PROJECT: Sims Creek Enhancement - Siltation Removal

PURPOSE/GOAL: Reduce sediment loads into Loxahatchee River.

PROJECT LOCATION: Sims Creek (Tributary to Southwest Fork of Loxahatchee River)

PROJECT STATUS: Completed, 2002

DESCRIPTION:

Sims Creek is a small tributary which drains into the Southwest Fork of the Loxahatchee River. The Sims Creek watershed includes about 103 acres that drain directly to the Creek, including Sims Creek PUD, Sims Cay, Sims Creek Plaza, Privateer Point, single-family homes along Center Street, a mobile home park, commercial development along Indiantown Road and the Indiantown Road drainage system. The remainder of the watershed (1,341 acres) drains to the Creek via the North Palm Beach Heights Water Control District (NPBHWCD) outfall canal. Most of this flow is through the Town of Jupiter's Amil gate (salinity control structure), although parts of Maplewood Drive drain to the canal downstream of the Amil gate. Subdivisions draining to the NPBHWCD canal include North Palm Beach Heights, Indian Creek, Jupiter Village, Chasewood, portions of Maplewood, the Town water plant, and other commercial development south of Indiantown Road.

Sims Creek experienced severe shoaling between 1980 and 2000, reducing navigable depths along the upper reach of the creek by 2 to 3 feet and substantially constricting the effective water conveyance widths. The primary shoaling occurred in two storm events, March, 1982 and October, 1995, both of which were associated with major structure blowouts that brought large volumes of sand into the creek from the Northern Palm Beach Heights Water Control District (NPBHWCD) canal system.

In 2001, the JID restored the upper reaches of Sims Creek to depths and cross sections comparable with historic depths and compatible with its use as a drainage outfall for the NPBCWCD canal. Additionally, silt bottom material was removed from the middle and lower reaches of the creek, subsequent to which

the sediments were placed on the District's Dredge Material Management Area (DMMA).

The dredging was designed as an environmental enhancement, providing for a more stable benthos, littoral zones, and a maintainable channel for reducing sediments loads to the Loxahatchee River.