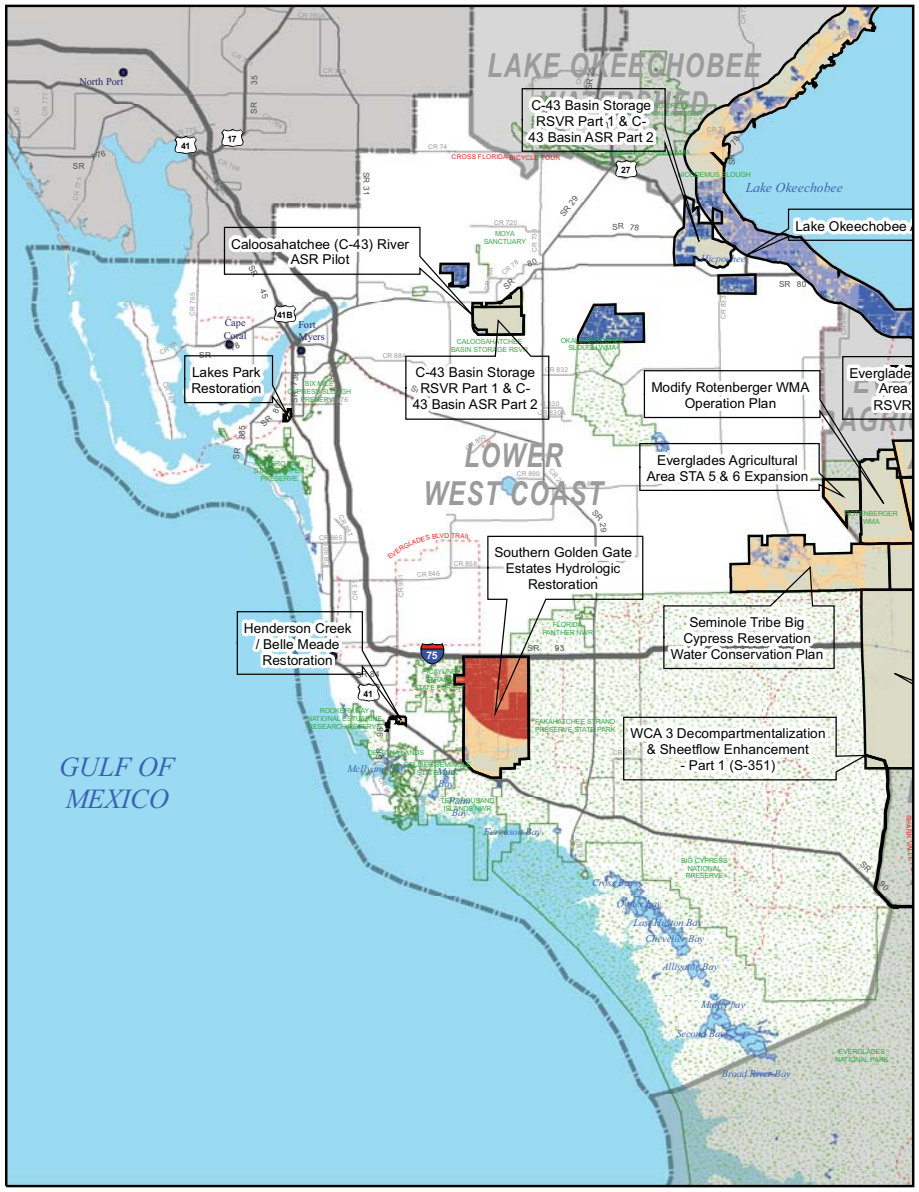

Nature Study - Suitability Mapping on CERP Project Lands

In order to quantify the suitability of lands in South Florida for specific recreation purposes, The Corps of Engineers, South Florida Water Management District, and G.E.C., Inc. have conducted a weighted overlay spatial analysis of the region. CERP Project lands were measured for suitability for several types of resource-based recreation.

Nature Study includes ecotouristic activities such as birdwatching, wildlife viewing, botanical study and other low-impact resource-based types of recreation. The Corps of Engineers, South Florida Water Management District, and G.E.C., Inc. have developed criteria for project lands which will aid in selecting locations for nature study as a form of recreation.
The following diagram shows the criteria upon which the suitability map to the left was based, along with the weightings, or importance, of each criterion as a factor in measuring suitability.

Criteria →	Land Suitability	+	Proximity to Watchable Wildlife	+	Access Availability	+	SCORP Needs Analysis
Weighting →	35%		35%		25%		5%

Suitability Scoring Breakdown

Each criterion used to develop this suitability map was scored using a scale rating ranging from "unsuitable" to "highly suitable". Ratings were based on factors such as distance, land cover quality, and need. The following key can be used to explain how various factors were rated for this type of recreation.

HS Highly Suitable
MS Moderately Suitable
PS Poorly Suitable
US Unsuitable

CRITERION: Naturalness Values

HS High natural value
US Extremely low natural value

CRITERION: Access Availability

HS Within 0.25 mile of a road or trail
MS From 0.25 to 0.50 mile of a road or trail
PS From 0.50 to 0.75 mile of a road or trail
US Over 0.75 mile from a road or trail

CRITERION: Proximity to Watchable Wildlife

HS Within a 7.5 mile radius of Audubon CBC circle
US Outside a 7.5 mile radius of Audubon CBC circle

CRITERION: SCORP Needs Analysis

HS Stated Need in SCORP
US No Stated Need

Suitability

High

Low

N

0 5 10 Miles

SUITABILITY COMPOSITE MAP WITH PROJECT
Nature Study - Lower West Coast