

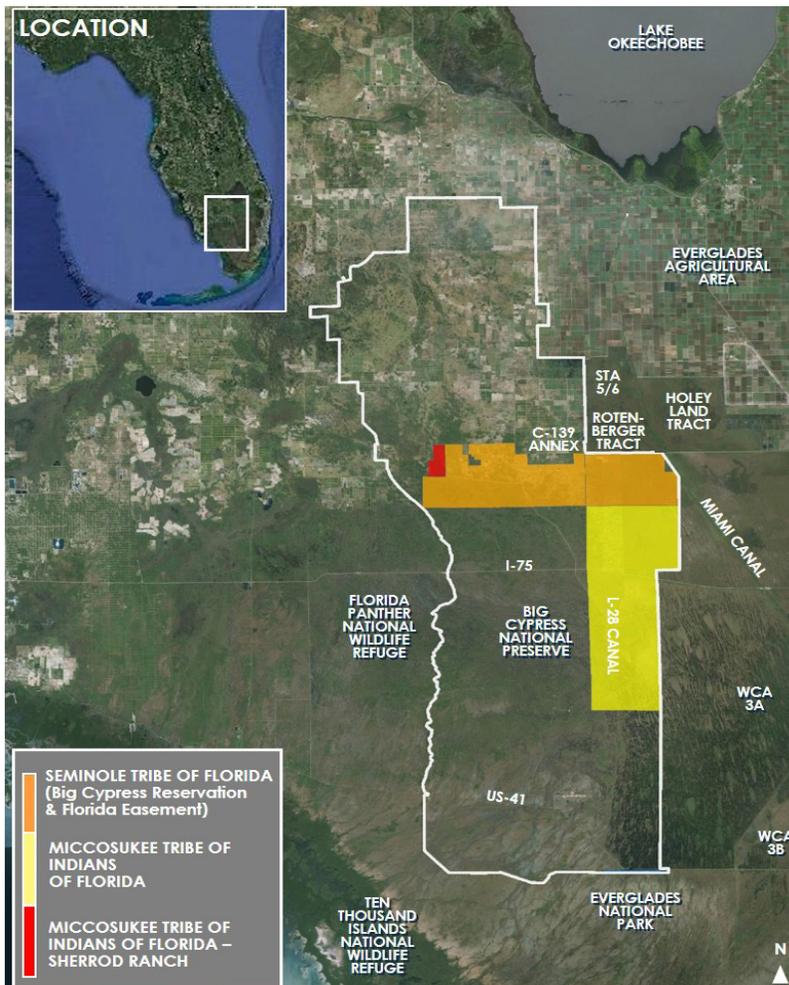


APRIL 2020

The Western Everglades Restoration Project (WERP) is part of the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (CERP) and is cost-shared between the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) and the South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD). The study area covers approximately 1,200 square miles, bounded by the L-1 Canal to the north; the L-2 canal, Stormwater Treatment Area (STA) 5/6, and the eastern boundary of the Miccosukee Tribe of Indians of Florida Reservation to the east; a natural watershed boundary to the west; and portions of U.S. Highway 41, Loop Road, and the southern Miccosukee Tribe of Indians of Florida Reservation area to the south.

PROJECT PURPOSE

The Western Everglades Restoration Project is an Everglades restoration planning effort that aims to improve the quantity, quality, timing, and distribution of water in the western Everglades.



PROJECT STATUS

Planning efforts were initiated in August 2016 to develop a Project Implementation Report for congressional authorization. The array of alternatives was approved in November 2016. The study paused in 2019, but will re-initiate in May 2020.

PROJECT OVERVIEW

The Western Everglades Restoration Plan seeks to use a series of active and passive water management features and water quality features, and make alterations to existing canals and levees to:

- Reestablish sheetflow across the Big Cypress Seminole Indian Reservation and into Big Cypress National Preserve.
- Maintain existing levels of flood protection.
- Ensure that inflows to the North and West Feeder canals meet applicable water quality standards.

If implemented, these actions will:

- Reestablish ecological connectivity of wetland and upland habitats in the western Everglades with restored freshwater flow paths, flow volumes and timing, seasonal hydroperiods, and historic distributions of sheetflow.
- Restore oligotrophic (low nutrient) conditions to reestablish and sustain native flora and fauna.
- Reduce wildfires that damage the underlying geomorphic condition of the western Everglades.
- Promote system-wide resilience in light of future change, such as sea level rise and climate change.

WESTERN EVERGLADES RESTORATION PROJECT | WERP

These CERP components were identified for study as part of the Western Everglades Restoration Project are the Big Cypress / L-28 Interceptor Modifications; Decentralization of Water Conservation Area-3; Flow to Central Water Conservation Area-3A; and Seminole Tribe Big Cypress Water Conservation Plan. These components are highly interdependent features of the recommended plan that are being formulated, optimized, and implemented in a comprehensive and integrated manner.



STUDY SCHEDULE



PROJECT DELIVERY TEAM MEETINGS

USACE and SFWMD are facilitating Project Delivery Team (PDT) meetings for the Western Everglades Restoration Project. PDT meetings enable federal, state and local agencies and Tribal governments to provide their input into the project. Members of the public may attend PDT meetings and provide public comment at the end of the meeting.

Project Delivery Team Meeting Information:

<http://www.saj.usace.army.mil/Missions/Environmental/Ecosystem-Restoration/Western-Everglades-Restoration-Project/>

USACE'S NEW PLANNING PARADIGM

USACE's new planning paradigm, known as SMART Planning, involves defining the appropriate levels of detail for investigations so that recommendations for authorization can be captured, succinctly documented, and completed in a timely manner. Generally, studies will adhere to the 3x3x3 rule:

- Not more than \$3 million.
- Completed in less than three years.
- Concurrent reviews/enhanced vertical team communications, involving the three levels of USACE (District, Division and Headquarters).

The revised process ensures that studies are completed in less time without jeopardizing the quality of engineering, environmental, and economic analyses.

FOR MORE INFORMATION



STEPHEN BAISDEN, PE, PMP
USACE Project Manager
stephen.a.baisden@usace.army.mil
904-232-1794
www.saj.usace.army.mil



MELINDA PARROTT
SFMWD Project Manager
mparrott@sfwmd.gov
561-682-6324
www.sfwmd.gov

U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS

