



SOUTH FLORIDA ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION TASK FORCE



LEADERSHIP • PARTNERSHIP • RESULTS

May 3, 2022 Task Force Meeting

Hydrologic Evolution of the South Florida Ecosystem & Ongoing Restoration Initiatives

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Everglades Restoration & Hydrologic Performance Measure

- Reverse the major unintended impacts to the natural system attributed to the Central & Southern Florida Project. These impacts include:
 - Extreme fluctuations in Lake Okeechobee Water Levels;
 - Damaging discharges to the Caloosahatchee and St. Lucie estuaries;
 - Detrimental water depths and flooding durations in Everglades freshwater habitats;
 - Unsuitable freshwater flows to Florida Bay, Biscayne Bay, and Lake Worth Lagoon; and
 - Degraded water quality creating imbalances of native flora and fauna.

Foundation Projects (Non-CERP)

Kissimmee River Restoration (1992-2021) Restore portions of the historic Kissimmee River floodplain and improve operations in the upper chain of lakes.

Herbert Hoover Dike Rehabilitation (2001-2022), Lake Okeechobee System Operating Manual (2019-2022) Safely retain inflows, while balancing Lake Okeechobee health and regional water demands.

Everglades Construction Project & Restoration Strategies (1996-2025) Construct features to retain and treat Everglades Agricultural Area runoff, to improve water quality in the Everglades.

Modified Water Deliveries to ENP (1992-2018), Canal-111 South Dade (1994-2019), Combined Operational Plan (2016-2020), Tamiami Trail Next Steps (2016-2024) Improve water flows into Northeast Shark River Slough and Taylor Slough, while maintaining South Dade flood control.

Symbol Legend



Improve Connectivity/Sheetflow



Improve Water Quality

Groundwater Seepage Retention



Improve Water Mgmt. Operations

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CERP Generation 1 (WRDA 2007)

Indian River Lagoon (IRL) South

C-44 Reservoir & STA (2015-2021),
C-23, C-24, C-25 Reservoirs & STAs (2015-2030)

Combined 170,000 acre-feet of new water storage,
water quality treatment, additional natural area storage.

Picayune Strand Restoration Project (2010-2025)

Remove historic roads and restore sheetflow across
55,000 acres of natural habitat.

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Symbol Legend

- Improve Connectivity/Sheetflow
- Surface Water Storage Reservoir
- Groundwater Seepage Retention
- Improve Water Mgmt. Operations
- Improve Water Quality

CERP Generation 2 (WRDA 2014)

Caloosahatchee River West Basin Storage

C-43 Reservoir & Future STA (2015-2030) 170,000 acre-feet of new water storage & future water quality treatment.

Broward County Water Preserve Areas

(2016-2030) Reduce groundwater seepage from WCA-3A/3B, improve urban water supply, and saltwater intrusion control.

Biscayne Bay Coastal Wetlands (2012-2024) Redirect canal outflows to rehydrate coastal wetlands.

C-111 Spreader Canal Western Project (2012) Retain groundwater seepage and improve water flows to Taylor Slough and Florida Bay.

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Symbol Legend



Improve Connectivity/Sheetflow



Improve Water Quality



Surface Water Storage Reservoir



Groundwater Seepage Retention



Improve Water Mgmt. Operations

CERP Generation 3 (WRDA 2016, 2018, 2020)

Loxahatchee River Watershed Restoration
(2023-2029) Restore flows in the Lox. River to protect the largest remaining riverine cypress habitat in southeastern FL.

Central Everglades Project (CEPP)
CEPP EAA Reservoir (2020-2029) Store and treat Lake Okeechobee flows before going to the Everglades.

CEPP North (2022-2026) Restore flows into northwestern WCA-3A and move more water south.

CEPP South (2020-2029) Improve connectivity between WCA-3A/3B and Northeast Shark River Slough (SRS).

CEPP New Water (2022-2024) Retain groundwater seepage from CEPP flows into Northeast SRS.

Symbol Legend

-  Improve Connectivity/Sheetflow
-  Groundwater Seepage Retention
-  Improve Water Quality
-  Improve Water Mgmt. Operations
-  Surface Water Storage Reservoir

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CERP Planning Projects (Anticipate WRDA 2022-2028?)

Lake Okeechobee Watershed Restoration (WRDA 2022) Control Lake Okeechobee inflows/water levels using large-scale aquifer storage and recovery (ASR) wells in the watershed.




Western Everglades Restoration Project (WRDA 2024) Tentatively Selected Plan - Reestablish sheetflow and improve water quality on Tribal lands and the Big Cypress National Preserve.

Southern Everglades Study (WRDA 2028) Planned 2023 start. Improve sheetflow in the Central/Southern Everglades and into Florida Bay, via seepage management and new water storage options.




Biscayne Bay Southeastern Everglades Ecosystem Restoration (WRDA 2026) Preliminary Alternatives, restore sheetflow and improve water quality in the southeast coastal wetlands via new water sources.

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
Newer CERP Components

-  Wastewater Reuse
-  Aquifer Storage & Retrieval
-  In-Ground Storage Reservoir

Symbol Legend

-  Improve Connectivity/Sheetflow
-  Improve Water Quality
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-  Improve Water Mgmt. Operations

Background by Rowan Johnson

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Questions?

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