



NOVEMBER 2019

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) is re-evaluating Lake Okeechobee operations to coincide with the completion of Herbert Hoover Dike (HHD) rehabilitation in 2022. The Lake Okeechobee System Operating Manual (LOSOM) effort will re-examine the opportunities to balance the congressionally authorized project purposes for flood control, water supply, navigation, recreation, and preservation of fish and wildlife resources.

PROJECT AUTHORITY

Section 1106 of the 2018 Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) directs, “The Secretary shall expedite completion of the Lake Okeechobee regulation schedule to coincide with completion of the Herbert Hoover Dike project, and may include all relevant aspects of the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan described in section 601 of the Water Resources Development Act of 2000 (114 Stat. 2680).”

SCOPE

The result of the LOSOM effort will be new operating criteria for Lake Okeechobee and the accompanying National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) documentation. Incremental regulation schedules will be developed to account for future infrastructure construction. Each increment will have NEPA documentation to allow for implementation when the infrastructure is available.

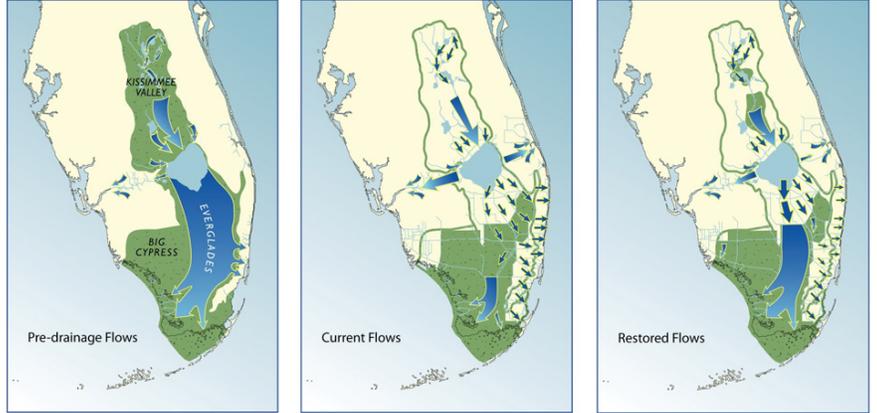
The study will not propose water quality improvement features, nor propose new infrastructure beyond evaluation of already authorized projects.

STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

Beginning with the NEPA scoping meetings held in February and March 2019, stakeholder feedback has informed priorities and scope of the new operational plan. Educational webinars and workshops held in May, June, and September 2019 provided background information related to Lake Okeechobee and allowed public feedback on the planning framework. Additional workshops are planned during the alternative evaluation process. The draft and final NEPA documents will be available for stakeholder review in 2022.

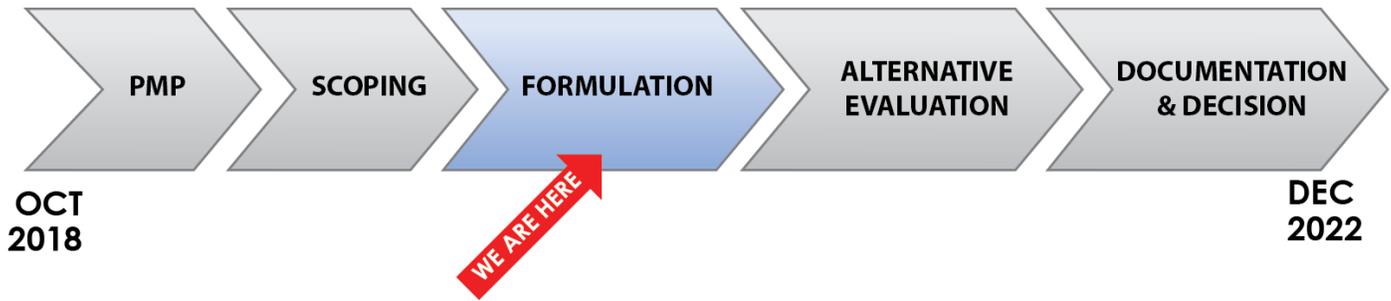


Lake Okeechobee is the heart of the Everglades, supplying the natural system with water that is the life blood for the River of Grass. With the construction of the vast water management system throughout central and south Florida, Lake Okeechobee is also the keystone in the flood protection and water supply system. Regulation of Lake Okeechobee is an integral part of the restoration effort on-going in central and south Florida, working with the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan to better manage the hydrology of the regional system and meet the many-faceted needs of the urban and natural environments.



KEY MILESTONES

| | |
|---|-------------------------------|
| Approved PMP and Review Plan..... | January 2019 |
| Public Scoping/Plan Formulation..... | February – September 2019 |
| Alternative Development and Evaluation..... | October 2019 – September 2021 |
| Prepare Draft LOSOM/NEPA document | October 2021 – January 2022 |
| Public Comment/Draft LOSOM/NEPA document..... | February – March 2022 |
| Prepare Final LOSOM/NEPA document..... | April – May 2022 |
| Final LOSOM NEPA document | September 2022 |
| Signed Record of Decision (ROD)..... | December 2022 |



ADDITIONAL PROJECT INFORMATION

Additional project information, including upcoming meeting times and locations, briefings, educational webinar presentations, transcripts, and references, can be found on the project website:

<https://www.saj.usace.army.mil/LOSOM>

FOR MORE INFORMATION



E. TIMOTHY GYSAN
 USACE Project Manager
 Earl.T.Gysan@usace.army.mil
 904-232-3272

