

THE SOUTHWEST PROTECTION FEATURE FOR THE PICAYUNE STRAND RESTORATION PROJECT

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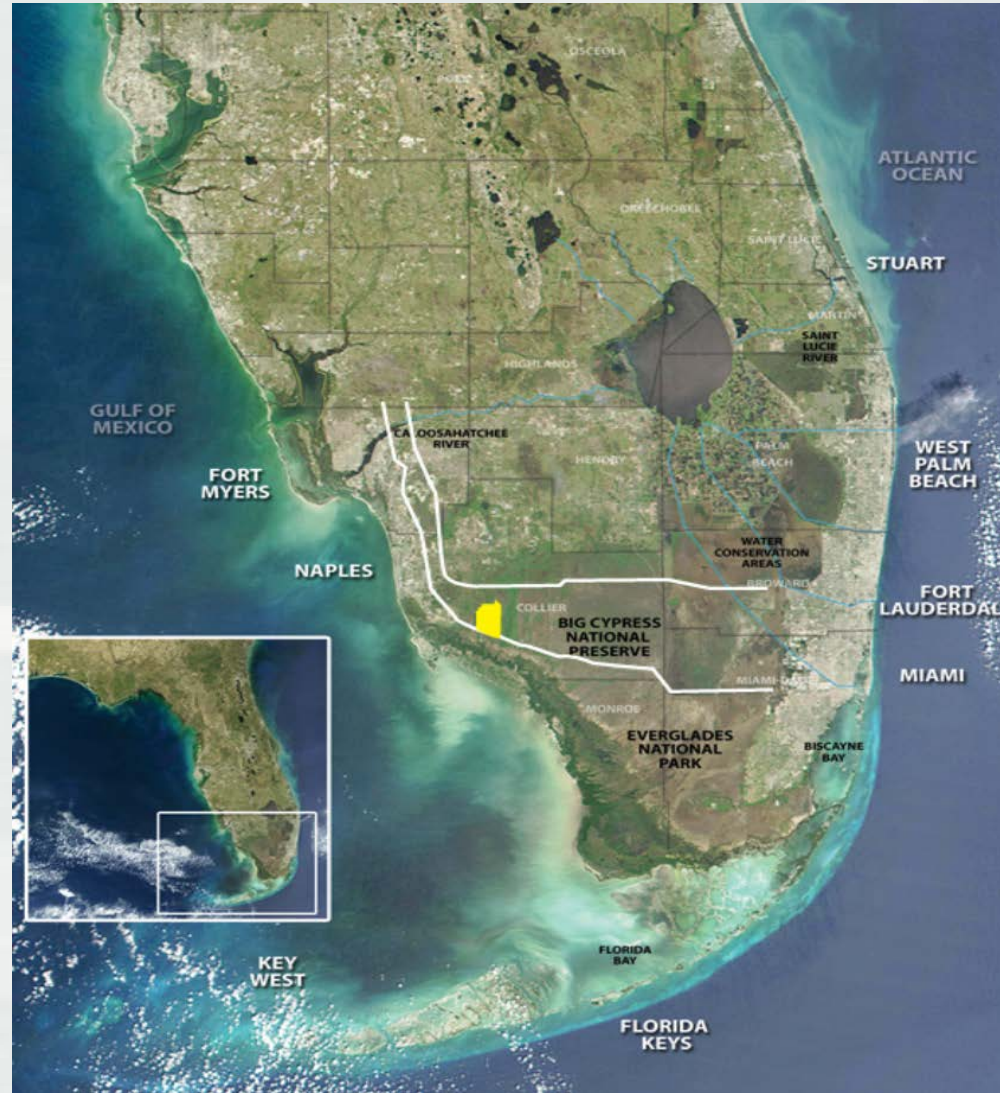




Project Location



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Project Overview

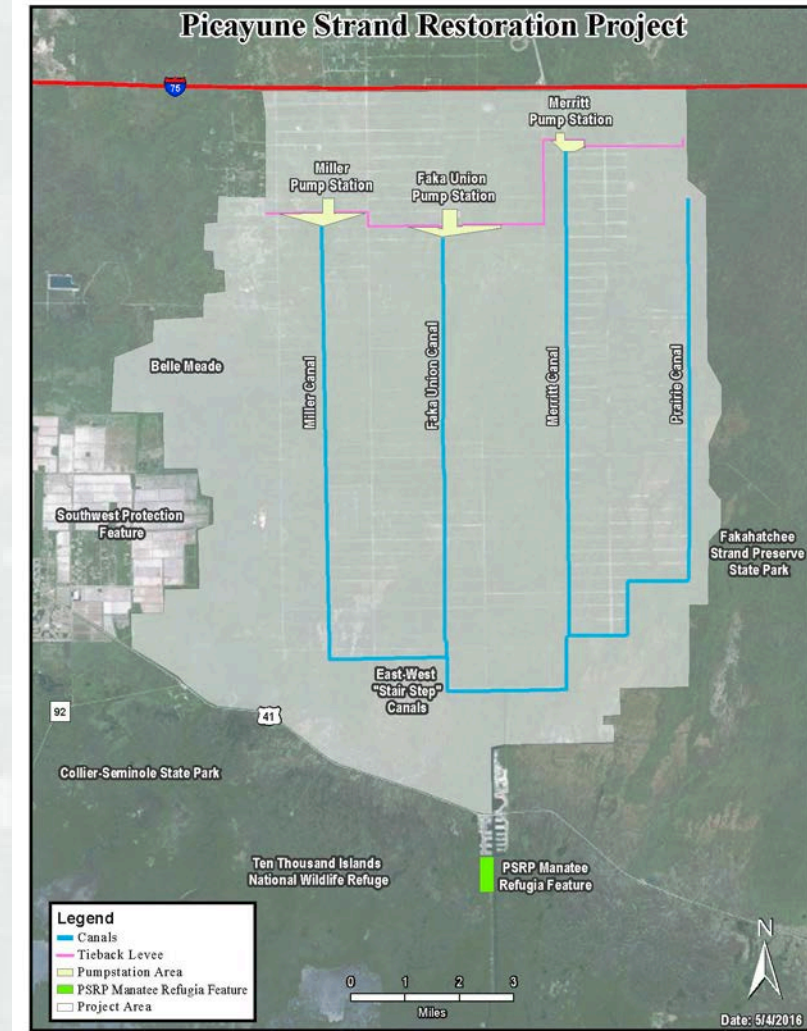


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The Picayune Strand Restoration Project (PSRP) will restore natural sheetflow, rehydrate 55,000 acres of native Florida wetlands, and reduce point source freshwater discharges to the adjacent estuaries.

- Project Features

- ▶ 3 pump stations: Merritt, Faka Union, and Miller
- ▶ Plugging 48 miles of canals (with more than 100 plugs)
- ▶ Removing and degrading 260 miles of roads
- ▶ Manatee Refugia feature
- ▶ Southwest Protection feature





Project Benefits



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- Improve aquifer recharge to protect water supply and prevent saltwater intrusion
- Restore/enhance habitat for fish and wildlife resources, including threatened and endangered species.
- Maintain existing level of flood protection for Northern Golden Gate Estates.
- Reduce drainage of the adjacent Fakahatchee Strand State Preserve
- Reduce or eliminate over-drainage of adjacent sensitive ecosystems.
- Reduce freshwater releases (point discharges) to improve the health and productivity of downstream estuaries.
- Preserve upland habitat
- Control invasive exotic plants



Timeline



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- Study
 - ▶ CERP Authorized in 2000
 - ▶ Project Implementation Report (PIR) 2004
- Authorization
 - ▶ Construction of PSRP 2007
- Construction
 - ▶ Merritt Pump Station Oct 2009 – Sep 2014
 - ▶ Faka Union Pump Station Nov 2010 – Jul 2017
 - ▶ Miller Pump Station Sep 2013 – May 2019



Timeline



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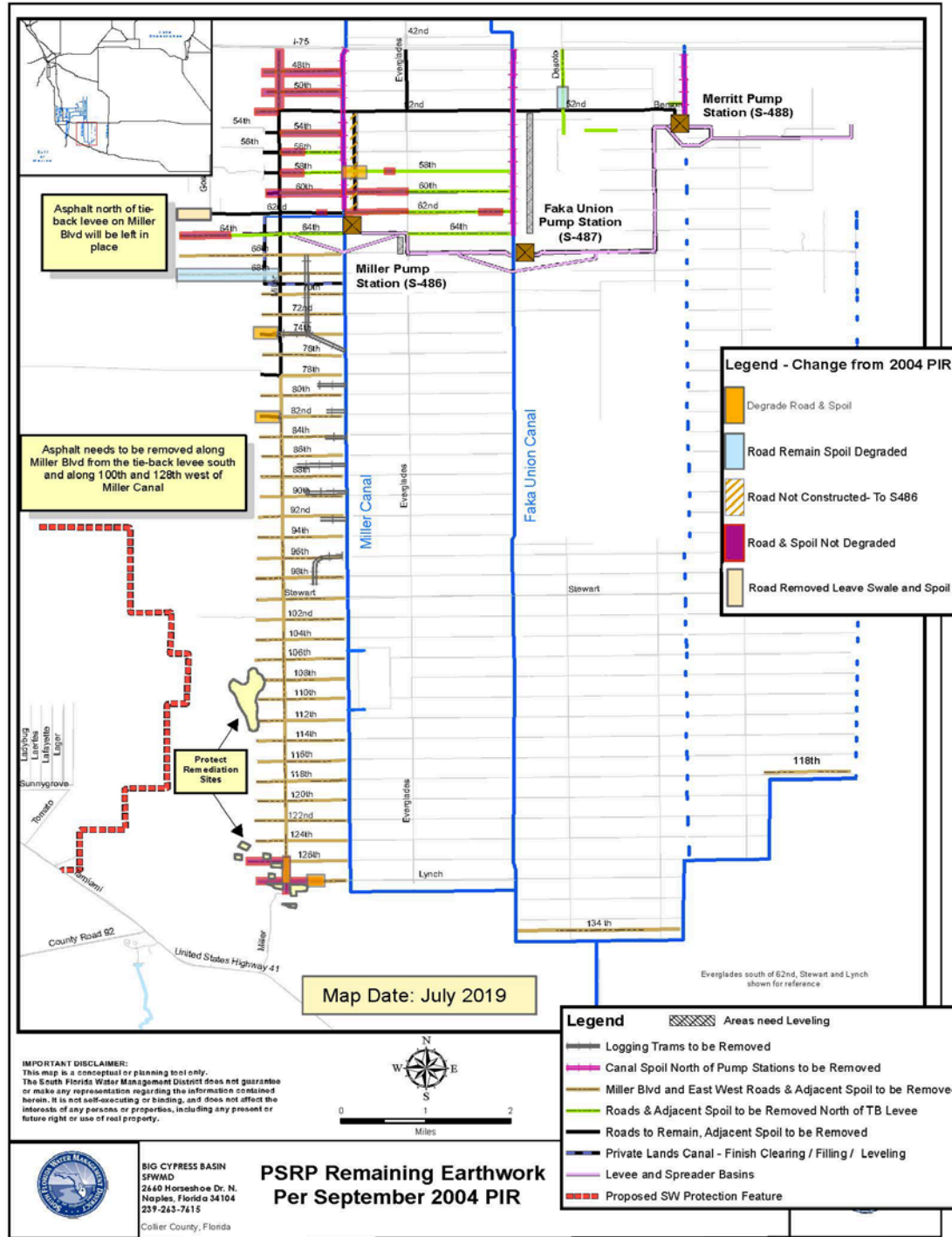
■ Remaining Features

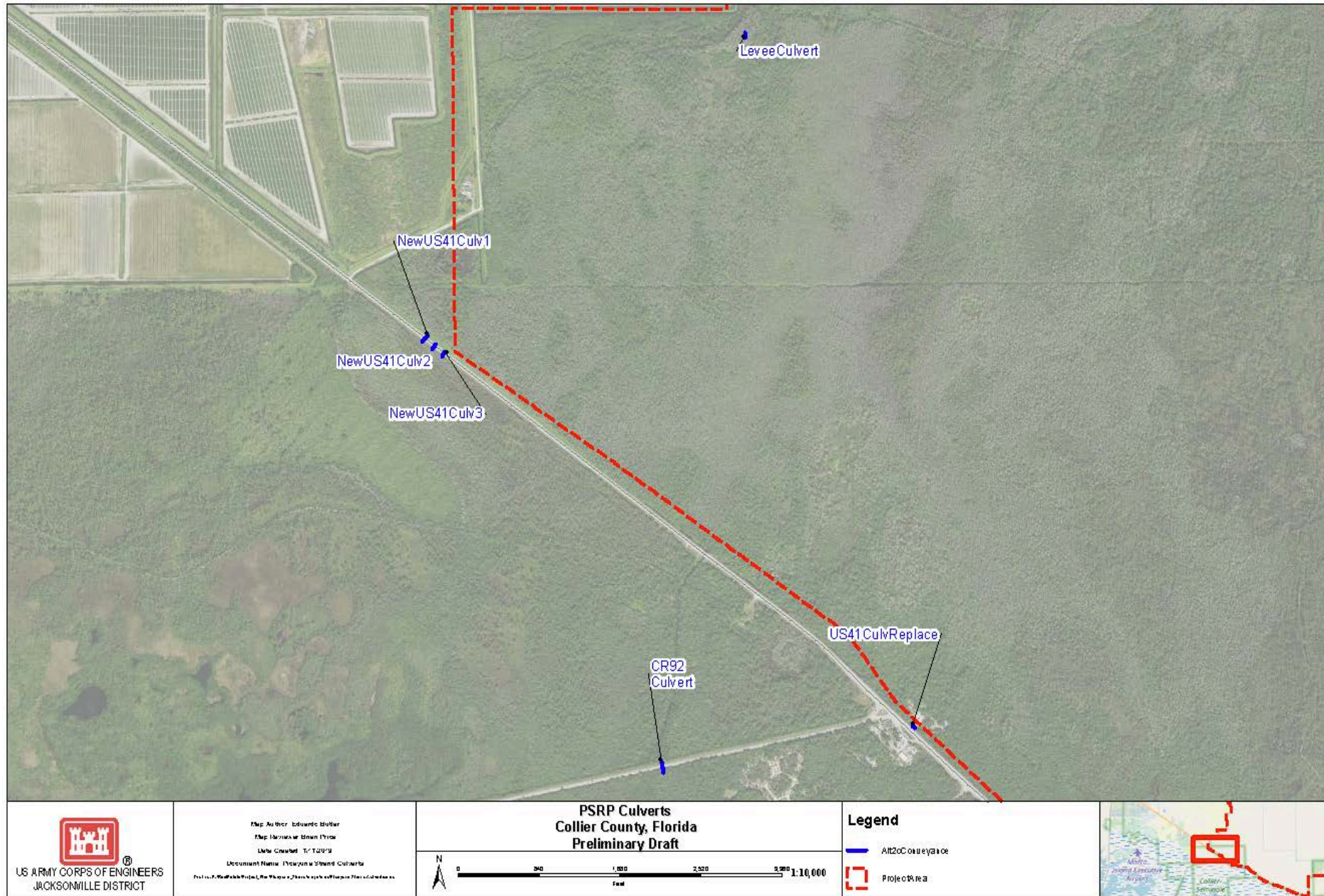
- ▶ Miller Tram and Road Removal contract award Sep 2019. Construction complete Sep 2022.
- ▶ East-West Stair Step Canal clearing/plugging complete in FY20.
- ▶ Southwest Protection Features (SWPF)
 - Conveyance features award design build July 2020.
 - Levee design in-house; construction contract award August 2021
- ▶ Faka Union and Miller Canal plugging construction start FY23, complete 2025.

Note: The remaining canals cannot be plugged, and the pump stations cannot be operated for restoration purposes until the Southwest Protection Features are complete.



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PSRP Successes

- Evidence of Restoration in Prairie Canal Restoration Area
 - ▶ Panther sightings
 - ▶ Increase in bird population
 - ▶ Exotic species control

