

2008 Team of the Year
Northern Everglades Team

Tom Teets – Everglades Policy Manager

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In 2007 the Florida Legislature expanded the Lake Okeechobee Protection Act to include protection and restoration of the Lake Okeechobee watershed and the Caloosahatchee and St. Lucie estuaries. Accordingly, the Lake Okeechobee Watershed Construction Project Phase II Technical Plan (the Plan) was developed by the South Florida Water Management District, in coordination with the Florida Department of Environmental Protection and the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services.

Tom Teets, Everglades Policy Manager, led the interdepartmental team of planners, engineers, hydrologic modelers and other technical disciplines responsible for the development of the Plan. The technical development and evaluation of alternatives contained in the Plan required extensive regional hydrologic modeling, which utilized for the first time the newly developed Regional Simulation Model—the successor to the long standing South Florida Water Management Model. In addition, the Team coordinated the effort through numerous meetings of the interagency group and public briefings through the Water Resources Advisory Commission and its Lake Okeechobee Subcommittee. Finally, the Plan was developed, drafted and released on schedule to meet the requirements of the legislation to present the Plan to the Florida Legislature by February 1, 2008.