

Federal and State of Florida Cross-Cut Budget

2007 Working Document

South Florida Ecosystem Restoration Program

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Section 1.0

Introduction

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Section 1.0: Introduction

Section 1.1: Introduction

The restoration of America's Everglades remains as a top federal and state priority in the proposed 2007 budgets. The Administration maintains its commitment to restore the fragile Everglades in partnership with the State of Florida. The FY 2007 President's Budget proposes funding that builds upon previous investments associated with the comprehensive South Florida Ecosystem Restoration Program. The collaborative funding partnership between the federal and state governments over the next 30 years will ensure that our children and future generations can experience the wonder and beauty of America's Everglades, which are recognized both domestically and internationally as like no other place on earth.

Section 1.2: Overview

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

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

Section 3.0 provides detailed information concerning state restoration projects and funding. Section 3.1 addresses CERP projects and funding, and Section 3.2 addresses non-CERP restoration projects and funding. The Fiscal Year (FY) 2006-07 totals shown represent estimates for the South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD). When finalized the FY 2006-07 actual budget totals will be posted on the website www.sfrestore.org.

Section 1.3: Federal and State of Florida Funding Summary Tables

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

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

TABLE 1: FEDERAL FUNDING SUMMARY (ACTUAL \$)

EVERGLADES ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION PROJECTS	FY 2001 Enacted	FY 2002 Enacted	FY 2003 Enacted	FY 2004 Enacted	FY 2005 Enacted	FY 2006 Enacted	FY 2007 Requested
CERP EVERGLADES ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION PROJECTS							
USACE- CERP (Part of Central and Southern Florida) ¹	21,747,000	27,961,000	37,062,000	39,063,000	64,446,000	62,610,000 ²	64,000,000
USDOI - NPS CERP	2,497,000	5,544,000	5,513,000	5,463,000	5,213,000	5,174,000	5,212,000
USDOI - FWS CERP	651,000	3,351,000	3,329,000	3,309,000	3,304,000	3,269,000	3,269,000
NON-CERP EVERGLADES ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION PROJECTS							
USACE - Central and Southern Florida (excluding CERP) ^{3,4}	56,182,000	64,949,000	49,983,000	64,906,000	8,029,000	9,126,000	6,447,000
USACE - Critical Projects ^{3,4}	20,485,000	19,876,000	19,526,000	14,760,000	25,813,000	11,880,000	8,289,000
USACE-Kissimmee River Restoration ^{3,4}	19,961,000	25,846,000	23,727,000	17,616,000	17,871,000	13,042,000	50,264,000
USACE - Biscayne Bay ³	543,000	240,000	200,000	0	74,000	0	0
USACE- Modified Water Deliveries ⁴						34,650,000	35,000,000
USDA - ARS	4,193,000	4,846,900	5,216,800	5,415,100	6,101,000	4,908,600	4,758,600
USDA- NRCS	5,297,000	37,752,000	21,376,000	23,580,000	62,539,337 ⁵	61,505,271 ⁵	9,005,271
US Department of Commerce - NOAA	4,264,000	4,065,000	4,065,000	4,359,000	4,389,000	3,000,000	3,000,000
USDOI - NPS Park Management	23,389,000	23,635,000	23,874,000	23,991,000	25,266,000	25,832,000	26,350,000
USDOI - South Florida Ecosystem Restoration Task Force	1,316,000	1,325,000	1,320,000	1,308,000	1,290,000	1,286,000	1,308,000
USDOI - NPS Modified Water Deliveries	8,980,000	35,199,000 ⁶	9,935,000	12,830,000	7,965,000	24,882,000 ⁷	13,330,000
USDOI - NPS Land Acquisition (management)	2,075,000	2,800,000	2,782,000	1,800,000	1,500,000	690,000	500,000
USDOI - NPS Land Acquisition Grants to Florida	11,974,000	15,000,000	15,421,000	(5,000,000) ⁸	0	0	0
USDOI - NPS Critical Ecosystem Studies Initiative	6,194,000	4,000,000	3,974,000	3,937,000	3,882,000	3,840,000	3,863,000
USDOI - FWS Ecological Services	2,554,000	2,554,000	2,537,000	2,523,000	2,518,000	2,516,000	2,516,000
USDOI - FWS Refuges and Wildlife	3,706,000	3,706,000	3,682,000	9,784,000	4,787,000	4,086,000	4,086,000
USDOI - FWS Migratory Birds						101,000	101,000

NON-CERP PROJECTS/PROGRAMS	FY 2001 Enacted	FY 2002 Enacted	FY 2003 Enacted	FY 2004 Enacted	FY 2005 Enacted	FY 2006 Enacted	FY 2007 Requested
USDOJ - FWS Law Enforcement	636,000	636,000	632,000	628,000	627,000	619,000	619,000
USDOJ - FWS Fisheries	100,000	100,000	99,000	98,000	99,000	95,000	95,000
USDOJ - FWS Land Acquisition	10,975,000	8,500,000	2,484,000	0	740,000	0	0
USDOJ - USGS - Integrated Research, Planning and Interagency Coordination	8,553,000	8,636,000	7,847,000	7,847,000	7,738,000	7,771,000	7,771,000
USDOJ - BIA	396,000	396,000	393,000	539,000	536,000	382,000	382,000
US EPA	4,582,000	4,666,800	3,352,100	3,139,600	2,882,300	3,439,400	2,494,900
CERP Total (USACE and USDOJ)	24,895,000	36,856,000	45,904,000	47,835,000	72,963,000	71,053,000	72,481,000
Non-CERP Subtotal (USACE and USDOJ)	178,019,000	217,398,000	168,416,000	157,567,000	108,735,000	140,798,000	160,921,000
Non-CERP Subtotal (Other Federal Agencies)	18,336,000	51,330,700	34,009,900	36,493,700	75,911,637	72,853,271	19,258,771
Non-CERP Total (All Federal Agencies)	196,355,000	268,728,700	202,425,900	194,060,700	184,646,637	213,651,271	180,179,771
TOTAL CERP AND NON CERP (USACE AND USDOJ)	202,914,000	254,254,000	214,320,000	205,402,000	181,698,000	211,851,000	233,402,000
TOTAL CERP AND NON CERP (ALL FEDERAL AGENCIES)	221,250,000	305,584,700	248,329,900	241,895,700	257,609,637	284,704,271	252,660,771

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

Footnotes:

¹ USACE CERP activities are funded under the Central and Southern Florida Project (C&SF). ² USACE FY 2006 Enacted reflects reductions for rescission and congressionally directed funding for the C&SF Upper St. Johns River project.

³ Enacted numbers for USACE reflect reductions for any rescissions, but do not account for reductions due to savings and slippage.

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

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

⁶ Reflects \$19,199,000 for construction and \$16,000,000 for land acquisition.

⁷ Includes the transfer of \$17 million in unobligated balances from the NPS Federal Land Acquisition Account to NPS Construction to further the Modified Water Deliveries project.

⁸ 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.

TABLE 2: STATE OF FLORIDA FUNDING SUMMARY TABLE (ACTUAL \$)

EVERGLADES ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION PROJECTS	FY 2000-01 Enacted	FY 2001-02 Enacted	FY 2002-03 Enacted	FY 2003-04 Enacted	FY 2004-05 Enacted	FY 2005-06 Enacted	FY 2006-07 Requested
CERP EVERGLADES ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION PROJECTS							
Florida Department of Environmental Protection	89,619,051	90,380,949	150,279,126	105,586,702	128,972,634	128,637,628	136,615,473
Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission	315,000	411,000	409,000	419,000	336,359	336,359	Not Available
South Florida Water Management District	32,773,071 ¹	91,708,816 ¹	133,284,645 ¹	107,887,469 ¹	101,119,569 ¹	253,715,473 ¹	360,000,000 ²
NON-CERP EVERGLADES ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION PROJECTS							
Florida Department of Agriculture/Consumer Services	24,700,000	7,608,917	15,523,202	16,215,100	8,531,378	5,132,269	6,928,051 ³
Florida Department of Community Affairs	31,830,000	9,800,000	10,000,000	45,819,724	37,879,492	37,000,000	37,000,000
Florida Department of Environmental Protection	135,422,927	72,654,344	109,393,692	92,364,834	102,222,540	176,467,770	408,365,782
Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission	17,271,000	19,681,000	21,306,000	25,729,000	27,466,653	27,579,153	Not Available
Florida Department of Transportation	16,104,000	4,931,000	10,528,832	1,940,300	7,905,314	5,400,000	4,060,000
South Florida Water Management District	268,873,786 ¹	395,314,127 ¹	372,701,387 ¹	381,868,047 ¹	299,820,508 ¹	316,312,557 ¹	238,000,000 ²
CERP SUBTOTAL:	122,707,122	182,500,765	283,972,771	213,893,171	230,428,562	382,689,460	496,615,473
NON-CERP SUBTOTAL:	494,201,713	509,989,388	539,453,113	563,937,005	483,825,885	567,891,749	694,353,833
STATE OF FLORIDA FUNDING TOTAL:	616,908,835	692,490,153	823,425,884	777,830,176	714,254,447	950,581,209	1,190,969,306

Footnotes:

¹ Reflects SFWMD adopted budget appropriations less any state and federal funds.

² Since the publication date of each year's Cross-Cut Budget precedes the budget cycle for the SFWMD, the FY 2006-07 totals shown represent estimates. When FY 2006-07 budget totals are available, they will be posted on the website link to the Cross-Cut Budget 2007 Working Document at www.sfstore.org. The same information will also be included in the FY 2008 Cross-Cut Budget document.

³ The number reflected does not include Forestry's contribution for FY 2006-07.

Section 2.0

Federal Everglades Ecosystem Restoration Projects and Funding

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Section 2.1: Federal Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (CERP) Projects and Funding (\$72,481,000)

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) (\$64,000,000)

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

From a project perspective, the major focus of the Corps' FY 2007 activities include continuation of detailed design on completed PIRs; continuation of detailed design on pilot projects, including the installation and testing of Aquifer Storage and Recovery (ASR) Pilot Projects and preparation of Pilot Project Design Reports (PPDR) that contain the technical analyses needed to implement the pilot projects; completion of three PIRs and one PPDR; continuation of fourteen other PIRs and three ongoing feasibility studies; and continuation of project adaptive assessment and monitoring activities used to monitor the effects of projects as they are implemented.

From a program perspective, FY 2007 CERP activities include continuation of Restoration Coordination and Verification (RECOVER), an inter-agency scientific group charged with system-wide assessments of planned and completed projects as well as with programmatic level activities. RECOVER's science-based activities include evaluation and assessment on the performance of the CERP, review of the effects that other restoration projects may have on CERP, and provision of a system-wide perspective throughout the restoration process. Other program level activities include continued reassessment of the validity of current project sequencing as defined in the Master Implementation Sequencing Plan, public outreach and involvement, and environmental and economic equity program efforts.

Finally, in recognition of the State of Florida's announcement that it will advance design and construction work on certain CERP components, the Corps will continue to work with the state to ensure that work performed meets federal design and construction standards and is consistent with planned federal activities.

U.S. Department of the Interior (DOI) - National Park Service (NPS) (\$5,212,000)

CERP projects will have significant effects on Big Cypress National Preserve (Big Cypress), Biscayne National Park (BNP), and Everglades National Park (ENP). The NPS continues to concentrate on projects that are essential to the restoration of federal lands in South Florida. The NPS actively participates in the Project Development Teams for such projects including seepage management in the L-30/L-31N Canals, early features in the Water Conservation Area (WCA) 3

Decomartmentalization and Sheetflow Enhancement, the C-111 North Spreader, and the Biscayne Bay Coastal Wetlands. The NPS will begin work on the CERP Water Quality Feasibility Study, which is intended to optimize the design and operation of CERP features to achieve water quality restoration targets. The NPS also supports work on important foundation projects that are critical precursors to CERP.

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

Finally the NPS will participate in DOI's formal requirements on programmatic activities including: guidance memoranda to formalize how CERP projects will be built, operated, and evaluated; interim goals that will be used to track restoration progress and provide five-year status reports to Congress; and the identification of the appropriate quantity, timing, and distribution of water that will be produced, and pursuant to federal and state law, dedicated and managed for the natural system.

U.S. Department of the Interior - U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) **(\$3,269,000)**

The FWS actively serves on planning teams for all CERP and non-CERP restoration projects initiated by the Corps. This participation enables the FWS to fulfill its Trust Resource responsibilities under the Endangered Species Act (ESA), Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act, Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA), and other statutes as part of the restoration effort. The FWS is an integral planning partner in formulating alternatives and designing, assessing, and monitoring the separate CERP project components during implementation. The FWS is also responsible for providing environmental expertise to the Corps and the South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) to guide Everglades restoration at a system-wide scale.

In Fiscal Year (FY) 2007, the FWS will participate in the development and execution of the following projects: WCA-3 Decompartmentalization and Sheetflow Enhancement; the Combined Structural and Operational Plan (CSOP); Everglades Agricultural Area (EAA) Reservoir; Lake Okeechobee Watershed; C-43 Reservoir; Indian River Lagoon; Water Preserve Areas; Picayune Strand State Forest; and other major restoration projects. These activities will include assistance in plan formulation and ecological benefit analysis, 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 provides biological and ecological expertise and is 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.

Section 2.2: Federal Non-CERP Everglades Ecosystem Restoration Projects and Funding (\$180,119,771)

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (\$100,000,000)

Central and Southern Florida Project (C&SF) (\$6,447,000)

NOTE: The \$6,447,000 indicated above does not reflect \$64,000,000 in funding requested for CERP projects, which is reported in Section 2.1.

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

This project consists of modifications to the C&SF Project to provide more natural hydrologic conditions in Taylor Slough and to minimize damaging flood releases to Barnes Sound/Manatee Bay, while maintaining flood protection for adjacent agricultural lands. The FY 2007 activities include the continued design and construction of the S-331 command building, continued engineering and design of detention areas and culverts, canal backfilling, water quality monitoring, levee vegetative removal, and formulation of the CSOP.

- ***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 lock operation. FY 2007 activities include completion of construction and installation of detection devices to prevent entrapment of this endangered species.

- ***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. FY 2007 activities include continued monitoring on the field test of the Periphyton Storm Water Treatment Area (PSTA) and within the STA-1E and final construction of L-40 canal improvements. Results of the field test are expected to clarify the benefits of full implementation of PSTA technology at STA-1E in future years.

Everglades and South Florida Ecosystem Restoration Critical Projects (\$8,289,000)

This program involves the implementation of "critical restoration projects" authorized in Section 528 of WRDA 1996. FY 2007 activities include continuing construction on the Seminole Big Cypress project.

Kissimmee River Restoration (\$50,264,000)

This project involves restoring the historic habitat in much of the Kissimmee River floodplain and restoring water-level fluctuations and seasonal discharges from Lakes Kissimmee, Cypress, and Hatchineha in the upper basin. The FY 2007 activities include completion of construction on two spillways, continuing construction on the Reach 4 backfill, S-65D structure modifications, improvements to the Istokpoga canal, and continuation of plans and specifications on remaining components.

Modified Water Deliveries (MWD) to Everglades National Park (\$35,000,000)

The MWD involves construction of modifications to the C&SF Project water management system and related operational changes to provide improved water deliveries to ENP. The project consists of structural features with the intended purpose of restoring conveyance between WCAs north of ENP and the Shark River Slough within the Park. It will also provide flood mitigation to the 8.5 Square Mile Area (SMA), a residential area adjacent to the Park expansion boundary in the East Everglades. The FY 2007 activities include initiation of construction on the Tamiami Trail (Eastern Segment) project and continued design of the conveyance and seepage features.

U.S. Department of Agriculture - Agricultural Research Service (ARS) **(\$4,758,600)**

ARS conducts an integrated research program that addresses the needs of agriculture and complements the CERP. The goal of the research is to develop and transfer improved scientific technologies and enhanced management strategies that control invasive exotic species and assure the continued economic integrity of agriculture. Four major areas of research support South Florida restoration and agriculture: hydrology and water quality, improved crop/animal production systems, biological control of invasive species, and decision support systems/model development. Individual projects supporting these priority areas are as follows:

Hydrology and Water Quality

- ***Nutrient, Pesticide, and Water Management for Horticultural Crops (\$810,900)***
The Horticultural and Breeding Research Unit at Fort Pierce, Florida, conducts research to improve water conservation and water quality associated with the irrigation of field and container-grown horticultural crops. Research objectives of the project are: to determine the fate and transport of nutrients and pesticides used and the potential for contamination of aquatic environments; to develop management practices that reduce losses of nutrients and pesticides into water resources; and to assess the potential of aquatic plants and algal species to purify horticultural runoff of excess nutrients and pesticides.
- ***Atmospheric Processes of Agricultural Pollutants that Affect Air and Water in South Florida (\$151,400)***
The Environmental Quality Laboratory in Beltsville, Maryland, in cooperation with the University of Florida, SFWMD, and NPS, conducts research to determine atmospheric loadings of nutrients and pesticides to sensitive ecosystem. Air quality sampling sites, maintained and operated by ARS, have been established in BNP near Homestead, Florida, and in West Palm Beach, Florida. These measurements complement water quality research and toxicity testing by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) National Ocean Service (NOS) scientists in the St. Lucie Estuary and Florida Bay areas.

Improved Crop/Animal Production Systems

- ***Beef Cattle Grazing Systems to Protect Water Resources (\$191,900)***
The Beef Cattle Research Unit in Brooksville, Florida, conducts research 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 are assessed.

- ***Development of Improved Sugarcane Varieties and Their Use in Sustainable Agricultural Production Systems (\$232,800)***

The Sugarcane Field Station in Canal Point, Florida, develops high-yielding, disease-resistant sugarcane cultivars. Research objectives of projects related to Everglades restoration are: to quantify and genetically improve sugarcane's tolerance to wetter conditions; to identify and develop agronomic practices that sustain or improve profits under changing hydrological conditions resulting from CERP; to 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 to quantify the effects of raised water tables and intermittent flooding on the microbial activity that causes soil subsidence.

Biological Control of Invasive Species

- ***Biological Control and Management of Aquatic Weeds/ Invasive Species in South Florida (\$2,736,900)***

The ARS Invasive Plant Research Laboratory in Fort Lauderdale, Florida, and its satellite lab in Gainesville, Florida, conduct research to identify and collect natural enemies for control of melaleuca and other invasive pest plants; evaluate biological control agents for control of melaleuca and other exotic plant species in a risk analysis context; obtain approval for release of host specific natural enemies; and develop biological based integrated weed management strategies that are efficient, economical, and environmentally sound. The use of biological control agents is integrated with other methods of exotic plant species control. Research will continue to develop management strategies and biological control agents that are also efficient, economical, and environmentally sound. Current funding related to Everglades restoration totals \$2,467,600 in Florida and \$269,300 in Australia, respectively.

Decision Support Systems/ Model Development

- ***Hydrologic Evaluation and Water Quality Studies Affecting Miami-Dade County (\$634,700)***

The Subtropical Horticultural Research Unit in Miami, Florida has two main objectives: (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. These models, developed in cooperation with the Corps and the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS), will enable improvements in agricultural production, agricultural water management, and environmental protection strategies.

U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) - Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) (\$9,005,271)

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.

NRCS operates Mobile Irrigation Laboratories in partnership with other governmental agencies to help users reduce irrigation water use and nutrient loading to receiving waters. NRCS also provides assistance to livestock and dairy producers in applying Best Management Practices, which include waste management systems, to reduce off-farm nutrient discharges. A special effort in the EAA and C-139 basin assists land users to meet the requirements of the State of Florida's 1994 Everglades Forever Act (EFA) to reduce phosphorus loading into the Everglades Protection Area. Other areas of assistance are provided on private and tribal lands to restore wetlands, improve wildlife habitat, and control invasive exotic plant species. Financial assistance is provided through a variety of USDA Farm Bill Programs.

Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002

- ***Mobile Irrigation Laboratories (\$77,700)***
Mobile Irrigation Labs assist both urban and agricultural irrigation users in conserving water by providing detailed irrigation system evaluations and follow-up assistance. Mobile irrigation labs operate in Vero Beach, Fort Pierce, Naples, Miami-Dade, West Palm Beach, Broward, and Martin Counties.
- ***Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) (\$5,822,436)***
EQIP 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) (\$2,500,000)***
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) (\$113,255)***
WHIP encourages the creation of high quality wildlife habitats that support wildlife populations on wetland, riparian, upland, and aquatic habitat on agricultural lands.
- ***Farm and Ranch Land Protection Program (FRPP) (\$407,130)***
The FRPP 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.
- ***Watershed Project (P.L. 566, Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Program) (\$84,750)***
The Watershed Program will provide support to the Seminole Tribe of Indians of Florida to complete the Watershed/Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) Plan on the Big Cypress Indian Reservation.

Emergency Watershed Protection Program (EWPP) (\$0)

The EWPP provides financial and technical assistance to remove debris from streams, protect destabilized streambanks, establish cover on critically eroding lands, and repair conservation practices after emergencies such as those experienced by the State of Florida following Hurricanes Wilma and Rita. Emergency funds provide assistance to sponsors and individuals in implementing emergency measures to relieve imminent hazards to life and property created by a natural disaster.

U.S. Department of Commerce - National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) (\$3,000,000)

NOAA provides science, monitoring, and modeling projects critical to implementing and assessing the CERP and other portions of the South Florida Ecosystem restoration effort. NOAA supports 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.

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

South Florida Ecosystem Modeling/National Ocean Service (NOS) (\$1,000,000)

NOS and partners have funded several years of research to gain a sufficient understanding of processes in and around Florida Bay and the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary (FKNMS) so that a predictive capability could be established to assess the impacts of alternative management strategies for the restoration of the Everglades on these water bodies. In FY 2007 NOS will fund competitive proposals to utilize and build upon this research to support development of quantitative, coupled, management-relevant ecosystem models that will provide specific outcomes (e.g. water quality measures, seagrass distribution, etc.) for water diversion scenarios. This work will be conducted with complementary efforts being overseen by other federal and state agencies.

Interdisciplinary Coastal Oceanographic Observations / Oceanic and Atmospheric Research (\$1,000,000)

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 areas to coastal systems, as part of the restoration effort, is critical to determine overall success. FY 2007 funding will support a suite of research and monitoring activities in South Florida coastal waters downstream of major restoration projects, such as the FKNMS, Florida Bay, and Biscayne Bay.

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

NMFS will continue research in FY 2007 that defines the impact of inland restoration efforts and changing freshwater inflow on Florida Bay and other South Florida natural systems. These funds will be used to assess the impacts of changing freshwater runoff patterns on inshore and coastal habitats and associated fishery resources. Projects to be supported in FY 2007 include continued work on impacts of freshwater on pink shrimp recruitment in Florida Bay, factors affecting the distribution of snapper/grouper larvae in various Florida Bay habitats, and factors impacting the distribution and health of coral species in coastal waters adjacent to Florida Bay (including elkhorn and staghorn corals, species proposed for protection under the ESA). Ongoing visual assessments of reef fish along the Florida Keys reef tract (including reefs of the FKNMS) will also be continued.

Additionally, NOAA will participate in various management activities, including the South Florida Ecosystem Restoration Task Force, the Working Group, and the Science Coordination Group; the Water Resources Advisory Commission of the SFWMD; and the Program Management Committee (PMC) for the Florida Bay and Adjacent Marine Systems Science Program.

U.S. Department of the Interior (DOI) - National Park Service (\$45,351,000)

Park Management (\$26,350,000)

- ***Big Cypress National Preserve (\$5,503,000)***

NPS will continue to support mandated programs such as the protection, inventory, and monitoring of ten threatened and endangered species (Florida Panther, Cape Sable Sparrow, Florida Manatee, etc.) and a large hydrology program that includes restoration of sheet flow to the ENP and the Ten Thousand Islands. Additional mandated programs include special uses such as oil exploration/production, 3,000 acres of cattle leases, the largest recreational 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 also supports the largest prescribed fire program in the NPS; 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 natural resources management program will continue to collect baseline data in formats that are compatible with interagency regional hydrologic and community/species-based models, control non-native plants, protect threatened and endangered species, mitigate visitor impacts, and manage funds to support direct inventory/monitoring of resources and a geographic information system.

- ***Biscayne National Park (BNP) (\$3,648,000)***

FY 2007 funding will support BNP area management activities promoting public use, mitigation, and efforts to address impacts associated with urban sprawl, four solid waste landfills, and a nuclear power facility. All of these threats are located along the park's

western boundary, and are "upstream" with respect to surface- and ground-water flow into the park.

BNP performs other area management activities associated with the protection of the park's natural, cultural, and historic resources as well as maintenance of park facilities. BNP protects 173,000 acres of marine resources that include the largest living coral reef system in the NPS, eight known terrestrial cultural sites, 40 known submerged cultural sites, and approximately 20 historic structures and two national historic districts within a boundary that has unlimited access points. BNP maintains three developed islands and one mainland site that include six harbors/docking facilities, two campgrounds, six picnic areas, approximately ten miles of trails, six residences, an environmental education camp, and a major visitor center.

Current natural resources management will continue to protect coral reefs and seagrass beds, monitor water quality, document and mitigate impacts due to visitor and commercial uses, control exotic vegetation, and monitor 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 (\$1,380,000)***
Funding in FY 2007 will support operations of this 65,000-acre marine and historical national park located 70 miles west of Key West. 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 (\$15,819,000)***
Funding for ENP in FY 2007 will support area management activities including 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 restore the Everglades and of the balance being sought in striving to secure south Florida's future. With over 1.5 million acres of fragile wilderness immediately adjacent to approximately 6 million people, and over 1.5 million visitors each year, ENP has special challenges. The park has extensive outreach programs to the local community and sustains a large backcountry/wilderness operation.

ENP operates major visitor use areas at Flamingo, Shark Valley, Everglades City, and Chekika, and oversees 3 concessions operations. Infrastructure requires extensive short-term maintenance, as well as a 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.

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

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

Funding in FY 2007 will support the operations of the Task Force and the Office of the Executive Director (OED), 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 for reporting to Congress on restoration programs and funding requirements. The WRDA of 1996 directs the Task Force 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 also directed to develop, implement, and maintain an outcome-oriented strategic plan; an improved process for resolving conflicts/disputes; and a comprehensive strategy for federal land acquisition projects.

In FY 2007, OED will continue its coordination role and related reporting activities in support of the Task Force, Working Group, and Science Coordination Group initiatives, projects, priorities, and programs. This will include the coordinating, tracking, and monitoring of all aspects of CERP implementation; producing the biennial update of the strategic 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 annual updates of the land acquisition strategy; engaging, as necessary, in the established dispute resolution process; implementing activities associated with the Task Force plan to coordinate science; and the annual updating of restoration project sheet information (Integrated Financial Plan) that includes a synopsis, start and end date, and cost estimate for each project.

Everglades Research (\$3,863,000)

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

The CESI planned activities for FY 2007 include:

- Planning, coordinating, and implementing adaptive management strategies that focus on the continued effort to refine and prioritize critical science needs.
- Developing decision support tools that define restoration success, as required for the implementation of CERP Interim Goals, developing restoration success indicators for Biscayne Bay, and continued support for database management of all monitoring and modeling projects.
- Simulating modeling activities will emphasize the calibration and validation of existing modeling projects, such as prediction of salinity along the South Florida coastline and simulation of ecological responses to hydrologic changes.

- Monitoring projects will include critical long-term projects, such as the comprehensive fish and macro-invertebrate monitoring program, hydrologic monitoring, monitoring of threatened and endangered species such as the Cape Sable Seaside Sparrow, and transect sampling of vegetation most likely to be impacted by CERP. Other short-term monitoring projects include critical aquatic indicators of the success of CERP. A new hydrologic monitoring project starting in FY 2007 will focus on areas where water management activities have altered flows such as across the western Tamiami Trail in Big Cypress.
- Basic research projects will continue to contribute to our understanding of how fire can be used as a management tool in the control of invasive/exotic vegetation as well as reducing the impacts of poor water quality. Scientists will study paleoecological and physiological impacts of reduced water flow on the estuarine ecotone communities to develop guidelines for evaluation of restoration impacts. Studies will analyze the impacts of increased freshwater flow and nutrient input on benthic community structure and trophic interactions. The examination of the breeding and dispersal of the Cape Sable Seaside Sparrow in the smaller subpopulations of the Eastern Everglades will identify opportunities to increase survivability through adaptive management.

Modified Water Deliveries Project (\$13,330,000)

The MWD project is authorized by Section 104 of the Everglades National Park Protection and Expansion Act of 1989. This project involves construction of modifications to the C&SF Project water management system and related operational changes to provide improved water deliveries to ENP. The NPS requests a total of \$13.33 million for the MWD project for FY 2007. As indicated on page 12, the 2007 budget request for the Corps includes \$35 million for this project.

The current status and plans for FY 2007 are described below:

- The purpose of the 8.5 SMA component is to provide flood mitigation to an agricultural and urban area adjacent to ENP due to the higher water levels in the area resulting from the construction of the MWD's restoration features.
- The purpose of the Conveyance and Seepage Control component is to convey water through reservoirs upstream of ENP into the Shark Slough drainage basin of ENP more consistent with historic hydrologic conditions. In addition, these project features will also return project-induced increased seepage from the project area to ENP in order to maintain flood protection to adjacent areas.
- The purpose of the Tamiami Trail (U.S. 41) component is to modify the existing highway in a manner consistent with the increased water flows and levels resulting from the conveyance components of the MWD. Detailed design will be initiated in FY 2006 and completed in FY 2007. Construction is scheduled to be initiated in FY 2007.
- The purpose of Project Implementation Support is to provide funding for needed ENP and Corps personnel, conduct environmental monitoring, develop improved operational plans, and complete the needed modifications to the Osceola Camp flood mitigation features. FY 2007 activities will include the continuation of personnel support and environmental monitoring, completion of the detailed design of the Osceola Camp modifications, and the award of the construction contract for implementation of the Osceola Camp modifications.

The completion of the MWD project is required prior to the construction of certain components of the CERP.

Land Acquisition Management (\$500,000)

Funding in FY 2007 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 DOI.

U.S. Department of the Interior - Fish and Wildlife Service (\$7,417,000)

Resource Management - Ecological Services (\$2,516,000)

Funding in FY 2007 will allow the FWS to continue coordinating and partnering with NPS, USGS, tribal governments, state agencies, and private organizations involved in the restoration of the South Florida Ecosystem. The funds for 2007 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.

In 2007, the FWS will continue consultation with the Corps on the CERP, as well as other ongoing or new federal projects. Further, the FWS will evaluate the potential need to list additional species pursuant to the ESA and develop cooperative agreements with landowners for the protection and conservation of listed species through Candidate Conservation Agreements, Safe Harbor Agreements, and Habitat Conservation Plans.

In FY 2007, the FWS will address new Corps' project starts and continue to be actively involved in threatened and endangered species consultation and recovery, private land partnerships, environmental contaminant reviews, coastal restoration projects, preparation of Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act Reports, system-wide water quality improvement, and 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 (\$4,086,000)

Funding in FY 2007 will sustain FWS management and administration of 16 national wildlife refuge units in South Florida. The FWS manages all actions under the ESA, provides comments on comprehensive wetland programs (including permitting), carries out authorities of the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act, and enforces federal wildlife laws.

Resource Management - Law Enforcement (\$619,000)

Funding in FY 2007 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 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 (\$95,000)

Funding in FY 2007 will be directed toward restoration of anadromous (migrating up rivers from off-shore to breed in fresh water) 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.

Resource Management - Migratory Birds (\$101,000)

Funding in FY 2007 will support the Migratory Birds program in working with the National Wildlife Refuge System and the State of Florida and conducting biological reviews and inventories. Inventories include the evaluation of food sources, water levels, and population responses to habitat restoration for species like the Snail Kite. Additionally, conservation plans are being developed and implemented to address similar actions for other species.

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

Everglades Restoration - Integration Research, Planning, and Interagency Coordination (\$7,771,000)

Funding in FY 2007 will support the USGS, through its Priority Ecosystems Science activities, in continuing to provide 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. This coordinated science effort allows 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 priority needs in the Everglades. In FY 2005 the USGS, in partnership with the FWS and NPS, updated the Department's Everglades science plan to better identify emerging science needs. The revised science plan was then used as the basis for the selection of new studies initiating in FY 2006 and 2007.

USGS activities provide a fundamental understanding of ecosystem process, structure, and function. A significant part of USGS activities is to integrate the ecosystem science through continued development of decision support tools. This is accomplished through continued development and improvement of integrative models, including hydrologic models, ecological models, chemical models, and geographic and landscape models. In support of the revised science plan, the USGS will continue high-priority work that includes long-term hydrologic monitoring, coastal salinity monitoring, continued development and enhancement of ecological models, adaptive assessment, and development of simulation-based decision support tools. These tools will be used in planning and implementing CERP projects.

U.S. Department of the Interior - Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) (\$382,000)

Funding in FY 2007 will be used for continuing efforts to restore the South Florida Ecosystem within the lands of the Seminole and Miccosukee Tribes. Within each Tribe's base funding, \$191,000 is allocated to conduct research, studies, and planning on water quality and distribution systems, ecosystem development and management, and planning for compliance with the ESA in stormwater areas on the Seminole and Big Cypress reservations. The stormwater 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 (EPA) (\$2,494,900)

EPA priorities for restoring and protecting the South Florida Ecosystem in FY 2007 include working with the State of Florida to adopt and implement water quality standards for phosphorus for the Everglades Ecosystem; supporting implementation of the Environmental Monitoring and Assessment Program based process to assess the health and condition of the Everglades; supporting development of Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs) for the Lake Okeechobee watershed; assisting the State of Florida and the SFWMD in evaluating the appropriateness of ASR technology as a key element of the restoration strategy for South Florida; updating and implementing the South Florida Wetlands Conservation Strategy to include protecting and restoring critical wetland habitats in the face of tremendous growth and development pressures; continuing to implement the comprehensive monitoring program (water quality, coral reef, and seagrass), special studies, data management, and public education components of the FKNMS Water Quality Protection Program as required by the National Marine Sanctuaries Program Amendments Act of 1992; and protecting coral reef ecosystems of southeast Florida by reducing land-based sources of pollution on a watershed scale, including controlling discharges from point sources.

Section 3.0

State of Florida Everglades Ecosystem Restoration Projects and Funding

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Section 3.1: State of Florida Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (CERP) Projects and Funding (\$496,615,473)

Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) (\$136,615,473)

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

The FDEP administers the Save Our Everglades Trust Fund. The 2005 Florida Legislature approved the sale of \$100 million of Everglades Restoration Bonds for South Florida Ecosystem restoration. The State has bonding authority, if needed, to fund Florida's commitment to Everglades restoration. The FDEP 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 2006-07.

The Bush/Jennings administration's FY 2006-07 budget proposes \$25 million in support of the Biscayne Coastal Wetlands and C-111 Spreader Canal projects. Completion of the Biscayne Bay Coastal Wetlands will restore the quantity, quality, timing, and distribution of water to Biscayne Bay, revive the marine habitat and improve the health of BNP. The C-111 Spreader Canal will provide a more natural flow of water to Florida Bay, eliminating harmful freshwater discharges and revitalizing wetlands and wildlife in the Southern Glades and Model Lands.

The Bush/Jennings administration's FY 2006-07 proposed budget provides \$10 million for water storage in the region around the Loxahatchee River. Additional capacity will optimize the performance of existing STAs and divert harmful flows from the Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge and the Everglades

The FDEP also anticipates expenditures of \$131,250 for the design phase of the Henderson Creek/Belle Meade CERP Project in FY 2006-07.

The FDEP's Tallahassee Office of Ecosystem Projects (Office of the Secretary) and Special Projects Section (Division of Water Resource Management) estimates costs of \$251,560 and \$663,163 respectively to oversee Everglades and CERP implementation in FY 2006-07. The FDEP's Southeast Florida District office in West Palm Beach and South Florida District in Fort Myers estimate expenditures of approximately \$430,000 and \$139,500 respectively in support of CERP project implementation in FY 2006-07.

South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) (\$360,000,000)

The SFWMD is the local sponsor for the majority of the over 50 projects included in the CERP. Planning and design is currently underway on many of these projects. The focus of the SFWMD's efforts during FY 2006-07 will be on continued work in partnership with the Corps on planning and design efforts associated with completion of PIRs and detailed design for several CERP projects that comprise the Acceler8 program. The SFWMD will also initiate construction on several Acceler8 projects during this period.

The SFWMD is also engaged in acquisition of lands needed for CERP projects. Current efforts are focused on acquisition of lands needed for the projects included in Acceler8 as well as other CERP projects identified for early implementation.

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; implementation of a Master Recreation Plan for the CERP; implementation of RECOVER, including a system-wide monitoring plan and an adaptive assessment program; and continued operation of the interagency modeling center to support CERP projects.

Section 3.2: State of Florida Non-CERP Everglades Ecosystem Restoration Projects and Funding (\$694,353,833)

Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (FDACS) (\$6,928,051)

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

Department of Community Affairs (DCA) (\$37,000,000)

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

Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) (\$408,365,782)

The FDEP's non-CERP South Florida Ecosystem restoration priorities include implementation of the EFA, the Lake Okeechobee Protection Program, and the Lake Okeechobee and Estuary Recovery (LOER) Program (in cooperation with the SFWMD) and land acquisition for conservation purposes.

In October 2005, Governor Bush unveiled LOER, a comprehensive plan to accelerate the restoration and recovery of Lake Okeechobee, the heart of America's Everglades. Under the four year expedited recovery plan, \$200 million will be invested in expanding water storage areas, constructing treatment marshes, and expediting environmental management initiatives to enhance the ecological health of the lake and downstream coastal estuaries (the St. Lucie and Caloosahatchee Rivers). The Bush/Jennings administration's FY 2006-07 budget recommends a second installment of \$25 million in Fiscal Year 2006-07.

The major LOER projects accelerated by this funding are listed below.

- Installation of temporary pumps to better manage the flow of water during both rainy and dry periods.
- Expansion of the Nubbin Slough STA by 800 acres.
- Construction of a 2,700 acre STA at Lakeside Ranch (south and west of Nubbin Slough), along with the facilities needed to redirect water to and from the new treatment areas.
- Construction of a 4,000 acre reservoir in Taylor Creek.
- Increased protection for all waterways in the basin by: modifying the water regulation schedule; establishing science-based limits for pollution; addressing the land application of domestic wastewater residuals in the area; reducing the use of fertilizer in surrounding watersheds; strengthening criteria for stormwater permits; and implementing innovative growth management tools to reduce pollution.

The projects described above will reduce phosphorus by 65-75 metric tons and will also provide 48,000 acre-feet of water storage. For FY 2006-07 funding of approximately \$5,000,000 is anticipated for projects designed to achieve phosphorus load reductions in Lake Okeechobee as a part of the Lake Okeechobee Protection Program.

Launched by Governor Bush in 1999, Florida Forever is the largest conservation program of its kind in the world. The ten year, \$3 billion program permanently protects environmentally sensitive land, vital waterways, and important cultural and historical landmarks. The Bush/Jennings administration's FY 2006-07 budget is recommending \$300 million in general revenue funds to continue the acquisition of lands vital to the preservation and conservation of Florida's natural resources. For the third year, the proposed budget recommends cash in lieu of bonding to alleviate the need for additional debt.

On November 22, 2005, Governor Bush and the Florida Cabinet voted to purchase the vast majority of Babcock Ranch, nearly 74,000 acres of wildlife habitat, swamps, flatwoods and working ranch lands. The protection of Babcock Ranch will preserve the single largest tract of contiguous conservation lands in the state's history and leave a natural legacy for future generations of Floridians. To preserve this ecologically important property, the Bush/Jennings administration's FY 2006-07 budget recommends \$310 million in general revenue to acquire Babcock Ranch.

The FDEP also anticipates the funding of \$333,030,000 during FY 2006-07 to acquire non-CERP conservation lands in South Florida.

Funding of \$310,000 is anticipated for FY 2006-07 for the Southeast District Office on implementation of programs that are related and coordinated with CERP, such as the EFA, Lake Okeechobee Protection Program, and other restoration programs, including the Loxahatchee River Restoration.

In addition, the FDEP 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; and aquatic plant

control. The FDEP's budget for FY 2006-07 has projected funding of approximately \$45,335,782 for the following activities in South Florida:

- Aquatic and upland exotic/invasive plant control (\$20,580,872)
- State park operations and management (\$17,487,197)
- Mercury research and monitoring (\$900,000)
- Central Florida District Office (\$15,000)
- Coastal and aquatic managed areas (\$4,052,713)
- TMDL Program (\$2,300,000)

Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC)

The FWC continues to participate in: planning the program of Modified Water Deliveries to ENP; the C-111 Project; the CERP; and the Southwest Florida Feasibility Study. It also manages approximately 20 wildlife management areas, four of which lie within the historic footprint of the Everglades ridge and slough system. These include the Everglades and Francis S. Taylor Wildlife Management Area (Water Conservation Areas 2 and 3; 671,831 acres), Holey Land Wildlife Management Area (35,350 acres), and Rotenberger Wildlife Management Area (28,760 acres), for which the FWC spent approximately \$800,000 to manage during the past year. In addition, the FWC manages the freshwater fisheries in Lake Okeechobee, Lake Istokpoga, and the Kissimmee Chain of Lakes and regulates marine fisheries in state marine waters. Its Fish and Wildlife Research Institute conducts studies on freshwater, upland, and marine resources, including those related to South Florida Ecosystem restoration.

Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) (\$4,060,000)

The FDOT is a leader among transportation agencies in the nation for protecting wildlife and redesigning roadways to restore natural water flow to over-drained areas. The FDOT is also a leader in providing funding and technical assistance to plan and implement greenways and trails. Many of these programs have been implemented in South Florida, particularly the Big Cypress Swamp (Interstate 75/Alligator Alley), Tamiami Trail, and U.S. 1 to the Florida Keys.

The FDOT's expenditures for South Florida Ecosystem restoration during FY 2005-06 was \$1,380,000 and included:

- Exotic and endangered/threatened plant survey (\$80,000)
- Mitigation site maintenance and monitoring (\$79,000)
- Mitigation site design (\$21,000)
- Wetland mitigation (\$250,000)
- Panther mitigation (\$950,000)

The FDOT's planned funding for South Florida Ecosystem restoration during FY 2006-07 is \$4,060,000 and includes:

- Exotic and endangered/threatened plant survey (\$120,000)
- Research to determine the effectiveness of wildlife crossings (\$65,000)
- Mitigation maintenance and monitoring (\$150,000)
- Removal of exotic vegetation (\$1,600,000)
- Design of wildlife and wetland mitigation (\$810,000)
- Construction of wildlife and wetland mitigation (\$1,315,000)

South Florida Water Management District (\$238,000,000)

The SFWMD is implementing the Everglades Construction Project (ECP) as required by the 1994 EFA, the Long-Term Plan, and the 2003 amendments to the EFA. Additionally, the SFWMD works closely with the FDEP and other state, federal, and tribal governments on other non-CERP programs to restore and protect the South Florida Ecosystem.

Significant effort will also be expended on initiating the LOER Program. As part of LOER, the SFWMD and the State will expand water storage areas, construct treatment marshes, and expedite environmental management initiatives to enhance the ecological health of the lake and downstream coastal estuaries. While LOER projects have been conceptually identified, detailed design will be the main focus of efforts during FY 2006-07.

The SFWMD's priority non-CERP South Florida Ecosystem restoration and protection projects for FY 2006-07 include:

- Implementation of provisions in the EFA: water quality restoration in the Everglades Protection Area through implementation of the ECP and the Long-Term Plan; and implementation of the Everglades Program control of exotic plants, research and monitoring, and regulation.
- Restoration of the Kissimmee River and floodplain (in cooperation with the Corps) through land acquisition (completed in FY2006), construction (backfilling twenty two miles of canal and opening nine miles of remnant river channel), and a comprehensive ecological evaluation program.
- 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.
- Restoration of the southern Everglades and Florida Bay, in cooperation with the Corps and ENP, through the C-111 South Dade and MWD to ENP Projects, land acquisition, and operational changes to restore natural water flows to ENP and Florida Bay.
- Development and implementation of regional water supply plans.
- Acquisition, management, and mitigation of lands needed for ongoing and future non-CERP restoration projects and for conservation and protection of critical habitat.
- Implementation of Critical Restoration Projects in cooperation with the Corps.
- Restoration of coastal ecosystems through pollutant load reduction and habitat restoration.
- Restoration of wetlands and associated upland buffer habitat in the Kissimmee Chain of Lakes, Indian River Lagoon, and Loxahatchee River basins (in cooperation with the USDA- NRCS).
- Operation and maintenance of the flood control system that includes 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 SFWMD'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.

Section 4.0

Agency Contacts

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