

UORB monthly project status report
For March Board

Emeralda Marsh

The contractor completed construction related to reconnection of the K cell and a pump station at Emeralda Marsh in mid-December. Lake County Road Department approved plans for the box culvert under Emeralda Island Road and construction management staff are preparing a work order to complete the installation. The culvert will reconnect Areas 6 & 7 to Area 2 and thence Lake Griffin. Recent aerial photos from Area 2 show significant expansion of beds of spatterdock, a water lily-like plant that once dominated large areas of Lake Griffin. This is a welcome development and an important habitat to return to the Lake Griffin/Emeralda system.

Shad Harvesting in the ORB and Lake Apopka:

Shad harvesting on Lake Apopka ended for the season on November 30th because of low catches and small fish. The fishermen harvested almost 400,000 pounds of gizzard shad. The District began the harvest on Newnans Lake near Gainesville on February 1, 2010. In the first two week, they have removed 52,000 lbs of rough fish.

UORB Lake Level Management

Lake levels are generally close to the regulation schedule throughout the basin. The Superpond lakes (Harris, Eustis, Dora and Beauclair) have exceeded the regulation schedule for a couple days. Limited discharges have occurred at Burrell and Moss Bluff when lake levels exceeded the upstream regulation schedules. These were the first major discharges from the basin since February 2006. Planning continues on implementation of enhanced lake level fluctuations for the Harris Chain of Lakes and Lake Apopka. Establishment of MFLs for these lakes will be incorporated into the project. Staff anticipates that this major project will require 4 years to complete.