



**US Army Corps  
of Engineers**

Jacksonville District

# News Release

Release No. 0641  
For Release: 26 July 2006  
P.O. Box 4970 Jacksonville, FL 32232-0019

Contact: Susan Jackson, CCO  
Phone: 904-232-1953 - FAX: 904-232-2237  
Email: [susan.j.jackson@saj02.usace.army.mil](mailto:susan.j.jackson@saj02.usace.army.mil)

---

*FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE*

## **FEDERAL, STATE WATER MANAGERS INVITE PUBLIC INPUT TO EVERGLADES MASTER RECREATION PLANNING**

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. – The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and South Florida Water Management District invite the public to attend a series of meetings to help the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (CERP) - Master Recreation Plan study team. The team is requesting information to develop a regional recreation plan for CERP project lands.

The Corps and District are in the process of developing the Everglades Master Recreation Plan (MRP) which will be used to develop public recreation, on CERP project lands, for future generations of Floridians.

The upcoming meetings will focus on a regional, broad-stroke perspective. Public input is essential in the development of the CERP Master Recreation Plan.

The plan will address CERP impacts on current recreation, new recreation possibilities in South Florida, and public use and educational opportunities within CERP projects. The analysis and public input will be used to develop regional recreation “idea plans” for each of the CERP nine regions. This plan will serve as a guideline to develop recreational components in individual projects with CERP planning teams.

“We’re specifically asking the public to help us determine existing recreation conditions, future needs, and what the recreation trends and issues are,” said Paul Stevenson, Corps’ MRP planning lead.

The team completed a geographic analysis and has produced suitability maps for posting at the meetings. Public support and input is critical to “ground truth” the maps.

“For example, one of the CERP project areas seems suitable for hunting,” said Shauna Allen, MRP project manager. “It seems to meet environmental and other criteria. But, people at a public meeting or via our web site tell us that there are new home developments or a school complex near a few of our projects. Or, what if no one in that region says they want more hunting areas? Hunting might not be appropriate there – that type of information is extremely important to us.”

Through the MRP, the team will help minimize impacts to existing recreational uses, and find consistency and compatibility with federal, state and regional programs, said Jerry Krenz, SFWMD recreation manager.

“We also want to identify public, private and intergovernmental partnerships that might enhance and promote recreational linkages, educational and public access opportunities,” he said.

“The public can really help. We hope they’ll lend their support and provide input to develop the regional conceptual plans.”

For a schedule of meeting, more study information including review of the suitability maps or to make comments, please visit

[www.evergladesplan.org/pm/public\\_meetings/master\\_rec\\_meetings.cfm](http://www.evergladesplan.org/pm/public_meetings/master_rec_meetings.cfm).