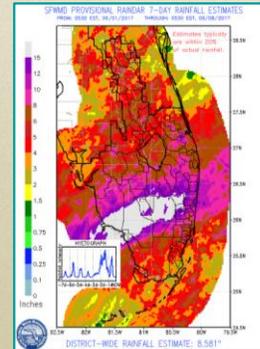


2017 High water condition: Everglades Complex Wildlife Management Area (ECWMA)

- Record setting, regional start to wet season
- June rainfall for WCA-3 was 18.74" (219% above normal)
 - Period June 01-June 08
 - Average 15" rainfall in WCA-3A
 - > 24" increase in WCA-3A north (62-63 average)
- Dramatic rise in water levels prompting wildlife and levee safety concerns
 - Staff monitoring wildlife and habitat conditions
- Flood control inflows approximately 8,000 - 10,000 cfs
- Releases approximately 2,300 - 3,300 cfs
- Water levels projected to continue rising



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June of 2017 marked a record setting start to south Florida's rainy season. Overall the month finished more than 200% above normal rainfall, at almost 19" of total rainfall for Water Conservation Area 3, which is the largest water conservation area within the Everglades Complex Wildlife Management Area.

When and where rainfall occurs is very important, and much of June's rainfall occurred in the first part of the month, over the Big Cypress National Preserve and the Everglades WMA. In the first 8 days of June, the Everglades WMA received 15" of rainfall that helped raise water levels up over 2 feet in one week, prompting serious wildlife concerns and triggering the WMA closure criteria. Additionally, this was a regional event and flood control operation were adding about 10,000 cubic feet per second to the WMA which is much greater than the release capabilities. With about 6,000 cubic feet per second being captured in the WMA, it was projected that water levels would continue to rise sharply.

High water conditions: Everglades Complex Wildlife Management Area (ECWMA)

- June 13, 2017 Establishing special regulations restricting access to Everglades and Francis S. Taylor, Holey Land, and Rotenberger WMA. (FWC EO 17-24)
- June 16, 2017 Emergency High Water Management Leadership meeting
 - State and federal agency leadership assembled promptly and responded
 - Conditions assessment and options analysis
 - Numerous technical meetings and follow-up leadership interactions
- June 22 & 23, 2017 SFWMD requested additional operations
- June 23, 2017 FDEP Emergency Final Order (EFO 17-0867)
- June 27, 2017 U.S. FWS ESA consultation
- June 27, 2017 USACE FONSI Planned Deviation from Water Control Plan



These are a few of the responsive actions that led to an Emergency Deviation of the federal Water Control Plan. I wanted to emphasize the cooperative nature, and the willingness of our state, federal and tribal leadership to engage on very short notice, and dedicate their agency resources to these efforts. Without their great efforts and responsiveness, the conditions for our wildlife and possibly all of south Florida would be far worse. Working together we were able to quickly assess the situation, set a course of correction and get things headed in the right direction.

High water conditions: Everglades Complex Wildlife Management Area (ECWMA)

Current condition July 10, 2017,

- State and federal water managers significantly reduced inflows
- Emergency deviation operations significantly increased discharges
- Daily levee inspections
 - ECWMA water levels
 - Crested about 12.25' NGVD (62-63 average)
 - Remains >24" over long term average
- Normal rainfall up to 8" per month and tropical activity is a possibility
- Condition remains serious but more equipped to handle these challenges



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Under the current conditions, water managers have greatly reduce the inflows to the WMA and with the added flexibility and operations of the Water Control Plan Deviation, the outflows have greatly increase and today exceed the inflows. It appears the Everglades WMA stages have crested and are beginning to recede. However, water levels remain over 2 feet above the historical level for this time of year and FWC biologists are continuing to monitor the wildlife and habitat conditions until water levels recede to a compatible level, which could take many weeks.

With the deviation to the Water Control Plan and all of the cooperation from our state, federal and tribal partners there are more water management options available to protect our communities and wildlife. We seem to have things headed in the right direction but the conditions remain serious for wildlife until the stages recede below the criteria and wildlife can resume normal behaviors.