

Central and South Florida Project, Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan

Site 1 Impoundment Project

20 July 2006



Abstract: The Site 1 Impoundment Project is a component of the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (CERP). The CERP was approved by WRDA 2000 as a framework for the purpose of restoring, preserving, and protecting the south Florida ecosystem while providing for other water-related resource needs of the region, including water supply and flood protection. The recommended project significantly contributes to two of the goals and objectives of the CERP: improving habitat and functional quality and improving native plant and animal species abundance and diversity in remaining natural areas. Scientists have established that a mosaic of uplands, freshwater marsh, deep water sloughs, and estuarine habitats supporting a diverse community of fish and wildlife was one of the defining

characteristics of the pre-drainage Everglades ecosystem. Currently in south Florida, habitat function and quality has significantly declined in remaining natural system areas due to water management projects and practices, resulting in a loss of suitable nesting, foraging, and fisheries habitat and a decline in native species diversity and abundance. The construction and operation of an impoundment would reduce water withdrawals currently taken from the adjacent Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge (LNWR) during the dry season to meet water demands, allowing more natural, desirable, and consistent water levels within the LNWR. It also would reduce groundwater seepage from LNWR. In addition, benefits to the downstream estuarine area are expected, resulting from reduction in fresh water flows and flood control releases from Lake Okeechobee. Due to the advanced land acquisition activities conducted jointly by the Federal Government and the State of Florida, the Project can be implemented relatively quickly, significantly advancing the realization of project benefits in an area that has been degraded by past water management activities.

The Site 1 Impoundment Project will improve the ecological function of the Everglades by capturing and storing the excess surface water runoff from the Hillsboro Canal watershed and releases from the LNWR and Lake Okeechobee. The project site is located on 1,800 acres of undeveloped land adjacent to the Hillsboro Canal in southern Palm Beach County. Project lands were acquired with a 50 percent Federal cost-share using funds appropriated via the 1996 Federal Farm Bill specifically designated for the acquisition of lands to restore the south Florida ecosystem. The impoundment features a 1,660-acre, approximately eight-foot deep above-ground impoundment (at maximum pool depth the impoundment stores 13,280 acre feet of water), with an inflow pump station, discharge gated culvert; one combined service/auxiliary non-gated spillway and one auxiliary non-gated spillway, and a seepage canal with associated structures. An additional gated culvert structure is designed to control stages in L-36 Borrow Canal and North Springs Improvement District discharges into the Hillsboro Canal. Recreational opportunities are also provided at two sites within the project footprint.

Section 601(b)(2)(C)(iii) of the WRDA 2000 initially authorized the Site 1 Impoundment Project component at a total cost of \$38,535,000 (1999 price levels). The total first cost of the recommended plan is now estimated to be \$80,840,000, and requires additional Congressional authorization. The project costs have increased primarily due to design refinements made to incorporate current design methodology which have increased the requirements for dam safety. The design refinements also include armoring of interior embankment slopes. The estimated Federal cost of the recommended plan would be \$40,420,000 and the non-Federal cost would be \$40,420,000

Report Documentation: Pertinent documentation on the project, the results of the CWRB, and subsequent Washington Level Review Actions are linked below.

- [CWRB Briefing Agenda](#)
- [Project Summary](#)
- [CWRB Briefing Slides](#)
- [CWRB Lessons Learned](#)
- [CWRB Meeting Record](#)
- [Comment Letters](#)
- [Documentation of Review Findings](#)
- [Signed Chief of Engineers Report](#)
- [Transmittal to OMB](#)
- [OMB Clearance](#)
- [Congressional Notification](#)
- [Finding of No Significant Impact](#)
- Authorization
 - [Section 1001 \(16\) WRDA 2007](#)
 - [Full WRDA Text](#)

Additional Information:

[South Atlantic Division](#)

[Jacksonville District](#)

[Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Project.](#)