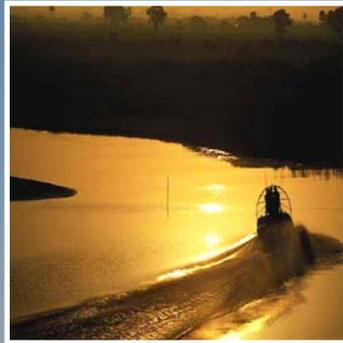


EXHIBIT "A"

# RECREATION MANAGEMENT AND PARTNERSHIP PLAN

## LAND STEWARDSHIP DIVISION (2007-2011)



# RECREATION MANAGEMENT AND PARTNERSHIP PLAN

## LAND STEWARDSHIP DIVISION (2007-2011)

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## 1.0 Overview

The South Florida Water Management District (District) is a regional, governmental agency that oversees the water resources for over 5 million residents in central and southern Florida. It is the oldest and largest of the State's five water management districts serving a 16-county region that extends from Orlando in central Florida, south to Key West. The District's mission is to manage and protect water resources of the region by balancing and improving water quality, flood control, natural systems and water supply. The District accomplishes its mission through an array of programs and projects.

An ancillary aspect to the mission is to provide and encourage public recreational activities on District lands as long as they are compatible and consistent with the primary purposes of the lands. Over the years the District has taken great strides to expand public recreational use opportunities on land purchased with public dollars. Additionally, as the agency continues its aggressive pace to acquire land for Everglades restoration and other ecosystem restoration and water resource projects, the District has taken a proactive approach to enhance the recreational use program throughout the 16-county jurisdiction.

State statutes mandate the District provide compatible public access and use of District lands. The District's Public Recreational Access and Use Policy adopted by the Governing Board in March of 2004 is a commitment to plan, manage, and promote public use of District lands according to that mandate. A primary goal of this Recreation Management and Partnership Plan is to provide objectives and strategies to further and be consistent with the directives set forth in the Policy. Nothing in this Plan shall, or is intended to, alter or modify the Policy. Additional goals include meeting the growing recreational opportunities on District lands as a result of the District's restoration initiatives. This plan provides the District with a comprehensive planning tool to address existing and future recreation opportunities on District lands over the next five years (revised every five years).

Land resources available for public use which are managed by the District are generally divided into four category types; Rights-of-Way, Water Resource Management Project Lands (Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan , Acceler8, Northern Everglades, Everglades Program, and others), Conservation Lands (Save Our Rivers), and Interim Lands (future project lands). These land types can be quite unique in project purposes, environmental character, and managed under different District programs and processes. Public use and the allowable recreational opportunities can vary from land type to land type.

The compatible nature-based activities associated with recreation on District lands include, but are not limited to, hiking, birding, wildlife viewing, biking, boating, canoeing, hunting, fishing, equestrian use, and camping. Management of these uses requires a strong commitment to a law enforcement program which enforces public use rules and regulations and protects natural resources. The rules and regulations for public access and use of District lands are primarily found in Chapter 40E-7, Part V, Florida

Administrative Code and the State Hunting Regulations. District rules are established for the series of permitted and prohibited activities but also have the flexibility to allow for special uses to be permitted under controlled conditions. The District must rely on other state and local government agencies to enforce District regulations.

The District has a two-step strategy for accomplishing recreation objectives. The first step is to develop limited access and support facilities for nature-based recreation using dedicated Water Management Lands Trust Funds. For specialized uses such as hunting the District relies upon the assistance of the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission. Compatible capital improvement projects provide only the essential infrastructure to meet the public's ability to access the site. Public use facilities will increase on District lands as more restoration projects are developed. On Federal sponsored projects cost-sharing opportunities exist for the development of recreation amenities. Acceler8 projects forecast and implement public use projects expecting to qualify for future cost-sharing.

The second component to the success of public recreation on District lands is the development of strong partnerships with local, state, and federal agencies and non-governmental or private organizations. Partnerships are critical for sustaining the site management, maintenance, and operation of facilities and programs associated with public use. The dedication of District funds and resources for the on-going operations and maintenance of recreation facilities may become a limiting factor without partnerships. An integration of state and local government recreation master plans and the establishment of local partnerships early in the planning process of project implementation can be beneficial and cost effective to planning and constructing public use facilities. Furthermore, partnerships, including volunteers, may provide additional recreational service benefits to the public including educational and outreach opportunities.

A summary of the key objectives of the Recreation Management and Partnership Plan are listed on page 56.

## **2.0 Summary of District Lands**

There are several types of land acquisition and management programs at the District, which by legislative policy and rule provide public access and recreation. District lands are never acquired solely for recreation purposes but rather to serve functions related to the primary mission of the District. Even though all lands come under the umbrella of the District's mission they can be quite unique in purpose, environmental character, and project integrity. Therefore, certain lands can provide opportunities for a wide range of permissible activities while other lands due to limitations and restrictions only provide a narrow window of recreational opportunities. District lands addressed in this plan are Rights-of-Way/Water Conservation Areas, Water Resource Enhancement, Conservation, and Vacant/Interim. The District land types are summarized below.

## 2.1 Rights-of-Way / Water Conservation Areas (Map 1.)

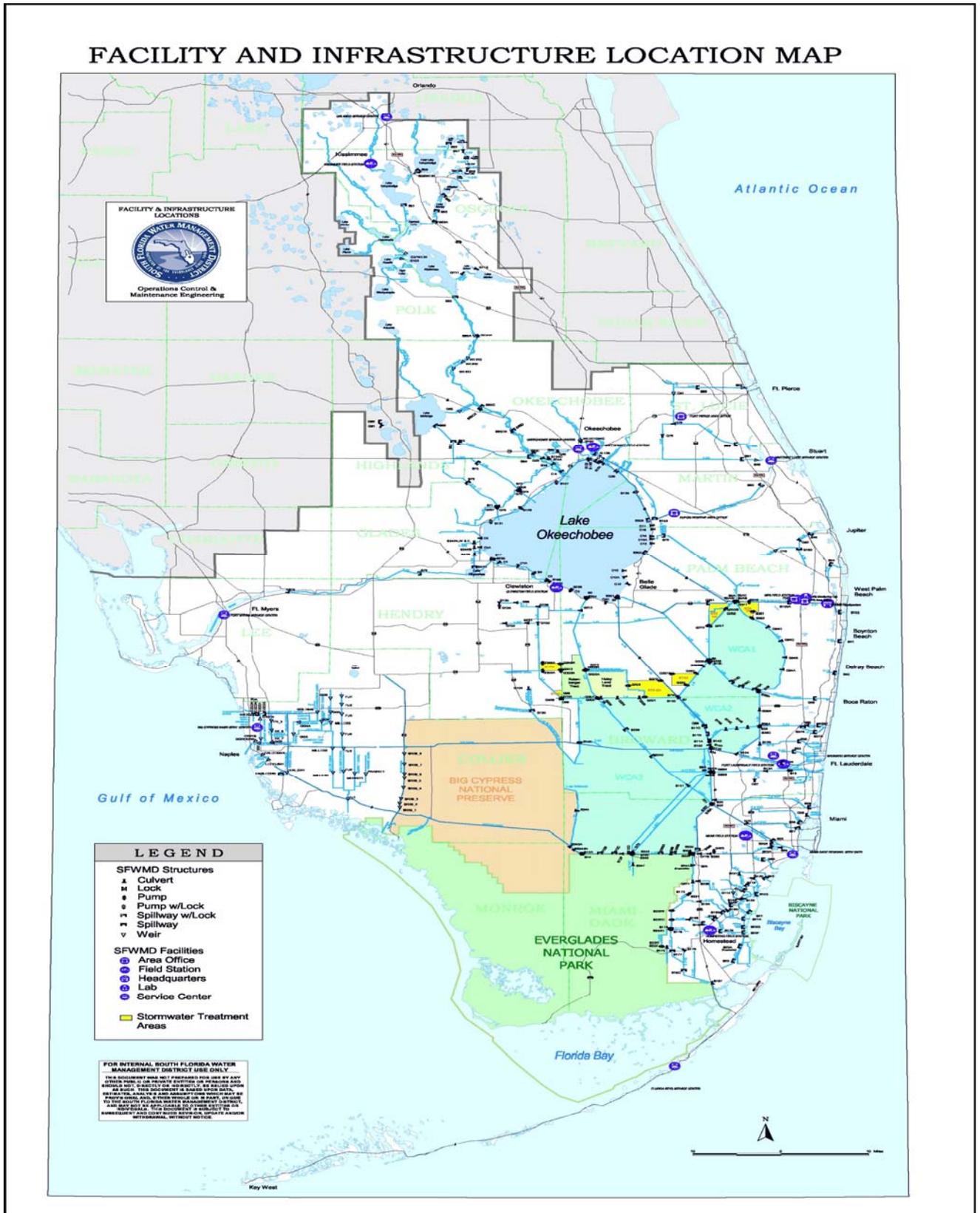
One of the District's most important responsibilities is the operation and maintenance of the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers, federally authorized, Central and Southern Florida Flood Control Project. This project includes a vast network of over 1,800 miles of canals and levees, and Water Conservation Areas which are designed to manage and protect the water resources of the region. A secondary benefit to the public is that these canal and levee rights-of-way are, with some exceptions, available for public recreational use which is both compatible and consistent for the purpose for which the lands were acquired. The recreation permitted is generally passive, nature-based and has limited management, facilities and promotion. The public use must not interfere with the District's ability to maintain and operate the system (the District must guard against interference with its equipment and water control structures in particular). In most instances hiking, biking, fishing, equestrian use, and boating are some of the recreational opportunities available (subject to the ownership interest by the District and other entities). Boating is allowed in almost all canals with a variety of boat ramps constructed by the District, state, or local government and maintained by local government or state agencies. The District does allow certain sections of levee right-of-way to remain open for limited or legalized access and these areas may be utilized by commercial, recreational, and general users. While the District is responsible for operational and maintenance of the canals in support of its flood control and water supply missions, certain sections of the Right-of-Way are managed and maintained by other State agencies or local governments for recreational purposes.



The 3 Water Conservation Areas (800,000 acres) have been open to the public for extensive recreation for over 50 years as both a federal wildlife refuge (Water Conservation Area 1) and wildlife management area (Water Conservation Areas 2 and 3). The management plans and specific rules and regulations for these areas are administered by the respective management agencies.

Various sections of the canal and levee Right-of-Way are incorporated into local government parks and greenways, either by a Right-of-Way permit or, less frequently, a lease or agreement. These projects are user driven; the District will appropriately support and respond to the requests from local governments and user groups. As discussed further in this plan a sponsor or partner may provide additional benefits and management to the public use component that might not otherwise be provided by the District. The District has several existing partnership agreements with local governments to manage greenway corridors, managed through the Right-of-Way permitting/contract or agreement process. The Right-of-Way permitting and use program which regulates the use of lands that have been adopted as "Works or Lands of the District" is governed by Chapter 40E-6, Part V, Florida Administrative Code although the recreation and public use component on Right-of-Ways is found within Chapter 40E-7, Part V, Florida Administrative Code.

Map 1. Canal & Levee Right-of-Ways



## 2.2 Water Resource Management Project Lands

Starting with the Kissimmee River Restoration project implemented in the 1990's, the District and Army Corps of Engineers have embarked on an ambitious plan to enhance the original flood control and water supply system of the 1950's while meeting the growing demands for water supply, flood control, and environmental enhancements to provide water allocations for environmental users. These enhancements are comprised of various water resource projects (164,500 project land acres) including reservoirs for water storage and stormwater treatment areas which utilize man-made, managed wetlands. There are various programs employed in this effort at varying construction phases including the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan, Acceler8, Northern Everglades, Everglades Program, and others.

The water resource management projects provide opportunities for additional public recreation in one of two ways: 1) public access to and use of the actual reservoirs, STAs, or restored wetlands, or 2) the utilization of land which was purchased as part of a project but lies outside of the constructed project footprint.



*Hunting in STA's*

The public access and use of constructed reservoirs and Stormwater Treatment Areas for recreation is limited by the intended purpose of the project and the District's ability to maintain and operate the system. If public access and use is considered in the design phase, many of the concerns can be addressed and limited public use can be accommodated. The recreation program on these projects is planned, funded, and constructed within the state and federal guidelines and mandates under one or more of the various programs (Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan, Acceler8, Northern Everglades, Everglades Program, etc.) discussed above. District staff will consult during the planning phases to implement appropriate facilities, activities and the further objectives of this plan. Typical uses are hiking, fishing, bicycling, horseback riding, managed hunts and some boating. Recreation program management can be partnered or contracted to local governments, private sector vendors, or integrated into the District workforce. The current strategy is to seek partners to manage and provide recreational services.

Land that is supplemental to the needs of the water resource management facilities may provide a wider variety of recreation use from simple day use natural areas to very specialized uses for active recreation including model airplane flying, paintball fields,

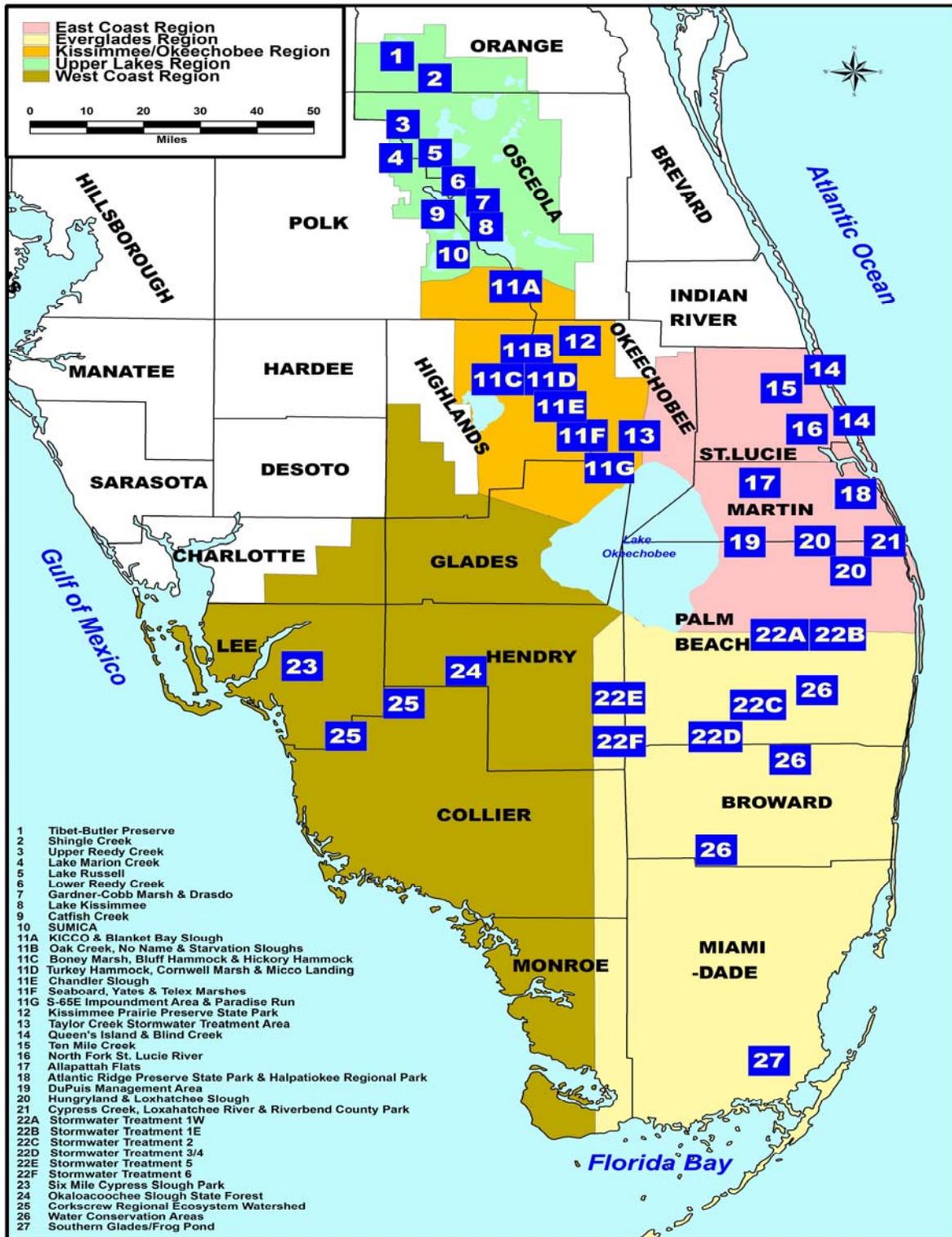
shooting ranges and off-highway vehicle parks. These uses would only be possible if the available lands, District facilities, and surrounding land use were compatible to such activities. These types of uses would need to be managed by an external agency and may even require that the District transfer title of the land to the managing entity.

### **2.3 Conservation Lands (Map 2.)**

During the 1980s and 1990s, the District in cooperation with the State, local government and conservation organizations identified, purchased and managed a series of water resource related land preservation and restoration projects (355,500 acres). These acquisitions commonly referred to as Save Our Rivers lands are essentially complete and most are open to the public for a wide variety of nature-based recreation activities. The District established three basic management strategies:

- 1) large conservation/preservation projects managed directly by the District with some assistance from Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission for hunting programs;
- 2) large conservation/preservation projects purchased in cooperation with the state and leased to one of the three state land management agencies (Department of Environmental Protection, Division of Forestry, or Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission) to be operated and regulated as state run recreation programs (state parks, state forest, wildlife management areas, or wildlife environmental areas). These leases/agreements usually do not include a management fee since the state land managers are eligible for Conservation and Recreation Lands funding; and
- 3) small preservation projects often acquired with cooperation of local government and usually managed by local government. The growing trends for local government to develop their own acquisition programs have eliminated the need for the Water Management Districts to be involved in these types of projects. The District typically does not provide operations and maintenance funding for these projects.

Map 2. Conservation & Stormwater Treatment Area Recreation Managed Lands



## 2.4 Vacant / Interim Lands

District lands acquired for future water resource management project purposes are categorized during the planning stages as Vacant or Interim Lands. Prior to construction some vacant lands may be appropriate for very limited nature-based activities including hiking, biking, hunting, nature appreciation, and possibly equestrian use. Facilities, except for possibly signage and a primitive access point, would not be constructed. In addition, certain interim parcels prior to project construction may be subject to a lease agreement with the prior owner or another entity. In those cases where a lease exists then the land may not be available for recreational purposes.



*Palm Beach Downs-Interim Managed Recreation Park*

## 3.0 Responsibilities, Limitations, and Constraints

By way of policy and statute the District is responsible for providing compatible public access to District lands. The following laws listed below provide the District the opportunity to commit resources towards public access and encourage the public to learn about and enjoy public lands. The agency encourages and promotes public use of District lands for appropriate resource-based activities. In accordance with the District's Public Recreational Access and Use Policy, it is the intention of the District to open District lands to public recreational access and use activities as is practicable and in a manner consistent with legislative directives, intended uses, legal considerations, and resources. Public recreational access and use is consistent with the District's land ownership rights and environmental laws. All access to and use of District lands is governed by rules and policies of the District and/or other units of government in partnership with the District, and the general laws of the State of Florida.

The District's mission is to manage and protect water resources of the region by balancing and improving water quality, flood control, natural systems and water supply. These primary mission obligations and the resources of the District to meet these obligations take precedence over the secondary responsibilities of providing public use amenities and facilities. Resource protection and law enforcement of District lands and the associated public use are accomplished by coordination and contractual services through state and local law enforcement agencies.

- Section 373.1391(1)(a), Florida Statutes, states that lands titled to the water management districts shall be managed and maintained to the extent practicable to ensure a balance between public access, general public recreational purposes, and restoration and protection of their natural state and condition.
- Section 373.1391(1)(b), Florida Statutes, states whenever practicable, such lands shall be open to the general public for recreational uses. General public recreational purposes shall include, but not be limited to, fishing, hunting, horseback riding, swimming, camping, hiking, canoeing, boating, diving, birding, sailing, jogging, and other related outdoor activities to the maximum extent possible considering the environmental sensitivity and suitability of those lands. These public lands shall be evaluated for their resource value for the purpose of establishing which parcels, in whole or in part, annually or seasonally, would be conducive to general public recreational purposes. Such findings shall be included in management plans which are developed for such public lands. These lands shall be made available to the public for these purposes, unless the district governing board can demonstrate that such activities would be incompatible with the purposes for which these lands were acquired.
- Section 373.4592(4)(a), Florida Statutes, ...Once the Stormwater Treatment Areas are completed, the district shall allow these areas to be used by the public for recreational purposes in the manner set forth in s. 373.1391(1), considering the suitability of these lands for such uses. These lands shall be made available for recreational use unless the district governing board can demonstrate that such uses are incompatible with the restoration goals of the Everglades Construction Project or the water quality and hydrological purposes of the Stormwater Treatment Areas or would otherwise adversely impact the implementation of the project.
- Section 140-23 District Policies Code. The Land Stewardship Program mission is to provide natural resource protection and management while allowing compatible multiple uses on designated public lands.
- Section 140-25(4), District Policies Code. Public Use and Environmental Education
  - a. Public use of management areas that is consistent with other management goals shall be encouraged. Public use that may have detrimental impacts on sensitive environmental resources shall be restricted until an evaluation determines such use is compatible. A public use compatibility assessment will be included in the General Management Plan completed for each management area and will be based on the following criteria:
    1. Consistency with the reason the lands were acquired.
    2. Restrictions and/or prohibitions imposed by easements, leases, reservations, adjacent land ownership, conditions of the purchase agreement, and any other agreements concerning the property.

3. Infrastructure and support facility requirements, such as fences, maintenance, and other operational and budgetary impacts.
  4. Opportunities for persons with disabilities.
  5. Limitations resulting from endangered species, other sensitive natural resources, archaeological resources, or land management practices.
  6. Public health, safety and welfare.
  7. Environmental education program opportunities.
- *Section 140-72 District Policies Code* (Appendix A.) This policy establishes a commitment to the responsible planning, management, and promotion of public recreational access and use on District lands. This policy shall provide guidance for the South Florida Water Management District in decisions related to public recreational access and use of District lands, including stormwater treatment areas and Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan projects.

### **3.1 Resource Management Plans**

Following natural area site acquisition a management plan is written to cover all areas of management including public use, capital improvements, resource management, threatened and endangered species management, administration, and monitoring. Resource management plans also provide direction on the types of recreation that can be allowed on a site without impacting or damaging the natural and cultural resources. The management plan is approved by the District Governing Board after it is presented to a management review team to rate how well the property is being managed from several different perspectives. The plan is amended based on team members comments. The recreation and public use component is rated on access, recreational opportunities, and interpretive facilities. Per the plan all public use is located to avoid sensitive areas of natural and cultural significance. Regular monitoring of public use is required to avoid intentional and unintentional impacts, and activities that may interfere with the site's primary project objectives.

### **3.2 Resource Protection and Law Enforcement**

- **OBJECTIVE #1. Develop a five-year plan for Law Enforcement coordination of District lands associated with public use.**

Management of public activities on District lands requires a strong commitment to resource protection while simultaneously promoting all appropriate public uses. The District's law enforcement program emphasizes the enforcement of pertinent rules and regulations to protect natural resources, discourage vandalism of property, and also provide an enjoyable recreational opportunity. The resource protection program integrates law enforcement to protect the natural resources and District assets. As part of the District's enhanced enforcement agreement with Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, law enforcement officers conduct regular patrols throughout the year, increasing their presence during hunting seasons and at other times when public

use is high. As new water resource enhancement projects become developed and open to public use the need for law enforcement coordination associated with public use will increase.

Law enforcement surveillance protects natural and cultural resources and deters illegal activity. Patrols are conducted with 4-wheel drive vehicles, airboats, swamp buggies, motorboats, all-terrain vehicles, and on foot. Law enforcement housing is permitted in certain areas to further deter illegal activities and provide an enforcement presence. The District's Land Stewardship Division law enforcement coordinator meets regularly with land managers to review reports and inspect District lands with officers to review structured patrols based on resource needs. In addition to the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, local law enforcement agencies occasionally patrol the areas. Chapter 40E-7, Part V (Appendix B.) provides rules which govern public use of District lands. When lands are managed in agreement with another agency then the District's rules supplement the lead agency's rules.

- Chapter 40E-7, Part V, Florida Administrative Code. Chapter 40E-7, Part V, contains the District's rules governing public access and recreational use of South Florida Water Management District lands in ways that are compatible with the purpose for which the lands were acquired. The Rule establishes general rules for all District lands, as well as specific rules for those lands identified as conservation lands, rights of way, stormwater treatment areas, impoundments and vacant undesignated lands. Under the Rule, all District lands are deemed available for public use, except in instances where there is no legal public access, during emergency conditions, resource protection, certain management practices, construction, where lease restrictions prohibit public entry, or unless otherwise specified in Chapter 40E-7, Part V.

The Rule is generally reviewed and revised on a bi-annual basis; public meetings are conducted throughout the District to solicit comments and present proposed changes.

- Section 140-25(1)(d) District Policies Code. Public use shall not result in detrimental impacts to water resources. When a public use activity produces detrimental effects on water resources, it shall be discontinued until an evaluation determines that such use is compatible.
- Section 140-25(3)(g) District Policies Code. Resource protection shall be provided by professional law enforcement services through funded and unfunded contractual agreements, to safeguard the public and protect natural and cultural resources on District-managed natural areas.
- Section 140-25 (4)(b) District Policies Code. Public Use Regulation

1. Public use regulations are set forth in 40E-7, Part V, Florida Administrative Code, to implement Section 373.1391(1)(b), Florida Statutes.
2. Rules and regulations governing the public use of each management area shall be enforced by agencies with appropriate law enforcement jurisdiction.
3. Pursuant to Section 373.609, Florida Statutes, the District shall seek the cooperation of every state and county attorney, sheriff, police officer, and appropriate city and county official in the enforcement of the provisions set forth according to Rule 40E-7.511, Florida Administrative Code.
4. Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission regulations shall govern hunting in areas opened for such use.

### **3.3 District Programs and Processes**

The recreation facilities on District projects are developed under a number of different program requirements. The nature-based recreation facilities are added to or built as part of the project. On many future water resource projects a primary division is the participation of the Federal partner through the Army Corps of Engineers.

- **Save Our Rivers**

The Save Our Rivers program began in 1981 with the legislative enactment of the Water Management Lands Trust Fund which enabled water management districts to buy lands needed for water management, water supply, and the conservation and protection of water resources. Save Our Rivers lands are made available for appropriate nature-based public use, except in rare instances where there is no legal public access or lease restrictions prohibit the public. Recreation projects and facilities are managed under the District's Land Stewardship Program. The principal source of funds for this program has been the Water Management Lands Trust Funds.

- **Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan**

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in partnership with the South Florida Water Management District and numerous other federal, state, local and tribal partners have developed a plan to restore and preserve the Everglades. The Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan provides a framework and guide to restore, protect and preserve the water resources of central and southern Florida, including the Everglades. It covers 16 counties over an 18,000-square-mile area and centers on an update of the Central & Southern Florida Project also known as the Restudy. The Plan was approved in the Water Resources Development Act of 2000. It includes more than 60 elements and will take more than 30 years to construct.

The Federal process associated with public use involves more planning activities and greater benefits from opportunities for cost-sharing of up to 50% of the overall capital expense towards public use facilities. The District and Federal contributions are funded by the project specific funds. Federal funds are allocated by Congress once the project planning process completes a Project Implementation Report, which is an integrated Environmental Impact Statement and satisfies the National Environmental Policy Act process. The recreation planning members provide input early into the process.

Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan projects complete the Project Implementation Report described above and meet multiple interim deadlines in coordination with the Corps as the document moves forward. The Federal process utilizes an economic justification analysis for public use projects which must incorporate a demonstration of need and cost benefit analysis. The Corps also cost-shares on a specific list of recreation related facilities. Facilities that are not on the cost-share list may be included in the planning, design, and construction but are not cost-shared. Design documents at preliminary, intermediate and final phases identify recreation facilities in the plan and are included as part of the construction contracts.

- **Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan, Master Recreation Plan (Map 3.)**

The Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan, Master Recreation Plan will take a system-wide approach to identify, evaluate, and address the impacts of the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan implementation on existing recreational use within the South Florida Ecosystem and identify and evaluate potential new recreation, public use and public educational opportunities. Appendix C contains the Program Management Plan outlining the development of the Master Recreation Plan. A particular focus will be on the identification of additional public use and recreational opportunities to compensate for public use facilities that may be lost. Promising opportunities may be recommended for further evaluation during the development of Project Implementation Reports for specific Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan Projects, for implementation through other cost-share arrangements between federal, state, local, or not-for-profit entities, or recommended for stand-alone Congressional authorizations. When projects are finalized the associated recreation activities will be under the management of the District's Land Stewardship Division.

- **Acceler8**

Acceler8 is an expedited course of action for achieving Everglades restoration benefits ahead of schedule. It consists of eight projects (some with multiple components) that, when completed, will provide immediate environmental, flood control and water supply benefits, serving as the initial foundation for other comprehensive restoration efforts to follow. Acceler8 projects forecast and complete the public use design process expecting to qualify for future cost-sharing. In this design process the first document prepared is the Basis of Design Report in which a generic text description describes the commitment to nature-based recreation and may be enhanced with descriptions of specific

opportunities depending on certainties in the known possible alternatives. Similar to the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan projects, the Acceler8 design documents place recreation facilities in the plan during the preliminary, intermediate and final phase and are included as part of the construction contracts.

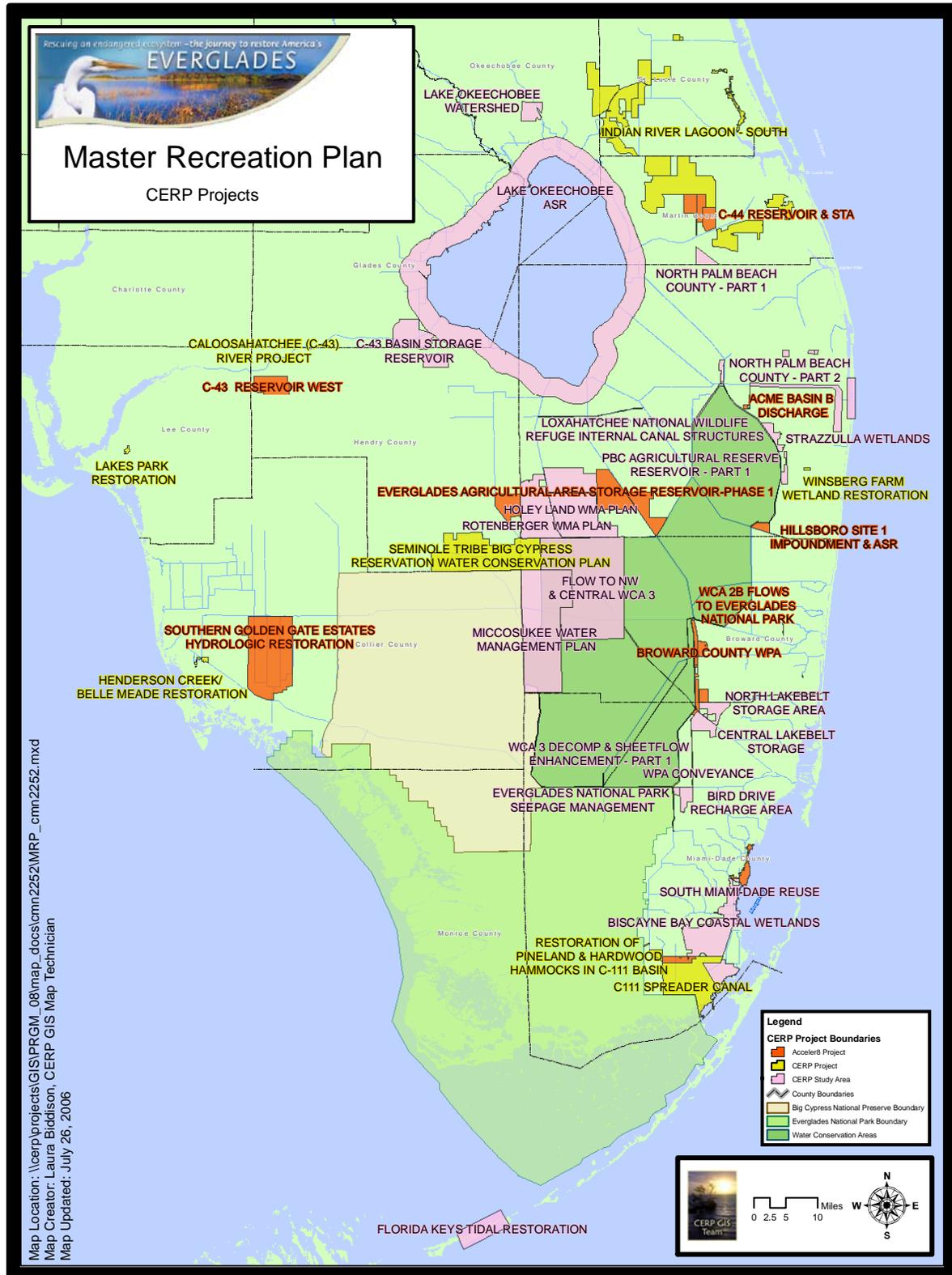
- **ECP STA's**

Everglades Construction Project Stormwater Treatment Area projects are developed to meet the water quality standard requirements of the Everglades Forever Act and Everglades Settlement Agreement. The public access facilities are developed as part of the on-going construction. Several projects are in process while other projects have conceptual designs. This process is considerably simpler yet offers no opportunity for Federal cost-share dollars. District staff present concepts to the Water Resources Advisory Commission Recreation Issues Workshop then either design in-house or contract out. Designs are bid and constructed with staff oversight.

- **Critical Restoration Projects**

Critical Restoration Projects, authorized in 1996, are comparatively small restoration projects undertaken by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the District prior to the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan authorization. Seven projects determined to be critical to the restoration of the South Florida ecosystem were authorized prior to the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan and are currently being implemented along with the Restoration Plan. There is no cost-sharing and the recreational facilities are included as part of design or developed after project completion.

Map 3. Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan Project Areas



### 3.4 Planning and Review Process

- **OBJECTIVE #2. Adhere to a planning and review process to endorse and approve recreation projects.**

An important component during the planning and development stages of recreation plans and programs is to include stakeholders and interested groups involvement throughout the decision making process. Proposed recreation projects should be clearly communicated through public outreach strategies, presentations, and interaction with interested user groups. Review and input should be provided to further the consensus process.

The outline below should be used as a guideline for staff to process proposed recreation projects:

1. Staff develops a recreation project based on the following criteria:
  - a. is consistent with District's mission, meets site compatibility criteria, and resource management plan objectives;
  - b. follows State and Federal mandates, processes and approvals;
  - c. meets policies, rules, funding obligations and/or cost-share participation;
  - d. a need has been determined in the region (from: staff input, local and regional input, from stakeholders, users, general public, Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan or trend analysis);
  - e. is developed based on the extent of partnership involvement;
  - f. project development has been reviewed by the project manager(s) and approved by the Division Director and is consistent with the Annual Work Plan and Strategic Plan.
2. Conceptual plans are then formally and informally presented to any local or regional outreach/stakeholder meetings, user groups, interested parties, advisory boards, and posted on the web if feasible:
  - a. public input and comment is provided (at this stage the project plan may need to be revised and brought back through the #2 process again).
3. Plans are presented at the Water Resources Advisory Commission Recreational Issues Workshop:
  - a. review and input is provided;
  - b. project has gained formal consensus or has been rejected (At this stage project plan may need to be revised and brought back through the #2 process again).
4. Project to be presented to full Water Resources Advisory Commission for endorsement if required.
5. Project plan to be approved by District's Governing Board if required.

#### 4.0 Recreation Activities

- **OBJECTIVE #3. Maximize the diversity of compatible nature-based recreational opportunities.**

Due to the natural area attributes, scenic quality, and restoration related projects, District lands provide tremendous opportunities and potential for resource-based recreation purposes. As stated previously, the District's recreation program is a product of the land acquisition and resource management mandates rather than a primary service objective of the agency. The recreation is characterized as a nature-based or resource-based program that includes non-consumptive (e.g., hiking, biking) and consumptive (e.g., fishing, hunting) uses. Activities are permitted and encouraged based on the compatibility with the resource and project purpose. Facilities are also planned and designed to reasonably accommodate a balanced mix of activities and recreational access. The formation of partnerships with agencies and non-governmental organizations may expand the diversity of public use opportunities in a particular site or region.



*Joggers along Shingle Creek Trail*

#### 4.1 Program Plan

The following Table 1 illustrates current recreational opportunities available on District managed lands. The matrix also identifies sites for planned and/or proposed future programs over the next five years.

**Table 1. Recreational Opportunities Plan**

Unit	Airboating	Bicycling	Canoeing	Camping	Education / Visitor Center	Equestrian	Fishing	Hiking / Nature Appreciation	Hunting	Picnic Tables
<b>Upper Lakes Management Region</b>										
Shingle Creek		◆	◆				◆	◆		
Tibet-Butler Preserve					◆			◆		
<b>Lake Marion Creek Wildlife Mgt. Area</b>										
Huckleberry Islands		◆		◆				◆	◆	◆
Snell Creek			◆					◆	◆	
Horse Creek								◆	◆	◆
Baltic Road								◆	◆	
Lake Marion Unit			◆				◆	◆		◆
<b>Upper Reedy Creek</b>										
Intercession City								◆		
Reedy Creek Unit								◆		
Lake Russell					◆			◆		
<b>Lower Reedy Creek</b>										
Rough Island North	◆		◆	◆			◆	◆	◆	◆
Rough Island South	◆		◆	◆			◆	◆	◆	◆
Johnson Island	◆		◆	◆			◆	◆	◆	◆
<b>Lake Hatchineha</b>										
Catfish Creek	◆		◆	◆			◆	◆	◆	◆
Drasdo	◆		◆	◆			◆	◆		
<b>Lake Kissimmee</b>										
East/West Shore	◆	◆	◆				◆	◆	◆	
Gardner-Cobb Marsh	◆		◆	◆			◆	◆	◆	
Lightsey	◆	◆	◆	◆		◆	◆	◆	◆	
Sturm Island	◆		◆	◆			◆	◆	◆	
Rabbit Island	◆		◆	◆			◆	◆		
Bird Island	◆		◆	◆			◆	◆	◆	
SUMICA		◆				◆	◆	◆	◆	◆
SW Lake Kissimmee Boat Ramp Area	◆		◆	◆			◆	◆		◆

◆ Current Programs

◆ Proposed or Future Programs

Unit	Airboating	Bicycling	Canoeing	Camping	Education / Visitor Center	Equestrian	Fishing	Hiking / Nature Appreciation	Hunting	Picnic Tables
<b>Kissimmee Management Region</b>										
KICCO Wildlife Management Area		◆	◆	◆		◆	◆	◆	◆	◆
Blanket Bay Marsh	◆		◆	◆			◆		◆	◆
Kissimmee Prairie Preserve State Park		◆		◆	◆	◆	◆	◆		◆
Boney Marsh	◆		◆	◆			◆	◆	◆	◆
Bluff Hammock	◆		◆			◆	◆	◆	◆	◆
Hickory Hammock Wildlife Management Area	◆	◆	◆	◆		◆	◆	◆	◆	◆
No Name Slough	◆	◆	◆			◆	◆	◆	◆	
Chandler Slough	◆	◆	◆	◆		◆	◆	◆	◆	
Starvation Slough	◆	◆	◆	◆		◆	◆	◆	◆	◆
Oak Creek	◆		◆	◆			◆	◆	◆	◆
Turkey Hammock West	◆		◆	◆			◆		◆	
Turkey Hammock East				◆			◆	◆	◆	
Cornwell Marsh West			◆	◆			◆	◆	◆	
Cornwell Marsh East			◆				◆	◆	◆	
Micco Landing	◆	◆	◆	◆		◆	◆	◆	◆	◆
Seaboard Marsh North	◆		◆				◆		◆	
Seaboard Marsh South	◆		◆				◆		◆	
Yates Marsh		◆	◆	◆			◆	◆	◆	◆
Telex Marsh	◆		◆				◆	◆	◆	
S-65 E Impoundment	◆		◆				◆		◆	
Taylor Creek STA (pilot)		◆						◆		
<b>East Coast Management Region</b>										
Blind Creek							◆	◆		
DuPuis Management Area		◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆
Halpatiokee Regional Park		◆	◆				◆	◆		◆
Hungryland		◆	◆	◆		◆	◆	◆	◆	
Loxahatchee Slough							◆			
Miller/Wild							◆			
North Fork St. Lucie River (Owbow Eco-Center)					◆			◆		
Riverbend Park		◆	◆			◆	◆	◆		◆
Queen's Island			◆				◆	◆		
"Scrub Sites"							◆			
Spruce Bluff							◆			◆
Ten Mile Creek		◆	◆			◆	◆	◆		◆
Allapattah		◆	◆	◆			◆	◆	◆	

◆ Current Programs

◆ Proposed or Future Programs

Unit	Airboating	Bicycling	Canoeing	Camping	Education / Visitor Center	Equestrian	Fishing	Hiking / Nature Appreciation	Hunting	Picnic Tables
<b>Everglades Management Region</b>										
Arthur R. Marshall Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge (Water Conservation Area 1)		◆	◆		◆		◆	◆	◆	
Everglades and Francis S. Taylor Wildlife Management Area (Water Conservation Areas 2 and 3)	◆	◆	◆	◆			◆	◆	◆	
Southern Glades Wildlife and Environmental Area	◆	◆	◆				◆	◆	◆	
Frog Pond									◆	
Stormwater Treatment Areas 1W, 1E, 2, 3/4(Harold A. Campbell Public Use Area) and 5		◆				◆		◆	◆	
<b>West Coast Management Region</b>										
Corkscrew Regional Ecosystem Watershed Wildlife and Environmental Area				◆				◆	◆	
Okalochoochee Slough Wildlife Management Area and State Forest		◆		◆			◆	◆	◆	
Six Mile Cypress Slough					◆			◆		◆
<b>District-wide</b>										
Interim / Vacant lands		◆	◆			◆	◆	◆	◆	
Rights-of-Way	◆	◆	◆			◆	◆	◆		
Future Water Resource Enhancement Projects (STA's, Impoundments)		◆	◆			◆	◆	◆	◆	

◆ Current Programs

◆ Proposed or Future Programs

## 4.2 Right-of-Way-Opportunities

- **OBJECTIVE #4. Facilitate the use of Rights-of-Ways, including bank fishing opportunities on canals and levees.**

The District's public use program is not intended to compete with existing or planned recreation by other local, state and private recreation providers but to complement, link, and provide balance to existing and planned parks and recreation programs. The District's canal system is a distinct resource which sets itself apart from other land resource agencies. The District supports passive recreational use of the canal rights-of-ways consistent with the District's ownership rights and primary uses. Current nature-based activities along the rights-of-ways include hiking, biking, fishing, equestrian use, and boating. One of the largest recreational opportunities the District has to offer is the access to freshwater. With over 1800 miles of canals and levees under District management, access to freshwater is a tremendous asset.

- **Bank Fishing**

The District's canal and levee system provides access to freshwater fishing resources. The District would support a system-wide approach to identifying bank fishing opportunities and the development of strategically located bank fishing platforms to further support existing bank fishing. Platforms located in proximity to parking or access areas could better facilitate the public's ability to utilize the fishing resources. Local partners would be sought for management and maintenance. Additionally, Florida's 2000 Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan identified freshwater non-boat fishing as a need within regions of the District.

- **Boat Ramps**

Boating access is permitted on most District canals and water-bodies. Boat ramps have been constructed in the past by the District, state, or local government and managed by local or state agencies. The District would support partnerships for the renovation and management of existing boat ramps which would facilitate public boating access. Any new ramp proposals would need to be reviewed on a case by case basis to ensure public boating access will not impede the District's ability to operate the system and impact the canal and levee infrastructure. The District would also provide assistance and support for the development of a boat ramp database and with grant opportunities available from other agencies or non-governmental entities that the local sponsor may pursue relative to the boat ramp development. Boat ramp development would need to be reviewed and permitted by the District's Right-of-Way Division to insure that public boating activities do not interfere with the District's operation and maintenance functions.

## 5.0 Partnerships

- **OBJECTIVE #5. Establish partnerships for the operation and maintenance support of recreation on District lands.**

Critical to the stewardship and success of recreation on District lands is the development of strong partnerships with local, state, and federal agencies and non-governmental or private organizations. Cooperative agreements between the District and these entities provide additional benefits to the recreation component of the site with an enhanced level of public access facilities, expanded and more in-depth recreation programs, connectivity to form larger tracts of linear open space, and a general level of expertise that may not otherwise be available. In addition, the recreation on project lands provided by the District through partnership agreements to local municipalities may assist their needs to meet Comprehensive Plan requirements to achieve a level of service for parks and open space. The District further benefits from partners which provide the necessary site operations and maintenance associated with public use.



*FWC Partnership*

- *Section 373.1391(4), Florida Statutes*, encourages each District to enter into cooperative land management agreements with state agencies or local governments to provide for the coordinated and cost-effective management of lands.

The type and extent of a partnership may vary from site to site depending upon the resources and habitat of the site, the goals and objectives set forth by the resource management plan and project purposes, location to an adjoining land owner, stakeholder



*Partnerships for Programming  
FAU/Center for Environmental  
Studies*

interest, and the capability and resources a partnering entity could provide. In some instances the District may be the lead-managing agency of a site but several partners provide additional on-site management of recreational opportunities. As an example, the Dupuis Management Area utilizes several contractual partnerships including the DuPuis Horsemen's Association, Florida Trail Association, and the Center for Environmental Studies. Additionally, certain partnerships with other agencies promote specific site sponsored recreational opportunities on District lands such as the Great Florida Birding Trail, the Everglades Trail, and managed hunting.

Educational programs are developed and implemented on select management areas by cooperators interested in promoting increased visitor awareness and appreciation of natural and cultural resources. These partners provide a link to the local community,

coordinate supporting committees, and manage student service learning programs. A central theme to these programs is the vital role of water management in maintaining resource viability and productivity. Public informational kiosks and interpretive material are developed and maintained by a partner.

The District's ability to provide outreach for its mission is enhanced by funding or supporting of regional environmental education centers, or related projects that the local sponsors may provide. These projects along with other partnerships will need to be analyzed on a case by case basis. Listed below are some of the criteria that should be used in evaluating whether this type of partnership or sponsorship should be formed:

- Supports the District's mission.
- Consistent with District policies, rules, and management objectives.
- Provides an opportunity and level of recreation service that meets public stakeholder interests.
- Partnership would better facilitate recreation needs.
- Facilities would be open to the public.
- Provides an opportunity not being met in a certain region of the District.
- Supports and is consistent with the State's goals and policies.
- Resources provided by partner improve cost savings to the agency.
- Provides connectivity to additional tracts of public land

Opportunities for the District to support these partnership initiatives may be through:

- One time seed funding.
- Available land leasing agreements.
- Educational information and materials.

### **5.1 Partnership Plan**

Table 2 illustrates existing recreational management partnerships on District lands. The matrix also identifies proposed or potential partnerships.

Table 2. Recreation Management Partnership Plan

Partner	Local Government	State				Federal	NGOs	Comments
		FWC	DEP	DOF	Other			
<b>Upper Lakes Management Region</b>								
Shingle Creek	◆◆						◆	LG: Orange County School Board, and Seeking Local Greenway Trail Partner NGO: Hunter's Vista HOA
Tibet-Butler Preserve (Vera Carter Environmental Education Center)	◆							LG: Orange County Parks
Lake Marion Creek Wildlife Management Area								
Huckleberry Islands		◆						
Snell Creek		◆					◆	Seek partner for mgt. of canoe trail/portages
Horse Creek		◆						
Baltic Court		◆						
Lake Marion Unit		◆					◆	Seek partner for mgt. of canoe trail/portages
<b>Upper Reedy Creek</b>								
Intercession City							◆	NGO: Partner with east Pine Island HOA on access
Reedy Creek Unit								
Lake Russell	◆							LG: Osceola County School District
<b>Lower Reedy Creek</b>								
Rough Island North		◆						FWC
Rough Island South		◆						FWC
Johnson Island		◆						FWC
<b>Lake Hatchineha</b>								
Catfish Creek			◆					
<b>Lake Kissimmee</b>								
East/West Shore		◆						FWC
Drasdo		◆						FWC
Gardner-Cobb Marsh		◆						FWC
Lightsey		◆						FWC
Sturm Island		◆						FWC
Rabbit Island		◆						FWC
Bird Island		◆						FWC
Otter Slough		◆		◆				FWC
SW Lake Kissimmee Boat Ramps	◆							LG: County
SUMICA	◆							LG: Manager Polk County

- ◆ **Current Partnerships**
- ◆ **Proposed or Potential Partnerships**

Partner	Local Government	State				Federal	NGOs	Comments
		FWC	DEP	DOF	Other			
<b>Kissimmee Management Region</b>								
KICCO Wildlife Management Area		◆					◆	NGO: Florida Trail Association (FTA)
Blanket Bay Marsh		◆						FWC: Public Use Area (PUA)
Kissimmee Prairie Preserve State Park			◆					
Boney Marsh		◆					◆	FWC: Public Use Area (PUA), NGO: FTA
Bluff Hammock		◆					◆	FWC: Public Use Area (PUA), NGO: FTA
Hickory Hammock Wildlife Management Area (Quota hunt)		◆					◆	NGO: FTA, & Florida Cracker Trail Assoc.
No Name Slough		◆						FWC: Public Use Area (PUA)
Chandler Slough		◆					◆	FWC, FTA
Starvation Slough		◆						FWC: Public Use Area (PUA)
Oak Creek		◆						FWC: Public Use Area (PUA)
Turkey Hammock West		◆						FWC: Public Use Area (PUA)
Turkey Hammock East		◆						FWC: Public Use Area (PUA)
Cornwell Marsh West		◆					◆	FWC: Public Use Area (PUA), NGO: FTA
Cornwell Marsh East		◆						FWC: Public Use Area (PUA)
Fort Basinger		◆					◆	FWC: Public Use Area (PUA), NGO: FTA
Pearce Estate	◆		◆					Seeking Management Partner
Micco Landing		◆					◆	FWC: Public Use Area (PUA), NGO: FTA
Seaboard Marsh North		◆					◆	FWC: Public Use Area (PUA), NGO: FTA
Seaboard Marsh South		◆					◆	FWC: Public Use Area (PUA), NGO: FTA
Yates Marsh		◆					◆	FWC: Public Use Area (PUA), NGO: FTA
Telex Marsh		◆					◆	FWC: Public Use Area (PUA), NGO: FTA
S-65 E Impoundment		◆					◆	FWC: Public Use Area (PUA), NGO: FTA
Paradise Run		◆						
Taylor Creek STA (pilot)	◆							LG: Okeechobee County
<b>East Coast Management Region</b>								
DuPuis Management Area	◆	◆	◆		◆		◆◆	NGOs: DuPuis Horseman's Assoc. & FTA. State: FAU / Center For Environmental Studies (CES), Seeking recreation management partner
Atlantic Ridge State Preserve			◆					
Halpatiokee Regional Park	◆							LG: Martin County
Hungryland		◆						FWC: Lead Manager
Loxahatchee Slough (Sandhill Crane Unit)	◆						◆	LG: Palm Beach County NGO: FTA
Miller/Wild	◆							
North Fork St. Lucie River (Oxbow Eco-Center)	◆							LG: St. Lucie County Parks
Cypress Creek Management Area	◆						◆	LG: Martin County, Palm Beach County NGO: Seeking equestrian partner
Loxahatchee River Management Area								
Jonathan Dickinson			◆					State Parks
Riverbend Park	◆						◆	LG: Palm Beach County NGO: FTA
Blind Creek	◆							LG: St. Lucie County Parks
Queen's Island	◆							LG: St. Lucie County Parks
"Scrub Sites"			◆					State Parks
Spruce Bluff	◆							LG: St. Lucie County Parks
Ten Mile Creek	◆							LG: St. Lucie County Parks
Torry Island	◆							LG: City of Belle Glade
Allapattah	◆	◆				◆		LG: Martin County, State: FWC recreation manager

◆ Current Partnerships

◆ Proposed or Potential Partnerships

Partner	Local Government	State				Federal	NGOs	Comments
		FWC	DEP	DOF	Other			
<b>Everglades Management Region</b>								
Arthur R. Marshall Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge (Water Conservation Area 1)						◆		Fed: Managed US Fish & Wildlife Service
Everglades and Francis S. Taylor Wildlife Management Area (Water Conservation Areas 2 and 3)			◆					State: FWC Lead Manager
Everglades Buffer Strip	◆							
Southern Glades Wildlife and Environmental Area		◆						
Frog Pond		◆						
Stormwater Treatment Areas (STA) 1W, 1E	◆	◆					◆	FWC: Duck hunting NGO: Pine Jog Environmental Center
STA 3/4 Harold A. Campbell Public Use Area, STA 2	◆	◆						FWC: Duck hunting
STA 5	◆	◆					◆	FWC: Duck hunting NGO: Hendry/Glades Audubon
<b>West Coast Management Region</b>								
Corkscrew Regional Ecosystem Watershed Wildlife and Environmental Area		◆						
Corkscrew Marsh		◆					◆	CREW Trust recreation/education partner
Bird Rookery	◆							LG: Seek recreation management partner
Flint Pen		◆						
Okaloachoochee Slough Wildlife Management Area and State Forest		◆		◆				DOF and FWC Lead mgr.
Six Mile Cypress Slough	◆							LG: Manager Lee County Parks & Recreation
<b>District-wide</b>								
Project Interim/Vacant Lands								
Palm Bch. Downs / Siemens	◆							LG: Lease management Palm Beach County Parks
C23-C24		◆						FWC: small game
Rocky Glades Water Resource		◆						FWC: small game
Enhancement Projects	◆	◆					◆	Seeking LG and FWC recreation mgt. partner
ROW's	◆◆				◆	◆		Seeking LG recreation mgt. partner

- ◆ **Current Partnerships**
- ◆ **Proposed or Potential Partnerships**

The District may provide funding in the form of one-time seed monies or one-time capital improvements to develop recreational facilities for a partner to manage. As an example the District could enter into a Memorandum of Understanding or Cooperative Management Agreement in which the District would supply the land and capital improvements per the design specifications provided by the local government. An agreement would outline the responsibilities and goals of each agency. The local government agency would be responsible for the programming, management, and



*Oxbow Eco-Center  
Managed by St. Lucie County*

maintenance of the recreation component of the site. The District in most instances would continue to manage and maintain the natural resources and mission associated objectives of the site, the partnering agency would have access to provide maintenance related to the public use features.

As discussed prior in the Plan the coordination and funding by which recreation facilities may be constructed within a project can come under the umbrella of one or more programs (Land Stewardship Division, Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan, Acceler8, Northern Everglades, Everglades Program, etc.). These programs have different planning and processes, Federal cost-sharing opportunities on Federal projects, and the planning process may be subject to State and Federal approvals. In addition, some restoration projects have been accelerated and the District will plan and build reasonable recreation facilities ahead of the cost-sharing process. The establishment of early partnerships may allow the District to advocate for greater facilities (See Section 6.3). Programs where cost-sharing exists, District staff consults and contributes to the planning process relating to recreation. After a project is constructed, the District manages the public use.

## **5.2 Summary of Partnership Plan Objectives**

- Establish partnerships at the State, local, and non-government level which enhance the recreation program and provide site operations and maintenance.
- Develop partners early in the planning stages.
- Support educational, interpretive and outreach programs on District lands.
- Implement local agreements and capital improvements which meet public access needs, designate a partner to manage recreation, and consider the benefits to local agency.

- Promote partnerships through workshops, conferences, and partnership “roundups”.

## 6.0 Capital Improvement Plan

The vast majority of District lands are managed as natural areas or water resource areas (project lands) with managed access and limited uses. Capital improvement projects are planned for the accepted activities and are usually primitive, providing only the essential infrastructure to meet the public’s ability to access the site. Improvements are compatible with the resource and do not promote further degradation of the site. Infrastructure should also be designed to allow for interpretation and further education of the District’s mission and the resource management objectives. Special attention is given to facility and amenity development to address Americans with Disabilities Act compatibility and universal design. User conflict resolution is accomplished through designs or management that separate users by space and time.



*Kiosk and Trailhead*

- *Section 140-25(3)(k), District Policies Code.* Infrastructure support shall be developed and maintained to provide access for responsible management and public use on District lands. Such infrastructure may include access points, roads, trails, signs, utilities, and minimal public facilities.

## 6.1 Conservation Land (Save Our Rivers) Recreation Facilities

A general listing of the types of recreational opportunities the District supports and the associated facilities of which may be provided on District lands is listed below. This listing is generally associated with conservation or Save Our Rivers lands. Future Water Resource Management Project Lands (project lands) may have additional limitations on any of the activities listed below due to the specific restrictions and objectives of the project. The future project land facilities are further described under the Acceler8 Section 6.2.

### Activity

### Associated Facilities

#### Airboating

- A designated airboat ramp may be provided with some limited amenities such as parking, signage, picnic tables, shelters, and fire rings.

Several District sites are accessible by airboat but no facilities are provided. Use restrictions are delineated with signage to prevent user conflicts and avoid impacts to the resource.

#### Auto Tour, Vehicle Use

- A seven mile self-interpretive graded road is offered at DuPuis Management Area. Otherwise vehicle use is not permitted except on designated named and numbered roads for such use or as regulated by other agencies.

#### Biking

- Trails (unpaved) are located in less sensitive areas that have been designated for biking which may be earthen trails, stabilized berms, levees, tram roads, or old farm roads or grades. Mountain biking opportunities may be on constructed woods trails when managed by a sponsor. Biking is permitted on designated trails except where restricted by signs. This use is not generally permitted on hiking or equestrian trails.

#### Boating

- Typically many sites have boating (lakes, canals, rivers, creeks) adjacent to District properties but no facilities are provided. If the site is a launch site then a designated boat ramp(s) may be provided and some limited amenities such as finger piers, parking, composting toilets, picnic tables, shelters, and fire rings. Boating is restricted by signs to prevent user conflicts, and avoid impacts to resources.

#### Camping

- Areas and facilities are located in less sensitive areas and restricted to a carrying capacity which may require a Special Use License.
  - **Primitive** - tent only camping accessible via hiking trails with no facilities except possibly a picnic table and fire ring.
  - **Family or Group** - tent camping with picnic tables, fire rings, port-a-let, shelter, and no potable water available.

- **Equestrian** -Camping with a tent or a recreational vehicle permitted. Primitive camping facilities may include port-a-lets composting toilets, or restrooms with showers (DuPuis), stalls and paddocks. No water or electrical hook-up provided.

### Canoeing/Kayaking

- This activity is usually accomplished thru designated bank-side launching although some areas may have improved or stabilized (such as Geo-web) designated launch areas or portages. Designated trails may be marked. Gates and bollards can be used to discourage unauthorized uses.

### Equestrian Trails

- Trails are primarily located in upland areas but certain trails may be restricted seasonally. Equestrian use is developed and managed through partnerships. Trails are constructed on wooded trails with signage and/or trail markings, grades and or roads may be used. Sites may have designated paddocks or tie-up areas with trailer parking areas. This use is not generally permitted on hiking or biking trails.

### Fishing

- Use is permitted and regulated by Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, and can be within man-made water bodies, such as canals or ditches or within natural features (lakes, canals, rivers, and creeks). Activity can be facilitated from boat, bank-side, or fishing piers.

### Hiking

- Trails are constructed through partnerships in varying lengths and configurations along upland corridors, grades, boardwalks, and logging trams. Most trails are primitive in nature, requiring self-reliance and providing backcountry opportunities. The Florida National Scenic Trail runs through certain District properties. Shorter trail configurations may be provided for day use or environmental education opportunities. Some trails may be

seasonal. If wetland viewing is desirable then boardwalks are utilized. Identification, directional markings and interpretive signage provided. The use is generally separated from biking and equestrian trails.

### Hunting

- Use is permitted and regulated by Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission. Trailheads, parking, designated access roads, and primitive camping is usually provided. Signage, kiosk information, and check stations relating to hunting issues are provided by Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission.

### Parking Trailhead

- Parking is on shell rock, although some pavement or hardened surface may be provided for designated handicap parking spot. Signage, kiosk, fencing, trail entrance gates, and possibly restroom (composting toilet) facilities are provided within parking trailhead area.

### Picnicking

- Use may be permitted with or without shelter structures and/or picnic tables. Shelters and tables are located in less sensitive or disturbed areas. Trash is usually the responsibility of the user, unless a managing partner provides trash bins and removal.

### Visitor or Education Centers

- Centers and environmental education are managed by partnering agreements or lease. Facilities are located in less sensitive areas or disturbed areas and usually include buildings with interpretive display areas, restrooms, and office staff areas.

## **6.2 Acceler8 Recreation Facilities (Project Lands)**

Compatible nature-based activities are supported by public use facilities which are included as part of the design and construction phase for Acceler8 projects. Facilities are planned in accordance with the acceptable activities permitted within the project type. The designs of facilities are implemented expecting to qualify for future Federal cost-sharing. The specific placement of public access features will be designed to ensure that

project purposes come first and the facilities allow for an appreciable recreation experience. Upon completion of construction the activities are managed with consideration given to the specific project intended purposes and the compatibility of different uses. Acceler8 reservoir projects will be operated for a period of time, most likely 1 to 2 years, before implementing public use activities including public boating. This interim period, prior to public use, allows the District to discover any unknown conditions or operational issues associated with the project and assure that the project is functioning properly before opening the site to public use. Table 3 illustrates the design features and activities by project type that may be considered within Acceler8 projects based upon partnership participation (see Section 6.3).

**Table 3. Acceler8 Recreation Design Facilities** (this table may also be utilized to consider recreation elements in other future projects).

<b>Deep Impoundments</b>	<b>Shallow Impoundments</b>	<b>Stormwater Treatment Areas</b>	<b>Environmental Lands</b>
<p><u>Design Features</u> Public Access site</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Standard roads, bridges, ped/equestrian bridge if necessary &amp; parking</li> <li>• Americans with Disabilities Act compliance</li> <li>• Dry vault toilet</li> <li>• Info Kiosk</li> <li>• Benches</li> <li>• School bus parking</li> <li>• Canoe Launch sites to external canals</li> <li>• Public motor boat ramp shared with Operations and Maintenance</li> </ul>	<p><u>Design Features</u> Public Access site</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Standard roads, bridges, ped/equestrian bridge if necessary &amp; parking</li> <li>• Americans with Disabilities Act compliance</li> <li>• Dry vault toilet</li> <li>• Info Kiosk</li> <li>• Benches</li> <li>• School bus parking</li> <li>• Canoe Launch sites</li> </ul>	<p><u>Design Features</u> Public Access site</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Standard roads, bridges, ped/equestrian bridge if necessary &amp; parking</li> <li>• Americans with Disabilities Act compliance</li> <li>• Dry vault toilet</li> <li>• Info Kiosk</li> <li>• Benches</li> <li>• School bus parking</li> <li>• Canoe Launch sites to external canals</li> <li>• Elongated turnouts and Filled Corners dispersed through out</li> <li>• Boardwalks limited</li> </ul>	<p><u>Design Features</u> Public Access site</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Standard roads, bridges, ped/equestrian bridge if necessary &amp; parking</li> <li>• Americans with Disabilities Act compliance</li> <li>• Dry vault toilet</li> <li>• Info Kiosk</li> <li>• Benches</li> <li>• School bus parking</li> <li>• Canoe Launch sites</li> <li>• Elongated turnouts and Filled Corners dispersed through out</li> </ul>

<b>Deep Impoundments</b>	<b>Shallow Impoundments</b>	<b>STA's</b>	<b>Environmental Lands</b>
<p><b><u>ACTIVITIES</u></b>  <b>Acceptable Activities</b>  <i>On levees</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Hiking, biking, wild life viewing</li> <li>Bank fishing from external levees</li> </ul> <p><i>On Waters Inside Project Cells</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Canoeing, kayaking,</li> <li>Hunting if and when Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission managed</li> <li>Motor boats *</li> </ul> <p><i>On Waters Outside Project Cells In Exterior Canals</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Canoeing, kayaking</li> <li>Motor boating / fishing in designated and accessible canals</li> <li>Bank fishing from external levees</li> </ul>	<p><b><u>ACTIVITIES</u></b>  <b>Acceptable Activities</b>  <i>On levees</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Hiking, biking, wild life viewing</li> <li>Bank fishing from external levees</li> </ul> <p><i>On Waters Inside Project Cells</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Canoeing, kayaking,</li> <li>Hunting if and when Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission managed</li> </ul> <p><i>On Waters Outside Project Cells In Exterior Canals</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Canoeing, kayaking</li> <li>Motor boating / fishing in designated and accessible canals</li> <li>Bank fishing from external levees</li> </ul>	<p><b><u>ACTIVITIES</u></b>  <b>Acceptable Activities</b>  <i>On levees</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Hiking, biking, wild life viewing</li> <li>Bank fishing from external levees</li> <li>Public vehicles only during supervised events</li> </ul> <p><i>On Waters Inside Project Cells</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Hunting if and when Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission managed</li> <li>Canoeing, kayaking allowed during FWC managed hunts</li> </ul> <p><i>On Waters Outside Project Cells In Exterior Canals</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Canoeing, kayaking</li> <li>Motor boating / fishing in designated and accessible canals</li> <li>Bank fishing from external levees</li> </ul>	<p><b><u>ACTIVITIES</u></b>  <b>Acceptable Activities</b>  <i>On levees</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Hiking, biking, wild life viewing</li> <li>Bank fishing from external levees</li> <li>Public vehicles only during supervised events</li> </ul> <p><i>On Waters Inside Project Cells</i> (if applicable)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Canoeing, kayaking,</li> <li>Hunting if and when Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission managed</li> </ul> <p><i>On Waters Outside Project Cells In Exterior Canals</i> (if applicable)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Canoeing, kayaking</li> <li>Motor boating / fishing in designated and accessible canals</li> <li>Bank fishing from external levees</li> </ul>
<p><b><u>Undecided Activities</u></b>  <i>On levees (concerns)</i>                      Equestrian (Levee damage, water quality)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Use levee bench</li> </ul> <p><i>On Waters Inside Project Cells</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Fishing</li> </ul> <p>*Motor Boating potential to be evaluated after some period of operation.</p>	<p><b><u>Undecided Activities</u></b>  <i>On levees (concerns)</i>                      Equestrian (Levee damage, water quality)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Use levee bench</li> </ul> <p><i>On Waters Inside Project Cells</i></p> <p>Fishing</p>	<p><b><u>Undecided Activities</u></b>  <i>On levees (concerns)</i>                      Equestrian (Levee damage, water quality)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Use levee bench</li> </ul> <p><i>On Waters Inside Project Cells</i></p> <p>Fishing</p>	<p><b><u>Undecided Activities</u></b>  <i>On levees (concerns)</i>                      Equestrian (Levee damage, water quality)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Use levee bench</li> </ul> <p><i>On Waters Inside Project Cells</i></p> <p>none</p>

<b>Deep Impoundments</b>	<b>Shallow Impoundments</b>	<b>STA's</b>	<b>Environmental Lands</b>
<p><b>Unacceptable Activities</b> <i>On levees</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Vehicles operated by the unescorted public</li> <li>• All terrain vehicles</li> </ul>	<p><b>Unacceptable Activities</b> <i>On levees</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Vehicles operated by the unescorted public</li> <li>• All terrain vehicles</li> </ul>	<p><b>Unacceptable Activities</b> <i>On levees</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Vehicles operated by the unescorted public</li> <li>• All terrain vehicles</li> </ul>	<p><b>Unacceptable Activities</b> <i>On levees</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Vehicles operated by the unescorted public</li> <li>• All terrain vehicles</li> </ul>
<p><b>On Waters Inside Project Cells</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Swimming and other "in water" activities</li> </ul>	<p><b>On Waters Inside Project Cells</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Swimming and other "in water" activities.</li> <li>• Motor boating</li> </ul>	<p><b>On Waters Inside Project Cells</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The cells are not open to public access into the water.</li> <li>• Motor boating</li> </ul>	<p><b>On Waters Inside Project Cells</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Swimming and other "in water" activities.</li> <li>• Motor Boating, this may be specific to each project.</li> </ul>
<p><b>On Waters Outside Project Cells In Exterior Canals</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Swimming</li> </ul>	<p><b>On Waters Outside Project Cells In Exterior Canals</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Swimming</li> </ul>	<p><b>On Waters Outside Project Cells In Exterior Canals</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Swimming</li> </ul>	<p><b>On Waters Outside Project Cells In Exterior Canals</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Swimming</li> </ul>

### 6.3 Capital Improvements Based On Partnerships

- **OBJECTIVE #6. Plan and construct recreational facilities in relation to the level of participation provided by local partners.**

When designing the recreation facilities on construction projects, input from a local partner can be very valuable to both parties. The costs in dollars and time to oversee the operations, maintenance, and daily issues of multiple public access sites can accumulate to a considerable amount if the District were to assume responsibility for the management of all developed public access sites. Local government Parks and Recreation Departments have the resources and economies of scale to support and manage the public use. On projects where partnerships are able to be established, the recreation site and the facilities can be designed to match the partner's design intentions. The District's initial capital expense would be offset by the long-term cost benefits of operations and maintenance provided by a partner. While the District is willing to cost-share on capital expense and extend the opportunity to federal cost-share on nature-based recreation facilities, a local partner may be able to add limited non-nature-based recreation facilities on lands adjacent to or part of the project depending on availability and constraints.

The dedication of District funds for on-going operations and maintenance on recreation facilities may become a limiting factor to continued development of existing and future public access sites if a successful partnership program cannot be developed. Project lands come to the District's ownership through multiple programs and funding sources. These programs occasionally contain public access and use requirements that identify a minimum level of public access. Through a partnership program, local government and other entities that partner will likely see an increase in facility and infrastructure development above what could be provided in the absence of a local partner. Greater flexibility in the management of facilities to better reflect the interests of local residents can also increase through partnering. The District will provide public access and consider cost-sharing and partnering on multiple tiers.

The following Tiers are titled to describe the extent of recreation facility development based on the level of participation provided by local partners. This Tier application can be used as a reference for the development of future public use sites. Tiers may be combined to meet project parameters and needs.

#### **TIER I (Standard Facilities)**

Tier I would include the earthworks and recreation facilities necessary for the public to access the site. This Tier would be the standard development of facilities provided by the District for partnered and non-partnered sites and may also include earthworks in additional areas of a project for future opportunities. The earthwork areas may include areas set aside for parking, corridors to develop roads, or other areas such as elongated turnouts on levees.

Facilities within Tier I will include where appropriate and needed:

- Stabilized or paved roads and parking area requirements, vehicle and multi-use bridges if necessary, protective fencing, guardrails, and trailhead access
- Composting toilet facility where necessary
- Boat ramp facility including accessible finger piers and trailer parking for reservoir projects
- Exterior canal kayak launch
- \*\*Kiosk and signage (\*\* to be installed just prior to opening the site to the public)

#### **TIER II (Formal Partnership)**

This Tier would include the standard design facilities (Tier I) and additional enhanced facilities conditional upon a formal partnership agreement. Additional facilities to enhance a nature-based experience may be added to improve the amenities to meet the local and regional needs and the design criteria set by the local partner. Additional facilities may be provided or cost-shared based on a formal partnership agreement where the partnering agency agrees to provide long-term recreation management and maintenance services.

Additional Facilities within Tier II may include:

- Additional composting toilet facilities
- Boardwalks

- Camping areas with primitive facilities
- Equestrian facilities
- Picnicking facilities
- Additional boat ramp(s)
- Fishing piers
- Bus Parking
- Shelters
- Observation platforms
- Additional trail systems for land connectivity
- Enhanced trail systems and interpretive signage

### **TIER III (Expanded Partnership Areas)**

Tier III allows a partner to add nature-based and other recreation related facilities that would otherwise not be included in Tier I or II. Additional land may lie outside the footprint of the project and therefore may be suitable for other expanded activities. This may be a negotiated site design item which satisfies additional needs of the local partner. The local partner may be involved in cost-sharing of the site infrastructure. These partnerships provide an opportunity for the District to have a partnering agency manage the project related recreation operations and maintenance. The specifics of the facilities and the site design may vary substantially; however, activities should not interfere with the purpose of the project or create unacceptable liabilities or burdens for the District. The use of additional lands for recreation activities or facilities would be subject to lands already acquired as part of the project.

## **6.4 Long-Term Funding**

- **OBJECTIVE #7. Identify long-term District funding sources for the development and management of recreational use on District lands.**

The District has traditionally maintained and improved recreational facilities solely with Water Management Lands Trust Funds and in-kind services from local government. The expanded allowable use of the Water Management Lands Trust Funds in recent years has reduced the percentage of funds available for land management, including operations and the development of recreational facilities. With the continued aging of the system and the growing public demand to utilize existing facilities as well as the development of new facilities, additional funds or partnerships will need to be identified to maintain and provide recreational amenities.

Additionally, and even more critically, several new project (Acceler8, Everglades Construction Project Stormwater Treatment Areas, Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan, Northern Everglades) sites are anticipated to be open in the future, all having some level of recreational components. Although most water resource enhancement projects have some level of Federal cost-share capital improvement dollars,

funds will need to be identified to manage the facilities. The Water Management Lands Trust Funds, as currently proportioned, will not be able to support these facilities.

## 6.5 Grant Funding

Although limited, grant funding may serve as another potential source for the funding of recreational related capital improvements. Potential sources:

- **Florida Recreation Development Assistance Program** is a competitive grant program that provides financial assistance to local governments for development or acquisition of land for public outdoor recreational purposes. This type grant would need to be initiated from a local government partner. The applications are limited to two (2) per year from local governments, this is usually a factor as local agencies may have several other priorities.
- The **Recreational Trails Program** is a federally funded competitive grant program that provides financial assistance to agencies to develop and maintain recreational trails and trail-related facilities for both non-motorized and motorized recreational trail uses. Agencies are limited to only one application per submission period and only two (2) active grants per agency may exist.
- **Florida Boating Improvement Program -Tier II** is grant program administered by Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission to fund the construction and maintenance of publicly owned boat ramps, piers, and docks and the supported facilities

## 6.6 Recreation Facilities Plan

In late 2005 and early 2006, District staff conducted field visits and did an assessment of existing Land Stewardship managed recreation sites. The analysis included the determination of existing and future needs to support the recreation program. Priorities were based on input from staff Regional Land Managers, past stakeholder input, adequate public access into sites, and staff and funding capabilities. Table 4 illustrates current recreational facilities and amenities on District lands. The matrix also identifies planned and/or proposed capital improvement enhancements over the next five years. Table 5 illustrates a capital improvement phasing plan based on the assessment. Future Water Resource Management Project Lands (project lands, cost-sharing) are not included.

**Table 4. Recreation Facilities Plan**

Unit	Boardwalks	Boat Ramps	Camping Area	Canoe Launch	Education / Visitor Center	Fishing Piers	Kiosks	Parking Area/Trailhead	Pedestrian Bridge	Picnic Tables	Restrooms / Composting toilet	Shelters	Signage (directional, interpretive, entrance)
<b>Upper Lakes Management Region</b>													
Shingle Creek	◆◆			◆			◆◆	◆	◆◆				◆◆
Tibet-Butler Preserve (Vera Carter Environmental Education Center)	◆				◆		◆	◆			◆		◆
<b>Lake Marion Creek Wildlife Management Area</b>													
Huckleberry Islands			◆				◆	◆		◆			◆
Snell Creek				◆			◆	◆					
Horse Creek							◆	◆		◆			◆
Baltic Road							◆	◆◆					◆
Lake Marion Unit				◆			◆	◆					◆
Baker Dairy						◆		◆					◆
Horse World								◆◆					◆◆
Dept. of Transportation Scrub							◆	◆					◆
<b>Upper Reedy Creek</b>													
Intercession City							◆	◆◆		◆			◆◆
Reedy Creek Unit								◆					◆◆
Lake Russell			◆	◆	◆								◆
<b>Lower Reedy Creek</b>													
Rough Island North										◆			◆
Rough Island South			◆							◆			◆
Johnson Island										◆			◆
<b>Lake Hatchineha</b>													
Catfish Creek			◆										◆
<b>Lake Kissimmee</b>													
Drasdo			◆										◆
Gardner-Cobb Marsh			◆										◆◆
Lightsey			◆					◆					◆◆
Sturm Island			◆										◆
Rabbit Island			◆									◆	◆◆
Bird Island			◆										◆
SW Lake Kissimmee Boat Ramps		◆	◆	◆				◆		◆	◆	◆	◆
SUMICA							◆	◆		◆		◆	◆

◆ Current Facilities

◆ Proposed or Planned Facilities Improvements

Unit	Boardwalks	Boat Ramps	Camping Area	Canoe Launch	Education / Visitor Center	Fishing Piers	Kiosks	Parking Area/Trailhead	Pedestrian Bridge	Picnic Tables	Restrooms / Composting toilet	Shelters	Signage (directional, interpretive, entrance)
<b>Kissimmee Management Region</b>													
KICCO Wildlife Management Area		◆	◆				◆	◆	◆	◆		◆	◆
Blanket Bay Marsh			◆				◆			◆		◆	◆
Kissimmee Prairie Preserve State Park	◆		◆		◆		◆	◆		◆	◆	◆	◆
Boney Marsh			◆				◆	◆	◆	◆			◆
Bluff Hammock	◆			◆			◆	◆	◆	◆			◆◆
Hickory Hammock Wildlife Management Area		◆	◆	◆			◆	◆◆		◆	◆	◆	◆◆
No Name Slough													
Starvation Slough		◆	◆	◆			◆	◆		◆	◆	◆	◆◆
Oak Creek		◆	◆				◆	◆		◆			◆◆
Turkey Hammock West		◆	◆	◆			◆	◆			◆		◆
Turkey Hammock East													
4 E's				◆			◆	◆		◆			◆
Cornwell Marsh West		◆						◆			◆		
Cornwell Marsh East													
Micco Landing			◆				◆	◆		◆			◆
Seaboard Marsh North													
Seaboard Marsh South		◆		◆			◆	◆					◆
Yates Marsh			◆				◆	◆					◆◆
Telex Marsh		◆		◆				◆					
S-65 E Impoundment													
Taylor Creek STA (pilot)	◆						◆	◆			◆	◆	◆
<b>East Coast Management Region</b>													
Blind Creek		◆				◆							
DuPuis Management Area	◆		◆	◆	◆	◆◆	◆	◆◆		◆◆	◆◆	◆◆	◆◆
Halpatiokee Regional Park			◆										
Hungryland			◆										
Loxahatchee Slough													
Miller/Wild	◆							◆					
North Fork St. Lucie River (Owbow Eco-Center)	◆				◆							◆	◆
Riverbend Park				◆				◆					◆
Queen's Island													
"Scrub Sites"													
Spruce Bluff	◆												
Ten Mile Creek				◆				◆		◆		◆	◆
Allapattah			◆				◆	◆					◆
Torry Island				◆			◆	◆		◆		◆	◆

◆ Current Facilities

◆ Proposed or Planned Facilities Improvements

Unit	Boardwalks	Boat Ramps	Camping Area	Canoe Launch	Education / Visitor Center	Fishing Piers	Kiosks	Parking Area/Trailhead	Pedestrian Bridge	Picnic Tables	Restrooms / Composting toilet	Shelters	Signage (directional, interpretive, entrance)
<b>Everglades Management Region</b>													
Arthur R. Marshall Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge (Water Conservation Area 1)	◆	◆		◆	◆	◆	◆	◆			◆	◆	◆
Everglades and Francis S. Taylor Wildlife Management Area (Water Conservation Areas 2 and 3)		◆		◆			◆	◆	◆		◆		◆
Southern Glades Wildlife and Environmental Area						◆							
Frog Pond													
Stormwater Treatment Areas 1W	◆			◆			◆	◆	◆		◆	◆	◆
Stormwater Treatment Areas 1E							◆	◆			◆		◆
Stormwater Treatment Areas 3/4(Harold A. Campbell Public Use Area)		◆					◆	◆	◆		◆		◆
Stormwater Treatment Areas 5													
<b>West Coast Management Region</b>													
Corkscrew Regional Ecosystem Watershed Wildlife and Environmental Area													
Corkscrew Marsh	◆		◆				◆	◆				◆	◆
Bird Rookery	◆						◆	◆				◆	◆
Flint Pen								◆◆					◆◆
Okaloachoochee Slough Wildlife Management Area and State Forest		◆	◆				◆	◆					◆
Six Mile Cypress Slough	◆				◆		◆	◆		◆	◆	◆	◆
<b>District-wide</b>													
Interim / Vacant lands													◆
Future Water Resource Enhancement Projects													
STA's							◆	◆	◆		◆	◆	◆
Reservoirs		◆		◆			◆	◆	◆		◆	◆	◆
Shallow Reservoirs				◆			◆	◆	◆		◆	◆	◆

◆ Current Facilities

◆ Proposed or Planned Facilities Improvements

**Table 5. Capital Improvement Phasing Plan**

PROJECT	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
<b>Upper Lakes</b>						
Shingle Ck. Boardwalk						
Shingle Creek Pedest. Bridges						
Baltic Parking Access						
DOT (LMC) scrub Parking Access						
Lightsey Improved Parking Area						
Chain of lakes shelters						
SW Lake Kiss. Boat Ramps						
Snell Creek/LMC Canoe Launch						
<b>Kiss. River Valley</b>						
Hickory Hammock road improv.						
Composting toilet Starv. Slough (2)						
Hickory Hammock barn rep.						
Micco Landing Parking Access Improv.						
Taylor Creek STA Parking Access						
Taylor Creek STA Boardwalk/Shelter						
Nubbin Slough Parking Access						
Picnic Tables and Fire Rings						
<b>East Coast Mgt. Region</b>						
DuPuis						
Boardwalk						
Design Shelter/Pier Lake Jim						
Governor's house parking area						
Design Equestrian Bathroom						
Renovate Educ building						
Barn Improv. And Lighting						
Allapattah Parking Access						
Allapattah Equest. Parking Access						
C-23 ROW access improvements						
Pal Mar M/C trailhead						
Cypress Creek M/C trailhead						
<b>West Coast</b>						
Bird Rookery Parking						
CREW gate 5 Parking Access						
CREW Marsh Boardwalk/Platform						
Bird Rookery additional boardwalk						
<b>Everglades Region</b>						
Signage						
C-111 Trail Improvements						
STA 1W/1E (funded under the ECP Program)						
STA 3/4 Harold A. Campbell Public Use Area (funded under the ECP Program)						
<b>District Wide</b>						
Signage/Kiosks						

**\*Future Water Resource Management Project Lands (project lands, Federal cost-sharing projects) are not included in this table.**

## 6.7 Standard Designs for Recreation Facilities

- **OBJECTIVE #8. Utilize District standard designs and guidelines for the implementation of recreation facilities.**

The District has developed standard designs and planning guidelines for various recreational amenities. These design details and guidelines will be utilized to plan and construct facilities for future recreational sites. The goal of the standards and planning guidelines is to ensure a unified visual appearance and quality that will promote recreational access on District lands.

Designs include recommendations for Americans with Disabilities Act compliant recreational facilities. Design details and/or guidelines have been completed for the following amenities and facilities associated with public use: information kiosk, picnic shelter, boardwalks, pedestrian gate, vehicle gate, composting toilet, landscaping, signage (entrance, road directional, trail signs, and interpretive), fencing, parking area, boat ramp, pedestrian bridge, canoe launch, fishing pier, and campsites.



## 7.0 Greenway Partnerships

- **OBJECTIVE #9. Establish connectivity to other public lands through greenway partnerships.**

Establishing greenway corridors throughout the State are priorities for local and state agencies. The Office of Greenways and Trails has identified and established greenway trail corridors throughout the State to link natural areas and open spaces which offer recreational opportunities including hiking, biking, equestrian, and canoeing or kayaking. Additionally, local agencies and communities have identified and developed regional greenway trail plans within their municipalities. District lands have either been identified or are already being utilized as natural area corridors and connector hubs for several of these designated local regional trail systems.

The District supports a sponsor or partnering agency to manage trail corridors and connecting hubs which support state and local greenway priorities. Conservation lands, Right-of-Ways, and future Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan and Water Resource Management Project Lands all have potential for linkage and connectivity to local and state recreation programs. Several municipality greenway plans have utilized

existing canal levee Right-of-Ways as important linear routes. Larger District tracts of land from water resource projects or conservation lands may have the potential to serve as important connections or recreation hubs.

In 2004, Office of Greenways and Trails developed maps illustrating prioritized opportunity corridors for future potential greenway trails. Some corridors have already been developed. The maps have been overlaid on Land Stewardship Division managed properties within the District's region. Several sites fall within the prioritized greenway trail corridors. Some of the priority trails have already been designated.

The Office of Greenways and Trails maps (See Maps 4-6) are designated by:

- Multi-Use Trails (District supports hiking, biking, and equestrian)
- Florida National Scenic Trail Hiking Trails (existing and needed corridors)
- Paddling (canoe or kayaking existing and needed corridors)

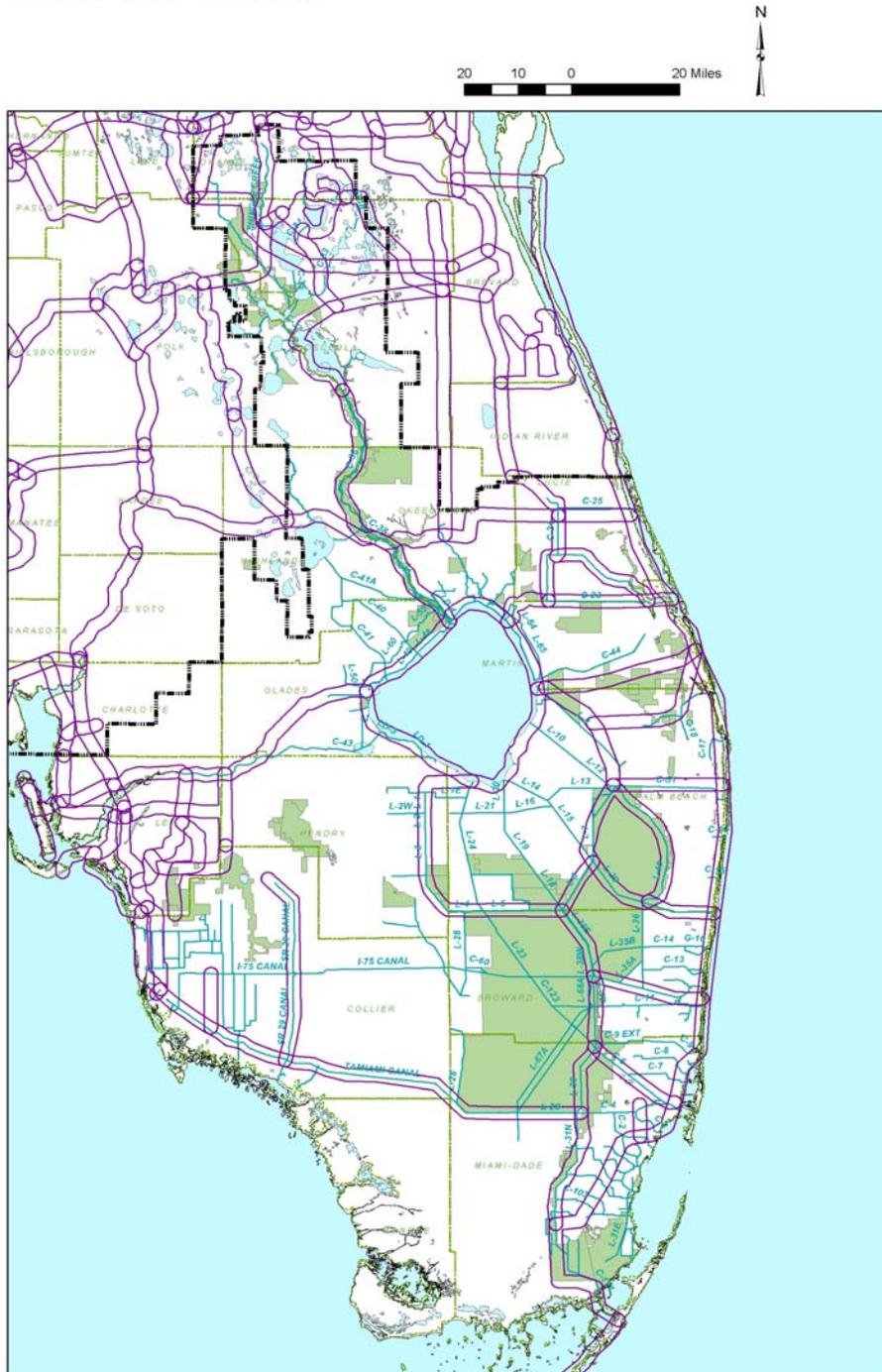
**Table 6. Office of Greenways and Trails Identified Trail Priorities on District Lands (referenced from Office of Greenways and Trails priority maps)**

<b>DISTRICT MANAGEMENT AREAS</b>	<b>Multi- Use Trails</b>	<b>Florida National Scenic Trail Hiking Trails</b>	<b>Paddling Trails</b>
Upper Lakes Management Region	•	•	•
Kissimmee Management Region	•	•	•
East Coast Management Region	•	•	•
Everglades Management Region	•	•	
West Coast Management Region	•		
Rights-of-Way (District-wide)	•	•	•

### Map 4.

#### Legend

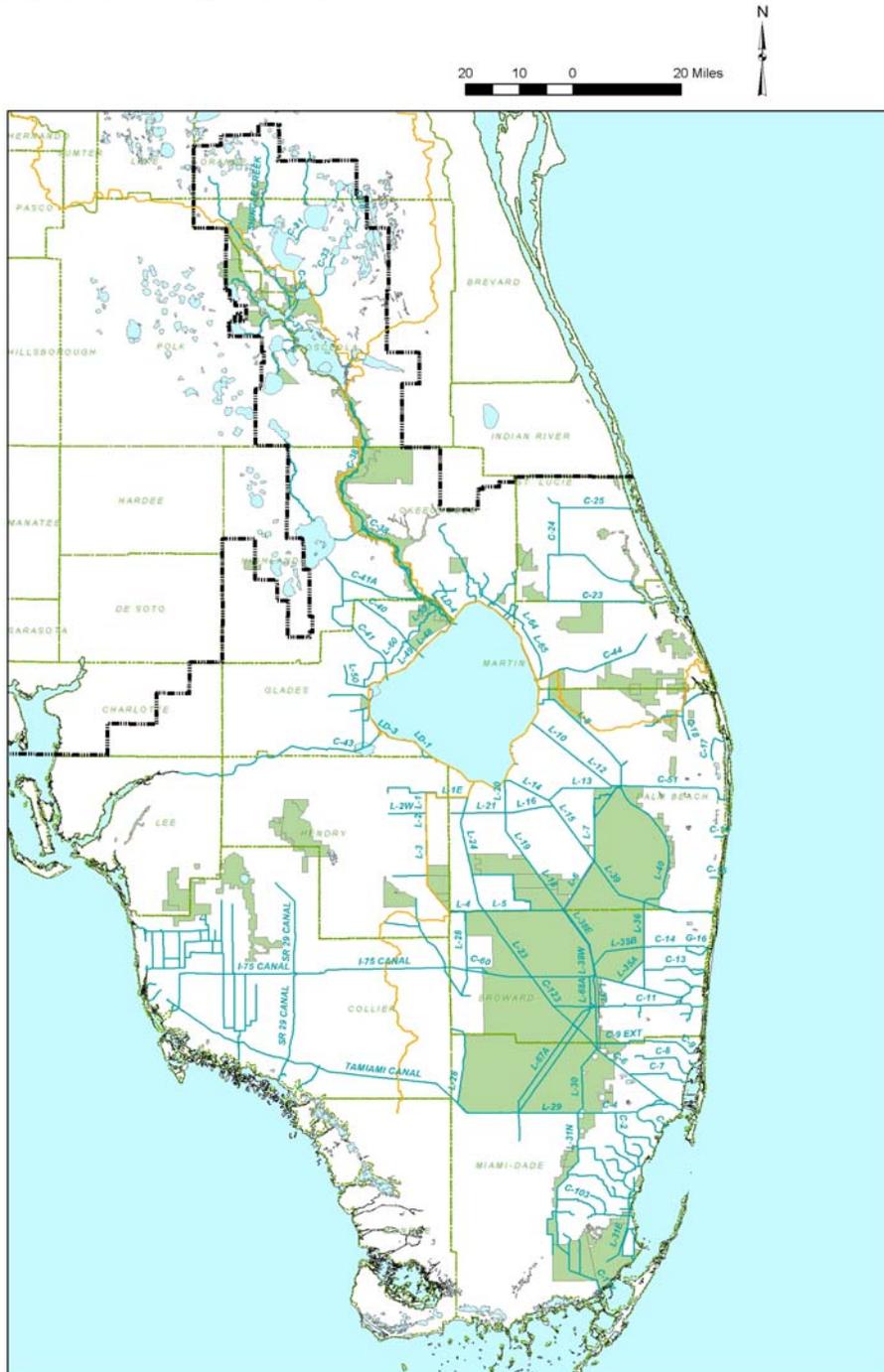
— 2004 Multi-Use Trails Priorities



### Map 5.

#### Legend

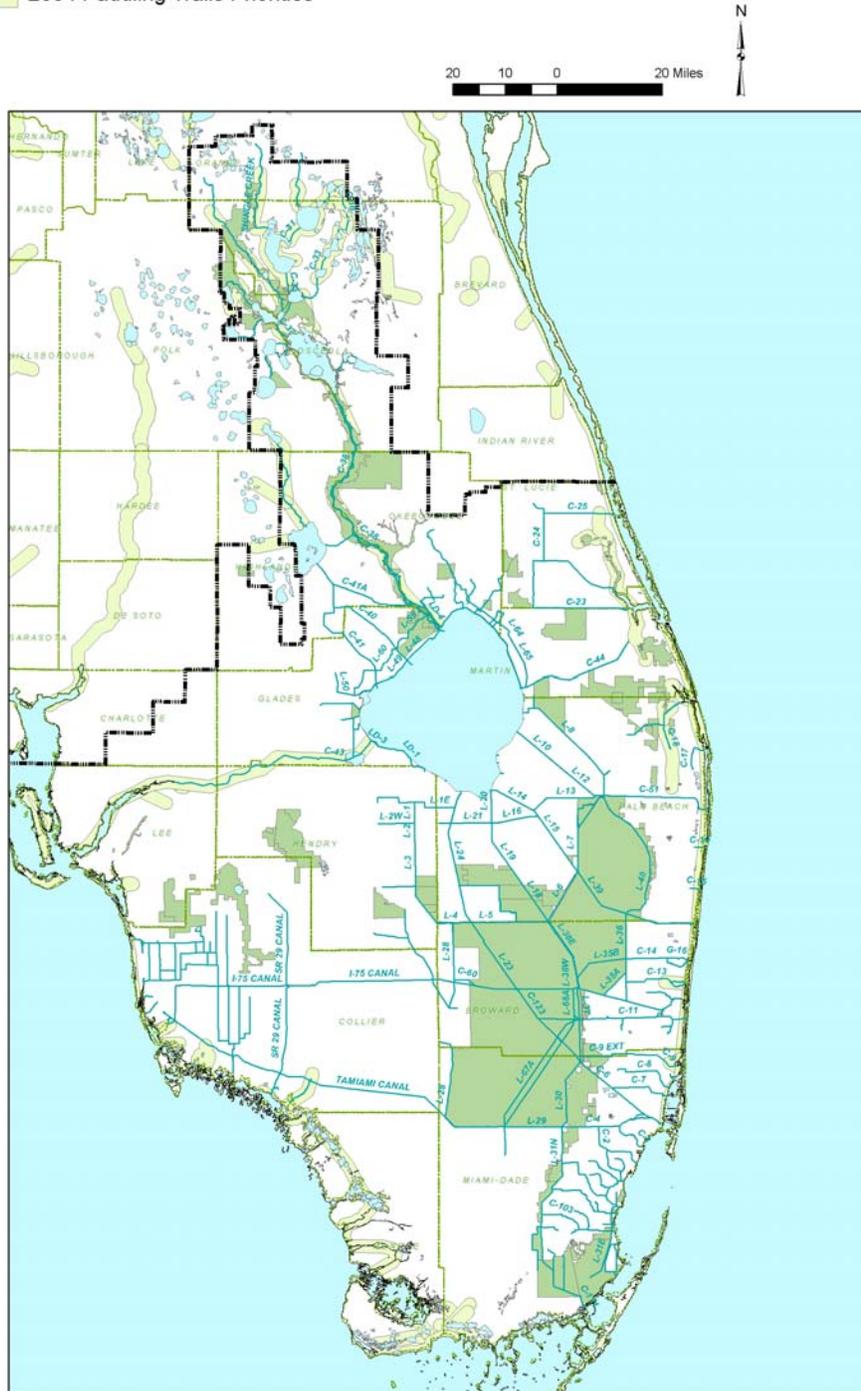
— 2004 FNST Hiking Trails Priorities



Map 6.

Legend

2004 Paddling Trails Priorities



**Greenway and Trails Contacts:**

- State - Office of Greenways and Trails:
  - Matt Klein, Regional Coordinator  
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<http://ogt.geoplan.ufl.edu/>  
[www.floridagreenwaysandtrails.com](http://www.floridagreenwaysandtrails.com)

**Table 7.**

County	Contact	Greenway Trails Plans
<b>Orange</b>	Bill Thomas Orange County Parks & Recreation (407) 836-6231	<a href="http://www.orangecountyfl.net/cms/DEPT/CEsvcs/parks/trails.htm">http://www.orangecountyfl.net/cms/DEPT/CEsvcs/parks/trails.htm</a>
<b>Osceola</b>	Julia Recker Director, Osceola County Parks & Rec (407) 343-7178	<a href="http://osceola.ifas.ufl.edu/nat/GWTtrails.htm">http://osceola.ifas.ufl.edu/nat/GWTtrails.htm</a>
<b>Polk</b>	Jason Green Polk County Planning Division 863-534-6084 jasongreen@polk-county.net	<a href="http://www.polk-county.net/county_offices/long_range_planning/trails.aspx">http://www.polk-county.net/county_offices/long_range_planning/trails.aspx</a>
<b>Highlands</b>	Vicki Pontius Director Highlands County Parks & Recreation (863) 402-6812 vpontius@bcc.co.highlands.fl.us	
<b>Okeechobee</b>	Daryl Enfinger Director, P&R 863-763-6950	
<b>St. Lucie</b>	Vanessa Bessey St. Lucie County Environmental Resources Dept. (772) 462-2526	<a href="http://www.stlucieco.gov/greenways/greenways-inventory-data.htm">http://www.stlucieco.gov/greenways/greenways-inventory-data.htm</a>  St. Lucie NE Conceptual GWT Plan
<b>Martin</b>	David Knight Martin County Growth Management (772) 220-7018	<a href="http://ap3server.martin.fl.us:7778/GOVT/depts/gmd/greenways/">http://ap3server.martin.fl.us:7778/GOVT/depts/gmd/greenways/</a>
<b>Palm Beach</b>	Bret Baronak\ Palm Beach MPO (561) 684-4170	<a href="http://www.pbcgov.com/mpo/Greenways/greenways1.html">http://www.pbcgov.com/mpo/Greenways/greenways1.html</a>
<b>Broward</b>	Mark Horowitz Broward MPO / transportation planning division (954) 357-6641	<a href="http://www.co.broward.fl.us/greenways/masterplan.htm">http://www.co.broward.fl.us/greenways/masterplan.htm</a>
<b>Miami-Dade</b>	Mark Heinicke Miami-Dade Parks & Recreation (305) 755-7811	<a href="http://www.co.miami-dade.fl.us/mpo/mpo8b-download-docs.htm">http://www.co.miami-dade.fl.us/mpo/mpo8b-download-docs.htm</a>

<b>Miami-Dade</b>	David Henderson Miami-Dade MPO (305) 375-1647	same
<b>Monroe</b>	Jose Papa Monroe Planning Dept (305) 289-2514 <a href="mailto:Papa-Jose@MonroeCounty-FL.Gov">Papa-Jose@MonroeCounty-FL.Gov</a>	<a href="http://www.monroecounty-fl.gov/Pages/MonroeCoFL_Planning/005E3BD-000F8513.0/allkey.jpg">http://www.monroecounty-fl.gov/Pages/MonroeCoFL_Planning/005E3BD-000F8513.0/allkey.jpg</a>
<b>Collier</b>	Trinity L. Caudill-Scott Project Manager Collier County TECM (239) 417-6027 <a href="mailto:TrinityCaudillScott@colliergov.net">TrinityCaudillScott@colliergov.net</a>	<a href="http://www.nasites.com/cmprojects/projects/Collier_MPO_Admin/docs/Final%20Report%20-%20Formatted.pdf">http://www.nasites.com/cmprojects/projects/Collier_MPO_Admin/docs/Final%20Report%20-%20Formatted.pdf</a>
<b>Hendry</b>	Jeff Barwick Executive Director Tourist Development Council (863) 983-7979 <a href="mailto:clewistonchamber@earthlink.net">clewistonchamber@earthlink.net</a>	
<b>Lee</b>	Fred Johnson Landscape Architect Lee County Parks and Recreation (239) 461-7474 <a href="mailto:fjohnson@leegov.com">fjohnson@leegov.com</a>	<a href="http://www.leeparks.org/">http://www.leeparks.org/</a> natural areas, G&T, preliminary master plan
<b>Charlotte</b>	Gary Harrell Principal Planner Charlotte County-Punta Gorda MPO (941) 639-467 <a href="mailto:harrell@ccmpo.com">harrell@ccmpo.com</a>	<a href="http://www.ccmpo.com/maps1.htm">http://www.ccmpo.com/maps1.htm</a>
<b>Glades</b>	Avant Brown Roads Superintendent 863-946-0771 <a href="mailto:aletrisfarnam@earthlink.net">aletrisfarnam@earthlink.net</a>	

## 8.0 Volunteer Program

- **OBJECTIVE #10. Develop a coordinated effort to maximize volunteer opportunities on District lands.**

The District supports, promotes, and facilitates the use of volunteers. As with strong partnerships, volunteer services are essential to providing a quality recreational experience on District lands. Much of the associated infrastructure of public use amenities, programmatic element requirements, and assistance needed to manage the recreational activities may depend heavily on the service contributions and dedication of individuals. The value associated with volunteer resources and donated annual work hours contribute significant cost savings to the agency. Furthermore, the volunteer

program promotes public stewardship, a sense of ownership, and connection to public lands.

- Section 373.1391(3), Florida Statutes, encourages each District to use volunteers to provide land management and other services.
- Section 140-25(5)(d)(1) District Policies Code. Volunteers, interns and alternative work forces will be used when possible to supplement existing staff and services.



Services provided by volunteers to facilitate recreation on District lands include:

- the development and maintenance of trails; hiking (including the Florida National Scenic Trail), biking, and equestrian;
- the construction, maintenance, and improvement of public use facilities and amenities including fencing, shelters, and wildlife and resource enhancement projects;
- the oversight of camping areas through the use of campground hosts;
- field interpretation and guided tours;
- the participation in District sponsored special events such as Earth Day, and Public Lands Day;
- exotic plant removal, native planting, prescribed burns, and litter clean-ups.



*Shoreline Cleanup by Airboat Clubs*

The administration and establishment of a quality volunteer program is greatly enhanced through partnerships. Partnerships with both the Corkscrew Regional Ecosystem Watershed Trust (West Coast Region) and Florida Atlantic University Center for Environmental Studies (DuPuis and Kissimmee Region) provide volunteer coordination and training on District managed lands. Additionally, partnerships or collaboration with several non-government organizations has contributed significant volunteer services. These organizations include the Florida Trail Association, Florida Sportsmen's Conservation Association, DuPuis Horsemen's Association, Audubon, Florida Cracker Trail Association, Kissimmee River Valley Sportsman's Association, Osceola Airboat Club and other clubs and organizations. District lands which are managed by other State (Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, Department of Environmental Protection) and local agencies have volunteer programs which are in most cases managed by their respective Parks & Recreation Departments.

### 8.1 Summary of Volunteer Plan Objectives

- Increase the diversity of volunteers through partnership programs and grants with local schools.
- Continue to sponsor special volunteer event opportunities on District lands which provide links to the local community.
- Sustain volunteer relationships through recognition and rewards.
- Attend and present at user group organizations to build volunteer participation.
- Continue to seek agreements and collaboration with groups and clubs to provide volunteer services for recreation.
- Provide resources (training, volunteer forms required) and equipment to support the volunteer programs.

### 9.0 Program Outreach

- **OBJECTIVE #11. Continue to further promote the District's recreation program.**

The District's Public Recreational Access and Use Policy establishes a commitment to the promotion of recreational uses of District lands. The Land Stewardship Division coordinates with the District's Department of Public Information and the District's Service Centers to further promote the recreation program. In addition to the general public, an integral part of the public use outreach program is providing current information to stakeholders.



Publication: Award winning *Recreational Guide* outlining public use activities and locations on District lands.

The primary strategies for marketing the recreation program and providing outreach are accomplished by the following items on Table 8.

**Table 8. Outreach Plan**

<b><i>Outreach Tools</i></b>	<b><i>Five-year Plan</i></b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Press Releases, News Articles, Special Event Flyers, Press Trips, and District Announcements</b></li> </ul>	Update as needed
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Recreational Guide</b> A listing of sites with general descriptions, maps, and permitted activities. The guide needs to be updated periodically as new project lands are completed and public use has been permitted.</li> </ul>	Update Yearly 2006-2011
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Recreation Website</b> An interactive website providing opportunities to search for District sites by recreation activity, and /or location. In addition to providing many links to outside partnering agencies, user group information, and other District resources, the site also provides the public any current news and special events as it relates to public use issues on District lands. The site is updated daily.</li> </ul>	Update Daily
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Recreation hotline (1-866-433-6312)</b> This is a toll free recording that provides current recreational news and special events happening on District lands. The recording is updated monthly.</li> </ul>	Update Monthly
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Interpretive Kiosk Panels</b> Site specific panels are designed and fabricated to be displayed in on-site kiosks. The panels descriptively and graphically interpret the site's ecology, resource management, function as it relates to the District's mission and promote the recreational opportunities available.</li> </ul>	Complete new kiosk panels as needed thru 2011
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Conferences/Workshops</b> Attend and represent the District's recreation and public use program at conferences and workshops which include: Public Land Acquisition and Management Partnership, Florida Recreation and Parks Association, Office of Greenways and Trails, etc...</li> </ul>	Annually
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Educational Partners</b> Inform the public on recreational programs and opportunities through the outreach provided by partnerships: Center for Environmental Studies-Florida Atlantic University, Audubon, Pine Jog</li> </ul>	Quarterly
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Land Management Activity Summary Report</b> Status report on recreation and public use projects.</li> </ul>	Monthly and annually
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Recreational and Public Use Meetings</b> Inform stakeholders of recreational issues at the following meetings: Water Resources Advisory Commission Recreational Issues Workshop, DuPuis Outreach Users Meeting, Kissimmee River Recreational Outreach Users Meeting</li> </ul>	Meet and update Quarterly

<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Trail Guides</b> Site specific brochures to be available on-site to the public. The brochure interprets the site's ecology, resource management, function as it relates to the District's mission, and promotes the recreational opportunities available. A map illustrates the location of trails and public access points.</li></ul>	Complete 2 new trail guides a year thru 2011
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## 10.0 Summary of Key Objectives

- 1) **OBJECTIVE #1. Develop a five-year plan for Law Enforcement coordination of District lands associated with public use (p. 13).**
- 2) **OBJECTIVE #2. Adhere to a planning and review process to endorse and approve recreation projects (p. 19).**
- 3) **OBJECTIVE #3. Maximize the diversity of compatible nature-based recreational opportunities (p. 20).**
- 4) **OBJECTIVE #4. Facilitate the use of Rights-of-Ways, including bank fishing opportunities on canals and levees (p. 24).**
- 5) **OBJECTIVE #5. Establish partnerships for the operation and maintenance support of recreation on District lands. (p. 25).**
- 6) **OBJECTIVE #6. Plan and construct recreational facilities in relation to the level of participation provided by local partners (p. 37).**
- 7) **OBJECTIVE #7. Identify long-term District funding sources for the development and management of recreational use on District lands (p.39).**
- 8) **OBJECTIVE #8. Utilize District standard designs and guidelines for the implementation of recreation facilities (p. 45).**
- 9) **OBJECTIVE #9. Establish connectivity to other public lands through greenway partnerships (p. 45).**
- 10) **OBJECTIVE #10. Develop a coordinated effort to maximize volunteer opportunities on District lands (p. 51).**
- 11) **OBJECTIVE #11. Continue to further promote the District's recreation program (p. 53).**

## **Appendix A**

### **Public Recreational Access and Use Policy**

#### **ARTICLE IV. PUBLIC RECREATIONAL ACCESS AND USE**

##### Sec. 140-171. Scope.

This policy shall apply to lands of the South Florida Water Management District and to District involvement in the management of other lands or planning of other water resource related activities and facilities. Nothing in this policy shall negate, supercede or replace any existing statute, administrative rule, permit, license, subordination, delegation, agreement, contract or other non-recreational policy. This policy may be reviewed and approved by the District Governing Board at five-year intervals or earlier, and updated as required. Public comment shall be solicited as part of the review process.

(Res. No. 2004-356, § I, 3-10-2004)

##### Sec. 140-72. Purpose.

This policy establishes a commitment to the responsible planning, management, and promotion of public recreational access and use on District lands. This policy shall provide guidance for the South Florida Water Management District in decisions related to public recreational access and use of District lands, including stormwater treatment areas and Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (CERP) projects. It incorporates by reference, recommendations of the South Florida Ecosystem Restoration Task Force in Strategy for Restoration of the South Florida Ecosystem, and reports from the Governor's Commission for a Sustainable South Florida. These references are set forth in appendix A.

(Res. No. 2004-356, § II, 3-10-2004)

##### Sec. 140-73. Statement of Policy.

(a) *Generally.* Public recreational access and use shall be provided for and encouraged to ensure the public's opportunity for enjoyment and appreciation of the natural resources of south Florida. District lands shall be open to public recreational access and use activities as is practicable and in a manner consistent with legislative directives, intended uses, legal considerations, and resources. Land and project plans shall incorporate public recreational access and use.

##### (b) *Intended Uses.*

- (1) The intended uses of the property shall be given primary consideration.
- (2) A balanced mix of public recreational access and use shall be allowed except when specific activities are not in the best interest of the land.
- (3) Public recreational access and use shall be consistent with the protection of natural resources, ecological value and function of lands.

##### (c) *Legal Considerations.*

- (1) Public recreational access and use shall be consistent with the District's land ownership rights and environmental laws.
- (2) All access and use of District lands shall be governed by rules and policies of the District and/or other units of government in partnership with the District, and/or general laws of the State of Florida.

##### (d) *Resources.*

- (1) There shall be a reasonable dedication of land, financial, and human resources as directed by the Governing Board, to ensure an equitable distribution and variety of recreational activities.
- (2) Reasonable consideration of public recreational access and use and the resources required to accomplish such shall be given to lands in transition.
- (3) Stable partnerships with private and public entities that expand the opportunities for public recreational access and use shall be encouraged.

##### (e) *Planning.*

- (10) Recreational use plans for public recreational access and use on District lands shall be undertaken by the District in a proactive manner.

- (2) Recreational use plans for public recreational access and use on District lands shall undergo public review and comment.
  - (3) New projects shall be designed to enhance fish and wildlife, as appropriate, and in consideration of a recreation compatibility analysis, shall have plans for appropriate public recreational access and use facilities. Two examples of fish and wildlife enhancements include:
    - a. Leave trees in reservoirs to create "stick marsh;"
    - b. Scalp canal banks to create littoral zones.
  - (4) Facilities to accomplish current and reasonably optimistic future general public access needs, such as parking and other facilities that support many activities, shall be a necessary part of planning and site design for District water resource management projects.
  - (f) *Recreational Advisory Committee.*
    - (1) The District shall establish a standing recreation advisory committee to assist staff and provide recommendations to the WRAC and the Governing Board on District recreational matters.
    - (2) The committee shall meet at various locations within the District on a semi-annual basis.
    - (3) The committee shall include a WRAC member, community leaders and interested stakeholder groups.
- (Res. No. 2004-356, § III, 3-10-2004)

Sec. 140-74. Definitions.

All definitions provided are for the purposes of this policy only.

*Access* means the right to enter an area and the means or facilities provided to accomplish entrance.

*Cooperative Management Agreement* means an agreement between two or more government agencies outlining the respective duties and responsibilities of each agency in the management of a specific tract of land.

*Interim Land* means land purchased for a future use in projects.

*Lands* means, for the purpose of this policy, those lands in which the South Florida Water Management District has a fee simple interest or sufficient ownership rights.

These lands shall include:

Stewardship lands;

Interim lands;

Stormwater treatment areas;

CERP lands;

Canal and levee rights of way adopted as works of the District;

Spoil areas;

Such other lands as the District may acquire from time to time.

These lands shall not include:

Headquarters and service centers sites;

Field stations;

Pump stations;

Navigation locks and lock tender residences;

Water control structure sites;

Telemetry or tower sites;

Lands with less than sufficient ownership interests or control;

Other lands defined by management.

*Recreation* means resource based activities such as, but not limited to, hiking, biking, horse back riding, camping, canoeing, kayaking, boating, off road vehicles, wildlife viewing, fishing, and hunting. Facility based activities such as team and field games or swimming pools are not typical.

*Recreational Use Plan* means a document that defines the recreational uses of a property that are consistent with the primary use of the property and are compatible with the resource and other uses.

*Stormwater Treatment Area (STA)* means a human-made marsh constructed to filter nutrients; a water resource project.

*Water Resource Management Project* means lands constructed or operated for the purpose of water supply, flood protection, environmental enhancement or water quality improvement, such as an STA.

*Works of the District* means those canals, levees, structures, lands, water bodies and other associated facilities or works which have been specifically adopted as works of the District, pursuant to Chapter 373.086, Florida Statutes.

(Res. No. 2004-356, § IV, 3-10-2004)

Sec. 140-75. Recreational Use Plans.

(a) *Generally.* Recreational use plans shall define the recreational uses of a property that are consistent with the primary use of the property, and are compatible with the resource and other uses. Copies of the recreational use plans shall be provided to the recreation advisory committee at the periodic meetings. Recreational use plans shall determine the best mix of opportunities for public recreational access and use. The District recognizes that the lands and the public recreational access and use described in recreational use plans may vary. Recreational use plans may coordinate between management areas to accomplish separation of activities and the related facilities. Provided below is guidance on how specific activities may typically be considered by recreational use plans. Lands declared works of the District may use those applicable rules as the recreational use plans. The absence of a Recreational Use Plan does not negate the District's policy that all District lands are open and available for outdoor recreational purposes unless otherwise specifically prohibited.

(b) *Fishing.* Fishing shall be permitted where public access is allowed. Fishing shall be in compliance with Florida State laws and seasons.

(c) *Hunting.* Hunting shall be allowed on District lands except when determined to be incompatible with land use or other policy concerns. Hunting on District lands shall be managed through the authority of the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC). The District and FWC shall work in cooperation to plan for hunting. Where lands are not open to hunting the discharging of firearms shall not be allowed unless provided for as an activity in the recreational use plan.

(d) *Equestrian Activities.* Equestrian trails and facilities shall be developed through partnerships with equestrian groups or associations that express an interest.

(e) *Trails.* Trails shall be developed, using appropriate partnerships, where access and trail heads can be sufficiently provided. Trails and Greenways shall be incorporated to create links or spurs, as possible, with the various state and county trails, blueways, and greenway programs and systems.

(f) *Motorized Vehicles and Boats.*

(1) Street legal vehicles may be allowed on named or numbered roadways. The use of vehicles may be defined as to purpose of use, seasonal conditions or other. Off road vehicles may be allowed in specific areas, for defined purposes, when specifically authorized. Off-road vehicles, including airboats, all-terrain vehicles, swamp buggies and other motorized recreational vehicles, shall be allowed only where it is deemed compatible with adjacent land use and other users. Off-road vehicle use shall not cause serious harm to nor interfere with ecosystem restoration or operations and maintenance activities.

(2) Where appropriate, the size and type of boat ramps shall be based upon user and resource, and a compatibility analysis. The use of motorized boats may require consideration of wave action and levee sizes.

(3) Non-motorized aquatic access, such as canoeing and kayaking, shall be a priority for sensitive areas where visitors can experience natural sounds.

(Res. No. 2004-356, § V, 3-10-2004)

Sec. 140-76. Appendix A.

(a) Provided here are statements on recreation from the Governor's Commission for a Sustainable South Florida and the South Florida Ecosystem Restoration Task Force.

(b) In its 1998 Interim Report the Governor's Commission for a Sustainable South Florida (Governor's Commission) included as Recommendation 9: "Procured lands should be managed for compatible multiple uses consistent with Florida law. Use and management activities on these lands must be compatible with overall conservation and conservation goals." In its 1995 Initial Report the Governor's Commission objectives included:

(1) Creating an array of cultural and recreational opportunities that are affordable and available to all

(2) Shared and extended use of public facilities for recreational purposes

(3) Ensuring appropriate public access to public lands consistent with the purposes for which the public lands were acquired and managed.

(c) Likewise, the South Florida Ecosystem Restoration Task Force in its Strategy for Restoration of the South Florida Ecosystem stated: "As citizens and their governments work to restore and protect the unique South Florida ecosystem, they must not lose sight of the importance of public access to natural areas. At the same time, the public must respect the sensitivities of the natural system and ensure that their activities do not unduly stress the wildlife and the landscapes that are such an important part of their heritage."

(Res. No. 2004-356, § VI, 3-10-2004)

Sec. 140-77. Appendix B.

(a) *Generally.* The following appendix is provided as a reference for the reader. These are parts of the existing rules at the time of the development of this public recreational access and use policy that have provided guidance and with which this policy is intended to be consistent.

(b) *Land Stewardship.* Please see Chapter 40E-7.5, Florida Administrative Code and SFWMD Policy 140, Land Resources.

(c) *Right of Way Management.* The right of way program was developed to preserve the District's ability to construct, operate and maintain the canal and levee system of the federally-authorized Central and Southern Florida Flood Control Project and other "works of the District" while allowing for compatible uses. The program also seeks to preserve the District's proprietary interests in the works of the District and to minimize exposure to unnecessary litigation. The following policies guide implementation of this objective:

(1) The works of the District shall be those works or lands adopted by the governing board. (Chapter 373.085, Florida Statutes)

(2) The Governing Board has the authority to prescribe the manner in which the works or lands may be used. (Chapter 373.085, Florida Statutes)

(3) It is the policy of the District to allow, without charge for admission or use, public, passive recreational uses of District owned rights of way, given legally sufficient District property interests. However, the District retains the ability to, either temporarily or permanently, limit or otherwise preclude public access to certain portions of the District works or lands, such as structures and associated facilities. (Rule 40E-6.011 and 40E-6.311(1))

(4) The District may close works and lands of the District temporarily or, with Governing Board approval, permanently. (Rule 40E-6.311(1)(2))

(Res. No. 2004-356, § VII, 3-10-2004)

## **Appendix B**

### **Rule 40E-7, Part V, Florida Administrative Code**

#### **PART V PUBLIC ACCESS AND USE**

##### **40E-7.511 Policy and Purpose.**

(1) The purpose of the rule in this part is to further implement the legislative intent expressed in Sections 259.101, 373.016(2)(h), 373.1391, 373.1395, and 373.59(11), F.S., and Chapter 140, Article IV, South Florida Water Management District Policies and Procedures Code, and therefore, to establish regulations governing public access to certain District lands and use of said lands for nature based recreation and allied purposes. It is the intent of these regulations to protect the water resources, native plant communities, fish and wildlife populations, and related natural features of these lands together with any historic and cultural improvements thereon.

(2) Nothing contained in these regulations shall be construed as an assurance by the District that said District lands are safe for any purpose, that the District has a duty of care toward any person entering said lands or that the District is responsible for any injuries or damage to persons or property caused by an act or omission of any person who enters said District lands, including invitees, licensees, contractors, trespassers or other persons.

*Specific Authority 279.101, 373.044, 373.113, 373.171 FS. Law Implemented 259.101, 373.016, 373.056, 373.103, 373.1391, 373.1395, 373.59 FS. History—New 5-24-94, Amended 1-5-03, 7-12-06.*

##### **40E-7.520 Scope and Applicability.**

(1) The general regulations contained herein are broad in scope and applicable to all District lands.

(2) The regulations are applicable to all persons entering upon, using, or visiting said District lands.

(3) A copy of the regulations contained herein may be posted at entry points, activity areas, and recreation sites equipped with bulletin boards or otherwise made reasonably available to the public.

(4) Consistent with the environmental sensitivity of these areas and the purposes for which the lands were acquired, and all rights, privileges, and protections afforded by the provisions of Section 373.1395, F.S., all District lands are hereby deemed open and available to the public for outdoor recreational purposes and access unless otherwise limited, restricted, or prohibited by special provision in this rule. Nothing in this rule shall prevent other federal, state, or local agencies, including but not limited to those with management contracts with the District, from requiring compliance with their own rules, permits, regulations, ordinances, or laws to the fullest extent of their lawful authority.

(5) Any signage, prohibiting access to or, use of District lands shall only apply to the property or area set forth in or delineated by such signage and a presumption shall exist that all other portions of the Management Areas, Stormwater Treatment Areas, and Impoundment Areas where public access or use is not specifically prohibited are open and available for outdoor recreational purposes unless otherwise limited, restricted or prohibited by the Governing Board. This provision shall not be construed to impede enforcement of trespass statutes including but not limited to Chapter 810, F.S.

(6) Chapter 40E-7, Part V, F.A.C., is supplemental to the laws, statutes, ordinances, and rules of other governmental entities where cooperative agreements for management of certain public uses of district lands have been approved by the Governing Board.

(7) The following District lands are exempt from the provisions of Chapter 40E-7, Part V, F.A.C:

- (a) District office buildings, service centers, field stations, water control structures and other facilities.
- (b) District lands that are under a land management lease or agreement with city, county, state, federal agencies, or private entities, including without limitations Water Conservation Areas 1, 2 and 3.

- (c) District lands that are commercially leased lands will not be governed by these rules unless the lease specifically permits public access.
- (d) District lands on Tribal Reservations.
- (e) Lands in which the District has a less than fee interest where the underlying fee owner has restricted or prohibited public access.

*Specific Authority 373.044, 373.113 FS. Law Implemented 373.016, 373.056, 373.1391, 373.1395, 373.1401, 373.59 FS. History—New 5-24-94, Amended 11-12-95, 1-7-97, 11-13-97, 1-1-99, 1-5-03, 7-12-06.*

#### **40E-7.521 Definitions.**

When used in this part:

- (1) “Activity area” means a zone within a management area designated for specific recreational activities.
- (2) “Access point” means a designated location or boundary for public access to a District land.
- (3) “Allied purposes” means other related outdoor activities including, but not limited to, frogging, photography, painting, environmental education, and nature study.
- (4) “Camping” means to use a vehicle, tent or shelter, or to arrange bedding or both with the intent to stay overnight.
- (5) “Designated road” means any road, path, lane, or trail officially designated by name or number for public vehicular travel.
- (6) “District land” means any real property in which the District has an interest and is limited to Management Areas, Stormwater Treatment Areas, Impoundment Areas, Right of Way, and vacant undesignated lands.
- (7) “Event Authorization” means a permission to access and use District lands in a manner not otherwise provided for or authorized in this part.
- (8) “Executive Director” means the person who is in the position of Executive Director for the South Florida Water Management District.
- (9) “Facility” or “Structure” means any object placed on District lands which is intended to be permanently attached to the land for which would be considered a fixture under Florida law.
- (10) “Firearm” means a shotgun, rifle, pistol, revolver or muzzleloader designed to expel a projectile by the action of an explosive and any air gun, gas gun, blow gun, crossbow, spear, or any other device mechanically propelling an arrow, spear, or other projectile or any starter gun or blank firing device.
- (11) “Group campsite” means a designated campsite for campers whose total is eight (8) or more people.
- (12) “Horse cart” means a non-motorized two (2) wheeled vehicle pulled by a single saddle animal.
- (13) “Hunting device” means any mechanical device used to take or attempt to take wildlife or feral hogs.
- (14) “Idle Speed” means the minimum speed at which a motorized vessel is able to move and maintain adequate steering control.
- (15) “Impoundment Area” means District lands designated by the Governing Board as an Impoundment Area.
- (16) “Leased” means the granting of either an exclusive or non-exclusive use of or interest in District lands for a specified period of time.

(17) “Outdoor recreational purposes” means natural resource based outdoor recreational activities including, but not limited to, fishing, hunting, horseback riding, bicycling, swimming, camping, hiking, canoeing, boating, airboating, scuba diving, birding, sailing, jogging, picnicking, nature study, water skiing, and visiting historical, archaeological, scenic or scientific sites.

(18) “Management Area” means any Save Our Rivers land, other District land, or combination thereof, designated by the Governing Board as a Management Area. Such lands are managed as single and distinct units for the purpose of restoring, preserving, and protecting the water and related environmental resources of said area, including regulating the public uses thereon.

(19) “Management Unit” means a portion of any Save Our Rivers land or other District land within a management area that requires a specific public use regulation due to legal, cultural or environmental factors uniquely affecting the specific unit of land, but which is not applicable to the entire management area.

(20) “Natural Resources” mean water, soils, flora, and fauna.

(21) “Personal watercraft” means a vessel less than 16 feet in length which uses an inboard motor powering a water jet pump as its primary source of motorized power and which is designed to be operated by a person sitting, standing, or kneeling on the vessel, rather than in the conventional manner of sitting or standing inside the vessel.

(22) “Primitive Camping” means no amenities are provided.

(23) “Recreation site” means an improved or unimproved site established to facilitate public use of a designated Management Area, Stormwater Treatment Area, Impoundment Area, Right of Way or vacant undesignated land.

(24) “Recreational trail” means saddle animal riding, hiking, canoeing, bicycling, or jogging trails for use by the public.

(25) “Right of Way” means the Right of Way acquired for the construction, operation, and maintenance of the canals and levees adopted as Works of the District pursuant to Section 373.086, F.S. These Right of Way include the canals, levees, maintenance berms and spoil mounds located thereon.

(26) “Saddle animal” means any animal used to transport a person or property.

(27) “Service animal” means an animal such as a guide dog, signal dog or other animal individually trained to provide assistance to an individual with a disability.

(28) “Special Use License” means a type of license granted by the District to allow access to and use of certain District lands and facilities as set forth in this Part.

(29) “Stormwater Treatment Area” means District lands designated by the Governing Board as a Stormwater Treatment Area.

(30) “Vacant undesignated land” means any land owned by the District that is not designated as a Management Area, Stormwater Treatment Area, Impoundment Area, or Right of Way which land is greater than ten (10) acres and has legal and practical public access.

(31) “Vessel” is synonymous with a boat as referenced in s. 1(b), Art. VII of the Florida State Constitution and includes every description of watercraft, barge, and air boat, other than a seaplane on the water, used or capable of being used as a means of transportation on water.

*Specific Authority 373.019, 373.044, 373.113, 373.171 FS. Law Implemented 373.016, 373.056, 373.069, 373.0693, 373.073, 373.079, 373.083, 373.103, 373.1391, 373.59 FS. History—New 5-24-94, Amended 11-13-97, 1-1-99, 1-5-03, 7-12-06.*

**40E-7.523 Access to District Lands; Closures.**

(1) When designated access points are indicated, entry onto and exiting from Management Areas, Stormwater Treatment Areas, and Impoundment Areas by the general public is only authorized at those designated access points.

(2) Entry onto and exiting from Right of Way may be at any legal public access point.

(3) District lands or areas within District lands shall be closed to public use under the following conditions:

(a) When necessary during emergency conditions such as floods, severe weather events, or wildfire for public safety and the protection of natural resources. Such closures shall require the approval of the Executive Director and concurrence of the Governing Board. In no event shall such closures exceed forty-five (45) days duration absent reconsideration and approval by the Governing Board.

(b) When necessary, in the judgment of the Executive Director or the Governing Board, based upon available information at the time, on a temporary, seasonal or permanent basis to protect natural, historic or archaeological resources. Such closures, to the extent they exceed forty-five (45) days, shall require approval by the Governing Board.

(c) During certain days, hours or periods of time, when such closure is necessary to implement land management practices

such as prescribed burning, vegetation spraying, construction, operations, maintenance, research studies, data collection, resource protection, or as a condition of a contract or permit.

(d) Upon the designation by the Governing Board pursuant to Section 373.6055, F.S., that certain District lands or facilities are “critical infrastructure”, as designated by the Regional Domestic Security Task Force pursuant to applicable law, whereupon such lands or facilities shall be immediately deemed closed for public use without further action required by the Governing Board.

(e) Specific uses permitted on District lands may be restricted to certain areas within those lands.

(4) Regulated closures under Rule 40E-7.523(3), F.A.C., temporary, seasonal, or permanent closures of District lands or areas within District lands will be posted at authorized points of entry or at an established boundary within said areas.

(5) The use or occupancy of existing buildings, structures, and related improvements is prohibited unless designated as a public use facility.

(6) Entry into and exiting from Management Areas and Right of Way from vessels is allowed when these lands are open for public access.

*Specific Authority 373.044, 373.113 FS. Law Implemented 373.016, 373.119, 373.1391, 373.59 FS. History—New 5-24-94, Amended 1-1-99, 1-1-01, 7-12-06.*

**40E-7.525 Use of Vehicles, Vessels, and Aircraft; Navigational Restrictions.**

(1) The operation of licensed and unlicensed vehicles on District lands is prohibited with the following exception: District lands are open to licensed vehicles on designated named and numbered roads only unless otherwise authorized.

(2) Any person who drives a vehicle on District lands shall drive in a careful and prudent manner, having regard for the width, grade, curves, corners, traffic and all other attendant circumstances, so as not to endanger the life, limb or property of any person.

(3) Motorized vehicle operators shall comply with posted speed limits on District lands and roads. If no speed limit is posted, the speed limit is 20 mph. Speed limits are not applicable to airboats, except when the latter are operated on roads on District lands.

(4) Parking or operating a motor vehicle, or trailer, in an unauthorized location or in a manner blocking roads, levees, maintenance berms, gates, or water control structures is prohibited except where the District has affirmatively opened a roadway or a parking area for such use.

(5) Servicing or maintaining vehicles and equipment is prohibited except when in conjunction with authorized recreational activities and allied purposes.

(6) The operation of unlicensed swamp buggies, tracked vehicles, off-road or off highway all terrain vehicles, motorcycles, off-road motorcycles or motocross motorcycles, or any other type of motorized vehicle on District lands is prohibited unless otherwise approved by an Event Authorization.

(7) Any restrictions to navigation established pursuant to state or federal law, applicable to District lands, shall be specified in Rules 40E-7.538, 40E-7.5381, 40E-7.5382, 40E-7.5383 and 40E-7.5384, F.A.C., and reasonably identified in the field by appropriate signs.

(8) No person shall enter or exit District lands from a vessel or airboat when public access to such land is closed.

(9) No person shall launch an airboat or motorized vessel except at designated boat launch facilities. Ramps constructed pursuant to Rule 40E-6, F.A.C., shall be deemed to be designated boat launch facilities.

(10) No person shall operate an airboat or vessel beyond posted District signs.

(11) The take off or landing of either motorized or non-motorized aircraft, including airplanes, helicopters, ultra lights, gliders and hang gliders, is prohibited except in an emergency or for official business.

(12) The take off or landing of model aircraft is prohibited unless otherwise specified in Rules 40E-7.538, 40E-7.5381, 40E-7.5382, 40E-7.5383 and 40E-7.5384, F.A.C., or approved by an Event Authorization.

*Specific Authority 373.044, 373.113 FS. Law Implemented 316.192, 316.1925, 316.655, 373.016, 373.1391, 373.59 FS. History--New 5-24-94, Amended 1-5-03, 7-12-06.*

#### **40E-7.526 Equestrian Activities; Use of Saddle Animals.**

(1) Equestrian activities are allowed on vacant undesignated lands and on Right of Way on existing canal maintenance berms and levee tops. On all other District lands equestrian activities are allowed on designated trails and established roads where permitted by signs. District lands requiring a Special Use License for equestrian activities are identified in Rules 40E-7.538, 40E-7.5381, 40E-7.5382, 40E-7.5383 and 40E-7.5384, F.A.C.

(2) Users of saddle animals on District owned land must possess proof of negative Coggins test on their person.

(3) Equestrian activities are not permitted in wetland areas.

(4) The use of a horse cart as defined by subsection 40E-7.521(12), F.A.C., is permitted on Right of Way on existing canal maintenance berms and levee tops. On all other District lands, horse carts are prohibited except as authorized in Rules 40E-7.538, 40E-7.5381, 40E-7.5382, 40E-7.5383 and 40E-7.5384, F.A.C.

*Specific Authority 373.044, 373.113 FS. Law Implemented 316.192, 316.1925, 316.655, 373.016, 373.1391, 373.59 FS. History--New 5-24-94, Amended 1-5-03, 7-12-06.*

**40E-7.527 Hunting; Possession and Use of Firearms or Hunting Devices.**

(1) Consistent with applicable provisions of local, state and federal law, concerning hunting or the possession and use of firearms or other types of hunting devices, such as the rules of the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission and the United States Department of Interior, Fish and Wildlife Service, hunting, unlawful possession, discharge, and use of firearms or other types of hunting devices or, trapping devices and the releasing of free-running hunting dogs are prohibited on District lands unless the land is opened as a public hunting area and these uses are authorized in the specific public hunting area regulations. Nothing contained in Chapter 40E-7, Part V, F.A.C., shall be construed to prohibit the lawful possession of concealed weapons by persons properly licensed by the State of Florida to carry concealed weapons. The prohibition on the possession and discharge of firearms or other types of hunting devices shall not apply on land approved by the District for use as a small arms shooting range.

(2) Public hunting on District lands is regulated, administered and enforced by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, in cooperation with the District. If a public hunting area, is permitted on District lands, it shall be posted as prescribed by Chapter 810, F.S. Management Areas currently established as public hunt areas are noticed in Rules 40E-7.538, 40E-7.5381, 40E-7.5382, 40E-7.5383 and 40E-7.5384, F.A.C.

(3) Public hunting areas shall only be established on District lands with approval of the Governing Board. Agreements between the District and the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission or the United States Fish and Wildlife Service are considered to be authorizations to remove designated game species.

(4) No person shall hunt or possess a firearm or other type of hunting device except during regulated hunting seasons established and managed by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission.

(5) Erecting or maintaining tree stands on District lands more than 10 days before or more than 10 days after any authorized hunting season is prohibited.

(6) Placing, exposing or distributing any grain or other food for wildlife is prohibited.

(7) Hunting from improved roads is prohibited.

(8) Hunting in posted safety zones is prohibited.

(9) Hunting beyond posted signs is prohibited.

*Specific Authority 373.044, 373.113 FS. Law Implemented 373.016, 373.1391, 373.1401, 373.59, 790, 810.09 FS. History—New 5-24-94, Amended 1-1-01, 1-5-03, 7-12-06.*

**40E-7.528 Bicycling.**

Bicycling is allowed on vacant undesignated lands and on Right of Way on existing canal maintenance berms and levee tops. On all other District lands, bicycling is allowed on designated trails and established roads except where restricted by signs. Lands requiring a Specific Use License for bicycling are identified in Rules 40E-7.538, 40E-7.5381, 40E-7.5382, 40E-7.5383 and 40E-7.5384, F.A.C.

*Specific Authority 373.044, 373.133 FS. Law Implemented 373.016, 373.1391, 373.1401, 373.59, 790, 810.04 FS. History—New 7-12-06.*

**40E-7.529 Overnight Camping.**

(1) Management Areas:

(a) Overnight, primitive camping on a first-come, first-serve basis is permitted only at designated campsites and shall require a Special Use License as specified in Rule 40E-7.538, F.A.C.

(b) Designated campsites and amenities within specific Management Areas shall be reasonably identified in the field by appropriate signs or markers.

(c) Overnight camping or the presence of camping equipment shall be limited to five (5) consecutive days, or 30 total days per year per District land where camping is authorized, unless authorized by Special Use License.

(d) Use of group campsites in Management Areas requires a Special Use License.

(2) Stormwater Treatment Areas, Impoundment Areas and Right of Way.

(a) Overnight, primitive camping is permitted only along the Florida National Scenic Trail when in possession of a Special Use License.

(b) Overnight camping or the presence of camping equipment shall be limited to one (1) night unless authorized by a Special Use License.

(3) No person shall install, erect, or maintain any unauthorized camp, building, structure, shelter, residence or sign.

*Specific Authority 373.044, 373.113 FS. Law Implemented 373.016, 373.1391, 373.59 FS. History—New 5-24-94, Amended 11-13-97, 1-1-99, 1-5-03, 7-12-06.*

#### **40E-7.530 Trapping.**

Trapping is prohibited on all District lands except where authorized by an Event Authorization which shall be limited to scientific study or removal of nuisance species. Trapping on District land is regulated, administered and enforced by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission.

*Specific Authority 373.044, 373.113 FS. Law Implemented 373.016, 373.1391, 373.59 FS. History—New 7-12-06.*

#### **40E-7.532 Operating Hours.**

District lands shall be open to public use twenty-four (24) hours a day seven (7) days a week except during authorized closures as set forth in subsection 40E-7.523(3), F.A.C., above or unless otherwise specified in Rules 40E-7.538, 40E-7.5381, 40E-7.5382, 40E-7.5383 and 40E-7.5384, F.A.C.

*Specific Authority 373.044, 373.113 FS. Law Implemented 373.016, 373.119, 373.1391, 373.59 FS. History—New 5-24-94, Amended 7-12-06.*

#### **40E-7.534 Special Use Licenses.**

(1) A Special Use License, issued by the District's Land Stewardship Division or its authorized agents or contractors at no cost to the public, shall be required to engage in select activities on District lands identified by the Governing Board, when determined necessary to protect the natural resources of said areas, prevent overuse of facilities, or to avoid conflicts between users. District lands with Special Use License requirements, including the daily quota for Special Use Licenses for each District land, if any, shall be specified in Rules 40E-7.538, 40E-7.5381, 40E-7.5382, 40E-7.5383 and 40E-7.5384, F.A.C.

(2) A Special Use Application and License shall be submitted to the District on Form #0830. Upon receipt of a properly completed Special Use Application and License Form #0830, the District's Land Stewardship Division shall issue Special Use Licenses on a first come first served basis until the daily quota established by the District for that activity is reached.

(3) Special Use Licenses shall only be valid for the dates shown on the License and must be in the possession of the applicant while on the identified District land. If the applicant is a group, then the license must be in the possession of the designated group leader.

(4) Persons wishing to obtain a Special Use License, when required by the District, may apply in person, call, or write to request a copy of Special Use Application and License Form #0830 from the District at the following:

(a) Land Stewardship Division  
South Florida Water Management District  
Post Office Box 24680 (mailing)

Building B-1 3301 Gun Club Road (in person)

West Palm Beach, FL 33416-4680

Telephone: (561)686-8800 or Florida WATS 1(800)432-2045, or

(b) From the applicable service center as set forth in the special provisions for the specific District land, or

(c) From the District's web site: [www.sfwmd.gov/org/clm/lzd/public.html](http://www.sfwmd.gov/org/clm/lzd/public.html).

(5) In the event the daily quota has been reached, the District shall notify the Special Use License applicant that the District intends to deny the application, and the applicant may request further consideration by the Governing Board.

(6) The Executive Director, or his designee, shall revoke a Special Use License if the licensee violates any provisions of this Rule or the Special Use License.

(7) Special Use Licenses shall be issued in accordance with the provisions of this section, for the purpose of providing mobility impaired persons the opportunity to use motorized vehicles to access portions of the District lands not otherwise open to motorized vehicles. Licenses for this purpose will be issued upon request, including proof of mobility impairment, as long as the requested use will not adversely impact the resource, impair the safety and welfare of the user, interfere with the reasonable use by others, or result in substantial financial obligations by the District to accommodate the user. Mobility impaired hunting permits are issued by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission.

(8) Any person prohibited from entering onto District land by a court order shall not be eligible to apply for a Special Use License, during the prohibition period.

*Specific Authority 373.044, 373.113 FS. Law Implemented 373.016, 373.1391, 373.59 FS. History—New 5-24-94, Amended 1-1-99, 1-1-01, 1-5-03, 7-12-06.*

#### **40E-7.535 Event Authorization.**

(1) A person or entity shall apply for an Event Authorization, at no cost to the applicant, to use District lands in a manner not otherwise provided for or authorized in this part.

(2) To receive an Event Authorization the applicant must provide reasonable assurance that:

(a) The requested use will not involve the permanent alteration of any District land or the permanent placement of any structure on District land;

(b) The requested use is resource-based;

(c) The requested use is consistent with the management plan for the District lands involved;

(d) The requested use will not harm the environmental resources of the District land;

(e) The requested use will not cause unreasonable expense to the District;

(f) The requested use will not create a substantial risk of liability to the District;

(g) The requested use will not harm any dam, impoundment, works, water control structure, road, or District-owned facilities or equipment;

(h) The requested use will not interfere with District water management, leased, or authorized uses of the land; and

(i) The requested use will not interfere with any other use allowed by this part.

(3) The District shall impose upon any Event Authorization issued pursuant to this part such reasonable conditions as are necessary to assure that the use or activity authorized will meet the criteria set forth in this part.

(4) The Governing Board delegates to the Executive Director or their Designee the authority to issue or revoke Event Authorizations pursuant to this part.

(5) A person or entity may apply for an Event Authorization according to the following procedure:

(a) Submit a written request to:

South Florida Water Management District

Land Stewardship Division  
P. O. Box 24680  
West Palm Beach, Florida 33416-4680

(b) If the requested use will create a substantial risk of liability to the District, the applicant must mitigate the substantial risk of liability by:

1. Providing proof of liability and property damage insurance naming the District as an insured in an amount sufficient and determined by the District to cover the cost of the potential liability; and
2. Providing waivers or releases of liability sufficient to eliminate the potential liability.

(c) If the requested use satisfies all of the criteria set forth in this section and is not otherwise inconsistent with District Policy, the Executive Director shall issue the Event Authorization.

(6) A person or entity receiving an Event Authorization from the District must have the Event Authorization in their possession at all times while on District lands.

(7) In the event the holder of an Event Authorization violates the terms of the authorization, engages in a use not permitted by the authorization, or the authorized activity is no longer consistent with District policy, the Event Authorization shall be subject to revocation by the Executive Director or designee.

*Specific Authority 373.044, 373.113 FS. Law Implemented 373.016, 373.1391, 373.59 FS. History—New 7-12-06.*

#### **40E-7.537 General Prohibitions.**

The following shall be prohibited on all District lands unless otherwise specified:

- (1) Discharging firecrackers, rockets, or any other fireworks.
- (2) Destroying, defacing, or removing any natural resource or native plant, including the felling of dead trees.
- (3) Destroying, injuring, defacing, vandalizing, removing, or disturbing in any manner any public building, tower, recorder, gage, walkway, platform, well, sign, gate, fence, equipment, monument, marker, or other structure or improvement.
- (4) Destroying or damaging scientific study plots, photo points, transect lines, benchmarks or survey monuments, or survey markers.
- (5) Trespassing on, operating, vandalizing, or interfering with the operation of any water control structures.
- (6) Discharging or disposing of oil, gasoline, paint, thinner, pesticides, fertilizer, explosives or other pollutants, chemicals and wastes.
- (7) Cleaning fish, game, or food at potable watering stations, in rest rooms, at boat ramps, or trailheads, or washing clothing or articles, or washing, cleaning or servicing of vehicles except where facilities for such activities have been provided by the District or other management entity.
- (8) Using refuse containers or other refuse facilities for disposal of household or commercial garbage or trash.
- (9) Building a fire in a place other than a grill, fireplace, or fire ring provided by the District or other authorized management agency for such purpose. This prohibition does not apply to portable campstoves or grills provided by the user.
- (10) Commercial activity by a for-profit person or entity without contractual agreement with the District.
- (11) Conducting an activity on District lands where prohibited by posted signs where such activity is regulated by the posting of signs under Rule 40E-7, Part V, F.A.C.
- (12) Installing or maintaining unauthorized signs.

(13) Pets with the exception of service animals and leashed animals on Management Areas.

*Specific Authority 373.044, 373.113 FS. Law Implemented 373.016, 373.1391, 373.59 FS. History—New 5-24-94, Amended 1-1-99, 1-5-03, 7-12-06.*

**40E-7.538 Special Provisions for Management Areas of the District Open to the Public.**

(1) Rough Island North and South and Johnson Island Units.

(a) Seasonal public access to the Rough Island North limited access area is permitted from August 16 to February 14 only between the hours of 6:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m., via the airboat gate. Users of this area must be in possession of a Special Use License.

(b) A quota of fifty (50) annual Special Use Licenses has been established for this area. Annual Special Use Licenses are available on June 1st of each year from the District's Upper Lakes Region land manager at the Orlando Service Center.

(c) Hunting is permitted in the Rough Island North limited access area only on those dates during seasonal public access period referenced in paragraph 40E-7.538(1)(a), F.A.C., which coincide with hunting seasons established by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission.

(d) Any person who has been issued an annual Special Use License for the limited use area shall have the annual Special Use License in possession while in the limited use area.

(e) Special Use License holders shall not operate any vessel not registered with the District in the limited access area without first notifying the District.

(f) The number of hunters that can accompany an annual Special Use License holder to hunt in the limited access area is limited to three.

(g) The annual Special Use License may be transferred from one registered airboat or watercraft to another airboat or watercraft after notifying the Upper Lakes Region land manager at the Orlando Service Center. The Special Use License holder may not operate that vessel in the limited access area until after such notification has been made.

(h) Any person convicted of violating a federal, District, state or local fish and wildlife law, statute, rule or ordinance within the previous 3 years shall not be eligible for a Special Use License to enter the Rough Island North limited use area.

(2) Lake Marion Creek Management Area in Polk County. Camping is permitted only at designated campsites when in possession of a Special Use License.

(3) Gardner-Cobb Marsh Management Unit in Osceola County.

(a) Persons may enter and exit the management area from Lake Cypress, Lake Hatchineha, Lake Kissimmee, and Canal 36.

(b) Airboating is prohibited beyond the restricted area signs, on or across improved roadways or within hammock areas, except that airboats may cross the main grade at the designated crossing points.

(c) Hunting in Ike Hammock is prohibited.

(d) Possession of a firearm or other types of hunting devices in Ike Hammock is prohibited.

(4) Lower Kissimmee River Management Area located in Polk, Osceola, Highlands, Glades, and Okeechobee Counties.

(a) Camping is permitted only at designated campsites when in the possession of a Special Use License.

(b) The use or possession of saddle animals is permitted when in the possession of a Special Use License.

(c) The use or possession of saddle animals and camping at designated campsites is permitted for both uses when in possession of a Special Use License permitting both uses.

(d) Safety Zones within the Public Use Area in Okeechobee, Highlands, Osceola, and Polk Counties.

1. All firearms and other types of hunting devices and firearms shall be unloaded.

2. A person in possession of a Special Use License to camp within the Safety Zone at the Oak Creek Campsite during a hunting season shall have firearms and other types of hunting devices unloaded and secured in a locked firearm or other type of hunting device case while in camp and while in direct travel to and from the campsite.

(5) DuPuis Management Area located in Martin and Palm Beach Counties.

(a) The use or possession of saddle animals and horse carts is restricted to the equestrian center, designated equestrian trails, and named or numbered roads.

(b) The use of off road vehicles is restricted to the designated disabled hunt in accordance with Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission regulations.

(c) No dogs are allowed on DuPuis except as authorized by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission.

(d) Camping at the family campsite:

1. Only tent camping or tent popup camping is allowed.

2. A maximum of 8 people and 2 vehicles are allowed per campsite.

3. Generators are not allowed.

(6) CREW Marsh Management Area located in Lee and Collier Counties.

(a) Persons may enter and exit the Management Area each day between sunrise and sunset from any established trailhead off State Road 850 (Corkscrew Road).

(b) Overnight camping is permitted at the designated primitive campsite when in the possession of a Special Use License (See Rule 40E-7.534, F.A.C.) or as authorized by Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission. A quota of twenty (20) persons per night has been established by the District for use of the designated campsites.

(7) Bird Rookery Swamp Management Area located in Collier County.

Persons may enter the Management Area on foot at the west end of N. W. 43 Avenue, Collier County.

(8) Flint Pen Strand Management Area located in Lee County.

Persons may enter and exit the Management Area on foot from Poormans Pass.

(9) Nicodemus Slough Management Area located in Glades County.

(a) Persons may enter the Management Area each day between sunrise and sunset; nighttime activities other than those specified in paragraph 40E-7.538(9)(c), F.A.C., below are prohibited.

(b) Overnight camping is prohibited.

(c) Airboating and frogging are permitted on the Management Area. Airboaters operating on the Management Area must be in possession of a Special Use License. A quota of five airboats per day has been established by the District. A copy of the Special Use License must be displayed in a readily visible location within the licensee's vehicle while parked on the Management Area.

(d) The use or possession of a saddle animal is prohibited.

*Specific Authority 373.044, 373.113 FS. Law Implemented 373.016, 373.1391, 373.59 FS. History--New 1-1-01, Amended 1-5-03, 7-12-06.*

#### **40E-7.5381 Special Provisions for Right of Way of the District.**

The following shall be prohibited on all Right of Way of the District; which include rights-of-way, canals, levees, maintenance berms, and spoil mounds:

(1) Hunting.

(2) Discharge of firearms or other types of hunting devices.

(3) Discharging firecrackers, rockets, or any other fireworks.

(4) Operating a motor vehicle including licensed and registered motor vehicles as well as off highway and all terrain vehicles except where the District has affirmatively opened a roadway or a parking area for public use.

(5) Operating any all terrain vehicles or off highway vehicles, or amphibious vehicles.

- (6) Parking vehicles or trailers in such a manner as to block access roads, levees, maintenance berms, gates or water control structures.
- (7) Anchoring or tying a vessel or watercraft to a road, levee, maintenance berm, structure, fence, tree, post, sign, gauge, data recorder, weed barrier, or boat barrier.
- (8) Vessels being occupied or used as a temporary or permanent residence or business.
- (9) Operating or mooring a vessel or watercraft in such a manner as to impede the District's ability to construct, operate and maintain its structures.
- (10) Pets, with the exception of service animals, leashed animals and animals otherwise under the effective control of the owner.
- (11) Installing, erecting or maintaining a temporary or permanent place of residence including, but not limited to, a camp, trailer, or shelter. Overnight primitive camping along the Florida National Scenic Trail is permitted if camper possesses a Special Use License on their person.
- (12) The abandonment of personal or commercial property.

*Specific Authority 373.044, 373.113 FS. Law Implemented 373.016, 373.1391, 373.59 FS. History—New 7-12-06.*

**40E-7.5382 Special Provisions for Vacant Undesignated District Lands Open to the Public.**

The following shall be prohibited on vacant undesignated lands, as that term is defined in subsection 40E-7.521(30), F.A.C.

- (1) Possession of a firearm or other types of hunting devices.
- (2) Hunting is only authorized in those vacant undesignated lands which have been opened for public hunting as provided in Rule 40E-7.525, F.A.C., if any.
- (3) Camping.
- (4) Motorized vessels.
- (5) Pets with the exception of service animals, leashed animals, and animals otherwise under the effective control of the owner.
- (6) Public access between 1/2 hour after sunset to 1/2 hour before sunrise.

*Specific Authority 373.044, 373.113 FS. Law Implemented 373.016, 373.1391, 373.59 FS. History—New 7-12-06.*

**40E-7.5383 Special Provisions for Stormwater Treatment Areas (STA's) of the District Open to the Public.**

Persons may only enter and exit Stormwater Treatment Areas at designated public access points during the hours and days as designated by posted signs.

(1) The following are prohibited in all Stormwater Treatment Areas:

- (a) Pets, with the exception of service animals.
- (b) Frogging.
- (c) Fishing in areas closed to fishing within the STA's as posted by sign.
- (d) Motorized and non-motorized vessels and boat trailers in interior waters.
- (e) Entering interior waters.

(2) Hunting is only authorized in those STA's which have been opened for public hunting in accordance with Rule 40E-7.525, F.A.C.

(3) Vessels and vessel operation is permitted only on STA exterior canals under the following limitations:

- (a) Vessel and vessel operation limitations shall be posted by sign.
- (b) Vessel and vessel operation limitations shall be made specific to each Stormwater Treatment Area exterior canal for: resource protection; protection of District structures, equipment, and levees; and operation and maintenance of the STA.
- (c) Vessels shall be limited as motorized or non-motorized, and by engine horsepower, engine type, and vessel type.
- (d) Vessel operation shall be limited by area, water depth, by distance from District structures, equipment, or levees, and by speed.

(4) The following vessel and vessel operations are prohibited in Stormwater Treatment Area exterior canals:

- (a) Personal watercraft.
- (b) Airboats.
- (c) Vessel operation greater than Idle Speed within 300 feet of any District, structure or equipment.
- (d) Vessel operation which causes damage to plants, injures animals or fish, or other environmental resources.
- (e) Vessel operation within an area delineated by vessel barriers.
- (f) Anchoring or tying a vessel or watercraft to a road, levee, maintenance berm, structure, fence, tree, post, sign, gauge, data recorder, weed barrier, or vessel barrier.

*Specific Authority 373.044, 373.113 FS. Law Implemented 373.016, 373.1391, 373.59, 373.4592(4)(a) FS. History—New 7-12-06.*

#### **40E-7.5384 Special Provisions for Impoundment Areas of the District Open to the Public.**

Persons may only enter and exit Impoundment Areas at designated public access points during the hours and days as designated by posted signs.

(1) The following are prohibited in all Impoundment Areas:

- (a) Pets with the exception of service animals, leashed animals, and animals otherwise under the effective control of the owner.
- (b) Frogging.
- (c) Fishing in areas closed to fishing within the Impoundment Areas as posted by sign.
- (d) Swimming, surfing, snorkeling, scuba diving or use of other underwater breathing apparatus.
- (e) Water skiing, tubing, wake boarding or similar in water sports.

(2) Hunting is only authorized in those Impoundments Areas which have been opened for the public hunting in accordance with Rule 40E-7.525, F.A.C., if any.

(3) Vessels and vessel operation is permitted on Impoundment Areas under the following limitations:

- (a) Vessel and vessel operation limitations shall be posted by sign.
- (b) Vessel and vessel operation limitations shall be made specific to each Impoundment Area for: resource protection; protection of District structures, equipment, and levees; and operation and maintenance of the Impoundment Area.
- (c) Vessels shall be limited as motorized or non-motorized, and by engine horsepower, engine type, and vessel type.
- (d) Airboat operation shall be limited to designated areas.
- (e) Vessel operation shall be limited by area, water depth, by distance from District structures, equipment, or levees, and by speed.

(4) The following vessels and vessel operations are prohibited in Impoundments:

- (a) Personal watercraft.
- (b) Vessel operation greater than Idle Speed within 300 feet of any District, structure or equipment.

- (c) Vessel operation which causes damage to plants, injures animals or fish, or other environmental resources.
- (d) Vessel operation within an area delineated by vessel barriers.
- (e) Anchoring or tying a vessel or watercraft to a road, levee, maintenance berm, structure, fence, tree, post, sign, gauge, data recorder, weed barrier or vessel barrier.

*Specific Authority 373.044, 373.113 FS. Law Implemented 373.016, 373.1391, 373.59 FS. History–New 7-12-06.*

**40E-7.539 Penalties.**

- (1) Pursuant to Section 373.609, F.S., it shall be the duty of every state and county attorney, sheriff, police officer, and the appropriate city and county official to assist the District, and their agents, in the enforcement of the provisions of this rule.
- (2) Any person who violates any provision of this rule is subject to eviction from the premises and/or arrest and prosecution for a second-degree misdemeanor, punishable as provided in Sections 775.082 or 775.083, F.S.
- (3) The penalties identified in these rules do not supersede other remedies available to the District at law and/or in equity.

*Specific Authority 373.044, 373.113 FS. Law Implemented 373.016, 373.129, 373.1391, 373.59, 373.609, 373.613 FS. History–New 5-24-94, Amended 1-5-03, 7-12-06.*

**Final**

**October 2004**

**Appendix C**

Program Management Plan for the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan  
Master Recreation Plan

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**CENTRAL AND SOUTHERN FLORIDA PROJECT**

**COMPREHENSIVE EVERGLADES  
RESTORATION PLAN**



COMPREHENSIVE EVERGLADES  
RESTORATION PLAN

**PROGRAM MANAGEMENT PLAN**

**Master Recreation Plan (MRP)**



**U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
Jacksonville District**



**South Florida  
Water Management District**

**FOR THE RECREATION PLANNING TEAM:**

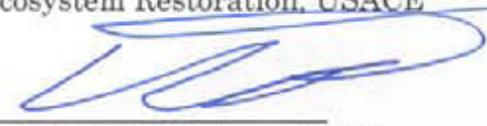
  
\_\_\_\_\_  
TODD TRULOCK  
Project Manager, USACE

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
JERRY KRENZ  
Project Manager, SFWMD

**FOR THE DESIGN COORDINATION TEAM:**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
DENNIS R. DUKE, P.E.  
Program Manager for  
Ecosystem Restoration, USACE

10/15/04  
Date

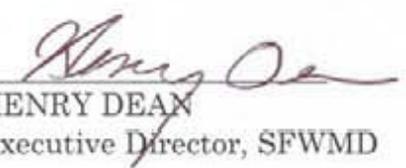
  
\_\_\_\_\_  
KENNETH G. AMMON, P.E.  
Senior Director of Ecosystem  
Restoration Department, SFWMD

10/9/04  
Date

**FOR THE SOUTH FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT:**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
CHIP MERRIAM  
Deputy Executive Director, SFWMD

Oct 11, 2004  
Date

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
HENRY DEAN  
Executive Director, SFWMD

Oct 11, 2004  
Date

**FOR THE PROJECT REVIEW BOARD, USACE:**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
RICHARD E. BONNER, P.E.  
Deputy District Engineer For  
Project Management, USACE

22 Oct. 04  
Date

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**1.2 List of Acronyms**

- C&SF Central and Southern Florida Project  
 CERP Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan  
 Corps United States Army Corps of Engineers
- Design Agreement *Design Agreement between the Department of the Army and South Florida Water Management District for the Design of Elements of the Comprehensive Plan for the Everglades and South Florida Ecosystem Restoration Project (USACE and SFWMD, 2000a)*
- ER Engineering Regulation
- FDEP Florida Department of Environmental Protection  
 FS Feasibility Study  
 FWC Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission
- GIS Geographic Information System
- ITR Independent Technical Review
- MRP Master Recreation Plan
- NEPA National Environmental Policy Act
- PDT Project Delivery Team  
 PgMP Program Management Plan  
 PIR Project Implementation Report  
 PMP Project Management Plan  
 PPDR Pilot Project Design Report  
 PRB Project Review Board
- QCP Quality Control Plan

*Restudy Central and Southern Florida Project Comprehensive Review Study Final Integrated Feasibility Report and Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (USACE and SFWMD, 1999)*

RECOVER RPT	Restoration Coordination and Verification Recreation Planning Team
SFWMD	South Florida Water Management District
USACE USFWS	United States Army Corps of Engineers United States Fish and Wildlife Service
WBS	Work Breakdown Structure
WCA	Water Conservation Area
WRDA 1986	Water Resources Development Act of 1986
WRDA 1990	Water Resources Development Act of 1990
WRDA 1996	Water Resources Development Act of 1996
WRDA 2000	Water Resources Development Act of 2000
WQ	Water Quality

### 1.3 MRP Program Management Plan Preparers

**TABLE 1: PROGRAM MANAGEMENT PLAN PREPARERS**

<b>South Florida</b>	<b>Water Management District</b>	<b>(SFWMD)</b>
Fred Davis	Land Stewardship Director	561-682-6636
B.J. Kattel	Recreation Planner	561-68-6640
Jerry Krenz	Program Manager	561-68-6746
<b>U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), Jacksonville</b>		
Cheryl Ulrich	Restoration	904-23-1700
Carl Dunn	Project Management	904-23-3471
Paul Stevenson	Planning - Formulation	904-23-3747
Bradd Schwichtenberg	Planning - Formulation	904-23-1697
Larry Taylor	Operations	904-23-1911
Kevin Salvilla	Operations	904-23-3187
Amanda Ellison	Outreach	904-23-1576
Darlene Guinto	Outreach	561-68-1577
Peter McKoy	Outreach	561-47-8883
Nanciann Regalado	Outreach	904-23-3904
Don Nelson	Counsel	904-23-3874
Karl Nixon	Real Estate	904-23-2339
Eric Rassch	Planning – Economics	904-23-3680
Danny Peck	Planning – Economics	904-23-2784
Kenneth Dugger	Planning - Environmental	904-23-1686
Eric Gasch	Planning - Environmental	904-23-3140
Barbara Cintron	Planning - Environmental	904-23-1692
Grady Caulk	Planning - Environmental/Archeology	904-23-1786
Ken Byram	Engineering	904-23-1157
Tom Leicht	Engineering	904-23-2471
Vicki Tipton	Contracting	904-23-1146
Cindy Tolle	Contracting	904-23-2758
Bruce Thornton	Planning – ITR Team Lead (SAM)	251-69-4111
Terry Stratton	SAD – Planning	404-56-5228
Jerry Canuup	SAD - Planning	404-56-5231
<b>Other Recreation Planning Team Members:</b>		
Albert Gregory	FDEP	850-24-3051
Lewis Scruggs	FDEP (SCORP)	850-48-3051
Patricia Evans	FDEP (SCORP)	850-24-3051
Jon Fury	FWC	561-62-5122
Tim Reagan	FWC	561-62-5122
Joe Walsh	FWC	772-77-5094
Tim Granowitz	Palm Beach County	561-96-6651
John Galvez	USFWS	772-56-3909, ext 314
Robert Pace	USFWS	772-56-3909, ext 239
Serena Rinker	USFWS	561-73-3684
Agustin Valido	USFWS	772-56-3909, 298
Kristi Yanchis	USFWS	772-56-3909, ext 313
Scott Turgen	USDA	561-68-0883

## **2.0 PROGRAM INFORMATION**

The Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (CERP) Master Recreation Plan (MRP) Program Management Plan (PgMP) will include detailed information regarding the master planning process, as well as schedule and cost for the planning effort.

The official name of this program-level effort is the CERP MRP. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) and the South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) have agreed to conduct this planning effort under the terms of the existing Design Agreement.

### **2.1 Background**

The primary goal of the CERP is to restore, preserve and protect the South Florida ecosystem through improved water management while providing for other water related needs of the region such as flood protection and water supply. The CERP contains 68 major components that involve creation of 217,000 acres of reservoirs and wetland-based water treatment areas. These components will vastly increase water storage and supply for the natural system, and human needs, while maintaining current Central and Southern Florida (C&SF) Project purposes. The C&SF Project was constructed by the Corps, with the SFWMD as the local sponsor, to provide flood protection and water supply to developed areas of South Florida. The CERP will restore more natural patterns of water, including sheet flow and levels, and improve water quality (WQ) in the South Florida ecosystem. Native flora and fauna, including threatened and endangered species, are expected to benefit as a result of restored hydrologic conditions.

Recreation is an authorized purpose of the C&SF Project. The purpose of the MRP is to support the implementation of the CERP Projects while maintaining and protecting the authorized purpose of recreation.

### **2.2 Legal Authority**

The authority for the MRP program is contained within the Water Resources Development Acts (WRDA) of 1996 and 2000. The Design Agreement contains additional guidance.

WRDA 1996 provides the authority for completing a MRP. Section 528 states:

#### ***b. RESTORATION ACTIVITIES-***

##### ***1. COMPREHENSIVE PLAN-***

**A. DEVELOPMENT-**

- i. PURPOSE- The Secretary shall develop, as expeditiously as practicable, a proposed comprehensive plan for the purpose of restoring, preserving, and protecting the South Florida ecosystem. The comprehensive plan shall provide for the protection of water quality in, and the reduction of the loss of fresh water from, the Everglades. The comprehensive plan shall include such features as are necessary to provide for the water-related needs of the region, including flood control, the enhancement of water supplies, and other objectives served by the Central and Southern Florida Project.*
- ii. CONSIDERATIONS- The comprehensive plan shall--*

  - I. be developed by the Secretary in cooperation with the non-Federal project sponsor and in consultation with the Task Force; and*
  - II. consider the conceptual framework specified in the report entitled 'Conceptual Plan for the Central and Southern Florida Project Restudy', published by the Commission and approved by the Governor.*

**B. SUBMISSION-** *Not later than July 1, 1999, the Secretary shall—*

- i. complete the feasibility phase of the Central and Southern Florida Project comprehensive review study as authorized by section 309(1) of the Water Resources Development Act of 1992 (106 Stat. 4844), and by 2 resolutions of the Committee on Public Works and Transportation of the House of Representatives, dated September 24, 1992; and*
- ii. submit to Congress the plan developed under subparagraph (A)(i) consisting of a feasibility*

*report and a programmatic environmental impact statement covering the proposed Federal action set forth in the plan.*

*C. ADDITIONAL STUDIES AND ANALYSES - Notwithstanding the completion of the feasibility report under subparagraph (B), the Secretary shall continue to conduct such studies and analyses as are necessary, consistent with subparagraph (A)(i).*

WRDA of 2000 provides guidance and authority for implementing CERP. Section 601, of the Act states:

*(b) CERP -*

*(1) APPROVAL*

*(A) IN GENERAL. —Except as modified by this section, the Plan is approved as a framework for modifications and operational changes to the C&SF Project that are needed to restore, preserve, and protect the South Florida ecosystem while providing for other water-related needs of the region including water supply and flood protection. The Plan shall be implemented to ensure the protection of water quality in, the reduction of the loss of freshwater from, and the improvement of the environment of the South Florida ecosystem and to achieve and maintain the benefits to the natural system and human environment described in the Plan, and required pursuant to this section, for as long as the project is authorized.*

### **2.3 Related Projects**

The CERP MRP will interface with all CERP-related programs, project activities, feasibility studies, critical projects, and pilot projects. Many other projects are underway in South Florida that are not a part of CERP and will add to the body of knowledge required to complete the CERP MRP. There are also many groups and initiatives that will play a role during the development of the Plan. A list of these related planning activities and initiatives would be researched and considered in the development of the CERP MRP.

### **3.0 PROGRAM SCOPE**

This PgMP focuses on the development of a MRP for CERP. The CERP MRP will take a system-wide approach to identify, evaluate, and address impacts of CERP implementation on existing recreational use within the South Florida Ecosystem and identify and evaluate potential new recreational, public use, and educational opportunities within CERP projects.

#### **3.1 Program Goals and Objectives**

The primary goal of the CERP MRP is to develop a comprehensive plan for addressing recreational needs within the C&SF Project consistent with the project's authorized purpose.

The objectives attempt to describe the program goals in a more specific way. The program objectives are to:

- 1) Provide the best possible combination of responses to regional needs, resource capabilities, and suitability, and expressed public interests and desires consistent with authorized purposes.
- 2) Contribute towards providing restoration compatible recreational opportunities, public access, activities and diversity within CERP projects.
- 3) Emphasize the particular quantity, quality, character and potential of each of the nine CERP regions when developing recreational, educational, and public access opportunities.
- 4) To the extent possible, minimize impacts to existing recreational uses.
- 5) Seek consistency and compatibility with national, state and regional programs, goals, and objectives.
- 6) Identify public, private, and intergovernmental partnerships to enhance and promote recreational, educational, and public access opportunities.
- 7) Develop and implement guidelines for recreation planning, needs and impact assessments, on a regional basis for integration into the CERP Project Implementation Report (PIR), Pilot Project Design Report (PPDR), and feasibility study (FS) processes for each specific project.
- 8) Develop measures to assess change in recreational opportunities and types of uses as it relates to CERP.

### **3.2 Description of a MRP**

The MRP is the basic document guiding agency responsibilities pursuant to Federal laws to preserve, conserve, restore, maintain, manage and develop the project lands, waters and associated resources. The CERP MRP will be a continuing and dynamic planning document, promoting recreational opportunities, and will be flexible and based upon changing conditions. The CERP MRP deals with program-wide policies and design recommendations for individual CERP projects on a regional basis.

The MRP and the master planning process provide a framework and a methodology for gathering and presenting existing recreation resource information for analysis, decision-making, planning and implementation. The CERP MRP identifies requirements, priorities and alternatives, and serves as a program management plan. The CERP MRP addresses recreation impact related problems associated with CERP projects on a regional basis and indicates resource objectives tailored to initiating management procedures aimed at solving those problems regionally.

The CERP MRP will be used to develop compatibility considerations within CERP requirements to manage resources within the broad public interest. This information will be developed with assistance from Project Delivery Teams (PDT). The CERP MRP seeks to:

- Promote protection, conservation, and enhancement of important resources including natural, cultural, and man-made.
- Assure a balance between the competition for public and private use of available land and water resources.
- Coordinate national, regional, state, and local objectives.

The master planning process focuses on three primary areas of analysis and consideration:

- Program resource capabilities and suitability.
- Program and ecosystem restoration needs.
- Expressed public interest and desires.

The MRP is divided into five parts:

- **Part I** describes the scope of the MRP and the overall involvement of the Corps and SFWMD in developing, operating and maintaining

program infrastructure and in managing the associated resources. In addition, responsibilities of other agencies participating in program development and resource management are included.

- **Part II** consists of inventory of cultural and natural resources to assist in establishing the setting for plan recommendations.
- **Part III** evaluates both current and future recreation use of program resources. It examines the existing supply of recreation facilities, resource carrying capacity, and estimated facility needs.
- **Part IV** presents the combined recommendations of the planning analysis, public input, and agency coordination. These recommendations are organized into three formats: the Resource Use Objectives, the project-wide Land Management Plans for specific recreation areas, and the Resource Management Guidelines.
- **Part V** covers the implementation of the recommendations in the MRP.

### 3.3 Program Constraints and Assumptions

#### 3.3.1 Assumptions

- It is assumed that the Recreation Planning Team (RPT) will be responsible for monitoring and evaluating system-wide recreation impacts, both positive and negative, to public access and recreational facilities and opportunities throughout the implementation of CERP. Recreation planning will not be a function of Restoration Coordination and Verification (RECOVER).
- It is assumed that the related CERP projects currently completing recreation inventory and analysis will provide the information stated in this report in a timely manner.
- It is assumed that the Master RPT will develop recreation impact analysis guidance for PDTs to follow during the PIR Process until the MRP is complete.
- It is assumed that although the MRP is a program-level activity, many of the requirements for CERP Projects will apply to the master planning effort.

- It is assumed that Public Law 101-640 - The Water Resources Act of 1990 will be taken into consideration during CERP implementation. Section 313 of this Act provides that any maintenance, repair, rehabilitation, or reconstruction that results in a change in configuration of a structure should be carried out in a manner, which to the maximum extent possible, will not adversely affect any existing recreational use even if the recreational use was not an authorized purpose. If the recreation resources are adversely impacted, they may be restored or alternatives provided for comparable recreational use. Costs incurred shall be allocated to recreation and shall be payable by the beneficiaries of the recreation.
- It is assumed that PDTs will analyze impacts to recreation and provide the information to the RPT. To the extent possible, the RPT will be responsible for collecting any additional data, completing the economical analysis, determining recreation demand, and preparing a design and cost estimate at the feasibility level once the PDT has determined the preliminary selected alternative.
- It is assumed for future CERP projects, economical analysis, recreation demand, design, and cost estimates will be based on the recommended plan in D13R of the CERP.

### **3.3.2 Constraints**

- Public Law 89-72 – The Federal Water Project Recreation Act of 1965, requires that full consideration be given to opportunities for recreation and fish and wildlife enhancement; that recreation planning be based on coordination of use with existing and planned Federal, State, and local recreation; and the non-Federal, administration of recreation and enhancement areas be encouraged. It further states that, without a cost-sharing sponsor, facilities may not be provided for recreation and fish and wildlife enhancement except those justified to serve other project purposes or as needed for public health and safety.
- Public Law 99-662 - The WRDA of 1986. This Act defines the basis for sharing financial responsibilities in joint Federal/non-Federal development, enhancement and management of recreation and fish and wildlife resources at Federal water resource development projects.
- Land acquisition and easement rights may limit the opportunities for public access and recreational facilities.

- The Corps is limited with recreational facilities that can be cost-shared with partners or local sponsors per Engineering Regulation (ER) 1105-2-100, E-301, dated 22 April 2000.
- The master recreation planning process will take two to three years. Many of the CERP Projects are in the PIR phase and will have conducted recreational analysis prior to completion of a MRP.
- Recreation features that are vendor-able cannot be cost-shared by the Corps of Engineers (see ER 1105-2-100, April 2000).

#### 4.0 SUMMARY OF AGENCY RESPONSIBILITIES

The Corps and the SFWMD will participate in all phases of program execution. For each activity listed in the work breakdown structure (WBS), a responsible office is identified for completing that activity or product. Individual offices within the Corps and the SFWMD will have the lead on executing individual activities. Appendix E, Tab C identifies the office responsible for each task.

For the MRP planning effort, the Corps and SFWMD have the following responsibilities:

TABLE 2: SUMMARY OF AGENCY RESPONSIBILITIES

<b>MRP Planning Effort</b>	<b>SFWMD</b>	<b>USACE</b>
<b>MRP Plan Formulation:</b>		
Inventory Collection	LEAD	
Recreation Program Analysis		LEAD
Land Allocation & Classification	LEAD	
Formulation of Conceptual Development Plans		LEAD
<b>System Wide Evaluation/Monitoring</b>		LEAD
<b>Public Outreach</b>		LEAD

## **5.0 PROGRAM CHANGES**

### **5.1 List of PgMP Updates and Revisions**

PgMPs are not intended to be all-inclusive nor to anticipate or include all possible changes to a program during its development. The PgMP is developed as a dynamic document that will require updates to reflect progress, and revisions to denote major changes in the scope, schedule, costs and/or resourcing of the program. Appendix K will provide a place to catalog all updates and revisions to the PgMP. This will provide a history of changes for the program.

A PgMP “Revision” will occur after the approval of the MRP. It will address the detailed WBS, costs, and schedule.

Between formal revisions, the PgMP may also be updated to include correction of errors, addition of new information, or clarifications. PgMP updates that change the scope, schedule, cost, or annual work plan beyond the thresholds established by the Program Managers will need to be approved through the established change control process.

### **5.2 Changes in Program Schedule and Cost**

A program schedule has been developed using the logic network, duration estimates, constraints and assumptions along with available resource information (time, money, manpower) as noted in the program dictionary. The schedule is included in Appendix D. The schedule corresponds to the levels of the WBS and identifies milestones. Additional levels of the schedules shall be developed as required and shall be compatible with each other, the program summary schedule, and the WBS. The logic network is included in Appendix D, Tab A.

A list of program activities that will be performed with a description of each activity and the initial duration estimate has been developed. The list of activities is the result of the analysis performed during the WBS development and was sequenced in a logical progression to identify and document the interdependency of activities. Duration estimates for each activity were calculated based on estimates of time required to successfully complete each activity. During the estimating process, program constraints and assumptions, resource requirements and capabilities, and available historical information were considered.

All changes are subject to the approval levels identified in the CERP Change Control procedures. The program schedule and cost each consist of four

components: baseline, current approved, forecast and actual. These components are defined as follows:

- **Baseline:** The Baseline Schedule and Cost Estimate are defined by the initially approved PgMP. The baseline remains constant until an updated PgMP is approved and compared with the projects and actual schedules and costs.
- **Current Approved:** The Current Approved Schedule and Cost Estimate reflects changes in program scope, schedule, or cost estimates that have been approved at appropriate levels. The approval authorities required for a specific change are defined in CERP Guidance Memorandum (CGM) 007.00: *Project Change Control* and are related to the magnitude of the change. Approvals for some minor changes are within the Project Manager's authority while other more substantive changes might require the approval of CERP Program Managers.
- **Forecast:** When the Project Managers initially identify changes that impact current approved schedule and cost estimates, such changes should be reflected in the forecast schedule and cost estimate until they are approved in accordance with CGM procedures.
- **Actual:** The costs and dates of completed milestones will be documented in the Actual Cost and Schedules, respectively.

The Program Changes section of the PgMP documents any substantive changes that collectively account for differences between the Baseline and Current Approved Program Schedule and Cost Estimate. The Project Managers should document individual changes sufficiently to provide a reasonable accounting of the progression from the Baseline to the Current Approved Schedule and Cost Estimate.

A change in the schedule and cost estimate for a product might be the cumulative impact of several program updates (cataloged in Appendix K). The description provided in this section describes the series of events that contributed to each approved change in the schedule or cost estimate. All approved program schedule and cost changes to products are addressed to provide a full description and chronology from the baseline to the current approved schedule and cost estimates.

The following information is provided for each change in the current approved cost and schedule for work products:

- Date of Approval

- Description of Change(s)
- Program Cost Impact (provide the cost estimate before & after the approval and the total amount of the change)
- Program Schedule Impact (provide schedule before and after approval of the change and the total duration of the change)
- Description of why the change(s) were required

### 5.2.1 Changes in Program Schedule

Major program milestones are addressed in this section. The Detailed Current Approved Program Schedule is described in Appendix D. Tab A includes a Gantt chart for the MRP. The milestone table shown in Tab B includes a schedule of the major milestones.

**TABLE 3: PROGRAM SCHEDULE**

	<b>Baseline</b>	<b>Current Approved</b>	<b>Forecast</b>	<b>Actual</b>
<b>PgMP Development</b>	<b>14-May-04</b>	<b>14-May-04</b>	<b>04-Oct-04</b>	
<b>MRP</b>	<b>18-Apr-07</b>	<b>18-Apr-07</b>	<b>24-Oct-07</b>	

### 5.2.2 Changes in Program Cost Estimates

Changes in cost estimates for major program products are addressed in this section. The Program Cost Estimate table includes cost estimates of the major program products of the CERP MRP WBS.

**TABLE 4: TOTAL PROGRAM COST SUMMARY**

	<b>Baseline</b>	<b>Current Approved</b>	<b>Forecast</b>	<b>Actual</b>
<b>PgMP Development</b>	<b>\$115,000</b>	<b>\$115,000</b>	<b>\$337,919</b>	
<b>MRP</b>	<b>\$2,665,375</b>	<b>\$2,665,375</b>	<b>\$2,374,750</b>	
<b>Total Program Cost</b>	<b>\$2,780,375</b>	<b>\$2,780,375</b>	<b>\$2,712,669</b>	

## **6.0 FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT**

### **6.1 Program Cost Estimates**

The program cost estimate is developed using the WBS, resources available, established resource rates, activity duration estimates, historical project information, and the existing Corps Financial Management Chart of Accounts. It is understood that initial cost estimates will be based on an average full time equivalent employee rate. For the MRP, the costs shown are 2003 dollars. As the PgMP is refined with additional detail, the RPT refines the cost estimate to represent all costs charged to the program expressed in current dollars. All cost estimates will be documented in detail and are subject to periodic updates. The total program cost summary and the fully funded cost estimate are provided as Tab A and B, respectively, in Appendix E. Note: Tab B of Appendix E will be developed near the end of the MRP preparation period. A planning level cost estimate for this program is provided in Appendix E.

### **6.2 Projected Annual Budget**

The program budget allocates the overall cost estimate to individual activities so that program cost performance may be measured. The program budget was developed using the cost estimates, WBS, and program schedule. The program budget is included in Appendix E, Tab D of the PgMP.

A Program Cash Flow Curve was also developed and is included as Appendix E, Tab E. A Contingency Summary and Status for the program is included as Appendix E, Tab F.

### **6.3 Cost Listing by Agency/Organizational Unit**

An activity listing was developed with an estimated cost. Tasks for each activity identified to be performed by SFWMD staff and/or their contractor will be considered as in-kind services and other creditable activities/expenditures. Upon approval of the PgMP by the Corps' Project Review Board (PRB), the District Engineer will send a letter to the SFWMD Executive Director requesting that the SFWMD perform the in-kind services as outlined in the PgMP. This letter will serve as authorization for the SFWMD to proceed with this work and be credited toward the Non-Federal cost-share in accordance with WRDA 2000. The Cost Listing by Organization is included in Appendix E, Tab C.

## **7.0 FUNCTIONAL AREA PLANS**

For each major functional area, a plan will be developed to provide initial product identification and to explain the need for the products and sub-products that will be developed in the functional area, identify inter- and intra-program dependencies, define the rationale for providing these products, and provide written documentation of functional area product development.

### **7.1 Program Management**

The Corps and the SFWMD will cooperatively manage this program. Shared program management activities under this task will include meeting and workshop coordination and attendance, development of internal and RPT meetings, monitoring progress of tasks, periodic reporting and updating, preparation and posting of documents, program presentations, input to brochures, identification of expert reviewers, preparing progress and financial reports, budget management, document reviews, coordination with other PDTs and other interested parties, ensuring public participation through coordination with outreach staff and providing team guidance. The project managers will work together to assure both agencies program and provide funds as necessary to have continuous program execution. The SFWMD project manager will identify and coordinate with potential cost share sponsors. In addition, project managers will attend or send a representative to recreation initiatives/meetings to stay abreast of other projects/activities in the area. Both project managers are responsible for managing their agencies' activities and monitoring progress and funding as well as upward reporting.

### **7.2 Base Conditions**

#### **7.2.1 ID Resource Goals and Objectives**

An initial program kick-off meeting with RPT and Independent Technical Review (ITR) members will be held after approval of the PgMP. Initial study efforts will build on the work done in preparation of this PgMP. The Corps, SFWMD and other participating RPT members will review the problems and opportunities identified in the Restudy during preparation of this PgMP. Public outreach efforts, performed early in this phase by the Corps and SFWMD, will ensure that public concerns related to these problems are identified for review and consideration during the MRP planning process. The RPT will refine planning resource goals, objectives, and constraints.

The purpose of the resource goals and objectives is to guide future design, development and management of the resource base, natural and manmade, to obtain the greatest possible benefit through meeting the needs of the public and protecting and enhancing environmental quality. Resource goals and objectives will consider authorized C&SF Project purposes, applicable Federal laws and directives, regional needs, resource capabilities and expressed public desires. Resource goals and objectives will be developed in concert with public input while keeping budgets, authorized C&SF Project purposes, appropriate laws (ie. National Environmental Policy Act [NEPA]) in mind. Public input and involvement is critical to this stage.

### **7.2.2 Inventory and Forecast Ecological and Cultural Resources – General Resources Analysis**

Existing conditions for the relevant resources will be evaluated. Some analysis will be related to the desired program ecological and physical benefits, while others will be relevant to other significant CERP project effects.

The purpose of the general resource analysis is to provide a review of natural resource data to determine the suitability of program lands and waters for significant natural resource related management activities. Inventories for development of the MRP, through land satellite images or other means, will identify broad categories of natural features. The features will be further defined in the PIR process for individual CERP projects. The inventories will include forest or vegetative covers, rangelands, water, environmentally sensitive areas or species, and cultural, historic or archeological conditions. Only a summary of resource suitability for potential uses will be presented. Care will be taken not to violate public disclosure restrictions on archeological resources. The analysis will provide sufficient detail to serve as the basis for subsequent land classification decisions and the development of resource objectives consistent with resource capabilities. The use of automated geographic information systems (GIS) will be encouraged to perform resource analysis and mapping tasks as a method of increasing efficiency and reducing long term costs.

### **7.2.3 Inventory and Forecast Recreation Resources**

#### **7.2.3.1 Land Allocation and Classification**

All lands will be allocated in accordance with the authorized purposes for which they were or are to be acquired. A program map delineating land according to land allocation will be provided. Land will be allocated into one of the following categories:

- (1) **Operations.** Lands acquired in accordance with the authorizing documents for operation of the program, i.e., restoration, flood control, hydropower, navigation, water supply, etc.
- (2) **Recreation.** Separable lands acquired in accordance with authorizing documents for public recreation/access.
- (3) **Fish and Wildlife.** Separable land acquired in accordance with authorizing documents for fish and wildlife management.

Allocated program lands will be further classified to provide for development and resource management consistent with authorized project purposes and the provisions of the NEPA and other Federal laws. The classification process refines the land allocations to fully utilize program lands and must consider public desires, legislative authority, regional and project specific resource requirements and suitability. Operational impact, environmental assessments and impact, cultural, historic, wetlands, and endangered species review will be considered. A program map delineating land according to classification categories will be developed and supported by a narrative.

Land shall be classified into one of the following categories:

- (1) **Program Operations.** In many cases the majority of lands (rim lands etc.) will be allocated to program operations. This classification category should include those lands required for the structure, operations center, office, maintenance and other areas that are used solely for program operations.
- (2) **Recreation.** Land developed for intensive recreational activities by the visiting public, including developed recreation areas and areas for concession, resort, and quasi-public development. At new projects, recreation areas planned for initial development will be included in this classification. Future areas will be classified as multiple resource management until initiation of the development.
- (3) **Environmental Sensitive Areas.** All lands will be evaluated for scientific, ecological, cultural, and aesthetical features of merit. Compatibility analyses may be conducted to determine compatible public uses and/or potential impacts from public uses on such features in these areas. Normally limited or no development of public use is contemplated on land in this classification. No agricultural or grazing uses are permitted on this land.

- (4) **Multiple Resource Management.** Lands managed for one or more, but not limited to, these activities to the extent that they are compatible with the primary allocation(s). The activities should be fully explained in the narrative portion of the MRP.
- (a) **Recreation – Low-Density.** Low-density recreation activities such as hiking, primitive camping, wildlife observation, hunting, or similar low-density recreational activities.
  - (b) **Wildlife Management General.** Fish and wildlife management activities. Lands in this sub-category shall be evaluated for consideration for lease or license to other federal, state or local managing agencies.
  - (c) **Vegetative Management.** Management activities for the protection and development of forest and vegetative cover.
  - (d) **Inactive and/or Future Recreation Areas.** Recreation areas planned for the future or that have been temporarily closed. These lands will be classified as multiple resource management in the interim.
- (5) **Easement lands.** All lands for which the Corps or the SFWMD holds an easement interest but not fee title. Planned use and management of easement lands will be in strict accordance with the terms and conditions of the easement estate acquired for the project.

A Resource Plan will also be developed. The purpose of the Resource Plan is to provide a brief description of resource characteristics, and the rationale for the resource objectives will be provided for each classification category. In addition, site plans will be provided identifying existing development at each area. Facilities proposed for development within five years will be described and a general cost estimate provided. A conceptual diagram identifying the general location of proposed facilities will also be provided.

Planning and management problems related to current recreation development and use will be evaluated and recommendations made. A narrative description of future recreation development expected to occur beyond five years will be provided, and bubble diagrams identifying general locations without cost estimates will be included. A section will also address alternative means for development of future recreation areas. It should include results of preliminary economic feasibility investigations to

determine the appropriateness and potential for success of the alternatives identified.

### **7.2.3.2 Recreation Program Analysis**

An evaluation of recreation on CERP project lands will consist of both an analysis of recreation use and an evaluation of the efficiency and effectiveness in which recreation opportunities are or will be completed. This analysis includes both consumptive and non-consumptive use of the resources. The delineation of market area and the projection of future recreation use and facility requirements shall be based on an evaluation of historic and current use at existing projects. Areas of consideration to meet this objective will include consolidating small recreation areas, carrying capacity analysis of project lands and waters, and new technologies.

An analysis of future recreation needs will be completed. Building on the analysis mentioned above, this section will outline more specifics about the future recreation needs, applicability and compatibility with the CERP Projects and some general cost estimates.

## **7.3 Conceptual Development Plan Formulation**

Conceptual development plans will be designed where needs and opportunities for public access and recreation opportunities have been identified. The purpose of the Conceptual Development Plan is to outline a general description of the proposed area, complete a site analysis, develop design objectives, outline proposed public access and recreation facilities, and develop a cost estimate at the feasibility level. Additionally, funding and partnering opportunities may be identified. CERP Projects will be prioritized into three phases and addressed based on the CERP implementation schedule.

## **7.4 System-wide Evaluation and Monitoring**

The RPT will develop a CERP-wide evaluation and monitoring system. The objectives of the system are to: 1) Establish pre-CERP baseline conditions; 2) Track impacts to existing recreation facilities and public access; 3) Track recommendations to address impacts; and 4) Monitor system-wide implementation of recommendations.

## **7.5 Special Programs**

Programs or situations not covered in other parts of the MRP will be identified and discussed in the Special Programs Section. The purpose of this section is to identify program-wide political and funding issues and explore

public, private, and intergovernmental partnerships that enhance recreation and promote opportunities.

## 7.6 Public Involvement

Public outreach is a process by which interested and affected individuals, organizations, agencies and governmental entities are informed of a recreation program and its goals, and have the opportunity to participate in the decision-making process. Public outreach supports the exchange of ideas and information among individuals and groups, which is critical to resolving the challenges involved in implementing CERP. Outreach also builds partnerships, involves the community, helps form mutual understanding, engenders trust, reduces conflict, and ultimately leads to a more complete project. Public outreach is composed of two primary types of activities, information and involvement. Outreach work will be conducted by a Corps contractor with the input and involvement from the Corps and SFWMD. In addition to relying upon standard methods of communication and involvement, the outreach activities for the MRP will include activities aimed at informing and engaging minorities and other traditionally under-represented communities, socially and economically disadvantaged persons, including those with a limited ability to communicate in English.

At recent public workshops and meetings, stakeholders have identified the following issues related to the MRP:

- Effects of canal backfilling on fishing, boating, and bank fishing;
- Impacts to fisheries in the Water Conservation Areas;
- Providing waterfowl hunting opportunities on public lands;
- Effects of CERP on frogging, air boating, hunting, camping, and off-road vehicle use and opportunities;
- Potential adverse and beneficial effects on recreational access and opportunities;
- Access to restoration lands for bird watching, canoeing, kayaking, hiking, horse riding, and other non-motorized non-consumptive activities.
- Creation of a Recreation Committee to ensure meaningful stakeholder involvement.
- MRP providing recommendations to PDTs too far along in the PIR process.

As part of the public involvement and outreach efforts, the following activities are expected:

- A series of public workshops in five different regional areas of CERP;

- A series of formal stakeholder meetings;
- A series of informal stakeholder meetings;
- Community workshops;
- Preparation of informational documents;
- Electronic newsletter.

A detailed outreach plan for the MRP is contained in Appendix I. An outreach strategy will be developed and implemented throughout the entire MRP process.

### **7.7 Environmental Justice and Economic Equity**

Executive Order 12898, *Federal Actions To Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low Income Populations*, requires the Federal government to achieve environmental justice by identifying and addressing disproportionately high and adverse effects of its activities on minority and low-income, including Indian Tribe populations. Public participation conducted for each CERP Project through the Public Outreach Plan during NEPA scoping and screening includes these populations so that their concerns are considered early. While the NEPA process is completed during the PIR for each individual CERP Project and not for this MRP, by this reference, CGM 024.00: *Environmental Justice in Everglades Restoration Planning*, becomes a reference for this PgMP. The environmental justice guidance provides a subject overview and a WBS for the environmental justice activities to be performed for CERP Projects. The RPT will take into consideration the step-by-step process PDTs follow. The staff of the Environmental and Economic Equity Program will periodically revise the standard language in the referenced CGM. That plan will follow the evolving body of knowledge recognized in nation-wide literature and will be adjusted periodically as appropriate, to ensure that accepted environmental justice practices are followed. Each CERP Project shall address environmental justice in the standardized fashion provided by that plan.

### **7.8 Contract Acquisition**

Contracting and acquisition will be performed by the Corps and the SFWMD. An appropriate solicitation method and contract type will be selected based on the complexity of each contract to be awarded under this program. A separate acquisition plan/strategy will be prepared for each contract.

The purpose of the acquisition plan is to ensure that the Corps and the SFWMD meet their needs in the most effective, economical, and timely manner. A team consisting of those who will be responsible for significant aspects of the acquisition (i.e., contracting, fiscal, legal, and technical

personnel) will be formed to develop the acquisition plan during the MRP Development Phase.

The Competition in Contracting Act, as implemented in the Federal Acquisition Regulations Part 7, requires agencies to perform acquisition planning and conduct market surveys in order to promote and provide for full and open competition.

At this time, the following contract procurements are anticipated for completion of the MRP:

- Meeting Facilitation (Corps)
- Outreach Assistance (Corps)
- Development of the MRP (Corps)

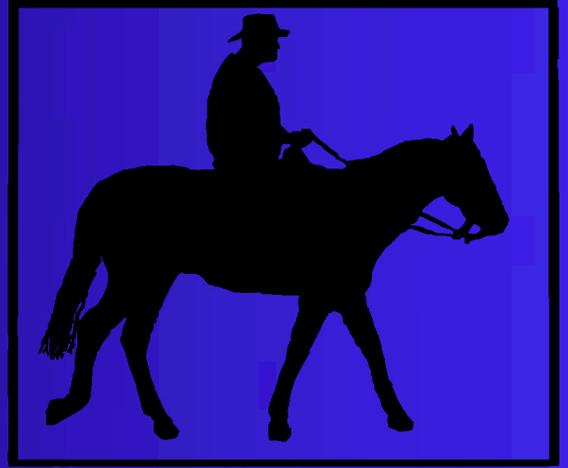
### **7.9 Quality Control**

Quality control is the process employed to ensure the performance of a task meets the agreed-upon requirements of the customer and appropriate laws, policies and technical criteria, on schedule and within budget. Throughout the MRP process, quality control will be maintained through organizational oversight and by employing periodic ITR and science peer reviews. Appropriate points for ITR and Science Peer Review have been estimated and included in the WBS of this PgMP. An overall Quality Control Plan (QCP) is provided in Appendix H. ITR is for compliance with Corps Technical Guidance as opposed to Science Peer Review, which is strictly for validation of model refinement, new models and their use in alternatives evaluation. The QCP describes procedures that will be employed to ensure compliance with all technical and policy requirements.

## **8.0 UNIQUE FACTORS**

Unique factors specific to the MRP include the implementation of the 'Virtual Team' concept to utilize Corps-wide recreation master planners that will provide decades of Corps master planning experience to the PDT as ITR team members. The Virtual ITR Team members will interact with the PDT to ensure product completeness and Corps regulation compliance, through teleconferencing capabilities, electronic mail and travel as required. In conjunction with Virtual Team members some contracting services may be utilized to enhance the inclusion of local expertise, information currently being developed and local points of contact for MRP development and public coordination.

GIS data, via Department of the Army Standards (CGM No. 28 and CGM No.36) would be utilized for MRP regional analysis and synthesis and conceptual plan development. Final regional master recreation plans would be produced in ArcView 9 GIS.



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