

Summer/Fall 2004

SOUTH FLORIDA MINORITY COMMUNITIES JOIN EVERGLADES RESTORATION

There's something very exciting happening in south Florida! Everyday, south Florida's minority communities are connecting to Everglades restoration! They are quickly joining in by learning, engaging and understanding more about the Everglades ecosystem, why the Everglades are in peril, and how the future is up to all of us!

It is understandable why people are concerned about the Everglades and want to get involved. There are numerous threatened or endangered plants and animal species that live in the Everglades and survive on limited water supply. Every day, an average of 1.7 billion gallons of water are lost through discharge to the ocean, and water shortages are becoming more frequent and severe.

The Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (CERP) will revitalize the ecosystem, while providing future fresh water supplies for the people and farms of the region, too.

The CERP is the world's largest environmental restoration project, and it will restore the Everglades to its once glorious state. South Florida's minority communities are getting involved to turn CERP into a reality and we invite you to join too!



Each individual can make a big difference! Steps everybody can take to help now include:

- Practicing better water conservation at home (e.g., take shorter showers, don't leave water running for a long period of time, etc.);
- Being good stewards of the environment (e.g., not littering, and not disposing of oil or grease on your grass, etc.);
- Joining a local group that supports Everglades restoration;
- Attending CERP project workshops to learn about and participate in the development of specific projects planned in your area;
- Spreading the word about Everglades restoration;

- Inviting CERP community outreach staff to present to your school, neighborhood, civic or community group and organization; and
- Visiting the website at www.evergladesplan.org and signing up to receive free copies of *CERP Report*, a bi-monthly e-newsletter that offers the latest news and information on the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan.

For more information or to schedule a meeting or presentation, contact Malissa Booth at 561-683-1577, ext. 24 or Bernadette Morris at 305-948-8063, ext. 201.



The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and its partner, the South Florida Water Management District, are working around-the-clock to link minority communities with news and information about Everglades restoration. This is being accomplished in many different ways, including through

newspaper inserts, an electronic newsletter, community events, and small business outreach.

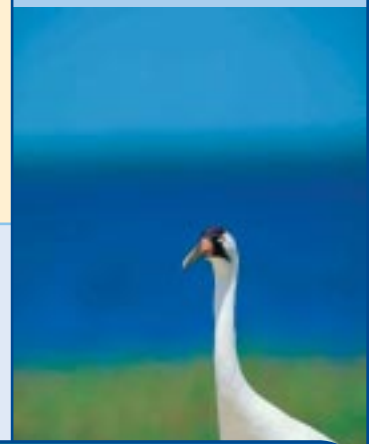
Be sure to link yourself to Everglades restoration today!

New Ways to Store More Fresh Water for South Florida

The Everglades once was a vast region of wetlands, uplands, lakes and rivers that stored huge amounts of fresh water which it slowly released over time to nourish south Florida's natural systems. Much of the region's annual 53 inches of rainfall collected in the Everglades' wetlands after torrential rains in the summer. In the drier winter months water levels would recede.

Over the past 100 years, however, more than half the Everglades' historic size has been lost to farming and urban development. Valuable water storage areas were also lost. While it's not possible to recreate the

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News-In-Brief

Regalado Appointed Chief of the New Corporate Communications Office

Advocate for Public Involvement

Making a definitive move to enable, engage and ensure effective outreach at all levels, Colonel Robert Carpenter, commander of the Jacksonville District of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, has established a new office: The Corporate Communications office (CCO). Additionally, the Colonel has appointed Nanciann Regalado to serve as its chief. The CCO coordinates public information and involvement for the Jacksonville District.

Ms. Regalado joined the Corps in 1998, where she created and

implemented a strategy for informing and involving the public in the "Restudy," the process through which the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan was developed. The outreach activities included engaging urban communities. These activities have become part of the Jacksonville District's every day way of doing business.

As chief of the CCO, Ms. Regalado oversees the public outreach and public affairs teams and focuses on developing and implementing strategies for engaging ALL members of the community, including residents of south Florida's urban corridor.



(CCO staff - l. to r.): Brice McKay, Nakier Nobles, Sonya Goines, Nanciann Regalado, Malissa Booth and Jean Pavlov.

New Outreach Staff at South Florida Water Management District

The South Florida Water Management District Department of Public Information has hired two new staff members to provide outreach planning and support for projects related to the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (CERP).



Bridget Geddes Appow has 13 years of experience in public relations, marketing and administration. She is well versed in outreach program development, coordination and implementation. Her background includes

functioning as public information manager and marketing director for a leading south Florida architecture, engineering and planning firm. Ms. Appow obtained her Bachelor of Science degree in Communications at Florida International University and an Associate of Arts in Broadcasting at Miami Dade College.

Khalilah Beverley has six years of experience in community outreach, marketing, public relations and business administration. She is an expert in community outreach

initiatives, project management, development and implementation. Her former experience includes serving as community outreach project manager for a leading south



Florida engineering and public relations firm. Ms. Beverley earned her Master's degree in Business Administration specializing in Marketing at Nova Southeastern University and a Bachelor of Arts degree in Communications at Manhattan College.

Serving as the Senior Public Relations Outreach Specialists, both positions will be liaisons between District project managers, District service center outreach personnel and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Ms. Appow will be responsible for projects in the southern CERP region and Ms. Beverley will oversee projects in the central CERP region. They will also coordinate meeting support services for their area as well as other program-level outreach initiatives.

Celebrating the Haitian Bicentennial

In celebration of the Haitian community and the Haitian Bicentennial, the CERP outreach team has developed a radio program highlighting the basics of CERP. The program will broadcast on various Haitian radio stations throughout the region.

Additionally, the CERP outreach team will be on hand at a variety of



Haitian community events year-round, distributing news and information about CERP and Everglades restoration

in educational and enlightening ways.

Among the special collection of information products are the Haitian Bicentennial Celebration calendars. The calendar recognizes one of Haiti's most renowned wildlife artists – John James

Audubon. For a copy of the calendar, contact Bernadette Morris at 305-948-8063, ext. 201.



Partners for Progress: Corps and District Working Hand in Hand

The Comprehensive Everglades Restoration

Plan is a framework and guide for restoring, protecting and preserving the water resources of central and southern Florida.

The Plan is the world's largest ecosystem restoration effort and includes more than 50 major project components.

To successfully accomplish this 30-year effort, the federal and the state governments - the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the South Florida Water Management District - have joined in a unique partnership that shares equally the financing and implementing responsibilities.



About the Corps

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Jacksonville District, specializes in the planning, engineering, construction and management of large infrastructure projects in Florida and the Caribbean. The Corps' mission includes flood control and water management; navigation; shore protection and restoration; environmental restoration; hazardous, toxic and radioactive remediation; military support and emergency support. The Army Corps of Engineers built the Central and South Florida Flood Control Project 50 years ago at the State of Florida's request and with the authorization of the United States Congress. The Corps has a South Florida Restoration Program Office located at 1400 Centrepark Boulevard, Suite 750, West Palm Beach, Florida.



US Army Corps of Engineers
Jacksonville District

About the South Florida Water Management District

The South Florida Water Management District is a regional, governmental agency that oversees the water resources in the southern half of the state. It is the oldest and largest of the state's five water management districts. The mission of the District is to manage and protect the water resources of the region by balancing and improving water quality, flood control, natural systems and water supply.



New Kiosk Enters Information Highway to Restoration

Keeping up with the technology of the 21st century, a new and exciting product has entered the information highway leading to restoration in south Florida.

The CERP Information Network (CERP-IN) kiosk made its debut at the Everglades restoration forum at the Grassy Waters Preserve in West Palm Beach. Truly a "one of a kind" product, the CERP kiosk will provide a wealth of news and information right at one's fingertips. Featuring an interactive presentation with music and viewer options, the kiosk will appeal to both adults and children. Most notably, it features "Cerpy" – an animated, fun-loving frog.

"After an extensive review of our services and products, we identified a need to provide an interactive experience that is engaging and inviting," states Brice McKoy, CERP outreach team



leader for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. "The development of the CERP-IN kiosk is an answer to this call and a product that we can change and improve upon time after time."

The CERP-IN kiosk is part of the CERP Information Network system, which is designed to provide the public with tools and resources needed to learn about the Everglades restoration plan. Other materials include *CERP Report*, a bimonthly electronic newsletter containing news briefs on CERP programs and activities. The kiosk will be located in a variety of locations, ranging from nature centers to shopping malls.

For more information about the CERP Information Network programs, contact Brice McKoy at 561-683-1577, ext. 17.

Small Business Strategies for Success

The success of small and minority-owned businesses is essential to south Florida's sustainability. According to the U.S. Small Business Administration, small businesses create three out of every four new jobs. The health of south Florida's natural environment, which relies on the success of the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (CERP), also impacts south Florida's economy in numerous ways.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the South Florida Water Management District, the main CERP implementing partners, recognize the invaluable contributions of small and minority-owned businesses to south Florida's sustainability. They remain dedicated to involving these businesses in CERP and other contracting opportunities.



Claudia Hundley,
Deputy for
Small Business

"The success of our efforts to engage small and minority-owned businesses in our small business program relies on collective commitment," says Claudia Hundley, deputy for small business for the Jacksonville District of the Corps. "The Corps is dedicated to developing creative

programs to work with the small business community, which calls for these businesses to stay committed to the process to do business with the Corps." The goal of the Corps' small business program is to ensure that all types of small businesses receive their fair share of government contract dollars. To do this, set-aside procurement opportunities protect smaller firms from having to compete with larger firms.

The South Florida Water Management District has developed award-winning contracting programs that provide opportunities for the growth and involvement of small and minority-owned firms. These initiatives were recently recognized by the *South Florida Business Journal* with their



Frank Hayden,
District Procurement
Director

presentation of the award for the **Best Diversity Based Government Program**. "The District has made significant improvements and great strides in its procurement processes since adopting a Minority/Women Business Enterprise contracting rule in 1996," District Procurement Director Frank Hayden said.

"We have worked hard to foster a District-wide culture to ensure that the community we contract with reflects the community we serve."

Both the Corps and the District are implementing aggressive business outreach efforts that serve to engage, educate and empower small and minority businesses to work with them. Additionally, both agencies continue to develop business outreach tools, including informational materials, program brochures and presentations. Websites are continually updated with information about project activities and contract opportunities.

For further information about Corps contract opportunities, contact Randy Edney at randall.a.edney@usace.army.mil



Randy Edney,
Assistant Deputy for
Small Business

or 561-683-1577 ext. 14. For more information about opportunities at the District, contact Frank Hayden at 800-432-2045 ext. 6043. To learn how to engage in business opportunities, log on to the website at www.evergladesplan.org.



New Ways to Store More Fresh Water for South Florida

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historic size of the Everglades, it is possible to restore many ways in which water was stored and flowed in the remaining Everglades areas.

The Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (CERP) will create some 200,000 acres of above-ground storage reservoirs and wetland treatment areas to help re-establish natural water flows to the Everglades' wetlands, rivers and coastal estuaries. Billions of gallons of rainfall, which flows out to sea will be captured in these natural areas and will be used to benefit the ecosystems, people and agriculture.

Water storage reservoirs – similar to shallow lakes – will be located north of and adjacent to the Everglades. These include at least 40,000 acres in the Everglades Agricultural Area, 20,000 acres in the Caloosahatchee River basin, 17,500 acres north of Lake Okeechobee, 12,000 acres in the Indian River Lagoon watershed, and 9,700 acres

in western Miami-Dade County. Some 35,600 acres of man-made wetlands that will remove pollutants are also planned.

Reservoirs and wetlands will provide an array of benefits including:

- Recovering natural ecosystem functions
- Increasing wildlife habitat
- Restoring historic wetlands
- Reducing frequency and duration of damaging freshwater discharges
- Increasing water supply
- Reducing unwanted nutrients in water
- Reducing the severity and frequency of water use restrictions for people and farms
- Recreational opportunities

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the South Florida Water Management District are rapidly moving forward with planning and land acquisition and some water storage areas may be developed even sooner than originally planned. A draft plan for the Indian River Lagoon was released in December for public comment, and a public workshop was held in January. Design is now under way for other reservoirs in the Everglades Agricultural Area and along the Caloosahatchee River.



**Just
for
Fun**

Animal Unscramble

Unscramble the letters in the left-hand column to form the names of animals in the Everglades.

1. **T E R H A P N** ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○

Clue: Poster child of the Everglades

2. **G R L A A I O T L** ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○

Clue: Provides important food and water source for many other animals in times of drought

3. **D S R B I** ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○

Clue: 350 species have been identified in Everglades National Park

4. **E T A M A N E** ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○

Clue: Lives in saltwater bays and coastal areas

5. **O D O W T K O S R** ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○

Clue: Most notable wading bird

ANSWER KEY: 1. Panther 2. Alligator 3. Birds 4. Manatee 5. Wood Stork



The Journey to Restore America's Everglades

A partnership of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, South Florida Water Management District and many other federal, state, local and tribal partners.

For more information about Everglades restoration and how it affects you, visit www.evergladesplan.org.