

# *Cross-Cut Budget*

## *Task Force Working Document*

*Fiscal Year 2014*  
*South Florida Ecosystem Restoration Program*



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# *Section 1.0*

## *Overview*

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## **Section 1.0: Introduction**

### **Section 1.1: Overview**

The information in this document is reported annually by the members of the South Florida Ecosystem Restoration Task Force (Task Force) and Working Group. It consists of three sections. Section 1.0 provides an overview and includes summary tables for the federal and state budget requests.

Section 2.0 provides detailed information concerning the federal Everglades Ecosystem restoration projects and funding. Section 2.1 addresses the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (CERP) projects and funding and Section 2.2 addresses non-CERP projects and funding. The base program and operational funding requests for some federal agencies are not included in the document.

Section 3.0 provides the detailed information concerning state Everglades Ecosystem restoration projects and funding. Section 3.1 addresses CERP projects and funding, and Section 3.2 addresses non-CERP projects and funding. The Fiscal Year (FY) 2013/14 totals shown represent estimates for the South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD). When finalized the FY 2013/14 actual budget totals for SFWMD will be posted on the Task Force website: [www.sfrestore.org](http://www.sfrestore.org).

### **Section 1.2: Federal and State of Florida Funding Summary Tables**

The following tables provide a summary of the detailed funding information found in Sections 2.0 and 3.0 of this document. Table 1 includes budget information provided by federal members and Table 2 includes budget information provided by the State of Florida members.

The funding for the federal agencies and the SFWMD reflects a fiscal year that begins on October 1 and ends on September 30 of each year. The funding for other state agencies reflects a fiscal year that starts on July 1 and ends on June 30 of each year.

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TABLE 1: FEDERAL FUNDING SUMMARY (ACTUAL \$)

EVERGLADES ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION PROJECTS	FY 2002 Enacted	FY 2003 Enacted	FY 2004 Enacted	FY 2005 Enacted	FY 2006 Enacted	FY 2007 Enacted	FY 2008 Enacted	FY 2009 Enacted	FY 2010 Enacted	FY 2011 Enacted	FY 2012 Enacted	FY 2013 Enacted	FY 2014 Requested
<b>COMPREHENSIVE EVERGLADES RESTORATION PROGRAM (CERP)</b>													
USACE - CERP (Part of Central and Southern Florida) <sup>1,3,4</sup>	27,961,000	37,062,000	39,063,000	64,446,000	62,610,000 <sup>2</sup>	64,000,000	64,000,000	83,640,000	119,966,000	117,525,000	57,886,000	75,902,240	56,791,000
USACE - CERP (American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009)								1,100,000	86,796,000				
USACE - CERP O&M <sup>1</sup>											330,000	309,744	1,965,000
USDOJ - NPS CERP <sup>9</sup>	5,544,000	5,513,000	5,463,000	5,213,000	5,174,000	5,212,000	5,132,000	5,108,000	5,198,000	5,150,000	5,101,000	4,854,000	5,174,000
USDOJ - FWS CERP	3,351,000	3,329,000	3,309,000	3,304,000	3,269,000	3,269,000	3,251,000	3,251,000	3,251,000	3,251,000	3,246,000	3,029,000	3,246,000
<b>NON-COMPREHENSIVE EVERGLADES RESTORATION PROGRAM (CERP)</b>													
USACE - Central and Southern Florida (excluding CERP) <sup>1,3,4</sup>	64,949,000	49,983,000	64,906,000	8,029,000	9,126,000	6,447,000	14,505,000	9,075,000	10,600,000	34,805,000	35,986,000	12,800,000	18,100,000
USACE - Non-CERP O&M							590,000	731,000	1,278,000	1,075,000	4,842,000	6,995,527	7,088,000
USACE - Non-CERP American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009									7,516,000				
USACE - Critical Projects <sup>3,4</sup>	19,876,000	19,526,000	14,760,000	25,813,000	11,880,000	8,289,000	8,156,000	3,472,000	2,725,000	5,170,000	3,000,000	0	975,000
USACE - Kissimmee River Restoration <sup>3,4</sup>	25,846,000	23,727,000	17,616,000	17,871,000	13,042,000	50,264,000	30,968,000	28,361,000	44,673,000	6,986,000	45,614,000	0	12,134,000
USACE - Biscayne Bay <sup>3</sup>	240,000	200,000	0	74,000	0	0	0	239,000	0	0	0		
USACE - Modified Water Deliveries <sup>4</sup>					34,650,000	35,000,000	9,840,000	0	0	0	0		
USDA - ARS	4,846,900	5,216,800	5,415,100	6,101,000	4,908,600	4,941,000	4,754,500	4,764,700	4,865,000	4,797,600	4,660,300	3,443,300	3,610,660
USDA - NRCS	37,752,000	21,376,000	23,580,000	62,539,337 <sup>5</sup>	61,505,271 <sup>5</sup>	5,143,335	13,240,175	61,017,879	154,409,000	111,522,600	69,574,473 <sup>10</sup>	69,519,744	65,000,000
US Department of Commerce - NOAA	4,065,000	4,065,000	4,359,000	4,389,000	3,000,000	3,000,000	3,000,000	3,000,000	1,910,000	1,648,778	724,716	309,000	309,000
USDOJ - NPS Park Management	23,635,000	23,874,000	23,991,000	25,266,000	25,832,000	26,377,000	28,481,000	29,852,000	31,400,000	30,441,000	29,611,000	27,827,000	30,191,000
USDOJ - South Florida Ecosystem Restoration Task Force	1,325,000	1,320,000	1,308,000	1,290,000	1,286,000	1,307,000	1,303,000	1,303,000	1,320,000	1,317,000	1,303,000	1,234,000	1,322,000
USDOJ - NPS Everglades Research (Critical Ecosystem Studies Initiative)	4,000,000	3,974,000	3,937,000	3,882,000	3,840,000	3,864,000	3,849,000	3,849,000	3,873,000	3,865,000	3,822,000	3,620,000	3,831,000
USDOJ - NPS Modified Water Deliveries	35,199,000 <sup>6</sup>	9,935,000	12,830,000	7,965,000	24,962,000 <sup>7</sup>	13,330,000	14,299,000	60,000,000	8,400,000	8,000,000	7,987,000	8,000,000	0

EVERGLADES ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION PROJECTS	FY 2002 Enacted	FY 2003 Enacted	FY 2004 Enacted	FY 2005 Enacted	FY 2006 Enacted	FY 2007 Enacted	FY 2008 Enacted	FY 2009 Enacted	FY 2010 Enacted	FY 2011 Enacted	FY 2012 Enacted	FY 2013 Enacted	FY 2014 Requested
USDOJ - NPS Big Cypress Sustainable Trail System										3,552,000	2,669,000	0	0
USDOJ - NPS Tamiami Trail Bridging													30,000,000
USDOJ - NPS American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009								15,873,000	0	0	0		0
USDOJ - NPS Federal Land Acquisition Projects											30,511,000		0
USDOJ - NPS Land Acquisition (management)	2,800,000	2,782,000	1,800,000	1,500,000	690,000	500,000	750,000	730,000	775,000	775,000	634,000	685,000	700,000
USDOJ - NPS Land Acquisition Grants to Florida	15,000,000	15,421,000	(5,000,000) <sup>8</sup>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
USDOJ - FWS Ecological Services	2,554,000	2,537,000	2,523,000	2,518,000	2,516,000	2,521,000	2,475,000	2,475,000	2,475,000	2,475,000	2,913,000	2,718,000	2,913,000
USDOJ - FWS Refuges and Wildlife	3,706,000	3,682,000	9,784,000	4,787,000	4,086,000	4,086,000	4,022,000	4,022,000	4,022,000	4,022,000	4,016,000	3,747,000	4,016,000
USDOJ - FWS Migratory Birds					101,000	101,000	99,000	99,000	99,000	99,000	99,000	92,000	99,000
USDOJ - FWS Law Enforcement	636,000	632,000	628,000	627,000	619,000	619,000	609,000	609,000	609,000	609,000	608,000	568,000	608,000
USDOJ - FWS Fisheries	100,000	99,000	98,000	99,000	95,000	95,000	92,000	92,000	92,000	92,000	92,000	86,000	92,000
USDOJ - FWS American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009								2,173,000	0	0	0	0	0
USDOJ - FWS Land Acquisition <sup>11</sup>	8,500,000	2,484,000	0	740,000	0	0	1,028,000	0	0	0	1,989,500	3,000,000	5,000,000
USDOJ - USGS - Integrated Research, Planning and Interagency Coordination	8,636,000	7,847,000	7,847,000	7,738,000	7,771,000	7,042,062	6,800,000	6,907,000	6,907,000	6,893,000	6,882,000	6,525,000	7,882,000
USDOJ - BIA	396,000	393,000	539,000	536,000	382,000	382,000	390,000	390,000	390,000	390,000	390,000	370,000	390,000
US EPA	4,666,800	3,352,100	3,139,600	2,882,300	3,439,400	3,683,000	2,009,000	2,161,000	2,168,000	1,653,000	2,058,000	1,646,000	1,704,000

**TABLE 2: FEDERAL FUNDING SUMMARY (ACTUAL \$)**

	FY 2002 Enacted	FY 2003 Enacted	FY 2004 Enacted	FY 2005 Enacted	FY 2006 Enacted	FY 2007 Enacted	FY 2008 Enacted	FY 2009 Enacted	FY 2010 Enacted	FY 2011 Enacted	FY 2012 Enacted	FY 2013 Enacted	FY 2014 Requested
<b>CERP Total (USACE and USDOJ)</b>	36,856,000	45,904,000	47,835,000	72,963,000	71,053,000	72,481,000	72,383,000	93,099,000	215,211,000	125,926,000	66,563,000	84,094,984	67,176,000
<b>Non-CERP Subtotal (USACE and USDOJ)</b>	217,398,000	168,416,000	157,567,000	108,735,000	140,878,000	160,224,062	128,256,000	170,252,000	127,154,000	110,566,000	182,968,000	78,267,527	125,341,000
<b>Non-CERP Subtotal (Other Federal Agencies)</b>	51,330,700	34,009,900	36,493,700	75,911,637	72,853,271	16,767,335	23,003,675	70,943,579	163,352,000	119,621,978	77,017,489	74,918,044	70,623,660
<b>Non-CERP Total (All Federal Agencies)</b>	268,728,700	202,425,900	194,060,700	184,646,637	213,731,271	176,991,397	151,259,675	241,195,579	290,506,000	230,187,978	259,985,989	153,185,571	195,964,660
<b>TOTAL CERP AND NON-CERP (USACE AND USDOJ)</b>	<b>254,254,000</b>	<b>214,320,000</b>	<b>205,402,000</b>	<b>181,698,000</b>	<b>211,931,000</b>	<b>232,705,062</b>	<b>200,639,000</b>	<b>263,351,000</b>	<b>342,365,000</b>	<b>236,492,000</b>	<b>249,492,000</b>	<b>162,362,511</b>	<b>192,517,000</b>
<b>TOTAL CERP AND NON-CERP (ALL FEDERAL AGENCIES)</b>	<b>305,584,700</b>	<b>248,329,900</b>	<b>241,895,700</b>	<b>257,609,637</b>	<b>284,784,271</b>	<b>249,472,397</b>	<b>223,642,675</b>	<b>334,294,579</b>	<b>505,717,000</b>	<b>356,113,978</b>	<b>326,548,989</b>	<b>237,280,555</b>	<b>263,140,660</b>

Note: Base program and operational funding requests for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, U.S. Department of Commerce, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers are not included in the information provided within this Cross-Cut Budget Working Document.

**Footnotes:**

<sup>1</sup> USACE CERP activities are part of the Central and Southern Florida Project (C&SF), but are presented separately from other C&SF activities.

<sup>2</sup> USACE FY 2006 Enacted reflects reductions for rescission and congressionally directed funding for the C&SF Upper St. Johns River project.

<sup>3</sup> Enacted numbers for USACE reflect reductions for any rescissions, but do not account for reductions due to savings and slippage. FY 2013 numbers reflect approved work allowances.

<sup>4</sup> Beginning with the FY 2006 Budget Request these projects are now included as part of one Corps of Engineers line item referred to as the "South Florida Everglades Ecosystem Restoration" Program.

<sup>5</sup> Enacted numbers for FY 2005 and FY 2006 reflect additional Emergency Watershed Protection Program funding due to hurricanes.

<sup>6</sup> Reflects \$19,199,000 for construction and \$16,000,000 for land acquisition.

<sup>7</sup> Includes the transfer of \$17 million in unobligated balances from the USDOJ- NPS Federal Land Acquisition to NPS Construction to further the Modified Water Deliveries project.

<sup>8</sup> Reflects the transfer of \$5,000,000 in prior year balances from the USDOJ - NPS Land Acquisition Account to the USDOJ - FWS Resource Management Account.

<sup>9</sup> NPS CERP funding includes GSA space rental costs in the following amounts: FY 2004 - \$741,000; FY 2005 - \$556,000; FY 2006 - \$554,000; FY 2007 - \$554,000; FY 2008 - \$475,000; FY 2009 - \$409,000; FY 2010 - \$409,000; FY 2011 - \$409,000; FY 2012 - \$410,000; FY 2013 - \$410,000; FY 2014 - \$410,000

<sup>10</sup> All Wetlands Reserve Program funding amounts for FY 2012 are not available at this time. The table will be updated as appropriate when data is available.

<sup>11</sup> Enacted number for 2012 reflects a reprogramming within the FWS land acquisition account for acquisition at the Everglades Headwaters National Wildlife Refuge and Conservation Area.

**TABLE 3: STATE OF FLORIDA FUNDING SUMMARY TABLE (ACTUAL \$)**

<b>EVERGLADES ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION PROJECTS</b>	<b>FY 2001-02 Enacted</b>	<b>FY 2002-03 Enacted</b>	<b>FY 2003-04 Enacted</b>	<b>FY 2004-05 Enacted</b>	<b>FY 2005-06 Enacted</b>	<b>FY 2006-07 Enacted</b>	<b>2007-08 Enacted</b>	<b>2008-09 Enacted</b>	<b>2009-10 Enacted</b>	<b>2010-11 Enacted</b>	<b>2011-12 Enacted</b>	<b>FY 2012-13 Enacted</b>	<b>FY 2013-14 Requested</b>
<b>COMPREHENSIVE EVERGLADES RESTORATION PROGRAM (CERP)</b>													
Florida Department of Environmental Protection	90,380,949	150,279,126	105,586,702	128,972,634	128,637,628	136,615,473	102,093,964	57,205,964	48,590,234	51,808,839	31,006,243	28,527,828	73,164,611
Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission	411,000	409,000	419,000	336,359	336,359	0	0	4,465,301	2,722,651	1,496,946	1,640,302	1,187,999	2,001,704
South Florida Water Management District	91,708,816 <sup>1</sup>	133,284,645 <sup>1</sup>	107,887,469 <sup>1</sup>	101,119,569 <sup>1</sup>	253,715,473 <sup>1</sup>	507,980,226 <sup>1</sup>	411,690,864 <sup>1</sup>	114,260,439 <sup>1</sup>	106,295,718 <sup>1</sup>	227,062,828 <sup>2</sup>	52,664,417 <sup>2</sup>	66,537,245	53,029,031
<b>NON- COMPREHENSIVE EVERGLADES RESTORATION PROGRAM (CERP)</b>													
Florida Department of Agriculture/Consumer Services	7,608,917	15,523,202	16,215,100	8,531,378	5,132,269	6,928,051 <sup>3</sup>	6,000,000 <sup>3</sup>	3,000,000 <sup>3</sup>	3,000,000 <sup>3</sup>	3,000,000 <sup>3</sup>	3,000,000 <sup>3</sup>	3,000,000 <sup>3</sup>	5,000,000 <sup>3</sup>
Florida Department of Community Affairs	15,314,720	51,580,680	29,781,074	31,349,633	23,340,316	24,252,571	24,499,270	31,616,692	TBD <sup>4</sup>	TBD <sup>4</sup>	0 <sup>4</sup>	0 <sup>4</sup>	0 <sup>4</sup>
Florida Department of Environmental Protection	72,654,344	109,393,692	92,364,834	102,222,540	176,467,770	408,365,782	203,236,072	78,118,780	47,179,935	21,058,307	24,901,512	29,750,012	63,080,365
Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission	19,681,000	21,306,000	25,729,000	27,466,653	27,579,153	27,579,153	28,682,319	4,714,329	54,582,358	43,409,812	55,075,189	57,355,349	40,209,004
Florida Department of Transportation	4,931,000	10,528,832	1,940,300	7,905,314	5,400,000	14,375,043	9,453,057	9,766,285	18,004,018	5,812,246	20,173,349	11,619,604	12,965,410
South Florida Water Management District	395,314,127 <sup>1</sup>	372,701,387 <sup>1</sup>	381,868,047 <sup>1</sup>	299,820,508 <sup>1</sup>	316,312,557 <sup>1</sup>	478,050,397 <sup>1</sup>	420,993,975 <sup>1</sup>	675,800,502 <sup>1</sup>	1,113,120,018 <sup>1</sup>	604,593,751 <sup>2</sup>	400,383,460	366,512,069	420,070,575
<b>CERP SUBTOTAL:</b>	<b>182,500,765</b>	<b>283,972,771</b>	<b>213,893,171</b>	<b>230,428,562</b>	<b>382,689,460</b>	<b>644,595,699</b>	<b>513,784,828</b>	<b>175,931,704</b>	<b>157,608,603</b>	<b>280,368,613</b>	<b>85,310,962</b>	<b>96,263,072</b>	<b>128,195,346</b>
<b>NON-CERP SUBTOTAL:</b>	<b>515,504,108</b>	<b>581,033,793</b>	<b>547,898,355</b>	<b>477,296,026</b>	<b>554,232,065</b>	<b>959,550,997</b>	<b>692,864,693</b>	<b>803,016,588</b>	<b>1,235,886,329</b>	<b>677,874,116</b>	<b>503,533,510</b>	<b>468,237,034</b>	<b>541,325,354</b>
<b>STATE OF FLORIDA FUNDING TOTAL:</b>	<b>698,004,873</b>	<b>865,006,564</b>	<b>761,791,526</b>	<b>707,724,588</b>	<b>936,921,525</b>	<b>1,604,146,696</b>	<b>1,206,649,521</b>	<b>978,948,292</b>	<b>1,393,494,932</b>	<b>958,242,729</b>	<b>588,844,472</b>	<b>564,500,106</b>	<b>669,520,700</b>

**Footnotes:**

<sup>1</sup> Reflects SFWMD adopted budget appropriations less any state and federal funds.

<sup>2</sup> Reflects SFWMD adopted budget appropriations less any River of Grass project funds which are accounted for in the Non-CERP Everglades Ecosystem Restoration Projects category.

<sup>3</sup> The number reflected does not include Forestry's contribution for FY 2006-07, FY 2007-08, FY 2008-09, FY 2009-10, and FY 2010-11.

<sup>4</sup> Senate Bill 2156 (Chapter 2011-142, Laws of Florida) downsized Florida Department of Community Affairs (DCA). As a result, we will no longer be reporting DCA's budget information.

## *Section 2.0*

# *Federal Everglades Ecosystem Restoration Projects and Funding*

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## **Section 2.1: Federal Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (CERP) Projects and Funding (\$67,176,000)**

### **U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Construction (\$56,791,000)**

Congress authorized the CERP in the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) of 2000. The objective of the program is to restore, protect, and preserve the South Florida Ecosystem, while providing for other water related needs of the region. The CERP includes numerous projects that work together to achieve the plan's restoration goals. WRDA 2000 requires the completion of Project Implementation Reports (PIRs) for these projects. The PIRs provide further information on plan formulation and evaluation, engineering and design, estimated benefits and costs, and environmental effects of planned restoration activities. The PIRs serve to bridge the gap between the conceptual level of detail contained in the CERP and the detailed design plans and specifications required to proceed with construction. Additionally, Congress authorized three projects in WRDA 2007. Authorized projects included the Indian River Lagoon South, Picayune Strand Restoration, and the Site 1 Impoundment projects.

From a project perspective, the major focus of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE or Corps) FY 2014 activities includes continuing construction on the Picayune Strand Project and the Site 1 Impoundment Phase 1 project; continuing construction on the Indian River Lagoon South project features at C-44; completion of detailed design on pilot projects, including the testing and monitoring of aquifer storage and recovery; completion of one PIR, the Central Everglades Planning Project (CEPP); continuation of other ongoing PIRs; and continuation of project adaptive assessment and monitoring activities used to monitor the effects of projects as they are implemented.

From a program perspective, FY 2014 CERP activities include continuation of Restoration Coordination and Verification (RECOVER), an inter-agency scientific group charged with system-wide assessments of planned and completed projects as well as with programmatic level activities. RECOVER's science-based activities include evaluation and assessment on the performance of the CERP, review of the effects that other restoration projects may have on CERP, and provision of a system-wide perspective throughout the restoration process. Other program level activities include continued reassessment of project sequencing to optimize delivery of benefits as contained in the Integrated Delivery Schedule.

### **U.S. Army Corps of Engineers CERP Operations & Maintenance (\$1,965,000)**

The WRDA 2000 authorized the cost of operation, maintenance, repair, replacement, and rehabilitation (OMRR&R) of CERP projects be cost shared 50/50 between the USACE and the non-federal sponsor. The FY 2014 Operation and Maintenance (O&M) activities includes reimbursement to the non-federal sponsor (subject to availability of federal funds) for Picayune Strand Merritt pump station and Melaleuca Eradication Facility costs related to OMRR&R. The

Picayune Strand pump stations, in conjunction with the spreader canals, will be used to restore the former wetlands to the south while maintaining the level of flood protection to the north. The O&M activities for the Melaleuca Eradication and Other Exotic Plants project includes the purposeful introduction of natural enemies (biocontrols) to weaken and suppress invading plants in the South Florida Ecosystem and Everglades. The rearing, releasing, and monitoring of exotic plant biocontrols during the O&M phase will facilitate the restoration, preservation, and protection of the South Florida Ecosystem. By managing invasive exotic plant species and strengthening the ability of native plant species to survive, improvements will be provided to the degraded natural habitat.

### **U.S. Department of the Interior - National Park Service (\$5,174,000)**

The CERP is a multi-decadal framework and guide to restore, protect, and preserve the water resources of central and southern Florida. Projects affecting National Park Service (NPS) lands and waters occur in phases through the end of CERP implementation. The NPS works with the Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) and the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) to support CERP projects through the development of restoration performance measures and quantitative evaluations of the environmental benefits of proposed actions.

CERP projects will have significant effects on Big Cypress National Preserve (BCNP), Biscayne National Park (BNP), and Everglades National Park (ENP). The NPS continues to concentrate on projects that are essential to the restoration of federal lands in south Florida. The NPS actively participates in the project teams for such projects including seepage management in the L-30/L-31N Canals, early features in the Water Conservation Area (WCA) 3 Decompartamentalization and Sheetflow Enhancement, the C-111 Spreader Canal project, Biscayne Bay Coastal Wetlands, and the CEPP. The NPS also supports work on important, large-scale projects that are critical precursors to CERP. The implementation of these foundation projects is required for the CERP plan to achieve significant restoration benefits.

To support these project-level activities, the NPS, in cooperation with other federal, state, and local partners, is implementing a Monitoring and Assessment Plan for CERP, which will provide the information to determine the ecological effects and overall restoration success of CERP projects. Additionally, the NPS will continue to participate in RECOVER, the interagency group responsible for science input to the CERP.

Finally, the NPS will continue to participate in the U.S. Department of Interior's (DOI) formal requirements on programmatic activities including: updates to the CERP Programmatic Regulations; Guidance Memoranda to formalize how CERP projects will be built, operated, and evaluated; interim goals that will be used to track restoration progress and provide five-year status reports to Congress; and the identification of the appropriate quantity, timing, and distribution of water that will be produced, and pursuant to Federal and State law, dedicated and managed for the natural system.

The CERP planned activities for FY 2014 include:

- For federal projects, the program will continue to represent the NPS on technical issues related to CERP programmatic regulations, interim goals, and guidance memoranda. For State of Florida projects, the program will continue to represent the NPS on the establishment of initial reservations, minimum flows and levels, and water supply planning.
- The program will participate in the development of the water operations plan for the Modified Water Deliveries (MWD) project, will track implementation of the one-mile bridge component, and will work on remaining issues regarding full implementation of the MWD project, including technical support to such issues as land acquisition. Staff will also engage in the implementation of a modified monitoring program to assess the effects of the constructed MWD project on NPS lands and resources.
- The program will continue to work with the State of Florida and the Corps to provide a focus on the CEPP, which is a CERP component. A USACE Record of Decision for the project is expected in early FY 2014.
- The Tamiami Trail Next Steps Project:
  - The program will continue to provide technical support and briefings to management concerning the authorized Tamiami Trail Next Steps Project (TTNS). The full TTNS project is designed to provide for 5.5 miles of additional bridging and for the raising of the remainder of the highway corridor to achieve the restoration goals of Public Law 111-8, the Omnibus Appropriations Act, 2009.
  - In FY 2014, the program will continue to provide project management oversight within the NPS to develop a design/build contracting package for the first phase of the TTNS project, which would construct 2.6 miles of bridge and associated road raising designed to work in concert with the CEPP.
- For Everglades water quality, the program would:
  - Continue to track the water quality improvements from completion of STAs that are part of the State's Everglades Construction Project (ECP).
  - Continue to provide technical support to DOI and the Department of Justice processes that pertain to the quality of water entering the Everglades.
  - Participate in the technical processes to design and schedule the Restoration Strategies Science Plan, to be implemented in conjunction with the construction of new water quality treatment areas contained in the State of Florida's Restoration Strategies plan for water quality.
  - Update and analyze an expanded suite of water quality computer models, and utilize these tools in analyses of the combined effects of water quality projects and water flow projects on DOI resources in the Everglades. This work is critical to the implementation of the above water flow projects, as the water must be clean as it is delivered to the Everglades via the CEPP and bridging projects.
- For additional large scale projects that affect NPS resources and link with restoration projects (for example, the planned nuclear plant expansion and transmission corridor of

the Florida Power and Light Company), staff will continue to participate in planning efforts, tracking the progress of the project and providing environmental analyses of impacts on NPS resources.

- For implemented projects (portions of the C-111 South Dade project, water operations plans, state-funded portion of the C-111 Spreader Canal project), the program will continue to support the technical needs of these projects and will track and begin to report on the effects of these changes on NPS natural resources.
  - For ecosystem restoration projects currently being constructed (elements of the C-111 South Dade project, Tamiami Trail one-mile bridge, Biscayne Bay Coastal Wetlands project), the program will track and analyze implementation, report on progress, and monitor changes in design or operations that develop during implementation.
  - For CEPP and water operations for the MWD project, staff will participate in interagency project design and will provide evaluation reports and other technical and scientific input for these projects.
  - NPS staff will participate in weekly consultations with water operations staff at the implementing agencies and provide technical input on park resources for use in managing the short-term operations of the Central and Southern Florida (C&SF) system.

### **U.S. Department of the Interior - U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (\$3,246,000)**

The FY 2014 request for CERP implementation will support approximately 30 full-time employees that actively serve on planning teams for all CERP and non-CERP restoration projects initiated by the Corps. This will enable the FWS to fulfill its Trust Resource responsibilities under the Endangered Species Act (ESA), Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act, Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA), and other statutes as well as the CERP Programmatic Regulations as part of the restoration effort. The FWS is an integral planning partner in formulating alternatives, designing, assessing and monitoring, and adaptively managing CERP project components during its implementation. The FWS is responsible for providing environmental expertise to the Corps and the SFWMD. The FWS also is involved in guiding Everglades restoration at a system-wide scale through the following activities: biannual system status reports, participation in RECOVER activities, River of Grass Initiative, and System Operating Manual.

In FY 2014, the FWS will participate in the development and execution of the following projects: Central Everglades Planning Project, Kissimmee River Restoration, Kissimmee Chain of Lakes Modified Water Control Plan, C-43 Reservoir, Indian River Lagoon, Picayune Strand Restoration Project, Herbert Hoover Dike Rehabilitation, and other major restoration projects. These activities will include assistance in plan formulation and ecological benefit analysis, ESA Section 7 consultation, recovery plan implementation, monitoring and adaptive management, restoration and management activities on DOI lands, CERP project planning, preparation of Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act Reports, system-wide water quality improvement, land acquisition, migratory bird and fisheries conservation, and a myriad of multi-agency planning, science, and outreach efforts. As a recognized leader in the science of ecosystem restoration, the FWS participates as the biological and ecological expert and is an integral planning and

implementation partner in the CERP to ensure that ecosystem benefits are maximized consistent with long-term CERP project goals. The FWS will design features and project components that maximize natural resource benefits through active participation throughout the restoration planning process.

## Section 2.2: Federal Non-CERP Everglades Ecosystem Restoration Projects and Funding (\$195,964,600)

### U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Construction (\$31,209,000)

#### **Central and Southern Florida Project (\$18,100,000)**

*NOTE: The \$18,100,000 indicated above does not reflect \$56,791,000 in funding requested for CERP projects, which is reported in Section 2.1.*

#### ***South Dade County, C-111 Project***

This project consists of modifications to the C&SF Project to provide more natural hydrologic conditions in Taylor Slough and to minimize damaging flood releases to Barnes Sound/Manatee Bay, while maintaining flood protection for adjacent agricultural lands. The FY 2014 activities include negotiation and execution of the amendment to the Project Partnership Agreement and completion of design.

#### ***West Palm Beach Canal, Canal-51/Stormwater Treatment Area 1 East Project***

This project consists of design and construction of the C-51/STA 1E project to provide flood control for the western C-51 basin, provide water quality enhancement, and restore a portion of the historic Everglades flows. FY 2014 activities include continuation of the STA 1E culvert repairs and completion of construction of the trash rake system repair work for the S-319.

#### **Everglades and South Florida Ecosystem Restoration Critical Projects (\$975,000)**

This program involves the implementation of "critical restoration projects" authorized in Section 528 of WRDA 1996, as modified by WRDA 2007, Section 6006. FY 2014 efforts include continuation of construction for the Basin 2 feature on the Seminole Big Cypress project.

#### **Kissimmee River Restoration (\$12,134,000)**

This project involves restoring the historic habitat in much of the Kissimmee River floodplain and restoring water-level fluctuations and seasonal discharges from Lakes Kissimmee, Cypress, and Hatchineha in the upper basin. The FY 2014 activities include initiation of the construction contract for the Reach 2 canal backfill including the MacArthur ditch portion, initiation of construction for the Reach 3 backfill, and, continued construction of the gated spillway at S-65EX1.

### **Modified Water Deliveries (MWD) to Everglades National Park**

The MWD project involves construction of modifications to the C&SF Project water management system and related operational changes to provide improved water deliveries to ENP. The project consists of structural features with the intended purpose of restoring conveyance between WCAs north of ENP and the Shark River Slough within the park. It will also provide flood mitigation to the 8.5 Square Mile Area, a residential area adjacent to the park expansion boundary in the East Everglades. The FY 2014 activities include completion of construction on the Tamiami Trail (Eastern Segment) to improve the historic flow of Shark River Slough to ENP.

### **U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Non-CERP Operations & Maintenance (\$7,088,000)**

Operations and maintenance work performed at most of the facilities listed below is the responsibility of non-federal sponsors, with the Corps providing reimbursement for the federal share of associated costs. The locks and water control structures that have been modified to prevent manatee injuries, however, are all federally operated structures.

### **Central and Southern Florida (C&SF) Project**

#### ***Manatee Pass Gates***

The Manatee Pass Gates project is located in southeast Florida at selected Okeechobee Waterway and C&SF Project navigation locks and water control structures. These locks and water control structures are located in areas that are within West Indian Manatee (a federally-listed endangered species) habitat. The Manatee Pass Gates use a set of acoustic transmitters and receivers to prevent the gates from closing and harming these protected animals. FY 2014 funding would be used for maintenance of these structures.

#### ***C-111 South Dade***

Operations of the C-111 South Dade project will maintain existing flood protection, minimize damaging freshwater discharges, and restore more natural hydrologic conditions to ENP. The USACE provides 60 percent of the O&M funding required for the annual pumping, including fuel, lubricants, proportional depreciation and repairs, and operating labor. FY 2014 activities include maintenance and operation of the pump stations 332B, 332C, and 332D as well as provision of required proportional depreciation payments to the non-federal sponsor.

#### ***Everglades and South Florida Ecosystem Restoration (Critical Projects) Seminole Big Cypress***

The project includes basins that may include irrigation storage cells, water resource areas (similar in function to an Stormwater Treatment Area or STA), a stormwater cell, pump stations for transferring water, canals for distribution, and inverted siphons to carry effluent under the West Feeder Canal into the Reservation's Native Range. The USACE provides 50 percent of the funding required for the annual OMRR&R requirements associated with the Seminole Big Cypress project. FY 2014 activities include maintenance and operation of Basins 1 and 4 project features.

### ***Modified Waters Delivery***

The purpose of the project's structural features is to improve the conveyance of water between Water Conservation Areas north of ENP and the Shark River Slough within the park and to provide flood mitigation to the 8.5 Square Mile Area. OMRR&R activities for the 8.5 SMA portion of the project will be initiated in FY 2013, along with continuation of ongoing OMRR&R at project pump stations. The USACE provides 75 percent of funding for OMRR&R of project components. FY 2014 activities include maintenance and operation of pump stations 357 & 331, spillway 355A & B, stream gauging, and seepage control for the 8.5 square mile portion of the project.

### **U.S. Department of Agriculture - Agricultural Research Service (\$3,610,660)**

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Agricultural Research Service (ARS) conducts an integrated research program that addresses the needs of agriculture and complements the CERP. The goal of the research is to develop and transfer improved scientific technologies and enhanced management strategies that control invasive exotic species and assure the continued economic integrity of agriculture. Three major areas of research support south Florida restoration and agriculture: hydrology and water quality, improved crop production systems, and biological control of invasive species. Individual projects supporting these priority areas are as follows:

#### ***Hydrology and Water Quality***

- ***Integrated Horticultural Productions Systems for Water Quality Protection and Water Conservation (\$581,500)***

The Horticultural and Breeding Research Unit at Fort Pierce, Florida, conducts research to develop management practices and production systems that promote water conservation and protect water quality while sustaining or improving crop quality, production, and profitability. Research objectives of the project are: 1) to gain fundamental knowledge of the plant-substrate-water-nutrient system to identify factors that control effects of chemical stressors and develop irrigation strategies for the efficient and effective application of poor-quality water to ornamental crops, and 2) to evaluate the Algal Turf Scrubber system for treating nursery runoff for excess nutrients and continue research on composted algae as an alternative substrate. The expected impact of the research is information to be used in the development of best management practices (BMPs) that will allow producers to maximize profits, minimize the impact of production on water resources, and better define water fate and transport on nursery operations.

### *Improved Crop Production Systems*

- ***Soil Conservation for Sustainable Sugarcane Production (\$396,000)***

The Sugarcane Field Station in Canal Point, Florida, develops high-yielding, disease-resistant sugarcane cultivars. Previous research has identified the effects on yield, morphology, and physiology of sugarcane grown under high water tables and flood and applied these results to soil management options to reduce loss of the organic soils in the region while still maintaining a productive agriculture. Recent research has also targeted optimization of sugarcane production on sandy soils, as sugarcane in Florida is expanding to these soils. Improved knowledge of the physiologic, morphologic, and agronomic responses of sugarcane genotypes to sand soils and shallow muck, and for resistance to economically limiting diseases, will help improve adaptation, yields, and selection for these conditions.

### *Biological Control of Invasive Species*

- ***Development and Evaluation of Biological Control Agents for Invasive Species Threatening the Everglades and other Natural and Managed Systems (\$2,633,100)***

The ARS Invasive Plant Research Laboratory (IPRL) in Fort Lauderdale, Florida, and its satellite lab in Gainesville, Florida, conduct research to identify and collect natural enemies for control of Melaleuca, Brazilian pepper, Lygodium, Chinese tallow, air potato, water hyacinth, and other invasive pest plants; evaluate biological control agents for release against invasive weed and insect species in a risk analysis context; obtain approval for release of host specific natural enemies; and develop biological based integrated weed management strategies that are efficient, economical, and environmentally sound. Many of the biological control agents that are developed by the IPRL were discovered by scientists at the ARS Australian Biological Control Laboratory in Brisbane or the ARS South American Biological Control Laboratory near Buenos Aires. The integration of biological control with other management tactics has been included in a comprehensive management plan called TAME Melaleuca [crafted by scientists and natural resource managers from the ARS, the NPS, the SFWMD, the Corps, the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP), and many south Florida county governments], for managing invasive species problems. Research will continue to develop management strategies and biological control agents that are sustainable, efficient, economical, and environmentally sound.

### **U.S. Department of Agriculture - Natural Resources Conservation Service (\$65,000,000\*)**

The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) provides technical assistance on a voluntary basis to private landowners and operators, tribes, and others for the planning of conservation practices and installation of needed conservation management systems with the

goal of achieving natural resource sustainability. This includes the design, layout, and consultation services associated with the conservation practice application or management guidance provided. Technical assistance is targeted towards nutrient management, water quality, and water conservation concerns associated with animal feeding, livestock grazing operations, and fruit and crop production within the South Florida Ecosystem. Financial assistance is provided through a variety of USDA Farm Bill Programs.

The NRCS provides assistance to livestock and dairy producers to apply BMPs, including waste management systems, to reduce off farm nutrient discharges. A special effort in the Everglades Agricultural Area (EAA) and C-139 basin is in place to assist the land user to meet requirements outlined in the 1994 Everglades Forever Act (EFA) to reduce phosphorus loading into the Everglades Protection Area. Other areas of assistance are provided on private and tribal lands to restore wetlands, improve wildlife habitat, and control invasive exotic plant species. Financial assistance is provided through a variety of USDA Farm Bill Programs.

## **Food, Conservation and Energy Act of 2008**

### ***Environmental Quality Incentives Program***

The Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) provides financial and technical assistance to farmers and ranchers who face threats to soil, water, air, and related natural resources on their land. Through EQIP, the NRCS develops contracts with agricultural producers to implement conservation practices to address environmental natural resource problems. Payments are made to producers once conservation practices are completed according to NRCS requirements on agricultural lands that will improve or maintain the health of natural resources in the area including water quality.

### ***Wetlands Reserve Program***

The Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP) is a voluntary program that provides technical and financial assistance to private landowners and tribes to restore, protect, and enhance wetlands in exchange for retiring eligible land from agriculture. The NRCS goal is to achieve the greatest wetland functions and values, along with optimum wildlife habitat, on every acre enrolled in the program. This program offers landowners an opportunity to establish long-term conservation and wildlife practices and wetland protection.

### ***Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program***

The Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program (WHIP) is a voluntary program for developing or improving high quality habitat that supports fish and wildlife populations of national, state, tribal, and local significance. Through WHIP, the NRCS provides technical and financial assistance to private and tribal landowners for the development of upland, wetland, aquatic, and other types of wildlife habitat.

### ***Grassland Reserve Program***

The Grassland Reserve Program (GRP) is a voluntary program for landowners and operators to protect grazing uses and related conservation values by conserving grassland, including

rangeland, pastureland, shrubland, and certain other lands. The program emphasizes support for working grazing operations; enhancement of plant and animal biodiversity; and protection of grassland and land containing shrubs and forbs under threat of conversion. Eligible land includes privately owned or tribal grasslands; land that contains forbs (including improved rangeland and pastureland or shrubland) for which grazing is the predominant use; or land that is located in an area that historically has been dominated by grassland, forbs, or shrubland that has the potential to serve as wildlife habitat of significant ecological value.

#### ***Farm and Ranch Land Protection Program***

The Farm and Ranch Land Protection Program (FRPP) protects working agricultural lands from conversion to non-agricultural uses through the purchase of easements in partnership with local and state governments, tribes, and non-governmental organizations.

\* All program funding amounts being provided are estimates at this time. Final funding amounts can be provided around mid-November 2013.

### **U.S. Department of Commerce - National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (\$309,000)**

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) provides science, monitoring, and modeling projects critical to implementing and assessing the CERP and other portions of the South Florida Ecosystem restoration effort. NOAA supports ecosystem restoration devoted to monitoring, restoring, and managing the coastal portions of the South Florida Ecosystem. These projects will provide baseline information critical in evaluating the downstream impacts of restoration activities on coastal resources. This information will allow project managers to efficiently monitor the results of restoration projects on downstream resources and make adjustments, if necessary, through the adaptive management process.

While many NOAA programs support an integrated effort among federal, tribal, state, and nongovernmental partners to halt the degradation of the South Florida Ecosystem, the following NOAA projects directly support CERP implementation.

#### ***Interdisciplinary Coastal Oceanographic Observations / Oceanic and Atmospheric Research***

Almost all of the replumbing and inland restoration efforts will ultimately affect the flow of water, nutrients, and other elements to coastal bays and estuaries. Understanding the impacts of replumbing water flow from inland areas to coastal systems, as part of the restoration effort, is critical to determine overall success. In FY 2013, due to the lack of funding for ship-time operations and some principal investigator salaries, a suite of research and monitoring activities in south Florida coastal waters downstream of major restoration projects, such as the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary, Florida Bay, and Biscayne Bay, were not conducted. NOAA funding for operating a research vessel to conduct surveys in Florida Bay, Biscayne Bay and near Shark River may become available in FY 2014.

***Restoration Science and Assessment/National Marine Fisheries Service***

The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) expects to continue scientific activities in FY 2014 that define the impact of upstream restoration efforts and changing freshwater inflow on south Florida coastal systems. This work will help assess the impacts of changing freshwater runoff patterns on inshore and coastal habitats and associated fishery resources. The NOAA Fisheries Southeast Fisheries Science Center, in collaboration with other agencies and entities, conducts several monitoring and assessment projects to support CERP. NOAA resource managers and scientists participate in various management and science coordination activities in relation to South Florida Ecosystem restoration and CERP.

**U.S. Department of the Interior – National Park Service (\$66,044,000)**

Park Management (\$30,191,000)

*Big Cypress National Preserve (\$6,685,000)*

Fiscal Year 2014 funding will support area management activities promoting public use and resource protection through the implementation and interpretation of an extensive back-country off-road vehicle (ORV) trail system. The NPS will continue to support mandated programs such as the protection, inventory, and monitoring of ten threatened and endangered species (Florida panther, Cape Sable sparrow, Florida manatee, etc.) and a large hydrology program that includes restoration of sheetflow to ENP and the Ten Thousand Islands. Additional mandated programs include special uses such as oil exploration/production, the largest recreational hunting wildlife management area in south Florida, implementation of the largest recreational ORV program in the 48 States, and 22 American Indian (Seminole, Miccosukee, and independent) sites on preserve lands. The preserve also supports the largest prescribed fire program in the NPS; visitor and resources protection of 728,000 acres of predominately backcountry areas; maintenance of 26 employee housing units, two major visitor support facilities, public utility systems, eight primitive campgrounds, three developed campgrounds, and 66 miles of roads; and management of approximately 460 known archeological sites.

The natural resources management program will continue to collect baseline data in formats that are compatible with interagency regional hydrologic and community/species-based models, control non-native plants, protect threatened and endangered species, mitigate visitor impacts, and manage funds to support direct inventory/monitoring of resources and a geographic information system (GIS).

***Biscayne National Park (\$4,390,000)***

Fiscal Year 2014 funding will support the park's area management activities including: promoting public use and mitigation of public use; interpretation and education programs; protection of resources; and efforts to address impacts and threats associated with urban sprawl, increased urban freshwater use, four solid waste landfills, and a nuclear power facility. All of these threats are located along the park's western boundary and are "upstream" with respect to surface- and ground-water flow into the park.

The park performs other area management activities associated with the protection of the park's natural, cultural, and historic resources as well as maintenance of park facilities. The park protects 173,000 acres of resources that include Biscayne Bay, the largest living coral reef system in the NPS, eight known terrestrial cultural sites, 67 known submerged cultural sites, approximately 20 historic structures, and two national historic districts within a boundary that has unlimited access points. The park maintains three developed islands and two mainland sites that include six harbors/docking facilities, two campgrounds, six picnic areas, approximately ten miles of trails, six residences, an environmental education camp, and a major visitor center.

The park's natural resources management will continue to protect Biscayne Bay estuarine resources, coral reefs, seagrass beds, and hard bottom communities; monitor water quality; document and mitigate impacts due to visitor and commercial uses; control exotic vegetation; and monitor 17 federally threatened and endangered species. Special efforts are applied to prevent and restore extensive damage to seagrass beds and coral reefs from boat groundings. Extensive efforts are made to work with local, state, and federal government agencies on development and impact issues.

***Dry Tortugas National Park (\$1,726,000)***

Funding in FY 2014 will support operations of this 65,000-acre marine and historical national park located 70 miles west of Key West. Current funding will continue to support natural and cultural resource management, including a preservation and maintenance program for Fort Jefferson. The NPS will continue to document and recommend management strategies for submerged cultural resources. These efforts are supported by park staff, with overall technical direction provided by the NPS Submerged Cultural Resources Unit. Natural resource activities include continuation of park-funded science and monitoring to analyze the efficacy of the Dry Tortugas Research Natural Area, natural resource damage assessment and restoration, and monitoring of sea turtles. Natural resource activities are performed by Dry Tortugas NP natural resources staff, with technical and additional staff support provided by ENP (South Florida Natural Resources Center).

***Everglades National Park (\$17,390,000)***

Funding for ENP in FY 2014 will support area management activities including operations, natural and cultural resource management, planning, maintenance, and ecosystem restoration. The park continues to attract significant national and international attention as a symbol of the effort to restore the Everglades and of the balance being sought in striving to secure south

Florida's future. With over 1.5 million acres of fragile wilderness immediately adjacent to approximately six million people, and over one million visitors each year, ENP has special challenges. The park has outreach programs to the local community and has traditionally sustained a large backcountry/wilderness operation.

The park operates major visitor use areas at Flamingo, Shark Valley, Everglades City, and Chekika, and oversees three concessions operations. Infrastructure requires extensive short-term maintenance, as well as long-term upgrades. The park has 82 miles of surfaced roads, 160 miles of trails, two campgrounds, 48 backcountry campsites, and two fee collection stations.

The park remains one of the most ecologically complex parks in the nation and is unique in that it has an unprecedented three international treaty designations. It is home to over 1,000 species of plants, 400 species of birds, and two rare orchids, and is a refuge for 14 threatened and endangered species. Florida Bay, making up about 40 percent of the Park area, is continuing to experience dramatic changes, including alterations between hypo- and hyper-salinity, increased turbidity, seagrass die-offs, and persistent and increasing spreads of algae blooms. Exotic plants have and are continuing to replace native plant communities in ENP and adjacent natural areas. Exotic animals, particularly reptiles, have become a major natural resource management issue for ENP.

### **South Florida Ecosystem Restoration Task Force (\$1,322,000)**

Funding in FY 2014 will sustain the continued operations of the Department of the Interior's Office of Everglades Restoration Initiatives. The OERI serves and supports the Congressionally mandated responsibilities of the Department and the Secretary in the restoration of the South Florida Ecosystem. The OERI represents the office of the Assistant Secretary for Fish, Wildlife and Parks and serves as the liaison for the Office of the Secretary by coordinating departmental and bureau Everglades restoration activities. The OERI also provides executive level leadership and staff level support to the Office of the Secretary in its role as Chair of the SFERTF. In this capacity the OERI works closely with SFERTF member agencies and representatives and administers, manages, and supports the priorities, activities, and reporting responsibilities of the SFERTF, the South Florida Ecosystem Restoration Working Group, the Science Coordination Group, and the Biscayne Regional Restoration Coordination Team. The required reporting coordinated by the OERI includes the South Florida Ecosystem Restoration Strategy and Biennial Report, the Integrated Financial Plan, and the Plan for Coordinating Science. In FY 2014 the OERI will develop an invasive exotic species strategic action framework in coordination with SFERTF member agencies and other restoration partners.

The OERI serves as an important source of communication and information for a number of stakeholders and interested parties including but not limited to the United States Congress, the Florida Legislature, the National Academy of Sciences, non-governmental organizations, and private citizens. The SFERTF has also been a leader in stakeholder engagement, integrating science and decision making, and conflict resolution.

### **Everglades Research (\$3,831,000)**

Since its inception in 1997, the Critical Ecosystem Studies Initiative (CESI) has been the primary investment by Interior to provide scientific information to advise restoration decision-making and to guide its own land management responsibilities for South Florida Ecosystem restoration.

The CESI planned activities for FY 2014 include:

- An emphasis on critical long-term hydrologic and biological monitoring projects that support assessments of the effect of restoration projects on NPS resources. Ongoing projects on fish and macro-invertebrates, marsh water level and flow monitoring, threatened and endangered species, and vegetation communities most likely impacted by implementation of the ecosystem restoration projects would continue.
- Enhanced contributions to assessment of restoration project effects by funding several projects that are required to assess the effects of the MWD project on ENP resources.
- Significant support to water quality science, including water quality monitoring and water quality analyses in ENP and Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge.
- Initial support for research and synthesis of information on large exotic invasive constrictor snakes and their effects on Everglades natural resources.
- Continued support to the Task Force and DOI's oversight of the Everglades Restoration Initiative.
- Continued work on biological and hydrologic databases, including analysis of existing long-term hydrologic and biological data sets that will allow resource managers, decision-makers, and the public to understand the trends in ENP resources as they relate to water management changes and climate variation.
- Continuation of scientific and technical analyses of the impact of the planned nuclear plant expansion and transmission corridor of the Florida Power and Light Company. The activities planned by Florida Power and Light are expected to directly affect both Everglades and Biscayne National Parks, as well as Everglades Restoration projects currently being implemented and those being planned (bridging of the Tamiami Trail; Biscayne Bay Coastal Wetlands).
- Support of hydrologic and ecological modeling and synthesis of ecological information and ecosystem services that Interior would use during the revised Corps planning process for the CEPP.

## **Construction (\$30,000,000)**

### ***Modified Water Deliveries Project (MWD) (\$0)***

The MWD project is authorized by Section 104 of the Everglades National Park Protection and Expansion Act of 1989. This project involves construction of modifications to the C&SF Project water management system and related operational changes. Construction of the project features will allow the timing, distribution, and volumes of water delivered to the park to be more consistent with historic conditions. No funds are requested for this project in 2014.

The current status and plans for FY 2014 are described below:

- Construction of the 8.5 Square Mile Area component is complete.
- Construction of the Tamiami Trail one-mile bridge and road-raising component is scheduled for completion in the spring of 2014.
- The Conveyance and Seepage Control component was intended to move water through the natural flowpath north of ENP and onto park lands in northeast Shark River Slough, and to control seepage associated with this water for flood mitigation purposes. Most of these features are complete. Due to budget constraints, the remainder of the conveyance features will not be implemented within the MWD project. These features will now be implemented through the CEPP.
- NPS project implementation support and NPS staff support to the design of a water control plan for the MWD project are covered under NPS Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan funding (see above description). In FY 2014, work will be done with the CERP funding source to develop an operational plan for the MWD project, to raise water levels in Northeast Shark River Slough, and provide for seepage management using existing MWD and prior C&SF project features. This operational plan is intended to provide more historic hydrologic conditions in Northeast Shark River Slough in ENP. ENP staff will participate in this interagency process, to analyze the potential effects of proposed operations alternatives on NPS resources.

### ***Tamiami Trail Bridging (\$30,000,000)***

Reestablishment of more natural and increased water flow to ENP is a key requirement for Everglades restoration and additional bridging of the Tamiami Trail is necessary to accomplish restoration as the current roadway limits water flow. The FY 2014 funds are requested for the highest priority component of the Tamiami Trail Next Steps project, the construction of a 2.6 mile bridge and associated road raising. The proposed project is located at the deepest portion of Shark River Slough, an intermittent grass riverway that historically carried the largest volume of water into the ENP. These funds will be leveraged with additional non-federal funds to address the entire cost of the project.

**Land Acquisition (\$700,000)**

*Land Acquisition Management (\$700,000)*

Funding in FY 2014 will administer the federal land acquisition program in south Florida to enable completion of land acquisition and to meet the schedule established by DOI.

**U.S. Department of the Interior: Fish and Wildlife Service (\$12,728,000)**

**Resource Management (\$7,728,000)**

*Ecological Services (\$2,913,000)*

These funds will allow the FWS to continue coordination, technical assistance, and partnering efforts with the NPS, the USGS, tribal governments, state agencies, and private organizations involved in the restoration of the South Florida Ecosystem. The funds for FY 2014 will also enable the FWS to continue implementing the Multi-Species Recovery Plan, which provides a blueprint for protecting, conserving, and managing the threatened and endangered fish and wildlife resources. The FWS is undertaking comprehensive habitat based strategies for restoration and recovery of species. Examples of this include the establishment of panther conservation banks and multi-species management plans.

The FWS will continue consulting with and providing technical assistance to the Corps, the NPS, and other federal agencies relative to those agency activities that potentially affect federally listed species. The FWS continues its historically active role in reviewing applications for impacts on wetlands under the Corps' regulatory program. In addition to the analysis of direct, indirect, and cumulative impacts, the FWS ensures that private development proposals are compatible with the CERP. The planning and building of several CERP components requires careful review of applications by the local sponsor (mainly the SFWMD) through the Corps' regulatory process. In FY 2014, the FWS will continue consultation with the Corps on the CERP, as well as other ongoing or new federal projects. Further, the FWS will evaluate the potential need to list additional species pursuant to the ESA, and develop cooperative agreements with landowners for the protection and conservation of listed species through Candidate Conservation Agreements, Safe Harbor Agreements, and Habitat Conservation Plans.

Also included in this program category, the South Florida Coastal Habitat Restoration Program actively forms partnerships with other federal and state agencies, local governments, non-governmental entities, and private property owners to implement on-the-ground restoration projects as well as to conduct research, monitoring, and public outreach activities. The Coastal Program complements the larger, more comprehensive South Florida Ecosystem restoration initiative by implementing immediate on-the-ground actions designed to protect, conserve, and restore coastal living resources. For the past several years, the importance of on-the-ground restorative actions has been reflected by the distribution of half of the Coastal Program's budget toward actual habitat restoration.

In FY 2014, the FWS will address new Corps project starts and continue to be actively involved in threatened and endangered species consultation and recovery, private land partnerships, environmental contaminant reviews, coastal restoration projects, preparation of Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act Reports, system-wide water quality improvement, and myriad multi-agency planning, science, and outreach efforts. The FWS will ensure that ecosystem benefits are maximized consistent with Everglades restoration goals. The role of the FWS will support and advance adaptive management and the principal goals of Everglades restoration.

***Refuges and Wildlife (\$4,016,000)***

The FWS administers 16 national wildlife refuge units in south Florida, as well as the new Everglades Headwaters National Wildlife Refuge and Conservation Area in south-central Florida. The Service manages all actions under the ESA, provides comments on comprehensive wetland programs (including permitting), carries out authorities of the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act, and enforces Federal wildlife laws. As a member of the Working Group, the FWS will continue to undertake important on-the-ground restoration activities.

***Migratory Birds (\$99,000)***

While coordinating with the Service's South Florida Ecological Services Field Office and the Arthur R. Marshall Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge, the Division of Migratory Birds works cooperatively with the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) and the SFWMD to provide technical expertise relative to MBTA implications on the various CERP projects, especially for avian protection plans and management of invasive exotics species such as the purple swamp hen. Effective implementation of the CERP with the above partners, the Corps, the NPS, and others is critical to restoring water quantity, quality, timing, and distribution for the benefit of people, migratory birds, and other wildlife and their habitats.

***Law Enforcement (\$608,000)***

Funding will be used to enhance law enforcement's ability to handle the quickly escalating regional workload. There has been a marked increase in the illegal trafficking of exotic protected species and the unlawful "taking" of endemic species protected by the ESA and the MBTA throughout south Florida. Southwest Florida is one of the most ecologically sensitive and rapidly growing areas of the State, requiring the highest priority for establishing an increased law enforcement presence. Funding will allow the purchase of vehicles, boats, and marine equipment needed by law enforcement personnel to conduct investigations in remote areas. Additional personnel will be detailed to "task force" enforcement operations within the ecosystem as needed. Increased efforts to educate the public regarding the law and illegal activities will be emphasized.

***Fisheries (\$92,000)***

Efforts will be directed toward restoration of anadromous and coastal fish species in south Florida. Emphasis will be placed on ensuring that non-indigenous fish species are adequately evaluated for potential effects on restoration activities.

**Land Acquisition (\$5,000,000)**

***Everglades Headwaters National Wildlife Refuge and Conservation Area (\$5,000,000)***

The FWS plans to acquire 1,250 acres at the Everglades Headwaters National Wildlife Refuge and Conservation Area to protect, restore, and conserve habitat for 278 federal and state listed species, including Florida panther, Florida black bear, Audubon's crested caracara, Florida scrub jay, Florida grasshopper sparrow, red-cockaded woodpecker, whooping crane, and Everglades snail kite. These acquisitions would protect, restore, and conserve the headwaters, groundwater recharge and watershed of the Kissimmee Chain of Lakes, Kissimmee River, and Lake Okeechobee region, and would also directly improve water quantity and quality in the Everglades watershed, complementing the CERP goals and protecting the water supply for millions of people.

**U.S. Department of the Interior - U.S. Geological Survey (\$7,882,000)**

**Everglades Restoration - Integrating Research, Planning, and Interagency Coordination (\$7,882,000)**

Funding in FY 2014 will support Everglades research to provide planning, research, and interagency coordination efforts needed for Everglades restoration in accordance with the terms of the Memorandum of Understanding among the USGS, the FWS, and the NPS. This coordinated science effort allows the Interior bureaus to leverage resources, maximize the value of federal research funds, and ensure that the best available research products and monitoring and assessment tools are developed to meet the priority needs in the Everglades. DOI's Everglades science plan continues to serve as the template upon which to define and prioritize studies to address critical decision-related information needs. DOI's Greater Everglades Science Team used the science plan coupled with near-term plans for the CERP, the MWD project, and other restoration activities as well as other emerging issues (e.g., sea level rise and climate change) to generate a priority list of research, monitoring, and modeling studies needed to address immediate and near-term decision-related information needs. The USGS, in partnership with the FWS, the NPS, and other restoration partners, is continuing to prioritize its research to support and conduct timely and relevant decision-critical science.

The USGS activities provide a fundamental understanding of ecosystem process, structure, and function. A significant part of USGS activities is to integrate the ecosystem science through continued development of decision support tools. This is accomplished through continued development and improvement of integrative models, including hydrologic models, ecological models, chemical models, and geographic and landscape models. These ecosystem models are being integrated into decision support tools to aid in restoration-related planning decisions by the FWS, the NPS, the Corps, the FDEP, the EPA, and the SFWMD to predict the consequences

of varied management alternatives, set ecological goals by providing yardsticks to measure the success of the restoration, and manage the natural resources of the system. In support of the revised science plan and the updated list of critical/priority research, monitoring, and modeling needs, the USGS will continue high priority work that includes long-term hydrologic monitoring, coastal salinity monitoring, continued development and enhancement of ecological models including models for adaptive assessment, and development of simulation-based decision support tools. These tools will continue to be used in planning and implementing the CERP, the MWD, and other Everglades restoration projects. A continuing challenge is to make all ecological models an integral part of the decision support tools available to restoration practitioners. USGS scientists work with the Interagency Modeling Center (IMC) to incorporate USGS process-based hydrologic models into the IMC's modeling 'tool box.' This collaboration puts ecological models into the IMC 'tool box,' and provides a mechanism for improving the models by providing feedback between model application, model research and development, and model improvement via integration with monitoring.

Since paleoecological data also include a record of sea-level fluctuations, the USGS will continue to evaluating sea-level rise data within the context of projected future freshwater flows and accelerated sea-level rise. This information will better refine the target(s) for freshwater flows to coastal systems, and better understand the dynamics of the interaction of restoration with coastal change. Also, an ongoing USGS study on the paleoecology of freshwater marshes, specifically marl prairie marshes, is providing the FWS with information useful in their reevaluation of the current distribution of species within the context of both the historical and the projected future Everglades having more water than today's current Everglades.

The FY 2014 funding total for USGS reflects a \$1.0 million increase to support high priority research needs identified by the interagency invasive species working group of the Task Force. This includes quantifying ecosystem effects of invasive species to assist partnering agencies in deciding where best to allocate management and control efforts; filling key biological and ecological information gaps of invasive species to better inform early detection efforts of partnering agencies; and improving methods to better detect and control species such as Burmese pythons for which ecosystem effects have been documented.

### **U.S. Department of the Interior - Bureau of Indian Affairs (\$390,000)**

In FY 2014, funds will be used for continuing efforts to restore the South Florida Ecosystem for the Seminole and Miccosukee Tribes. This funding (\$195,000 each) is included within each Tribe's base funding and is provided to support research, studies, and planning on water quality and distribution systems, ecosystem development and management, and planning for compliance with the ESA in stormwater areas on the Seminole and Big Cypress reservations.

**U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (\$1,704,000)**

The EPA priorities for restoring and protecting the South Florida Ecosystem in FY 2014 include continuing to work with the Corps and the State of Florida to implement the CERP via the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and the Clean Water Act (CWA) program areas; work with the State of Florida and federal agencies to implement appropriate phosphorus control programs that will attain water quality standards within the South Florida Ecosystem; supporting development of Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs) for the Lake Okeechobee watershed; assisting the State of Florida and the SFWMD in evaluating the appropriateness of aquifer storage and recovery technology as a key element of the restoration strategy for south Florida; updating and implementing the South Florida Wetlands Conservation Strategy to include protecting and restoring critical wetland habitats in the face of tremendous growth and development pressures; continuing to implement the comprehensive monitoring program (water quality, coral reef, and seagrass), special studies, data management, and public education components of the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary Water Quality Protection Program as required by the National Marine Sanctuaries Program Amendments Act of 1992; and protecting coral reef ecosystems of southeast Florida by reducing land-based sources of pollution on a watershed scale, including controlling discharges from point sources.

## *Section 3.0*

# *State of Florida Everglades Ecosystem Restoration Projects and Funding*

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## **Section 3.1: State of Florida Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (CERP) Projects and Funding (\$128,195,346)**

### **Florida Department of Environmental Protection (\$73,164,611)**

The implementation of the CERP, in partnership with the SFWMD, tribes, other state, federal, and local agencies, and environmental groups, is a high priority for the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP).

The FDEP administers the Save Our Everglades Trust Fund (SOETF) which is used to pay for a portion of the State's share of CERP. The SOETF also funds the Northern Everglades and Estuaries Protection Program (NEEPP), and the Restoration Strategies Regional Water Quality Plan which will be discussed further in section 3.2. The Florida Legislature appropriated \$70,000,000 in FY 2013/14 from the SOETF. Of these funds, \$35 million will be distributed through the FDEP to the SFWMD for the design, engineering, and construction of various CERP projects.

The Department also administers the Florida Forever Trust Fund. Just over \$37 million will be used to complete land acquisition through settlement of eminent domain cases for CERP restoration lands already acquired in the Golden Gates Estates for the Picayune Strand Restoration Project.

The FDEP CERP related costs for FY 2013/14 include the following (costs may differ from those reported in the past due to internal realignment and reorganization of staff in various programs):

- Office of Ecosystem Projects (OEP) (\$1,111,758)
  - OEP oversees implementation of CERP, Everglades Forever Act, NEEPP, and related south Florida restoration projects. Tasks include policy, regulatory, planning, program coordination, technical and engineering support, and coordination with other Department staff regarding issues related to CERP and South Florida Ecosystem restoration.
- South District in Fort Myers (\$6,034.60)
  - Tasks include planning, project management, biological and technical support.
- Waste Management in Tallahassee, Ft. Myers, and West Palm Beach (\$15,000)
  - Tasks include technical support and review of potential impacts from residual agrochemicals on lands acquired for restoration projects.

### **Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) (\$2,001,704)**

The FWC contributes to CERP projects by providing technical assistance to the sponsoring agencies in order to ensure that CERP activities address the needs of fish and wildlife and their associated habitats. In FY 2011/12, the agency organized an inter-divisional team to prioritize and coordinate the agency's contributions to all inter-agency ecosystem restoration activities in south Florida including the CERP. The Office of Conservation Planning Services facilitates

official consultations for the CERP through various processes including inter-agency planning teams, the Coastal Zone Management Program, the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act, and NEPA.

### **South Florida Water Management District (\$53,029,031)**

The SFWMD is the local sponsor for the majority of the over 50 projects included in the CERP. Planning, design, and construction are currently underway on many of these projects. The CEPP has focused on developing the next phase of CERP projects under a national pilot project program in the USACE streamlined planning process and will redirect undesirable northern estuary discharges southward into the Everglades. Treating and redirecting this excess water to the south will restore the quality, quantity, timing and distribution of flows to the remaining Everglades to benefit plant communities and wildlife habitat in the WCA, ENP and Florida Bay. The CEPP Draft Project Implementation Report (PIR) contains information regarding existing and future conditions, formulation of project alternatives and will recommend a tentatively selected plan for Congressional consideration. The CEPP Draft PIR will be published in the Federal Register this calendar year for agency and public review.

In addition to the CEPP, the SFWMD partners with the USACE on several other projects such as the C-111 Spreader Canal Western Project, Biscayne Bay Coastal Wetlands Project, and Indian River Lagoon South C-44 Reservoir and Stormwater Treatment Areas Project.

## **Section 3.2: State of Florida Non-CERP Everglades Ecosystem Restoration Projects and Funding (\$541,325,354)**

### **Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (\$5,000,000)**

The FDACS, through its Office of Agriculture Water Policy, addresses water issues relating to agriculture and ecosystem restoration. The FDACS is responsible for addressing agriculture non-point source water pollution and for implementing TMDLs in water bodies and segments statewide. Lake Okeechobee is the first recipient of a TMDL in Florida and the FDACS has implemented a program in the Lake's basin to deal with agriculture non-point sources. The FDACS also plays an important role in the management of public lands through the Florida Forest Service (formerly the Division of Forestry). The Florida Forest Service is the lead managing agency on the Picayune State Forest (Southern Golden Gate Estates and Belle Meade) and is the state agency responsible for wildfire suppression and prevention and forest protection in south Florida.

## **Florida Department of Environmental Protection (\$ 63,080,365)**

The FDEP's non-CERP South Florida Ecosystem restoration priorities include implementation of the Everglades Forever Act and Restoration Strategies Regional Water Quality Plan and the Northern Everglades and Estuaries Protection Program (NEEPP). \$35 million of the FY 2013-14 SOETF appropriation will be used to fund these programs. Funds will be used for the design, engineering, and construction of Lake Okeechobee Protection Plan projects, Caloosahatchee and St. Lucie River Watershed Protection Plan components, and water quality enhancement projects identified in the state's Long-Term Plan for Achieving Water Quality Goals in the Everglades Protection Area (Long-Term Plan).

In addition, the FDEP implements water quality improvement programs for the Clean Water Act Section 303d listed water bodies; ecosystem restoration project management; watershed planning and coordination activities; and research and monitoring. The FDEP's budget for FY 2013/14 has projected funding of approximately \$28,080,365 for the following activities in south Florida [costs may differ from those reported in the past due to internal realignment and reorganization of staff in various programs, and increased activity for Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) and Basin Management Action Plan Development (BMAP) in the Northern Everglades watersheds]:

- Division of Environmental Assessment & Restoration, Southeast & South District Offices:
  - TMDL and BMAP development, water quality sampling, and technical support (\$489,429)
  - South Florida Canal Study (year two of three) (\$230,000)
  - Mercury Research and Monitoring (ongoing) (\$1,033,753)
- State Park Operations and Management (\$19,905,049)
- Coastal and Aquatic Managed Areas (\$2,122,134)

The Florida Legislature also approved the following water projects in south Florida:

- Loxahatchee River Preservation Initiative (\$1,300,000)
- Danforth Creek Basin Project (\$3,000,000)

## **Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) (\$40,209,004)**

The FWC embodies the state's executive responsibility for managing Florida's freshwater, marine, and terrestrial fish and wildlife. In order to meet its mission, the agency contributes to South Florida Ecosystem restoration and conservation both operationally and through partnerships.

*Operations:* Four of the agency's divisions manage fish and wildlife resources (Divisions of Freshwater Fisheries Management, Habitat and Species Conservation, Hunting and Game Management, and Marine Fisheries Management), while the Division of Law Enforcement

ensures that laws protecting fish, wildlife, and their habitats are enforced. The Fish and Wildlife Research Institute administers the research and monitoring programs that support the FWC's mission. A significant contribution in this regard are the GIS-based species habitat models that are used to identify those lands that need to be conserved in support of imperiled species management plans. FWC programs support non-native species research and management, invasive plant management, Florida panther restoration research, and alligator management throughout the Everglades Ecosystem.

The FWC is either sole manager or a partnering manager on over one million acres of public lands throughout the region. Further, the FWC contributes to state land acquisition programs through its Inholdings and Additions program, targeting lands within or contiguous to areas currently managed by the FWC. Lastly, the FWC administers an on-going lake enhancement and restoration program.

*Partnerships and Outreach:* The FWC partners with the FWS, NRCS, and FDACS to provide both technical assistance and grant support to those private landowners wishing to sustain fish and wildlife habitat on their properties in addition to other outreach activities.

The FWC's planned funding for South Florida Ecosystem restoration during FY 2013/14 includes:

- Law Enforcement (\$16,473,709)
- Division of Freshwater Fisheries (\$468,899)
- Florida Wildlife Research Institute (\$1,061,000)
- Division of Habitat and Species Conservation (\$24,207,422)

### **Florida Department of Transportation (\$12,965,410)**

The Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) is a leader among transportation agencies in the nation for protecting wildlife and redesigning roadways to restore natural water flow to over-drained areas. The FDOT is also a leader in providing funding and technical assistance to plan and implement greenways and trails. Many of these programs have been implemented in south Florida, particularly the Big Cypress Swamp (Interstate 75/Alligator Alley), Tamiami Trail, and U.S. 1 to the Florida Keys. The FDOT also funds wildlife and habitat mitigation efforts ranging from seagrass restoration in the Indian River Lagoon and sea turtle lighting along the southeast coast to the purchase of Florida panther habitat in southwest Florida.

The FDOT's expenditures for South Florida Ecosystem restoration during FY 2012/13 was \$11,619,604 and includes:

- Exotic and endangered/threatened plant survey (\$28,907)
- Research to determine the effectiveness of wildlife crossings (\$63,930)
- Mitigation maintenance and monitoring (\$101,666)
- Removal of exotic vegetation (\$1,461,428)
- Wildlife and wetland mitigation (\$4,824,061)

- Panther mitigation (\$881,612)
- Seagrass and mangrove mitigation (\$4,258,000)

The FDOT's planned funding for South Florida Ecosystem restoration during FY 2013/14 is \$12,965,410 and includes:

- Exotic and endangered/threatened plant survey (\$57,949)
- Research to determine the effectiveness of wildlife crossings (\$2,532,360)
- Mitigation maintenance and monitoring (\$76,300)
- Removal of exotic vegetation (\$1,544,731)
- Wildlife and wetland mitigation (\$4,615,390)
- Panther mitigation (\$100,000)
- Seagrass and mangrove mitigation (\$4,038,680)

### **South Florida Water Management District (\$420,070,575)**

The SFWMD is implementing the Long-Term Plan including the structural and vegetation enhancements to the existing STAs, BMPs, and integration with CERP projects. The STAs treated approximately 1,160,000 acre-feet of water and recorded another excellent annual performance, retaining 84% of phosphorus from water flowing through the treatment cells and treating water to a flow-weighted mean concentration of 21 parts per billion of phosphorus. During the year, the STAs removed 166.39 metric tons of phosphorus, which is twice last years' removal of 80.7 metric tons, in spite of the extreme stress of Tropical Storm Isaac. Operations of Compartments B and C STA expansion areas were initiated this year and include approximately 11,500 acres of additional treatment area. BMPs produced a 41% reduction in phosphorus exceeding those required by law. Additionally, the SFWMD works closely with the FDEP and other state, federal, and tribal governments on other non-CERP programs to restore and protect the South Florida Ecosystem.

During the 2013 legislative session, the Restoration Strategies Regional Water Quality Plan dated April 27, 2012 was incorporated into the Everglades Forever Act as a modification to the Long-Term Plan. Since the EFA and NPDES permits and consent orders were issued for the program, in September 2012, six projects have been initiated in Restoration Strategies and six major Consent Order milestones were met ahead of schedule. The SFWMD also completed the Restoration Strategies Regional Water Quality Plan: Science Plan for the Everglades Stormwater Treatment Areas to identify studies that investigate the critical factors that collectively influence ultralow treatment performance and phosphorus reduction in the STAs. The first projects are under development and implementation of this Plan will occur no later than September 2013.

As part of an ongoing effort to maximize water storage in the greater Everglades system, the SFWMD is continuing to partner with agencies and private landowners to bolster the Dispersed Water Management Program. Holding water on public and private lands is one tool to help reduce the amount of water flowing into Lake Okeechobee and/or discharged to the

Caloosahatchee and St. Lucie estuaries during times of high water conditions throughout South Florida. This year, the SFWMD has implemented and managed six of eight Northern Everglades Payment for Environmental Services (NEPES) first solicitation projects, conducted a second solicitation for NEPES on ranchlands, and conducted a solicitation for Water Farming Payment for Environmental Services Pilot Projects of fallow citrus lands. Since inception in 2005, the DWM Program totals 61,261 acre-feet of storage with 1,206 acre-feet added in FY 2013

Restoration of the Northern and Southern Everglades is integral to the core mission of the SFWMD and several initiatives and construction projects are now underway to revitalize and protect the South Florida Ecosystem. The SFWMD's priority non-CERP South Florida Ecosystem restoration and protection projects for FY 2013/14 include:

- Restoring the Kissimmee River and floodplain (in cooperation with the Corps) through construction, backfilling 22 miles of canal, recarving 9 miles of remnant river channel, rehydrating 25,000 acres of river floodplain, and a comprehensive ecological evaluation program.
- Continuing implementation of the NEEPP and associated protection plans for the three northern watersheds (Lake Okeechobee, St. Lucie, and Caloosahatchee).
- Completing implementation of the Lakeside Ranch STA including the establishment of healthy vegetation prior to flow through operations.
- Continuing implementation of provisions in the EFA and Long-Term Plan including STA operation and optimization, regulation, managing invasive exotic and nuisance vegetation on SFWMD lands, and implementing cost-effective solutions to improve water quality treatment, reduce nutrient loads, and achieve water quality standards.
- Updating and implementing regional water supply plans.
- Continuing implementation of the Loxahatchee River Watershed Project to improve water levels in the Loxahatchee Slough and increase freshwater deliveries to the Northwest Fork of the Loxahatchee River to meet restoration flow targets.
- Implementing the design and construction of Caloosahatchee Basin Storage/Treatment facilities that will provide near-term storage and/or treatment within the Caloosahatchee Basin
- Planning of regional projects to meet state water quality standards through the Restoration Strategies Regional Plan.
- Operating and maintaining one of the largest flood control systems in the world that includes over 650 structures, 700 project culverts, nearly 70 pump stations, approximately 2,000 miles of canals and 2,800 miles of levees, moving more than 20 million acre-feet (5.5 trillion gallons) of water through the system annually.

The Florida Legislature also requires the SFWMD to: manage water and related land resources; promote conservation, development, and use of surface and groundwater for reasonable beneficial uses; manage dams, impoundments, and other "Works of the District" to provide

water storage; prevent flood and soil erosion damage; maintain navigable rivers and harbors; and promote outdoor recreation on publicly owned lands.

In addition to ecosystem restoration projects, the SFWMD expends a significant amount of staff time and contract dollars toward implementation of restoration program support activities such as land management, control of invasive exotic plants and animals, environmental resource permitting, and intergovernmental coordination.

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# *Section 4.0*

## *Agency Contacts*

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*The following individuals are designated as points of contacts concerning their agency information as provided in the Cross Cut Budget 2014 Working Document.*

**Federal Agencies:**

<i>Marsha Bansee Lee</i> South Florida Ecosystem Restoration Task Force	954/377-5916	mbansee@sfrestore.org
<i>Kevin Burger</i> South Florida Ecosystem Restoration Task Force	954/377-5968	Kevin_M_Burger@ios.doi.gov
<i>Nancy Diersing</i> U.S. Department of Commerce - NOAA	305/852-7717	Nancy.Diersing@noaa.gov
<i>Eric Hughes</i> U.S. Environmental Protection Agency	904/232-2464	Eric.H.Hughes@usace.army.mil
<i>Michael Magley</i> U.S. Army Corps of Engineers	404/562-5206	Michael.E.Magley@usace.army.mil
<i>Cindy Ryberg</i> U.S. Department of the Interior	202/208-4967	Cynthia_Ryberg@ios.doi.gov
<i>Jeff Schmidt</i> U.S. Department of Agriculture - NRCS	561/792-2811	Jeff.Schmidt@fl.usda.gov
<i>Gail Wisler</i> U.S. Department of Agriculture - ARS	301/504-4562	gail.wisler@ars.usda.gov

**State of Florida Agencies:**

<i>Chuck Collins</i> Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission	561/625-5122	Chuck.Collins@MyFWC.com
<i>Stacey Feken</i> Florida Department of Environmental Protection	850/245-3176	Stacey.Feken@dep.state.fl.us
Megan Jacoby South Florida Water Management District	561/682-6517	mjacoby@sfwmd.gov
<i>Fred Noble</i> Florida Department of Transportation	850/414-5269	Fred.Noble@dot.state.fl.us
<i>Ray Scott</i> Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services	850/410-6714	scotra@doacs.state.fl.us