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SITE 1 IMPOUNDMENT
GROUNDBREAKING
October 29, 2010
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DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
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NEWS RELEASE

U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS | Jacksonville District **BUILDING STRONG®**

Release No.:	NR 1074	**For Release:**	Aug. 27, 2010
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SITE 1 IMPOUNDMENT PROJECT, PHASE ONE, CONTRACT AWARDED

ARRA PROJECT PUTS FLORIDIANS TO WORK, BENEFITS EVERGLADES ECOSYSTEM

Jacksonville, Fla. -- The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers accomplished another milestone in Everglades restoration with award of a $44 million contract for Phase One of the Site 1 Impoundment Project to Lodge Construction, Inc. of Fort Myers, Fla., Aug. 24.

The Site 1 Impoundment, also called the Fran Reich Preserve, will increase much needed water storage capacity and water management flexibility adjacent to the Arthur R. Marshall Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge.

. “This project is all about getting the water right,” said Jacksonville District Commander, Col. Al Pantano. “This is the third major federal contract awarded in the past year, moving forward the Corps’ commitment to restore America’s Everglades. Ecosystem restoration is our primary goal here, but this project will also augment drinking water supplies, and it will put Floridians to work,” he added.

The $44,125,000 project, funded primarily by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, is located along the Hillsboro Canal approximately 20 miles west of Boca Raton in Palm Beach County. The project site is a 1,800-acre triangle of land located south and east of the Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge.

The Site 1 Impoundment will capture and store excess water currently discharged to the Hillsboro Canal. The stored water will be available for use when water availability is low in the dry season. It will also reduce wasteful discharges to the Intracoastal Waterway, as well as water supply demands on Lake Okeechobee and the Loxahatchee Refuge. The impounded water will decrease the loss of water from the Loxahatchee Refuge caused by naturally occurring seepage. Other potential benefits include flood mitigation, water quality improvements and reduced saltwater intrusion.

"We're excited about getting started on this project," said Corps Project Manager, Jason Harrah. "Our partner, the South Florida Water Management District, has made an investment in this project, without which we wouldn't be starting construction. The District acquired the land, which was once slated to be a landfill. The project is a 50/50 partnership. The SFWMD has provided the land and the Corps will do the construction."

Phase one of the Site 1 Impoundment project includes modifications to approximately 15,000 linear feet of the existing Levee 40. Construction activities include demolition, installation of a temporary access bridge, vegetation clearing and grubbing, dewatering operations, borrow and disposal area operations, excavation and fill placement, construction of an armored spillway, placement of erosion control measures that include soil cement and reinforced grass, installation of embankment instrumentation and construction of an approximately six-acre wildlife wetland area. Once built, the Corps will turn operations and management of the site over to the SFWMD.

"The use of American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funds enhances the significance of this award. The team will now focus on the management and oversight of Phase One construction as well as finalizing the design for the future award of Phase Two," said Harrah.

Work on the project will begin in October 2010 and will be completed by October 2012.

For more information on the Site 1 Impoundment Project, please visit www.Evergladesplan.org and click on the link to *Projects and Studies*.

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