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Regional Location Context

- Large project site—Integrated at the landscape scale – with other protected sites
- Comprised of a matrix of Restoration Projects at the Large Site Scale
- A 12,000 acre mitigation funded, 20 year restoration project.
Three Phases of Wetlands Projects (30+): Repairing a network of interconnected ditches

- **Phases I and II:** Projects that did not impact adjacent lands hydrology
- **Phase III:** Projects that impacted adjacent land or were dependent on Kissimmee River restoration

Three Types of Upland Strategies: (Not mutually exclusive)

- **Process Restoration:** Restore fire regime and hydrology. Basic native veg structure and diversity still intact.
- **Above With Mechanical Augmentation:** tree grinding, shredding, timber removal.
- **The Full Monte:** Soup to nuts habitat restoration. *The other speakers will cover.*
**Phases of the Wetland Restorations**

18.5 Years to Success

- **Phase I** (289 acres of restoration, enhancement & protection)
  - Consists of HUs 2, 3, 8 & 1
  - Declared successful: Nov 01, 2000 (SFWMD); Aug 10, 2001 (FDEP); Dec 18, 2001 (ACOE)

- **Phase II** (262 acres of restoration, enhancement & protection)
  - Consists of HUs 1, 4, 6 & 7. HU 5 deferred to Phase III
  - Declared successful: Aug 13, 2003 (SFWMD); FDEP & ACOE pending

- **Phase III** (830 (+ 253 of HU 5) acres of restoration, enhancement & protection)
  - Consists of HUs 9, 10 & 12 plus HU 5
  - Could be declared successful as early as 2008.

**TOTAL Phase I, II & III**

1,673.2 acres

Pre-restoration wetlands 559.5 acres

Restored, enhanced and protected wetlands 793.1 acres

Large Connected Wetlands enhanced and protected (HUs 12 & 5) 749.5 acres
Large Scale Restoration = Large Scale Equipment
Process:

- Grind away old live oaks (store chips)
- With track hoe, remove and store ditch vegetation
- With JD450/650, push berms from ditch into ditch
- With dozer and track hoe, smear stored vegie stuff and chips over top of ditch
- Hydrology restored!! Yea!!
- Hope nobody discovers what was done.
Planning/Permitting

Essential
What it really Takes

$Money$

- Ecosystem restoration is a 25 Billion dollar industry in the US (2021)
- The DWP project was an approximately 65 million dollar project:
  - 40 million for the land
  - The remainder for:
    - Operating capitol
    - Annual management funds
    - Staff
    - Endowments
- **Staff** is the largest annual expense, but, the most important (talented, committed, experienced people)
Those Dangling Participles!!!
THANKS!