Biogeochemical Factors Influencing Phosphorus Retention in the Everglades Stormwater Treatment Areas

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# **Overview of the STAs**

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STA	First Year of Operation	Treatment Area (Acres)	Lake Okeechobee
1 E	2004	5,132	East Beach Water Control District EBP53
1 W	Eastern and Western FW: 1994; Northern FW: 2000	6,670	715 Farms South Florida Consorvancy District South Shore Drainage District
2	Cells 1-3: 2000; Cell 4: 2007	Cells 1-3 (6,338) + Cell 4 (1,902) =8,240	G138 SFCD56/SEDNIC S-2 ESP52 Ocean Canbi G341 SEAW L-1 East STA1E
3/4	2004	16,543	S S-3 Everglades Agricultural Area
5	Northern & Central FW:1999; Southern FW: not yet operational	Northern & Central FW:4110; Southern: 1,985	S-8 Compartment S-7 Compartment S-5 Water Conservation Area No. 1 (Arthur R. Marshall Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge)
6	Section 1: 1998; Section 2: 2007	Sect. 1: 870; Sect. 2: 1,387	STA 3 4 Supply Card
44,937 acres			AREA AREA STA SIO

# **Historical STA Performance**

**Everglades STA Phosphorus Load Reduction** 



etymol.gov

## STA Actual Performance vs. Model Prediction



## EAA STA Performance Compared with Other Treatment Wetlands



## Phosphorus Cycling in EAV and SAV Treatment cells





# Factors Influencing Abiotic Phosphorus Retention

- pH
- Redox potential
- Calcium, iron, and aluminum concentration
- Organic matter content
- Phosphorus loading
- Soil P content



## **Hydraulic and Nutrient Loading**



# Effects of STA Inflow Concentration



## Effects of Hydraulic and Nutrient Loading, STA-1W



### Changes in Surface Water Phosphorus Fractions (% of Total P Mass)







\*Period of record total retention for selected cells in STA-1W, 2, and 5

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## Total Phosphorus Retained in STA-1W Floc and Accrued Soil

- After 10 years of operation: 162 mt TP (68% of TP retained)
- After approx. <2 yrs of operation, Cell 5B: 13 mt (14% of TP load into the cell)
- Soil (0-10 cm): 215 mt (64% of TP retained)
- In 2007, 370,000 cu yds of accrued soil with approximately 19 mt of TP removed



## Soil TP and Organic Matter Content STA-1W, 12 Yrs of Operation



## Soil TP and Organic Matter Content STA-1 East, 2 Yrs. of Operation



# Phosphorus Removal via Vegetation Uptake



Intro Cont

 Type of vegetation community Emergent vegetation Submerged aquatic vegetation Periphyton Vegetation condition and sustainability •Water depth Adverse weather condition such as drought and storms

# **Typha Biomass, STA-1W Cell 1**

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# *Typha* Tissue Phosphorus Content, STA-1W Cell 1

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# *Typha* Tissue Nitrogen Content, STA-1W Cell 1





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# **Summary**

- Over 45,000 acres of treatment
- Approximately 1 thousand metric tons of phosphorus have been removed
- Except for STA-5, actual performance generally exceeds model prediction
- STA performance is influenced by various factors including:
  - Inflow concentration
  - Hydraulic and TP loading
  - Soil biogeochemical condition
  - Vegetation type and condition
- STAs are managed wetlands, i.e. have to be continuously monitored and strategically managed to optimize performance and ensure sustainability.



