

Lake Okeechobee Tributary Sediment Dredging (LOTSD) (OPE) - The purpose is to remove phosphorous from canals located in areas with the most intense agriculture in the watershed that contribute to excessive phosphorus loading to Lake Okeechobee by dredging sediments from 10 miles of primary canals within an 8-basin area in the northern watershed of Lake Okeechobee. The initial design assumes the dredged material will contain approximately 150 tons of phosphorus. A partnership with local landowners will be pursued for disposal of the material on uplands.

Lake Istokpoga Regulation Schedule (LIRS) (OPE) - Develops a plan to address water resource problems in the Lake Istokpoga Basin, a natural lake located in Highlands County, and a tributary of both Lake Okeechobee and the Kissimmee River. The focus is to create a balance between environmental needs, water supply and flood control in the basin.

Current Project Synopsis: The LOW project area covers approximately 1,800 square miles and consists of four major planning areas based on the four major tributary systems that naturally drain the lower portion of the watershed into Lake Okeechobee. The purpose is to increase aquatic and wildlife habitat, regulate extreme highs and lows in lake staging, reduce phosphorus loading and reduce damaging releases to the surrounding estuaries. In addition, this project will focus on rehydrating wetlands in and around the areas north of the lake and improve the ecological health of Lake Istokpoga.

As part of the Corps planning process the LOW Project alternatives include six structural water storage and treatment features and a recommended Lake Istokpoga Regulation Schedule (LIRS – combining WBS #2, formerly a separate project):

- 1) **A reservoir in the Taylor Creek/Nubbin Slough basin** – A 1,984-acre reservoir, located in the S-191 sub-basin, will provide a maximum capacity of 32,000 acre-feet at an average depth of 18 feet situated on the Grassy Island Ranch. The reservoir will receive inflows from and discharge back to Taylor Creek. *(One of the ten initial projects authorized in WRDA 2000).*
- 2) **A stormwater treatment area (STA) in the Taylor Creek/Nubbin Slough basin** A 3,975 acre treatment area will be located in the S-135 sub-basin and have an average operating depth of 1.5 feet. This feature will receive inflow from the L-64 canal and discharge back to the L-47 canal and is projected to provide 15.8 metric tons of average annual phosphorus load reduction. *(One of the ten initially authorized projects in WRDA 2000 - a/k/a Lakeside Ranch STA).*

The Taylor Creek portion of the Lake Okeechobee Water Retention Phosphorus Removal project (Project) has been transferred to the sponsor (SFWMD) who accepted the project and assumed O&M Authority by letter dated 2 May 2011.

The Nubbin Slough portion of the Project is undergoing additional construction by the sponsor sediment transport issues. The project will be completed and transferred to the sponsor for operation and maintenance at the end of FY 2012.

A reservoir in the Kissimmee River basin – A 10,281 acre above ground reservoir will provide a maximum storage capacity of 161,263 acre-feet (at 16 feet average depth. Located in the C-41A sub-basin within the Kissimmee River drainage basin. It will receive flow from and discharge back to the C-38 canal (Kissimmee River).

- 1) **A reservoir in the Lake Istokpoga basin** – A 5,416-acre reservoir is proposed for the C-40A and C-41A sub-basins and to provide a maximum storage capacity of 79,560 acre-feet (at an average depth of 16 feet). It will receive inflow from and discharge back to the C-41A canal.
- 2) **A stormwater treatment area in the Lake Istokpoga basin** - An 8,044-acre treatment area will be located in the L-49 sub-basin (at an average operating depth of 1.5 feet). It will receive flow from the C-41 canal and discharge treated water to Lake Okeechobee and is expected to provide approximately 29.1 metric tons of average annual phosphorus load reduction.
- 3) **Restoring a wetland in Paradise Run** - A 3,730-acre wetland restoration site is planned for the ecologically significant confluence (under pre-development conditions) of Paradise Run, oxbows of the Kissimmee River, and Lake Okeechobee. Restored, it would re-establish a rain-driven hydrology, unless future efforts to further enhance watershed conditions could link the site to the surface flows from the C-38 (Kissimmee River) or C-41A (Istokpoga) Canals.

NOTE: The Lake Okeechobee Tributary Sediment Dredging project (LOTSD) included in the WRDA 2000 programmatic authorization for implementation of projects with a total project cost under \$25 million; was later removed from this project due to non-cost effectiveness.

Current Status: This project PIR was restarted in FY2016 and is underway.

SFWMD is pursuing a 4,000-acre Taylor Creek Reservoir as part of the Northern Everglades Project (Task Force ID #1112). But it was on hold pending the Northern Everglades Feasibility Study of the Taylor Creek/Nubbin Slough basin.

Est. Cost: \$2,075,875,000

Project Schedule:

- TBD Construction start estimated.
- TBD Construction completed.

Detailed Project Budget Information (rounded):

Lake Okeechobee Watershed	Obligations Thru 2016
USACE	\$16,271,000
SFWMD	\$26,868,000
Total	\$43,139,000

Hyperlink: <http://www.saj.usace.army.mil/Missions/Environmental/EcosystemRestoration/>

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Source: Original project description summarized from the *Central and Southern Florida Project Comprehensive Review Study (Restudy) (1999)*. Cost estimate information is updated to reflect current price levels in October 2011 dollars. Actual expenditures include all federal expenditures through FY11 (Sept. 2011) and sponsor verified and approved in kind credit through 4th quarter FY11.



