Trade-offs in Wetland Ecosystem Services in Working Landscapes Identification, spatial scale, and management implications





This research is funded by U.S. EPA - Science To Achieve Results (STAR) Program

Grant#

Elizabeth Boughton and Hilary Swain MacArthur Agro-ecology Research Center Wetland Ecosystem Services in Working Landscapes

Part I

- Wetlands in working landscapes
- Trade-offs in ecosystem services
- Introduction of session speakers

Part II

- Spatial trade-offs
- Key future directions



Wetland ES in working landscapes

Wetland Ecosystem	Wetland Ecosystem	Service	Scale of influence/benefit
Service	Function	Classification	
Irrigation	Water storage	Provisioning	Local



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- Cow calf 3,000 head
- 10,500 acres
- ~5,500 improved
- ~4,500 semi-native
- Bahia sod
- Hunt lease







Northern Everglades



Land Use and Wetlands in the Northern Everglades



Regional Downstream Ecosystem: Lake Okeechobee



- Receives 558
 metric tons of
 P/year
- 140 MT/year is target (meet by 2015)
- 51,000 MT of P in sediment

What happens to local ecosystems when we manage primarily for regional downstream ecosystem benefits?





Local Ecosystem Managed for Regional Watershed: Lykes West Waterhole Marsh



Lykes West Waterhole Marsh – Results 2008-2011

	2008	2010	2011
Retention (%)	60	94	92
Metric Tons of P	4	8.3	1.3

P reduction to regional watershed but expanding cattail on-site



High storage value , low biodiversity value?





Many programs available for landowners to establish wetland functions and services

- Wetland Reserve Program
- Conservation Reserve Program
- Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program
- Environmental Quality Incentives Program
- Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program
- Payment for Environmental Services

Conceptual Model of Trade-offs in Ecosystem Services in relation to on-site, off-site and cost



Future Directions

- How do we identify trade-offs and make management decisions?
 - Tabulation
 - Wetland ecosystem modeling
 - Decision support tools
 - Landscape bundling (too coarse grained?)
- Valuation of ES is it possible?
- Cumulative effects of programs (local/regional)
- Spatial trade-offs (whether the effects of the trade-off are felt locally or at a distant location)
- Temporal trade-offs (whether effects take place rapidly or slowly)
- Reversibility (the likelihood that the perturbed ES may return to its original state if perturbation ceases)











Participating Florida Ranchers









NRCS Natural Resources Conservation Service Photo credit: Carlton Ward

Acknowledgements Sanjay Shukla Patrick Bohlen Raoul Boughton Mark Clark Sarah Lynch Len Shabman Ryan Mesmer Steven Hollingsed Christen Steele All session participants

Questions?