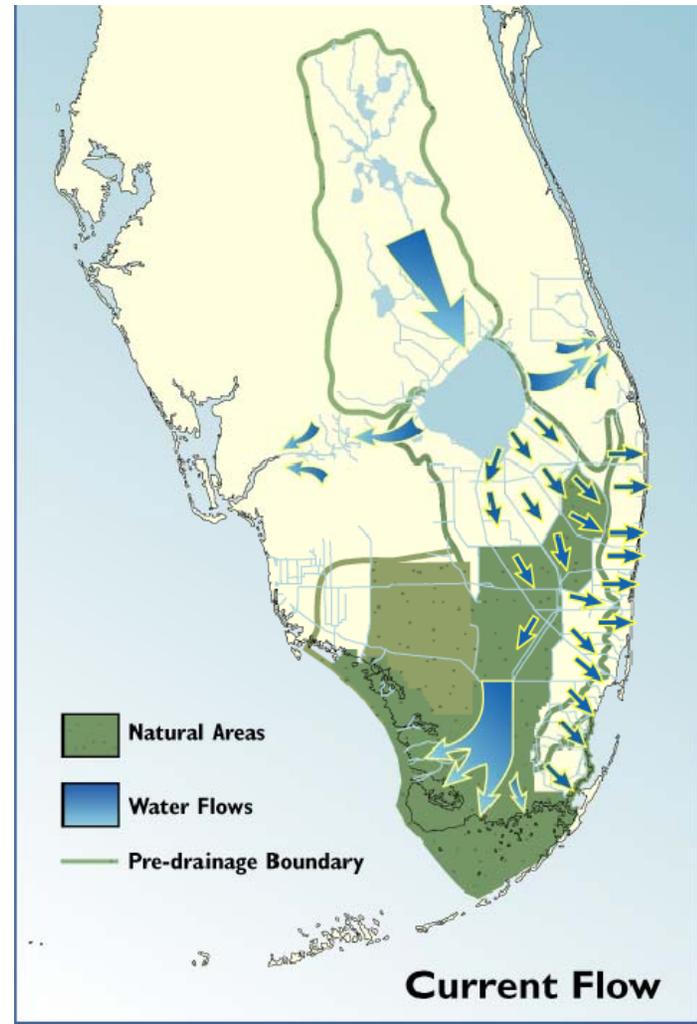
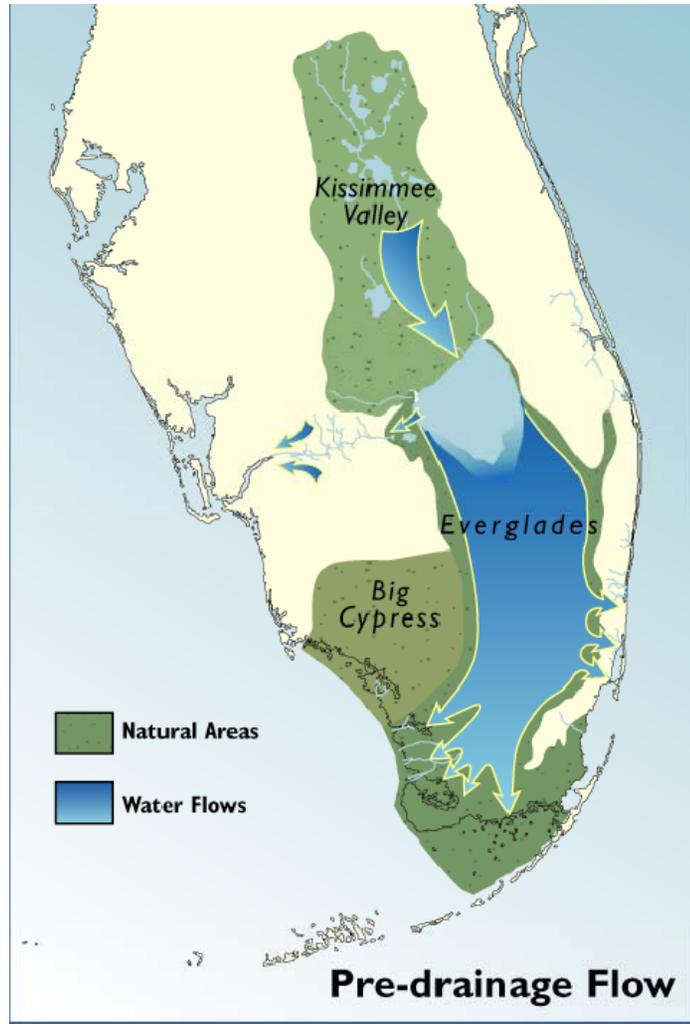




Dispersed Water Management & Treatment NE Interagency Team Meeting

Benita Whalen, Deputy Director, Environmental Resource Regulation
Sarah Lynch, Director, Agriculture, World Wildlife Fund
Len Shabman, Co-Director, FL Ranchlands Environmental Services Project

Challenge: Everglades Yesterday and Today



Dispersed Water Management & Treatment

Definition

Shallow water distributed across parcel landscapes using relatively simple structures



Approaches with Landowners



- Payment for Services
- Easements
- Cost-share

Florida Ranchlands Environmental Services Project (FRESP) Partners



Participating Florida



NRCS Natural Resources Conservation Service



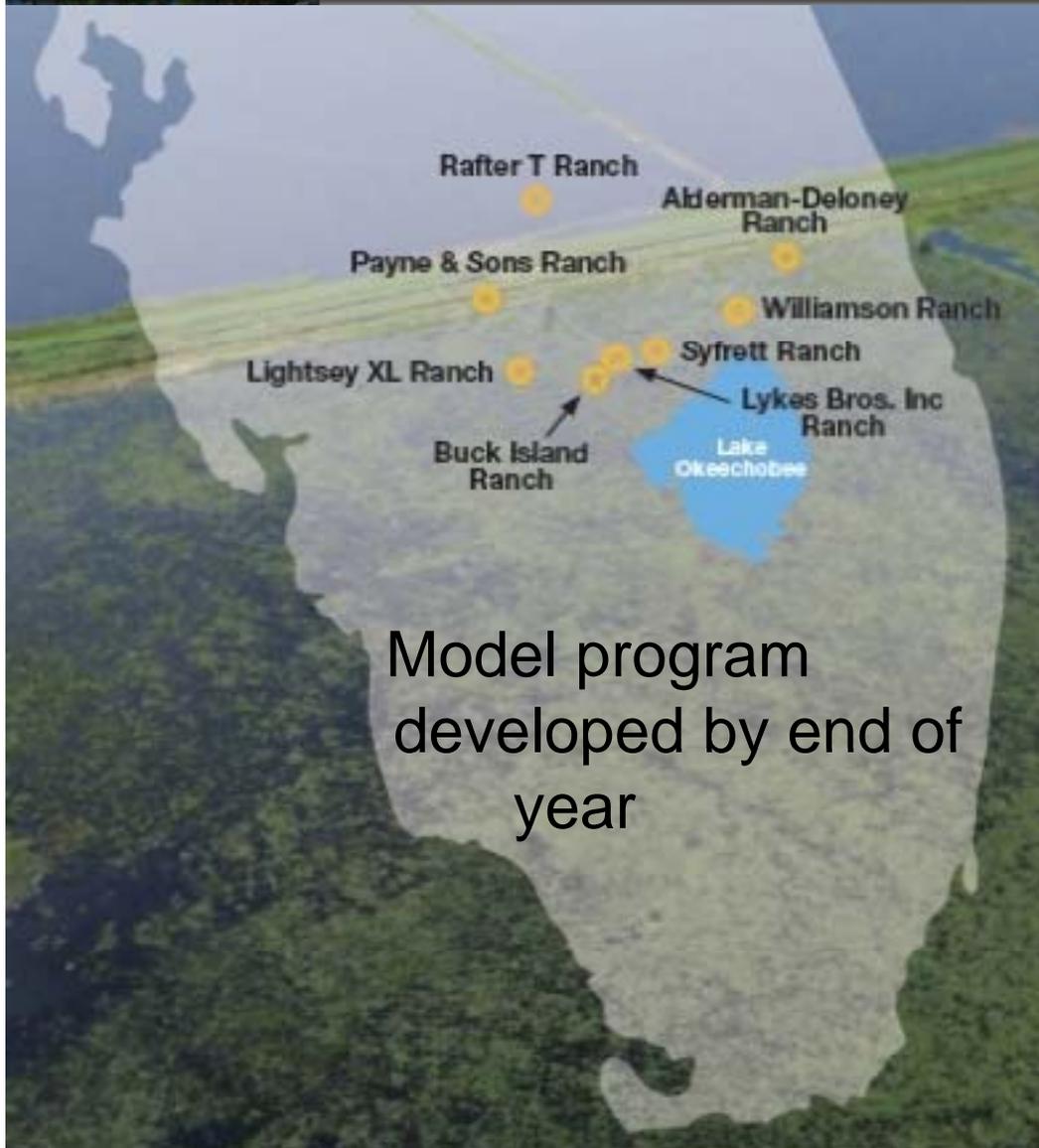
FRESP Vision: Payment for Environmental Services Program



Key Program Concepts:

- Working ranch landscapes
- Modification to existing water management structures and strategies
- Fixed term contracts
- Documented services
- Above and beyond regulatory requirements
- Profit center for ranches

FRESP Update



Model program
developed by end of
year

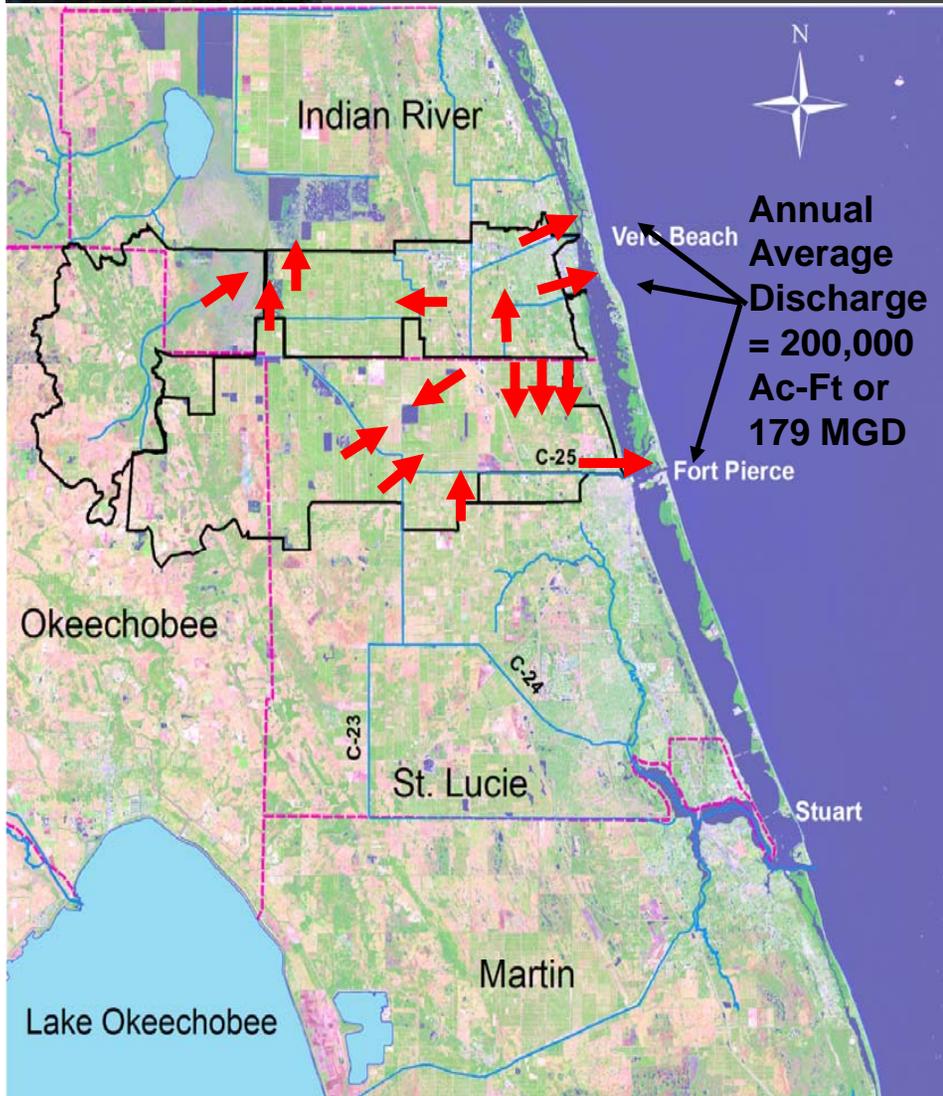
- Governing Board and Water Resources Advisory Commission support for FRESP led Payment for Environmental Services design
- Outstanding landowner and buyer issues:
 - Service payment approach
 - Above and beyond baseline
 - Wetland expansion
 - Threatened and endangered species

Dispersed Water Management & Treatment FRESP Lessoned Learned



- **Commodity produced on ranch is dispersed water management**
 - Water retention/detention for Lake Okeechobee and phosphorus reduction
 - Buying the option to retain and detain water
 - Rancher active management
- **Characteristics of water management services**
 - Service is not storage or STAs, but complements public regional storage and STAs
 - Immediacy, flexibility, reversibility and phasing
 - Retaining water also results in native habitat protection and enhancement
 - Paying ranchers maintains tax rolls & rural employment and sustains communities

St. Lucie and Indian River Counties Water Resource Study



Objective: Capture excess water for water supply

- Preferred Alternative: C-23, 24, 25 Central Reservoir Plan
- Ag landowners suggestion to provide interim water services for compensation:
 - Water conservation (saving stormwater lost to tide)
 - WQ load reduction to the Indian River Lagoon
- Water farming (dispersed water management)
 - Not long-term water supply
 - Achieves some interim conservation benefits
- Resource area meeting

C-25/Water Farming Approach Recommendation



- Dovetail C-25 water farming and other similar project requests into the Payment for Environmental Services model under the Dispersed Water Management and Treatment for equitable evaluation and selection
 - FRESP efforts have focused on pastures (low-intensity agriculture)
 - Need to investigate potential issues associated with more intensive agriculture
 - Using more intensively farmed lands and storing water above the soil surface, may require environmental assessments
- Update the evaluation of public lands for the potential of reducing watershed discharges

Market-Like Approach to Determining Payment Structure



- **Step 1:** Buyer announces a solicitation
- **Step 2:** Landowner submits expression of interest
- **Step 3:** Pre-Screen by agencies (above & beyond check)
- **Step 4:** Scoping of services
- **Step 5:** Estimation of potential service
- **Step 6:** Landowner submits response to solicitation
- **Step 7:** Evaluation, ranking and selection of proposals
- **Step 8:** Selected and funded water management areas are designed, permitted and implemented
- **Step 9:** Service documentation is provided and verified over the life of the contract
- **Step 10:** End of contract

Dispersed Water Management & Treatment Transition



- Identify a funding source (e.g. state appropriations)
- Continue existing FRESP projects including monitoring and documentation
 - Existing multi-year contracts: \$184,923
 - Monitoring & reporting: \$187,310
 - Extension of two original contracts: \$491,750 (unfunded)

Dispersed Water Management & Treatment Transitional Program Rollout



- Implement a Targeted Dispersed Water Storage & Treatment Solicitation
- Programmatic Support: \$200,000 (unfunded)
 - Outreach
 - Potential project identification
 - Preliminary evaluation
- Solicitation:
 - Example: \$5M year one; \$1M for years 2-10 of 10 year contract
 - Combination of cost-share projects including federal funding and PES project proposals may provide 20,000 – 25,000 acre ft



Questions