

Fact Sheet: The Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (CERP)



Description: The Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (CERP) will improve south Florida's ecosystem by restoring water flows that have changed tremendously over the past century. It is the largest environmental restoration effort in the world.

How It Works: CERP projects will capture and store as much as possible of the 1.7 billion gallons of fresh water a day which is currently released into the Atlantic Ocean and Gulf of Mexico. This water will be stored in above and underground reservoirs. When needed, it will be directed to the wetlands, lakes, rivers and estuaries of south Florida – providing abundant clean, fresh water – while also ensuring future urban and agricultural water supplies.

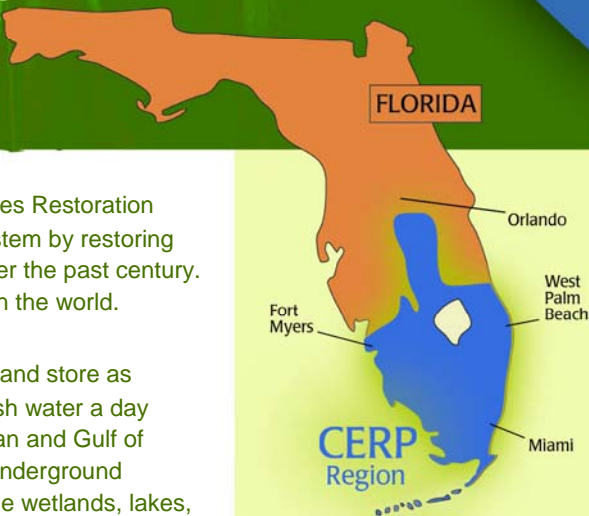
Connecting With Other Projects: The more than 50 projects that comprise CERP will work in concert with many other ongoing or planned environmental restoration projects of the federal government, state of Florida and local partners.

Geographic Area: The plan covers 16 counties of south Florida, with a growing population of more than 7 million residents.

Where We Are Now: Congress authorized the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan in 2000. Today, many individual CERP projects are being designed, land is being acquired, and many other related efforts are underway.

Responsible Agencies: The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is the lead agency, working with the South Florida Water Management District and other federal, state, local and tribal partners.

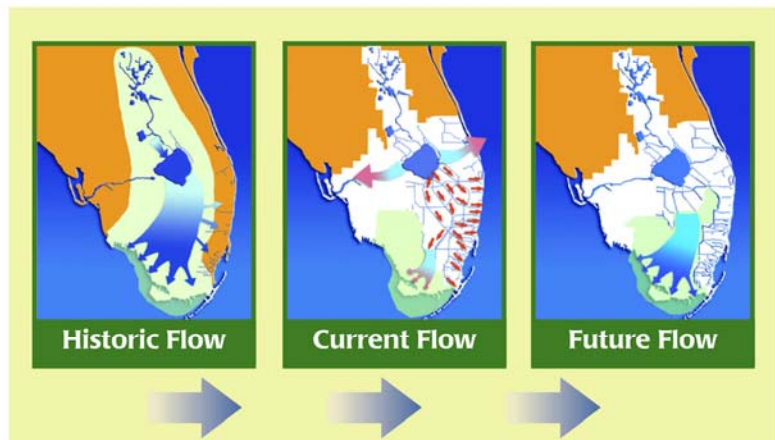
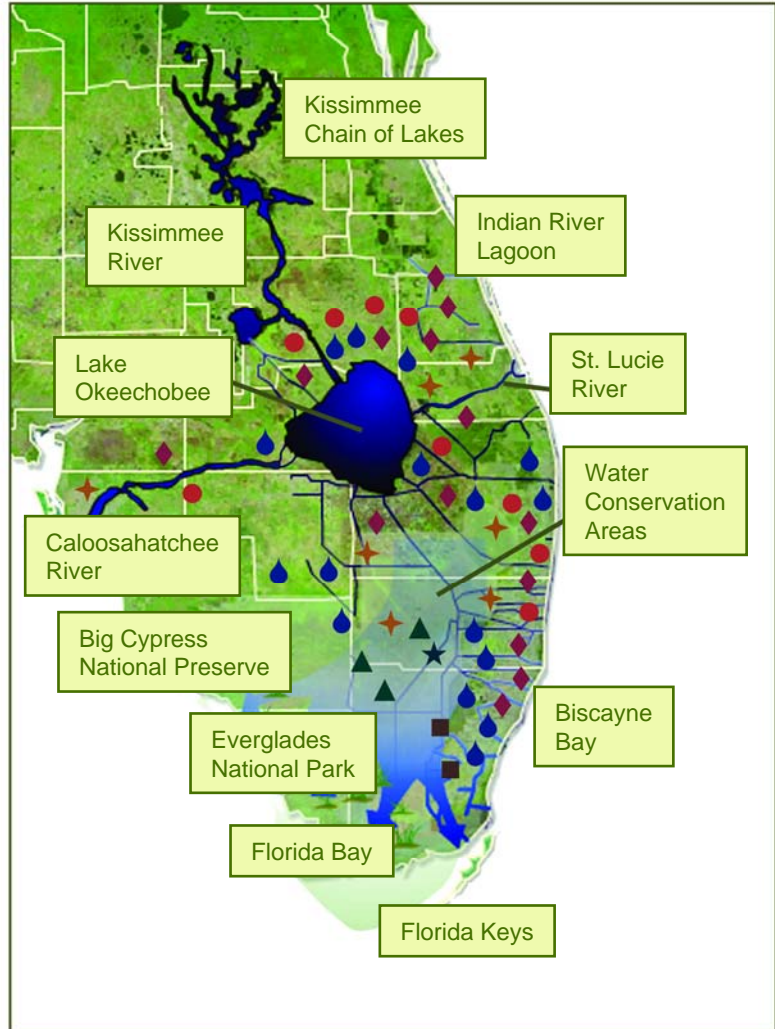
Why Should I Care? The Everglades is unique – there is no other wetland system like it on earth. It is home to rare and endangered animals and plants. Floridians rely on the Everglades to provide water supply, recreation and economic benefits, and enhance quality of life. CERP is the only comprehensive plan to restore the Everglades.



**US Army Corps
of Engineers**
Jacksonville District

The seven principal features of the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (CERP) will work to “get the water right” – to improve water quality, quantity, timing and distribution. Each CERP project includes one or more of these features:

- ◆ **Surface Water Storage Reservoirs**
181,300 acres of above and in-ground reservoirs are planned to store millions of gallons of water.
- **Aquifer Storage and Recovery**
More than 300 underground water storage wells are proposed to store up to 1.6 billion gallons of treated water a day in confined aquifers.
- 💧 **Stormwater Treatment Areas**
35,600 acres of manmade wetlands will be constructed to remove pollutants and other harmful contaminants from water before it is discharged to the Everglades.
- **Wastewater Reuse**
Two advanced treatment plants are proposed to recycle more than 220 million gallons of wastewater a day, adding a new source of high quality water for the southern Everglades.
- ★ **Seepage Management**
Barriers are proposed to be built to stop the rapid underground seepage of water out of the Everglades, which today results in the loss of millions of gallons of water each year.
- ▲ **Removing Barriers to Sheetflow**
More than 240 miles of canals and levees may be removed to restore the historic overland sheetflow through the Everglades wetlands. Sections of Tamiami Trail will be elevated to handle increased water flows contributed by CERP project features.
- ✦ **Operational Changes**
Changes will be made in the regional water management system to benefit Lake Okeechobee, the Everglades and the coastal estuaries.



The Journey to Restore America's Everglades

A partnership of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, South Florida Water Management District and many other federal, state, local and tribal partners.