



16 November 2007

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
701 San Marco Blvd,
Jacksonville, FL 32207

South Florida Water Management District
3300 Gun Club Road
West Palm Beach, FL 33406

Attention: Stu Appelbaum, USACE and Ken Ammon, SFWMD

SUBJECT: RECOVER 2007 SYSTEM STATUS REPORT

SOUTH FLORIDA
WATER
MANAGEMENT
DISTRICT

U.S. ARMY CORPS
OF ENGINEERS

NATIONAL PARK
SERVICE

U.S. FISH AND
WILDLIFE SERVICE

U.S.
ENVIRONMENTAL
PROTECTION
AGENCY

U.S. GEOLOGICAL
SURVEY

NATIONAL
OCEANIC AND
ATMOSPHERIC
ADMINISTRATION

FLORIDA
DEPARTMENT OF
ENVIRONMENTAL
PROTECTION

FLORIDA
DEPARTMENT OF
AGRICULTURAL
AND CONSUMER
SERVICES

FLORIDA FISH AND
WILDLIFE
CONSERVATION
COMMISSION

SEMINOLE TRIBE
OF FLORIDA

MICCOSUKEE
TRIBE OF INDIANS
OF FLORIDA

The REstoration COordination and VERification (RECOVER) Leadership Group (RLG) is pleased to transmit the 2007 System Status Report (SSR). The Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (CERP or Plan) Programmatic Regulations (33 CFR 385) direct RECOVER to provide the U.S. Corps of Engineers and the South Florida Water Management District with periodic technical reports to assess the hydrological, water quality, biological, ecological, water supply and other responses of the South Florida ecosystem to implementation of the CERP. The SSR plays a key role in achieving the goals of the CERP by providing a technical basis for assessing the success of the CERP in restoring the South Florida ecosystem and by providing information needed to identify improvements to the Plan.

The 2007 SSR is the first comprehensive technical assessment of monitoring data developed by the Assessment Team under the RECOVER Monitoring and Assessment Plan (MAP). Because few CERP projects have been implemented at this time, the 2007 SSR provides estimates of pre-CERP conditions for ecosystem indicators monitored by the MAP, in conjunction with data from other sources. Currently, many data sets used in the 2007 SSR are limited to a few years, and these pre-CERP estimates remain uncertain pending completion of needed monitoring. Sustained multi-year monitoring is a prerequisite for establishing sound estimates of pre-CERP conditions and trends.

The role of the MAP and the SSR in the CERP Adaptive Management program is essential. Results of this and future SSRs as well as monitoring are necessary for assessing positive responses to CERP actions and essential for identifying management actions that may be necessary to adjust the CERP to achieve its goal of restoring the Everglades and the south Florida ecosystem.

Sincerely,

RECOVER Leadership Group

Attachment: 2007 System Status Report

cc: Kim Brooks-Hall, USACE
Larry Gerry, SFWMD
Dan Kimball, NPS
Paul Souza, FWS
Terrence "Rock" Salt, DOI
Jim Giattina, US EPA
Barry Rosen, USGS
Jess Weaver, USGS
Peter Ortnier, NOAA
Greg Knecht, FDEP
Ray Scott, FDACS
Mary Ann Poole, FWC
Terry Rice, Miccosukee Tribe
Cherise Maples, Seminole Tribe