

PROJECT: Sims Creek Enhancement - Intertidal Lagoon Creation

PURPOSE/GOAL: Enhance productivity of the marine and estuarine environment.

PROJECT LOCATION: JID Headquarters Building Site

PROJECT STATUS: Completed, 1998

DESCRIPTION:

In 1990, the Jupiter Inlet District (JID) contracted with Law Environmental, Inc., to prepare a management plan for the portion of the Loxahatchee River west of the FEC Railroad trestle. This area of the river includes the Central Embayment, Southwest Fork/C-18 Canal, Sims and Jones Creek and portions of the North and Northwest Forks of the river. This entire area falls within the Loxahatchee River – Lake Work Creek Aquatic Preserve.



The goals of the plan included enhancing the productivity of the marine and estuarine environment". Toward this end, one of the many management options (or actions items) to come out of the plan was "Tidal Creek Enhancement". To implement this option, JID entered into an agreement with Palm Beach County ERM in 1994 to identify potential enhancement sites along Sims Creek. Sims Creek is a small tributary stream that flows into the Southwest Fork of the river.

The Sims Creek Environmental Enhancement Study, prepared by Carmen Vare of Palm Beach County ERM, identified the JID site as "offering the greatest potential for environmental enhancement" (Vare, 1994). Accordingly, a 2.05 acre mangrove-spartina wetland was created in 1998 with the cooperation of Palm Beach County

ERM, with JID providing a 50% match of funding. In addition, .3 acres of exotic vegetation was cleared, consisting of primarily Melaleuca. The enhancement and restoration of the wetland portion of the site are important management tools that have provided additional habitat resources for fisheries and wildlife species and eliminated a seed source that could otherwise have spread to other portions of this area. The project, now some ten years old, has been a huge success.