

# **Outreach Update**

## **South Florida Ecosystem Restoration Working Group Meeting**

**April 19, 2005**

**Brice McKoy**

**U.S. Army Corps of Engineers**





# Program & Project Outreach

## *Parallel Efforts*

**Program Level Outreach** – Enhance the understanding of CERP among stakeholders, interest groups, communities and the general public

**Project Level Outreach** – Inform and engage communities regarding the more than 50 projects that comprise CERP

# Outreach Program Management Plan

## *Outline of Activities*

August 2001

### PUBLIC OUTREACH PROGRAM MANAGEMENT PLAN

Comprehensive Everglades  
Restoration Plan



CERP Outreach Program  
Management Plan was  
shaped by public input

- 1<sup>st</sup> Draft Created– Feb. 2001
- 8 Focus Group meetings
- 2<sup>nd</sup> draft – May 2001
- 6 Public Workshops
- Approved Aug. 2001

# Outreach Activities

## General Publications and Products

**Journ**

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

"Everglades" yo Kote dlo se lavi...

Paran 5,000 ane "everglades" teyan...  
 Everglades toujou anouwa ak dlo epi...  
 genyen anpi vi fadar n. Everglades yo se ka...  
 pwe lwa hvepikal, de okid ak anpi fòr sèp...  
 fòk tèt a sou tèt.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

### The Everglades

Where Water is Life...

For 5,000 years the Everglades flourished in South Florida. Nourished by...  
 torrential rains and searing sun, they evolved into a vast vista of sawgrass...

### Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan

**FACT SHEET**

The Florida Everglades was once a vibrant, free-flowing river of grass that provided clean water from Lake Okeechobee to Florida Bay. Today, this extraordinary ecosystem is dying. Over the past half century, the health and size of the Everglades have steadily declined. Lost to drainage and development, the Everglades is suffering from a severe shortage of clean, reliable water.

To ensure and preserve South Florida's natural environment, enhance water supplies, and maintain flood protection, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, in partnership with the South Florida Water Management District, has developed a plan to save the Everglades. The Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan calls for a series of ecological and water system improvements over more than 20 years. The estimated cost of the plan, to be shared equally by the federal government and the state of Florida, is \$7.8 billion.

America's Everglades is a national treasure beyond measure. To save it, we must act now. The Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan enables us to do this by capturing precious freshwater that now flows to the sea - freshwater that will help ensure a healthy environment and a strong, sustainable economy for us and for future generations.

**Specifically, the Plan:**

- Improves the health of over 2.4 million acres of the South Florida ecosystem, including Everglades and Biscayne National Parks;
- Improves the health of Lake Okeechobee;
- Virtually eliminates damaging freshwater releases to the estuaries;
- Improves water deliveries to Florida and Biscayne Bay;

**How the Everglades Restoration Plan helps you:**

- For drinking and irrigation you and wildlife
- Reduce water use restrictions
- Breathtaking natural
- Relax and enjoy it for

## HAITIAN BICENTENNIAL

January 2000

February 2000

March 2000

April 2000

May 2000

June 2000

July 2000

August 2000

September 2000

October 2000

November 2000

December 2000

James Beaubien and the Everglades - Inspiration to Many Generations

The journey to restore America's Everglades

For drinking and irrigation you and wildlife...  
 Reduce water use restrictions...  
 Breathtaking natural...  
 Relax and enjoy it for...

W:

me (i.e., take shorter showers, ...  
 ds of time, etc.)  
 w to restore it

Let's Save the Everglades Restoration Plan

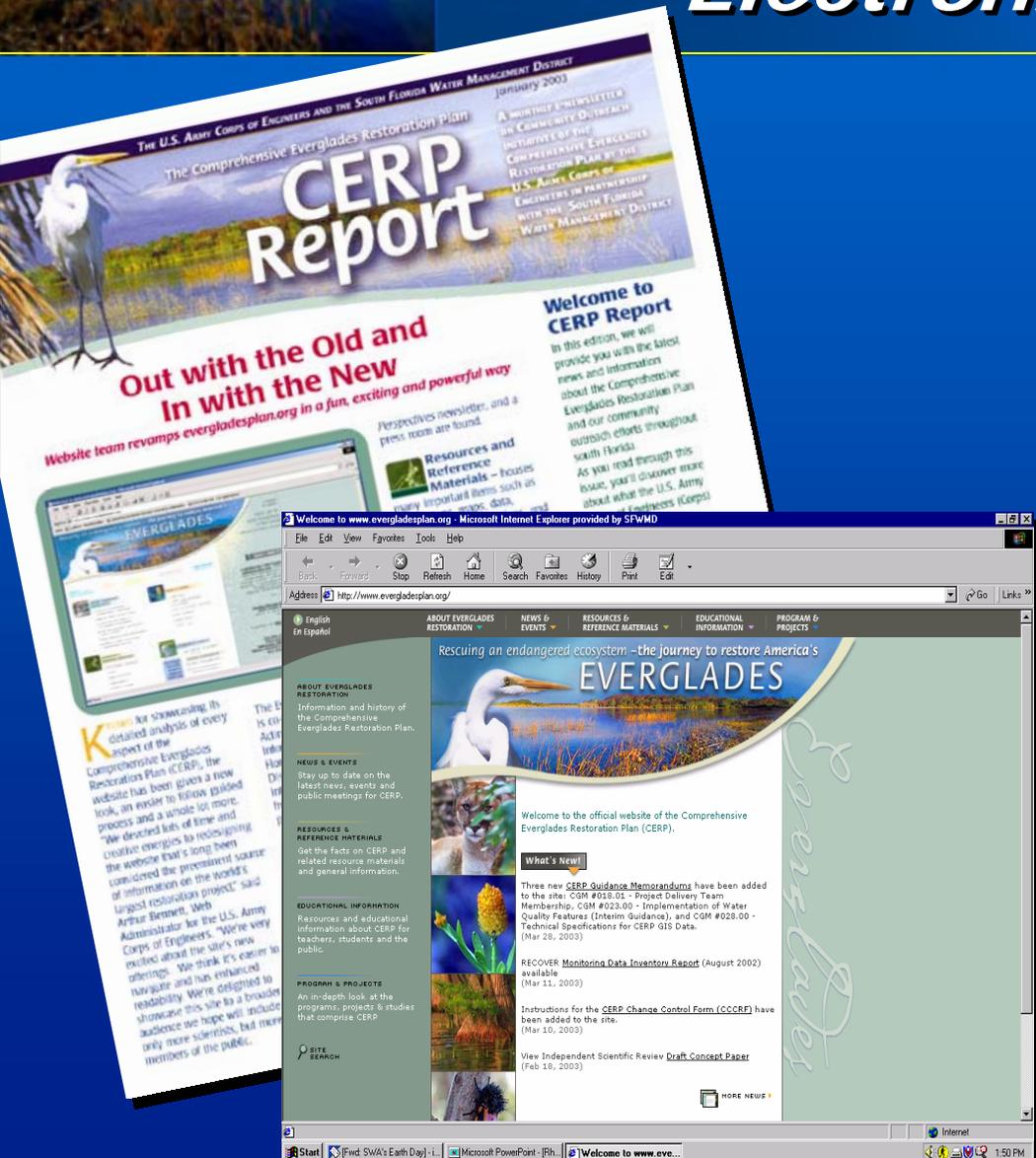
America's Everglades

www.evergladesplan.org

- Variety of products
- Various formats and levels of information
- Distribution: events, mail, visitor centers
- Materials produced in English, Spanish, and Creole

# Outreach Activities

## Electronic Communications



- CERP Report: Bi-monthly Outreach Newsletter
- Electronic notices
- CERP Status updates
- [www.evergladesplan.org](http://www.evergladesplan.org)
- Self-subscribing e-notice

# Outreach Activities

## Middle & High School Education

**The Florida Water Story**

**From Wet to Dry and Back Again**

Like the earth's rest, nature is circular. There are no beginnings or endings. There is just process: the continual recycling of elements from place to place within a system of cycles. In a sense, the water of the Everglades is the offspring of the clouds, delivered back to the earth and sea as rain.

In southern Florida, the average rainfall is about 55 to 60 inches per year and most of that occurs during the summer months. Sometimes, more than half comes in less than two months in late summer. Much of that rain is put back into the cycle by evaporation and transpiration, a process known as evapotranspiration.

But that is not the whole story. Unlike the four-part cycle of seasons changes in other parts of the country, there are two distinct climatic seasons in southern Florida. One is the hot, humid and wet summer with frequent afternoon thunderstorms, alternating with the cooler, drier winter.

**Water From Rock**

The rocky foundation of southern Florida is porous and permeable, which means it can store large amounts of water that can move through it fairly easily. Rainfall that doesn't collect on the surface, or flow off into rivers and streams, moves quickly underground into these rocky underground reservoirs. The surface of this underground reservoir is called the water table, and the water below it, ground water.

The layer of rock in which this water is stored is called an aquifer. The aquifers of southern Florida act like large sponges, holding water in the spaces between the particles of rock. Throughout most of the ROR watershed, it's shallow, close to the surface aquifer intercepts water as it percolates downward. This aquifer is made up of sediments covered by sand and other material that has not yet hardened into rock.

Starting just south of Biscayne Beach in Palm Beach County, stretching to the southern tip of Florida, is one of the most permeable, shallow aquifers in the world, the Biscayne Aquifer, drawing in water over its entire surface. This makes it an excellent source of water. Ninety percent of southern Florida relies on the water stored in aquifers for drinking.

**Everglades**

"There are no other Everglades in the world. They are, they always have been, one of the unique regions of the earth, unique even when young. Nothing anywhere else is like them, their vast glowing openness, wider than the previous wide world of the forest, the young trees reaching and reaching of their massive weight, under the dripping hot breath of the sun. They are a unique place in the history of the earth, a place that has never been duplicated since."

MARK TWAIN FROM MARK TWAIN'S "THE EVERGLADES: A RIVER OF GRASS"

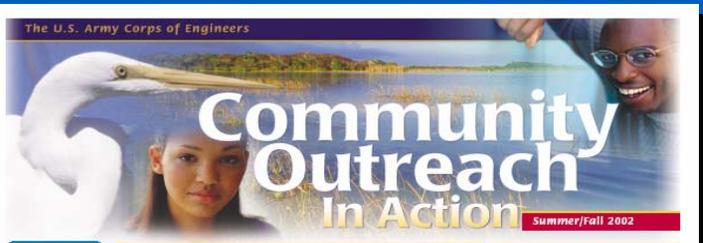
**An American Treasure**

Benchmark Focus Lesson  
2002 Edition

- Classroom products including "Everglades-An American Treasure" student tabloid, teacher guide, and poster
- 5-Day FCAT lesson plans
- Distributed throughout south Florida
- Joint effort through the Newspapers in Education (NIE) program and others

# Outreach Activities

## Targeted Publications



**Clean Water**

The restoration will enhance the quality of water through the use of stormwater treatment areas, "shallow reservoirs" that purify the water as it moves through a series of "treatment cells" that absorb nutrients and other pollutants. This effectively reduces the amount of nutrient-rich run-off that enters the lakes, estuaries and canals, and results in a healthier ecosystem.

**Everglades Restoration**

You may be hearing a lot about the Everglades and plans to restore it, and state officials, environmentalists, agricultural and utilities companies have to do with it?

Many of us recognize the beauty of the Everglades but not its effect on south Florida wetland of sawgrass, mangroves and other native flora, thousands of wading birds, a few bobcats and panthers. What you don't know is that the Everglades is the largest of its original nine million acres to coast in south Florida, with invasive plant species and much or too little water, nutrient levels.

**Inside this Issue:**

- A Proud Partner
- A Unique Partnership
- Empower Your Community



**Agua Limpia**

La restauración mejorará la calidad del agua en áreas de humedales de Everglades, estuarios y canales, y reducirá el riesgo de contaminación por nutrientes y otros contaminantes. Esto mejorará la calidad del agua que fluye a los lagos, estuarios y canales, que resultará en un ecosistema más saludable.

**La restauración de los Everglades**

Te has dado cuenta mucho sobre los Everglades y planes para restaurarlo. Es el mayor de los humedales y estuarios, ecosistemas, cultivos agrícolas y empresas de servicios públicos, que dependen de la calidad del agua.

**Sobre El Cuerpo de Ingenieros del Ejercito de los EE.UU.**

El Cuerpo de Ingenieros del Ejercito de los EE.UU. es el departamento de ingeniería, arquitectura y administración de obras públicas más grande del mundo en la Florida y el Caribe.

La misión del Cuerpo de Ingenieros del Ejercito de los EE.UU. incluye el control de inundaciones y administración de agua, navegación, protección y mantenimiento de las costas, restauración del medio ambiente, investigación de materiales peligrosos, ríos y canales, y apoyo durante emergencias.

El Cuerpo de Ingenieros del Ejercito de los EE.UU. construyó el proyecto del control de inundaciones en la Florida Central y del Sur hace 50 años que la protección del estado de la Florida y con la autorización del Congreso de los Estados Unidos.

El Cuerpo de Ingenieros del Ejercito de los EE.UU. está comprometido a trabajar en la comunidad y preservar el ambiente natural de la Florida del Sur. Por esta razón, el Cuerpo de Ingenieros del Ejercito de los EE.UU. ha asociado con el Distrito de Administración de Agua de la Florida del Sur para desarrollar un plan para salvar los Everglades y mejorar la calidad del agua en un periodo de más de 30 años.

**Dentro de esta publicación:**

- Un pasado sagrado... una promesa de futuro
- Operando y a la par con el mundo
- Para el futuro
- El compromiso del personal de esta comunidad laboral
- Participación de la comunidad en la restauración de los Everglades

- "Community Outreach In Action" for Hispanic and African-American communities-150,000 per publication
- Targeted distribution including inserts into minority newspapers
- Multiple languages
- Providing information about getting involved



# Outreach Activities

## *Public Workshops & Small Group Meetings*

Connecting communities to CERP



# Outreach Program Management Plan

## *Reevaluation of the 2001 Plan*

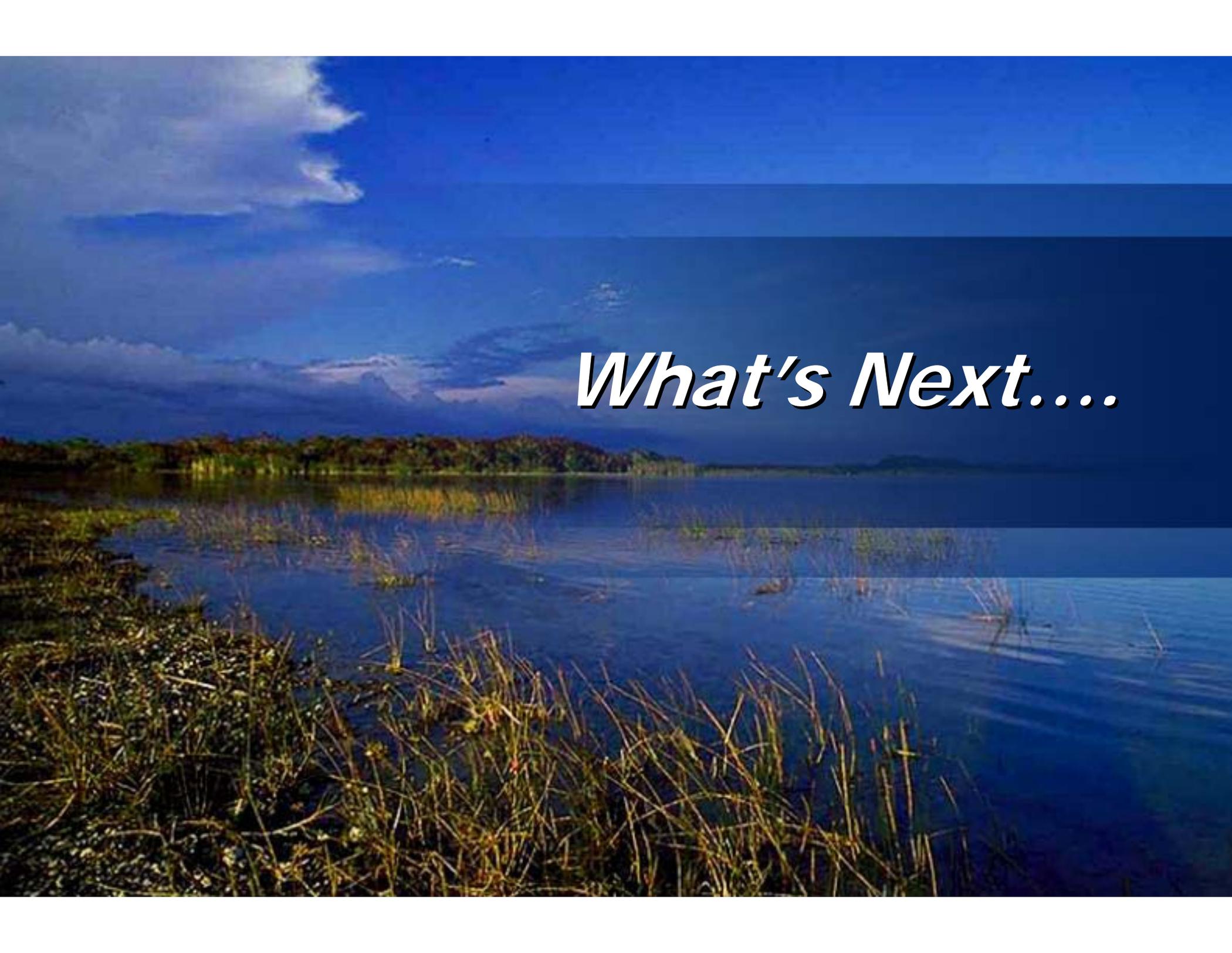
**August 2001**

### **PUBLIC OUTREACH PROGRAM MANAGEMENT PLAN**

**Comprehensive Everglades  
Restoration Plan**



- Went back to the public for suggestions and feedback on current outreach efforts
- More than 500 community leaders were invited to evaluate current outreach efforts and products in 6 workshops throughout south Florida
- Received positive feedback and recommendations for future outreach efforts

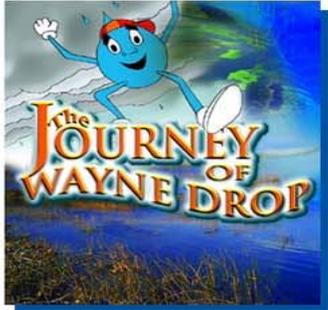
A scenic landscape photograph of a lake. In the foreground, there are tall, green and yellow reeds. The water is a deep blue, reflecting the sky. In the background, there is a line of trees and a blue sky with scattered white clouds. A semi-transparent dark blue horizontal band is overlaid across the middle of the image, containing the text.

***What's Next....***



# Expanding our Efforts

- **Wayne Drop Story (Elementary education)**
- **CERP Kiosk**
- **[www.evergladesplan.org](http://www.evergladesplan.org) updates**
- **CERP DVD**
- **Haitian-American radio shows**
- **Community Dialogues & Business Issues Forum**
- **Partnering with others for wider distribution of materials**



# The JOURNEY OF WAYNE DROP



- “The Journey of Wayne Drop” products newly created for elementary school students
- A story about Wayne Drop’s travels through the Kissimmee-Okeechobee-Everglades (KOE) watershed
- Follow-up to existing middle and high school products



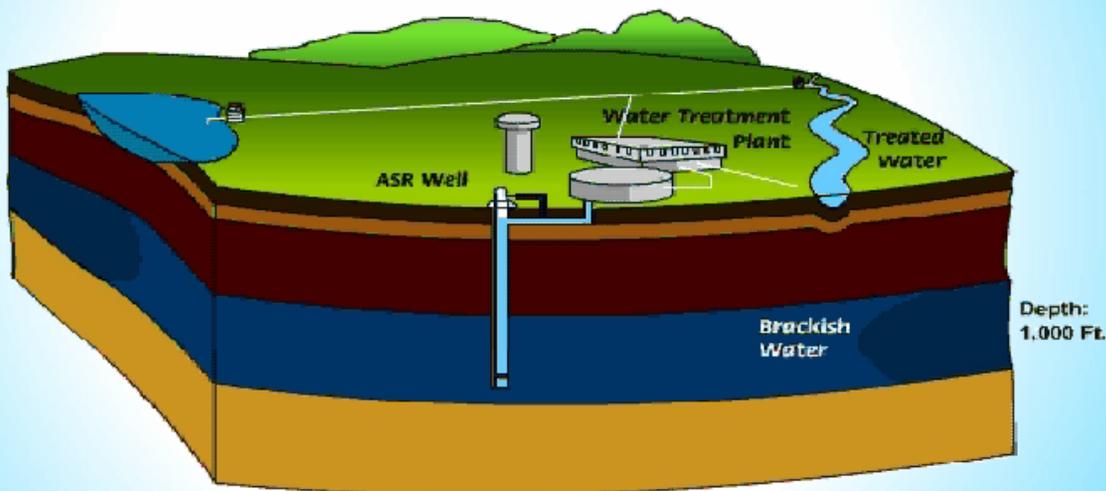
# CERP- Information Center Kiosk

- **Interactive touch screen computer showcases CERP in an innovative way for general audiences of all ages**
- **Various models to be located in both traditional and non-traditional venues (*Malls, Airports, Libraries, Schools, Loxahatchee Refuge, Loxahatchee River District, Washington DC*)**
- **Easily customized and updated with new information**
- **“CERP in My Neighborhood” feature to showcase local CERP activities**



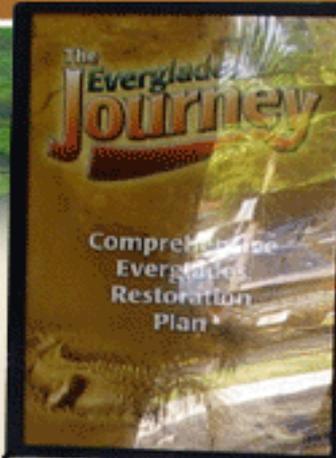
# CERP Features Brought to Life

## Aquifer Storage and Recovery (ASR)



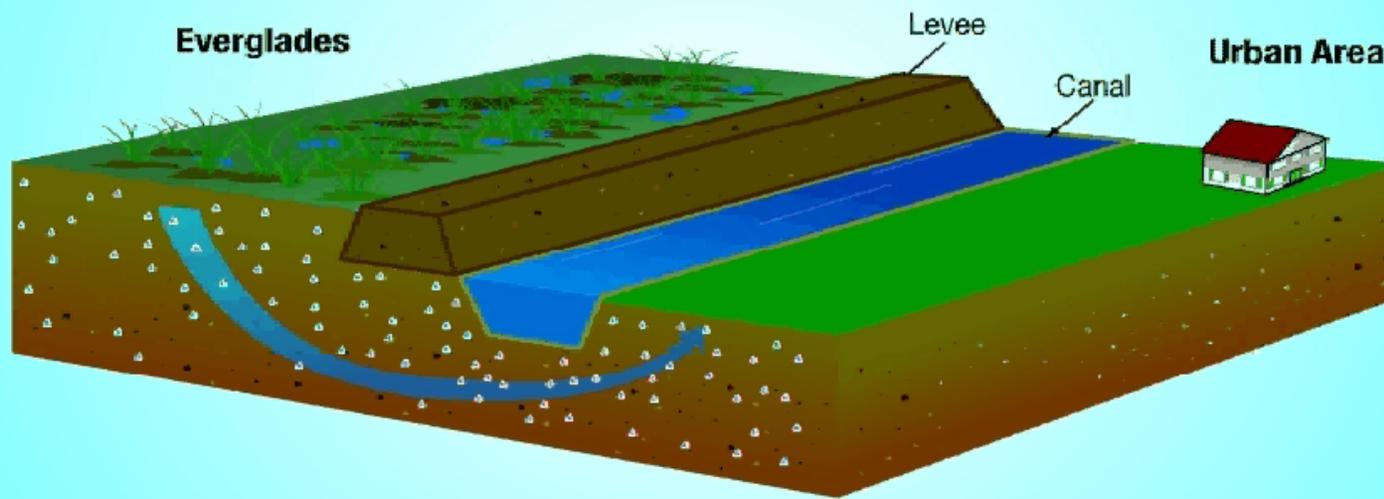
Pilot Study: This Technology is Being Tested

asr.avi



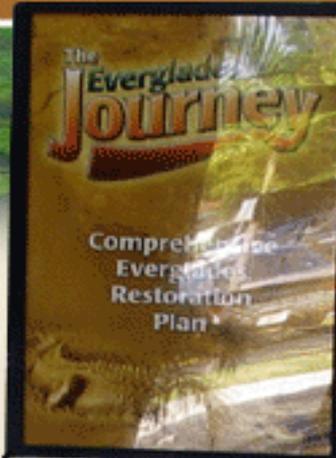
# CERP Features Brought to Life

## Seepage Management



Pilot Study: This Technology is Being Tested

seepage.avi



# CERP Information Center Kiosk





***THANK YOU***