

FACT SHEET
COMPREHENSIVE EVERGLADES RESTORATION PLAN
Adaptive Assessment and Monitoring

Construction General (C)

Congressional Districts: 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25,
26, 27

1. DESCRIPTION

The Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (CERP) was authorized in the Water Resources Development Act of 2000. Section 601(h)(3) of WRDA 2000 defines the requirement for Programmatic Regulations. The Programmatic Regulations (§385.11) require monitoring and assessment, as necessary, to assess the effectiveness of the projects and to provide information that will be used for the adaptive management program. The Programmatic Regulations charge the Restoration Coordination and Verification (RECOVER) program with developing and implementing the monitoring and assessment program (MAP). MAP is essential to determining the success of CERP and is an integral component of the CERP Adaptive Management (AM) Program.

The purpose of the Adaptive Assessment and Monitoring (AA&M) Program is to develop and implement an appropriate ecological monitoring program in order to establish pre-restoration environmental conditions and track and define ecological response as restoration progresses. The AA&M program provides the science perspective necessary to prudently ensure projects meet intended objectives and to guide planning and operations in order to maximize benefits to the natural system. The Monitoring and Assessment Plan 2009 (MAP 2009) is the primary tool by which the RECOVER program will assess the performance of the CERP. The scientific and technical information generated from MAP implementation is organized to provide a process for RECOVER to evaluate CERP performance and system responses and to produce assessment reports and System Status Reports describing and interpreting the responses. The overarching goal for implementation of the MAP is to have a single, integrated, monitoring and assessment plan that will be used and supported by all participating agencies and tribal governments as the means of tracking and measuring the performance of the CERP.

The System Status Report (SSR) plays an important role within CERP; it is designed to assess and document progress towards meeting performance measure (PM) targets and interim and long-term goals. On an annual basis, the reports generated by the principal investigators in each of the MAP modules (i.e., Southern Coastal Systems [SCS], Northern Estuaries [NE], Greater Everglades [GE] and Lake Okeechobee[LO]) will be compiled by RECOVER and used to generate a SSR that will address the overall status of the ecosystem relative to system level hypotheses, PMs, and restoration goals. Every five years, this SSR provides the scientific information on the status of the ecosystem's response to CERP implementation and is integrated into the Report to Congress.

2. FUNDING

Estimated Total Cost	167,321,000\$
Estimated Federal Cost	92,777,000
Allocation thru FY13*	60,426,000
Carry In for FY14	51,000
Allocation for FY14	3,949,000
President's Budget FY15	4,000,000

*Allocation through FY12 includes ARRA funding of \$941,000

3. SPONSOR

South Florida Water Management District
3301 Gun Club Road
West Palm Beach, Florida 33406

4. STATUS

Implementation of the MAP through contracts will continue through FY 2014. The 2014 System Status report will be completed this year. The goal of the SSR is to provide a synthesis of current and previously collected hydrological, water quality, and ecological data for each of the geographic modules (Lake Okeechobee, Northern Estuaries, Greater Everglades and the Southern Coastal Systems) as well as the ecosystem as a whole. This report identifies those changes from previous year(s) that are inconsistent with the goals and hypotheses and system performance for which corrective action may be required. A web-based approach, used in the 2009 SSR, the 2012 SSR Interim Update, and the upcoming 2014 SSR, allows managers, stakeholders and scientists with different degrees of technical expertise to easily explore the SSR according to their interests and desired level of detail. Information is presented in a hierarchical manner, allowing users to access information about each assessment.

The Corps and South Florida Water Management District are utilizing a reduced version of the MAP 2009 due to cost savings needed to support the CERP Program. Experts maintain that the MAP 2009 is the appropriate level of monitoring needed to understand changes to the natural system compared to changes resulting from CERP, the ability of the MAP to evaluate the performance of CERP and set targets for water levels, salinity, and various ecosystem indicators.