

Dispersed Water Management Northern Everglades Payment for Environmental Services Program



Location:	Glades County
Subwatershed:	Fisheating Creek
Basin:	Fisheating Creek
Purpose:	Provide shallow storage, retention and detention to enhance Lake Okeechobee and estuary health by reducing discharge volumes, reducing nutrient loading to downstream receiving waters, and expanding groundwater recharge opportunities.
Project Operation Start:	2012 – 2017
Considerations/Update:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LOWCP Management Measures 22 through 29 are now part of this LOWCP Management Measure when FDEP, FDACS, and the District expanded opportunities for dispersed water management (DWM) in the Northern Everglades watersheds whereby private landowners manage water on parts of their property to provide two different water management services: water retention and storage or nutrient (TP or TN) load reduction through the District’s NE-PES Program. • Two solicitations were released through this program (January 2011 and December 2012). A total of 16 water retention projects were awarded, eight (8) under each solicitation. These projects will be operated as long as funding is available for up to 10 years. Funding is subject to annual legislative appropriation. • Due to challenges in obtaining Federal permits, the Babcock Ranch landowner elected not to continue with the project awarded during the second solicitation. The contract was terminated in 2018. • The Alico Ranch project was awarded during the second solicitation. However, in 2016 FDEP surveyed for large, water quality improvement projects that will have a regional impact and will address nutrient loads and assist in meeting the goals of Basin Management Action Plans (BMAPs) and Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs). Six projects were satisfied the needs of the survey and were selected for the Northern Everglades Public Private Partnership (NEPPP) program. Alico Ranch was one of the six projects selected by FDEP. • Due to the various methods used to determine the project benefits for the NEPES contracts, it is recommended that an audit be conducted to evaluate project benefits using project data collected to date as well as the most recent model (i.e., DWM Tool) developed for this purpose to provide a consistent review and comparison of quantity benefits across all projects within the DWM Program.

Project Name	Program	Basin	Status	Project Acreage	Project Operation Start Date	Total Cost	Construction Costs	Annual Costs	Estimated Annual Water Quantity Benefit (ac-ft)
XL Ranch	NE PES-1	Fisheating Creek	O&M	3,227	02/09/12	\$1,362,896	\$61,396	\$137,000	887
La Hamaca	NE PES-2	Fisheating Creek	O&M	5,020	01/09/17	\$3,805,750	\$193,750	\$361,200	3,462

*Data in table acquired from project contracts on file.