

Vision Statement

Maximize restoration opportunities for the South Florida ecosystem by acquiring strategically located lands, establishing a managed system of water storage and treatment, and restoring a historic hydrologic connection to benefit America's Everglades, Lake Okeechobee, and the St. Lucie and Caloosahatchee rivers and estuaries.

Goals

- Increase availability of water storage to reduce harmful freshwater discharges from Lake Okeechobee to Florida's coastal rivers and estuaries and to redistribute more water to the south to restore the southern Everglades
- Increase availability of storage and treatment to enhance delivery of cleaner water to the Everglades
- Prevent harmful phosphorus flows from entering Lake Okeechobee and the Everglades
- Eliminate need for "back-pumping" water into Lake Okeechobee

- Improve U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' options for managing Lake Okeechobee within a more desirable ecological range
- Provide additional water storage alternatives to relieve some pressures on Herbert Hoover Dike while continuing to pursue timely rehabilitation
- Support continued regional agriculture, as well as economic diversification, where viable

Scope

Determine the range and general location of acreage needed north of the Everglades Protection Area for storing, treating and delivering the water flows needed to restore the Everglades, while enhancing ecological values in Lake Okeechobee and the northern estuaries.