

OVERVIEW



MARCH 2015

The Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (CERP) is the largest environmental restoration program in history. It builds upon and complements other state and federal initiatives to revitalize south Florida's ecosystem. The plan, submitted to Congress in 1999, is composed of a series of projects designed to address four major characteristics of water flow: quantity, quality timing and distribution.

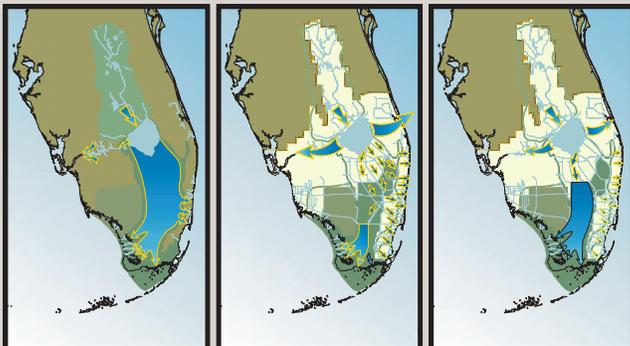
Upon Congressional authorization in 2000, the federal government and the state of Florida entered into a 50/50 partnership to restore, protect and preserve water resources in central and southern Florida, including the Everglades. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) is the lead federal agency and the South Florida Water management District (SFWMD) is the lead state agency in this effort.

Together, these actions will not only provide significant lasting environmental benefits, but will also enhance water supplies and maintain flood protection for the region.

OBJECTIVE OF CERP

The objective of CERP is to find the correct balance among the flow types throughout all regions to ensure a healthy and sustainable natural and human environment. For example, a certain level of flow to the estuaries and bays maintains favorable conditions for oysters, shrimp and seagrasses. Too much flow to these areas, however, causes damage to native organisms.

The maps below depict how water flowed historically through the south Florida ecosystem, and how water will flow in the future after CERP projects have been constructed.



PAST FLOW

CURRENT FLOW

FUTURE FLOW

CERP PROJECT DEVELOPMENT

The CERP project development process includes:

- **Planning:** A project implementation report (PIR) is developed for each project that includes all of the engineering and environmental studies, project alternatives, evaluation and testing results, and summaries of public input. A recommended project plan is identified as the objective of the project and the CERP. The PIR is sent for state and federal approvals, authorizations and funding.
- **Design:** During design, investigations are conducted to provide the information needed to develop detailed final plans and specifications for building the final project. In some cases, a pilot project (test) is conducted.
- **Construction:** The construction period extends from the awarding of construction contracts through completion, including supervision and inspection.
- **Operation and Maintenance:** Each project has an Operations Plan that outlines operating schedules and criteria designed to achieve optimum results. Based on the routine review and analyses, operations may be fine-tuned for improved performance.
- **Real Estate Acquisition:** Many restoration projects require the acquisition of land.
- **Adaptive Assessment and Monitoring:** This ongoing process measures the effect of restoration efforts on the greater Everglades ecosystem so, if needed, changes can be made to ensure CERP projects meet their intended objectives.

CURRENT CERP PROJECTS

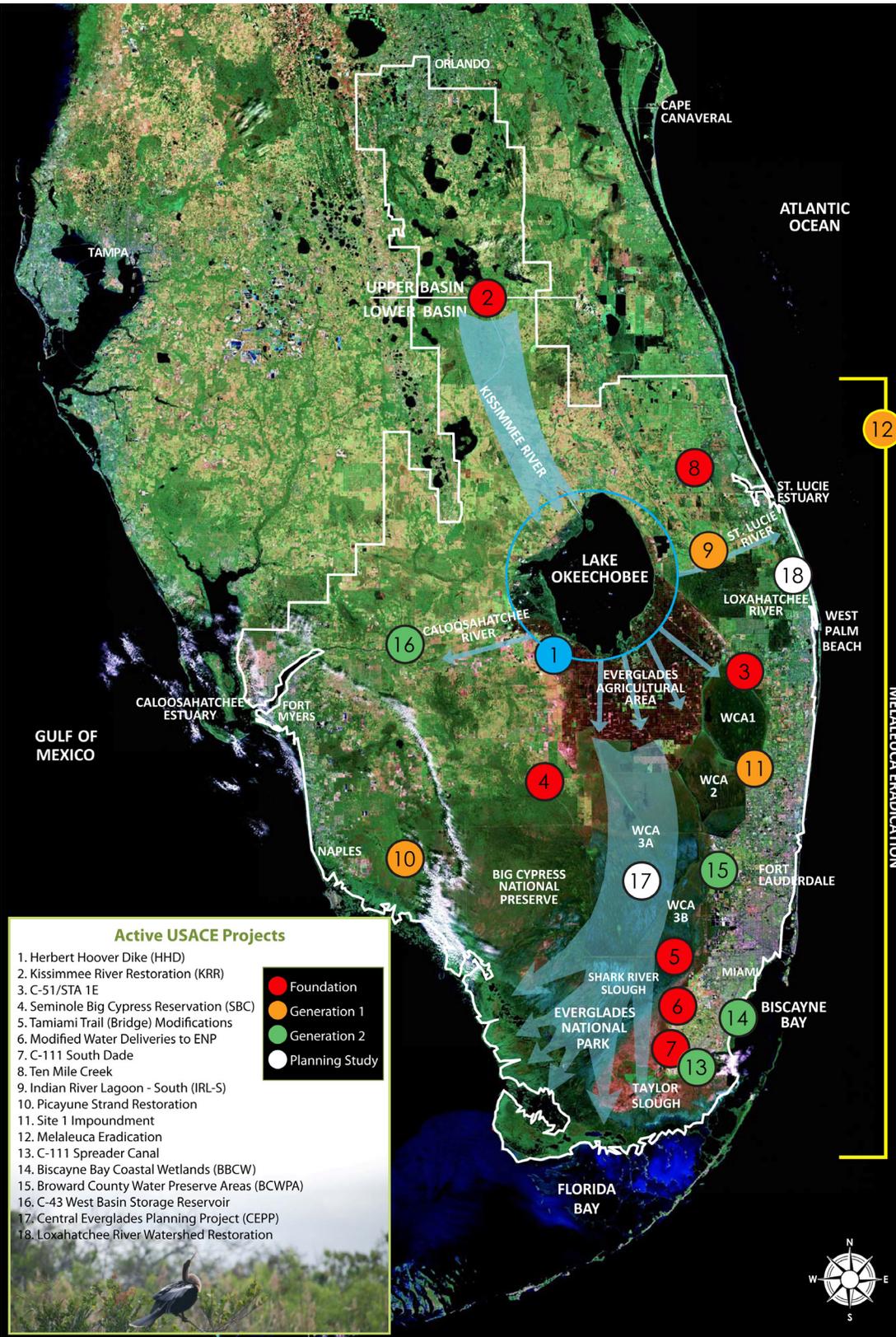
More than 50 projects make up the CERP effort. Because of their size and complexity, several projects have multiple components, such as reservoirs and stormwater treatment areas. In total, there are 68 individual components that make up the more than 50 projects in the plan.

The USACE is currently planning, designing and constructing multiple CERP projects in partnership with the SFMWD. The current CERP projects are broken down into two generations:

- Generation I:** Authorized in 2007; Currently under construction (with the exception of Melaleuca Eradication, completed in 2013)
- Generation 2:** Authorized in 2014; Currently being designed (Some project features constructed by SFMWD in advance of authorization)

These projects work in concert with the Foundation Projects, authorized prior to CERP.

Together, all these projects aim to get the right amount of water, of the right quality, delivered to the right places, at the right times. This is done by utilizing several basic project features that capture, store, treat, and redistribute water through the natural ecosystem to restore and revitalize the Everglades.



FOR MORE INFORMATION

VISIT: <http://bit.ly/EvergladesRestoration>

