

**EVERGLADES NATIONAL PARK  
TAMIAMI TRAIL MODIFICATIONS: NEXT STEPS  
FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT**



**CHAPTER 8  
GLOSSARY, ACRONYMS, AND ABBREVIATIONS**

## CHAPTER 8: GLOSSARY

### Glossary

**Affected Environment** — The existing environment to be affected by a proposed action and alternatives.

**Alternatives** – Different options for taking action.

**Best Management Practices** — Methods that have been determined to be the most effective, practical means of preventing or reducing pollution or other adverse environmental impacts.

**ConSpan** – A pre-cast arched modular bridge.

**Control Water Elevation** — The bridge control water elevation (CWE) for this project is 8.75 feet (NGVD 1929). The CWE of 8.75 feet corresponds to the average 36-year period of peak annual stages in the project area.

**Council on Environmental Quality** — Established by Congress within the Executive Office of the President with passage of the *National Environmental Policy Act of 1969*. CEQ coordinates federal environmental efforts and works closely with agencies and other White House offices in the development of environmental policies and initiatives.

**Cultural Resources** — Prehistoric and historic districts, sites, buildings, objects, or any other physical evidence of human activity considered important to a culture, subculture, or community for scientific, traditional, religious, or any other reason.

**Cumulative Impacts** — Under NEPA regulations, the incremental environmental impact or effect of an action together with the effects of past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions, regardless of what agency or person undertakes such other actions (40 CFR Part 1508.7).

**Decibels** — A unit of relative sound loudness, electric voltage, or current equal to ten times the common logarithm of the ratio of two readings.

**Design High Water** — The DHW elevation for this project is 9.7 feet (NGVD 1929). This DHW elevation is based on the 20-year 24-hour stage for the project area, assuming natural systems conditions. The 100-year flood stage (10.1 feet, NGVD 1929) for the project area in the NSM and was utilized for overtopping criteria.

**Enabling Legislation** — National Park Service legislation setting forth the legal parameters by which each park may operate.

**Endangered Species** — “...any species (including subspecies or qualifying distinct population segment) that is in danger of extinction throughout all or a substantial portion of its range (ESA Section 3(6)).” The lead federal agency, USFWS, for the listing of a species as endangered is responsible for reviewing the status of the species on a five-year basis.

**Endangered Species Act (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.)** — An Act to provide a means whereby the ecosystems upon which endangered species and threatened species depend may be conserved and to provide a program for the conservation of such endangered species and threatened species.

**Environmental Assessment** — An environmental analysis prepared pursuant to the *National Environmental Policy Act* to determine whether a federal action would significantly affect the environment and thus require a more detailed EIS.

**Environmental Impact Statement** – An is a document required by the *National Environmental Policy Act* for federal government agency actions significantly affecting the quality of the human



environment. A tool for decision making, an EIS describes the positive and negative environmental effects of proposed agency action and analyzes alternatives to the proposed actions.

**Executive Order** — Official proclamation issued by the President that may set forth policy or direction or establish specific duties in connection with the execution of federal laws and programs.

**Finding of No Significant Impact** — A document prepared by a federal agency showing why a proposed action would not have a significant impact on the environment and thus would not require preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement. A FONSI is based on the results of an Environmental Assessment.

**Floodplain** — The flat or nearly flat land along a river or stream or in a tidal area that is covered by water during a flood.

**Hydroperiod** — The frequency and duration of inundation or saturation of a wetland. The term describes that length of time during the year in which the substrate is either saturated or covered with water.

**Impacts (beneficial, adverse)** — The effect on a resource or value. Beneficial effects are favorable and adverse impacts are unfavorable.

**National Environmental Policy Act** — The Act as amended articulates the federal law that mandates protecting the quality of the human environment. It requires federal agencies to systematically assess the environmental impacts of their proposed activities, programs, and projects including the “no action” alternative of not pursuing the proposed action. NEPA requires agencies to consider alternative ways of accomplishing their missions in ways which are less damaging to the environment.

**National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.)** — An Act to establish a program for the preservation of historic properties throughout the nation, and for other purposes, approved October 15, 1966 [PL 89-665; 80 STAT. 915; 16 U.S.C. 470 as amended by PL 91-243, PL 93-54, PL 94-422, PL 94-458, PL 96-199, PL 96-244, PL 96-515, PL 98-483, PL 99-514, PL 100-127, and PL 102-575].

**National Register of Historic Places** — A register of districts, sites, buildings, structures, and objects important in American history, architecture, archaeology, and culture, maintained by the Secretary of the Interior under authority of Section 2(b) of the *Historic Sites Act of 1935* and Section 101(a)(1) of the *National Historic Preservation Act of 1966*, as amended.

**Operational Water Level** — A future water operational plan will be developed in association with the proposed project's infrastructure; however, since it has not been completed, the proposed project is designed based on a DHW elevation and not a proposed operational water level. At the time a water operations plan is developed for the L-29 Canal, the operations plan will need to be developed within the constraints of the proposed project's infrastructure.

**Organic Act** — Enacted in 1916, this Act commits the National Park Service to making informed decisions that perpetuate the conservation and protection of park resources unimpaired for the benefit and enjoyment of future generations.

**Scoping** — Scoping, as part of NEPA, requires examining a proposed action and its possible effects; establishing the depth of environmental analysis needed; determining analysis procedures, data needed, and task assignments. The public is encouraged to participate and submit comments on proposed projects during the scoping period.



**Slough** – A creek or area of deeper water located within a marsh or tidal flat. In context of the Everglades, these are areas of deeper water that are surrounded by higher “ridges” of sawgrass dominated wetlands.

**Stage Water Level** — The current stage water level in the L-29 Canal is managed to a maximum elevation of 7.5 feet (NGVD 1929). The NSM predicts stages in the project area to range from 4 feet (NGVD 1929) to 9 feet (NGVD 1929) with a median stage of 7.5 feet (NGVD 1929). The No-Action Alternative allows for an increased stage in the L-29 Canal from 7.5 feet (NGVD 1929) to 8.5 feet (NGVD 1929). The action alternatives are designed based on a DHW elevation and not a proposed stage water level.

**Threatened Species** — Any species that is likely to become an endangered species within the foreseeable future throughout all or a significant portion of its range [ESA Section 3(20)].

**Unconstrained Flow** — Based on Performance Measure 4 for this project, unconstrained flow would be a flow of water in the project area that has the same velocity north of the proposed project area, under the proposed bridges, and south of the proposed project area.

**Wetlands** — Those areas that are inundated or saturated by surface or ground water at a frequency and duration sufficient to support, and that under normal circumstances do support, a prevalence of vegetation typically adapted for life in saturated soil conditions. Wetlands generally include swamps, marshes, bogs, and similar areas.

