



FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF Environmental Protection

Marjory Stoneman Douglas Building
3900 Commonwealth Boulevard
Tallahassee, FL 32399

Ron DeSantis
Governor

Jeanette Nuñez
Lt. Governor

Shawn Hamilton
Secretary

September 29, 2023

Chris Spencer, Director
Office of Policy and Budget
Executive Office of the Governor
1702 Capitol
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0001

J. Eric Pridgeon, Staff Director
House Appropriations Committee
221 Capitol
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-1300

Tim Sadberry, Staff Director
Senate Committee on Appropriations
201 Capitol
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-1300

Dear Chris Spencer, Eric Pridgon, and Tim Sadberry:

Pursuant to Chapter 216, Florida Statutes, our Long Range Program Plan (LRPP) for the Department of Environmental Protection is submitted in the format prescribed in the budget instructions. The information provided electronically and contained herein is a true and accurate presentation of our mission, goals, objectives and measures for the Fiscal Year 2024-25 through Fiscal Year 2028-29. The internet website address that provides the link to the LRPP located on the Florida Fiscal Portal is <https://floridadep.gov/adm/budget-planning/content/strategic-planning>. This submission has been approved by Shawn Hamilton, Secretary.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Anna DeCerchio".

Digitally signed by Anna DeCerchio
Date: 2023.09.29 16:31:17 -04'00'

Anna DeCerchio, Chief of Staff



Long Range Program Plan

Florida Department of Environmental Protection

Fiscal Years 2024-2025 through 2028-2029



Agency Mission:

The Florida Department of Environmental Protection protects, conserves and manages the state's natural resources and enforces its environmental laws.

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES /
AGENCY SERVICE OUTCOMES AND PERFORMANCE PROJECTION TABLES

GOAL #1 – PROTECT PUBLIC HEALTH AND SAFETY

OBJECTIVE 1A – Environmental Assessment and Restoration Program: Increase the protection, conservation, and restoration of Florida's water resources to meet existing and future public supply and natural system's needs.

OUTCOME: Percent of Florida's freshwater surface waters that meet priority water quality criteria (total nitrogen, total phosphorus, and dissolved oxygen): 1) small lakes; 2) large lakes; 3) streams; and 4) rivers. (See Objectives 2A, 3B)

Small Lakes (total nitrogen / total phosphorus / dissolved oxygen).

Baseline Year: FY 2016-2017	FY 2024-2025	FY 2025-2026	FY 2026-2027	FY 2027-2028	FY 2028-2029
85% / 90% / 90%	85% / 90% / 90%	85% / 90% / 90%	85% / 90% / 90%	85% / 90% / 90%	85% / 90% / 90%

Large Lakes (total nitrogen / total phosphorus / dissolved oxygen).

Baseline Year: FY 2016-2017	FY 2024-2025	FY 2025-2026	FY 2026-2027	FY 2027-2028	FY 2028-2029
85% / 70% / 95%	85% / 70% / 95%	85% / 70% / 95%	85% / 70% / 95%	85% / 70% / 95%	85% / 70% / 95%

Streams (total nitrogen / total phosphorus / dissolved oxygen).

Baseline Year: FY 2016-2017	FY 2024-2025	FY 2025-2026	FY 2026-2027	FY 2027-2028	FY 2028-2029
65% / 75% / 80%	65% / 75% / 80%	65% / 75% / 80%	65% / 75% / 80%	65% / 75% / 80%	65% / 75% / 80%

Rivers (total nitrogen / total phosphorus / dissolved oxygen).

Baseline Year: FY 2016-2017	FY 2024-2025	FY 2025-2026	FY 2026-2027	FY 2027-2028	FY 2028-2029
70% / 82% / 95%	70% / 82% / 95%	70% / 82% / 95%	70% / 82% / 95%	70% / 82% / 95%	70% / 82% / 95%

Projection Methodology and Influencing Factors

Excessive nutrient (nitrogen and phosphorus) levels and impaired biological conditions are the most significant problems affecting surface waters in Florida. Historically, the Department used narrative criteria to determine when a waterbody does not meet water quality standards because of an excessive level of nutrients, which is triggered when nutrient concentrations cause an imbalance of natural populations of flora or fauna or the discharge of nutrients causes violations of other water quality standards. After extensive scientific investigation

and public participation, the Department adopted numeric nutrient criteria (NNC) to supplement and strengthen the narrative criteria. These federally approved NNC represent a more refined approach to identifying nutrient impacts and promoting water quality restoration.

Water quality trends over the last 20 years have shown improvements in nutrients and chlorophyll-*a* in estuaries and streams, with some degradation in lakes and springs. The application of the NNC, over time, will indicate that some waters determined in the past to meet the narrative criteria do not meet NNC, while others that have failed the narrative criteria in the past now meet NNC. This is because the implementation protocols for NNC are sensitive to biological health, not merely water chemistry, and to subtle trends in nutrient impacts. Thus, they provide a more accurate understanding of water quality. Adoption of NNC, and the related adoption of dissolved oxygen criteria in 2013, require the Department to expand how the outcome measure reflecting surface water quality is calculated and reported.

In order to provide an accurate and comprehensive depiction of water quality, the results for total nitrogen, total phosphorus, and dissolved oxygen are being reported individually by resource (waterbody) type. The standards are statewide measures of water quality based on statistically valid sample sizes with calculated levels of confidence. For example, a 94.5% total nitrogen result for small lakes with a confidence interval of $\pm 1.6\%$ indicates that the room for error in the results is limited and if the same analysis were conducted many times the results would be expected to fall within that 3.2% ($\pm 1.6\%$) interval.

OUTCOME: Percent of groundwater quality monitoring network wells that reflect good water quality (no exceedances of ground water quality standards). (See Objectives 2A, 3B)

Baseline Year: FY 2006-2007	FY 2024-2025	FY 2025-2026	FY 2026-2027	FY 2027-2028	FY 2028-2029
85%	85%	85%	85%	85%	85%

Projection Methodology and Influencing Factors

The Department determined the following percentages of groundwater wells met water quality standards during fiscal years 2009-2010 through 2020-2021:

- 2009-2010 – 85%
- 2010-2011 – 82%
- 2011-2012 – 85%
- 2012-2013 – 81.5%
- 2013-2014 – 80%
- 2014-2015 – 81.3% ($\pm 4.55\%$)
- 2015-2016 – 82% ($\pm 4.48\%$)
- 2016-2017 – 80% ($\pm 4.60\%$)
- 2017-2018 – 80% ($\pm 4.60\%$)
- 2018-2019 – 81.6% ($\pm 4.55\%$)
- 2019-2020 – 81.8% ($\pm 4.50\%$)
- 2020-2021 – 83.8% ($\pm 4.28\%$)

For this measure, the determination of whether groundwater wells meet water quality standards is based on statewide sampling for seven common analytes: arsenic, cadmium, chromium, fluoride, lead, nitrate+nitrite and sodium. Of the seven analytes examined, sodium is responsible for far more water wells failing groundwater standards than any other - commonly referred to as saltwater intrusion.

Improvements in groundwater quality, as reflected in this metric, will be difficult to achieve in light of the disproportionate influence of one analyte, sodium. The exceedance rates for analytes other than sodium during these years were either stable or decreasing. These are long-term trends that are unlikely to change rapidly but, with the exception of sodium, reflect generally good groundwater quality overall. This statewide measure is based on a statistically valid sample with a calculated level of confidence. The 83.8% result for Fiscal Year 2020-21 has a confidence interval of $\pm 4.28\%$. This interval indicates that the room for error in the results is limited and if the same analysis were conducted many times the results would be expected to fall within that 8.56% ($\pm 4.28\%$) interval. The result for the reporting year falls within an interval that includes the outcome standard for the current year and future year targets. Given this fact and considering the marginally lower ground water quality over the last several years, there is no basis for projecting improvement over the next five years.

Sodium results drive this measure. Because those results are substantially different from and unrelated to the results for the other analytes (pollutants), they have the effect of skewing water quality results associated with those pollutants. (The Department reports the results for each analyte separately in the water quality report cards on its webpage at <https://floridadep.gov/dear/watershed-monitoring-section/content/interactive-water-quality-report-cards>). The Department reviews these results annually and may in the future propose splitting the measure into two parts, one for sodium and one for the other analytes. The change would allow continued tracking of saltwater intrusion and promote a better understanding of the effect of the other pollutants (arsenic, cadmium, chromium, fluoride, lead, nitrate+nitrite) on groundwater. However, no change is proposed at this time, thus no Validity and Reliability Form is being submitted.

OBJECTIVE 1B – Water Resource Management Program: Increase the protection, conservation, and restoration of Florida’s water resources to meet existing and future public supply and natural system’s needs.

OUTCOME: Percent of public water systems with no significant health-based drinking water quality problems.

Baseline Year: FY 2002	FY 2024-2025	FY 2025-2026	FY 2026-2027	FY 2027-2028	FY 2028-2029
93.5%	98%	98%	98%	98%	98%

Projection Methodology and Influencing Factors

The Department’s Drinking Water Program has been meeting this goal annually for several years and should continue to do so. Federal rules, which the state must adopt, are subject to routine re-evaluation and, when changed, pose a compliance challenge as drinking water systems adjust to new monitoring and reporting requirements. Compliance is based on water quality standards including bacteria and disinfection by-products and is calculated as the number of water quality violations divided by the number of active systems in a given year. The Department has improved system compliance over the last few years and additional improvements will be implemented over time.

OBJECTIVE 1C – Office of Emergency Response: Reduce and control adverse impacts to public health and the environment from releases of hazardous materials and discharges of pollutants.

OUTCOME: Percent of pollutant discharge sites remediated by the responsible party/owner (Remediation by the responsible party/owner is defined as any action or contractual arrangement related to cleanup of a site). (See Objectives 3A, 4A)

Baseline Year: FY 2008-2009	FY 2024-2025	FY 2025-2026	FY 2026-2027	FY 2027-2028	FY 2028-2029
76%	76%	76%	76%	76%	76%

Projection Methodology and Influencing Factors

One of the Department’s goals is to mitigate the impact to the environment in the event that a spill of hazardous materials occurs. This is accomplished by prompt on-site response, cleanup activities, and recovery of the cost of the cleanup and environmental damage from the responsible party. The Department’s Office of Emergency Response implemented the Oil and Hazardous Materials Incident Tracking (OHMIT) system in 2006 to improve records management and statistical reporting capabilities. The ability to record and track activity in real-time through the OHMIT system provides a sophisticated means of analyzing trends and projecting future results.

OBJECTIVE 1D – Waste Management Program: Ensure appropriate and timely cleanup of contamination.

OUTCOME: Percent of contaminated sites with cleanup completed.

Baseline Year: FY 2013-2014 (Projected)	FY 2024-2025	FY 2025-2026	FY 2026-2027	FY 2027-2028	FY 2028-2029
47%	72%	73%	74%	75%	76%

Projection Methodology and Influencing Factors

The projected five-year outcomes for the Waste Management Program listed in the Performance Projection Tables above was developed based on several factors:

- Past experience in implementing the program;
- Changes in federal regulations, state statutes and administrative rules, as well as major regulatory deadlines or milestones to be implemented over the next five years;
- Continuing efforts by the state-funded petroleum restoration program to improve its efficiency and effectiveness and proactively manage a competitive procurement process for site rehabilitation services; and
- The Department’s continued focus on mission-critical activities.

The Department’s priority continues to be to maintain cleanup continuity on as many active cleanup sites as possible and to find new and innovative ways to close sites faster and reduce the site backlog. This can be achieved by eliminating programmatic inefficiencies, effectively using funding for dry-cleaning solvent contaminated site cleanup, competitive procurement for contracted site rehabilitation services in the large state-funded petroleum restoration program and continuing to use the Low-Scored Site Initiative to close sites with a very low threat to human health and the environment.

Increased efforts on non-government funded waste cleanup sites have resulted in a greater number of determinations that there is no viable responsible party for the cleanup, which means that these sites are turned over to the state lead cleanup group. The increase in the number of sites added to the state lead cleanup list results in a decrease in the completion of “other sites” and necessitates the adjustment of the projections for these sites in the table above.

The number of known contaminated sites varies every year as new discoveries are made, or accidental discharges may occur. The amount of time that is needed to complete cleanup activities is generally based on a number of factors such as the size and complexity of the site and the local site geology. As a result, the number of sites identified for cleanup activities can temporarily increase as the rate of site cleanup and closure may not keep pace with the rate of new site discoveries. The Department’s focus on the utilization of Risk Based Corrective Actions is expected to increase the cost-effectiveness of the selected cleanup strategies and ultimately increase site closure rates. Conversely, focusing on the lowest cost approaches, where appropriate, and switching from active cleanup strategies to longer-term natural attenuation approaches will decrease the rate of site closures for a period of time. However, the cumulative effect of these approaches is expected to lead to an overall improvement in the rate of site closures and is reflected in the outcome percentages above.

OBJECTIVE 1E – Air Resources Management Program: Provide an air monitoring network that retrieves quality assured data.

OUTCOME: Percent change in per capita annual emissions of priority pollutants (nitrogen oxides, sulfur dioxide, carbon monoxide, volatile organic compounds), compared to the level five years ago.

Baseline Year: FY 2002-2003	FY 2024-2025	FY 2025-2026	FY 2026-2027	FY 2027-2028	FY 2028-2029
2.5%	(4.9)	(5.0%)	(5.1%)	(5.2%)	(5.3%)

Projection Methodology and Influencing Factors

The above projected outcomes are based on the assumption, supported by permitting actions and new regulations, that annual emissions per capita of the listed pollutants are being reduced despite historical population growth trends in the state.

OBJECTIVE 1F – Air Resource Management Program: Increase the time that monitored population will breathe good quality air.

OUTCOME: Percent of time that population breathes good or moderate quality air.

Baseline Year: FY 2002-2003	FY 2024-2025	FY 2025-2026	FY 2026-2027	FY 2027-2028	FY 2028-2029
99.1%	99.56%	99.57%	99.58%	99.59%	99.60%

Projection Methodology and Influencing Factors

In Objective 1F, “good and moderate quality air” are defined in *Section 40 of the Code of Federal Regulations (Part 58, Appendix G), as part of the Air Quality Index (AQI)*. The “good and moderate” categories of the AQI include pollutant concentration less than the National Ambient Air Quality Standard. "Monitored Population" means population in any county that has one or more air monitors. The time the population breathes good or moderate quality air is determined by reviewing the percentage of days where the AQI was reported as “good or moderate”.

The above projections are based on the assumption, supported by decades of history, that the air quality in Florida is unlikely to change significantly. Ambient monitoring data has shown that even as the state population increases and as the EPA tightens standards, emissions continue to go down, maintaining a high level of good or moderate air quality.

GOAL #2 – RESTORE AND PROTECT THE EVERGLADES

OBJECTIVE 2A – Water Resource Management Program and Environmental Assessment and Restoration Program: Increase the protection, conservation, and restoration of Florida's water resources to meet existing and future public supply and natural system’s needs.

Water Resource Management Program:

OUTCOME: Percent of reclaimed water (reuse) capacity relative to total domestic wastewater capacity; percent of treated domestic wastewater reused for beneficial purposes. (See Objective 3B)

Baseline Year: FY 2013-2014	FY 2024-2025	FY 2025-2026	FY 2026-2027	FY 2027-2028	FY 2028-2029
60% / 45%	65% / 46%	65% / 46%	65% / 46%	65% / 46%	65% / 46%

Projection Methodology and Influencing Factors

Florida’s annual reuse inventory provides a summary of facility listings and types of reuse activities and their capacities and is the basis for reporting this measure. It can be found at: <https://floridadep.gov/water/domestic-wastewater/content/reuse-inventory-database-and-annual-report>. Rule 62-610, F.A.C., requires owners (permittees) of domestic wastewater facilities having permitted capacities of 0.1 million gallons per day and above that provide reclaimed water for reuse to submit annual reports. The data from the annual reports are used to determine reuse capacity. Although the Department has continued to encourage reuse of reclaimed water, the statewide percentages of total reclaimed water capacity and domestic wastewater capacity have stabilized. However, Section 403.086, F.S., requires that ocean outfall facilities provide 60% reuse by December 31, 2025. It is anticipated that this requirement will eventually increase the reclaimed water capacity as well as the total domestic wastewater capacity.

Environmental Assessment and Restoration Program:

OUTCOME: Percent of Florida’s freshwater surface waters that meet priority water quality criteria (total nitrogen, total phosphorus, and dissolved oxygen): 1) small lakes; 2) large lakes; 3) streams; and 4) rivers. (See Objectives 1A, 3B)

Small Lakes (total nitrogen / total phosphorus / dissolved oxygen).

Baseline Year: FY 2016-2017	FY 2024-2025	FY 2025-2026	FY 2026-2027	FY 2027-2028	FY 2028-2029
85% / 90% / 90%	85% / 90% / 90%	85% / 90% / 90%	85% / 90% / 90%	85% / 90% / 90%	85% / 90% / 90%

Large Lakes (total nitrogen / total phosphorus / dissolved oxygen).

Baseline Year: FY 2016-2017	FY 2024-2025	FY 2025-2026	FY 2026-2027	FY 2027-2028	FY 2028-2029
85% / 70% / 95%	85% / 70% / 95%	85% / 70% / 95%	85% / 70% / 95%	85% / 70% / 95%	85% / 70% / 95%

Streams (total nitrogen / total phosphorus / dissolved oxygen).

Baseline Year: FY 2016-2017	FY 2024-2025	FY 2025-2026	FY 2026-2027	FY 2027-2028	FY 2028-2029
65% / 75% / 80%	65% / 75% / 80%	65% / 75% / 80%	65% / 75% / 80%	65% / 75% / 80%	65% / 75% / 80%

Rivers (total nitrogen / total phosphorus / dissolved oxygen).

Baseline Year: FY 2016-2017	FY 2024-2025	FY 2025-2026	FY 2026-2027	FY 2027-2028	FY 2028-2029
70% / 82% / 95%	70% / 82% / 95%	70% / 82% / 95%	70% / 82% / 95%	70% / 82% / 95%	70% / 82% / 95%

OUTCOME: Percent of groundwater quality monitoring network wells that reflect good water quality (no exceedances of water quality standards). (See Objective 1A, 3B)

Baseline Year: FY 2006-2007	FY 2024-2025	FY 2025-2026	FY 2026-2027	FY 2027-2028	FY 2028-2029
85%	85%	85%	85%	85%	85%

OBJECTIVE 2B – Water Policy and Ecosystems Restoration Program: To complete the scheduled restoration strategies milestones, including sufficient collection of discharge data for determining compliance with the Water Quality Based Effluent Limit (WQBEL), by the dates referenced in the Restoration Strategies Regional Water Quality Plan and associated documents.

OUTCOME: This is a pass/fail measure. Percent of scheduled restoration activities completed over the last year as required by the Restoration Strategies Water Quality Plan and associated documents.

Baseline Year: FY 2012-2013	FY 2024-2025	FY 2025-2026	FY 2026-2027	FY 2027-2028	FY 2028-2029
100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

Projection Methodology and Influencing Factors

To address water quality concerns associated with existing flows to the Everglades Protection Area, the South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD), Department and U.S. EPA engaged in technical discussions starting in 2010. The primary objectives were to establish a WQBEL that would achieve compliance with the State of Florida’s numeric phosphorus criterion in the Everglades Protection Area and to identify a suite of additional water quality projects to work in conjunction with the existing Everglades Stormwater Treatment Areas (STAs) to meet the WQBEL.

Based on the collaborative effort described above, a suite of projects has been identified that would achieve the WQBEL. The Restoration Strategies Regional Water Quality Plan describes those resulting projects and the evaluation tools and assumptions that were utilized in the technical evaluation https://www.sfwmd.gov/sites/default/files/documents/rs_waterquality_plan_042712_final.pdf. The projects have been divided into three flow paths (Eastern, Central and Western), which are delineated by the source basins that are tributary to the existing Everglades STAs. The identified projects primarily consist of Flow Equalization Basins, STA expansions, and associated infrastructure and conveyance improvements.

Each project milestone verifies timely progress and implementation of the Restoration Strategies Regional Water Quality Plan, with the ultimate goal (post 2025) of meeting the WQBEL standard for total phosphorus in discharges to the Everglades Protection Area upon collection of sufficient discharge data to assess compliance with both components of the WQBEL for all flow-paths. Additional information on the required activities and schedule can be found on page 5 at the following link: <https://floridadep.gov/eco-pro/eco-pro/documents/efa-consent-order-ogc-file-no-12-1149>

GOAL #3 – PROTECT FLORIDA’S WATER RESOURCES

OBJECTIVE 3A – Office of Emergency Response: Reduce and control adverse impacts to public health and the environment from releases of hazardous materials and discharges of pollutants.

OUTCOME: Percent of pollutant discharge sites remediated by the responsible party/owner (remediation by the responsible party/owner is defined as any action or contractual arrangement related to cleanup of a site). (See Objectives 1C, 4A)

Baseline Year: FY 2008-2009	FY 2024-2025	FY 2025-2026	FY 2026-2027	FY 2027-2028	FY 2028-2029
76%	76%	76%	76%	76%	76%

OBJECTIVE 3B – Environmental Assessment and Restoration Program and Water Resource

Management Program: Increase the protection, conservation, and restoration of Florida's water resources to meet existing and future public supply and natural system's needs.

Environmental Assessment and Restoration Program:

OUTCOME: Percent of Florida’s freshwater surface waters that meet priority water quality criteria (total nitrogen, total phosphorus, and dissolved oxygen): 1) small lakes; 2) large lakes; 3) streams; and 4) rivers. (See Objectives 1A, 2A)

Small Lakes (total nitrogen / total phosphorus / dissolved oxygen).

Baseline Year: FY 2016-2017	FY 2024-2025	FY 2025-2026	FY 2026-2027	FY 2027-2028	FY 2028-2029
85% / 90% / 90%	85% / 90% / 90%	85% / 90% / 90%	85% / 90% / 90%	85% / 90% / 90%	85% / 90% / 90%

Large Lakes (total nitrogen / total phosphorus / dissolved oxygen).

Baseline Year: FY 2016-2017	FY 2024-2025	FY 2025-2026	FY 2026-2027	FY 2027-2028	FY 2028-2029
85% / 70% / 95%	85% / 70% / 95%	85% / 70% / 95%	85% / 70% / 95%	85% / 70% / 95%	85% / 70% / 95%

Streams (total nitrogen / total phosphorus / dissolved oxygen).

Baseline Year: FY 2016-2017	FY 2024-2025	FY 2025-2026	FY 2026-2027	FY 2027-2028	FY 2028-2029
65% / 75% / 80%	65% / 75% / 80%	65% / 75% / 80%	65% / 75% / 80%	65% / 75% / 80%	65% / 75% / 80%

Rivers (total nitrogen / total phosphorus / dissolved oxygen).

Baseline Year: FY 2016-2017	FY 2024-2025	FY 2025-2026	FY 2026-2027	FY 2027-2028	FY 2028-2029
70% / 82% / 95%	70% / 82% / 95%	70% / 82% / 95%	70% / 82% / 95%	70% / 82% / 95%	70% / 82% / 95%

OUTCOME: Percent of groundwater quality monitoring network wells that reflect good water quality (no exceedances of water quality standards). (See Objectives 1A, 2A)

Baseline Year: FY 2006-2007	FY 2024-2025	FY 2025-2026	FY 2026-2027	FY 2027-2028	FY 2028-2029
85%	85%	85%	85%	85%	85%

Water Resource Management Program:

OUTCOME: Percent of reclaimed water (reuse) capacity relative to total domestic wastewater capacity; percent of treated domestic wastewater reused for beneficial purposes. (See Objective 2A)

Baseline Year: FY 2013-2014	FY 2024-2025	FY 2025-2026	FY 2026-2027	FY 2027-2028	FY 2028-2029
60% / 45%	65% / 46%	65% / 46%	65% / 46%	65% / 46%	65% / 46%

GOAL #4 – PROTECT FLORIDA’S NATURAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES

OBJECTIVE 4A – Office of Emergency Response: Reduce and control adverse impacts to public health and the environment from releases of hazardous materials and discharges of pollutants.

OUTCOME: Percent of pollutant discharge sites remediated by the responsible party/owner (remediation by the responsible party/owner is defined as any action or contractual arrangement related to cleanup of a site). (See Objectives 1C, 3A)

Baseline Year: FY 2008-2009	FY 2024-2025	FY 2025-2026	FY 2026-2027	FY 2027-2028	FY 2028-2029
76%	76%	76%	76%	76%	76%

OBJECTIVE 4B – Waste Management Program: Promote sound waste management practices.

OUTCOME: Percent of municipal solid waste recycled.

Baseline Year: FY 2013-2014	FY 2024-2025	FY 2025-2026	FY 2026-2027	FY 2027-2028	FY 2028-2029
50%	75%	75%	75%	75%	75%

Projection Methodology and Influencing Factors

The projected five-year outcomes for the Waste Management Program listed in the Performance Projection Tables were developed based on several factors:

- Past experience in implementing the program;
- No significant changes in state statutes and administrative rules, and
- The Department's continued focus on mission critical activities.

The waste reduction program continues to focus on the statewide recycling goal of 75 percent of municipal solid waste pursuant to Section 403.7032, F.S. The 2010 Legislature enacted comprehensive recycling legislation setting benchmarks for the goal, and the 2012 Legislature revised the factors used to calculate progress. The first benchmark was for the 34 counties over 100,000 in population to recycle 40 percent of recyclable solid waste by December 31, 2012, with the goal increasing every two years through 2020. Florida achieved the interim goals established for 2012 and 2014; however, Florida did not meet the 2016 interim goal of 60 percent and the recycling rate has exhibited a general decline since that time. Florida's 2020 recycling rate was 50 percent, falling short of the 2020 recycling goal of 75 percent. Even though the recycling rate has declined since 2016, the amount of material recycled has increased by 3.7 million tons. Since the 2020 goal was not met, the Department submitted a report to the 2021 Legislature identifying additional programs and statutory changes that should be considered to achieve the goals set forth in Section 403.706, F.S. The report found that in order to make meaningful lasting advancements in Florida's recycling practices, the state should take under consideration the following three prong recycling enhancement approach: 1) focus on education; 2) increased local government assistance; and 3) market incentives.

LINKAGE TO GOVERNOR'S PRIORITIES

The Florida Department of Environmental Protection (Department) is pleased to present its Long-Range Program Plan (LRPP) for Fiscal Year 2024-2025 through Fiscal Year 2028-2029.

Department of Environmental Protection Summary Overview

The Department is the lead agency in state government for environmental management and stewardship, and is responsible for protecting Florida's air, water and land. The vision of the Department is to create strong community partnerships, safeguard Florida's natural resources and enhance its ecosystems. The Department is divided into three primary areas: Regulatory Programs, Land and Recreation, and Ecosystem Restoration. Florida's environmental priorities include restoring and protecting the water quality in our aquifers, springs, lakes, rivers and coastal waters; restoring America's Everglades; ensuring effective statewide water management and source water protection reducing waste; improving air quality; conserving and restoring environmentally sensitive lands; and providing residents and visitors with recreational opportunities, now and in the future. The Department is committed to providing superior customer service, carrying out its responsibilities cost-effectively, and continuously measuring and improving environmental results.

Governor DeSantis' Priorities

Governor DeSantis has made environmental protection and water quality improvement a centerpiece of his administration. Through his Executive Orders and efforts to secure unprecedented levels of legislative budget support, the Governor has laid out a comprehensive strategy for environmental protection that will support other select statewide issues addressed through the following priorities.

1. Restore and Protect Florida's Environment

- Prioritize improving water quality, quantity, and supply.
- Prioritize Everglades' restoration, and the completion of critical Everglades' restoration projects.
- Prevent fracking and offshore oil drilling to protect Florida's environment.

2. Improve Florida's Education System

- Increase access to and expand options for quality educational choices for Florida families.
- Revamp Florida's curriculum to lead the nation and expand civics and computer education.
- Maintain the Florida higher education system's status as number one in the nation while still making necessary adjustments to improve it.
- Provide quality career and technical education options for Florida's students and workforce.

3. Economic Development and Job Creation

- Focus on diversifying Florida's job market, including a focus on an expansion of the financial services and technology sectors.
- Maintain Florida's status as a low-tax state and continue to find opportunities to reduce taxes and fees.
- Reduce existing regulations and stop any new regulations that do not serve the public health, safety and welfare.
- Prioritize infrastructure development to meaningful projects that provide regional and statewide impact, especially focused on safety and improved mobility.

4. Health Care

- Focus resources on continuing to combat the opioid crisis and substance abuse in general and addressing mental health.
- Promote innovation in healthcare that reduces the cost of medical procedures and services and increases access to care for Floridians.
- Reduce the cost of prescription drugs through state and federal reform.

5. Public Safety

- Fully coordinate and cooperate with the federal government on the enforcement of immigration laws.
- Support local and state law enforcement's ability to investigate and prevent criminal activity.
- Develop and implement comprehensive threat assessment strategies to identify and prevent threats to the public.
- Continue efforts to enhance safety in our schools.

6. Public Integrity

- Protect taxpayer resources by ensuring the faithful expenditure of public funds.
- Promote greater transparency at all levels of government.
- Hold public officials and government employees accountable for failure to serve the public interest at all times.

Department of Environmental Protection's Priorities:

The Department has developed a set of strategic goals that support its vision and priorities, provide direction to its employees and complement the Governor's priorities. The Department's six strategic goals are:

- Florida has the largest and most successful restoration program in the world and will continue water quality improvements within the Everglades protection area and increase clean freshwater deliveries to the Everglades protection area.
- Leverage Florida's leadership in conservation stewardship through strategic acquisitions and recreational networks.
- Manage environmental impacts by meeting environmental regulatory standards.
- Utilize the most advanced water protection programs in the nation to continue to improve water quality by preventing pollution and ensure future water supply needs.
- Ensure solutions, resources and ideas are shared to advance the mission of the Department to protect, conserve and manage Florida's natural resources through a commitment to communities and employees.
- Continue to lead the nation with the most advanced coastal resiliency program by assisting communities in mitigating the risks of sea level rise, addressing the threats to coral reefs and protecting Florida's beaches.

Contribution and Alignment of the Department's Priorities with Governor DeSantis' Priorities:

The following section highlights the Department's priorities and associated programs that most closely align with, and support select key priorities of the Governor.

GOVERNOR'S PRIORITY #1 – RESTORE AND PROTECT FLORIDA'S ENVIRONMENT

The Department has supported the Governor's efforts to secure historic unprecedented funding levels for Everglades restoration along with funding for all the Governor's initiatives to achieve more now for Florida's environment. These initiatives include Springs restoration, alternative water supply, water quality improvement projects, land acquisition, coastal resiliency, coral protection, and beach nourishment.

The Department is implementing a suite of crucial Everglades restoration projects that will increase water storage and continue to improve water quality. The projects will include storage reservoirs, wetland treatment areas, and removal of structural barriers for increased water flow to Everglades National Park and Florida Bay.

One of the major priorities for the Department is the water management and nutrient issues contributing to algal blooms in Lake Okeechobee and the downstream estuaries. Combating algal blooms requires a combination of long-term restoration projects as part of the greater Everglades restoration initiative, as well as short-term actions. DEP's projects and actions will increase storage to assist with the management of water levels in the lake, reduce nutrient inputs to the lake, and provide water quality improvements through wetlands treatment areas.

To further address water quality issues throughout the state, the Department established the Blue-Green Algae Task Force. The Governor secured funding for research and innovative technology to support the work of the Task Force. The Task Force provides a forum to connect Florida's world-class university system with DEP's high-caliber scientists and community leaders to combine the state's resources and increase collaboration to utilize data and research to expedite results. Innovative Technology funding is targeted at finding new and effective means of combating and cleaning up harmful algal blooms and nutrient enrichment across Florida's waterbodies.

Florida's freshwater springs continue to face complex challenges from excess nutrients and decreasing surface water flows. Springs protection and restoration remain a crucial component of the Governor's efforts to protect Florida's environment, because Springs are our window into the health of the groundwater that supplies 90 percent of Florida's drinking water and provide economic and recreational benefits to Florida's communities. The Department is building on its efforts of the past several years to assess and restore Florida's Springs. Springs funding is used for projects that will reduce nutrient pollution, save water to improve springs flow and conserve land surrounding springs.

On Governor DeSantis' first days in office, he set a goal to improve Florida's environment, signing Executive Order 19-12, and four years later, renewing his commitment with Executive Order 23-06, laying out an ambitious environmental agenda focused on Everglades restoration, water quality protection, and resilience of inland and coastal communities. With the historic funding levels since 2019, Florida's position as a national leader in environmental protection was further solidified.

The Governor has made historic and unprecedented commitments to improving Florida's environment to include increasing Florida's coastal resiliency, improving the water quality of even more of Florida's iconic water bodies, and ensuring future water supply. Coastal resiliency efforts will include assisting local governments with storm resiliency, planning to adapt to sea level rise, and improving coral reef health. The major investment in improving water quality across Florida is expanded to include the St. Johns, Suwannee, and Apalachicola Rivers, the Springs Coast watershed, and the Indian River Lagoon.

Finally, new resources have been devoted to a grant program which will help communities plan for and implement water conservation, reuse and other water resource development projects.

The Governor further expanded crucial environmental initiatives. In addition to continuing the annual commitments to the issues described above, new funding commitments have been made to improving water quality in Biscayne Bay and the Peace River Basin Watershed, the newly expanded Water Quality Improvement Grant Program, and continuing the highly popular Septic Incentive Program which helps transition homeowners living in Basin Management Action Plan areas off traditional septic systems. Additionally, \$100 million in recurring funding is now dedicated to the Florida Forever Program to ensure that natural landscapes and wildlife corridors can be protected and preserved for generations to come.

GOVERNOR'S PRIORITY #2 – ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND JOB CREATION

Florida has a long history as a national leader in conservation, which is vital to our state's environmental protection and economic growth. One keyway the Department fosters economic and sustainable growth is by promoting, and often underwriting, responsibly planned wastewater, drinking water, stormwater and solid waste management facilities. Additionally, the protection of natural resources in Florida attracts visitors that drive local and state economies, thus providing additional employment opportunities for residents.

A high quality local environmental infrastructure:

- Assures healthy natural resources
- Attracts job-creating business and industry
- Increases property values
- Supports the exceptional quality of life that Floridians and visitors have grown to expect

The Department continuously examines and adapts its business processes to make sure customers—permit applicants, local governments and citizens—get prompt, professional service. Processing time for permits were reduced by 68% over the last 10 years; the Department continues its efforts to streamline permitting and minimize time to take final agency action on permit applications. Regulatory process improvement, whether eliminating ineffective regulations, streamlining permitting actions or increasing education and outreach is fundamental to the Department's regulatory approach. The Department will continue rolling out new e-permitting and other e-business tools each year. Transacting business through direct exchanges of information speed up agency response, save staff time, improve data quality and public access, and provide the opportunity to make better management decisions. In addition, the Department continues to expand its outreach and compliance assistance actions, promoting environmental stewardship to prevent environmental harm before it takes place.

GOVERNOR'S PRIORITY #5 – Public Safety

At the Governor's recommendation, the Legislature approved in Fiscal Year 2019-2020 the transfer of the Environmental Crimes Enforcement from the Florida Fish and Wildlife Commission to DEP. This action has improved DEP's ability to protect the environment from criminal environmental actions while maintaining compliance and its investment in public education. DEP's Environmental Crimes Unit

assists the Department in the efforts of promoting environmental protection and compliance with Florida's environmental laws through training, education and outreach events. The ECU also supports the Department's use of enforcement action as an important compliance tool. Moving the ECU back to DEP has better aligned and integrated resources focused on environmental protection and public safety.

During FY2022-23, ECU issued 197 warnings, 66 misdemeanors and 38 felonies to environmental violators. With the small unit of 18 sworn law enforcement officers, they performed over 3,402 investigations and over 14,520 investigative patrol hours where many criminal activities were stopped.

Although the major focus for the ECU is environmental crimes, the unit is comprised of sworn law enforcement officers who are also assigned to the State Emergency Response Function (ESF 10) and required to respond/deploy to both natural and man-made disasters, hazardous material events, and terrorist incidents to protect the visitors and citizens of Florida. In addition, during special details and investigative patrol, the ECU encounters various types of investigative and emergency response incidents which may include: evasion of fee, medical assists, capsized boat, damage to state property, hazard waste dumping, illegal burning, domestic waste dumping, alligator attacks, criminal mischief, destroying endangered species, DUI, battery, dog attack, and even pursuit.

GOVERNOR'S PRIORITY #6 – Public Integrity

To ensure greater accountability and transparency, the Department has implemented two of the Governor's directives to appoint a Chief Science Officer and create an Office of Environmental Accountability and Transparency. The Chief Science Officer works closely with the Office of Environmental Accountability and Transparency to coordinate and prioritize the scientific data, research and analysis needs to ensure alignment with the current and emerging environmental concerns most pressing to Floridians, as well as the agency's priorities.

Since its inception, the Chief Science Officer facilitated 16 meetings of the Blue-Green Algae Task Force, which published its first consensus document on October 11, 2019. Comprised of five nationally and internationally recognized scholars from institutions across the state, the task force has a broad range of expertise ranging from hydrology to chemical ecology of algae. Based on transparent discussions and deliberations, the task force developed recommendations, which ultimately provided the framework for the Clean Waterways Act. This legislation focuses on remedial action and improvements to regulations regarding septic and stormwater systems, wastewater infrastructure, as well as Agricultural Best Management Practices. This Clean Waterways Act carries a wide range of water quality protection provisions aimed at minimizing the impact of known sources of nutrient pollution, realigning the State's resources to enhance the protection of Florida's environment, and strengthening regulatory requirements.

The Office of Environmental Accountability and Transparency, in coordination with multiple divisions within the agency as well as the Chief Science Officer, launched ProtectingFloridaTogether.gov, the state's first-ever comprehensive water quality dashboard focused on blue-green algae, red tide and nutrient concentrations. Launched on November 5, 2019, the initial version of the *Protecting Florida Together* water quality status map focused on the St. Lucie and Caloosahatchee rivers and their respective estuaries, and Lake Okeechobee. Since then, the website has expanded statewide, added restoration project information, completed a new education center, and added a preference center that allows Floridians to sign up for notifications relating to blue-green algae and red tide in areas and at the frequency of their choosing.

Finally, the Office of Environmental Accountability and Transparency worked to implement additional recommendations for additional monitoring by coordinating with the Division of Environmental

Assessment and Restoration, the Office of Resilience and Coastal Protection, and all five water management districts. Further work on data analytics was also completed to explore robust data sets in new ways.

TRENDS AND CONDITIONS ANALYSIS

Introduction

The Department's LRPP is goal-based, with a five-year planning horizon designed to establish agency priorities and policies for the future. The Department has evaluated all services, activities and expenditures to determine whether they should be continued, modified or eliminated. The plan gives context to the agency budget and presents a snapshot of where the agency is, where it intends to go, and how it intends to get there.

The responsibilities of the Department are wide-ranging and include:

- Providing reliable and valid laboratory analyses and technical interpretations (Chapters 403 and 373, F.S.).
- Conducting and reporting on geoscience research to support natural resource conservation needs including water, minerals and aggregate; maintaining geological samples and data that characterize Florida's natural systems (Chapter 377, F.S.).
- Regulating inland oil and gas exploration and production; conducting and reporting on research to support that regulation (Chapter 377, F.S.).
- Providing programming, network services, desktop support, data management, data storage and data integration to support agency information technology needs (Chapter 282, F.S.).
- Increasing the miles of critically eroded beaches under active beach management to protect, preserve and restore the state's beach coastal systems (Chapters 161, 253, 258, 373 and 403, F.S.).
- Assessing and improving the quality and ecological health of Florida's rivers, streams, lakes, wetlands, estuaries, coastal systems and groundwaters (Chapters 20, 370, 120, 211, 369, 373, 374, 376, 378, 380, 403 and 487, F.S.).
- Increasing available water supplies, including alternative water supplies, and promoting efficient water use and conservation to meet existing and future water supply needs (Chapters 20, 120, 373, 376 and 403, F.S.).
- Assuring adequate collection, treatment, disposal and reuse by Florida's domestic and industrial wastewater facilities (Chapter 403, F.S.).
- Assuring appropriate management of stormwater to reduce flooding and protect surface water and groundwater quality (Chapters 373 and 403, F.S.).
- Assuring adequate treatment, distribution, and delivery of drinking water by Florida's public water systems (Chapter 403, F.S.).
- Securing, equitably distributing, and managing funds to assist local governments and other entities finance wastewater, stormwater, drinking water, alternative water supplies, and other water-related infrastructure and activities and beach projects (Chapters 161 and 403, F.S.).
- Promoting sound waste management and ensuring appropriate and timely cleanup of environmental contamination (Chapters 376 and 403, F.S.).
- Increasing recreational opportunities for public use within the state park and greenways and trails systems (Chapters 258, 260 and 375, F.S.).
- Protecting Florida's submerged lands and coastal uplands (Chapters 253, 258 and 373, F.S.).
- Identifying strategies to maximize the protection and conservation of ocean and coastal resources while recognizing their economic benefits (Chapters 161 and 380, F.S.).
- Carrying out Florida's responsibilities under the federal Clean Air Act, including assuring

compliance with ambient air quality standards and enforcing U.S. Environmental Protection Agency emission standards for hazardous air pollutants (Chapters 403, 316, 320 and 376, F.S.).

- Coordinating the siting of electrical power plants, electric transmission lines and natural gas transmission pipelines (Chapter 403, F.S.).
- Reducing and controlling adverse impacts to public health and the environment from releases of hazardous materials and discharges of pollutants (Chapters 252, 376 and 403, F.S.).
- Acquiring land for conservation, recreation and water resource protection (Chapters 253 and 259, F.S.).
- Serving as Florida's land steward for administering the management of its publicly owned lands and land records (Chapters 253, 258 and 259, F.S.).

The Department is charged with the protection and restoration of Florida's natural and environmental resources. To this end, a wide range of strategies is implemented: regulation, cleanup, restoration, land acquisition and conservation, education, recreation, technical assistance, financing, research, and planning. In achieving its mission over the next five years, Department staff will continue to exemplify the values of openness, accountability, and dedication to the public interest and focus on creative solutions beyond simple prescriptive regulation to solve environmental problems.

Change is the one constant in environmental protection, and the rate of technological change in every aspect of government and the private sector presents opportunities, challenges and risks. Technology-driven gains in productivity and efficiency are accompanied by exponentially increasing streams of data demanding ever-faster analysis and decision-making. Data are no substitute for judgment, however, and it will be human choices and leadership that set new directions in governance to enhance Florida's quality of life.

AGENCY OVERVIEW AND PROGRAM DISCUSSION

The Department is among the most diverse agencies in state government. More than 3117.5 agency employees serve the people of Florida. The Department's responsibilities go well beyond the routine functions of environmental agencies in many other states that protect air quality, water quality and ensure proper waste management. It also is responsible for a nationally recognized state park system, 11 state greenways and trails and other spectacular outdoor areas open for public enjoyment. The agency manages the *Florida Forever land acquisition and management program, through which* sensitive lands are purchased for conservation and recreation, preserving these lands from future development; it also administers all state-owned submerged lands under Florida's public trust doctrine.

The Department is uniquely challenged by the sheer area of Florida and the diversity of its natural resources. In a state as vast as Florida, government services must be brought as close to the people as possible. The Department accomplishes this through its six regionally located regulatory district offices, five regionally situated state park offices, and field-based initiatives and programs around the state. These offices are staffed with professionals who are charged with helping Floridians serve as good stewards of the state's air and water quality and its unique wild lands and habitats.

The remainder of the analysis focuses on the Department's ten programs and 15 Service Categories. These programs carry out various activities to achieve identifiable goals. Each program contains one or more Service Categories, or Budget Entities, which represent the lowest level to which program funding is provided. While these programs have been established for a single media (air resources management, waste management, water resource management, etc.), the services within each program work cooperatively. Each service must be considered a piece of a much larger whole: protection and restoration

of Florida's environment. For additional programmatic, organizational and contact information, please visit the Department's website at floridadep.gov/.

MAJOR INITIATIVES FOR ACHIEVING THE DEPARTMENT'S PRIORITIES

Community Impact and Effective Partnerships

One of the Department's priorities is to focus taxpayer resources on projects that provide a direct benefit to the environment and local communities. To meet this goal, the Department sponsors critical water restoration projects. This financial assistance takes the form of grants and loans and is used for projects that improve water quality and quantity. Projects include development of alternative water supplies, improving stormwater quality, reducing pollutants that enter surface water and groundwater (including springs), collecting and treating sanitary wastewater, producing and distributing drinking water, innovative technologies to combat or clean up harmful algal blooms and nutrient enrichment, restoring and nourishing beaches as well as reclaiming mined land. The projects are primarily undertaken by counties and municipal entities, falling within the following programs:

- Nonpoint Source Management
- Beach Management Funding Assistance
- Clean Water State Revolving Fund
- Drinking Water State Revolving Fund
- Program Management for State Revolving Fund
- Deepwater Horizon Program
- Legislative Projects and Springs Projects
- Alternative Water Supply Projects
- Innovative Technologies for Harmful Algal Blooms

The Department is responsible for Fixed Capital Outlay (FCO) in each year's General Appropriations Act. The FCO supports financial assistance to local governments and other stakeholders for water quality infrastructure projects and best management practices that improve the quality and quantity of water.

Monitoring and assessment of Florida's surface and ground waters are cornerstones of the Department's water quality protection program and critical to supporting restoration projects. In 2014, Florida became the only state in the nation to adopt comprehensive nutrient standards for the protection of lakes, rivers, streams, springs, estuaries, and coastal waters. In addition, Florida has collected significantly more water quality data than any other state. The Department uses this data to assess whether individual waterbodies have significant nutrient (nitrogen and phosphorus) problems, adopt nutrient restoration goals, calculate protective effluent limits for wastewater dischargers, and adopt basin-wide restoration plans.

Five Year Strategy:

The Department is focused on providing communities with the resources to support key needs for the environment and the economy. To maximize these efforts and better leverage state funding, the Department is improving its partnerships with communities and businesses. Supporting these efforts are the monitoring and assessment of water resources that will bring the best science to restoration projects and water quality standards. Community investment priorities for meeting these needs include continuing to provide:

- Grant support to promote the restoration of Florida's impaired watersheds and improved overall water quality.
- Coordination and management of funds associated with the Deepwater Horizon Oil spill for projects including land acquisition, habitat restoration, coastal and marine species protection, water-quality improvements, and new or enhanced coastal public access facilities in the panhandle and along the Gulf Coast of Florida.
- Loans and grants for drinking water, wastewater and stormwater infrastructure and treatment projects. These investments support public health, pollution control and economic development.

- Funding for beach management and nourishment to provide protection to upland structures, critical habitats, recreation and tourism.
- Enhance joint program interaction and cooperation to develop projects that cross program boundaries to better leverage resources for the best environmental outcome. (Examples are septic to sewer, advanced wastewater treatment, increased centralized septage disposal capacity, and stormwater cleanup.)

The Department will also carry out critical monitoring and assessment activities that will support effective restoration projects and allow for effective interpretation of the numeric nutrient criteria. Specific efforts include continued adoption of:

- Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs—specific waterbody restoration targets). Since 2011, the Department has adopted 169 water quality restoration goals and an average of approximately 14 TMDLs per year. The Department has adopted a total of 459 TMDLs.
- Water restoration plans (known as basin management action plans, or BMAPs), which outline actions to protect and restore impaired waters. In total, the Department has adopted 32 BMAPs, covering a total of more than 13 million watershed acres. These restoration plans are developed and implemented collaboratively with stakeholders to ensure the long-term protection of Florida’s water resources.
- Critical water-quality criteria and restoration goals to limit nitrogen pollution have been established for all Outstanding Florida Springs. For springs not meeting the criteria, the Department will continue to set restoration goals and develop restoration plans for those spring watersheds but will also include plans for protecting unimpaired springs from future impacts. The Department adopted 12 BMAPs in June 2018 that focus on the restoration of Florida's impaired Outstanding Florida Springs. Twelve of these spring’s BMAPs are in effect as of January 2022.
- Alternative Restoration Plans (TMDL Alternatives-specific waterbody restoration targets). The Department has adopted five Reasonable Assurance Plans and accepted 81 4e Plans. The 4e plans include 47 Pollutant Reduction Plans, 30 Bacteria Pollution Control Plans, and four TMDL Implementation Plans.

America’s Everglades

America’s Everglades is an international treasure. Known as the River of Grass for the sawgrass that flourishes throughout the marsh, the Everglades is a one-of-a-kind ecosystem that supports a diverse wildlife population with its mosaic of habitats, including sawgrass prairies, hardwood hammocks, cypress swamps, coastal lagoons, mangroves and pinelands. This unique ecosystem stretches southward from the Kissimmee Chain of Lakes, to Lake Okeechobee, then through the remaining Everglades and on to the waters of the Florida Bay, an area covering 18,000 square miles.

Everglades restoration is an enormous undertaking, and involves a combination of research, planning, engineering, construction, operation, land acquisition, and monitoring utilized to different degrees in different areas of the overall ecosystem based on the particular needs of those areas. The remaining projects and activities will take place over the course of decades. The summaries below give a broad overview of the current circumstances and projects and the work anticipated over the next five years. Much more information, including the plans referenced in the text below, is available on the Department’s Everglades Restoration website at <https://floridadep.gov/eco-pro>.

Restoration Efforts

The Department and the South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) are implementing three major ongoing, overarching ecosystem restoration programs: Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Program (CERP) and Foundation Projects, Northern Everglades and Estuaries Protection Program (NEEPP) and Restoration Strategies. Each initiative consists of multiple projects that are in multiple phases and serve a unique purpose.

Five Year Strategy:

Restoration features are dependent on authorizations and/or funding from the federal government, the SFWMD Governing Board, and the Florida Legislature. Priorities may shift among items and priorities (identified by our customers) over the course of the 5-year planning period and are subject to change. Over the next five years, the strategy for restoring the greater Everglades involves permit application review and issuance, funding, targeted land acquisition, design, engineering, construction, and operations or implementation efforts associated with the following projects:

CERP and Foundation Projects: Florida has partnered with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in implementing the largest ecosystem restoration project in the nation's history: the 30-year, Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (CERP). CERP, funded by an unprecedented 50-50 state/federal cost-share, is improving the quality, quantity, timing and delivery of water to the greater Everglades ecosystem. CERP consists of 68 projects developed by an interdisciplinary team with extensive research experience in the South Florida ecosystem using the best available data and state-of-the-art scientific and engineering methodologies.

Key current and upcoming projects:

- C-111 South Dade (Contracts 8, 8A and 9) - Operation
- C-111 Spreader Canal (Florida Bay Initiatives) - Operations
- Tamiami Trail Modifications - Construction
- Kissimmee River Restoration - Substantial Completion
- Combined Operation Plan for C-111 South Dade and Modified Water Deliveries to Everglades National Park Projects CERP/Critical - Operations
- Central Everglades Planning Project (CEPP)
- CEPP Operational Plan – Planning
- EAA A2 Reservoir - Construction
- EAA A2 STA - Construction
- CEPP-North - Design/Permitting/Construction
- CEPP-South - Design/Permitting/Construction
- EAA Conveyance Improvements – Design/Permitting
- Blue Shanty Flow way - Construction
- Decomp Physical Model - Operation Testing
- C-43 West Basin Storage Reservoir - Construction
- Indian River Lagoon South
- C-44 Reservoir - Operations
- C-44 Stormwater Treatment Area - Operations
- C-23/C-24 - Construction
- C-25 and Allapattah Flats - Land acquisition and Construction
- Picayune Strand Restoration Project - Land acquisition (Fakahatchee Strand)
- Miller Pump Station - Interim Operation
- Faka Union Canal partial plugging - Interim Operation
- Miller Phase Road Removal - Construction
- Southwest Protection Features - Construction
- Southern Corkscrew Regional Ecosystem Restoration Watershed Critical Project - Operations
- Herbert Hoover Dike Culvert Repair and Rehabilitation (HHD) – Complete/Operations
- Kissimmee River Restoration (KRR) Headwaters Revitalization - Operation Under New Regulation Schedule to Start After KRR Construction is Completed

- Biscayne Bay Coastal Wetlands, Phase 1
- Deering Estate Pump Station - Operations
- L-31 East Flow-way Culverts - Operations
- S-709, S-703, S-705, S-710, & S-711 Pump Stations, Contract 4, 5A, 5B and 5C - Construction
- Cutler Wetlands Flow-way - Permitting and Construction
- Biscayne Bay Coastal Wetlands Project Phase 2, Newly Named Biscayne Bay Southeastern Everglades Restoration (BBSEER) - Planning
- Broward County Water Preserve Areas, C-11 Impoundment - Planning/Design/Permitting
- Ten Mile Creek Reservoir and Stormwater Treatment Area - Operations
- Loxahatchee River Watershed Restoration Project - Permitting
- Western Everglades Planning Project - Planning
- Seminole Big Cypress Critical Project - Partially Completed & Operations
- Lake Okeechobee Watershed Restoration Project - Planning/Design/Permitting
- Lake Okeechobee Component A Reservoir – Planning
- Lake Okeechobee System Operation Manual (Replacement for LORS 08) - Planning

NEEPP: June 2007 legislation passed creating the Northern Everglades and Estuaries Protection Program (NEEPP). This legislation expands the Lake Okeechobee Protection Program to safeguard and restore the entire Northern Everglades system, focusing on the Caloosahatchee and St. Lucie river basins, and calls for the development of far-reaching plans to protect and improve the quality, quantity, timing, and distribution of water north of Lake Okeechobee.

Key current and upcoming projects:

- Taylor Creek Stormwater Treatment Areas - Operation
- Nubbin Slough Stormwater Treatment Areas - Operation
- Dispersed Water Management Projects - Construction & Operation
- C-23/24 Interim Storage - Planning & Design
- C-43 BOMA, Water Quality Treatment and Testing - Construction
- Lake Hicpochee Hydrologic Enhancement - Operation
- Lake Hicpochee Phase II - Permitting
- Rolling Meadows Wetland Restoration - Operation
- Hybrid Wetland Treatment Technology Performance
- Lemkin Creek & Wolff Ditch - Operation
- Grassy Island - Operation
- Grassy Island Flow Equalization Basin - Planning
- Brady Ranch Stormwater Treatment Area & Flow Equalization Basin - Planning
- Various other projects identified in the Northern Everglades Lake Okeechobee Phase II Technical Plan and St. Lucie and Caloosahatchee River Watershed Protection Plans - Planning

Restoration Strategies: Restoration Strategies is a long-term plan for water quality improvements for discharge into the Everglades Protection Area. It is a series of storage, treatment and conveyance improvements designed to treat stormwater runoff from the Everglades Agricultural Area and send it south.

Key current and upcoming projects:

- L-8 Flow Equalization Basin - Long Term Operation
- Stormwater Treatment Area 1 West Expansion #2 (1,800 Acre Expansion) - Construction
- G-341 Related Conveyance Improvements - Construction
- A-1 FEB Operations - Operation
- C-139 Flow Equalization Basin - Construction

Resource Management

Florida's award-winning state park system is managed to ensure that Florida State Parks and Coastal and Aquatic Managed Areas are accessible for the use, enjoyment and benefit to Floridians and our visitors. The primary goals of the state parks are to:

- Improve the quality of natural resources through long-term planning, restoration and maintenance.
- Promote and encourage resource-based recreation while conserving the natural values of the land and preserving its cultural resources.

Florida Park System: Florida State Parks are sustained for future generations and to create strong community partnerships, safeguarding Florida's natural resources and enhancing its ecosystems. They also provide appropriate, high quality resource-based outdoor recreational, interpretive and educational opportunities that help visitors connect to "*the Real Florida*SM." The park system includes 175 parks, recreation areas, special feature sites and state trails, encompassing nearly 800,000 acres of land and 100 miles of beaches. The operation of these parks not only enhances the quality of life for Floridians, but also provides a major attraction for visitors. The Florida State Park system creates a sense of place and is recognized as containing the best of Florida's diverse natural and cultural heritage.

Resilience and Coastal Protection: The Office of Resilience and Coastal Protection managed areas are also available for recreational opportunities and include submerged lands and their associated marine and aquatic resources in Florida, specifically those with exceptional biological, aesthetic and scientific value as aquatic preserves. These areas offer prime opportunities for fishing, boating, swimming, paddling and other water-related recreation. The Department manages 42 aquatic preserves, including 38 saltwater and four freshwater systems, encompassing more than 2.6 million acres of sovereign submerged lands. In cooperation with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), the Department also manages approximately 400,000 acres of submerged land and coastal uplands in three national estuarine research reserves: Apalachicola, Guana Tolomato Matanzas, and Rookery Bay. In addition, the Department partners with NOAA and the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission to manage the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary, which contains 2,900 square nautical miles of submerged lands around the 126-mile long Florida Keys and encompasses the southern two-thirds of the most extensive living coral reef system in the nation. Finally, the Department also manages the northern third of Florida's Coral Reef, 288,000 acres designated by the Legislature in 2021 as the Kristin Jacobs Coral Reef Ecosystem Conservation Area.

Recently, the Resilient Florida Program was created within the Department to develop a statewide coordinated, comprehensive approach to adapting critical assets from the effects of Flooding and Sea Level Rise. This program will focus on creating statewide strategies, funding and technical resources to implement projects that will build stronger, more resilient communities and continue to safeguard Florida's natural resources.

Five Year Strategy:

The Department is focused on improving the quality of natural resources and coastal communities through long-term planning, restoration, and maintenance. In addition, the Department is continuing efforts to improve park conditions and enhance access to outdoor recreational opportunities, so even more Floridians and visitors can enjoy Florida's award-winning state parks.

- Move more acres within Florida's managed lands and State Parks from a restoration condition to a more natural and less labor-intensive maintenance condition.
- Bring all management zones into maintenance condition for both upland and aquatic areas.
- Involve local, state and federal natural resource managers, data providers, researchers and partners to identify and assess ecological indicators and to develop a decision support tool to better understand the status of aquatic resources.
- Improve land management through improved restoration: meet goals for prescribed burns and exotic plant removal, and removal of destructive animals such as feral hogs.
- Improve the quality of natural resource management and increase stakeholder engagement through the process of updating land and aquatic preserve management plans.
- Implement Point of Sale System, work to create new concession operations, and expand the Reservation System.
- Expand opportunities to engage local communities in state managed land and state park planning and encourage local development of outdoor recreation opportunities.
- Systematically improve park campgrounds, cabins, roadways, infrastructure and other facilities.
- Develop strategies to attract youth, minorities and future generations to visit and support parks.
- As part of the Resilient Florida program, the department will continue to provide a comprehensive approach to identifying and adapting Florida's most critical assets and collaborate with communities to engage leadership and the general public in preparing for and addressing the physical, and socioeconomic impacts of flooding and sea level rise on the built and natural environment.
- Through the Resilient Florida Program's Coastal Sustainability Initiative, the Department continues its efforts to help ensure collaboration among Florida's coastal communities to enhance understanding of increasingly complex challenges caused by sea level rise, flooding, erosion and habitat shifts and offer technical assistance and planning tools to assist with implementation of adaptive measures.
- In 2023, the Florida's Coral Reef Restoration and Recovery Initiative was created to build the framework for reef-wide restoration activities to address decades of habitat loss and the devastating impacts of SCTLD.

The Department and numerous partners from federal, state and local governments, universities, nongovernmental organizations and the South Florida community have been collaborating and working together on a multifaceted response effort to Stony Coral Tissue Loss Disease.

Regulatory Effectiveness

Critical regulations that safeguard the environment and public health must be maintained. The Department has participated in a review of agency regulations and is repealing those that provide no environmental value.

The Department has also streamlined its permitting processes, achieving a nearly 65 percent improvement in the time to reach final permitting decisions since 2010. One key to streamlining permitting is the Department's Business Portal (<http://www.fldepportal.com/go>) where an increasing number of permits, exemption, payment, and reporting transactions can be conducted online.

The Department continues to expand its outreach and compliance assistance actions, promoting environmental stewardship and trying to prevent air and water quality problems rather than reacting to them once the damage is done. These efforts include providing pre-application assistance to property owners and businesses applying for permits and offering compliance seminars for consultants and industry representatives to promote better understanding of state and federal rules governing environmental impacts.

Five Year Strategy:

Over the next five years the Department will:

- Take advantage of every opportunity to streamline permit processing through the adoption of exemptions, certifications, and general permits that retain or advance environmental and public health protection.
- Consolidate and eliminate rules and permit processes that are duplicative or no longer have environmental value.
- Expand online permitting, reporting, payments, and other business transactions through its Business Portal.
- Exploit other technologies to solve problems suited to technological solutions without losing site of the common sense, low-tech solutions.
- Continue to expand the agency's Management Dashboard to measure performance and environmental outcomes and adapt programs and strategies to promote continuous improvement and better outcomes.
- Focus on those regulations essential to safeguarding the environment and public health.
- Increase outreach and educational efforts, while expanding assistance to regulated homeowners, businesses, industries and industry representatives, contractors, engineering and environmental consultants, and other stakeholders to prevent noncompliance and environmental harm.
- Increase the rate of compliance inspections at targeted regulated facilities.
- Target enforcement against chronic and egregious violators to deter future noncompliance and deliver the message to potential violators that there will be consequences if found in violation of environmental rules and statutes.
- Take every action to ensure every incident where there is an environmental impact is responded to and that every environmental law is enforced.

PROGRAM NARRATIVE

ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES

The Administrative Services areas include Executive Direction and Support Services and the Office of Technology and Information Services. These programs provide leadership, direction and support services to the agency. As the agency continues to look for new and more efficient ways to deliver its services to the people of Florida, the demand for services rendered by programs in the Administrative Services area is expected to increase. Numerous initiatives are underway to improve technology support, enhance customer service, broaden communication with the public, increase transparency and ensure accountability, and technology-based solutions to streamline administrative and regulatory processes. To the greatest extent possible, the Administrative Services programs contemplate meeting these challenges utilizing existing resources. Automation and process improvements with increased reliance on technology are used by the Department to mitigate the need for additional resources.

Executive Direction and Support Services

The Executive Direction and Support Services provide leadership, direction and services to the agency and the public. Specific services provided are executive leadership and direction to the programs; training and development, audit and investigation; legal counsel; internal and external communication; customer service; planning, budget, financial and other support services.

Information Technology

The Office of Technology and Information Services (OTIS) provides information technology (IT) support services to the Department's divisions and offices in Tallahassee, six regulatory, and five park districts distributed across the state. OTIS manages the Department's communications and networking infrastructure, messaging systems and enterprise databases. OTIS also provides and manages application development and maintenance services; geographic information systems support; an enterprise service desk; IT contract management and procurement services; IT project management and business analysis support; and IT strategic planning and technical standards oversight.

OTIS continues to assess the Department's infrastructure, application portfolio and services to forecast expenditures, avoid significant risk, effectively use resources, and support the Department's priorities, including Protecting Florida Together initiatives. These activities may result in future Legislative Budget Requests and will drive parts of OTIS' Work Plan for the foreseeable future. Over the next two years, OTIS will focus on the following major initiatives:

- ***Data-focused Initiatives:*** The Department is focused on multiple initiatives to use existing data better, acquire key datasets, and to integrate disparate data. Examples include:
 - Increase data literacy and proficiency in using the Department's data visualization tool to help answer some of the Department's tough environmental questions and inform operational improvements.
 - Provide appropriate support to program areas staff focused on data integration initiatives related to Protecting Florida Together.
 - Develop tools to assist in data acquisition in a more consistent and dependable manner.
- ***Application Initiatives (Program-focused):*** Multiple efforts aim to increase effectiveness and enhance the public's experience when interacting with the Department. This includes software to improve permit processing, provide additional web-based self-service permitting options, collect environmental data more consistently, and expand online services through the Business Portal.

- **Cloud Migrations:** The Department will continue migrating applications that are ready to move to the cloud. The Department has migrated approximately 53 percent of its application portfolio to the cloud over the past few years. Cloud hosting of applications and services allows for the following:
 - Built-in disaster recovery – where systems can be configured to automatically fail over to a variety of geographic regions
 - Scalability – provides the ability to increase the capacity of systems when necessary (such as during emergency response)
 - Cost Savings – typically realizes significant cost savings over traditional data center services.
 - Reliability – services have proven to be extremely reliable which reduces IT and business area downtime
 - Greater agility – allows new infrastructure components to be created and deleted quickly.
- **Application Modernization:** The Department’s application portfolio includes older technologies such as Oracle Forms and Active Server Pages. The Department continually assesses applications running on these older technologies to decommission, replace, or rewrite them using a modern application platform. Additionally, as part of the Department’s cloud migrations, the Department is modernizing its application platform and supporting framework to better leverage cloud infrastructure.
- **Infrastructure Modernization:** Onsite IT interfaces and point-of-sale services are an essential and growing part of how visitors interact with the Department’s Parks. The Department will continue to improve connectivity and IT infrastructure in these remote locations.
- **Improved Security:** The Department has continually improved its information technology security posture over the past few years. Examples include firewall improvements, focused security training for key staff and identity management implementation. While these changes have made a noticeable difference, the Department plans to further strengthen its position by focusing on IT security training, implementing additional security services and adapting its security posture for the cloud.

The Department serves as the coordinating agency for Geographic Information Systems (GIS) and geospatial data. Along with several Department focused efforts on data collection, analysis and conveying environmental data to the public, the Department will be engaged in the following statewide initiatives:

- Facilitate the collection of statewide spatial data by coordinating with public and private partners to prioritize and align the needs to issues affecting the state.
- Collaborate with statewide stakeholders in prioritizing and acquiring coastal imagery.
- Identify key spatial datasets and make them available on the Statewide Geospatial Open Data Portal for public and interagency use.
- Increase interdepartmental participation in the Statewide Geospatial Open Data Portal so that publicly available data will be easier to locate and leverage.

Department Organization

The Department’s Executive Leadership directs a highly professional staff organized into three major services, each led by a Deputy Secretary. These services - Regulatory Programs, Ecosystems Restoration and Land and Recreation - have separate statutory authorities and responsibilities but are integrated across these boundaries through intra-agency teams and ad hoc working groups. The primary programs in each of the three services are summarized below. More information is available from the agency’s website at <https://floridadep.gov/>.

REGULATORY PROGRAMS

The Deputy Secretary for Regulatory Programs is responsible for six primary program areas that implement a diverse range of programs to protect and restore air and water quality, clean up contamination, provide technical assistance, conduct emergency response and investigate environmental crimes and oversee the compliance and enforcement activities of regulated facilities. The major budgetary components comprising the Regulatory Programs are the Florida Geological Survey, Regulatory District Offices, Water Resource Management, Waste Management, Air Resources Management and Law Enforcement. The core components of these programs are described in the following sections.

Florida Geological Survey

The Department's Florida Geological Survey (FGS) collects, maintains, interprets, and disseminates geoscience information. Maps, data and scientific publications of the FGS are used by local, state, and federal agencies, industry, environmental and engineering consultants, academia and the public. FGS geoscience information guides regulatory decisions involving water, mineral and energy resources, and land management supporting environmental protection, restoration, and conservation efforts. It also provides critical information for local, regional, and statewide decision-makers for responsible economic development plans. FGS resources and services are applied toward aquifer and springs protection, land-use planning, mineral resource characterization and assessment, sinkhole hazard mitigation and assessment, aquifer vulnerability and groundwater sustainability, surface water-groundwater interaction, and water quality issues. Economists have demonstrated geoscience research to yield a high return on investment; for example, every dollar invested in geologic mapping can realize nearly a \$30 savings through the use of geologic maps to address societal needs. Conducting geologic field work and analyzing geologic samples within the state's geological sample collections facility provides an understanding of Florida's geologic framework, supporting the discovery and management of vital water, mineral, and energy resources. The FGS anticipates increased need for geologic resources to support Florida's economic prosperity and growing population.

Law Enforcement

Office of Emergency Response

The Department's Office of Emergency Response (OER) provides systematic oversight for environmental response and preparedness, including organizational internal readiness. Pollutant discharges or releases of hazardous materials can threaten public health, the environment and Florida's economy if they are not effectively and rapidly controlled. Field responders handle incidents involving oil and hazardous substances, including biomedical wastes that present an imminent hazard, or threat of hazard, to the health, welfare and safety of the public or environment. OER oversees hazardous materials forensics for administrative and criminal cases and provides staffing and coordination of statewide response efforts at the State Emergency Operations Center during declared disasters.

OER's professional field responders are augmented by response assistants from the Department's regulatory district compliance and assistance programs. These responders provide incident assessment, hazard identification and response 24 hours/day, seven days/week. On a yearly basis, responders handle an average of 2,400 incidents, including on-scene emergency cleanup and resource damage assessment. Responders work together attentively with other state agencies to provide efficient mitigation and response services to the community. Responsible parties generally cleanup sites while responders provide oversight and technical assistance. However, if the responsible party is unknown or uncooperative, OER responders conduct the cleanup using contracted resources and seek reimbursement from the responsible party whenever possible. OER has overseen or otherwise been responsible for remediating an average of 954 sites on a yearly basis.

Environmental Crimes Unit

The Environmental Crimes Unit (ECU) provides systematic oversight for the investigation of environmental crimes, in conjunction with the Office of Emergency Response. This includes coordination for environmental response and preparedness, assistance to pollutant discharges and assessment of possible impacts to local wildlife populations. Environmental crimes pose a threat to public health, the environment and Florida's economy. The program assists in mitigation, enforcement and assessment in the prosecution of certain environmental crimes when the responsible party does not take appropriate action to remediate pollutants or hazardous materials. Law Enforcement Investigators protect and calculate possible damage to Florida's natural resources and provide necessary documentation in support of cost recovery efforts. Mitigation of pollutant discharge or releases of hazardous materials due to incidents are directed by the Division, as well as the investigation of abandoned and derelict vessels.

Regulatory District Offices

The Department's six Regulatory District Offices in Pensacola, Jacksonville, Orlando, Tampa, Ft. Myers and West Palm Beach provide closer, more personal interaction with regulated interests and citizens across Florida. The districts are generally the Department's front line in permitting, compliance, enforcement and in helping the public, local governments and businesses better understand and protect Florida's natural resources. District offices work with citizen groups, trade associations and business organizations to identify local priorities and solve local problems. Each district office is under the charge of a District Director that manages day-to-day program responsibilities, policy implementation, office administration, budgeting and accounting, public outreach and other administrative functions. District programs report to the Deputy Secretary of Regulatory Programs and receive policy direction from the Department's regulatory division counterparts in the Air, Waste and Water programs.

District office staff conduct essential components of the permitting, compliance, enforcement, compliance assistance and public outreach responsibilities for the following Department programs: air, domestic and industrial wastewater, drinking water, environmental resource permitting, solid and hazardous waste, storage tank regulation and waste cleanup. District core responsibilities broadly include:

- Timely reviewing and acting on permit applications;
- On-site compliance inspections;
- Environmental monitoring;
- Reviewing air and water quality data, including waste cleanup data;
- Complaint response;
- Case referrals, penalty assessments, expert testimony and other enforcement activities;
- Technical guidance and compliance assistance to regulated entities;
- Public outreach and education; and
- Emergency response.

The District Offices process the vast majority of permit applications in the Department. The Department tracks the processing time for thousands of permit applications received every year to gauge efficiency and public service. In 2011, the average total time to process a permit was 32 days. As of March 2023, the average total time to process a permit is 18 days. Timely permitting decisions promote economic activity, while good permitting decisions assure that Floridians enjoy the highest possible quality of life. The districts also conduct the majority of agency site and facility inspections. The on-site review of the practices and performance of regulated entities allows the Department to maintain compliance rates of 90 percent or better in most programs.

The Department's six Regulatory District Offices protect Florida's natural resources and serve as positive forces within their local communities. As Florida continues to grow and develop and remains among the top vacation destinations in the world, environmental pressures will grow as well. Strong district office operations are essential if Florida is to maintain environmentally sustainable growth and a vibrant economy.

Water Resource Management

The Department's Division of Water Resource Management (DWRM) administers programs that are responsible for the protection of Florida's coastline, rivers, lakes, estuaries, springs, aquifers and millions of acres of open water and wetlands. It works particularly closely with the Department's Division of Environmental Assessment and Restoration, the Division of Water Restoration Assistance, the Office of Resilience and Coastal Protection, and Florida's five Water Management Districts. Day-to-day permitting and compliance programs are implemented largely in the Department's six Regulatory District Offices, except for the Onsite Sewage Program, which is implemented by the Department of Health's (DOH) 67 county health departments but will be transitioning to DWRM by 2026.

Water Reuse

Florida's reclaimed water (reuse) program is by far the most successful in the United States, both in terms of total and per capita reuse. DWRM promotes reuse of highly treated wastewater for irrigation, ground water recharge, operation of cooling towers at steam electric power plants, architectural uses and natural systems enhancement to ensure that Florida's water resources are productively used. DWRM's rigorous treatment and operational requirements assure public health protection. According to the 2022 Reuse Inventory, approximately 89 percent of Florida's wastewater treatment capacity is devoted to reuse of which about 38 percent of the wastewater is productively reused every day. Over the next decade, reuse is anticipated to significantly increase as a result of the 2022-23 rulemaking for potable reuse required by the Florida Clean Waterways Act, Chapter 2020-150, Laws of Florida; and elimination of non-beneficial surface water discharges from domestic wastewater treatment facilities as required by SB 64 (2021).

The table on the following page below reflects the current reuse activities in Florida ("mgd" signifies million gallons per day).

Water Reuse

Reuse Type	Number of Systems ^(a)	Reuse Capacity ^(b) (mgd)	Reuse Flow ^(b) (mgd)	Reported Area ^(b) (acres)
Golf Course Irrigation	220	361.3	125.3	62,592.9
Residential Irrigation	200	511.3	272.3	134,661.9
Other Public Access Areas & Other	208	394.0	106.7	58,813.8
Public Access Areas & Landscape Irrigation Subtotal	628	1,266.62	504.38	256,068.6
Edible Crops	133	10.3	2.1	1,733.0
Other Crops	159	84.6	38.1	12,988.9
Agricultural Irrigation Subtotal	292	94.9	40.2	14,721.9
Rapid Infiltration Basins	232	162.1	61.5	2,144.1
Absorption Fields	130	4.7	2.3	209.5
Surface Water Augmentation	125	0.1	0	1
Injection	126	19.6	13.5	1
Ground Water Recharge & Indirect Potable Reuse Subtotal	613	186.5	77.3	2,355.6
At Treatment Plant	169	109.8	57.4	705.9
At Other Facilities	142	71.5	23.9	3,682.4
Industrial Subtotal	311	181.4	81.3	4,388.3
Toilet Flushing	130	0.6	0.4	NA
Fire Protection	124	0.1	0	NA
Wetlands	131	70.0	22.3	4,860.4
Other Uses	126	240.4	43.2	13,869.2
2022 Totals	2,355	2,040.6	769.2	311,866.2
2021 Totals	886	2,429.6	908.6	322,608.4
Percent Change	+166%	-16%	-15%	-3%

Note:

- (a) The numbers of systems are not additive since a single system may engage in one or more reuse activity.
- (b) Discrepancies in column totals are due to internal rounding associated with the development of this summary table; totals presented in table are calculated without rounding individual values.

Wetland and Submerged Land Protection

Protecting wetlands is critical to preserving water quality and wildlife habitat, including breeding and fledging areas. They are also vital to slowing the flow of stormwater runoff and reducing flooding. DWRM and district staff review activities that alter surface water flow or affect wetlands and other surface waters, including activities affecting sovereign (state-owned) submerged lands. The Environmental Resource Permit (ERP) program is implemented in conjunction with Florida's five Water Management Districts and two local governments (Broward and Hillsborough counties) under agreements that clearly divide responsibilities by type and location of activity.

The table on the following page reflects statewide wetland gains and losses in the context of the ERP program from October 2017 through September 2022.

10/17 to 9/22	Individual Permits issued (includes WMD Std GPs)	Applications Denied	Applications Withdrawn	Exemptions Verified	General Permits Verified	Acreage Permanently Lost	Acreage Temporarily Disturbed	Acreage Preserved	Acreage Created	Acreage Improved	Mitigation Bank Credits Used
NFWWMD	1,397	0	272	406	183	418.94	0	943.47	0.09	77.42	151.84
SWFWMD	12,507	136	1,671	2,306	282	4,729.07	355.89	12,722.56	1,044.46	2,126.94	*
SJRWMD	8,577	26	921	2,055	831	6,633	61	11,818	122	2,745	1,499
SFWMD	11,275	60	1,571	746	573	6,854.42	9.35	9,717.30	7,962.28	14,011.01	1,075.70
SRWMD	499	6	152	354	294	140.87	17.86	3,380.96	56.36	95.63	8,386
WMD Subtotal	34,255	228	4,587	5,867	2,163	18,776.52	444.16	38,581.93	9,185.47	19,055.62	2,734.95
DEP	7,198	956	7,569	53,614	10,987	118.31	0.05	*	*	*	*
Grand Total	41,453	1,184	12,156	59,481	13,150	18,894.83	444.21	38,581.93	9,185.47	19,055.62	2,734.95

Permitting Actions and Wetland Gains and Losses (acres) Authorized by the ERP Program

*Data not available

In 2017, the Florida Legislature granted authority to the Department to seek assumption of 404 dredge and fill permitting from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Section 373.4146, F.S.

EPA approved Florida’s request on December 17, 2020, and the State 404 program became effective on December 22, 2020. Revisions to Rule 62-330, F.A.C., and the creation of Rule 62-331, F.A.C. (State 404), were necessary to fulfill the requirements of the assumption submittal. Those rules became effective on December 20, 2020, when EPA approved the assumption package.

Drinking Water

In addition to protecting, conserving and reusing Florida’s water supply, the Department must ensure that drinking water produced from this supply is properly treated and arrives safely at the tap. Florida has more than 5,006 drinking water systems serving its nearly 21.6 million residents and more than 137 million annual visitors in 2022. The Department regulates the quality of the drinking water as it is treated and distributed to consumers and works with providers to safeguard ground water and surface water sources. Florida’s stringent drinking water quality standards are adopted in Rule 62-550, F.A.C., and are almost entirely based on federal requirements that are re-evaluated continuously and regularly updated. The drinking water program is implemented in conjunction with DOH.

The Department also implements a comprehensive Source Water Assessment and Protection (SWAP) program to assess potential sources of pollution to public drinking water supplies. Local governments, other interested parties and the public can use the assessments to develop local pollution prevention strategies. SWAP general information and results are available at <https://prodapps.dep.state.fl.us/swapp/>. Assessments are refined and published as new data is obtained.

Mining-Related Activities

The Nonmandatory Land Reclamation Program manages grants for the reclamation of eligible phosphate lands

mined before July 1975, when the regulatory requirement for reclamation was introduced in statute. As the cost of reclamation often exceeds land value, an incentive program was needed for private land owner participation. This nonmandatory land reclamation program improves environmental and economic utility of lands by removing safety hazards and improving water quality and quantity. Program funding is provided through severance fees paid by active mining operations. Reclamation using these funds has been ongoing and thousands of acres have been funded and reclaimed. Per statute, no additional applications were accepted by the Department after January 2005.

Mining and Mitigation

DWRM administers mining and minerals regulatory programs to ensure restoration of mined lands and protection of water quality, water quantity and wetlands at mines extracting phosphate, heavy minerals, fuller's earth, limestone, dolomite and shell, gravel, sand, dirt, clay, peat and other solid resources. According to the U.S. Geological Survey's Mineral Commodity Summaries for 2023, states in the U.S. produced more than \$98.2 billion worth of nonfuel mineral commodities. Florida ranked seventh with a nonfuel raw minerals production valued at \$2.8 billion and accounts for nearly 2.86 percent of the U.S. total. Florida's principal minerals production in order of value are cement (masonry and portland), phosphate rock, sand and gravel (construction) and stone (crushed).

In 2022, Florida and North Carolina accounted for more than 75 percent of the nation's total domestic phosphate fertilizer production. Florida ranks second nationally in crushed stone production (limestone and dolomite) which is primarily used for road construction. Florida also ranked fourth nationally in cement production in 2022. Although Florida does not rank in the top 10 states in sand and gravel (construction) production, its production is extremely important to economic growth in the state. One company produced heavy minerals (ilmenite and rutile) from surface mines in Florida. Florida's zirconium concentrates are a co-product of its heavy minerals mining operations. Lastly, of note, Florida, Illinois, Maine, Michigan and Minnesota are the leading producers of peat in the United States, with Florida taking the lead in harvested peat quantities in 2022.

DWRM implements the ERP program for the protection of water resources and the control of stormwater at mines. This includes requirements to mitigate for impacts to wetlands. DWRM also implements the State 404 Program for the dredging and filling in state assumed waters of the U.S. for mines and borrow pits. Furthermore, DWRM requires the reclamation of land disturbed by mining operations. For phosphate mines, the requirement to reclaim disturbed land began July 1, 1975. DWRM implements an innovative Integrated Habitat Network to guide permitting and reclamation and to promote the conservation of critical lands in the central Florida phosphate-mining district.

Oil and Gas

DWRM's Oil and Gas Program regulates onshore exploration, drilling and production of crude oil and natural gas. The Program is tasked with implementing Florida's laws created to ensure conservation of oil and gas resources; protection of correlative rights; maintenance of health and human safety and environmental protection.

Onsite Sewage

Effective July 1, 2021, the transfer of the Onsite Sewage Program (OSP) from DOH to DWRM brought the regulation of Onsite Sewage Treatment and Disposal Systems (OSTDS) (commonly referred to as septic systems) to the Department. OSP staff continue to coordinate with Florida's 67 county health departments on local septic permitting issues and inspections, as set forth in an Interagency Agreement (IA) between DOH and the Department. The IA is for a period of five years and expires on June 30, 2026, after which time all OSTDS related staff and support staff will complete the transfer from DOH to the Department and work directly for the Department under county delegations and the Department's regional district offices.

DWRM's OSP regulates an estimated 2.6 million OSTDS statewide, serving 30 percent of Florida's population. Implementation occurs both at the county and state levels as described in the IA. OSP staff implement, guide, support, measure and improve administration of rule and policy to protect public health and the environment from inappropriately placed, improperly built or poorly maintained OSTDS. Specifically, the OSP develops a proficient workforce through standardizing environmental health professionals, registering septic tank contractors, authorizing businesses, approving continuing education courses for septic tank contractors and providing training for regulators, industry and the public. OSP also conducts nationally recognized research on OSTDS-influenced environmental and public health impacts, ensures environmental protection through toxicological review of septic tank additives and provides engineering review and permitting of septic tank designs, alternative drain field components and innovative onsite sewage products to ensure proper functionality in Florida's unique environment.

Siting Coordination

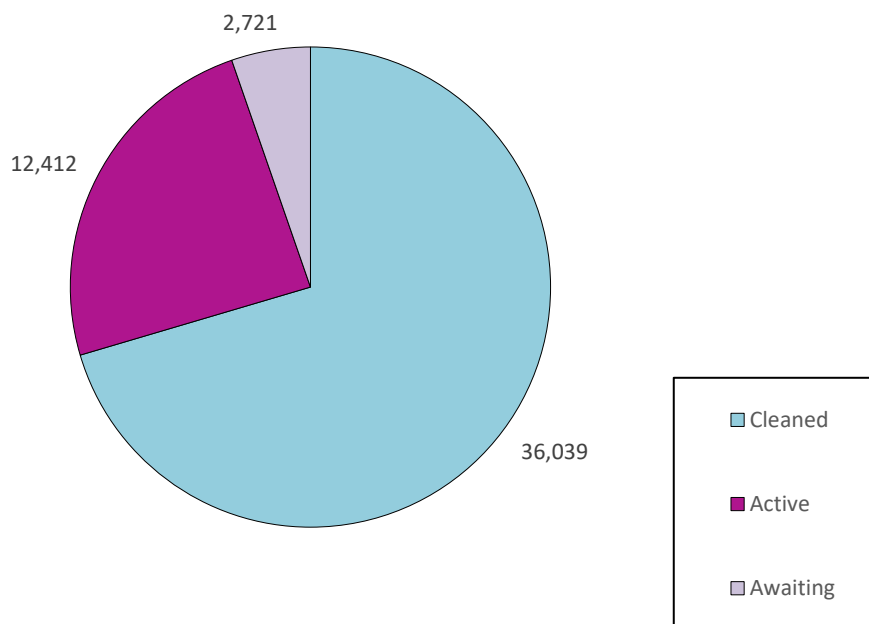
The Department is statutorily designated as the lead agency to coordinate the interagency review and certification (licensing) of threshold electrical power plants, electrical transmission lines and natural gas pipelines. The Siting Coordination Office (Office), in conjunction with the Department's Office of General Counsel, performs the administrative and legal tasks of the coordination process. The Governor and Cabinet, acting as the Siting Board, are the actual licensing entity. Certification is an umbrella permit, which includes all applicable state, regional and local regulatory nonprocedural requirements. It is a life-of-the-facility permit authorizing construction, operation and maintenance.

The majority of the Office's work deals with threshold siting projects. However, the Office also oversees and performs compliance reviews for electric and magnetic fields from transmission lines and provides recommendations to county property appraisers regarding the eligibility of certain pollution control equipment for ad valorem tax reductions.

Waste Management

The Department's Division of Waste Management (DWM) protects public health and the environment through management and regulation of solid and hazardous waste and petroleum storage tanks along with the cleanup of soil, ground water and surface water contamination. Cleanup is funded by government programs or by responsible parties through voluntary actions or enforcement. The universe of known contaminated sites and the status of cleanups are illustrated in the chart below.

Known Contaminated Sites (51,172)



The two largest taxpayer funded cleanup programs are Petroleum Restoration Program and Dry-cleaning Solvent Cleanup. The Department addresses other contaminated sites as well, including orphan hazardous waste sites, sites on state-owned lands, Superfund sites, Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) sites and federal facilities contaminated sites in partnership with the U.S. Department of Defense.

The Department promotes cleanup and reuse of contaminated property and economic revitalization of local communities through the Petroleum Advanced Cleanup Redevelopment program and designation and remediation of brownfields. The Petroleum Restoration Program has encumbered \$17.6 million for cleanup on 28 Advanced Cleanup Redevelopment projects since the program's inception on July 1, 2017. The total number of brownfields increased from 25 areas in 1999 to 572 areas as of April 2023, with 473 executed Brownfield Site Rehabilitation Agreements. Voluntary cleanup of contaminated sites has increased due to Brownfield Program incentives and the Voluntary Cleanup Tax Credit program. With the July 1, 2022, authorization, the Department has issued 1,545 voluntary cleanup tax credit certificates totaling more than approximately \$147.4 million since inception of the tax credit program in 1998.

The Department ensures that regulated entities comply with state environmental laws and federally delegated environmental program requirements through permitting, compliance assistance, compliance verification, enforcement, investigations, assessments and review of technical documents. Cleanup of non-government funded contaminated sites is achieved through voluntary cleanup, the Brownfield Redevelopment Program and enforcement involving responsible parties. For Fiscal Year 2023-24, cleanup is underway at more than 4,349 contaminated sites through enforcement actions or voluntary cleanup.

Priority areas for the Waste Management Program in Fiscal Year 2023-24 include:

- Permit Streamlining and Regulatory Consistency:** A major effort is underway to streamline permitting and improve consistency in compliance and enforcement involving permitting templates and increased review and oversight by DWM over district permitting and enforcement, and guidance on compliance

inspection priorities. As of April 2023, for Fiscal Year 2022-23, the waste programs processed 157 solid waste permits statewide, 35 hazardous waste permits and more than 29,267 registrations, certifications and other authorizations.

- **Recycling:** DWM continues to focus on the statewide recycling goal of 75 percent of municipal solid waste pursuant to Section 403.7032, F.S. In 2010, the Florida Legislature enacted comprehensive recycling legislation setting benchmarks for the goal while the 2012 Legislature revised the factors used to calculate progress. The first benchmark was for counties with a population over 100,000 to recycle 40



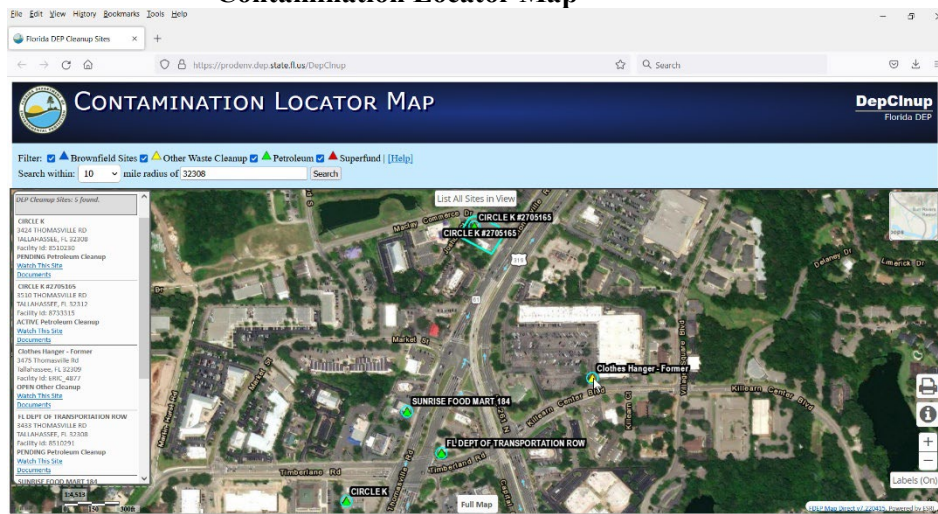
percent of recyclable solid waste by December 31, 2012, with the goal increasing every two years through 2020. Florida's 2020 recycling rate was 50 percent, falling short of the 2020 recycling goal of 75 percent.

Even though the recycling rate has declined since 2016, the amount of material recycled has increased by 3.7 million tons. Since the 2020 goal was not met, the Department submitted a report to the 2021 Legislature identifying additional programs and statutory changes that should be considered to achieve the goals set forth in s. 403.706, F.S. The report found that in order to make meaningful lasting advancements in Florida's recycling practices, the state should take under consideration the following three prong recycling enhancement approach: 1) focus on education; 2) increased local government assistance; and 3) market incentives. The Department's Recycling Business Assistance Center is working to expand and enhance the markets for recyclables in Florida (see <https://floridadep.gov/waste/waste-reduction/content/recycling-business-assistance-center>). Businesses can also access the Florida Recycling Loan Program for capital to purchase equipment and machinery to expand recycling capacity; information is available at <https://floridadep.gov/waste/waste-reduction/content/recycling-loan-program>.

- **Petroleum Cleanup:** DWM continues to promote efficiency and cost effectiveness in the Petroleum Restoration Program (PRP). This is accomplished with the contractor selection process that equally values performance, cost and a contractor's demonstrated ability to achieve cleanup. The program has lowered the Priority Funding Threshold to move additional state funded petroleum sites into active cleanup. Through assessment, the program has been able to evaluate risk and close discharges that had little to no contamination. PRP performed preliminary assessment on 96% of the remaining eligible discharges and is transitioning from assessing low scored sites to a higher percentage of sites undergoing remediation of contamination as the program matures.
- **Discharge Prevention:** DWM continues to provide resources to the regulated community for storage tank rules and regulations. The Compliance Assistance Program has created a guidance webpage (<https://floridadep.gov/waste/permitting-compliance-assistance/content/storage-tank-systems-guidance-and-information>) that includes videos designed to assist gasoline filling station owners and operators in preparing for a compliance inspection. The goal of this information and video guidance is to help prevent releases of petroleum products into the environment.
- **Waste Cleanup:** DWM continues to investigate sites where there is known, or suspected soil or groundwater contamination statewide, including PFAS contamination sites. DWM is responsible for managing state-funded cleanup of dry-cleaning sites and waste cleanup sites where there is no viable responsible party. DWM monitors contaminated sites to identify those that warrant higher priority for immediate action, including a determination as to the extent of contamination on and off the source property, whether a source is continuing to release contaminants, whether contamination is spreading and whether people are exposed to contamination.
- **Information Technology (IT) Initiatives:** Investing in IT is essential to improving efficiency, providing quality data for sound management decisions, increasing transparency and making information easy for the public to access. IT projects in operation or under development in DWM include:

- **OCULUSTM** – DWM’s electronic document management system provides public access to millions of documents and has saved money by reducing file room space.
- **FIRST/SWIFT** – These field applications increase the efficiency and accuracy of inspections, data entry and reporting for the Department’s tanks, hazardous waste and solid waste programs. In Fiscal Year 2018-19, the application was upgraded to full compatibility with the Windows 10 operating system and support was transitioned to application maintenance rather than development. In Fiscal Year 2023-24, ongoing maintenance will address any performance issues or new requirements.
- **CLM** – The Contamination Locator Map is an online tool that allows anyone to locate waste contamination sites in the vicinity of any identified location in Florida; it also has a subscription system to notify subscribers when cleanup milestones have been reached at the selected site.
- **ADaPT** – This automated data processing tool evaluates and reports ground water data from permits and sampling reports associated with DWM’s programs, eliminates paper reports and saves considerable time in reviewing and reporting data.
- **DEP Business Portal** – DWM continues to expand online services for registrations and authorizations through the Department’s Business Portal. To date, fourteen Enterprise Self Service Authorizations (ESSA) flows have been added to the portal.
- **ERIC** – The Environmental Restoration Integrated Cleanup (ERIC) project consolidates and modernizes the input, validation, analysis and reporting of cleanup data from several different DWM databases and will include ArcGIS mapping data. The ERIC system was brought into production in 2014 and the process of migrating the legacy systems to ERIC is underway. Multiple data migrations have occurred starting in Fiscal Year 2015-16 with the goal of a consolidated system with a unified tracking system for the waste cleanup sites in the state by 2024.

Contamination Locator Map



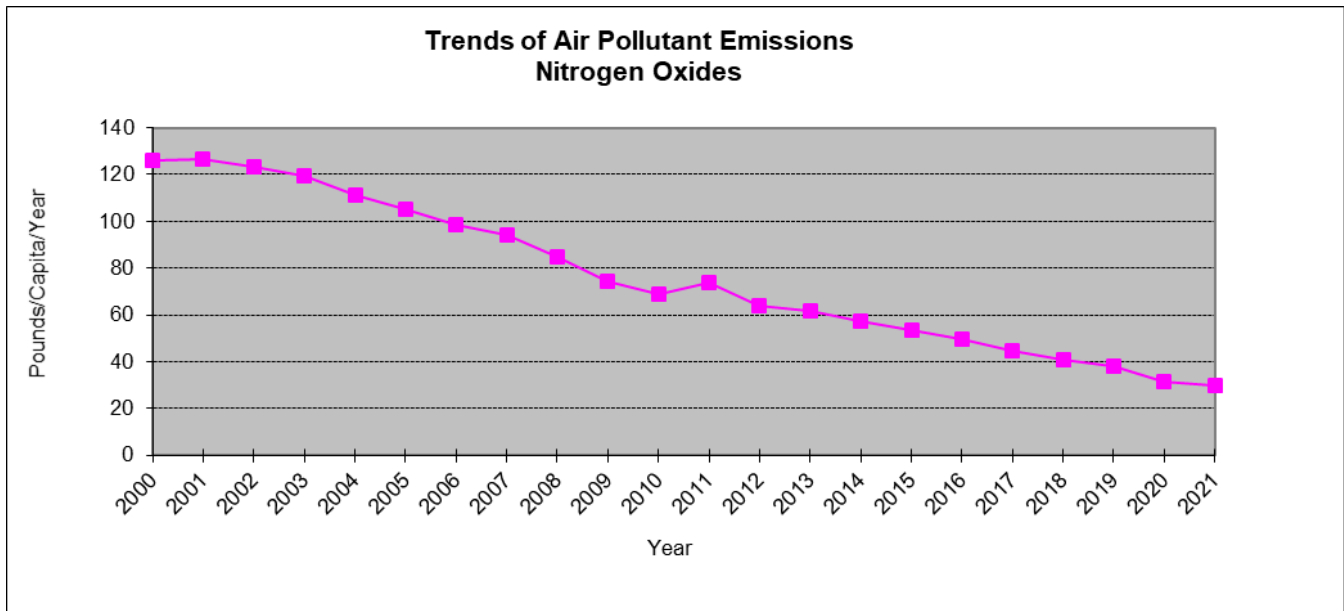
Air Resource Management

The Department's Division of Air Resources Management (DARM) manages Florida's air resources through consistent regulation of industry and accountability to our customers. Florida's air program is largely driven by the federal Clean Air Act and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) regulations, as well as state laws in Chapter 403, F.S. DARM's primary functions include permitting, compliance assistance, compliance determinations and enforcement, emissions inventory management, state regulatory planning for Clean Air Act compliance, and ambient air monitoring. DARM directly implements air regulatory actions and oversees the activities of the Department's six regulatory districts and eight Department-approved county air pollution control programs.

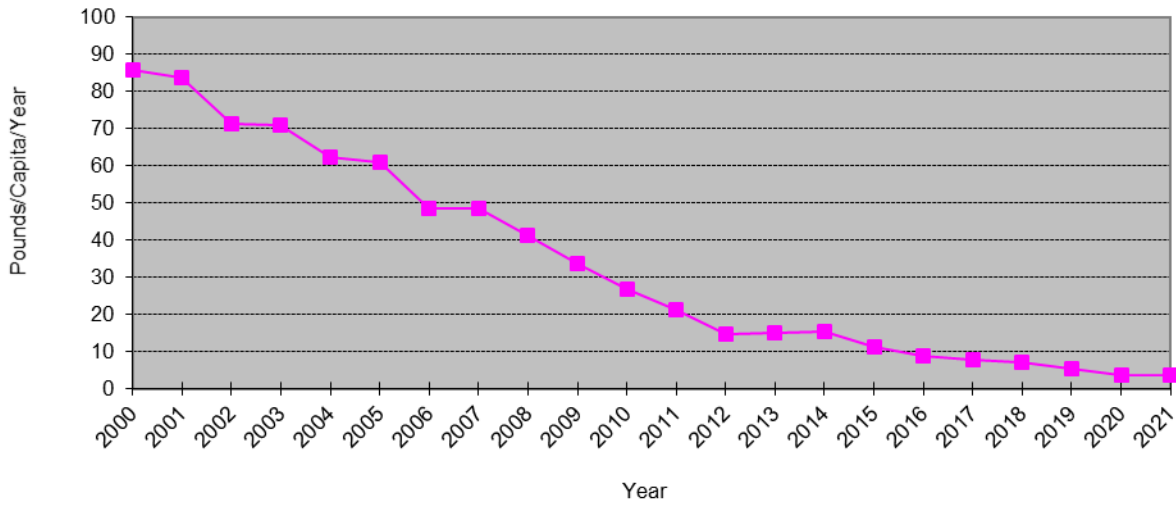
DARM also uses ambient air quality data to evaluate air pollution levels and trends with respect to the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS), which EPA has established for six pollutants, referred to as "criteria" pollutants because they are based on health-related criteria: Lead (Pb), Nitrogen Dioxide (NO₂), Carbon Monoxide (CO), Ozone (O₃), Particulate Matter (PM) and Sulfur Dioxide (SO₂).

The ambient data required to determine compliance with the NAAQS are obtained through Florida's statewide air monitoring network, which consists of 168 monitors located in 37 counties, covering 91.4 percent of Florida's population. While most monitoring occurs in densely populated areas, instruments are also located in rural areas to establish background levels of pollutants. Details on the types and locations of air monitors, along with real-time data, are available at www.floridadep.gov/air/air-monitoring.

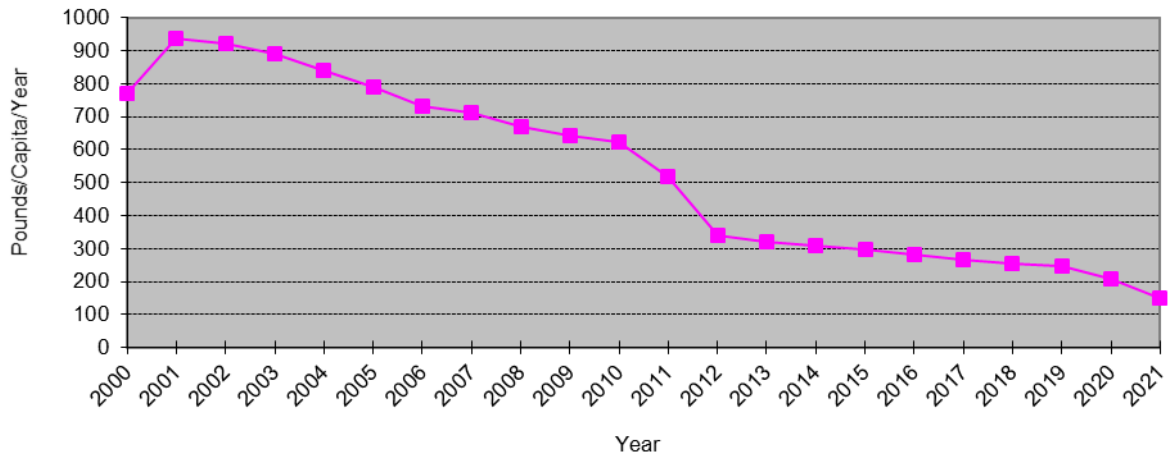
Florida has experienced significant declines in emissions of SO₂, CO, volatile organic compounds (VOC) and nitrogen oxides (NO_x) from 1985 until 2021, as illustrated in the four graphs below and on the following pages. The slight increase in NO_x emissions from 2010 to 2011 is attributable to changes in the EPA model used to calculate on-road mobile emissions, rather than actual emissions increases.

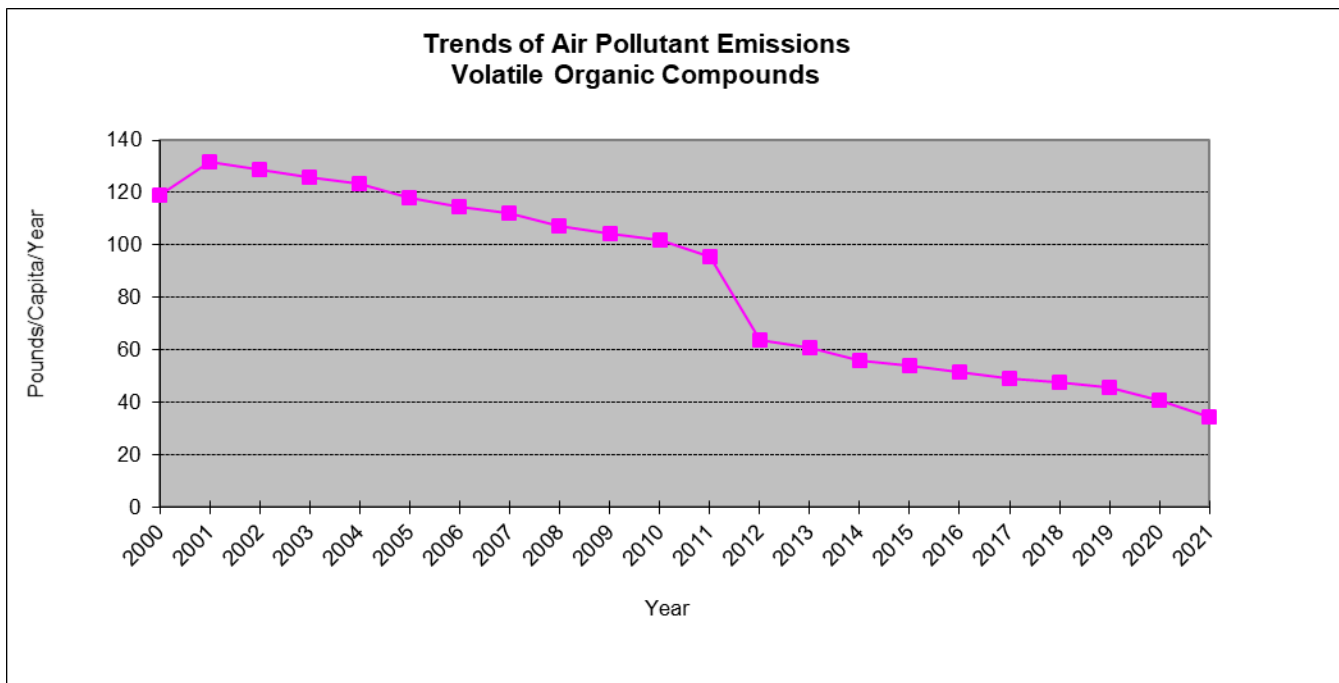


**Trends of Air Pollutant Emissions
Sulfur Dioxide**



**Trends of Air Pollutant Emissions
Carbon Monoxide**





DARM also implements the Small Business Environmental Assistance Program, which was established in 1990 by Title V of the federal Clean Air Act to provide compliance advice and technical assistance to small businesses. The program encourages partnerships with trade associations, government entities and small businesses and offers compliance tools, such as industry-specific compliance calendars and fact sheets; free and confidential phone consultations; notification of applicable requirements and facts; referrals to other environmental programs (water, waste, etc.); presentations and workshops to public and private organizations; and a hotline directory of key personnel who manage various state environmental programs and services.

ECOSYSTEMS RESTORATION

The Deputy Secretary for Ecosystems Restoration is responsible for five primary program areas that have enormous implications for water quality and water resource protection in Florida: establishing water quality standards, assessing water quality in accordance with those standards and implementing programs necessary to restore the quality of waters that do not meet the standards; providing financial assistance to local governments and other entities to protect and restore water resources; restoring Florida’s Everglades and other related South Florida ecosystems; and managing Florida’s aquatic preserves, including more than four million acres of valuable submerged lands and coastal uplands. These programs are focused on making best use of taxpayer resources, partnering with local communities and businesses to manage and protect natural resources to promote economic growth, establishing clear metrics to evaluate and strengthen the programs, and empowering staff with the best science to solve problems through knowledge, innovation and efficiency.

Water Policy and Ecosystems Restoration

The Office of Water Policy and Ecosystems Restoration (OWPER) is responsible for program areas that focus on environmental restoration and water supply protection in Florida.

Water Policy

Ensuring adequate, high quality water for human use and natural systems is essential to sustaining the state’s economy and quality of life. The Department and the five regional Water Management Districts under its general supervisory authority are responsible for water management in four key areas:

- Water quality;
- Water supply;
- Natural system; and
- Flood protection and flood plain management.

The Water Policy team leads in developing appropriate water policies based on statutory direction, overseeing the Water Management Districts and coordinating Department and district water programs.

Primary responsibilities of the Water Policy team include:

- Developing statewide water resource policies;
- Updating the “Water Resource Implementation Rule,” Chapter 62-40, F.A.C., that provides guidance for Department and Water Management District water programs and activities;
- Updating or creating new rules, as legislatively directed, to further protect springs, water supplies and natural systems;
- Reviewing Water Management Districts budgets, programs, plans, and rules for consistency with Chapter 62-40, F.A.C., and Chapter 373, F.S.;
- Tracking Water Management District performance on mission critical activities;
- Reviewing and approving Minimum Flow and Level (MFL) priority lists and schedules (Section 373.042, F.S.) and reviewing proposed MFL rules;
- Providing guidance on Water Management District regional water supply plans;
- Managing grant funds relating to alternative water supply and conservation, in coordination with the Water Management Districts;
- Coordinating on statewide and regional water supply issues, such as reclaimed water, water conservation, the Central Florida Water Initiative, and the North Florida Regional Water Supply Partnership;
- Completing annual reports and plans for submittal to the legislature on regional water supply planning, MFLs, recovery and prevention strategies, the Florida Water Plan, and others; and
- Ensuring consistency among Water Management District regulatory programs.

Ecosystems Restoration

The State of Florida has recognized that the greater South Florida ecosystem is unique in the world and one of Florida’s greatest treasures. Just over a century ago, water flowed down the Kissimmee River into Lake Okeechobee, then south through the vast Everglades to Florida Bay, the ultimate destination of the system’s uninterrupted sheet flow. The Florida Everglades once covered almost 11,000 square miles. Subsequent draining of the marshland for agriculture, development and flood control has resulted in the Everglades being reduced to half that size today. This "River of Grass" remains a mosaic of sawgrass marshes, freshwater ponds, prairies and forested uplands that supports a rich plant and wildlife community. Renowned for its wading birds and wildlife, the Everglades is home to dozens of state and federally threatened and endangered species.

The Ecosystems Restoration section oversees Everglades restoration efforts for the Department, which entails planning, permitting and compliance assistance for the restoration efforts, as well as working to ensure resources are available for current and future projects. The section ensures effective implementation of the Department’s policy, programmatic, technical and regulatory responsibilities under the Everglades Forever Act (Section 373.4592, F.S.), Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (Sections 373.470, 373.1501 and 373.1502, F.S.) and Northern Everglades and Estuaries Protection Program (Section 373.4595, F.S.). The section’s activities focus on protecting and improving water quality and restoring the ecology and hydrology of the greater South Florida’s ecosystem which stretches from the Kissimmee Chain of Lakes near Orlando to the Florida Keys.

The section represents Florida’s interests through policy and program development to ensure a holistic approach to restoring South Florida’s ecosystem. The section also formulates and plans projects consistent with governing rules and statutes that meet both federal and state restoration goals. Plan elements are complex, have a multitude

of stakeholders and require balancing the protection of water and ecological resources with the often competing objectives of water supply and flood control. Projects include the construction and operations of large scale civil works, including reservoirs, impoundments and stormwater treatment areas, all of which improve the quality, quantity, timing and distribution of water.

The section coordinates closely with state and federal partners, primarily the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and South Florida Water Management District, to ensure a smooth transition from project planning to permitting of construction and long-term operations of water management projects. Projects are evaluated to determine whether sufficient information has been provided to demonstrate that the benefits, goals and objectives of restoration outweigh potential short-term environmental impacts and that proposed activities comply with Florida law. Specific consideration is given to avoiding and minimizing wetland and endangered species impacts; ensuring water quality standards will be met; determining that project components maintain public health safety or welfare; and confirming that projects will achieve design objectives. Staff inspect restoration projects throughout construction to ensure compliance with permit conditions including verification that construction best management practices are implemented to minimize environmental impacts. Completed projects are evaluated for compliance with water quality standards and achievement of water quality improvement.

The section is also responsible for monitoring and enforcing the \$880 million Restoration Strategies Regional Water Quality Plan and accompanying consent order which outlines a suite of water quality projects designed to operate in combination with the existing Everglades Stormwater Treatment Areas (STAs) to achieve compliance with the State's numeric phosphorus criterion in the Everglades Protection Area (EPA) by 2025.

Specific section responsibilities include:

- Developing and communicating agency policy and assisting in the development of state-led Everglades and other restoration efforts;
- Administering the Everglades Forever Act; Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan; Northern Everglades and Estuaries Protection Program and other coordination planning;
- Ensuring project planning, biological assessments and engineering design meet policy, rule and statute through internal and external consultation and guidance;
- Providing regulatory authority over South Florida ecosystem restoration projects;
- Inspecting permitted projects and providing environmental compliance assistance;
- Participating in interagency technical teams and committees including the Everglades Technical Oversight Committee, Restoration Coordination and Verification, Restoration Strategies Science Plan Team, South Florida Ecosystem Restoration Task Force, Loxahatchee River Management Coordination Council, Biscayne Bay Regional Restoration Coordination Team and others;
- Providing technical assistance for legislative activities related to Everglades restoration;
- Providing oversight and financial contracted management of legislative appropriations for restoration activities;
- Managing grant funds relating to innovative technologies for prevention, clean-up and mitigation of harmful algal blooms, in coordination with local governments and Water Management Districts;
- Providing technical assistance to the Department's Office of General Counsel on Everglades restoration litigation;
- Coordinating with other Department programs, state and federal agencies, industry representatives and other groups in developing and implementing water quality, biological and other research and monitoring programs in the Everglades Protection Area;
- Reviewing and preparing technical reports on topics related to Everglades restoration; and
- Reviewing and providing comments on documents distributed through the Florida State Clearinghouse to ensure consistency with the Florida Coastal Zone Management Act.

Environmental Assessment and Restoration

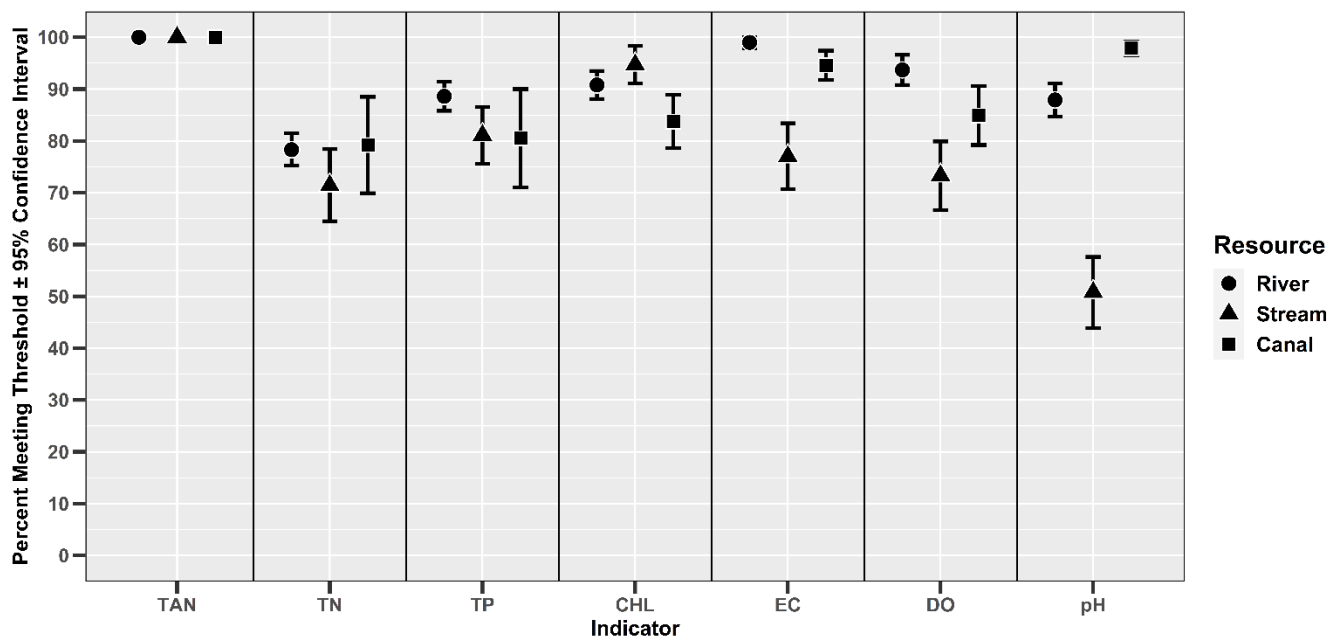
According to the most recent data available, Florida has more than 2,000 linear miles of coastline; over 1.6 million acres of lakes; nearly 27,000 miles of rivers and streams, with another 44,000 miles of canals; and more than 1,000 springs. Florida's surface waters cover more than 12,000 square miles and include the third largest area of inland waters among the 50 states. Florida also has an untold volume of groundwater in its aquifer systems. These resources provide drinking water sources, wildlife habitat, shellfish harvesting, agricultural supplies and a wide range of recreational opportunities. Water resources are intimately linked: lakes often reflect groundwater levels; spring flow provides the base flow of many streams and stream flow to estuaries is critical to maintaining salinity balance. The Department's *Integrated Water Quality Assessment* includes a wealth of other information on water resources. The most recent version, along with past assessments, are available at <https://floridadep.gov/dear/dear/content/integrated-water-quality-assessment-florida>.

The Division of Environmental Assessment and Restoration (DEAR) works with Department divisions, Water Management Districts, other state agencies, local governments, the federal government, the private sector and stakeholders to identify and reduce the impact of human activities on water quality and restore those waters that have already been identified as impaired. Partnering with local communities and businesses is essential to protecting and restoring natural resources and promoting sustained economic growth.

Florida's typically slow-moving, warm surface waters are susceptible to contamination from many sources. Discrete sources include domestic and industrial wastewater discharges, which are extensively regulated so that pollution from these sources has been significantly reduced over the last four decades. Diffuse sources of pollution, however, are difficult to identify and regulate. They include an estimated 2.6 million septic tanks; urban and agricultural runoff, including pesticides, fertilizers, animal waste and other pollutants; improperly disposed solvents, petroleum products and other forms of hazardous and solid waste; and atmospheric deposition (pollution entrained in rain and dust).

DEAR implements statewide status and trend monitoring to assess the chemical and biological health of Florida's surface waters and groundwaters. At its highest level, monitoring addresses statewide and regional questions to characterize overall water quality trends and conditions. For example, the following graphic provides a snapshot of statewide water quality conditions for flowing waters during the period 2019-2021 for seven primary indicators: Total ammonia nitrogen (TAN), total nitrogen (TN), total phosphorus (TP), chlorophyll a (CHL), E. coli bacteria (EC), dissolved oxygen (DO), and hydrogen ion concentration (pH). The symbols represent the percentage of waters meeting water quality standards; lines represent the upper 95% confidence bounds of these estimates. The indicators reflect nutrients and bacteria, excessive levels of which are the leading causes of Florida's surface water quality problems. Similar snapshots of statewide conditions for other types of surface waters and groundwaters, along with trend conditions over time, are available from DEAR's water quality report cards at <https://floridadep.gov/dear/watershed-monitoring-section/content/interactive-water-quality-report-cards>.

Statewide Results for Rivers, Streams, and Canals 2019 to 2021



TAN = Total Ammonia Nitrogen, TN = Total Nitrogen, TP = Total Phosphorus, CHL = Chlorophyll a, EC = *Escherichia coli*, DO = Dissolved Oxygen, pH = hydrogen ion concentration

Monitoring is also used to evaluate regulatory compliance, the effectiveness of urban and agricultural best management practices and the success of restoration programs. The division provides a searchable database of Florida water monitoring activities online at <http://water-cat.usf.edu/>. Monitoring water quality at all levels provides a wealth of environmental metrics used to evaluate and strengthen DEAR’s water quality programs, activities and services. Monitoring partners and the public can keep track of the division’s sampling efforts through the Water Quality Monitoring Event Tracker interactive map available at <https://floridadep.gov/dear/water-quality-assessment/content/water-quality-monitoring-events>.

DEAR assesses this monitoring data in the context of surface water quality standards established consistently with the federal Clean Water Act. Florida’s standards, adopted in Chapter 62-302, F.A.C., include surface water classifications, numeric and narrative criteria, an anti-degradation policy and moderating provisions, along with special protections for certain waters, such as Outstanding Florida Waters. Federal regulations require states to perform triennial reviews to assess applicable surface water quality standards and, as appropriate, adopt new or modified standards through a process that includes public hearings.

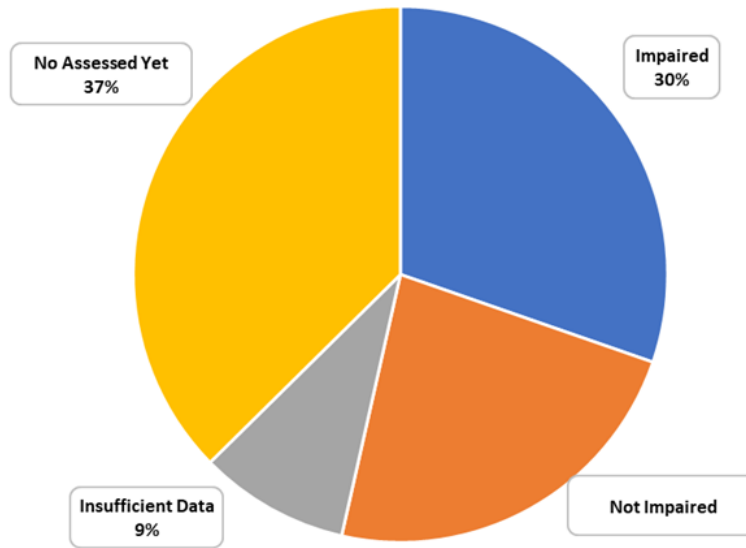
More than 90 percent of Florida’s public drinking water supply comes from groundwater. Florida’s groundwater standards are based primarily on public health considerations and are adopted pursuant to the federal and state Safe Drinking Water Acts. Groundwater standards consist of a classification system based on use and water characteristics, along with narrative “minimum criteria” and specific numeric water quality criteria, all adopted in Chapter 62-520, F.A.C.

The Department has integrated surface water and groundwater protection in its watershed management program, which involves data collection and interpretation to assess the health of water resources; establishment of scientific water quality restoration targets and pollutant loading limits for individual waterbodies; and development and implementation of detailed plans to restore water quality. These activities are undertaken in a continuous cycle that promotes an increasingly refined understanding of water quality and assures that restoration actions, and water quality protection programs, are routinely re-evaluated and improved. The following graphic illustrates the watershed management cycle:



The first step in restoring Florida’s polluted rivers, lakes, streams, springs and estuaries is assessing water quality data to determine and verify specific pollution problems. DEAR concluded the statewide 2020-2022 Biennial Assessment cycle on April 29, 2022. DEAR has assessed 4,187 of Florida’s 6,682 discrete watershed segments and identified 2,031 as “impaired” (not meeting water quality standards) as the result of a variety of pollutants, including nutrients and bacteria. There are 626 segments that have been evaluated but not enough data are yet available to make an impairment determination. The following chart illustrates the most recently available water quality assessments to date.

**SURFACE WATERS - ASSESSMENT STATUS OF
WATERBODY SEGMENTS AS OF MAY, 2022**

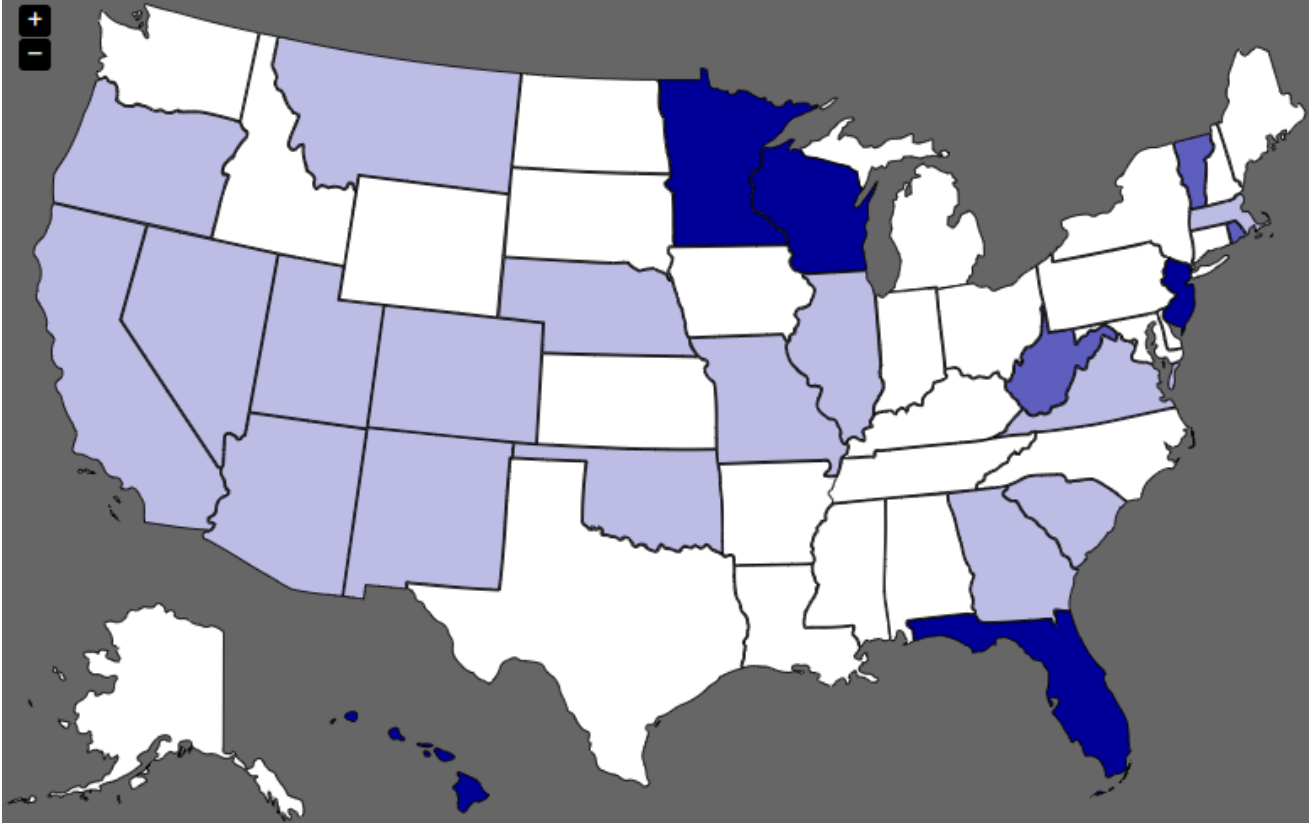


This scientific, data-driven assessment is one way DEAR focuses taxpayer resources on those priority projects and activities that are essential to water quality improvement. The public nature of the process enables DEAR to partner with local communities, businesses and industries to restore waters they all depend on.

The most challenging surface water quality problem confronting Florida is excessive levels of nutrients (forms of nitrogen and phosphorus), which can cause rampant algae growth, deplete oxygen levels and compromise aquatic habitats. The numeric nutrient criteria (NNC) developed and adopted by DEAR are among the most comprehensive water quality standards in the nation, as illustrated in the following EPA map comparing NNC development among the states and territories. A newer version of the ECHO State Comparative Maps is currently being modernized by the U.S. EPA. The map below represents the most up to date map available.

States with Total Nitrogen or Total Phosphorus Criteria

1998 2008 2013 2014 2015 2016 2017 2018 2019 2020 2021 2022 Current



	District of Columbia
	American Samoa
	Commonwealth of Northern Marianas
	Guam
	Puerto Rico
	US Virgin Islands

Level 5	Complete set of N and P criteria for all watertypes**
Level 4	2 or more watertypes with N and/or P criteria
Level 3	1 watertype with N and/or P criteria
Level 2	Some waters with N and/or P criteria
Level 1	No N and/or P criteria

* Progress expected by December 31st of the selected year based on milestone information provided by the state or territory.

** "Watertypes" on the national maps and tables within this webpage refers to three watertypes: lakes/reservoirs, rivers/streams, and estuaries. Criteria for additional watertypes are included under the State/Territory Details tab.

Adoption of these rigorous criteria was the result of years of scientific work, negotiations with an array of stakeholders, several rounds of litigation and multiple EPA approvals.

Whether the problem is nutrients, bacteria, metals or other pollutants, it is essential to establish the amount of the pollutant(s) a waterbody can assimilate and still meet its water quality standards. To do so, DEAR determines Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs) that will be allowed within a specific waterbody. Each TMDL, developed using available data and state-of-the-art water quality modeling, sets a specific water quality restoration target for a waterbody and is adopted by rule. In some TMDLs, the department will also create localized multi-year development and implementation plans to guide the development and implementation of Basin Management

Action Plans (BMAPs) to achieve the limits set by the TMDL. BMAPS provide a framework for water quality restoration that contains local and state commitments to reduce pollutant loading through current and future projects and strategies. BMAPs contain a comprehensive set of solutions, such as permit limits on wastewater facilities, urban and agricultural best management practices, and conservation programs designed to achieve pollutant reductions established by a total maximum daily load (TMDL).

To date, DEAR has adopted 459 TMDLs and will have approximately 26 TMDLs under development in Fiscal Year 2023-24. The division has also adopted 32 BMAPs encompassing more than 13 million watershed acres. DEAR has adopted 12 BMAPs for major spring systems and anticipates one more being adopted in 2023-24. DEAR is also pursuing two stakeholder-led restoration plans by supporting efforts of local governments, citizens, environmental groups and others to develop the plans.

The map, "Water Quality Assessments, TMDLs, and BMAPs," available at <https://www.arcgis.com/home/webmap/viewer.html?webmap=1b4f1bf4c9c3481fb2864a415fbeca77>, depicts the current geographic scope of DEAR's TMDLs and BMAPs that have been adopted or are in development, along with the other areas with impaired waters (those that do not meet standards) that establish priorities for future actions. Detailed information on the impaired waters listing process, the development and adoption of TMDLs and BMAPs is available at <https://floridadep.gov/DEAR/>.

The Department's central laboratory, a state-of-the-art facility housed within DEAR, is essential to the analysis and reporting of water quality and other environmental and public health data. The lab typically conducts between 140,000 and 150,000 analyses each year (with FY 2019-20 and FY 2022-23 below this range due to COVID-19, difficulties in procuring laboratory supplies, and retaining qualified staff) and provides biological and chemical laboratory support to many state and local government programs, including specialized field sampling, scientific study design and statistical and narrative interpretation of environmental data. The lab has rigorous operating procedures and clear metrics designed to determine customer satisfaction in analytical and reporting work as well as evaluating and strengthening performance. Fiscal Year 2022-23 sample analyses and analytical reports have both met performance expectations 99 percent of the time. The lab continues to add cutting-edge tools and analytical capabilities, including the tools and capabilities to analyze for blue-green algal toxins, wastewater tracers, and perfluorinated alkylated substances (PFAS) like perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) and perfluorooctanesulfonic acid (PFOS) in both water and soil. Performing these PFAS analyses inhouse rather than at contract laboratories not only produces results sooner, with lower detection limits, it also saves the Department hundreds of dollars per analysis.

DEAR's laboratory is also one of only five laboratories in the Environmental Response Laboratory Network, coordinated by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security and EPA, that can analyze for ultra-dilute chemical warfare agents to provide analytical support for response and recovery operations following a terrorist attack or other national emergency. See <https://www.epa.gov/emergency-response/environmental-response-laboratory-network> for more information.

Governor DeSantis signed The 2020 "Clean Waterways Act" (Chapter 2020-150/Senate Bill 712) directing the Department to create a real-time water quality monitoring program, advance potable reuse in Florida, and transferring the Onsite Sewage Treatment And Disposal (OSTDS) program from the Department of Health to the Department of Environmental Protection, among other water quality issues designed to improve public health related to water.

Resilience and Coastal Protection

The Office of Resilience and Coastal Protection (RCP) protects natural resources on state-owned sovereign submerged lands and coastal uplands through the administration of the state's 42 Aquatic Preserves, three National Estuarine Research Reserves, Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary, and the Kristin Jacobs Coral Reef Ecosystem Conservation Area. RCP also oversees the Florida Coastal Management Program, Outer

Continental Shelf Program, Clean Boating Program, Resilient Florida Program, Coral Protection and Restoration Program, and five distinct Beach and Inlet Management Programs.

Aquatic Preserves are submerged lands of exceptional ecological character to be maintained in their natural or existing conditions for future generations. There are 42 Aquatic Preserves, coastal and freshwater sites, encompassing 2.6 million acres of sovereign submerged lands. National Estuarine Research Reserves were designated by joint action of the state and federal governments through the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). RCP provides stewardship, education, training, research and monitoring programs at Florida's three National Estuarine Research Reserves (Apalachicola, Guana Tolomato Matanzas and Rookery Bay). RCP also oversees the organization and operation of several ecotourism activities that are hosted in some managed areas.

The Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary, established in 1990 by Congress, and confirmed by the Board of Trustees of the Internal Improvement Trust Fund, covers 2.3 million acres of state and federal submerged lands. The Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary contains unique and nationally significant marine resources, including the southern portion of Florida's Coral Reef (the world's third largest barrier coral reef), extensive seagrass beds, mangrove-fringed islands and more than 6,000 species of marine life. RCP leads state co-management efforts in the Sanctuary in partnership with the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission and NOAA.

The Kristin Jacobs Coral Reef Ecosystem Conservation Area was designated by the Florida Legislature in 2021. The Coral Reef Conservation Program manages this area by coordinating research and monitoring, developing management strategies and promoting partnerships to protect the northern portion of the Florida Coral Reef along the southeast Florida coast, pursuant to the U.S. Coral Reef Task Force's National Action Plan. The Coral Reef Conservation Program also implements Florida's Local Action Strategy, the Southeast Florida Coral Reef Initiative. The program leads response, assessment and restoration efforts and jointly oversees enforcement efforts for non-permitted reef resource injuries (vessel groundings, anchor and cable drags, etc.) in southeast Florida pursuant to the Florida Coral Reef Protection Act (Section 403.93345, F.S.).

The Florida Coastal Management Program is based on a network of agencies implementing 24 statutes that protect and enhance the state's natural, cultural and economic coastal resources. The goal of the program is to coordinate local, state and federal government activities using existing laws to ensure that Florida's coast is as valuable to future generations as it is today. RCP is responsible for directing the implementation of the statewide coastal management program. The Florida Coastal Management Program provides funding to promote the protection and effective management of Florida's coastal resources at the local level through the Coastal Partnership Initiative grant program.

RCP's Outer Continental Shelf Program is responsible for coordinating the state's review, oversight, monitoring and response efforts related to activities that occur in federal waters on the Outer Continental Shelf to ensure consistency with state laws and policies and that these activities do not adversely affect state resources. Reviews are conducted under federal laws, including the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act, Coastal Zone Management Act, National Environmental Policy Act, Deepwater Ports Act, Marine Protection, Research and Sanctuaries Act, Rivers and Harbors Act, Clean Air and Water Acts and the regulations that implement them.

The Clean Boating Program includes Clean Marina designations to bring awareness to marine facilities and boaters regarding environmentally friendly practices intended to protect and preserve Florida's natural environment. Marinas, boatyards and marine retailers receive clean designations by demonstrating a commitment to implementing and maintaining a host of best management practices. The Clean Vessel Act provides grants, with funding provided by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, for construction and installation of sewage pump out facilities and purchase of pump out boats and educational programs for boaters.

The Resilient Florida Program is working with communities all across the state to inform and support community

planning and adaptation of critical assets including the restoration of critical ecosystems. Together, these programs work to ensure Florida's communities are resilient and prepared for the effects of rising sea levels, including flooding, erosion, and ecosystem changes. These programs support community resilience planning and natural resource protection tools; providing funding and technical assistance to prepare Florida's communities for sea level rise; and continuing to promote and ensure a coordinated approach to estimating and mitigating flooding and sea level rise impacts among state, regional, and local agencies.

The Coral Protection and Restoration Program was established to administer funds for continuing offshore water quality monitoring to define the effects of land-based activities on Florida's Coral Reef and initiating projects to improve water quality in Biscayne Bay. The program also provides co-leadership with federal and state agencies for the multi-faceted partner response to the stony coral tissue loss disease (SCTLD) outbreak, including intervention, coral rescue, research and restoration actions. In 2023, the Florida's Coral Reef Restoration and Recovery Initiative was created to build the framework for reef-wide restoration activities to address decades of habitat loss and the devastating impacts of SCTLD.

Florida's 825 miles of sandy shoreline fronting the Atlantic Ocean, the Gulf of Mexico and the Straits of Florida attract millions of people annually. Coastal areas are critical to protecting Florida's ecology, public health, safety and welfare, providing unique wildlife habitat and a buffer against storms.

There currently are 426.3 miles of sandy beaches in Florida identified as critically eroded, of which 58 percent are actively managed and maintained by local, state and federal agencies to reduce the impacts of erosion. Erosion results from hurricanes and tropical storms, imprudent coastal development, normal storm systems and other natural processes. The largest contributors to man-induced erosion are artificial and altered inlets that interrupt the normal longshore transport of sand. Imprudent upland development in close proximity, to the shoreline, has destabilized protective dunes in critically eroded shoreline areas.

RCP determines shoreline conditions and trends, restores and manages critically eroded beaches and protects the beach and dune system through the following programs:

- Beach erosion control, through the implementation of the Statewide Strategic Beach Management Plan.
- Regulation of coastal construction that could have a physical effect on coastal processes seaward of the mean high-water line and seaward of the coastal construction control line.
- Coastal monitoring to characterize long-term shoreline erosion trends to improve beach management, planning and regulatory reviews.
- Emergency Storm Response activities through post-storm damage assessments and preparation of corresponding recovery plans, including repair and cost estimates.

RCP's beach program also plays a critical role in Florida's emergency response activities, including damage assessments, emergency permitting and coordination with other state and federal response agencies.

Beach Management Funding Assistance Program

The Beach Management Funding Assistance Program in RCP provides grants to local governments for the planning and implementation of beach and inlet management projects, which provide protection for upland structures, infrastructure, critical habitat, recreation and tourism. Activities eligible for program funding include beach restoration and nourishment, design and engineering studies, environmental studies and monitoring, inlet management planning, inlet sand bypassing (transfer), dune restoration and vegetation and beach erosion control alternatives. Projects must be accessible to the public, located within an area designated by the department as critically eroded, and be consistent with strategies listed in the statewide Strategic Beach Management Plan.

Water Restoration Assistance

The Division of Water Restoration Assistance (DWRA) is responsible for providing financial assistance (grants and loans) for projects that improve water quality and quantity. Projects include improving stormwater quality, reducing pollutants that enter surface water and groundwater (including springs), collecting and treating sanitary wastewater, producing and distributing drinking water and restoring potable water service to households affected by contaminated source water. DWRA also administers grants for water restoration activities that are directed by the Legislature. The projects are primarily undertaken by counties and municipal entities.

DWRA is responsible for managing Fixed Capital Outlay appropriated for Fiscal Year 2023-24, totaling approximately \$1.5 billion. Including those funds that are encumbered and certified forward, the total funding under management in the division is approximately \$5.1 billion.

DWRA's Nonpoint Source Management Program provides grants, primarily to local governments and special districts, for the implementation of the State of Florida's stormwater and nonpoint source management activities. The goal of these activities is to minimize stormwater/nonpoint source pollution from new land use activities and to reduce pollution from existing activities. The Program manages the federal Clean Water Act Section 319(h) Grant and the state water quality restoration grant. The grants support projects that reduce pollution from nonpoint sources and urban stormwater.

Springs restoration is underwritten by a recurring appropriation from the Florida Legislature and supports land acquisition and capital projects that protect spring flow and water quality. For Fiscal Year 2023-24, the Legislature appropriated \$50 million for springs restoration. The Water and Springs Restoration Program manages the springs appropriation and the legislative grants for water restoration activities.

DWRA's Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) program provides low interest loans for wastewater and stormwater projects that reduce or eliminate a source of pollution. Non-point source projects, such as agricultural best management practices, and green infrastructure projects are also eligible for low interest loans. The Disadvantaged Small Community Grants (DSCG) program provides grants to small disadvantaged communities for wastewater treatment, collection and disposal facilities. Grants are combined with low-interest CWSRF loans to leverage local resources and build better infrastructure.

DWRA's Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) program provides low-interest loans to eligible entities for planning, designing and constructing public water facilities. Additional assistance is available for disadvantaged communities having populations less than 10,000.

The State Revolving Fund (SRF) Management Program in DWRA is responsible for financial oversight of the State Revolving Fund and grant programs. Program staff prepare financial assistance agreements and amendments, manage disbursement requests, monitor loan repayments and reconcile program funds.

DWRA's Deepwater Horizon Program supports restoration activities associated with the 2010 Deepwater Horizon oil spill. This includes assessing and establishing restoration plans through the Natural Resource Damage Assessment (NRDA) process. This legal process determines the type and amount of restoration needed to compensate the public for damages caused by the oil spill. In addition, the Resources and Ecosystems Sustainability, Tourist Opportunities and Revived Economies of the Gulf Coast State (RESTORE) Act was signed into law on July 6, 2012. The Act creates the Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Council and outlines five funding categories for 80 percent of Clean Water Act civil and administrative penalties from the Deepwater Horizon oil spill. Also, the Gulf Environmental Benefit Fund was established by the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) to administer funds arising from plea agreements that resolve the criminal cases against BP and Transocean. The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission and the Department work directly with NFWF to identify projects for the State of Florida, in consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and NOAA. Between 2013 to 2021, \$598 million was approved to fund restoration projects in Florida.

On April 4, 2016, a settlement was entered resolving all federal and state claims against BP. Based on the settlement, BP will pay a total of \$18.7 billion, over a fifteen-year period, which is broken down between Clean Water Act penalties, natural resource damage claims, and economic claims, across the Gulf States. The state of Florida will receive \$3.25 billion, of which \$2 billion will be paid to resolve Florida's economic claims. Florida is also receiving a total of \$680 million to resolve the State's NRDA claims, and \$617 million pursuant to the RESTORE Act. The various funds are used to implement a variety of restoration projects including rebuilding coastal and estuarine marshes and wetlands, restoring sea grass beds and oyster reefs, installing living shorelines, replenishing damaged beaches and dunes, protecting sensitive areas for wildlife and improving water quality and altered hydrology.

LAND AND RECREATION

The Deputy Secretary for Land and Recreation is responsible for the acquisition and management of lands for conservation and recreational purposes, serving as staff to the Board of Trustees (BOT) of the Internal Improvement Trust Fund (Governor and Cabinet) and for overseeing the Florida State Park system. These diverse program areas preserve and protect what, in many ways, are Florida's environmental signature: the wild, natural places millions visit every year and that are seen in photographs and posters around the world.

State Lands

Land Acquisition

Since 1963, Florida has invested more than \$8.6 billion to conserve over 4.1 million acres^[1] of land for environmental, recreational and preservation purposes. These investments have been implemented through several programs, most recently Florida Forever and its predecessor, Preservation 2000. Through the Florida Forever program, Florida has adopted a comprehensive approach to resource restoration through land acquisition. In addition to acquiring land, Florida Forever has focused on protection and restoration of water resources, wildlife habitat, recreation spaces, forests, wetlands and public access to beaches.

To achieve its mission, the Division of State Lands (Division) coordinates and evaluates land management plans, conducts appraisals, completes surveys and maps for land purchases and exchanges, and conducts land negotiations and closings on behalf of the State for conservation lands and non-conservation lands such as universities, state office buildings and state courts. In addition, the Division provides staff support to the Acquisition and Restoration Council, performs geodetic surveys, conducts fresh and tidal shoreline survey work and tracks and maintains the BOT's land ownership records along with surveys and maps of historical records.

Future land acquisitions must be carefully planned to protect natural areas, waterbodies and springs, and provide linkages to create safe biological and recreational pathways. The Department will continue to partner with other governmental or non-governmental groups to stretch funding to increase the acquisition of appropriate lands.

Land Management

The Florida Constitution requires that state-owned lands be held in trust, by the BOT, for the use and benefit of the people of Florida; Florida law further requires that the lands be managed to provide the greatest combination of benefits to the people. With Florida's preservation land inventory exceeding 4 million acres, land management plans, land use plans and on-site reviews are necessary to ensure that all responsible agencies manage the land in accordance with best management practices and BOT policies.

State land acquisition programs have increased the demand for land management services and the need for

¹ 4.1 million acres refers to lands that have been acquired by the State, including acquisitions by the Water Management Districts and local governments. This has been accomplished through several programs including the Environmentally Endangered Lands, Outdoor Recreation, Save Our Coasts, Save Our Rivers, Conservation and Recreation Lands, Preservation 2000, and Florida Forever. This does not refer to lands that are managed by the State.

administering and managing uses of state-owned lands via leases, subleases, management agreements and easements, exchanges and surplus. There are more than 9 million acres of sovereignty-submerged lands within the boundaries of Florida. These shoreline areas of sovereignty-submerged lands have great revenue potential associated with the issuance of leases or easements.

The Division continues its efforts to identify lands no longer needed for state purposes that may be declared surplus and sold, returning them to county tax rolls and improving local economies. Selling surplus land has allowed the Division to make better use of state assets by using funds received from sales for conservation management purposes and to acquire conservation lands with higher resource value.

The Public Land Survey System (PLSS), established in Florida in 1824, provided for the survey of approximately 250,000 section corners, which are still the geographic basis for all land titles and land ownership boundary descriptions. Age and land development activities have compromised the integrity of the PLSS, resulting in uncertainty in boundary location of both public and private lands. The cost-effective way to perpetuate the PLSS is to restore the original position of the corners and establish a geographic or geodetic position on the corner to permanently memorialize its position. The Division maintains an ongoing repository and website (www.labins.org/) for PLSS corner records. The Division provides for extension and densification of geodetic survey control throughout the state. Ties between the PLSS and the geodetic reference system will allow establishment of a digital cartographic database with unique coordinates identifying land corners, providing consistency throughout land information systems and reducing duplicative mapping.

The determination of tidal datums (reference points) along coastal tidewaters requires continued monitoring through the extension and maintenance of a network of tide control stations. Private sector surveyors must also be properly trained to assure defensible placement of coastal water boundaries. The new generation tide stations collect data to provide an elevation for mean high water at a certain location and can be equipped with sensors to measure current, wind velocity and direction, salinity, dissolved oxygen, etc. Extending the network is important to hurricane and oil spill emergency response activities, commercial and recreational boating, tide height information collection, and many other uses. The Department's mean high water survey repository can be found on www.labins.org/ along with statewide aerial photography and beach and shore preservation (erosion control line) surveys. The 2020 Legislative Session increased funding for the re-establishment and maintenance of the Tide Station program.

With all these technological advances, the Division is still responsible for maintaining physical records, including original public land records and instruments of the BOT, which are maintained in a vault with more than 1 million instruments, documents and inventory parcels. The Division initiated a computerized information system program for BOT documents, with an inventory base map and hybrid web-map applications for state agency and public use. The system maps parcels in over 76,000 land record documents. An annual inventory reconciliation of lands held in the name of the BOT is performed against the Florida Department of Revenue's annual property assessment rolls for all 67 counties.

The legislatively required Florida State Owned Lands and Records Information System (FL-SOLARIS) project allows the Department and other agencies to track the ownership of all state-owned lands and facilities. The project began in November 2010 and, since then, has allowed submission of state land and facility data from more than 50 agencies. FL-SOLARIS data is available to the public on the Division's website at http://www.dep.state.fl.us/lands/fl_solaris.htm.

The management system of the BOT's land records is known as the Board of Trustees Land Document System (BTLDS). A redesign commenced in 2013 after it was determined that the original BTLDS must be refreshed with up-to-date technologies to meet Department IT standards. In addition, business processes between mission critical applications, BTLDS and FL-SOLARIS, have been enhanced to include seamless integration and web-enabled access for greater user efficiency. The full implementation of the refreshed BTLDS was completed in February 2017. Web versions of the refreshed BTLDS are available to the public on the following website: <https://prodenv.dep.state.fl.us/DslBtllds/public/welcome>.

Land and Recreation Grants

The Land and Recreation Grants group promotes and fosters partnerships to enhance and sustain Florida's natural land and cultural resources through grant funding for acquisition, conservation and development of outdoor recreational opportunities for Florida's residents and visitors. Five grants are administered in this group and include the Florida Communities Trust Parks and Open Space Program; Stan Mayfield Working Waterfronts Program; Land and Water Conservation Fund Program; Florida Recreation Development Assistance Program; and Recreational Trails Program.

Recreation and Parks

Florida State Parks

The Department proudly manages 175 nationally recognized and awarded state parks and trails. The operation of these parks not only enhances the quality of life for Florida's residents, but also provides a major attraction for visitors. During Fiscal Year 2022-23, more than 28 million people visited Florida's State Parks, generating over \$83 million in revenue. The state park system's impact on local economies throughout Florida exceeds \$2 billion.^[2] With so many acres of conservation land purchased over the years, a concentrated effort has been made to make these natural areas more accessible to the public and provide recreational opportunities for the fast-growing nature tourism segment of Florida's tourist industry. The Florida State Park System's 175 park units comprise nearly 800,000 acres. Over the next five years, the need for public outdoor recreation land and parks will increase as population growth begins to rebound and visitors continue to flock to Florida.

The Department partners with the private sector for a variety of park services, including grounds maintenance, cleaning, water and wastewater services and life guarding. Additionally, the park system has close to 100 vendors who provide recreational opportunities for visitors, including kayak and canoe rentals, boat tours and restaurants. The concessionaires allow the Department to make additional amenities available to visitors while providing jobs for the private sector.

Visiting a state park is a wonderful recreational and educational opportunity; an extended stay enables a full appreciation of Florida's natural treasures. The Department's central reservations system makes it easy, allowing visitors to reserve overnight accommodations by calling a toll-free number or making reservations online. Additional information on reservations can be found at www.floridastateparks.org/reservation-information.

Office of Greenways and Trails

The Office of Greenways and Trails (OGT), a bureau within the Division of Recreation and Parks (DRP), is tasked with fulfilling Chapter 260, F.S., the Florida Greenways and Trails Act. To accomplish this, OGT provides statewide leadership, planning and coordination to establish, expand and promote the interconnected Florida Greenways and Trails System (FGTS), both on land and water. The FGTS Plan substantially contributes to the identification and implementation of outdoor recreation. The Plan establishes goals that include advancing Florida's economy, tourism, health, transportation, recreation, conservation and quality of life through the promoting and marketing of the FGTS to residents and visitors, as well as establishing partnerships and engaging stakeholders. The Plan also establishes goals to delineate regional trail systems and assist with strategic investment in resources to advance system completion. OGT oversees the priority and opportunity maps that define the FGTS, and works in partnership with communities, agencies and organizations to close gaps in the system.

OGT's role is to facilitate communication, cooperation and coordination among all governmental entities, private landowners, recreational user groups and other non-governmental organizations involved in outdoor recreation

² Florida State Parks Economic Impact Assessment FY 2021-22

OGT's role is to facilitate communication, cooperation and coordination among all governmental entities, private landowners, recreational user groups and other non-governmental organizations involved in outdoor recreation and trails planning, development, management and maintenance. Over the years, OGT has established strong relationships with planners, land managers and other stakeholders at all levels, both public and private.

DRP has also been given the responsibility by the Florida Legislature, Section 375.021(1), F.S., to develop and execute a comprehensive, multipurpose outdoor recreation plan with the assistance of other public recreation land managers. In addition, Section 258.004(3), F.S., directs DRP to study and appraise the recreation needs of the state, and to assemble and disseminate information pertaining to recreation. The Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP), which now falls under OGT, is the state's official document regarding outdoor recreation planning and serves as an essential state-level companion to the FGTS Plan.

With the recent completion of the updates to both the SCORP and the FGTS Plan, it is necessary to develop educational tools relating to the benefits of outdoor recreation and trails with regards to health, economic growth, stewardship, etc. These tools will be used to engage stakeholders and establish partnerships to increase access to outdoor recreational activities and trail development by facilitating educational programs, workshops, webinars and summits to share strategies and provide targeted information to partners.

TASK FORCES, STUDIES IN PROGRESS

TASK FORCES

ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES

Executive Direction and Support Services

- Department of Environmental Protection Diving Safety Advisory Board – Internal agency board established to provide a state-of-the-art dive safety process in compliance with state and federal dive safety standards and regulations.
- Department of Environmental Protection Safety Advisory Board – Internal agency board established to prevent employee injuries and equipment losses and reduce the Department’s automotive, civil rights, workers’ compensation and general liabilities claims.
- Interagency Advisory Council on Loss Prevention – Duties of this Council are established in Section 284.50, F.S., and is the responsibility of the Department of Financial Services. All state agencies are required by Florida Statute to provide a member to the Council.
- Department of Environmental Protection Boating Safety Advisory Board – Internal agency board established to train Department staff in proper boating techniques, recommend improvements and identify corrective measures to eliminate or control recognized hazards.

Florida Geological Survey

Many of the groups in which the Florida Geological Survey (FGS) leads or participates were established in response to the FGS’s various statutory responsibilities under Section 377.075, F.S.

- Big Cypress Swamp Advisory Committee – Created to ensure proper oil well and facility siting and safeguards within the Big Cypress Swamp watershed. The Director of the FGS, who also serves as Florida’s State Geologist, serves as Chair of the committee. Other members include representatives from the oil industry and an organized conservation group; a botanist; and a hydrologist (Section 377.42, F.S.).
- Florida Board of Professional Geologists – Established in Chapter 492, F.S., to safeguard the public and environment by ensuring Professional Geologists meet minimum competency standards. The State Geologist in the Department of Environmental Protection serves as an ex officio member of the board.
- STATEMAP Advisory Committee – This group meets in October on a yearly basis. It provides guidance to the FGS STATEMAP Program Coordinator on which areas of the state are priorities for future surficial geologic mapping efforts. The group consists of geologists from federal and state agencies, including water management districts, the private sector, and academia.

Office of Emergency Response

- Emergency Response Function 10 (ESF10) – Emergency Support Function 10 provides coordinated state and federal response efforts to the State of Florida for current or potential environmental hazards involving oil and

hazardous materials. Some ESF10 responsibilities include monitoring debris disposal, water quality monitoring, air quality sampling and protection of natural resources.

- Hazardous Assessment and Recovery Team (HART) – The primary duty of the Hazardous Assessment Response Team is to provide systematic response to hazardous materials incidents and ensure facilities generating hazardous materials have not been compromised by an emergency event. These duties include responding to reports of abandoned containers with unknown substances, verify and mitigate hazmat releases, inspect hazardous waste generating facilities, and other missions directed by ESF10.
- State Emergency Response Team (SERT) – The State Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan (Plan), authorized by Chapter 252, F.S., establishes the roles and responsibilities of the state agencies, special districts and local governments in a disaster. The Plan coordinates response and recovery activities with local agencies, the business community and voluntary organizations active in disasters. The Plan unifies the efforts of these groups for a comprehensive approach to reducing the effects of an emergency and/or disaster. The Office of Emergency Response provides Emergency Coordinating Officers to the SERT.
- State On-Scene Coordinator (OSC) – The OSC generally joins an already established Incident Command Post (ICP) to support local authorities or establishes an ICP at a site in accordance with the local Area or Regional Contingency Plan, and conducts activities from that ICP under a Unified Command. The agency providing the OSC provides additional representatives to the ICP as appropriate.
- Regional Response Team (RRT) – The RRT’s mission is to protect the health, welfare and safety of the public and the environment by ensuring coordinated, efficient and effective support of the responding federal, state and local On-Scene Coordinators for significant oil and hazardous substance incidents occurring within federal Region IV. The RRT is mandated by the National Contingency Plan and required under the federal Water Pollution Control Act. The Office of Emergency Response provides a representative and alternate to the RRT.
- State Emergency Response Commission (SERC) – The SERC is responsible for implementing provisions of the federal Emergency Planning and Community Right to Know Act in Florida and serving as a technical advisor and information clearinghouse for state and federal hazardous material programs. Currently, SERC membership comprises 26 individuals appointed by the Governor who represent the interests of state and local government, emergency services, industry and the environment. The Office of Emergency Response serves as a SERC member.
- State Domestic Security Working Group (SWG) – The SWG is the interagency, multidisciplinary team responsible for implementing state all-hazard domestic security priorities in accordance with the Executive Office of the Governor’s Homeland Security Advisor and State Administrative Advisor. The SWG devises policy for specialty response teams and coordinates statewide projects funded through the federal State Homeland Security Grant Program.

STATE LANDS

- Acquisition and Restoration Council (ARC) – Established by Section 259.035, F.S., ARC is a 10-member council (four of which are Governor appointed; four are state agency heads or designees; one appointed by the Florida Commissioner of Agricultural and Consumer Services; and one appointed by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission.) ARC’s duties include making recommendations to the Board of Trustees on the Internal Improvement Trust Fund on the acquisition, management and disposal of state-owned conservation lands.
- Florida Communities Trust (FCT) – Established by Section 380.504, F.S., FCT is a nonregulatory state agency governed by a five-member board consisting of the Secretary of the Department and four public members appointed by the Governor subject to Senate confirmation; former elected official of a county government, former elected official of a metropolitan municipal government, representative of a nonprofit organization, and representative of the development industry. FCT coordinates and funds activities and projects which help bring local comprehensive plans into compliance and help implement the goals, objectives, and policies of the conservation, recreation and open space, and costal elements of local comprehensive plans, or which will otherwise serve to conserve natural resources and resolve land use conflicts.
- Land Management Uniform Accounting Council (LMUAC) – The LMUAC was created within the Department by Section 259.037, F.S., and is formed by seven state agency directors. LMUAC’s duties include compiling conservation land management costs across state agencies and establishing formulas for identifying land management funding needs.
- Florida Coordinating Council on Mosquito Control – Established by Section 388.46, F.S., the mission of the Florida Coordinating Council on Mosquito Control is to provide assistance and recommendations to the Commissioner of Agriculture and the legislature on all matters related to public health pest control.
- Office of Agricultural Water Policy (OAWP) Interagency/Production Group – OAWP was established in 1995 by the Florida Legislature to facilitate communications among federal, state and local agencies and the agricultural industry on water quantity and water quality issues involving agriculture. In this effort, the OAWP is actively involved in the development of Best Management Practices (BMPs), addressing both water quality and water conservation on a site specific, regional and watershed basis. As a significant part of this effort, OAWP is directly involved with statewide programs to implement the federal Clean Water Act’s Total Maximum Daily Load requirements for agriculture. The OAWP works cooperatively with agricultural producers and industry groups, the Department, university system, Water Management Districts and other interested parties to develop and implement BMP Programs that are economically and technically feasible.
- Babcock Ranch Preserve Interagency Coordinating Group – Agencies with managing interests in the Babcock Ranch Preserve meet at least three times a year to resolve managing issues.
- Cooperative Conservation Blueprint (CCB) – The purpose of the CCB is to help to conserve the most vital working landscapes and natural habitats while maintaining a sustainable economy and agriculture opportunities. This public-private partnership will create, publish and maintain an online centralized GIS application of common priorities. The CCB will help to guide future land use planning decisions and recommend market-based incentives that encourage conservation. The Department serves as an interagency member.
- Air Force Landscape Planning Initiative: Conservation and Working Lands Group – This interagency group

works to locate lands for special operations military units to use for training exercises.

- Florida Surveying and Mapping Council – The purpose of this Council is to promote communication between government and private sector surveyors.
- Land Conservation Task Team – Initiated by the federal government to track progress in Everglades’ restoration, the Land Conservation Task Team provides staff support, to update land acquisition and conservation data for the South Florida Ecosystem Area.
- Boating Advisory Council – Established by Section 327.803, F.S., this 18-member council makes recommendations to the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission and the Department of Economic Opportunity regarding issues affecting the boating community.
- Fisheating Creek Settlement Agreement Advisory Board – This court ordered board advises the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission on the management of the Fisheating Creek Wildlife Management Area.
- Critical Lands and Waters Identification Project (CLIP) Technical Advisory Group – In 2006, the Century Commission for a Sustainable Florida called for an identification of those lands and waters in the state that are critical to the conservation of Florida's natural resources. In response, the Florida Natural Areas Inventory, University of Florida GeoPlan Center and Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission collaborated to produce CLIP, a GIS database of statewide conservation priorities for a broad range of natural resources, including biodiversity, landscape function, surface water, groundwater and marine resources.

REGULATORY DISTRICT OFFICES

- West Florida Regional Planning Council - The West Florida Regional Planning Council was reorganized as of Jan. 1, 1987, under Chapter 186, Florida Statutes. The Council functions as the official regional planning council as defined in Chapter 186 of the Florida Statutes, and as the regional planning agency as defined in Chapters 23, 163, and 380, Florida Statutes. As the RPC, it serves Florida’s seven most western counties (Bay, Escambia, Holmes, Okaloosa, Santa Rosa, Walton, and Washington).
- Apalachee Regional Planning Council- The Apalachee Regional Planning Council assists with grants, outreach, project implementation, and other planning activities to enhance the nine-county Apalachee Region. The Council houses a variety of programs, including economic development, emergency preparedness, transportation, housing, GIS, environmental/resiliency planning, and will soon offer expanded growth management services. By collaborating across these programs and embracing partnerships with local, state, and federal organizations, the ARPC continues to make a positive and lasting impact throughout the Apalachee Region.
- The Bay County/Tyndall AFB Joint Land Use Study – This study examines the capability of adjacent land uses with plans for the air force base.
- Miami River Commission – Created in 1998 by Section 163.06, F.S., the Commission is the official clearinghouse for all public policy and projects related to the Miami River. The Commission’s mission is to help ensure that government agencies, businesses and residents speak with one voice on river issues.

- Tampa Bay Estuary Program – The Tampa Bay Estuary Program protects and restores Tampa Bay through a partnership of Pinellas, Hillsborough and Manatee counties, the cities of Tampa, St. Petersburg and Clearwater, the Department, Southwest Florida Water Management District and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. The Program is governed by a Policy Board of elected officials and a Management Board of top-level bay managers and administrators and consists of various technical and advisory committees.
- Southwest Florida Water Management District’s Comprehensive Watershed Management Initiative – This initiative manages water resources by evaluating interconnected systems of the region’s watersheds. The Initiative joins the Department’s Southwest District staff with representatives from local governments, other interested organizations and citizens to develop plans to protect and improve the watersheds. The Initiative has four primary goals: 1) identify and prioritize existing and potential water resource issues; 2) develop strategies for remedial or protective actions; 3) implement the strategies; and 4) monitor effectiveness.
- Sarasota Bay National Estuary Program – This Program protects and restores Sarasota Bay through a partnership of Sarasota and Manatee counties, the Department, Southwest Florida Water Management District and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. The Program is governed by a Policy Board of elected officials and a Management Board of top-level bay managers and administrators.
- Charlotte Harbor National Estuary Program – This Program is a partnership of citizens, elected officials, resource managers and commercial and recreational resource users working to improve the water quality and ecological integrity of the greater Charlotte Harbor watershed. A cooperative decision-making process is used within the Program to address diverse resource management concerns in the 4,400 square mile study area.
- Indian River Lagoon National Estuary Program – This Program protects and restores the Indian River Lagoon through a partnership of the Lagoon’s five bordering counties, the Department, St. Johns River Water Management District and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. It is governed by a Policy Board of elected officials and a Management Board of top-level lagoon managers and administrators.
- Hillsborough River Interlocal Planning Board/Hillsborough River Technical Advisory Council – The Hillsborough River Interlocal Planning Board (River Board) is an organization consisting of three elected officials representing the geographical location of the Hillsborough River. It is supported by the Hillsborough River Technical Advisory Council (Council), comprised of eight agency representatives (the Department is one of the eight agencies) and three citizen members. The River Board and Council developed a Master Plan for the Hillsborough River, incorporating policies broadly pertaining to water quality and quantity; safety and use of the River; and protection of wildlife and its habitat along the river.
- Tampa Bay Nitrogen Management Consortium (NMC) – The NMC consists of local governments, regulatory agencies, private industries and agricultural interests collaborating to achieve nitrogen management goals in Tampa Bay. NMC is a unique voluntary partnership funded by contributions from participants. A Co-Chair from industry and a Co-Chair from local government in conjunction with representatives of the Tampa Bay Estuary Program provide oversight of the NMC.

WATER POLICY AND ECOSYSTEMS RESTORATION

- Everglades Technical Oversight Committee – The Committee originated from the July 11, 1991, Settlement Agreement as a mechanism for technical review and conflict resolution to support the Everglades Program begun by the Agreement and continued in the 1994 Everglades Forever Act (Section 373.4592, F.S.).
- Restoration Strategies Science Plan Team – This interagency team required by the Restoration Strategies Regional Water Quality Plan accompanies the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Watershed Permits and associated consent orders for the Everglades Stormwater Treatment Areas (STAs). The team drafted a science plan that will ensure continued research and monitoring to improve and optimize the performance of the STAs.
- South Florida Ecosystem Restoration Task Force (SFERTF) – The SFERTF was established by Section 528(f) of the Water Resources Development Act of 1996. The Task Force: 1) coordinates the development of consistent policies, strategies, plans, programs, projects, activities and priorities addressing the restoration, preservation and protection of the South Florida ecosystem; 2) exchanges information regarding programs, projects and activities of the agencies and entities represented on the Task Force to promote ecosystem restoration and maintenance; 3) facilitates the resolution of interagency and intergovernmental conflicts associated with the restoration of the South Florida ecosystem among the agencies and entities represented on the Task Force; 4) coordinates scientific and other research associated with the restoration of the South Florida ecosystem; and 5) provides assistance and support to agencies and entities represented on the Task Force in their restoration activities.
- SFERTF Working Group – Assists the Task Force in its efforts to coordinate the development of consistent policies, strategies, plans, programs, projects, activities and priorities addressing the restoration, preservation and protection of the South Florida ecosystem.
- SFERTF Science Coordination Group – Continually documents and supports programmatic-level science and other research through updates and implementation of the Task Force's Plan for Coordinating Science.
- SFERTF Biscayne Bay Regional Restoration Team – Implements an Action Plan developed to integrate and coordinate restoration, enhancement, preservation projects, plans, and activities to help maintain a functioning Biscayne Bay ecosystem. The focus is on maintaining adequate volume and appropriate timing and distribution of freshwater flow to Biscayne Bay.
- Water Resources Accountability and Collaboration (WRAC) – Is an open forum consisting of designated representatives from stakeholder groups such as members of environmental groups, public interest groups, the business community, agriculture, water supply utilities and local governments. The forum will meet periodically to give a balanced representation of the diverse perspectives and viewpoints on water resource issues. The forum will facilitate public discussion, participation and comment on critical water management issues and will serve to gather information, facts and viewpoints.
- North Florida Regional Water Supply Partnership – This partnership is a collaborative effort among the St. Johns River and Suwannee River Water Management Districts, the Department, local elected officials and area stakeholders to protect natural resources and ensure cost-effective and sustainable water supplies in northeast Florida.

- Central Florida Water Initiative (CFWI) – The CFWI builds on the prior work of the Central Florida Coordination Area. Both efforts focus on an area that includes southern Lake, Orange, Osceola, Seminole and Polk counties. The St. Johns River, Southwest Florida and South Florida Water Management Districts, along with the Department, Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, regional public water supply utilities and other stakeholders are collaborating to develop a unified process to address central Florida’s current and long-term water supply needs.
- Restoration Coordination and Verification (RECOVER) Leadership Group – The Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan interagency team is responsible for coordinating and integrating the activities of the RECOVER technical teams and ensuring that the overall focus and direction of the implementation process remains consistent with the goals of system wide restoration.
- Loxahatchee River Management Coordinating Council – The Council, established by Chapter 83-358, Laws of Florida, advises the Department and South Florida Water Management District on matters that affect administration of the Loxahatchee River.
- Lake Belt Mitigation Committee – In 1999, the Florida Legislature established a mitigation fee on each ton of lime rock and sand sold from the Miami-Dade County Lake Belt Area. The purpose of the fee is to provide for mitigation of wetland resources lost to mining activities within this area. The fee is collected from the mining industry by the Department of Revenue and transferred to the SFWMD Lake Belt Mitigation Trust Fund. The Legislature established an interagency committee to evaluate mitigation proposals and oversee the expenditure of mitigation fees from the Lake Belt Mitigation Trust Fund. The committee consists of representatives from each of the following: the Miami-Dade County Department of Environmental Resource Management, the Department of Environmental Protection, the South Florida Water Management District, and the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission. As provided for in the legislation, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service have been added to the committee as voting members.

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT AND RESTORATION

- Florida Water Resources Monitoring Council – The Council exists to promote information sharing among stakeholders that participate in monitoring efforts and management for marine waters, fresh surface waters and groundwater in Florida. By fostering communication, cooperation and collaboration, the Council works to share monitoring data, including promoting the use of the Watershed Information Network (WIN) data repository, and works to identify and address overlap and gaps in monitoring programs, catalog monitoring programs, and investigate marine and coastal monitoring initiatives. As part of the work of the Council, Water-CAT was developed, which is an interactive, searchable, web-enabled database of state, federal, local, private sector and volunteer organizations that monitor water resources in Florida. The Council comprises the Department, the departments of Health and Agriculture and Consumer Services, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, Water Management Districts, local governments, federal agencies and volunteer organizations.
- Pesticide Registration Evaluation Committee – In general, each brand of pesticide distributed, sold, or offered for sale within Florida, or delivered for transportation or transported in intrastate commerce or between points in Florida through any point outside the state, must be registered by the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (FDACS). Registrations must be renewed biennially. FDACS established the Pesticide Registration Evaluation Committee to implement its review responsibilities and

obtain input from involved FDACS staff and affected state agencies. DEAR represents the Department on the Committee.

- Red Tide Task Force – Under Governor Ron DeSantis’ leadership the Red Tide Task Force, also known as the Harmful Algal Bloom (HAB) Task Force, was re-organized and received funding for the first time in more than 15 years. Coordination of the Red Tide Task Force and its activities will be carried out by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC). The Red Tide Task Force will focus on the causes of red tide and seek to provide mitigation solutions, identify research needs, and evaluate other actions intended to address impacts from red tide along with other saltwater based algal blooms. DEAR Deputy Director Dave Whiting sits on the task force and represents the department.
- Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary Water Quality Protection Program Technical Advisory Committee – Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary Water Quality Protection Program Technical Advisory Committee – The Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) provides scientific expertise to identify and implement corrective actions that reduce point and nonpoint sources of pollution in the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary. The primary functions of the TAC include the design and prioritization of monitoring and research/special studies programs, reviewing research proposals from partner organizations, and providing technical expertise to the steering committee. DEAR’s Deputy Director Ken Weaver sits on the committee and represents the department.

WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

- Miami-Dade County Lake Belt Mitigation Committee – This interagency committee was created pursuant to Section 373.41492, F.S., to approve expenditures of mitigation fee funds to conduct projects to offset the impacts of limestone mining within the Miami-Dade County Lake Belt Area.
- Domestic Wastewater 2.0 – The Division of Water Resource Management established Domestic Wastewater 2.0 in 2017 to implement proactive strategies to eliminate sanitary sewer overflows (SSOs) from wastewater collection and transmission systems to reduce potential impacts to human health, safeguard Florida’s natural resources and enhance its ecosystems. A number of regulatory recommendations were adopted in the 2021 collection systems rulemaking as required by the Florida Clean Waterways Act, Chapter 2020-150, Laws of Florida. These include: requiring all parts of the collection system to be maintained to function as intended; requiring emergency response plans to include hurricane/severe storm procedures and requiring annual plan reviews; incorporating collection systems into facility operation and performance reports, planning for facility expansion, and operation and maintenance requirements; and a new rule requiring a comprehensive collection system action plan for maintenance of the collection system. As recommended by Domestic Wastewater 2.0, new collection/transmission system-related standard permit conditions for domestic wastewater facility permits have been developed to highlight and better implement collection system requirements.
- Onsite Sewage Variance Review and Advisory Committee – The Onsite Sewage Variance Review and Advisory Committee was created pursuant to Section 381.0065(4)(h)2, F.S. to meet monthly to recommend agency action on requests for variances in hardship cases where Section 381.0065, F.S. requirements cannot be met.
- The OSTDS Interagency Transfer Team (OITT) was established by the 2021 IA between the Department and DOH. Its goal is to ensure the continued success of the OSP transfer during the five-year transition period. OITT will be a transfer workgroup and its members will operate as liaisons to discuss the OSP transfer and implementation at the Department.

RECREATION AND PARKS

State Park Operations

- Visit Florida – Florida State Parks is a Visit Florida partner and serves on the Industry Relations Committee and other committees as appropriate.
- Florida Trail of Indian Heritage – Florida State Parks is a member of the network of archaeological sites, history museums, heritage interpreters and county, state and national parks working together to promote responsible site visitation and public education of Florida’s Indian heritage.
- Florida Recreation and Park Association – Florida State Parks is a member of the organization that provides professional development, networking and resources to its members. The organization also provides advocacy for parks and recreation interests.
- National Recreation and Park Association – Florida State Parks is a member of the organization that is dedicated to advancing park, recreation and conservation efforts that enhance the quality of life for all people.
- Wekiva River System Advisory Management Council – Florida State Parks is a member of the organization that oversees the federally designated Wild and Scenic Wekiva River Basin. The organization is staffed by the National Park Service and advises the Secretary of the Interior on any river issues.
- Florida’s Prescribed Burning Councils – Florida State Parks is a member of the Florida’s North, Central and South Prescribed Burning Councils with multi-agencies who develop fire management policies and coordination for the State of Florida.
- Florida Greenways and Trails Council – Pursuant to Chapter 260, F.S., this advisory council reports on greenways and trails issues statewide.
- Florida Pedestrian and Bicycle Safety Coalition – The Office of Greenways and Trails represents the Department on this Coalition. The Coalition was established by the Florida Department of Transportation (DOT) to prioritize and implement the strategies identified in order to improve pedestrian and bicycle safety.
- Florida Paddling Trails Association – Members serve as the volunteer Stewards of Florida's paddling. An Office of Greenways and Trails (OGT) representative serves on the executive committee.
- American Trails – Nonprofit group works to enhance and protect America's network of interconnected trails. Division of Recreation and Parks is a member and staff take advantage of the group's webinars.
- Florida National Scenic Trail Coalition – US Forest Service and its partners work to complete, protect, maintain and promote Florida National Scenic Trail as a distinct Florida recreation asset and to ensure an optimum, nationally significant recreation experience. An Office of Greenways and Trails (OGT) representative serves on the committee.
- Society for Outdoor Recreation Professionals (SORP) – The Society of Outdoor Recreation Professionals (SORP) is the nation’s leading association of outdoor recreation and related professionals. The mission of SORP is to protect natural and cultural resources by promoting sustainable recreational access through research, planning, management, and policy development.

Florida State Parks

- Technical Advisory Committee – The Office of Greenways and Trails represents the Department on this Committee and makes recommendations to the Capital Region Transportation Planning Agency Board regarding the development of an efficient, safe and cost-effective transportation system that considers the needs of users of all modes of transportation, including bicycle/pedestrian and transit.
- Pedestrian & Bicycle Committee – The Office of Greenways and Trails represents the Department on this Committee and makes recommendations to the Emerald Coast Regional Council (ECRC) regarding the development of an efficient, safe and cost-effective transportation system that considers the needs of users of all modes of transportation, including bicycle/pedestrian and transit.
- Florida Off-Highway Vehicle (OHV) Advisory Committee – The Office of Greenways and Trails represents the Department on this Committee, which was established in Chapter 261, F.S. The Committee members are appointed by the Commissioner of the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Service to establish policies to guide the Department regarding the OHV Recreation Program and the system of OHV recreation areas and trails.
- Florida Scenic Highways Advisory Committee – The Office of Greenways and Trails represents the Department on this committee, which was established by Section 335.093, F.S. The Florida Scenic Highways Program (FSHP) was developed “to preserve, maintain, protect and enhance Florida’s outstanding cultural, historical, archeological, recreational, natural and scenic resources.” The Committee advises the Florida Department of Transportation on whether the candidate corridors have met all requirements specified in the FSHP Manual, Rule 14.15.016, F.A.C. Also, services on the Big Bend Scenic Byway that is one of the committees that makes up the Florida Scenic Highways Organizations.
- Preventive Health and Health Services Block Grant (PHHSBG) Advisory Committee - Through the Florida Department of Health, the Office of Greenways and Trails represents the Department on this committee. The Florida PHHSBG Advisory Committee serves as an advisory unit to the Florida Department of Health (DOH). The Advisory Committee consults on the planning, program priorities, funding decisions, and the maintenance of the funding accountability. Current priorities include Healthiest Weight Florida, Chronic Disease Prevention, Community Health Assessment, and Community Health Improvement Planning.
- Healthy Weight, Nutrition and Physical Activity (HWNPA) Workgroup for the State Health Improvement Plan (SHIP) - Through the Florida Department of Health, the Office of Greenways and Trails represents the Department on this committee. The Advisory Committee consults on the planning, program priorities, funding decisions, and the maintenance of the funding accountability. Current priorities include Improve access to and participation in physical activity opportunities within the built environment for Florida to increase healthy weight.
- Rural Economic Development Initiative Committee - Through the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity, the Office of Greenways and Trails represents the Department on this committee. The Rural Economic Development Initiative was established to significantly improve Florida's rural economies, specifically in terms of personal income, job creation, average wages and strong tax bases. Work with communities to improve their rural economies.
- Florida State Health Improvement Plan Steering Committee - Through the Florida Department of Health the Office of Greenways and Trails represents the Department on this committee. The committee comprising different stakeholders and partners to make strategic decisions regarding the development of the State Health Improvement Plan, ensure the most important health issues affecting Floridians were captured and that a comprehensive and actionable plan was developed to address each.

Resilience and Coastal Protection

- Florida Oceans and Coastal Resources Council – Established in Chapter 2005-166, Laws of Florida, the Council assists the state in identifying new research strategies to maximize protection and conservation of ocean and coastal resources while recognizing their economic benefits.
- Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council – Formed by a Memorandum of Understanding signed by the Board of Trustees of the Internal Improvement Trust Fund, the Council provides oversight and direction to the management of the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary.
- U.S. Coral Reef Task Force (Interior/Commerce) – Executive Order 13089 by the President of the United States, created the U.S. Coral Reef Task Force and established the Coral Reef Conservation Program within the Office of Resilience and Coastal Protection (RCP).
- Gulf of Mexico Alliance – RCP participates in an association of representatives of the five Gulf of Mexico states and federal agencies to coordinate coastal research, management and education efforts.
- Coastal States Organization – RCP holds a seat on the executive committee. The Coastal States Organization represents the coastal states and has important input on ocean and coastal policies at a national level.
- Clean Boating Partnership - The mission of the Clean Boating Partnership is to coordinate public and private resources to promote a clean marine environment and foster stewardship of Florida’s waters.
- Biscayne Bay Commission – The Biscayne Bay Commission was established by the Florida Legislature in 2021 as an advisory council to DEP (CS/HB 1177). The commission serves as the official coordinating clearinghouse for all public policy and projects related to Biscayne Bay to unite all governmental agencies, businesses, and residents in the area to speak with one voice on bay issues; to develop coordinated plans, priorities, programs, and projects that might substantially improve the bay area; and to act as the principal advocate and watchdog to ensure that bay projects are funded and implemented in a proper and timely manner.

AIR RESOURCES MANAGEMENT

- Small Business Air Pollution Compliance Advisory Council – The council, established in Section 403.8051, F.S., is comprised of seven members from different small business groups across the state to review and advise the Department on the effectiveness of the Small Business Environmental Assistance Program.
- Florida Air Monitoring Advisory Committee – The Advisory Committee exists to identify and address air monitoring quality assurance issues, and to provide guidance and training to the statewide Quality Assurance (QA) Coordinators. It comprises QA representatives from the Department and nine local air monitoring agencies.

STUDIES IN PROGRESS

FLORIDA GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

In addition to geologic mapping, the FGS conducts studies on Florida's geologic history, karst, mineral resources, hydrogeology, and geomorphology in collaboration with regional, state and federal agencies and academia. The results of these studies can be applied to assessing the origin and distribution of groundwater contamination, sinkhole and other geologic hazards, ranking of conservation land purchases, characterization of critical mineral resources, and refining frameworks for improved groundwater flow models supporting water resource protection and sustainability. FGS activities support nearly all Department divisions, providing geoscience expertise to complex environmental remediation projects, regulatory issues, sinkhole-related incidents, and education and outreach opportunities for citizens. FGS regularly collaborates with Florida counties, Water Management Districts, Division of Emergency Management, Florida Department of Transportation, the Florida Museum of Natural History, the State University System, and the U.S. Geological Survey.

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT AND RESTORATION

South Florida Canal Aquatic Life Study

The Division of Environmental Assessment and Restoration (Division) conducted a study to comprehensively assess south Florida canals and their aquatic life. Study objectives were to:

1. Define appropriate and desired aquatic life;
2. Determine interrelationships between aquatic life and other variables that affect them;
3. Evaluate the best attainable condition for the canals; and
4. Identify information that can be used to guide management decisions.

The data collection phase of the study has been completed and the Department has prepared a report summarizing the results. The results indicate the canals frequently do not achieve the generally applicable criteria for several parameters (dissolved oxygen, chlorophyll, pH, and specific conductance) related to both natural and anthropogenic/management causes. Additionally, the canals generally have limited biological communities compared to natural streams. The Division plans to present results of the study at public workshops in south Florida in early fall of 2019 and will prepare a list of potential regulatory options for consideration that acknowledge the unique characteristics of the canals. More information regarding the study is available at: <https://floridadep.gov/dear/water-quality-standards/content/south-florida-canal-aquatic-life-study>.

Alternative Drain field Study

The Division, in cooperation with the state park system and the Florida Department of Health, is evaluating simplified, low-cost alternatives to enhance nitrogen removal by conventional septic tank drain fields. In many populated areas, including near spring systems, nitrogen leaching into ground water is a significant problem. Monitoring of nitrogen removal by an under-drain field amendment (recycled wood chips) for the septic system at the Ichetucknee Springs State Park Manager's residence is in its fifth year and is continuing to demonstrate reductions. Quarterly reports are provided to the Department of Health (DOH).

Additionally, two other systems have been installed. A passive drain field study funded by the Division was completed by the University of Central Florida at the Wekiva Park Rangers residence. This system utilized "Bold and Gold" as the drain field media in a lined containment. Results demonstrated increased nutrient removal for the system. Also, a passive drain field system installed in 2016, which is comprised of a mulch layer in a lined drain field. Quarterly reports submitted to DOH for the subsequent three years document the reductions achieved.

Microbial Source Tracking

DEAR is using molecular source tracking (MST) methods to identify sources of fecal contamination in waters considered to be impaired (not meeting water quality standards) for fecal coliform bacteria. Methods that can

differentiate human-induced fecal contamination from natural sources of bacteria are desirable when determining what action to take in response to a waterbody being listed as impaired. The Department's Laboratory (lab) can analyze genetic material extracted from water samples using new molecular biology methods to detect genetic markers that indicate the presence of human fecal contamination. The lab has validated additional genetic markers to identify the presence of other non-human sources of fecal contamination, such as birds, dogs, and cattle, and will continue to add new molecular markers for additional animals as needed. The lab also analyses for chemical markers of human fecal waste, which may include the artificial sweetener sucralose (Splenda®); analgesics such as acetaminophen (Tylenol®); ibuprofen, and naproxen; and the anti-seizure medicines carbamazepine and primidone. A robust MST toolbox will assist the Department program staff identify and more quickly eliminate the sources of fecal contamination in our impaired waterbodies. The rapid detection and elimination of these fecal sources helps to reduce the risk to human health.

WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

Domestic Wastewater Ocean Outfalls

Section 403.086(10), F.S., prohibits construction of new domestic wastewater ocean outfalls, sets out a timeline for elimination of existing domestic wastewater ocean outfalls by 2025, and requires that a majority of the wastewater previously discharged be beneficially reused. Each of the ocean outfall permit holders submitted progress reports at the end of 2019 and the Department submitted a report summarizing the legislation's implementation status to the Governor and Florida Legislature in mid-2020. The permit holder's next progress report is due by December 31, 2024, and the Department's next report to the Governor and Florida Legislature is due by July 1, 2025. SB 64 (2021), which required facilities to submit plans to eliminate non-beneficial surface water discharges by January 1, 2032, and also required the Department to approve facility plans submitted for SB 64 that will result in meeting the ocean outfall elimination provisions of Section 403.086(10), F.S. Additionally, the potable reuse rulemaking directed by the Florida Clean Waterways Act, Chapter 2020-150, Laws of Florida, will expand the reuse options for facilities required to achieve 60 percent reuse as they eliminate their ocean outfall discharges.

Advanced Waste Treatment

Section 403.086(1)(c), F.S., prohibits sewage disposal facilities from disposing of any wastes into Old Tampa Bay, Tampa Bay, Hillsborough Bay, Boca Ciega Bay, St. Joseph Sound, Clearwater Bay, Sarasota Bay, Little Sarasota Bay, Roberts Bay, Lemon Bay, Charlotte Harbor Bay, beginning July 1, 2025, Indian River Lagoon, or into any river, stream, channel, canal, bay, bayou, sound, or other water tributary without providing advanced waste treatment, as defined and approved by the Department. Furthermore, Section 403.086(1)(d), F.S., tasked the Department to submit a report by December 31, 2020, to the Governor, the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives that included a list of sewage disposal facilities required to upgrade to advanced waste treatment, the preliminary cost estimates for the upgrades, a projected timeline of the dates by which the upgrades would begin and be completed and the date by which operations of the upgraded facility would begin. This report provided a status update for each domestic wastewater treatment facility discharging to the Indian River Lagoon. In July 2021, the Department provided a supplemental progress report on the advanced wastewater treatment upgrade plans.

Private Inspection Option for Onsite Sewage Program

SB 856 of the 2022 legislative session established a private inspection option for the onsite sewage program. Up to now, inspections had to be done by qualified state employees (certified environmental health professionals in county health departments). After the bill was signed into law, the workforce of those authorized to inspect OSTDS expanded to include qualified private provider inspectors. Subparagraph 381.0065(8)(g), F.S., directs the Department to submit a report to the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives reviewing the use of private providers to perform OSTDS inspections. The report must include, at a minimum, the

number of such inspections performed by private providers and also how well the inspections were performed. This report is due October 1, 2023. The bill also authorizes audits and directed the Department to initiate rule making by August 31, 2022, which it did; rulemaking is ongoing.

CONCLUSION

The Department works within the framework of the Governor's statewide priorities to identify the environmental and regulatory issues that should be addressed during the next five years. These broad and ongoing efforts include monitoring and assessing Florida's waters, restoring America's Everglades, promoting regulatory accountability by identifying and eliminating unnecessary and burdensome regulations, and providing citizens and visitors with year-round, nature-based recreational opportunities.

The Department continually develops, evaluates and improves strategies needed to address these broad ranging challenges. Because we live in a constantly evolving world of technological, industrial and environmental change, it is imperative to initiate solutions rather than respond to problems. We must always be willing and able to efficiently identify and implement new, more effective problem-solving techniques. The objectives, strategies, outcomes and philosophies embodied in this Long-Range Program Plan represent the foundation upon which this philosophy is transformed into a reality for the benefit of all Floridians.



Performance Measures and Standards -
LRPP Exhibit II

Performance Measures and Standards – LRPP Exhibit II

Department of Environmental Protection - 37000000

Program	<i>Budget Entity & Performance Measures</i>	Approved Prior Year Standard FY 22-23	Prior Year Actual FY 2022-23	Approved Measures and Standard FY 2023-24	Requested Measures and Standard FY 2024-25
Administrative Services 37010000	<i>Executive Direction and Support Services - 37010100</i>				
	Administrative costs as a percent of total agency costs	1.4%	0.40%	1.4%	1.4%
	Administrative positions as a percent of total agency positions	8.5%	7.1%	8.5%	8.5%
	Average permit application time in house (receipt to agency action)	30 Days	37.9 Days	30 Days	30 Days
	Percent of regulated sites and facilities in compliance	95%	95.3%	95%	95%
	<i>Emergency Response – 37010400</i>				
	Percent of pollutant discharge sites remediated by the responsible party/owner in the context of emergency response	76%	80%	76%	76%
State Lands 37100000	<i>Land Administration and Management - 37100400</i>				
	Percentage of Land Use Plans and Land Management Plans meeting land management and conservation goals	85%	85%	85%	Budget Amendment to change measure
	Average processing time for upland and submerged land instruments	45 Days	78 Days	45 Days	45 Days

Program	Budget Entity & Performance Measures	Approved Prior Year Standard FY 22-23	Prior Year Actual FY 2022-23	Approved Measures and Standard FY 2023-24	Requested Measures and Standard FY 2024-25
Water Policy and Ecosystems Restoration 37200000	<i>Water Policy and Ecosystems Restoration - 37200100</i>				
	Percent of Florida's 2030 public water supply demand met	5%	5%	5%	5%
	Percent of restoration activities completed over the last year (as required by the Everglades Water Quality Plan)	100%	100%	100%	100%
Water Restoration Assistance 37220000	<i>Water Restoration Assistance - 37220100</i>				
	Percent of agreements executed that maintain/improve water quality	70.0%	75.9%	70.0%	70.0%
Environmental Assessment and Restoration 37300000	<i>Water Science and Laboratory Services - 37300100</i>				
	Percent of groundwater quality monitoring wells that reflect good water quality (no exceedances of ground water quality standards)	85%	83.03 ± 4.42 %	85%	85%

Program	Budget Entity & Performance Measures	Approved Prior Year Standard FY 22-23	Prior Year Actual FY 2022-23	Approved Measures and Standard FY 2023-24	Requested Measures and Standard FY 2024-25
	Percent of Florida's freshwater surface waters that meet priority water quality criteria (nutrients and dissolved oxygen): 1) Large lakes; 2) Small lakes; 3) Rivers; 4) Streams	Large Lakes: TN - 85%; TP - 70%; DO - 95% Small Lakes: TN - 85%; TP - 90%; DO - 90% Rivers: TN - 70%; TP - 82%; DO - 95% Streams: TN - 65%; TP - 75%; DO - 80%	Large Lakes: TN - 91.4 ± 1.7% ; TP - 65.5 ± 4.2%; DO - 99.2 ± 0.2% Small Lakes: TN - 95.5 ± 2.0%; TP - 96.1 ± 1.4%; DO - 71.9 ± 4.2% Rivers: TN - 77.3 ± 2.1%; TP - 87.3 ± 1.5%; DO - 91.0 ± 1.8% Streams: TN - 71.7 ± 3.9%; TP - 81.2 ± 3.0%; DO - 75.3 ± 3.7%	Large Lakes: TN - 85%; TP - 70%; DO - 95% Small Lakes: TN - 85%; TP - 90%; DO - 90% Rivers: TN - 70%; TP - 82%; DO - 95% Streams: TN - 65%; TP - 75%; DO - 80%	Large Lakes: TN - 85%; TP - 70%; DO - 95% Small Lakes: TN - 85%; TP - 90%; DO - 90% Rivers: TN - 70%; TP - 82%; DO - 95% Streams: TN - 65%; TP - 75%; DO - 80%
Water Resource Management 37350000	<i>Water Resource Management – 37350400</i>				
	Percent of reclaimed water (reuse) capacity relative to total domestic wastewater capacity; percent of treated domestic wastewater reused for beneficial purposes	60%; 45%	89%; 53%	60%; 45%	60%; 45%
	Percent of public water systems with no significant health drinking water quality problems	94%	95.21%	94%	94%
	Percentage of critically eroded miles of beach that are currently restored and maintained	55.8%	59.0%	55.8%	Moving to RCP

Program	<i>Budget Entity & Performance Measures</i>	Approved Prior Year Standard FY 22-23	Prior Year Actual FY 2022-23	Approved Measures and Standard FY 2023-24	Requested Measures and Standard FY 2024-25
Waste Management 37450000	<i>Waste Management – 37450300</i>				
	Percent of municipal solid waste recycled	50%	48%	50%	50%
	Percent of contaminated sites with cleanup completed	47%	70%	47%	47%
Recreation and Parks 37500000	<i>State Park Operations – 37500300</i>				
	Percent change in the number of state parks acres restored or maintained in native state from the prior fiscal year	5.0%	9.6%	5.0%	5.0%
	Percent increase in the number of visitors from the prior fiscal year	3.5%	-11.0%	3.5%	3.5%
	<i>Coastal and Aquatic Managed Areas – 37500400</i>				
	Total number of degraded acres in National Estuarine Research Reserves enhanced or restored	1,320	4,965	1,320	1,320
	Percent increase in number of visitors	1.3%	-21.9%	1.3%	1.3%
	Percentage of critically eroded miles of beach that are currently restored	Moving from Water		55.80%	55.80%

Program	<i>Budget Entity & Performance Measures</i>	Approved Prior Year Standard FY 22-23	Prior Year Actual FY 2022-23	Approved Measures and Standard FY 2023-24	Requested Measures and Standard FY 2024-25
Air Resources Management 37550000	<i>Air Resources Management – 37550500</i>				
	Percent of time population breathes good or moderate quality air	99.1%	99.8%	99.1%	99.1%
	Percent change in per capita annual emissions of priority pollutants (nitrous oxides, sulfur dioxide, carbon monoxide, volatile organic compounds) compared with the level 5 years ago	-3.8%	NOx -40.49% SO ₂ -57.42% CO -46.97% VOC -33.35%	-3.8%	-3.8%
Environmental Law Enforcement 37700000	<i>Environmental Law Enforcement – 37700100</i>				
	Percent of environmental law investigations to 100,000 Florida population	1.0%	3.0%	1.0%	1.0%



Assessment of Performance for Approved
Performance Measures -
LRPP Exhibit III

LRPP Exhibit III: PERFORMANCE MEASURE ASSESSMENT

Department: Environmental Protection

Program: Administrative Services

Service/Budget Entity: Executive Direction and Support Services/ 37010100

Measure: Average permit application time in house (receipt to agency action)

Action:

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Performance Assessment of <u>Outcome</u> Measure | <input type="checkbox"/> Revision of Measure |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Performance Assessment of <u>Output</u> Measure | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Deletion of Measure |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Adjustment of GAA Performance Standards | |

Approved Standard	Actual Performance Results	Difference (Over/Under)	Percentage Difference
30 Days	37.9	-7.9	26%

Factors Accounting for the Difference:

Internal Factors (check all that apply):

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Personnel Factors | <input type="checkbox"/> Staff Capacity |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Competing Priorities | <input type="checkbox"/> Level of Training |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Previous Estimate Incorrect | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Identify) |

Explanation:

External Factors (check all that apply):

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Resources Unavailable | <input type="checkbox"/> Technological Problems |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Legal/Legislative Change | <input type="checkbox"/> Natural Disaster |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Target Population Change | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Identify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> This Program/Service Cannot Fix the Problem | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Current Laws Are Working Against the Agency Mission | |

Explanation: The difference in the time it took to process a permit in FY21/22 compared to FY22/23 only increased by .6 of a point for DEP’s processing time. However, the time “in house” which includes DEP’s processing time and applicants time to submit information increased by 7.9 days.

Management Efforts to Address Differences/Problems (check all that apply):

- | | |
|------------------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Training | <input type="checkbox"/> Technology |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Personnel | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Identify) |

Recommendations: Management will review this measure and possible alternatives before recommending a replacement, if needed.

LRPP Exhibit III: PERFORMANCE MEASURE ASSESSMENT

Department: Environmental Protection

Program: State Lands

Service/Budget Entity: Land Administration and Management/37100400

Measure: Average processing time for upland and submerged land instruments

Action:

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Performance Assessment of <u>Outcome</u> Measure | <input type="checkbox"/> Revision of Measure |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Performance Assessment of <u>Output</u> Measure | <input type="checkbox"/> Deletion of Measure |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Adjustment of GAA Performance Standards | |

Approved Standard	Actual Performance Results	Difference (Over/Under)	Percentage Difference
45 days	78 days	(33 days)	(73%)

Factors Accounting for the Difference:

Internal Factors (check all that apply):

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Personnel Factors | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Staff Capacity |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Competing Priorities | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Level of Training |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Previous Estimate Incorrect | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Identify) |

Explanation:

Vacancies and staff turnover, specifically with two key positions, continue to be a contributing factor of the approved standard not being met. Both entry level positions have been filled and vacated due to a variety of reasons, increasing the training time and workload burdens of other employees.

External Factors (check all that apply):

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Resources Unavailable | <input type="checkbox"/> Technological Problems |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Legal/Legislative Change | <input type="checkbox"/> Natural Disaster |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Target Population Change | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Identify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> This Program/Service Cannot Fix the Problem | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Current Laws Are Working Against the Agency Mission | |

Explanation:

The processing time is highly dependent upon legal review and approval of all products produced. Currently, the two attorneys who assist the Division of State Lands have heavy workloads and are also being relied upon for other projects, cases, and their expertise which reduces the amount of time they have available for approving the upland and submerged land instruments.

Management Efforts to Address Differences/Problems (check all that apply):

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Training | <input type="checkbox"/> Technology |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Personnel | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Identify) |

Recommendations:

A standard operating procedure document is in the process of being developed in a manner that will allow new employees to self-educate (to a degree) instead of relying on face-to-face training with other employees. This will help reduce the time spent by other employees to train new staff. The Bureau is also exploring the option of modifying the measure to be more in line with the current process.

LRPP Exhibit III: PERFORMANCE MEASURE ASSESSMENT

Department: Environmental Protection

Program: Environmental Assessment and Restoration

Service/Budget Entity: Water Science and Laboratory Services/37300100

Measure: Percent of Florida's large lakes that meet water quality criteria for total phosphorus

Action:

- Performance Assessment of Outcome Measure Revision of Measure
 Performance Assessment of Output Measure Deletion of Measure
 Adjustment of GAA Performance Standards

Approved Standard	Actual Performance Results	Difference (Over/Under)	Percentage Difference
70%	65.5 ± 4.2%	(4.5%)	(6.4%)

Factors Accounting for the Difference:

Internal Factors (check all that apply):

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Personnel Factors
<input type="checkbox"/> Competing Priorities
<input type="checkbox"/> Previous Estimate Incorrect | <input type="checkbox"/> Staff Capacity
<input type="checkbox"/> Level of Training
<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Identify) |
|---|--|

Explanation:

External Factors (check all that apply):

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Resources Unavailable
<input type="checkbox"/> Legal/Legislative Change
<input type="checkbox"/> Target Population Change
<input type="checkbox"/> This Program/Service Cannot Fix the Problem
<input type="checkbox"/> Current Laws Are Working Against the Agency Mission | <input type="checkbox"/> Technological Problems
<input type="checkbox"/> Natural Disaster
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Identify) |
|--|--|

Explanation:

Excessive nutrients come from multiple sources both regulated by the Department (e.g., wastewater effluent, urban stormwater) and outside its regulatory jurisdiction (e.g., septic systems, agricultural stormwater and urban fertilizer). The Department addresses regulated sources by setting total maximum daily loads (TMDLs), which are adopted limits on the amount of pollution that may be assimilated by a waterbody and still achieve water quality standards, and through basin management action plans (BMAPs) and best management plans (BMPs), which are developed with input from stakeholders and designed to achieve adopted TMDLs. Both are long-term processes requiring extensive investment in water quality protection infrastructure and changes in environmental stewardship behaviors and practices.

Management Efforts to Address Differences/Problems (check all that apply):

- Training
- Personnel

- Technology
- Other (Identify)

Recommendations:

The Department cannot adjust policies or practices which will improve short-term outcome performance. The agency proposes to continue to focus on the assessment and identification of nutrient water quality problems, the establishment of TMDLs, and the implementation of BMAPs. In addition, continued implementation of Florida's rigorous numeric nutrient criteria through the permitting of wastewater and stormwater systems will reduce the impact of nutrients on surface waters.

LRPP Exhibit III: PERFORMANCE MEASURE ASSESSMENT

Department: Environmental Protection

Program: Environmental Assessment and Restoration

Service/Budget Entity: Water Science and Laboratory Services/37300100

Measure: Percent of Florida's rivers that meet water quality criteria for dissolved oxygen

Action:

- Performance Assessment of Outcome Measure Revision of Measure
 Performance Assessment of Output Measure Deletion of Measure
 Adjustment of GAA Performance Standards

Approved Standard	Actual Performance Results	Difference (Over/Under)	Percentage Difference
95%	91.0 ± 1.8%	(4.0%)	(4.2%)

Factors Accounting for the Difference:

Internal Factors (check all that apply):

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Personnel Factors
<input type="checkbox"/> Competing Priorities
<input type="checkbox"/> Previous Estimate Incorrect | <input type="checkbox"/> Staff Capacity
<input type="checkbox"/> Level of Training
<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Identify) |
|---|--|

Explanation:

External Factors (check all that apply):

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Resources Unavailable
<input type="checkbox"/> Legal/Legislative Change
<input type="checkbox"/> Target Population Change
<input type="checkbox"/> This Program/Service Cannot Fix the Problem
<input type="checkbox"/> Current Laws Are Working Against the Agency Mission | <input type="checkbox"/> Technological Problems
<input type="checkbox"/> Natural Disaster
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Identify) |
|--|--|

Explanation:

Low dissolved oxygen in waterbodies can be due to numerous factors both natural and human induced, such as limited flow, increased biomass (plants and algae) from excessive nutrients, organic material decomposition, increased temperature and other weather fluctuations – drought and rain cycles.

Excessive nutrients come from multiple sources both regulated by the department (e.g., wastewater effluent, urban stormwater) and outside its regulatory jurisdiction (e.g., septic systems, agricultural stormwater and urban fertilizer). The department addresses regulated sources by setting total maximum daily loads (TMDLs), which are adopted limits on the amount of pollution that may be assimilated by a waterbody and still achieve water quality standards, and through basin management action plans (BMAPs)

and best management plans (BMPs), which are developed with input from stakeholders and designed to achieve adopted TMDLs. Both are long-term processes requiring extensive investment in water quality protection infrastructure and changes in environmental stewardship behaviors and practices.

Management Efforts to Address Differences/Problems (check all that apply):

- Training
- Personnel

- Technology
- Other (Identify)

Recommendations:

The Department cannot adjust policies or practices which will improve short-term outcome performance. The agency proposes to continue to focus on the assessment and identification of nutrient water quality problems, the establishment of TMDLs, and the implementation of BMAPs. In addition, continued implementation of Florida's rigorous numeric nutrient criteria through the permitting of wastewater and stormwater systems will reduce the impact of nutrients on surface waters.

LRPP Exhibit III: PERFORMANCE MEASURE ASSESSMENT

Department: Environmental Protection

Program: Environmental Assessment and Restoration

Service/Budget Entity: Water Science and Laboratory Services/37300100

Measure: Percent of Florida's small lakes that meet water quality criteria for dissolved oxygen

Action:

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Performance Assessment of <u>Outcome</u> Measure | <input type="checkbox"/> Revision of Measure |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Performance Assessment of <u>Output</u> Measure | <input type="checkbox"/> Deletion of Measure |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Adjustment of GAA Performance Standards | |

Approved Standard	Actual Performance Results	Difference (Over/Under)	Percentage Difference
90%	71.9 ± 4.2%	(18.1%)	(20.14%)

Factors Accounting for the Difference:

Internal Factors (check all that apply):

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Personnel Factors | <input type="checkbox"/> Staff Capacity |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Competing Priorities | <input type="checkbox"/> Level of Training |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Previous Estimate Incorrect | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Identify) |

Explanation:

External Factors (check all that apply):

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Resources Unavailable | <input type="checkbox"/> Technological Problems |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Legal/Legislative Change | <input type="checkbox"/> Natural Disaster |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Target Population Change | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Identify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> This Program/Service Cannot Fix the Problem | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Current Laws Are Working Against the Agency Mission | |

Explanation:

Low dissolved oxygen in waterbodies can be due to numerous factors both natural and human induced, such as limited flow, increased biomass (plants and algae) from excessive nutrients, organic material decomposition, increased temperature and other weather fluctuations – drought and rain cycles.

Excessive nutrients come from multiple sources both regulated by the Department (e.g., wastewater effluent, urban stormwater) and outside its regulatory jurisdiction (e.g., septic systems, agricultural stormwater and urban fertilizer). The Department addresses regulated sources by setting total maximum daily loads (TMDLs), which are adopted limits on the amount of pollution that may be assimilated by a waterbody and still

achieve water quality standards, and through basin management action plans (BMAPs) and best management plans (BMPs), which are developed with input from stakeholders and designed to achieve adopted TMDLs. Both are long-term processes requiring extensive investment in water quality protection infrastructure and changes in environmental stewardship behaviors and practices.

Management Efforts to Address Differences/Problems (check all that apply):

- Training
- Personnel

- Technology
- Other (Identify)

Recommendations:

The Department cannot adjust policies or practices which will improve short-term outcome performance. The agency proposes to continue to focus on the assessment and identification of nutrient water quality problems, the establishment of TMDLs, and the implementation of BMAPs. In addition, continued implementation of Florida's rigorous numeric nutrient criteria through the permitting of wastewater and stormwater systems will reduce the impact of nutrients on surface waters.

LRPP Exhibit III: PERFORMANCE MEASURE ASSESSMENT

Department: Environmental Protection

Program: Environmental Assessment and Restoration

Service/Budget Entity: Water Science and Laboratory Services/37300100

Measure: Percent of Florida's streams that meet water quality criteria for dissolved oxygen

Action:

- Performance Assessment of Outcome Measure Revision of Measure
 Performance Assessment of Output Measure Deletion of Measure
 Adjustment of GAA Performance Standards

Approved Standard	Actual Performance Results	Difference (Over/Under)	Percentage Difference
80%	75.3 ± 3.7%	(4.7%)	(5.9%)

Factors Accounting for the Difference:

Internal Factors (check all that apply):

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Personnel Factors
<input type="checkbox"/> Competing Priorities
<input type="checkbox"/> Previous Estimate Incorrect | <input type="checkbox"/> Staff Capacity
<input type="checkbox"/> Level of Training
<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Identify) |
|---|--|

Explanation:

External Factors (check all that apply):

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Resources Unavailable
<input type="checkbox"/> Legal/Legislative Change
<input type="checkbox"/> Target Population Change
<input type="checkbox"/> This Program/Service Cannot Fix the Problem
<input type="checkbox"/> Current Laws Are Working Against the Agency Mission | <input type="checkbox"/> Technological Problems
<input type="checkbox"/> Natural Disaster
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Identify) |
|--|--|

Explanation:

Low dissolved oxygen in waterbodies can be due to numerous factors both natural and human induced, such as limited flow, increased biomass (plants and algae) from excessive nutrients, organic material decomposition, increased temperature and other weather fluctuations – drought and rain cycles.

Excessive nutrients come from multiple sources both regulated by the department (e.g., wastewater effluent, urban stormwater) and outside its regulatory jurisdiction (e.g., septic systems, agricultural stormwater and urban fertilizer). The department addresses regulated sources by setting total maximum daily loads (TMDLs), which are adopted limits on the amount of pollution that may be assimilated by a waterbody and still

achieve water quality standards, and through basin management action plans (BMAPs) and best management plans (BMPs), which are developed with input from stakeholders and designed to achieve adopted TMDLs. Both are long-term processes requiring extensive investment in water quality protection infrastructure and changes in environmental stewardship behaviors and practices.

Management Efforts to Address Differences/Problems (check all that apply):

- Training
- Personnel

- Technology
- Other (Identify)

Recommendations:

The Department cannot adjust policies or practices which will improve short-term outcome performance. The agency proposes to continue to focus on the assessment and identification of nutrient water quality problems, the establishment of TMDLs, and the implementation of BMAPs. In addition, continued implementation of Florida's rigorous numeric nutrient criteria through the permitting of wastewater and stormwater systems will reduce the impact of nutrients on surface waters.

LRPP Exhibit III: PERFORMANCE MEASURE ASSESSMENT

Department: Environmental Protection
Program: Waste Management
Service/Budget Entity: Waste Management/37450300
Measure: Percent of municipal solid waste regulated.

Action:

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Performance Assessment of <u>Outcome</u> Measure | <input type="checkbox"/> Revision of Measure |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Performance Assessment of <u>Output</u> Measure | <input type="checkbox"/> Deletion of Measure |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Adjustment of GAA Performance Standards | |

Approved Standard	Actual Performance Results	Difference (Over/Under)	Percentage Difference
50%	48%	-2.0%	(4.0%)

Factors Accounting for the Difference:

Internal Factors (check all that apply):

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Personnel Factors | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Staff Capacity |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Competing Priorities | <input type="checkbox"/> Level of Training |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Previous Estimate Incorrect | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Identify) |

Explanation: The Florida Legislature, through the Energy, Climate Change and Economic Security Act of 2008, established a statewide weight-based recycling goal of 75% by 2020. The Legislature also established interim recycling goals: 40% by 2012, 50% by 2014, 60% by 2016 and 70% by 2018.

Florida achieved the interim goals established for 2012 and 2014; however, Florida did not meet the 2016 interim goal of 60% and the recycling rate has declined since that time. Florida’s 2022 recycling rate was 48%, falling short of the 2020 recycling goal of 75%. There is no provision in the statute for the goal or reporting requirements to sunset after 2020.

FDEP has worked with local governments and the recycling industry of Florida to implement programs and activities to improve recycling in Florida, including food waste diversion, market development research and engagement, education and outreach, and collection and evaluation of solid waste and recycling data. Even though these actions have had some success, impactful changes to the recycling rate will not occur without legislative changes and program funding.

External Factors (check all that apply):

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Resources Unavailable | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Technological Problems |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Legal/Legislative Change | <input type="checkbox"/> Natural Disaster |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Target Population Change | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Identify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> This Program/Service Cannot Fix the Problem | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Current Laws Are Working Against the Agency Mission | |

Explanation: Florida counties have been given the responsibility of implementing a recycling program within their boundaries under Section 403.706, Florida Statutes (F.S.). Large counties, defined as counties having more than 100,000 in population, are responsible for implementing recycling programs to meet the statewide 75% recycling goal by 2020. Their programs shall also be designed to recover a significant portion of at least four of the following materials for recycling: newspaper, aluminum cans, steel cans, glass, plastic bottles, cardboard, office paper, and yard trash.

The collection and organization of recycling programs, as well as solid waste management, in the State of Florida are the responsibility of the local governments. Each local government handles the collection and processing of recyclables differently, depending on the size and resources available. Most local governments are now paying to recycle versus receiving a profit.

Management Efforts to Address Differences/Problems (check all that apply):

Training
 Personnel

Technology
 Other (Identify)

Recommendations:

As a result of falling short of meeting the 2020 recycling goal of 75%, Section 403.706, Florida Statutes directed the Department to provide a report to the legislature that identified additional programs or statutory changes needed to achieve the recycling goal. The report was submitted to the legislature in December 2021.

The report recommended that the Department convene a technical assistance group to develop a comprehensive waste reduction and recycling plan to:

- 1) Identify a set of recycling goals using both sustainable materials management (SMM) and waste diversion concepts. Florida's recycling program could transition to a methodology that can effectively and efficiently incorporate source reduction, diversion, recycling and measure the full environmental impact of materials used from cradle to grave.
- 2) Develop objectives and propose a three-year plan to implement recycling materials market development, recycling education and outreach, and local government recycling assistance.
- 3) Propose statutory language to implement the revised recycling goal and strategies.

LRPP Exhibit III: PERFORMANCE MEASURE ASSESSMENT

Department: Environmental Protection

Program: Recreation and Parks

Service/Budget Entity: State Parks Operations/37500300

Measure: Percent increase in the number of visitors from the prior fiscal year

Action:

- Performance Assessment of Outcome Measure Revision of Measure
 Performance Assessment of Output Measure Deletion of Measure
 Adjustment of GAA Performance Standards

Approved Standard	Actual Performance Results	Difference (Over/Under)	Percentage Difference
3.5%	-11%	-14.5%	(414.29%)

Factors Accounting for the Difference:

Internal Factors (check all that apply):

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Personnel Factors
<input type="checkbox"/> Competing Priorities
<input type="checkbox"/> Previous Estimate Incorrect | <input type="checkbox"/> Staff Capacity
<input type="checkbox"/> Level of Training
<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Identify) |
|---|--|

Explanation:

External Factors (check all that apply):

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Resources Unavailable
<input type="checkbox"/> Legal/Legislative Change
<input type="checkbox"/> Target Population Change
<input type="checkbox"/> This Program/Service Cannot Fix the Problem
<input type="checkbox"/> Current Laws Are Working Against the Agency Mission | <input type="checkbox"/> Technological Problems
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Natural Disaster
<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Identify) |
|--|--|

Explanation:

The number of visitors to state parks decreased during and after the months of Hurricanes Ian and Nicole, and there were also weather-related impacts during the spring months, resulting in a lower overall percentage increase from the previous fiscal year.

Management Efforts to Address Differences/Problems (check all that apply):

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Training
<input type="checkbox"/> Personnel | <input type="checkbox"/> Technology
<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Identify) |
|---|--|

Recommendations: Clean-up and repair from natural disasters will continue to be a post storm priority.

LRPP Exhibit III: PERFORMANCE MEASURE ASSESSMENT

Department: Environmental Protection

Program: Recreation and Parks

Service/Budget Entity: Coastal and Aquatic Managed Areas/37500400

Measure: Percent increase in number of visitors

Action:

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Performance Assessment of <u>Outcome</u> Measure | <input type="checkbox"/> Revision of Measure |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Performance Assessment of <u>Output</u> Measure | <input type="checkbox"/> Deletion of Measure |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Adjustment of GAA Performance Standards | |

Approved Standard	Actual Performance Results	Difference (Over/Under)	Percentage Difference
1.3% increase	21.94% decrease	23.24 under	(1787.69%)

Factors Accounting for the Difference:

Internal Factors (check all that apply):

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Personnel Factors | <input type="checkbox"/> Staff Capacity |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Competing Priorities | <input type="checkbox"/> Level of Training |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Previous Estimate Incorrect | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Identify) |

Explanation: Natural Disaster

External Factors (check all that apply):

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Resources Unavailable | <input type="checkbox"/> Technological Problems |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Legal/Legislative Change | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Natural Disaster |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Target Population Change | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Identify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> This Program/Service Cannot Fix the Problem | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Current Laws Are Working Against the Agency Mission | |

Explanation: The reason for the decrease in visitation is mostly due to the impact of Hurricanes Ian and Nicole. This includes a decrease of 50,000 visitors to Guana Tolomato Matanzas National Estuarine Research Reserve, 29,000 of which was in the second quarter.

Management Efforts to Address Differences/Problems (check all that apply):

- | | |
|------------------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Training | <input type="checkbox"/> Technology |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Personnel | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Identify) |

Recommendations: Clean-up and repair from natural disasters will continue to be a post storm priority.



Associated Activities Contributing to
Performance Measures -
LRPP Exhibit V

LRPP Exhibit V: Identification of Associated Activity Contributing to Performance Measures

Approved Program Performance Measures - Fiscal Year 2023-24	Associated Activities Title
Administrative Services	
Administrative costs as a percent of total agency costs	Executive Direction
Administrative positions as a percent of total agency positions	Executive Direction
Average permit application time in house (receipt to agency action)	Executive Direction
Percent of regulated sites and facilities in compliance	Executive Direction
Percent of pollutant discharge sites remediated by the responsible party/owner in the context of emergency response	On-site emergency response, off-site coordination and assistance and cost recovery
	Transfer to Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission to support Law Enforcement
State Lands	
Percentage of Land Use Plans and Land Management Plans meeting land management and conservation goals	Measure Percentage of Land Use Plans in compliance
	Measure Percentage of Land Use Plans not in compliance with statutory requirement.
	Coordinate outreach for conservation land management plans
	Evaluate conservation land management plans for statutory compliance
	Coordinate/conduct on-site conservation land management reviews on sites exceeding 1,000 acres
	Prepare individual reports of findings from on-site conservation land management reviews and compile for annual report as required by statute.

LRPP Exhibit V: Identification of Associated Activity Contributing to Performance Measures

Approved Program Performance Measures - Fiscal Year 2023-24	Associated Activities Title
Average processing time for upland and submerged land instruments.	Measurement of time from the date of a complete application (uplands) or receipt of Delegation of Authority (submerged), to the time of mail-out to the lessee/grantee for signature.
Water Policy and Ecosystems Restoration	
Percent of Florida's 2030 public water supply demand met	Assure compliance with statutory requirements
Percent of restoration activities completed over the last year (as required by the Everglades Water Quality Plan)	Process water resource permits
	Authorize and encourage (or require) reuse of reclaimed water through department and water management district permitting programs
	Fund eligible alternative water supply projects and other funding programs
Water Restoration Assistance	
Percent of agreements executed that maintain/ improve water quality	Execute priority water quality and drinking water improvement projects
Environmental Assessment and Restoration	
Percent of groundwater quality monitoring wells that reflect good water quality (no exceedances of ground water quality standards)	Fund priority public health and water resource protection and restoration projects
	Provide technical assistance, public education and outreach
	Establish water quality criteria and standards

LRPP Exhibit V: Identification of Associated Activity Contributing to Performance Measures

<p>Approved Program Performance Measures - Fiscal Year 2023-24</p>	<p>Associated Activities Title</p>
	<p>Monitor, assess and prioritize impaired surface waters and ground waters</p> <hr/> <p>Interpret environmental data</p> <hr/> <p>Analyze biological and chemical samples</p> <hr/> <p>Develop total maximum daily load determinations for impaired waters</p>
<p>Percent of Florida's freshwater surface waters that meet priority water quality criteria (nutrients and dissolved oxygen): 1) Large lakes; 2) Small lakes; 3) Rivers; 4) Streams</p>	<p>Analyze biological and chemical samples</p> <hr/> <p>Interpret environmental data</p> <hr/> <p>Establish water quality criteria and standards</p> <hr/> <p>Monitor, assess and prioritize impaired surface waters and ground waters</p> <hr/> <p>Develop total maximum daily load determinations for impaired waters</p> <hr/> <p>Fund priority public health and water resource protection and restoration projects</p> <hr/> <p>Provide technical assistance, public education and outreach</p>

LRPP Exhibit V: Identification of Associated Activity Contributing to Performance Measures

Approved Program Performance Measures - Fiscal Year 2023-24	Associated Activities Title
Water Resource Management	
Percent of reclaimed water (reuse) capacity relative to total domestic wastewater capacity; percent of treated domestic wastewater reused for beneficial purposes	Process water resource permits
	Assure compliance with statutory requirements
	Provide technical assistance, public education and outreach
	Fund mine reclamation projects
	Authorize and encourage (or require) reuse of reclaimed water through department and water management district permitting programs
Percent of public water systems with no significant health drinking water quality problems	Process water resource permits
	Assure compliance with statutory requirements
	Provide technical assistance, public education and outreach
Waste Management	
Percent of municipal solid waste recycled	Reduce waste
	Fund waste management projects
	Conduct solid and hazardous waste compliance assurance

LRPP Exhibit V: Identification of Associated Activity Contributing to Performance Measures

<p>Approved Program Performance Measures - Fiscal Year 2023-24</p>	<p>Associated Activities Title</p>
	<p>Process solid and hazardous waste permit applications, variances, exemptions, certifications and registrations</p>
	<p>Pass through funding to the Florida Department of Agriculture for collection of agricultural pesticides</p>
<p>Percent of contaminated sites with cleanup completed</p>	<p>Manage government- funded cleanups of hazardous waste contaminated sites</p> <p>Conduct site investigations</p> <p>Conduct site technical reviews</p> <p>Manage government- funded cleanups of drycleaning contaminated sites</p> <p>Conduct petroleum storage systems compliance assurance</p> <p>Manage government- funded cleanups of petroleum contaminated sites</p>
<p>Recreation and Parks</p>	
<p>Percent-change in the number of state parks acres restored or maintained in native state from the prior fiscal year</p>	<p>Resource Management</p>
<p>Percent increase in the number of visitors from the prior fiscal year (State Parks)</p>	<p>Pass through to Monroe County</p>

LRPP Exhibit V: Identification of Associated Activity Contributing to Performance Measures

Approved Program Performance Measures - Fiscal Year 2023-24	Associated Activities Title
Percent increase in the number of visitors from the prior fiscal year (State Parks)	Visitor Services/Recreation
Coastal and Aquatic Managed Areas	
Total number of degraded acres in National Estuarine Research Reserves enhanced or restored	Resource Management
Percent Increase in the number of visitors	Visitor Services/Recreation
Percentage of critically eroded miles of beach that are currently restored and maintained	Fund priority beach projects
Air Resources Management	
Percent of time population breaths good or moderate quality air	Monitor ambient air quality
	Analyze air quality and emissions
	Implement the Federal Clean Air Act
	Review and approve air resource permits.
	Air compliance assurance
	Small Business Assistance
Percent change in per capita annual emissions of priority pollutants (nitrous oxides, sulfur dioxide, carbon monoxide, volatile organic compounds) compared with the level 5 years ago	Monitor ambient air quality
	Analyze air quality and emissions
	Implement the Federal Clean Air Act
	Review and approve air resource permits
	Air compliance assurance
	Small Business Assistance

LRPP Exhibit V: Identification of Associated Activity Contributing to Performance Measures

Approved Program Performance Measures - Fiscal Year 2023-24	Associated Activities Title
Environmental Law Enforcement	
Percent of environmental law investigations to 100,000 Florida population	Total number of investigations conducted

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION, DEPARTMENT OF		FISCAL YEAR 2022-23			
SECTION I: BUDGET		OPERATING		FIXED CAPITAL OUTLAY	
TOTAL ALL FUNDS GENERAL APPROPRIATIONS ACT		480,501,459		3,677,463,021	
ADJUSTMENTS TO GENERAL APPROPRIATIONS ACT (Supplementals, Vetoes, Budget Amendments, etc.)		8,207,870		1,733,557,353	
FINAL BUDGET FOR AGENCY		488,709,329		5,411,020,374	
SECTION II: ACTIVITIES * MEASURES		Number of Units	(1) Unit Cost	(2) Expenditures (Allocated)	(3) FCO
Executive Direction, Administrative Support and Information Technology (2)					0
Coordinate Outreach For Conservation Land Management Plans * Number of messages to managers regarding upcoming and past due Conservation Land Management Plans		16	201,028.69	3,216,459	951,877,259
Evaluate Conservation Land Management Plans For Statutory Compliance * Number of Conservation Land Management Plans approved for BOT by ARC or administrative process		52	59,685.69	3,103,656	62,267,738
Measure Percentage Of Land Use Plans In Compliance * Number of Land Use Plans received and approved		58	53,511.29	3,103,655	
Measure Percentage Of Land Use Plans Not In Compliance With Statutory Requirements * Number of land use plans unapproved or not recieved per statutory requirements.		1	3,103,655.00	3,103,655	
Coordinate And Conduct On-site Land Management Reviews On Sites Exceeding 1,000 Acres * Number of Conservation Land Management Reviews conducted		56	57,159.30	3,200,921	64,423,083
Prepare Individual Reports Of Finding From Onsite Conservation Land Management Reviews & Compile Annual Reports Required By Statute * Annual report provided to ARC and BOT		2	1,551,828.50	3,103,657	64,423,083
Measurement Of Time From The Date Of Approval Of An Application Or Delegation Of Authority To Time Of Mailout To The Lessee For Signature * Average number of days to process upland and submerged land instruments. Goal is 45 days or less.		78	39,549.42	3,084,855	
Fund Priority Beach Projects *		506	5,486.28	2,776,059	50,000,000
Execute Priority Water Quality And Drinking Water Improvement Projects * PERCENT OF AGREEMENTS EXECUTED THAT MAINTAIN/IMPROVE WATER QUALITY		267	45,158.48	12,057,313	1,241,467,960
Oversee Responsible Party Cleanups Through Enforcement *		1,980	2,138.14	4,233,517	
Process Water Resource Permits *		16,131	3,856.64	62,211,393	846,496,354
Assure Compliance With Statutory Requirements *		4,418	4,614.00	20,384,636	
Provide Technical Assistance, Public Education And Outreach *		44,784	39.37	1,762,923	
Fund Priority Public Health And Water Resource Protection And Restoration Projects * Number of projects funded		132	61,247.22	8,084,633	5,000,000
Establish Water Quality Criteria And Standards * Number of water quality standards established		2	2,153,868.50	4,307,737	
Monitor, Assess And Prioritize Impaired Surface And Ground Waters *		1,927	2,870.69	5,531,829	
Develop Total Maximum Daily Load Determinations For Impaired Waters * Number of total maximum daily loads adopted		8	550,777.25	4,406,218	53,651,927
Fund Mine Reclamation Projects * Number of mine reclamation projects underway		16	110,188.06	1,763,009	128,259,633
Authorize/Encourage (or Require) Reuse Of Reclaimed Water Through Department And Water Management District Permitting Programs *		2,528	38.59	97,556	57,303,853
Manage Government-funded Cleanups Of Hazardous Waste Contaminated Sites * Number of known contaminated sites being cleaned up		69	46,015.41	3,175,063	19,000,000
Manage Government-funded Cleanups Of Drycleaning Contaminated Sites * Number of known contaminated sites being cleaned up		328	2,365.19	775,783	20,000,000
Manage Government-funded Cleanups Of Petroleum Contaminated Sites * Number of known contaminated sites being cleaned up		7,585	3,201.68	24,284,762	185,991,375
Process Solid And Hazardous Waste Permit Applications, Variances, Exemptions, Certifications And Registrations *		30,279	141.75	4,292,199	
Conduct Solid And Hazardous Waste Compliance Assurance *		2,580	3,597.42	9,281,343	
Conduct Petroleum Storage Systems Compliance Assurance *		8,576	1,279.07	10,969,339	
Reduce Waste * Number of local household hazardous waste collection center grants funded		5	400,370.20	2,001,851	
Conduct Site Investigations * Number of site investigations conducted annually		10	95,266.50	952,665	
Conduct Site Technical Reviews * Number of technical reviews conducted annually		581	3,862.44	2,244,076	
Fund Waste Management Projects * Number of projects funded		32	20,501.00	656,032	7,000,000
Monitor Ambient Air Quality *		1,104	8,436.27	9,313,647	
Analyze Air Quality And Emissions * Number of emission points reviewed and analyzed		4,876	215.61	1,051,315	
Implement The Federal Clean Air Act * Number of Clean Air Act plans produced		4	108,319.25	433,277	
Review And Approve Air Resource Permits *		1,031	6,942.19	7,157,397	
Air Compliance Assurance *		13,899	581.83	8,086,897	
Small Business Assistance * Number of Small Business Assistance Program contacts per year		27,678	2.45	67,820	53,000,000
Conduct Geologic Research Projects * Number of projects completed		524	7,984.14	4,183,687	
Analyze Biological And Chemical Samples * Number of analyses completed		141,950	31.85	4,521,144	
Resource Management * Number of acres treated with controlled burns and exotic species removal.		95,850	860.27	82,456,756	1,093,610,327
Visitor Services/Recreation * Number of visitors		29,555,263	2.78	82,067,202	325,636,754
On-site Emergency Response, Off-site Coordination And Assistance And Cost Recovery * Number of incidents reported		1,098	1,358.56	1,491,701	
Total Number Of Investigations Conducted * Percent of environmental law investigations to 100,000 Florida population		3,402	801.07	2,725,245	
TOTAL				411,722,882	5,229,409,346
SECTION III: RECONCILIATION TO BUDGET					
PASS THROUGHS					
TRANSFER - STATE AGENCIES				16,792,855	
AID TO LOCAL GOVERNMENTS					
PAYMENT OF PENSIONS, BENEFITS AND CLAIMS					
OTHER					
REVERSIONS				60,193,763	3,293,028
TOTAL BUDGET FOR AGENCY (Total Activities + Pass Throughs + Reversions) - Should equal Section I above. (4)				488,709,500	5,232,702,374

SCHEDULE XI/EXHIBIT VI: AGENCY-LEVEL UNIT COST SUMMARY

(1) Some activity unit costs may be overstated due to the allocation of double budgeted items.
(2) Expenditures associated with Executive Direction, Administrative Support and Information Technology have been allocated based on FTE. Other allocation methodologies could result in significantly different unit costs per activity.
(3) Information for FCO depicts amounts for current year appropriations only. Additional information and systems are needed to develop meaningful FCO unit costs.
(4) Final Budget for Agency and Total Budget for Agency may not equal due to rounding.

Glossary of Acronyms and Terms

Acquisition and Restoration Council: A ten-member group created by the Legislature to make recommendations to the Board of Trustees on the acquisition, management, and disposal of state-owned lands as directed in Section 259.035, F.S.

ARC – Acquisition and Restoration Council

Activity: A unit of work which has identifiable starting and ending points, consumes resources, and produces outputs. Unit cost information is determined using the outputs of activities.

Baseline Data: Indicators of a state agency’s current performance level, pursuant to guidelines established by the Executive Office of the Governor in consultation with legislative appropriations and appropriate substantive committees.

Basin: The entire surface area that collects water to supply a particular water body (e.g., a lake or river).

BMAPs – Basin Management Action Plans

BOT – Board of Trustees of the Internal Improvement Trust Fund; also known as the Governor and Cabinet.

Brownfield: Real property, the expansion, redevelopment, or reuse of which may be complicated by actual or perceived environmental contamination. Brownfield Redevelopment Act was passed in 1997 by the Florida Legislature, creating a program that authorizes local governments to designate brownfield areas by resolution if certain criteria are met, including public notice requirements and the establishment of an advisory committee to improve public participation. The Act provided for the Department of Environmental Protection, or an approved local pollution control program, to enter into a brownfield site rehabilitation agreement with the applicant and to provide regulatory oversight for the cleanup process.

Budget Entity: A unit or function at the lowest level to which funds are specifically appropriated in the appropriations act. “Budget entity” and “service” have the same meaning.

Cartographic: Pertaining to the science of making maps.

CERP – Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan

Clean Marina: A designation given to environmentally conscious marinas that join a voluntary program. The Clean Marina program is based on best management practices and developed through a partnership of Florida marinas, boatyards, boaters, and government.

CLM – Contamination Locator Map

CO – Carbon Monoxide

Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan: The 30-year, \$7.8 billion Plan became law in 2000, creating a legally binding agreement between the state and federal government to reserve the water necessary to protect of the Everglades.

Contamination Locator Map: An online tool that provides localized information about contaminated sites in Florida.

CPR – Coral Protection and Restoration

CWSRF – Clean Water State Revolving Fund

DARM – Division of Air Resources Management

Deep-Well Injection: A waste disposal technique in which industrial waste, sewage, radioactive waste, and (in the case of oil and gas production or reverse osmosis potable water production) saltwater are pumped under high pressure through wells that are cased and cemented at shallow levels, such that the disposed fluids will be forced into confined formations that are isolated and well below potential sources of drinking water.

Demand: The number of output units that are eligible to benefit from a service or activity.

Department: Department of Environmental Protection

Dissolved Oxygen: The volume of oxygen that is contained in water.

DOH – Department of Health

Dolomite: Calcium magnesium carbonate. In rock form, dolomite is a sedimentary rock containing more than 50% of the mineral's calcite and dolomite, with dolomite being the most abundant.

DOT – Department of Transportation

Calcium magnesium carbonate: In rock form, dolomite is a sedimentary rock containing more than 50% of the mineral's calcite and dolomite, with dolomite being the most abundant.

DEAR – Division of Environmental Assessment and Restoration

DLE – Division of Law Enforcement

DWM – Division of Waste Management

DWRA – Division of Water Restoration Assistance

DWRM – Division of Water Resource Management

DWSRF – Drinking Water State Revolving Fund

Ecological Integrity: The condition of an unimpaired ecosystem as measured by combined chemical, physical (including physical habitat), and biological attributes. Electronic Access System for Inspection Information Retrieval

Ecosystem: A place having unique physical features, encompassing air, water, and land, and habitats supporting plant and animal life.

Ecotourism: The effort to attract visitors to a particular area for visiting, enjoying and learning about nature and natural resource-based attractions or locations. In Florida, ecotourism is primarily related to the state's system of nationally prominent State Parks, a growing network of greenways and trails and the state's world-renowned top-rated beaches.

Enterprise Self Service Authorizations system (ESSA): Part of the Department's Internet Portal, ESSA makes on-line registration available for the renewal of the Division of Waste Management's 270 yard trash processing facilities.

Environmental Resource Permitting: A part of the Division of Water Resource Management, this program reviews development that alters the flow of water over the land or affects wetlands and other surface waters.

ECU – Environmental Crimes Unit

EPA – Environmental Protection Agency

Erosion: The gradual wearing away of rock or soil by physical breakdown, chemical solution, and transportation of material, as caused, for example, by water, wind, or ice.

ERP – Environmental Resource Permitting

Estuary: A partially enclosed body of water formed where freshwater from rivers and streams flows into the ocean, mixing with the salty seawater.

ESF10 – Emergency Support Function 10

F.S. – Florida Statutes

F.A.C. – Florida Administrative Code

FCT – Florida Communities Trust

FCO – Fixed Capital Outlay

FDACS – Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services

FGS – Florida Geological Survey

Fixed Capital Outlay: Real property (land, buildings including appurtenances, fixtures and fixed equipment, structures, etc.), including additions, replacements, major repairs, and renovations to real property that materially extend its useful life or materially improve or change its functional use. Includes furniture and equipment necessary to furnish and operate a new or improved facility.

Florida Coastal Management Program: Transferred in 2002 from the Department of Community Affairs to the Department of Environmental Protection, this program is based on a network of agencies implementing 23 statutes that protect and enhance the state's natural, cultural, and economic coastal resources. The goal of the program is to coordinate local, state, and federal agency activities using existing laws to ensure that Florida's coast is protected.

Florida Forever: Florida's premier conservation and recreation lands acquisition program, a blueprint for conserving natural resources and renewing Florida's commitment to conserve the state's natural and cultural heritage; replaced the Preservation 2000 Program.

Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary: The 2,800 square nautical mile area surrounding the entire archipelago of the Florida Keys and including the productive waters of Florida Bay, the Gulf of Mexico and the Atlantic Ocean.

Fuller's Earth: A general term that can be applied to many types of clay that have an exceptional ability to absorb coloring materials from oils of animal, vegetable, and mineral origin. In Florida, the term is narrowly limited. Subsection 378.403(6), F.S., defines Fuller's Earth as clay possessing a high absorptive capacity consisting largely of the minerals montmorillonite or palygorskite.

FWCC – Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission

FY – Fiscal Year

GAA – General Appropriations Act

Geodetic: A branch of applied mathematics concerned with the determination of the size and shape of the earth and the exact positions of points on its surface and with the description of variations of its gravity field.

Geoscience: A science (such as geology, geophysics, and geochemistry) dealing with the earth.

GIS – Geographic Information System

Greenway: As defined in Chapter 260, F.S., a linear open space established along either a natural corridor, such as a river front, stream valley, or ridgeline, or over land along a railroad right-of-way converted to recreational use, a canal, a scenic road, or other route; any natural or landscaped course for pedestrian or bicycle passage; an open space connector linking parks, nature reserves, cultural features, or historic sites with each other and populated areas; or a local strip or linear park designated as a parkway or green belt.

Groundwater: Water that is found underground in cracks and spaces in soil, sand, and rocks.

HART – Hazardous Assessment and Recovery Team

HB – House Bill

Heavy Minerals: Dense grains found not only in rocks, but also in different types of sand.

IA – Interagency Agreement

Indicator: A single quantitative or qualitative statement that reports information about the nature of a condition, entity or activity. This term is used commonly as a synonym for the word “measure.”

Input: See Performance Measure.

IT – Information Technology

Lagoon: A coastal body of shallow water formed where low-lying rock, sand, or coral presents a partial barrier to the open sea.

Land Management Uniform Accounting Council: Entrusted with compiling conservation land management costs across state agencies and with establishing formulas for identifying land management funding needs.

LAS/PBS – Legislative Appropriation System/Planning and Budgeting Subsystem. The statewide appropriations and budgeting system owned and maintained by the Executive Office of the Governor.

LBR – Legislative Budget Request

Legislative Budget Request: A request to the Legislature, filed pursuant to Section 216.023, F.S., or supplemental detailed requests filed with the Legislature, for the amounts of money an agency or branch of government believes will be needed to perform the functions that it is authorized, or which it is requesting authorization by law, to perform.

LMUAC – Land Management Uniform Accounting Council

LORS – Lake Okeechobee Regulation Schedule

LRPP – Long Range Program Plan

Long Range Program Plan: A plan developed on an annual basis by each state agency that is policy-based, priority-driven, accountable, and developed through careful examination and justification of all programs and their associated costs. Each plan is developed by examining the needs of agency customers and clients and proposing programs and associated costs to address those needs based on state priorities as established by law, the agency mission, and legislative authorization. The plan provides the framework and context for preparing the Legislative Budget Request and includes performance indicators for evaluating the impact of programs and agency performance.

Marsh: A tract of soft, wet land usually characterized by grassy vegetation.

Mean High Water Line: Point used to mark the boundary of a body of water.

MFL – Minimum Flows and Levels

NAAQS – National Ambient Air Quality Standards

Narrative: Justification for each service and activity is required at the program component detail level. Explanation, in many instances, will be required to provide a full understanding of how the dollar requirements were computed.

NERR – National Estuarine Research Reserves

NOAA – National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

NO₂ – Nitrogen Dioxide

Non-Point Source: A physical, visual, touchable avenue that carries nutrients to a waterway. Examples include a ditch or pipe through which wastewater effluent might reach a river, stream, or lake. A large dairy or farm that might collect agricultural runoff in holding ponds and release some of the water via overflow pipe or ditch.

O₃ – Ozone

Objective: Specific, measurable, intermediate ends that mark progress toward achieving the associated goal.

OCULUS™ – The Department’s web-based document management system.

Office of Emergency Response: Responds to incidents involving oil and hazardous substances representing an imminent hazard, or threat of a hazard, to the public health, welfare and safety, or the environment. Typically, these are inland and coastal spills of hazardous materials, such as petroleum or other contaminants, or may be chemical or biological agents of mass destruction.

OER – Office of Emergency Response

OFS – Outstanding Florida Springs

OGT – Office of Greenways and Trails

OSP – Onsite Sewage Program

OSTDS – Onsite Sewage Treatment and Disposal Systems

OTIS – Office of Technology and Information Services

Outcome: See Performance Measure.

Output: See Performance Measure.

Pass Through: Funds the state distributes directly to other entities, e.g., local governments, without being managed by the agency distributing the funds. These funds flow through the agency’s budget; however, the agency has no discretion regarding how the funds are spent, and the activities (outputs) associated with the expenditure of funds are not measured at the state level. ***NOTE: This definition of “pass through” applies ONLY for the purposes of long-range program planning.***

OWPER – Office of Water Policy and Ecosystems Restoration

OSC – On-Scene Coordinator (state or federal)

Pb – Lead

Performance Ledger: The official compilation of information about state agency performance-based programs and measures, including approved programs, approved outputs and outcomes, baseline data, approved standards for each performance measure and any approved adjustments thereto, as well as actual agency performance for each measure.

Performance Measure: A quantitative or qualitative indicator used to assess state agency performance.

- Input means the quantities of resources used to produce goods or services and the demand for those goods and services.
- Outcome means an indicator of the actual impact or public benefit of a service.
- Output means the actual service or product delivered by a state agency.

PFAS – Perfluorinated alkylated substance

PFOA – Perfluorooctanoic acid

PFOS – Perfluorooctanesulfonic acid

PLSS – Public Land Survey System. A system of 250,000 section corners, created in 1824, which provides the basis for all land titles and land ownership boundary descriptions.

PM – Particulate Matter

Pollution Prevention: Any practice which: a) reduces the amount of any hazardous substance, pollutant, or contaminant entering any waste stream or otherwise released into the environment (including fugitive emissions) prior to recycling, treatment, or disposal; and b) reduces the hazards to public health and the environment associated with the release of such substances, pollutants, or contaminants. The term includes: equipment or technology modifications, process or procedure modifications, reformulation or redesign of products, substitution of raw materials, and improvements in housekeeping, maintenance, training, or inventory control.

Preservation 2000 Program: Predecessor of Florida Forever land acquisition program that protected more than 1.78 million acres of conservation land.

Preserves: A piece of water or land owned by the government or conservation group, where wildlife, plants, or geographical features are protected or where fish or wild animals are bred.

Primary Service Outcome Measure: The service outcome measure which is approved as the performance measure that best reflects and measures the intended outcome of a service. Generally, there is only one primary service outcome measure for each agency service.

Program: A set of services and activities undertaken in accordance with a plan of action organized to realize identifiable goals and objectives based on legislative authorization (a program can consist of single or multiple services). For purposes of budget development, programs are identified in the General Appropriations Act by a title that begins with the word “Program.” In some instances, a program consists of several services, and in other cases the program has no services delineated within it; the service is the program in these cases. The LAS/PBS code is used for purposes of both program identification and service identification. “Service” is a “budget entity” for purposes of the Long Range Program Plan.

Program Component: An aggregation of generally related objectives which, because of their special character, related workload and interrelated output, can logically be considered an entity for purposes of organization, management, accounting, reporting, and budgeting.

QA – Quality Assurance

RCP – Office of Resilience and Coastal Protection

Reliability: The extent to which the measuring procedure yields the same results on repeated trials and data is complete and sufficiently error free for the intended use.

Remediation: A remedy or solution to a particular problem, designed to help people with to improve their skills or knowledge; an alternative to litigation.

RRT – Regional Response Team

RTP – Recreational Trails Program

Salinity: Measure of the concentration or level of salt.

Sanctuary: A place or area of land where wildlife is protected from predators and from being destroyed or hunted by human beings.

SB – Senate Bill

SBAP – Small Business Assistance Program

SBP – State Buffer Preserves

SCO – Siting Coordination Office

SCTLD – Stony Coral Tissue Loss Disease

SERT – State Emergency Response Team

Service: See Budget Entity.

SFERTF – South Florida Ecosystem Restoration Task Force

SFWMD – South Florida Water Management District

Sinkhole: A natural depression in the land surface, caused by the dissolution of limestone.

Siting: A procedure for the selection, licensing and utilization of sites for electrical generating facilities, including their sites, for electrical transmission lines and natural gas pipelines.

Small Business Assistance Program: Established by Title V of the Clean Air Act Amendments of 1990, this program resides in the Division of Air Resource Management and provides technical and regulatory assistance to small businesses in the state.

SMWW – Stan Mayfield Working Waterfronts Program

SO₂ – Sulfur Dioxide

Source Water Assessment and Protection: A program designed to assess potential sources of water pollution, so that strategies for reducing those threats can be developed and implemented.

STA – Stormwater Treatment Area.

Standard: The level of required performance for an outcome or output.

SWAP – Source Water Assessment and Protection

SFWMD – Southwest Florida Water Management District

SWIFT – A database system for the Solid and Hazardous Waste Program called “Solid Waste Information Field Tracking.”

TF – Trust Fund

TMDL – Total Maximum Daily Load

Trails: Linear corridors and their adjacent land or water that provide public access for recreation or authorized alternative modes of transportation.

Trust Fund: A state investment fund over which an agency (e.g., the Florida Department of Environmental Protection) has legal management authority.

UF – University of Florida

Unit Cost: The average total cost of producing a single unit of output – goods and services for a specific agency activity.

Upland: Ground elevated above the lowlands along rivers or between hills.

Validity: The appropriateness of the measuring instrument in relation to the purpose for which it is being used.

VOC – Volatile Organic Compound

Watershed: The land area that drains into a particular lake, river, or ocean.

Watershed Information Network: The Department's repository for environmental data from non-regulatory data sources from data providers across Florida. Data providers and data users include federal agencies, DEP, other state and local agencies, academic institutions, volunteer organizations, private laboratories, and others.

Web-Enabled: Information formatted in such a manner that it can be placed on an Internet web site.

Wetland: Those areas that are inundated or saturated by surface water or ground water at a frequency and duration enough to support - and under normal circumstances do support - a prevalence of vegetation typically adapted for life in saturated soils.

WIN – Watershed Information Network

WMD – Water Management District