



Recreational Program Updates: Sam Jones – Abiaki Prairie C-139 Annex Restoration

Water Resources Analysis Coalition
Recreational Issues Forum
June 18, 2018

Robert Hopper
Land Stewardship Section

Sam Jones – Abiaki Prairie C-139 Annex Restoration



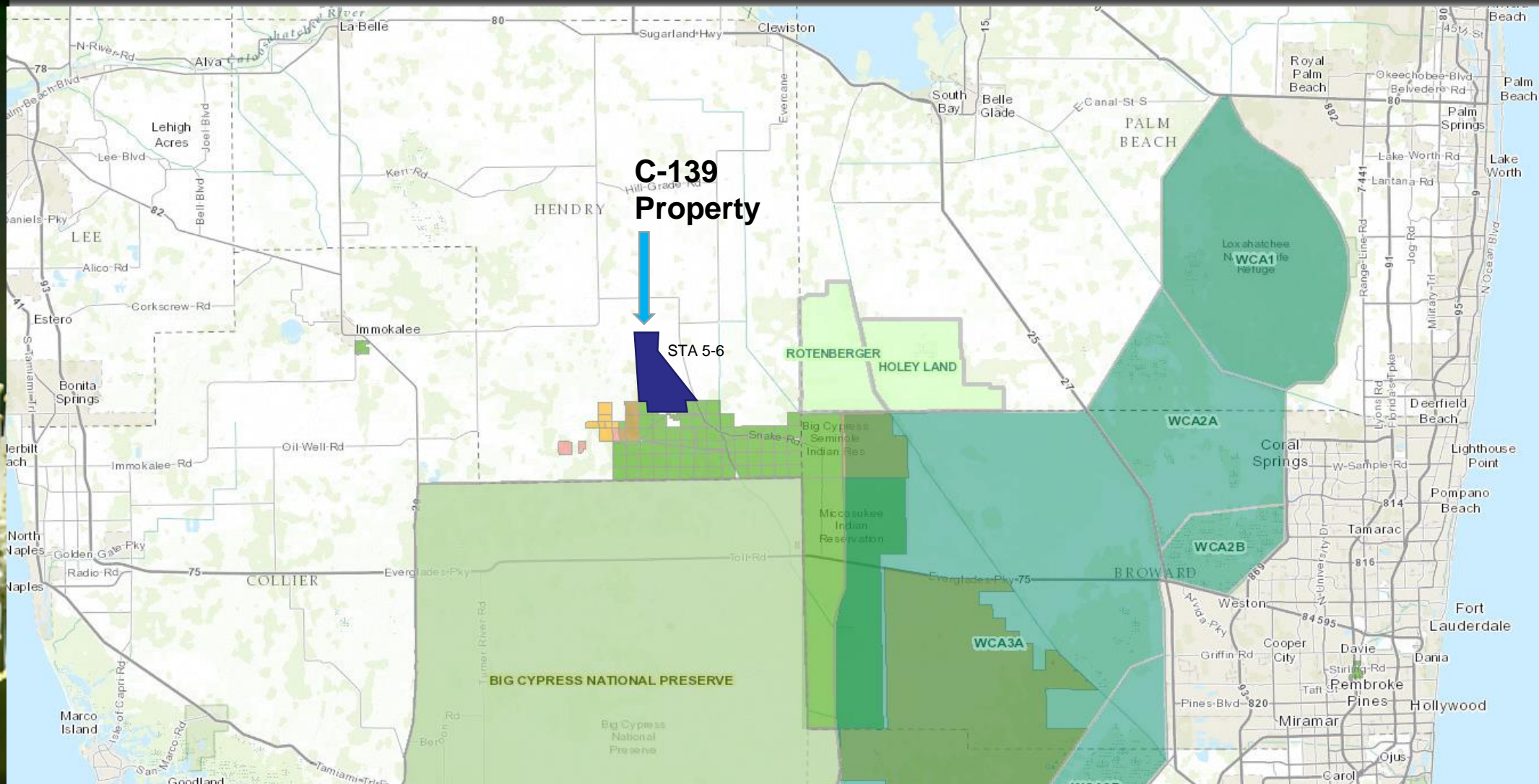
Project Goal:

Restore existing citrus groves into productive wetland habitat.

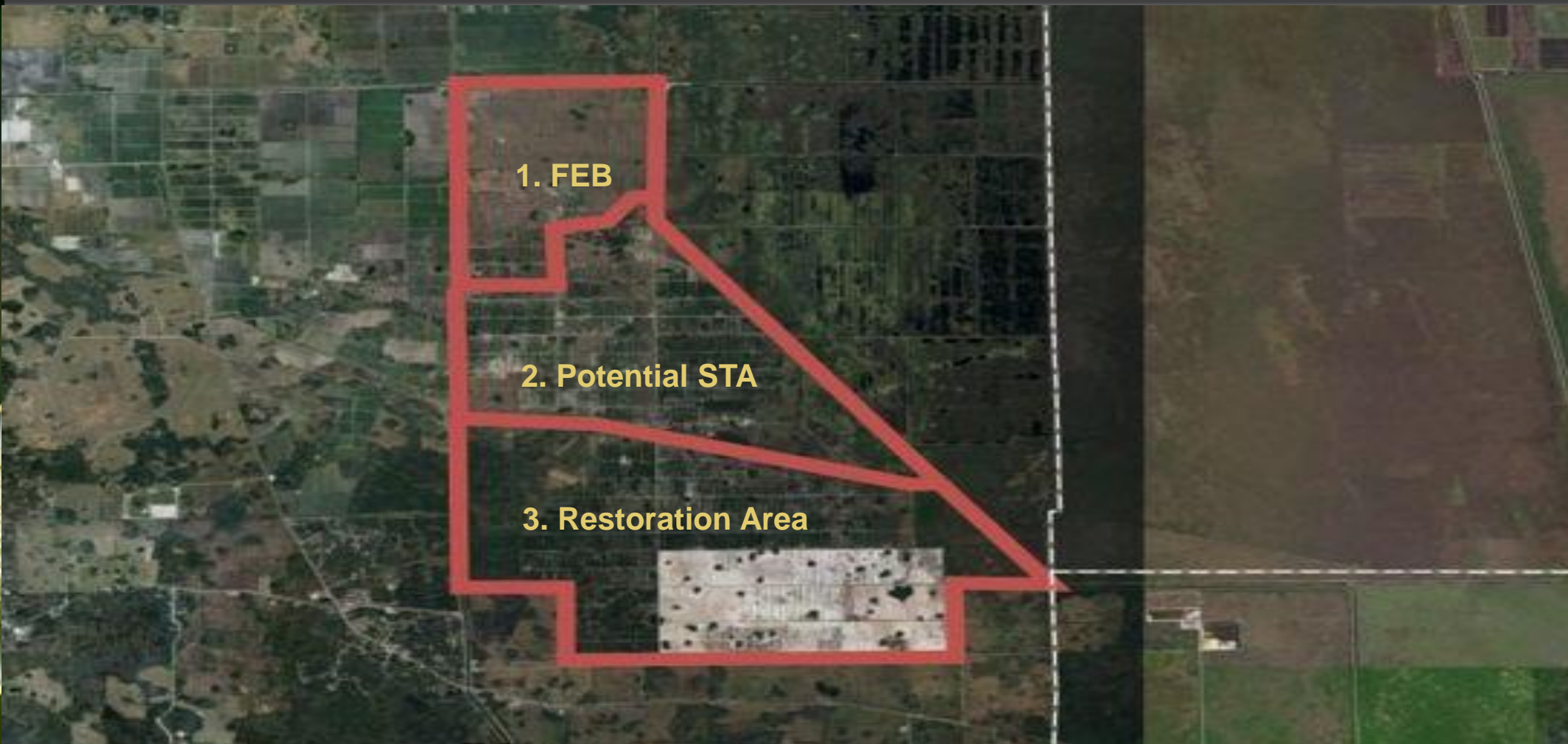
Project Funding:

Miami-Dade Limestone Products Association will reimburse land acquisition costs and provide restoration/management funds to use a portion of the C-139 property as wetland mitigation.

C-139 Location Map



C-139 Property: 3 Project Areas



FEB in north, planning area in central area, mitigation in south

= ~ 17,904 acres





Phase 1 Site Leveling (Completed 2017)

Original Site Conditions: Orange Groves



C-139: Active Orange Groves 2015

Wetland Restoration: Remove Citrus Groves and Treat Exotics



C-139: Preparing for site leveling 2016

Remove Drainage Pipes and Irrigation



C-139: Ongoing site leveling activities 2016

Fine Grading: Restore Nuanced Micro-Topography



C-139: Site leveling activities 2017



Phase 1 - Conditions



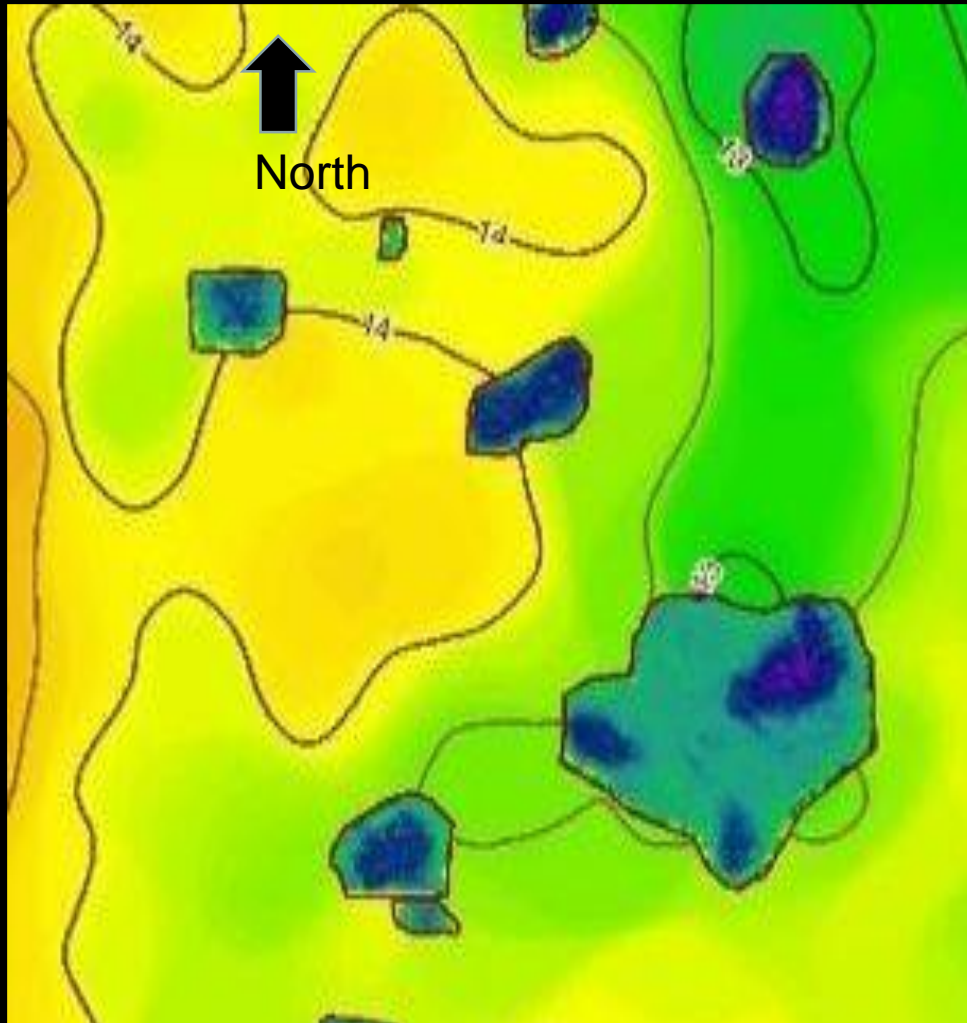
Hydrology

Remnant Wetland Boundaries Expand and Historic Sloughs Re-appear



C-139: Overview of site after significant rain event in 2017

Predicted Topo vs. Recent Aerial



C-139: Comparison of model with aerial after significant rain event 2017



Vegetation

Wetland Groundcover Restoration: Maidencane Rhizomes



C-139: Native maidencane grass planted as a 'primer coat'.

C-139: Planting Maidencane Rhizomes 2017



Maidencane Planted May 2017



C-139: Cell 118 after planting completed 2017

One Season of Growth: October 2017



C-139: Cell 118 Maidencane plantings after one season 2017

Wetland Diversity – Additional Plantings Ongoing in 2018

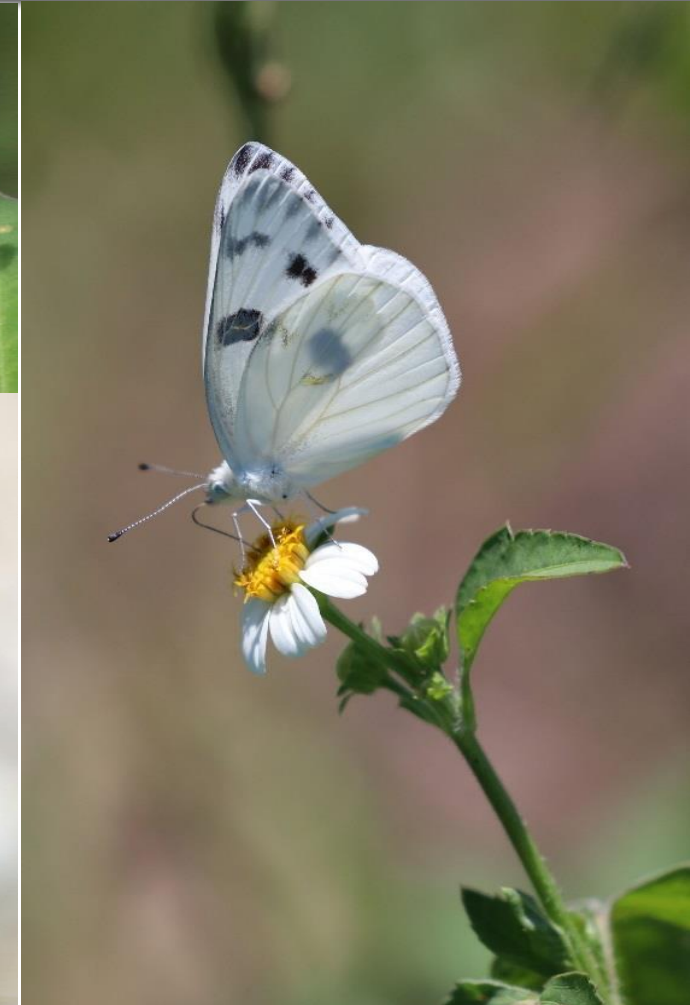


17 Different species of wetland wildflowers contract grown and planted June 2018



Wildlife

Wildlife Appears: Miscellaneous Insects, etc.



C-139: Photos of insects seen over the past two years

Wildlife Appears: Birds



C-139: Photos of birds seen over the past two years

Wildlife Appears: Animal Tracks



C-139: Photos of tracks seen over the past two years

Wildlife Selfie: Mammals



C-139: Photo of male panther taken by wildlife camera 2017



Post Restoration

Post Restoration: Prairie Wetlands



C-139: Rain driven system (no pumps) dominated by grassy vegetation

Restoration Schedule: Phased construction/revegetation/monitoring



Project construction/restoration completed in 2030 (estimated date)

Questions ?



Coreopsis leavenworthii

Photo and © by Roger Hammer
Wildflowers of the Everglades