



North of Lake Okeechobee Storage Reservoir

When complete, this project will help support healthy water levels in Lake Okeechobee – one of the most important freshwater resources in the State of Florida.



Project Overview

- ▶ The North of Lake Okeechobee Storage Reservoir planning project explores the opportunity for an above ground reservoir to store excess water north of Lake Okeechobee.
- ▶ The reservoir will store approximately 200,000 ac-ft of water (0.5 feet of Lake Okeechobee).
- ▶ The South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) initiated planning of the reservoir in 2023.
- ▶ The area covers a large portion of the Lake Okeechobee Watershed north of Lake Okeechobee and will provide ecological benefits to the lake and the northern estuaries.

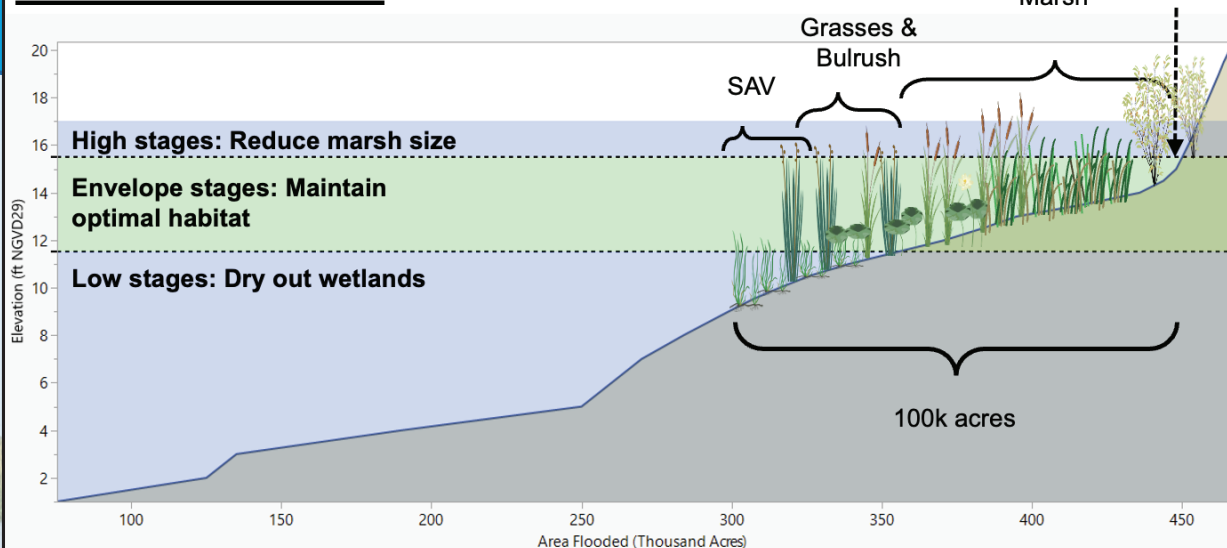
Project Benefits

- ▶ The reservoir will store excess water during wet periods.
- ▶ The reservoir will reduce large discharges to the downstream estuaries and keep more water in the system for environmental and water supply uses.
- ▶ Increased storage capacity will reduce the duration and frequency of both high and low water levels in Lake Okeechobee that are stressful to Lake Okeechobee's ecosystem.

SFWMD.gov/LOCAR

Lake Okeechobee Water Levels

Ideal Marsh Conditions



Feasibility Study

- ▶ The SFWMD is preparing a feasibility study to evaluate the effects of implementing the project under Section 203 of the Water Resources Development Act.
- ▶ The project must be technically and policy compliant with the federal planning process.
- ▶ The SFWMD will transmit the feasibility study to the Assistant Secretary of the Army (ASA) for submission to Congress.
- ▶ The SFWMD will recommend the submission for Congressional Authorization in 2024.

Planning Timeline

- ▶ Project Scoping – April 2023
- ▶ Identify Alternatives/Recommended Plan – August 2023
- ▶ Draft Feasibility Study – October 2023
- ▶ Final Feasibility Study – December 2023