



**US Army Corps
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Jacksonville District

NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CORPS OF ENGINEERS HOLDS PUBLIC SCOPING WORKSHOPS ON THE WATER CONSERVATION AREA 3A DECOMPARTMENTALIZATION AND SHEET FLOW ENHANCEMENT PROJECT

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. – The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps), Jacksonville District, together with the South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD), will hold two public workshops to present information and take comments on development of the Water Conservation Area 3A Decompartmentalization and Sheet Flow Enhancement Project Implementation Report No. 1. This project, commonly referred to as “DECOMP,” is an important component of the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (CERP), which was approved in 2000.

Decompartmentalizing the Everglades, that is, restoring the historic “river of grass” through the Water Conservation Areas (WCA) and into Everglades National Park is a critical component of Everglades restoration. It is the natural flow of water – volume, direction, speed and depth – that help create the unique characteristics of the Everglades ecosystem. Restoring natural water flows will require removing or modifying levees, canals and other barriers to sheet flow.

The DECOMP PIR 1 study area includes WCA-3 and extends as far north as the southern end of Lake Okeechobee and as far south as the Tamiami Trail within Broward and Miami-Dade counties.

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Potential modifications to the Miami Canal and the North New River Canal will be analyzed. Additional project implementation reports will address barriers to sheet flow in other parts of the ecosystem. A physical test of water flow and ecological responses to removal of portions of canals and levees will be investigated through the DECOMP Physical Model (DPM), scheduled to begin at the end of 2008.

The meetings are scheduled as follows:

Tuesday, August 21 – West Palm Beach, Fla.
6:30 p.m.
South Florida Water Management District Auditorium
3301 Gun Club Road
West Palm Beach, Fla. 33406

Thursday, August 23 – Pembroke Pines, Fla.
6:30 p.m.
Southwest Regional Library
Main Conference Room
16835 Sheridan St.
Pembroke Pines, Fla. 33331

“We strongly encourage the public to participate in development of DECOMP PIR 1 and all subsequent studies,” said Colonel Paul L. Grosskruger, Commander of the Corps’ Jacksonville District. “The Corps and the SFWMD recognize that there are a range of issues and interests that may be affected by these projects. Scoping workshops are held so that we identify at the earliest opportunity in report development, the potential issues, concerns and solutions.”

Representatives from the Corps and the SFWMD will be on hand to present information and answer questions. Doors will open at 6 p.m. and the presentation will begin at 6:30, followed

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by an opportunity for public comments. Future meetings will be announced in public notices, local newspapers, and on www.evergladesplan.org.

All interested individuals, groups and agencies are invited to comment. Written comments will be accepted until September 24, 2007, and should be submitted to:

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