

SOUTH FLORIDA ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION (SFER) PROGRAM

5-Year Report to Congress

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SOUTH FLORIDA ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION PROGRAM

5-Year Report to Congress - Presentation Outline



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- 1) Purpose
- 2) Background
- 3) Status
- 4) Schedule
- 5) Report Review
- 6) Discussion & Questions



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The purpose of this briefing is to consult with the South Florida Ecosystem Restoration Task Force.



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- Background
 - The 5-year Report to Congress is an update on CERP Implementation
 - The report is required by WRDA 2000 and the Programmatic Regulations
 - Jointly submitted by the Secretary of the Army and the Secretary of the Interior
- Status
 - Consultation is ongoing with EPA, Commerce, Seminole Tribe of Florida, Miccosukee Tribe of Indians of Florida, Florida Department of Environmental Protection, South Florida Water Management District, other Federal, State, and local agencies, and the South Florida Ecosystem Restoration Task Force
 - Team reviews completed in July 2015
 - Corps SAD/HQ reviews completed in September 2015
 - Public and Agency Review completed 4 November 2015



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■ Schedule

- Agency letters of support received 09 December 2015
- Final report complete 11 December 2015
- Final report delivered to Congress 26 January 2016



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- Report Review
 - Accomplishments, 2010-2015
 - Land Acquisition
 - RECOVER & CERP's Science Program
 - Additional Restoration Science Programs
 - Financial Program
 - South Florida Ecosystem Restoration Task Force
 - Public Participation & Stakeholder Engagement
 - Independent Scientific Review
 - The Next Five Years



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Accomplishments, 2010-2015

- Planning

- Central Everglades Planning Project

- Final Project Implementation Report – July 2014
 - Approved Chief's Report – December 2014
 - Signed Record of Decision – August 2015

- Loxahatchee River Watershed Restoration Project

- SMART planning approval – October 2015

- Generation 2 CERP projects authorized in WRRDA 2014

- Biscayne Bay Coastal Wetlands Phase 1
 - Broward County Water Preserve Areas
 - Caloosahatchee River (C-43) West Basin Storage Reservoir
 - C-111 Spreader Canal Western



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Accomplishments, 2010-2015

- Design
 - **Tamiami Trail Next Steps**
 - Everglades National Park, in partnership with Florida Department of Transportation, is leading design and construction
 - **Broward County Water Preserve Areas**
 - Corps and SFWMD are moving forward with design
 - **Caloosahatchee River (C-43) West Basin Storage Reservoir**
 - SFWMD is taking the lead on design and construction
 - **Ten Mile Creek Water Preserve Area**
 - Corps and SFWMD are working towards limited operations to create a functional water storage and treatment area



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Accomplishments, 2010-2015

- Construction
 - Aquifer Storage and Recovery (ASR) Pilot Projects
 - Lakes Park Restoration (Local Sponsor: Lee County)
 - Lakeside Ranch STA
 - State Expedited Construction
 - Indian River Lagoon South, Phase 1
 - Melaleuca Eradication and Other Exotic Plants
 - Picayune Strand Restoration
 - Site 1 Impoundment
 - Biscayne Bay Coastal Wetlands Phase 1
 - State Expedited Construction
 - C-111 Spreader Canal Western Project
 - State Expedited Construction



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Accomplishments, 2010-2015

- Construction
 - Lake Trafford Restoration
 - Southern Corkscrew Regional Ecosystem Watershed
 - Herbert Hoover Dike
 - West Palm Beach Canal STA-1 East / C-51 West
 - Kissimmee River Restoration
 - Modified Water Deliveries to Everglades National Park
 - C-111 South Dade
 - Seminole Big Cypress Reservation Water Conservation Plan
 - SFWMD Restoration Strategies



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Land Acquisition

- The State of Florida, with financial assistance from the USDOJ, USDA, and local governments including St. Lucie, Martin, Palm Beach, Broward, Miami-Dade, and Lee counties, is acquiring lands needed for CERP
- The state has moved forward with land acquisition prior to project authorizations
- Of the 385,000 acres of land needed for potential CERP projects, the State has acquired approximately 65% (249,000 acres) as of December 31, 2014



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RECOVER & CERP's Science Program

- Adaptive Management
 - Adaptive management allows for learning during implementation
- System Status Report
 - During the reporting period, RECOVER produced the 2012 Interim Systems Status Report (SSR) and the 2014 SSR
- Interim Goals and Interim Targets
 - Interim goals provide a means to evaluate restoration success
 - Interim targets are the anticipated incremental improvements we expect to see as restoration is implemented



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Additional Restoration Science Programs

- Invasive and Exotic Species
 - Sustained invasive plant management efforts have substantially reduced some priority invasive plants
 - CEPP PIR was the first to incorporate considerations on how to manage invasive species
 - Early detection and rapid response is critical to increasing the success of minimize invasive species impacts and costs
- Climate Change
 - Everglades restoration must consider how to address the impact of climate change on its unique plant and wildlife diversity
 - Restoration of the Everglades, as envisioned in CERP, is the best defense against the adverse effects of climate change



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Additional Restoration Science Programs

- Regional Environmental Monitoring and Assessment Program
 - USEPA's Everglades Ecosystem Assessment Program measures current and changing conditions for water quality and ecological resources
 - Support from Everglades National Park has made this program possible
 - USEPA's project report will be available next year



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Financial Program

- Over \$1.2 Billion in combined Federal and State funding was provided to support CERP over the past 5 years
 - Includes \$86.796M in ARRA funds received in FY10
 - Fed and State have implemented efforts to control costs, to ensure the cost share balance is maintained
- SFWMD is ahead of the Corps on cost share (53% / 47%)
- CERP Cost estimate is \$17.168 Billion
 - Price level adjustment from the last report (inflation)



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South Florida Ecosystem Restoration Task Force

- Task Force sponsored an intensive public involvement process for expedited planning (CEPP and IDS)
- Resulted in greater public participation than ever before
- Working Group and Science Coordination Group developed a framework for addressing invasive species
 - The framework was developed by members of the Task Force, Working Group, Science Coordination Group, Everglades Cooperative Invasive Species Management Area (ECISMA), and the USDOL's Office of Everglades Restoration Initiatives
 - Efforts now focus on early detection and rapid response



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Public Participation & Stakeholder Engagement

- Project Delivery Team meetings still serve as the primary opportunity for the public and stakeholders to publically comment
- Stakeholder workshops were held for the integrated delivery schedule and CEPP
- The SFWMD Governing Board and Water Resources Advisory Commission continue to serve as forums for public participation



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Independent Scientific Review

- The 2010 report from the Committee on Independent Scientific Review of Everglades Restoration Progress (CISRERP) noted improvements in the pace of restoration
 - Four CERP projects under construction
 - Noted sparse restoration benefits
 - Recommended increasing the pace of CERP implementation
- The 2012 CISRERP report again noted improvements, especially SFWMD Restoration Strategies
- The 2014 CISRERP report recommended revisiting the IDS, giving more priority to research needs, and emphasized the importance of CEPP



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The Next Five Years

■ Anticipated Construction Completions

- Kissimmee River Restoration
- Seminole Tribe Big Cypress Reservation Water Conservation Plan
- Modified Water Deliveries to Everglades National Park
- C-111 South Dade
- West Palm Beach Canal STA-1 East/C-51 West
- Tamiami Trail Next Steps, Phase 1 (2.6 mile bridge)
- Restoration Strategies: L-8 FEB, S-375 Structure Expansion, S-5AS Divide Structure, L-8 Divide Structure
- Indian River Lagoon-South, C-44 Reservoir, STA and Pump Station
- Picayune Strand Restoration
- Site 1 Impoundment, Phase 1
- Biscayne Bay Coastal Wetlands Phase 1 (L-31E Flowway)
- Caloosahatchee River (C-43) West Basin Storage Reservoir (Pump Station and Cell 1)



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The Next Five Years

- Anticipated Construction Underway
 - Herbert Hoover Dike
 - Restoration Strategies: STA-1W Expansion #1
 - Indian River Lagoon-South, C-23/24 Reservoir and Pump Station
 - Biscayne Bay Coastal Wetlands Phase 1, Cutler Wetlands
 - Broward County Water Preserve Areas, C-11 Impoundment and WCA-3A/3B Seepage Management Area
 - Caloosahatchee River (C-43) West Basin Storage Reservoir, Cell 2
 - Central Everglades Planning Project, South



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The Next Five Years

- Anticipated Planning Effort Completions
 - Lake Okeechobee Watershed Project
 - Loxahatchee River Watershed Restoration Project
 - Western Everglades Restoration Project

- Anticipated Project Partnership Agreements
 - Caloosahatchee River (C-43) West Basin Storage Reservoir
 - Biscayne Bay Coastal Wetlands – Phase 1
 - Broward County Water Preserve Areas
 - C-111 Spreader Canal Western Project
 - Central Everglades Planning Project

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Questions and Discussion

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