

February 2009 Team of the Month
Mobility Impaired Recreational Access Team

Governing Board & Executive Services

Rick Smith

Operations & Maintenance

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Jerry Krenz
B.J. Kattel

Watershed Management

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Tracey Piccone
Anthony Bogle

Land Acquisition – Survey & Mapping

Ronnie Hudson

Everglades Restoration

Samuel Palermo
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Laura Reilly
Sean Williams
Leslie Wood
Larry Greenwood
Tanya Barnes
Kevin Snell
Gregory Cantelo

Procurement

Johanna Labrada
Cathy Richards

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An e-mail from a wounded war veteran addressed to Mike Collins, Governing Board Member and Chair of the Water Resources Advisory Commission, has led to greater recreation access to public lands. The e-mail contained a simple request: Create more access to public lands for disabled South Florida residents. In an effort to honor our nation's veterans while also making public conservation lands more accessible to all, the District constructed a waterfowl hunting/bird watching platform in the Everglades for disabled soldiers and residents alike. The new platform is located in Stormwater Treatment Area 5 in Hendry County.

This well planned project, completed in under 90 days, was the latest District effort to meld restoration with recreation at Stormwater Treatment Areas. United Waterfowlers of Florida strongly supported the program and worked with the District, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission staff, and Disabled American Veterans to identify appropriate participants. Several hunters lent their hunting permits to disabled veterans so they could enjoy the new platform which is a large wooden boardwalk that can accommodate two wheelchairs and, when used for hunting, the structure can be set up with camouflage netting and other tools of the sport. The District and the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission sponsored the first duck hunt on December 21.

This work shows once again the outstanding talent, expertise and commitment of District staff to ensure public conservation land is accessible to all.