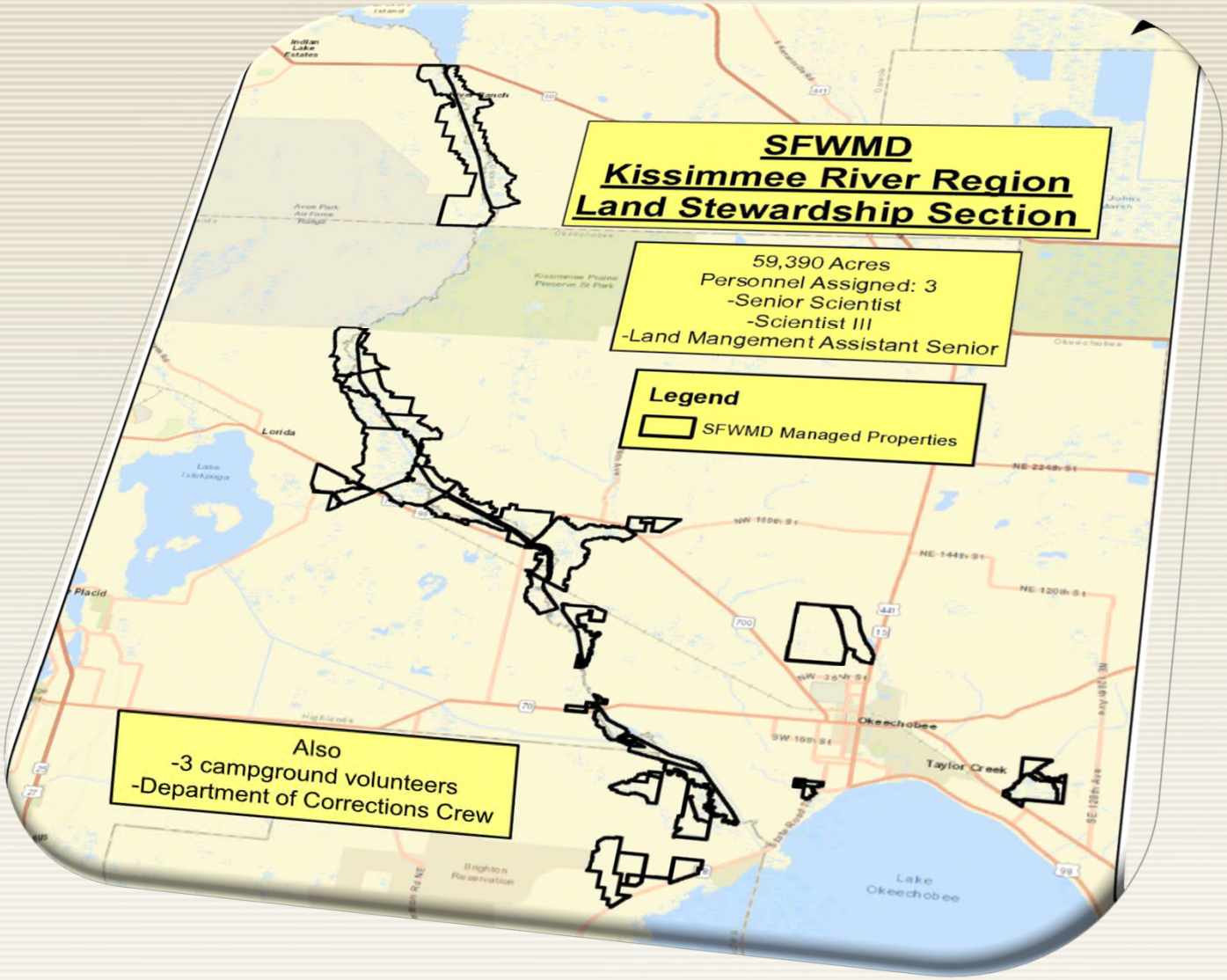
Kissimmee River Region

Land Management Update

James Schuette-Land Stewardship Section

Land Management Responsibilities

- Kicco WMA
- Blanket Bay
- Boney Marsh
- No Name Slough
- Bluff Hammock
- Starvation Slough
- Hickory Hammock
- Istokpoga Flood Plain
- Oak Creek
- Turkey Hammock
- Cornwell Marsh
- Micco Landing
- 4 E's
- Chandler Slough
- Lamb Island
- Fort Basinger
- Yates Marsh
- Seaboard Marsh
- Telex Marsh
- Paradise Run
- Grassy Island
- Nubbin Slough

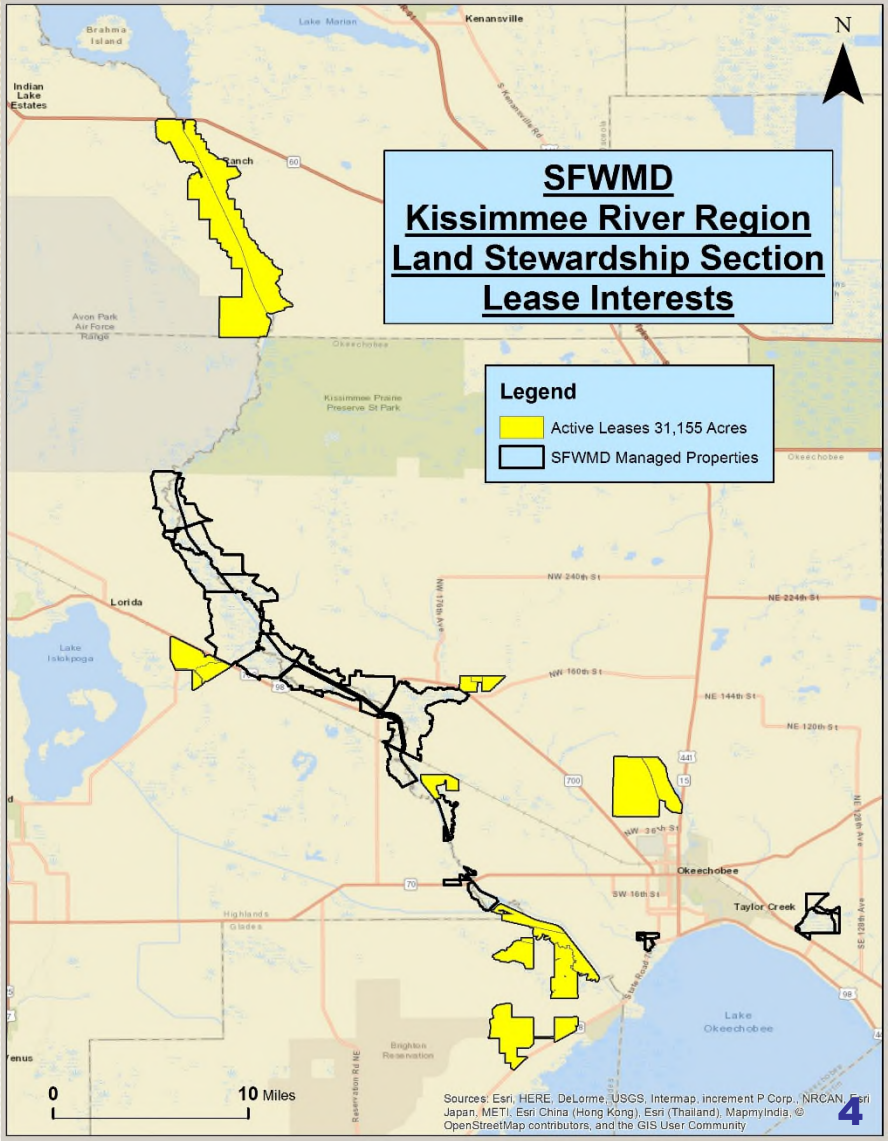


Land Management Responsibilities

- Tree plantings
  - Chandler Slough (187 Acres)
  - Yates Marsh (139 Acres)
  - Hickory Hammock (31 Acres)
  - Nubbin Slough (30 Acres)
  - Grassy Island (15 acres)
- Starvation Slough road work
- Campground & trailhead maintenance
- Trail maintenance (DOC)
- Disk firebreaks
- Lease inspections
- Hydrologic restoration-400 acres
  - Tick Island Slough
  - Kicco
- Fence removal & installation
- Signage
- Equipment maintenance
- Cultural resource monitoring
- Gates & locks

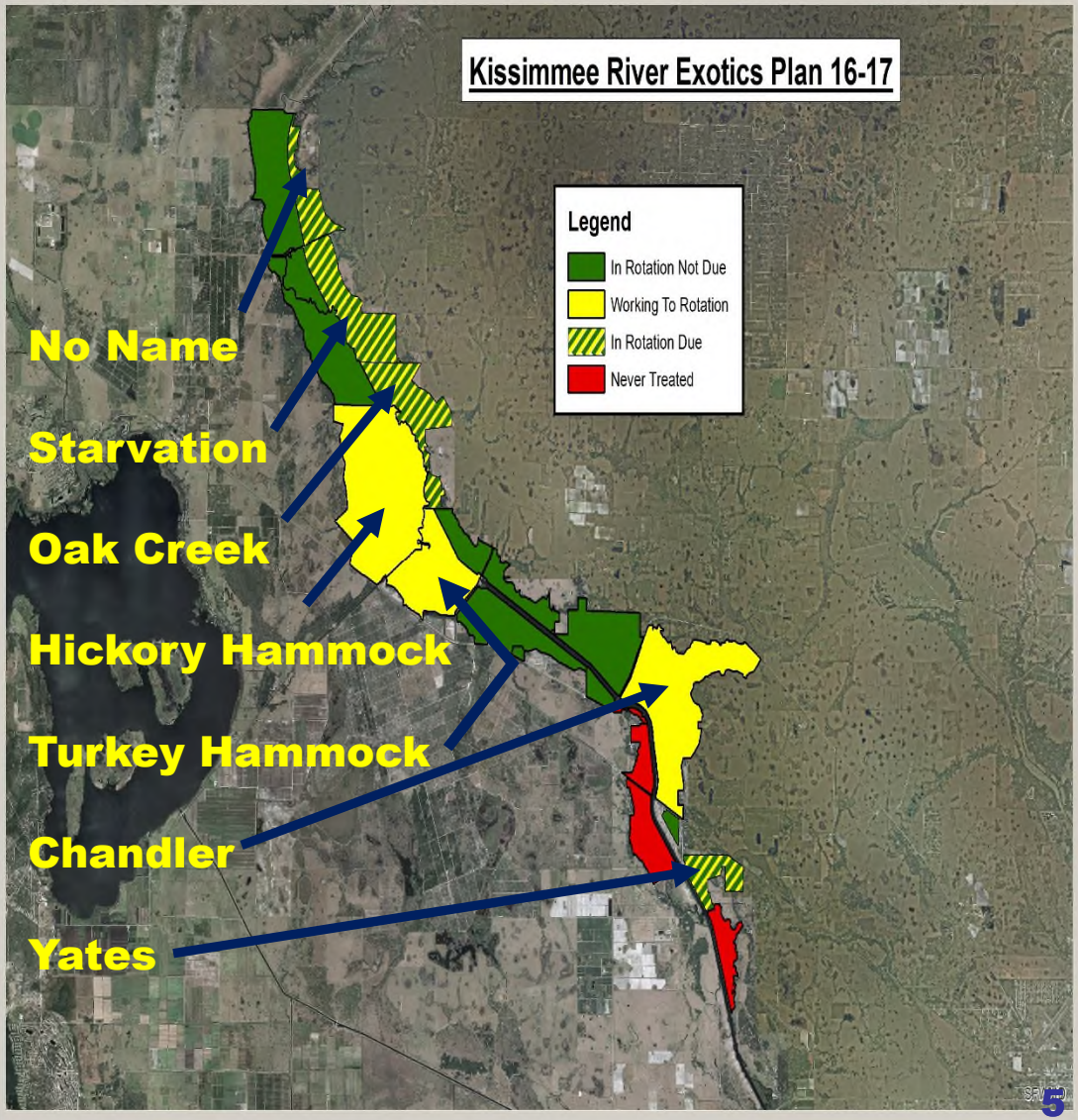
Lease Interests / Cattle Grazing

- **Over half our acres are leased**
- **Cattle used to control vegetation**
- **Revenue supports management**
- **Greater security**
- **Improved stewardship-more eyes**



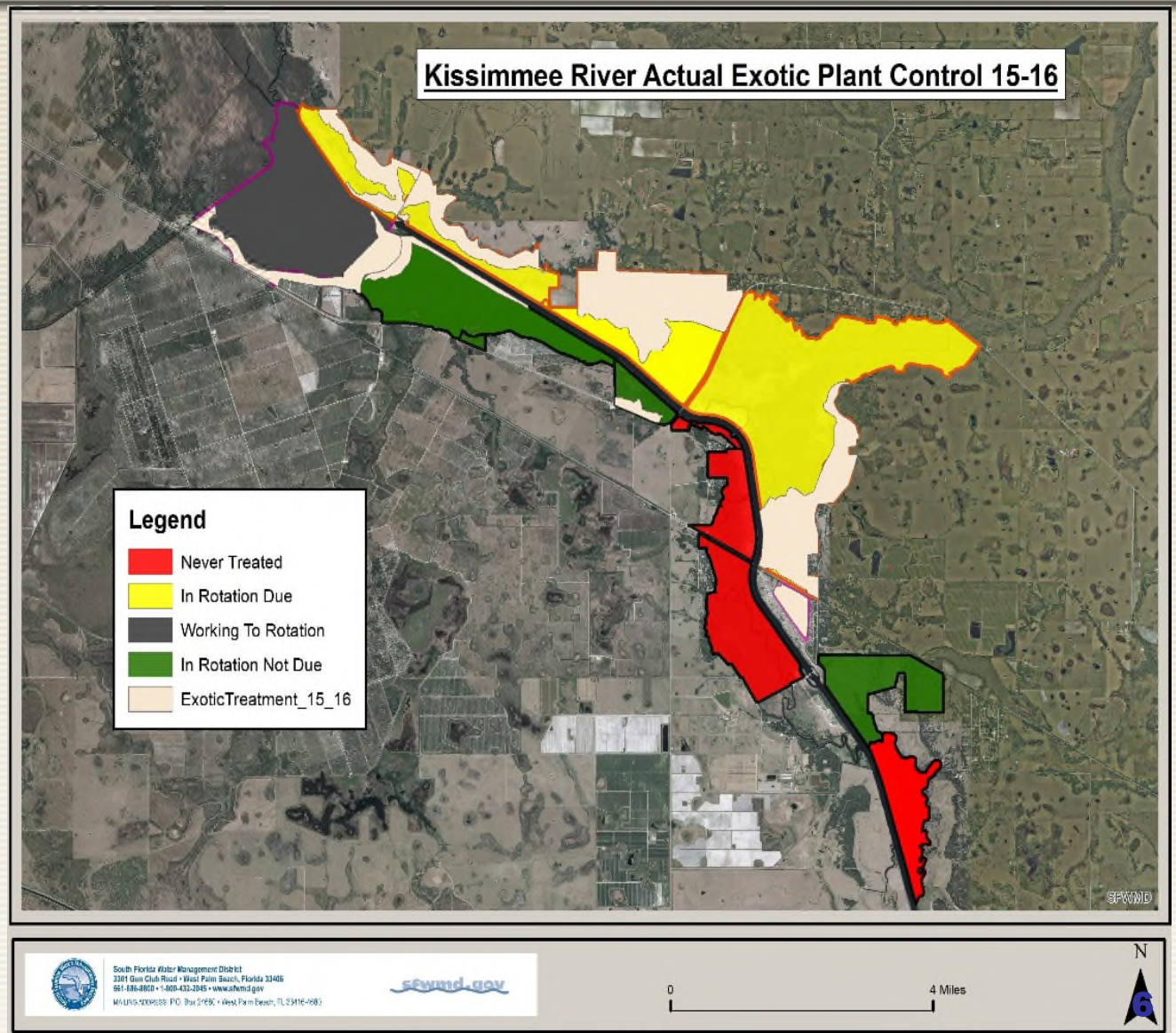
Kissimmee River Exotics 2016-17

- SFWMD=$125,000
- FWC=$200,000
- Use contractors
- Work inspected weekly
- Evaluated annually
- Maintain past work a priority
- Expand as funding allows



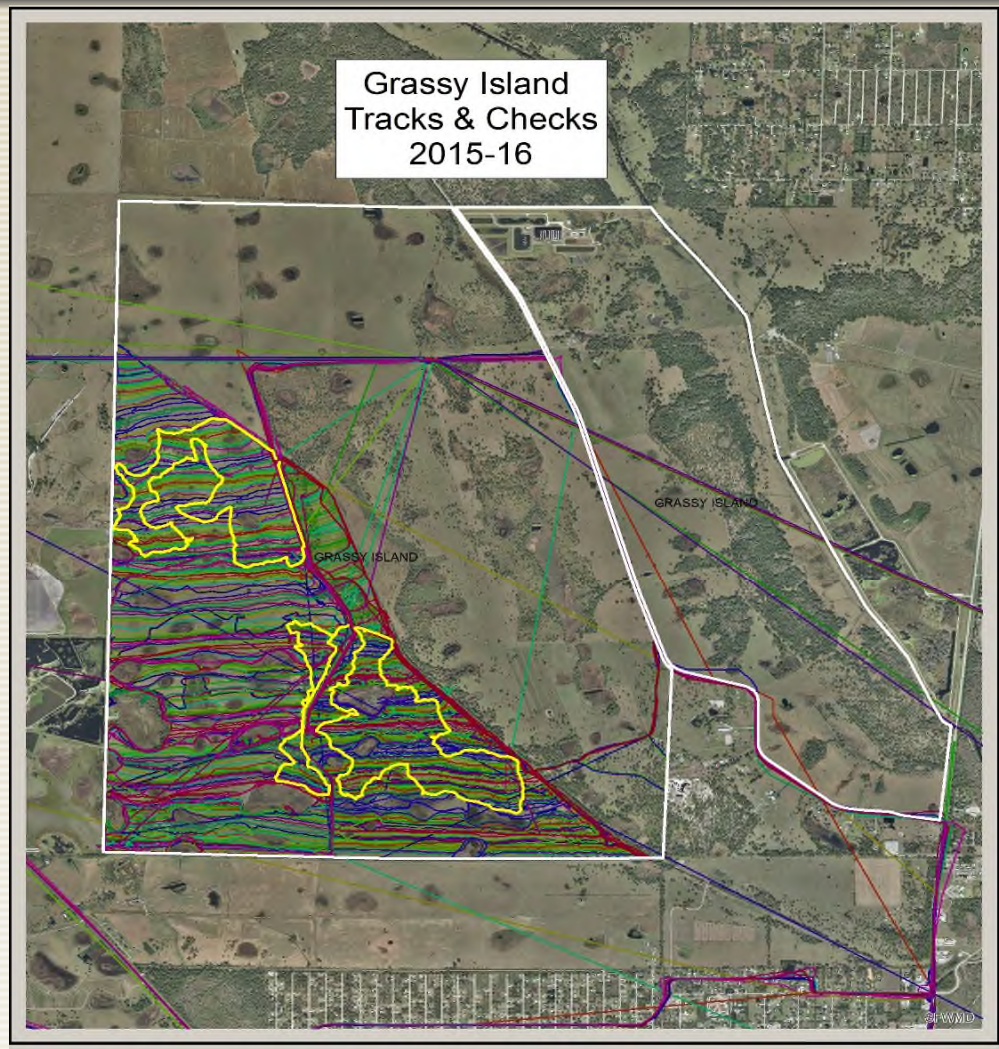
Kissimmee River Exotics 2015-16

- 4854 acres
- Lygodium
- Brazilian pepper
- Cogon grass
- Tropical soda apple



Exotic Contractor Monitoring

- **Each applicator has a GPS**
- **Download tracks to mapping program**
- **ID where to inspect**
  - **Missing spots**
  - **Thick spots**
- **Re-treat on their dime if needed**



South Florida Water Management District
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561-686-8800 • 1-800-432-2045 • www.sfwmd.gov
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sfwmd.gov

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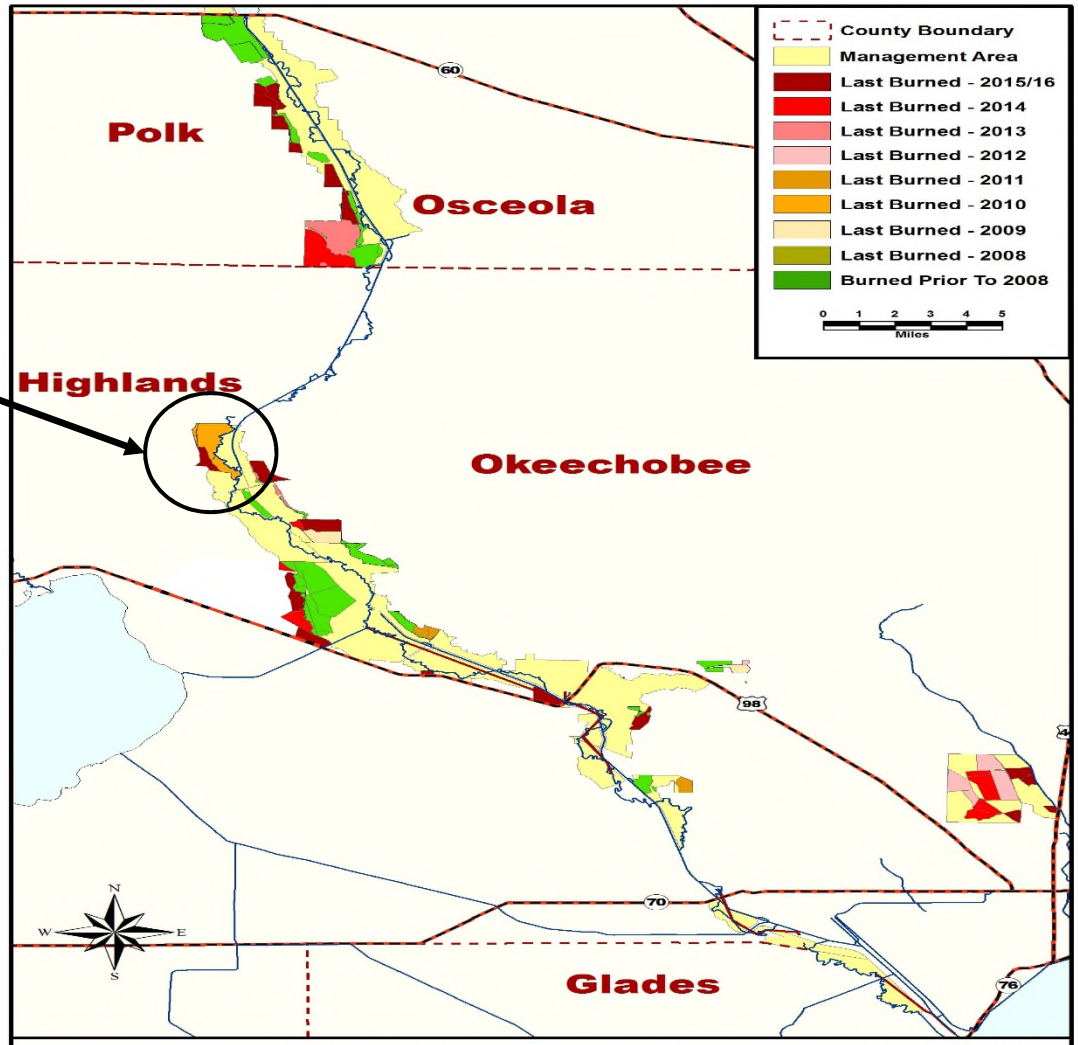
Prescribed Fire

Prescribed Fire History

- >2,500 acres this year
- Recent focus on Boney Marsh flood plain



Kissimmee River And Grassy Island - Burn History (1990 - 2016)

Current Rx Fire in Boney Marsh

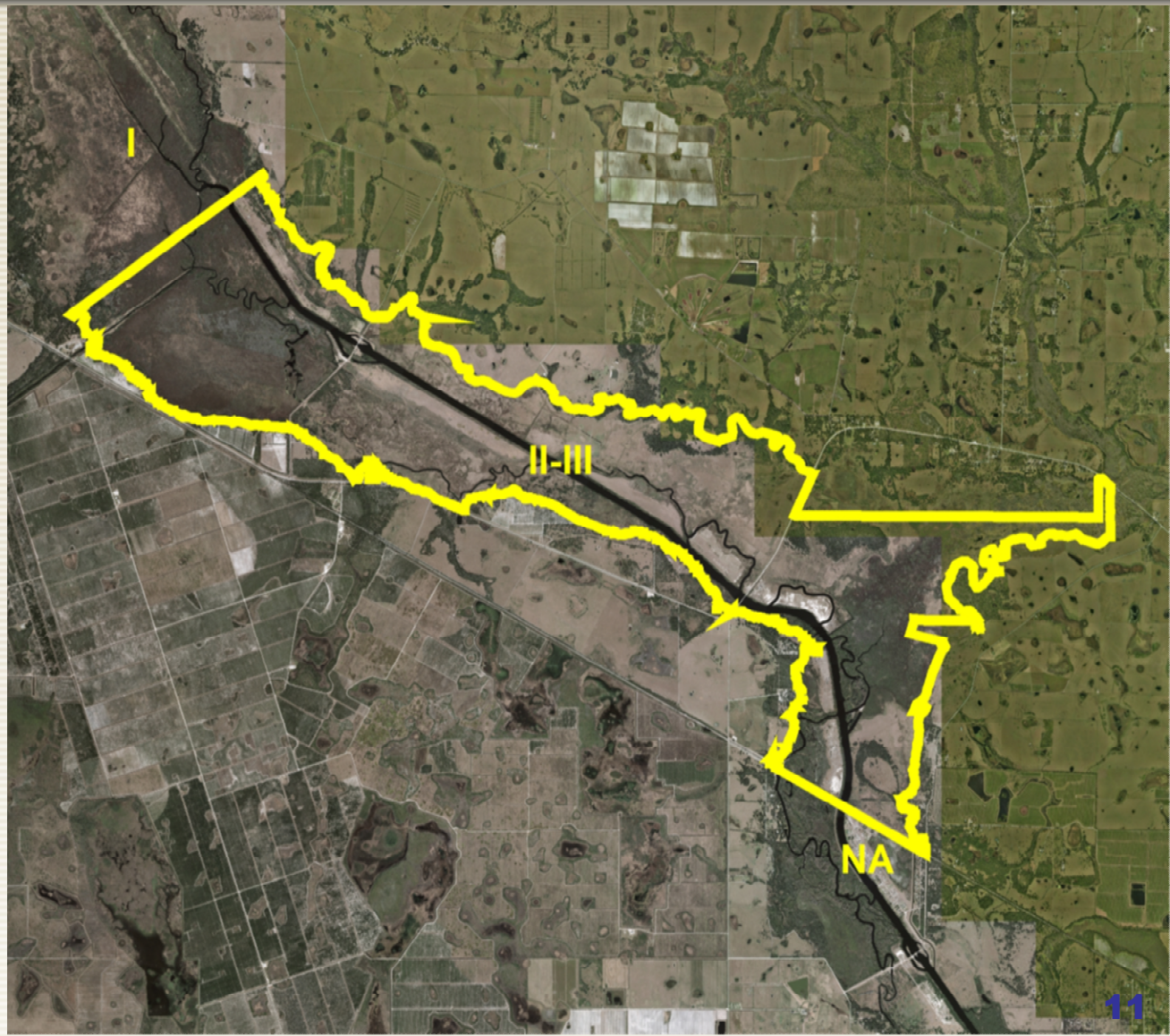
Before

After 3/22/16 burn

1 week post burn

Reach 2/3 Backfill (2016-2019)

- More Burn Windows
  - Due to low water
- Exotics Impacts
  - Chandler Lygodium
    - Treated by air
    - Water up 4’
    - Drown regrowth
- Post Restoration
  - 2-4’ schedule
  - Higher wet season
  - Lower dry season



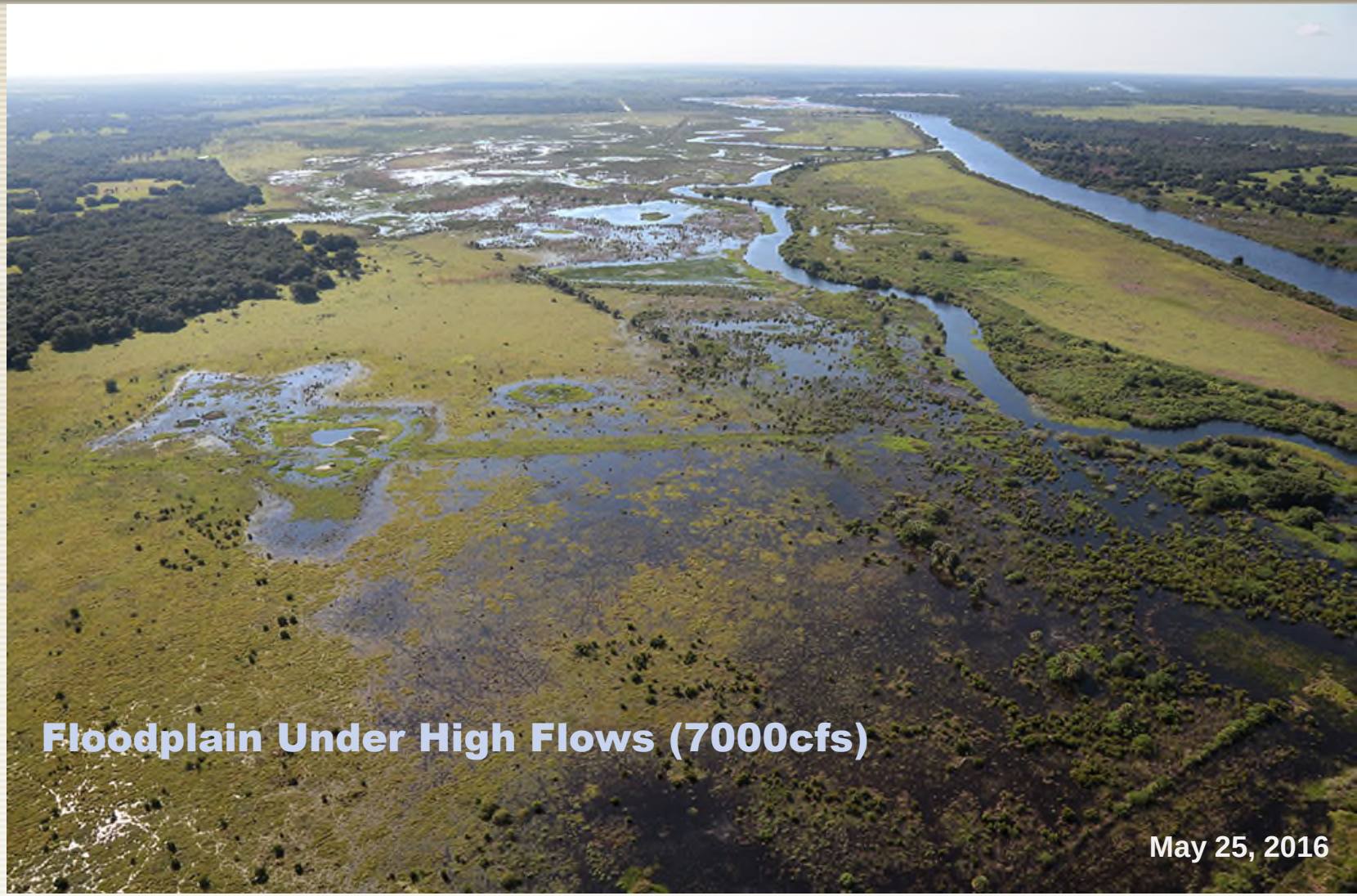
Phase II/III (2016-2019)

- Final three construction contracts for river restoration project
- Reach 3 (south of 98) completed last week, equipment demobilizing
- MacArthur Ditch backfill will be finished in about 2 months
- Floodplain inundated @ high flows north to the S65C (Caracara Run)
- Floodplain north of S65C inundated during the Reach 2 construction, timing TBD soon
- S65C headwater near 33' for construction, typical dry season levels
- S65A <1,000 cfs (below bank full) next 2 years when possible
- Project changing floodplain stages from near 0' (channelized) to 4' variation between wet and dry seasons
- River channel stage fluctuations will be up to 10' or more
- Floating vegetation north of S65C access road to be removed soon
- Control of exotic grasses and encroaching native woody plants during post-hydrologic restoration are issues remaining to solve

Reach 3
Chandler Slough From the North

Chandler Slough From the Northwest

Reach 2
Caracara Run Looking South



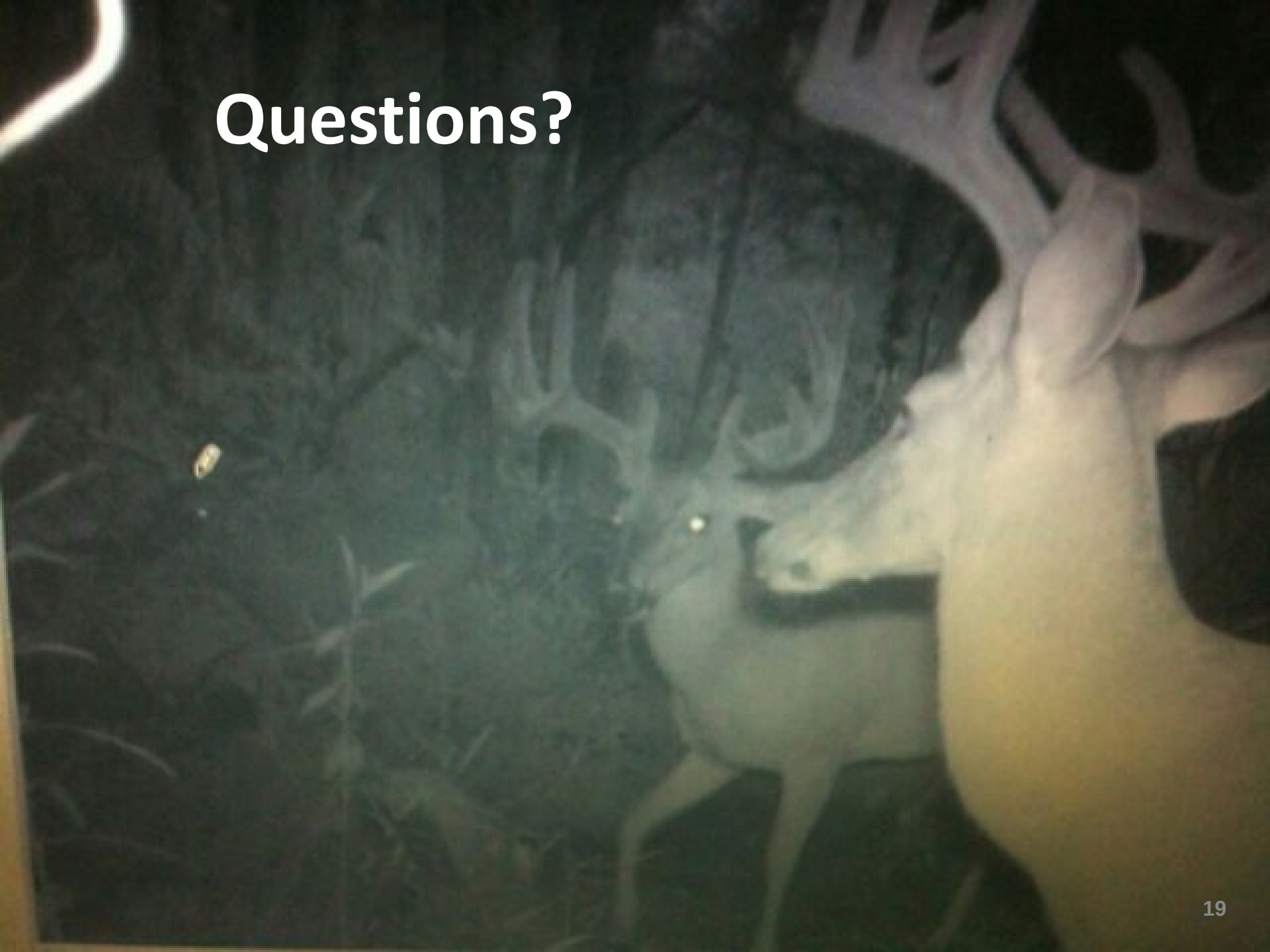
Bass Project (Chandler Slough) Looking Southeast

MacArthur Ditch Looking Northwest

-more marsh access after ditch fill

MacArthur Ditch Looking North

Questions?



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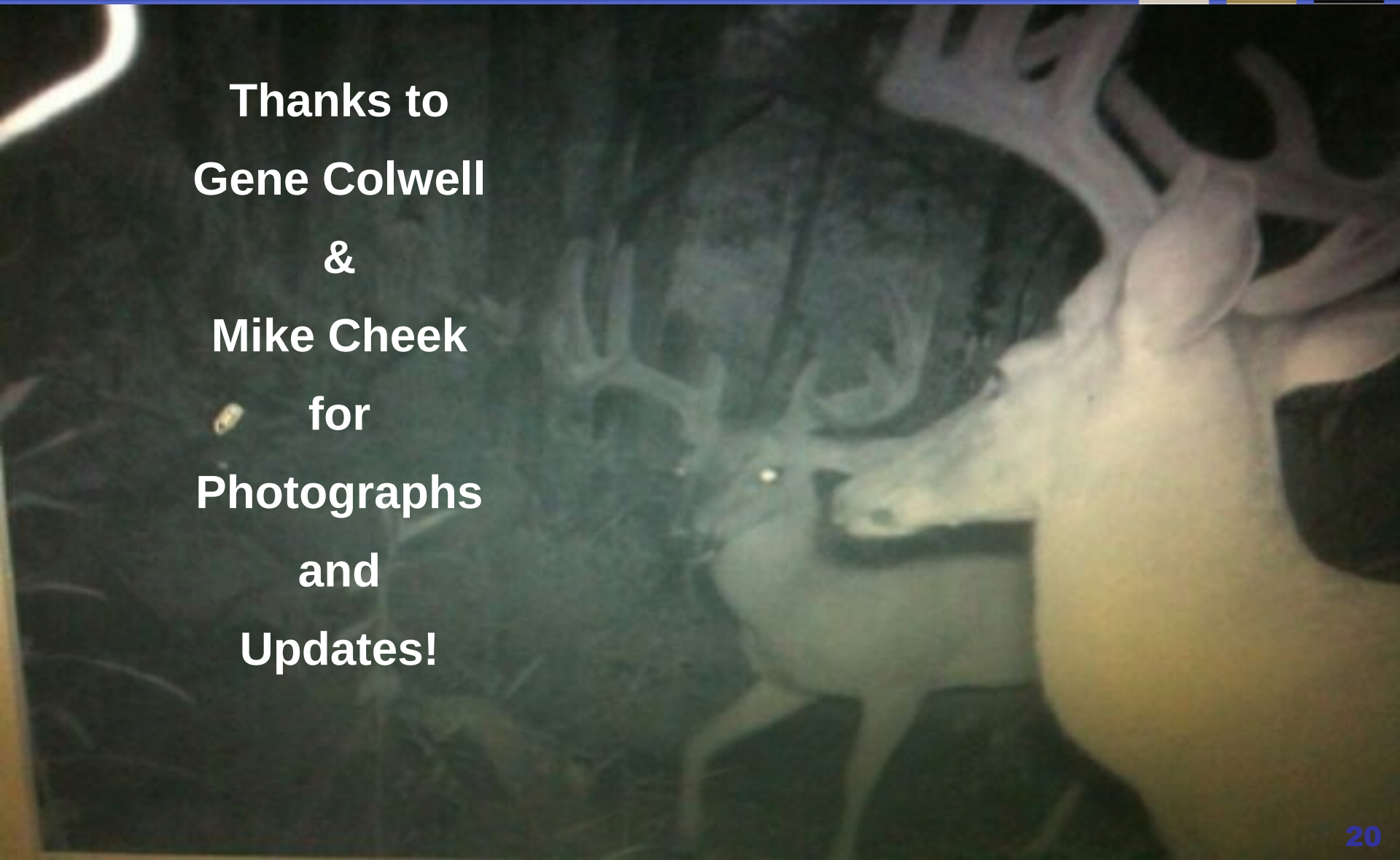

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