

South Florida Ecosystem Restoration Program

Kissimmee River Restoration

Water Resources Advisory
Commission / South Florida
Ecosystem Restoration Task Force
May 6, 2014

Howard Gonzales Jr.
Chief, Ecosystem Branch
USACE – Jacksonville District



BUILDING STRONG®

US ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS | JACKSONVILLE DISTRICT



Foundation Projects

Kissimmee River Restoration

West Palm Beach Canal (C-51/STA-1E)

Seminole Big Cypress

C-111 South Dade

Modified Water Deliveries to
Everglades National Park



Kissimmee River Restoration

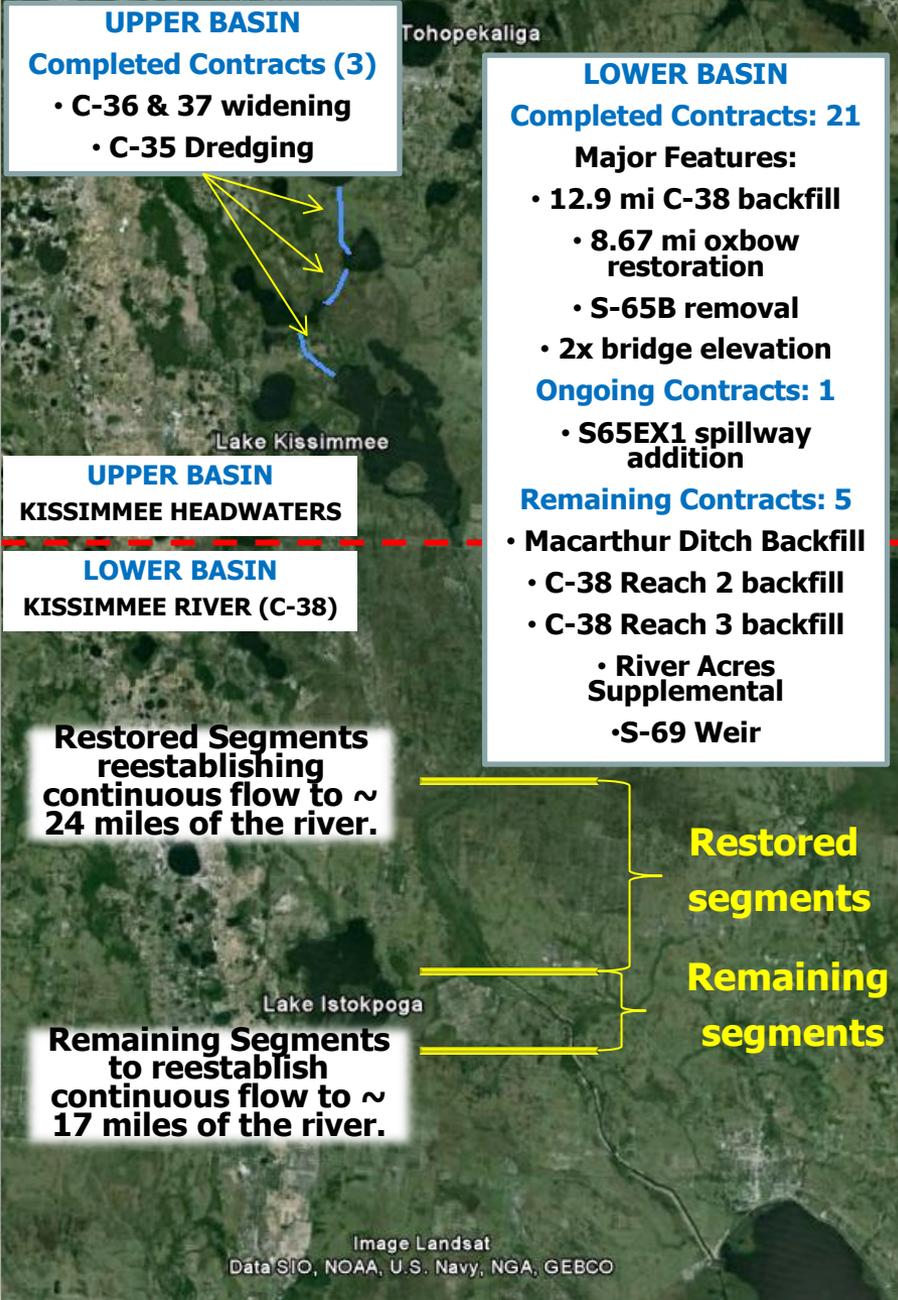
Purpose: Restoration of more than 40 sq. mi. of river-floodplain ecosystem, including 20,000 acres of wetlands and 44 miles of historic river channel.

Observed Benefits:

- Undesirable floating and mat-forming plants have been replaced by emergent plants native to the historic river;
- Organic deposits on the river bottom decreased 70%, reestablishing sand bars and providing new habitat;
- Dissolved oxygen, which is critical for the long-term survival of fish and other aquatic organisms, has increased up to six-fold;
- Largemouth bass and sunfishes now comprise 63% of the fish community—up from 38%;
- Increase/ return of wading birds, ducks, and shorebird species.

Path Forward:

- Complete construction by 2019;
- Implement Regulation Schedule upon completion of all segments;
- Ecological Monitoring



UPPER BASIN

Completed Contracts (3)

- C-36 & 37 widening
- C-35 Dredging

UPPER BASIN

KISSIMMEE HEADWATERS

LOWER BASIN

KISSIMMEE RIVER (C-38)

LOWER BASIN

Completed Contracts: 21

Major Features:

- 12.9 mi C-38 backfill
- 8.67 mi oxbow restoration
- S-65B removal
- 2x bridge elevation

Ongoing Contracts: 1

- S65EX1 spillway addition

Remaining Contracts: 5

- Macarthur Ditch Backfill
- C-38 Reach 2 backfill
- C-38 Reach 3 backfill
 - River Acres Supplemental
 - S-69 Weir

Restored Segments reestablishing continuous flow to ~ 24 miles of the river.

Restored segments

Remaining segments

Remaining Segments to reestablish continuous flow to ~ 17 miles of the river.

Image Landsat
Data SIO, NOAA, U.S. Navy, NGA, GEBCO

South Florida Ecosystem Restoration Program

Kissimmee River Restoration

Questions?



®