

**Central and Southern Florida Project
Comprehensive Review Study (The Restudy)
Update and Background**

The Comprehensive Plan delivered to Congress on July 1 provides a framework to restore, protect and preserve the Everglades and the south Florida ecosystem. The Plan centers on water system improvements to the 50-year old Central and Southern Florida project that serves as the backbone of south Florida's water management system.

The current C&SF Project includes 1,000 miles of canals, 720 miles of levees, and almost 200 water control structures. It covers 16 counties over an 18,000-square-mile area from Orlando to the Florida Reef Tract. The existing project provides water supply, flood protection, water management and other benefits to south Florida. However, the project has had unintended negative effects on the Everglades and the entire south Florida ecosystem.

The Water Resource Development Acts of 1992 and 1996 provided the Army Corps of Engineers with the authority to review the current C&SF Project. The Corps was tasked with developing a Comprehensive Plan to restore and preserve the south Florida natural ecosystem, while enhancing water supplies and maintaining flood protection. Restoration of the ecosystem is the overarching purpose of the Plan that had guided all aspects of its development and proposed implementation. As required by law, the Plan also provides for the other water-related needs of region including urban and agricultural water supply and flood protection.

The resulting Central and Southern Florida Comprehensive Review Study, known as the Restudy, recommends a comprehensive plan with more than 60 major components designed to "get the water right." The Plan's fundamental goal is to capture most of the fresh water that now flows unused to the ocean and gulf and to deliver it when and where it is needed most. Eighty percent of this "new water" will be devoted to environmental restoration. The remaining 20 percent will benefit cities and farmers, enhancing water supplies and supporting a strong sustainable south Florida.

Economic benefits from the implementation of the Comprehensive Plan are wide ranging and are linked with the availability of clean, abundant water in the ecosystem. Not only is water the key to ecosystem restoration, it is necessary for a sustainable agriculture and urban environment. It is important for recreation, tourism and navigation and plays a significant and obvious role in commercial and recreational fishing.

The Plan, often described as the world's largest ecosystem restoration effort, is the result of a six-year collaborative effort by more than 100 scientists and professionals from more than 30 agencies. Once authorized by Congress, the plan will take more than 20 years to construct and will cost an estimated total of \$7.8 billion. The cost will be equally cost-shared between the federal government and the state of Florida

Ultimately, the Comprehensive plan will support a sustainable south Florida by restoring the ecosystem, enhancing water supplies, and maintaining flood protection.

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