

**SECTION 13**

**GLOSSARY OF TERMS**

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## GLOSSARY OF TERMS

### A

**Acre** - Area of land equal to 43,560 square feet. In S.I. metric system, one acre is equal to 4,046.9 square meters.

**Acre-foot** - The quantity of water required to cover 1 acre to a depth of 1 foot. Equal to 43,560 cubic feet (1,233.5 cubic meters).

**Activity** – A specific project task that requires resources and time to complete.

**Adaptive Assessment** – A process for learning and incorporating new information into the planning and evaluation phases of the restoration program. This process ensures that the scientific information produced for this effort is converted into products that are continuously used in management decision-making.

**Adverse Impact** – The detrimental effect of an environmental change relative to desired or baseline conditions.

**Aquatic** – Consisting of, relating to or being in water; living or growing in, on or near the water; or taking place in or on the water.

**Aquifer** – An underground geologic formation, a bed or layer of earth, gravel or porous stone, that yields water or in which water can be stored.

**Authorization** - An act by the Congress of the United States, which authorizes use of public funds to carry out a prescribed action.

### B

**Baseline** – The initial approved plan for schedule, cost or performance management, plus or minus approved changes, to which deviations will be compared as the project proceeds.

**Best Management Practices [BMPs]** – The best available land, industrial and waste management techniques or processes that reduce pollutant loading from land use or industry, or which optimizing water use.

**Borrow Canal** – Canal or ditches where material excavated is used for earthen construction nearby. Also, typically denotes a canal with no conveyance or water routing purpose.

## C

**Canal** – A human-made waterway that is used for draining or irrigating land or for navigation by boat.

**Central and Southern Florida Project [C&SF]** – A multi-purpose project, first authorized by Congress in 1948, which provides flood control, water supply protection, water quality protection and natural resource protection.

**Channel** - A natural or artificial watercourse, with a definite bed and banks to confine and conduct continuously or periodically flowing water.

**Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan [CERP]** – The plan for the restoration of the greater Everglades and to meet water supply and flood protection needs in the urban and agricultural regions of south Florida.

**Control Structure** – A human-created structure that regulates the flow of waters or the level of waters.

**Conveyance Capacity** - The rate at which water can be transported by a canal, aqueduct, or ditch.

**Cost-Benefit Analysis** – An analysis, often stated as a ratio, used to evaluate a proposed course of action.

**Critical Habitat** – A description, which may be contained in a Biological Opinion, of the specific areas with physical or biological features essential to the conservation of a listed species and which may require special management considerations or protection; these areas have been legally designated via Federal Register notices.

**Culvert** – A concrete, metal or plastic pipe that transports water.

## D

**Discharge** – The rate of water movement as volume per unit time, usually expressed as cubic feet per second.

**Dissolved Oxygen [D.O.]** – The concentration of oxygen dissolved in water, sometimes expressed as percent saturation, where saturation is the maximum amount of oxygen that can theoretically be dissolved in water at a given altitude and temperature.

**Dry Season** - Hydrologically, for south Florida, two months associated with a lower incident of rainfall, October through April.

**Duration** – The period of time over which a task occurs; establishes the schedule for a project.

## **E**

**Ecology** – The science of the relationships between organisms and their environments; the relationship between organisms and their environment.

**Ecosystem** - A functional group of animal and plant species that operate in a unique setting that is mostly self-contained.

**Endangered Species** - Any species or subspecies of bird, mammal, fish, amphibian, reptile, or plant, which is in serious danger of becoming extinct throughout all, or a significant portion of, its range. Federally endangered species are officially designated by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service or the National Marine Fisheries Service and published in the Federal Register.

**Enhancement** - Measures which develop or improve the quality or quantity of existing conditions or resources beyond a condition or level that would have occurred without an action; i.e., beyond compensation.

**Environmental Impact Statement [EIS]** - An analysis required by the National Environmental Policy Act for all major federal actions, which evaluates the environmental risks of alternative actions.

**Eutrophication** – The natural or cultural enrichment of an aquatic environment with plant nutrients leading to rapid ecological changes and high productivity.

**Evaluate** – To appraise or determine the value of information, options or resources being provided to a project.

**Exotic species** - Introduced species not native to the place where they are found.

## F

**Feasibility study** - The second phase of a project. The purpose is to formulate and evaluate alternative plans and fully describe recommended project.

**Flow** - The volume of water passing a given point per unit of time.

*Minimum flow* - Lowest flow in a specified period of time.

*Peak flow* - Maximum instantaneous flow in a specified period of time.

## G

**Goal** – Something to be achieved. Goals can be established for outcomes (results) or outputs (efforts).

**Groundwater** - Water stored underground in pore spaces between rocks and in other alluvial materials and in fractures of hard rock occurring in the saturated zone.

**Groundwater level** - Refers to the water level in a well, and is defined as a measure of the hydraulic head in the aquifer system.

**Groundwater seepage** - Groundwater flow in response to a hydraulic gradient.

## H

**Habitat** - Area where a plant or animal lives.

**Hammock** – Localized, thick stand of trees.

**Hydrologic condition** - The state of an area pertaining to the amount and form of water present. For example, saturated ground (water table at surface), lake stage and river flow rate.

**Hydrology** – The scientific study of the properties, distribution and effects of water on the earth's surface, in the soil and underlying rocks, and in the atmosphere.

**Hydropattern** - A less frequently used but nonetheless important term that refers to depth as well as hydroperiod; best understood by a graphic depiction of water level (above as well as below the ground) through annual cycles.

**Hydroperiod** - For non-tidal wetlands, the average annual duration of flooding, which is based only on the presence of surface water and not its depth.

## I

**Impoundment** – An above ground reservoir used to store water.

**Independent Technical Review Team** – A group autonomous of the Project Delivery Team established to conduct reviews to ensure that design products are consistent with established criteria, guidance, procedures and policies.

**Invertebrate** – A small animal that does not have a backbone, examples include crayfish, insects and mollusks, which can be indicators of ecosystem status.

## L

**Levee** – A human-created embankment that controls or confines water.

**Littoral zone** - The shore of land surrounding a water body that is characterized by periodic inundation or partial saturation by water level. Typically defined by species of vegetation found.

**Local Sponsor** – The South Florida Water Management District.

## M

**Marsh** - An area of low-lying wetland.

**Minimum Flow** – Lowest flow in a specified period of time.

**Mitigation** – To make less severe; to alleviate, diminish or lessen; one or all of the following may comprise mitigation: (1) avoiding an impact altogether by not taking a certain action or parts of an action; (2) minimizing impacts by limiting the degree or magnitude of an action and its implementation; (3) rectifying an impact by repairing, rehabilitating or restoring the affected environment; (4) reducing or eliminating an impact over time by preservation and maintenance

operations during the life of an action; and (5) compensating for an impact by replacing or providing substitute resources or environments.

**Model** - A tool used to mathematically represent a process, which could be based upon empirical or mathematical functions. Models can be computer programs, spreadsheets, or statistical analyses.

**Monitoring** – The capture, analysis and reporting of project performance, usually as compared to plan.

## O

**Objective** – A goal expressed in specific, directly measurable terms.

**Outreach** - Proactive communication and productive involvement with the public to best meet the water resource needs of South Florida.

## P

**Peak Flow** – The maximum instantaneous flow in a specified period of time.

**Performance Measure** – A desired result stated in quantifiable terms to allow for an assessment of how well the desired result has been achieved.

**Plan, The** – See “Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan”; see “Restudy”.

**Program** – A group of related projects managed in a coordinated manner; programs usually include an element of on-going activity.

**Programmatic Regulations** – Section 601(h) of WRDA 2000 states that the overarching purpose of the Comprehensive Plan is the restoration, preservation and protection of the south Florida ecosystem while providing for the other water related needs of the region, including water supply and flood protection. The purpose of the regulations is to ensure that the goals and objectives of CERP are achieved. The regulations will contain: (1) processes for the development of Project Implementation Reports, Project Cooperation Agreements and operating manuals that ensure the goals and objectives of the plan are achieved; (2) processes that ensure new scientific, technical, or other information such as that developed through adaptive management is integrated into the implementation of the plan; and (3) processes to establish interim goals to provide a means by which the restoration success of the plan may be evaluated throughout the implementation process.

**Project** – A sequence of tasks with a beginning and an end that uses time and resources to produce specific results. Each project has a specific, desired outcome, a deadline or target completion date and a budget that limits the amount of resources that can be used to complete the project.

**Project Cooperation Agreement [PCA]** – A document that describes the roles and responsibilities of the USACE and SFWMD for real estate acquisition, construction, construction management and operations and maintenance.

**Project Delivery Team [PDT]** – An interdisciplinary group formed from the resources of the implementing agencies, which develops the products necessary to deliver the project.

**Project Duration** – The time it takes to complete an entire project from starting the first task to finishing the last task.

**Project Implementation Report [PIR]** – A decision document that will bridge the gap between the conceptual design contained in the Comprehensive Plan and the detailed design necessary to proceed to construction.

**Project Management Plan [PMP]** – A document that establishes the project's scope, schedule, costs, funding requirements and technical performance requirements, including the various functional areas' performance and quality criteria that will be used to produce and deliver the products that comprise the project.

**Project Manager** – A person who takes overall responsibility for coordinating a project to ensure the desired result comes in on time and within budget.

**Project Phase** – A collection of logically related project activities, usually culminating in the completion of a major deliverable.

**Public Involvement** - Process of obtaining citizen input into each stage of the development of planning documents. Required as a major input into any EIS.

**Public Outreach** – A program-level activity with the objective of keeping the public informed of the status of the overall program and key issues associated with restoration implementation and providing effective mechanisms for public participation in the restoration plan development.

**Q**

**Quality Assurance [QA]** – The process of evaluating overall project performance on a regular basis to provide confidence that the project will satisfy the relevant quality standards.

**Quality Control [QC]** – The process of monitoring specific project results to determine if they comply with relevant quality standards, and identifying means of eliminating causes of unsatisfactory performance.

**R**

**Record of Decision** - Concise, public, legal document, which identifies and publicly and officially discloses the responsible official's decision on the alternative selected for implementation. It is prepared following completion of an Environmental Impact Statement.

**Reservoir** - Artificially impounded body of water.

**Restoration** – The recovery of a natural system's vitality and biological and hydrological integrity to the extent that the health and ecological functions are self-sustaining over time.

**Restoration Coordination and Verification [RECOVER]** – A program-level activity whose role is to organize and apply scientific and technical information in ways that are most effective in supporting the objectives of the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan.

**Restudy** – The Central and South Florida Project Comprehensive Review Study, authorized by the Water Resources Development Act of 1992, which examined the Central and Southern Project to determine the feasibility of modifying the project to restore the south Florida ecosystem and provide for other water-related needs of the region, and which resulted in The Final Integrated Feasibility Report and Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement, which was transmitted to Congress on July 1, 1999. Sometimes referred to as the “Yellow Book”.

**Ruderal Areas** - Areas of disturbed land such as pastures, airports, ball fields, parks, and road rights-of-way.

## S

**Scoping** - The process of defining the scope of a study, primarily with respect to the issues, geographic area, and alternatives to be considered. The term is typically used in association with environmental documents prepared under the National Environmental Policy Act.

**Scrub** – A community dominated by pinewoods with a thick understory of oaks and saw palmetto, and which occupies well-drained, nutrient-poor sandy soils.

**Seepage** - Water that escapes control through levees, canals or other holding or conveyance systems.

**Sheet Flow** – Water movement as a broad front with shallow, uniform depth.

**Slough** – A depression associated with swamps and marshlands as part of a bayou, inlet or backwater; contains areas of slightly deeper water and a slow current; can be thought of as the broad, shallow rivers of the Everglades.

**South Florida Ecosystem** – An area consisting of the lands and waters within the boundary of the South Florida Water Management District, including the Everglades, the Florida Keys and the contiguous near-shore coastal waters of South Florida [also shown under Greater Everglades Ecosystem].

**South Florida Water Management Model [SFWMM]** - An integrated surface water groundwater model that simulates the hydrology and associated water management schemes in the majority of South Florida using climatic data from January 1, 1965, through December 31, 1995. The model simulates the major components of the hydrologic cycle and the current and numerous proposed water management control structures and associated operating rules. It also simulates current and proposed water shortage policies for the different subregions in the system.

**Spatial Extent** – Area that is continuous without non-integrating internal barriers or land usage.

**Species Diversity** - The number of different species living in an area. Historically, species diversity is compared between systems or pre-project and post-project condition using diversity indices. A common type of diversity index is a numerical value derived from the number of individuals per taxon (abundance) and the number of taxa present (richness). High species diversity is generally thought to indicate maturity and relatively stable environmental

conditions. Species diversity therefore is based not only on the total number of taxa, but also the evenness by which species are distributed. In the context of Everglades restoration, it is important to understand that distribution and abundance of taxa (or community structure) has functional implications.

**Spillway** - Overflow structure of a dam.

**Stakeholders** – People or organizations having a personal or enterprise interest in the results of a project, who may or may not be involved in completing the actual work on that project.

**Stormwater** – Surface water resulting from rainfall that does not percolate into the ground or evaporate.

**Surficial Aquifer** – An aquifer that is closest to the surface and is unconfined; the water level is typically associated with the groundwater table of an area.

**Swamp** – A generally wet, wooded area where standing water occurs for at least part of the year.

## T

**Threatened species** - Legal status afforded to plant or animal species that are likely to become endangered within the foreseeable future throughout all or a significant portion of their range, as determined by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service or the National Marine Fisheries Service.

**Tributary** - A stream feeding into a larger stream, canal or waterbody.

## W

**Water Conservation Area [WCA]** – Marshland areas that were designed for use as storage to prevent flooding, to irrigate agriculture and recharge well fields and as input for agricultural and urban runoff; the Water Conservation Areas WCA-1, WCA-2A, WCA-2B, WCA-3A and WCA-3B comprise five surface water management basins in the Everglades; bounded by the Everglades Agricultural Area on the north and the Everglades National Park basin on the south, the WCAs are confined by levees and water control structures that regulate the inflows and outflows to each one of them.

**Water Preserve Area [WPA]** – Areas that increase storage and hold more water in the system by controlling seepage from natural areas; capture and store

excess stormwater currently discharged to coastal waters; provide a buffer between the natural and developed areas; preserve and protect wetlands outside the publicly owned Everglades; and provide important transitional land uses between the natural and developed areas.

**Watershed** – A region or area bounded peripherally by a water parting and draining ultimately to a particular watercourse or body of water.

**Wetlands** – Areas that are inundated or saturated by surface water or groundwater at a frequency and duration sufficient to support a prevalence of vegetative or aquatic life that requires saturated or seasonally saturated soil conditions for growth and reproduction.

**Wet Season** – Hydrologically, for south Florida, the months associated with a higher than average incident of rainfall, May through October.

**Wildlife Habitat** – An area that provides a water supply and vegetative habitat for wildlife.

## **Y**

**Yellow Book** – See “Restudy”

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