

ANALYSIS OF GOVERNANCE IN LARGE-SCALE AQUATIC ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION INITIATIVES

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ABSTRACT

The United States has committed billions of dollars towards restoring large-scale ecosystems such as the Great Lakes and the Everglades. The governance of these initiatives varies throughout the United States and is often challenged with conflicting interests and unforeseen circumstances. The potential positive and negative effects of policies associated with the governance of 16 ecosystem restoration initiatives in the United States were analyzed. The policies were related to decision-making, funding, stakeholder participation, and oversight, among others. Approaches to governance were found to vary among initiatives led by different federal agencies and correlated to the drivers (e.g., water quality, endangered species, and water supply) behind restoration initiatives. A set of lessons learned and policy options were derived from this analysis. These findings will help stakeholders and legislative bodies develop and shape large-scale restoration initiatives around the world.

PALAVRA-CHAVE: ecosystem restoration, governance