

FDOT Mitigation Program

**Martha Gruber, Project Manager III
Philip Rhinesmith, Senior Environmental Scientist
Project Management Office**

**The Role of NGOs and the Public Sector in Implementing Wetland Restoration Projects:
Trends, Lessons Learned, and Best Practices**

Agenda

- **FDOT Mitigation Program 1998-2018**
- **Management Partners**
- **Projects**
- **Construction Phase of Program**
- **Monitoring for Compliance**
- **Perpetual Maintenance Phase of Program**

FDOT Program Background

- **Florida Legislature Created the FDOT Mitigation Program in 1997**
 - Section 373.4137 Florida Statutes
 - Water Management Districts resumed responsibility of program in 1998 from FDOT
 - Satisfy wetland mitigation requirements associated with permitted FDOT projects
- **District Responsibilities:**
 - Annual mitigation plan update and submit for approval to FDEP
 - Monitor and manage mitigation projects
 - Manage mitigation ledgers

Management Partners

- **Local Governments**
 - City of St. Petersburg (1)
 - City of Tampa (1)
 - City of Longboat Key (1)
 - Hillsborough County (7)
 - Pinellas County (3)
 - Manatee County (1)
 - Polk County (1)
 - FDEP (2)

FDOT Mitigation Program – 42 Projects

- **28 Construction projects**
 - 9 on District-owned lands
 - 19 on City/County/FDEP-owned Lands
- **6 Projects in private mitigation banks and ROMAs**
- **3 Projects accomplished by other agencies**
 - FDEP, FWC & Florida Forestry Service
- **5 One-time projects**
 - 3 Land acquisition
 - 1 Hydrologic connection to restore tidal flows
 - 1 Dredging project

Construction Phase of Program



Wetland Creation Alligator Lake Management Area



Wetland Creation Ekker Preserve

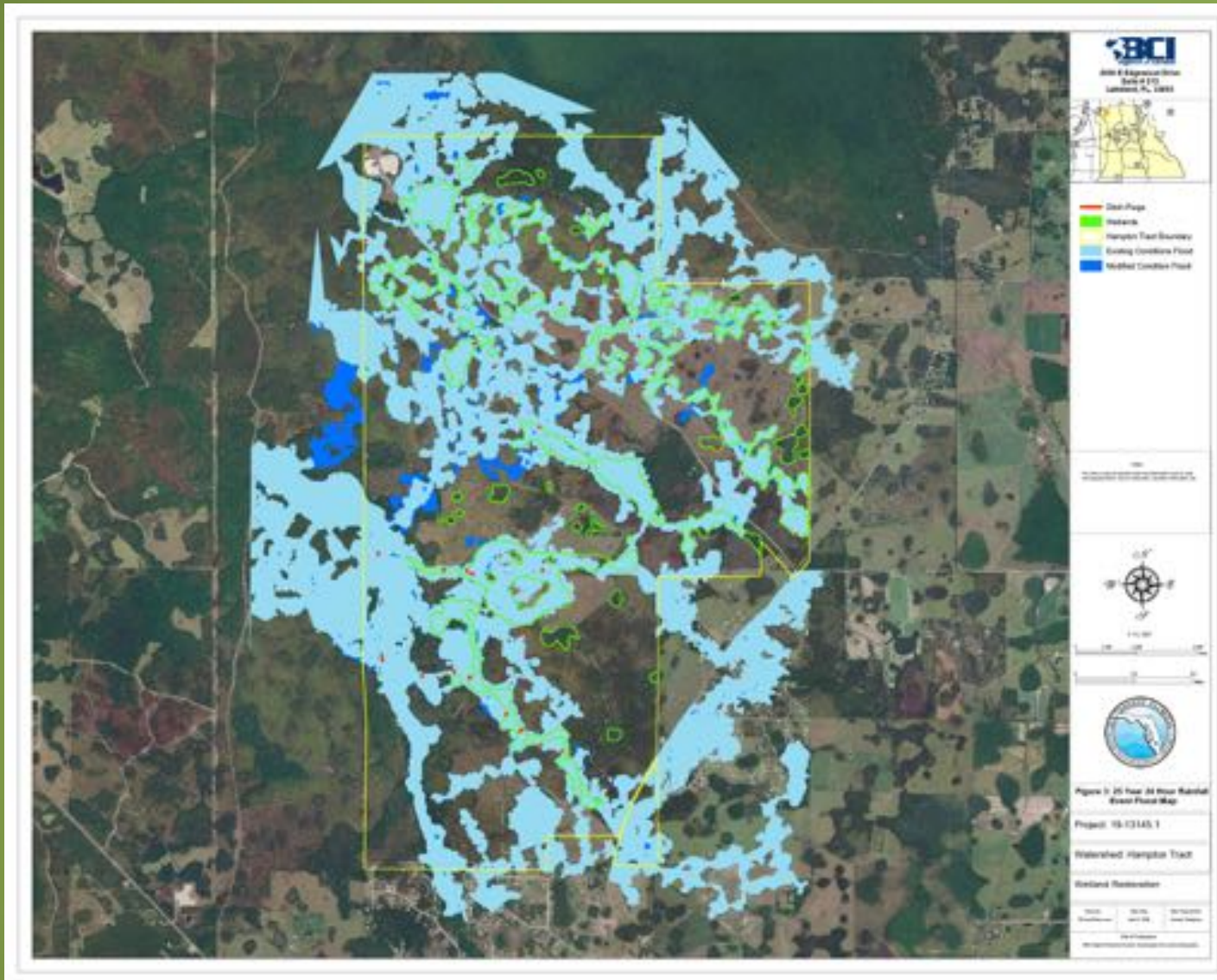


5,067 Acres

11,052 Acres

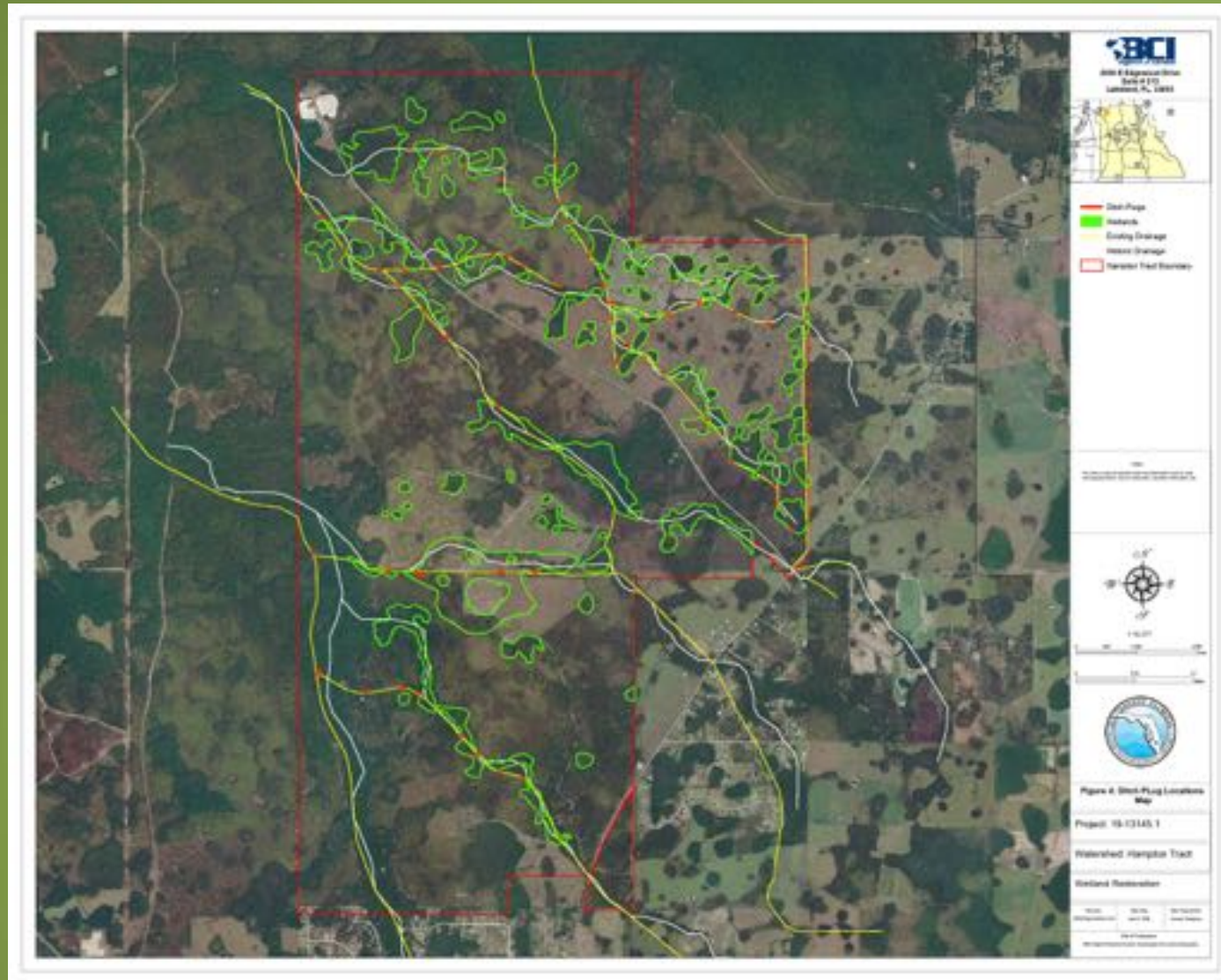


Hydrologic Enhancement



Design, Engineering, Surface Water
Modeling, Permitting

Hydrologic Enhancement



**Locating Ditch Blocks to Restore
Historic Surface Water Patterns**

Wetland Enhancement Ditch Blocks



Pre Construction



Post Construction

Historic Conveyance Berm Removal



Wetland Hydrologic Lift



Upland Buffers

Native Seed Harvesting/Seeding



Collecting seed at Conner Preserve



Prairie Restoration Conner Preserve

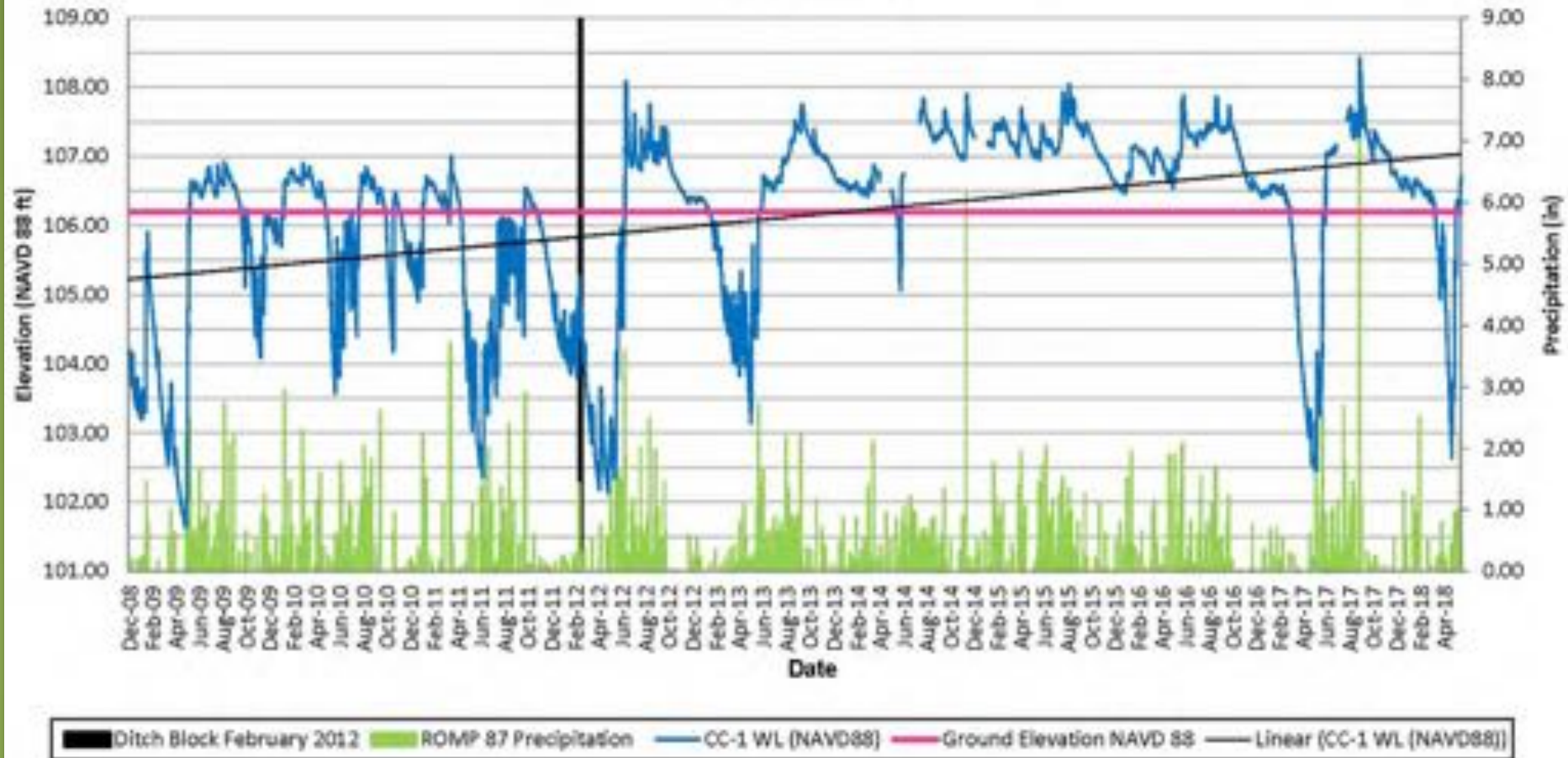
Monitoring for Compliance

- **Water Levels/Hydrologic**
 - Piezometers
- **Vegetation**
 - Native
 - Nuisance



Water Level/Hydrologic

Figure C-4. POR Hydrograph of Monitoring Well CC-1 and Daily Rainfall (ROMP 87 Green Swamp) in the Hampton Tract, Polk County, FL



Vegetation Transects

SAUNDERS

SWFWMD FDOT Mitigation Compliance Review

General		Property: HAMPTON	Site # 472-3	Water & Air Research	
Personnel: D.V./olm	Date: 4-24-16	Start: 1545	End:		
Assessment Area Type (Circle those that apply):					
Monitor Well/Site	Planted Area	Ditch Block/Fill	Breach/Crossing		
Culvert	Other (describe):				
Assessment Area Lat/Long collected? (from GPS): Y/N		Waypoint #	GPS ID #		
Photos	Camera: Olympus				
Frame	Direction & Description	Waypoint	Frame	Direction & Description	Waypoint
95	N		99	ID	
96	E				
97	S				
98	W				
Vegetation	Define Area of Assessment: 50'				
Disturbance Apparent? Y/N	If so, what? Tree fall in VP-40				
Exotics present (List)? Y/N	Exotics > 5% cover? Y/N Control required? Y/N				
Exotic Species Present (List):	% Cover	Comments/Specific Location			
Grazing impacts? Y/N	Tree Impacts? Y/N	Site Bar Control? Y/N	Cover impacts? Y/N		
Describe: tree fall from p.m. 2015 in nearby uplands					
Dominant Vegetation (List Species)		Vegetation Assessment Area (provide Name/Number/Date)			
Species in wetland area		% Cover	Assessment Date	Assessment Date	
1) T. ...					
2) ...					
3) ...					



Perpetual Maintenance

District/Local Government Land Management

- Nuisance and Exotic Vegetation Management**
- Supplemental Plantings**
- Prescribed Fire**
- Feral Hog Control/Removal**

Herbicide Application



- Florida Exotic Pest Plant Council Category 1 and 2 Species
- Wetlands and Upland Buffers

Supplemental Plantings



- **Meet/Exceed Plant Density Requirements**
- **Increase Native Plant Densities Following Herbicide Treatments**

Prescribed Fire



- Conducted by the District Staff and Management Partners

Feral Hog Control



2018

<u>Site</u>	<u>Number Removed</u>
Hampton Tract	74
Upper Hillsborough	28
Conner Preserve	9
Rutland Ranch	55
Colt Creek State Park	72
Total	238

Lessons Learned

- Construction
- Administrative



Bahia Beach FDOT Mitigation

Questions

