

UORB monthly project status report
For November Board

UORB Lake Level Management

Lake levels throughout the basin continued to rise over the summer and recently, discharges over the minimum were made at both the Burrell and Moss Bluff dams. These are the first major discharges from the basin since February 2006, finally ending the extended drought. 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.

Emeralda Marsh

Construction at Emeralda Marsh is well underway. Construction Management is readying a work order to install a box culvert under Emeralda Island Road to 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 UORB and Lake Apopka:

Shad harvesting began in October 1st on Lake Apopka. While fish size is small, the fishermen have harvested 186,000 pounds of gizzard shad. The fishermen also report that they have not caught significant numbers of sunshine bass, a fish that was stocked in the lake last year by the Florida Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission.