

CERP Master Recreation Plan Public Outreach Plan  
19 September 2006  
Okeechobee Civic Center, 1750 Hwy 98 N  
Okeechobee, FL 34972

### **Summary of Public Input**

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

- There needs to be recognition of those private lands that allow hunting and other recreation opportunities to the public.

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

- The Taylor Creek project (may not be a CERP project) needs a larger buffer area due to the close location of the airport and the expansion of that airport.
- Need as many boat ramps built as possible. Boat ramps provide a source of income, and the canals with boat ramps have good-quality fishing.
- There needs to be an Okeechobee County wildlife management area.
- Allow more hunting on public lands.
- When building boat ramps, please consider all types of boats (kayaks, airboats, etc).
- The Taylor Creek Nubbin Slough area needs platforms for primitive camping.
- Greenways around proposed STAs are needed for wildlife and hiking corridors.
- Historic interpretation of Fort Basinger (last Seminole War fought there) needed.
- Rustic camping facilities for RVs and equestrians need good bathrooms with showers.

#### **Emerging Recreation Issues:**

- Most land in Okeechobee County is agricultural. Even when open to hunting, the cost is too much for most hunters.

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

- Concerns about the suitability colors on the maps and if they take into account all recreation types. (There were 9 recreation types studied, and these are displayed individually on the maps.)
- Concerns about determining suitability for each recreation type. (Several Florida agencies weighed in on determining the suitability formula for each of the 9 recreation types.)
- The website contains all of the suitability maps for all areas and all recreation types.

- Concern about the ability to print the comments that an individual posts to the website. (The print screen function before submitting the comment can be used for this purpose.)
- A question was asked regarding implementing aspects of a project and if that has caused any difficulties.

John invited attendees to view the maps, ask specific questions, and offer comments.

**Emerging Issues Summary:**

Hunting: The amount of private land in the county diminishes the hunting opportunities for the average person. Prices to hunt (where hunting is allowed) are too high for most people. More public lands that allow for hunting are needed.

Boat Ramps: Boat ramps are needed any place possible. Boat ramps bring economic benefits to the area and result in better fishing opportunities. Each boat ramps should be built to accommodate the different types of boats that could possibly use that particular ramp.