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Lake Okeechobee Watershed









The Lake Okeechobee Watershed (LOW) project area covers approximately 1,800 square miles and incorporates 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. The LOW Tentatively Selected Plan (TSP) consists of the following six structural water storage and treatment features and a recommended Lake Istokpoga Regulation Schedule:

- 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 will 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).
- 3. 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 Kissimmee River.
- 4. A reservoir in the Lake Istokpoga basin A 5,416-acre reservoir is proposed to be located in the C-40A and C-41A sub-basins and 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.
- 5. 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.
- 6. Restoring a wetland in Paradise Run A 3,730-acre wetland restoration site is located at the ecologically significant confluence (under pre-



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Blue Heron

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development conditions) of Paradise Run, oxbows of the Kissimmee River, and Lake Okeechobee. Under restored conditions, it would have 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.

Related Links & Project Documents:

- View the project management plan
- View the current project status report (PDF)
- View other project documents for this project



View a video of Lake Okeechobee/Herbert Hoover Dike

Lake Okeechobee/Herbert Hoover Dike Video (English)



Lake Okeechobee/Herbert Hoover Dike Video (Spanish)



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Project Details:

Project	South Florida Water Management District
Sponsor:	
Project Schedule:	For scheduling information regarding this project, please see the Master Implementation Sequencing Plan (MISP).
Project Phase:	Pre-Construction, Engineering and Design
Design Agreement:	12 May 2000
CERP Component Designation:	A, W, LOWQTF, LOTSD
Project Cooperation Agreement:	xx
Authorization:	WRDA 2000 (Taylor Creek/Nubbin Slough STA (W)) Initially Authorized; WRDA 2000 (Programmatic Authority <\$25 M for OPEs: LIRS, LOTSD); Other components (A, LOWQT) not currently authorized.

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