

6.0 History of Performance Measure Development

6.1 Development of Evaluation Measures

CERP was developed during the Central and Southern Florida (C&SF Project) Comprehensive Review Study, referred to as the Restudy. During the Restudy, an interagency team was created to evaluate performance of plan alternatives and make performance-based recommendations. To evaluate alternatives, the interagency team was divided into subteams focusing on specific subregions, issues, or planning objectives and constraints. Each subteam developed their own set of performance measures, which were then used for alternative evaluation purposes. Restudy performance measures and evaluation results are documented in Appendix D – Environmental Evaluation Analyses (www.evergladesplan.org/docs/comp_plan_apr99/app_d.pdf) of the final feasibility report for the Restudy (USACE and SFWMD 1999). Some of the performance measures used to evaluate alternatives during the Restudy are still being used and some have been refined as appropriate. Detailed information regarding refinement of Restudy performance measures for use in current evaluations can be found in Appendix D of this document. Additional evaluation measures have been developed based on the same processes used to develop assessment measures, which are discussed below.

6.2 Development of Assessment Measures

Progress towards restoration must be assessed at regular intervals during CERP implementation. CERP-specific conceptual ecological models provided scientific basis for development of a system-wide monitoring design and adaptive assessment process, including performance measures for the natural system.

An initial monitoring design was developed based on CERP-specific conceptual ecological models, and associated ecological premises and hypothesis. These conceptual ecological models include only those stressors and attributes that are expected to be affected by CERP. The monitoring program is summarized in the *CERP Monitoring and Assessment Plan: Part 1, Monitoring and Supporting Research* (RECOVER 2004). This document referred to performance measures, but did not indicate how they would be applied to the assessment process as it was still being developed.

A draft assessment strategy has been developed and published in the *Monitoring and Assessment Plan (MAP), Part 2, 2006 Assessment Strategy for the MAP, Final Draft* (RECOVER 2006). During development of this strategy, CERP-specific conceptual ecological models were revisited and revised. Hypothesis clusters representing causal linkages existing between ecosystem stressors and biological attributes depicted in these conceptual ecological models were developed. These clusters integrate several indicators for which performance measures have been developed or can be developed. Assessments are based not upon providing a status report of individual performance measure targets, but upon testing hypothesis clusters (RECOVER 2007).

6.3 Development of Water Supply and Flood Protection Measures

Maintaining and enhancing the human system of South Florida is one of CERP's goals. Therefore, performance measures were developed to address water supply and flood protection needs of the human populace of South Florida. These measures are based on Florida Statutes, not conceptual ecological models.

6.4 References

RECOVER. 2004. CERP Monitoring and Assessment Plan: Part 1, Monitoring and Supporting Research. Restoration Coordination and Verification Program, c/o United States Army Corps of Engineers, Jacksonville District, Jacksonville, FL, and South Florida Water Management District, West Palm Beach, FL. www.evergladesplan.org/pm/recover/recover_map.aspx

RECOVER. 2006. Monitoring and Assessment Plan (MAP), Part 2, 2006 Assessment Strategy for the MAP, Final Draft. Restoration Coordination and Verification Program, c/o United States Army Corps of Engineers, Jacksonville District, Jacksonville, FL, and South Florida Water Management District, West Palm Beach, FL. December 2006. www.evergladesplan.org/pm/recover/recover_map.aspx

RECOVER. 2007. Draft 2007 System Status Report. Restoration Coordination and Verification Team (RECOVER), U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Jacksonville, FL, and South Florida Water Management District, West Palm Beach, FL. July 2007.

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