

THE CENTRAL & SOUTHERN FLORIDA PROJECT (C&SF) MODIFIED WATER DELIVERIES TO EVERGLADES NATIONAL PARK AN INCREMENTAL APPROACH TO RESTORATION

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INTRODUCTION

This poster provides an account of the journey and lessons learned from 2015 to 2017 to implement incrementally, a combined operating system for the southern portion of the multi-purpose Central & Southern Florida water management system. As increments of system features are built and water management plans are adjusted, incremental field tests are conducted to ensure flood risk management and species management remain intact.

Background: The Central and Southern Florida (C&SF) Project was authorized to function as a multi-purpose water management system. The Congressionally-authorized purposes of the C&SF Project include flood control, agricultural irrigation, municipal and industrial water supply, preservation of fish and wildlife, water supply to Everglades National Park (ENP), preservation of ENP, prevention of saltwater intrusion, drainage and water control, groundwater recharge, recreation, and navigation.

To improve hydrologic conditions in ENP, the southern portion of the C&SF Project was subsequently altered through the authorization of two projects: 1) Modified Water Deliveries (MWD) Project designed to provide a system of water deliveries to ENP across the full width of the historic Shark River Slough flow-way, and 2) C-111 South Dade Project designed to control seepage out of ENP and reduce damaging freshwater discharges to Manatee Bay/Barnes Sound while maintaining flood protection to agricultural lands east of C-111 Canal.

The **MWD Increment 1 Field Test** is the first increment in a series of sequential efforts that will result in a comprehensive integrated water control plan, referred to as the Combined Operating Plan (COP), for the operation of the water management infrastructure associated with the MWD and C-111 South Dade Projects. This incremental approach to the development of COP will 1) allow interim benefits towards restoration of the natural systems, 2) reduce uncertainty of operating the components of the MWD and C-111 South Dade Projects, and 3) provide information to complete COP efficiently. The increments include conducting field tests for existing structures, developing operating criteria for existing and planned structures, and ultimately updating water management operations for this area of the C&SF Project.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) implemented the MWD Increment 1 Field Test in October 2015. Monitoring data, as well as an intervening 2016 Temporary Emergency Deviation, indicated that additional modifications to operations were necessary to meet the multiple C&SF Project purposes.

INCREMENTAL RESTORATION IN THE SOUTHERN EVERGLADES

