

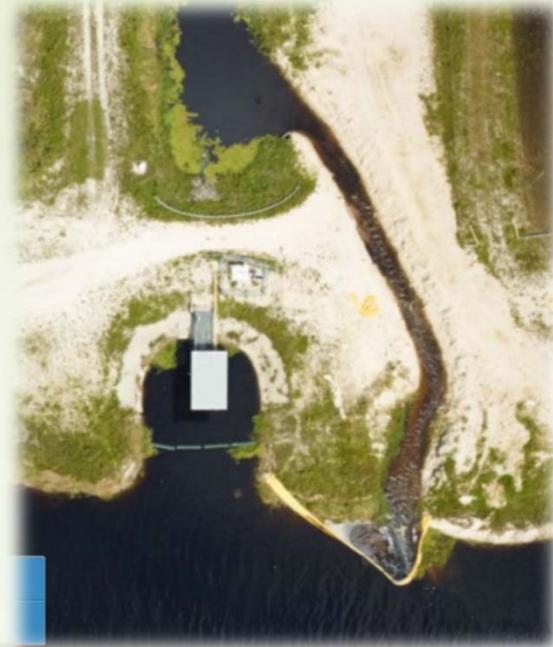
Seminole Tribe of Florida  
Cowbone Canal Emergency Action Report  
to the  
South Florida Water Management District  
Governing Board

June 11, 2020



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# Location

Big Cypress Reservation –  
Cowbone Canal (Basin 2)

Intersection of West Feeder  
Canal and Cowbone Canal

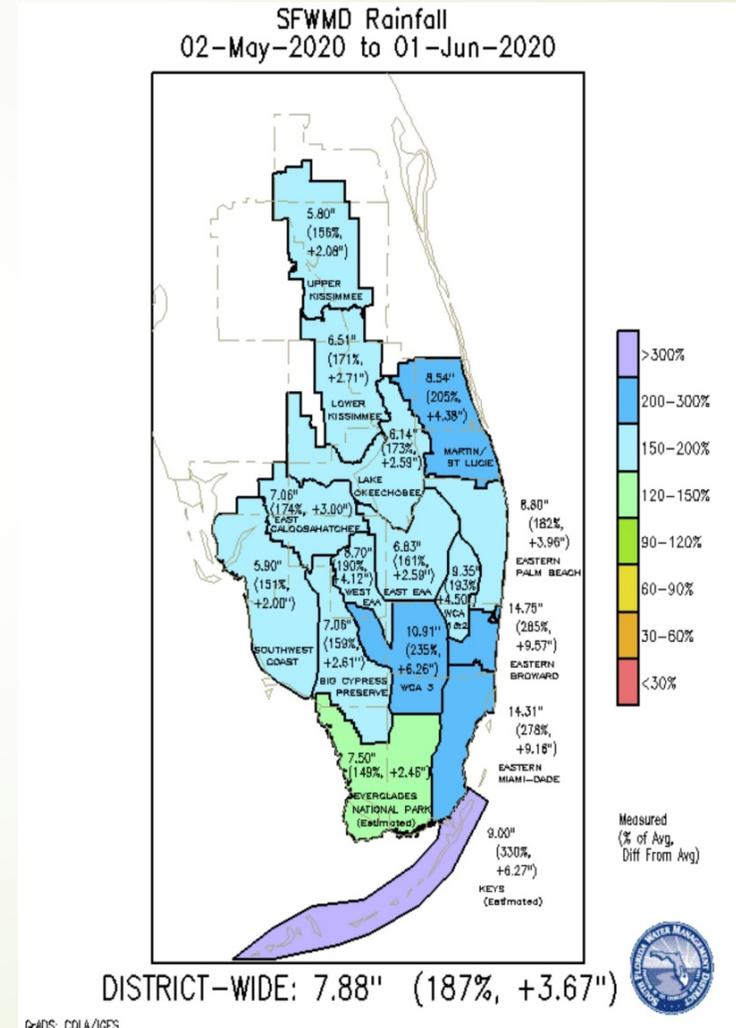
See inset  
above

# Seminole Tribe Emergency Action

- ▶ The Water Rights Compact and Section 7.2 of the Criteria Manual authorize the Seminole Tribe to take emergency action in the case of serious and unforeseen or unforeseeable circumstances, with notice to the District of the emergency and intended action.
- ▶ On June 6, 2020, the Seminole Tribe provided notice of the emergency and intended action.
- ▶ Unforeseen circumstances caused flooding on the Big Cypress Reservation.
- ▶ Levee was breached between Cowbone Canal and the West Feeder Canal ("ditch"), turbidity curtains were installed, to remain until mutually agreeable interim and/or permanent solution is in place.
- ▶ Necessary to protect life and property of Seminole Tribe members residing on the Big Cypress Reservation.

# It was unforeseen that

- There would be an unusually early and wet start of wet season;
- There would be historic rainfall for May 2020 (150-300% of monthly average);
- There would be early tropical storms;
- There would be continued heavy rainfall;
- There would be prediction of extremely active hurricane season;
- A significant design flaw in the Critical Project that reduced flood protection in this area would not have been resolved in concert with USACE.



# Seminole Tribe's Proposed Conforming Actions

- ▶ Seminole Tribe will work with the District and USACE to develop interim and final solutions, which could include:
  - ▶ Allowing the ditch to remain in place until interim or more permanent solution is approved;
  - ▶ Installing interim culverts with risers in the levee between Cowbone Canal and the West Feeder Canal;
  - ▶ Installing permanent culverts with risers in the levee between Cowbone Canal and the West Feeder Canal.

## Conforming Actions Will Include

- Submittal of ROW application and Work Plan approval as necessary;
- Working with the District to identify alternative access for maintenance of the District's ROW;
- Installation of safety barricades and lighting as necessary.

# Questions?