

### MERRITT PUMP STATION OVERVIEW:

- First major federal construction contract for the Picayune Strand Restoration Project.
- Awarded to Harry Pepper & Associates in October 2009.
- Contract consists of constructing an 810-cubic feet per second (cfs) pump station, plugging 13.5 miles of canals to block flow, and removing and degrading 95 miles of roads and tram roads.
- Pump station design and operation will allow natural resource and water managers to direct fresh water to drained wetlands while maintaining current levels of flood protection on land outside the project area.

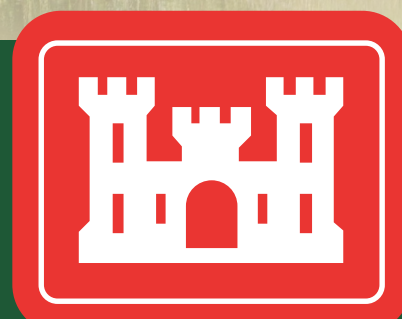


### PICAYUNE STRAND RESTORATION PROJECT OVERVIEW:

- Project site: 55,000 acre project site in abandoned southwest Florida subdivision with 4 major canals and 279 miles of roadway.
- Problems: Severed sheetflow, over-drainage, excessive fire regime, vegetation and habitat changes, wildlife changes, and unnatural point pulses of freshwater into estuary.
- Final plan includes 3 pump stations and a series of levees to maintain current levels of drainage for adjacent lands, plugs in all four canals to reduce over-drainage and pulsed flows to the estuaries, and road removal to facilitate sheetflow.

### WHAT'S NEXT?

- Construction of Faka Union Pump Station is scheduled to be complete in Summer 2015.
- Construction of the Miller Pump Station is scheduled to be complete in 2018.
- Construction of additional project features: the Manatee Mitigation, Southwest Protection features, additional road removal and canal plugging, will be initiated in 2015 and complete by 2018, pending additional authorization.







## Rescuing an Endangered Ecosystem

*Together, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the South Florida Water Management District are transforming this area into an ecological gem, where the endangered Florida panther and other native plants and animals may once again thrive.*

### *T*he completed Picayune Strand Restoration Project

- Improves aquifer recharge to protect water supply and prevent saltwater intrusion
- Restores and enhances habitat for fish and wildlife resources, including threatened and endangered species
- Maintains existing level of flood protection for Northern Golden Gate Estates and adjacent private properties
- Reduces over-drainage of adjacent sensitive ecosystems
- Reduces freshwater releases (point discharges) to improve the health and productivity of downstream estuaries
- Preserves upland habitat
- Controls invasive exotic plants
- Provides comprehensive habitat conservation for the greater Everglades ecosystem, including the Florida Panther National Wildlife Refuge, Fakahatchee Strand State Preserve, 10,000 Islands National Wildlife Refuge, Collier Seminole State Park, and the Belle Meade Conservation and Recreation Lands

