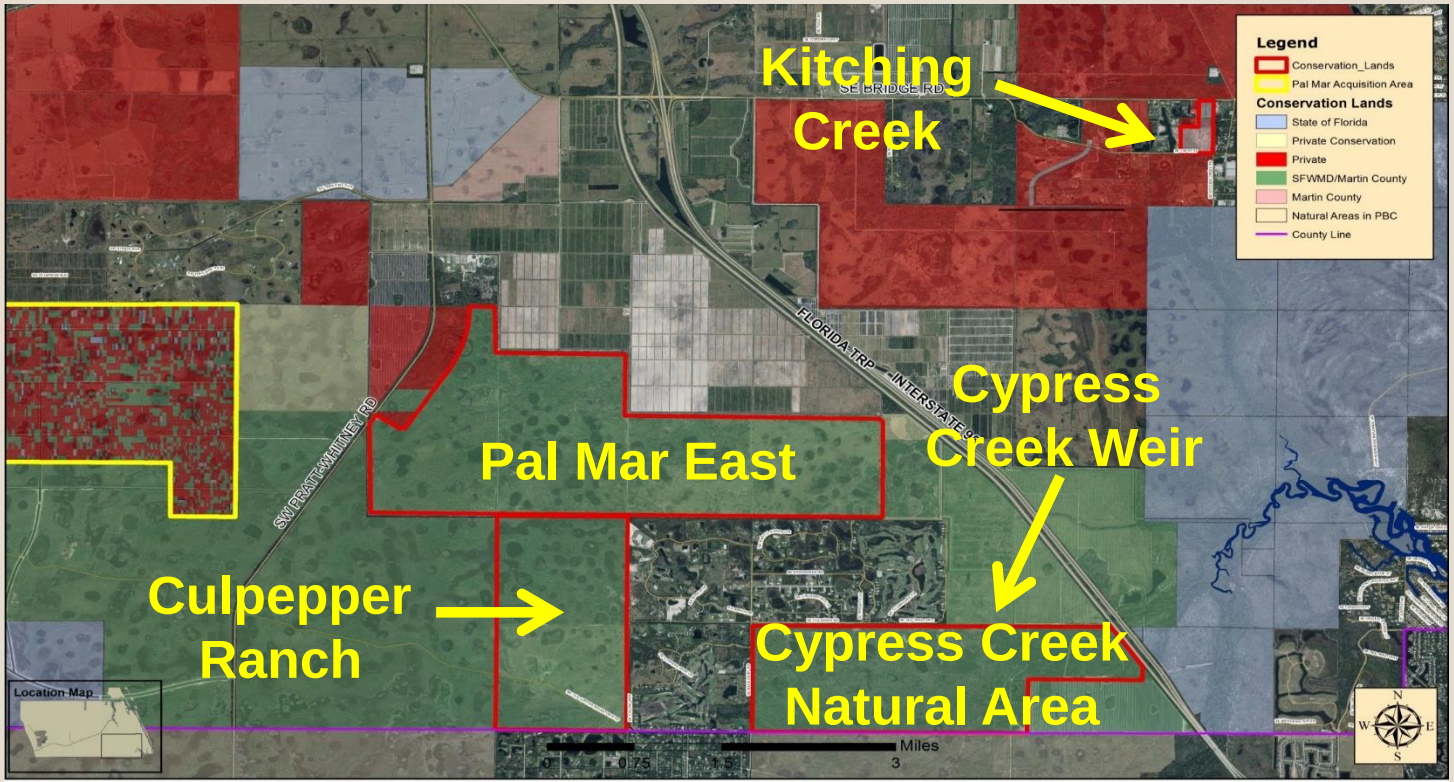
- Hold more water during the rainy season using natural land storage and a reservoir
- Use that water to provide supplemental dry season flows to the Loxahatchee

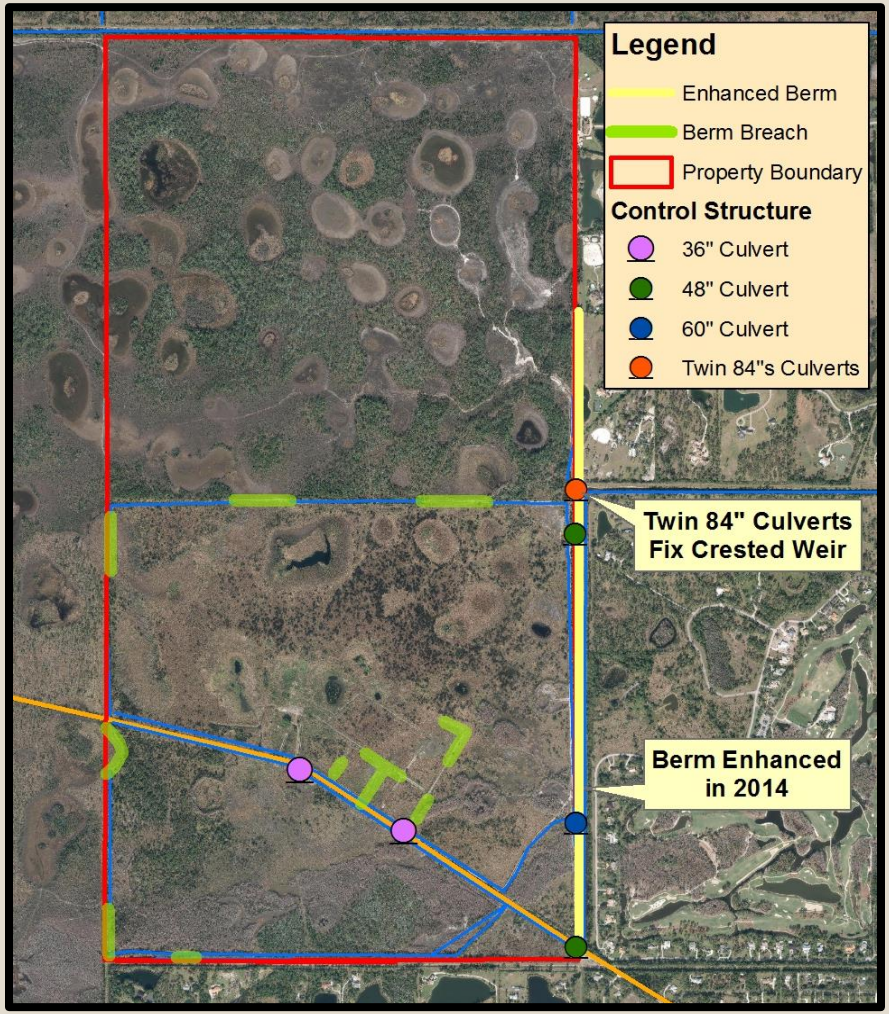
MARTIN COUNTY ROLE

- County are leaders in implementing Loxahatchee restoration projects
- Helped acquire thousands of acres of land
- Restored roughly 10,000-acres of wetland habitat

Kitching Creek Project

PROJECT AREAS





Project Example – Culpepper Ranch

LOXAHATCHEE CERP PROJECT

- **USACOE and SFWMD spent 5 years working on a plan to restore the river**
- **Goal - complete the plan and include in Water Resource Development Act (WRDA) 2020 Bill for Federal authorization**

PROJECT STATUS

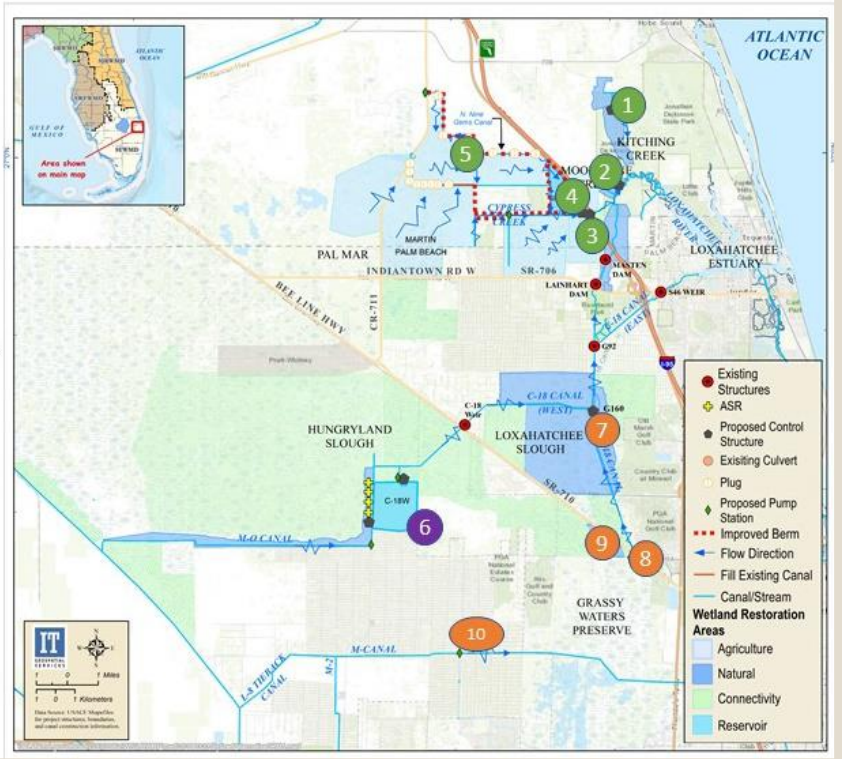
- The ACOE Chief Engineers recently signed the Project Implementation Report (PIR)
- Last major step needed for project to be included in the WRDA 2020 Bill

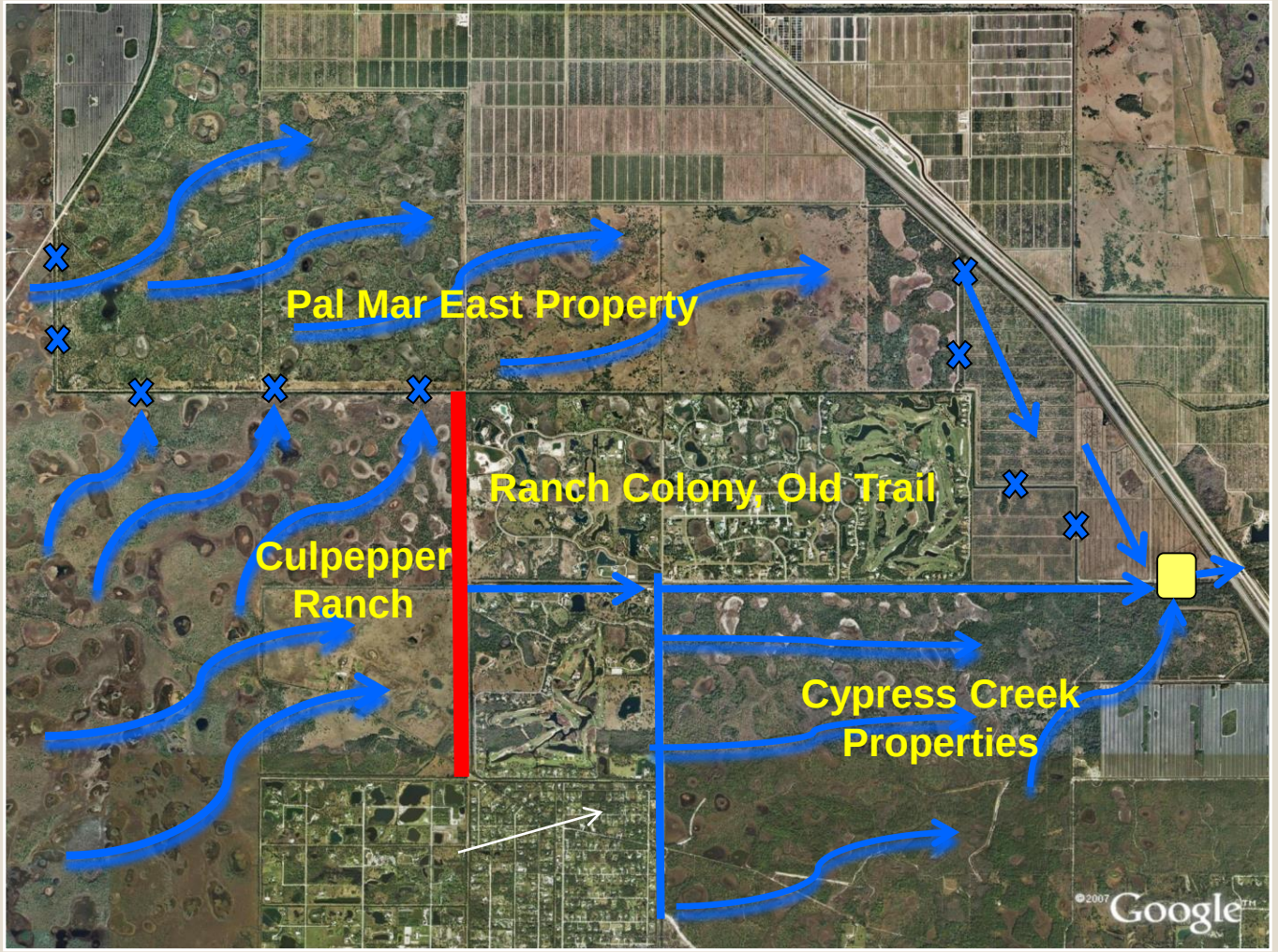
RESTORATION PLAN

- **Restores River's freshwater flow targets and hydrology of the watershed**
- **Plan emphasizes restoration of Martin County portion of the watershed**

Alternative 5R

1. Kitching Creek (Restoration/hydration): (Spreader canal; weir/plug (Jenkins Ditch)
2. Moonshine Creek (MC) & Gulfstream East (GE) Restoration: Connect HSLCD ditch to MC; clear MC vegetation; weir in Hobe Grove Ditch; grade area to historic topography
3. Cypress Creek Canal (CCC)(Reduce over-drainage): Replace CCC weir to raise control elevation, raise berm at Ranch Colony, automate twin 84" culverts; pump and spreader swale; regrade CC southern forks
4. Gulfstream West (GW)(Restoration & reduce over- drainage): Partial backfill & relocate southern end of HSLCD canal; small pump, construct flow through marsh to attenuate flows
5. Pal-Mar East (Restoration & Connectivity): Plug ditches; remove pipes; improve northern berm; construct western berm improve eastern berm; pumps at Thomas Farm to redirect drainage to GW flow- redirect drainage to GW flow-through marsh via north Nine-Gems Canal
6. . C-18W Reservoir (9,500 ac-ft. & 4 ASR wells): Above ground reservoir; inflow pump, discharge structure; seepage control; M-O canal connector and pump
7. . G-160 Structure (Reduce over-drainage): Improve hydroperiod in Loxahatchee Slough
8. G-161 Structure (Connectivity): GWP water to Loxahatchee Slough
9. GWP Triangle (Connectivity): Grade and reconnect
10. M-1 Pump Station (conveyance): Deliver lower M-1 basin water to M-Canal, GWP and G- 161




Pal Mar East Property
Ranch Colony, Old Trail
Culpepper Ranch
Cypress Creek Properties
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QUESTIONS?