

CERP Master Recreation Plan Public Outreach Plan
04 October 2006
Tree Tops Park, 3900 SW 100th Avenue
Davie, FL 33328

Summary of Public Input:

Existing Recreation Conditions:

- The buffer zone north of Griffin Wood (Griffin Rd & US 27) was previously used for airboat racing, ORVs, mud races, truck pulls, camping and this area is now closed off to those uses.
- The Florida Bay region L5 levee is a great hunting area with abundant wildlife.
- ORV allowed areas are diminishing which leads to more usage on the available lands. The increase creates many problems and this needs to be addressed.
- ORV groups get together periodically to clean up areas more than anyone else. They police areas, their use and pick up debris.
- Hunting and frogging are important recreation types.
- Marshall Area Fish Camps has camping and boat ramps available.
- Holiday Park offers bus tours to the Everglades.
- Public access to public lands for recreation is being denied more and more.

Future Recreation Needs:

- Need areas opened up to full tracks, airboats, ATVs, swamp buggies.
- Need access to areas for hiking and bird watching.
- Boat ramps need to be updated and/or added. Many existing boat ramps are in very poor shape. This creates many hazards and eliminates some from use during varying water levels.
- Access is needed for all types of users.
- STAs should be open to all types of hunting. They are great places for duck and alligator hunting.
- Reservoirs should be opened to all types of motorized use.
- Areas need to have rules and personnel to enforce those rules. Do not just close an area, but instead bring in law enforcement
- There are currently enough “quiet” recreation areas. The areas historically used by ORVs need to be restored, and more areas need to be opened up for that recreational use.
- The public wants all the opportunities they had before in addition to new opportunities that will become available.

Emerging Recreation Issues:

- Areas may change status. How often will these master recreation plans be revised and/or re-evaluated?
- Areas that are closed are not being replaced.
- Emergency response teams need more boat ramps. These ramps need to be in good condition and safe to use. It is hard enough to accommodate groups for training. If a real emergency should occur, they would have serious problems. Also, there is not much information on the ownership and responsibility of the boat ramps that are there. The governmental agencies need to decide who is going to repair and update those that exist. This is a very real and very serious public safety issue.
- The Browns Farm STA2 area used to be encompassed by a levee. There is now a levee inside of this levee with No Trespassing signs. There is no legal access for the allowable hunting opportunities.

Future Recreation Trends:

- There are passive and active users within the ORV user group. Their needs differ, and the areas opened up to them need to address this.
- Walk-in recreation accessibility for nature study, birdwatching, bank fishing, etc., is needed on public lands.

Other/General Comments:

- Water levels are constantly changing. Suitability for a particular area may change as well. This needs to be considered when developing projects. Opportunities should not be overlooked. Project areas and the recreational opportunities should vary like the water levels.
- Will public input given during the meetings change the suitability of an area and the recreation types involved?
- It is hard to give input without knowing the specifics of each project. A specific project's function will in turn affect recreation types within that project.
- Will the Everglades National Park still have control of the water levels on Lake Okeechobee?
- The criteria used in the RV Camping and Tent Camping maps and the results from using those criteria should be very similar. Why aren't they?
- The suitability maps display good suitability for tent camping along the Hillsboro canal and this is not correct.
- High water is killing deer and locking out hunters and public access in general