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CHAPTER 10 – CONCLUSION & RECOMMENDATIONS.

10.1. RECREATION PLANNING COMPLIANCE.

The Central and Southern Florida (C&SF) Project was authorized in the Flood Control Act of 1944. Components of the C&SF Project became operational shortly thereafter. Since that time, the C&SF Project has been a tremendous influence on the central and southern portion of the State of Florida including approximately 18 counties. The CERP Master Recreation Plan follows the guidance within the Planning Guidance Notebook (ER 1105-2-100, April 2000) to ensure proposed recreation plans are restoration compatible, ancillary to the project, fit harmoniously with the project and take advantage of ecosystem restoration objectives and restored resources. It complies with the Federal Water Project Recreation Act of 1965 which requires full consideration be given to the opportunities that Federal multi-purpose and other water resource projects afford for outdoor recreation and associated fish and wildlife enhancement. All actions and activities that the Corps proposes must comply with all applicable environmental laws and regulations to be addresses at the PIR level.

10.2. RECREATION PLANNING COMPONENTS.

The CERP Master Recreation Plan (MRP) multi-agency, multi-disciplinary Planning Delivery Team (PDT) was vital to the development of the overarching perspective and details of the MRP. Collaborative planning, expert contractor support and Independent Technical Review helped create the CERP Master Recreation Plan ‘in the sunshine.’ The PDT process kept the MRP focused through the development of the GIS Analysis and Synthesis Maps, Public Outreach and Regional Conceptual Recreation Plans. Attention to the quantitative and qualitative performance measures within the MRP will help to ensure recreation resources deficits are filled and CERP project affects are avoided, reduced or remedied adequately on a regional scale. The resource management focus of the CERP Master Recreation Plan guidance is crucial to the approval of proposed CERP project recreation concept plans. Filling SCORP projected recreation resource deficits is a recommended primary discussion point with the local sponsor, the South Florida Water Management District. Public input into the CERP Master Recreation Plan should also be regarded favorably when developing CERP Project recreation concept plans as this information is from the user groups engaged in recreation trends, needs and existing conditions of their respective regions.

10.3. CERP MASTER RECREATION PLAN VISION.

The CERP Master Recreation Plan is recommended for approval as a guide for CERP PDTs use for future recreation planning and development on CERP lands and for connectivity considerations within the CERP study area. The CERP Master Recreation Plan development and recreation issue papers have been coordinated with the CERP Master Recreation Plan PDT, Jacksonville District, South Atlantic Division and Headquarters levels. All recreation focused and related issues have been discussed, coordinated and resolved with Jacksonville and sister Districts, South Atlantic Division

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and Headquarters input and guidance. Issue paper guidance has already been implemented in CERP recreation planning at the PIR level and can be found within the MRP. Since new recreation development and enhancement relies on the participation of a non-Federal sponsor in accordance with the Federal Water Project Recreation Act of 1965, State and other local governments are encouraged to assume a greater role for recreation development, fish and wildlife and other natural resource management within the CERP project area.

10.4. REGIONAL CONCEPTUAL RECREATION PLAN (RCRP) RECOMMENDATIONS.

Development in the study area is not static, and updated and new data will periodically become available. Changing trends in development policy and practices will also dictate future modifications in the relevance of particular data to individual recreation types. The land suitability rasters created for the nine recreation types should not be viewed as unchanging or a final product. Rather, they are a result in a framework into which new criteria or new raster data may be introduced.

The following written recommendations are provided as a concise outline of SCORP and public recreation needs within south Florida and the CERP planning area. In addition to the below, The State of Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) Division of Recreation Parks and the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission have written letters describing the deficit of public boatramps to access fresh and salt water bodies within south Florida (see Appendix F – Recreation Planning Guidance). Another key component of the CERP MRP RCRPs is linkages. The MRP recommends that CERP project land recreation proposals include linkages to adjacent recreation trails, facilities and lands whenever possible. The vision is to develop networks of regional recreation facilities to serve the public within CERP project lifespan and for future generations to come.

10.4.1. Upper East Coast (UEC) Region RCRP Recommendations.

The RCRPs for the UEC Region CERP project lands include proposals to fill SCORP projected recreation deficits and Public perceived recreation needs. These translate into the recommendations below.

10.4.1.1. Recommendations for SCORP Deficits. Recommendations for SCORP deficits include: hiking, biking, fishing, hunting and motorboat access facilities and activities.

10.4.1.2. Recommendations for Public Needs. Recommendations for Public needs include: hiking, horseback riding, airboating, fishing, environmental education facilities and activities.

10.4.2. Northern Palm Beach County (NPBC) Region RCRP Recommendations.

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The RCRPs for the NPBC Region CERP project lands include proposals to fill SCORP projected recreation deficits and Public perceived recreation needs. These translate into the recommendations below.

10.4.2.1. Recommendations for SCORP Deficits. Recommendations for SCORP deficits include: hiking, biking, fishing, hunting and motorboat access facilities and activities.

10.4.2.2. Recommendations for Public Needs. Recommendations for Public needs include: hiking, motorboat access, canoeing/kayaking and environmental education facilities and activities.

10.4.3. Water Preserve Areas (WPAs) Region RCRP Recommendations.

The RCRPs for the WPAs Region CERP project lands include proposals to fill SCORP projected recreation deficits and Public perceived recreation needs. These translate into the recommendations below.

10.4.3.1. Recommendations for SCORP Deficits. Recommendations for SCORP deficits include: hiking, biking, fishing, hunting tent camping and motorboat access facilities and activities.

10.4.3.2. Recommendations for Public Needs. Recommendations for Public needs include: hiking, biking, horseback riding, motorboat access, canoeing/kayaking, fishing, hunting, general open space activities, tent camping, environmental education and heritage activities and facilities.

10.4.4. Miami Dade County (MDCs) Region RCRP Recommendations.

The RCRPs for the MDC Region CERP project lands include proposals to fill SCORP projected recreation deficits and Public perceived recreation needs. These translate into the recommendations below.

10.4.4.1. Recommendations for SCORP Deficits. Recommendations for SCORP deficits include: hiking, biking, fishing, hunting tent camping and motorboat access facilities and activities.

10.4.4.2. Recommendations for Public Needs include. Recommendations for Public needs include: hiking, biking, horseback riding, motorboat access, airboating, canoeing/kayaking, fishing, hunting, general open space activities, tent camping, environmental education and heritage activities and facilities.

10.4.5. Everglades, Florida Bay & the Keys (EFBK) Region RCRP Recommendations.

The RCRPs for the EFBK Region CERP project lands include proposals to fill SCORP projected recreation deficits and Public perceived recreation needs. These translate into the recommendations below.

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10.4.5.1. Recommendations for SCORP Deficits. Recommendations for SCORP deficits include: hiking, biking, fishing, hunting tent camping and motorboat access facilities and activities.

10.4.5.2. Recommendations for Public Needs. Recommendations for Public needs include: hiking, biking, motorboat access, airboating, canoeing/kayaking, fishing, tent camping and environmental education facilities and activities.

10.4.6. Lower West Coast (LWC) Region RCRP Recommendations.

The RCRPs for the LWC Region CERP project lands include proposals to fill SCORP projected recreation deficits and Public perceived recreation needs. These translate into the recommendations below.

10.4.6.1. Recommendations for SCORP Deficits. Recommendations for SCORP deficits include: hiking, biking, tent camping, environmental education, hunting and motorboat access facilities and activities.

10.4.6.2. Recommendations for Public Needs. Recommendations for Public needs include: hiking, horseback riding, motorboat access, canoeing/kayaking, fishing, hunting, tent camping, environmental education and heritage activities..

10.4.7. Everglades Agricultural Area (EAA) Region RCRP Recommendations.

The RCRPs for the EAA Region CERP project lands include proposals to fill SCORP projected recreation deficits and Public perceived recreation needs. These translate into the recommendations below.

10.4.7.1. Recommendations for SCORP Deficits. Recommendations for SCORP deficits include: hiking, biking, fishing, hunting and motorboat access facilities and activities.

Recommendations for Public Needs. Recommendations for Public needs include: hiking, biking, horseback riding, motorboat access, airboating, canoeing/kayaking, fishing, hunting, open space activities, tent camping, environmental education and heritage activities and facilities.

10.4.8. Lake Okeechobee Watershed (LOW) Region RCRP Recommendations.

The RCRPs for the LOW Region CERP project lands include proposals to fill SCORP projected recreation deficits and Public perceived recreation needs. These translate into the recommendations below.

10.4.8.1. Recommendations for SCORP Deficits. Recommendations for SCORP deficits include: biking, fishing, hunting and motorboat access facilities and activities.

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10.4.8.2. Recommendations for Public Needs. Recommendations for Public needs include: hiking, motorboat access, canoeing/kayaking, fishing, hunting, tent camping and environmental education facilities and activities.

10.5. CERP MASTER RECREATION PLAN CONCLUSIONS.

The CERP Master Recreation Plan has been completed in a collaborative planning environment for the CERP study area. The MRP strives to assist in the guidance of developing recreation resources for the CERP study area per CERP objectives. The MPR provides planning guidance to:

- Identify, evaluate and address recreation impacts for assessment and development of regional recreation resource alternatives,
- Recreation development and public use that can be authorized and implemented as features of CERP Projects,
- Recreation proposals compatible with project purpose, goals and objectives,
- Restoration compatible recreation development,
- Affordable within project cost limitations,
- Emphasis on recreation features that are cost-sharable under Corps policy,
- Future feasibility level recreation concept planning to be included in CERP Project Implementation Reports (PIRs) developed by CERP Project Delivery Team (PDTs).

The MRP complies with the intent of all applicable federal and state laws, Corps of Engineers guidance and South Florida Water Management District rules.

10.6. CERP MASTER RECREATION PLAN APPROVAL.

It is recommended that the CERP Master Recreation Plan be approved as a planning guidance document for further, more detailed CERP PDT recreation concept plan development, in a collaborative planning environment.