EPA Comment #23 (from EPA letter) and EPA Issue #24

EPA Comment #23: Page 6-36, Table 6.2-8 and Pages 6-40 to 6-42, Table 6.2-11: There appear to be some inconsistencies between Table 6.2-8 and Table 6.2-11 with respect to reported future wetland and water resource numbers, including the bullet summaries for the Partridge River (Page 6-40) and Embarrass River (Page 6-42). For the Partridge River, Table 6.2-11 and bullet summary text note future condition with 3,516 acres of deepwater resources, while Table 6.2-8 indicates 1,922 acres.

Recommendation: The FEIS should resolve or explain these inconsistencies.

EPA Issue #24: Comment #23 Inconsistency between Table 6.2-8 and Table 6.2-11

EPA Comment #23 Response

Table 6.2-8 shows the proposed net change in wetland and water resources for the eight specific projects that were included in the wetlands cumulative effects analysis. Table 6.2-11 shows the projected future resources in total for the two watersheds when combined with the eight projects that were assessed. For example, the 1,922 acres of deepwater resources shown in Table 6.2-8 is the amount that would be added to the Partridge River watershed from the projects that were evaluated, which would result in a net increase of 370 acres of deepwater habitat from these projects (existing deepwater habitat from these projects is 1,552 acres). The 3,516 acres of deepwater habitat discussed in the bullets on page 6-40 and in Table 6.2-11 is correct. There is a total of 3,146 acres of existing deepwater resources in the Partridge River watershed, which, when combined with the net increase of 370 acres of deepwater habitat from the four projects, results in 3,516 acres.

Section 6.2.3 of the FEIS has been updated to clarify the information presented in the tables.

Additional Information (Provided for this Response)

- PFEIS Table 6.2-8 and PFEIS Section 6.2.3.4.1 Wetlands Approach
- PFEIS Table 6.2-11 and a portion of PFEIS Section 6.2.3.4.4 Cumulative Effects Assessment

DRAFT

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