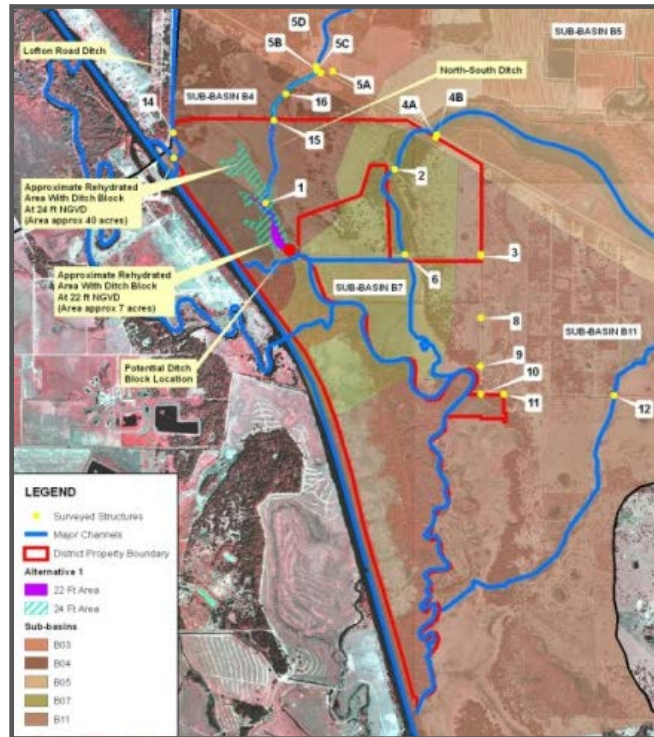


## LOWER KISSIMMEE RIVER POOL E WETLAND RESTORATION FEASIBILITY STUDY



### **Project Description**

The S-65E is a priority basin within the northern Lake Okeechobee watershed and had been identified as a major contributor of total phosphorus (TP) load to the lake, largely due to agricultural runoff. A TMDL established by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) in 2001 required annual lake phosphorus loading of 600 metric tons a year to be reduced to 140 metric tons. The phosphorus load rolling average from 1991 to 2000 was 497 metric tons a year.

Located within the lower Kissimmee River S-65E Basin, Pool E is situated on a 1,254-acre SFWMD-owned parcel east of the C-38 Canal that encompasses portions of the old Kissimmee River channel, including a 235-acre dredge spoil area situated on former floodplain wetlands adjacent to the C-38. Implemented under the Lake Okeechobee Isolated Wetland Restoration Program, the Pool E Wetland Restoration Project supports meeting the in-lake TMDL goal by routing surface water runoff high in phosphorus through restored wetlands on the property.

Scheda Ecological Associates, Inc. was contracted by the SFWMD to conduct a feasibility study to assess alternatives to restore wetlands to maximize phosphorus uptake and wildlife habitat along the C-38 in Pool E. The feasibility study included preparation of documentation summarizing historical, existing and future land use; mapping and analysis; wetland, wildlife and protected species assessments; survey and a cost analysis required for the formulation and evaluation of various design alternatives for final recommendation.

