SITE 1 IMPOUNDMENT | Fran Reich Preserve

FACTS & INFORMATION

AUGUST 2015

BACKGROUND

The Site 1 Impoundment / Fran Reich Preserve Project, a component of the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (CERP), will capture and store excess surface water runoff from the Hillsboro watershed as well as releases from the Arthur R. Marshall Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge and Lake Okeechobee. Located in the Hillsboro Canal Basin in southern Palm Beach County, the project will supplement water deliveries to the Hillsboro Canal by capturing and storing excess water currently discharged to the Atlantic Intracoastal Waterway. These supplemental deliveries will reduce demands on the Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge (LNWR). The 1,660-acre impoundment will also provide groundwater recharge, reduce seepage from adjacent natural areas and prevent saltwater intrusion by releasing impounded water back to the Hillsboro Canal when conditions dictate.

The CERP non-federal sponsor, the South Florida Water Management District, acquired land for this project and participated in conceptual design. The lead role for project design and construction is with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. The project includes a 1,660-acre above-ground reservoir, an inflow pump station, gated discharge culvert, emergency overflow spillway and a seepage control canal with associated features.

PROJECT SPLIT INTO TWO

The original acquisition strategy for the Site 1 project involved only one contract. However, in order to utilize funding from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) of 2009, a stand-alone and usable portion of the project was identified for construction. The stand-alone features are the D-525N embankment (L-40 modifications) and the S-530 spillway.

The first contract (Phase 1), D-525N (L-40 Modifications) and Miscellaneous Features was awarded to Lodge Construction, Inc. of Fort Myers, Fla., on August 24, 2010. This contract utilized $44,125,000 in ARRA funds, and it includes clearing, grubbing and dewatering activities, demolition work, establishing onsite borrow and disposal areas, earthwork modifications to about 15,000 linear feet of the existing L-40 levee, installing dam monitoring instrumentation, and emplacing turf reinforcement mat and soil cement. The project also includes construction of a six-acre wildlife wetland area. The project is scheduled to be complete in Fall 2015.

These Phase 1 features will reduce the amount of seepage loss from the adjacent LNWR, also known as Water Conservation Area 1. Reducing seepage will help increase the amount of water that remains in that natural system, especially during dry periods. Maintaining the additional water will allow for ecological habitat improvements in the LNWR.

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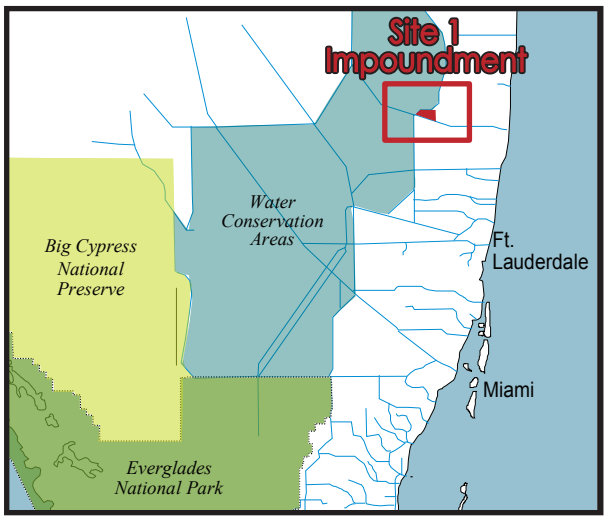
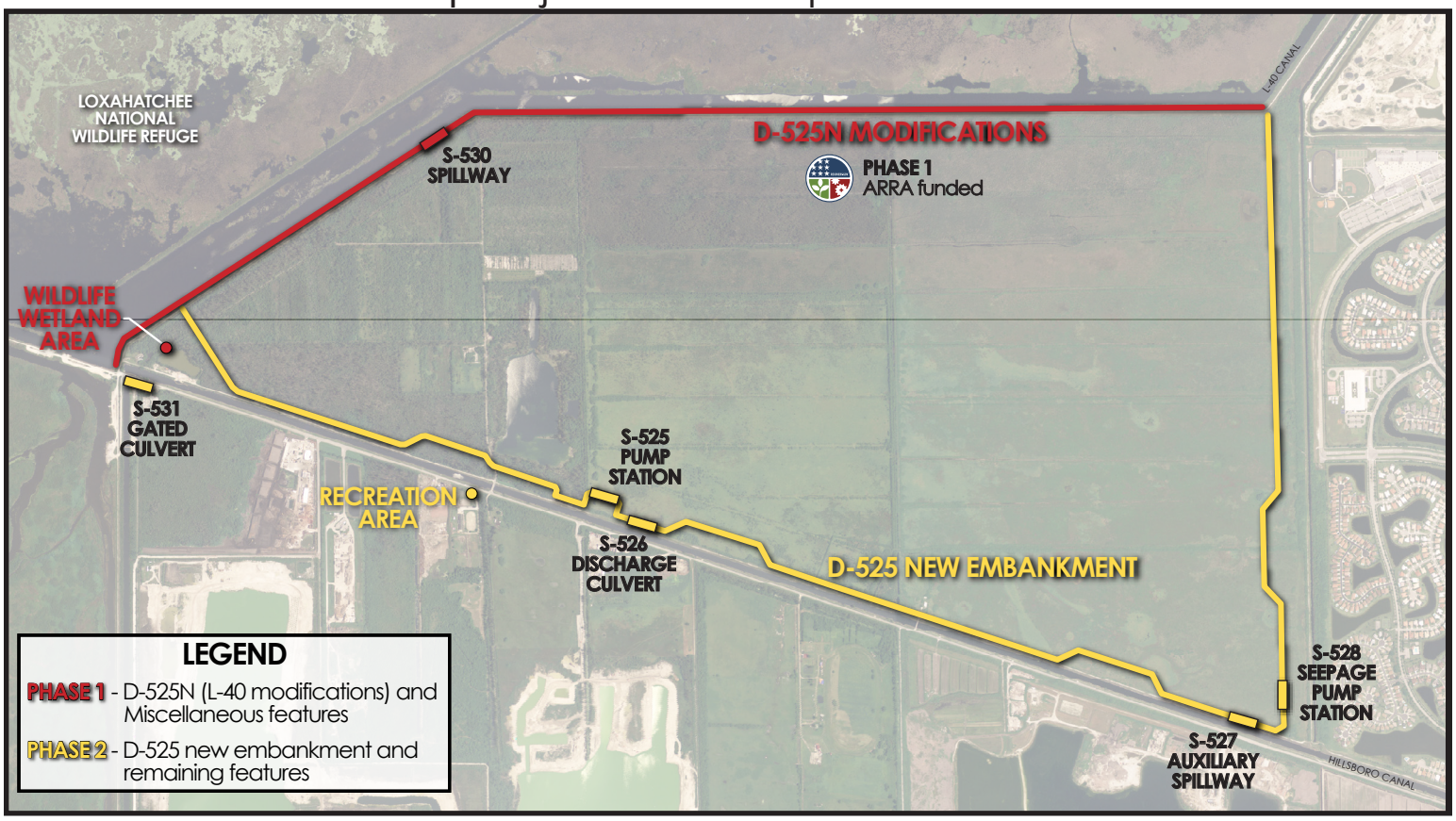
A second contract (Phase 2) will complete the Site 1 Impoundment project. Work will include additional site clearing, grubbing, miscellaneous demolitions, excavation and filling, construction of inflow and seepage pump stations, associated impoundment structures, canal improvements, D-525 embankment, embankment instrumentation, placement of geocells on embarkment exterior, placement of smooth flat plate soil cement on embankment interior and other miscellaneous site work. These contract tasks are only draft and the Corps will finalize features in the contract design. Phase 2 advertisement and award cannot occur until the project becomes congressionally re-authorized, which is necessary due to increased costs.



SITE 1 IMPOUNDMENT | Project Area Map



FOR MORE INFORMATION

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