

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

22 August 2006

Florida Community Center, 420 NW 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue

Florida City, Florida 33034

### **Summary of Public Input**

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

- The area between L-30 and L-67 has extremely poor airboat access for WCA-3B and areas to the south of the trail in case of an airline accident or emergency.
- The C-111 spreader canal area is increasing in popularity for boating, kayaking, airboating, and bank fishing. Facilities in these areas are not adequate, are in need of expansion and maintenance.
- The area around L-28 on the Tamiami Trail needs to be cleaned up. The north side of L-67 is so overgrown that it is now difficult to fish. The boat landing at 40 mile bend is in poor condition and full of trash. It is dangerous to launch a boat there. The two areas between L-30 and L-67 on the north side of the trail that had BBQ pits and cabbage palms are now gone, leaving no location for outdoorsmen to relax and get out of the sun. The boat ramp around the new pumps at L-30 is in poor condition.
- No considerations have been made for emergency access or response in these areas. There are no adequate airboat landings in the 3B area from L-67 to Miami.
- Very poor parking exists in and near the MM118 area.
- There is no safe access to waterways from roads for hunters. This creates an unsafe situation. The small facilities in these areas get quickly over-whelmed during hunting season by the large number of users due to the overlap of deer and duck seasons.

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

- The recreation area and boat launch around MM118 should have trash containers, restrooms, and uniformed attendants as well as paved boat ramps and parking areas, picnic tables, and shelters. This area would also be suitable for an observation tower.
- The road between L-30 and L-67 needs to be wider so people can pull off to park, especially on the north side, which is heavily used for fishing.
- The L-67, L-28 levees should be made suitable for hiking and biking. The users should have places to get out of sun and have a drink of water.
- Give more consideration to recreational development for children with more areas suitable for camping with children. Provide more permanent structures such as cabins for some of these facilities.

### **Emerging Recreation Issues:**

- The most common emerging recreation issues in the C-111 area include ATV and bike use on levees and access roads, as well as trash dumping.
- A littering issue and trash dumping in every area is a problem.
- The rapid urbanization of the area and many people from these urban areas are not properly educated on proper stewardship of the environment. Incorporate environmental educational tools into future recreational development plans.

### **Future Recreation Trends:**

- Encroaching development seems to increase recreation use at existing recreation facilities.

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

- Concern that the SCORP document utilized in the study was outdated and wanted to know if anything more recent was being used to assist in the study.
- Concerns over the funding sources for these projects.
- Was the Homestead park to park trail has been considered as part of the CERP plan?
- Concern that the historic sites model only incorporated the state historic data. Suggested contacting the Miami-Dade historic preservation board to get more data for this area.
- Concern about the status of the L-29 canal and plans to fill it were heard.
- Would like to see the Corps push for the incorporation of eco-tourism into its plans. Partnerships with the county government as well as private businesses.
- The National Park Service confirmed that the CERP Master Recreation Project was not tied in any way to the current Everglades National Park Restoration.
- Concern with the number of meetings and the level of public involvement. It was stated that this meeting was not representative of recreation users in the area, and as a result the Corps would not receive the type of feedback they were looking for. Recommended that the project team conduct meetings and informal sessions at bait shops, docks, marinas, etc.