GETTING THE WATER RIGHT IN SOUTH FLORIDA

Every restoration effort within the Everglades ecosystem directly or indirectly affects each other. Due to the interdependencies of these projects, the ultimate success of restoration efforts are dependent on the completion of others.

In order for the southern portion of the Everglades ecosystem to be operated as effectively as possible, the necessary infrastructure needs to be in place, the necessary data to evaluate operational flexibility needs to be known and identified in the Adaptive Management Plan, and the resulting Combined Operational Plan needs to be developed and implemented.

The Combined Operational Plan is a comprehensive integrated water control plan for Water Conservation Area (WCA) - 3A, Everglades National Park (ENP), and the South Dade Conveyance System that includes the completed Modified Water Deliveries to ENP (MWD) and the C-111 South Dade projects. The plan will help to achieve optimal restoration and operational benefits for the southern Everglades ecosystem. It is on schedule for implementation in August 2020.

The MWD and C-111SD projects’ contribution to the COP include:

- C-111 South Dade: Works in concert with the MWD project infrastructure to create a hydraulic ridge that will reduce groundwater seepage out of eastern ENP, enabling additional water flow into ENP and Florida Bay.

Modulated Water Deliveries to Everglades National Park: Will redistribute existing water flow to the eastern portions of ENP.

- Tamiami Trail Modifications: Completed in 2013, this project removed a one-mile stretch of the Tamiami Trail roadway and constructed a one-mile long bridge in its place that will enable water to flow from the L-29 Canal into ENP. The project also included the modification of 9.7 miles of roadway in preparation for higher water elevations in the L-29 Canal when the Combined Operational Plan is initiated.

- 8.5 Square Mile Area (SMA): Provides flood mitigation for the 8.5 SMA residential area in preparation for increased groundwater stages as a result of increased water flow into ENP via the Tamiami Trail one-mile bridge when the Combined Operational Plan is initiated.

- G-3273/S-336 Pump Station Field Test: This series of Incremental field tests was used to evaluate how additional water will ultimately be sent south to ENP through the MWD and C-111 South Dade projects. The Combined Operational Plan was developed using modeling data and the data collected from the Incremental field tests.

A Combined Operational Plan will enable additional water to flow south into Everglades National Park and provide optimal restoration and operational benefits for the southern Everglades ecosystem.

For More Information: https://www.saj.usace.army.mil/Missions/Environmental/Ecosystem-Restoration/