

Detailed Status of implementation of the corrective measures

a) Complete East Everglades Expansion Area land acquisition

Land acquisition is 99% complete though 6 of the largest parcels remain in private ownership, totaling 300 hectares. Funds for acquisition remain in the National Park Service (NPS) budget. A NPS decision on the pathway for acquisition of 5 of the 6 parcels is expected in 2013. The NPS is preparing an Environmental Impact Statement for acquisition of the sixth and largest parcel. Estimated completion date is spring 2014.

b) Complete flood mitigation features in the 8.5 Square Mile Area

Construction of the flood mitigation features for the 8.5 Square Mile Area was completed in 2009. Monitoring data indicated that additional work was needed to achieve flood protection goals. A “connector canal” modification was designed in 2012 and construction is expected to be completed in 2013. Completion of this project will remove one of the main barriers to increasing water levels in the L29 canal.

c) Construct water conveyance structures on the L-67A, L-67C, and L-29 canals and levees, Tamiami Trail bridging and roadway modifications

The Decompartmentalization and Sheetflow Enhancement Project (Decomp) physical model along the L-67 levees and canals is under construction. Construction components are expected to be completed in early 2013, and data will be collected during 2013 and 2014. The test is scheduled to conclude in 2014. Phase I of the Decomp project is incorporated into the Central Everglades Planning Project CEPP, of which. The schedule for completion of conceptual planning for CEPP is end 2013. The CEPP project then moves forward to Congress for authorization and funding. Timeline for completion of this project is less than years from now. The CEPP plan to move water from WCA3 to NESRS is needed in the same timeframe as required by the Tamiami Trail Next Steps project.

The 2008 Tamiami Trail 1-mile bridge and limited road-raising project will provide modest flow increases into NESRS, and is now scheduled for completion in spring 2014. A NPS project to design and construct 2.6 miles of additional bridging is underway of October 2012. Planning and final design is expected to be completed by June 2014 and, depending on the availability of funding, a design and build contract should be awarded by the end of 2014, with construction expected to be completed by 2018.

d) Complete C-111 land exchange between the South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) and the NPS which is required to construct the C-111 detention areas.

The land exchange is complete and no additional real estate is required for completion of the C-111 detention area projects

e) Complete the Water Control Plan (CSOP) for the Modified Water Deliveries (WMD) and C-111 South Date Projects

Everglades Restoration Transition Plan operations have been implemented. A water operations field test is being designed and agreed upon between the US government and the State of Florida that should address water quality concerns associated with increases in flow to the Northeast Shark River Slough (NESRS). The field test is expected in early 2013 and is scheduled to last for 2 years. The CSOP and the COP plans have been eliminated from the MWD project, and future water control plans will be developed at the conclusion of the field test. Changes to water operations are likely to move forward very slowly and in small increments. Substantial change will occur only when raising and bridging the Tamiami

Trail is complete as envisioned in the Central Everglades Planning Project (CEPP: a new element of the CERP) and the Tamiami Trail Next Steps project. Timeline for completion of these projects is >10 years from now.

f) Complete the construction of C-111 detention area features from the 8.5 Square Mile Area south to the area known as the Frog Pond.

Operation of the C-111 southern detention areas and their effects on park ecology is being assessed. Construction of the C-111 northern detention is still delayed, scheduled for completion in 2017. The water operations field test described in 1B should address water quality concerns associated with increases in flow to NESRS. This test is expected in early 2013, and will last for 2 years. Construction of the rock-mining shallow seepage barrier pilot (2 miles) was completed in spring 2012. The feature is being monitored for effectiveness, and depending on results, may lead to an additional 3-5 miles of shallow seepage barrier in the near future. Additional seepage management to restore water levels in NESRS while maintaining flood protection is envisioned in the CEPP and would follow the schedule of design and implementation of that project.

g) Implement upstream water quality source controls or Best Management Practice and construct man-made wetlands or STAs to achieve the long-term TP limits for water flowing into Shark River Slough, and the Taylor Slough/Coastal Basins.

In June 2012, the State of Florida and the US Environmental Protection Agency reached a consensus on additional remedies needed for improving water quality in America's Everglades. They also agreed on a Water Quality-Based Effluent Limit for STA discharges, to be enforced by permits, that, if achieved, will ensure that park waters meet the 10 ppb target. The South Florida Water Management District will complete six projects that will create more than 2,630 ha of new STAs and 110,000 acre-feet of additional water storage through construction of Flow Equalization Basins (FEBs). These FEBs area upstream water storage features intended to provide a more steady flow of water to the STAs downstream, helping to maintain desired water levels and flows needed to achieve optimal water quality treatment performance. It is possible that the FEBs also will have some TP removal ability within their footprints. The component of these remedies that affects park water quality most directly is scheduled to be constructed by 2016. All of the proposed remedies are scheduled to be completed by 2025. In order CEPP to be implemented, an additional FEB upstream of the park is needed to ensure that additional future inflows to the park meet the water quality targets.

h) Complete construction of the C-111 Detention Area features from the 8.5 Square Mile Area to the Frog Pond and implement CSOP operations

The C-111 North Detention area is still not complete and scheduled for completion in 2017. The CSOP and the COP plans have been eliminated from the MWD project, and future water control plans will be developed at the conclusion of the water operations field test described in 1B. Changes to water operations are likely to move forward very slowly and in small increments, with substantial change occurring only when raising and bridging the Tamiami Trail is complete as envisioned in the CEPP and Tamiami Trail Next Steps projects. Rainfall based pumping operations will be encourages in the water control plan for the park.

i) Complete the C-111N Spreader Canal and revised water management operations to include rainfall-driven operations

Phase 1 Western Project of the C-111 Spreader Canal project was completed in spring of 2012 and began operating in June 2012. The effect of this project on adjacent park wetlands and on Florida Bay is being monitored and its effects will be evaluated after 3 years of monitoring (2015). Initial signals are positive. Rainfall-driven operational controls have not yet been implemented, but will be incorporated into future water control plans. The remaining phases of the C-111 Spreader Canal project are not currently scheduled.

j) Strengthen the cooperation among all partners involved in the restoration projects through adoption of a common vision which includes conservation of the Outstanding Universal Value of the property as a consistent high priority. This common vision should be integrated in the General Management Plan expected in spring 2011

The State Party indicates that the preferred alternative scenario contained in the Draft General Management Plan includes a number of actions that would add value to the corrective measures underway to restore the park to the Desired State of Conservation. For example, a park Advisory Committee is to be created, and this committee would maintain important links between park managers, representatives of other resource agencies, and the local public. Strengthening of links in communication is important to all phases and levels of management decision-making, by allowing park managers to better perceive the interests and desires of stakeholders, and by allowing stakeholders to better perceive and participate in accomplishing the long-term mission and restoring desired conditions for park resources and visitors. The presence of an Advisory Committee should assist in streamlining planning and decision processes not only for projects inside the park, but also for the ecosystem restoration projects that collectively make up the corrective measures.

k) Ensure the importance of an entire catchment scale approach to land and water planning and management in South Florida is fully recognized across all relevant agencies and stakeholders (e.g., through cross-compliance) and that decisions far upstream do not further impact the conservation of the property. The catchment scale approach should be reflected in and implemented through the General Management Plan expected in Spring 2011

The General Management Plan is still being finalized and is now expected in 2014. The intent of the management plan is to manage park lands, visitor services, and visitor activities in such a way that the desired conditions for the property resources and visitor experiences are attained and maintained. A suite of management alternatives is presented in the plan for consideration. The draft General Management Plan has undergone an extensive, multi-year process of public review and comment. The current revision is expected to lead to completion of the Final plan in 2014.

l) Address the delays in the implementation of the Modified Water Deliveries (MWD), C-111 and Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (CERP) projects, and related water quality initiatives which will result in continued degradation of the property and likely reduce the resilience of the Everglades ecosystem in the face of climate change

The CSOP and the COP plans have been eliminated from the MWD project, and future water control plans will be developed at the conclusion of the field test. Changes to water operations are likely to move forward very slowly and in small increments. Substantial change will occur only when raising and bridging the Tamiami Trail is complete as envisioned in the Central Everglades Planning Project (CEPP: a new element of the CERP) and the Tamiami Trail Next Steps project. Timeline for completion of these projects is >10 years from now.

m) Ensure progress on the further modifications on the Tamiami Trail to include extending the bridging to a further 5.5 miles together with additional road raising and other associated

infrastructure changes to reduce groundwater seepage losses from the property whilst also addressing the concerns of other stakeholders

The 2008 Tamiami Trail 1-mile bridge and limited road-raising project will provide modest flow increases into NESRS, and is now scheduled for completion in spring 2014. A NPS project to design and construct 2.6 miles of additional bridging is underway of October 2012. Planning and final design is expected to be completed by June 2014 and, depending on the availability of funding, a design and build contract should be awarded by the end of 2014, with construction expected to be completed by 2018.

n) Resolve uncertainties upstream of the property arising from the legal actions linked in particular to water quality

Progress on this corrective measure is provided under (g).