

May 21, 2008

Dear ACOE folks:

Subject: CERP PIR comments

The problems with CERP are significant. The biggest problem I see, as a sportsman, is that the ACOE and other agencies do not want to allow sportsman to continue using the Everglades as they have since statehood. The continued creation of planned projects without parking lots, properly designed and sized parking areas, for hunters, fisherman and outdoors folks is not acceptable. All CERP projects must be planned with parking and access needs considered and planned for. Close work with the Water Resource Advisory Commission - Recreation subcommittee (WRAC-REC) and the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) is a must. These positions must be written into all PIRs and the overall CERP PIR.

The destruction of fishing waters, pushing in canals, without first providing for other water sources is a violation of the assurance clause for water sources no to be cut off until the replacements are in place. You cannot fish without water. Hence all the canals and lakes that we fish in have to be replaced before you destroy these fisheries. This must be written into the CERP PIRs.

All CERP projects must be developed in a wildlife friendly manner. When digging canals and pits you must create properly designed littoral zones. When creating huge reservoirs deep-water refuge must be provided for as well as artificial uplands and littoral zones. These upland structures can be created when the deep-water areas are dug. There will be no lose in water storage because the deep water structures will permit greater storage. This concept must be written into the over all PIRs and each individual project PIR.

The continued, this problem started in the Souther Golden Gate Estates (SGGE) project, ACOE position of removal of swamp buggies and airboats as an essential component of restoration is wrong. The Sustainable Commission said to mange such activities. This does not imply removal. You must return to the PIRS for the SGGE project and rewrite the PIRs to allow for these activities. Since the ACOE has shown a definite anti-hunting anti-access tendency assurance of access and outdoor activities must be written into the CERP PIRs.

The ACOE is not responsible for hunting and fishing in FL. The FWC is and as such the ACOE must do what Rep Shaw said on the floor of Congress before CERP was voted on. His colloquy was you must consult with the FWC on these matters. You must insure that sportsman are considered a part of the landscape and their uses a component of all CERP projects.

It is also important that the ACOE back up and do all the NEPA required

studies on all CERP projects. It is my understand this was not done on SGGE and other projects. Some other projects are currently in litigation by radical environmental groups. It would be ashamed for the people to have to take the same actions to gain historic and traditional cultural access back to the lands that they own. In short, back up and start over and do things properly.

All of the above are not new issues with me as I have stated them since 1998.

You can restore the Everglades without kicking out the sportsman and women of America !

Thank you for considering my thoughts and look forward to seeing these ideas implemented.

Please send me a responce informing me that you have received my comments and I want these comments recorded in the Congressional Record on this matter.

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