

X. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

During public meetings for the Recreation component of CERP, members of the public identified the potential for adverse effects to TCPs associated with the Gladesmen/Swamp Folk Culture. In response to this concern the USACE requested this study to comply with the National Historic Preservation Act and take into account any actions that could affect significant cultural properties associated with modern Gladesmen Culture, which has evolved from historical beginnings in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Results indicate that TCPs of the Gladesmen Culture do exist.

The process used in this study sought to identify places within the multi-county region of southern Florida that are said to have continuing cultural significance within the Gladesmen Culture, and to determine if any met NRHP criteria for recording as TCPs. To consider potential effects to TCPs of the modern Gladesmen Culture, the Jacksonville District requested an ethnographic study incorporating opinions given by self-identified members of the culture in informant interviews as the appropriate means for determining if such properties were present in the region. A public comment period allowed for supplemental opinions to be offered by additional Gladesmen, members of the public, the Seminole and Miccosukee Tribes of Indians, and State and Federal agencies.

This introductory study was not intended to be a complete historical treatment of Gladesmen or an examination of every property in southern Florida associated with their culture. Rather, the study sought to identify a range of properties that Gladesmen felt were potential TCPs and to evaluate them against NRHP criteria. These were found to include fishing camps, campgrounds, airboat/conservation/sportsmen's clubs, historic structures, roads, and backcountry camps. While there are many properties associated with Gladesmen Culture that warrant recording as properties (buildings, structures, sites, historic districts, landscapes, or individual objects over 50 years old), not all of them will meet the criteria that define a TCP. The sample of properties evaluated during this study provides a foundation for identifying a wider range of Gladesmen sites and potential TCPs during project specific cultural resource evaluations that may occur in the future.

This study has laid the groundwork for an understanding of properties that hold significance to Gladesmen in maintaining their culture. It builds upon previous scholarship and adds to a better understanding of Gladesmen and the places that have special meaning with respect to their cultural identity, beliefs, and traditional practices. Recognition of these significant cultural places was the primary goal of this study so that future CERP-related planning can consider the effects of proposed projects on significant Gladesmen resources, including TCPs and historic sites. The Gladesmen TCPs are associated with recognized historic sites that are easily identifiable and have an association with the Gladesmen Culture. Not all potential TCPs were identified as part of this study but the interviewees provided a strong sense of their cultural geography that can be used when sufficient information on the location and extent of future CERP projects is known. At that time, specific impacts to potential TCPs can be considered and addressed. The results of this study can also be used to evaluate the potential social impacts of CERP for a National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) study.

This study confirmed the presence of Traditional Cultural Properties associated with the modern Gladesmen folk culture. It identified that the modern Gladesmen Folk culture is a regional variant of Cracker Culture in Florida, wherein some Crackers developed distinctive subsistence practices in the late 19th and early 20th centuries based on unique cultural, behavioral, and ideological ties to the Everglades environment of southern Florida. During the 1920s-1940s, many Gladesmen made their living by hunting, fishing, and selling alligator skins. The post World War II period was a time of cultural transition, producing a distinctive new generation of Gladesmen who developed and incorporated modern technology including airboats and swamp buggies. These modern Gladesmen have inherited and share many characteristics of the first Gladesmen, however their practices are no longer intended to provide primary subsistence. The modern Gladesmen do not represent a self-sustaining, autonomous group but are a subset of modern American culture in southern Florida that comprises a broad ethnic and social membership that has evolved through time.

Table 2 provides a summary of the 13 properties recorded and the results of the TCP evaluation. Results suggest that two locations over 50 years old meet the definition of a TCP as defined in National Register Bulletin 38 (Parker and King 1990):

...one that is eligible for inclusion in the National Register because of its association with cultural practices, beliefs of a living community that are rooted in that community's history, and are important in maintaining the continuing cultural identity of the community.

Resources identified herein that hold particular cultural significance to members of the Gladesmen Folk Culture include one commercial property – Mack's Fish Camp (BD4566) and one sportsmen's club – the Airboat Association of Florida (DA6768). The Airboat Association of Florida is associated exclusively with the post World War II development and incorporation of airboats as a primary mode of transportation in south Florida. Mack's Fish Camp represents a continuing association with both the historic Gladesmen and the modern Gladesmen as a meeting place and as one of the locations where individuals started their association with the Gladesmen folk culture. The Corps previously recommended the Airboat Association of Florida NRHP eligible for its association with the development of the airboat. Mack's Fish Camp appears to also independently meet the NRHP criteria for eligibility as a representative of south Florida fish camps and the development of recreational use in south Florida.

While the NRHP encourages preservation, it must be remembered that under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act the Federal Agency must consider the potential effects of an undertaking on NRHP eligible properties and provide the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation the opportunity to comment. It does not guarantee access or preservation in perpetuity to eligible properties.

The TCPs associated with the modern Gladesmen are historic properties that would typically be identified as such during a standard cultural resource survey. This study provides specifics on how identifiable historic properties relate to the modern Gladesmen folk culture.

The initial comment that the Corps of Engineers had not considered the potential effects of CERP projects on Gladesmen Traditional Cultural Properties is addressed by this study. Two Gladesmen TCPs were identified within the CERP area and none were identified that would be affected by

existing CERP projects. This document will be used in project specific evaluations of effect for sites identified in the future and as a guide to evaluate other historic sites of a similar nature for their potential association with the Gladesmen Culture and for their potential as TCPs.

Table 2. Summary of Recommendations

Site Name and #	Location	Type and Date	TCP Recommendation
Camp Mack River Resort - PO07201	Polk County	Commercial Fishing Camp ca. 1928; 1940	TCP significance not demonstrated. Reevaluate if effects are proposed.
Everglades Rod & Gun Club CR01083	Collier County	Building foundation ca. 1864; Current lodge-late 19 th -early 20 th century	TCP significance not demonstrated.
Mack's Fish Camp BD4566	Broward County	Fish camp; resource group dating to the 1940s	NRHP Eligible as a TCP
Trail's Lake Campground CR01082	Collier County	Campground; resource group under 50 years old ca. 1961	TCP significance not demonstrated. Reevaluate if effects are proposed.
Airboat Association of Florida - DA6768	Dade County	Private airboat club 1951	NRHP Eligible as a TCP
Duck Camp #2 DA11449	Dade County	Airboat camp over 50 years old; prehistoric and Seminole site.	TCP significance not demonstrated.
Everglades Conservation & Sportsman's Club CR01084	Collier County	Sportsman's club 1950	Insufficient information for TCP evaluation. Reevaluate if effects are proposed
Pinecrest MO1919	Collier County	Former Community 1918	TCP significance not demonstrated.
Monroe Station CR00677NR	Monroe County	Former Way Station and business 1928-1992	TCP significance not demonstrated. Add Gladesmen significance to NRHP nomination and extend period of significance
Fisheating Creek Wildlife Management Area GL00440	Glades County	Linear Resource and Natural Landscape	TCP significance not demonstrated.
Loop Road DA06984 CR01086 MO01920	Collier, Dade, and Monroe counties	26-mile linear resource served as main access point for Gladesmen activities ca. 1920s	TCP significance not demonstrated.
Turner River Road Complex CR1085	Collier County	Turner River, Wagon Wheel, and Birdon roads ca. 1950s	TCP significance not demonstrated.
Tamiami Trail DA6510	Dade County	Trail/road ca. 1928	TCP significance not demonstrated.

FUTURE RESEARCH

The modern Gladesmen Culture is evidenced in the knowledge, capabilities, and practices of those who identify strongly with the unique environment of southern Florida. These Gladesmen maintain strong ties of identity with the region, both at the individual and group level. While the Gladesmen men, women, and children of today may not depend on the natural resources of the Everglades ecosystem for providing the majority of their subsistence, as was true in the past, they do depend on it in fulfilling a variety of social needs. For modern Gladesmen, the most important concern is that they are able to maintain their traditional ways and pass them on to future generations.

Several opportunities for further study of the Gladesmen exist that were outside the scope of the present study. Other ethnographic studies could be undertaken to identify Gladesmen subgroups that exhibit variation based on geography, economic or subsistence niche, or modes of accessing the backcountry, in order to determine what connections or discontinuities exist within the larger population. This would lead to a better understanding of other human groups that have connections to the Everglades and could be impacted by restoration activities, especially Native Americans. Additional archival research would also add depth to future ethnographies, and would also provide more comprehensive information of specific property history and ownership.

As the CERP initiative develops further, it will be interesting to learn what impacts the restoration project will have on some of the Gladesmen historic properties, i.e., will there be an effect or adverse effect in terms of the federal historic preservation laws? How will the restoration work change water levels, access, etc., for individual locations and for the region as a whole? As Wheeler (2009:1) has suggested, one holistic study that looked at the significance of the Everglades and its places by combining a consideration of environment, archaeology/ancient American Indian cultures, contemporary American Indian cultures, Gladesmen Culture, agribusiness, tourism, the development of the National Parks, and others, would contribute to a better understanding of what appear as rival, competing, or complementary interests and uses. Such studies are large scale research projects that are outside of the scope of Federal Section 106 compliance and are best undertaken by academic researchers.

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