

**Expedited Projects + Innovative Teamwork =
Measurable Improvements to the Health of Lake Okeechobee
and the St. Lucie and Caloosahatchee Estuaries**



Lake Okeechobee & Estuary Recovery

Lake Okeechobee & Estuary Recovery (LOER) is a bold and aggressive action plan to help restore the ecological health of Lake Okeechobee and the St. Lucie and Caloosahatchee estuaries.

A series of capital projects and numerous interagency initiatives will provide measurable and meaningful improvements to water conditions and water quality in Lake Okeechobee and the St. Lucie and Caloosahatchee estuaries.



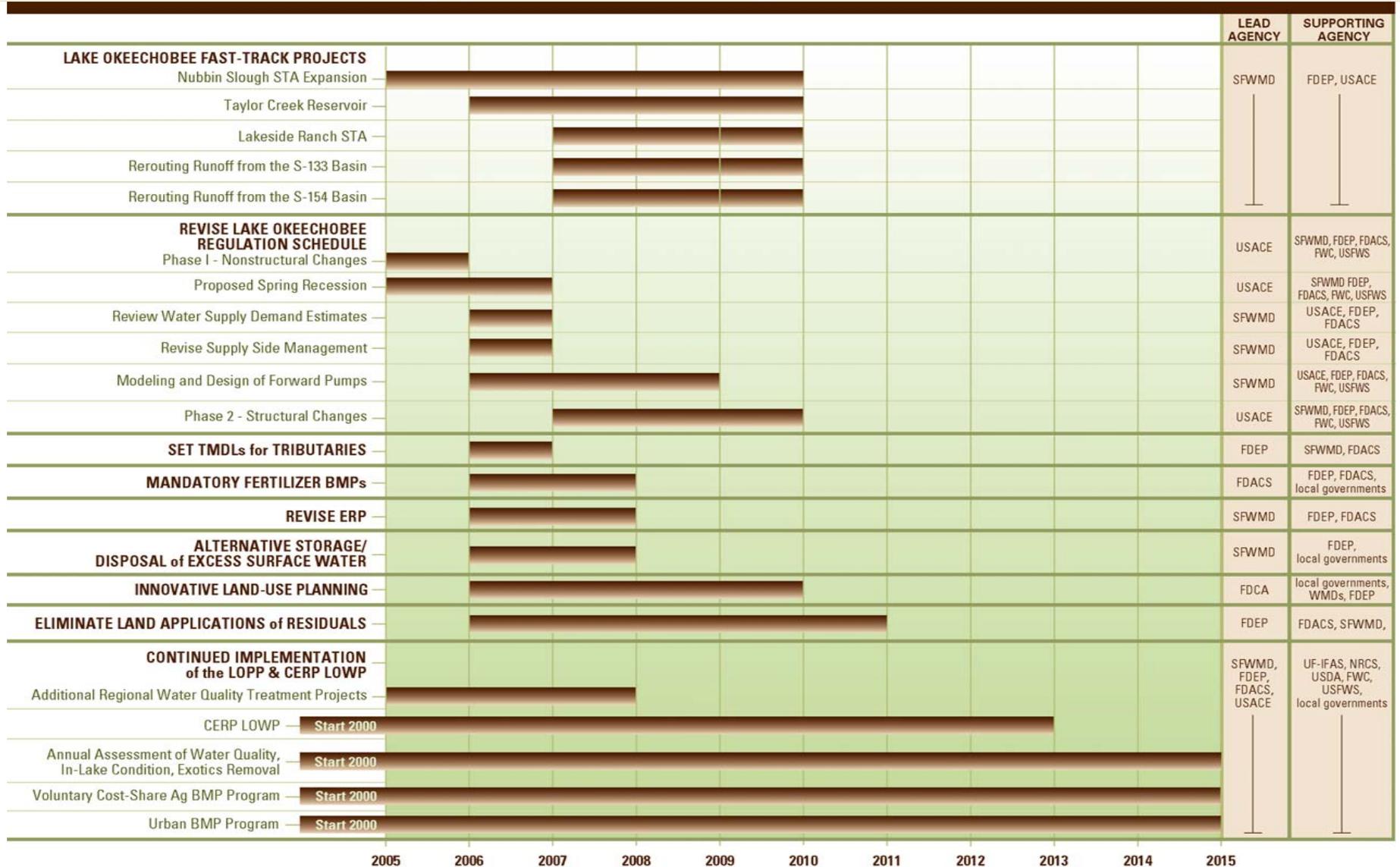
Primary Benefits

- **Improve water quality**
- **Expand water storage**
- **Enhance lake health**
- **Facilitate land acquisition**





Lake Okeechobee & Estuary Recovery Plan



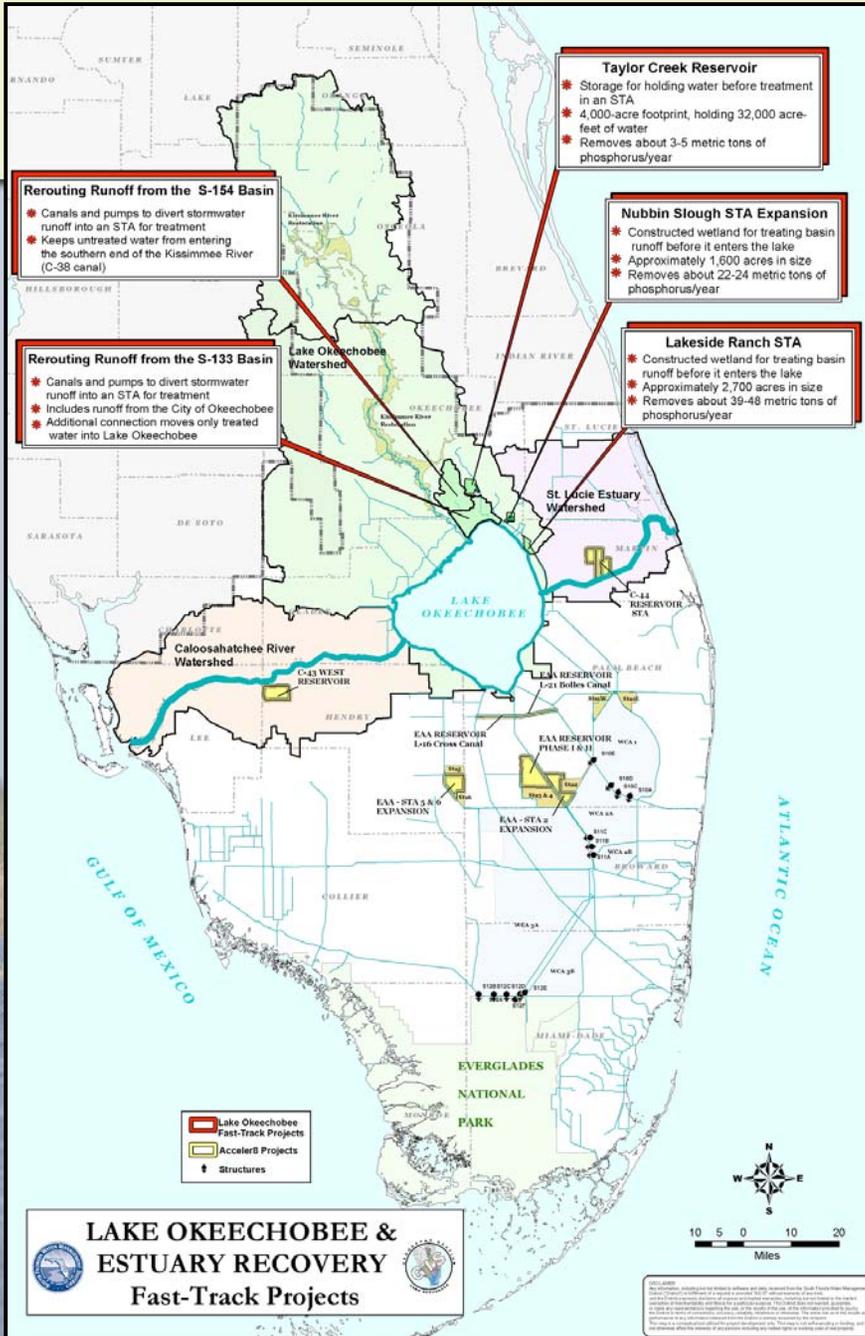


Lake Okeechobee Fast-Track Projects

- **5 construction projects north of Lake Okeechobee**
 - **Nubbin Slough STA Expansion**
 - **Taylor Creek Reservoir**
 - **Lakeside Ranch STA**
 - **Rerouting Runoff from the S-133 Basin**
 - **Rerouting Runoff from the S-154 Basin**

- **Leadership and financial assistance of the Governor and Legislature**





Lake Okeechobee Fast-Track Projects



Lake Okeechobee Fast-Track Projects

Nubbin Slough STA Expansion

- Constructed wetland for treating basin runoff before it enters the lake
- Approximately 1,600 acres in size
- Removes about 22 to 24 metric tons of phosphorus/year





Lake Okeechobee Fast-Track Projects

Taylor Creek

Reservoir

- Storage for holding water before treatment in an STA
- 4,000-acre footprint, holding 32,000 acre-feet of water
- Also removes about 3 to 5 metric tons of phosphorus/ year





Lake Okeechobee Fast-Track Projects

Lakeside Ranch STA

- Constructed wetland for treating basin runoff before it enters the lake
- Approximately 2,700 acres in size
- Removes about 39 to 48 metric tons of phosphorus/year





Lake Okeechobee Fast-Track Projects

Rerouting Runoff from the S-133 Basin

- Canals and pumps to divert stormwater runoff into an STA for treatment
- Rerouting runoff from the City of Okeechobee
- Additional connection moves only treated water into Lake Okeechobee





Lake Okeechobee Fast-Track Projects

Rerouting Runoff from the S-154 Basin

- Canals and pumps to divert stormwater runoff into an STA for treatment
- Keeps untreated water from entering the southern end of the Kissimmee River (C-38 canal)





Remaining Components Will Provide:

Short-Term Relief and Long-Term Protection

- Implement wide-ranging changes in how we:
 - manage lake levels
 - govern land-use changes
 - acquire lands for restoration and protection
 - reduce impacts from fertilization and land application of wastewater treatment plant residuals
- Provide relief in the short term and help maintain progress in the long term





Revise Lake Okeechobee Regulation Schedule

Revise the Lake Okeechobee Regulation Schedule

- Work with U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to revise federal regulation schedule levels
 - Achieve a better balance among lake management objectives





Set TMDLs for Lake Okeechobee Tributaries

TMDLs = Total Maximum Daily Loads

- Speed up development of total maximum daily loads of phosphorus allowed for the Lake Okeechobee watershed tributaries to protect and restore downstream water bodies





Mandatory Fertilizer BMPs

Mandatory Fertilizer Best Management Practices (BMPs):

- Revised application rates for agriculture; low phosphorus for urban use
- Reassess fertilizer application rates for agriculture and encourage the development and use of low phosphorus fertilizer in urban settings





Revise ERP Criteria

Supplement the Environmental Resource Permit (ERP) Criteria

- **Revise the Environmental Resource Permit (ERP) criteria to better address the water quality impacts due to new development and land-use changes within the Kissimmee, Lake Okeechobee, Caloosahatchee Estuary and St. Lucie Estuary watersheds**

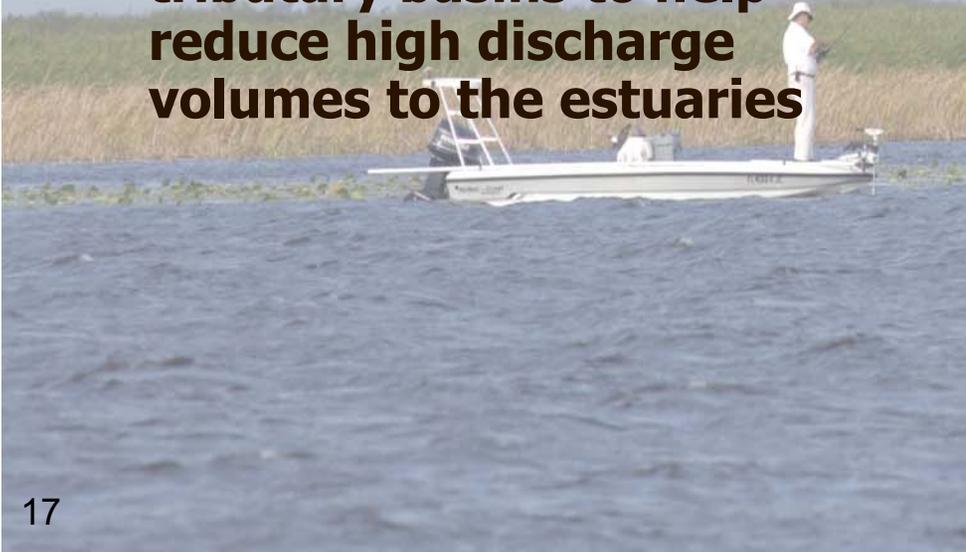




Alternative Storage/Disposal of Excess Surface Water

Options for Storage and/or Disposal of Excess Surface Water

- Identify alternative sites on both public and private lands for moving and storing excess water from the lake and its tributary basins to help reduce high discharge volumes to the estuaries





Innovative Land-Use Planning

Growth Management to Encourage Innovative Land-Use Planning

- Innovative land-use planning techniques, including use of Florida's Rural Land Stewardship Areas Program, to facilitate the acquisition of lands for public works





Eliminate Land Applications of Residuals

Residuals Contain Nutrients that are Imported into Phosphorus-Sensitive Basins

- End the practice of depositing domestic wastewater residuals on land, which can result in excess nutrients getting in tributaries and estuaries





Continued Implementation of the LOPP & CERP LOWP

Continued Implementation of the Lake Okeechobee Protection Program and CERP Lake Okeechobee Watershed Project

- Comprehensive, phased approach already under way to reduce phosphorus loadings and provide water storage to the lake by 2015





Lake Okeechobee & Estuary Recovery Plan Benefits

Improve Water Quality

- Lake Okeechobee Fast-Track Projects
- Revise ERP
- Set TMDLs for Tributaries
- Mandatory Fertilizer BMPs
- Eliminate Land Applications of Residuals
- Continued Implementation of LOPP & CERP LOWP





Lake Okeechobee & Estuary Recovery Plan Benefits

Expand Water Storage

- Lake Okeechobee Fast-Track Projects
- Revise ERP
- Alternative Storage/Disposal of Excess Surface Water
- Continued Implementation of LOPP & CERP LOWP





Lake Okeechobee & Estuary Recovery Plan Benefits

Facilitate Land Acquisition

- Innovative Land-Use Planning

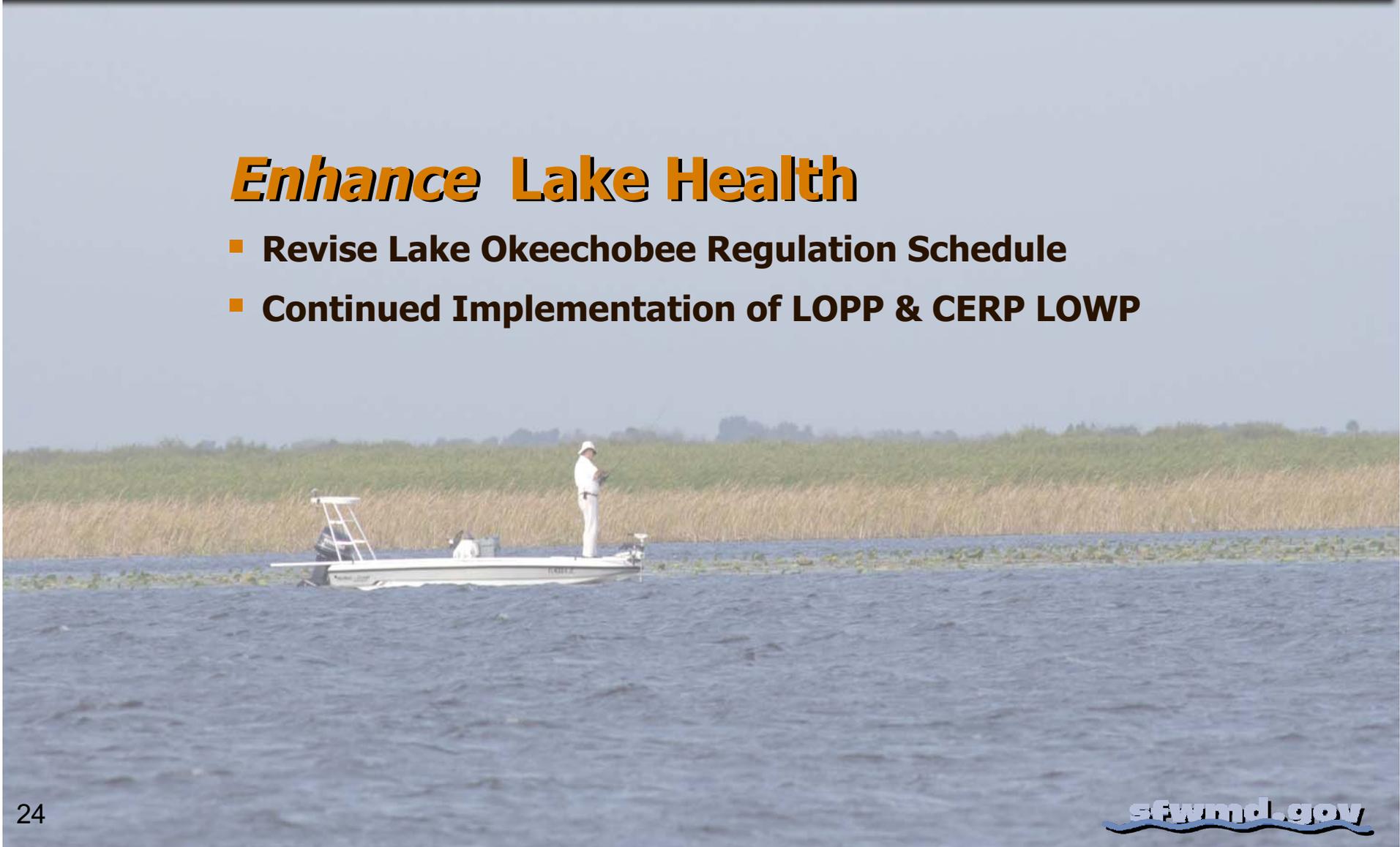




Lake Okeechobee & Estuary Recovery Plan Benefits

Enhance Lake Health

- **Revise Lake Okeechobee Regulation Schedule**
- **Continued Implementation of LOPP & CERP LOWP**





Governor Jeb Bush Unveils LOER Plan



"Lake Okeechobee is the gateway to America's Everglades. Restoring this dynamic system is critical to the long-term economic and environmental health of South Florida."



Governor Jeb Bush Unveils LOER Plan



"Our commitment to protect and restore this vital habitat is unwavering."

October 11, 2005