



## US Army Corps of Engineers®

### E-NOTICE OF FINAL PM

\*\*\*RECOVER Lake Okeechobee Stage Performance Measure approved\*\*\*

The RECOVER Lake Okeechobee Stage Performance Measure used to evaluate regional scenarios for the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (CERP) has been approved by the RECOVER (Restoration, Coordination & Verification) Executive Committee.

View the Lake Okeechobee Stage Performance Measure, along with the comment response matrix, at:

<https://www.saj.usace.army.mil/Missions/Environmental/Ecosystem-Restoration/RECOVER/>

As restoration of the Everglades progresses, it is important to be able to estimate the ecological response to restoration projects and the program as a whole. Performance measures are tools to allow managers to evaluate the impact and effectiveness of the CERP.

The Lake Okeechobee Stage Performance Measure establishes an ecological stage envelope that defines ideal stages for normal conditions (Normal Envelope) or lower stages (Recovery Envelope) intended to promote recovery of fish and wildlife and their habitats after damaging high-water events. The performance measure has been developed to evaluate water levels for a suite of ecological indicators, including fish and wildlife and their aquatic and wetland habitats. The desired restoration condition is for lake stages to vary seasonally from between 11.5 – 12.5 ft (3.5 – 3.8 m) in the summer and 14.5 – 15.5 ft (4.4 – 4.7 m) in the winter. Lake stages within the envelope allow for seasonal flooding and drying of littoral marshes which promotes good habitat and healthy fish and wildlife populations. Should lake stages occur outside of the stage envelope, they would not go above or below extreme stage thresholds, defined as 17 ft (5.2 m) and 10 ft (3.1 m), respectively. The desired restoration condition for the Lake Okeechobee stage envelope is related to improvements resulting from hydrologic management and in-lake and watershed restoration projects.

The Draft Lake Okeechobee Stage Performance Measure was available online for a 30-day public and agency review period. Comments were accepted December 5, 2019 – January 3, 2020.

Additional information on RECOVER is available at:

<https://www.saj.usace.army.mil/Missions/Environmental/Ecosystem-Restoration/RECOVER/>