



**SOUTH FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT (SFWMD)
WRAC RECREATION ISSUES WORKSHOP**

District Headquarters, 3301 Gun Club Road, West Palm Beach, FL 33406
Monday, December 19, 2011, 5:00 PM

WRAC RECREATION ISSUES WORKSHOP REPORT

ITEM 2 – RECREATION DISCUSSION Included:

- The Curry Island Management Plan is being formulated by LOHA for the state owned portion of the island and is moving forward in a positive way with the help of stakeholders.
- There appears to be conflicting information posted on the FWC website concerning the rules for doe hunting on the Kissimmee Chain of Lakes. The FWC is looking into this and will make sure the correct information is posted.
- District staff updated the group on a few items:
 - Nine Gems parking lot is complete
 - Shady Oaks boat ramp is open and functional
 - Volunteer time for the month of November was approximately 900 hours
- District staff briefed the group on ongoing restoration projects within WCA2 and asked for help in keeping the areas free of airboat traffic. Maps and coordinates were provided to the group and the group discussed how best to mark the research plots.

ITEM 3 – OVERVIEW OF THE CENTRAL EVERGLADES PLANNING PROJECT - Matt Morrison, SFWMD:

- Users were concerned about additional depth of water associated with this project, but learned that proper timing and distribution of water are the goals of the project which would not necessarily equate to holding a greater depth of water in WCA3 or Everglades National Park.
- Some user groups are opposed to backfilling the L-67 canals unless it is absolutely necessary as it will impact recreational activities as well as the flora and fauna of the Everglades.
- Staff encouraged the stakeholders to come to the scheduled public meetings so their comments can be heard and incorporated in the project.

ITEM 4 – KISSIMMEE RIVER RESTORATION UPDATES - David Colangelo, SFWMD:

- Staff briefed the group on ongoing projects including canal backfilling, River Acres flood reduction, C-37 widening, CSX Railroad bridge, Pool D Oxbow and the S-65D boat ramp.

ITEM 5 – RECREATION UPDATES - Jerry Krenz, SFWMD:

- Both Compartments B & C construction will conclude in this FY and have set aside areas to be developed for parking areas public access. Staff will work towards providing general public access and hunting opportunities.
- Recreation users were very happy with the success of the youth hunts. They were thankful for the partnership between stakeholders, FWC and the District.
- Staff noted that the former EAA Reservoir site is currently not open for hunting due to potential hazards that exist as a result of past construction activities..

- FWC noted that the Persons with Disabilities duck blind in STA-5 has been getting more use this year.

ITEM 6 – RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES WITH AUDUBON OF FLORIDA - Paul Gray, Audubon of Florida:

- Dr. Gray presented background on the National Audubon Society, its chapters, outreach and education, and its recreational opportunities.

ITEM 7 – DUPUIS MANAGEMENT AREA - Jim Schuette, SFWMD:

- Information was presented regarding the success of controlling hog populations through recreational hunting and potential solutions to address complaints regarding concurrent use of the property during recently established weekend hog hunts and concurrent campground use by equestrian and non-equestrian user groups.
 - A thorough and public vetting of this issue needs to take place so opportunities for rule change can be made prior to September 2012. Staff will receive input from the public regarding this matter over the next 1-2 months and include this issue on the March WRAC-RIW agenda for further discussion.

FUTURE PRESENTATIONS:

Central Everglades Planning Update
Hungryland recreation opportunities
US Forest Service – Florida National Scenic Trail
DuPuis shared use issue
Florida Sportsmen’s Conservation Association
Everglades Coordinating Council

FUTURE MEETINGS:

Monday, March 19: WRAC Recreation Issues Workshop, SFWMD, B-1 Auditorium, 5:00 PM