

Ecological Resources

Wetlands and Aquatic Resources

- **Wetlands** - Areas inundated or saturated by surface or ground water at a frequency and duration sufficient to support vegetation typically adapted for saturated soil conditions. Wetlands generally include freshwater and tidally influenced areas, such as swamps, marshes, bogs, mangroves and salt marsh systems, and similar areas.

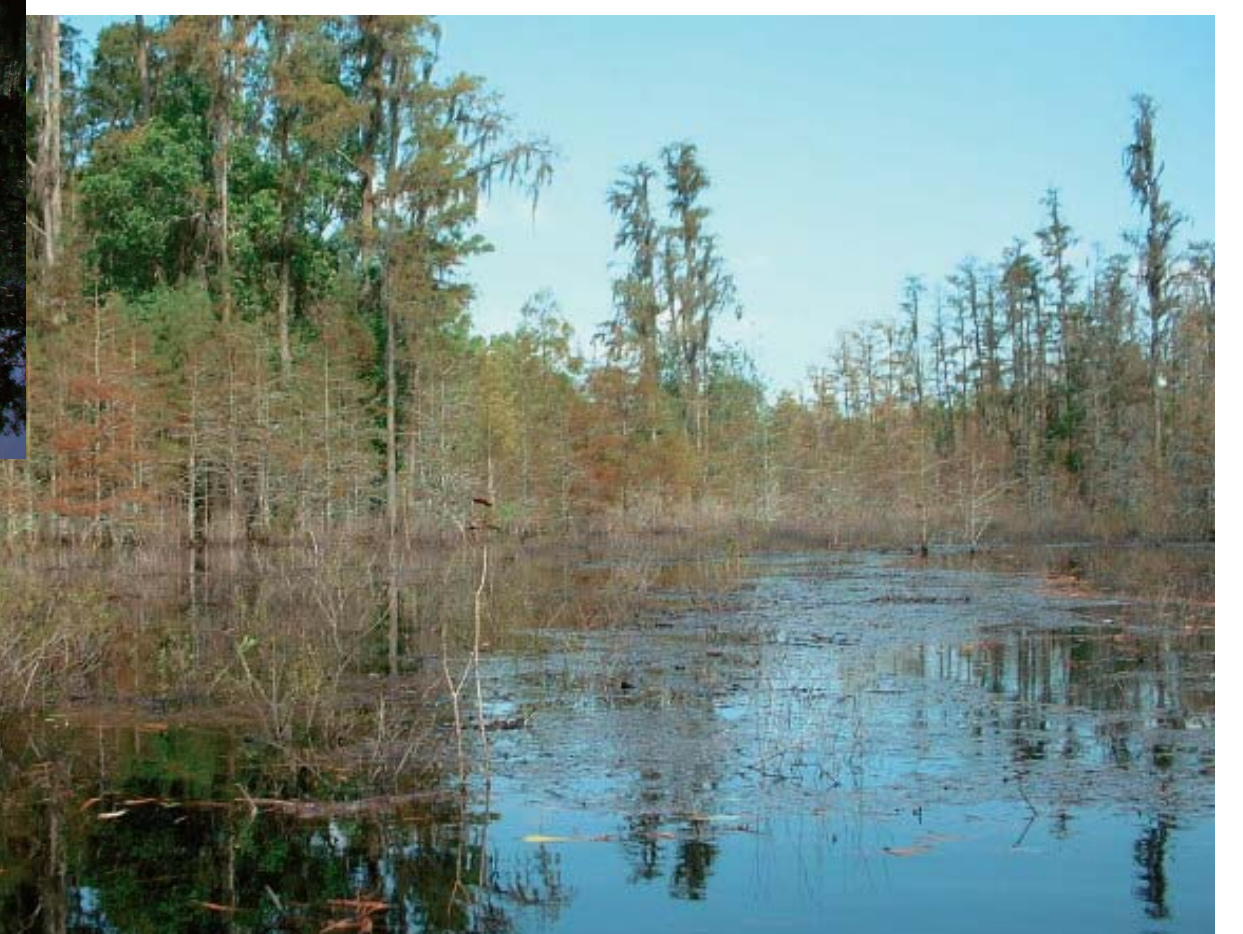
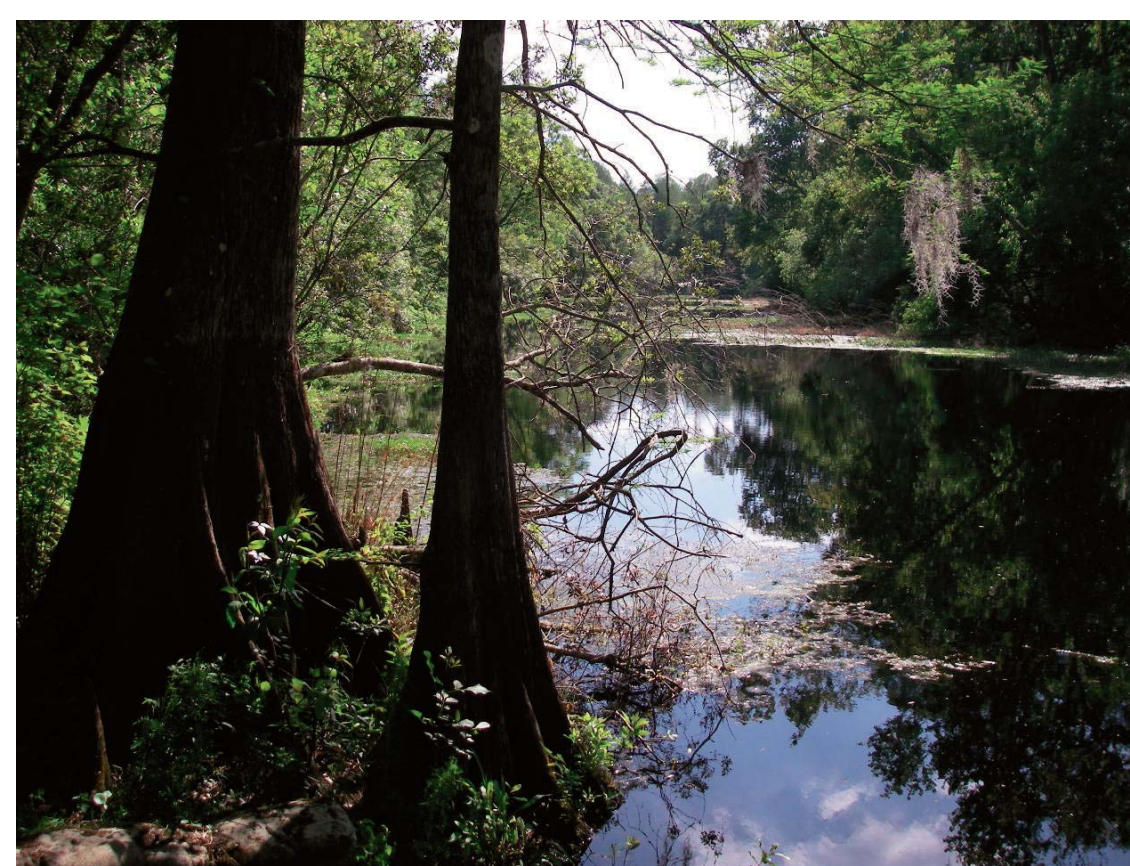
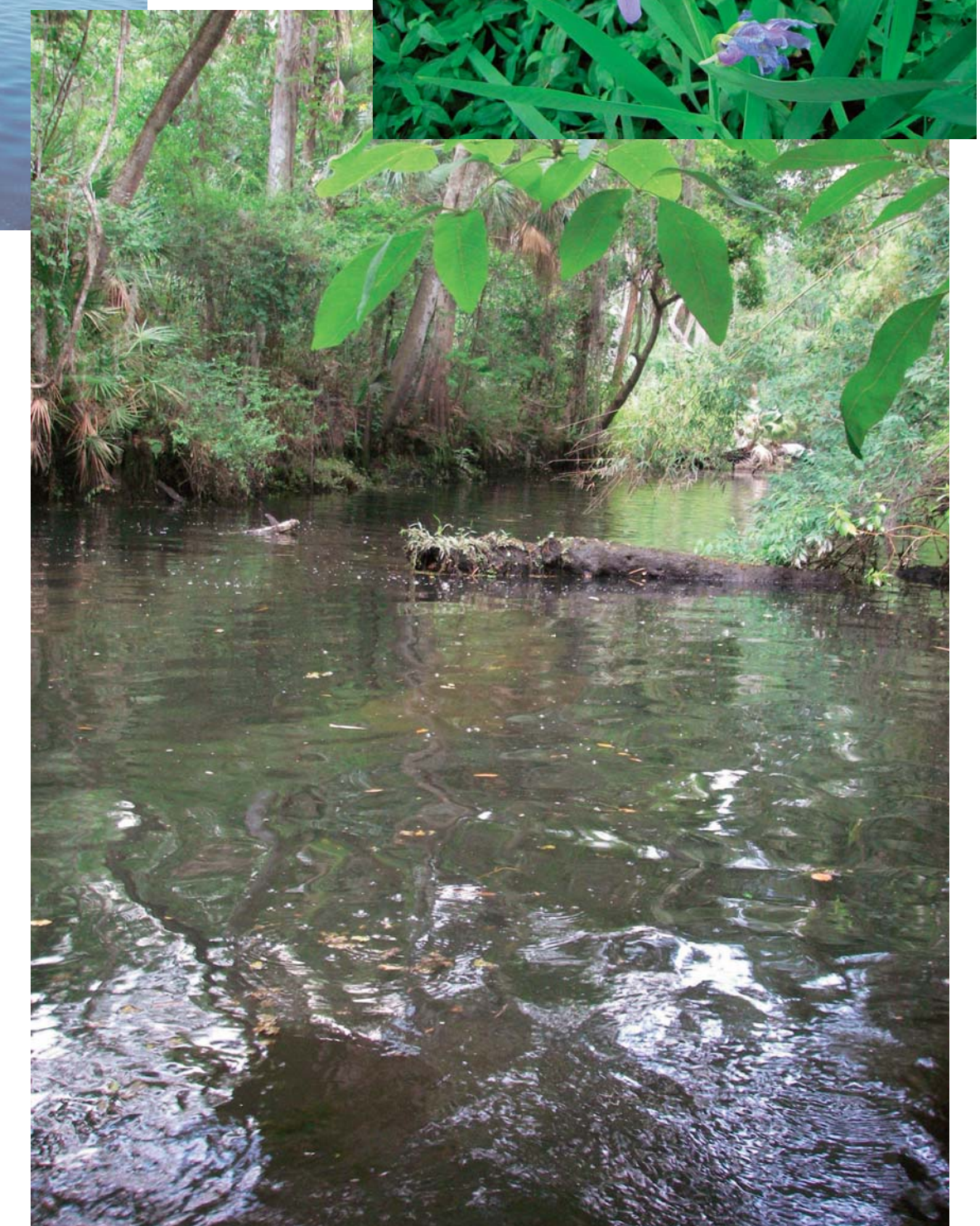
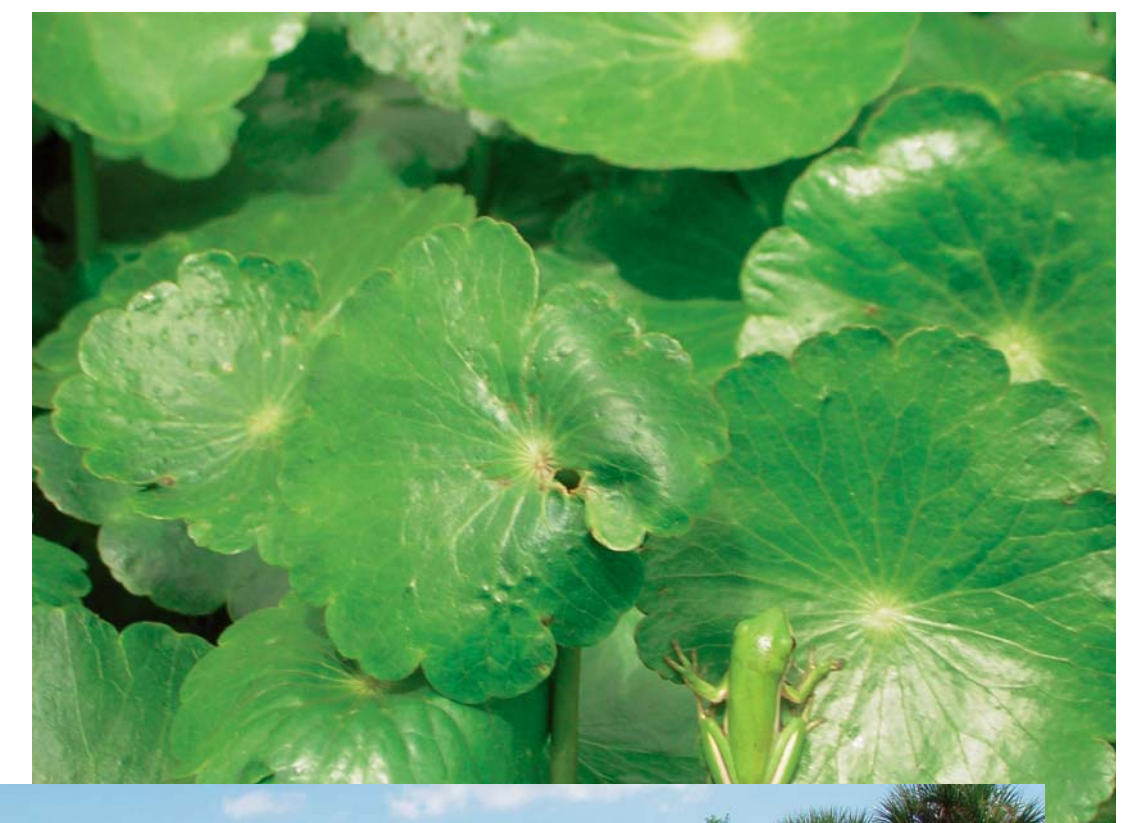
- **Aquatic Resources** – Water in streams, rivers, lakes and ponds serving multiple roles as a natural resource supporting associated animal and plant life.

- **Wetland Impact** – Work in wetlands and aquatic resources, such as dredging, excavating, or filling, that results in an impact.

- **Compensatory Mitigation** – The restoration, establishment (creation), enhancement, or preservation of wetland or aquatic resources for the purpose of compensating for unavoidable adverse impacts which remain after all appropriate and practicable avoidance and minimization has been achieved.

- **Avoidance and Minimization** – Avoidance and minimization of impacts to aquatic resources, including wetlands, must be addressed prior to considering compensatory mitigation.

- **Reclamation** – The conversion of mined lands to a beneficial use in a timely manner and in a manner which recognizes the diversity among mines, mining operations, and types of lands which are mined. This involves the reshaping of lands in a manner which meets the reclamation standards, and is consistent with the pre-mining land form and/or desired future land use.



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Protected Species & Habitat

■ **Endangered Species Act (ESA)**- Provides for the protection, recovery, and conservation of imperiled species and their ecosystems. The AEIS will evaluate the potential impacts of a proposed action on threatened or endangered species or their critical habitats. Evaluations will be coordinated with US Fish and Wildlife Service and/or NOAA - National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) pursuant to Section 7, ESA. Under ESA, species may be:

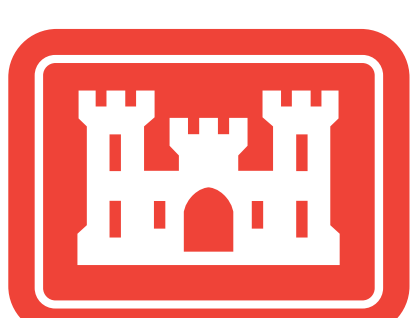
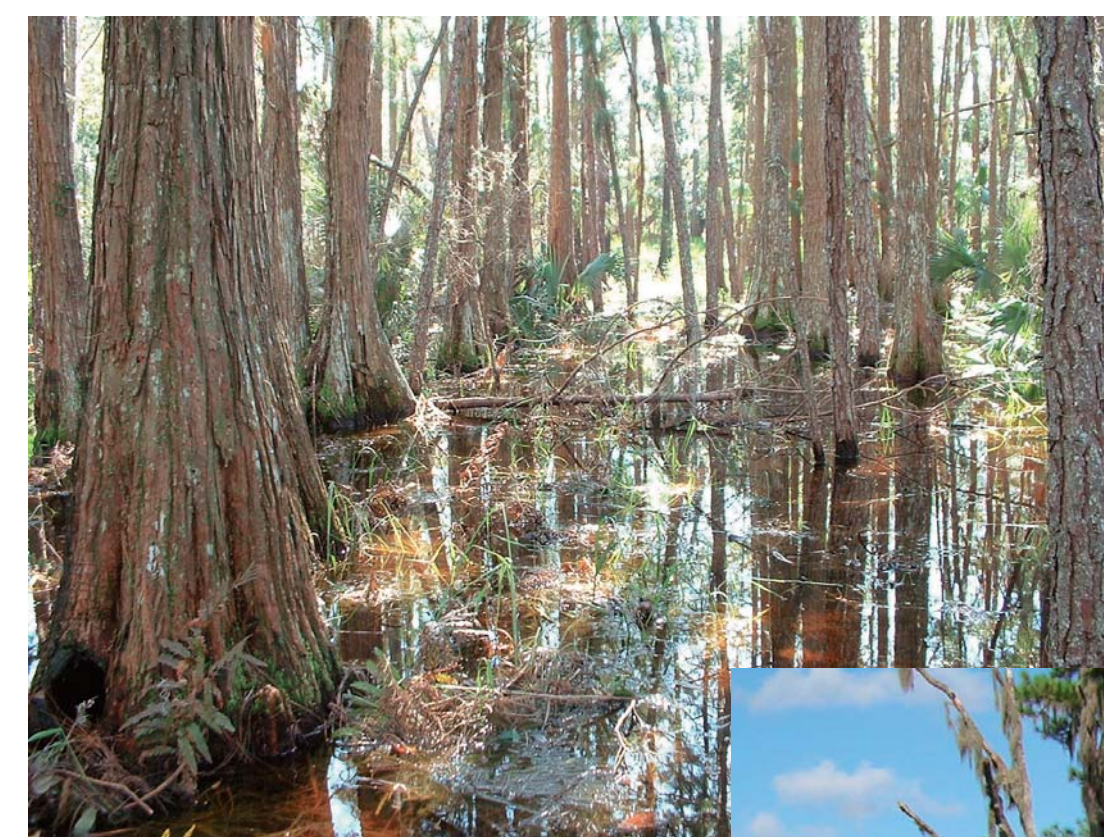
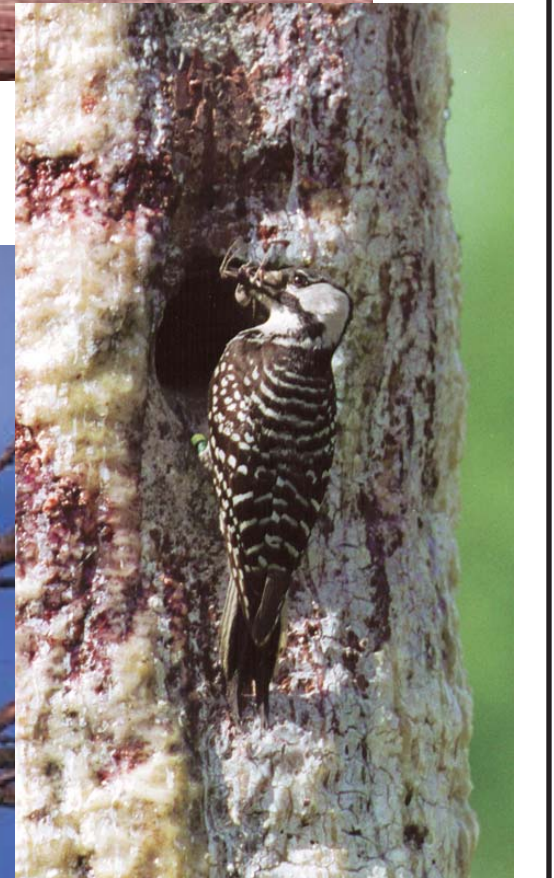
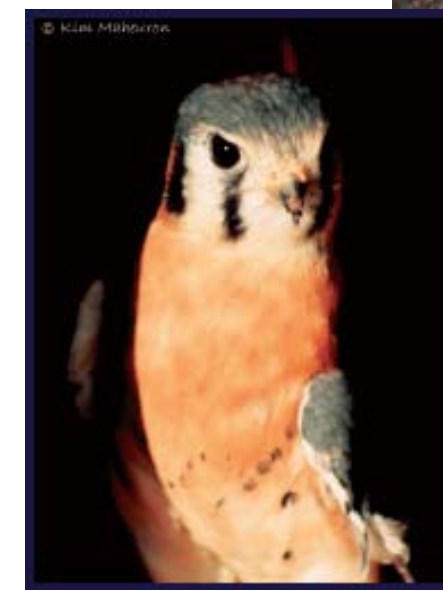
- “Endangered”: in danger of extinction throughout all or a portion of its range.
- “Threatened”: likely to become endangered in the foreseeable future.

■ **Natural Habitat** – Natural, native or indigenous vegetation, not subject to cultivation or artificial landscaping, that provides habitat for wildlife, either terrestrial or aquatic.

■ **Aquatic Ecosystem** – Consists of two main types: marine and freshwater.

- Marine ecosystems include estuarine, coastal, and open ocean systems, and a broad range of habitats ranging from intertidal zones to deep ocean environments.
- Freshwater ecosystems include slow-moving water (pools, ponds, and lakes), rapidly-moving water (streams and rivers), and wetlands.

■ **Essential Fish Habitat (EFH)** – Estuarine or marine habitats used by species managed by the Gulf of Mexico Fisheries Management Council for spawning, breeding, feeding, or growth to maturity.



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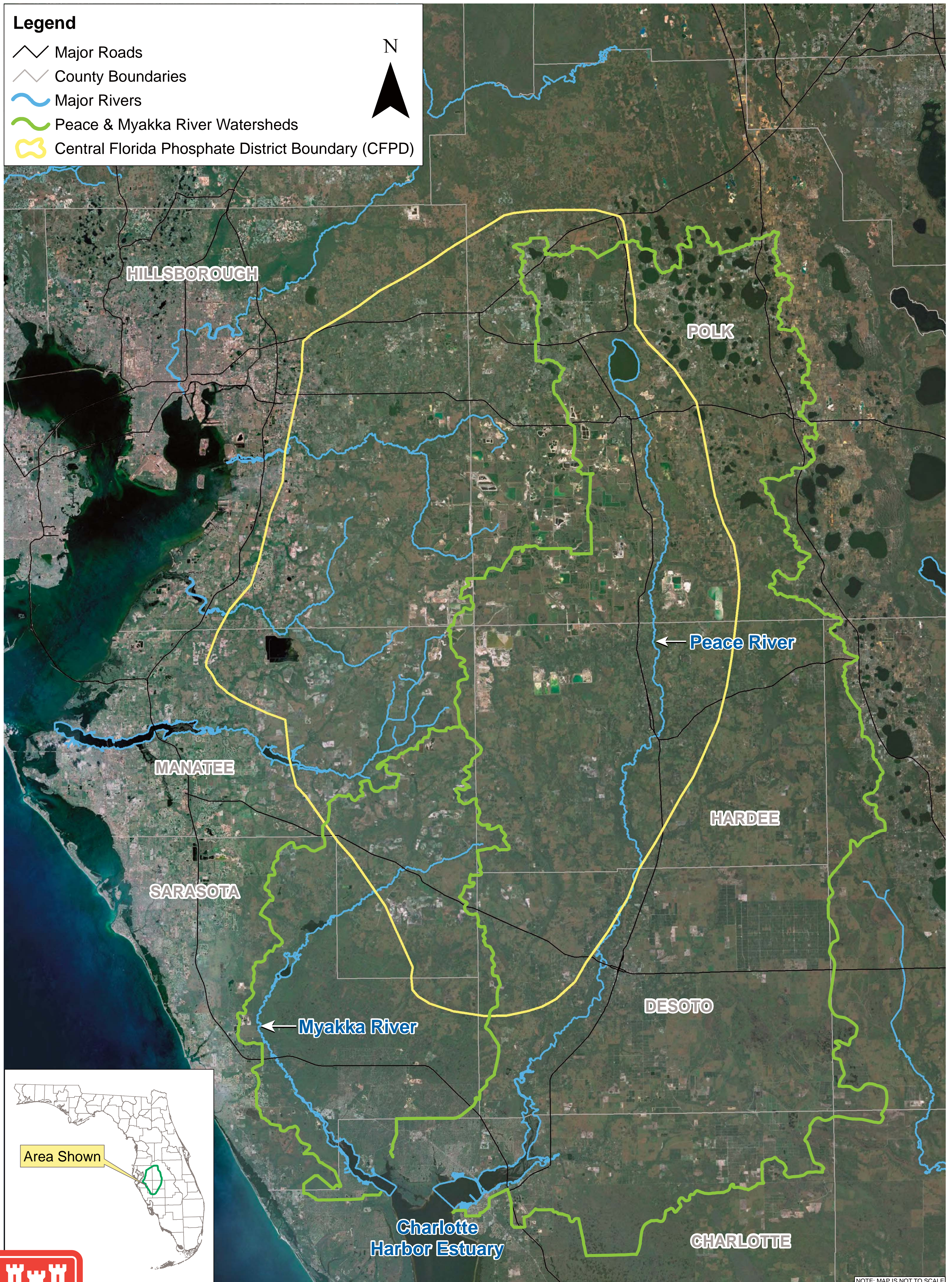
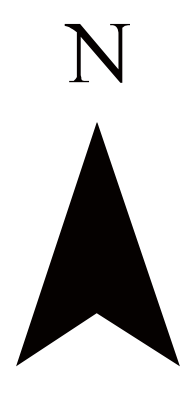
Areawide Environmental Impact Statement for Continued
Phosphate Mining in the Central Florida Phosphate District

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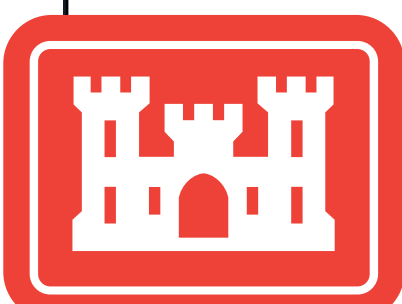
Location of the Central Florida Phosphate District in Relation to the Peace and Myakka River Watersheds

Legend

- Major Roads
- County Boundaries
- Major Rivers
- Peace & Myakka River Watersheds
- Central Florida Phosphate District Boundary (CFPD)



NOTE: MAP IS NOT TO SCALE



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