
**South Florida Ecosystem
Restoration Program**

Cross-Cut Budget

Fiscal Year 2005

Forward

The FY 2005 Cross-Cut Budget document is comprised of three 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 two sub-sections: Section 2.1 is the Federal Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (CERP) projects and funding, and Section 2.2 is the Federal Non-CERP Everglades Ecosystem Restoration Projects/Programs. Please note that base program and operational funding requests for some Federal agencies are not included in the figures provided within the FY 2005 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 two sub-sections: Section 3.1 is the State CERP projects and funding, and Section 3.2 is the State Non-CERP Everglades Ecosystem Restoration Projects/Programs. Since the publication date of each year's Cross-Cut Budget precedes the budget cycle for the SFWMD, the FY2004/05 totals shown represent estimates. When FY 2004/05 budget totals are available, they will be posted on the website link to the FY 2005 Cross-Cut Budget at www.sfrestore.org.

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Section 1.0

Overview

Section 1.0: Overview

Section 1.1: Introduction

The FY 2005 President's Budget and the FY 2004-05 State of Florida Budget both propose funding to sustain investments in environmental and resource stewardship programs. This funding will ensure that our children and future generations experience the wonder and beauty of America's natural resources. The funding requests also build upon, and sustain 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 continues to be a top Federal and State of Florida priority in the proposed 2005 Fiscal Year Budgets. The Water Resources Development Act of 2000 (WRDA 2000) which authorized the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (CERP) (Section 601 of Public Law 106-541) and the Florida Legislature's 2000 Everglades Restoration and Investment Act serve as the cornerstones to this well-recognized priority environmental restoration plan. The CERP provides a roadmap for a 30+ year implementation, of a suite of 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, while meeting 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 2005 Federal Funding Request Overview

Federal funding for Everglades Restoration of \$231 million in FY 2005 is proposed for both the U.S. Department of the Interior (\$106 million), and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (\$125 million). This funding provides an overall \$25 million or 12% increase as compared to FY 2004. Additional funding of nearly \$39 million, in support of Everglades Restoration efforts has been requested for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the U.S. Department of Commerce, and the U.S. Department of Agriculture. This funding will continue successful partnerships and will steer ongoing projects towards completion. The FY 2005 funding request includes the following:

- Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (CERP) funding of \$66.9 million for the Army Corps of Engineers, which represents nearly \$28 million in increased funding over the current year.
- Funding of \$40 million for the Department of the Interior to acquire the Collier mineral rights underlying Big Cypress National Preserve
- An increase of \$12 million for the Army Corps to continue the Critical Projects Program which will advance completion of work on four critical restoration projects.

The FY 2005 budget continues to build upon the earlier successes of both this Administration and the State of Florida in laying an important foundation and sustaining the implementation of a program to guide Everglades restoration through the next four decades and beyond.

To complement the signed (January 9, 2002) President-Governor Agreement which ensures that water produced by the Comprehensive Plan will be allocated appropriately under state law to restore the Everglades natural system, the Army Corps completed work with Interior staff and other federal, state, tribal and non-governmental partners on the programmatic regulations, which became effective on December 12, 2003. The programmatic regulations provide implementing guidance on the WRDA 2000 provisions to be utilized among all the parties to ensure that the goals and objectives of the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan are achieved. Further clarification of technical processes to be used to guide CERP implementation will be provided through the development of six Guidance Memoranda required by the Programmatic Regulations

In addition to continued implementation of CERP in FY 2005, the Administration efforts in FY 2005 will focus on managing and protecting marine and coastal resources; acquiring additional lands/mineral rights in support of restoration, enhancing efforts to better coordinate science and research programs 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.

1.3. Measuring the Performance of CERP and related Everglades Restoration funding

The restoration of the Everglades is a multi-decade and complex effort that requires setting long term goals and measuring progress towards those goals. To ensure that CERP is successful, and is implemented in accordance with the requirements of WRDA 2000 and the programmatic regulations, interim goals will be used to provide a means of tracking restoration performance. In addition, the interim goals will serve as a basis for reporting on the progress made at specified intervals of time towards restoration of the South Florida ecosystem, and for periodically evaluating the accuracy of predictions of system responses to the effects of the Plan. The interim goals are currently under development. Current information on the development of the interim goals can be found at http://www.evergladesplan.org/pm/recover/igit_subteam.cfm.

Section 1.4: FY 2004-05 State Funding Request Overview

Restoring and protecting the South Florida ecosystem is and will continue to remain a top environmental priority of the State of Florida, its resource agencies and South Florida regional and local governments. Florida and its citizens have repeatedly demonstrated a strong 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 \$200 million per year for ten years, to help finance the implementation of the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration

Plan. The State has also undertaken an early start on the first CERP project to restore the hydrology in Southern Golden Gate Estates.

In 2002, Governor Jeb Bush and the Florida Legislature passed into law the Everglades Bonding Act to provide a secure, long-term finance plan to ensure that the state's share of the plan costs would continue to be met through the year 2010.

The State of Florida continues to support the integration of the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan with other ongoing projects that are vital to restoration of the South Florida ecosystem and has aggressively acted to complete the restoration projects embodied in the Florida Everglades Forever program. Four of the six Stormwater Treatment Areas (STAs) authorized by the Everglades Forever Act are fully operational and are removing 70 percent of the phosphorous from the waters flowing into the 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 land purchases have been made in the Fisheating Creek, Southern Golden Gate Estates, Allapattah Ranch, East Coast Buffers and Cypress Creek projects. In addition, to protect the quality of water in the Everglades ecosystem, Governor Jeb Bush and Department of Environmental Protection Secretary, David Struhs, recommended and the Environmental Regulation Commission has adopted a rule to establish 10 parts per billion as the numeric criterion for phosphorous in the Everglades Protection Area.

Section 1.5: 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 funding specified in the summary tables are reflective of two different fiscal year periods. The funding 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 funding for State of Florida agencies reflect a fiscal year that starts on July 1 and ends on June 30 of each year. Pertinent footnotes are provided at the bottom of each summary table.

TABLE 1: FEDERAL FUNDING SUMMARY (ACTUAL \$)

CERP EVERGLADES ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION PROJECTS	FY 2001 Enacted	FY 2002 Enacted	FY 2003 Enacted	FY 2004 Enacted	FY 2005 Request
USACE-CERP (Part of Central and Southern Florida) ⁽¹⁾	21,747,000	27,961,000	37,062,000	39,063,000	66,912,000
USDOI-NPS CERP	2,497,000	5,544,000	5,513,000	5,463,000	5,463,000
USDOI-FWS CERP	651,000	3,351,000	3,329,000	3,309,000	3,351,000
NON-CERP EVERGLADES ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION PROJECTS/PROGRAMS					
USACE-Central and Southern Florida (excluding CERP)	56,182,000	64,949,000	49,983,000	64,906,000 ⁴	13,088,000
USACE -Critical Projects	20,485,000	19,876,000	19,526,000	14,760,000 ⁴	27,000,000
USACE- Kissimmee River Restoration	19,961,000	25,846,000	23,727,000	17,616,000 ⁴	18,000,000
USACE-Biscayne Bay	543,000	240,000	200,000	0	0
USDA - ARS	4,193,000	4,846,900	5,216,800	5,415,100	4,421,000
USDA-NRCS	5,297,000	37,752,000	21,376,000	23,580,000	24,915,000
US Department of Commerce-NOAA	4,264,000	4,065,000	4,065,000	4,359,000	4,389,000
USDOI-NPS Park Management	23,389,000	23,635,000	23,874,000	23,991,000	24,780,000
USDOI-South Florida Ecosystem Restoration Task Force	1,316,000	1,325,000	1,320,000	1,308,000	1,308,000
USDOI-NPS Modified Water Deliveries	8,980,000	35,199,000 ⁽²⁾	9,935,000	12,830,000	8,077,000
USDOI-NPS Land Acquisition (management)	2,075,000	2,800,000	2,782,000	1,800,000	1,800,000
USDOI-NPS Land Acquisition (Big Cypress)	0	0	0	0	40,000,000
USDOI-NPS Land Acquisition Grants to Florida	11,974,000	15,000,000	15,421,000	(5,000,000) ³	0
USDOI-NPS Critical Ecosystem Studies Initiative	6,194,000	4,000,000	3,974,000	3,937,000	3,937,000
USDOI-FWS Ecological Services	2,554,000	2,554,000	2,537,000	2,523,000	2,554,000
USDOI-FWS Refuges and Wildlife	3,706,000	3,706,000	3,682,000	9,784,000	4,906,000
USDOI-FWS Law Enforcement	636,000	636,000	632,000	628,000	636,000
USDOI-FWS Fisheries	100,000	100,000	99,000	98,000	100,000
USDOI-FWS Land Acquisition	10,975,000	8,500,000	2,484,000	0	750,000
USDOI- USGS - Integrated Research, Planning and Interagency Coordination	8,553,000	8,636,000	7,847,000	7,847,000	7,847,000

NON-CERP PROJECTS/PROGRAMS	FY 2001 Enacted	FY 2002 Enacted	FY 2003 Enacted	FY 2004 Enacted	FY 2005 Request
USDOJ- BIA	396,000	396,000	393,000	539,000	396,000
US Environmental Protection Agency	4,582,000	5,338,300	4,246,900	4,678,200 ⁵	4,572,000

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

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

⁴ Includes FY 2004 Rescission

⁵ FY 2004 funds are the President's Request not enacted

TABLE 2 FEDERAL FUNDING SUMMARY (ACTUAL \$)

FEDERAL FUNDING TOTALS SUMMARY	FY 2001 Enacted	FY 2002 Enacted	FY 2003 Enacted	FY2004 Enacted	FY2005 Requested
CERP Subtotal (USACE and USDOJ)	24,895,000	36,856,000	45,904,000	47,835,000	75,726,000
Non-CERP Subtotal (USACE and USDOJ)	178,019,000	233,398,000	169,149,000	157,567,000	155,179,000
Non-CERP Subtotal (Other Federal Agencies)	18,336,000	52,002,200	34,904,700	38,032,300	38,297,000
Non-CERP Total (All Federal Agencies)	196,355,000	285,400,200	204,053,700	195,599,300	193,476,000
TOTAL CERP AND NON CERP (USACE AND USDOJ)	202,914,000	270,254,000	215,053,000	205,402,000	230,905,000
TOTAL CERP AND NON CERP (ALL FEDERAL AGENCIES)	221,250,000	322,256,200	249,957,700	243,434,300	269,202,000

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

CERP EVERGLADES ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION PROJECTS	FY 2000-01 Enacted	FY 2001-02 Enacted	FY 2002-03 Enacted	FY 2003-04 Enacted	FY 2004-05 Requested
Department of Environmental Protection	89,619,051	90,380,949	150,279,126	105,586,702	128,972,634
Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission	315,000	411,000	409,000	419,000	334,472
South Florida Water Management District	32,773,071 ⁽¹⁾	91,708,816 ⁽¹⁾	133,284,645 ⁽¹⁾	107,887,469 ⁽¹⁾	113,600,000 ⁽²⁾
NON-CERP EVERGLADES ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION PROJECTS/PROGRAMS					
Florida Department of Agriculture/ Consumer Services	24,700,000	7,608,917	15,523,202	16,215,100 ⁽³⁾	5,045,629
Department of Community Affairs	31,830,000	9,800,000	10,000,000	45,819,724	*
Florida Department of Environmental Protection	135,422,927	72,654,344	109,393,692	92,364,834	102,222,540
Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission	17,271,000	19,681,000	21,306,000	25,729,000	1,762,263
Florida Department of Transportation	16,104,000	4,931,000	10,528,832	1,940,300	7,905,314
South Florida Water Management District	268,873,786 ⁽¹⁾	395,314,127 ⁽¹⁾	372,701,387 ⁽¹⁾	381,868,047 ⁽¹⁾	289,700,000 ⁽²⁾

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 FY2004/05 totals shown represent estimates. When FY 2004/05 budget totals are available, they will be posted on the website link to the FY 2005 Cross-Cut Budget at www.sfstore.org. Any updated information will also be included in the FY 2006 Cross-Cut Budget document.

³ Reflects SFWMD adopted budget appropriations less state funding received from the Lake Okeechobee Trust Fund.

* Not Available at the time of publication.

TABLE 4 STATE OF FLORIDA FUNDING SUMMARY TABLE (ACTUAL \$)

STATE OF FLORIDA FUNDING TOTALS SUMMARY	FY 2000-01 Enacted	FY 2001-02 Enacted	FY 2002-03 Enacted	FY 2003-04 Enacted	FY 2004-05 Requested
CERP SUBTOTAL:	122,707,122	182,500,765	283,972,771	213,893,171	242,907,106
NON-CERP SUBTOTAL:	494,201,713	509,989,388	539,453,113	563,937,005	406,635,746
STATE OF FLORIDA FUNDING TOTAL:	616,908,835	692,490,153	823,425,884	777,830,176	649,542,852

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 (USACE and DOI) (\$75,726,000)

This section of the FY 2005 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): (\$66,912,000)

This effort includes implementing the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (CERP or Comp Plan) as authorized in the Water Resources Development Act of 2000. An important role in implementation of the Comp Plan is played by the Restoration Coordination and Verification (RECOVER) group, which maintains a linkage between science and the Plan. It has been organized into 6 major teams and a Leadership Group that oversees all team activities. The RECOVER teams focus on evaluating and assessing the performance of the Comp Plan, reviewing the effects that other restoration projects may have on the Plan, ensuring a system wide perspective is maintained throughout the restoration process, and assisting the numerous Project Delivery Teams that are developing the Project Implementation Reports for the various projects.

At the program level, FY 2005 CERP activities include the completion of various actions required by the programmatic regulations, which became effective on December 12, 2003. These activities include the establishment of interim goals and interim targets, the completion of required guidance memoranda, and the Master Implementation Sequencing Plan. Other program level activities include continuing RECOVER, public outreach and involvement, and environmental and economic equity program efforts.

At the project level, the major focus of FY 2005 activities will be on continuing development of Project Implementation Reports (PIR) for the 10 projects initially authorized by WRDA 2000, as well as on 15 additional PIR's addressing components of the Comp Plan not previously authorized. Project Delivery Teams will be using the Initial CERP update to formalize the base conditions for each PIR and begin formulation of alternatives. Construction will begin on three Aquifer Storage and Recovery Project sites, while development of Pilot Project Design Reports for three other pilot projects will continue. Efforts will also continue on the Southwest Florida, Comprehensive Water Quality, and Florida Bay/Florida Keys feasibility studies.

U.S. Department of the Interior: National Park Service (NPS) (\$5,463,000)

In 2005, NPS requests \$5,463,000 for CERP implementation. These funds support no construction; all funds go toward salaries and office support costs, such as office space, utilities, vehicles, office and computer equipment, and travel. The NPS role in CERP will continue to center on implementation of projects that are essential to restoration of federal lands in south Florida. The planned CERP projects having significant effects on Big Cypress National Preserve, Biscayne National Park, and Everglades National Park include feasibility studies, pilot projects for seepage management and in-ground reservoirs, and restoration projects.

The projects supported in FY04 and those that we expect to support in FY05 are:

- Combined Operational and Structural Plan (including Modified Water Deliveries and C-111 Project)
- Interim Operations Plan (IOP) assessments
- Decentralization (Phase I)
- Biscayne Bay Coastal Wetlands Project
- C-111 Spreader Canal Project
- Florida Bay Feasibility Study
- Biscayne Bay Feasibility Study
- L-31N Levee Seepage Pilot Project
- Wastewater Reuse Pilot Project
- Lakebelt Pilot Project (including Bird Drive Reservoir and C-4 structures)
- Everglades Agricultural Area Reservoirs (Phase I)

In order to integrate NPS involvement with the Corps of Engineers and the South Florida Water Management District, the two sponsoring agencies, we are developing a project management capability compatible with those agencies. This management capability will allow NPS to both budget and track funds on a project by project basis. NPS has drafted project management plans, outlining the expected staffing for IOP, CSOP, Biscayne Bay Coastal Wetlands, and Decentralization. We expect to complete implementation of the project management system by the end of calendar year 2004.

Level of effort estimates for the remainder of FY04 and for FY05, are contained in each of the detailed project management plans. The IOP project is completed, with no further FY04 or FY05 effort expected at this time. The CSOP project calls for approximately 6,500 hours of staff time in FY04, and an estimated 9,700 hours in FY05. The Biscayne Bay Coastal Wetlands Project has requested 13,500 hours over the next two and one-half fiscal years, although it is unlikely we will be able to staff it at that level. The Decentralization Project Management Plan has not yet developed a cost-loaded schedule, but will do so by the end of July. All other projects will have cost-loaded schedules by the end of fiscal year 2004.

The National Park Service participates as a key agency in the development of the final designs. Additionally, the NPS, in cooperation with other federal, state, and local partners, conducts adaptive assessments to determine the effects of the implemented projects on NPS-managed lands and waters. The most recent example is the National Park Service report on the Interim Operations Plan (IOP). This effort entailed the generation of six technical reports from teams of scientists internal and external to the NPS. The scientific documents were further condensed into a report containing a synthesis of the essential scientific information, and a report to agency managers and Congress. It does address where and how the IOP has met ecological expectations, and where it has not. It then is up to the sponsoring agencies to make operational changes as appropriate.

Finally, the NPS participates in RECOVER (REstoration, COordination, and VERification), an inter-agency scientific group charged with system-wide assessments of planned and completed projects as well as with programmatic level activities, such as rulemaking, programmatic regulations, and interim goal development. The National Park Service is working to

develop a program management plan to project and track its RECOVER involvement exactly as described above for other CERP projects. This plan will be completed as part of our overall project management system implementation.

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

The 2005 request for CERP Implementation (\$3,351,000) will support approximately 30 FTEs that actively serve on planning teams for all CERP and non-CERP restoration projects initiated by the Corps. This will enable the FWS to fulfill its Trust Resource responsibilities under the Endangered Species Act, Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act, Migratory Bird Treaty Act, and other statutes as part of the comprehensive Everglades restoration. The FWS will be an integral planning partner in designing, assessing and monitoring the 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.

In Fiscal Year 2005, the FWS will participate in the development and execution of the WCA-3 Decompartmentalization and Sheetflow Enhancement project, the Combined Structural and Operational Plan, EAA Reservoir projects, the Lake Okeechobee Watershed Project, the C-43 Reservoir project, the Indian River Lagoon Project, Water Preserve Areas projects, Southern Golden Gate Estates Hydrologic Restoration, and other major restoration projects. These activities will include ESA section 7 consultation, recovery plan implementation, restoration and management activities on DOI lands, CERP project planning, preparation of Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act Reports, system-wide water quality improvement, land acquisition, migratory bird and fisheries conservation, and a myriad of multi-agency planning, science and outreach efforts. As a recognized leader in the science of ecosystem restoration, the FWS participates as the biological and ecological experts, and an integral planning partner in CERP to ensure that ecosystem benefits are maximized consistent with long-term CERP project goals. The FWS will design features and project components that maximize natural resource benefits through active participation throughout the restoration planning process.

FEDERAL CERP FUNDING SUMMARY (ACTUAL \$)

CERP EVERGLADES ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION PROJECTS (USACE and DOI)	FY 2002 Enacted	FY 2003 Enacted	FY 2004 Enacted	FY 2005 Request
USACE-CERP ⁽¹⁾	27,961,000	37,062,000	39,063,000	66,912,000
USDOI-NPS CERP	5,544,000	5,513,000	5,463,000	5,463,000
USDOI-FWS CERP	3,351,000	3,329,000	3,309,000	3,351,000
TOTAL:	36,856,000	45,904,000	47,835,000	75,726,000

Note: Base program and operational funding requests for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, U.S. Department of Commerce, U.S. Department of Agriculture and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers are not included in the information provided within the FY 2005 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/Programs (\$193,476,000)

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

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (\$58,088,000)

Central and Southern Florida Project (\$13,088,000)

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 \$66,912,000 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 2005 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 2005 activities will continue construction of phase one structures and begin construction of phase two structures.

- ***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. During FY 2004, construction of project features, including the pilot Periphyton Stormwater Treatment Area (PSTA) field scale test in cell 4 south of STA-1E, will be completed and monitoring of the PSTA test cell will be initiated. The FY 2005 activities will continue PSTA test monitoring, the results of which are expected to clarify the benefits to full implementation of PSTA technology at STA-1E in future years.

Everglades and South Florida Ecosystem Restoration Critical Projects (\$27,000,000)

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 Florida Keys Carrying Capacity Study and East Coast Canal Structure (C-4) Project were both completed in FY 2003. FY 2005 activities will include continuing construction on four projects.

Kissimmee River Restoration (\$18,000,000)

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 2005 activities will include continuing pre-construction, engineering and design; continuing construction of spillway modifications; initiating construction on the second backfill contract, headwaters canal enlargement efforts and project mitigation features; and continuing with project monitoring and evaluation.

U.S. Department of Agriculture - Agricultural Research Service (ARS) (\$4,421,000)

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. In 2002 and 2003, ARS and its customers began plans to expand and execute an integrated research program that addresses the needs of agriculture and also complements the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (CERP). To facilitate this process, six industry customer and stakeholder meetings were held at different ARS locations. These meetings resulted in a clear goal for developing and transferring improved scientific technologies and enhanced management strategies that control invasive species and assure the continued economic integrity of agriculture for the benefit of the nation. Five major areas of research were identified by the ARS customers and stakeholders in priority order: 1) Hydrology and Water Quality, 2) Economics, 3) Improved Crop/Animal Production Systems, 4) Biological Control of Invasive Species, and 5) Decision Support Systems/ Model Development. ARS will continue to work with its customers, stakeholders, and partners to address these high priority research areas. Currently, ARS does not conduct research in South Florida related to economic issues. Individual projects related to the other four priority areas are as follows:

Hydrology and Water Quality

• ***Nutrient, Pesticide, and Water Management for Horticultural Crops (\$265,000)***

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. The researchers at the U.S. Horticultural Research Laboratory, Horticulture and Breeding Research Unit, have discovered recently that the source of nutrients and pesticides from

agricultural fields varies both spatially and temporally to most of the Indian River lagoons. The researchers are also finding that nutrient uptake for container grown citrus and ornamental plants can be managed in ways that improve off-site water quality impacts

- ***A Model for Predicting Sugarcane Yields, Soil Subsidence, and Nutrient Runoff (\$33,000)***

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. Recent results showed that leaf emergence was closely linked to plant temperatures, and surprisingly, the rate of emergence varied little among the four cultivars tested.

- ***Water Quality Impacts for Sweet Corn Production in Dade County, South Florida (\$164,000)***

This research project is a cooperative effort between the Southeast Watershed Laboratory in Tifton, GA; the South Florida Water Management District; and the University of Florida, Tropical Research and Education Center in Homestead, FL. 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. These researchers have recently shown that Sunn Hemp, as a cover crop, can reduce pesticide and nitrate-nitrogen losses in surface and ground waters.

- ***Atmospheric Processes of Agricultural Pollutants that Affect Air and Water in South Florida (\$182,000)***

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 complement water quality research and toxicity testing by NOAA's National Ocean Service scientists in the St. Lucie Estuary and Florida Bay areas. Rainwater is collected on an event basis and weekly air samples are compared to surface water samples. Preliminary results, to date, show that a number of pesticides and several degradation products have been detected in the rain and air samples at very high levels.

Improved Crop/Animal Production Systems

- ***Beef Cattle Grazing Systems to Protect Water Resources (\$191,000)***

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. Recently, researchers at the Subtropical Agricultural Research Station have shown that moving the mineral feeders, water troughs, and shades around and beneath cattle congregation sites can improve ground water quality.

- ***Development of Improved Sugarcane Varieties and Their Use in Sustainable Agricultural Production Systems (\$438,000)***

The primary mission of the Sugarcane Field Station in Canal Point, FL, is to develop high-yielding, disease-resistant sugarcane cultivars. Research objectives of projects related to Everglades restoration are as follows: (1) quantify and genetically improve sugarcane's tolerance to wetter conditions, (2) identify and develop agronomic practices that sustain or improve profits under changing hydrological conditions resulting from CERP (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. The approach is to use laboratory, growth chamber, lysimeter, and field experiments to assess the potential for reducing organic matter oxidation for the soils in the Everglades Agricultural Area.

The researchers at Canal Point have released 40 new sugarcane varieties to the Florida industry over the past 30 years. The researchers have recently shown that current sugarcane cultivars respond differently at the higher water-table depths. For example, the most widely grown cultivar in Florida showed a 25% yield reduction, whereas other cultivars did not result in yield losses under the high water-table conditions. This research has also shown that the ability of various cultivars to form stalk aerenchyma before exposure to flooding is an important characteristic that provides flood tolerance in sugarcane. In terms of soil subsidence research, water-table depths of 16 cm (6 inches) and flooded soil have similar microbial oxidation and soil subsidence rates, and substantially less microbial oxidation and soil subsidence than 50-cm (20 inches) water-table depths

Biological Control of Invasive Species

- ***Biological Control and Management of Aquatic Weeds/ Invasive Species in South Florida (\$2,516,000)***

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 \$2,266,000 in Florida and \$250,000 in International Countries, 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.

The Invasive Plant Research Laboratory has released a total of thirteen insects for use against five invasive, non-native plants in South Florida; alligatorweed is now being controlled in the southeastern United States; biological control agents from South America are controlling waterhyacinth populations; two South American insects have been released against waterlettuce; three Asian and Australian insects are impacting hydrilla; and two biological control agents for *Melaleuca* have recently been released within the Everglades National Park. The laboratory receives foreign biological agents from six overseas laboratories. The largest source of biological control agents for control of *Melaleuca* has come from Australia. Three species of aquatic snout beetles, or weevils, from Thailand and three species from China are being evaluated in quarantine as control agents of submerged aquatic weeds, hydrilla, and Eurasian watermilfoil. Construction of a new quarantine facility at Ft. Lauderdale began in early FY 2002 and was completed in November 2003.

FY 2005 request includes a proposed increase of \$100,000 to develop biological control tactics for suppression of lobate lac scale (a species of a scale insect) on agricultural crops in South Florida and the Everglades.

Decision Support Systems/ Model Development

- ***Hydrologic Evaluation and Water Quality Studies Affecting Dade County (\$632,000)***

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 in Miami, FL 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 is currently being developed for the C-111 basin. The Everglades Agro-Hydrology Model (EAGHM) has been designed to simulate surface and subsurface hydrology, irrigation, cropping practices, and crop growth as an interactive processes on a farm scale. Plans are to incorporate EAGHM into the larger scale model developed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the U.S. Geological Survey. The combined models will enable improvements in agricultural production, agricultural water management, and environmental protection strategies.

U.S. Department of Agriculture- Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)(\$24,915,000)

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. (\$4,114,000)

Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002

- ***Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) (\$8,367,000)***
Provides farmers and ranchers with financial and technical assistance to install or implement structural and management practices on agricultural lands that will improve or maintain the health of natural resources in the area including water quality.
- ***Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP) (\$10,540,000)***
The WRP provides the opportunity to landowners to receive financial incentives to restore or enhance wetlands and improve wildlife habitat in exchange for retiring marginal land from agriculture production.
- ***Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP) (\$235,000)***
WHIP encourages creation of high quality wildlife habitats that support wildlife populations on wetland, riparian, upland and aquatic habitat on agricultural lands.
- ***Farmland Protection Program (FPP) (\$893,000)***
The FPP protects working agricultural land from conversion to non-agricultural uses through the purchase of conservation easements in partnership with local and state governments, Indian Tribes and non-governmental organizations.
- ***Grassland Reserve Program (GRP) (\$241,000)***
The Grassland Reserve Program (GRP) is a voluntary program that helps landowners and operators restore and protect grassland, including rangeland and pastureland, and certain other lands, while maintaining the areas as grazing lands. The program

emphasizes support for grazing operations, plant and animal biodiversity, and grassland and land containing shrubs and forbs under the greatest threat of conversion.

- ***Watershed Project (P.L. 566, Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Program) (\$525,000)***

The PL-566 Small Watershed Program will provide cost share incentives to implement conservation practices to improve surface water quality in the Lower Kissimmee River and Taylor Creek-Nubbin Slough Watersheds north of Lake Okeechobee targeting improved pastures in cow/calf operations, dairy outer pastures and other intensively used pastures.

U.S. Department of Commerce: National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) (\$4,389,000)

The FY 2005 budget for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) includes \$4,389,000 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 Studies/National Ocean Service (\$900,000) & Interdisciplinary Coastal Oceanographic Observations/ Oceanic and Atmospheric Research (\$989,000)***

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. Understanding 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 suite of research and monitoring activities in those South Florida 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 quantify current conditions and to develop a capability to understand and predict changing conditions in south Florida coastal seas resulting from restoration and other human impacts. Particular

emphasis is placed on documenting and predicting changes over time to valuable and sensitive coral reef habitats and communities along the Florida Keys.

- ***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 pelagic and 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. Funds are also targeted toward understanding the relationship between water circulation patterns, and the distribution of key species. Elements of the study will include physical and biological 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.

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

Funding will support scientific investigations in the South Florida coastal ecosystem that, when coupled with the NOAA integrated ecosystem studies, will allow managers to develop the capability to provide ecological forecasts that allow a determination of downstream effects on resources as a result of different restoration scenarios and other human activities in South Florida. These investigations include empirical studies, development and testing of models, and evaluation of ecological responses in the coastal marine system. They are grouped into the topical areas of nutrient loadings, budgets, and implications; water quality issues; physical oceanography parameters; status and trends of living marine resources; and critical habitat identification and conditions. The studies are conducted by Federal, state, and university scientists at Federal/state laboratories, at Florida and non-Florida universities, and by non-profit organizations.

U.S. Department of the Interior - National Park Service (\$79,902,000)

Park Management (\$24,780,000)

- ***Big Cypress National Preserve (\$5,243,000)***

Costs associated with current area management activities support mandated programs such as the protection, inventorying and monitoring of ten threatened and endangered species (Florida Panther, Cape Sable Sparrow, Florida Manatee, etc.) and a large hydrology program that includes restoration of sheet water flow to the Everglades National Park and the Ten Thousand Islands. Additional mandated programs include special uses such as oil exploration/production, 3,000 acres of cattle leases, the largest recreation hunting wildlife management area in south Florida, implementation of the largest recreational off-road vehicle program in the 48 states, and 11 Native American (Seminole and Miccosukee) villages on Preserve lands. The Preserve supports the

largest prescribed fire program in the Service; visitor and resources protection of 728,000 acres of predominately backcountry areas; maintenance of 47 employee housing units, two major visitor support facilities, public utility systems, seven primitive campgrounds and 66 miles of roads and management of 394 known archeological sites.

The current natural resources management program includes collection of baseline data in formats that are compatible with interagency regional hydrologic and community/species-based models, non-native plant control, threatened and endangered species, mitigation of visitor impacts, and management funds to support direct inventory/monitoring of resources and a geographic information system.

- ***Biscayne National Park (\$3,434,000)***

Costs for area management activities involve operations associated with a marine park that is exposed to intense urban pressures. These include efforts to address impacts to park resources associated with urban sprawl from the metropolitan area of Miami, four solid waste landfills, and a nuclear power facility. All of these threats are located along the park's western boundary, and "upstream" with respect to surface- and ground-water flow into the park.

Other area management activities are associated with the protection of 173,000 acres of marine resources, which include the largest living coral reef system in the National Park Service, eight known terrestrial and 40 known submerged cultural sites, and approximately 20 historic structures and two national historic districts within a boundary that has unlimited access points. Costs also involve the maintenance of three developed islands and one mainland site that include six harbors/docking facilities, two campgrounds, six picnic areas, approximately ten miles of trail, six residences, an environmental education camp and a major visitor center.

Current natural resources management efforts are directed towards coral reef and seagrass protection, water quality monitoring, documentation and mitigation of impacts due to visitor and commercial uses, controlling exotic vegetation, and monitoring at least eight threatened and endangered species. Special efforts are applied to prevent and restore extensive damage to seagrass beds and coral reefs from boat groundings.

- ***Dry Tortugas National Park (\$1,276,000)***

Costs are for operations of the 65,000-acre marine and historical national park 70 miles west of Key West. The popularity of this park is putting stress on park facilities and is threatening park resources, visitor safety, and the quality of the visitor experience. This raises concerns over visitor impacts on the remote, wilderness qualities of the site. Current funding will continue a preservation and maintenance program for Fort Jefferson.

Efforts will continue this year to document and recommend management strategies for submerged cultural resources. These efforts are supported by park staff, with overall technical direction provided by the NPS Submerged Cultural Resources Unit.

- ***Everglades National Park (\$14,827,000)***

Costs for area management reflect continuing demands on operations, natural resources management, planning, maintenance and ecosystem restoration. The park continues to attract significant national and international attention, as a symbol of the effort to save the Everglades, and of the balance being sought in striving to secure South Florida's future. With over 1.5 million acres of fragile wilderness immediately adjacent to some 6 million people, the park has special challenges. Over one and one-half million visitors come each year. The Park has extensive outreach programs to the local community and sustains a large backcountry/wilderness operation. The NPS is requesting an increase for law enforcement and resource protection programs in the FY 2005 Request.

The park operates major visitor use areas at Flamingo, Shark Valley, Everglades City, and Chekika, and oversees 3 concessions operations. Aging infrastructure requires extensive short-term maintenance, as well as long-term upgrade. The park has 82 miles of surfaced roads, 160 miles of trails, three campgrounds, 48 backcountry campsites, and three fee collection stations. The park has an unprecedented three international treaty designations and is unique in the world. It is home to over 1,000 species of plants, 400 species of birds, and 2 rare orchids, and is a refuge for 14 threatened and endangered species.

Everglades National Park remains the most ecologically threatened park in the nation. Florida Bay is continuing to experience dramatic changes, including striking alterations between hypo- and hyper-salinity, increased turbidity, dramatic seagrass die-offs and persistent and increasing spreads of algae blooms. Exotic plants have and are continuing to replace native plant communities in Everglades National Park and adjacent natural areas.

Shark Slough and eastern Florida Bay have the most extensive network of monitoring networks (hydrological, meteorological, and biological), however this monitoring system does not give us an understanding of the relationship between biotic and abiotic factors in restoration. This network is the basis for both understanding the linkages between hydrologic change and ecological response, and for determining the actual effects of projects on the biota. These data collection networks are widely recognized as essential. For example, the South Florida Water Management District funds the National Park for 100% of the actual costs of collecting tides, wind, and salinity information in Florida Bay and the Gulf Coast. All of the hydrologic and primary ecological data collection efforts undertaken by the Park Service in Everglades National Park are included in CERP's Monitoring and Assessment Plan, and the sponsoring agencies make it clear in the document that they are expecting on-going support for these essential elements. Current funds primarily cover megafauna and key restoration areas such as Shark Slough, the C-111 basin, and eastern Florida Bay.

South Florida Ecosystem Restoration Task Force (\$1,308,000)

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.

The Task Force is also responsible for coordinating science among the participants in the restoration effort. During FY 2004, the Task Force recognized the importance of science to the overall restoration effort, and re-evaluated its entire approach to coordinating science. The Task Force established and implemented new procedures to improve the overall level of science coordination. The key component of this improved approach is a new organization called the Science Coordination Group (SCG), which replaces the Science Coordination Team (SCT). To provide the level of leadership commensurate with this approach, the Task Force appointed senior representatives from the Department of the Interior and the State of Florida's Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission to lead the SCG. The membership of the SCG includes both scientists and senior resource managers. Finally, while the SCT previously reported to the Task Force's Florida-based Working Group, the SCG reports directly to the Task Force.

In addition to the organizational improvements, the duties of the SCG have been clarified. Specifically, the SCG was directed to develop for Task Force approval a science coordination plan to track and coordinate programmatic-level science and other research that identifies science needs and gaps and facilitates management decisions associated with the restoration effort. It is anticipated that this science plan will include a process to recommend how science gaps be prioritized, addressed and synthesized. Further, these processes will improve the overall level of science coordination among the Federal, State, Tribal and local agencies that collectively comprise the restoration effort. A priority objective of the SCG in FY 2005 will be to finalize and receive Task Force approval for its "Plan to Coordinate Science". Once approved, the SCG will then begin implementation activities as set forth within the Plan.

In FY 2005, 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 initial activities associated with the next biannual update (2006) of the plan as required by the Congress, reporting progress and accomplishments on Goals 1, 2 and 3 of the strategic plan, maintaining a tracking system for its land acquisition strategy, engaging as necessary in its dispute resolution process, and the annual updating of the restoration project sheet information (Integrated Financial Plan) including status, schedule, scope and budget for each project.

Everglades Research (\$3,937,000)

NPS also requests \$3,937,000 for CESI. Since its inception in 1997, CESI has been the primary investment by the Department of the Interior to provide scientific information to advise restoration decision-making and to guide its own land management responsibilities for South Florida ecosystem restoration. The accelerated schedule for the CERP has made it more challenging to plan future research. The CESI program is being restructured to meet these challenges and balance continued ecosystem research and model development with the new requirements to support CERP implementation, including the project-specific environmental assessments and long-term monitoring to track restoration success. In FY 2004, the Department will work to make CESI more accessible and competitive, and align CESI efforts with the its science plan for Everglades restoration. In FY 2003, CESI project integration has become more effective by consolidating the 10-12 largely discipline-based programs into four science programs. These programs, which will be continued in FY 2005, are described below:

- Baseline Research -particularly related to hypothesis testing, process studies, and the linkages between hydrologic alterations and ecosystem responses. An example of a baseline research project that will be completed in 2005 is the role of flow in maintaining vegetation patterns. This question is important in determining to what extent sheetflow needs to be restored if the ridge and slough and tree islands patterns are to be maintained.
- Simulation Modeling -to support the development and refinement of physical and biological predictive models that simulate the responses to proposed modifications. One simulation model is expected to be completed late in FY05 is a risk assessment model for effects on roseate spoonbills. The model contains a module that incorporates basic linkages between spoonbill foraging and nesting success to hydrologic conditions. The risk assessment model estimates impacts on spoonbills based upon the hydrologic conditions from various project scenarios.
- Environmental Assessments -includes the development and application of decision support tools that can automate our assessments of restoration alternatives. During FY04, CESI funded specific assessments on the effects of the Interim Operations Plan (IOP) on Water Conservation Area 3A and Everglades National Park. These investigations were completed as part of the IOP report to Congress. The only assessment activity planned for FY05 is related to water quality assessments and Consent Decree compliance.
- Long-Term Monitoring - which is critical to determining ecosystem responses to our restoration actions.

Modified Water Deliveries Project (MWD) (\$8,077,000)

The 2005 request is \$8,077,000 for the MWD project through the NPS construction appropriation account. 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.

Land Acquisition Management (\$1,800,000)

This funding will be used to administer the Federal land acquisition program in South Florida to enable completion of land acquisition and to meet the schedule established by the Department of the Interior.

Land Acquisition Big Cypress (\$40,000,000)

The Department of the Interior and the Collier Resources Company have reached an agreement in principle to acquire Collier's mineral rights underlying Big Cypress National Preserve. The Collier Family is the primary holder of the mineral rights under the National Preserve. The Colliers own all or a portion of the oil and gas rights within 79 percent of the sections within Collier County. The Colliers' ownership of these mineral rights predates the establishment of the National Preserve and their rights were expressly grandfathered by Congress when the National Preserve was established. It is estimated that there are approximately 40 million barrels of conventionally recoverable oil under Big Cypress.

The Collier Resources Company has filed numerous plans of operation for exploration and production within the Big Cypress National Preserve. However, oil development in the Preserve is inconsistent with the State of Florida's coastal zone management plan, and oil development in this protected area could undermine the implementation of the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan, a 35-year effort to restore the South Florida ecosystem while providing water for the area's fast-growing population. Acquiring these holdings would preclude further development in this area.

Although the agreement between the Department and Collier Resources has recently expired, the Department remains committed to protecting the Everglades ecosystem

from future mining and drilling activities. The Inspector General is currently conducting an evaluation to assess the fair value of the Collier mineral rights. Subject to the completion of this evaluation, the Department is prepared to continue to work with the family using the Department's new guidelines and procedure for appraisals for land acquisition and exchanges.

U.S. Department of the Interior: Fish and Wildlife Service (\$8,946,000)

Resource Management -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 2005 will also enable the FWS to continue implementing the Multi-Species Recovery Plan, which provides a blueprint for protecting, conserving, and managing the threatened and endangered fish and wildlife resources. The FWS is undertaking a comprehensive habitat based strategy for restoration and recovery of species.

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 2005, 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.

In Fiscal Year 2005, the FWS will address new Corps of Engineers project starts and continue to be actively involved in threatened and endangered species consultation and recovery, private land partnerships, environmental contaminant reviews, coastal restoration projects, preparation of Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act Reports, system-wide water quality improvement, and a myriad of multi-agency planning, science and outreach efforts. The FWS will ensure that ecosystem benefits are maximized consistent with Everglades Restoration goals. The role of the FWS will support and advance adaptive management and the principal goals of Everglades Restoration.

Resource Management- Refuges and Wildlife (\$4,906,000)

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) administers 16 national wildlife refuge units in South Florida. The Service manages all actions under the Endangered Species Act, provides comments on comprehensive wetland programs (including permitting), carries out authorities of the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act, and enforces federal wildlife laws. As a member of the South Florida Ecosystem Restoration Task Force Working Group, the FWS will continue to undertake important on-ground restoration activities.

Resource Management - Law Enforcement (\$636,000)

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

Resource Management - Fisheries (\$100,000)

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

Land Acquisition (\$750,000)

The 2005 request for land acquisition is necessary to acquire lands in the Great White Heron National Wildlife Refuge 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 sea turtle, West Indian manatee and others.

U.S. Department of the Interior: U.S. Geological Survey

Everglades Restoration: Integration Research, Planning, and Interagency Coordination (\$7,847,000)

In FY2004 and 2005, the USGS, through its Priority Ecosystems Science (PES) activities, will continue to provide the planning, research, and interagency coordination efforts needed for Everglades restoration, in accordance with the terms of the Memorandum of Understanding between the USGS, FWS and NPS that clarifies DOI collaboration in this effort. This coordinated science effort will allow the DOI bureaus to leverage resources, maximize the value of Federal research funds, and ensure that the best available research products and monitoring and assessment tools are developed to meet the needs of the National Park Service and the Fish and Wildlife Service in partnership with our other federal, state and tribal partners collaborating on Greater Everglades Ecosystem Restoration. These land management bureaus are responsible for

the stewardship of one-half of the remaining Everglades ecosystem and for providing 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.

A fundamental understanding of the Greater Everglades ecosystem is required for science-based restoration and resource management decisions. The purpose of USGS's Greater Everglades Science initiative is to ensure that, in partnership with our many South Florida restoration partners, this fundamental understanding of ecosystem process, structure, and function is developed. A significant part of USGS's science initiative is to integrate the ecosystem science through continued development of decision support tools, specifically through continued development and improvement of integrated models, including hydrologic models, ecological models, chemical models, and geographic and landscape models. In FY 2005, the USGS will continue high-priority work that includes 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. These tools will be used in the CERP implementation.

USGS research will continue 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, coordination, 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 that link the interface between the Everglades freshwater and coastal wetlands at a scale sufficient to be used for project-based decisions. The framework of the CERP was based originally on large regional-scale hydrologic models, developed by Florida's South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (COE), and ecological models, developed by USGS. USGS has developed a decision support tool that links ecological models to the regional-scale hydrologic model through a GIS-based data viewing system for use in assessing projects at the sub-regional level. Design, implementation and assessment of specific CERP projects to be constructed over the next two-to-three decades, however, require project-scale predictive models and decision support tools. In coordination with the South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD), a model test area of Everglades National Park is being used to assess and improve the utility of the hydrologic model and the coupled hydrologic/ecological models for evaluating alternative scenarios for design of restoration projects. In addition, this hydrologic model is being coupled with a salinity component and a preliminary nutrient transport component. In FY 2005, efforts will

focus on improvements and refinements of the coupling of the hydrology, ecology and nutrients components of the models.

New research 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. Continuing USGS work will focus on a GIS-based and web-accessible data viewing system similar to the personal computer-based system called the ATLSS Data Viewing System. 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 was expanded in FY 2004 to include Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge. Work in Loxahatchee NWR will continue into FY05 and will be expanded into Big Cypress National Preserve. Landscape and plant community maps and coastal bathymetry maps, with partial support from SFWMD, are being developed and refined using innovative remote sensing and GIS techniques to map vegetation and link vegetation characteristics to related hydrologic and sediment 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. The USGS continues collaborations with State and Federal agencies to conduct experimental studies to unravel the complex factors that control mercury toxicity in the Everglades, with particular emphasis on those factors that are expected to change under a restored condition. Additionally, the USGS is conducting mercury toxicity studies to document the toxicological impacts of mercury exposure to several native Everglades species, such as Largemouth Bass and threatened Alligators. Recently, USGS scientists documented the connection between increased methylmercury production and elevated sulfate in surface waters coming from agricultural areas. Additional studies in FY 2005 include evaluating the significance of the mercury/sulfate relationship as it relates to options for water storage, treatment and redirected flows. In addition, new work will be initiated on better understanding the effect of mercury and other contaminants on fish and wildlife.

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. In FY 2004, SOFIA offers bimonthly e-mail updates of new postings and will be enhanced by the development of a geographic database system to increase ease of use and access to information on a geographical and landscape basis. The geographic database system is being tested in FY 2004 with plans for improving usefulness and efficiency in FY 2005. 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- Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) - (\$396,000)

Funds will be used for continuing efforts to restore the South Florida Ecosystem within the lands of the Seminole and Miccosukee Tribes. Each Tribe receives \$198,000 within its tribal base funding allocation to conduct research, studies, and planning on water quality and distribution systems, ecosystem development and management, and planning for compliance with the Endangered Species Act in storm water areas on the Seminole and Big Cypress reservations. The storm water 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. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) (\$4,572,000)

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, resources support the National Coastal Assessment and Global Climate research on coral reefs, the Coral Research effort examining UV and Disease interactions.

FEDERAL NON-CERP FUNDING SUMMARY (ACTUAL \$)

NON-CERP EVERGLADES ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION PROJECTS/PROGRAMS	FY 2002 Enacted	FY 2003 Enacted	FY2004 Enacted	FY2005 Request
USACE-Central and Southern Florida (excluding CERP)	64,949,000	49,983,000	64,906,000 ⁽⁴⁾	13,088,000
USACE -Critical Projects	19,876,000	19,526,000	14,760,000 ⁽⁴⁾	27,000,000
USACE- Kissimmee River Restoration	25,846,000	23,727,000	17,616,000 ⁽⁴⁾	18,000,000
USACE-Biscayne Bay	240,000	200,000	0	0
USDA - ARS	4,846,900	5,216,800	5,415,100	4,421,000
USDA-NRCS	37,752,000	21,376,000	23,580,000	24,915,000
US Department of Commerce-NOAA	4,065,000	4,065,000	4,359,000	4,389,000
USDOJ-NPS Park Management	23,635,000	23,874,000	23,991,000	24,780,000
USDOJ-South Florida Ecosystem Restoration Task Force	1,325,000	1,320,000	1,308,000	1,308,000
USDOJ-NPS Modified Water Deliveries	35,199,000 ⁽²⁾	9,935,000	12,830,000	8,077,000
USDOJ-NPS Land Acquisition (Mgmt.)	2,800,000	2,782,000	1,800,000	1,800,000
USDOJ-NPS Land Acquisition (Big Cypress)	0	0	0	40,000,000
USDOJ-NPS Land Acquisition Grants to Florida	15,000,000	15,421,000	(5,000,000) ³	0
USDOJ-NPS Critical Ecosystem Studies Initiative	4,000,000	3,974,000	3,937,000	3,937,000
USDOJ-FWS Ecological Services	2,554,000	2,537,000	2,523,000	2,554,000
USDOJ-FWS Refuges and Wildlife	3,706,000	3,682,000	9,784,000	4,906,000
USDOJ-FWS Law Enforcement	636,000	632,000	628,000	636,000
USDOJ-FWS Fisheries	100,000	99,000	98,000	100,000
USDOJ-FWS Land Acquisition	8,500,000	2,484,000	0	750,000
USDOJ- USGS - Integrated Research, Planning and Interagency Coordination	8,636,000	7,847,000	7,847,000	7,847,000
USDOJ- BIA	396,000	393,000	539,000	396,000
US Environmental Protection Agency	5,338,300	4,246,900	4,678,200 ⁵	4,572,000
Non-CERP Sub Total (USACE and USDOJ)	233,398,000	169,149,000	157,567,000	155,179,000
Non-CERP Sub Total (Other Federal Agencies)	52,002,200	34,904,700	38,032,300	38,297,000
NON-CERP SUBTOTAL (All Federal Agencies):	285,400,200	204,053,700	195,599,300	193,476,000

Note: Base program and operational funding requests for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, U.S Department of Commerce, U.S. Dept. of Agriculture and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers are not included in the information provided within the FY 2005 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 Reflects the transfer of \$5,000,000 in prior year balances from the USDOJ - NPS Land Acquisition Account to the USDOJ-FWS Resource Mgmt. Account

⁴ Includes FY 2004 Rescission

⁵ FY 2004 funds are the President's Request not enacted

Section 3.0

State of Florida Everglades Ecosystem Restoration Program Funding and Project Information

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

Section 3.1: Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan Projects and Funding (\$242,907,106)

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

Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) (\$128,972,634)

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**. The 2003 Florida Legislature appropriated \$225 million for Everglades restoration. In addition, the Legislature approved \$800 million in bonding authority over the next eight years to fund Florida's ongoing commitment to Everglades restoration.

FY 2003-2004 disbursements through September 30, 2003 are \$95,480,687 for CERP land acquisition.

The Department expects to disburse an additional \$100,000,000 for the design and construction of CERP projects and to acquire land needed for CERP projects in FY 2004-2005.

Southern Golden Gate Estates (SGGE)

The Department anticipates the expenditure of approximately \$27,101,000 in FY 2004-2005 to complete the land acquisition totaling 55,247 acres.

Henderson Creek/Belle Meade CERP Project - The Department anticipates expenditures of \$131,250 in the design phase for 2004-2005. No funds have been expended thus far in FY 2003-2004.

The Department's Tallahassee Office of Ecosystem Projects (Office of the Secretary) and Special Projects Section (Division of Water Resource Management) estimate a cost of \$253,512 and

\$418,872 respectively to oversee Everglades and CERP implementation in FY 2004-2005. The Department's Southeast Florida District office in West Palm Beach and South Florida District in Ft. Myers estimate expenditures of approximately \$379,000 and \$39,500 respectively in support of CERP project implementation in FY 2004-2005.

We will also have a request for \$650,000 for the CERP Comprehensive Water Quality Feasibility Study in FY 2004-2005.

Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) (\$334,472)

The FWC contributes to CERP projects by participating on interagency planning teams to ensure that CERP activities address the needs of fish and wildlife and associated habitat. The Office of Environmental Services coordinates FWC comments under the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act and the National Environmental Policy Act.

The Office of Environmental Services, Division of Freshwater Fisheries, the Florida Marine Research Institute, and the Office of the Executive Director actively participate on RECOVER, various Project Delivery Teams, and other CERP related teams.

South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) (\$113,600,000)

Implementation of CERP:

The South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) is the local sponsor for 45 of the 54 CERP projects included in the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (CERP). Planning and design is currently underway on approximately 26 of these projects. The focus of the SFWMD's efforts during FY2004 and 2005 will be on planning and design efforts associated with completion of Project Implementation Reports and initiation of detailed design for restoration projects and completion of Pilot Project Design Reports and detailed design for the six authorized pilot projects.

The SFWMD is also engaged in acquisition of lands needed for CERP projects. Current efforts are focused on acquisition of lands from willing sellers for the ten initially authorized projects and other projects identified for early implementation, and lands needed for projects located in areas with significant development pressure.

In addition to these project efforts, the SFWMD is partnering with the Corps on several programmatic efforts that are necessary for implementation of the CERP. These programmatic activities include implementation of public outreach and environmental and economic equity plans; development of a Master Recreation Plan for the CERP; implementation of the Restoration Coordination and Verification (RECOVER) including a system-wide monitoring plan and an adaptive assessment program; and development of an interagency modeling center to support CERP projects. In addition, the SFWMD will be working with the Corps to complete development of guidance memoranda, the master implementation sequencing plan and the interim goals agreement required by the Programmatic Regulations.

STATE OF FLORIDA CERP PROJECTS FUNDING SUMMARY (ACTUAL \$)

CERP EVERGLADES ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION PROJECTS	FY 2001-02 Enacted	FY 2002-03 Enacted	FY2003-04 Enacted	FY2004-05 Requested
Department of Environmental Protection	90,380,949	150,279,126	105,586,702	128,972,634
Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission	411,000	409,000	419,000	334,472
South Florida Water Management District	91,708,816 ⁽¹⁾	133,284,645 ⁽¹⁾	107,887,469 ⁽¹⁾	113,600,000 ⁽²⁾
TOTAL:	182,500,765	283,972,771	213,893,171	242,907,106

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 FY2004/05 totals shown represent estimates. When FY 2004/05 budget totals are available, they will be posted on the website link to the FY 2005 Cross-Cut Budget at www.sfwmd.state.fl.us. The same information will also be included in the FY 2006 Cross-Cut Budget document.

Section 3.2: Non-CERP Everglades Ecosystem Restoration Projects/Programs (\$406,635,746)

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:

Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (FDACS) (\$5,045,629)

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.

Funding for the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services has doubled for fiscal year 2003-04 because of the submission of a legislative request for an additional \$15,000,000 appropriation. If approved, the additional \$15,000,000 will be used to implement farm specific "Best Management Practices" primarily on dairies within the Okeechobee Watershed.

Department of Community Affairs (DCA)

Note: Not available at time of publication.

Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) (\$102,222,540)

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

Expenditures of \$418,872 are anticipated for FY 2004-2005 for the Everglades Technical Review Section. For FY 2004-2005 it is anticipated that expenditures of approximately \$5,000,000 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 \$50,000,000 during 2004-2005 to acquire Non-CERP conservation lands in South Florida.

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-2003-2004 has projected expenditures of approximately \$46,803,668 for these activities in South Florida:

- Aquatic and Upland Exotic/Invasive Plant Control (\$16,680,938)
- State Park Operations and Management (\$18,246,145)
- Office of Ecosystem Projects (\$253,512)
- Mercury Research and Monitoring (\$900,000)
- Central Florida District Office (\$15,000)
- Coastal and Aquatic Managed Areas (\$9,925,073)
- Total Maximum Daily Load Program (\$783,000)

Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) (\$1,762,263)

The FWC contributes to Federal and State restoration projects within the South Florida Ecosystem. In addition the FWC contributes to state land acquisition programs through its Inholdings and Additions program, targeting lands within or contiguous to areas currently managed by the FWC.

The Office of Environmental Services contributes to the Federal Non-CERP restoration projects by participating in multi-agency planning teams, and through land acquisition. The Division of Freshwater Fisheries has an on-going lake enhancement and restoration program. . In FY 2003-2004 FWC conducted restoration activities in Lake Tohopekaliga. In addition to lake

restoration, FWC programs support non-native fish research and management, aquatic plant management, panther restoration research, and alligator management throughout the Everglades Ecosystem.

The FWC conducts a number of programs aimed at habitat maintenance, species research, and GIS-based data analyses. The Division of Wildlife manages over 1 million acres of public lands throughout the area. The Division of Freshwater Fisheries supports ecosystem-wide studies of fish populations. The Marine Research Institute conducts a number of regionally-connected studies on a range of species. The Division of Law Enforcement ensures that laws protecting fish, wildlife, and their habitats are enforced in upland, freshwater, and marine areas of the Everglades Ecosystem. Multiple programs of the FWC support outreach and education programs, including the Everglades Youth Camp, Urban Fishing Programs, Wildlife Curriculum support, and general fish and wildlife outreach in the area.

Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) - (\$7,905,314)

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 during the 2004 fiscal year total \$1,940,300 and include:

- Design of wildlife crossings to protect the endangered Florida Panther (\$52,000)
- Florida Panther habitat enhancement (\$18,300)
- Surveys to determine presence of exotic and protected plant species (\$200,000)
- Coastal vegetation restoration (\$70,000)
- Removal of exotic vegetation (\$1,600,000)

The Department's planned expenditures for South Florida Ecosystem Restoration during the 2005 fiscal year total \$7,905,314 and include:

- Mitigation to enhance seagrass beds in Florida Bay (\$125,000)
- Research to determine the effectiveness of wildlife crossings (\$16,314)
- Hydrological improvements and public access (\$3,500,000)
- Mitigation maintenance and monitoring (\$120,000)
- Funding support to Biscayne Bay Environmental Enhancement Trust Fund (\$44,000)
- Removal of exotic vegetation (\$1,600,000)
- Construction of wildlife crossings to ensure connectivity of Florida Panther habitat (\$2,500,000)

South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) (\$289,700,000)

The SFWMD is 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 provisions in the Everglades Forever Act: water quality restoration in the Everglades Protection Area through land acquisition, construction, and operations and maintenance of stormwater treatment areas (STAs) and development and implementation of advanced technologies; 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; controlling the spread of nuisance and exotic plants; restoring isolated wetlands; and addressing extreme high and low water levels.
- (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, management, and mitigation 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;
- (8) Restoration of coastal ecosystems through pollutant load reduction and habitat restoration;
- (9) Restoration of wetlands and associated upland buffer habitat in the Kissimmee Chain of Lakes and Indian River Lagoon basins (in cooperation with the USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service); and
- (10) Operation and maintenance of the flood control system including over 200 primary water control structures, 43 pump stations, approximately 1,800 miles of canals and levees, and 2,000 secondary structures which control inflows from secondary sources into the District's primary system.

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.

**STATE OF FLORIDA NON-CERP EVERGLADES ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION
PROJECTS/PROGRAMS (ACTUAL \$)**

NON-CERP EVERGLADES ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION PROJECTS/PROGRAMS				
CERP PROJECTS	FY 2001-02 Enacted	FY 2002-03 Requested	FY2003-04 Requested	FY 2004-05 Requested
Florida Department of Agriculture/ Consumer Services	7,608,917	15,523,202	16,215,100 ⁽³⁾	5,045,629 ⁽⁴⁾
Department of Community Affairs	9,800,000	10,000,000	45,819,724	Not Available*
Florida Department of Environmental Protection	72,654,344	109,393,692	92,364,834	102,222,540
Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission	19,681,000	21,306,000	25,729,000	1,762,263
Florida Department of Transportation	4,931,000	10,528,832	1,940,300	7,905,314
South Florida Water Management District	395,314,127 ⁽¹⁾	372,701,387 ⁽¹⁾	381,868,047 ⁽¹⁾	289,700,000 ⁽²⁾
TOTAL:	509,989,388	539,453,113	563,937,005	406,635,746

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 FY2004/05 totals shown represent estimates. When FY 2004/05 budget totals are available, they will be posted on the website link to the FY 2005 Cross-Cut Budget at www.sfrestore.org. The same information will also be included in the FY 2006 Cross-Cut Budget document.

⁽³⁾ The amount of \$23,816,653 reflected for OAWP for 2003-04 in last year's report has been revised to \$8,816,653; since the \$15,000,000 legislative request was not approved.

⁽⁴⁾ The number reflected does not include Forestry's contribution for 2004-05

*Note: Not available at time of publication.

Appendix

South Florida Ecosystem Restoration Task Force

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