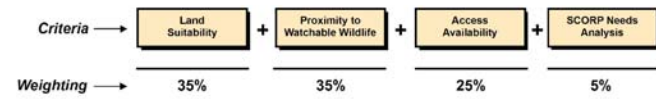


Nature Study - Suitability Mapping on CERP Project Lands

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.



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: SCORP Needs Analysis

- HS Stated Need in SCORP
- US No Stated Need

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

