



US Army Corps  
of Engineers  
Jacksonville District

# FACT SHEET

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## Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS)

DEFINITION: A PEIS would be used to disclose and formalize Army Permitting requirements, including environmental mitigation, in Southwest Florida.

BACKGROUND: By Federal law, the Army Corps of Engineers must issue permits which adhere to the requirements of the Clean Water Act, the Endangered Species Act, and the National Environmental Policy Act--laws which are all designed to protect the nation's water and waterways, fish & wildlife, including certain animal species and the loss of their habitats. Additionally, the Corps must make sure that projects are not contrary to the public interest which include cumulative and any secondary impacts.

THE ISSUES: Does the current "permit-by-permit" review process allow adequate consideration of the possible impacts of a project and its relation to previously approved projects in the region--given both the rapid rate of growth and the multitude of new projects which are on the "drawing board" for the region? Additionally, the most difficult questions in the permitting process often involve compensation for unavoidable wetland losses and the concern for loss of spatial habitat; questions which the Corps needs to address in a manner which ensures compliance with the laws and fairness to all permit applicants.

THE OPTIONS: The Corps is considering a PEIS as one possible option to answer the questions posed by the issues. This and other options will be explained by Col. Terry L. Rice, the commander of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' Jacksonville District, at the Press Conference scheduled for Saturday, June 21st, 2:30 p.m. at the Shangri-La Historic Inn.

FURTHER INFO: Contact Jacquelyn J. Griffin, the chief of public affairs for the Jacksonville District at (904) 232-2235, or you may reach her by email on the Internet at <jacquelyn.j.griffin@saj02.usace.army.mil>

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