

Project Name: C&SF: CERP Biscayne Bay Coastal Wetlands (FFF) (OPE)
Project ID: 2309 (CERP Project WBS # 28)
Lead Agency: USACE / SFWMD
Authority: 2014 WRRDA
Funding Source: Federal/State

Strategic Plan Goal(s) Addressed: 2.A.3

Measurable Output(s): 1,695 acres of restored wetlands

Saltwater wetlands, acres of lift = 1,242

Freshwater wetland, acres of lift = 453

Sensitivity analysis provides a range from 453 to 1,219, depending upon seepage rate used for the calculation. (*Lower number is used in the final CBEEM analysis*).

April 1999 (Restudy) Project Synopsis: Includes pump stations, spreader swales, stormwater treatment areas, flow ways, levees, culverts, and backfilling canals located in southeast Miami-Dade County and covers 13,600 acres from the Deering Estate at C-100C, south to the Florida Power and Light Turkey Point power plant, generally along L-31E. The component Biscayne Bay Coastal Canals as modeled in D-13R and the Critical Project on the L-31E Flowway Redistribution are smaller components of the Biscayne Bay Coastal Wetlands feature.

Current Project Synopsis: The proposed project will replace lost overland flow and partially compensate for the reduction in groundwater seepage by redistributing, through a spreader system, available surface water entering the area from regional canals. The goal is to improve the ecological health of Biscayne Bay (including freshwater wetlands, tidal creeks and near-shore habitat) by adjusting the quantity, quality, timing, and distribution of freshwater entering Biscayne Bay and Biscayne National Park. The primary means to accomplish this goal is through the redistribution of freshwater flow and the expansion and restoration of wetlands adjacent to southwestern Biscayne Bay (in Miami-Dade County) and to maintain sustainable biological communities. Potential sources of water will be identified and evaluated to determine their ability to provide the target flows.

The project will capture, treat, and redistribute freshwater runoff from the watershed into Biscayne Bay, creating more natural water deliveries, expanding spatial extent and connectivity of coastal wetlands, and providing improved recreational opportunities. The proposed changes for freshwater flow are expected to restore or enhance freshwater wetlands, tidal wetlands, and near shore bay habitat. Diversion of canal discharges into coastal wetlands is expected not only to reestablish productive nursery habitat all along the shoreline, but also to reduce the abrupt freshwater discharges that are physiologically stressful to fish and benthic invertebrates in the bay near canal outlets. Improving salinity distribution near the shoreline with sustained lower-than-seawater salinities in tidal wetlands can help to reestablish productive nursery habitat for shrimp and shellfish.

Reviews of the BBCW Adaptive Management Strategy, the Regional Evaluation, and the Monitoring Plan are complete and an alternative formulation briefing (AFB) was held December 2007.

The project incorporates features at three locations: Deering Estate, the Cutler Wetlands, and the L-31E Flow way/North Canal. (1) Deering Estate – construction of an extension of the C-100A Spur Canal, a pump station, a discharge pipe, a spreader structure and a freshwater wetland; (2) Cutler Wetlands – construction of a pump station, an open conveyance channel, a discharge structure and spreader canal, culverts and mosquito control ditch plugs; (3) L-31 East Flow-way – construction of five pump stations,

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an inverted siphon, several flap-gated culverts and a spreader canal to manage water flows from the C-102, C-103 and the L-31E canals to nearby saltwater wetland areas; and (4) various recreation features, all as generally described in the Central and Southern Florida Project, Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan, Biscayne Bay Coastal Wetlands Phase I Final Integrated Project Implementation Report and Environmental Impact Statement, dated July 2011, revised March 2012, and approved by the Acting Commander, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers on May 2, 2012 (hereinafter the “PIR”); and approved by the Chief of Engineers on May 2, 2012. The Record of Decision and subsequent transmission to Congress occurred in September 2012. BBCW was authorized in WRRDA 2014.

As part of the Pre-Partnership Credit Agreement (PPCA) executed on August 13, 2009, the SFWMD constructed several of the features (see Figure 1.), Deering Estates and four L-31E Flow-way culverts. SFWMD also acquired a portion of the lands required for construction of all BBCW project components. The constructed features have demonstrated restoration benefits by increasing fresh water flows to the bay and provided evidence of reduced salinity during flow events.

Current Status:

USACE led design/construction of L-31E Flow Way features began in late 2015. After execution of the PPA, the USACE will award a construction contracts. Anticipate completion of the L-31E components in 2020. The non-federal sponsor will lead the design/construction of the remaining Cutler Wetlands features with an anticipated construction completion in 2021.

Est. Cost: \$ 216,084,000 (Phase 1)
 \$ 289,855,000 (Phase 2)

Project Schedule:

2010 Phase 1 state expedited construction began.
 2012 Phase 1 state expedited construction expected to be physically complete.
 TBD Phase 2

Detailed Project Budget Information (rounded):

Biscayne Bay Coastal Wetlands	Obligations Thru FY 2016
USACE	\$12,365,000
SFWMD	\$11,412,000
Total	\$23,777,000

Hyperlinks: <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 2014 dollars. Actual expenditures include all federal expenditures through FY14 (September 2014). Current status information summarized from draft PIR and AFB briefing documentation.

