

LAKE OKEECHOBEE BASIN MANAGEMENT ACTION PLAN (BMAP) UPDATE TECHNICAL MEETING



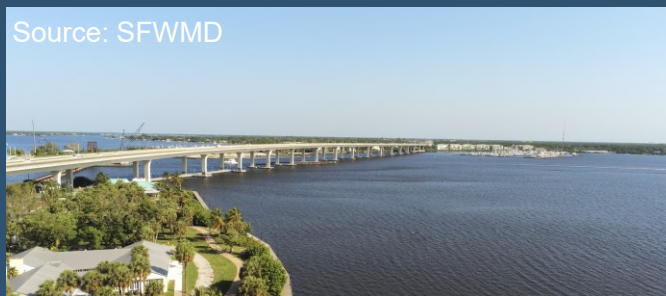
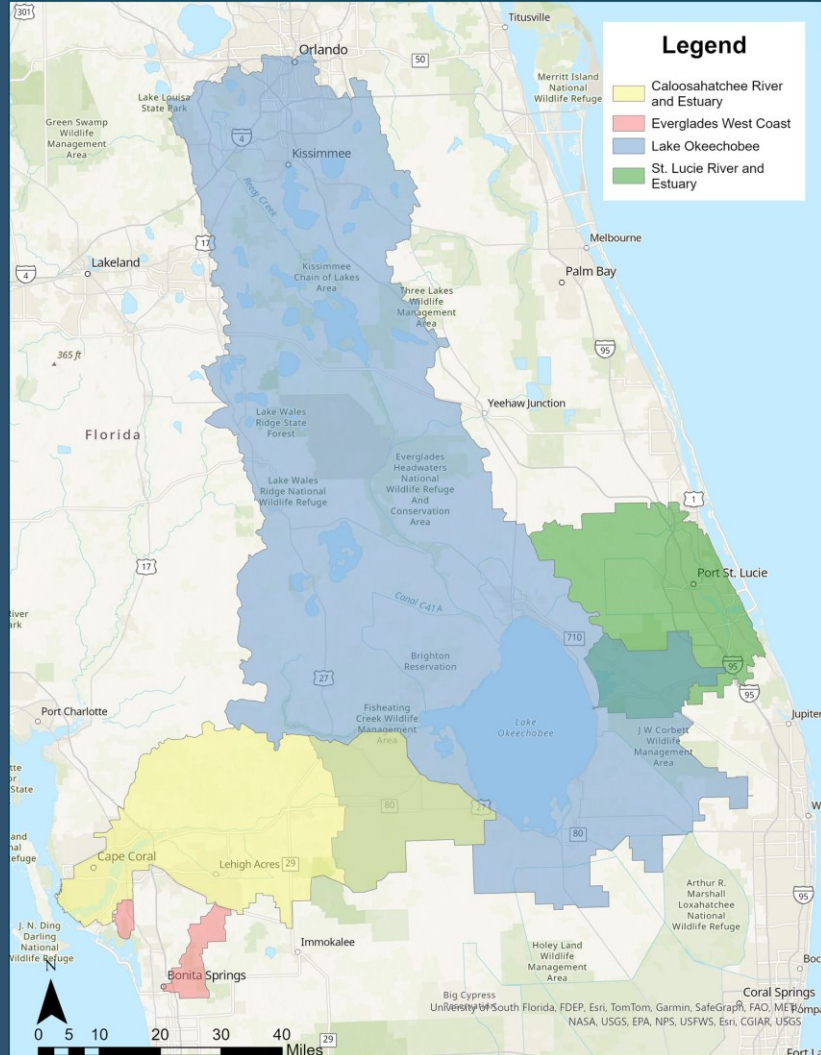
Moira Homann

Division of Environmental Assessment and Restoration
Florida Department of Environmental Protection

St. Cloud, FL | Nov. 21, 2024



BMAP UPDATE MEETING



Agenda:

- Logistics.
- Basin Management Action Plan (BMAP) Update Highlights.
- South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) Watershed Protection Plans Highlights.
- Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (DACS) Update.
- Poster Session.



BMAP UPDATE COMPONENTS

- Recent legislative requirements:
 - Clean Waterways Act (2020).
 - Wastewater effluent limits changes.
 - Onsite Sewage and Treatment Disposal System (OSTDS) requirements for new systems on lots 1 acre or less.
- List of identified projects to meet five-year milestones.
- Regional projects.
- Hot spot analysis.
- Additional water quality analyses.
- Additional updates needed to the monitoring network.
- Recommendations from the Five-Year Review.





LAKE OKEECHOBEE 2024 FIVE-YEAR REVIEW



- The Northern Everglades and Estuaries Protection Plan BMAPs (St. Lucie, Caloosahatchee and Lake Okeechobee) are required to provide a review every five years on the progress the BMAP is making (paragraph 373.4595(4)(d), Florida Statutes).
- Comments on the draft document due by Nov. 22, 2024.



UPCOMING SCHEDULE

Aug. 1, Final
wastewater
treatment
plans and
OSTDS
remediation
plans due.

Nov. 18,
Second
Annual
NEEPP
Public
Workshop.

Nov. 19 - 21,
Technical
BMAP update
public
meetings.

Jan. 2025,
Draft BMAP
update public
meetings.

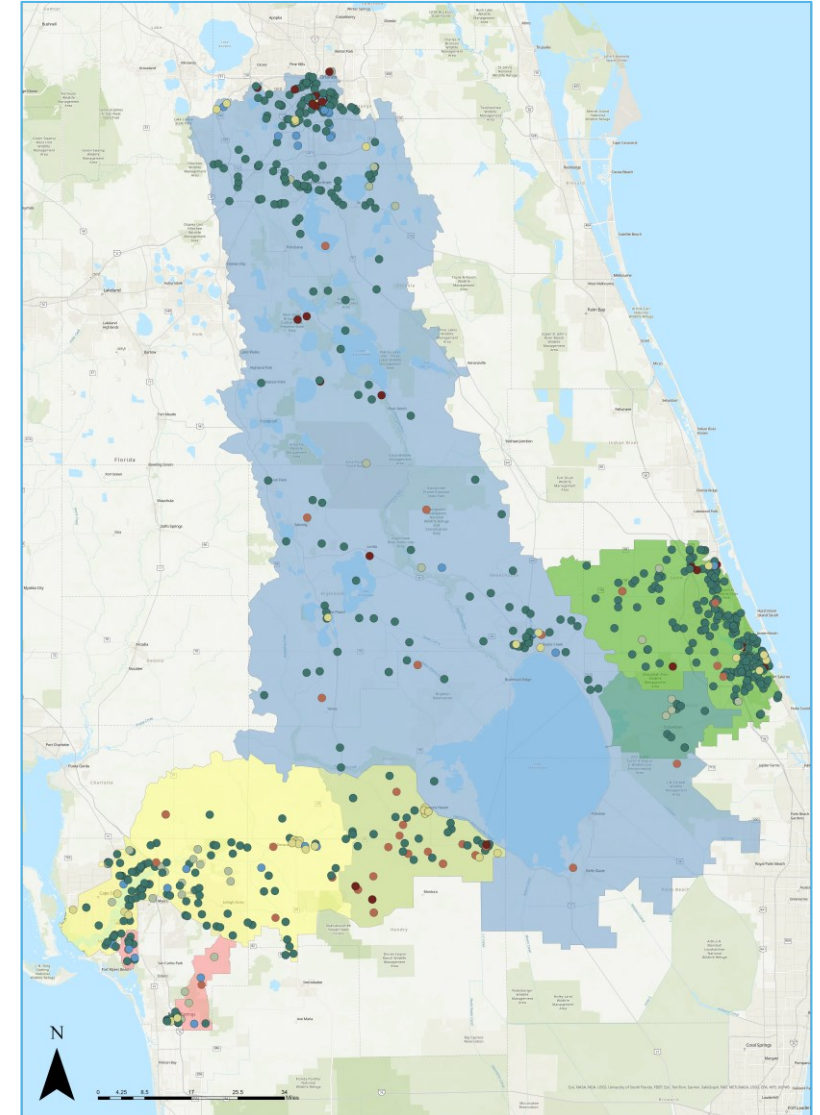
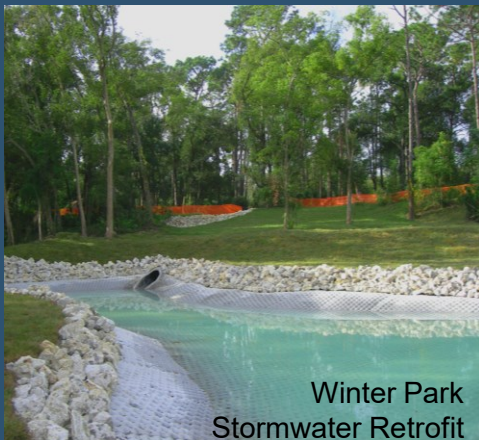
Jan./Feb.
2025, Draft
BMAP update
comment
period.

July 1, 2025,
Statutory
deadline for
updated
nutrient
BMAPs.



PROJECT PORTAL IS OPEN

- Portal will remain open through mid-January 2025 for annual reporting.
- Updates to existing projects and any newly input planned projects needed to reach next milestone have been submitted and are being compiled.



THANK YOU



Moira Homann

Division of Environmental Assessment and Restoration
Florida Department of Environmental Protection

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SFWMD Update

2025 Lake Okeechobee Watershed Protection Plan (WPP) Update

Megan Jacoby, Bureau Chief

Everglades & Estuaries Protection Bureau
Lake Okeechobee BMAP Meeting – St. Cloud
November 21, 2024

2025 Lake Okeechobee Watershed Protection Plan – *5-Year Update*

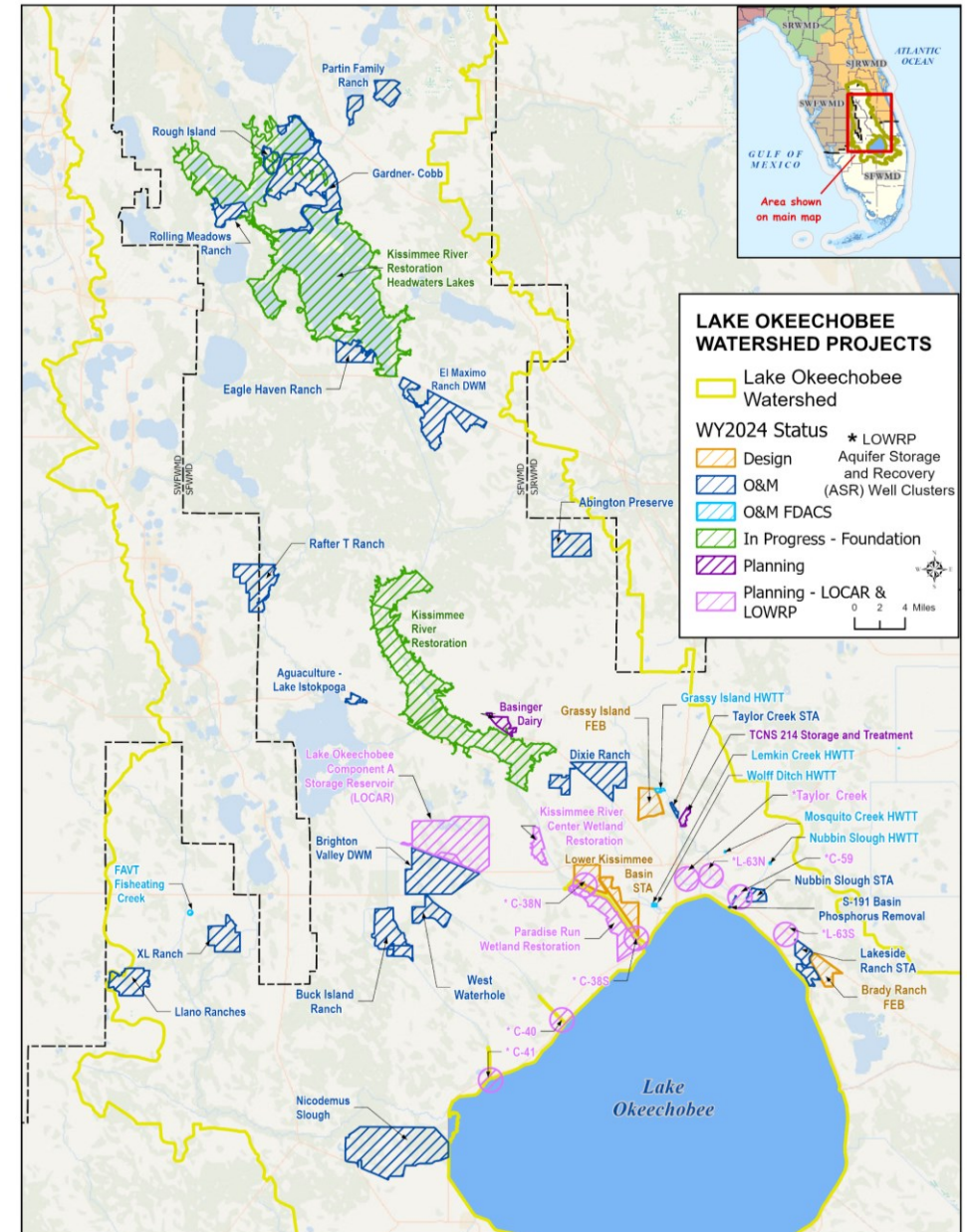
- Since 2020, SFWMD completed annual Lake Okeechobee Watershed Construction Project (LOWCP) reviews, as part of the Watershed Protection Plan (WPP) reviews
- Annual reviews are important to:
 - Maintain transparency and accountability in BMAP process
 - Assist to progressively move toward achieving state's TMDLs
 - Consolidate into NEEPP annual progress reporting (South Florida Environmental Report, or SFER) per §373.4595(6), F.S.
 - ***Develop and update WPPs required every five years***
- Draft 2025 LOWPP Update (5-Year Update)
 - Project accomplishments through Fiscal Year (FY) 2024 (Oct. 1, 2023–Sept. 30, 2024); data evaluation/key findings through Water Year (WY) 2024 (May 1, 2023–April 30, 2024)
 - Draft 2025 SFER – Volume I, Chapter 8B (available at [SFWMD.gov/SFER](https://www.sfwmd.gov/SFER))

SFWMD Projects

- 2024 LOWCP Status:
- 2 projects – planning
 - 3 projects – design
 - 20 projects – operations



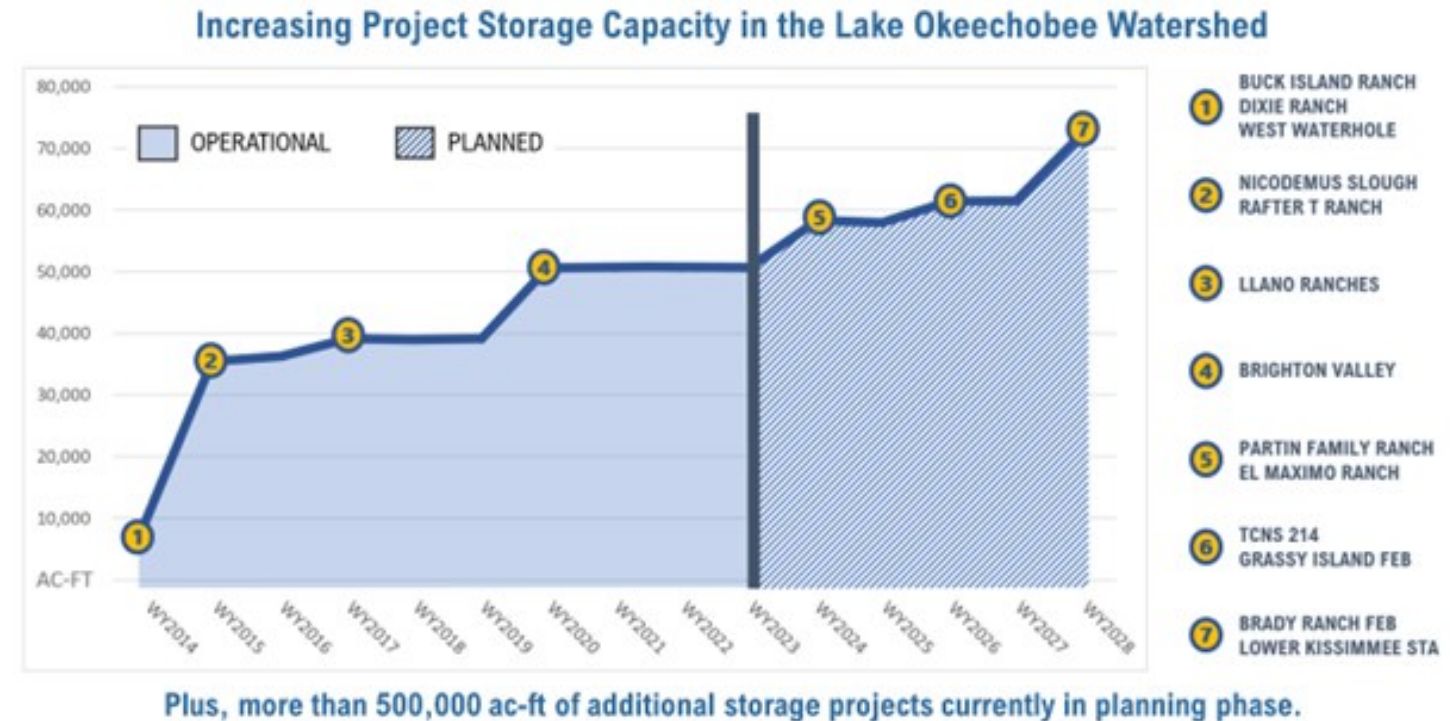
Partin Family Ranch Project (Osceola County, Sep'24)



Water Storage Benefits

- Key DWM program benefits:
 - Reduces runoff/discharge to and stores/treats water in regional system
 - Promotes hydrologic enhancement, groundwater recharge, improves habitat
 - Avoids high cost of land purchase and keeps private lands on local tax rolls
 - Storage and/or treatment provided exceeds permit requirements
- In WY2024, 13 SFWMD-led projects provided 85,142 ac-ft of storage*
- Future projects are planned to add storage capacity of 23,070 ac-ft over the next 5 years; more than 500,000 ac-ft is also in longer-term planning

* Note: Preliminary data for WY2024



NEEPP Model Update

- Original 2008/2009 storage targets for Northern Everglades watersheds have been confirmed to meet the NEEPP legislative goals
 - LOW storage target = 900,000 to 1,300,000 acre-feet per year
- **New! 2025 NEEPP Regional Simulation Model Update**
 - Evaluated hydrology using the Regional Simulation Model for Basins (RSMBN)
 - Current, future, and additional conceptual projects were evaluated for hydrologic performance across all three Northern Everglades watersheds
 - SFWMD is making progress toward the NEEPP storage goals—both realized and planned
- **Now Underway: 2025 Update Reviews**
 - Model overview poster today
 - Draft modeling results presented at upcoming NEEPP Public Workshop
 - Draft 2025 SFER – Volume I, Appendix 8A-1 for public review ([SFWMD.gov/SFER](https://www.sfwmd.gov/SFER))

Mark Your Calendars!



Great egret (*Ardea alba*),
at Lake Okeechobee

AVAILABLE NOW

2025 LOWPP Update

Draft 2025 SFER – Volume I, Chapter 8B

Web Release Date: November 12, 2024

Public Comment Period: through December 17, 2024

For more information, visit:

[SFWMD.gov/SFER](https://sfwmd.gov/SFER)



Contact Information

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sfwmd.gov

Lake Okeechobee BMAP Public Meeting

November 19 & 21, 2024

**Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services
Office of Agricultural Water Policy**

Jennifer Thera



Office of Agricultural Water Policy (OAWP)

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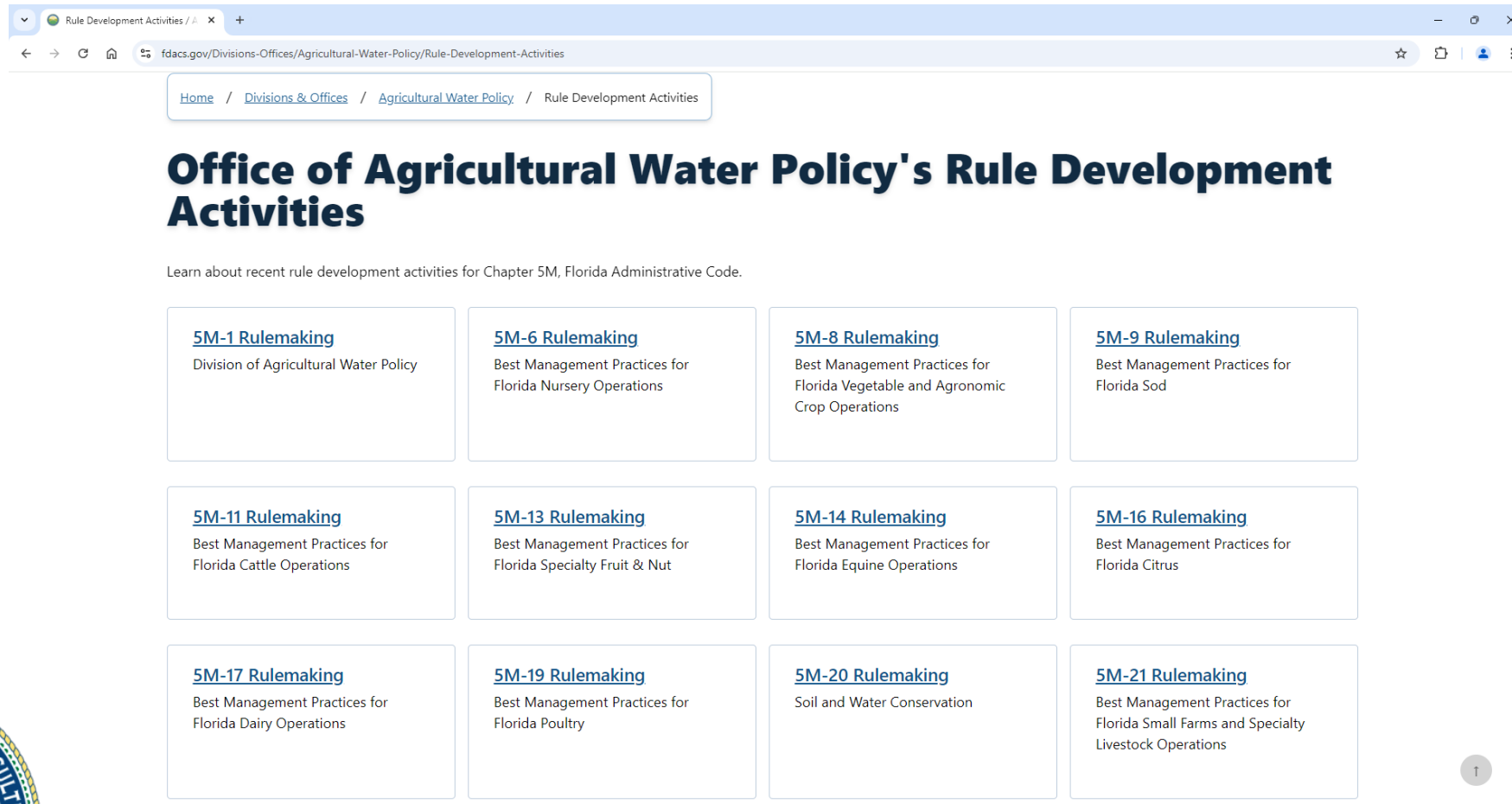
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Best Management Practices (BMP) Manual Updates

<https://www.fdacs.gov/Divisions-Offices/Agricultural-Water-Policy/Rule-Development-Activities>



The screenshot shows a web browser displaying the 'Rule Development Activities' page for the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services. The page features a breadcrumb trail: Home / Divisions & Offices / Agricultural Water Policy / Rule Development Activities. The main heading is 'Office of Agricultural Water Policy's Rule Development Activities'. Below this, a subheading reads: 'Learn about recent rule development activities for Chapter 5M, Florida Administrative Code.' The page contains a grid of 12 boxes, each representing a different rulemaking activity. Each box includes a link to the specific rulemaking page and a brief description of the activity.

Rulemaking Activity	Description
5M-1 Rulemaking	Division of Agricultural Water Policy
5M-6 Rulemaking	Best Management Practices for Florida Nursery Operations
5M-8 Rulemaking	Best Management Practices for Florida Vegetable and Agronomic Crop Operations
5M-9 Rulemaking	Best Management Practices for Florida Sod
5M-11 Rulemaking	Best Management Practices for Florida Cattle Operations
5M-13 Rulemaking	Best Management Practices for Florida Specialty Fruit & Nut
5M-14 Rulemaking	Best Management Practices for Florida Equine Operations
5M-16 Rulemaking	Best Management Practices for Florida Citrus
5M-17 Rulemaking	Best Management Practices for Florida Dairy Operations
5M-19 Rulemaking	Best Management Practices for Florida Poultry
5M-20 Rulemaking	Soil and Water Conservation
5M-21 Rulemaking	Best Management Practices for Florida Small Farms and Specialty Livestock Operations



Cost Share

BMP Cost Share Program



The Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services' (FDACS) Office of Agricultural Water Policy (OAWP) administers the Best Management Practices (BMP) Cost Share Program to assist eligible producers or landowners with BMPs. Project funding is on a continuous basis until program funds are fully encumbered.

OAWP will prioritize awarding first-time participants in the BMP Cost Share Program and projects that will result in the highest level of nutrient reductions to help achieve basin management action plan (BMAP) goals and conservation of water use. Funding will be based on the submittal of the necessary information on the funding request. Completed requests will be reviewed in the order in which they are received. Review of each cost share funding request will be conducted by FDACS. Additional information from the producer, including a site visit, may be requested by FDACS before a funding decision is made.

FDACS will review completed requests based on the following minimum criteria:

1. Confirmation of producer eligibility.
2. Prioritization of projects taking place in a BMAP.
3. Confirmation that the project type is on the [approved list](#), to be used for implementing a checklist item, has an adequate relative water quality benefit, and is appropriate for the size of the operation.
4. Justification and consideration of the water quality benefit or water quantity benefit and the relative size and scope of the benefit.
5. Confirmation that the project type is directly linked to the implementation of the producer's manual checklist item.
6. Confirmation that the project type has the necessary precision/technology features.
7. The level of data-reporting commitment from the producer and corresponding cost share percentage.

Producer Eligibility Requirements

When applying, producers must meet the following requirements for their funding request to be considered:

1. The property where the prospective project is located must be in production for at least one year prior to applying (regardless of ownership/lease).
2. The producer must have an active Notice of Intent to Implement Agricultural BMPs (NOI) for the property where the

Project Types Eligible for Cost Share Funding

Project types eligible for cost share funding are provided in the expandable lists below. FDACS will determine the suitability of the project type based on the cost/benefit of the project and the estimated water quality or water quantity benefit compared to the current practice.

- ▶ [Nutrient Management Project Types](#)
- ▶ [Irrigation Management Project Types](#)
- ▶ [Water Resource Protection Project Types](#)

New Project Types

Producers may request an item or project that is not currently on the list by submitting a request that:

1. Identifies the applicable BMP checklist item that will be implemented through the installation of the item or completion of the project.
2. Describes why the new project type is necessary to implement the BMP compared to the producer's current practices.
3. Quantifies the estimated water quality benefit compared to the current practice.
4. Provides justification or proof of the item having a water quality or water quantity benefit (e.g., case studies, research, demonstrations or field tests).

Project types that show potential but do not satisfy the four criteria above may be eligible for funding as "research or demonstration projects" for the purpose of becoming eligible in the future.

How to Request Project Funding or a New Project Type

To request project funding or a new project type, select the following button to create an account and sign into our BMP Cost Share Program portal:

[Request Project Funding](#)

Alternatively, you may download and complete the [Funding Request Form](#) (1.3 MB) and submit it to OAWPCostShare@FDACS.gov. **Please note:** Submitting a form may take more time to process and review.

Important: Do not begin work on a project prior to executing a cost share agreement.

Additional Funding Resources

FDACS works with multiple partners, including the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources Conservation Service, the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, water management districts, and soil and water conservation districts, to provide funding to assist producers in implementing Best Management Practices.

<https://www.fdacs.gov/Agriculture-Industry/Water/Agricultural-Best-Management-Practices/BMP-Cost-Share-Program>

On Website

- Producer Eligibility Requirements
- List of Project Types Eligible for Cost Share Funding
- Opportunity to apply for new types
- New Application Portal is active

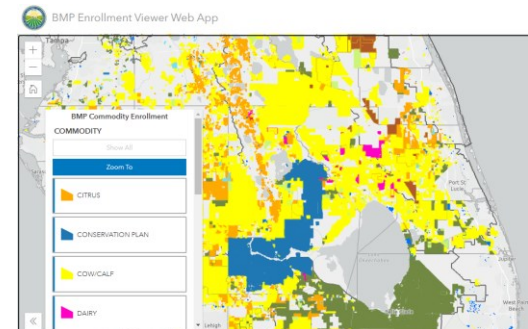


Agricultural Lands in the Lake Okeechobee BMAP

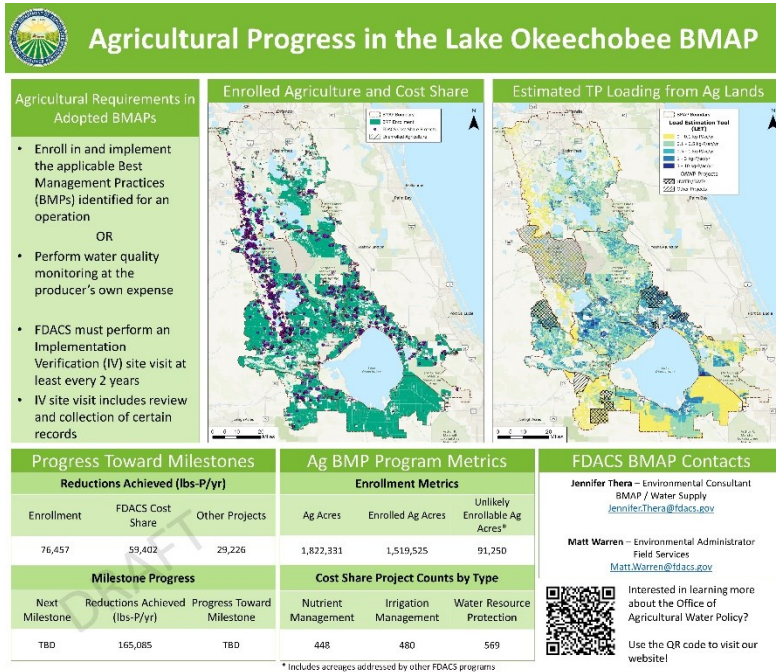
Location	Agricultural acres	Unenrolled - Unlikely Enrollable Acres	Agricultural Acres – Adjusted	Agricultural Acres Enrolled as of April 30, 2024	% Agriculture enrolled in BMP Program
East Lake Okeechobee	93,242	8,925	91,693	73,568	80%
Fisheating Creek	213,477	2,527	205,781	199,224	97%
Indian Prairie	230,095	5,930	199,199	183,395	92%
Lake Istokpoga	128,211	7,438	117,283	100,878	86%
Lower Kissimmee	263,119	7,584	230,703	206,640	90%
South Lake Okeechobee	327,062	2,944	323,196	318,767	99%
Taylor Creek/Nubbin Slough	148,107	3,935	139,577	125,735	90%
Upper Kissimmee	268,960	35,681	219,410	180,932	82%
West Lake Okeechobee	150,059	9,580	146,691	133,244	91%

BMP Enrollment Viewer Web App:

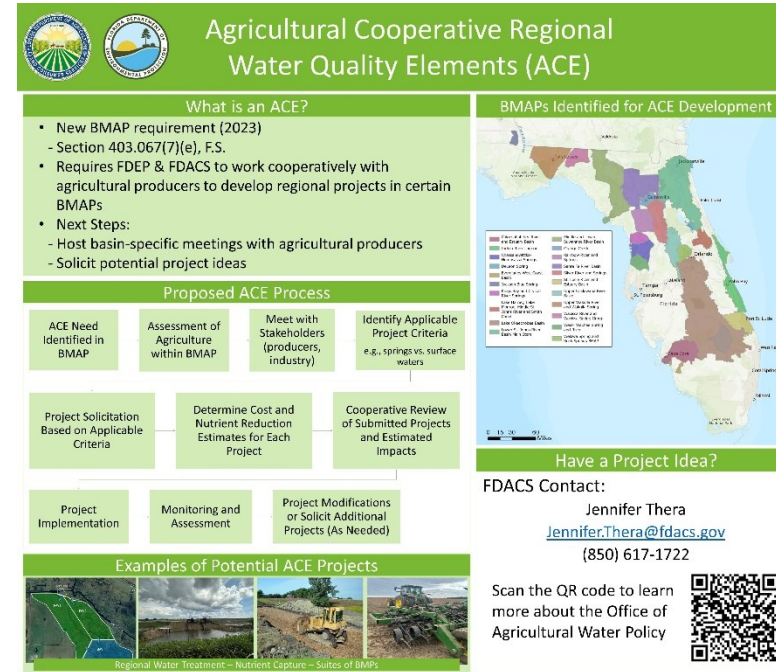
[Office of Agricultural Water Policy: BMP Enrollment Map \(fdacs.gov\)](https://fdacs.gov/BMP-Enrollment-Viewer)



Poster #1 - BMAP Metrics



Poster #2 - Regional Projects/ACE



<http://www.fdacs.gov/Divisions-Offices/Agricultural-Water-Policy>

Thank You!



Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services