



**US Army Corps  
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Jacksonville District

# NEWS RELEASE

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## ***FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE***

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*S-357 pump plays important role in protecting water levels in Everglades National Park*

### **Everglades Restoration gets boost as new pump station kicks into action**

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. – With the 2009 hurricane season only two days away and after weeks of above average rainfall, a new pump station located in southwestern Miami-Dade County successfully began pumping water away from the residential community called the “8.5 Square Mile Area” (8.5 SMA).

The S-357 pump station, constructed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and located less than a half-mile from the eastern boundary of Everglades National Park, began on May 30 to capture groundwater seepage in a localized area of the rural community adjacent to the park. It is both the location of the pump as well as the installation of new monitoring equipment that now allows the Corps to more effectively lower ground water levels in the vicinity of 8.5 SMA homes and farms. This allows for maintenance of the existing level of service for flood protection in the area without increasing seepage out of Northeast Shark River Slough, a major source of fresh water within Everglades National Park.

The Army Corps of Engineers, in partnership with the South Florida Water Management District and the Department of the Interior, has worked to implement the large and complex Modified Water Deliveries to Everglades National Park Project, of which the S-357 pump station is a part. First authorized in 1989, when the park boundaries were expanded east to include 109,000 additional acres, the “Mod Waters” project will increase water flows to the park while mitigating effects in the 8.5 SMA that are attributable to higher ground water levels in the park.

“We’re very pleased that the S-357 pump station has been completed and will be ready to protect the areas outside the park from the effects of increased flows to Northeast Shark River Slough. For the next year we’ll test the pump’s ability to ‘surgically’ remove excess water from the 8.5 SMA without negatively impacting the park,” said Col. Paul Grosskruger, commander of the Army Corps of Engineers



Jacksonville District. “Upon completion of future projects that bring additional water from the north, the S-357 will be primed and ready to go – it will be tested and its operation fine-tuned.”

Prior to construction and operation of the S-357 pump station, drainage for the 8.5 SMA was accomplished by the S-331 pump station, a pump much larger and more powerful than the S-357. Use of the S-331 drew not only more water than required, but also water from a larger area than needed, having the effect of exacerbating seepage from Everglades National Park. “The new S-357 pump will reduce the need to use S-331; this should decrease the groundwater losses from Northeast Shark River Slough. Along with the Corps, we’ll be monitoring the effects of S-357. We are optimistic about future benefits. Each step we complete in the Mod Waters project moves us a little closer to a restored Everglades,” said Dan Kimball, superintendant of Everglades National Park.

The Mod Waters Project consists of four main components: (1) flood mitigation for the 8.5 SMA; (2) conveyance and seepage control features to facilitate flow through the system from WCA 3A to WCA-3B and limit seepage eastward from WCA-3B and Everglades National Park; (3) modifications to the Tamiami Trail to facilitate flow under the road; and (4) project implementation support, which includes monitoring and operational changes. All four components are necessary and work together to restore flows from WCA-3A to WCA-3B under Tamiami Trail to the historic headwaters of the North East Shark River South in the Everglades Expansion Area.

For more information on Modified Water Deliveries to Everglades National Park and other Everglades restoration projects, please visit: [www.saj.usace.army.mil](http://www.saj.usace.army.mil) or [www.evergladesplan.org](http://www.evergladesplan.org) or contact Nanciann Regalado, program manager for Strategic Communication and Outreach at (904) 334.8954.

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