

## **CERP Master Recreation Plan Public Outreach Public Meeting**

08 August 2006

Broward County Library,  
100 S. Andrews Ave.,  
Fort Lauderdale, Florida.

### **Summary of Public Input:**

#### **Existing Recreation Conditions:**

- The public needs more boat ramps for Dade County improved, specifically at the south end of the L-67 canal and the Saw Grass Recreation Area.
- The public is also concerned about data gaps in a number of the CERP project areas. These gaps may misrepresent the suitability in some areas.

#### **Future Recreation Needs:**

- The importance of including boat ramps, parking lots, and floating docks in the design and construction phases of CERP projects was stated.
- Concerns about accessibility in this area and feel that the eastern edges of the reservation need better access. Although it is not a CERP project area, enough people in the region use it for hunting and recreation that potential linkages from existing CERP areas should be looked into, especially those that would improve access from Bear Island.

#### **Emerging Recreation Issue:**

- More restrictions placed on the access and use of motorized vehicles in the Everglades and surrounding regions is needed. Fewer roads, more rustic developments, fewer electrical hookups, and minimal access, with priority given to backpackers, tent campers, and researchers.
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#### **Recreation Trends:**

- Conflict between motorized recreation users and non-motorized recreation users was expressed due to noise and disruption of passive use recreation (birdwatching, hiking, canoeing/kayaking, bike riding, picnicking, etc.)

#### **Other/General:**

- The public does not want to see the canals filled in. They feel that the canals are important for access to these areas and are not impeding flow. The levees are the main problem with flow in the region, and would like to see the levees around canals degraded or knocked down.
- The public feels that the levees around canals need to be degraded in such a way that tree islands can be formed in order to provide habitat for wading birds.

- The Corps should limit clearing of debris and vegetation in areas to be flooded in order to provide habitat for fish and game.
- A question was raised as to how quickly the plans would be developed?
- Concerns with the apparent lack of communication between the Corps and its contractors hired to do construction design and work on CERP Projects. They want to ensure better communication between all parties involved in the project.
- Concern at the plans to backfill the rim canals in Holiday Park. He believes a better solution would be filling in some areas while leaving others open to encourage sheet flow. This would require strategically placed boat ramps to provide access points between these areas.
- Interest in the level of interaction between the Corps and other local, and state planning officials was expressed.
- “Winsberg” farms area has issues that would preclude it from being used for a number of recreation types. It was noted that this property might be better suited for passive recreation activities such as biking, nature study, birding, and maybe camping.