



**US Army Corps
of Engineers**

Jacksonville District

News Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CORPS RELEASES DRAFT REGULATIONS FOR THE COMPREHENSIVE EVERGLADES RESTORATION PLAN

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. – Today the Corps of Engineers, Jacksonville District, released the initial draft of the programmatic regulations for the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (CERP).

Congressional legislation that approved the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan, signed into law one year ago, requires that the Secretary of the Army promulgate the regulations by December 2002.

The purpose of the Programmatic Regulations is to establish the processes and procedures needed to implement the Comprehensive Plan and to ensure that the goals and purposes of the Plan are achieved. The Programmatic Regulations will also serve a key purpose by defining the relationships and responsibilities of the Corps of Engineers and its federal, state and tribal partners in restoration.

The release of this draft represents a major milestone in the process for developing the final regulation by December 2002. The initial draft is being circulated to agencies, stakeholders, and the public. Comments that are received on the initial draft

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will help the Corps of Engineers to prepare the draft proposed rule that is scheduled to be published in the Federal Register in March 2002.

“The initial draft that we are releasing today includes information and suggestions we received from other agencies, stakeholders, and the public at numerous information meetings we have held over the past six months” said Colonel Greg May, commander of the Jacksonville District. “We hope that this initial draft will provide a starting point for further discussions that will help us prepare the proposed regulations that will be published in the Federal Register in March, 2002.”

The initial draft of the programmatic regulations is currently available on the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan web site at www.evergladesplan.org.

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