Get out and Tell the Army Corps about the Harm to the Refuge

by Sarah Ashton & Jim Metzler, DDWS Advocacy Committee Co-Chairs

The Army Corps of Engineers is beginning a study that will result in a new Lake Okeechobee System Operating Manual (LOSOM). The new manual won't impact the quality of the water that the Refuge receives. It could, however, significantly reduce the frequency and intensity of dirty water being released from Lake O down the Caloosahatchee to the Refuge.

The study begins with a <u>series of meetings</u> to solicit public input. The first two meetings will take place on Tuesday, February 5, 1-3 p.m. and 6-8 p.m. at the Lee County Mosquito Control District Training Center, 15191 Homestead Road, Lehigh Acres.

It is critical that as many people as possible attend these meetings and let the Army Corps know in detail about the harm that the Refuge experienced last summer, and that the Corps needs to minimize harm to the Refuge when creating a new LOSOM.