

Northern Everglades Payment for Environmental Services (NE-PES), Florida

PES & Nature-Based Solutions · Good practice · United States of America

Quality score: 40/100

Evidence strength: Moderate

Summary

Florida's SFWMD pays ranchers near Lake Okeechobee, under 10-year contracts, per acre-foot of water retained and pound of phosphorus kept from the Everglades. Grown from an 8-ranch 2005-2011 pilot, its first nine projects retained ~6,700 acre-feet; a 2014 deal added 95,812 more.

Key dimensions

Dimension	Score
Carbon — sequestration / storage, evidenced	0/3
Biodiversity — conservation / improvement, evidenced	1/3
Water & soil — retention, infiltration, erosion control	3/3
Fire resilience — risk reduction, evidenced	0/3
Governance, certification & transferability	2/3

Evaluated by C-NAPSE

Data sources

C-NAPSE web research — accessed 2026-07-10

South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) — accessed 2026-07-10

SFWMD — Water Storage Strategies — accessed 2026-07-10

USDA — Florida ranchers help Everglades, coral reefs and Lake Okeechobee — accessed 2026-07-10

Bohlen et al. 2009, *Frontiers in Ecology and the Environment* 7(1):46-55 — accessed 2026-07-10

Boughton et al. 2019, *Ecosphere* 10(5):e02728 — accessed 2026-07-10

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