

**WESTERN EVERGLADES RESTORATION PROJECT  
UPDATE  
OCTOBER 2018 – MARCH 2019**

**PROJECT MANAGEMENT UPDATE:**

-Project is moving forward at an aggressive pace to maintain compliance with the 46 month waiver scheduled approved by the Assistant Secretary of the Army (Civil Works) on 25 January 2018.

-Project schedule in compliance with the 46 month waiver schedule. Several tasks will now be performed sequentially which increases schedule risk.

-Key Milestones:

20 Jun 2019	Tentative Selected Plan Meeting
06 Sep 2019	Draft PIR/EIS – Notice of Availability Filed in Federal Register
06 Sep 2019 – 18 Oct 2019	Draft PIR/EIS Public Review Period
Jan 2020	Agency Decision Milestone Meeting
Jun 2020	Final PIR/EIS – Notice of Availability Files in the Federal Register
Jun 2020 - Jul 2020	Final PIR/EIS Public Review Period
Jul 2020	Chief's Report

**PLAN FORMULATION SUB TEAM:**

-Since the last Project Delivery Team Meeting, Plan Formulation efforts have been focused on 1) Refinement of Alternative H, 2) Moving forward towards the Tentatively Selected Plan Milestone, and 3) Writing the draft Project Implementation Report (PIR)/Environmental Impact Statement (EIS).

-A sub team meeting was held on 5 Feb 2019 where the latest information on the Alternative H design was presented along with the status of on-going writing assignments for the Draft PIR/EIS. The status of the Real Estate analysis was shared along with the status of the project schedule.

-A sub team meeting was held on 13 Nov 2018 where the preliminary Alternative H/Preliminary Tentatively Selected Plan (TSP) modeling results were presented. Final Alternative H modeling results were presented at the 05 March 2019 subteam meeting.

-Alternative H was presented during the Seminole Tribe's Community Meeting held on 9 Oct 2018 and 17 Dec 2018. The meeting was held on the Big Cypress Seminole Indian Reservation.

-Government to Government (G2G) Consultation meetings with the Seminole Tribe's representatives were held on 7 Dec 2018, 28 Jan 2019, 8 Feb 2019, 26 Feb 2019, and 19 Mar 2019 and with the Miccosukee Tribe of Indians of Florida's representatives on 11 Dec 2018 and 8 Mar 2019.

-Team members are currently writing the Plan Formulation Appendix to the draft PIR/EIS and coordinating suspense dates for writing assignments. The team continues to review the Feb 2019 modeling results for Alternative H.

**What's Next for Plan Formulation:**

-Government to Government (G2G) Consultation with the Seminole Tribe of Florida and the Miccosukee Tribe of Indians on the Preliminary TSP and development of Adaptive Management and Monitoring Plans are on-going.

-For the future, the team will continue to focus on writing sections of the draft PIR/EIS and limit the number of overall meetings to allow for writing.

-If necessary, an In-Progress Review may occur with the USACE Vertical Team staff on risks/issues moving forward.

**HYDROLOGY AND HYDRAULICS/ENGINEERING SUB TEAM UPDATE:**

Recent work and on-going tasks:

-Regional Simulation Model Glades - Lower East Coast Service Areas (RSM-GL) sensitivity runs along Levee 28 Interceptor (L-28i) and L-28S

-Refinements to the baselines (ECB and FWO) accordingly to Savings Clause

-Model Alternative H with improved hydrology in the Feeder and Canal 139 (C-139) Annex Basins, updated proposed North Feeder Stormwater Treatment Area (STA) footprint size based on additional runoff contribution from remaining C-139 Annex

Ag, removed no flow condition at bridges across Tamiami Trail and improved conveyance of water via proposed L-29S pump to west of Jetport for Alternative H

-Placement of the Alternative H combined Wingate Mill STA

-Provide support in G2G Consultations and sub team meeting for plan formulation sub team, eco sub team, engineering sub team, and real estate with regards to Alternative H (a.k.a. Hybrid Alternative)

-Collect structural information and identify draft criteria for TSP Savings Clause/Assurances

-Identify potential risks/challenges moving forward with current array and Hybrid

-Provide input to project schedule

-On-going revisions to Alternative H scope due to additional information received by Project Delivery Team and sub teams.

-On-going coordination with eco sub team members regarding Alternative H and the revised baselines performance measures output (.csv & .pdf files, maps and miscellaneous graphics)

#### **What's Next for H&H/EN Sub Team:**

-Continue efforts in support of the Savings Clause determination and perform the Savings Clause analysis

-Creating a budget estimate for the Hybrid Alternative

-Defining the path forward for Climate Change Evaluations

-Continue writing assignments for hydrology and hydraulics analysis as well as engineering/design input for the draft PIR/EIS to include a Modeling Documentation Report, Hydraulic Design data sheets, and other pertinent engineering data

#### **ENVIRONMENTAL SUB TEAM UPDATE:**

-Members of the eco sub team are currently working to update portions of the Adaptive Management and Ecological Monitoring Plan in support of the draft PIR/EIS. In addition to this task, sub team members are currently evaluating model output for Alternative H.

#### **What's Next for Eco Sub Team:**

-Calculate Habitat Units (HUs) for Alternative H and evaluating ecological planning tools produced by USGS. HUs are anticipated to be calculated by the end of March 2019.

#### **REAL ESTATE UPDATE:**

-A site visit and data gathering meeting was held with Big Cypress National Preserve (BCNP) staff on February 19-21, 2019. The main purpose of the site visit was to obtain a sampling of structures along Tamiami Trail, Loop Road, and structures in the Big Cypress Sanctuary Community.

-A preliminary private property ownership inventory was performed in an effort to identify property ownership contained within the Big Cypress National Park boundaries using existing tax assessment data reported by the Florida Department of Revenue.

#### **What's Next for Real Estate Sub Team:**

-Continue drafting the real estate plan, draft real estate project maps with general overall project data. The draft real estate plan cannot be completed until the Takings Analysis and the ruling for acquiring lands within the Park determination are made.

-Continue evaluation of data obtained from BCNP staff.

-Continue efforts in support of the Savings Clause determination.

#### **WATER QUALITY UPDATE:**

-Sub team meetings were held on 4 Oct and 15 Nov 2018.

-Since the last PDT meeting, members of the water quality subteam worked to draft water quality sections for the draft PIR/EIS and worked with the Ecological subteam on the water quality uncertainty strategies and monitoring within the Adaptive Management and Monitoring Plan.

#### **What's Next for Water Quality:**

-Continue drafting the water quality PIR/EIS sections and the Water Quality Monitoring Plan

**CULTURAL RESOURCES UPDATE:** Phase 1 cultural resources survey is being performed on approximately 6,330 acres of lands within the WERP footprint for the proposed North Feeder STA and associated attenuation zone. Surveys will be complete on 29 Mar 2019. Survey results will be evaluated, summarized, and included in the draft PIR/EIS.