

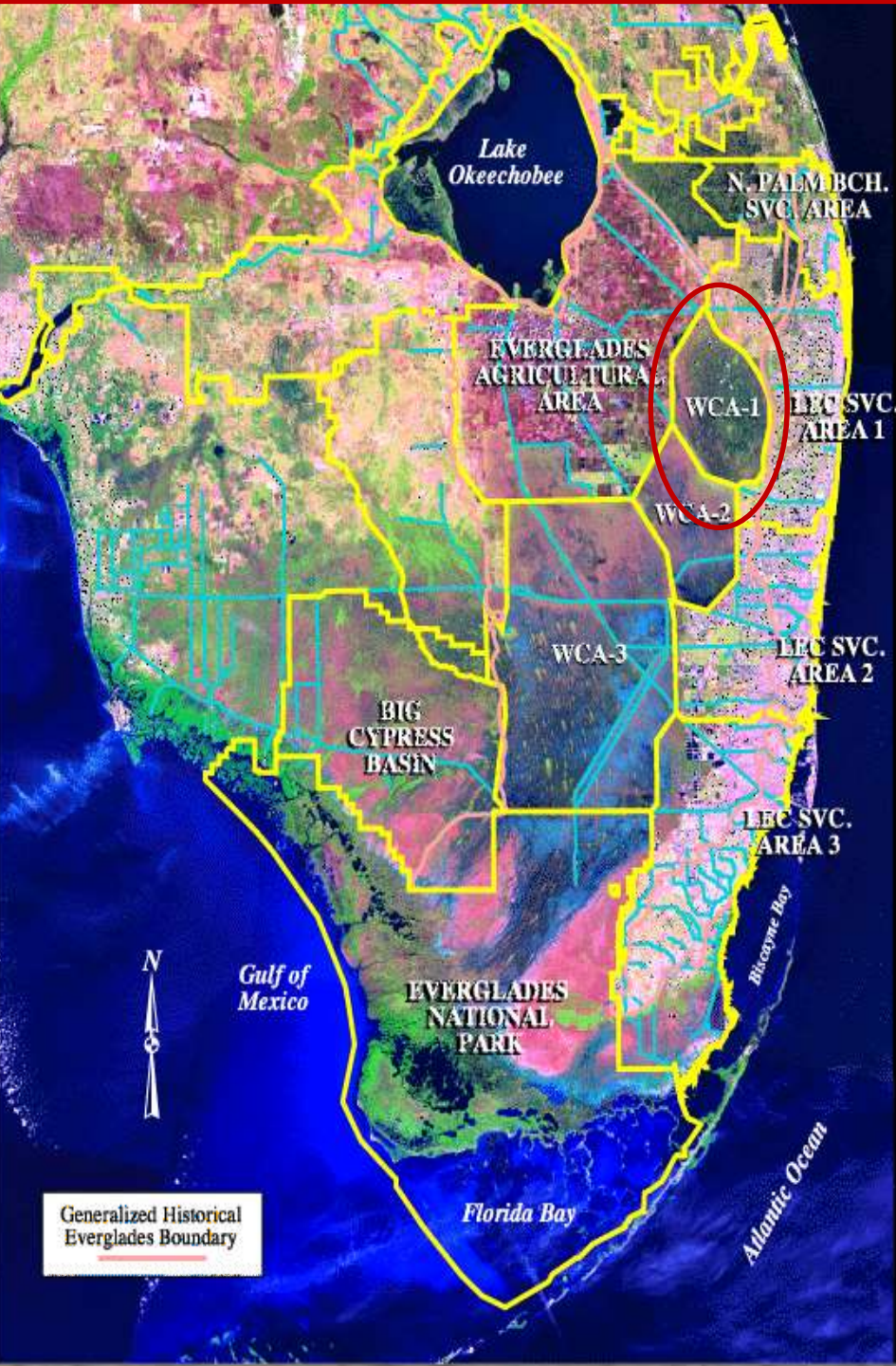
ARTHUR R. MARSHALL LOXAHATCHEE NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

14th Annual Science Workshop



Steve Henry, Deputy Project Leader
April 19, 2017

Arthur R. Marshall Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge

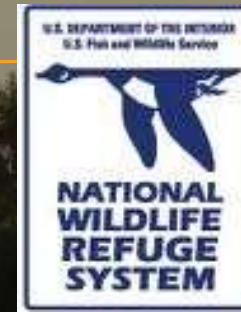


Generalized Historical
Everglades Boundary

- Managed by USFWS
- Owned by state of Florida (SFWMD)
- Agency purpose/mission
- Multi-use
 - Wildlife Conservation
 - Water Supply
 - Flood Control



National Wildlife Refuges



- **The mission of the National Wildlife Refuge (NWRs) System is:**

“to administer a national network of lands and waters for the conservation, management, and where appropriate, restoration of the fish, wildlife and plant resources and their habitats within the United States for the benefit of present and future generations of Americans.”

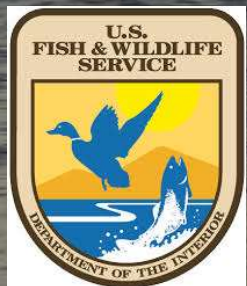
ARTHUR R. MARSHALL LOXAHATCHEE NWR

- Established in 1951 under the Migratory Bird Conservation Act of 1929 for use as an inviolate sanctuary, or for any other management purpose, for migratory birds.
- A 50-year license agreement between the USFWS and the South Florida Water Management District allows the USFWS to manage Water Conservation Area 1 as a National Wildlife Refuge.
- Purpose within License Agreement “...to promote the conservation of wildlife, fish and game, and for other purposes embodying the principles and objectives of planned multiple land use...”.



ARTHUR R. MARSHALL LOXAHATCHEE NWR

- Renamed in 1986 after a former USFWS employee and avid conservationist
- Consists of 143,924 acres represented by five habitat types:
 - Tree Islands
 - Wet Prairies
 - Open Sloughs
 - Sawgrass Communities
 - Cypress Swamp



ARTHUR R. MARSHALL LOXAHATCHEE NWR

- Lox is unique in its position within the system, water chemistry, ecological dynamics, and restoration and management challenges.
- Important habitat for native wildlife, including alligators, wading birds, raptors, and small mammals.
- Will require customized restoration efforts to address issues.



SPEAKERS

- **Rebekah Gibble**, *USFWS, Senior Wildlife Biologist, A.R.M. Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge*
- **Yong-shan Wan**, *USEPA, Chief, Ecosystem Dynamics and Effects Branch, National Health and Environmental Effects Research Laboratory, Gulf Ecology Division*
- **Donatto Surratt**, *NPS, Senior Ecologist, Everglades National Park*
- **Andrew Eastwick**, *USFWS, Invasive Species Biologist, A.R.M. Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge*
- **Steve Traxler**, *USFWS, Peninsular Florida LCC Science Coordinator*



SESSION OUTLINE

- Unique Role of northern Everglades in the landscape
- Hydrologic drivers of ecological processes in northern Everglades
- Development of a simple vegetation index to monitor habitat impacts
- Regional perspective of invasive exotic species in the northern Everglades
- Role of LCCs in Everglades restoration

