

 Audubon | FLORIDA

State of the
Everglades

Fall 2022



Roseate Spoonbill. Photo: Jean Hall



Hurricane Ian has proven to be one of the most devastating storms in Florida's history. In the wake of the damage this storm wrought for communities and families on the Southwest coast and near the Everglades headwaters in Central Florida, we look towards nature's resilience to buffer impacts from future storms. Hurricane Ian brought into clear focus what is at stake for Floridians, and it reminded us that our natural wetlands — including nearly five million acres of the Everglades — are our best defenses from hurricanes and storm surge.

This is why the work of Audubon Florida's Everglades team is so critical — and urgent. We are quickly approaching the finish line for the new Lake Okeechobee regulation schedule which will impact water deliveries throughout the Greater Everglades (pg. 2) and will help us move water quickly during flood events. We are studying indicator species like the Roseate Spoonbill (pg. 4) to give us insight into the impacts of sea level rise and habitat functionality. We are advocating for sound water policy in Southwest Florida (pg. 9) and adaptive management in the Florida Keys (pg. 3).

The Everglades is an ecosystem in constant motion and our advocacy for the region must follow that lead. Thank you for supporting our efforts to build a resilient Everglades that works for birds and people.

Sincerely,
Kelly Cox, Director of
Everglades Policy



Lake Okeechobee System Operating Manual Nearing the Finish Line

After years of research, drafting, and comment, the implementation of the Lake Okeechobee System Operating Manual (LOSOM) is on the horizon. Audubon Florida staff have contributed to the manual and commented on the benefits and potential pitfalls of the new operations plan for Lake Okeechobee, but overall see LOSOM as a positive departure from the previous plan, the Lake Okeechobee Regulation Schedule, which has been in effect since 2008.

Lake Okeechobee is the largest freshwater lake in the southeastern United States, providing habitat for the Everglade Snail Kite, wading birds, and countless other species of plants, fish, reptiles, and amphibians. It is of utmost importance to manage its operations to achieve balanced outcomes for all communities and the lake itself.

LOSOM GOALS

Lake Okeechobee is the liquid heart of the Everglades. The goal of the new plan is to meet the needs of all those that rely on its water, including the environment, while incorporating flexibility and minimizing harm — particularly to the northern estuaries.

Though not yet finalized, the draft schedule emphasizes sending more water to the southern Everglades, reducing discharges to the St. Lucie Estuary, and improving water flow to the Caloosahatchee Estuary.

In line with Audubon's suggestions, LOSOM will allow water managers to respond in real time to changing conditions — including unpredictable weather. The schedule aims to reach equitable outcomes for all, incorporating processes to allow the lake to recover from harmful events when necessary.

The Army Corps of Engineers has been inclusive and transparent during the entire LOSOM process and Audubon has been grateful for the opportunity to provide input at various stages. Overall, Audubon is pleased to see the draft schedule moving forward. We will continue to work with the Corps and other partners to ensure the best possible Lake Okeechobee plan is finalized in the spring, advocating for good stewardship of the lake itself and optimizing its overall health.



The Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary provides critical habitat for wading, sea, and shorebirds. Photo: Alexander Blochel/Audubon Florida

Restoration Blueprint Charts a Path Forward for Keys Ecosystems

The Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary (FKNMS) needs more protection. The critical natural resources within its borders face threats from increased boating, fishing, and diving pressure, as well as from ocean acidification and warming, pollution, and habitat loss from sea level rise and intense storm events.

To address current and future threats, the FKNMS has conducted a review of the Sanctuary’s management plan, zoning plan, and regulations for the first time since 1997. This review, titled the “Restoration Blueprint,” proposes changes to marine zones and certain activities within the Sanctuary to address mounting threats to resources while building the ecological resilience necessary to support environmental health and economic sustainability.

WE NEED A HEALTHY SANCTUARY

Established in 1990, the Sanctuary protects a 3,800 square-mile area of ecologically connected habitats like mangrove forests, seagrass beds, and coral reefs. The Sanctuary supports more than 6,000 species of marine life and is home to the third-largest barrier reef ecosystem as well as the largest documented contiguous seagrass community in the Northern Hemisphere. Sharing borders with Everglades, Biscayne, and Dry Tortugas national parks, as well as four national wildlife refuges, the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary is vital to protecting and restoring vulnerable ecosystems throughout South Florida. It also plays an influential economic role, with approximately 60% of the Florida Keys economy directly tied to marine activities, while contributing \$4.4 billion annually to the state’s economy.

Unfortunately, the Sanctuary has reported that 56,000 acres of seagrass beds have been damaged by boats — nearly double the amount scarred just 20 years ago. Sponge die-offs are on the rise as a result of seagrass death while algal blooms continue to plague Florida Bay and areas of the reef tract. Today, coral cover has declined to just 2% compared to 13% in 1996.

You made your voice heard, too! More than 1,200 Audubon members and supporters made public comment through our action alert, advocating for additional protections in the Restoration Blueprint to protect Reddish Egrets, Magnificent Frigatebirds, White-crowned Pigeons, and so much more.

AUDUBON AND THE SANCTUARY

Audubon Florida has been involved in a formal capacity with FKNMS for more than 20 years through appointed positions on the Sanctuary Advisory Council. Currently, Audubon Florida’s State Research Director, Jerry Lorenz, PhD, is the appointed member in the Conservation and Environment seat, and Kelly Cox, Esq., Director of Everglades Policy, is the appointed member in the South Florida Ecosystem Restoration seat on the Council. Together, Lorenz and Cox also serve on the FKNMS Connectivity Team — a working group established to facilitate multi-agency and stakeholder collaboration related to Everglades restoration, water quality, habitats, and living marine resources.

Through these positions and in collaboration with other stakeholder groups such as the Florida Keys Restoration Partnership, Audubon Florida has been reviewing the Restoration Blueprint components and submitted technical comments on the process.

HOW A NEW BLUEPRINT CAN HELP

Notably, there are several aspects of the proposed marine zoning changes that will better protect wildlife and sensitive habitats. For example, the proposed rule creates an idle speed zone around Channel Key just south of Long Key — an important change for this small island which serves as an essential refuge for numerous bird species, including State-designated Threatened Reddish Egrets.

Florida Bay Spoonbills Struggle with Sea Level Rise During Nesting Season

Birds tell us when climate conditions change too much or too quickly. Scientists at the Everglades Science Center (ESC) have studied and monitored Roseate Spoonbills in Florida Bay since the 1930s, and once again noted their difficulty fledging chicks, this time because of higher-than-usual water levels in the 2021-2022 breeding season.

The Roseate Spoonbill is considered an umbrella species and an indicator of overall Everglades and Florida Bay health. ESC monitors five nesting regions throughout Florida Bay based on the distance to their primary foraging habitat. Every December, the team begins its regular surveys to monitor nesting activity, continuing through May.

“Spoonbills require water depths no greater than 20 cm to forage effectively due to their body size,” explains Alexander Blochel, Senior Biologist at ESC. Though they can forage at 20 cm, he notes that during breeding season they really need levels to **drop to 13 cm or less** so that prey fish become concentrated. Lower water levels create high-density foraging zones, allowing the birds to find enough food to feed their hungry chicks.

During the 2021-22 nesting season, staff surveyed 64 keys in Florida Bay and three nearby mainland Everglades sites. Nests were considered successful if at least one chick reached 21 days of age. The team counted 158 nests throughout the 2021-22 nesting season, but only 54 reached that critical 21-day threshold when the chicks begin to move about on their own. To get a sense of how poor these numbers are, it is important to note that in the previous nine nesting

“Historically, water levels would decrease throughout the Florida Bay estuary from November-April. Our data and additional models have suggested that sea level rise is already affecting Florida Bay, raising overall water levels and leaving historical foraging areas inundated year-round.”
— Jerry Lorenz, PhD, State Research Director at the Everglades Science Center

seasons, total nests ranged from 191 up to 367 nests, and for Roseate Spoonbills to maintain a stable population each nest must fledge at least one chick.

Our Audubon researchers also noted that nesting began very late this year (the end of January), but even that late start was not enough to create the conditions needed to successfully feed their chicks until mid-March. Water levels may have dropped, but they remained low for fewer days, further shortening the nesting season.

While these numbers seem bleak, many spoonbills have moved to different foraging and breeding areas throughout Florida and are doing quite well. For example, Audubon Florida staff monitoring the Richard T. Paul Alafia Bank Bird Sanctuary in the Tampa Bay region, which is leased from and managed in collaboration with the Mosaic Company and Port Tampa Bay, counted nearly 100 Roseate Spoonbill chicks that fledged from approximately 50-75 nests nearby.

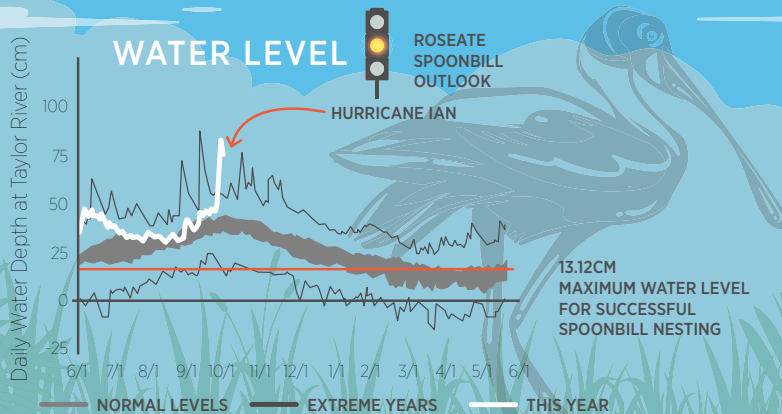
At Audubon, we know the importance of protecting a variety of habitats for Roseate Spoonbills and other vulnerable wading bird species as climate change and development continue to impact their nesting, breeding, and feeding grounds. Using cutting-edge technology and decades of long-term research, we listen closely to what the Roseate Spoonbills are telling us — and use this information to protect them now and into the future.



Roseate Spoonbills tell us if
Everglades restoration is working.



At the southern end of Everglades National Park, a series of sloughs convey freshwater to the Florida Bay estuary. Audubon researchers track these freshwater deliveries (or lack thereof) and their impacts on the ecology of Taylor Slough and the Bay.



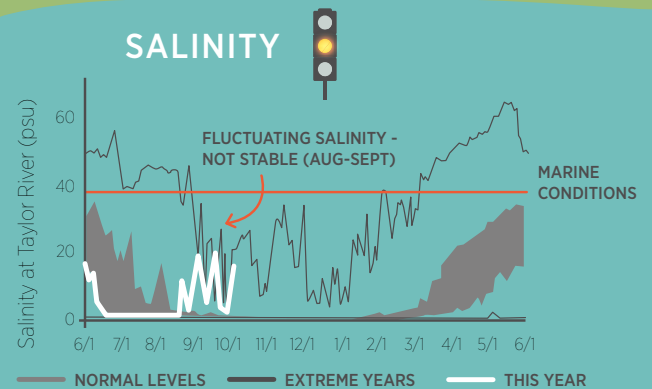
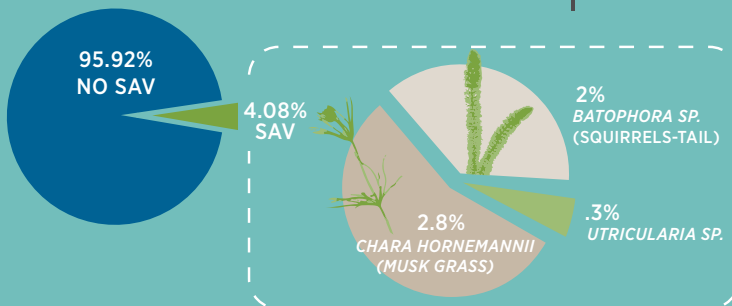
The 2022-23 water year started with record-high water levels in June and has overall experienced higher-than-normal water levels. Hurricane Ian raised the water level in Taylor Slough by almost 24 cm - driven by rain and storm surge. Although water levels are high now, nesting season has not started yet and there is still time for water levels to drop in the slough. Roseate Spoonbills need water levels of around 13 cm while they are rearing young to successfully find enough prey fish to feed their chicks.

Florida Bay used to receive four times more freshwater from the Everglades ecosystem than it does today. As a result, rainfall makes all the difference between a healthy Bay and a hypersaline one, which can kill seagrass and the species that depend on it. Audubon uses our science to accelerate Everglades restoration projects to deliver much needed freshwater to Florida Bay.



Taylor Slough

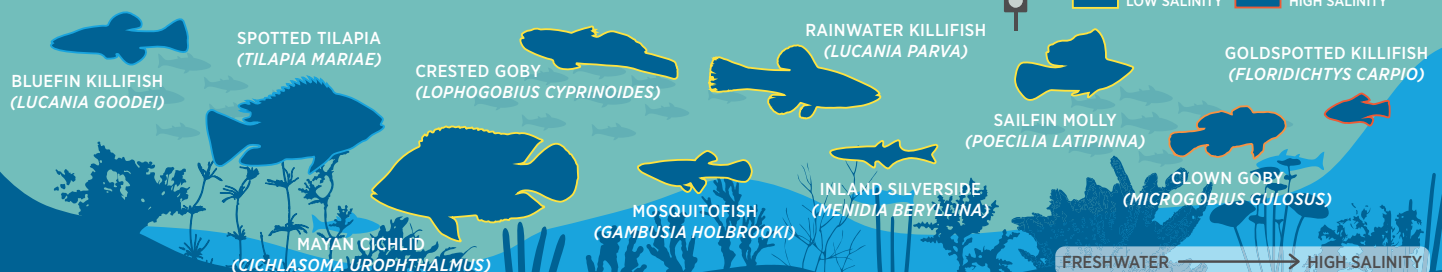
SUBMERGED AQUATIC VEGETATION (SAV) COVERAGE



Historically, Taylor Slough is a freshwater ecosystem. The salinity pulses in July negatively affected freshwater plant and fish communities that are sensitive to salt. This season, however, ESC predicts that all the rain from Hurricane Ian should be enough to turn this system into a freshwater system by November.

The average cover of plants for the first part of the 2022-23 season was 5.3% — slightly higher than last year, but still very low. Too much salt water in July meant that nothing had time to grow.

FISH SPECIES CAPTURED THIS YEAR AT TAYLOR SLOUGH



In total, Audubon's Everglades Science Center sampled 409 fish at Taylor River during June and September. During the start of the 2022-23 seasons sampling events, 1.2% of fish caught were freshwater species, falling well short of the target of having freshwater species make up more than 40% of the catch. A long period of low salinity is vital for freshwater plant species like *Utricularia spp.* and *Rupia maritima* to establish, as well as freshwater fish species like bluefin killifish, which were not caught yet this hydro year. As restoration of the Everglades continues, enough fresh water must flow south and fall as rain to keep salinity levels low, thus lengthening the period for these freshwater plants and fish species to establish, which in turn also benefits wading birds.



Though some branches and vegetation came down during Hurricane Ian, the Sanctuary sustained minimal damage. Photo: Shawn Clem/Audubon Florida

Corkscrew Swamp Sanctuary Does Its Job after Hurricane Ian

Hurricane Ian significantly changed the shape of Southwest Florida's coastline and the lives of many who live near it. Fortunately, Corkscrew Swamp Sanctuary's iconic boardwalk and Blair Visitor Center sustained only minor damage.

Hurricane Ian brought record-breaking rainfall to Florida. Though Corkscrew Swamp Sanctuary remained on the "dry" side of the storm, we received 5.8 inches of rainfall over the course of four days. Additionally, data loggers recorded near-record high water levels immediately following the storm.

This is the beauty and value of wetlands like ours: They protect habitat and local communities from flooding.

When so much rain falls in a short time, floodwaters must go somewhere. Our wetlands not only hold this water during severe weather events, but they also remove nutrients from surface water before it reaches the Gulf, reduce the risk of catastrophic wildfires in our communities, and provide habitat to many of Florida's threatened and thriving wading birds, amphibians, reptiles, and mammals.

As rivers to the north of the Sanctuary finally crested, we watched as our restoration efforts improved conditions for wildlife while enabling this surface water to percolate down and recharge freshwater aquifers below ground.

BY THE NUMBERS

2ND RAINIEST Hurricane Ian arrived at the end of a particularly wet September for Southwest Florida, bringing a lot of rain to an ecosystem that was already saturated. September proved to be the second rainiest in the Sanctuary's 63-year rainfall record.

NEAR-RECORD HIGH WATER LEVELS Rainfall from Hurricane Ian, both in the Sanctuary and upstream in our watershed, led to near-record high water levels at Corkscrew Swamp Sanctuary.

4.18 FEET The Sanctuary's "B Gauge," a staff gauge located along the boardwalk at the North Lettuce Lake, has been collecting water-level data for 67 years and provides the most complete long-term water-level dataset in our watershed. Water levels at the B Gauge have only exceeded the 4-foot mark five times in the Sanctuary's history, each time associated with a major tropical event: 1960 with Hurricane Donna, 1995 with Tropical Storm Jerry (followed by Hurricane Opal the same year), 2008 with Tropical Storm Fay, 2017 with Hurricane Irma, and 2022 with Hurricane Ian — reaching 4.18 feet.

“As storm impacts intensify with climate change, Corkscrew Swamp Sanctuary is proof that healthy, intact wetlands can provide critical flood and water quality benefits sorely needed in Florida. Elected officials, community leaders, and concerned Floridians should take note: The more wetlands we have in the Sunshine State, the safer we will be from the impacts of future storms.”
— Shawn Clem, PhD, Research Director of Audubon Florida's Western Everglades Research Center

Snail Count for Snail Kites

The iconic Everglade Snail Kite, which relies on wetland ecosystems like the Everglades, experienced a major population crash in the early 2000s. After two significant droughts, their numbers plunged from more than 3,000 birds to approximately 700 in just 10 years. The problem? As parts of the Everglades — including Lake Okeechobee and South Florida — went dry, the kites' only food source, the Florida apple snail, dried out too.

At the same time, exotic apple snails from South America, presumably from the aquarium trade, got loose and established themselves in Florida lakes and wetlands. These snails grow much larger than our native snails, are more resilient to dry conditions, and can spread rapidly. Luckily, the kites learned to feed on these invaders, contributing to an unlikely success story where kites have rebounded to approximately 3,000 birds today. Limpkins, another snail specialist, have rebounded as well.

Kite recovery is good news but appears almost completely based on the occurrence of exotic snails. Native snails have not come back, as many expected. Therefore, in conjunction with the Snail Kite Coordinating Committee, Audubon's Everglades Science Coordinator, Paul Gray, PhD, developed a community science project to count snail egg clusters at wetlands across South Florida to determine where snails are and — as importantly — where they are not. Brett Fitzgerald of the Angler Action Foundation donated an app that allows scientists and volunteers to quickly report snail egg clusters.



Native snail eggs above, exotic snail eggs below.

Exotic snail eggs are smaller in size, and more numerous than the larger, native snail eggs.

Exotic snails get as large as tennis balls, and natives are only as large as golf balls. A quarter is shown for reference.



COVID-19 restrictions limited counting opportunities, but to date, more than 450 observations have been reported. So far, volunteers have recorded native snail eggs at about 35% of the survey sites and exotics at 40%. Oddly, both species of snails were seen together only 20% of the time. At the other 80% of the locations, community scientists identified one snail or the other, suggesting that the two species select somewhat different habitats, or that competition between the two species limits habitat use.

At the fall meeting of the Committee, the future of snail egg surveys will be discussed. We are hopeful that this new community science project will scale up with time and will provide an important data set that will inform kite recovery plans and invasive species eradication efforts.



Snail Kite. Photo: Scott Helfrich/Audubon Photography Awards



Audubon and partners meet with staff members of the Florida delegation. Photos: Caitlin Newcamp/Audubon Florida

Audubon Travels to Washington, D.C. to Talk Everglades

Audubon traveled to Washington, D.C. this fall to be a voice for Everglades restoration in South Florida.

In 1996, Congress created an intergovernmental task force to coordinate on a long-term plan to restore the environment of South Florida: the South Florida Ecosystem Restoration Task Force (SFER).

SFER includes members from federal, state, tribal, and local agencies that have an interest in or are impacted by Everglades restoration. The group reviews Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (CERP) projects, shares information and science, and supports public participation.

This fall, the SFER Task Force convened in D.C. to discuss issues affecting South Florida's environment.

Audubon Everglades Policy Associate Caitlin Newcamp attended the event along with Caitlin Wall, Policy Manager for Water Conservation at National Audubon Society. The Audubon team — with partners from the Everglades Foundation, National Parks Conservation Association, and the Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership — made the most out of the D.C. rendezvous by meeting with various members of Congress at Capitol Hill, including representatives from the offices of Sheila Cherfilus-McCormick, Maria Elvira Salazar, and Mario Diaz-Balart. They also met with members of the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure Subcommittee on Water Resources and Environment.



They had productive conversations on Everglades initiatives, the timing of bills such as the Water Resources Development Act, and ideas for state visits in the upcoming year.

Secretary of the Interior Deb Haaland welcomed participants to the SFER meeting with remarks on the impacts of Hurricane Ian and the importance of the Everglades to South Florida resilience. In addition, the Army Corps of Engineers presented the new Integrated Delivery Schedule with timeline updates on all CERP and non-CERP projects (see pg. 11).

Overall, there was great collaboration and interactions between all stakeholders and excitement around the momentum and current progress of Everglades restoration. Caitlin Newcamp thanked the Task Force for their efforts, especially those involved in Hurricane Ian recovery, while highlighting the need for a better strategy on resilience measures in South Florida going forward. Audubon co-hosted a reception for Congressional leaders, staff, agency decision-makers, and partners at the Florida House to commemorate the occasion.

Audubon Uses its Science to Inform Southwest Florida Everglades Restoration and Regional Water Policy

In 2020, Audubon scientists made a startling discovery: water is quickly disappearing from Corkscrew Swamp Sanctuary. Lower water levels harm the Sanctuary's wetlands and all wildlife that depend upon them while increasing the risk to our neighboring communities of catastrophic wildfire.

Using 60 years of hydrologic data, the Audubon research team at Corkscrew Swamp Sanctuary, led by Shawn Clem, PhD, and including contractor Mike Duever, PhD, identified a pattern of severe dry season water loss beginning in the mid 2000s. Recent analyses suggest this water loss is even apparent in the wet season. Overdrainage, like that seen at the Sanctuary, damages wetlands and raises the risk of catastrophic wildfire in places like Golden Gate Estates and the Corkscrew Island neighborhood.

We shared these results with local community members and stakeholders, including regional water managers at the South Florida Water Management District (District) and its Big Cypress Basin (Basin) in 2021. Over the following year, Audubon, District, and Basin scientists pooled their staff and financial resources to hire expert hydrologic modelers to answer the critical question: what is driving this water loss?

Their research revealed two sources of water drainage:

- Overdrainage of the watershed by deep flood control canals south of the Sanctuary.
- To a lesser extent, the combined impacts of shallow aquifer and surface pumping for public water supply and agricultural irrigation.

Armed with this vital information, Audubon and our agency partners have pursued more specific modeling to develop restoration strategies to reverse these impacts.

Researchers have discovered that canals and surface pumping (to a lesser extent) are overdraining wetlands in the Corkscrew watershed.
Photo: Allyson Webb/Audubon Florida

RESTORATION STRATEGIES TO PROTECT WATER

Audubon urged the water management agencies to use water supply planning and permitting policies to better protect water levels and wetlands. While Audubon is grateful for the collaborative help from the District and Basin, we were disappointed to see no mention of the Sanctuary's hydrologic discoveries in the draft update of their Lower West Coast Water Supply Plan. Without that current science, the draft plan erroneously concludes there are no conflicts with providing all the water demanded by urban and agricultural users through 2040, including adequate water for natural ecosystems. We know that to be impossible.

Audubon met with District staff and Big Cypress Basin leadership and provided a tour of Corkscrew Swamp Sanctuary where these concerns were discussed. We continue to recommend that the District address the planning for Lower West Coast water supply needs. We are confident the District will acknowledge their oversight and incorporate Audubon's scientific findings into their planning, even as we continue our common efforts to fix hydrologic threats in the region's watersheds.

It is important to note several additional recommendations we have for the Plan, including:

- » Increasing water conservation through the reduction of irrigated turf grass;
- » Removal of excess nutrients from the purple pipe reuse irrigation water (a significant source of pollution);
- » Buying and restoring large wetland systems like Horsepen Strand in northern Golden Gate Estates to increase natural water storage.

Together, we can work toward a sustainable water future for both nature and people in Southwest Florida, but only if we agree on the problems we face and the importance of restoration and conservation moving forward.



Miami-Dade County Fails to Hold Urban Development Boundary Line

On the edge of Miami-Dade County lies an invisible westward barrier established in the 1980s to prevent industrialization from expanding into natural lands and the Everglades. Known as the Urban Development Boundary (UDB), this line has been under attack since its inception by new development applications looking to encroach upon its borders. In November, Miami-Dade County Commissioners voted to move the line once again to accommodate development interests. Despite ongoing efforts to “hold the line,” Commissioners approved an application to amend the Comprehensive Development Master Plan to make way for the South Dade Logistics and Technology District.

This facility originally proposed to transform nearly 800 acres of agricultural land outside of the UDB into a commercial center. Audubon and Hold the Line Coalition members brought numerous concerns with this proposal to the commissioners, including increased risks of flooding, adverse stormwater impacts to nearby Biscayne Bay, and potential foreclosure of an important Everglades restoration project in the area - the Biscayne Bay and Southeastern Everglades Ecosystem Restoration.

Thanks to an outpouring of public opposition, the applicant reduced the total size of the project down to 383 acres. While the project footprint has been greatly reduced, the concerns surrounding the project remain. Together with Miami-Dade County’s local chapter, Tropical Audubon Society, we submitted several letters outlining our opposition to the project moving forward outside of the UDB. Ultimately, in an 8-4 decision, the Commission voted in favor of the scaled down project and has proposed moving the UDB as a result — this will be the first time this legal boundary has been moved since 2013. One commissioner changed her vote when a 2-1 land swap was promised

as a result of the approval: for every one acre included in the development project, two would be protected. Audubon Florida remains watchful that this swap actually occurs.

While Mayor Levine Cava vetoed the expansion, the commissioners voted to override the veto in mid-November. Audubon will continue to monitor this project and do our best to ensure that Everglades restoration remains viable in this area to both safeguard South Florida’s drinking water supply and protect Biscayne Bay from undue harm.

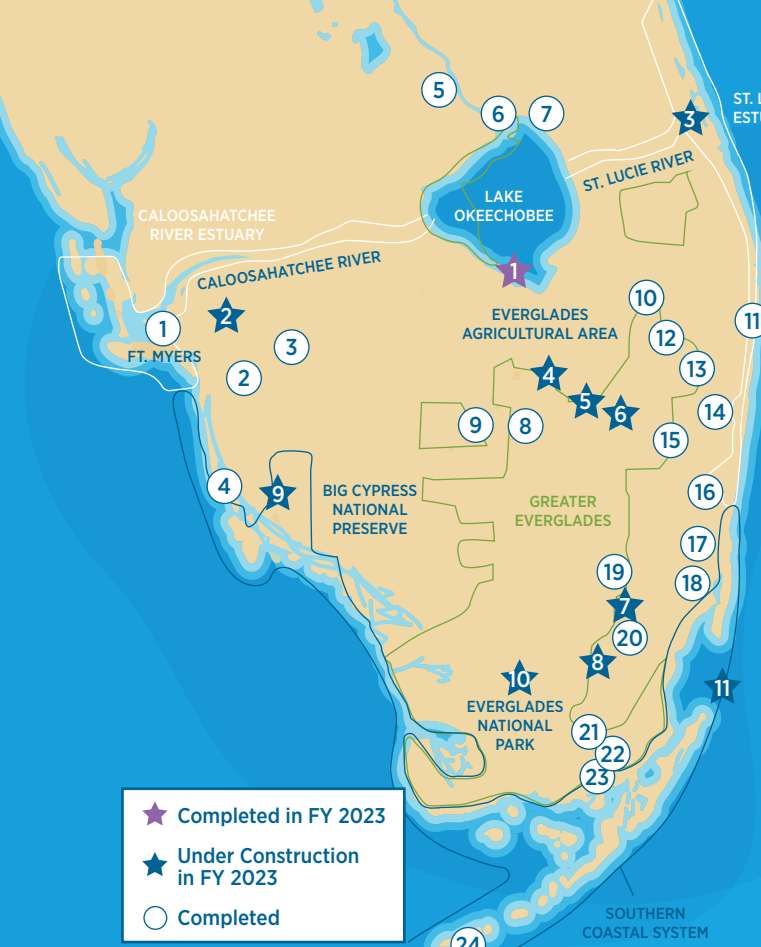
Audubon is disappointed that Miami-Dade Commissioners Sosa, Diaz, Regalado, Monestime, McGhee, Hardemon, Souto, and Gilbert voted to overturn the Mayor’s veto, paving the way for industrial sprawl that will hamstring Everglades Restoration. This is not just a local issue, but a shortsighted decision that will cause lasting harm to resources of statewide significance. Miami’s health, quality of life, and economy depend upon a healthy Everglades and Biscayne Bay. Snowy Egrets. Photo: Robert Blanchard/Audubon Photography Awards



2022 EVERGLADES RESTORATION: A SNAPSHOT OF COMPREHENSIVE EVERGLADES RESTORATION PLAN PROJECTS AND FUNDING

Everglades Restoration is the largest ecosystem restoration in the world, spanning decades, and to keep on track, it's important to measure progress, celebrate successes, and ensure we are meeting and beating deadlines — in funding and implementation. As this year comes to a close, here's an accounting of restoration progress-to-date on both fronts. 2022 has been an amazing year!

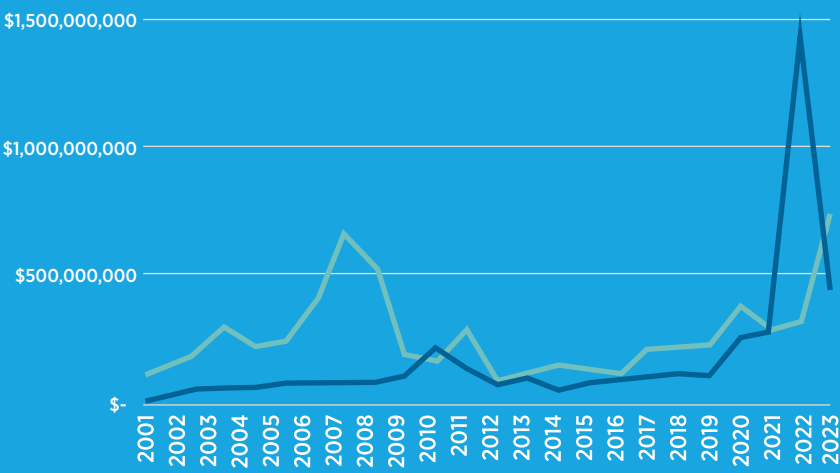
In Fall of 2022, the Army Corps of Engineers released the updated Integrated Delivery Schedule (IDS) for Everglades restoration projects. Of the restoration elements in the IDS, 25 were completed before 2023. In 2022, one more project was completed. In 2023, one project is slated for completion and construction is underway on 10 projects.



★ Completed in FY 2023
★ Under Construction in FY 2023
○ Completed

- 1 Herbert Hoover Dike
- 2 Caloosahatchee River (C-43) West Basin Storage, 30% complete
- 3 Indian River Lagoon South, 30% complete
- 4 Restoration Strategies, 89% complete
- 5 Everglades Agricultural Area
- 6 CEPP North
- 7 CEPP South
- 8 CEPP New Water
- 9 Picayune Strand Restoration Project, 91% complete
- 10 Tamiami Trail Next Steps, 68% complete
- 11 Biscayne Bay Coastal Wetlands Phase 1, 50% complete

- 12 Acme Basin B
- 13 Protect and Enhance Existing Wetlands Systems along Lox (Strazzulla Tract)
- 14 Winsberg Farms Wetlands Restoration
- 15 Site 1 Impoundment with ASR
- 16 Melaleuca Eradication and Other Exotic Plants in Davie
- 17 Lower East Coast Water Conservation
- 18 Change Coastal Wellfield Operations
- 19 Central Lakebelt Storage Area
- 20 C-4 Structures
- 21 Modified Water Deliveries to Everglades National Park
- 22 C-111 South Dade
- 23 C-111 Spreader Canal
- 24 Florida Keys Tidal Restoration



Funding levels from both the State of Florida and the federal government for projects within the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Program.*

■ State ■ Federal

*Numbers were derived from the Cross-Cut Budget which is a document produced for the South Florida Ecosystem Restoration Task Force by the U.S. Department of the Interior's Office of Everglades Restoration Initiatives.



Little Blue Heron. Photo: Rosemary Gillan/
Audubon Photography Awards

*Thank
You!*

BECOME A CLIMATE ADVOCATE

To request a training webinar for your conservation group or chapter, email fl.conservation@audubon.org

DONATE

Audubon's efforts depend on you. Learn more about giving by contacting Katie Swann at katie.swann@audubon.org

LEARN

Explore everglades conservation and our efforts: fl.audubon.org/conservation/everglades

 @AudubonFlorida

 @AudubonFL

 @Audubon_FL

FL.Audubon.org

 **Audubon** | FLORIDA

4500 Biscayne Boulevard, Suite 350, Miami, Florida 33137