

***South Florida Ecosystem
Restoration Program***

**Fiscal Year 2003
Cross-Cut Budget**



Forward

The FY 2003 Cross-Cut Budget document is comprised of four sections. Section 1.0 provides an introduction, an overview of the Federal and State Funding Requests and a summary cost table, which includes budget information for Federal and State agencies/entities.

Section 2.0 is the Federal Everglades Ecosystem Restoration Program information section of the Cross-Cut Budget and has three sub-sections: Section 2.1 is the Federal Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (CERP) projects and funding, Section 2.2 is the Federal Non-CERP Everglades Ecosystem Restoration Projects and Section 2.3 is the Federal Non-CERP Everglades Ecosystem Restoration Program Support Activities. Please note that base program and operational funding request for some Federal agencies such as the National Park Service, Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S Department of Commerce, and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers are not included in the figures provided within the FY 2003 Cross-Cut Budget.

Section 3.0 is the State of Florida Everglades Ecosystem Restoration Program information section of the Cross-Cut Budget. It also has 3 sub-sections: Section 3.1 is the State CERP projects and funding, Section 3.2 is the State Non-CERP Everglades Ecosystem Restoration Projects and Section 3.3 is the State Non-CERP Everglades Ecosystem Restoration Program Support Activities. Please note that the budget planning and development process for the South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) commences annually in a March/April timeframe. Since the publication date of each year's Cross-Cut Budget precedes the budget cycle for the SFWMD, the FY2002/03 numbers are not available at this time. As soon as the FY 2002/03 budget information is available, this information will be posted on the website link to the FY 2003 Cross-Cut Budget at www.sfrestore.org. The same information will also be included in the FY 2004 Cross-Cut Budget document.

Section 4.0 provides background information for reference on the South Florida Ecosystem Restoration Program and includes an edited excerpt from the Coordinating Success: Strategy for Restoration of the South Florida Ecosystem (July 31, 2000).

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Section 1.0

Overview



Section 1.0: Overview

Section 1.1: Introduction

The Nation's strength during a time of heightened alert over national security at home and abroad is measured by wise investments in the future. This includes investments in environmental and resource stewardship programs to ensure that our children and future generations experience the wonder and beauty of America's natural resources. The FY 2003 President's Budget and the FY 2002-03 State of Florida Budget both propose funding to continue, to build upon, and to improve collaborative federal and state efforts to restore the Everglades, which are recognized both domestically and internationally as like no other place on earth.

The restoration of America's Everglades is a national and State of Florida priority, as is reflected in the Congressional passage of the Water Resources Development Act of 2000 (WRDA 2000) which authorizes the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (CERP) (Section 601 of Public Law 106-541) and the Florida Legislature's passage of the 2000 Everglades Restoration and Investment Act. The CERP provides a roadmap for a 30+-year implementation, of a suite of 68 interrelated projects which are necessary to restore, preserve and protect the South Florida Ecosystem. The shared vision in implementing the equally cost-shared Plan is the restoration, preservation and protection of a healthy South Florida ecosystem that can support diverse and sustainable communities of plants, animals and people. Additionally CERP provides for the protection of water quality in and the reduction of the loss of fresh water from the Everglades, and meets other water-related needs of the region, including flood control and the enhancement of water supplies. The CERP will accomplish these goals and purposes by increasing the amounts of clean fresh water and distributing it at the right time and place in an effort to replicate more natural hydrologic patterns.

Section 1.2: FY 2003 Federal Funding Request Overview

The total federal funding of over \$245 million proposed for the U.S. Department of the Interior, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the U.S. Department of Commerce, and the U.S. Department of Agriculture continues successful partnerships and steers ongoing projects towards completion. The FY 2003 funding request includes the following:

- The Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (CERP) implementation funding of \$37 million for the Army Corps of Engineers and \$9 million for the Department of the Interior.
- An increase of \$5 million for the Department of the Interior to assist the State of Florida in acquiring necessary lands for restoration
- An increase of \$6.7 million for the Army Corps to implement the Comprehensive Plan
- An increase of \$10.5 million for the Army Corps to continue the C-111 Project which will restore more natural water flow to Taylor Slough and Florida Bay
- An increase of \$1.9 million for the Army Corps to preserve endangered Manatees by reducing mortalities associated with water control structures through construction of Manatee Pass Gates.

The FY 2003 budget builds upon the earlier success of this Administration – and the State of Florida – to lay an important legal foundation and begin implementation of a program to guide Everglades restoration through the next four decades and beyond.

To complement the recently signed (January 9, 2002) President-Governor Agreement to ensure that water produced by the Comprehensive Plan will be allocated appropriately under state law to restore the Everglades natural system, the Army Corps will continue to work with Interior staff and other federal, state, tribal and non-governmental partners on the programmatic regulations. These regulations must be issued in final by December 11, 2002 and require the concurrence of the Secretary of the Interior and the Governor of Florida. Although largely procedural, the programmatic regulations will define the relationships and the processes to be utilized among all the parties to ensure that the goals and objectives of the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan are achieved.

Other Administration efforts in FY 2003 will focus on improving Everglades water quality by working with the State of Florida as it adopts a numeric water quality standard and a compliance methodology; managing and protecting marine resources; and above all, continuing the critically important role of the South Florida Ecosystem Restoration Task Force in collaboration, coordination, strategic planning, tracking of progress and the resolution of interagency and intergovernmental conflicts among all interested parties and stakeholders.

Section 1.3: FY 2002-03 State Funding Request Overview

There is no higher environmental priority for the State of Florida, its resource agencies and South Florida regional and local governments, than the protection and restoration of the Everglades ecological system from the Kissimmee Chain of Lakes and River to Lake Okeechobee, the Big Cypress Swamp, the Everglades into Florida Bay and the Florida Keys. Florida and her citizens have repeatedly demonstrated a strong, persistent commitment to this goal, and in 2000, the Florida Legislature with the leadership and support of Governor Jeb Bush, took historic action by passing the Everglades Restoration and Investment Act, committing \$100 million per year for ten years, to help finance the implementation of the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan. This year, the Governor has proposed legislative changes to refine the state Everglades restoration finance plan to provide a reliable, proven and secure funding mechanism for the state's share of the plan costs.

The State of Florida also supports the ongoing projects to be integrated with the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan that are vital to the restoration of the South Florida ecosystem and has aggressively moved toward completion of the restoration projects embodied in the Florida Everglades Forever program. Four of the six Stormwater Treatment Areas (STAs) authorized by the state act are fully operational and are removing 65 percent of the phosphorous from the waters flowing into the four STAs; water that otherwise would flow into the protected areas of the Everglades.

In addition, state land acquisition and management agencies have continued to acquire land for ecosystem restoration, water resource and habitat protection, and recreation. Significant state and South Florida Water Management District purchases have been made in the Fisheating Creek, Southern Golden Gate Estates, Allapattah Ranch and East Coast Buffers projects. To protect the quality of the water in the Everglades ecosystem, Governor Jeb Bush and Department of Environmental Protection Secretary, David Struhs, have recommended to the Environmental Regulation Commission the establishment of 10 parts per billion as the numeric criterion for phosphorous in the Everglades Protection Area.

Section 1.4: Federal and State Funding Summary Tables:

The tables provided on the following pages contain a summary of the more detailed funding information provided in Sections 2.0 and 3.0 of this document. The tables include budget information provided by Federal and State agencies/entities for their Everglades Ecosystem Restoration CERP and Non-CERP projects, programs and restoration support activities.

The dollars specified in the summary funding tables are reflective of three different fiscal year periods. The dollars for all Federal agencies and the South Florida Water Management District reflect a fiscal year that begins on October 1 and ends on September 30 of each year. The dollars for State of Florida agencies reflect a fiscal year that starts on July 1 and ends on June 30 of each year. Please take notice of the footnotes at the bottom of each table.

FEDERAL FUNDING SUMMARY TABLE (ACTUAL \$)*

| CERP PROJECTS | FY 2001 Enacted | FY 2002 Enacted | FY 2003 Request |
|--|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| USACE-CERP (Part of Central and Southern Florida) ⁽¹⁾ | 24,305,000 | 30,326,000 | 37,062,000 |
| USDOI-NPS CERP | 2,497,000 | 5,544,000 | 5,549,000 |
| USDOI-FWS CERP | 651,000 | 3,351,000 | 3,351,000 |
| TOTAL: | 27,453,000 | 39,221,000 | 45,962,000 |
| NON-CERP EVERGLADES ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION PROJECTS | | | |
| USACE -Critical Projects | 20,485,000 | 19,876,000 | 19,526,000 |
| USACE- Kissimmee River Restoration | 19,961,000 | 25,846,000 | 23,727,000 |
| USACE-Central and Southern Florida (excluding CERP) | 55,125,000 | 62,584,000 | 68,185,000 |
| USACE-Biscayne Bay | 543,000 | 240,000 | 0 |
| USDOI-NPS Modified Water Deliveries | 8,980,000 | 35,199,000 ⁽²⁾ | 13,295,000 |
| USDOI-NPS Land Acquisition Grants to Florida | 11,974,000 | 15,000,000 | 20,000,000 |
| USDOI-NPS Critical Ecosystem Studies Initiative | 6,194,000 | 4,000,000 | 0 |
| USDOI- USGS – Integrated Research, Planning and Interagency Coordination | 8,553,000 | 8,690,000 | 12,129,000 |
| USDOI-USGS DOI’s Integrated Studies for Everglades Restoration ⁽³⁾⁽⁵⁾ | 0 | 0 | [4,000,000] |
| USDOI-USGS Current Research Activities ⁽⁵⁾ | [8,553,000] | [8,690,000] | [8,129,000] ⁽⁴⁾ |
| USDOI-South Florida Ecosystem Restoration Task Force | 1,316,000 | 1,325,000 | 1,329,000 |
| USDOI-FWS Land Acquisition | 10,976,000 | 8,500,000 | 6,250,000 |
| US Department of Commerce-NOAA | 4,264,000 | 4,065,000 | 4,065,000 |
| TOTAL: | 148,371,000 | 185,325,000 | 168,506,000 |
| NON-CERP EVERGLADES ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION PROGRAM SUPPORT ACTIVITIES | | | |
| USDA-NRCS | 5,297,000 | 5,297,000 | 4,700,000 |
| USDA- ARS | 4,193,000 | 4,846,900 | 4,200,900 |
| USEPA | 4,582,000 | 4,168,900 | 4,247,100 |
| USDOI- BIA | 396,000 | 396,000 | 396,000 |
| USDOI-FWS Ecological Services | 2,554,000 | 2,554,000 | 2,554,000 |
| TOTAL: | 17,022,000 | 17,262,800 | 16,098,000 |
| FEDERAL FUNDING TOTAL: | 192,846,000 | 241,808,800 | 230,566,000 |

*Please note that base program and operational funding request for some Federal agencies such as the National Park Service, Fish and Wildlife, U.S Department of Commerce, and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers are not included in the figures provided within the FY 2003 Cross-Cut Budget

Footnotes:

¹ USACE CERP activities are funded under the Central and Southern Florida Project (C&SF)

² Reflects \$19,199,000 for construction and \$16,000,000 for land acquisition

³ Proposed transfer of \$4 million in CESI funds from NPS to USGS in 2003.

⁴ Decrease in 2003 request based on phasing out of Toxic Substances Hydrology Program.

⁵ Bracketed dollars are already included in the totals for the USDOI-USGS Integrated Research, Planning and Interagency Coordination.

STATE OF FLORIDA FUNDING SUMMARY TABLE (ACTUAL \$)

| CERP EVERGLADES ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION PROJECTS | FY 2000-01 Enacted | FY 2001-02 Enacted | FY 2002-03 Requested |
|---|----------------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------------|
| South Florida Water Management District | 32,773,071 ⁽¹⁾ | 106,708,816 ⁽²⁾ | Not Available ⁽³⁾ |
| Department of Environmental Protection | 89,619,051 | 90,380,949 | 150,279,126 |
| Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission | 315,000 | 411,000 | 421,686 |
| TOTAL: | 122,707,122 | 197,500,765 | 150,700,812⁽⁴⁾ |
| NON CERP EVERGLADES ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION PROJECTS | | | |
| South Florida Water Management District | 183,149,886 ⁽¹⁾ | 256,953,846 ⁽²⁾ | Not Available ⁽³⁾ |
| Department of Environmental Protection | 109,841,413 | 41,203,867 | 81,209,809 |
| Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission | 3,935,000 | 5,800,000 | 5,950,800 |
| TOTAL: | 296,926,299 | 303,957,713 | 87,160,609⁽⁴⁾ |
| NON-CERP EVERGLADES ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION PROGRAM SUPPORT ACTIVITIES | | | |
| South Florida Water Management District | 85,723,900 ⁽¹⁾ | 138,360,281 ⁽²⁾ | Not Available ⁽³⁾ |
| Department of Environmental Protection | 25,581,514 | 31,450,477 | 28,183,883 |
| Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission | 13,336,000 | 13,881,000 | 14,241,906 |
| Florida Department of Transportation | 16,104,000 | 4,931,000 | 10,528,832 |
| Florida Department of Agriculture/ Consumer Services | 24,700,000 | 8,445,000 | 15,155,884 |
| Department of Community Affairs | 31,830,000 | 9,800,000 | 10,000,000 |
| TOTAL: | 197,275,414⁽⁴⁾ | 206,867,758 | 78,110,505⁽⁴⁾ |
| STATE OF FLORIDA FUNDING TOTAL: | 616,908,835 | 708,326,236 | 315,971,926 |

Footnotes:

¹ FY 2001 reflects actual expenditures incurred by the SFWMD, and is being presented prior to the completion of SFWMD's annual audit. The results of the audit adjustments, if any, will be reflected in subsequent reports.

² FY 2002 reflects SFWMD adopted budget appropriations less any State Department of Environmental Protection appropriations to the Save Our Everglades Trust Fund and the Lake Okeechobee Trust Fund.

³ The budget planning and development process for the SFWMD commences annually in a March/April timeframe. Since the publication date of each year's Cross-Cut Budget precedes the budget cycle for the SFWMD, the FY2002/03 numbers are not available at this time. As soon as the FY 2002/03 budget information is available, this information will be posted on the website link to the FY 2003 Cross-Cut Budget at www.sfrestore.org. The same information will also be included in the FY 2004 Cross-Cut Budget document.

⁴ SFWMD budget information associated with the restoration efforts are not included. See note ³ above.

Section 2.0

Federal Everglades Ecosystem Restoration Program Funding and Project Information



Section 2.0: Federal Everglades Ecosystem Restoration Program Funding and Project Information

Section 2.1: Comprehensive Everglades Ecosystem Restoration Plan Projects (CERP) and Funding: (\$45,962,000)

This section of the FY 2003 Cross-Cut Budget includes descriptions for all federal agency projects and funding for CERP restoration projects as follows:

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps): (\$37,062,000)

This effort includes the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (CERP or Comp Plan) as recommended in the Central and Southern Florida Project Comprehensive Review Study (Restudy) submitted to Congress on July 1, 1999. The Comp Plan also includes the ongoing Water Preserve Areas, Indian River Lagoon, Southwest Florida, Comprehensive Water Quality, and Florida Bay/Florida Keys Feasibility studies.

The FY 2003 activities include continuation of program level activities focusing on the completion of the Programmatic Regulations, Restoration Coordination and Verification (RECOVER) program efforts, public outreach and involvement, and the environmental and economic equity program. The Programmatic Regulations are scheduled to have final rules published in December 2002. RECOVER has been organized into 6 major teams and a Leadership Group that oversees all team activities. The six teams include a Comprehensive Plan Refinement Team that will be working on developing the Initial CERP Update that will bring the 1999 plan up to conditions that existed on December 11, 2000, the enactment date for the Water Resources Development Act of 2000. The other five teams, Regional Evaluation, Adaptive Assessment, Model Refinement, Water Quality, and Operational Planning will be focusing on assisting the numerous Project Delivery Teams that are developing the Project Implementation Reports for the various projects.

Remaining FY 2003 activities will focus on project development and implementation. The major focus will be on those initial 10 projects authorized by WRDA 2000 and other programmatic efforts. Preparation of Pilot Project Design Reports will continue for the 6 pilot projects. This includes the continued data collection and water quality sampling at the three Aquifer Storage and Recovery Sites. In addition, work will continue on 25 Project Implementation Reports (PIR) following completion of the Project Management Plans for these efforts in FY 02. Project Delivery Teams will be using the Initial CERP update to formalize the base conditions for each PIR and begin formulation of alternatives. In addition, two Special PIR's will be prepared to address the requirements of WRDA 2000 for the components contained in the Indian River Lagoon and Water Preserve Area feasibility studies, while the Southwest Florida, Comprehensive Water Quality, and Florida Bay/Florida Keys feasibility studies continue.

U.S. Department of the Interior: National Park Service (NPS) (\$5,549,000)

In 2003, NPS requests \$5,549,000 for CERP implementation. The CERP effort in 2002 will center on recruitment of the technical staff required to conduct adaptive assessments geared toward the restoration of natural systems in Everglades National Park, Biscayne National Park, and Big Cypress Preserve. NPS staff have roles in project management and analysis, rulemaking, recovery coordination, public outreach, and technical support. The NPS staff (39 FTE) will form part of a joint DOI team that will

provide technical expertise in the interagency project formulation process, support independent assessments of project impacts and effectiveness, and conduct and evaluate long-term ecosystem recovery monitoring programs. The NPS plans to continue its role in implementation of CERP in 2003.

**U.S. Department of the Interior: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS)
(\$3,351,000)**

The 2003 request for CERP Implementation (\$3,351,000) will enable the FWS to fulfill its Trust Resource responsibilities under the Endangered Species Act, Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act, Migratory Bird Treaty Act, and other statutes as part of comprehensive Everglades restoration. The FWS will be an integral planning partner in designing, assessing and monitoring as many as 68 separate CERP project components during its implementation. The FWS is also responsible for providing environmental expertise to the Corps of Engineers and the South Florida Water Management District to guide Everglades restoration.

CERP FUNDING SUMMARY (ACTUAL \$)*

| CERP PROJECTS | FY 2001 Enacted | FY 2002 Enacted | FY 2003 Request |
|--|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| USACE-CERP (Part of Central and Southern Florida) ⁽¹⁾ | 24,305,000 | 30,326,000 | 37,062,000 |
| USDOI-NPS CERP | 2,497,000 | 5,544,000 | 5,549,000 |
| USDOI-FWS CERP | 651,000 | 3,351,000 | 3,351,000 |
| TOTAL: | 27,453,000 | 39,221,000 | 45,962,000 |

*Please note that base program and operational funding request for some Federal agencies such as the National Park Service, Fish and Wildlife, U.S. Department of Commerce, and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers are not included in the figures provided within the FY 2003 Cross-Cut Budget.

Footnotes:

¹ USACE CERP activities are funded under the Central and Southern Florida Project (C&SF)

**Section 2.2: Non- CERP Everglades Ecosystem Restoration
Projects (\$168,506,000)**

This section of the Cross-Cut Budget includes descriptions for all Federal agency projects and funding for Non-CERP Everglades Ecosystem Restoration Projects as follows:

**U.S. Army Corps of Engineers:
Everglades and South Florida Ecosystem Restoration Critical Projects
(\$19,526,000)**

This project involves the implementation of "critical restoration projects" authorized in Section 528 of the Water Resources Development Act of 1996. The legislation authorizes the Corps, in consultation with the Task Force and the non-Federal sponsor, to implement projects that produce independent, immediate and substantial restoration, preservation and protection benefits. The FY 2003 activities will include initiating construction on two projects, continuing construction on three projects and completing construction on two projects.

Kissimmee River Restoration (\$23,727,000)

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. Congress authorized the recommended plan in 1992 and design and construction is underway. The Project Modification Report recommending modifications to the upper basin was approved in FY 1996. The FY 2003 activities will include continuing engineering, design and monitoring, initiating four new construction contracts and completion of two ongoing construction contracts.

Central and Southern Florida Project (\$68,185,000)

NOTE: The number shown above does not reflect costs for Upper St. Johns Project (not within the SFWMD boundaries/not part of the Cross-Cut) or \$37,062,000 for CERP projects, which are reported in Section 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 2003 activities will include continued engineering and design of project features and contracts for the construction of canals, impoundments, and water control structures.

Manatee Pass Gates Project: This project consists of alternative structural modifications to 23 existing water control structures and locks in the C&SF Project to reduce or eliminate manatee fatalities associated with their operation. The project is being implemented in two phases; the first phase report was approved in FY 96 and addresses the addition of pressure sensitive devices at water control structures. These devices will reverse the gate closure if a foreign object is detected. In the second project phase, acoustic sounding and sensing devices will be placed at lock gates. The FY 2003 activities will continue the construction of project features.

West Palm Beach Canal, Canal-51/Stormwater Treatment Area 1-East (C-51/STA 1E) 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 to restore a portion of the historic Everglades flows. It is being implemented in conjunction with SFWMD's Everglades Construction Project. The FY 2003 activities will continue clearing and grading contract, STA-1E (west) and STA-1E (east), and S-155A, complete inflow and outflow pump station contracts and initiate C-51 improvements contract.

Southwest Florida, Comprehensive Water Quality, and Florida Bay/Florida Keys Feasibility Studies: These studies, which are identified in the WRDA 2000 authorized CERP, are required to better address specific issues such as water quality. Studies were initiated in FY 2001 and will be continued in FY 2003.

U.S. Department of the Interior: National Park Service
Modified Water Deliveries Project (MWD)(\$13,295,000)

The 2003 request is \$13,295,000 for the MWD project through the NPS construction appropriation account to continue this important project. 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 Central and Southern Florida Project (C&SF) water management system and related operational changes to provide improved water deliveries to Everglades National Park. The project includes water control structures to restore more natural hydrologic conditions within Everglades National Park and a flood mitigation system. Planned features will be implemented by the Corps with the concurrence of the National Park Service and the non-Federal sponsor, the South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD). Consistent with the cost-sharing provisions of the Everglades National Park Protection and Expansion Act of 1989 (1989 Act), project construction will be Federally funded, and in accordance with the Corps's General Design Memorandum for Modified Water Deliveries to Everglades National Park, the Federal government will provide 75 percent of operating and maintenance costs, with the South Florida Water Management District assuming responsibility for the remaining 25 percent. Additional project coordination is provided by quarterly meetings of the NPS, the Corps, the Fish and Wildlife Service, and the SFWMD. The project consists of structural features with the intended purpose of restoring conveyance between water conservation areas north of Everglades National Park and the Shark River Slough within the park, as well as flood mitigation features for a residential area known as the 8.5 square mile area.

The completion of this project is required prior to the construction of certain components of the CERP. In addition, in 1999 the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service released a Final Biological Opinion on the project, requiring the implementation of the MWD project by the end of 2003 to resolve jeopardy issue related to the Cape Sable Seaside Sparrow.

U.S. Department of the Interior: National Park Service
Grants to State of Florida (\$20,000,000)

The 2003 budget request provides \$20,000,000 in assistance to the State of Florida, including Federal administrative expenses, to purchase land located within the Everglades Ecosystem that are outside of the National Park System, as part of a partnership to assist in Everglades restoration efforts. This partnership, which was initiated in 1994, has been funded through the \$200 million appropriated to the Department as part of the Federal Agriculture Improvement and Reform Act of 1996 (Farm Bill), Public Law 104-127, as well as with funds provided through the Land and Water Conservation Fund.

The funding requested in FY 2003 will be utilized under cost-share terms that require the State of Florida to match the Federal share. Using the combined Federal and State funds, the State will acquire the highest priority lands needed for Everglades restoration purposes including: those lands needed to implement authorized CERP project features, lands in the East Coast Buffer and lands in the Water Preserve Areas.

**U.S. Department of the Interior: U.S. Geological Survey
Everglades Restoration: Integration Research, Planning, and Interagency
Coordination (\$12,129,000)**

DOI's Integrated Studies for Everglades Restoration (\$4,000,000)

In FY 2003, the Department of the Interior proposes to integrate ongoing science, planning, and interagency coordination efforts for the restoration of the Everglades by transferring funding of \$4 million from the National Park Service's Critical Ecosystem Studies Initiative (CESI) to supplement the \$8.129 million in USGS' research activities (refer to project description in Section 2.3). An integrated program of \$12.129 million will facilitate leveraging of 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 needs of the National Park Service and the Fish and Wildlife Service. These land management bureaus are responsible for the stewardship of one-half of the remaining Everglades ecosystem and for legal requirements to provide technical expertise to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers as it implements, with the State of Florida, one of the largest watershed restoration programs in the world.

CESI funds will be used to continue high-priority work, including long-term ecological monitoring, adaptive environmental assessment, and development of simulation-based decision support tools for the DOI resource management bureaus (NPS and FWS) in South Florida that will be used in the CERP implementation. CESI funds will also continue to support the South Florida Ecosystem Restoration Task Force's planning and interagency coordination activities. With the proposed transfer of \$4 million, and in accordance with terms of the Memorandum of Understanding that clarifies DOI collaboration, the USGS will support projects in the following categories:

The Adaptive Assessment study includes work supporting landscape, ecological, and hydrological monitoring critical for assessing restoration success; this category also supports the environmental impact assessment procedures required for the Modified Water Deliveries and C-111 Projects.

The Baseline Ecosystem Research study will focus on ecological processes and key indicator species, studies of key contaminants and endocrine disruptors relevant to indicator species, development of baseline information and preliminary models for linking landscape dynamics and key habitat changes with hydroperiod, and benthic paleohistory.

The Simulation Models and Decision Support Tools study will incorporate additional key indicator species and functional groups to modeling capabilities (in order to improve the scope of adaptive assessments), to make improvements in existing ecological models and their applications, to better integrate both existing and new hydrological and ecological models, and to develop more comprehensive and user friendly decision support tools.

The South Florida Ecosystem Restoration Task Force office will conduct the following planning and interagency coordination activities: biennial updating, reporting, and implementation activities as required by the Congress regarding the Task Force's outcome-oriented Strategic Plan; interagency coordination program for the science review activities performed by the National Research Council's CROGEE (Committee on

Restoration of the Greater Everglades Ecosystem); and coordination and implementation activities for the Task Force's Invasive Exotic Plant Control Strategy.

Everglades Restoration: Current Research Activities (\$8,129,000)

USGS research continues to focus on long-term research efforts that provide the scientific framework for restoration goals. With its nationally available expertise in biology, geology, mapping and water resources, USGS conducts single discipline, multi-discipline, and interdisciplinary research relevant to restoration of the greater Everglades and adjacent coastal ecosystems of South Florida. Over the past several years, USGS program funding has supported ecosystem studies that include program planning, data collection, process studies, and development and implementation of modeling and decision support tools. The initial studies concentrated in areas of the greater Everglades and coastal systems that were expected to realize the earliest changes resulting from CERP implementation. Many of these projects are contributing information towards development of a whole-system linked ecological/hydrological model of the Everglades Park, Shark River Slough and southwest Everglades coastal system. An important aspect of the work will be analyzing and integrating the scientific data to provide decision making information to DOI resource managers and those within DOI dealing with policy issues (specifically NPS and FWS). Specific products include surface and subsurface hydrologic models linking the output of the South Florida Water Management District's Surface Water Management Model product at Tamiami Trail to flows through Everglades Park to Florida Bay and the southwest Everglades coast. The USGS hydrologic model will not only address flows through the Everglades Park into Florida Bay, but the model will provide a mechanism that ultimately will include chemical and sediment transport.

New research recently initiated will link the higher quality resolution hydrological models to the Across Trophic Level System Simulation (ATLSS) predictive ecological models, a series of linked models that permit prediction of the effects of various restoration scenarios on biological resources of concern. ATLSS relies on high-resolution topography coupled with landscape and hydrological models, and links these to ecological models for producer and consumer organisms and populations of special emphasis. New USGS work will focus on developing a GIS-based and web-accessible data viewing system similar to the personal computer-based system – called the ATLSS Data Viewing System – currently in early release. These GIS-based data viewing systems and decision support systems will greatly enhance the ability of resource managers and policy makers in assessing and evaluating CERP projects, as they are being planned and implemented.

A high-resolution topographic survey at a 400-meter scale of the natural Everglades is nearly complete; all data are readily available via Internet access. Work over the next 2-3 years will complete the entire natural system including Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge. In addition, site-specific topographic surveys will be conducted as needed for key habitats and for key species. Landscape and plant community maps are being developed and refined using innovative remote sensing and GIS techniques to map vegetation and link vegetation characteristics to related hydrologic variables. These mapping tools are essential for assessing landscape-related changes as the various CERP projects are implemented.

Published reports show that mercury contamination continues to remain a significant problem in the Everglades. USGS research indicates that mercury bioaccumulation is

more closely linked to 'new' rather than 'old' mercury. Current studies indicate most CERP restoration activities, if properly implemented, will reduce the negative effects of mercury. New studies are more closely assessing the link between mercury and other contaminants to biogeochemical processes that are expected to be modified, and perhaps improved, through CERP projects.

Full utilization of the information from these studies depends on the extent to which the information can be made available to the managers and decision-makers in a timely manner. For this reason, future efforts will continue to enhance the South Florida Information Access (SOFIA) web site (<http://sofia.usgs.gov/>) as the main Internet portal for accessing data, metadata, monitoring programs, fact sheets and reports on all USGS-generated greater Everglades information. SOFIA will be enhanced by being linked to a geographic database system to increase ease of use and access to information on a geographical and landscape basis. Future efforts will include ensuring information dissemination through such means as journal publications, data reports, reports to cooperators, presentations at scientific meetings, seminars and workshops and use of the Internet. In addition, SOFIA is continually updating the K-12 educational outreach component for access by students and teachers.

U.S. Department of the Interior: South Florida Ecosystem Restoration Task Force (\$1,329,000)

This activity is to support operations of the South Florida Ecosystem Restoration Task Force, which is responsible for coordinating and integrating the activities of the participating Federal, State, Local, and Tribal agencies involved in the Everglades Ecosystem Restoration Program and is also responsible to report to Congress on restoration programs and funding requirements. The Water Resources Development Act of 1996 directs the Task Force and Working Group to implement procedures to facilitate public participation in the advisory process; to maintain records and make the proceedings of meetings available for public inspection; and to submit biennial reports to Congress, summarizing the activities of the Task Force, the policies, strategies, projects, and priorities developed or implemented, and the progress made toward the restoration. In subsequent Congressional guidance, the Task Force was directed to develop implement and maintain an outcome oriented strategic plan; an improved process for resolving conflicts/disputes; and a comprehensive strategy for Federal land acquisition projects.

In FY 2003, the Task Force office will continue its coordination role and related activities on behalf of the Task Force and Working Group initiatives, projects, priorities and programs. The Task Force will also continue this role in coordinating, tracking and monitoring all aspects of CERP implementation as well as the continued implementation of its updated Strategic Plan. This work will include initiating and undertaking the 2004 biannual update of the plan as required by the Congress, reporting progress and accomplishments on Goals 1, 2 and 3 of the strategic plan, developing and maintaining a tracking system for its land acquisition strategy, engaging as necessary in its dispute resolution process and preparing FY2003 updates of the Cross-Cut Budget and the restoration project sheet information (Integrated Financial Plan) including status, schedule, scope and budget for each project.

U.S. Department of the Interior: U.S Fish and Wildlife Service

Land Acquisition (\$6,250,000)

The 2003 request for land acquisition is necessary to acquire lands in three National Wildlife Refuge units (J.N. "Ding" Darling, Florida Keys and Pelican Island) essential to endangered and threatened species conservation in South Florida. Lands acquired will complement CERP implementation and will further the overall goals of Everglades restoration. Keystone listed species benefiting from these land acquisition initiatives include: endangered Key deer, endangered wood stork, endangered American crocodile and others.

U.S. Department of Commerce: National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) (\$4,065,000)

The FY 2003 budget for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) includes \$4,065,000 to provide science and monitoring projects critical to implementing and assessing the Comprehensive Ecosystem Restoration Plan (CERP) and other portions of the South Florida ecosystem restoration effort. NOAA supports the only portion of the ecosystem restoration effort exclusively devoted to monitoring, restoring and managing the coastal portions of the South Florida Ecosystem. These projects will provide information critical to the design and implementation of inland restoration projects and to the evaluation of 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.

As the CERP projects begin to implement major construction and re-routing of water flow through the South Florida Ecosystem, downstream coastal resources will be affected. NOAA's role is to provide research, monitoring, and management to support successful implementation of the CERP, including restoration of the affected coastal resources. Although 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 three NOAA projects directly support CERP implementation.

Integrated Ecosystem Health Monitoring/National Ocean Service (\$900,000) & Interdisciplinary Coastal Oceanographic Observations/ Oceanic and Atmospheric Research (\$665,000)

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. Monitoring the impacts of replumbing water flow from inland to coastal areas, as part of the restoration effort, is critical to determine the overall success of the effort. This funding supports a variety of monitoring activities in South Florida's coastal waters that are downstream of major restoration projects, such as the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary, Florida Bay and Biscayne Bay. The objectives are to: (1) establish baseline conditions, (2) monitor trends including the effects of restoration efforts and management decisions, and (3) evaluate long-term impacts associated with the inland changes in water flow and other human impacts.

NOAA's monitoring of circulation and salinity of key coastal indicators including sea grasses, microinvertebrates, and coral reefs, are important for tracking and changing the restoration effort as it proceeds. This data will ultimately be used to determine the best

alternatives, progress, and effectiveness of efforts to redirect inland water flow and restore a healthy South Florida ecosystem.

Additional funding beyond this amount will be required to fulfill NOAA's responsibility to: (1) establish a long-term ecological monitoring program and database for the South Florida Restoration effort and the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary, and (2) provide a forum for integrating monitoring into the management of the inland and coastal marine ecosystem. The geographic scope includes all the marine waters of South Florida.

Restoration Science and Assessment/National Marine Fisheries Service (\$1,300,000)

The National Marine Fisheries Service will continue research that defines the impact of inland restoration efforts and changing freshwater inflow on Florida Bay habitats, nutrients flow, hydrodynamics, and ultimately on measurable ecosystem productivity, diversity, and health. This research is conducted, in part, through a strong partnership with local scientists. Funds are targeted to conduct an integrative spatial study of the benthic communities in relation to habitat, particularly sea grass and salinity, and to build a relationship among abundance, biomass, and the management of freshwater inflow. Elements of the study will include modeling, geographic information systems (GIS), field sampling across the entire Bay, and laboratory studies. Spatial community modeling will be incorporated into a total ecosystem model of Florida Bay to help integrate the interagency program of studies in Florida Bay. This effort also includes expansion of tests of water quality entering Florida Bay using biological assays appropriate for South Florida.

Restoration Science/ National Ocean Service (\$1,200,000)

Funding will support scientific investigations in the South Florida coastal ecosystem to better understand and restore the coastal areas as part of the overall restoration effort. When coupled with monitoring efforts, these investigations allow managers to see and predict the interactions between restoration efforts and oceanographic, atmospheric, geologic, hydrologic, and fisheries processes. Much of this work is coordinated through researchers at NOAA's Atlantic Oceanographic and Meteorological Laboratory (AOML) and a variety of university partners.

NON-CERP FUNDING SUMMARY (ACTUAL \$)*

| NON-CERP PROJECTS | FY 2001 Enacted | FY 2002 Enacted | FY 2003 Request |
|--|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| USACE -Critical Projects | 20,485,000 | 19,876,000 | 19,526,000 |
| USACE- Kissimmee River Restoration | 19,961,000 | 25,846,000 | 23,727,000 |
| USACE-Central and Southern Florida (excluding CERP) | 55,125,000 | 62,584,000 | 68,185,000 |
| USACE-Biscayne Bay | 543,000 | 240,000 | 0 |
| USDOJ-NPS Modified Water Deliveries | 8,980,000 | 35,199,000 ⁽²⁾ | 13,295,000 |
| USDOJ-NPS Land Acquisition Grants to Florida | 11,974,000 | 15,000,000 | 20,000,000 |
| USDOJ-NPS Critical Ecosystem Studies Initiative | 6,194,000 | 4,000,000 | 0 |
| USDOJ- USGS – Integrated Research, Planning and Interagency Coordination | 8,553,000 | 8,690,000 | 12,129,000 |
| USDOJ-USGS DOI's Integrated Studies for Everglades Restoration ⁽³⁾⁽⁵⁾ | 0 | 0 | [4,000,000] |
| USDOJ-USGS Current Research Activities ⁽⁵⁾ | [8,553,000] | [8,690,000] | [8,129,000] ⁽⁴⁾ |
| USDOJ-South Florida Ecosystem Restoration Task Force | 1,316,000 | 1,325,000 | 1,329,000 |
| USDOJ-FWS Land Acquisition | 10,976,000 | 8,500,000 | 6,250,000 |
| US Department of Commerce-NOAA | 4,264,000 | 4,065,000 | 4,065,000 |
| TOTAL: | 148,371,000 | 185,325,000 | 168,506,000 |

*Please note that base program and operational funding request for some Federal agencies such as the National Park Service, Fish and Wildlife, U.S Department of Commerce, and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers are not included in the figures provided within the FY 2003 Cross-Cut Budget.

Footnotes:

² Reflects \$19,199,000 for construction and \$16,000,000 for land acquisition

³ Proposed change in appropriation of \$4 million in CESI funds from NPS to USGS.

⁴ Decrease in 2003 request based on phasing out of Toxic Substances Hydrology Program.

⁵ Bracketed dollars are already included in the totals for the USDOJ-USGS Integrated Research, Planning and Interagency Coordination.

Section 2.3: Non-CERP Everglades Ecosystem Restoration Program Support Activities (\$16,098,000)

This section of the Cross-Cut Budget includes descriptions for all Federal agency projects and funding (except as noted in the preface) for Non-CERP Everglades Ecosystem Restoration Program Support Activities as follows:

U.S. Department of Agriculture- Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)(\$4,700,000)

The NRCS provides technical assistance on a voluntary basis to private landowners and operators, Indian 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 Everglades Ecosystem. Financial assistance is provided through a variety of USDA Farm Bill Programs.

NRCS operates Mobile Irrigation Laboratories in partnership with other governmental agencies to assist urban and agricultural land users in reducing irrigation water use and nutrient loading to receiving waters. Assistance is provided to livestock and dairy producers to apply Best Management Practices, including waste management systems, to reduce off farm nutrient discharges. A special effort in the EAA and C-139 basin is in place to assist the land user to meet requirements outlined in the 1994 Everglades Forever Act 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.

**U.S. Department of Agriculture - Agricultural Research Service (ARS)
(\$4,200,900)**

The ARS mission is to develop and transfer solutions to agriculture problems of high national priority; to provide information access and dissemination to ensure high-quality, safe food and other agricultural products; assess the nutritional needs of Americans; sustain a competitive agricultural economy; enhance the natural resource base and the environment; and provide economic opportunities for rural citizens, communities, and society. Related to the Everglades Ecosystem Restoration Program ARS conducts research on sustainable agriculture production systems for beef cattle grazing; horticulture, sugarcane, and other crops; biological control of aquatic weeds/ invasive species; improved water management; enhanced water quality protection, hydrologic and water quality modeling; advanced fertilizer and pesticide management practices; and atmospheric loadings from nutrients and pesticides. Individual projects for FY 2003 are as follows:

Beef Cattle Grazing Systems to Protect Water Resources (\$184,500)

A new research project has recently been initiated at the Beef Cattle Research Unit in Brooksville, FL, to develop better forages and grazing practices that will improve the profitability of beef cattle production as well as protect water quality for the subtropical areas of the United States. Changes in soil nutrients and water quality effects around and beneath the cattle congregation sites will be assessed.

Development of Improved Sugarcane Varieties and Their Use in Sustainable Agricultural Production Systems (\$834,200)

The primary mission of the Sugarcane Field Station in Canal Point, FL, is to develop high-yielding, disease-resistant sugarcane varieties. Research objectives of these projects are as follows: (1) quantify and genetically improve sugarcane's tolerance to wetter conditions, (2) determine seasonal flood-drain cycles that improve or maintain yields while controlling soil subsidence, (3) quantify and genetically improve sugarcane's ability to yield well with less phosphorus fertilizer or to yield well and take up more soil phosphorus, and (4) quantify the effects of raised water tables and intermittent flooding on the microbial activity that causes soil subsidence.

Biological Control and Management of Aquatic Weeds/ Invasive Species in South Florida (\$1,923,200)

ARS has conducted research in the biological control of weeds in South Florida for more than 50 years. Since 1989, the ARS Invasive Plant Research Laboratory in Ft. Lauderdale, FL (and its satellite lab in Gainesville, FL) has spearheaded, in collaboration with the ARS Australian Biological Control of Weeds Laboratory, a biological control program directed against melaleuca. Research continues under current funding to

develop management strategies and biological control agents that are efficient, economical, and environmentally sound. Current funding related to the Everglades restoration efforts totals \$1,676,800 and \$246,400 in Florida and Australia, respectively.

The research has been expanded to identify and collect natural enemies for control of *Melaleuca quinquenervia* and other invasive pest plants; evaluate biological control agents for control of *Melaleuca* and other exotic plant species and obtain approvals of qualified natural enemies; and develop biological-based integrated pest (weed) management strategies that are efficient, economical, and environmentally sound. The release of approved biological control agents will be integrated with other methods of exotic plant species control (chemical, cultural, and physical), determination of optimum re-vegetation methods, and an evaluation of compliance with economic and environmental impact assessments on control measures. A new quarantine facility being constructed in Ft. Lauderdale will increase the capacity of Invasive Plant Research Lab to pursue biological control remedies for invasive plants in Everglades National Park.

Nutrient, Pesticide, and Water Management for Horticultural Crops (\$252,900) The Horticultural and Breeding Research Unit at Ft. Pierce, FL, recently initiated a new project to improve water conservation and water quality associated with the irrigation of field and container-grown horticultural crops. Research objectives of the project are: (1) determine the fate and transport of nutrients and pesticides used and the potential for contamination of aquatic environments; (2) develop management practices that reduce losses of nutrients and pesticides into water resources; and (3) assess the potential of aquatic plants and algal species to purify horticultural runoff of excess nutrients and pesticides.

A Model for Predicting Sugarcane Yields, Soil Subsidence, and Nutrient Runoff (\$35,700)

The original project that dealt with crop stress and sugarcane production under high water table and climate change scenarios for different soil types has been completed. Results from the temperature-gradient greenhouse studies showed that sugarcane yields were slightly higher with the water table maintained at a constant 8-inch depth compared to a fluctuating water table at about 20 inches. The objective of the remaining project of the Crop Genetics and Environmental Research Unit in Gainesville, FL, is to develop a sugarcane model to predict crop yields based on water deficits, different temperatures, photoperiods, soil properties, and other environmental conditions.

Hydrologic Evaluation and Water Quality Studies Affecting Dade County (\$613,200)

The long-term plan to restore the Everglades to a more natural condition may elevate the water table in parts of South Florida. This could result in flooding during the wet season and have an adverse effect on agricultural crop production. The main objectives of this project being conducted by the Subtropical Horticultural Research Unit are: (1) to develop and evaluate a comprehensive, agricultural decision-support computer model to improve water quality under high water table conditions, and (2) to develop guidelines and recommendations for agricultural management practices to improve water quality under high water table management conditions. The computer model and guidelines for agricultural practices are currently being developed for the C-111 basin.

Water Quality Impacts for Sweet Corn Production in Dade County, South Florida (\$158,200)

This research project was developed through the South Florida Water Management District; the University of Florida, Tropical Research and Education Center in Homestead, FL; and the Southeast Watershed Laboratory in Tifton, GA. The objectives of this research project are: (1) to evaluate the fate and transport of indicator nutrients and pesticides, i.e. compounds detected in surface water monitoring studies; (2) to evaluate the potential of summer cover crops in controlling pesticide and fertilizer contamination of surface and ground water; and (3) to evaluate contamination attenuation of nutrients and pesticides during transport processes in the upper Biscayne aquifer.

Atmospheric Processes of Agricultural Pollutants that Affect Air and Water in South Florida (\$199,000)

A new research project was initiated in FY 2002 to determine atmospheric loadings of nutrients and pesticides to sensitive ecosystems. This project is being lead by Environmental Quality Laboratory in Beltsville, MD, and the Southeast Watershed Laboratory in Tifton, GA, in cooperation with the University of Florida, South Florida Water Management District, and National Park Service scientists. Air quality sampling sites have been established in Biscayne National Park near Homestead, FL, and West Palm Beach, FL. These measurements will compliment water quality research and toxicity testing by NOAA National Ocean Service scientists in the St. Lucie Estuary and Florida Bay.

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) (\$4,247,100)

EPA funds are devoted to a number of key ecosystem restoration issues including, natural resources management, water quality and habitat protection, information management and assessment, science and research, and infrastructure investment. For example, EPA and the Corps are implementing wetlands conservation, permitting, and mitigation strategies that include interagency mechanisms to coordinate the permitting planning and mitigation planning needed to implement the existing regulatory programs with the greatest efficiency in the face of intense development pressure.

In addition, EPA is funding a number of water quality research and protection programs including research on the effects of phosphorus, UV-B, and endocrine disrupting chemicals on water quality and/or wildlife in South Florida, implementation of a water quality protection plan for the Florida Keys, and development of a water quality protection program for the entire South Florida Ecosystem.

U.S. Department of the Interior- Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) – (\$396,000)

Funds are included for the continuing efforts to restore the South Florida Ecosystem in the Tribal Priority Allocations base funding for the Seminole and Miccosukee Tribes. This funding (\$198,000 each) enables the Tribes to complete the design and cost estimates of stormwater treatment areas on the Seminole and Big Cypress reservations, conduct research and studies on water quality and distribution systems, ecosystem development and management, and planning for compliance with the Endangered Species Act. The stormwater treatment areas will be treated to reduce the concentration of phosphorous and other nutrients in water essential to the protection and restoration of the Everglades ecosystem.

U.S. Department of the Interior: Fish and Wildlife Service Ecological Services (\$2,554,000)

These funds will allow the FWS to continue coordination and partnering with NPS, USGS, Tribal governments, state agencies and private organizations involved in the restoration of the South Florida Ecosystem. These funds for 2003 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 will continue its activities consulting with the Corps, NPS and other Federal agencies relative to those agency activities that potentially affect Federally listed species. In 2003, the FWS will continue consultation with the Corps on the Central and South Florida Restudy, in addition to other ongoing or new Federal projects. Additionally, 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.

**NON-CERP PROGRAM SUPPORT ACTIVITIES FUNDING SUMMARY
(ACTUAL \$)***

| NON-CERP PROGRAMS/ACTIVITIES | FY 2001 Enacted | FY 2002 Enacted | FY2003 Request |
|-------------------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------|
| USDA-NRCS | 5,297,000 | 5,297,000 | 4,700,000 |
| USDA- ARS | 4,193,000 | 4,846,900 | 4,200,900 |
| USEPA | 4,582,000 | 4,168,900 | 4,247,100 |
| USDOJ- BIA | 396,000 | 396,000 | 396,000 |
| USDOJ-FWS Ecological Services | 2,554,000 | 2,554,000 | 2,554,000 |
| TOTAL: | 17,022,000 | 17,262,800 | 16,098,000 |

**Please note that base program and operational funding request for some Federal agencies such as the National Park Service, Fish and Wildlife, U.S Department of Commerce, and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers are not included in the figures provided within the FY 2003 Cross-Cut Budget.*

Section 3.0

State of Florida Everglades Ecosystem Restoration Program Funding and Project



Section 3.0: State of Florida Everglades Ecosystem Restoration Program Funding and Project Information

Section 3.1: Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan Projects and Funding (\$150,700,812)*

** This funding total does not include SFWMD dollars.*

This section of the Cross-Cut Budget includes descriptions for all State agency projects and funding for CERP Restoration Projects as follows:

South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD)**

Implementation of CERP:

The South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) is the local sponsor for 56 of the CERP project components. These features have been reorganized into 31 projects, and six pilot projects in partnership with the Federal sponsor, the Corps.

**The budget planning and development process for the SFWMD commences annually in a March/April timeframe. Since the publication date of each year's Cross-Cut Budget precedes the budget cycle for the SFWMD, the FY 2002/03 numbers are not available at this time. As soon as the FY 2002/03 budget information is available. This information will be posted on the website link to the FY 2003 Cross Cut Budget at www.sfrestore.org. The same information will also be included in the FY 2004 Cross Cut Budget document.

Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) (\$150,279,126)

The implementation of the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (CERP) in partnership with the South Florida Water Management District, Tribes, and other State, Federal, local agencies and environmental groups is a high priority for the Department. The Department is represented on the South Florida Ecosystem Restoration Task Force and Working Group, Project Delivery, Design Coordination and RECOVER Teams associated with implementation of the CERP.

The State of Florida is a full partner in CERP implementation having adopted the Everglades Restoration Investment Act in 2000 providing \$100,000,000 per year for 10 years. This amount will be matched with local sponsor funds and credits for a total of \$200,000,000 per year for 10 years.

The Department administers the Save Our Everglades Trust Fund. Funds have been encumbered for CERP land acquisition for FY 2000-2001 as follows.

Water Preserve Areas

Water Preserve Area (Cell 11)- \$51,600,000 has been encumbered in FY 2000-2001 to acquire land within Cell -11 of the Water Preserve Area.

Berry Groves

Approximately 9,000 acres have been acquired to implement the C-43 Basin Storage Reservoir CERP component in the Caloosahatchee River region. \$38,019,051 has been encumbered in FY 2000-2001 to reimburse the SFWMD for land previously acquired.

Southern Golden Gate Estates (SGGE)

Approximately 6,104 acres remain to be acquired from a project size of 55,556 acres for the purpose of implementing a hydrological restoration for SGGE.

The Department's Southeast Florida District office in West Palm Beach and South Florida District in Ft. Myers estimates expenditures of approximately \$249,375 and \$29,751 respectively in support of CERP project implementation.

Department CERP (Save Our Everglades Trust Fund - SOETF) expenditures for October 1, 2000 through September 30, 2001 were \$43,837,718.

Approximately \$150,000,000 of funds from the SOETF is expected to be spent in FY 2002-2003 primarily for CERP land acquisition.

Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWCC) (\$421,686)

For the most part, the FWC contributes to CERP projects by participating on interagency planning teams to ensure that CERP is consistent with its responsibilities and mission.

Additionally, the Office of Environmental Services coordinates FWC comments under the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act and the National Environmental Policy Act processes.

The Office of Environmental Services, Division of Freshwater Fisheries and the Florida Marine Research Institute actively participate on RECOVER; and the Office of Environmental Services, Division of Freshwater Fisheries, Division of Wildlife and the Florida Marine Research Institute participate on the Project Design Teams that have the greatest potential to affect resources for which the FWC has primary responsibilities for the State.

CERP PROJECTS FUNDING SUMMARY (ACTUAL \$)

| CERP PROJECTS | FY 2000-01 Enacted | FY 2001-02 Enacted | FY 2002-03 Requested |
|---|---------------------------|---------------------------|----------------------------------|
| South Florida Water Management District | 32,773,071 ⁽¹⁾ | 91,708,816 ⁽⁴⁾ | Not available ⁽³⁾ |
| Department of Environmental Protection | 89,619,051 | 90,380,949 | 150,279,126 |
| Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission | 315,000 | 411,000 | 421,686 |
| TOTAL: | 122,707,122 | 197,500,765 | 150,700,812⁽⁴⁾ |

Footnotes:

¹ Reflects SFWMD adopted budget appropriations less any State Department of Environmental Protection appropriations to the Save Our Everglades Trust Fund and Federal Department of Interior Funds.

² Since the publication date of each year's Cross-Cut Budget precedes the budget cycle for the SFWMD, the FY2003/04 totals shown represent estimates. When FY 2003/04 budget totals are available, they will be posted on the website link to the FY 2003 Cross-Cut Budget at www.sfrestore.org. The same information will also be included in the FY 2005 Cross-Cut Budget document.

³ The budget planning and development process for the SFWMD commences annually in a March/April timeframe. Since the publication date of each year's Cross-Cut Budget precedes the budget cycle for the SFWMD, the FY2002/03 numbers are not available at this time. As soon as the FY 2002/03 budget information is available, this information will be posted on the website link to the FY 2003 Cross-Cut Budget at www.sfrestore.org. The same information will also be included in the FY 2004 Cross-Cut Budget document.

⁴ SFWMD budget information associated with the restoration efforts are not included. See note ³ above.

Section 3.2: Non-CERP Everglades Ecosystem Restoration Projects (\$87,160,609)*

** This funding total does not include SFWMD dollars.*

This section of the Cross-Cut Budget includes descriptions for all State agency projects and funding for Non-CERP Everglades Ecosystem Restoration Projects as follows:

South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) **

The SFWMD is also constructing and implementing the Everglades Construction Project (ECP) and, additionally, works closely with the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) and other State, Federal, and tribal governments on other non-CERP programs to restore and protect the South Florida Ecosystem.

The SFWMD's priority Non-CERP Everglades Ecosystem Restoration and Protection Projects include:

- (1) Implementation of the ECP mandated by the Everglades Forever Act through land acquisition, construction of stormwater treatment areas (STAs), hydropattern restoration projects and implementation of the Everglades Program control of exotic plants, research and monitoring, and regulation;
- (2) Restoration of the Kissimmee River and floodplain (in cooperation with the Corps) through land acquisition, construction (backfilling 22 miles of canal and opening 9 miles of remnant river channel) and a comprehensive ecological evaluation program.
- (3) Implementation of the Lake Okeechobee Protection Program (in cooperation with FDACS, FDEP and the Corps) which is focused on restoration and protection of the lake by reducing nutrient loading and controlling the spread of nuisance and exotic plants; and restoring isolated wetlands.
- (4) Restoration of the southern Everglades and Florida Bay (in cooperation with the Corps and Everglades National Park (ENP)) through the C-111 and Modified Water Deliveries Projects, land acquisition, and operational changes to restore natural water flows to ENP and Florida Bay;
- (5) Development and implementation of regional water supply plans;
- (6) Acquisition of lands needed for ongoing and future non-CERP restoration projects and for conservation and protection of critical habitat;
- (7) Implementation of seven Critical Restoration Projects in cooperation with the Corps; and
- (8) Restoration of coastal ecosystems through pollutant load reduction and habitat restoration.

***The budget planning and development process for the SFWMD commences annually in a March/April timeframe. Since the publication date of each year's Cross-Cut Budget precedes the budget cycle for the SFWMD, the FY2002/03 numbers are not available at this time. As soon as the FY 2002/03 budget information is available, this information will be posted on the website link to the FY 2003 Cross-Cut Budget at www.sfrestore.org. The same information will also be included in the FY 2004 Cross-Cut Budget document.*

Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) (\$81,209,809)

The Department's Non-CERP Everglades Ecosystem Restoration Project priorities include implementation of the Everglades Forever Act (in cooperation with the South Florida Water Management District), and land acquisition for conservation purposes.

Expenditures of \$1,209,809 are anticipated for FY 2002-2003 for the Everglades Technical Review Section and Advanced Treatment Technologies Research associated with implementation of the Everglades Construction Project.

For FY 2002-2003 it is anticipated that expenditures of approximately \$10,000,000 for projects designed to achieve phosphorus load reductions in Lake Okeechobee as a part of the Lake Okeechobee Protection Program.

The Department also will spend approximately \$70,000,000 during 2002-2003 to acquire Non-CERP conservation lands in South Florida.

Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) (\$5,950,800)

The FWC participates on Federal and State restoration projects and has also initiated a number of its own lake restoration projects within the South Florida Ecosystem. In addition, the FWC has a land acquisition program that targets inholdings and additions to existing lands managed by the Commission.

The Office of Environmental Services contributes to the Federal non-CERP restoration projects by participating in multi-agency planning teams, and through land acquisition. In FY 2000 – 2001, lands acquired included Paradise Island in Lake Tohopekaliga, several tracts along the edge of Lake Istokpoga, and an inholding in Three Lake Wildlife Management Area in the Kissimmee River Basin. In FY 2001 – 2002 no lands are slated for acquisition within the South Florida Ecosystem; however, planning activities to support acquisitions in the future will continue.

The Division of Freshwater Fisheries has an on-going lake restoration program. In State FY 2000 – 2001, lakes funded for restoration include lakes Istokpoga, Okeechobee, Kissimmee, Tiger, Walk-in Water, Cypress, and Tohopekaliga. In State FY 2001 – 2002, various restoration activities are planned for Lakes Trafford (a funded Critical Project), Kissimmee, Tohopekaliga, Cypress, and Hatcheneha.

NON-CERP FUNDING SUMMARY (ACTUAL \$)

| NON-CERP PROJECTS | FY 2000-01 Enacted | FY 2001-02 Enacted | FY 2002-03 Requested |
|---|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| South Florida Water Management District | 183,149,886 ⁽¹⁾ | 256,953,846 ⁽⁴⁾ | Not available ⁽³⁾ |
| Department of Environmental Protection | 109,841,413 | 41,203,867 | 81,209,809 |
| Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission | 3,935,000 | 5,800,000 | 5,950,800 |
| TOTAL: | 296,926,299 | 303,957,713 | 87,160,609⁽⁴⁾ |

Footnotes:

¹ Reflects SFWMD adopted budget appropriations less state funding received from the Lake Okeechobee Trust Fund.

² Since the publication date of each year's Cross-Cut Budget precedes the budget cycle for the SFWMD, the FY2003/04 totals shown represent estimates. When FY 2003/04 budget totals are available, they will be posted on the website link to the FY 2003 Cross-Cut Budget at www.sfrestore.org. The same information will also be included in the FY 2005 Cross-Cut Budget document.

² FY 2002 reflects SFWMD adopted budget appropriations less any State Department of Environmental Protection appropriations to the Save Our Everglades Trust Fund and the Lake Okeechobee Trust Fund.

³ The budget planning and development process for the SFWMD commences annually in a March/April timeframe. Since the publication date of each year's Cross-Cut Budget precedes the budget cycle for the SFWMD, the FY2002/03 numbers are not available at this time. As soon as the FY 2002/03 budget information is available, this information will be posted on the website link to the FY 2003 Cross-Cut Budget at www.sfrestore.org. The same information will also be included in the FY 2004 Cross-Cut Budget document.

⁴ SFWMD budget information associated with the restoration efforts are not included. See note ³ above.

Section 3.3: Non-CERP Everglades Ecosystem Restoration Program Support Activities (\$78,110,505)*

** This funding total does not include SFWMD dollars.*

This section of the Cross-Cut Budget includes descriptions for all State agency funding for Non-CERP Everglades Ecosystem Restoration Support Activities as follows:

South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD)**

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, research and monitoring, environmental resource permitting, and intergovernmental coordination.

***The budget planning and development process for the SFWMD commences annually in a March/April timeframe. Since the publication date of each year's Cross-Cut Budget precedes the budget cycle for the SFWMD, the FY2002/03 numbers are not available at this time. As soon as the FY 2002/03 budget information is available, this information will be posted on the website link to the FY 2003 Cross-Cut Budget at www.sfrestore.org. The same information will also be included in the FY 2004 Cross-Cut Budget document.*

Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) (\$ 28,183,883)

The Department of Environmental Protection is Florida's principal environmental protection agency. The Department protects and monitors air and water quality, acquires and manages land important to ecosystem protection. It regulates air emissions, dredging and filling activities, mining and oil and gas production, development and exploration, prevents pollution and implements recycling programs, regulates solid and hazardous waste, operates and manages the State Park System; and protects and manages coastal marine, and estuarine resources.

In addition, the Department supports water quality improvement programs for Section 303d, Clean Water Act, listed water bodies, ecosystem restoration project management, regulatory, watershed planning and coordination activities, research and monitoring, aquatic plant control, and land acquisition and management. The Department's budget for FY-2002-2003 has expenditures of approximately \$28,183,883 for these activities in South Florida:

- Aquatic and Upland Exotic/Invasive Plant Control (\$9,500,000)
- State Park Operations and Management (\$10,672,431)
- Office of Ecosystem Projects (\$253,058)
- Mercury Research and Monitoring (\$1,050,000)
- Southeast Florida District Office (\$801,000)
- South Florida District Office (\$380,000)
- Central Florida District Office (\$15,000)
- Coastal and Aquatic Managed Areas (\$4,729,394)
- Total Maximum Daily Load Program (\$783,000)

Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC)– (\$14,241,906)

The FWC conducts a number of programs aimed at habitat maintenance, research on specific species, and GIS-based gap analyses. The Division of Wildlife manages a number of wildlife management areas/wildlife and environmental areas, receiving much of its funding through the Pittman-Robertson Act (a Federal act that allows the Department of the Interior to transfer funding to the State for these activities). It also conducts research and telemetry studies on species of special interest, such as the Florida black bear (State-listed as threatened) and the Federally endangered Florida panther; and it oversees the reintroduction of the whooping crane to Florida. The Florida Marine Research Institute conducts a number of studies on the endangered West Indian manatee, endangered or threatened sea turtles, Florida lobsters, queen conchs, queen angelfish, and red tide. In addition, the FWC has developed a metadatabase for science-based activities occurring in the Big Cypress Basin. The Office of Environmental Services supplies GIS-based vegetation mapping and various gap analyses for upland and freshwater systems, and coordinates closely with those done by the Florida Marine Research Institute. Finally, the Division of Law Enforcement ensures that laws protecting fish, wildlife, and their habitats are enforced in upland, freshwater, and marine areas.

Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) – (\$10,528,832)

The Florida Department of Transportation (DOT) provides a safe transportation system that ensures the mobility of people and goods, enhances economic prosperity and preserves the quality of our environment and communities. The Department assists local and regional government agencies with funding, planning, design, mapping, transportation research and technical assistance. DOT also plans and implements programs for energy efficient transit, public transit, transportation programs for the disadvantaged and handicapped and assists agencies in planning safe bicycle routes. The DOT is a leader among transportation agencies in the nation for protecting wildlife and redesigning roadways to restore natural water flow to over drained areas. DOT is also a leader in providing funding and technical assistance to plan and implement greenways and trails. Many of these bellwether 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 Department's expenditures for South Florida Ecosystem Restoration related programs in fiscal year 2002/2003 are:

- U.S. 1 Key Deer Crossing and Intersection Improvements (\$125,000)
- Mitigation (wetland enhancement, public access) (\$150,000)
- Tamiami Trail/Modified Waters Deliveries Projects (\$20,000)
- Removal of Exotic Vegetation (\$2,800,000)
- SFWMD East coast Buffer Strip project (\$7,433,832.00)

**Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (FDACS)
(\$15,155,884)**

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

Department of Community Affairs (DCA) (\$10,000,000)

The Florida Communities Trust provides grants to local governments to acquire conservation, recreation and green space lands in the 16 counties within the boundaries of the South Florida Water Management District. The DCA also participates on the South Florida Ecosystem Restoration Working Group and its committees, providing expertise on comprehensive land use planning, growth management, affordable housing, disaster relief and hazard mitigation.

NON-CERP PROGRAM SUPPORT ACTIVITIES FUNDING SUMMARY (ACTUAL \$)

| NON-CERP PROGRAM/ACTIVITIES | FY 2000- 01 Enacted | FY 2001-02 Enacted | FY2002-03 Requested |
|--|-----------------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| South Florida Water Management District | 85,723,900 ⁽¹⁾ | 138,360,281 ⁽⁴⁾ | Not Available ⁽³⁾ |
| Department of Environmental Protection | 25,581,514 | 31,450,477 | 28,183,883 |
| Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission | 13,336,000 | 13,881,000 | 14,241,906 |
| Florida Department of Transportation | 16,104,000 | 4,931,000 | 10,528,832 |
| Florida Department of Agriculture/ Consumer Services | 24,700,000 | 8,445,000 | 15,155,884 |
| Department of Community Affairs | 31,830,000 | 9,800,000 | 10,000,000 |
| TOTAL: | 197,275,414 ⁽⁴⁾ | 206,867,758 | 78,110,505 ⁽⁴⁾ |

Footnotes:

¹ Since the publication date of each year's Cross-Cut Budget precedes the budget cycle for the SFWMD, the FY2003/04 totals shown represent estimates. When FY 2003/04 budget totals are available, they will be posted on the website link to the FY 2004 Cross-Cut Budget at www.sfrestore.org. The same information will also be included in the FY 2005 Cross-Cut Budget document.

² FY 2002 reflects SFWMD adopted budget appropriations less any State Department of Environmental Protection appropriations to the Save Our Everglades Trust Fund and the Lake Okeechobee Trust Fund.

³ The budget planning and development process for the SFWMD commences annually in a March/April timeframe. Since the publication date of each year's Cross-Cut Budget precedes the budget cycle for the SFWMD, the FY2002/03 numbers are not available at this time. As soon as the FY 2002/03 budget information is available, this information will be posted on the website link to the FY 2003 Cross-Cut Budget at www.sfrestore.org. The same information will also be included in the FY 2004 Cross-Cut Budget document.

⁴ SFWMD budget information associated with the restoration efforts are not included. See note ³ above.

Section 4.0

Background Information for Reference on Everglades Ecosystem Restoration Strategic Plan



Section 4.0: Background Information for Reference on Everglades Ecosystem Restoration Strategic Plan

Introduction: The South Florida Ecosystem is an 18,000- square-mile region of subtropical uplands, wetlands, and coral reefs that extends from the Chain of Lakes south of Orlando through the reefs southwest of the Florida Keys. This Ecosystem not only supports the economy and the quality of life of the Floridians and the Native American Indians who live there, but also enriches the legacy of all Americans. It encompasses many nationally significant conservation areas, including Everglades and Biscayne National Parks, Big Cypress National Preserve, the Arthur R. Marshall Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge, and the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary. This Ecosystem is sustained by water, and it has been seriously degraded by disruptions to the natural hydrology. Engineered flood control and water distribution systems for agriculture and urban development have dewatered large areas and greatly altered the quantity, timing, and distribution of water flows in other locations. Agricultural runoff and urban stormwater have introduced phosphorus and other contaminants into the water systems, polluting lakes, rivers, and wetlands. Discharges of stormwater into estuaries and coastal waters have severely degraded aquatic habitats. Groundwater is threatened by saltwater intrusion and other pollutants. These impacts have stressed the natural system, as evidenced by:

- Fifty percent reduction in the original extent of the Everglades
- Ninety percent reduction in wading bird populations
- Sixty-nine species on the Federal endangered or threatened list
- Declines in commercial fisheries in Biscayne and Florida Bays
- Thirty- seven percent loss of living corals at forty sites in the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary from 1996-2000.

Who Is Involved

Six Federal departments (twelve agencies), seven Florida State agencies or commissions, two American Indian tribes, sixteen counties, scores of municipal governments, and interested groups and businesses from throughout South Florida are participating in the restoration effort. Four sovereign entities (Federal, State, and two tribes) are represented. The task force sought extensive involvement from local agencies, citizen groups, nonprofit organizations, and other interested parties as part of its assessment for this strategy. The task force was created in 1993 as a Federal interagency partnership, with informal participation by the State of Florida, the Seminole Tribe of Florida, and the Miccosukee Tribe of Indians of Florida. The Water Resources Development Act of 1996 authorized the operation of the task force and provided for specific membership and duties. Pursuant to its statutory duties, a Task Force working group of agency and tribal representatives (the working group) works to resolve conflicts among participants, coordinate research, assist participants, prepare an integrated financial plan, and report to Congress. The Task Force does not have any oversight or project authority, and participating agencies are responsible for meeting their own targeted accomplishments. The task force's role as a forum in which ideas are shared and consensus is sought enhances the productivity of each member government or agency effort.

Vision and Goals

The participants in the Task Force share the vision of a healthy South Florida Ecosystem that supports diverse and sustainable communities of plants, animals, and people. To this end, hundreds of different entities have been working for over a decade to restore and preserve more natural hydrology in the ecosystem, to protect the spatial extent and quality of remaining habitat, to promote the return of abundant populations of native plants and animals, and to foster human development compatible with sustaining a healthy ecosystem. The past, current, and future efforts of governmental entities in South Florida involve more than 200 projects related to three primary work goals. Sub goals and objectives have been established for the first two work goals and will be reported for the third goal in the future.

Goal 1: Get the Water Right

Sub goal 1-A: Get the Hydrology Right

Sub goal 1-B: Get the Water Quality Right

Goal 2: Restore, preserve, and protect natural habitats and species

Sub goal 2-A: Restore, preserve and protect natural habitats

Sub goal 2-B: Control invasive exotic plants

Goal 3: Foster compatibility of the built and natural systems

The task force members believe that by accomplishing these objectives they will achieve the restoration of the ecosystem. The region's rich and varied habitats will become healthy and productive. Imperiled species will recover, and the large nesting rookeries of wading birds will return.

The appropriate agencies will track progress toward restoring the ecosystem through approximately 200 performance measures developed as part of the *CERP*, plus additional measures through efforts such as the *South Florida Multi-Species Recovery Plan*. These measures, which range from the number of acres of periphyton in Everglades marshes to the frequency of water supply restrictions in urban and agricultural areas, represent the myriad physical, biological, and human elements that interrelate as parts of the ecosystem and are important to ecosystem health. The agencies will provide data to the task force, which will update this document for transmittal to Congress, the State legislature, and the councils of the tribes. The following measures are a representative subset of a broader list of indicators for tracking success. Many of these represent end results that may take up to fifty years to realize. Interim targets, which focus on earlier indications of successional change, will allow assessment of incremental progress.

- *Improved status for fourteen Federally listed threatened or endangered species, and no declines in status for those additional species listed by the State, by 2020*
- *A 90 percent recovery of the acreage and number of tree islands existing in 1940, and a health index of 0.90 (where 0 = death is imminent, 1 = completely stress free) (Interim target: A 20 percent improvement in the general health index of the tree islands, and no further loss in the total number of tree islands by 2020)*
- *Healthy oyster beds in the major estuaries, such as the St. Lucie Estuary and those in Biscayne Bay*

- *Four thousand nesting pairs of wood storks in the Everglades and Big Cypress basins (Interim target: Fifteen hundred nesting pairs by 2010)*
- *Water quality within the Everglades Ecosystem that meets Federal, State, and tribal water quality standards*
- *A lakewide average phosphorus concentration of 40 parts per billion (ppb) total in the open-water regions of Lake Okeechobee*
- *Water provided to all users during droughts up to the level of certainty of a one-in-ten-year frequency of occurrence*
- *Nesting roseate spoonbills in the coastal zone of the southwestern Gulf Coast between Lostman's River and the Caloosahatchee River; and 1,000 nesting pairs in Florida Bay, including 250 nesting pairs in northeast Florida Bay*
- *A 65-75 percent coverage of Florida Bay with high-quality seagrass beds*
- *A long-term commercial harvest of pink shrimp on the Dry Tortugas fishing grounds that equals or exceeds the rate that occurred during the years 1961-1962 to 1982-1983; and an amount of large shrimp in the long-term average catch exceeding 500 pounds per vessel-day*
- *An average annual loading to the St. Lucie Estuary of no more than 400 pounds of phosphorus per 1,000 acre-feet of discharge*
- *The capture and storage of most of the excess freshwater currently lost to the ocean and the gulf, and delivery of the water when and where it is needed*

Restoration Strategy

The Task Force provides a forum for consensus building and issue engagement among the entities involved in restoring the South Florida Ecosystem. This is a collaborative role, not one in which the Task Force can dictate to its members. Because on-the-ground restoration is accomplished through the efforts of the individual Task Force member agencies and their partners, they are the ones that are ultimately responsible for their particular programs, projects, and associated funding. This is an important distinction. The Task Force has no overriding authority to direct its members. Instead, the members are accountable individually to their appropriate authorities and to each other for the success of the restoration.

The Task Force and its members coordinate and track the restoration effort as follows:

Focus On Goals

The document entitled "Coordinating Success: Strategy for Restoration of the South Florida Ecosystem" establishes specific goals and measures that define the scope of the restoration initiative and answer these fundamental questions: What will the restoration partners accomplish? When will the restoration effort be done? What key indicators will signal progress and success?

Coordinate Projects

To be effective, individual projects should contribute to the vision and goals, be timely, and support rather than duplicate other efforts. This document includes a master list of restoration projects and includes information about goals and objectives, start and finish dates, lead agencies, and funding.

Track And Assess Progress

The Task Force will facilitate the implementation of the individual entities' *adaptive assessment* processes to track and assess progress. Adaptive assessment involves

constantly monitoring project contributions and indicators of success to determine the actual versus expected results of various actions. This process acknowledges that not all the data needed to restore the South Florida Ecosystem are available now. As project managers track incremental progress in achieving objectives they may raise "red flags" alerting the task force members that a project (1) is not on schedule or (2) is not producing the projected outputs or anticipated results. The ability to anticipate problems early helps to minimize their effect on the total restoration effort. Management responses may involve revising the project design, evaluating changing resource needs, or working collaboratively on projects that fall behind. Projects that are not proving effective may be replaced with new projects. Because each participating agency is responsible for its particular programs, projects, and funding, such decisions are made by the entities involved.

Facilitate The Resolution Of Issues And Conflicts

Disagreements and conflict are to be expected given the scope, complexity, and large number of sponsors and interests involved in ecosystem restoration. In particular, the ability to resolve existing conflicts is complicated by (1) the large number of governmental entities involved at the Federal, State, tribal, and local levels; (2) the differing, and sometimes conflicting, legal mandates and agency missions among the entities involved; and (3) the diverse stakeholder interests represented by the member agencies, which include environmental, agricultural, Native American, urban, and commercial values.

The Task Force will facilitate the prevention and resolution of conflict to the extent possible by clarifying the issue(s), identifying stakeholder concerns, obtaining and analyzing relevant information, and identifying solutions. The working group will regularly track issues in dispute and report to the task force when there are unresolved issues. Although these efforts are intended to facilitate conflict resolution, opportunities will always exist for parties to resolve issues through other means and to pursue litigation, although litigation is time consuming, costly, and uncertain. Further, litigation diverts resources from restoration efforts. Unfortunately, judicial resolution of legal claims does not always resolve the underlying conflict to the satisfaction of every party.

The Task Force will meet regularly to report on progress, coordinate consensus, and identify opportunities for improvement.

NOTE: *The information provided above in Section 4.0 is an edited excerpt from the document entitled "Coordinating Success: Strategy for Restoration of the South Florida Ecosystem." This document was prepared by the South Florida Ecosystem Restoration Task Force and submitted to the Congress on July 31, 2000. This document is currently being updated for submittal to the Congress in Summer 2002.*