

Program Name: Restoration Program: Water Quality, Habitat & Species
Project Name: Lake Okeechobee Sediment Removal Feasibility Study and Pilot Project
Project ID: 1708
Lead Agency: South Florida Water Management District
Authority: Chapter 373, Florida Statutes
Funding Source:

Strategic Plan Goal(s) Addressed: Other

Measurable Output(s): Recommendation Regarding Sediment Removal from Lake Okeechobee

Project Synopsis: The goal of this project was to analyze alternatives and determine the best method of sediment management to reduce internal phosphorus loading in Lake Okeechobee. The Feasibility Study addressed alternatives such as sediment removal, processing, disposal, chemical treatment, and/or sealing sediment to achieve the project goal. The goal of the Feasibility Study was achieved using an objective methodology that allowed for review and input by experts and stakeholders throughout the study process. A pilot test of a state-of-the-art sediment removal/treatment technology train was conducted in parallel with the Feasibility Study. The pilot test included sediment removal, de-watering, treatment, and a pilot water quality treatment system. The results of the pilot test were incorporated into the Feasibility Study.

The results for the feasibility study indicated that once the TMDL is met the annual frequency of algal blooms would decrease to below a 15% annual probability of a bloom occurrence (from a current annual likelihood of approximately 20%) by 2015 and 10% by 2028. Under this “no in-lake action” alternative, steady-state lake recovery conditions would be achieved approximately 35 years from the point that external loads are reduced to the inflow load of 140 metric tons. Dredging did not prove feasible, while chemical treatment might be of value under limited conditions.

Cost:

Total	\$955,069
Project Development	\$955,069
Land Acquisition	N/A
Implementation	N/A
Operations and Maintenance	N/A

Project Schedule:

Start Date: 6/1/00
 Finish Date: 6/1/03 (Completed 04/03)

Detailed Project Budget Information (\$1000)

	Thru 1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	Balance to complete	Total
State		0	287.5	280.8	386.7		955.1
Tribal							
Local							
Other							
Total			287.5	280.8	386.7		955.1

Hyperlink: N/A
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