C O M P R E H E N S I V E  
E V E R G L A D E S  
R E S T O R A T I O N  P L A N  ( C E R P )

P R O J E C T  G E N E R A T I O N S

WHAT I S  C E R P ?
The Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (CERP) contains a bold outline for restoring the Everglades water system to its historic quantity, quality, timing and distribution. The Water Resources Development Act of 2000, which CERP is a critical component of, states that the “overarching objective of the Plan is the restoration, preservation, and protection of the south Florida ecosystem while providing for other water-related needs of the region, including water supply and flood protection.”

The restored Everglades will not be exactly the same as the original. It will be, however, vastly superior to the current system. Although smaller than the pre-drainage system, it will be a carefully restored Everglades having recovered those hydrological and biological patterns that defined the original Everglades and that made it unique among the world’s wetland systems.

C E R P  G O A L S  A N D  O B J E C T I V E S
CERP GOAL: Enhance Ecological Values
- Increase the total spatial extent of natural areas
- Improve habitat and functional quality
- Improve native plant and animal species abundance and diversity

CERP GOAL: Enhance Economic Values and Social Well-Being
- Increase availability of clean water (agricultural, municipal and industrial)
- Reduce flood damages (agricultural urban)
- Provide recreational and navigation opportunities
- Protect cultural and archaeological resources and values


Since 2000, considerable progress has been made implementing CERP. First and second generation CERP projects are authorized by Congress and are either operational, under construction, or being designed. The Central Everglades Planning Project is currently awaiting congressional authorization. All of these CERP projects contribute significant ecological benefits to the system and the specific regional habitats in which they are located.

One of the next steps for implementation of CERP is to identify opportunities within the tributary areas of Water Conservation Areas (WCA) 3A to 1E to protect natural areas within Big Cypress Seminole Indian Reservation and adjacent portion of Big Cypress National Preserve (BCNP) and the Miccosukee Indian Reservation.


WESTERN EVERGLADES RESTORATION PROJECT (WERP)

PROJECT OBJECTIVES
- Restore and improve seasonal hydroperiods and freshwater distribution to support a natural mosaic of wetland and upland habitat in the western Everglades ecosystem.
- Reestablish and improve sheetflow patterns and surface water depths and durations in the study area to reduce soil subsidence and the frequency of damaging peat fires.
- Reduce water loss out of the natural system to prevent over-drainage and improve ground and surface water elevations.

For Additional Information: http://bit.ly/WesternEverglades
ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATIONS
NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY ACT (NEPA)

WHAT IS NEPA?
NEPA is a federal law enacted in 1969. Under NEPA, federal agencies are required to evaluate the potential environmental impacts that a future project or action may cause. These findings are captured in a detailed statement and are available for public review and comment before any decisions or actions are taken. Not all federal actions require a full Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). Due to the size and scope of the Western Everglades Restoration Project (WERP), the environmental documentation will be in the form of an EIS.

ENVIRONMENTAL FRAMEWORK FOR PROJECT DEVELOPMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION

COORDINATION with applicable environmental regulatory agencies

AVOIDANCE AND MINIMIZATION of environmental impacts to the maximum extent practicable

MITIGATION AND MONITORING where unavoidable impacts occur

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT IS KEY
Public input is vital to the success of a project. Inherent to NEPA, as well as the USACE planning process, are established opportunities for public input during project development. Examples include public workshops and meetings related to the scoping portion of the NEPA process, development of project alternatives, and releases of draft reports (such as the EIS and the project implementation support).

PROJECT INFORMATION and dates of related public forums for the WERP will be accessible via the project’s website.

NEPA PROCESS
PROPOSED AGENCY ACTION

CATALOGUE EXCLUSION

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

NOTICE OF INTENT

SCOPING PROCESS

DETERMINE

AGENCY-PUBLIC REVCOMMENTARY PERIOD

DRAFT EIS

AGENCY & PUBLIC REVCOMMENTARY PERIOD

FINAL EIS

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