

Lake Okeechobee Watershed Restoration Project (ASRs, Reservoirs, Wetland Restoration)



Location:	Martin, Okeechobee, Glades and Hendry counties
Subwatershed:	Northern Everglades
Basin:	-
Purpose:	<p>The major goals of the Lake Okeechobee Watershed Restoration Project (LOWRP) - part of the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan - are to improve the quantity, timing, and distribution of water entering Lake Okeechobee. LOWRP will improve management of lake water levels, reduce excessive releases to the St. Lucie and Caloosahatchee estuaries, and increase operational flexibility. These goals will be achieved through storage of water in surface reservoirs and underground in aquifer storage and recovery wells. Additional wetland areas also will be restored to enhance habitat utilization in the subwatersheds that are the focus of this project.</p> <p>The LOWRP objectives¹ include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Improve quantity, timing, and distribution of flows into Lake Okeechobee to maintain ecologically desired lake stage ranges more often. 2. Improve estuary discharges from Lake Okeechobee to improve the salinity regime and the quality of oyster, submerged aquatic vegetation (SAV), and other estuarine community habitats in the northern estuaries. 3. Increase the spatial extent and functionality of aquatic and wildlife habitat within Lake Okeechobee and the surrounding watershed. 4. Increase available water for existing legal water users of Lake Okeechobee commensurate within improving Lake Okeechobee ecology.
Project Operation Start:	TBD

¹The timeline for meeting the planning objectives is as soon as practicable after completion of project construction and throughout a 50-year period of analysis

Considerations/Update:

The LOWRP replaces LOWCP Management Measures 52 (Kissimmee River Pilot ASR Project), 53 (Taylor Creek ASR Reactivation), 69 (Taylor Creek Reservoir), 70 (Paradise Run Wetland Restoration), 71 (Kissimmee Reservoir), 72 (Istokpoga Reservoir), 73 (Istokpoga STA), 74 (Kissimmee Reservoir STA), 79 (Port Mayaca ASR Pilot), 80 (Ten-Well ASR System (Paradise Run)), and 81 (Seminole Brighton Reservation ASR Pilot).

The LOWRP study recommends the following three components of the CERP²:

- North of Lake Okeechobee Wetland Attenuation Feature (Component A)
- Lake Okeechobee Aquifer Storage and Recovery (ASR) Wells (Component GG)
- Lake Okeechobee Watershed Water Quality Treatment Facilities (Component OPE)

The estimated benefits for the LOWRP are:

- The total amount of wetland restoration (floodplain and riverine) is 5,200 acres.
- The total annual storage projected for the combination of ASR wells is 448,000 acre-feet (ac-ft).
- The total annual storage projected for the reservoir is 200,000 ac-ft.

The project is a *tentatively selected* plan in conceptual design phase. Project features and/or configurations may be subject to change.

The estimated construction costs for these features is:

- \$840,220,000 for reservoirs
- \$389,719,000 for ASR wells
- \$115,416,000 for wetland restoration

² LOWCP Management Measures 69, 72, 73, and 74 were eliminated from the project during initial screening