



Sample Dedicated Session Proposal

Title:

A Historic Assessment of Lake Okeechobee and Its Function in the Greater Everglades Ecosystem

Summary:

The purpose this session is to provide an overview of the historic functionality of Lake Okeechobee in the context of current and future needs for Everglades restoration. The overall approach of the session is to move in a linear direction that extends from the pre-drainage conditions of the lake and adjacent watershed to a regional discussion of the Greater Everglades ecosystem and future perspectives for restoration and research opportunities.

Description:

The session will focus on a historic assessment of the lake, including presentations of research results from various agencies and organizations on the pre-drainage function of the lake. Presenters will address topics related to changes in physical and ecological conditions as a result of natural events (hurricanes, droughts) and anthropogenic actions (drainage, canals, levees, and water regulation operational rules), as well as the regional hydrology of the area. The session will then shift the focus to the restoration area in a regional context. Presentations will focus on discussing restoration objectives for the watershed considering historic conditions. The session will provide a synthesis of how this historic perspective connects to the ecology of the area and its implications for restoring the lake's functionality and historic connectivity. Other topics to be discussed include potential wetland restoration, and perspectives on other water storage options in the watershed, in the context of the historic changes in land use, water management, and other factors.

Intended Audience:

This session is extremely timely, given the present conditions of Lake Okeechobee and the continuation of the regional drought in South/Central Florida. We intend to offer a historic perspective to managers and researchers as decisions are being made on water management actions to address current conditions and future scenarios, in the context of Everglades Restoration. The session will also be of interest to researchers working in various aspects of the regional history, and to stakeholders and land managers. Participants will benefit not only from the information provided by the speakers, and the many different perspectives on the Lake, but also by the exchange of ideas between scientists and managers, during the panel discussion and the potential recommendations about how to provide new directions for research and what are the management needs.

5th National Conference on Ecosystem Restoration (NCER)

July 29 – August 2, 2013 | Greater Chicago, IL / Great Lakes Region | Renaissance Schaumburg Convention Center Hotel

Session Organizer:

Betty J. Grizzle
South Florida Natural Resources Center
Everglades National Park
950 North Krome Avenue
Homestead, FL 33030
305-555-1212 (office)
305-555-1112 (fax)
Betty-Grizzle@enp.gov

Qualification of Organizer:

Dr. B. J. Grizzle has been involved with Everglades restoration programs since 1998, serving on the C&SF Project Comprehensive Review Study (Restudy) and as principal biologist on several restoration projects while with the US Fish and Wildlife Service. She has also served as co-chair of various CERP RECOVER teams, including the Adaptive Assessment and the Interim Goals teams. Her current position as Adjacent Lands Coordinator with the National Park Service provides Dr. Grizzle with a unique opportunity to combine her science background with her legal education in resolving management challenges for south Florida's parks.

List of Potential / Invited Participants to Proposed Dedicated Session (minimum of 5):

Name <i>Proposed Presentation Title</i>	Contact Information
Mark Clark <i>A historical reconstruction of trophic dynamics in Lake Okeechobee and its surrounding wetlands</i>	University of Florida Soil and Water Science Department Gainesville, FL 32611 352-555-1212 ext 555 352-555-1211 (fax) Email: Mark.Clark@uflorida.edu
Robert Fennema <i>The historical importance of Lake Okeechobee during drought periods in south Florida</i>	Durban, Inc. 400 SW 52 Avenue, Suite 300 Maimi, FL 33100 786-555-1212 786-555-1221 (fax) Email: rfennema@durban.com
Rosanna Rivero <i>Potential for improving ecosystem function in Lake Okeechobee through CERP</i>	Everglades Foundation 18001 Old Culter Road, Suite 625 Palmetto Bay, FL 33157 305-555-1212 ext 111 305-555-2121 (fax) Email: rrivero@foundation.org

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Name <i>Proposed Presentation Title</i>	Contact Information
James Vearil <i>Lake Okeechobee as the central key to regional ecological improvement in south Florida</i>	US Army Corps of Engineers 701 San Marco Boulevard Jacksonville, FL 32207 904-555-1212 904-555-1112 (fax) Email: jvearil@army.mil
Christopher McVoy <i>CERP and Lake Okeechobee – Parameters for Regional Restoration Success</i>	South Florida Water Management District 3301 Gun Club Road West Palm Beach, FL 33406 561-555-1212 561-555-1112 (fax) Email: cmcvoy@southfloridawtmgt.gov
John Smith <i>Regional Reservoir Development and Lake Okeechobee – The Need for Operational Integration</i>	Some Consulting, Inc. 2200 West Shore Boulevard Tampa, FL 33607 813-555-1212 813-555-1122 (fax) Email: John.Smith@someconsulting.com

Note: proposed presentation titles may change.