



NATIONAL PARK SERVICE EVERGLADES NATIONAL PARK

Cape Sable Dams Restoration – Phase II Public Scoping Report

June 2015



Prepared by: **AECOM**

TABLE OF CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND	1
INTRODUCTION.....	1
PROJECT BACKGROUND	1
DRAFT PURPOSE, NEED, AND OBJECTIVES	3
DRAFT PURPOSE STATEMENT	3
DRAFT NEEDS STATEMENTS.....	3
DRAFT OBJECTIVES STATEMENTS.....	3
<i>Natural Resources</i>	3
<i>Wilderness</i>	3
<i>Cultural Resources</i>	3
<i>Engineered Features</i>	3
<i>Visitor Use and Experience</i>	3
DRAFT PROJECT ALTERNATIVES	4
HOUSE AND SLAGLE DITCHES	4
RAULERSON CANAL	4
EAST SIDE CREEK	4
PUBLIC AND AGENCY SCOPING	5
PUBLIC SCOPING PROCESS	5
<i>Public Comment Opportunities</i>	5
AGENCY SCOPING PROCESS	6
SCOPING PROCESS WITH NATIVE AMERICAN TRIBES	6
SCOPING CORRESPONDENCE AND COMMENTS.....	6
<i>Summary of Scoping Correspondence</i>	6
<i>Summary of Scoping Comments</i>	7
<i>Comment Analysis Methodology</i>	8
CONCERN STATEMENTS AND REPRESENTATIVE COMMENTS.....	8
<i>Purpose, Need, and Objectives</i>	8
<i>Alternatives</i>	9
<i>Environmental Assessment Impact Analysis</i>	12
<i>Mitigation and Monitoring</i>	13
<i>Construction Methodology</i>	14

LIST OF FIGURES

Figure 1 Location Map

LIST OF TABLES

Table 1 Correspondence by Organization Type

APPENDICES

APPENDIX A	Project Press Release (September 2, 2014)
APPENDIX B	"Florida Cape vulnerable to rising seas" (October 17, 2014)
APPENDIX C	"Dams in Everglades Could Improve Regional Ecosystem" (March 7, 2015)
APPENDIX D	Correspondence Report: This appendix provides a full record of all correspondence received and entered into PEPC. Correspondence identified as "N/A" represents individuals who chose not to provide their name. Correspondence identified as "Kept Private" represents individuals who provided their name, but requested to not have their name disclosed.
APPENDIX E	Content Analysis Report: This is the basic report produced from PEPC that provides information on the numbers of comments received, organized by code and by various demographics. The first section is a summary of the number of comments that fall under each code or topic and what percentage of comments falls under each code. Data are then presented on the correspondence by type (i.e. amount of e-mails, letters, etc.); amount received by state; and amount received by organization type (i.e., organizations, governments, individuals, etc.)
APPENDIX F	Index by Code Report: This appendix lists which commenters or authors (identified by PEPC organization type) commented on which topics, as identified by the codes used in this analysis. The report is listed by code, and under each code is a list of the authors who submitted comments that fell under that code, and their correspondence numbers. Correspondence identified as "N/A" represents individuals who chose not to provide their name.
APPENDIX G	Index by Organization Type Report: This appendix provides a listing of all groups that submitted comments, arranged and grouped by the following organization types as defined by PEPC (in the following order): business; civic groups; conservation/preservation groups; federal government; NPS employee; non-governmental groups; recreational groups; state government; town or city government; tribal government; unaffiliated individuals; and university/professional society. The commenters or authors are listed alphabetically, along with their correspondence number and the codes that their comments fell under, organized under the various organization types. Correspondence identified as "N/A" represents individuals who chose not to provide their name.
APPENDIX H	Substantive Comments Report: This appendix lists all substantive comments by code, and provides the correspondence number, the comment text, the comment number, and the commenter who submitted the comment. Correspondence identified as "N/A" represents individuals who chose not to provide their name.
APPENDIX I	Non-Substantive Comments Report: This appendix lists all non-substantive comments by code, and provides the correspondence number, the comment text, the comment number and the commenter who submitted the comment. Correspondence identified as "N/A" represents individuals who chose not to provide their name.

INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

INTRODUCTION

Public scoping is an early and open process to determine public concerns in relation to a proposed action. Public involvement is an important requirement of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), especially in determining the appropriate scope of the analysis. In accordance with Director's Order 12: *Conservation Planning, Environmental Impact Analysis, and Decision-making* and National Park Service (NPS) *Management Policies* (2006), the NPS conducted public scoping for the Cape Sable Dams Restoration Phase II Environmental Assessment (EA) to ensure input from all interested parties. This report documents the result of the public scoping for this project.

PROJECT BACKGROUND

Everglades National Park (EVER) was established in 1947 and is one of 401 units of the National Park System administered by the NPS, U.S. Department of the Interior. Historically, the interior wetlands of the Cape Sable region in the Park were isolated from both Florida Bay and the Gulf of Mexico by a marl ridge known as the Flamingo Embankment. Early in the 20th century, canals were dug through the Marl Ridge in attempts to drain and reclaim the interior marsh areas for development, agriculture, and cattle grazing. These canals opened up the interior wetlands to tidal influence and the inflow of saltwater from the Gulf of Mexico and Florida Bay. The canals were subsequently plugged with earthen dams at the Marl Ridge during the 1950s, but most of the earthen dams have either been breached or severely compromised by the forces of weathering and erosion over the intervening years.

At present, five major ditch/canal dams are known to exist in the Cape Sable region:

- Homestead Canal Dam – a 100-foot long fill dam bounded by sheet pile on each end and reinforced with rip-rap armoring; constructed in 2011
- East Cape Extension Canal Dam – a 100-foot long fill dam bounded by sheet pile on each end and reinforced with rip-rap armoring; constructed in 2011
- House Ditch Dam – an earthen dam; constructed in the 1950s
- Slagle Ditch Dam – an earthen dam; constructed in 1950s
- Raulerson Canal Dam – a former sheet pile dam; the dam has completely failed

Additionally, East Side Creek, a natural waterway in the Cape Sable region, is currently experiencing similar tidal influence and erosional processes as the canals and ditches in the area. The saltwater intrusion via this creek is similarly contributing to the degradation of the interior freshwater and brackish marshes of the Cape Sable region. Based on the available historical evidence, the Park believes that these processes occurring in the waterway may be due, at least in part, to the presence and widening of the human-created canals in the region. Therefore, this waterway is being included for consideration as part of this project.

The House Ditch, Slagle Ditch, Raulerson Canal, and East Side Creek waterways are the subject of the proposed EA (figure 1, Location Map).



Figure 1 – Location Map

DRAFT PURPOSE, NEED, AND OBJECTIVES

DRAFT PURPOSE STATEMENT

The purpose of this project is to provide sustainable solutions to canal-induced saltwater intrusion and degradation of the interior freshwater and brackish marshes in order to reestablish the natural function of the Marl Ridge and restore the Cape Sable region to a more natural state.

DRAFT NEEDS STATEMENTS

The needs of this project are to:

- Reestablish the natural function of the Marl Ridge in the Cape Sable region
- Reduce the impacts of the canal-induced breaching of the Marl Ridge, which is allowing unnatural intrusion of saltwater into freshwater and brackish marshes north of the marl ridge
- Reduce the erosional processes currently occurring in House and Slagle Ditches, Raulerson Canal, and East Side Creek
- Reduce sediment transport to/from Florida Bay and the interior marshes
- Protect the freshwater and brackish interior marshes and surrounding areas, which serve as habitat for fish and wildlife
- Improve the qualities of wilderness character in the Marjory Stoneman Douglas Wilderness Area

DRAFT OBJECTIVES STATEMENTS

Natural Resources

- Reduce the flow of saltwater into freshwater and brackish interior marshes of the Cape Sable region through House and Slagle Ditches, Raulerson Canal, and East Side Creek, thereby restoring a more natural hydrology to the region
- Reduce freshwater loss from freshwater and brackish interior marshes through House and Slagle Ditches, Raulerson Canal, and East Side Creek

- Promote ecological resilience to climate change and sea level rise in the interior marshes of the Cape Sable region
- Improve habitat for juvenile crocodiles, wading birds, forage fish and other wildlife within the interior freshwater and brackish marshes of the Cape Sable region
- Reduce the loss of sediment and nutrients from the interior freshwater and brackish marshes of the Cape Sable region
- Reduce/eliminate adverse impacts to marine resources in the Cape Sable region

Wilderness

- Design project features to maximize compatibility with the qualities of wilderness character

Cultural Resources

- Avoid adverse impacts to cultural and archeological resources and historic features through project design or mitigation measures

Engineered Features

- Design engineered features, when necessary, to last at least 50 years (barring severe damage by catastrophic hurricane events) with annual/bi-annual maintenance

Visitor Use and Experience

- Provide safe passage into the Marjory Stoneman Douglas Wilderness Area for canoeists/kayakers
- Improve the wilderness visitor experience by reducing the opportunity for illegal motorized access into the Marjory Stoneman Douglas Wilderness Area

DRAFT PROJECT ALTERNATIVES

HOUSE AND SLAGLE DITCHES

Due to the similar nature of the House and Slagle Ditches and the similar nature of the current earthen dams, the same suite of alternatives is being considered for each of the waterways.

- Take no action and allow the earthen dam to continue to function in its current state.
- Re-backfill the eroded areas back to the anticipated original widths with a coarse grained limestone rock fill, place a sand drain for seepage control, backfill the ditch up to ten feet outward from the dam, and place erosion protection along the downslope areas of the dam and end sloping ditch backfill.
- Re-backfill the eroded areas of the existing earthen dam, place erosion protection along the downslope areas of the existing dam, and construct a new dam structure at the mouth of the ditch.
- Restore the natural function of the Marl Ridge by constructing a new dam the width of the Marl Ridge.

- Restore the natural function of the Marl Ridge by constructing a new sheet pile and fill dam the width of the Marl Ridge, with the option for a canoe ramp.

EAST SIDE CREEK

- Take no action and allow the creek to continue to function in its current state.
- Restore the natural function of the Marl Ridge by constructing a new sheet pile only dam at the center of the Marl Ridge, with options for a flow-through structure, weir, and/or a canoe ramp.
- Restore the natural function of the Marl Ridge by constructing a new sheet pile and fill dam the width of the Marl Ridge, with the option for a canoe ramp.

RAULERSON CANAL

- Take no action and allow the canal to continue to function in its current state without a dam (note: the former dam structure has completely failed).
- Construct a new sheet pile only dam with rip-rap erosion protection at the former failed dam location, with options for a flow discharge structure and/or a canoe ramp.
- Restore the natural function of the Marl Ridge by constructing a new sheet pile only dam at the center of the Marl Ridge, with options for a flow discharge structure and/or a canoe ramp.
- Construct a new sheet pile and fill dam with rip-rap erosion protection at the former failed dam location, with the option for a canoe ramp.

PUBLIC AND AGENCY SCOPING

PUBLIC SCOPING PROCESS

The Cape Sable Dams Restoration Phase II project was first announced to the public on September 2, 2014, in a joint NPS/Everglades Foundation press release. The release stated the NPS is moving forward to address the damage to the ecosystem caused by the canals. The Everglades Foundation is providing a \$143,000 grant to the NPS, which will pay for 50 percent of the cost of the required EA document. A copy of the press release is provided in appendix A.

A Miami Herald article published on October 17, 2014, "Florida Cape vulnerable to rising seas," described Cape Sable as "the tip of the sword in climate change" and particularly vulnerable to rising sea level. The article described the history and erosion of the canals and noted the NPS and the Everglades Foundation were partnering to complete an EA of options for plugging the canals over the next 18 months. A copy of the article is included in appendix B.

The public scoping period for the EVER Cape Sable Dams Restoration Phase II EA was scheduled from February 4th through March 8th, 2015 (32 days). The public scoping period was initiated by the NPS by publishing a news release on the NPS EVER website and distributing it to media outlets.

A public scoping newsletter was posted on the NPS Planning, Environment, and Public Comment (PEPC) website on February 4, 2015, and distributed electronically via email to over 3,000 individuals, organizations, and agencies on the Park's mailing list. The public scoping newsletter provided background information on the project, information on how to comment on the project, and the preliminary draft purpose, need, objectives, and alternatives. The newsletter was also re-posted on blogs maintained by several stakeholder organizations.

The April 2012 report, *Engineering Analysis and Feasibility of Repairing or Replacing Failed Dams and Limiting Salt Water Intrusion in Cape Sable, Everglades National Park*, was also posted on the PEPC website to provide in-depth information on the project background and preliminary alternatives.

The following questions were posted to PEPC for response by the public regarding the proposed EVER Cape Sable Dams Restoration Phase II EA:

1. *Do you have any comments or concerns regarding the purpose, need and objectives for this project?*
2. *Do you have any comments or concerns regarding the preliminary project alternatives?*
3. *Do you have any suggestions regarding other alternatives for meeting the project purpose and need?*
4. *Are there any environmental issues or concerns you feel the NPS should address in the EA?*

A March 7, 2015 Miami Herald article, "Dams in Everglades Could Improve Regional Ecosystem," discussed the canal-induced problems and noted the Park is requesting public and agency input as planners prepare an EA for several alternatives. The article included directions on how to provide comments. A copy of the article is included in appendix C.

Public Comment Opportunities

The public was invited to participate in the scoping portion of this project in the following ways:

- Submission of comments at any time during the scoping period. Comments could be provided via the following methods:

- The NPS PEPC website
- E-mail to NPS EVER superintendent or staff
- Hard copy letter to the EVER superintendent

No public meetings were scheduled for this public scoping process. Per Section 5.5C of the NPS *Director's Order 12 Handbook*, "Workshops, meetings, hearings, or other opportunities to give oral input on an NPS EA are not required ..." Due to the low public attendance at the public meetings for the Cape Sable Dams Restoration Phase I project, a decision was made by the NPS EVER superintendent to not hold a public meeting for the public scoping portion of this project. If a large number of the public request such a meeting or a particularly large number of comments are received on the project, the potential for a public meeting will be considered for later phases of the project development process.

AGENCY SCOPING PROCESS

In order to solicit agency input on the project, a scoping letter with a copy of the public newsletter was sent to each of the following agencies as well as local, state, and federal elected officials:

- Florida State Clearinghouse (for distribution to state agencies)
- NOAA National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS)
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)

Agencies were invited to comment directly on the project through PEPC, email to the NPS EVER superintendent, or hard copy letter, or through the Florida State Clearinghouse.

SCOPING PROCESS WITH NATIVE AMERICAN TRIBES

In order to solicit Tribal input on the project, a scoping letter with a copy of the public newsletter was sent to the Miccosukee Tribe of Indians of Florida, the Seminole Tribe of Florida, and the Seminole Nation of

Oklahoma. The letters invited the tribes to participate in government-to-government consultation and to provide information or concerns regarding cultural and/or natural resources in the area of the proposed project.

SCOPING CORRESPONDENCE AND COMMENTS

During the comment period 42 pieces of correspondence were received with 162 comments. Correspondence was received by one of the following methods: web form (PEPC), hard copy letter, and email (or email attachment). Letters received by hard copy or email were entered into the PEPC system for analysis. Each of these letters or submissions is referred to as correspondence.

Summary of Scoping Correspondence

Of the 42 pieces of correspondence received, 29 were received via the PEPC web form, eight via letter, and five via email.

Correspondences were received from the following organization/agency types, as shown in table 1.

Table 1 – Correspondence by Organization Type

Organization Type	# Correspondences
Unaffiliated Individual	21
Conservation/Preservation	5
Recreational Groups	5
State Government	5
Federal Government	4
Business	1
Tribal Government	1
Total	42

The federal government agencies responding included letters from the USFWS and NMFS; two NPS employees also provided responses in PEPC. The state government agencies providing responses included the Florida State Clearinghouse, Florida Department of Environmental Protection, Florida Fish and

Wildlife Conservation Commission, South Florida Water Management District, and SHPO. The Tribal Historic Preservation Office of the Seminole Tribe also provided a response letter.

Responses were received from four states, with 88.1% of the correspondences from Florida; other states included Indiana, Massachusetts, and Maryland.

Summary of Scoping Comments

Correspondence from respondents regarding the Cape Sable Dams Restoration Phase II EA ranged from strong support for the project to strong opposition to the project. Some of the correspondence also supported some elements of the proposed action, while opposing other elements. The remaining correspondence did not express an opinion clearly supporting or opposing the project, but only provided comments, questions, recommendations, or concerns. The following questions, concerns, and comments were posed in the correspondence received during the public scoping period.

Regarding Question #1 (*Do you have any comments or concerns regarding the purpose, need and objectives for this project?*), 50% of respondents either did not respond or stated that they had no comments for this question. An additional 31% of commenters only stated general support for the project, but did not provide any comment with suggested revisions to the purpose, need, or objectives for the project. Eight responses (19%) provided comments or concerns regarding the project purpose, need, and/or objectives. The two main concerns expressed about the purpose and need for the project were (1) that the project either should not be conducted or may not be necessary in light of climate change and anticipated associated sea level rise in the coming years, and (2) that the damming of East Side Creek should not be included as part of the project purpose and need since it is a naturally occurring waterway. Other comments on the purpose and need for the project included editorial suggestions, a recommendation to better address wilderness in the purpose and need,

and a request to convey the purpose and need in more plain language.

Regarding Question #2 (*Do you have any comments or concerns regarding the preliminary project alternatives?*), 64% of respondents either did not respond or stated that they had no comments for this question. Fifteen commenters (36%) provided comments, concerns, or suggestions about the preliminary project alternatives. Suggestions for alternative design elements included both support for and opposition to a weir or flow-through structure as part of the dam design, both support for and opposition to canoe/kayak ramps, and a request to leave a portion of the canals open for fishing opportunities. Four commenters expressed concerns only about damming East Side Creek as a natural waterway, while supporting dam alternatives for the other three waterways. Comments were also made in regards to construction methodology and timing. One respondent also requested that a monitoring plan for the dams be included as part of the alternatives.

Regarding Question #3 (*Do you have any suggestions regarding other alternatives for meeting the project purpose and need?*), 76% of respondents either did not respond or stated that they had no comments for this question. Ten responses (24%) provided suggestions for new alternatives or alternative elements. Comments regarding design elements such as weir or flow-through structure and a canoe/kayak ramp were received, similar to those for Question 2. One respondent asked about what modeling had been conducted regarding the dam alternatives and questioned whether more areas in the Cape Sable area should be dammed at the same time as the proposed waterways. Other commenters either opposed all of the action alternatives or recommended complete backfilling of the canals.

Regarding Question #4 (*Are there any environmental issues or concerns you feel the NPS should address in the EA?*), 62% of respondents either did not respond or stated that they had no comments for this question. Sixteen commenters (38%) provided comments or suggestions regarding

environmental issues that should be addressed in the EA document as part of the NEPA analysis. Environmental issues requested to be addressed in the EA document included: threatened/endangered species and wildlife (including game fisheries), climate change and sea level rise, water quality and quantity, and general ecosystem impacts. A few respondents also requested that a monitoring and/or mitigation plan be included as part of the EA.

In the general comments provided by the public, organizations, and agencies, the most common comments received were in reference to general project support or opposition, climate change and sea level rise, wildlife and threatened/endangered species, wilderness, backcountry recreation (non-motorized boating and fishing), new alternatives or elements of design, construction methodology, and monitoring and mitigation. Twenty respondents (48%) expressed general support for the project, and three respondents (7%) expressed general opposition to the project.

Comment Analysis Methodology

Once all correspondence was entered into PEPC, each was read, and specific comments within each correspondence were identified. Once comments were identified, they were assigned a topic (code).

To facilitate this, a coding structure was developed that considered all of the correspondence received. This coding structure was comprised of codes that are established in the NPS PEPC system, referred to as national codes, as well as codes that were developed specifically for this project. The codes selected from the national list and those added that were specific to this project were used to identify the general content of a comment.

During coding comments were also classified as substantive or non-substantive. A substantive comment is defined as one that does one or more of the following (NPS Director's Order 12, Section 4.6A):

- Question, with a reasonable basis, the accuracy of information in the EA;
- Question, with a reasonable basis, the adequacy of the environmental analysis;
- Present reasonable alternatives other than those presented in the EA; and/or
- Cause changes or revisions in the proposal.

Although the above refers to an EA document and not public scoping, the same general concept was applied to the Cape Sable Dams Restoration Phase II EA public scoping comments. If a comment met one or more of the above criteria, it was categorized as substantive. As further stated in Director's Order 12, substantive comments "raise, debate, or question a point of fact or policy." Comments in favor of or against the proposed action or alternatives, or comments that only agree or disagree with NPS policy, are not considered substantive.

Under each code, all comments were grouped by similar themes, and those groups were assigned a concern statement. A concern statement is a statement that captures the content of several comments. All of the identified concern statements along with representative quotes are provided in the following section of this report.

CONCERN STATEMENTS AND REPRESENTATIVE COMMENTS¹

Purpose, Need, and Objectives

Concern Statement #1. Is the project purpose justifiable in the face of anticipated sea level rise?

- "The project appears to be of questionable value for reasons that should be carefully considered before proceeding with the Environmental Assessment. Cape Sable is close to sea level now, and the near future is expected to experience rising sea levels that exceed ground levels far inland

¹ Representative comments have been extracted directly from correspondence received by the public and have not been edited for spelling or grammar.

beyond Cape Sable, rendering any major construction and modifications ineffective. First, the project purpose is "to reestablish the natural function of the Marl Ridge and restore the Cape Sable region to a more natural state." It appears that the definition of "natural function" of the Marl Ridge and "natural state" of the Cape Sable area refers to historical rather than future conditions. Given that the future is not going to be like the past in terms of sea level and storms, is this purpose justifiable?" (ID #39)

Concern Statement #2. More specific goals and objectives should be developed.

- "The Department recommends the development of detailed goals and specific objectives for hydrology, salinity range, or specific ecological targets. The Draft Purpose Statement, Draft Needs Statements, and Draft Objectives Statements set vaguely defined goals such as less saltwater intrusion, less sediment transport, less erosion, etc. Goals that do not set specific ecological or hydrologic targets limit the restoration and alternatives to be considered." (ID #38)

Concern Statement #3. The EA should address why the proposed actions are necessary for the management of designated wilderness.

- "The newsletter does not specifically address why the proposed actions are necessary for the management of Wilderness which would justify a development in designated wilderness." (ID #28)

Alternatives

Concern Statement #4. The NPS should consider not repairing or constructing dams on Cape Sable waterways.

- "Stop messing with the glades already!!! you guys think you are helping but you are actually destroying everything!! We are captains out there every day and see the

damage you are doing. The engineers mess it up 60 years ago and it took a long time for nature to catch up on man's mistakes, now you are going to repeat the cycle again!!! STOP PLEASE." (ID#6)

- Proceed....very very SLOWLY....as the need for this current problem...was likelihood...brought on by mistaken actions previously taken to solve another problem.....unfortunately...the usually outcome when nature is messed with." (ID#7)
- "I am a local guide who fishes the Cape Sable area often. Since the Damming of East cape Canal and the Homestead Canal leading to Lake Ingram I have seen nothing but bad results. What used to be a great fishery has tragically been reduced to virtually nothing I know other Captains has seen the same result. After the work was completed and the waterflow was blocked scores of Large fish Black Drum ,Redfish, Jacks,and many other species were at the surface landlocked and trapped. Since then the Black Drum and Sheephead and other fish in that area that normally spawn in that area during the winter months they are dwindling down to alarmingly low numbers. I have also seen unusual amounts of Cassiopia Jellyfish at cape sable and around the Flamingo area that were never there before until after the Dams were created. I realize that the diversion of water early in the 20th century damaged some of the areas at the Cape but over many years these areas adapted and were thriving until man steps in again and disrupts what nature adapted to. Fishing at Flamingo and Cape Sable is a huge part of our tourism for the Upper Keys as well as all of south Florida. I definitely do not support any other Changes in the waterflow around east cape or any other area in the park and would also support the removal of the 2 other structures built in that area. Please stop trying to fix things they were not broken just adapted." (ID#12)

Concern Statement #5. Complete backfilling of the canals should be considered as an alternative.

- “I agree that the Marl Ridge in the Cape Sable Area needs to be recreated. Has totally filling in these four canals been considered? The dams are not a permanent solution as they erode over time.” (ID #26)
- “SLAGLE DITCH & RAULSEN CANAL: Accessible with a flat bottom barge; trammel into the ditch with loads of coarse limestone & appropriate building materials one after another. Fill in the ditch (focus will be on Flamingo Embankment marl ridge first but plan to fill entire manmade portions of these canals that are accessible) with material only up to 6" below the highest average tidal rise height & include mixed heights as would be naturally. Have vegetation volunteers hand plant Red Mangrove (*Rhizophora mangle*) propagules upon the repaired site immediately following installation of repaired marl ridge; repair will shift & so will newly established hand planted native vegetation communities (to include more than only Red Mangroves), but root structure systems will begin to help stabilize as they acclimate to the formation.” (ID #30)
- “Will complete backfill of unnatural ditches and canals and restoration of altered creeks be considered as part of this analysis? We assume that this may be cost prohibitive or that fill materials may not be readily available. However, this may offer the best opportunity to obtain the maximum extent of the desired habitat restoration with the added benefit of reduced future maintenance costs.” (ID #41)
- “Would completely filling in the canals solve the problem of salt water intrusion or would that create new problems?” (ID #26)

Concern Statement #6. A less-engineered option than a sheet-pile dam should be considered, when feasible.

- “The report presents alternatives for each of the canals/waterways, but does not indicate a preferred alternative. When choosing the preferred alternative for each of the sites, please consider the most natural alternative that will achieve the highest benefit. Hard engineering structures such as sheet pile dams are not as favorable to the Department as softer engineering options for restoration. Please consider back filling a section of the canals to marsh grade or higher, and possibly hand placing small riprap to prevent weather and wildlife erosion. Hand placing small riprap reduces the need for heavy equipment use, providing greater protection of the surrounding sensitive areas. This option also allows for natural recruitment of mangroves, within the riprap, thus further stabilizing the ditch plug. This would also prevent the illegal boating access to areas upstream of the backfill, which was stated as a concern. The Department recognizes that this may not be feasible for all of the canals, but is requesting this option for the House and Slagle Ditches.” (ID #38)

Concern Statement #7. A weir or other flow-through structure should not be included in the alternative design for the Raulerson Canal or East Side Creek.

- “This looks like an excellent set of alternatives, however I feel that a flow discharge structure/flow-through structure or weir or any combination of these are unnecessary at the Raulerson Canal and East Side Creek.” (ID #1)
- “We question the use of a flow discharge structure on the Raulerson Canal. We encourage the exploration of this concept in more detail to ensure that such a structure is consistent with the objectives of the project. We understand that there may be an engineering or geologic benefit to this, but if the opportunity is available and acceptable to completely dam this canal, not allowing for either flow in or

out, we support this Alternative ... We also question the use of a flow-through structure or weir at East Side Creek with the same thoughts and concerns as mentioned above with Raulerson Canal.” (ID #35)

Concern Statement #8. Canoe ramps are not needed at some or all of the dam locations.

- “I recommend alternatives at Raulerson Canal and East Side Creek that do not have options for a canoe ramp.” (ID #1)
- “We encourage the Park to continue to refrain from having an option of canoe ramps in the set of Alternatives for House and Slagle's ditches. At this time we feel this would be inappropriate in the wilderness setting of these two areas.” (ID #35)
- “We discourage the concept of designing canoe ramps into the dams at the Raulerson Canal and East Side Creek and recommend that Alternatives exist for each of these two structures that do not include ramps. We believe that the existing ramps on the dams at the East Cape Canal extension and the Homestead Canal are spatially located as effective and adequate entry points alone for day usage of the no-motor zone region. We encourage the Park to explore whether or not more ramps are needed.” (ID #35)

Concern Statement #9. Alternatives should be considered for dams along all of the human-made canals in the Cape Sable region.

- “The traditional water flow will be accomplished by dams on every North/South canal dug into the Cape Sable area.” (ID #11)
- “Assuming that the Middle Cape Canal between the north end of Lake Ingraham and Florida Bay is not natural, what was the original natural flowway(s) for Lake Ingraham? Are there future plans to plug the Middle Cape Canal?” (ID #41)
- “I assume that this is just another step towards enclosing the whole Lake Ingraham to isolate it more from the open GOM. Has there been any modelling of

how fast the project should last. Is it better to do it all at once or in phases?” (ID #16)

Concern Statement #10. East Side Creek should be considered for dam alternatives.

- “We encourage the Park to continue considering complete damming of the East Side Creek. While natural in appearance, this creek has been and continues to be artificially altered as a result of increasing transport of water through the East Cape Canal. We feel the increasing erosion and water moving capacity of this creek must be addressed if this project is going to be a success and meet the objectives. We also feel that neglecting this creek would jeopardize the integrity of any other new structures at the three other sites.” (ID #35)

Concern Statement #11. East Side Creek should not be considered for dam alternatives.

- “I would like to separate the project into two projects completely for separate 'Action' & 'No Action' considerations for the EA & future improvement(s). 1.) East Side Creek - 'No Action' - Natural feature simply artificially degraded by the other 3 un-natural features; let recover naturally &/or re-assess at a later date when artificial influence(s) are mitigated 2.) Slagle Ditch, House Ditch, Rauleson Canal - Outright denied a 'No Action' alternative completely; implying that SOMETHING needs to be done absolutely to one, two or all three locations - Un-natural features in which one or more MUST receive at least minimal 'Action' to improve WILDERNESS CHARACTER(s) - None should receive canoe launch ramps during recovery period of 5 years” (ID #30)
- “The dams are good except damming the natural creek or east side creek.” (ID #27)

Concern Statement #12. Ingress/egress of wildlife species should be considered in the alternative design along the canals proposed to be dammed.

- “Why is ingress-egress of manatees and sawfish discussed for East Side Creek, not part of considered alternatives for other proposed dam projects in this analysis?” (ID #41)
- “Please also consider an alternative that allows the ingress and egress of listed species such as manatees and smalltooth sawfish.” (ID #38)
- “If they must dam. Make a culvert for fish to pass.” (ID #27)

Concern Statement #13. Visitor use features should be included in the design of the alternatives.

- “It might be nice to have a couple of platforms to camp on for canoes/ kayaks while you're back there.” (ID #4)
- “Paddle craft trails and portages should be taken into consideration during the design of any restoration or improvements. Paddle craft are the only real way for us to see this part of our National Park. Improved trails and portages would perhaps enhance continued public support for the Park by the paddling community.” (ID #24)
- “If you were to dam East Creek and Raulersons canal, it would be a good time to consider a new canoe trail from bear lake to the cape. We know that the prairie has enough water to allow for this travel. The original canals are not passable and an alternative needs to be considered to allow safe passage to the cape and back in high winds. We use East Creek to exit to east cape canal and putting a dam there will make it very difficult to portage canoes and kayaks filled with gear/food/water. Given the lack of thought the park places on paddle craft put in and take out design. Most are downright dangerous and very difficult to use. Maybe, it is time to think this through with some input from the paddling community?” (ID #21)

Environmental Assessment Impact Analysis

Concern Statement #14. The potential effectiveness of the proposed dam projects and associated costs and benefits should be evaluated carefully in regards to climate change and sea level rise in the Cape Sable region.

- “The project appears to be of questionable value for reasons that should be carefully considered before proceeding with the Environmental Assessment. Cape Sable is close to sea level now, and the near future is expected to experience rising sea levels that exceed ground levels far inland beyond Cape Sable, rendering any major construction and modifications ineffective. First, the project purpose is "to reestablish the natural function of the Marl Ridge and restore the Cape Sable region to a more natural state." It appears that the definition of "natural function" of the Marl Ridge and "natural state" of the Cape Sable area refers to historical rather than future conditions. Given that the future is not going to be like the past in terms of sea level and storms, is this purpose justifiable?” (ID #39)
- “Second, this region will probably disappear over the next several decades with sea level rise. From the most detailed information we can find, the ground elevation in this area of Cape Sable appears to be -1 to 2 feet elevation. Given the expected rates of sea level rise in south Florida (1-2 feet and possibly much more) and increasing storm surges, how much time is realistic for any structures to be effective barriers to saltwater encroachment from surface and underground pathways through the porous bedrock. While the structures are to be designed for a 50 year lifetime, the surrounding landscape is likely to be well under water much sooner than that. What is the time tradeoff of sea level rise versus the cost of these projects? How well thought out are the assumed future conditions that justify these projects?” (ID #39)

- “It is concerning that based on projected sea level rise, the project benefits may be short-lived. Will consideration be given to apparent effects that may already be apparent from sea level rise and how they may already be affecting the Cape Sable environment? What projection can be developed to illustrate where habitat functions that currently and historically existed, may shift to in the future?” (ID #41)

Concern Statement #15. A storm risk assessment should be included in the EA.

- “The draft EA provides no assessment of storm vulnerability for a significant capital investment. The EA should include a risk assessment based on different storm event including hurricane force winds, storm surge and significant amounts of rainfall.” (ID #28)

Concern Statement #16. The effects of dam repairs or damming East Side Creek on commercial guide or recreational fishing should be included in the EA.

- “The dams are good except damming the natural creek or east side creek. The fishing back there is the best in the park. The fish need a way to come and go and repopulate after freezes. I guide in there all winter. Damming east side creek would destroy my business.” (ID #27)
- “I am a local guide who fishes the Cape Sable area often. Since the Damming of East cape Canal and the Homestead Canal leading to Lake Ingram I have seen nothing but bad results. What used to be a great fishery has tragically been reduced to virtually nothing I know other Captains has seen the same result.” (ID #12)

Mitigation and Monitoring

Concern Statement #17. Monitoring of the dams and resources should be conducted following construction.

- “All impacted flora a fauna communities should be monitored by ENP and non-ENP entities to determine the effectiveness of this sort of long-term project.” (ID #16)
- “None of the alternatives address how the park will monitor and maintain the dams over time. It is not clear that the park has the resources or has delegated this responsibility.” (ID #28)
- “Monitoring of the areas which will be restored if not already done, should be carried out once the restoration is complete. Salinity, vegetative changes, seepage etc.” (ID #31)
- “I am always concerned that endangered species in the area be carefully monitored to prevent harm.” (ID #32)

Concern Statement #18. A Water Quality Monitoring Plan should be developed and implemented following construction.

- “The proposed work will be conducted within the waterbodies near Flamingo/Everglades National Park watershed basin segment (Waterbody ID # 3289I). This Waterbody ID segment is currently listed as impaired for mercury (in fish tissue based on consumption advisory). The Waterbody ID will be assessed for dissolved oxygen (percent saturation) in the future. As such, a Water Quality Monitoring Plan will likely be requested, as indicated in Section 2.6.2.1 Adverse Effects, of the April 2012 Cape Sable Dams Engineering Analysis and Feasibility Study. For the proposed work, best management practices and water quality monitoring must be established for to protect and evaluate downstream resources.” (ID #38)

Construction Methodology

Concern Statement #19. All construction materials should be removed from the Cape Sable area following completion of construction.

- “We suggest that the design of any new structures be done in a way that allows for any remaining, unneeded construction materials to be removed after completion of the project. We feel that the large pilings that were left in Lake Ingraham after completion of Phase I diminish from the wilderness setting and are a navigational safety concern in such a small channel.” (ID #35)

Concern Statement #20. Construction should be scheduled to avoid crocodile nesting season.

- “The submitted information states that construction activities will not occur during the crocodile nesting season and FWC staff agrees with this protective measure. FWC staff also recommends surveying for crocodile nests prior to and during construction if avoiding the nesting season is not possible.” (ID #36)
- “The project is located in the geographic range of the threatened American crocodile (*Crocodylus acutus*). We recommend that nest surveys for crocodiles be conducted in and near the project footprint to determine the status of crocodile nesting in the project area. If crocodiles are found to nest in or the near the project footprint, construction activities should only occur outside of the nesting season of the American crocodile (September through February). The project should also be designed to maintain nesting habitat for crocodiles in and near the project footprint.” (ID #41)

Concern Statement #21. Construction should be scheduled based on the seasonal tidal cycles.

- “The Restoration Phase II access and construction should been done during the winter and spring months when the

volume of freshwater is less than during the summer/storm season.” (ID #31)

Concern Statement #22. The NPS should not use pack mules or horses for construction.

- “I also disagree with pack mule or horses used for this construction” (ID #21)

APPENDIX A

Project Press Release
(September 2, 2014)

Everglades Foundation Partners With National Park Service to Restore Cape Sable



News Release Date: September 2, 2014

Contact: General Park Information:, 305-242-7700

Contact: Media contacts only: Linda Friar, 305-242-7714

Contact: Mary Plumb, 305-242-7017

HOMESTEAD, Florida - Today the Everglades Foundation announced a \$143,000 grant to the National Park Service which will pay for 50 percent of the cost of an environmental assessment of canals that are harming the ecosystem of Cape Sable.

In the 1920s, several canals were dredged to drain the cape's interior marshes for agriculture and development. Today, salt water from tidal flow enters the fresh water marshes resulting in their complete collapse. As these marshes are destroyed, the nutrients stored in the soil are released and threaten to trigger algae blooms in Florida Bay. Algae blooms destroy bay habitats that are important to threatened species, recreational fish, and other plants and animals that depend on the bay for survival.

Harm to fish populations damages Florida's economy by significantly reducing commercial and recreational fishing, tourism, and related businesses. Environmental destruction in Cape Sable contributes to ecosystem damage in Florida Bay and the Florida Keys. Part of the remedy is plugging the canals to prevent the inflow of salt water and the outflow of freshwater.

The Park Service is moving forward to address the damage to the ecosystem caused by the canals. Everglades Foundation scientists are providing expertise in addition to the Foundation's financial contribution.

"Nearly 100 years ago, the decision was made to destroy much of Florida's natural ecosystem by dredging. Cape Sable has suffered enormously and the damage threatens Florida Bay. We are grateful that the National Park Service is taking the lead in the effort to restore this vital part of America's Everglades, and protect Florida Bay which is so important to the economy of south Florida," said Eric Eikenberg, Everglades Foundation CEO.

"Restoring a functioning freshwater ecosystem on Cape Sable will not only improve the water quality in Florida Bay, but will also improve the Everglades' resilience against sea level rise," said Everglades National Park Acting Superintendent Bob Krumenaker. "We are grateful to the Everglades Foundation for the grant that allows this important project to move forward."

The environmental assessment is expected to be completed in about 18 months.

This and other park news releases are available at
<http://www.nps.gov/ever/parknews/newsreleases.htm>

For more information about the Everglades Foundation:
<http://www.evergladesfoundation.org>

Media Contact: Brian E. Crowley, ImMEDIacy Public Relations
Office: 561.776.7659, Cell: 561.568.5709

APPENDIX B

"Florida Cape vulnerable to rising seas"
(October 17, 2014)

Environment

OCTOBER 17, 2014

Florida cape vulnerable to rising seas

HIGHLIGHTS

Wildlife managers who dammed two Florida canals in 2011 are now considering plugging another four to stop the collapse of Cape Sable.



A dam constructed on the East Cape Canal in 2011 keeps sediments from widening the canal and moving deeper into the marsh. However the East Side Creek, to the right, continues to carry sediment from the bay inland. | **Lori Oberhofer** - Lori Oberhofer, National Park Service

BY JENNY STALETOVICH

jstaletovich@MiamiHerald.com

From the sky, Florida's rugged tip looks like a scrap of emerald green lace: marshes and mangroves and tree islands all knit together by ribbons of creeks and lakes.

But at Cape Sable, a remote outpost where the Atlantic meets the Gulf of Mexico, the coast is fraying.

Usually, geological change is so slow that “you never see something in your lifetime,” Audubon Florida biologist Peter Frezza said recently as he piloted his boat around acres of mud flats filling Lake Ingraham. “But we’re watching this happen.”

For more than a decade, scientists have seen the cape as the tip of the sword in climate change. Sliced open by canals dug through the marl dividing marshes from the bay a century ago by Henry Flagler’s land company, the cape is particularly vulnerable to rising seas. Flagler was hoping to drain the wetland and lure homesteaders and ranchers.

No one ever came that far south — swarms of mosquitoes were said to suffocate cattle — but the canals widened. And as they expanded, the coast and marshes where crocodiles nest and migrating birds refuel for transcontinental flights started collapsing like a sandcastle pounded by waves.

Wildlife managers are now in a race. The more saltwater flows into marshes, the faster they die. And the faster marshes die, the more damaging nutrients from the dead sedge and other vegetation wash into the bay.

Scientists think they have a fix. Simply plug the canals. But getting money to repair a problem accessible only by boat — and easily lost in the long list of Everglades restoration projects — has been tough. Three years ago Everglades National Park constructed \$7 million dams to plug the two most damaging canals using federal stimulus grants. Now, tired of waiting for work to continue, the nonprofit Everglades Foundation has supplied \$143,000 to the park service, half the cost of completing an environmental assessment needed before more money — an estimated \$10 million — can be sought to plug four smaller canals.

“With the canals plugged, we may not be able to stop” the damage, said acting park superintendent Bob Krumenaker. “But we can slow down the action and make the system more resilient for a considerably longer time.”

As early as the 1950s, wildlife managers spotted trouble at the two main canals, the East Cape and Homestead. Originally dug only 15 to 20 feet wide, the canals broadened to 10 times their width with the constant scouring by tides. Workers erected earthen dams to

stop the canals from widening. But hurricanes and erosion washed away the dams. About 2005, damage started increasing exponentially, Frezza said.

“Even in the last three years the rate water is moving in and out is truly astonishing,” said Carol Mitchell, deputy science director at Everglades and Dry Tortugas National Parks.

At the Raulerson Brothers Canal at the western tip of Lake Ingraham, water rushes down the canal at low tide in white-capped rapids. One morning last month, Tom Van Lent, the director of science and policy at the Everglades Foundation, pointed to three feet of exposed grass and mangrove roots, a sign of just how quickly the marsh has shrunk “like letting air out of a mattress.” A side creek that Van Lent said was impassable five years ago sends water gushing out.

Scientists fear that all the nutrients washing out of the dying marsh could profoundly damage the bay. In 1992, when a massive algae bloom turned much of Florida Bay into a smelly, slimy dead zone, scientists believe the trigger was nutrient run-off. In recent years, the amount of algae-feeding nutrients in Lake Ingraham has remained much higher than in the Everglades to the north.

“We’ll never know what triggers an algae bloom,” Van Lent said. “But adding nutrients to Florida Bay is not a good thing.”

On the flip side, sediment carried by incoming tides over the last 30 years has dramatically changed Lake Ingraham. Once a freshwater lake, it is now salty and filled with acres of barren mud flats. Audubon’s Frezza said the food chain has shrunk, with small fish declining and larger fish and seabirds going elsewhere to hunt.

“It’s not quite the dead sea, but it’s pretty bad,” Van Lent said.

Park officials hope to complete the environmental assessment within the next 18 months, Krumenaker said. The assessment will look at whether plugging the four remaining canals — the Raulerson, East Side Creek, Slagle’s Ditch and House Ditch — can slow the process and improve water quality. Once the assessment is complete, the park hopes to begin the arduous process of finding money, teaming up with nonprofits to go after grants.

“We’ll talk to anyone who’s interested in this project and has a checkbook,” Krumenaker said.

APPENDIX C

"Dams in Everglades Could Improve Regional Ecosystem"
(March 7, 2015)

Outdoors MARCH 7, 2015

Dams in Everglades could improve regional ecosystem

HIGHLIGHTS

Everglades National Park proposes to expand its network of dams to slow the flow of saltwater into interior marshes near Cape Sable.



A floating dock has been built at the Homestead Canal Dam near Cape Sable, where anglers can tie up powerboats and paddle into the park's no-motor zone. | **Sue Cocking** - Miami Herald Staff

BY SUE COCKING

scocking@MiamiHerald.com

It had been several years since Islamorada light-tackle guide captain Paul Hunt had explored the sparsely traveled no-motor zones of Everglades National Park near Flamingo. So he was pleasantly surprised when he arrived last week aboard his 22-foot Angler bay boat at the Homestead Canal Dam separating Florida Bay from the Cape Sable region's vast interior marsh.

Hunt found a floating dock to tie up his boat and a small launch ramp for his 16-foot kayak. "They made this really nice," he said.

The dam and its improvements were built in 2011 — along with the nearby East Cape Extension Canal Dam — with the aim of reducing saltwater intrusion from canals dug early in the 20th century and restoring the freshwater and brackish marshes to a more natural state.

But adding those structures isn't enough to shore up the regional ecosystem, so park officials are proposing four more dam projects at House Ditch, Slagle Ditch, Raulerson Canal and East Side Creek. The park is asking for public input as planners prepare an environmental assessment of several alternatives.

Tylan Dean, the park's biological resources branch chief, said there always has been some saltwater influence inland from Florida Bay but the canals made things worse, eroding shorelines and degrading the habitat of birds, fish and other wildlife. The dams, he said, could make things better.

"By limiting the amount of saltwater flow, we expect some of the prey fish to do better," Dean said. "When you get more of the little fish, often you get more bigger fish that come to prey on them. Some species might be less common. I don't think there are any species that would disappear completely."

Dean said he would like to hear from anglers about their experiences and concerns. He also has reached out to NOAA Fisheries because endangered smalltooth sawfish reproduce in the Cape Sable area during the spring.

Amid weak tidal flow, Hunt and a companion paddled easily inland from the Homestead Canal Dam last week and entered a primitive wonderland. A dozen American crocodiles sunbathed on a mud flat as juvenile tarpon rolled nearby. Hunt's companion caught and released a jack crevalle using a Hank Brown jig head with a Saltwater Assassin tail but couldn't entice the tarpon to bite.

The pair headed into a shallow lake surrounded by mangroves and dotted with deadfalls where they jumped and lost a snook and practically ran over several more laid-up snook warming themselves on the mud flats following several days of cold fronts. All around the paddlers, mullet mudded and jumped and clouds of small minnows darted about. But no big fish chased the bait. Hunt and his passenger paddled for a couple of miles then headed back toward the dam, passing a large bull shark and releasing another jack. At the dam, Hunt's companion caught and released a sheepshead after tipping the jig with shrimp. They hadn't seen another boat all day.

Dean said the dam projects might provide some fishing benefits to Florida Bay by limiting the nutrients that spill out of the canals causing fish-killing algae blooms. Water clarity, he said, might improve with less sediment flowing into the bay.

Hunt wondered what Cape Sable's interior marshes might look like years from now with dams built and less saltwater flowing in.

"Once it's complete, it might change to different species," he said. "A hundred years ago, who knows what it was like up there? Maybe they were catching bass."

The comment period for Cape Sable Dams Restoration Phase II ends Sunday. Go to www.parkplanning.nps.gov and select "Everglades NP," then "Cape Sable Dams-Phase II," and "open for public comment."

▪ If you would like to book an Everglades fishing charter with captain Paul Hunt, call 305-393-2495.



MORE OUTDOORS

You May Like

APPENDIX D

Correspondence Report

PEPC Project ID: 56562, DocumentID: 63854

Correspondence: 1

Author Information

Keep Private: No
Name: Peter Frezza
Organization: Audubon FLorida
Organization Type: P - Conservation/Preservation
Address: 115 Indian Mound Trail
Tavernier, FL 33070
Tavernier, FL 33070
USA
E-mail: pfrezza@audubon.org

Correspondence Information

Status: Reviewed Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent: 02/05/2015 Date Received: 02/05/2015
Number of Signatures: 1 Form Letter: No
Contains Request(s): No Type: Web Form
Notes:

Correspondence Text

Topic Question 1:

No. I feel they are written perfectly for this much needed project.

Topic Question 2:

This looks like an excellent set of alternatives, however I feel that a flow discharge structure/flow-through structure or weir or any combination of these are unnecessary at the Raulerson Canal and East Side Creek. I also feel that a canoe ramp is completely unnecessary at any of the dams and diminishes from the 'Wilderness' aspect of these areas

Topic Question 3:

I recommend alternatives at Raulerson Canal and East Side Creek that do not have options for a canoe ramp.

Topic Question 4:

No

Comments:

PEPC Project ID: 56562, DocumentID: 63854

Correspondence: 2

Author Information

Keep Private: No
Name: Alan D. Sherman
Organization: Get Em Sportfishing Charters
Organization Type: H - Recreational Groups
Address: 1286 NE 99th st
Miami, FL 33138
USA
E-mail: shermana@bellsouth.net

Correspondence Information

Status: Reviewed	Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent: 02/05/2015	Date Received: 02/05/2015
Number of Signatures: 1	Form Letter: No
Contains Request(s): No	Type: Web Form
Notes:	

Correspondence Text

Topic Question 1:
I would like to see a diagram of what it is proposed before i comment.

Comments:

PEPC Project ID: 56562, DocumentID: 63854

Correspondence: 3

Author Information

Keep Private: No
Name: John W. Salisbury
Organization: Ocean Reef Rod and gun club
Organization Type: H - Recreational Groups
Address: 128 Palo de Oro Drive Islamorada FL 33036
Islamorada, FL 33036
USA
E-mail: jsalisb151@aol.com

Correspondence Information

Status: Reviewed	Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent: 02/05/2015	Date Received: 02/05/2015
Number of Signatures: 1	Form Letter: No
Contains Request(s): No	Type: Web Form
Notes:	

Correspondence Text

Topic Question 1:

This project is much needed to restore the ecological balance to the Cape Sable area. I fully support the project and hope it can be approved, funded and implemented as soon as possible

Comments:

PEPC Project ID: 56562, DocumentID: 63854

Correspondence: 4

Author Information

Keep Private: No
Name: Jeff Omans
Organization:
Organization Type: I - Unaffiliated Individual
Address:
West Palm Beach, FL 33418
USA
E-mail: omans5@juno.com

Correspondence Information

Status: Reviewed Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent: 02/05/2015 Date Received: 02/05/2015
Number of Signatures: 1 Form Letter: No
Contains Request(s): No Type: Web Form
Notes:

Correspondence Text

Topic Question 4:

I have canoed to Alligator and Fox Lakes many times. Be careful to ensure to continue to have a barrier to not allow motorboats back there. There are areas in the interior that are teeming with fish and wildlife including endangered crocodiles, and motorboats would destroy that environment.

Comments: It might be nice to have a couple of platforms to camp on for canoes/ kayaks while you're back there.

PEPC Project ID: 56562, DocumentID: 63854

Correspondence: 5

Author Information

Keep Private: No
Name: Donna Selquist
Organization:
Organization Type: I - Unaffiliated Individual
Address: 10530 SW Waterway La
Port St Lucie, FL 34987
USA
E-mail: dselquist@gmail.com

Correspondence Information

Status: Reviewed Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent: 02/05/2015 Date Received: 02/05/2015
Number of Signatures: 1 Form Letter: No
Contains Request(s): No Type: Web Form
Notes:

Correspondence Text

Topic Question 1:

I'm all for restoring waterways to their natural course. If a canal has altered that, either fill in the canal or dam it. Good choice.

Topic Question 2:

no

Topic Question 3:

no

Topic Question 4:

Depending on how long the canal has been diverting water, consideration might need to be given to the more recently established wildlife, and accommodating their needs for habitat, too.

Comments:

PEPC Project ID: 56562, DocumentID: 63854

Correspondence: 6

Author Information

Keep Private: No
Name: Jim N/A
Organization:
Organization Type: I - Unaffiliated Individual
Address: N/A
N/A, FL N/A
USA
E-mail: jim@floridasportfishingcharters.com

Correspondence Information

Status: Reviewed Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent: 02/05/2015 Date Received: 02/05/2015
Number of Signatures: 1 Form Letter: No
Contains Request(s): No Type: E-mail
Notes: email sent to Brien Culhane

Correspondence Text

Stop messing with the glades already!!! you guys think you are helping but you are actually destroying everything!! We are captains out there every day and see the damage you are doing. The engineers mess it up 60 years ago and it took a long time for nature to catch up on mans mistakes, now you are going to repeat the cycle again!!! STOP PLEASE

PEPC Project ID: 56562, DocumentID: 63854

Correspondence: 7

Author Information

Keep Private: No
Name: wilson k. bagwell
Organization:
Organization Type: I - Unaffiliated Individual
Address: P O box 512
Earleton, FL 2162'
USA
E-mail: knoxberries@msn.com

Correspondence Information

Status: Reviewed	Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent: 02/05/2015	Date Received: 02/05/2015
Number of Signatures: 1	Form Letter: No
Contains Request(s): No	Type: Web Form
Notes:	

Correspondence Text

Topic Question 2:

Proceed....very very SLOWLY....as the need for this current problem...was likelihood...brought on by mistaken actions previously taken to solve another problem.....unfortunately...the usually outcome when nature is messed with

Comments:

PEPC Project ID: 56562, DocumentID: 63854

Correspondence: 8

Author Information

Keep Private: No
Name: Stuart Krantz
Organization: Everglades Cisma
Organization Type: P - Conservation/Preservation
Address: 25 Hemenway RD
Williamsburg, MA 01096-9713
USA
E-mail: stuartkrantz@gmail.com

Correspondence Information

Status: Reviewed	Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent: 02/05/2015	Date Received: 02/05/2015
Number of Signatures: 1	Form Letter: No
Contains Request(s): No	Type: Web Form
Notes:	

Correspondence Text

Topic Question 1:
I support all the choices that do the best job at preserving wildlife.

Topic Question 2:
I support all the choices that do the best job at preserving wildlife.

Topic Question 3:
No

Topic Question 4:
Save all our Everglades Wildlife.

Comments: Bringing all the infrastructure at Everglades National Park into good repair. Ask Dolly Parton to hold a concert called Flamingo Sunset at Flamingo and donate the proceeds for the ENP infrastructure.

PEPC Project ID: 56562, DocumentID: 63854

Correspondence: 9

Author Information

Keep Private: No
Name: v l
Organization:
Organization Type: I - Unaffiliated Individual
Address:
oviedo, FL 32765
USA
E-mail:

Correspondence Information

Status: Reviewed Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent: 02/05/2015 Date Received: 02/05/2015
Number of Signatures: 1 Form Letter: No
Contains Request(s): No Type: Web Form
Notes:

Correspondence Text

Topic Question 1:

Will this improve the environment? Will it remove any and all dams which impede the natural flow of rivers?

Will it also increase the amount of protected wilderness? That is no hunting or such, not one leaf is to be touched for the misnomer of "development". Wild lands protected forever and not allowed to be touched.

Comments:

PEPC Project ID: 56562, DocumentID: 63854

Correspondence: 10

Author Information

Keep Private: No
Name: Frank D. Perez
Organization: Fla. Keys fishing guides Assoc.
Organization Type: H - Recreational Groups
Address: POBox 1558 Islamorada,Fl.
P O Box 1558 Islamorada,Fl.
islamorada, FL 33036
USA
E-mail: skiff@bellsouth.net

Correspondence Information

Status: Reviewed	Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent: 02/06/2015	Date Received: 02/06/2015
Number of Signatures: 1	Form Letter: No
Contains Request(s): No	Type: Web Form
Notes:	

Correspondence Text

Topic Question 1:

I think the damns are a great thing.

Topic Question 3:

I hope that when you do the Rollerson's ditch damn project it's done a little different than the others.I've been fishing the march for over 35yrs. I've always done it the right way.Loaded a canoe on my skiff and parked it outside the damn and portaged in to fish. The wildlife is worth the trip alone . Catching baby tarpon, redfish, and snook a bonus. However I don't understand why the ramps were done like they are. You have to drag your canoe or engineless boat up the ramps carry them to the right over rocks then back to the left portage in the canals. Why not make it a straight shot. Up the ramp straight across , down the ramp. Perhaps someone could explain the reasoning behind the way it was done.

Thank You,
Capt. Dale Perez

Comments:

PEPC Project ID: 56562, DocumentID: 63854

Correspondence: 11

Author Information

Keep Private: No
Name: James Dougherty
Organization: Evergladesfishing.com
Organization Type: H - Recreational Groups
Address: PO box 1716, key largo,fl 33037
Key largo, FL 33037
USA
E-mail: Karenkip@yahoo.com

Correspondence Information

Status: Reviewed Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent: 02/06/2015 Date Received: 02/06/2015
Number of Signatures: 1 Form Letter: No
Contains Request(s): No Type: Web Form
Notes:

Correspondence Text

Topic Question 1:

The traditional water flow will be accomplished by dams on every North/South canal dug into the Cape Sable area.

Topic Question 2:

Dam location is best determined by considering all effects. Consider leaving 2-3 thousand feet of the canals, like Slagle and House Ditch, open to Florida Bay. This will then continue to provide habitats for gamefish fry like tarpon, redfish,etc.

Topic Question 3:

No

Topic Question 4:

No

Comments:

PEPC Project ID: 56562, DocumentID: 63854

Correspondence: 12

Author Information

Keep Private: No
Name: Brian Premaza
Organization:
Organization Type: I - Unaffiliated Individual
Address:
Tavernier, FL 33070
USA
E-mail: SnookingB@aol.com

Correspondence Information

Status: Reviewed Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent: 02/06/2015 Date Received: 02/06/2015
Number of Signatures: 1 Form Letter: No
Contains Request(s): No Type: Web Form
Notes:

Correspondence Text

Topic Question 1:

N/C

Topic Question 2:

N/C

Topic Question 3:

N/C

Topic Question 4:

N/C

Comments:

I am a local guide who fishes the Cape Sable area often. Since the Damming of East cape Canal and the Homestead Canal leading to Lake Ingram I have seen nothing but bad results. What used to be a great fishery has tragically been reduced to virtually nothing I know other Captains has seen the same result. After the work was completed and the waterflow was blocked scores of Large fish Black Drum ,Redfish, Jacks,and many other species were at the surface landlocked and trapped. Since then the Black Drum and Sheephead and other fish in that area that normally spawn in that area during the winter months they are dwindling down to alarmingly low numbers. I have also seen unusual amounts of Cassiopia Jellyfish at cape sable and around the Flamingo area that were never there before until after the Dams were created. I realize that the diversion of water early in the 20th century damaged some of the areas at the Cape but over many years these areas adapted and were thriving until man steps in again and disrupts what nature adapted to. Fishing at Flamingo and Cape Sable is a huge part of our tourism for the Upper Keys as well as all of south Florida. I definitely do not support any other Changes in the waterflow around east cape or any other area in the park and would also support the removal of the 2 other structures built in that area. Please stop trying to fix things they were not broken just adapted.

PEPC Project ID: 56562, DocumentID: 63854

Correspondence: 13

Author Information

Keep Private: No
Name: Jim N/A
Organization:
Organization Type: I - Unaffiliated Individual
Address: NA
NA, FL NA
USA
E-mail: jim@floridasportfishingcharters.com

Correspondence Information

Status: Reviewed Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent: 02/05/2015 Date Received: 02/05/2015
Number of Signatures: 1 Form Letter: No
Contains Request(s): No Type: E-mail
Notes: Email sent to Jonathan Taylor. Note: The scoping newsletter and dear friends letter was sent to all fishing guides on our email list.

Correspondence Text

We are out there daily, it really has changed for the worse since they blocked the dams.
Let nature do what it needs to do..... People sitting behind a desk need to stay there. You think it is helping when it really is not. Friends of the everglades???

This makes me so mad to see this stuff.

Ask ALL the captains that fish the area, and put it up for EVERYONE to see.... the votes will shock you.

PEPC Project ID: 56562, DocumentID: 63854 Correspondence: 14

Author Information

Keep Private: No
Name: Wendy Kallergis
Organization: Greater Miami & The Beaches Hotel Association
Organization Type: B - Business
Address: 1674 Meridian Avenue, Suite 420
Miami Beach, FL 33139
USA
E-mail: wkallergis@gmbha.com

Correspondence Information

Status: Reviewed	Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent: 02/05/2015	Date Received: 02/05/2015
Number of Signatures: 1	Form Letter: No
Contains Request(s): No	Type: E-mail
Notes:	

Correspondence Text

Dear Brian,

Thank you for your email. Our association is available to send letter of support for any needs you have that will sustain our environment. We have a very active Sustainable Hospitality Council and please keep us posted if you need our assistance. I am copying Gabriole Van Bryce, our Sustainable Hospitality Council Chair who will review the below and please continue to keep us posted.

All the best

Wendy

PEPC Project ID: 56562, DocumentID: 63854

Correspondence: 15

Author Information

Keep Private: No
Name: ROBERTA M. SEBASTIAN
Organization:
Organization Type: I - Unaffiliated Individual
Address: 999 HAMILTON DRIVE
HOMESTEAD, FL 33034-2667
USA
E-mail: RMSBSN@BELLSOUTH.NET

Correspondence Information

Status: Reviewed	Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent: 02/06/2015	Date Received: 02/06/2015
Number of Signatures: 1	Form Letter: No
Contains Request(s): No	Type: Web Form
Notes:	

Correspondence Text

Topic Question 1:
I SUPPORT WHATEVER ACTION IS NECESSARY TO PROMOTE THE RETURN TO THE NATURAL ENVIRONMENT. THANK YOU.

Comments:

PEPC Project ID: 56562, DocumentID: 63854

Correspondence: 16

Author Information

Keep Private: No
Name: Derke Snodgrass
Organization:
Organization Type: I - Unaffiliated Individual
Address: 112 Coral Avenue
Tavernier, FL 33070
USA
E-mail: derkesnodgrass@hotmail.com

Correspondence Information

Status: Reviewed Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent: 02/06/2015 Date Received: 02/06/2015
Number of Signatures: 1 Form Letter: No
Contains Request(s): No Type: Web Form
Notes:

Correspondence Text

Topic Question 1:

I assume that this project is for long term goal and will not be impeded by short term obstacles like potential endangered species impacts. That is how it should be.

Topic Question 2:

No consideration should be afforded to concerns voiced by fishermen who might speak out against this sort of work. Simply because someone has been fishing a certain way for a long time does not mean that it should be taken into consideration. They need to understand that the fishing success of the improved area may be worse than what they have experienced, historically.

Topic Question 3:

I assume that this is just another step towards enclosing the whole Lake Ingraham to isolate it more from the open GOM. Has there been any modelling of how fast the project should last. Is it better to do it all at once or in phases?

Topic Question 4:

All ESA or MMPA issues should be voided, as stated previously. All manmade canals should be filled to their natural level and return any flow to a more natural meandering pattern. That includes anything done by endemic inhabitants prior to the creation of the Park.

Comments: All impacted flora a fauna communities should be monitored by ENP and non-ENP entities to determine the effectiveness of this sort of long-term project.

PEPC Project ID: 56562, DocumentID: 63854

Correspondence: 17

Author Information

Keep Private: No
Name: N/A N/A
Organization:
Organization Type: I - Unaffiliated Individual
Address:
Edgewater, FL 32141
USA
E-mail:

Correspondence Information

Status: Reviewed Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent: 02/06/2015 Date Received: 02/06/2015
Number of Signatures: 1 Form Letter: No
Contains Request(s): No Type: Web Form
Notes:

Correspondence Text

Topic Question 1:

Lived & worked in Flamingo in the early 90's and this topic was around then. Lets not wait longer... sad that it will be another year for just a decision. This needs to be done.

Topic Question 2:

I have canoed 3 of the 4 canals so I am partial to the 'canoe ramps'. I wonder if the 10' or one canal width earthen dam is enough... but since the engineers came up with this I must believe this is a good number.

Topic Question 3:

No, just that it needs to happen, and soon. Twenty years has passed since I worked there, and it was on-going for many decades before that... it is time.

Topic Question 4:

I thought about increased use since the dams will be eaiser to access and needless to say - safe. But this shouldn't dictate changes in my opinion. Lets hope the end users will pack it in and pact it out.

Comments: n/a

PEPC Project ID: 56562, DocumentID: 63854

Correspondence: 18

Author Information

Keep Private: No
Name: John A. Katterjohn
Organization:
Organization Type: I - Unaffiliated Individual
Address: 7124 Purdy Street
Indianapolis, IN 46268
USA
E-mail: landkat007@aol.com

Correspondence Information

Status: Reviewed Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent: 02/07/2015 Date Received: 02/07/2015
Number of Signatures: 1 Form Letter: No
Contains Request(s): No Type: Web Form
Notes:

Correspondence Text

Topic Question 1:
no

Topic Question 2:
no

Topic Question 3:
no

Topic Question 4:
make sure any construction is accomplished with absolute minimal damage or disturbance of ecosystem

Comments: i think it is imperative that canoe/kayak use is encouraged and ease of access to all bodies of water be a major concern

PEPC Project ID: 56562, DocumentID: 63854

Correspondence: 19

Author Information

Keep Private: No
Name: Christopher T. Carl
Organization:
Organization Type: I - Unaffiliated Individual
Address: 1124 Avenue C
Riviera Beach, FL 33404
USA
E-mail: ctc1354@yahoo.com

Correspondence Information

Status: Reviewed Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent: 02/07/2015 Date Received: 02/07/2015
Number of Signatures: 1 Form Letter: No
Contains Request(s): No Type: Web Form
Notes:

Correspondence Text

Topic Question 1:

I believe these projects are inevitable due to rising sea levels and the impacts of reduced freshwater flow from the northern tier of the Everglades. Continued saltwater intrusions into the brackish water ecology is disruptive to both vegetation and wildlife. Closing the man-made channels would allow more natural processes to reestablish which would benefit the ecology and help stabilize the southern regions of the Park. That said, damming the channels would restrict access to those areas by heavier, motor-propelled craft, a secondary benefit in my opinion.

Topic Question 2:

Designing access through any of the dam structures, locks for motorboats for example, is both unnecessary and unnatural. It would be far less expensive to rebuild the bars and cofferdams with "natural material" and allow the natural processes to reestablish. Access could still be allowed for human powered or electric powered craft that could be conveyed over the structures.

Topic Question 3:

Stop manipulating the environment for the purposes of a few and allow the region to return to a more natural state where the changes that occur naturally happen over extended periods of time which allow the other members of the natural community to adjust in their own time scales. The Parks are not just for humans but low-impact uses could still be encouraged without degrading the environment.

Topic Question 4:

The combination of environmental pressures of a rising sea level, declining fresh water recharge more intensive storms due to climate change and a demand for increased human access should drive the design and decision process toward preserving the area in its most natural state. The Everglades Region is changing and human encroachment is dwindling the few remaining natural areas. Restoring the natural salt water blocks to allow a more (though not authentic) brackish environment to return to the Cape Sable region will help preserve the environment for ALL the 'stake-holders' who rely on the ENP for their very existence.

Correspondences - Cape Sable Dams Restoration Phase II Environmental Assessment - PEPC ID: 56562

Comments: I am a frequent visitor, kayak/canoe tour guide, naturalist and for several decades, observer of the decline of the 'largest wilderness area east of the Mississippi'. Recent changes that open previously restricted areas of the Park to recreational use have in my opinion been helpful and thoughtful. I hope this continues but consideration of what access is allowed should be a greater concern. Noise, artificial lights and the by-products of petroleum have destabilizing and erosive consequences for the plants, wildlife and human visitors. Technology is now allowing for alternative means of access which should be encouraged early and often. "Putting in the time and effort" not just the "having the money" to gain access improves the experience and reduces the consequences to the ecosystem but it needn't be all-or-nothing. Thoughtful alternatives and rational limitations with the benefit of the environment as The Priority should be sought.

Thanks for the opportunity to comment.

PEPC Project ID: 56562, DocumentID: 63854

Correspondence: 20

Author Information

Keep Private: No
Name: jim katterjohn
Organization:
Organization Type: I - Unaffiliated Individual
Address:
Indianapolis, IN 46220
USA
E-mail: katterjohnj@yahoo.com

Correspondence Information

Status: Reviewed	Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent: 02/07/2015	Date Received: 02/07/2015
Number of Signatures: 1	Form Letter: No
Contains Request(s): No	Type: Web Form
Notes:	

Correspondence Text

Topic Question 4:

Until the problems with a warming world and seas is overcome, the fresh water/salt water problems cannot be overcome with dams. Let's get to the problem of global warming.

Comments:

PEPC Project ID: 56562, DocumentID: 63854

Correspondence: 21

Author Information

Keep Private: No
Name: Vivian Oliva
Organization:
Organization Type: I - Unaffiliated Individual
Address: 6701 SW 116 ct
Unit 107
Miami, FL 33173
USA
E-mail: Snook33172@yahoo.com

Correspondence Information

Status: Reviewed Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent: 02/07/2015 Date Received: 02/07/2015
Number of Signatures: 1 Form Letter: No
Contains Request(s): No Type: Web Form
Notes:

Correspondence Text

Topic Question 1:

I question the expense for the more complicated alternatives due to future sea level rise. I also disagree with pack mule or horses used for this construction.

Topic Question 2:

If you were to dam East Creek and Raulersons canal, it would be a good time to consider a new canoe trail from bear lake to the cape. We know that the prairie has enough water to allow for this travel. The original canals are not passable and an alternative needs to be considered to allow safe passage to the cape and back in high winds. We use East Creek to exit to east cape canal and putting a dam there will make it very difficult to portage canoes and kayaks filled with gear/food/water. Given the lack of thought the park places on paddle craft put in and take out design. Most are downright dangerous and very difficult to use. Maybe, it is time to think this through with some input from the paddling community?

Topic Question 4:

I am not a hydrologist and might be totally wrong. I do feel that at this point in time, the area is used to saltwater intrusion and I doubt taking it back into a freshwater ecosystem might not be the best solution. Adjusting and allowing natural flow in and out of the area might be the best option.

Comments:

PEPC Project ID: 56562, DocumentID: 63854

Correspondence: 22

Author Information

Keep Private: No
Name: N/A N/A
Organization:
Organization Type: I - Unaffiliated Individual
Address:
Miami, FL 33149
USA
E-mail:

Correspondence Information

Status: Reviewed Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent: 02/11/2015 Date Received: 02/11/2015
Number of Signatures: 1 Form Letter: No
Contains Request(s): No Type: Web Form
Notes:

Correspondence Text

Topic Question 1:

Where's the scoping newsletter with project details? When you follow the "Open For Comment" and "Document List" links all it does is take you to this "Submit Comment" form.

Can you please link the actual scoping newsletter document to this webpage. Thanks

Comments: Where's the scoping newsletter with project details? When you follow the "Open For Comment" and "Document List" links all it does is take you to this "Submit Comment" form.

Can you please link the actual scoping newsletter document to this webpage. Thanks

PEPC Project ID: 56562, DocumentID: 63854 Correspondence: 23

Author Information

Keep Private: No
Name: Jimmy Lozar
Organization:
Organization Type: I - Unaffiliated Individual
Address: N/A
N/A, UN N/A
USA
E-mail: jimmylozar@hotmail.com

Correspondence Information

Status: Reviewed Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent: 02/08/2015 Date Received: 02/08/2015
Number of Signatures: 1 Form Letter: No
Contains Request(s): No Type: E-mail
Notes: Email sent to Brien Culhane.

Correspondence Text

As an active guide for longer than I care to admit, I wholly endorse whatever measures you deem necessary to save the cape area.

Capt. Jimmy Lozar

PEPC Project ID: 56562, DocumentID: 63854

Correspondence: 24

Author Information

Keep Private: No
Name: N/A N/A
Organization:
Organization Type: I - Unaffiliated Individual
Address:
Fort lauderdale, FL 33328
USA
E-mail:

Correspondence Information

Status: Reviewed	Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent: 02/12/2015	Date Received: 02/12/2015
Number of Signatures: 1	Form Letter: No
Contains Request(s): No	Type: Web Form
Notes:	

Correspondence Text

Topic Question 1:

I believe the dams should be restored or improved upon. Paddle craft trails and portages should be taken into consideration during the design of any restoration or improvements. Paddle craft are the only real way for us to see this part of our National Park. Improved trails and portages would perhaps enhance continued public support for the Park by the paddling community.

Thanks for all you do.

Comments:

PEPC Project ID: 56562, DocumentID: 63854

Correspondence: 25

Author Information

Keep Private: No
Name: Rick Stanley
Organization:
Organization Type: I - Unaffiliated Individual
Address: 20023 Bollinger Road
Manchester, MD 21102
USA
E-mail: stanleyrb1@comcast.net

Correspondence Information

Status: Reviewed Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent: 02/13/2015 Date Received: 02/13/2015
Number of Signatures: 1 Form Letter: No
Contains Request(s): No Type: Web Form
Notes:

Correspondence Text

Topic Question 1:

If the National Park Service is not removing the dams and making every effort to restore the land to restore natural water flow, please explain why the chosen alternative or alternatives is better than restoring natural water flow in ENP.

Topic Question 2:

If the National Park Service is not removing the dams and making every effort to restore the land to restore natural water flow, please explain why the chosen alternative or alternatives is better than restoring natural water flow in ENP.

Topic Question 3:

If the National Park Service is not removing the dams and making every effort to restore the land to restore natural water flow, please explain why the chosen alternative or alternatives is better than restoring natural water flow in ENP.

Topic Question 4:

If the National Park Service is not removing the dams and making every effort to restore the land to restore natural water flow, please explain why the chosen alternative or alternatives is better than restoring natural water flow in ENP.

Comments: If the National Park Service is not removing the dams and making every effort to restore the land to restore natural water flow, please explain why the chosen alternative or alternatives is better than restoring natural water flow in ENP.

PEPC Project ID: 56562, DocumentID: 63854

Correspondence: 26

Author Information

Keep Private: No
Name: Theresa Lianzi
Organization: Ms.
Organization Type: I - Unaffiliated Individual
Address: 1400 S. Ocean Drive
Apt. 1504
Hollywood, FL 33019
USA
E-mail: terrlia@hotmail.com

Correspondence Information

Status: Reviewed	Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent: 02/17/2015	Date Received: 02/17/2015
Number of Signatures: 1	Form Letter: No
Contains Request(s): No	Type: Web Form
Notes:	

Correspondence Text

Topic Question 1:

I have reviewed the project and find that the proposed dam restorations should address the salt water intrusion problems currently occurring in the canals.

Topic Question 2:

Will any wildlife be harmed by the back filling and the construction of the dams?

Topic Question 3:

Would completely filling in the canals solve the problem of salt water intrusion or would that create new problems?

Topic Question 4:

Are the canals vital to the wildlife in the area?

Comments: I agree that the Marl Ridge in the Cape Sable Area needs to be recreated. Has totally filling in these four canals been considered? The dams are not a permanent solution as they erode over time.

PEPC Project ID: 56562, DocumentID: 63854

Correspondence: 27

Author Information

Keep Private: No
Name: Brian Esposito
Organization: ENP fishing guide
Organization Type: H - Recreational Groups
Address: 3346 McKinley Street
Hollywood, FL 33021
USA
E-mail: captbrianesposito@gmail.com

Correspondence Information

Status: Reviewed Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent: 02/18/2015 Date Received: 02/18/2015
Number of Signatures: 1 Form Letter: No
Contains Request(s): No Type: Web Form
Notes:

Correspondence Text

Topic Question 1:

The dams are good except damming the natural creek or east side creek. The fishing back there is the best in the park. The fish need a way to come and go and repopulate after freezes. I guide in there all winter. Damming east side creek would destroy my business.

Topic Question 2:

Damming natural creek would be horrible. Fish cannot come and go. It freeze would be a death sentence for the thousands of snook that call it home.

Topic Question 3:

If they must dam. Make a culvert for fish to pass.

Topic Question 4:

Freezes would kill all the snook that use the marsh behind the dam. We would loose the best fishery in the park.

Comments: I am a ENP guide. Do not dam east side or natural creek. It will destroy the best fly fishery in the park. Fish need a way to come and go. Water will stay to high for good sight fishing also without a way to get out. It will put me out of business.

PEPC Project ID: 56562, DocumentID: 63854

Correspondence: 28

Author Information

Keep Private: No
Name: Michael A. Jester
Organization: Everglades National Park
Organization Type: F - Federal Government
Address: 40001 SR 9336
Homestead, FL 33034
USA
E-mail: michael_jester@nps.gov

Correspondence Information

Status: Reviewed Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent: 02/25/2015 Date Received: 02/25/2015
Number of Signatures: 1 Form Letter: No
Contains Request(s): No Type: Web Form

Notes: Where Mike referenced the draft EA in responses to topic questions 1 and 4, he meant to reference the scoping newsletter. I spoke with him to clarify on 2/25.

Brien

Correspondence Text

Topic Question 1:

The draft EA does not specifically address why the proposed actions are necessary for the management of Wilderness which would justify a development in designated wilderness.

Topic Question 2:

None of the alternatives address how the park will monitor and maintain the dams over time. It is not clear that the park has the resources or has delegated this responsibility.

Topic Question 4:

The draft EA provides no assessment of storm vulnerability for a significant capital investment. The EA should include a risk assessment based on different storm event including hurricane force winds, storm surge and significant amounts of rainfall.

Comments:

PEPC Project ID: 56562, DocumentID: 63854

Correspondence: 29

Author Information

Keep Private: No
Name: Stephen Davis
Organization: Everglades Foundation
Organization Type: P - Conservation/Preservation
Address: 18001 Old Cutler Rd., Suite 625
Palmetto Bay, FL 33157
USA
E-mail: sdavis@evergladesfoundation.org

Correspondence Information

Status: Reviewed Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent: 03/06/2015 Date Received: 03/06/2015
Number of Signatures: 1 Form Letter: No
Contains Request(s): No Type: Web Form
Notes:

Correspondence Text

Topic Question 1:

The Everglades Foundation supports Everglades National Park's canal-plugging efforts on Cape Sable that will protect remaining freshwater and brackish water habitats and potentially restore degraded areas.

Topic Question 2:

Consideration of these alternatives will restore the natural function of the marl berm and provide the best opportunity to protect and restore interior of Cape Sable.

Topic Question 3:

No.

Topic Question 4:

No.

Comments: The Everglades Foundation appreciates the opportunity to provide comments regarding Phase II of Cape Sable Dams Restoration. As one of the most remote areas of Everglades National Park and Florida, Cape Sable remains unknown to many. However, it contains some of the most pristine beaches in Florida and supports world-class recreational fishing for prized species such as tarpon, snook, and spotted seatrout. Cape Sable provides essential habitat for wading birds, the American crocodile, smalltooth sawfish, and nesting sea turtles, and it represents one of the largest wintering shorebird habitats in North America. Cape Sable is also one of south Florida's most important lines of defense against hurricanes approaching the peninsula from the south and west (e.g., Hurricane Wilma in 2005).

Phase I plugging of the Homestead and East Cape Canals in 2011 was highly successful and has already resulted in significant improvements in water quality and fish communities behind the marl berm (Audubon Florida, Pers. Comm.). Plugging these remaining canals will help to curb further erosion of canals, subsequent sediment and nutrient redistribution, and peat collapse in vulnerable areas behind the marl berm. Overall, these efforts will help to sustain remaining brackish and

Correspondences - Cape Sable Dams Restoration Phase II Environmental Assessment - PEPC ID: 56562

freshwater marsh habitats on Cape Sable and will provide an opportunity to restore freshwater and brackish water marshes that have been degraded or lost. As sea levels continue to rise around the Florida peninsula, efforts such as this and larger scale restoration of freshwater flow to Everglades National Park will allow for more natural landward transition of these important coastal habitats.

PEPC Project ID: 56562, DocumentID: 63854

Correspondence: 30

Author Information

Keep Private: No
Name: Nicholas D. Roger
Organization: National Park Service
Organization Type: F - Federal Government
Address: HCR 61, BOX 42
Ochopee, FL 34141
USA
E-mail: nickroger68@gmail.com

Correspondence Information

Status: Reviewed Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent: 03/07/2015 Date Received: 03/07/2015
Number of Signatures: 1 Form Letter: No
Contains Request(s): No Type: Web Form
Notes:

Correspondence Text

Topic Question 1:
see comment section

Topic Question 2:
"

Topic Question 3:
"

Topic Question 4:
"

Comments: 03-03-2015

Dear Pedro Ramos,

Hello sir & good day to you, I have been asked by EVER Restoration Project Manager, Jonathan Taylor, to comment publicly on the Cape Sable Restoration Project in light of my field experience in the park. For 3 years, I have worked for EVER as a seasonal Interpretation Ranger both at Gulf Coast & Shark Valley duty stations; I have ample experience hiking most of the parks trails (including Coastal Prairie Trail) & Paddling on the wilderness waterway through the 10,000 islands. This field experience has given me on the ground & water insight to possible solutions to the compromised Flamingo Embankment; currently un-naturally impacting both Florida Bay & the interior wetlands of Cape Sable due to tidal influx allowing salt water to penetrate north of the marl ridge. I hope that my contemplations on this subject matter may be applicable to a NEPA compliant Action/No Action plan for the EA of the project(s). First, I would like to separate the project into two projects completely for separate 'Action' & 'No Action' considerations for the EA & future improvement(s).

Correspondences - Cape Sable Dams Restoration Phase II Environmental Assessment - PEPC ID: 56562

1.) East Side Creek - 'No Action'

ÉNatural feature simply artificially degraded by the other 3 un-natural features;
let recover naturally &/or re-assess at a later date when artificial influence(s)
are mitigated

2.) Slagle Ditch, House Ditch, Rauleson Canal - Outright denied a 'No Action'
alternative completely; implying that SOMETHING needs to be done absolutely to one,
two or all three locations

ÉUn-natural features in which one or more MUST receive at least minimal 'Action'
to improve WILDERNESS CHARACTER(s)

ÉNone should receive canoe launch ramps during recovery period of 5 years

ÉI propose these following solutions:

-SLAGLE DITCH & RAULSEN CANAL: Accessible with a flat bottom barge; trammel into the ditch with loads of coarse limestone & appropriate building materials one after another. Fill in the ditch (focus will be on Flamingo Embankment marl ridge first but plan to fill entire manmade portions of these canals that are accessible) with material only up to 6" below the highest average tidal rise height & include mixed heights as would be naturally. Have vegetation volunteers hand plant Red Mangrove (*Rhizophora mangle*) propagules upon the repaired site immediately following installation of repaired marl ridge; repair will shift & so will newly established hand planted native vegetation communities (to include more than only Red Mangroves), but root structure systems will begin to help stabilize as they acclimate to the formation. Do not establish any canoe launch/chickee/ground site for at least 5 years after site has recovered. After 5 years recovery, consider a ground campsite, canoe launch, or chickee, but only one of the 3 options only.

Note: man has been in this area for over 10,000 years & our species is still a 'natural' occurrence to be sure. This solution strikes a positive mark on ALL wilderness characters - if not immediate, as a result of, in the future. This solution is relatively cheap, restores wilderness, will provide for solitude &/or recreation opportunities in the future, will be a 'reduced' development & becomes an untrammled place mostly. Most importantly, this places a most hurricane resistant natural dam in these locations... a Red Mangrove stand.

-HOUSE DITCH: Unfortunately, house ditch only appears accessible from the North via flat bottom barge which means the process of backfilling the ditch would take much longer than for Slagle Ditch & Rauleson canal. Nonetheless, I would recommend backfilling it much in the same manner as suggested with a focus on repairing the original marl ridge as the primary objective & extending the project only where access allows, placing the backfill material & coarse limestone in the ditch up to 6" below the average high tide depth (with mixed heights) and following up with a native re-vegetation project to finish the area. I do not believe the Southern Portion of this ditch needs dealt with at all (South of the Coastal Prairie trail). I have personally been to this location & it appears, in my opinion, to be in a state of self-repair & is doing nicely. No canoe launch campsite or chickee should be placed here in the future assuming there will be consideration of one of these for Slagle Ditch already after 5 years recovery time. This Ditch appears to be least negatively impactful of the 3 Ditches being reviewed for the EA & 'action' & should be considered last.

Thank you for your time & consideration of my proposals. I can assure you this is the final product of having taken myself through the appropriate steps in order to comply with the Wilderness Act, NEPA & the National Park Service regulations all of which needed careful thorough consideration in order to contribute & comment on the most effective way to improve the Wilderness Character in this region.

Best regards,

Nicholas D. Roger

Park Ranger (Interpretation): Everglades NP & Rocky Mountain NP "Snowbird Ranger"

(720) 880 - 8880

PEPC Project ID: 56562, DocumentID: 63854

Correspondence: 31

Author Information

Keep Private: No
Name: Franklin Adams
Organization: Florida Wildlife Federation
Organization Type: P - Conservation/Preservation
Address: 761 15th St. N.W.
Naples, FL 34120
USA
E-mail: captfrankadams@aol.com

Correspondence Information

Status: Reviewed	Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent: 03/07/2015	Date Received: 03/07/2015
Number of Signatures: 1	Form Letter: No
Contains Request(s): No	Type: Web Form
Notes:	

Correspondence Text

Topic Question 1:

The Florida Wildlife Federation supports the need to repair, replace and extend all non-functioning sheet pile and fill dams in the Cape Sable area that are included in the EA. Intrusion of saltwater into what was historically a freshwater system has resulted in considerable damage and significant vegetative changes due to the saltwater intrusion.

Topic Question 2:

The Restoration Phase II access and construction should been done during the winter and spring months when the volume of freshwater is less than during the summer/storm season.

Topic Question 3:

None

Topic Question 4:

Monitoring of the areas which will be restored if not already done, should be carried out once the restoration is complete. Salinity, vegetative changes, seepage etc.

Comments: Lake Ingraham was once a freshwater system prior to the canalization of the inland areas.

Today a fisherman catches saltwater species in Lake Ingraham that are not tolerant of freshwater . Tidal flows can be very strong and scouring in the entrances to the Lake on a incoming tide. With a continued rise in sea levels it is possible/probable that eventually the barrier coast of Lake Ingraham will be lost and it will become a totally saltwater system, no longer to be a "lake".

Consideration of this eventuality of rising water levels needs to be considered in the long-term planning for the Cape Sable area.

Correspondences - Cape Sable Dams Restoration Phase II Environmental Assessment - PEPC ID: 56562

PEPC Project ID: 56562, DocumentID: 63854

Correspondence: 32

Author Information

Keep Private: No
Name: Drew Martin
Organization:
Organization Type: I - Unaffiliated Individual
Address: 720 Lucerne Ave #1396
Lake Worth, FL 33460
USA
E-mail: DMandCH@aol.com

Correspondence Information

Status: Reviewed Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent: 03/07/2015 Date Received: 03/07/2015
Number of Signatures: 1 Form Letter: No
Contains Request(s): No Type: Web Form
Notes:

Correspondence Text

Topic Question 1:

I support this project and believe it is essential to shore up these dams before further damage is done to these area by erosion. These canals are significantly degrading the soils in this area.

Topic Question 2:

I would pick alternative 4 as the most inclusive. I hope that this alternative accomplishes the goals of the project.

Topic Question 3:

I hope that enough work is done to prevent further erosion of this area.

Topic Question 4:

I am always concerned that endangered species in the area be carefully monitored to prevent harm.

Comments: I support moving forward with this project and hope that the park service will move forward expeditiously.

PEPC Project ID: 56562, DocumentID: 63854

Correspondence: 33

Author Information

Keep Private: No
Name: Savannah M. Howington
Organization:
Organization Type: I - Unaffiliated Individual
Address: 1621 Greer Ave
Homestead, FL 33035
USA
E-mail: stuntdreamers@yahoo.com

Correspondence Information

Status: Reviewed Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent: 03/08/2015 Date Received: 03/08/2015
Number of Signatures: 1 Form Letter: No
Contains Request(s): No Type: Web Form
Notes:

Correspondence Text

Topic Question 1:

Yes. Each one could be written more clearly so the information is conveyed in plain language. I have provided examples of clearer wording and deleted redundant statements below:

Draft Purpose Statement:

The purpose of this project is review alternative courses of action intended to restore the Cape Sable region by reestablishing the natural function of the Marl Ridge that has been degraded due to canal-induced saltwater intrusion into area freshwater and brackish marshes.

Draft Needs Statement:

- Reestablish the natural function of the Marl Ridge in the Cape Sable region
- Reduce the impacts of the canal-induced intrusion of saltwater northward through the Marl Ridge into freshwater and brackish marshes
- Reduce the erosional processes that are increasing sediment transport to/from Florida Bay and the interior marshes through the House and Slagle Ditches, Raulerson Canal, and East Side Creek
- Improve and protect the freshwater and brackish water interior marshes as habitat for fish and wildlife
- Improve qualities of wilderness character in Cape Sable region of the Marjory Stoneman Douglas Wilderness Area

Draft Objective Statements:

Natural Resources

- Restore a more natural hydrology to the Cape Sable region by reducing the flow of saltwater into freshwater and brackish interior marshes through the House and Slagle Ditches, Raulerson Canal, and East Side Creek
- Improve the ecological resilience of the interior freshwater and brackish water marshes to climate change and sea level rise farther
- Improve habitat for juvenile crocodiles, wading birds, forage fish, and other wildlife within the interior freshwater and brackish marshes of the Cape Sable region
- Reduce the loss of sediments and nutrients increased by canal-induced erosional processes between Florida Bay and interior

Correspondences - Cape Sable Dams Restoration Phase II Environmental Assessment - PEPC ID: 56562

freshwater and brackish marshes

- Reduce canal-induced adverse impacts on marine resources in the Cape Sable region

Wilderness

- Design project features to maximize compatibility with the qualities of wilderness character of the Cape Sable region

Cultural Resources

- Design project features to avoid adverse impacts to cultural and archeological resources and historic features

Engineered Features

- Design engineered or constructed features of project, where necessary, to endure 50 years with annual/bi-annual maintenance barring severe damage by catastrophic hurricane events

Visitor Use and Experience

- Provide safe waterways for allowable recreation, such as canoeists/kayakers, in the Cape Sable region of the Marjory Stoneman Douglas Wilderness Area
- Reduce the opportunity for illegal motorized access into the Marjory Stoneman Douglas Wilderness Area through the canals under study of this project.

Topic Question 2:

House and Slagle Ditches

The description "anticipated original widths" is awkward. I would either say "original widths" or "measurable or estimated original width"

Raulerson Canal and East Side Creek

The description "sheet pile only dam" is awkward. Since there are alternatives that expand the materials to "sheet pile and fill", "sheet pile dam" or dam constructed with sheet pile" is sufficient.

Topic Question 3:

What are the plans for monitoring the success of the repairs such as periodic salinity measures and inventories of fish and wildlife in the interior freshwater and brackish marshes?

Topic Question 4:


An inventory of T&E species in the Cape Sable region should be a part of this study. In addition to the American Crocodile, Smalltooth Sawfish may be in the area as well as the Bald Eagle. I'm not convinced that this project will help wading birds in general. It may be better to either say 'foraging wading birds' or just say Rosette Spoonbills. What about T&E plants? There may should be mention of invasive species, plants and animals.

Comments: Please note that I provided my comments as part of the public and not as part of my employment with NPS or EVER.

PEPC Project ID: 56562, DocumentID: 63854

Correspondence: 34

Author Information

Keep Private: No
Name: Sean Morton
Organization: NOAA Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary  Official Rep.
Organization Type: F - Federal Government
Address: 33 East Quay Road
Key West, FL 33040
USA
E-mail: beth.dieveney@noaa.gov

Correspondence Information

Status: Reviewed Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent: 03/04/2015 Date Received: 03/04/2015
Number of Signatures: 1 Form Letter: No
Contains Request(s): No Type: Letter
Notes: PDF scan of letter attached to email transmitted to Jonathan Taylor (NPS) on March 4, 2015.

Correspondence Text

Memorandum for: Pedro M. Ramos
Superintendent, Everglades National Park
U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service

From: Sean Morton
Superintendent
Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary

Subject: Cape Sable Dams Restoration Phase II

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Cape Sable Dams Restoration Phase II project. Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary (FKNMS) has a history of partnership with Everglades National Park and finds greater opportunity for coordination through implementation of this project. FKNMS staff has reviewed the project Purpose, Needs, and Objectives and we support implementation of the project. We offer the following additional information for consideration as you move forward with design and implementation.

While the project's primary purpose is to reestablish the natural functions of the Marl Ridge and Cape Sable region through addressing saltwater intrusion and degradation of interior marsh ecosystems, implementation of this project may result in beneficial impacts to downstream waters and habitats. FKNMS is adjacent to and downstream from Everglades National Park and therefore as you examine the beneficial impacts this project may have for Everglades National Park and Florida Bay water quality parameters, marine and estuarine resources, and wildlife and habitat consider also the potential downstream benefits to FKNMS. These benefits could include more balanced fresh-water exchange and decreased sediment and nutrient inputs to seagrass habitats in the bay and to coral reef habitats located downstream on the ocean-side of the Florida Keys.

In addition, we recommend coordination on this project with the FKNMS Water Quality Protection Program (WQPP) of which Everglades National Park is a member. The WQPP, administered by Florida Department of the Environment and U.S. Environmental Protection Program, is a collaborative effort dedicated to protecting and improving water quality, coral reefs, seagrasses, fisheries and recreational opportunities within the FKNMS. The WQPP has supported and funded research and monitoring programs that track water quality, coral reef and seagrass communities. The results from these long-term monitoring and research studies have been instrumental in resource management decision-making and in determining what actions are needed to sustain a healthy ecosystem. Information from these activities could further inform your project design and implementation.


To aid in greater coordination on understanding and addressing water quality issues that have the potential to impact Everglades National Park, Florida Bay and FKNMS, we recommend you present at the next WQPP Steering Committee meeting in summer 2015. We can help facilitate this opportunity; Carol Mitchell serves as Everglades National Park contact for the WQPP.

cc: Jennifer Derby, USEPA WQPP Steering Committee Co-Chair
Steven Blackburn, USEPA WQPP Management Committee Co-Chair
Jon Iglehart, FLDEP WQPP Steering Committee Co-Chair
Gus Rios, FLDEP WQPP Management Committee Co-Chair

PEPC Project ID: 56562, DocumentID: 63854

Correspondence: 35

Author Information

Keep Private: No
Name: Peter Frezza
Organization: Audubon Florida  Official Rep.
Organization Type: P - Conservation/Preservation
Address: 115 Indian Mound Trail
Tavernier, FL 33070
USA
E-mail: pfrezza@audubon.org

Correspondence Information

Status: Reviewed Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent: 03/10/2015 Date Received: 03/10/2015
Number of Signatures: 1 Form Letter: No
Contains Request(s): No Type: Letter
Notes: Received as a PDF letter attached to an email sent to Brien Culhane (NPS)

Correspondence Text

March 10, 2015

Pedro M. Ramos, Superintendent
Everglades National Park Headquarters
40001 State Road 9336
Homestead, FL 33034-6733

Dear Superintendent Ramos:

Audubon Florida submits the following comments in response to the scoping letter announcement of the Environmental Assessment (EA) for the Cape Sable Dams Restoration Phase II for Everglades National Park (herein after "the Park"). We appreciate and commend the Park on their continued interest in preserving the integrity of the Cape Sable wilderness and also appreciate the continued opportunity to engage in this process and make comment as the Park moves forward with this important project.

The mission of Audubon Florida is to conserve and restore natural ecosystems, focusing on birds and other wildlife for the benefit of humanity and the earth's biological diversity. As a state affiliate of the National Audubon Society, we carry out our mission through a family of members, local chapters, centers, sanctuaries, scientists, advocates and diverse volunteer leadership. With its 35,000 members and 44 chapters statewide, Audubon Florida combines strong science with powerful advocacy, connects people with nature in its sanctuaries, and inspires future generations of conservationists through education.

Audubon Florida has been conducting scientific research within the interior wetlands of Cape Sable since 1990. This research involves monitoring hydrologic conditions and the community of small prey base fish that reside in these wetlands and serve as the food base for Roseate Spoonbills, Wood Storks, and other wading birds and game fish. Through our research we have

Correspondences - Cape Sable Dams Restoration Phase II Environmental Assessment - PEPC ID: 56562

learned that this area serves as critical habitat for not only wading bird species but also for other bird species such as Bald Eagles, Peregrine Falcons, and White and Brown Pelicans and reptiles such as American crocodiles and gopher tortoises. We have found that it is also a primary and vital nursery for many important game fish species including tarpon, snook and redfish. Along with being a nursery, these wetlands are also important foraging habitat for a plethora of game fish species including snook, redfish, tarpon, black drum, and the endangered smalltooth sawfish.

Audubon research findings have shown the negative ecological impacts of saltwater intrusion into the historically fresh to brackish water marshes north of the marl ridge as a result of canal induced breaching of the ridge. These have included increased and unstable salinity conditions and alterations to natural dry season recession rates. These consequences have had the adverse effect of diminishing the productivity and species diversity of the prey base fish community which in turn has resulted in loss of foraging habitat for wading birds, game fish, and larger predators.

Our findings aided the Park's ability to bring attention to the problematic issues associated with the canals and the eventual completion of the very successful first phase of damming on East Cape and Homestead Canals. Since completion of Phase I, we have been documenting encouraging results of a lower and more stable salinity environment behind the dams and increasing productivity and diversity of prey fishes. We have been observing worsening conditions however, in the vicinity of Raulerson Canal and East Side Creek as both waterways continue to widen and transport more water in and out of the marsh. We have also been observing the continued deterioration of the House and Slagle's ditch dams; primarily at Slagle's, where piping at the dam is now worsening. Because of this, we are strongly advocating for continued progression of this second phase of dam restoration.

We have reviewed the draft assessment and conclude that the Park has done an excellent job at addressing the "Needs" and "Objectives" of the project in this statement. We also feel the Park has adequately presented a thorough set of "Alternatives" to be considered during the EA.

At this time we would like to share the following additional, more specific comments for consideration:

ÉWe question the use of a flow discharge structure on the Raulerson Canal. We encourage the exploration of this concept in more detail to ensure that such a structure is consistent with the objectives of the project. We understand that there may be an engineering or geologic benefit to this, but if the opportunity is available and acceptable to completely dam this canal, not allowing for either flow in or out, we support this Alternative.

ÉWe encourage the Park to continue considering complete damming of the East Side Creek. While natural in appearance, this creek has been and continues to be artificially altered as a result of increasing transport of water through the East Cape Canal. We feel the increasing erosion and water moving capacity of this creek must be addressed if this project is going to be a success and meet the objectives. We also feel that neglecting this creek would jeopardize the integrity of any other new structures at the three other sites.

ÉWe also question the use of a flow-through structure or weir at East Side Creek with the same thoughts and concerns as mentioned above with Raulerson Canal.

ÉWe discourage the concept of designing canoe ramps into the dams at the Raulerson Canal and East Side Creek and recommend that Alternatives exist for each of these two structures that do not include ramps. We believe that the existing ramps on the dams at the East Cape Canal extension and the Homestead Canal are spatially located as effective and adequate entry points alone for day usage of the no-motor zone region. We encourage the Park to explore whether or not more ramps are needed. Minimizing human disturbance is going to be a principal component to preserving integrity of these wetlands.

ÉIf canoe ramps are to remain in the set of Alternatives for Raulerson Canal and East Side Creek, we encourage the Park to ensure that the design of these ramps is compatible with the quality of wilderness character. We make this comment because we believe that the docks, ramp, and walkway constructed at East Cape and Homestead Canal as part of Phase I far exceeded what was necessary at these sites to accomplish objectives and do not conform to definitions and concepts of wilderness. Our

Correspondences - Cape Sable Dams Restoration Phase II Environmental Assessment - PEPC ID: 56562

experience is that the two new ramps are often used as boat ramps rather than "canoe ramps," as they allow for small skiffs to be portaged, contributing to continued violations of the no-motor-zone. We feel that visitor use and experience objectives could have been met with a design that was far less excessive than what was constructed.

ÉWe encourage the Park to continue to refrain from having an option of canoe ramps in the set of Alternatives for House and Slagle's ditches. At this time we feel this would be inappropriate in the wilderness setting of these two areas.

ÉWe suggest that the design of any new structures be done in a way that allows for any remaining, unneeded construction materials to be removed after completion of the project. We feel that the large pilings that were left in Lake Ingraham after completion of Phase I diminish from the wilderness setting and are a navigational safety concern in such a small channel.

Thank you again for your consideration of these comments. We look forward to working with you in the future as the Cape Sable Dams Restoration projects progress.

Sincerely,
Peter Frezza
Research Manager - Everglades Region


PEPC Project ID: 56562, DocumentID: 63854

Correspondence: 36

Author Information

Keep Private: No

Name: Ernest Marks

Organization: Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission  Official Rep.

Organization Type: S - State Government

Address: 8535 Northlake Blvd.
West Palm Beach, FL 33412
USA

E-mail: FWCConservationPlanningServices@myFWC.com

Correspondence Information

Status: Reviewed Park Correspondence Log:

Date Sent: 03/12/2015 Date Received: 03/12/2015

Number of Signatures: 1 Form Letter: No

Contains Request(s): No Type: Letter

Notes: PDF letter attached to email transmitted to Lauren Milligan (State Clearinghouse)
Letter also received as part of State Clearinghouse package

Correspondence Text

March 12, 2015

Lauren Milligan
Florida State Clearinghouse
Florida Department of Environmental Protection
3900 Commonwealth Boulevard, M.S. 47
Tallahassee, FL 32399-3000
Lauren.Milligan@dep.state.fl.us

Re: SA1 #FL20 1502067 181 (Prior SA1 #FL200906034777C), National Park Service Scoping
Notice - Cape Sable Dams Restoration - Phase II Project, Everglades
National Park - Monroe County, Florida

Dear Ms. Milligan:

Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) staff has coordinated our agency's review of the above-referenced project, and provides the following comments for your consideration in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and the Coastal Zone Management Act/Florida Coastal Management Program.

Project Description

The National Park Service (NPS), in compliance with the NEPA of 1969, plans to prepare an Environmental Assessment (EA) for the evaluation of dams on four waterways: House Ditch, Slagle Ditch, Raulerson Canal, and the East Side Creek. The four dams are located in the Cape Sable region of Everglades National Park in Monroe County, Florida. The purpose of

Correspondences - Cape Sable Dams Restoration Phase II Environmental Assessment - PEPC ID: 56562

the project is to provide sustainable solutions to canal induced saltwater intrusion and degradation of interior freshwater and brackish marshes. The intent is to reestablish the natural function of the Marl Ridge and restore the Cape Sable region to a more natural state. Additionally, the project proposes to improve habitat for juvenile crocodiles, wading birds, forage fish, and other wildlife within the interior freshwater and brackish marshes of the Cape Sable region.

Potentially Affected Resources

A geographic information system (GIS) analysis found that the project site contains, is adjacent to, or occurs near:

ÉU.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) consultation area and critical habitat for:

- o American crocodile (*Crocodylus acutus*, Federall y Endangered [FE])

ÉWood stork (*Mycteria americana*, FT) core foraging areas (CFA), defined as an 18.6-mile radius around wood stork nesting colonies, for three wood stork colonies:

- o Paurotis Pond

- o East River

- o Cuthbert Lake

ÉNational Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) critical habitat for:

- o Smalltooth sawfish (*Pristis pectinata*, FE)

ÉPotential habitat for state- and federally listed species:

- o Florida manatee (*Trichechus manatus latirostris*, FE)

- o Roseate spoonbill (*Platalea ajaja*, State Species of Special Concern [SSC])

- o White ibis (*Eudocimus a/bus*, SSC)

Comments and Recommendations

The NPS intends to evaluate and analyze the potential environmental impact of several dam alternatives and to prepare an EA. The information submitted at this time states "the extent of potential impacts to threatened and endangered species will be quantified in the next phase of the project's development." FWC staff provides the following comments and recommendations as assistance in developing the EA and may provide additional information during the development of the alternatives to ensure protection of state-listed species within the project area.

FWC staff recommends the NPS evaluate impacts to the above-mentioned listed species as well as any other potential fish and wildlife species known to utilize the project area. The evaluation should include any potential impacts both during construction and as a result of the completed project. Inclusion of a comprehensive evaluation offish and wildlife within this area will aid in reducing impacts during project planning and in providing measures for use during construction to protect species throughout all of the project stages. These areas are also used by marine (non-listed) fish species such as snook, spotted seatrout and red fish during certain times of the year. An assessment of potential impacts to these species will be necessary to identify impacts to valuable recreational game fish species in Florida. In addition, manatees are known to frequent the Cape Sable area and likely use the areas proposed for construction activities. FWC staff has provided a copy of the Standard Manatee Conditions for In-Water Work (attached) to be followed during all in-water activity to protect manatees from project construction activities.

The site may contain habitat suitable for the federally listed species identified above and is located within the consultation area and critical habitat for the American crocodile. We recognize the intent of the project proposes to improve habitat for juvenile crocodiles. The submitted information states that construction activities will not occur during the crocodile nesting season and FWC staff agrees with this protective measure. FWC staff also recommends surveying for crocodile nests prior to and during construction if avoiding the nesting season is not possible. Additionally, we recommend the NPS coordinate with the USFWS for information regarding crocodiles as well as the other federally listed species that may be impacted by the proposed project. The USFWS South Florida Ecological Services Office may be contact at (772) 562-3909 to discuss any necessary federal requirements.

Correspondences - Cape Sable Dams Restoration Phase II Environmental Assessment - PEPC ID: 56562

Finally, the proposed project is located within smalltooth sawfish federally designated critical habitat. Project-specific comments and recommendations for smalltooth sawfish can be provided by NMFS and we request the NPS take into consideration NMFS comments, recommendations and Biological Opinion regarding smalltooth sawfish for NEPA document development and permitting activities associated with this project.

We appreciate the opportunity to provide information ahead of the final EA and FWC staff is available to provide technical assistance as needed in preparation of the final EA to ensure maximum benefits to fish and wildlife resources. We find the proposed evaluation consistent with FWC's authorities under the Coastal Zone Management Act/Florida's Coastal Management Program. If you need any further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact Jane Chabre either by phone at (850) 410-5367 or by email at FWCConservationPlanningServices@MyFWC.com. If you have specific technical questions regarding the content of this letter, please contact Marissa Krueger by phone at (561) 882-5711 or by email at Marissa.Krueger@MyFWC.com.

Sincerely,
Ernest Marks
Regional Director


em/mk
ENV 1-3-2
Cape Sable Dams Restoration-Phase 11_20633_03 1215
Enclosure

cc: Brien Culhane, Everglades National Park, brien.culhane@nps.gov

PEPC Project ID: 56562, DocumentID: 63854

Correspondence: 37

Author Information

Keep Private: No
Name: Lauren P. Milligan
Organization: Florida State Clearinghouse  Official Rep.
Organization Type: S - State Government
Address: 3900 Commonwealth Boulevard
Marjory Stoneman Douglas Building
Tallahassee, FL 32399
USA
E-mail: Lauren.Milligan@dep.state.fl.us

Correspondence Information

Status: Reviewed Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent: 03/18/2015 Date Received: 03/18/2015
Number of Signatures: 1 Form Letter: No
Contains Request(s): No Type: Letter
Notes: PDF letter attached to email sent to Brien Culhane (NPS) and Jonathan Taylor (NPS)

Correspondence Text

March 18, 2015

Mr. Brien F. Culhane, AICP
Chief, Planning and Compliance
Everglades and Dry Tortugas National Parks
40001 State Road 9336
Homestead, FL 33034

RE: National Park Service - Scoping Notice - Cape Sable Dams Restoration-
Phase II Project, Everglades National Park - Monroe County, Florida.
SAI # FL201502067181

Dear Mr. Culhane:

The Florida State Clearinghouse has coordinated a review of the National Park Service's scoping notice for the Cape Sable Dams Restoration-Phase II project under the following authorities: Presidential Executive Order 12372; § 403.061(42), Florida Statutes; the Coastal Zone Management Act, 16 U.S.C. §§ 1451-1464, as amended; and the National Environmental Policy Act, 42 U.S.C. §§ 4321-4347, as amended.

The following agencies submitted comments, concerns and recommendations regarding the scoping notice, all of which (memorandum and letters) are attached hereto, incorporated herein by this reference, and made an integral part of this letter:

- Florida Department of Environmental Protection
- South Florida Water Management District

Correspondences - Cape Sable Dams Restoration Phase II Environmental Assessment - PEPC ID: 56562

- Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission
- Florida Department of State, Division of Historical Resources

Based on the information contained in the scoping notice and comments provided by our reviewing agencies, at this stage, the state has no objections to the proposed federal activities. To ensure the project's consistency with the Florida Coastal Management Program (FCMP), the concerns identified by the state must be addressed prior to project implementation. The state's continued concurrence will be based on the activities' compliance with FCMP authorities, including federal and state monitoring of the activities to ensure their continued conformance, and the adequate resolution of issues identified during this and subsequent reviews. The state's final concurrence of the project's consistency with the FCMP will be determined during the environmental permitting process, in accordance with Section 373.428, Florida Statutes.

Thank you for the opportunity to review the public notice. Should you have any questions regarding this letter, please don't hesitate to contact me at Lauren.Milligan@dep.state.fl.us or (850) 245-2170.

Yours sincerely,
Lauren P. Milligan, Coordinator
Florida State Clearinghouse
Office of Intergovernmental Programs

Enclosures

cc: Ed Smith, DEP, OEP
Chad Kennedy, DEP, OEP WPB
Julie Neurohr, DEP, South District
Mindy Parrott, SFWMD
Scott Sanders, FWC
Timothy Parsons, DOS

PEPC Project ID: 56562, DocumentID: 63854

Correspondence: 38

Author Information

Keep Private: No
Name: Inger Hansen
Organization: Florida Department of Environmental Protection, Office of Ecosystem Projects
Official Rep.
Organization Type: S - State Government
Address: 3900 Commonwealth Boulevard
Marjory Stoneman Douglas Building
Tallahassee, FL 32399
USA
E-mail:



Correspondence Information

Status: Reviewed Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent: 03/16/2015 Date Received: 03/18/2015
Number of Signatures: 1 Form Letter: No
Contains Request(s): No Type: Letter
Notes: Part of State Clearinghouse response package

Correspondence Text

Memorandum

TO: Florida State Clearinghouse

THROUGH: Edward C. Smith, Director
Office of Ecosystem Projects

FROM: Inger Hansen and Jerilyn Ashworth, Office of Ecosystem Projects
Julie Neurohr, South District Office

DATE: March 16, 2015

SUBJECT: National Park Service - Scoping Notice - Cape Sable Dams Restoration-Phase II
Project, Everglades National Park - Monroe County, Florida
SAI # FL201502067181

Background:

The Cape Sable Canals were constructed in the 1920s to allow draining of interior Everglades freshwater marshes and provide improved access to the backcountry. The construction of the canals in the 1920s allowed tidal saltwater to intrude into the freshwater marshes of Cape Sable. To control the intrusion of saltwater, the canals were plugged with earthen dams in the 1950s. Over the years, these dams have been breached or severely compromised by the forces of weathering and erosion, causing them to fail and once again require repair so that they function effectively to protect the freshwater marshes

Correspondences - Cape Sable Dams Restoration Phase II Environmental Assessment - PEPC ID: 56562

and surrounding areas which serve as habitat for various wading birds and other native species. The House Ditch, Slagle Ditch, Raulerson Canal, and East Side Creek waterways are the focus of the proposed Environmental Assessment. The Department of Environmental Protection (Department) previously provided comments on the Cape Sable Dams Restoration Scoping Notice on October 26, 2008 and on the draft Environmental Assessment (EA) on July 2, 2009, regarding the restoration of the East Cape and Homestead Canals.

Comments:

The Department recommends the development of detailed goals and specific objectives for hydrology, salinity range, or specific ecological targets. The Draft Purpose Statement, Draft Needs Statements, and Draft Objectives Statements set vaguely defined goals such as less saltwater intrusion, less sediment transport, less erosion, etc. Goals that do not set specific ecological or hydrologic targets limit the restoration and alternatives to be considered. Additionally, please ensure that both the "Final Public Scoping Newsletter Cape Sable Dams Phase II EA" and the Engineering Analysis Report's Introduction state the goals and objectives.

The report presents alternatives for each of the canals/waterways, but does not indicate a preferred alternative. When choosing the preferred alternative for each of the sites, please consider the most natural alternative that will achieve the highest benefit. Hard engineering structures such as sheet pile dams are not as favorable to the Department as softer engineering options for restoration. Please consider back filling a section of the canals to marsh grade or higher, and possibly hand placing small riprap to prevent weather and wildlife erosion. Hand placing small riprap reduces the need for heavy equipment use, providing greater protection of the surrounding sensitive areas. This option also allows for natural recruitment of mangroves, within the riprap, thus further stabilizing the ditch plug. This would also prevent the illegal boating access to areas upstream of the backfill, which was stated as a concern. The Department recognizes that this may not be feasible for all of the canals, but is requesting this option for the House and Slagle Ditches.

In the other canals and waterways where sheet pile is proposed in all the alternatives, except the no action, please consider the sensitivity of the surrounding area, the wildlife usage, and reduce and minimize impacts as much as possible when selecting the preferred alternative. Please also consider an alternative that allows the ingress and egress of listed species such as manatees and smalltooth sawfish.

The proposed work will be conducted within the waterbodies near Flamingo/Everglades National Park watershed basin segment (Waterbody ID # 3289I). This Waterbody ID segment is currently listed as impaired for mercury (in fish tissue based on consumption advisory). The Waterbody ID will be assessed for dissolved oxygen (percent saturation) in the future. As such, a Water Quality Monitoring Plan will likely be requested, as indicated in Section 2.6.2.1 Adverse Effects, of the April 2012 Cape Sable Dams Engineering Analysis and Feasibility Study. For the proposed work, best management practices and water quality monitoring must be established for to protect and evaluate downstream resources.

The proposed project involves dredging and filling in wetlands and other surface waters, which may require an environmental resource permit (ERP) from the state, under Part IV of Chapter 373, Florida Statutes. According to our operating agreement, this project falls under the permitting jurisdiction of the South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD); therefore, any required ERP permit(s) should be obtained from the SFWMD.

Please note that during the state permitting process a Uniform Mitigation Assessment Method (Chapter 62-345, Florida Administrative Code) Analysis will be required to assess the wetland impacts and benefits of the project. The project benefits may outweigh the wetland impacts, but if it is determined that there is more functional loss than functional gain, additional mitigation will be required.

The Department sincerely appreciates the opportunity to comment. Should you have any questions on our comments, please feel free to contact Natalie Barfield at (850) 245-3197.

Correspondences - Cape Sable Dams Restoration Phase II Environmental Assessment - PEPC ID: 56562

Electronic copies to:

Ed Smith

Frank Powell

Kelli Edson

Inger Hansen

Jerilyn Ashworth


Jordan Pugh

Julie Neurohr

PEPC Project ID: 56562, DocumentID: 63854

Correspondence: 39

Author Information

Keep Private: No
Name: Mindy Parrott
Organization: South Florida Water Management District  Official Rep.
Organization Type: S - State Government
Address: 3301 Gun Club Road
West Palm Beach, FL 33406
USA
E-mail:

Correspondence Information

Status: Reviewed Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent: 03/11/2015 Date Received: 03/18/2015
Number of Signatures: 1 Form Letter: No
Contains Request(s): No Type: Letter
Notes: Letter received as part of State Clearinghouse package

Correspondence Text

March 11, 2015

Lauren P. Milligan, Coordinator
Florida State Clearinghouse
Florida Department of Environmental Protection
3900 Commonwealth Blvd, M.S. 47
Tallahassee, FL 32399-3000
Via email

Subject: Cape Sable Dams Restoration - Phase II Project Environmental Assessment
SAI # FL201502067181
Everglades National Park, Monroe County

Proposed Project

The National Park Service is seeking input into preparation of an Environmental Assessment under NEPA for possible modifications to dams in the Cape Sable area of Everglades National Park. These dams are on four waterways, House Ditch, Slagle Ditch, Raulerson Canal, and East Side Creek. Canals were dug through the Flamingo Embankment early in the 20th century and later plugged by earthen dams in the 1950s. The NPS is requesting ideas, suggestions, and concerns about the project. We appreciate being included in this scoping request.

Everglades Systems Assessment Section Comments:

The project appears to be of questionable value for reasons that should be carefully considered before proceeding with the Environmental Assessment. Cape Sable is close to sea level now, and the near future is expected to experience rising sea

Correspondences - Cape Sable Dams Restoration Phase II Environmental Assessment - PEPC ID: 56562

levels that exceed ground levels far inland beyond Cape Sable, rendering any major construction and modifications ineffective. First, the project purpose is "to reestablish the natural function of the Marl Ridge and restore the Cape Sable region to a more natural state." It appears that the definition of "natural function" of the Marl Ridge and "natural state" of the Cape Sable area refers to historical rather than future conditions. Given that the future is not going to be like the past in terms of sea level and storms, is this purpose justifiable?

Second, this region will probably disappear over the next several decades with sea level rise. From the most detailed information we can find, the ground elevation in this area of Cape Sable appears to be -1 to 2 feet elevation. Given the expected rates of sea level rise in south Florida (1-2 feet and possibly much more) and increasing storm surges, how much time is realistic for any structures to be effective barriers to saltwater encroachment from surface and underground pathways through the porous bedrock. While the structures are to be designed for a 50 year lifetime, the surrounding landscape is likely to be well under water much sooner than that. What is the time tradeoff of sea level rise versus the cost of these projects? How well thought out are the assumed future conditions that justify these projects?

These questions and forecasts should be addressed before proceeding further with these projects. If the projects are approved, then specific environmental effects of construction need to be clearly defined in order to evaluate the type and magnitude of impacts on the local environments.

Regulatory Division Comments

1. The project may qualify for an Individual Environmental Resource Permit (ERP) solely for environmental restoration or enhancement activities, from the South Florida Water Management District for construction and operation of the project, in accordance with Rule 62-330.054, Florida Administrative Code (FAC).
2. Reasonable assurance is required to be provided which demonstrates that the project has been designed and will be constructed in a manner to reduce or eliminate wetlands and other surface water resources direct and secondary impacts, in accordance with the Environmental Resource Permit Applicant's Handbook Volume I, subsection 10.2.1 (AH I, 10.2.1).
3. Reasonable assurance is required to be provided which demonstrates that the construction and operation of the project will not cause adverse impacts to the abundance and diversity of fish, wildlife and listed species (e.g. manatees, American crocodile, smalltooth sawfish), and will not cause adverse impacts to the habitat of fish, wildlife and listed species, in accordance with AH I, 10.2.2.
4. Reasonable assurance is required to be provided with demonstrates that the the project will not change the hydroperiod of a wetland or other surface water so as to adversely affect wetlands functions or other surface water functions, in accordance with AH I, 10.2.2.4.
5. Reasonable assurance is required to be provided which demonstrates that the project will not adversely affect significant historical and archaeological resources, in accordance with AH I, 10.2.3.6.
6. Reasonable assurance is required to be provided which demonstrates that the project will not result in short term or long term water adverse water quality impacts, in accordance with AH I, 10.2.4.1 and 10.2.4.2.
7. The project may require authorization for the use of state owned sovereign submerged lands, in accordance with Chapter 18-21, FAC.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,
Mindy Parrott, PWS
Lead Environmental Analyst

Correspondences - Cape Sable Dams Restoration Phase II Environmental Assessment - PEPC ID: 56562

Regulation Division
South Florida Water Management District
mparrott@sfwmd.gov


PEPC Project ID: 56562, DocumentID: 63854

Correspondence: 40

Author Information

Keep Private: No

Name: Robert F. Bendus

Organization: Florida Department of State, State Historic Preservation Officer  Official Rep.

Organization Type: S - State Government

Address: 500 South Bronough Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399
USA

E-mail: Mary.Berman@dos.myflorida.com

Correspondence Information

Status: Reviewed Park Correspondence Log:

Date Sent: 02/11/2015 Date Received: 03/18/2015

Number of Signatures: 1 Form Letter: No

Contains Request(s): No Type: Letter

Notes: Letter received as part of State Clearinghouse package

Correspondence Text

February 11, 2015

Florida State Clearinghouse
Agency Contact and Coordinator (SCH)
Attn: Lauren Milligan
3900 Commonwealth Blvd. MS-47
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-3000

RE: DHR Project File No. : 2015-0558/ Received by DHR: February 06,2015
Application No.: SAI FL201502067181
Project: Scoping Notice - Cape Sable Dams Restoration Phase II Project, Everglades Nat! Park
County: Monroe

Dear Ms. Milligan,

Our office received and reviewed the project in accordance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended and the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969. The State Historic Preservation Officer is to advise and assist federal agencies when identifying historic properties (archaeological, architectural, and historical resources) listed, or eligible for listing, in the National Register of Historic Places, assessing the project's effects, and considering alternatives to avoid or minimize adverse effects.

Thank you for providing the State Historic Preservation Office the opportunity to comment on the Scoping Notice in preparation of a future Environmental Assessment (EA). Cape Sable region contains several recorded archaeological sites and one historic linear resource which may be affected by the proposed undertaking. We look forward to receiving and reviewing the EA for the evaluation of dams on four waterways- House Ditch, Slagle Ditch, Raulerson Canal, and East Side

Correspondences - Cape Sable Dams Restoration Phase II Environmental Assessment - PEPC ID: 56562

Creek within the Cape Sable region of Everglades National Park.

For any questions concerning our comments, please contact Mary Berman, Historic Sites Specialist, by phone at 850.245.6333 or by electronic mail at Mary.Berman@dos.mylorida.com.

Sincerely,

Robert F. Bendus, Director

Division of Historical Resources

and State Historic Preservation Officer

PEPC Project ID: 56562, DocumentID: 63854

Correspondence: 41

Author Information

Keep Private: No
Name: Richard Fike
Organization: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Organization Type: F - Federal Government
Address: South Florida Ecological Services Office
1339 20th St.
Vero Beach, FL 32960-3559
USA
E-mail: richard_fike@fws.gov

Correspondence Information

Status: Reviewed Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent: 03/20/2015 Date Received: 03/20/2015
Number of Signatures: 1 Form Letter: No
Contains Request(s): No Type: E-mail
Notes: USFWS comments were sent by email to Tylan Dean, EVER Chief of Biological Resources.

Correspondence Text

US Fish and Wildlife Service's Initial Comments on Engineering Analysis and Feasibility of Repairing or Replacing Failed Dams and Limiting Salt Water Intrusion in Cape Sable Everglades National Park, April 2012 and associated newsletter summarizing the project. (Received by Service February 20, 2015)

Pages 22 and 36: The current status under ESA of the wood stork is threatened and for the Florida bonneted bat is endangered (Assume this a relic of the date of preparation of the engineering analysis).

Page 2: What is the location of the Flamingo Embankment? It would be useful to have a map depicting its extent and relationship to the proposed projects.

Page 2: Hydrologic analyses of the Cape Sable watershed would be useful. The current and historic volume and proportion of flows for the associated creeks, ditches and canals as well as their seasonality would be helpful in determining potential impacts on associated biota.

Page 2: Assuming that the Middle Cape Canal between the north end of Lake Ingraham and Florida Bay is not natural, what was the original natural flowway(s) for Lake Ingraham? Are there future plans to plug the Middle Cape Canal?

Page 3: What was the natural drainage pattern and flowways prior to canal/dam construction?

Page 6: If manatees have access through existing creeks, ditches and canals, it will be necessary to observe standard protection measures for construction and sediment control in waterways.

Page 14: It is concerning that based on projected sea level rise, the project benefits may be short-lived. Will consideration be given to apparent effects that may already be apparent from sea level rise and how they may already be affecting the Cape Sable environment? What projection can be developed to illustrate where habitat functions that currently and historically

Correspondences - Cape Sable Dams Restoration Phase II Environmental Assessment - PEPC ID: 56562

existed, may shift to in the future?

Page 23: Given the altered state of the Cape Sable habitat, have any species of concern become established that would be impacted by the anticipated restoration of a brackish environment?

Page 24: To what level and extent of restoration of historical hydrology and brackish conditions is it expected that these actions can accomplish?

Page 45: Why is ingress-egress of manatees and sawfish discussed for East Side Creek, not part of considered alternatives for other proposed dam projects in this analysis?

General comments:

Will complete backfill of unnatural ditches and canals and restoration of altered creeks be considered as part of this analysis? We assume that this may be cost prohibitive or that fill materials may not be readily available. However, this may offer the best opportunity to obtain the maximum extent of the desired habitat restoration with the added benefit of reduced future maintenance costs.

The project is located in the geographic range of the threatened American crocodile (*Crocodylus acutus*). We recommend that nest surveys for crocodiles be conducted in and near the project footprint to determine the status of crocodile nesting in the project area. If crocodiles are found to nest in or the near the project footprint, construction activities should only occur outside of the nesting season of the American crocodile (September through February). The project should also be designed to maintain nesting habitat for crocodiles in and near the project footprint.


PEPC Project ID: 56562, DocumentID: 63854

Correspondence: 42

Author Information

Keep Private: No

Name: Andrew J. Weidman

Organization: Seminole Tribe of Florida, Tribal Historic Preservation Office  Official Rep.

Organization Type: Q - Tribal Government

Address: 30290 Josie Billie Hwy, PMB 1004
Clewiston, FL 33440
USA

E-mail: andrewweidman@semtribe.com

Correspondence Information

Status: Reviewed Park Correspondence Log:

Date Sent: 03/24/2015 Date Received: 03/24/2015

Number of Signatures: 1 Form Letter: No

Contains Request(s): No Type: Letter

Notes: PDF letter attached to email transmitted to Penelope Del Bene (NPS)

Correspondence Text

March 24, 2015

Penelope Del Bene
Chief of Cultural Resources
Everglades and Dry Tortugas National Parks
40001 State Road 9336
Homestead, Florida 33034
Phone: (305) 242-7755
Email: penelope_delbene@nps.gov

Subject: Cape Sable Dams Restoration Phase II EIS, Everglades National Park
THPO#: 0028423

Dear Ms. Del Bene,

Thank you for contacting the Seminole Tribe of Florida's Tribal Historic Preservation Office (STOF-THPO) regarding the proposed Cape Sable Dams Restoration Phase II EIS. We have reviewed the documents regarding the above referenced project and, because the project lies within an area that is of historical importance to the Tribe, we would like to ensure that adequate provisions are made to identify and assess any historic properties that may be present within the APE. We respectfully request that consultation continue between the STOF-THPO and the National Park Service throughout this project. Please provide the STOF-THPO with any additional relevant information regarding the APE and proposed actions.

Respectfully,
Andrew J. Weidman, MA, RPA
STOF-THPO, Compliance Review Section

Correspondences - Cape Sable Dams Restoration Phase II Environmental Assessment - PEPC ID: 56562

30290 Josie Billie Hwy, PMB 1004
Clewiston, FL 33440
Office: 863-983-6549 x12216
Email: andrewweidman@semtribe.com

Cc: Bradley Mueller - Compliance Review Supervisor, THPO
">

APPENDIX E

Content Analysis Report

Content Analysis Report (06/24/2015)

Document ID: 63854

Document Title: Public Scoping Newsletter and Feasibility Study for Cape Sable Dams Restoration
Phase II Environmental Assessment

Comment Distribution by Status

Status	Number of Comments
Coded	162
Total	162

Correspondence Distribution by State

State	Percentage	Number of Correspondence
FL	88.1 %	37
IN	4.8 %	2
MA	2.4 %	1
UN	2.4 %	1
MD	2.4 %	1
Total	—	42

Correspondence Distribution by Country

Country	Percentage	Number of Correspondence
USA	100.0 %	42
Total	—	42

Correspondence Signature Count by Organization Type

Organization Type	Correspondences	Signatures
Business	1	1
Conservation/Preservation	5	5
Federal Government	4	4
Recreational Groups	5	5
State Government	5	5
Tribal Government	1	1
Unaffiliated Individual	21	21
Total	42	42

Correspondence Distribution by Code

(Note: Each correspondence may have multiple codes. As a result, the total number of Correspondence may be different than the actual comment totals)

Code	Description	Correspondences	Signatures
TQ1-63854	Do you have any comments or concerns regarding the	25	25
TQ4-63854	Are there any environmental issues or concerns you	21	21
TQ2-63854	Do you have any comments or concerns regarding the	20	20
TQ3-63854	Do you have any suggestions regarding other altern	18	18
AL4000	Alternatives: New Alternatives Or Elements	17	17

CS1000	Supports project	16	16
WH4000	Wildlife And Wildlife Habitat: Impact Of Proposal And Alternatives	10	10
VU4000	Visitor Use: Impact Of Proposal And Alternatives	9	9
TE4000	Threatened And Endangered Species: Impact Of Proposal And Alternatives	7	7
CC1000	Consultation and Coordination: General Comments	6	6
MN1000	Monitoring/Mitigation	5	5
AE11000	Affected Environment: Species Of Special Concern	5	5
WH4000	Wildlife And Wildlife Habitat: Impact Of Proposal And Alternatives	5	5
WQ4000	Water Resources: Impact Of Proposal And Alternatives	4	4
CS2000	Opposes project	4	4
WI1000	Wilderness	4	4
CC1000	Climate Change and Sea Level Rise	4	4
ED1000	Editorial	4	4
GA3000	Impact Analysis: General Methodology For Establishing Impacts/Effects	4	4
RE1000	Restoration	4	4
VU4000	Visitor Use: Impact Of Proposal And Alternatives	3	3
MN1000	Monitoring/Mitigation	3	3
VR4000	Vegetation And Riparian Areas: Impact Of Proposal And Alternatives	3	3
WQ4000	Water Resources: Impact Of Proposal And Alternatives	3	3
PN3000	Purpose And Need: Scope Of The Analysis	3	3
GA1000	Impact Analysis: Impact Analyses	3	3
CR4000	Cultural Resources: Impact Of Proposal And Alternatives	3	3
WI1000	Wilderness	3	3
GR4000	Geologic Resources: Impact Of Proposal And Alternatives	3	3
AL1000	Alternatives: Elements Common To All Alternatives	2	2
TN100	THREATS - Threats to natural resources	2	2
PN8000	Purpose And Need: Objectives In Taking Action	2	2
CC1000	Climate Change and Sea Level Rise	2	2
TE4000	Threatened And Endangered Species: Impact Of Proposal And Alternatives	2	2
AE6000	Affected Environment: Marine And Estuarine Resources	2	2
AE12000	Affected Environment: Wildlife And Wildlife Habitat	2	2
PN8000	Purpose And Need: Objectives In Taking Action	2	2
AE22000	Affected Environment: Visitor Use	2	2
NA1000	Comment not applicable to project; unrelated to current project	1	1
AL3000	Alternatives: Envir. Preferred Alt./NEPA Â§ .101&102	1	1
VN100	VALUES - Value the natural resources or setting (flora, fauna, views, natural quiet, undev. areas)	1	1
AL5000	Alternatives: Recommended Edits	1	1
AE3000	Affected Environment: Topographic	1	1
TE2000	Threatened And Endangered Species: Methodology And	1	1

	Assumptions		
SE4000	Socioeconomics: Impact Of Proposal And Alternatives	1	1
AE15000	Affected Environment: Archeology Resources	1	1
VV100	VALUES - Value the visitor opportunities (activities, programs, recreation)	1	1
AL1000	Alternatives: Elements Common To All Alternatives	1	1
AE14000	Affected Environment: Historic Structures	1	1
VS4000	Visitor Conflicts And Safety: Impact Of Proposal And Alternatives	1	1
PN12000	Purpose and Need: Recommended Edits	1	1
AE5000	Affected Environment: Wetlands	1	1

Correspondence Distribution by Correspondence Type

Type	Number of Correspondences
Web Form	29
Letter	8
E-mail	5
Total	42

Correspondence Form Letter Status

Master Form Letters	Form Letter Matches to Masters
0	0

APPENDIX F

Index by Code Report

Index By Code (06/24/2015)

AE11000 - Affected Environment: Species Of Special Concern

Audubon Florida - 35

Everglades Foundation - 29

Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission - 36

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service - 41

N/A - 33

AE12000 - Affected Environment: Wildlife And Wildlife Habitat

Audubon Florida - 35

Everglades Foundation - 29

AE14000 - Affected Environment: Historic Structures

Florida Department of State, State Historic Preservation Officer - 40

AE15000 - Affected Environment: Archeology Resources

Florida Department of State, State Historic Preservation Officer - 40

AE22000 - Affected Environment: Visitor Use

Audubon Florida - 35

Everglades Foundation - 29

AE3000 - Affected Environment: Topographic

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service - 41

AE5000 - Affected Environment: Wetlands

Audubon Florida - 35

AE6000 - Affected Environment: Marine And Estuarine Resources

Audubon Florida - 35

Everglades Foundation - 29

AL1000 - Alternatives: Elements Common To All Alternatives

Get Em Sportfishing Charters - 2

N/A - 17

AL1000 - Alternatives: Elements Common To All Alternatives

N/A - 21

AL3000 - Alternatives: Envir. Preferred Alt./NEPA Â§ .101&102

Florida Department of Environmental Protection, Office of Ecosystem Projects - 38

AL4000 - Alternatives: New Alternatives Or Elements

Audubon FLorida - 1 , 35

ENP fishing guide - 27

Evergladesfishing.com - 11
Fla. Keys fishing guides Assoc. - 10
Florida Department of Environmental Protection, Office of Ecosystem Projects - 38
Florida Wildlife Federation - 31
Ms. - 26
National Park Service - 30
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service - 41
N/A - 4 , 6 , 7 , 17 , 19 , 21 , 24

AL5000 - Alternatives: Recommended Edits

N/A - 33

CC1000 - Climate Change and Sea Level Rise

Everglades Foundation - 29
Florida Department of Environmental Protection, Office of Ecosystem Projects - 38
Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission - 36
Florida State Clearinghouse - 37
Florida Wildlife Federation - 31
NOAA Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary - 34
Seminole Tribe of Florida, Tribal Historic Preservation Office - 42
South Florida Water Management District - 39 , 39
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service - 41
N/A - 19 , 21

CR4000 - Cultural Resources: Impact Of Proposal And Alternatives

Florida Department of State, State Historic Preservation Officer - 40
Seminole Tribe of Florida, Tribal Historic Preservation Office - 42
South Florida Water Management District - 39

CS1000 - Supports project

Audubon Florida - 35
ENP fishing guide - 27
Everglades Cisma - 8
Everglades Foundation - 29
Evergladesfishing.com - 11
Fla. Keys fishing guides Assoc. - 10
Florida Wildlife Federation - 31
Greater Miami & The Beaches Hotel Association - 14
Ms. - 26
Ocean Reef Rod and gun club - 3
N/A - 5 , 15 , 16 , 17 , 23 , 32

CS2000 - Opposes project

N/A - 6 , 12 , 13 , 20

ED1000 - Editorial

Everglades CISMA - 8
National Park Service - 30
N/A - 19 , 22

GA1000 - Impact Analysis: Impact Analyses
South Florida Water Management District - 39
N/A - 7 , 18

GA3000 - Impact Analysis: General Methodology For Establishing Impacts/Effects
Everglades National Park - 28
Evergladesfishing.com - 11
Florida Wildlife Federation - 31
N/A - 16

GR4000 - Geologic Resources: Impact Of Proposal And Alternatives
Everglades Foundation - 29
NOAA Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary - 34
N/A - 32

MN1000 - Monitoring/Mitigation
Audubon Florida - 35
Everglades National Park - 28
Florida Department of Environmental Protection, Office of Ecosystem Projects - 38 , 38
Florida Wildlife Federation - 31
N/A - 16 , 32 , 33

NA1000 - Comment not applicable to project; unrelated to current project
Everglades CISMA - 8

PN12000 - Purpose and Need: Recommended Edits
N/A - 33

PN3000 - Purpose And Need: Scope Of The Analysis
Audubon Florida - 35
N/A - 9 , 16

PN8000 - Purpose And Need: Objectives In Taking Action
Audubon Florida - 35
Florida Department of Environmental Protection, Office of Ecosystem Projects - 38
South Florida Water Management District - 39
N/A - 16

RE1000 - Restoration
Everglades Foundation - 29
Ocean Reef Rod and gun club - 3
N/A - 5 , 15

SE4000 - Socioeconomics: Impact Of Proposal And Alternatives

ENP fishing guide - 27

TE2000 - Threatened And Endangered Species: Methodology And Assumptions

Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission - 36

TE4000 - Threatened And Endangered Species: Impact Of Proposal And Alternatives

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service - 41

N/A - 32

TE4000 - Threatened And Endangered Species: Impact Of Proposal And Alternatives

Florida Department of Environmental Protection, Office of Ecosystem Projects - 38

Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission - 36

South Florida Water Management District - 39

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service - 41

N/A - 4 , 16 , 33

TN100 - THREATS - Threats to natural resources

N/A - 17 , 19

TQ1-63854 - Do you have any comments or concerns regarding the

Audubon FLorida - 1

ENP fishing guide - 27

Everglades Cisma - 8

Everglades Foundation - 29

Everglades National Park - 28

Evergladesfishing.com - 11

Fla. Keys fishing guides Assoc. - 10

Florida Wildlife Federation - 31

Get Em Sportfishing Charters - 2

Ms. - 26

National Park Service - 30

Ocean Reef Rod and gun club - 3

N/A - 5 , 9 , 12 , 15 , 16 , 17 , 18 , 19 , 21 , 24 , 25 , 32 , 33

TQ2-63854 - Do you have any comments or concerns regarding the

Audubon FLorida - 1

ENP fishing guide - 27

Everglades Cisma - 8

Everglades Foundation - 29

Everglades National Park - 28

Evergladesfishing.com - 11

Florida Wildlife Federation - 31

Ms. - 26

National Park Service - 30

N/A - 5 , 7 , 12 , 16 , 17 , 18 , 19 , 21 , 25 , 32 , 33

TQ3-63854 - Do you have any suggestions regarding other altern

Audubon FLorida - 1

ENP fishing guide - 27

Everglades Cisma - 8

Everglades Foundation - 29

Evergladesfishing.com - 11

Fla. Keys fishing guides Assoc. - 10

Florida Wildlife Federation - 31

Ms. - 26

National Park Service - 30

N/A - 5 , 12 , 16 , 17 , 18 , 19 , 25 , 32 , 33

TQ4-63854 - Are there any environmental issues or concerns you

Audubon FLorida - 1

ENP fishing guide - 27

Everglades Cisma - 8

Everglades Foundation - 29

Everglades National Park - 28

Evergladesfishing.com - 11

Florida Wildlife Federation - 31

Ms. - 26

National Park Service - 30

N/A - 4 , 5 , 12 , 16 , 17 , 18 , 19 , 20 , 21 , 25 , 32 , 33

VN100 - VALUES - Value the natural resources or setting (flora, fauna, views, natural quiet, undevel. areas)

Everglades Foundation - 29

VR4000 - Vegetation And Riparian Areas: Impact Of Proposal And Alternatives

NOAA Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary - 34

N/A - 16 , 19

VS4000 - Visitor Conflicts And Safety: Impact Of Proposal And Alternatives

Audubon Florida - 35

VU4000 - Visitor Use: Impact Of Proposal And Alternatives

Audubon Florida - 35

ENP fishing guide - 27

Fla. Keys fishing guides Assoc. - 10

National Park Service - 30

N/A - 12 , 13 , 16 , 17 , 18 , 19 , 21 , 24

VV100 - VALUES - Value the visitor opportunities (activities, programs, recreation)

Everglades Foundation - 29

WH4000 - Wildlife And Wildlife Habitat: Impact Of Proposal And Alternatives

Audubon Florida - 35

ENP fishing guide - 27

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service - 41

N/A - 5 , 12

WH4000 - Wildlife And Wildlife Habitat: Impact Of Proposal And Alternatives

Audubon Florida - 35

ENP fishing guide - 27

Everglades Cisma - 8

Florida Department of Environmental Protection, Office of Ecosystem Projects - 38

Ms. - 26

NOAA Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary - 34

South Florida Water Management District - 39

N/A - 4 , 19 , 33

WI1000 - Wilderness

Audubon FLorida - 1 , 35

Everglades National Park - 28

WI1000 - Wilderness

Audubon Florida - 35

National Park Service - 30

N/A - 9 , 19

WQ4000 - Water Resources: Impact Of Proposal And Alternatives

Audubon Florida - 35 , 35

Florida Department of Environmental Protection, Office of Ecosystem Projects - 38

NOAA Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary - 34

South Florida Water Management District - 39

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service - 41

N/A - 21

APPENDIX G

Index by Organization Type Report

Index By Organization Type (06/24/2015)

Business

Greater Miami & The Beaches Hotel Association - 14; CS1000 - Supports project.

Conservation/Preservation

Audubon FLorida - 1; AL4000 - Alternatives: New Alternatives Or Elements. TQ1-63854 - Do you have any comments or concerns regarding the. TQ2-63854 - Do you have any comments or concerns regarding the. TQ3-63854 - Do you have any suggestions regarding other altern. TQ4-63854 - Are there any environmental issues or concerns you. WI1000 - Wilderness. 35; AE11000 - Affected Environment: Species Of Special Concern. AE12000 - Affected Environment: Wildlife And Wildlife Habitat. AE22000 - Affected Environment: Visitor Use. AE5000 - Affected Environment: Wetlands. AE6000 - Affected Environment: Marine And Estuarine Resources. AL4000 - Alternatives: New Alternatives Or Elements. CS1000 - Supports project. MN1000 - Monitoring/Mitigation. PN3000 - Purpose And Need: Scope Of The Analysis. PN8000 - Purpose And Need: Objectives In Taking Action. VS4000 - Visitor Conflicts And Safety: Impact Of Proposal And Alternatives. VU4000 - Visitor Use: Impact Of Proposal And Alternatives . WH4000 - Wildlife And Wildlife Habitat: Impact Of Proposal And Alternatives. WH4000 - Wildlife And Wildlife Habitat: Impact Of Proposal And Alternatives . WI1000 - Wilderness. WI1000 - Wilderness . WQ4000 - Water Resources: Impact Of Proposal And Alternatives. WQ4000 - Water Resources: Impact Of Proposal And Alternatives .

Everglades Cisma - 8; CS1000 - Supports project. ED1000 - Editorial . NA1000 - Comment not applicable to project; unrelated to current project. TQ1-63854 - Do you have any comments or concerns regarding the. TQ2-63854 - Do you have any comments or concerns regarding the. TQ3-63854 - Do you have any suggestions regarding other altern. TQ4-63854 - Are there any environmental issues or concerns you. WH4000 - Wildlife And Wildlife Habitat: Impact Of Proposal And Alternatives .

Everglades Foundation - 29; AE11000 - Affected Environment: Species Of Special Concern. AE12000 - Affected Environment: Wildlife And Wildlife Habitat. AE22000 - Affected Environment: Visitor Use. AE6000 - Affected Environment: Marine And Estuarine Resources. CC1000 - Climate Change and Sea Level Rise. CS1000 - Supports project. GR4000 - Geologic Resources: Impact Of Proposal And Alternatives. RE1000 - Restoration. TQ1-63854 - Do you have any comments or concerns regarding the. TQ2-63854 - Do you have any comments or concerns regarding the. TQ3-63854 - Do you have any suggestions regarding other altern. TQ4-63854 - Are there any environmental issues or concerns you. VN100 - VALUES - Value the natural resources or setting (flora, fauna, views, natural quiet, undeveloped areas) . VV100 - VALUES - Value the visitor opportunities (activities, programs, recreation).

Florida Wildlife Federation - 31; AL4000 - Alternatives: New Alternatives Or Elements. CC1000 - Climate Change and Sea Level Rise. CS1000 - Supports project. GA3000 - Impact Analysis: General Methodology For Establishing Impacts/Effects. MN1000 - Monitoring/Mitigation . TQ1-63854 - Do you have any comments or concerns regarding the. TQ2-63854 - Do you have any comments or concerns regarding the. TQ3-63854 - Do you have any suggestions regarding other altern. TQ4-63854 - Are there any environmental issues or concerns you.

Federal Government

Everglades National Park - 28; GA3000 - Impact Analysis: General Methodology For Establishing Impacts/Effects. MN1000 - Monitoring/Mitigation . TQ1-63854 - Do you have any comments or concerns regarding the. TQ2-63854 - Do you have any comments or concerns regarding the. TQ4-63854 - Are there any environmental issues or concerns you. WI1000 - Wilderness.

NOAA Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary - 34; CC1000 - Consultation and Coordination: General Comments. GR4000 - Geologic Resources: Impact Of Proposal And Alternatives. VR4000 - Vegetation And Riparian Areas: Impact Of Proposal And Alternatives. WH4000 - Wildlife And Wildlife Habitat: Impact Of Proposal And Alternatives . WQ4000 - Water Resources: Impact Of Proposal And Alternatives .

National Park Service - 30; AL4000 - Alternatives: New Alternatives Or Elements. ED1000 - Editorial . TQ1-63854 - Do you have any comments or concerns regarding the. TQ2-63854 - Do you have any comments or concerns regarding the. TQ3-63854 - Do you have any suggestions regarding other altern. TQ4-63854 - Are there any environmental issues or concerns you. VU4000 - Visitor Use: Impact Of Proposal And Alternatives . WI1000 - Wilderness .

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service - 41; AE11000 - Affected Environment: Species Of Special Concern. AE3000 - Affected Environment: Topographic. AL4000 - Alternatives: New Alternatives Or Elements. CC1000 - Climate Change and Sea Level Rise . TE4000 - Threatened And Endangered Species: Impact Of Proposal And Alternatives. TE4000 - Threatened And Endangered Species: Impact Of Proposal And Alternatives . WH4000 - Wildlife And Wildlife Habitat: Impact Of Proposal And Alternatives. WQ4000 - Water Resources: Impact Of Proposal And Alternatives .

Recreational Groups

ENP fishing guide - 27; AL4000 - Alternatives: New Alternatives Or Elements. CS1000 - Supports project. SE4000 - Socioeconomics: Impact Of Proposal And Alternatives. TQ1-63854 - Do you have any comments or concerns regarding the. TQ2-63854 - Do you have any comments or concerns regarding the. TQ3-63854 - Do you have any suggestions regarding other altern. TQ4-63854 - Are there any environmental issues or concerns you. VU4000 - Visitor Use: Impact Of Proposal And Alternatives . WH4000 - Wildlife And Wildlife Habitat: Impact Of Proposal And Alternatives. WH4000 - Wildlife And Wildlife Habitat: Impact Of Proposal And Alternatives .

Evergladesfishing.com - 11; AL4000 - Alternatives: New Alternatives Or Elements. CS1000 - Supports project. GA3000 - Impact Analysis: General Methodology For Establishing Impacts/Effects. TQ1-63854 - Do you have any comments or concerns regarding the. TQ2-63854 - Do you have any comments or concerns regarding the. TQ3-63854 - Do you have any suggestions regarding other altern. TQ4-63854 - Are there any environmental issues or concerns you.

Fla. Keys fishing guides Assoc. - 10; AL4000 - Alternatives: New Alternatives Or Elements. CS1000 - Supports project. TQ1-63854 - Do you have any comments or concerns regarding the. TQ3-63854 - Do you have any suggestions regarding other altern. VU4000 - Visitor Use: Impact Of Proposal And Alternatives.

Get Em Sportfishing Charters - 2; AL1000 - Alternatives: Elements Common To All Alternatives. TQ1-63854 - Do you have any comments or concerns regarding the.

Ocean Reef Rod and gun club - 3; CS1000 - Supports project. RE1000 - Restoration. TQ1-63854 - Do you have any comments or concerns regarding the.

State Government

Florida Department of Environmental Protection, Office of Ecosystem Projects - 38; AL3000 - Alternatives: Envir. Preferred Alt./NEPA Â§ .101&102. AL4000 - Alternatives: New Alternatives Or Elements. CC1000 - Consultation and Coordination: General Comments. MN1000 - Monitoring/Mitigation. MN1000 - Monitoring/Mitigation . PN8000 - Purpose And Need: Objectives In Taking Action . TE4000 - Threatened And Endangered Species: Impact Of Proposal And Alternatives . WH4000 - Wildlife And Wildlife Habitat: Impact Of Proposal And Alternatives . WQ4000 - Water Resources: Impact Of Proposal And Alternatives.

Florida Department of State, State Historic Preservation Officer - 40; AE14000 - Affected Environment: Historic Structures. AE15000 - Affected Environment: Archeology Resources. CR4000 - Cultural Resources: Impact Of Proposal And Alternatives.

Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission - 36; AE11000 - Affected Environment: Species Of Special Concern. CC1000 - Consultation and Coordination: General Comments. TE2000 - Threatened And Endangered Species: Methodology And Assumptions. TE4000 - Threatened And Endangered Species: Impact Of Proposal And Alternatives .

Florida State Clearinghouse - 37; CC1000 - Consultation and Coordination: General Comments.

South Florida Water Management District - 39; CC1000 - Climate Change and Sea Level Rise . CC1000 - Consultation and Coordination: General Comments. CR4000 - Cultural Resources: Impact Of Proposal And Alternatives. GA1000 - Impact Analysis: Impact Analyses. PN8000 - Purpose And Need: Objectives In Taking Action . TE4000 - Threatened And Endangered Species: Impact Of Proposal And Alternatives .

WH4000 - Wildlife And Wildlife Habitat: Impact Of Proposal And Alternatives . WQ4000 - Water Resources: Impact Of Proposal And Alternatives .

Tribal Government

Seminole Tribe of Florida, Tribal Historic Preservation Office - 42; CC1000 - Consultation and Coordination: General Comments. CR4000 - Cultural Resources: Impact Of Proposal And Alternatives.

Unaffiliated Individual

Ms. - 26; AL4000 - Alternatives: New Alternatives Or Elements. CS1000 - Supports project. TQ1-63854 - Do you have any comments or concerns regarding the. TQ2-63854 - Do you have any comments or concerns regarding the. TQ3-63854 - Do you have any suggestions regarding other altern. TQ4-63854 - Are there any environmental issues or concerns you. WH4000 - Wildlife And Wildlife Habitat: Impact Of Proposal And Alternatives .

N/A - 4; AL4000 - Alternatives: New Alternatives Or Elements. TE4000 - Threatened And Endangered Species: Impact Of Proposal And Alternatives . TQ4-63854 - Are there any environmental issues or concerns you. WH4000 - Wildlife And Wildlife Habitat: Impact Of Proposal And Alternatives . 5; CS1000 - Supports project. RE1000 - Restoration. TQ1-63854 - Do you have any comments or concerns regarding the. TQ2-63854 - Do you have any comments or concerns regarding the. TQ3-63854 - Do you have any suggestions regarding other altern. TQ4-63854 - Are there any environmental issues or concerns you. WH4000 - Wildlife And Wildlife Habitat: Impact Of Proposal And Alternatives. 6; AL4000 - Alternatives: New Alternatives Or Elements. CS2000 - Opposes project. 7; AL4000 - Alternatives: New Alternatives Or Elements. GA1000 - Impact Analysis: Impact Analyses. TQ2-63854 - Do you have any comments or concerns regarding the. 9; PN3000 - Purpose And Need: Scope Of The Analysis. TQ1-63854 - Do you have any comments or concerns regarding the. WI1000 - Wilderness . 12; CS2000 - Opposes project. TQ1-63854 - Do you have any comments or concerns regarding the. TQ2-63854 - Do you have any comments or concerns regarding the. TQ3-63854 - Do you have any suggestions regarding other altern. TQ4-63854 - Are there any environmental issues or concerns you. VU4000 - Visitor Use: Impact Of Proposal And Alternatives. WH4000 - Wildlife And Wildlife Habitat: Impact Of Proposal And Alternatives. 13; CS2000 - Opposes project. VU4000 - Visitor Use: Impact Of Proposal And Alternatives . 15; CS1000 - Supports project. RE1000 - Restoration. TQ1-63854 - Do you have any comments or concerns regarding the. 16; CS1000 - Supports project. GA3000 - Impact Analysis: General Methodology For Establishing Impacts/Effects. MN1000 - Monitoring/Mitigation . PN3000 - Purpose And Need: Scope Of The Analysis. PN8000 - Purpose And Need: Objectives In Taking Action. TE4000 - Threatened And Endangered Species: Impact Of Proposal And Alternatives . TQ1-63854 - Do you have any comments or concerns regarding the. TQ2-63854 - Do you have any comments or concerns regarding the. TQ3-63854 - Do you have any suggestions regarding other altern. TQ4-63854 - Are there any environmental issues or concerns you. VR4000 - Vegetation And Riparian Areas: Impact Of Proposal And Alternatives. VU4000 - Visitor Use: Impact Of Proposal And Alternatives . 17; AL1000 - Alternatives: Elements Common To All Alternatives. AL4000 - Alternatives: New Alternatives Or Elements. CS1000 - Supports project. TN100 - THREATS - Threats to natural resources. TQ1-63854 - Do you have any comments or concerns regarding the. TQ2-63854 - Do you have any comments or concerns regarding the. TQ3-63854 - Do you have any suggestions regarding other altern. TQ4-63854 - Are there any environmental issues or concerns you. VU4000 - Visitor Use: Impact Of Proposal And Alternatives . 18; GA1000 - Impact Analysis: Impact Analyses. TQ1-63854 - Do you have any comments or concerns regarding the. TQ2-63854 - Do you have any comments or concerns regarding the. TQ3-63854 - Do you have any suggestions regarding other altern. TQ4-63854 - Are there any environmental issues or concerns you. VU4000 - Visitor Use: Impact Of Proposal And Alternatives . 19; AL4000 - Alternatives: New Alternatives Or Elements. CC1000 - Climate Change and Sea Level Rise. ED1000 - Editorial . TN100 - THREATS - Threats to natural resources. TQ1-63854 - Do you have any comments or concerns regarding the. TQ2-63854 - Do you have any comments or concerns regarding the. TQ3-63854 - Do you have any suggestions regarding other altern. TQ4-63854 - Are there any environmental issues or concerns you. VR4000 - Vegetation And Riparian Areas: Impact Of Proposal And Alternatives. VU4000 - Visitor Use: Impact Of Proposal And Alternatives . WH4000 - Wildlife And Wildlife Habitat: Impact Of Proposal And Alternatives . WI1000 - Wilderness . 20; CS2000 - Opposes project. TQ4-63854 - Are there any environmental issues or concerns you. 21; AL1000 -

Alternatives: Elements Common To All Alternatives . AL4000 - Alternatives: New Alternatives Or Elements. CC1000 - Climate Change and Sea Level Rise. TQ1-63854 - Do you have any comments or concerns regarding the. TQ2-63854 - Do you have any comments or concerns regarding the. TQ4-63854 - Are there any environmental issues or concerns you. VU4000 - Visitor Use: Impact Of Proposal And Alternatives. WQ4000 - Water Resources: Impact Of Proposal And Alternatives. 22; ED1000 - Editorial . 23; CS1000 - Supports project. 24; AL4000 - Alternatives: New Alternatives Or Elements. TQ1-63854 - Do you have any comments or concerns regarding the. VU4000 - Visitor Use: Impact Of Proposal And Alternatives . 25; TQ1-63854 - Do you have any comments or concerns regarding the. TQ2-63854 - Do you have any comments or concerns regarding the. TQ3-63854 - Do you have any suggestions regarding other altern. TQ4-63854 - Are there any environmental issues or concerns you. 32; CS1000 - Supports project. GR4000 - Geologic Resources: Impact Of Proposal And Alternatives. MN1000 - Monitoring/Mitigation . TE4000 - Threatened And Endangered Species: Impact Of Proposal And Alternatives. TQ1-63854 - Do you have any comments or concerns regarding the. TQ2-63854 - Do you have any comments or concerns regarding the. TQ3-63854 - Do you have any suggestions regarding other altern. TQ4-63854 - Are there any environmental issues or concerns you. 33; AE11000 - Affected Environment: Species Of Special Concern. AL5000 - Alternatives: Recommended Edits. MN1000 - Monitoring/Mitigation. PN12000 - Purpose and Need: Recommended Edits. TE4000 - Threatened And Endangered Species: Impact Of Proposal And Alternatives . TQ1-63854 - Do you have any comments or concerns regarding the. TQ2-63854 - Do you have any comments or concerns regarding the. TQ3-63854 - Do you have any suggestions regarding other altern. TQ4-63854 - Are there any environmental issues or concerns you. WH4000 - Wildlife And Wildlife Habitat: Impact Of Proposal And Alternatives .

APPENDIX H

Substantive Issues Report

**Cape Sable Dams Restoration Phase II Environmental Assessment
Substantive Issues Report**

(06/24/2015)

AL1000 Alternatives: Elements Common To All Alternatives (Substantive)

Correspondence Id: 21 **Comment Id:** 406273 **Coder Name:** V_CHARTIER

Comment Text: I question the expense for the more complicated alternatives due to future sea level rise. I also disagree with pack mule or horses used for this construction.

Organization:

Commenter: Vivian Oliva **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

AL4000 Alternatives: New Alternatives Or Elements (Substantive)

Correspondence Id: 1 **Comment Id:** 406205 **Coder Name:** V_CHARTIER

Comment Text: This looks like an excellent set of alternatives, however I feel that a flow discharge structure/flow-through structure or weir or any combination of these are unnecessary at the Raulerson Canal and East Side Creek.

Organization: Audubon FLorida

Commenter: Peter Frezza **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 41 **Comment Id:** 419560 **Coder Name:** V_CHARTIER

Comment Text: Will complete backfill of unnatural ditches and canals and restoration of altered creeks be considered as part of this analysis? We assume that this may be cost prohibitive or that fill materials may not be readily available. However, this may offer the best opportunity to obtain the maximum extent of the desired habitat restoration with the added benefit of reduced future maintenance costs.

Organization: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Commenter: Richard Fike **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 41 **Comment Id:** 419559 **Coder Name:** V_CHARTIER

Comment Text: Page 45: Why is ingress-egress of manatees and sawfish discussed for East Side Creek, not part of considered alternatives for other proposed dam projects in this analysis?

Organization: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Commenter: Richard Fike **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 41 **Comment Id:** 419553 **Coder Name:** V_CHARTIER

Comment Text: Page 2: Assuming that the Middle Cape Canal between the north end of Lake Ingraham and Florida Bay is not natural, what was the original natural flowway(s) for Lake Ingraham? Are there future plans to plug the Middle Cape Canal?

Organization: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Commenter: Richard Fike **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 38 **Comment Id:** 419545 **Coder Name:** V_CHARTIER

Comment Text: In the other canals and waterways where sheet pile is proposed in all the alternatives, except the no action, please consider the sensitivity of the surrounding area, the wildlife usage, and reduce and minimize impacts as much as possible when selecting the preferred alternative. Please also consider an alternative that allows the ingress and egress of listed species such as manatees and smalltooth sawfish.

Organization: Florida Department of Environmental Protection, Office of Ecosystem Projects

Commenter: Inger Hansen **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 38 **Comment Id:** 419544 **Coder Name:** V_CHARTIER

Comment Text: The report presents alternatives for each of the canals/waterways, but does not indicate a preferred alternative. When choosing the preferred alternative for each of the sites, please consider the most natural alternative that will achieve the highest benefit. Hard engineering structures such as sheet pile dams are not as favorable to the Department as softer engineering options for restoration. Please consider back filling a section of the canals to marsh grade or higher, and possibly hand placing small riprap to prevent weather and wildlife erosion. Hand placing small riprap reduces the need for heavy equipment use, providing greater protection of the surrounding sensitive areas. This option also allows for natural recruitment of mangroves, within the riprap, thus further stabilizing the ditch plug. This would also prevent the illegal boating access to areas upstream of the backfill, which was stated as a concern. The Department recognizes that this may not be feasible for all of the canals, but is requesting this option for the House and Slagle Ditches.

Organization: Florida Department of Environmental Protection, Office of Ecosystem Projects

Commenter: Inger Hansen **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 35 **Comment Id:** 419542 **Coder Name:** V_CHARTIER

Comment Text: We suggest that the design of any new structures be done in a way that allows for any remaining, unneeded construction materials to be removed after completion of the project. We feel that the large pilings that were left in Lake Ingraham after completion of Phase I diminish from the wilderness setting and are a navigational safety concern in such a small channel.

Organization: Audubon Florida

Commenter: Peter Frezza **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 35 **Comment Id:** 419541 **Coder Name:** V_CHARTIER

Comment Text: We encourage the Park to continue to refrain from having an option of canoe ramps in the set of Alternatives for House and Slagle's ditches. At this time we feel this would be inappropriate in the wilderness setting of these two areas.

Organization: Audubon Florida

Commenter: Peter Frezza **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 35 **Comment Id:** 419540 **Coder Name:** V_CHARTIER

Comment Text: If canoe ramps are to remain in the set of Alternatives for Raulerson Canal and East Side Creek, we encourage the Park to ensure that the design of these ramps is compatible with the quality of wilderness character. We make this comment because we believe that the docks, ramp, and walkway constructed at East Cape and Homestead Canal as part of Phase I far exceeded what was necessary at these sites to accomplish objectives and do not conform to definitions and concepts of wilderness. Our experience is that the two new ramps are often used as boat ramps rather than "canoe ramps," as they allow for small skiffs to be portaged, contributing to continued violations of the no-motor-zone. We feel that visitor use and experience objectives could have been met with a design that was far less excessive than what was constructed.

Organization: Audubon Florida

Commenter: Peter Frezza **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 35 **Comment Id:** 419539 **Coder Name:** V_CHARTIER

Comment Text: We discourage the concept of designing canoe ramps into the dams at the Raulerson Canal and East Side Creek and recommend that Alternatives exist for each of these two structures that do not include ramps. We believe that the existing ramps on the dams at the East Cape Canal extension and the Homestead Canal are spatially located as effective and adequate entry points alone for day usage of the no-motor zone region. We encourage the Park to explore whether or not more ramps are needed. Minimizing human disturbance is going to be a principal component to preserving integrity of these wetlands.

Organization: Audubon Florida

Commenter: Peter Frezza **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 35 **Comment Id:** 419538 **Coder Name:** V_CHARTIER

Comment Text: We also question the use of a flow-through structure or weir at East Side Creek with the same thoughts and concerns as mentioned above with Raulerson Canal.

Organization: Audubon Florida

Commenter: Peter Frezza **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 35 **Comment Id:** 419537 **Coder Name:** V_CHARTIER

Comment Text: We encourage the Park to continue considering complete damming of the East Side Creek. While natural in appearance, this creek has been and continues to be artificially altered as a result of increasing transport of water through the East Cape Canal. We feel the increasing erosion and water moving capacity of this creek must be addressed if this project is going to be a success and meet the objectives. We also feel that neglecting this creek would jeopardize the integrity of any other new structures at the three other sites.

Organization: Audubon Florida

Commenter: Peter Frezza **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 35 **Comment Id:** 419536 **Coder Name:** v_chartier

Comment Text: We question the use of a flow discharge structure on the Raulerson Canal. We encourage the exploration of this concept in more detail to ensure that such a structure is consistent with the objectives of the project. We understand that there may be an engineering or geologic benefit to this, but if the opportunity is available and acceptable to completely dam this canal, not allowing for either flow in or out, we support this Alternative.

Organization: Audubon Florida

Commenter: Peter Frezza **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 30 **Comment Id:** 419528 **Coder Name:** V_CHARTIER

Comment Text: HOUSE DITCH: Unfortunately, house ditch only appears accessible from the North via flat bottom barge which means the process of backfilling the ditch would take much longer than for Slagle Ditch & Raulsen canal. Nonetheless, I would recommend backfilling it much in the same manner as suggested with a focus on repairing the original marl ridge as the primary objective & extending the project only where access allows, placing the backfill material & coarse limestone in the ditch up to 6" below the average high tide depth (with mixed heights) and following up with a native re-vegetation project to finish the area. I do not believe the Southern Portion of this ditch needs dealt with at all (South of the Coastal Prairie trail). I have personally been to this location & it appears, in my opinion, to be in a state of self-repair & is doing nicely. No canoe launch campsite or chickee should be placed here in the future assuming there will be consideration of one of these for Slagle Ditch already after 5 years recovery time. This Ditch appears to be least negatively impactful of the 3 Ditches being reviewed for the EA & 'action' & should be considered last.

Organization: National Park Service

Commenter: Nicholas D Roger **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 30 **Comment Id:** 419526 **Coder Name:** V_CHARTIER

Comment Text: SLAGLE DITCH & RAULSEN CANAL: Accessible with a flat bottom barge;

trammel into the ditch with loads of coarse limestone & appropriate building materials one after another. Fill in the ditch (focus will be on Flamingo Embankment marl ridge first but plan to fill entire manmade portions of these canals that are accessible) with material only up to 6" below the highest average tidal rise height & include mixed heights as would be naturally. Have vegetation volunteers hand plant Red Mangrove (*Rhizophora mangle*) propagules upon the repaired site immediately following installation of repaired marl ridge; repair will shift & so will newly established hand planted native vegetation communities (to include more than only Red Mangroves), but root structure systems will begin to help stabilize as they acclimate to the formation. Do not establish any canoe launch/chickee/ground site for at least 5 years after site has recovered. After 5 years recovery, consider a ground campsite, canoe launch, or chickee, but only one of the 3 options only.

Organization: National Park Service

Commenter: Nicholas D Roger **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 30 **Comment Id:** 419525 **Coder Name:** V_CHARTIER

Comment Text: I would like to separate the project into two projects completely for separate 'Action' & 'No Action' considerations for the EA & future improvement(s). 1.) East Side Creek - 'No Action' - Natural feature simply artificially degraded by the other 3 un-natural features; let recover naturally &/or re-assess at a later date when artificial influence(s) are mitigated 2.) Slagle Ditch, House Ditch, Rauleson Canal - Outright denied a 'No Action' alternative completely; implying that SOMETHING needs to be done absolutely to one, two or all three locations - Un-natural features in which one or more MUST receive at least minimal 'Action' to improve WILDERNESS CHARACTER(s) - None should receive canoe launch ramps during recovery period of 5 years

Organization: National Park Service

Commenter: Nicholas D Roger **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 26 **Comment Id:** 419521 **Coder Name:** V_CHARTIER

Comment Text: I agree that the Marl Ridge in the Cape Sable Area needs to be recreated. Has totally filling in these four canals been considered? The dams are not a permanent solution as they erode over time.

Organization: Ms.

Commenter: Theresa Lianzi **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 6 **Comment Id:** 418117 **Coder Name:** v_chartier

Comment Text: Stop messing with the glades already!!! you guys think you are helping but you are actually destroying everything!! We are captains out there every day and see the damage you are doing. The engineers mess it up 60 years ago and it took a long time for nature to catch up on mans mistakes, now you are going to repeat the cycle again!!! STOP PLEASE

Organization:

Commenter: Jim N/A **Page:** **Paragraph:**
Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 4 **Comment Id:** 418116 **Coder Name:** V_CHARTIER
Comment Text: It might be nice to have a couple of platforms to camp on for canoes/ kayaks while you're back there.

Organization:

Commenter: Jeff Omans **Page:** **Paragraph:**
Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 31 **Comment Id:** 413010 **Coder Name:** V_CHARTIER
Comment Text: The Restoration Phase II access and construction should been done during the winter and spring months when the volume of freshwater is less than during the summer/storm season.

Organization: Florida Wildlife Federation

Commenter: Franklin Adams **Page:** **Paragraph:**
Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 27 **Comment Id:** 410067 **Coder Name:** V_CHARTIER

Comment Text: If they must dam. Make a culvert for fish to pass.

Organization: ENP fishing guide

Commenter: Brian Esposito **Page:** **Paragraph:**
Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 27 **Comment Id:** 410065 **Coder Name:** V_CHARTIER

Comment Text: The dams are good except damming the natural creek or east side creek. The fishing back there is the best in the park. The fish need a way to come and go and repopulate after freezes. I guide in there all winter. Damming east side creek would destroy my business.

Organization: ENP fishing guide

Commenter: Brian Esposito **Page:** **Paragraph:**
Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 26 **Comment Id:** 410063 **Coder Name:** V_CHARTIER

Comment Text: Would completely filling in the canals solve the problem of salt water intrusion or would that crate new problems?

Organization: Ms.

Commenter: Theresa Lianzi **Page:** **Paragraph:**
Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 24 **Comment Id:** 408941 **Coder Name:** V_CHARTIER

Comment Text: I believe the dams should be restored or improved upon. Paddle craft trails and portages should be taken into consideration during the design of any restoration or improvements. Paddle craft are the only real way for us to see this part of our National Park. Improved trails and portages would perhaps enhance continued public support for the Park by the paddling community.

Organization:

Commenter: N/A N/A **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 21 **Comment Id:** 406274 **Coder Name:** V_CHARTIER

Comment Text: If you were to dam East Creek and Raulersons canal, it would be a good time to consider a new canoe trail from bear lake to the cape. We know that the prairie has enough water to allow for this travel. The original canals are not passable and an alternative needs to be considered to allow safe passage to the cape and back in high winds. We use East Creek to exit to east cape canal and putting a dam there will make it very difficult to portage canoes and kayaks filled with gear/food/water. Given the lack of thought the park places on paddle craft put in and take out design. Most are downright dangerous and very difficult to use. Maybe, it is time to think this through with some input from the paddling community?

Organization:

Commenter: Vivian Oliva **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 19 **Comment Id:** 406269 **Coder Name:** V_CHARTIER

Comment Text: Designing access through any of the dam structures, locks for motorboats for example, is both unnecessary and unnatural. It would be far less expensive to rebuild the bars and coffer with "natural material" and allow the natural processes to reestablish. Access could still be allowed for human powered or electric powered craft that could be conveyed over the structures.

Organization:

Commenter: Christopher T Carl **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 17 **Comment Id:** 406261 **Coder Name:** V_CHARTIER

Comment Text: I have canoed 3 of the 4 canals so I am partial to the 'canoe ramps'. I wonder if the 10' or one canal width earthen dam is enough... but since the engineers came up with this I must believe this is a good number.

Organization:

Commenter: N/A N/A **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 11 **Comment Id:** 406224 **Coder Name:** V_CHARTIER

Comment Text: Dam location is best determined by considering all effects. Consider leaving 2-

3 thousand feet of the canals, like Slagle and House Ditch, open to Florida Bay. This will then continue to provide habitats for gamefish fry like tarpon, redfish, etc.

Organization: Evergladesfishing.com

Commenter: James Dougherty **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 11 **Comment Id:** 406223 **Coder Name:** V_CHARTIER

Comment Text: The traditional water flow will be accomplished by dams on every North/South canal dug into the Cape Sable area.

Organization: Evergladesfishing.com

Commenter: James Dougherty **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 10 **Comment Id:** 406222 **Coder Name:** V_CHARTIER

Comment Text: I hope that when you do the Rollerson's ditch damn project it's done a little different than the others. I've been fishing the march for over 35yrs. I've always done it the right way. Loaded a canoe on my skiff and parked it outside the damn and portaged in to fish. The wildlife is worth the trip alone . Catching baby tarpon, redfish, and snook a bonus. However I don't understand why the ramps were done like they are. You have to drag your canoe or engineless boat up the ramps carry them to the right over rocks then back to the left portage in the canals. Why not make it a straight shot. Up the ramp straight across , down the ramp. Perhaps someone could explain the reasoning behind the way it was done.

Organization: Fla. Keys fishing guides Assoc.

Commenter: Frank D Perez **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 7 **Comment Id:** 406215 **Coder Name:** V_CHARTIER

Comment Text: Proceed....very very SLOWLY....as the need for this current problem...was likelihood...brought on by mistaken actions previously taken to solve another problem.....unfortunately...the usually outcome when nature is messed with

Organization:

Commenter: wilson k bagwell **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 1 **Comment Id:** 406206 **Coder Name:** V_CHARTIER

Comment Text: I recommend alternatives at Raulerson Canal and East Side Creek that do not have options for a canoe ramp.

Organization: Audubon FLorida

Commenter: Peter Frezza **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

CC1000 Climate Change and Sea Level Rise (Substantive)

Correspondence Id: 41 **Comment Id:** 419556 **Coder Name:** V_CHARTIER

Comment Text: Page 14: It is concerning that based on projected sea level rise, the project benefits may be short-lived. Will consideration be given to apparent effects that may already be apparent from sea level rise and how they may already be affecting the Cape Sable environment? What projection can be developed to illustrate where habitat functions that currently and historically existed, may shift to in the future?

Organization: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Commenter: Richard Fike **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 39 **Comment Id:** 419592 **Coder Name:** V_CHARTIER

Comment Text: Second, this region will probably disappear over the next several decades with sea level rise. From the most detailed information we can find, the ground elevation in this area of Cape Sable appears to be -1 to 2 feet elevation. Given the expected rates of sea level rise in south Florida (1-2 feet and possibly much more) and increasing storm surges, how much time is realistic for any structures to be effective barriers to saltwater encroachment from surface and underground pathways through the porous bedrock. While the structures are to be designed for a 50 year lifetime, the surrounding landscape is likely to be well under water much sooner than that. What is the time tradeoff of sea level rise versus the cost of these projects? How well thought out are the assumed future conditions that justify these projects?

Organization: South Florida Water Management District

Commenter: Mindy Parrott **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 39 **Comment Id:** 419591 **Coder Name:** V_CHARTIER

Comment Text: The project appears to be of questionable value for reasons that should be carefully considered before proceeding with the Environmental Assessment. Cape Sable is close to sea level now, and the near future is expected to experience rising sea levels that exceed ground levels far inland beyond Cape Sable, rendering any major construction and modifications ineffective. First, the project purpose is "to reestablish the natural function of the Marl Ridge and restore the Cape Sable region to a more natural state." It appears that the definition of "natural function" of the Marl Ridge and "natural state" of the Cape Sable area refers to historical rather than future conditions. Given that the future is not going to be like the past in terms of sea level and storms, is this purpose justifiable?

Organization: South Florida Water Management District

Commenter: Mindy Parrott **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

(Substantive)

Correspondence Id: 11 **Comment Id:** 406224 **Coder Name:** V_CHARTIER

Comment Text: Dam location is best determined by considering all effects. Consider leaving 2-3 thousand feet of the canals, like Slagle and House Ditch, open to Florida Bay. This will then continue to provide habitats for gamefish fry like tarpon, redfish, etc.

Organization: Evergladesfishing.com

Commenter: James Dougherty **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 16 **Comment Id:** 406234 **Coder Name:** V_CHARTIER

Comment Text: I assume that this is just another step towards enclosing the whole Lake Ingraham to isolate it more from the open GOM. Has there been any modelling of how fast the project should last. Is it better to do it all at once or in phases?

Organization:

Commenter: Derke Snodgrass **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 28 **Comment Id:** 411116 **Coder Name:** V_CHARTIER

Comment Text: The draft EA provides no assessment of storm vulnerability for a significant capital investment. The EA should include a risk assessment based on different storm event including hurricane force winds, storm surge and significant amounts of rainfall.

Organization: Everglades National Park

Commenter: Michael A Jester **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 31 **Comment Id:** 419428 **Coder Name:** V_CHARTIER

Comment Text: Lake Ingraham was once a freshwater system prior to the canalization of the inland areas. Today a fisherman catches saltwater species in Lake Ingraham that are not tolerant of freshwater. Tidal flows can be very strong and scouring in the entrances to the Lake on an incoming tide. With a continued rise in sea levels it is possible/probable that eventually the barrier coast of Lake Ingraham will be lost and it will become a totally saltwater system, no longer to be a "lake". Consideration of this eventuality of rising water levels needs to be considered in the long-term planning for the Cape Sable area.

Organization: Florida Wildlife Federation

Commenter: Franklin Adams **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

MN1000 Monitoring/Mitigation (Substantive)

Correspondence Id: 28 **Comment Id:** 411115 **Coder Name:** V_CHARTIER

Comment Text: None of the alternatives address how the park will monitor and maintain the dams over time. It is not clear that the park has the resources or has delegated this responsibility.

Organization: Everglades National Park

Commenter: Michael A Jester **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 38 **Comment Id:** 419546 **Coder Name:** V_CHARTIER

Comment Text: The proposed work will be conducted within the waterbodies near Flamingo/Everglades National Park watershed basin segment (Waterbody ID # 3289I). This Waterbody ID segment is currently listed as impaired for mercury (in fish tissue based on consumption advisory). The Waterbody ID will be assessed for dissolved oxygen (percent saturation) in the future. As such, a Water Quality Monitoring Plan will likely be requested, as indicated in Section 2.6.2.1 Adverse Effects, of the April 2012 Cape Sable Dams Engineering Analysis and Feasibility Study. For the proposed work, best management practices and water quality monitoring must be established for to protect and evaluate downstream resources.

Organization: Florida Department of Environmental Protection, Office of Ecosystem Projects

Commenter: Inger Hansen **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 16 **Comment Id:** 419429 **Coder Name:** V_CHARTIER

Comment Text: All impacted flora a fauna communities should be monitored by ENP and non-ENP entities to determine the effectiveness of this sort of long-term project.

Organization:

Commenter: Derke Snodgrass **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 32 **Comment Id:** 413016 **Coder Name:** V_CHARTIER

Comment Text: I am always concerned that endangered species in the area be carefully monitored to prevent harm.

Organization:

Commenter: Drew Martin **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 31 **Comment Id:** 413012 **Coder Name:** V_CHARTIER

Comment Text: Monitoring of the areas which will be restored if not already done, should be carried out once the restoration is complete. Salinity, vegetative changes, seepage etc.

Organization: Florida Wildlife Federation

Commenter: Franklin Adams **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

PN8000 Purpose And Need: Objectives In Taking Action (Substantive)

Correspondence Id: 38 **Comment Id:** 419543 **Coder Name:** V_CHARTIER

Comment Text: The Department recommends the development of detailed goals and specific objectives for hydrology, salinity range, or specific ecological targets. The Draft Purpose Statement, Draft Needs Statements, and Draft Objectives Statements set vaguely defined goals such as less saltwater intrusion, less sediment transport, less erosion, etc. Goals that do not set specific ecological or hydrologic targets limit the restoration and alternatives to be considered. Additionally, please ensure that both the "Final Public Scoping Newsletter Cape Sable Dams Phase II EA" and the Engineering Analysis Report's Introduction state the goals and objectives.

Organization: Florida Department of Environmental Protection, Office of Ecosystem Projects

Commenter: Inger Hansen **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 39 **Comment Id:** 419591 **Coder Name:** V_CHARTIER

Comment Text: The project appears to be of questionable value for reasons that should be carefully considered before proceeding with the Environmental Assessment. Cape Sable is close to sea level now, and the near future is expected to experience rising sea levels that exceed ground levels far inland beyond Cape Sable, rendering any major construction and modifications ineffective. First, the project purpose is "to reestablish the natural function of the Marl Ridge and restore the Cape Sable region to a more natural state." It appears that the definition of "natural function" of the Marl Ridge and "natural state" of the Cape Sable area refers to historical rather than future conditions. Given that the future is not going to be like the past in terms of sea level and storms, is this purpose justifiable?

Organization: South Florida Water Management District

Commenter: Mindy Parrott **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

SE4000 Socioeconomics: Impact Of Proposal And Alternatives (Substantive)

Correspondence Id: 27 **Comment Id:** 410065 **Coder Name:** V_CHARTIER

Comment Text: The dams are good except damming the natural creek or east side creek. The fishing back there is the best in the park. The fish need a way to come and go and repopulate after freezes. I guide in there all winter. Damming east side creek would destroy my business.

Organization: ENP fishing guide

Commenter: Brian Esposito **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 27 **Comment Id:** 419175 **Coder Name:** V_CHARTIER

Comment Text: I am a ENP guide. Do not dam east side or natural creek. It will destroy the best fly fishery in the park. Fish need a way to come and go. Water will stay to high for good sight fishing also without a way to get out. It will put me out of business.

Organization: ENP fishing guide

Commenter: Brian Esposito **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

**TE2000 Threatened And Endangered Species: Methodology And Assumptions
(Substantive)**

Correspondence Id: 36 **Comment Id:** 419588 **Coder Name:** V_CHARTIER

Comment Text: The site may contain habitat suitable for the federally listed species identified above and is located within the consultation area and critical habitat for the American crocodile. We recognize the intent of the project proposes to improve habitat for juvenile crocodiles. The submitted information states that construction activities will not occur during the crocodile nesting season and FWC staff agrees with this protective measure. FWC staff also recommends surveying for crocodile nests prior to and during construction if avoiding the nesting season is not possible. Additionally, we recommend the NPS coordinate with the USFWS for information regarding crocodiles as well as the other federally listed species that may be impacted by the proposed project. The USFWS South Florida Ecological Services Office may be contact at (772) 562-3909 to discuss any necessary federal requirements.

Organization: Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission

Commenter: Ernest Marks **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

**TE4000 Threatened And Endangered Species: Impact Of Proposal And Alternatives
(Substantive)**

Correspondence Id: 32 **Comment Id:** 413016 **Coder Name:** V_CHARTIER

Comment Text: I am always concerned that endangered species in the area be carefully monitored to prevent harm.

Organization:

Commenter: Drew Martin **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 41 **Comment Id:** 419561 **Coder Name:** V_CHARTIER

Comment Text: The project is located in the geographic range of the threatened American crocodile (*Crocodylus acutus*). We recommend that nest surveys for crocodiles be conducted in and near the project footprint to determine the status of crocodile nesting in the project area. If crocodiles are found to nest in or the near the project footprint, construction activities should only occur outside of the nesting season of the American crocodile (September through February). The project should also be designed to maintain nesting habitat for crocodiles in and near the project footprint.

Organization: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Commenter: Richard Fike **Page:** **Paragraph:**
Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 41 **Comment Id:** 419559 **Coder Name:** V_CHARTIER
Comment Text: Page 45: Why is ingress-egress of manatees and sawfish discussed for East Side Creek, not part of considered alternatives for other proposed dam projects in this analysis?
Organization: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Commenter: Richard Fike **Page:** **Paragraph:**
Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 41 **Comment Id:** 419557 **Coder Name:** V_CHARTIER
Comment Text: Page 23: Given the altered state of the Cape Sable habitat, have any species of concern become established that would be impacted by the anticipated restoration of a brackish environment?
Organization: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Commenter: Richard Fike **Page:** **Paragraph:**
Kept Private: No

VS4000 Visitor Conflicts And Safety: Impact Of Proposal And Alternatives (Substantive)

Correspondence Id: 35 **Comment Id:** 419542 **Coder Name:** V_CHARTIER
Comment Text: We suggest that the design of any new structures be done in a way that allows for any remaining, unneeded construction materials to be removed after completion of the project. We feel that the large pilings that were left in Lake Ingraham after completion of Phase I diminish from the wilderness setting and are a navigational safety concern in such a small channel.
Organization: Audubon Florida
Commenter: Peter Frezza **Page:** **Paragraph:**
Kept Private: No

VU4000 Visitor Use: Impact Of Proposal And Alternatives (Substantive)

Correspondence Id: 10 **Comment Id:** 406222 **Coder Name:** V_CHARTIER
Comment Text: I hope that when you do the Rollerson's ditch damn project it's done a little different than the others. I've been fishing the march for over 35yrs. I've always done it the right way. Loaded a canoe on my skiff and parked it outside the damn and portaged in to fish. The wildlife is worth the trip alone . Catching baby tarpon, redfish, and snook a bonus. However I don't understand why the ramps were done like they are. You have to drag your canoe or engineless boat up the ramps carry them to the right over rocks then back to the left portage in the canals. Why not make it a straight shot. Up the ramp straight across , down the ramp. Perhaps

someone could explain the reasoning behind the way it was done.

Organization: Fla. Keys fishing guides Assoc.

Commenter: Frank D Perez **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 12 **Comment Id:** 419176 **Coder Name:** V_CHARTIER

Comment Text: I am a local guide who fishes the Cape Sable area often. Since the Damming of East cape Canal and the Homestead Canal leading to Lake Ingram I have seen nothing but bad results. What used to be a great fishery has tragically been reduced to virtually nothing I know other Captains has seen the same result. After the work was completed and the waterflow was blocked scores of Large fish Black Drum ,Redfish, Jacks,and many other species were at the surface landlocked and trapped. Since then the Black Drum and Sheephead and other fish in that area that normally spawn in that area during the winter months they are dwindling down to alarmingly low numbers. I have also seen unusual amounts of Cassiopia Jellyfish at cape sable and around the Flamingo area that were never there before until after the Dams were created. I realize that the diversion of water early in the 20th century damaged some of the areas at the Cape but over many years these areas adapted and were thriving until man steps in again and disrupts what nature adapted to. Fishing at Flamingo and Cape Sable is a huge part of our tourism for the Upper Keys as well as all of south Florida. I definitely do not support any other Changes in the waterflow around east cape or any other area in the park and would also support the removal of the 2 other structures built in that area. Please stop trying to fix things they were not broken just adapted.

Organization:

Commenter: Brian Premaza **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 21 **Comment Id:** 406274 **Coder Name:** V_CHARTIER

Comment Text: If you were to dam East Creek and Raulersons canal, it would be a good time to consider a new canoe trail from bear lake to the cape. We know that the prairie has enough water to allow for this travel. The original canals are not passable and an alternative needs to be considered to allow safe passage to the cape and back in high winds. We use East Creek to exit to east cape canal and putting a dam there will make it very difficult to portage canoes and kayaks filled with gear/food/water. Given the lack of thought the park places on paddle craft put in and take out design. Most are downright dangerous and very difficult to use. Maybe, it is time to think this through with some input from the paddling community?

Organization:

Commenter: Vivian Oliva **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 5 **Comment Id:** 406214 **Coder Name:** V_CHARTIER

Comment Text: Depending on how long the canal has been diverting water, consideration might need to be given to the more recently established wildlife, and accommodating their needs for habitat, too.

Organization:

Commenter: Donna Selquist **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 41 **Comment Id:** 419556 **Coder Name:** V_CHARTIER

Comment Text: Page 14: It is concerning that based on projected sea level rise, the project benefits may be short-lived. Will consideration be given to apparent effects that may already be apparent from sea level rise and how they may already be affecting the Cape Sable environment? What projection can be developed to illustrate where habitat functions that currently and historically existed, may shift to in the future?

Organization: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Commenter: Richard Fike **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 35 **Comment Id:** 419533 **Coder Name:** v_chartier

Comment Text: Audubon research findings have shown the negative ecological impacts of saltwater intrusion into the historically fresh to brackish water marshes north of the marl ridge as a result of canal induced breaching of the ridge. These have included increased and unstable salinity conditions and alterations to natural dry season recession rates. These consequences have had the adverse effect of diminishing the productivity and species diversity of the prey base fish community which in turn has resulted in loss of foraging habitat for wading birds, game fish, and larger predators.

Organization: Audubon Florida

Commenter: Peter Frezza **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 12 **Comment Id:** 419176 **Coder Name:** V_CHARTIER

Comment Text: I am a local guide who fishes the Cape Sable area often. Since the Damming of East cape Canal and the Homestead Canal leading to Lake Ingram I have seen nothing but bad results. What used to be a great fishery has tragically been reduced to virtually nothing I know other Captains has seen the same result. After the work was completed and the waterflow was blocked scores of Large fish Black Drum ,Redfish, Jacks,and many other species were at the surface landlocked and trapped. Since then the Black Drum and Sheephead and other fish in that area that normally spawn in that area during the winter months they are dwindling down to alarmingly low numbers. I have also seen unusual amounts of Cassiopia Jellyfish at cape sable and around the Flamingo area that were never there before until after the Dams were created. I realize that the diversion of water early in the 20th century damaged some of the areas at the Cape but over many years these areas adapted and were thriving until man steps in again and disrupts what nature adapted to. Fishing at Flamingo and Cape Sable is a huge part of our tourism

for the Upper Keys as well as all of south Florida. I definitely do not support any other Changes in the waterflow around east cape or any other area in the park and would also support the removal of the 2 other structures built in that area. Please stop trying to fix things they were not broken just adapted.

Organization:

Commenter: Brian Premaza **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 27 **Comment Id:** 410065 **Coder Name:** V_CHARTIER

Comment Text: The dams are good except damming the natural creek or east side creek. The fishing back there is the best in the park. The fish need a way to come and go and repopulate after freezes. I guide in there all winter. Damming east side creek would destroy my business.

Organization: ENP fishing guide

Commenter: Brian Esposito **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

WI1000 Wilderness (Substantive)

Correspondence Id: 28 **Comment Id:** 411114 **Coder Name:** V_CHARTIER

Comment Text: The newsletter does not specifically address why the proposed actions are necessary for the management of Wilderness which would justify a development in designated wilderness.

Organization: Everglades National Park

Commenter: Michael A Jester **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 1 **Comment Id:** 416375 **Coder Name:** v_chartier

Comment Text: I also feel that a canoe ramp is completely unnecessary at any of the dams and diminishes from the 'Wilderness' aspect of these areas

Organization: Audubon FLorida

Commenter: Peter Frezza **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 35 **Comment Id:** 419540 **Coder Name:** V_CHARTIER

Comment Text: If canoe ramps are to remain in the set of Alternatives for Raulerson Canal and East Side Creek, we encourage the Park to ensure that the design of these ramps is compatible with the quality of wilderness character. We make this comment because we believe that the docks, ramp, and walkway constructed at East Cape and Homestead Canal as part of Phase I far exceeded what was necessary at these sites to accomplish objectives and do not conform to definitions and concepts of wilderness. Our experience is that the two new ramps are often used as boat ramps rather than "canoe ramps," as they allow for small skiffs to be portaged,

contributing to continued violations of the no-motor-zone. We feel that visitor use and experience objectives could have been met with a design that was far less excessive than what was constructed.

Organization: Audubon Florida

Commenter: Peter Frezza **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 35 **Comment Id:** 419541 **Coder Name:** V_CHARTIER

Comment Text: We encourage the Park to continue to refrain from having an option of canoe ramps in the set of Alternatives for House and Slagle's ditches. At this time we feel this would be inappropriate in the wilderness setting of these two areas.

Organization: Audubon Florida

Commenter: Peter Frezza **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 35 **Comment Id:** 419542 **Coder Name:** V_CHARTIER

Comment Text: We suggest that the design of any new structures be done in a way that allows for any remaining, unneeded construction materials to be removed after completion of the project. We feel that the large pilings that were left in Lake Ingraham after completion of Phase I diminish from the wilderness setting and are a navigational safety concern in such a small channel.

Organization: Audubon Florida

Commenter: Peter Frezza **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

WQ4000 Water Resources: Impact Of Proposal And Alternatives (Substantive)

Correspondence Id: 21 **Comment Id:** 406275 **Coder Name:** V_CHARTIER

Comment Text: I am not a hydrologist and might be totally wrong. I do feel that at this point in time, the area is used to saltwater intrusion and I doubt taking it back into a freshwater ecosystem might not be the best solution. Adjusting and allowing natural flow in and out of the area might be the best option.

Organization:

Commenter: Vivian Oliva **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 35 **Comment Id:** 419533 **Coder Name:** v_chartier

Comment Text: Audubon research findings have shown the negative ecological impacts of saltwater intrusion into the historically fresh to brackish water marshes north of the marl ridge as a result of canal induced breaching of the ridge. These have included increased and unstable salinity conditions and alterations to natural dry season recession rates. These consequences have

had the adverse effect of diminishing the productivity and species diversity of the prey base fish community which in turn has resulted in loss of foraging habitat for wading birds, game fish, and larger predators.

Organization: Audubon Florida

Commenter: Peter Frezza **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 38 **Comment Id:** 419546 **Coder Name:** V_CHARTIER

Comment Text: The proposed work will be conducted within the waterbodies near Flamingo/Everglades National Park watershed basin segment (Waterbody ID # 3289I). This Waterbody ID segment is currently listed as impaired for mercury (in fish tissue based on consumption advisory). The Waterbody ID will be assessed for dissolved oxygen (percent saturation) in the future. As such, a Water Quality Monitoring Plan will likely be requested, as indicated in Section 2.6.2.1 Adverse Effects, of the April 2012 Cape Sable Dams Engineering Analysis and Feasibility Study. For the proposed work, best management practices and water quality monitoring must be established for to protect and evaluate downstream resources.

Organization: Florida Department of Environmental Protection, Office of Ecosystem Projects

Commenter: Inger Hansen **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

APPENDIX I

Non-Substantive Issues Report

**Cape Sable Dams Restoration Phase II Environmental Assessment
Substantive Issues Report**

(06/24/2015)

AE11000 Affected Environment: Species Of Special Concern (Non-Substantive)

Correspondence Id: 33 **Comment Id:** 413021 **Coder Name:** V_CHARTIER

Comment Text: An inventory of T&E species in the Cape Sable region should be a part of this study. In addition to the American Crocodile, Smalltooth Sawfish may be in the area as well as the Bald Eagle. I'm not convinced that this project will help wading birds in general. It may be better to either say 'foraging wading birds' or just say Rosette Spoonbills. What about T&E plants? There may should be mention of invasive species, plants and animals.

Organization:

Commenter: Savannah M Howington **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 36 **Comment Id:** 419589 **Coder Name:** V_CHARTIER

Comment Text: Finally, the proposed project is located within smalltooth sawfish federally designated critical habitat. Project-specific comments and recommendations for smalltooth sawfish can be provided by NMFS and we request the NPS take into consideration NMFS comments, recommendations and Biological Opinion regarding smalltooth sawfish for NEPA document development and permitting activities associated with this project.

Organization: Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission

Commenter: Ernest Marks **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 36 **Comment Id:** 419585 **Coder Name:** V_CHARTIER

Comment Text: A geographic information system (GIS) analysis found that the project site contains, is adjacent to, or occurs near: - U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) consultation area and critical habitat for: o American crocodile (*Crocodylus acutus*, Federal y Endangered [FE]) - Wood stork (*Mycteria americana*, FT) core foraging areas (CFA), defined as an 18.6-mile radius around wood stork nesting colonies, for three wood stork colonies: o Paurotis Pond o East River o Cuthbert Lake - National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) critical habitat for: o Smalltooth sawfish (*Pristis pectinata*, FE) - Potential habitat for state- and federally listed species: o Florida manatee (*Trichechus manatus latirostris*, FE) o Roseate spoonbill (*Platalea ajaja*, State Species of Special Concern [SSC]) o White ibis (*Eudocimus a/bus*, SSC)

Organization: Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission

Commenter: Ernest Marks **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 41 **Comment Id:** 419557 **Coder Name:** V_CHARTIER

Comment Text: Page 23: Given the altered state of the Cape Sable habitat, have any species of

concern become established that would be impacted by the anticipated restoration of a brackish environment?

Organization: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Commenter: Richard Fike **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 41 **Comment Id:** 419550 **Coder Name:** V_CHARTIER

Comment Text: Pages 22 and 36: The current status under ESA of the wood stork is threatened and for the Florida bonneted bat is endangered (Assume this a relic of the date of preparation of the engineering analysis).

Organization: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Commenter: Richard Fike **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 35 **Comment Id:** 419532 **Coder Name:** v_chartier

Comment Text: Audubon Florida has been conducting scientific research within the interior wetlands of Cape Sable since 1990. This research involves monitoring hydrologic conditions and the community of small prey base fish that reside in these wetlands and serve as the food base for Roseate Spoonbills, Wood Storks, and other wading birds and game fish. Through our research we have learned that this area serves as critical habitat for not only wading bird species but also for other bird species such as Bald Eagles, Peregrine Falcons, and White and Brown Pelicans and reptiles such as American crocodiles and gopher tortoises. We have found that it is also a primary and vital nursery for many important game fish species including tarpon, snook and redfish. Along with being a nursery, these wetlands are also important foraging habitat for a plethora of game fish species including snook, redfish, tarpon, black drum, and the endangered smalltooth sawfish.

Organization: Audubon Florida

Commenter: Peter Frezza **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 29 **Comment Id:** 419522 **Coder Name:** V_CHARTIER

Comment Text: As one of the most remote areas of Everglades National Park and Florida, Cape Sable remains unknown to many. However, it contains some of the most pristine beaches in Florida and supports world-class recreational fishing for prized species such as tarpon, snook, and spotted seatrout. Cape Sable provides essential habitat for wading birds, the American crocodile, smalltooth sawfish, and nesting sea turtles, and it represents one of the largest wintering shorebird habitats in North America. Cape Sable is also one of south Florida's most important lines of defense against hurricanes approaching the peninsula from the south and west (e.g., Hurricane Wilma in 2005).

Organization: Everglades Foundation

Commenter: Stephen Davis **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

AE12000 Affected Environment: Wildlife And Wildlife Habitat (Non-Substantive)

Correspondence Id: 29 **Comment Id:** 419522 **Coder Name:** V_CHARTIER

Comment Text: As one of the most remote areas of Everglades National Park and Florida, Cape Sable remains unknown to many. However, it contains some of the most pristine beaches in Florida and supports world-class recreational fishing for prized species such as tarpon, snook, and spotted seatrout. Cape Sable provides essential habitat for wading birds, the American crocodile, smalltooth sawfish, and nesting sea turtles, and it represents one of the largest wintering shorebird habitats in North America. Cape Sable is also one of south Florida's most important lines of defense against hurricanes approaching the peninsula from the south and west (e.g., Hurricane Wilma in 2005).

Organization: Everglades Foundation

Commenter: Stephen Davis **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 35 **Comment Id:** 419532 **Coder Name:** v_chartier

Comment Text: Audubon Florida has been conducting scientific research within the interior wetlands of Cape Sable since 1990. This research involves monitoring hydrologic conditions and the community of small prey base fish that reside in these wetlands and serve as the food base for Roseate Spoonbills, Wood Storks, and other wading birds and game fish. Through our research we have learned that this area serves as critical habitat for not only wading bird species but also for other bird species such as Bald Eagles, Peregrine Falcons, and White and Brown Pelicans and reptiles such as American crocodiles and gopher tortoises. We have found that it is also a primary and vital nursery for many important game fish species including tarpon, snook and redfish. Along with being a nursery, these wetlands are also important foraging habitat for a plethora of game fish species including snook, redfish, tarpon, black drum, and the endangered smalltooth sawfish.

Organization: Audubon Florida

Commenter: Peter Frezza **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

AE14000 Affected Environment: Historic Structures (Non-Substantive)

Correspondence Id: 40 **Comment Id:** 419028 **Coder Name:** V_CHARTIER

Comment Text: Cape Sable region contains several recorded archaeological sites and one historic linear resource which may be affected by the proposed undertaking. We look forward to receiving and reviewing the EA for the evaluation of dams on four waterways- House Ditch, Slagle Ditch, Raulerson Canal, and East Side Creek within the Cape Sable region of Everglades National Park.

Organization: Florida Department of State, State Historic Preservation Officer

Commenter: Robert F Bendus **Page:** **Paragraph:**
Kept Private: No

AE15000 Affected Environment: Archeology Resources (Non-Substantive)

Correspondence Id: 40 **Comment Id:** 419028 **Coder Name:** V_CHARTIER

Comment Text: Cape Sable region contains several recorded archaeological sites and one historic linear resource which may be affected by the proposed undertaking. We look forward to receiving and reviewing the EA for the evaluation of dams on four waterways- House Ditch, Slagle Ditch, Raulerson Canal, and East Side Creek within the Cape Sable region of Everglades National Park.

Organization: Florida Department of State, State Historic Presevation Officer

Commenter: Robert F Bendus **Page:** **Paragraph:**
Kept Private: No

AE22000 Affected Environment: Visitor Use (Non-Substantive)

Correspondence Id: 29 **Comment Id:** 419522 **Coder Name:** V_CHARTIER

Comment Text: As one of the most remote areas of Everglades National Park and Florida, Cape Sable remains unknown to many. However, it contains some of the most pristine beaches in Florida and supports world-class recreational fishing for prized species such as tarpon, snook, and spotted seatrout. Cape Sable provides essential habitat for wading birds, the American crocodile, smalltooth sawfish, and nesting sea turtles, and it represents one of the largest wintering shorebird habitats in North America. Cape Sable is also one of south Florida's most important lines of defense against hurricanes approaching the peninsula from the south and west (e.g., Hurricane Wilma in 2005).

Organization: Everglades Foundation

Commenter: Stephen Davis **Page:** **Paragraph:**
Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 35 **Comment Id:** 419532 **Coder Name:** v_chartier

Comment Text: Audubon Florida has been conducting scientific research within the interior wetlands of Cape Sable since 1990. This research involves monitoring hydrologic conditions and the community of small prey base fish that reside in these wetlands and serve as the food base for Roseate Spoonbills, Wood Storks, and other wading birds and game fish. Through our research we have learned that this area serves as critical habitat for not only wading bird species but also for other bird species such as Bald Eagles, Peregrine Falcons, and White and Brown Pelicans and reptiles such as American crocodiles and gopher tortoises. We have found that it is also a primary and vital nursery for many important game fish species including tarpon, snook and redfish. Along with being a nursery, these wetlands are also important foraging habitat for a plethora of game fish species including snook, redfish, tarpon, black drum, and the endangered

smalltooth sawfish.

Organization: Audubon Florida

Commenter: Peter Frezza **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

AE3000 Affected Environment: Topographic (Non-Substantive)

Correspondence Id: 41 **Comment Id:** 419551 **Coder Name:** V_CHARTIER

Comment Text: Page 2: What is the location of the Flamingo Embankment? It would be useful to have a map depicting its extent and relationship to the proposed projects.

Organization: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Commenter: Richard Fike **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 41 **Comment Id:** 419554 **Coder Name:** V_CHARTIER

Comment Text: Page 3: What was the natural drainage pattern and flowways prior to canal/dam construction?

Organization: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Commenter: Richard Fike **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

AE5000 Affected Environment: Wetlands (Non-Substantive)

Correspondence Id: 35 **Comment Id:** 419532 **Coder Name:** v_chartier

Comment Text: Audubon Florida has been conducting scientific research within the interior wetlands of Cape Sable since 1990. This research involves monitoring hydrologic conditions and the community of small prey base fish that reside in these wetlands and serve as the food base for Roseate Spoonbills, Wood Storks, and other wading birds and game fish. Through our research we have learned that this area serves as critical habitat for not only wading bird species but also for other bird species such as Bald Eagles, Peregrine Falcons, and White and Brown Pelicans and reptiles such as American crocodiles and gopher tortoises. We have found that it is also a primary and vital nursery for many important game fish species including tarpon, snook and redfish. Along with being a nursery, these wetlands are also important foraging habitat for a plethora of game fish species including snook, redfish, tarpon, black drum, and the endangered smalltooth sawfish.

Organization: Audubon Florida

Commenter: Peter Frezza **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

AE6000 Affected Environment: Marine And Estuarine Resources (Non-Substantive)

Correspondence Id: 29 **Comment Id:** 419522 **Coder Name:** V_CHARTIER

Comment Text: As one of the most remote areas of Everglades National Park and Florida, Cape Sable remains unknown to many. However, it contains some of the most pristine beaches in Florida and supports world-class recreational fishing for prized species such as tarpon, snook, and spotted seatrout. Cape Sable provides essential habitat for wading birds, the American crocodile, smalltooth sawfish, and nesting sea turtles, and it represents one of the largest wintering shorebird habitats in North America. Cape Sable is also one of south Florida's most important lines of defense against hurricanes approaching the peninsula from the south and west (e.g., Hurricane Wilma in 2005).

Organization: Everglades Foundation

Commenter: Stephen Davis **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 35 **Comment Id:** 419532 **Coder Name:** v_chartier

Comment Text: Audubon Florida has been conducting scientific research within the interior wetlands of Cape Sable since 1990. This research involves monitoring hydrologic conditions and the community of small prey base fish that reside in these wetlands and serve as the food base for Roseate Spoonbills, Wood Storks, and other wading birds and game fish. Through our research we have learned that this area serves as critical habitat for not only wading bird species but also for other bird species such as Bald Eagles, Peregrine Falcons, and White and Brown Pelicans and reptiles such as American crocodiles and gopher tortoises. We have found that it is also a primary and vital nursery for many important game fish species including tarpon, snook and redfish. Along with being a nursery, these wetlands are also important foraging habitat for a plethora of game fish species including snook, redfish, tarpon, black drum, and the endangered smalltooth sawfish.

Organization: Audubon Florida

Commenter: Peter Frezza **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

AL1000 Alternatives: Elements Common To All Alternatives (Non-Substantive)

Correspondence Id: 2 **Comment Id:** 406208 **Coder Name:** V_CHARTIER

Comment Text: I would like to see a diagram of what it is proposed before i comment.

Organization: Get Em Sportfishing Charters

Commenter: Alan D Sherman **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 17 **Comment Id:** 406261 **Coder Name:** V_CHARTIER

Comment Text: I have canoed 3 of the 4 canals so I am partial to the 'canoe ramps'. I wonder if the 10' or one canal width earthen dam is enough... but since the engineers came up with this I

must believe this is a good number.

Organization:

Commenter: N/A N/A **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

AL3000 Alternatives: Envir. Preferred Alt./NEPA Â§ .101&102 (Non-Substantive)

Correspondence Id: 38 **Comment Id:** 419544 **Coder Name:** V_CHARTIER

Comment Text: The report presents alternatives for each of the canals/waterways, but does not indicate a preferred alternative. When choosing the preferred alternative for each of the sites, please consider the most natural alternative that will achieve the highest benefit. Hard engineering structures such as sheet pile dams are not as favorable to the Department as softer engineering options for restoration. Please consider back filling a section of the canals to marsh grade or higher, and possibly hand placing small riprap to prevent weather and wildlife erosion. Hand placing small riprap reduces the need for heavy equipment use, providing greater protection of the surrounding sensitive areas. This option also allows for natural recruitment of mangroves, within the riprap, thus further stabilizing the ditch plug. This would also prevent the illegal boating access to areas upstream of the backfill, which was stated as a concern. The Department recognizes that this may not be feasible for all of the canals, but is requesting this option for the House and Slagle Ditches.

Organization: Florida Department of Environmental Protection, Office of Ecosystem Projects

Commenter: Inger Hansen **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 38 **Comment Id:** 419545 **Coder Name:** V_CHARTIER

Comment Text: In the other canals and waterways where sheet pile is proposed in all the alternatives, except the no action, please consider the sensitivity of the surrounding area, the wildlife usage, and reduce and minimize impacts as much as possible when selecting the preferred alternative. Please also consider an alternative that allows the ingress and egress of listed species such as manatees and smalltooth sawfish.

Organization: Florida Department of Environmental Protection, Office of Ecosystem Projects

Commenter: Inger Hansen **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

AL5000 Alternatives: Recommended Edits (Non-Substantive)

Correspondence Id: 33 **Comment Id:** 413019 **Coder Name:** V_CHARTIER

Comment Text: House and Slagle Ditches The description "anticipated original widths" is awkward. I would either say "original widths" or "measurable or estimated original width"
Raulerson Canal and East Side Creek The description "sheet pile only dam" is awkward. Since there are alternatives that expand the materials to "sheet pile and fill", "sheet pile dam" or dam

constructed with sheet pile" is sufficient.

Organization:

Commenter: Savannah M Howington **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

CC1000 Climate Change and Sea Level Rise (Non-Substantive)

Correspondence Id: 19 **Comment Id:** 406268 **Coder Name:** V_CHARTIER

Comment Text: I believe these projects are inevitable due to rising sea levels and the impacts of reduced freshwater flow from the northern tier of the Everglades. Continued saltwater intrusions into the brackish water ecology is disruptive to both vegetation and wildlife. Closing the man-made channels would allow more natural processes to reestablish which would benefit the ecology and help stabilize the southern regions of the Park. That said, damming the channels would restrict access to those areas by heavier, motor-propelled craft, a secondary benefit in my opinion.

Organization:

Commenter: Christopher T Carl **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 42 **Comment Id:** 419601 **Coder Name:** V_CHARTIER

Comment Text: Thank you for contacting the Seminole Tribe of Florida's Tribal Historic Preservation Office (STOF-THPO) regarding the proposed Cape Sable Dams Restoration Phase II EIS. We have reviewed the documents regarding the above referenced project and, because the project lies within an area that is of historical importance to the Tribe, we would like to ensure that adequate provisions are made to identify and assess any historic properties that may be present within the APE. We respectfully request that consultation continue between the STOF-THPO and the National Park Service throughout this project. Please provide the STOF-THPO with any additional relevant information regarding the APE and proposed actions.

Organization: Seminole Tribe of Florida, Tribal Historic Preservation Office

Commenter: Andrew J Weidman **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 39 **Comment Id:** 419595 **Coder Name:** V_CHARTIER

Comment Text: 2. Reasonable assurance is required to be provided which demonstrates that the project has been designed and will be constructed in a manner to reduce or eliminate wetlands and other surface water resources direct and secondary impacts, in accordance with the Environmental Resource Permit Applicant's Handbook Volume I, subsection 10.2.1 (AH I, 10.2.1).

Organization: South Florida Water Management District

Commenter: Mindy Parrott **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 39 **Comment Id:** 419594 **Coder Name:** V_CHARTIER

Comment Text: 1. The project may qualify for an Individual Environmental Resource Permit (ERP) solely for environmental restoration or enhancement activities, from the South Florida Water Management District for construction and operation of the project, in accordance with Rule 62-330.054, Florida Administrative Code (FAC).

Organization: South Florida Water Management District

Commenter: Mindy Parrott **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 36 **Comment Id:** 419590 **Coder Name:** V_CHARTIER

Comment Text: We find the proposed evaluation consistent with FWC's authorities under the Coastal Zone Management Act/Florida's Coastal Management Program.

Organization: Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission

Commenter: Ernest Marks **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 36 **Comment Id:** 419589 **Coder Name:** V_CHARTIER

Comment Text: Finally, the proposed project is located within smalltooth sawfish federally designated critical habitat. Project-specific comments and recommendations for smalltooth sawfish can be provided by NMFS and we request the NPS take into consideration NMFS comments, recommendations and Biological Opinion regarding smalltooth sawfish for NEPA document development and permitting activities associated with this project.

Organization: Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission

Commenter: Ernest Marks **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 36 **Comment Id:** 419588 **Coder Name:** V_CHARTIER

Comment Text: The site may contain habitat suitable for the federally listed species identified above and is located within the consultation area and critical habitat for the American crocodile. We recognize the intent of the project proposes to improve habitat for juvenile crocodiles. The submitted information states that construction activities will not occur during the crocodile nesting season and FWC staff agrees with this protective measure. FWC staff also recommends surveying for crocodile nests prior to and during construction if avoiding the nesting season is not possible. Additionally, we recommend the NPS coordinate with the USFWS for information regarding crocodiles as well as the other federally listed species that may be impacted by the proposed project. The USFWS South Florida Ecological Services Office may be contact at (772) 562-3909 to discuss any necessary federal requirements.

Organization: Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission

Commenter: Ernest Marks **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 36 **Comment Id:** 419586 **Coder Name:** V_CHARTIER

Comment Text: The NPS intends to evaluate and analyze the potential environmental impact of several dam alternatives and to prepare an EA. The information submitted at this time states "the extent of potential impacts to threatened and endangered species will be quantified in the next phase of the project's development." FWC staff provides the following comments and recommendations as assistance in developing the EA and may provide additional information during the development of the alternatives to ensure protection of state-listed species within the project area.

Organization: Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission

Commenter: Ernest Marks **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 37 **Comment Id:** 419549 **Coder Name:** V_CHARTIER

Comment Text: The Florida State Clearinghouse has coordinated a review of the National Park Service's scoping notice for the Cape Sable Dams Restoration-Phase II project under the following authorities: Presidential Executive Order 12372; Â§ 403.061(42), Florida Statutes; the Coastal Zone Management Act, 16 U.S.C. Â§Â§ 1451-1464, as amended; and the National Environmental Policy Act, 42 U.S.C. Â§Â§ 4321-4347, as amended. Based on the information contained in the scoping notice and comments provided by our reviewing agencies, at this stage, the state has no objections to the proposed federal activities. To ensure the project's consistency with the Florida Coastal Management Program (FCMP), the concerns identified by the state must be addressed prior to project implementation. The state's continued concurrence will be based on the activities' compliance with FCMP authorities, including federal and state monitoring of the activities to ensure their continued conformance, and the adequate resolution of issues identified during this and subsequent reviews. The state's final concurrence of the project's consistency with the FCMP will be determined during the environmental permitting process, in accordance with Section 373.428, Florida Statutes.

Organization: Florida State Clearinghouse

Commenter: Lauren P Milligan **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 38 **Comment Id:** 419548 **Coder Name:** V_CHARTIER

Comment Text: Please note that during the state permitting process a Uniform Mitigation Assessment Method (Chapter 62-345, Florida Administrative Code) Analysis will be required to assess the wetland impacts and benefits of the project. The project benefits may outweigh the wetland impacts, but if it is determined that there is more functional loss than functional gain, additional mitigation will be required.

Organization: Florida Department of Environmental Protection, Office of Ecosystem Projects

Commenter: Inger Hansen **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 38 **Comment Id:** 419547 **Coder Name:** V_CHARTIER

Comment Text: The proposed project involves dredging and filling in wetlands and other

surface waters, which may require an environmental resource permit (ERP) from the state, under Part IV of Chapter 373, Florida Statutes. According to our operating agreement, this project falls under the permitting jurisdiction of the South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD); therefore, any required ERP permit(s) should be obtained from the SFWMD.

Organization: Florida Department of Environmental Protection, Office of Ecosystem Projects

Commenter: Inger Hansen **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 34 **Comment Id:** 419531 **Coder Name:** V_CHARTIER

Comment Text: To aid in greater coordination on understanding and addressing water quality issues that have the potential to impact Everglades National Park, Florida Bay and FKNMS, we recommend you present at the next WQPP Steering Committee meeting in summer 2015. We can help facilitate this opportunity; Carol Mitchell serves as Everglades National Park contact for the WQPP.

Organization: NOAA Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary

Commenter: Sean Morton **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 34 **Comment Id:** 419530 **Coder Name:** V_CHARTIER

Comment Text: In addition, we recommend coordination on this project with the FKNMS Water Quality Protection Program (WQPP) of which Everglades National Park is a member. The WQPP, administered by Florida Department of the Environment and U.S. Environmental Protection Program, is a collaborative effort dedicated to protecting and improving water quality, coral reefs, seagrasses, fisheries and recreational opportunities within the FKNMS. The WQPP has supported and funded research and monitoring programs that track water quality, coral reef and seagrass communities. The results from these long-term monitoring and research studies have been instrumental in resource management decision-making and in determining what actions are needed to sustain a healthy ecosystem. Information from these activities could further inform your project design and implementation.

Organization: NOAA Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary

Commenter: Sean Morton **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 29 **Comment Id:** 419523 **Coder Name:** V_CHARTIER

Comment Text: Phase I plugging of the Homestead and East Cape Canals in 2011 was highly successful and has already resulted in significant improvements in water quality and fish communities behind the marl berm (Audubon Florida, Pers. Comm.). Plugging these remaining canals will help to curb further erosion of canals, subsequent sediment and nutrient redistribution, and peat collapse in vulnerable areas behind the marl berm. Overall, these efforts will help to sustain remaining brackish and freshwater marsh habitats on Cape Sable and will provide an opportunity to restore freshwater and brackish water marshes that have been degraded or lost. As sea levels continue to rise around the Florida peninsula, efforts such as this and larger scale restoration of freshwater flow to Everglades National Park will allow for more natural

landward transition of these important coastal habitats.

Organization: Everglades Foundation

Commenter: Stephen Davis **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 31 **Comment Id:** 419428 **Coder Name:** V_CHARTIER

Comment Text: Lake Ingraham was once a freshwater system prior to the canalization of the inland areas. Today a fisherman catches saltwater species in Lake Ingraham that are not tolerant of freshwater . Tidal flows can be very strong and scouring in the entrances to the Lake on a incoming tide. With a continued rise in sea levels it is possible/probable that eventually the barrier coast of Lake Ingraham will be lost and it will become a totally saltwater system, no longer to be a "lake". Consideration of this eventuality of rising water levels needs to be considered in the long-term planning for the Cape Sable area.

Organization: Florida Wildlife Federation

Commenter: Franklin Adams **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 21 **Comment Id:** 406275 **Coder Name:** V_CHARTIER

Comment Text: I am not a hydrologist and might be totally wrong. I do feel that at this point in time, the area is used to saltwater intrusion and I doubt taking it back into a freshwater ecosystem might not be the best solution. Adjusting and allowing natural flow in and out of the area might be the best option.

Organization:

Commenter: Vivian Oliva **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 21 **Comment Id:** 406273 **Coder Name:** V_CHARTIER

Comment Text: I question the expense for the more complicated alternatives due to future sea level rise. I also disagree with pack mule or horses used for this construction.

Organization:

Commenter: Vivian Oliva **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 19 **Comment Id:** 406271 **Coder Name:** V_CHARTIER

Comment Text: The combination of environmental pressures of a rising sea level, declining fresh water recharge more intensive storms due to climate change and a demand for increased human access should drive the design and decision process toward preserving the area in it's most natural state. The Everglades Region is changing and human encroachment is dwindling the few remaining natural areas. Restoring the natural salt water blocks to allow a more (though not authentic) brackish environment to return to the Cape Sable region will help preserve the environment for ALL the 'stake-holders' who rely on the ENP for their very existence.

Organization:

Commenter: Christopher T Carl **Page:** **Paragraph:**
Kept Private: No

CR4000 Cultural Resources: Impact Of Proposal And Alternatives (Non-Substantive)

Correspondence Id: 40 **Comment Id:** 419028 **Coder Name:** V_CHARTIER

Comment Text: Cape Sable region contains several recorded archaeological sites and one historic linear resource which may be affected by the proposed undertaking. We look forward to receiving and reviewing the EA for the evaluation of dams on four waterways- House Ditch, Slagle Ditch, Raulerson Canal, and East Side Creek within the Cape Sable region of Everglades National Park.

Organization: Florida Department of State, State Historic Presevation Officer

Commenter: Robert F Bendus **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 42 **Comment Id:** 419601 **Coder Name:** V_CHARTIER

Comment Text: Thank you for contacting the Seminole Tribe of Florida's Tribal Historic Preservation Office (STOF-THPO) regarding the proposed Cape Sable Dams Restoration Phase II EIS. We have reviewed the documents regarding the above referenced project and, because the project lies within an area that is of historical importance to the Tribe, we would like to ensure that adequate provisions are made to identify and assess any historic properties that may be present within the APE. We respectfully request that consultation continue between the STOF-THPO and the National Park Service throughout this project. Please provide the STOF-THPO with any additional relevant information regarding the APE and proposed actions.

Organization: Seminole Tribe of Florida, Tribal Historic Preservation Office

Commenter: Andrew J Weidman **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 39 **Comment Id:** 419598 **Coder Name:** V_CHARTIER

Comment Text: 5. Reasonable assurance is required to be provided which demonstrates that the project will not adversely affect significant historical and archaeological resources, in accordance with AH I, 10.2.3.6.

Organization: South Florida Water Management District

Commenter: Mindy Parrott **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

CS1000 Supports project (Non-Substantive)

Correspondence Id: 3 **Comment Id:** 406209 **Coder Name:** V_CHARTIER

Comment Text: This project is much needed to restore the ecological balance to the Cape Sable

area. I fully support the project and hope it can be approved, funded and implemented as soon as possible

Organization: Ocean Reef Rod and gun club

Commenter: John W Salisbury **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 35 **Comment Id:** 419535 **Coder Name:** v_chartier

Comment Text: We have reviewed the draft assessment and conclude that the Park has done an excellent job at addressing the "Needs" and "Objectives" of the project in this statement. We also feel the Park has adequately presented a thorough set of "Alternatives" to be considered during the EA.

Organization: Audubon Florida

Commenter: Peter Frezza **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 35 **Comment Id:** 419534 **Coder Name:** v_chartier

Comment Text: Our findings aided the Park's ability to bring attention to the problematic issues associated with the canals and the eventual completion of the very successful first phase of damming on East Cape and Homestead Canals. Since completion of Phase I, we have been documenting encouraging results of a lower and more stable salinity environment behind the dams and increasing productivity and diversity of prey fishes. We have been observing worsening conditions however, in the vicinity of Raulerson Canal and East Side Creek as both waterways continue to widen and transport more water in and out of the marsh. We have also been observing the continued deterioration of the House and Slagle's ditch dams; primarily at Slagle's, where piping at the dam is now worsening. Because of this, we are strongly advocating for continued progression of this second phase of dam restoration.

Organization: Audubon Florida

Commenter: Peter Frezza **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 29 **Comment Id:** 419523 **Coder Name:** V_CHARTIER

Comment Text: Phase I plugging of the Homestead and East Cape Canals in 2011 was highly successful and has already resulted in significant improvements in water quality and fish communities behind the marl berm (Audubon Florida, Pers. Comm.). Plugging these remaining canals will help to curb further erosion of canals, subsequent sediment and nutrient redistribution, and peat collapse in vulnerable areas behind the marl berm. Overall, these efforts will help to sustain remaining brackish and freshwater marsh habitats on Cape Sable and will provide an opportunity to restore freshwater and brackish water marshes that have been degraded or lost. As sea levels continue to rise around the Florida peninsula, efforts such as this and larger scale restoration of freshwater flow to Everglades National Park will allow for more natural landward transition of these important coastal habitats.

Organization: Everglades Foundation

Commenter: Stephen Davis **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 23 **Comment Id:** 419427 **Coder Name:** V_CHARTIER

Comment Text: As an active guide for longer than I care to admit, I wholly endorse whatever measures you deem necessary to save the cape area.

Organization:

Commenter: Jimmy Lozar **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 14 **Comment Id:** 419177 **Coder Name:** V_CHARTIER

Comment Text: Our association is available to send letter of support for any needs you have that will sustain our environment. We have a very active Sustainable Hospitality Council and please keep us posted if you need our assistance.

Organization: Greater Miami & The Beaches Hotel Association

Commenter: Wendy Kallergis **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 32 **Comment Id:** 419170 **Coder Name:** V_CHARTIER

Comment Text: I support moving forward with this project and hope that the park service will move forward expeditiously.

Organization:

Commenter: Drew Martin **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 32 **Comment Id:** 413014 **Coder Name:** V_CHARTIER

Comment Text: I would pick alternative 4 as the most inclusive. I hope that this alternative accomplishes the goals of the project.

Organization:

Commenter: Drew Martin **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 32 **Comment Id:** 413013 **Coder Name:** V_CHARTIER

Comment Text: I support this project and believe it is essential to shore up these dams before further damage is done to these area by erosion. These canals are significantly degrading the soils in this area.

Organization:

Commenter: Drew Martin **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 31 **Comment Id:** 413009 **Coder Name:** V_CHARTIER

Comment Text: The Florida Wildlife Federation supports the need to repair, replace and extend

all non-functioning sheet pile and fill dams in the Cape Sable area that are included in the EA. Intrusion of saltwater into what was historically a freshwater system has resulted in considerable damage and significant vegetative changes due to the saltwater intrusion.

Organization: Florida Wildlife Federation

Commenter: Franklin Adams **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 29 **Comment Id:** 412988 **Coder Name:** V_CHARTIER

Comment Text: Consideration of these alternatives will restore the natural function of the marl berm and provide the best opportunity to protect and restore interior of Cape Sable.

Organization: Everglades Foundation

Commenter: Stephen Davis **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 29 **Comment Id:** 412987 **Coder Name:** V_CHARTIER

Comment Text: The Everglades Foundation supports Everglades National Park's canal-plugging efforts on Cape Sable that will protect remaining freshwater and brackish water habitats and potentially restore degraded areas.

Organization: Everglades Foundation

Commenter: Stephen Davis **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 27 **Comment Id:** 410065 **Coder Name:** V_CHARTIER

Comment Text: The dams are good except damming the natural creek or east side creek. The fishing back there is the best in the park. The fish need a way to come and go and repopulate after freezes. I guide in there all winter. Damming east side creek would destroy my business.

Organization: ENP fishing guide

Commenter: Brian Esposito **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 26 **Comment Id:** 410061 **Coder Name:** V_CHARTIER

Comment Text: I have reviewed the project and find that the proposed dam restorations should address the salt water intrusion problems currently occurring in the canals.

Organization: Ms.

Commenter: Theresa Lianzi **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 17 **Comment Id:** 406262 **Coder Name:** V_CHARTIER

Comment Text: No, just that it needs to happen, and soon. Twenty years has passed since I worked there, and it was on-going for many decades before that... it is time.

Organization:

Commenter: N/A N/A **Page:** **Paragraph:**
Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 17 **Comment Id:** 406260 **Coder Name:** V_CHARTIER
Comment Text: Lived & worked in Flamingo in the early 90's and this topic was around then. Lets not wait longer... sad that it will be another year for just a decision. This needs to be done.
Organization:

Commenter: N/A N/A **Page:** **Paragraph:**
Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 16 **Comment Id:** 406235 **Coder Name:** V_CHARTIER
Comment Text: All ESA or MMPA issues should be voided, as stated previously. All manmade canals should be filled to their natural level and return any flow to a more natural meandering pattern. That includes anything done by endemic inhabitants prior to the creation of the Park.

Organization:
Commenter: Derke Snodgrass **Page:** **Paragraph:**
Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 15 **Comment Id:** 406231 **Coder Name:** V_CHARTIER
Comment Text: I SUPPORT WHATEVER ACTION IS NECESSARY TO PROMOTE THE RETURN TO THE NATURAL ENVIRONMENT. THANK YOU.

Organization:
Commenter: ROBERTA M SEBASTIAN **Page:** **Paragraph:**
Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 11 **Comment Id:** 406223 **Coder Name:** V_CHARTIER
Comment Text: The traditional water flow will be accomplished by dams on every North/South canal dug into the Cape Sable area.

Organization: Evergladesfishing.com
Commenter: James Dougherty **Page:** **Paragraph:**
Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 10 **Comment Id:** 406221 **Coder Name:** V_CHARTIER
Comment Text: I think the damns are a great thing.

Organization: Fla. Keys fishing guides Assoc.
Commenter: Frank D Perez **Page:** **Paragraph:**
Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 8 **Comment Id:** 406217 **Coder Name:** V_CHARTIER
Comment Text: I support all the choices that do the best job at preserving wildlife.

Organization: Everglades CISMA

Commenter: Stuart Krantz **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 8 **Comment Id:** 406216 **Coder Name:** V_CHARTIER

Comment Text: I support all the choices that do the best job at preserving wildlife.

Organization: Everglades CISMA

Commenter: Stuart Krantz **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 5 **Comment Id:** 406211 **Coder Name:** V_CHARTIER

Comment Text: I'm all for restoring waterways to their natural course. If a canal has altered that, either fill in the canal or dam it. Good choice.

Organization:

Commenter: Donna Selquist **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

CS2000 Opposes project (Non-Substantive)

Correspondence Id: 20 **Comment Id:** 406272 **Coder Name:** V_CHARTIER

Comment Text: Until the problems with a warming world and seas is overcome, the fresh water/salt water problems cannot be overcome with dams. Let's get to the problem of global warming.

Organization:

Commenter: jim katterjohn **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 12 **Comment Id:** 419176 **Coder Name:** V_CHARTIER

Comment Text: I am a local guide who fishes the Cape Sable area often. Since the Damming of East cape Canal and the Homestead Canal leading to Lake Ingram I have seen nothing but bad results. What used to be a great fishery has tragically been reduced to virtually nothing I know other Captains has seen the same result. After the work was completed and the waterflow was blocked scores of Large fish Black Drum ,Redfish, Jacks,and many other species were at the surface landlocked and trapped. Since then the Black Drum and Sheephead and other fish in that area that normally spawn in that area during the winter months they are dwindling down to alarmingly low numbers. I have also seen unusual amounts of Cassiopia Jellyfish at cape sable and around the Flamingo area that were never there before until after the Dams were created. I realize that the diversion of water early in the 20th century damaged some of the areas at the Cape but over many years these areas adapted and were thriving until man steps in again and disrupts what nature adapted to. Fishing at Flamingo and Cape Sable is a huge part of our tourism for the Upper Keys as well as all of south Florida. I definitely do not support any other Changes

in the waterflow around east cape or any other area in the park and would also support the removal of the 2 other structures built in that area. Please stop trying to fix things they were not broken just adapted.

Organization:

Commenter: Brian Premaza **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 13 **Comment Id:** 418121 **Coder Name:** V_CHARTIER

Comment Text: We are out there daily, it really has changed for the worse since they blocked the dams. Let nature do what it needs to do..... People sitting behind a desk need to stay there. You think it is helping when it really is not. Friends of the everglades??? This makes me so mad to see this stuff. Ask ALL the captains that fish the area, and put it up for EVERYONE to see.... the votes will shock you.

Organization:

Commenter: Jim N/A **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 6 **Comment Id:** 418117 **Coder Name:** v_chartier

Comment Text: Stop messing with the glades already!!! you guys think you are helping but you are actually destroying everything!! We are captains out there every day and see the damage you are doing. The engineers mess it up 60 years ago and it took a long time for nature to catch up on mans mistakes, now you are going to repeat the cycle again!!! STOP PLEASE

Organization:

Commenter: Jim N/A **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

ED1000 Editorial (Non-Substantive)

Correspondence Id: 8 **Comment Id:** 406219 **Coder Name:** V_CHARTIER

Comment Text: Save all our Everglades Wildlife.

Organization: Everglades CISMA

Commenter: Stuart Krantz **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 30 **Comment Id:** 419524 **Coder Name:** V_CHARTIER

Comment Text: For 3 years, I have worked for EVER as a seasonal Interpretation Ranger both at Gulf Coast & Shark Valley duty stations; I have ample experience hiking most of the parks trails (including Coastal Prairie Trail) & Paddling on the wilderness waterway through the 10,000 islands. This field experience has given me on the ground & water insight to possible solutions to the compromised Flamingo Embankment; currently un-naturally impacting both Florida Bay & the interior wetlands of Cape Sable due to tidal influx allowing salt water to

penetrate north of the marl ridge. I hope that my contemplations on this subject matter may be applicable to a NEPA compliant Action/No Action plan for the EA of the project(s).

Organization: National Park Service

Commenter: Nicholas D Roger **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 8 **Comment Id:** 418119 **Coder Name:** V_CHARTIER

Comment Text: Ask Dolly Parton to hold a concert called Flamingo Sunset at Flamingo and donate the proceeds for the ENP infrastructure.

Organization: Everglades Cisma

Commenter: Stuart Krantz **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 22 **Comment Id:** 407088 **Coder Name:** V_CHARTIER

Comment Text: Where's the scoping newsletter with project details? When you follow the "Open For Comment" and "Document List" links all it does is take you to this "Submit Comment" form. Can you please link the actual scoping newsletter document to this webpage. Thanks

Organization:

Commenter: N/A N/A **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 19 **Comment Id:** 406270 **Coder Name:** V_CHARTIER

Comment Text: Stop manipulating the environment for the purposes of a few and allow the region to return to a more natural state where the changes that occur naturally happen over extended periods of time which allow the other members of the natural community to adjust in their own time scales. The Parks are not just for humans but low-impact uses could still be encouraged without degrading the environment.

Organization:

Commenter: Christopher T Carl **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

GA1000 Impact Analysis: Impact Analyses (Non-Substantive)

Correspondence Id: 7 **Comment Id:** 406215 **Coder Name:** V_CHARTIER

Comment Text: Proceed....very very SLOWLY....as the need for this current problem...was likelihood...brought on by mistaken actions previously taken to solve another problem.....unfortunately...the usually outcome when nature is messed with

Organization:

Commenter: wilson k bagwell **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 39 **Comment Id:** 419593 **Coder Name:** V_CHARTIER

Comment Text: These questions and forecasts should be addressed before proceeding further with these projects. If the projects are approved, then specific environmental effects of construction need to be clearly defined in order to evaluate the type and magnitude of impacts on the local environments.

Organization: South Florida Water Management District

Commenter: Mindy Parrott **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 18 **Comment Id:** 406267 **Coder Name:** V_CHARTIER

Comment Text: make sure any construction is accomplished with absolute minimal damage or disturbance of ecosystem

Organization:

Commenter: John A Katterjohn **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

GR4000 Geologic Resources: Impact Of Proposal And Alternatives (Non-Substantive)

Correspondence Id: 32 **Comment Id:** 413013 **Coder Name:** V_CHARTIER

Comment Text: I support this project and believe it is essential to shore up these dams before further damage is done to these area by erosion. These canals are significantly degrading the soils in this area.

Organization:

Commenter: Drew Martin **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 34 **Comment Id:** 419529 **Coder Name:** V_CHARTIER

Comment Text: While the project's primary purpose is to reestablish the natural functions of the Marl Ridge and Cape Sable region through addressing saltwater intrusion and degradation of interior marsh ecosystems, implementation of this project may result in beneficial impacts to downstream waters and habitats. FKNMS is adjacent to and downstream from Everglades National Park and therefore as you examine the beneficial impacts this project may have for Everglades National Park and Florida Bay water quality parameters, marine and estuarine resources, and wildlife and habitat consider also the potential downstream benefits to FKNMS. These benefits could include more balanced fresh-water exchange and decreased sediment and nutrient inputs to seagrass habitats in the bay and to coral reef habitats located downstream on the ocean-side of the Florida Keys.

Organization: NOAA Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary

Commenter: Sean Morton **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 29 **Comment Id:** 419523 **Coder Name:** V_CHARTIER

Comment Text: Phase I plugging of the Homestead and East Cape Canals in 2011 was highly successful and has already resulted in significant improvements in water quality and fish communities behind the marl berm (Audubon Florida, Pers. Comm.). Plugging these remaining canals will help to curb further erosion of canals, subsequent sediment and nutrient redistribution, and peat collapse in vulnerable areas behind the marl berm. Overall, these efforts will help to sustain remaining brackish and freshwater marsh habitats on Cape Sable and will provide an opportunity to restore freshwater and brackish water marshes that have been degraded or lost. As sea levels continue to rise around the Florida peninsula, efforts such as this and larger scale restoration of freshwater flow to Everglades National Park will allow for more natural landward transition of these important coastal habitats.

Organization: Everglades Foundation

Commenter: Stephen Davis **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 32 **Comment Id:** 413015 **Coder Name:** V_CHARTIER

Comment Text: I hope that enough work is done to prevent further erosion of this area.

Organization:

Commenter: Drew Martin **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

MN1000 Monitoring/Mitigation (Non-Substantive)

Correspondence Id: 33 **Comment Id:** 413020 **Coder Name:** V_CHARTIER

Comment Text: What are the plans for monitoring the success of the repairs such as periodic salinity measures and inventories of fish and wildlife in the interior freshwater and brackish marshes?

Organization:

Commenter: Savannah M Howington **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 38 **Comment Id:** 419548 **Coder Name:** V_CHARTIER

Comment Text: Please note that during the state permitting process a Uniform Mitigation Assessment Method (Chapter 62-345, Florida Administrative Code) Analysis will be required to assess the wetland impacts and benefits of the project. The project benefits may outweigh the wetland impacts, but if it is determined that there is more functional loss than functional gain, additional mitigation will be required.

Organization: Florida Department of Environmental Protection, Office of Ecosystem Projects

Commenter: Inger Hansen **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 35 **Comment Id:** 419534 **Coder Name:** v_chartier

Comment Text: Our findings aided the Park's ability to bring attention to the problematic issues associated with the canals and the eventual completion of the very successful first phase of damming on East Cape and Homestead Canals. Since completion of Phase I, we have been documenting encouraging results of a lower and more stable salinity environment behind the dams and increasing productivity and diversity of prey fishes. We have been observing worsening conditions however, in the vicinity of Raulerson Canal and East Side Creek as both waterways continue to widen and transport more water in and out of the marsh. We have also been observing the continued deterioration of the House and Slagle's ditch dams; primarily at Slagle's, where piping at the dam is now worsening. Because of this, we are strongly advocating for continued progression of this second phase of dam restoration.

Organization: Audubon Florida

Commenter: Peter Frezza **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

NA1000 Comment not applicable to project; unrelated to current project (Non-Substantive)

Correspondence Id: 8 **Comment Id:** 418118 **Coder Name:** V_CHARTIER

Comment Text: Bringing all the infrastructure at Everglades National Park into good repair.

Organization: Everglades CISMA

Commenter: Stuart Krantz **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

PN12000 Purpose and Need: Recommended Edits (Non-Substantive)

Correspondence Id: 33 **Comment Id:** 413018 **Coder Name:** V_CHARTIER

Comment Text: Yes. Each one could be written more clearly so the information is conveyed in plain language. I have provided examples of clearer wording and deleted redundant statements below: Draft Purpose Statement: The purpose of this project is review alternative courses of action intended to restore the Cape Sable region by reestablishing the natural function of the Marl Ridge that has been degraded due to canal-induced saltwater intrusion into area freshwater and brackish marshes.

Organization:

Commenter: Savannah M Howington **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 33 **Comment Id:** 419120 **Coder Name:** V_CHARTIER

Comment Text: Yes. Each one could be written more clearly so the information is conveyed in plain language. I have provided examples of clearer wording and deleted redundant statements below: Draft Objective Statements: Natural Resources - Restore a more natural hydrology to the Cape Sable region by reducing the flow of saltwater into freshwater and brackish interior marshes through the House and Slagle Ditches, Raulerson Canal, and East Side Creek - Improve the ecological resilience of the interior freshwater and brackish water marshes to climate change and sea level rise farther - Improve habitat for juvenile crocodiles, wading birds, forage fish, and other wildlife within the interior freshwater and brackish marshes of the Cape Sable region - Reduce the loss of sediments and nutrients increased by canal-induced erosional processes between Florida Bay and interior freshwater and brackish marshes - Reduce canal-induced adverse impacts on marine resources in the Cape Sable region Wilderness - Design project features to maximize compatibility with the qualities of wilderness character of the Cape Sable region Cultural Resources - Design project features to avoid adverse impacts to cultural and archeological resources and historic features Engineered Features - Design engineered or constructed features of project, where necessary, to endure 50 years with annual/bi-annual maintenance barring severe damage by catastrophic hurricane events Visitor Use and Experience - Provide safe waterways for allowable recreation, such as canoeists/kayakers, in the Cape Sable region of the Marjory Stoneman Douglas Wilderness Area - Reduce the opportunity for illegal motorized access into the Marjory Stoneman Douglas Wilderness Area through the canals under study of this project.

Organization:

Commenter: Savannah M Howington **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 33 **Comment Id:** 419119 **Coder Name:** V_CHARTIER

Comment Text: Yes. Each one could be written more clearly so the information is conveyed in plain language. I have provided examples of clearer wording and deleted redundant statements below: Draft Needs Statement: - Reestablish the natural function of the Marl Ridge in the Cape Sable region - Reduce the impacts of the canal-induced intrusion of saltwater northward through the Marl Ridge into freshwater and brackish marshes - Reduce the erosional processes that are increasing sediment transport to/from Florida Bay and the interior marshes through the House and Slagle Ditches, Raulerson Canal, and East Side Creek - Improve and protect the freshwater and brackish water interior marshes as habitat for fish and wildlife - Improve qualities of wilderness character in Cape Sable region of the Marjory Stoneman Douglas Wilderness Area

Organization:

Commenter: Savannah M Howington **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

PN3000 Purpose And Need: Scope Of The Analysis (Non-Substantive)

Correspondence Id: 9 **Comment Id:** 406220 **Coder Name:** V_CHARTIER

Comment Text: Will this improve the environment? Will it remove any and all dams which impede the natural flow of rivers?

Organization:

Commenter: v l **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 35 **Comment Id:** 419535 **Coder Name:** v_chartier

Comment Text: We have reviewed the draft assessment and conclude that the Park has done an excellent job at addressing the "Needs" and "Objectives" of the project in this statement. We also feel the Park has adequately presented a thorough set of "Alternatives" to be considered during the EA.

Organization: Audubon Florida

Commenter: Peter Frezza **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 9 **Comment Id:** 418120 **Coder Name:** V_CHARTIER

Comment Text: Will it also increase the amount of protected wilderness? That is no hunting or such, not one leaf is to be touched for the misnomer of "development". Wild lands protected forever and not allowed to be touched.

Organization:

Commenter: v l **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 16 **Comment Id:** 406234 **Coder Name:** V_CHARTIER

Comment Text: I assume that this is just another step towards enclosing the whole Lake Ingraham to isolate it more from the open GOM. Has there been any modelling of how fast the project should last. Is it better to do it all at once or in phases?

Organization:

Commenter: Derke Snodgrass **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

PN8000 Purpose And Need: Objectives In Taking Action (Non-Substantive)

Correspondence Id: 16 **Comment Id:** 406232 **Coder Name:** V_CHARTIER

Comment Text: I assume that this project is for long term goal and will not be impeded by short term obstacles like potential endangered species impacts. That is how it should be.

Organization:

Commenter: Derke Snodgrass **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 35 **Comment Id:** 419537 **Coder Name:** V_CHARTIER

Comment Text: We encourage the Park to continue considering complete damming of the East

Side Creek. While natural in appearance, this creek has been and continues to be artificially altered as a result of increasing transport of water through the East Cape Canal. We feel the increasing erosion and water moving capacity of this creek must be addressed if this project is going to be a success and meet the objectives. We also feel that neglecting this creek would jeopardize the integrity of any other new structures at the three other sites.

Organization: Audubon Florida

Commenter: Peter Frezza **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 35 **Comment Id:** 419535 **Coder Name:** v_chartier

Comment Text: We have reviewed the draft assessment and conclude that the Park has done an excellent job at addressing the "Needs" and "Objectives" of the project in this statement. We also feel the Park has adequately presented a thorough set of "Alternatives" to be considered during the EA.

Organization: Audubon Florida

Commenter: Peter Frezza **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

RE1000 Restoration (Non-Substantive)

Correspondence Id: 3 **Comment Id:** 406209 **Coder Name:** V_CHARTIER

Comment Text: This project is much needed to restore the ecological balance to the Cape Sable area. I fully support the project and hope it can be approved, funded and implemented as soon as possible

Organization: Ocean Reef Rod and gun club

Commenter: John W Salisbury **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 29 **Comment Id:** 419523 **Coder Name:** V_CHARTIER

Comment Text: Phase I plugging of the Homestead and East Cape Canals in 2011 was highly successful and has already resulted in significant improvements in water quality and fish communities behind the marl berm (Audubon Florida, Pers. Comm.). Plugging these remaining canals will help to curb further erosion of canals, subsequent sediment and nutrient redistribution, and peat collapse in vulnerable areas behind the marl berm. Overall, these efforts will help to sustain remaining brackish and freshwater marsh habitats on Cape Sable and will provide an opportunity to restore freshwater and brackish water marshes that have been degraded or lost. As sea levels continue to rise around the Florida peninsula, efforts such as this and larger scale restoration of freshwater flow to Everglades National Park will allow for more natural landward transition of these important coastal habitats.

Organization: Everglades Foundation

Commenter: Stephen Davis **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 15 **Comment Id:** 406231 **Coder Name:** V_CHARTIER

Comment Text: I SUPPORT WHATEVER ACTION IS NECESSARY TO PROMOTE THE RETURN TO THE NATURAL ENVIRONMENT. THANK YOU.

Organization:

Commenter: ROBERTA M SEBASTIAN **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 5 **Comment Id:** 406211 **Coder Name:** V_CHARTIER

Comment Text: I'm all for restoring waterways to their natural course. If a canal has altered that, either fill in the canal or dam it. Good choice.

Organization:

Commenter: Donna Selquist **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

TE4000 Threatened And Endangered Species: Impact Of Proposal And Alternatives (Non-Substantive)

Correspondence Id: 4 **Comment Id:** 406210 **Coder Name:** V_CHARTIER

Comment Text: I have canoed to Alligator and Fox Lakes many times. Be careful to ensure to continue to have a barrier to not allow motorboats back there. There are areas in the interior that are teeming with fish and wildlife including endangered crocodiles, and motorboats would destroy that environment.

Organization:

Commenter: Jeff Omans **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 39 **Comment Id:** 419596 **Coder Name:** V_CHARTIER

Comment Text: 3. Reasonable assurance is required to be provided which demonstrates that the construction and operation of the project will not cause adverse impacts to the abundance and diversity of fish, wildlife and listed species (e.g. manatees, American crocodile, smalltooth sawfish), and will not cause adverse impacts to the habitat of fish, wildlife and listed species, in accordance with AH I, 10.2.2.

Organization: South Florida Water Management District

Commenter: Mindy Parrott **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 36 **Comment Id:** 419587 **Coder Name:** V_CHARTIER

Comment Text: FWC staff recommends the NPS evaluate impacts to the above-mentioned

listed species as well as any other potential fish and wildlife species known to utilize the project area. The evaluation should include any potential impacts both during construction and as a result of the completed project. Inclusion of a comprehensive evaluation of fish and wildlife within this area will aid in reducing impacts during project planning and in providing measures for use during construction to protect species throughout all of the project stages. These areas are also used by marine (non-listed) fish species such as snook, spotted seatrout and red fish during certain times of the year. An assessment of potential impacts to these species will be necessary to identify impacts to valuable recreational game fish species in Florida. In addition, manatees are known to frequent the Cape Sable area and likely use the areas proposed for construction activities. FWC staff has provided a copy of the Standard Manatee Conditions for In-Water Work (attached) to be followed during all in-water activity to protect manatees from project construction activities.

Organization: Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission

Commenter: Ernest Marks **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 41 **Comment Id:** 419555 **Coder Name:** V_CHARTIER

Comment Text: Page 6: If manatees have access through existing creeks, ditches and canals, it will be necessary to observe standard protection measures for construction and sediment control in waterways.

Organization: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Commenter: Richard Fike **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 38 **Comment Id:** 419545 **Coder Name:** V_CHARTIER

Comment Text: In the other canals and waterways where sheet pile is proposed in all the alternatives, except the no action, please consider the sensitivity of the surrounding area, the wildlife usage, and reduce and minimize impacts as much as possible when selecting the preferred alternative. Please also consider an alternative that allows the ingress and egress of listed species such as manatees and smalltooth sawfish.

Organization: Florida Department of Environmental Protection, Office of Ecosystem Projects

Commenter: Inger Hansen **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 33 **Comment Id:** 413021 **Coder Name:** V_CHARTIER

Comment Text: An inventory of T&E species in the Cape Sable region should be a part of this study. In addition to the American Crocodile, Smalltooth Sawfish may be in the area as well as the Bald Eagle. I'm not convinced that this project will help wading birds in general. It may be better to either say 'foraging wading birds' or just say Rosette Spoonbills. What about T&E plants? There may should be mention of invasive species, plants and animals.

Organization:

Commenter: Savannah M Howington **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 16 **Comment Id:** 406235 **Coder Name:** V_CHARTIER

Comment Text: All ESA or MMPA issues should be voided, as stated previously. All manmade canals should be filled to their natural level and return any flow to a more natural meandering pattern. That includes anything done by endemic inhabitants prior to the creation of the Park.

Organization:

Commenter: Derke Snodgrass **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 16 **Comment Id:** 406232 **Coder Name:** V_CHARTIER

Comment Text: I assume that this project is for long term goal and will not be impeded by short term obstacles like potential endangered species impacts. That is how it should be.

Organization:

Commenter: Derke Snodgrass **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

TN100 THREATS - Threats to natural resources (Non-Substantive)

Correspondence Id: 17 **Comment Id:** 406263 **Coder Name:** V_CHARTIER

Comment Text: I thought about increased use since the dams will be easier to access and needless to say - safe. But this shouldn't dictate changes in my opinion. Lets hope the end users will pack it in and pack it out.

Organization:

Commenter: N/A N/A **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 19 **Comment Id:** 419520 **Coder Name:** V_CHARTIER

Comment Text: I am a frequent visitor, kayak/canoe tour guide, naturalist and for several decades, observer of the decline of the 'largest wilderness area east of the Mississippi'. Recent changes that open previously restricted areas of the Park to recreational use have in my opinion been helpful and thoughtful. I hope this continues but consideration of what access is allowed should be a greater concern. Noise, artificial lights and the by-products of petroleum have destabilizing and erosive consequences for the plants, wildlife and human visitors. Technology is now allowing for alternative means of access which should be encouraged early and often. "Putting in the time and effort" not just the "having the money" to gain access improves the experience and reduces the consequences to the ecosystem but it needn't be all-or-nothing. Thoughtful alternatives and rational limitations with the benefit of the environment as The Priority should be sought.

Organization:

Commenter: Christopher T Carl **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 19 **Comment Id:** 406271 **Coder Name:** V_CHARTIER

Comment Text: The combination of environmental pressures of a rising sea level, declining fresh water recharge more intensive storms due to climate change and a demand for increased human access should drive the design and decision process toward preserving the area in it's most natural state. The Everglades Region is changing and human encroachment is dwindling the few remaining natural areas. Restoring the natural salt water blocks to allow a more (though not authentic) brackish environment to return to the Cape Sable region will help preserve the environment for ALL the 'stake-holders' who rely on the ENP for their very existence.

Organization:

Commenter: Christopher T Carl **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

TQ1-63854 Do you have any comments or concerns regarding the (Non-Substantive)

Correspondence Id: 1 **Comment Id:** 406204 **Coder Name:**

Comment Text: No. I feel they are written perfectly for this much needed project.

Organization: Audubon FLorida

Commenter: Peter Frezza **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 2 **Comment Id:** 406208 **Coder Name:** V_CHARTIER

Comment Text: I would like to see a diagram of what it is proposed before i comment.

Organization: Get Em Sportfishing Charters

Commenter: Alan D Sherman **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 3 **Comment Id:** 406209 **Coder Name:** V_CHARTIER

Comment Text: This project is much needed to restore the ecological balance to the Cape Sable area. I fully support the project and hope it can be approved, funded and implemented as soon as possible

Organization: Ocean Reef Rod and gun club

Commenter: John W Salisbury **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 5 **Comment Id:** 406211 **Coder Name:** V_CHARTIER

Comment Text: I'm all for restoring waterways to their natural course. If a canal has altered that, either fill in the canal or dam it. Good choice.

Organization:

Commenter: Donna Selquist **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 8 **Comment Id:** 406216 **Coder Name:** V_CHARTIER

Comment Text: I support all the choices that do the best job at preserving wildlife.

Organization: Everglades CISMA

Commenter: Stuart Krantz **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 9 **Comment Id:** 406220 **Coder Name:** V_CHARTIER

Comment Text: Will this improve the environment? Will it remove any and all dams which impede the natural flow of rivers?

Organization:

Commenter: v l **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 10 **Comment Id:** 406221 **Coder Name:** V_CHARTIER

Comment Text: I think the damns are a great thing.

Organization: Fla. Keys fishing guides Assoc.

Commenter: Frank D Perez **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 11 **Comment Id:** 406223 **Coder Name:** V_CHARTIER

Comment Text: The traditional water flow will be accomplished by dams on every North/South canal dug into the Cape Sable area.

Organization: Evergladesfishing.com

Commenter: James Dougherty **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 12 **Comment Id:** 406227 **Coder Name:**

Comment Text: N/C

Organization:

Commenter: Brian Premaza **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 15 **Comment Id:** 406231 **Coder Name:** V_CHARTIER

Comment Text: I SUPPORT WHATEVER ACTION IS NECESSARY TO PROMOTE THE RETURN TO THE NATURAL ENVIRONMENT. THANK YOU.

Organization:

Commenter: ROBERTA M SEBASTIAN **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 16 **Comment Id:** 406232 **Coder Name:** V_CHARTIER

Comment Text: I assume that this project is for long term goal and will not be impeded by short term obstacles like potential endangered species impacts. That is how it should be.

Organization:

Commenter: Derke Snodgrass **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 17 **Comment Id:** 406260 **Coder Name:** V_CHARTIER

Comment Text: Lived & worked in Flamingo in the early 90's and this topic was around then. Lets not wait longer... sad that it will be another year for just a decision. This needs to be done.

Organization:

Commenter: N/A N/A **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 18 **Comment Id:** 406264 **Coder Name:**

Comment Text: no

Organization:

Commenter: John A Katterjohn **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 19 **Comment Id:** 406268 **Coder Name:** V_CHARTIER

Comment Text: I believe these projects are inevitable due to rising sea levels and the impacts of reduced freshwater flow from the northern tier of the Everglades. Continued saltwater intrusions into the brackish water ecology is disruptive to both vegetation and wildlife. Closing the man-made channels would allow more natural processes to reestablish which would benefit the ecology and help stabilize the southern regions of the Park. That said, damming the channels would restrict access to those areas by heavier, motor-propelled craft, a secondary benefit in my opinion.

Organization:

Commenter: Christopher T Carl **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 21 **Comment Id:** 406273 **Coder Name:** V_CHARTIER

Comment Text: I question the expense for the more complicated alternatives due to future sea level rise. I also disagree with pack mule or horses used for this construction.

Organization:

Commenter: Vivian Oliva **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 24 **Comment Id:** 408941 **Coder Name:** V_CHARTIER

Comment Text: I believe the dams should be restored or improved upon. Paddle craft trails and portages should be taken into consideration during the design of any restoration or improvements. Paddle craft are the only real way for us to see this part of our National Park. Improved trails and portages would perhaps enhance continued public support for the Park by the paddling community.

Organization:

Commenter: N/A N/A **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 25 **Comment Id:** 409042 **Coder Name:**

Comment Text: If the National Park Service is not removing the dams and making every effort to restore the land to restore natural water flow, please explain why the chosen alternative or alternatives is better than restoring natural water flow in ENP.

Organization:

Commenter: Rick Stanley **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 26 **Comment Id:** 410061 **Coder Name:** V_CHARTIER

Comment Text: I have reviewed the project and find that the proposed dam restorations should address the salt water intrusion problems currently occurring in the canals.

Organization: Ms.

Commenter: Theresa Lianzi **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 27 **Comment Id:** 410065 **Coder Name:** V_CHARTIER

Comment Text: The dams are good except damming the natural creek or east side creek. The fishing back there is the best in the park. The fish need a way to come and go and repopulate after freezes. I guide in there all winter. Damming east side creek would destroy my business.

Organization: ENP fishing guide

Commenter: Brian Esposito **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 28 **Comment Id:** 411114 **Coder Name:** V_CHARTIER

Comment Text: The newsletter does not specifically address why the proposed actions are necessary for the management of Wilderness which would justify a development in designated wilderness.

Organization: Everglades National Park

Commenter: Michael A Jester **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 29 **Comment Id:** 412987 **Coder Name:** V_CHARTIER

Comment Text: The Everglades Foundation supports Everglades National Park's canal-plugging efforts on Cape Sable that will protect remaining freshwater and brackish water habitats and potentially restore degraded areas.

Organization: Everglades Foundation

Commenter: Stephen Davis **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 30 **Comment Id:** 413005 **Coder Name:**

Comment Text: see comment section

Organization: National Park Service

Commenter: Nicholas D Roger **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 31 **Comment Id:** 413009 **Coder Name:** V_CHARTIER

Comment Text: The Florida Wildlife Federation supports the need to repair, replace and extend all non-functioning sheet pile and fill dams in the Cape Sable area that are included in the EA. Intrusion of saltwater into what was historically a freshwater system has resulted in considerable damage and significant vegetative changes due to the saltwater intrusion.

Organization: Florida Wildlife Federation

Commenter: Franklin Adams **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 32 **Comment Id:** 413013 **Coder Name:** V_CHARTIER

Comment Text: I support this project and believe it is essential to shore up these dams before further damage is done to these area by erosion. These canals are significantly degrading the soils in this area.

Organization:

Commenter: Drew Martin **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 33 **Comment Id:** 413018 **Coder Name:** V_CHARTIER

Comment Text: Yes. Each one could be written more clearly so the information is conveyed in plain language. I have provided examples of clearer wording and deleted redundant statements below: Draft Purpose Statement: The purpose of this project is review alternative courses of action intended to restore the Cape Sable region by reestablishing the natural function of the Marl Ridge that has been degraded due to canal-induced saltwater intrusion into area freshwater and brackish marshes.

Organization:

Commenter: Savannah M Howington **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 9 **Comment Id:** 418120 **Coder Name:** V_CHARTIER

Comment Text: Will it also increase the amount of protected wilderness? That is no hunting or such, not one leaf is to be touched for the misnomer of "development". Wild lands protected forever and not allowed to be touched.

Organization:

Commenter: v l **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 33 **Comment Id:** 419119 **Coder Name:** V_CHARTIER

Comment Text: Yes. Each one could be written more clearly so the information is conveyed in plain language. I have provided examples of clearer wording and deleted redundant statements below: Draft Needs Statement: - Reestablish the natural function of the Marl Ridge in the Cape Sable region - Reduce the impacts of the canal-induced intrusion of saltwater northward through the Marl Ridge into freshwater and brackish marshes - Reduce the erosional processes that are increasing sediment transport to/from Florida Bay and the interior marshes through the House and Slagle Ditches, Raulerson Canal, and East Side Creek - Improve and protect the freshwater and brackish water interior marshes as habitat for fish and wildlife - Improve qualities of wilderness character in Cape Sable region of the Marjory Stoneman Douglas Wilderness Area

Organization:

Commenter: Savannah M Howington **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 33 **Comment Id:** 419120 **Coder Name:** V_CHARTIER

Comment Text: Yes. Each one could be written more clearly so the information is conveyed in plain language. I have provided examples of clearer wording and deleted redundant statements below: Draft Objective Statements: Natural Resources - Restore a more natural hydrology to the Cape Sable region by reducing the flow of saltwater into freshwater and brackish interior marshes through the House and Slagle Ditches, Raulerson Canal, and East Side Creek - Improve the ecological resilience of the interior freshwater and brackish water marshes to climate change and sea level rise farther - Improve habitat for juvenile crocodiles, wading birds, forage fish, and other wildlife within the interior freshwater and brackish marshes of the Cape Sable region - Reduce the loss of sediments and nutrients increased by canal-induced erosional processes between Florida Bay and interior freshwater and brackish marshes - Reduce canal-induced adverse impacts on marine resources in the Cape Sable region Wilderness - Design project features to maximize compatibility with the qualities of wilderness character of the Cape Sable region Cultural Resources - Design project features to avoid adverse impacts to cultural and archeological resources and historic features Engineered Features - Design engineered or constructed features of project, where necessary, to endure 50 years with annual/bi-annual maintenance barring severe damage by catastrophic hurricane events Visitor Use and Experience - Provide safe waterways for allowable recreation, such as canoeists/kayakers, in the Cape Sable region of the Marjory Stoneman Douglas Wilderness Area - Reduce the opportunity for illegal motorized access into the Marjory Stoneman Douglas Wilderness Area through the canals under study of this project.

Organization:

Commenter: Savannah M Howington **Page:** **Paragraph:**
Kept Private: No

TQ2-63854 Do you have any comments or concerns regarding the (Non-Substantive)

Correspondence Id: 1 **Comment Id:** 406205 **Coder Name:** V_CHARTIER

Comment Text: This looks like an excellent set of alternatives, however I feel that a flow discharge structure/flow-through structure or weir or any combination of these are unnecessary at the Raulerson Canal and East Side Creek.

Organization: Audubon FLorida

Commenter: Peter Frezza **Page:** **Paragraph:**
Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 5 **Comment Id:** 406212 **Coder Name:** V_CHARTIER

Comment Text: no

Organization:

Commenter: Donna Selquist **Page:** **Paragraph:**
Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 7 **Comment Id:** 406215 **Coder Name:** V_CHARTIER

Comment Text: Proceed....very very SLOWLY....as the need for this current problem...was likelihood...brought on by mistaken actions previously taken to solve another problem.....unfortunately...the usually outcome when nature is messed with

Organization:

Commenter: wilson k bagwell **Page:** **Paragraph:**
Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 8 **Comment Id:** 406217 **Coder Name:** V_CHARTIER

Comment Text: I support all the choices that do the best job at preserving wildlife.

Organization: Everglades Cisma

Commenter: Stuart Krantz **Page:** **Paragraph:**
Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 11 **Comment Id:** 406224 **Coder Name:** V_CHARTIER

Comment Text: Dam location is best determined by considering all effects. Consider leaving 2-3 thousand feet of the canals, like Slagle and House Ditch, open to Florida Bay. This will then continue to provide habitats for gamefish fry like tarpon, redfish,etc.

Organization: Evergladesfishing.com

Commenter: James Dougherty **Page:** **Paragraph:**
Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 12 **Comment Id:** 406228 **Coder Name:**

Comment Text: N/C

Organization:

Commenter: Brian Premaza **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 16 **Comment Id:** 406233 **Coder Name:** V_CHARTIER

Comment Text: No consideration should be afforded to concerns voiced by fishermen who might speak out against this sort of work. Simply because someone has been fishing a certain way for a long time does not mean that it should be taken into consideration. They need to understand that the fishing success of the improved area may be worse than what they have experienced, historically.

Organization:

Commenter: Derke Snodgrass **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 17 **Comment Id:** 406261 **Coder Name:** V_CHARTIER

Comment Text: I have canoed 3 of the 4 canals so I am partial to the 'canoe ramps'. I wonder if the 10' or one canal width earthen dam is enough... but since the engineers came up with this I must believe this is a good number.

Organization:

Commenter: N/A N/A **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 18 **Comment Id:** 406265 **Coder Name:**

Comment Text: no

Organization:

Commenter: John A Katterjohn **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 19 **Comment Id:** 406269 **Coder Name:** V_CHARTIER

Comment Text: Designing access through any of the dam structures, locks for motorboats for example, is both unnecessary and unnatural. It would be far less expensive to rebuild the bars and coffer with "natural material" and allow the natural processes to reestablish. Access could still be allowed for human powered or electric powered craft that could be conveyed over the structures.

Organization:

Commenter: Christopher T Carl **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 21 **Comment Id:** 406274 **Coder Name:** V_CHARTIER

Comment Text: If you were to dam East Creek and Raulersons canal, it would be a good time to consider a new canoe trail from bear lake to the cape. We know that the prairie has enough water to allow for this travel. The original canals are not passable and an alternative needs to be considered to allow safe passage to the cape and back in high winds. We use East Creek to exit to east cape canal and putting a dam there will make it very difficult to portage canoes and kayaks filled with gear/food/water. Given the lack of thought the park places on paddle craft put in and take out design. Most are downright dangerous and very difficult to use. Maybe, it is time to think this through with some input from the paddling community?

Organization:

Commenter: Vivian Oliva **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 25 **Comment Id:** 409043 **Coder Name:**

Comment Text: If the National Park Service is not removing the dams and making every effort to restore the land to restore natural water flow, please explain why the chosen alternative or alternatives is better than restoring natural water flow in ENP.

Organization:

Commenter: Rick Stanley **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 26 **Comment Id:** 410062 **Coder Name:** V_CHARTIER

Comment Text: Will any wildlife be harmed by the back filling and the construction of the dams?

Organization: Ms.

Commenter: Theresa Lianzi **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 27 **Comment Id:** 410066 **Coder Name:** V_CHARTIER

Comment Text: Damming natural creek would be horrible. Fish cannot come and go. It freeze would be a death sentence for the thousands of snook that call it home.

Organization: ENP fishing guide

Commenter: Brian Esposito **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 28 **Comment Id:** 411115 **Coder Name:** V_CHARTIER

Comment Text: None of the alternatives address how the park will monitor and maintain the dams over time. It is not clear that the park has the resources or has delegated this responsibility.

Organization: Everglades National Park

Commenter: Michael A Jester **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 29 **Comment Id:** 412988 **Coder Name:** V_CHARTIER

Comment Text: Consideration of these alternatives will restore the natural function of the marl berm and provide the best opportunity to protect and restore interior of Cape Sable.

Organization: Everglades Foundation

Commenter: Stephen Davis **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 30 **Comment Id:** 413006 **Coder Name:**

Comment Text: "

Organization: National Park Service

Commenter: Nicholas D Roger **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 31 **Comment Id:** 413010 **Coder Name:** V_CHARTIER

Comment Text: The Restoration Phase II access and construction should been done during the winter and spring months when the volume of freshwater is less than during the summer/storm season.

Organization: Florida Wildlife Federation

Commenter: Franklin Adams **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 32 **Comment Id:** 413014 **Coder Name:** V_CHARTIER

Comment Text: I would pick alternative 4 as the most inclusive. I hope that this alternative accomplishes the goals of the project.

Organization:

Commenter: Drew Martin **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 33 **Comment Id:** 413019 **Coder Name:** V_CHARTIER

Comment Text: House and Slagle Ditches The description "anticipated original widths" is awkward. I would either say "original widths" or "measurable or estimated original width" Raulerson Canal and East Side Creek The description "sheet pile only dam" is awkward. Since there are alternatives that expand the materials to "sheet pile and fill", "sheet pile dam" or dam constructed with sheet pile" is sufficient.

Organization:

Commenter: Savannah M Howington **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 1 **Comment Id:** 416375 **Coder Name:** v_chartier

Comment Text: I also feel that a canoe ramp is completely unnecessary at any of the dams and

diminishes from the 'Wilderness' aspect of these areas

Organization: Audubon FLorida

Commenter: Peter Frezza **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

TQ3-63854 Do you have any suggestions regarding other altern (Non-Substantive)

Correspondence Id: 1 **Comment Id:** 406206 **Coder Name:** V_CHARTIER

Comment Text: I recommend alternatives at Raulerson Canal and East Side Creek that do not have options for a canoe ramp.

Organization: Audubon FLorida

Commenter: Peter Frezza **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 5 **Comment Id:** 406213 **Coder Name:** V_CHARTIER

Comment Text: no

Organization:

Commenter: Donna Selquist **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 8 **Comment Id:** 406218 **Coder Name:** V_CHARTIER

Comment Text: No

Organization: Everglades Cisma

Commenter: Stuart Krantz **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 10 **Comment Id:** 406222 **Coder Name:** V_CHARTIER

Comment Text: I hope that when you do the Rollerson's ditch damn project it's done a little different than the others. I've been fishing the march for over 35yrs. I've always done it the right way. Loaded a canoe on my skiff and parked it outside the damn and portaged in to fish. The wildlife is worth the trip alone . Catching baby tarpon, redfish, and snook a bonus. However I don't understand why the ramps were done like they are. You have to drag your canoe or engineless boat up the ramps carry them to the right over rocks then back to the left portage in the canals. Why not make it a straight shot. Up the ramp straight across , down the ramp. Perhaps someone could explain the reasoning behind the way it was done.

Organization: Fla. Keys fishing guides Assoc.

Commenter: Frank D Perez **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 11 **Comment Id:** 406225 **Coder Name:**

Comment Text: No

Organization: Evergladesfishing.com

Commenter: James Dougherty **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 12 **Comment Id:** 406229 **Coder Name:**

Comment Text: N/C

Organization:

Commenter: Brian Premaza **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 16 **Comment Id:** 406234 **Coder Name:** V_CHARTIER

Comment Text: I assume that this is just another step towards enclosing the whole Lake Ingraham to isolate it more from the open GOM. Has there been any modelling of how fast the project should last. Is it better to do it all at once or in phases?

Organization:

Commenter: Derke Snodgrass **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 17 **Comment Id:** 406262 **Coder Name:** V_CHARTIER

Comment Text: No, just that it needs to happen, and soon. Twenty years has passed since I worked there, and it was on-going for many decades before that... it is time.

Organization:

Commenter: N/A N/A **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 18 **Comment Id:** 406266 **Coder Name:**

Comment Text: no

Organization:

Commenter: John A Katterjohn **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 19 **Comment Id:** 406270 **Coder Name:** V_CHARTIER

Comment Text: Stop manipulating the environment for the purposes of a few and allow the region to return to a more natural state where the changes that occur naturally happen over extended periods of time which allow the other members of the natural community to adjust in their own time scales. The Parks are not just for humans but low-impact uses could still be encouraged without degrading the environment.

Organization:

Commenter: Christopher T Carl **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 25 **Comment Id:** 409044 **Coder Name:**

Comment Text: If the National Park Service is not removing the dams and making every effort to restore the land to restore natural water flow, please explain why the chosen alternative or alternatives is better than restoring natural water flow in ENP.

Organization:

Commenter: Rick Stanley **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 26 **Comment Id:** 410063 **Coder Name:** V_CHARTIER

Comment Text: Would completely filling in the canals solve the problem of salt water intrusion or would that create new problems?

Organization: Ms.

Commenter: Theresa Lianzi **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 27 **Comment Id:** 410067 **Coder Name:** V_CHARTIER

Comment Text: If they must dam. Make a culvert for fish to pass.

Organization: ENP fishing guide

Commenter: Brian Esposito **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 29 **Comment Id:** 412989 **Coder Name:** V_CHARTIER

Comment Text: No.

Organization: Everglades Foundation

Commenter: Stephen Davis **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 30 **Comment Id:** 413007 **Coder Name:**

Comment Text: "

Organization: National Park Service

Commenter: Nicholas D Roger **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 31 **Comment Id:** 413011 **Coder Name:**

Comment Text: None

Organization: Florida Wildlife Federation

Commenter: Franklin Adams **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 32 **Comment Id:** 413015 **Coder Name:** V_CHARTIER

Comment Text: I hope that enough work is done to prevent further erosion of this area.

Organization:

Commenter: Drew Martin **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 33 **Comment Id:** 413020 **Coder Name:** V_CHARTIER

Comment Text: What are the plans for monitoring the success of the repairs such as periodic salinity measures and inventories of fish and wildlife in the interior freshwater and brackish marshes?

Organization:

Commenter: Savannah M Howington **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

TQ4-63854 Are there any environmental issues or concerns you (Non-Substantive)

Correspondence Id: 1 **Comment Id:** 406207 **Coder Name:**

Comment Text: No

Organization: Audubon FLorida

Commenter: Peter Frezza **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 4 **Comment Id:** 406210 **Coder Name:** V_CHARTIER

Comment Text: I have canoed to Alligator and Fox Lakes many times. Be careful to ensure to continue to have a barrier to not allow motorboats back there. There are areas in the interior that are teeming with fish and wildlife including endangered crocodiles, and motorboats would destroy that environment.

Organization:

Commenter: Jeff Omans **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 5 **Comment Id:** 406214 **Coder Name:** V_CHARTIER

Comment Text: Depending on how long the canal has been diverting water, consideration might need to be given to the more recently established wildlife, and accommodating their needs for habitat, too.

Organization:

Commenter: Donna Selquist **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 8 **Comment Id:** 406219 **Coder Name:** V_CHARTIER

Comment Text: Save all our Everglades Wildlife.

Organization: Everglades CISMA

Commenter: Stuart Krantz **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 11 **Comment Id:** 406226 **Coder Name:**

Comment Text: No

Organization: Evergladesfishing.com

Commenter: James Dougherty **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 12 **Comment Id:** 406230 **Coder Name:**

Comment Text: N/C

Organization:

Commenter: Brian Premaza **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 16 **Comment Id:** 406235 **Coder Name:** V_CHARTIER

Comment Text: All ESA or MMPA issues should be voided, as stated previously. All manmade canals should be filled to their natural level and return any flow to a more natural meandering pattern. That includes anything done by endemic inhabitants prior to the creation of the Park.

Organization:

Commenter: Derke Snodgrass **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 17 **Comment Id:** 406263 **Coder Name:** V_CHARTIER

Comment Text: I thought about increased use since the dams will be easier to access and needless to say - safe. But this shouldn't dictate changes in my opinion. Lets hope the end users will pack it in and pack it out.

Organization:

Commenter: N/A N/A **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 18 **Comment Id:** 406267 **Coder Name:** V_CHARTIER

Comment Text: make sure any construction is accomplished with absolute minimal damage or disturbance of ecosystem

Organization:

Commenter: John A Katterjohn **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 19 **Comment Id:** 406271 **Coder Name:** V_CHARTIER

Comment Text: The combination of environmental pressures of a rising sea level, declining fresh water recharge more intensive storms due to climate change and a demand for increased human access should drive the design and decision process toward preserving the area in it's most natural state. The Everglades Region is changing and human encroachment is dwindling the few remaining natural areas. Restoring the natural salt water blocks to allow a more (though not authentic) brackish environment to return to the Cape Sable region will help preserve the environment for ALL the 'stake-holders' who rely on the ENP for their very existence.

Organization:

Commenter: Christopher T Carl **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 20 **Comment Id:** 406272 **Coder Name:** V_CHARTIER

Comment Text: Until the problems with a warming world and seas is overcome, the fresh water/salt water problems cannot be overcome with dams. Let's get to the problem of global warming.

Organization:

Commenter: jim katterjohn **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 21 **Comment Id:** 406275 **Coder Name:** V_CHARTIER

Comment Text: I am not a hydrologist and might be totally wrong. I do feel that at this point in time, the area is used to saltwater intrusion and I doubt taking it back into a freshwater ecosystem might not be the best solution. Adjusting and allowing natural flow in and out of the area might be the best option.

Organization:

Commenter: Vivian Oliva **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 25 **Comment Id:** 409045 **Coder Name:**

Comment Text: If the National Park Service is not removing the dams and making every effort to restore the land to restore natural water flow, please explain why the chosen alternative or alternatives is better than restoring natural water flow in ENP.

Organization:

Commenter: Rick Stanley **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 26 **Comment Id:** 410064 **Coder Name:** V_CHARTIER

Comment Text: Are the canals vital to the wildlife in the area?

Organization: Ms.

Commenter: Theresa Lianzi **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 27 **Comment Id:** 410068 **Coder Name:** V_CHARTIER

Comment Text: Freezes would kill all the snook that use the marsh behind the dam. We would lose the best fishery in the park.

Organization: ENP fishing guide

Commenter: Brian Esposito **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 28 **Comment Id:** 411116 **Coder Name:** V_CHARTIER

Comment Text: The draft EA provides no assessment of storm vulnerability for a significant capital investment. The EA should include a risk assessment based on different storm events including hurricane force winds, storm surge and significant amounts of rainfall.

Organization: Everglades National Park

Commenter: Michael A Jester **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 29 **Comment Id:** 412990 **Coder Name:**

Comment Text: No.

Organization: Everglades Foundation

Commenter: Stephen Davis **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 30 **Comment Id:** 413008 **Coder Name:**

Comment Text: "

Organization: National Park Service

Commenter: Nicholas D Roger **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 31 **Comment Id:** 413012 **Coder Name:** V_CHARTIER

Comment Text: Monitoring of the areas which will be restored if not already done, should be carried out once the restoration is complete. Salinity, vegetative changes, seepage etc.

Organization: Florida Wildlife Federation

Commenter: Franklin Adams **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 32 **Comment Id:** 413016 **Coder Name:** V_CHARTIER

Comment Text: I am always concerned that endangered species in the area be carefully monitored to prevent harm.

Organization:

Commenter: Drew Martin **Page:** **Paragraph:**
Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 33 **Comment Id:** 413021 **Coder Name:** V_CHARTIER

Comment Text: An inventory of T&E species in the Cape Sable region should be a part of this study. In addition to the American Crocodile, Smalltooth Sawfish may be in the area as well as the Bald Eagle. I'm not convinced that this project will help wading birds in general. It may be better to either say 'foraging wading birds' or just say Rosette Spoonbills. What about T&E plants? There may should be mention of invasive species, plants and animals.

Organization:

Commenter: Savannah M Howington **Page:** **Paragraph:**
Kept Private: No

VN100 VALUES - Value the natural resources or setting (flora, fauna, views, natural quiet, undev. areas) (Non-Substantive)

Correspondence Id: 29 **Comment Id:** 419522 **Coder Name:** V_CHARTIER

Comment Text: As one of the most remote areas of Everglades National Park and Florida, Cape Sable remains unknown to many. However, it contains some of the most pristine beaches in Florida and supports world-class recreational fishing for prized species such as tarpon, snook, and spotted seatrout. Cape Sable provides essential habitat for wading birds, the American crocodile, smalltooth sawfish, and nesting sea turtles, and it represents one of the largest wintering shorebird habitats in North America. Cape Sable is also one of south Florida's most important lines of defense against hurricanes approaching the peninsula from the south and west (e.g., Hurricane Wilma in 2005).

Organization: Everglades Foundation

Commenter: Stephen Davis **Page:** **Paragraph:**
Kept Private: No

VR4000 Vegetation And Riparian Areas: Impact Of Proposal And Alternatives (Non-Substantive)

Correspondence Id: 19 **Comment Id:** 406268 **Coder Name:** V_CHARTIER

Comment Text: I believe these projects are inevitable due to rising sea levels and the impacts of reduced freshwater flow from the northern tier of the Everglades. Continued saltwater intrusions into the brackish water ecology is disruptive to both vegetation and wildlife. Closing the man-made channels would allow more natural processes to reestablish which would benefit the ecology and help stabilize the southern regions of the Park. That said, damming the channels would restrict access to those areas by heavier, motor-propelled craft, a secondary benefit in my opinion.

Organization:

Commenter: Christopher T Carl **Page:** **Paragraph:**
Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 34 **Comment Id:** 419529 **Coder Name:** V_CHARTIER

Comment Text: While the project's primary purpose is to reestablish the natural functions of the Marl Ridge and Cape Sable region through addressing saltwater intrusion and degradation of interior marsh ecosystems, implementation of this project may result in beneficial impacts to downstream waters and habitats. FKNMS is adjacent to and downstream from Everglades National Park and therefore as you examine the beneficial impacts this project may have for Everglades National Park and Florida Bay water quality parameters, marine and estuarine resources, and wildlife and habitat consider also the potential downstream benefits to FKNMS. These benefits could include more balanced fresh-water exchange and decreased sediment and nutrient inputs to seagrass habitats in the bay and to coral reef habitats located downstream on the ocean-side of the Florida Keys.

Organization: NOAA Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary

Commenter: Sean Morton **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 16 **Comment Id:** 419429 **Coder Name:** V_CHARTIER

Comment Text: All impacted flora a fauna communities should be monitored by ENP and non-ENP entities to determine the effectiveness of this sort of long-term project.

Organization:

Commenter: Derke Snodgrass **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

VU4000 Visitor Use: Impact Of Proposal And Alternatives (Non-Substantive)

Correspondence Id: 16 **Comment Id:** 406233 **Coder Name:** V_CHARTIER

Comment Text: No consideration should be afforded to concerns voiced by fishermen who might speak out against this sort of work. Simply because someone has been fishing a certain way for a long time does not mean that it should be taken into consideration. They need to understand that the fishing success of the improved area may be worse than what they have experienced, historically.

Organization:

Commenter: Derke Snodgrass **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 35 **Comment Id:** 419541 **Coder Name:** V_CHARTIER

Comment Text: We encourage the Park to continue to refrain from having an option of canoe ramps in the set of Alternatives for House and Slagle's ditches. At this time we feel this would be inappropriate in the wilderness setting of these two areas.

Organization: Audubon Florida

Commenter: Peter Frezza **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 35 **Comment Id:** 419540 **Coder Name:** V_CHARTIER

Comment Text: If canoe ramps are to remain in the set of Alternatives for Raulerson Canal and East Side Creek, we encourage the Park to ensure that the design of these ramps is compatible with the quality of wilderness character. We make this comment because we believe that the docks, ramp, and walkway constructed at East Cape and Homestead Canal as part of Phase I far exceeded what was necessary at these sites to accomplish objectives and do not conform to definitions and concepts of wilderness. Our experience is that the two new ramps are often used as boat ramps rather than "canoe ramps," as they allow for small skiffs to be portaged, contributing to continued violations of the no-motor-zone. We feel that visitor use and experience objectives could have been met with a design that was far less excessive than what was constructed.

Organization: Audubon Florida

Commenter: Peter Frezza **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 35 **Comment Id:** 419539 **Coder Name:** V_CHARTIER

Comment Text: We discourage the concept of designing canoe ramps into the dams at the Raulerson Canal and East Side Creek and recommend that Alternatives exist for each of these two structures that do not include ramps. We believe that the existing ramps on the dams at the East Cape Canal extension and the Homestead Canal are spatially located as effective and adequate entry points alone for day usage of the no-motor zone region. We encourage the Park to explore whether or not more ramps are needed. Minimizing human disturbance is going to be a principal component to preserving integrity of these wetlands.

Organization: Audubon Florida

Commenter: Peter Frezza **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 30 **Comment Id:** 419527 **Coder Name:** V_CHARTIER

Comment Text: Note: man has been in this area for over 10,000 years & our species is still a 'natural' occurrence to be sure. This solution strikes a positive mark on ALL wilderness characters - if not immediate, as a result of, in the future. This solution is relatively cheap, restores wilderness, will provide for solitude &/or recreation opportunities in the future, will be a 'reduced' development & becomes an untrammled place mostly. Most importantly, this places a most hurricane resistant natural dam in these locations... a Red Mangrove stand.

Organization: National Park Service

Commenter: Nicholas D Roger **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 19 **Comment Id:** 419520 **Coder Name:** V_CHARTIER

Comment Text: I am a frequent visitor, kayak/canoe tour guide, naturalist and for several decades, observer of the decline of the 'largest wilderness area east of the Mississippi'. Recent changes that open previously restricted areas of the Park to recreational use have in my opinion been helpful and thoughtful. I hope this continues but consideration of what access is allowed should be a greater concern. Noise, artificial lights and the by-products of petroleum have destabilizing and erosive consequences for the plants, wildlife and human visitors. Technology is now allowing for alternative means of access which should be encouraged early and often. "Putting in the time and effort" not just the "having the money" to gain access improves the experience and reduces the consequences to the ecosystem but it needn't be all-or-nothing. Thoughtful alternatives and rational limitations with the benefit of the environment as The Priority should be sought.

Organization:

Commenter: Christopher T Carl **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 18 **Comment Id:** 419519 **Coder Name:** V_CHARTIER

Comment Text: i think it is imperative that canoe/kayak use is encouraged and ease of access to all bodies of water be a major concern

Organization:

Commenter: John A Katterjohn **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 13 **Comment Id:** 418121 **Coder Name:** V_CHARTIER

Comment Text: We are out there daily, it really has changed for the worse since they blocked the dams. Let nature do what it needs to do..... People sitting behind a desk need to stay there. You think it is helping when it really is not. Friends of the everglades??? This makes me so mad to see this stuff. Ask ALL the captains that fish the area, and put it up for EVERYONE to see.... the votes will shock you.

Organization:

Commenter: Jim N/A **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 27 **Comment Id:** 410068 **Coder Name:** V_CHARTIER

Comment Text: Freezes would kill all the snook that use the marsh behind the dam. We would lose the best fishery in the park.

Organization: ENP fishing guide

Commenter: Brian Esposito **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 24 **Comment Id:** 408941 **Coder Name:** V_CHARTIER

Comment Text: I believe the dams should be restored or improved upon. Paddle craft trails and

portages should be taken into consideration during the design of any restoration or improvements. Paddle craft are the only real way for us to see this part of our National Park. Improved trails and portages would perhaps enhance continued public support for the Park by the paddling community.

Organization:

Commenter: N/A N/A **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 19 **Comment Id:** 406270 **Coder Name:** V_CHARTIER

Comment Text: Stop manipulating the environment for the purposes of a few and allow the region to return to a more natural state where the changes that occur naturally happen over extended periods of time which allow the other members of the natural community to adjust in their own time scales. The Parks are not just for humans but low-impact uses could still be encouraged without degrading the environment.

Organization:

Commenter: Christopher T Carl **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 19 **Comment Id:** 406269 **Coder Name:** V_CHARTIER

Comment Text: Designing access through any of the dam structures, locks for motorboats for example, is both unnecessary and unnatural. It would be far less expensive to rebuild the bars and cofferdams with "natural material" and allow the natural processes to reestablish. Access could still be allowed for human powered or electric powered craft that could be conveyed over the structures.

Organization:

Commenter: Christopher T Carl **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 19 **Comment Id:** 406268 **Coder Name:** V_CHARTIER

Comment Text: I believe these projects are inevitable due to rising sea levels and the impacts of reduced freshwater flow from the northern tier of the Everglades. Continued saltwater intrusions into the brackish water ecology is disruptive to both vegetation and wildlife. Closing the man-made channels would allow more natural processes to reestablish which would benefit the ecology and help stabilize the southern regions of the Park. That said, damming the channels would restrict access to those areas by heavier, motor-propelled craft, a secondary benefit in my opinion.

Organization:

Commenter: Christopher T Carl **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 17 **Comment Id:** 406263 **Coder Name:** V_CHARTIER

Comment Text: I thought about increased use since the dams will be easier to access and

needless to say - safe. But this shouldn't dictate changes in my opinion. Lets hope the end users will pack it in and pack it out.

Organization:

Commenter: N/A N/A **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 17 **Comment Id:** 406261 **Coder Name:** V_CHARTIER

Comment Text: I have canoed 3 of the 4 canals so I am partial to the 'canoe ramps'. I wonder if the 10' or one canal width earthen dam is enough... but since the engineers came up with this I must believe this is a good number.

Organization:

Commenter: N/A N/A **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

VV100 VALUES - Value the visitor opportunities (activities, programs, recreation) (Non-Substantive)

Correspondence Id: 29 **Comment Id:** 419522 **Coder Name:** V_CHARTIER

Comment Text: As one of the most remote areas of Everglades National Park and Florida, Cape Sable remains unknown to many. However, it contains some of the most pristine beaches in Florida and supports world-class recreational fishing for prized species such as tarpon, snook, and spotted seatrout. Cape Sable provides essential habitat for wading birds, the American crocodile, smalltooth sawfish, and nesting sea turtles, and it represents one of the largest wintering shorebird habitats in North America. Cape Sable is also one of south Florida's most important lines of defense against hurricanes approaching the peninsula from the south and west (e.g., Hurricane Wilma in 2005).

Organization: Everglades Foundation

Commenter: Stephen Davis **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

WH4000 Wildlife And Wildlife Habitat: Impact Of Proposal And Alternatives (Non-Substantive)

Correspondence Id: 4 **Comment Id:** 406210 **Coder Name:** V_CHARTIER

Comment Text: I have canoed to Alligator and Fox Lakes many times. Be careful to ensure to continue to have a barrier to not allow motorboats back there. There are areas in the interior that are teeming with fish and wildlife including endangered crocodiles, and motorboats would destroy that environment.

Organization:

Commenter: Jeff Omans **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 39 **Comment Id:** 419596 **Coder Name:** V_CHARTIER

Comment Text: 3. Reasonable assurance is required to be provided which demonstrates that the construction and operation of the project will not cause adverse impacts to the abundance and diversity of fish, wildlife and listed species (e.g. manatees, American crocodile, smalltooth sawfish), and will not cause adverse impacts to the habitat of fish, wildlife and listed species, in accordance with AH I, 10.2.2.

Organization: South Florida Water Management District

Commenter: Mindy Parrott **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 38 **Comment Id:** 419545 **Coder Name:** V_CHARTIER

Comment Text: In the other canals and waterways where sheet pile is proposed in all the alternatives, except the no action, please consider the sensitivity of the surrounding area, the wildlife usage, and reduce and minimize impacts as much as possible when selecting the preferred alternative. Please also consider an alternative that allows the ingress and egress of listed species such as manatees and smalltooth sawfish.

Organization: Florida Department of Environmental Protection, Office of Ecosystem Projects

Commenter: Inger Hansen **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 35 **Comment Id:** 419534 **Coder Name:** v_chartier

Comment Text: Our findings aided the Park's ability to bring attention to the problematic issues associated with the canals and the eventual completion of the very successful first phase of damming on East Cape and Homestead Canals. Since completion of Phase I, we have been documenting encouraging results of a lower and more stable salinity environment behind the dams and increasing productivity and diversity of prey fishes. We have been observing worsening conditions however, in the vicinity of Raulerson Canal and East Side Creek as both waterways continue to widen and transport more water in and out of the marsh. We have also been observing the continued deterioration of the House and Slagle's ditch dams; primarily at Slagle's, where piping at the dam is now worsening. Because of this, we are strongly advocating for continued progression of this second phase of dam restoration.

Organization: Audubon Florida

Commenter: Peter Frezza **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 34 **Comment Id:** 419529 **Coder Name:** V_CHARTIER

Comment Text: While the project's primary purpose is to reestablish the natural functions of the Marl Ridge and Cape Sable region through addressing saltwater intrusion and degradation of interior marsh ecosystems, implementation of this project may result in beneficial impacts to downstream waters and habitats. FKNMS is adjacent to and downstream from Everglades National Park and therefore as you examine the beneficial impacts this project may have for

Everglades National Park and Florida Bay water quality parameters, marine and estuarine resources, and wildlife and habitat consider also the potential downstream benefits to FKNMS. These benefits could include more balanced fresh-water exchange and decreased sediment and nutrient inputs to seagrass habitats in the bay and to coral reef habitats located downstream on the ocean-side of the Florida Keys.

Organization: NOAA Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary

Commenter: Sean Morton **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 27 **Comment Id:** 419175 **Coder Name:** V_CHARTIER

Comment Text: I am a ENP guide. Do not dam east side or natural creek. It will destroy the best fly fishery in the park. Fish need a way to come and go. Water will stay to high for good sight fishing also without a way to get out. It will put me out of business.

Organization: ENP fishing guide

Commenter: Brian Esposito **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 33 **Comment Id:** 413020 **Coder Name:** V_CHARTIER

Comment Text: What are the plans for monitoring the success of the repairs such as periodic salinity measures and inventories of fish and wildlife in the interior freshwater and brackish marshes?

Organization:

Commenter: Savannah M Howington **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 27 **Comment Id:** 410068 **Coder Name:** V_CHARTIER

Comment Text: Freezes would kill all the snook that use the marsh behind the dam. We would loose the best fishery in the park.

Organization: ENP fishing guide

Commenter: Brian Esposito **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 27 **Comment Id:** 410067 **Coder Name:** V_CHARTIER

Comment Text: If they must dam. Make a culvert for fish to pass.

Organization: ENP fishing guide

Commenter: Brian Esposito **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 27 **Comment Id:** 410066 **Coder Name:** V_CHARTIER

Comment Text: Damming natural creek would be horrible. Fish cannot come and go. It freeze would be a death sentence for the thousands of snook that call it home.

Organization: ENP fishing guide

Commenter: Brian Esposito **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 26 **Comment Id:** 410064 **Coder Name:** V_CHARTIER

Comment Text: Are the canals vital to the wildlife in the area?

Organization: Ms.

Commenter: Theresa Lianzi **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 26 **Comment Id:** 410062 **Coder Name:** V_CHARTIER

Comment Text: Will any wildlife be harmed by the back filling and the construction of the dams?

Organization: Ms.

Commenter: Theresa Lianzi **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 19 **Comment Id:** 406268 **Coder Name:** V_CHARTIER

Comment Text: I believe these projects are inevitable due to rising sea levels and the impacts of reduced freshwater flow from the northern tier of the Everglades. Continued saltwater intrusions into the brackish water ecology is disruptive to both vegetation and wildlife. Closing the man-made channels would allow more natural processes to reestablish which would benefit the ecology and help stabilize the southern regions of the Park. That said, damming the channels would restrict access to those areas by heavier, motor-propelled craft, a secondary benefit in my opinion.

Organization:

Commenter: Christopher T Carl **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 8 **Comment Id:** 406217 **Coder Name:** V_CHARTIER

Comment Text: I support all the choices that do the best job at preserving wildlife.

Organization: Everglades Cisma

Commenter: Stuart Krantz **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 8 **Comment Id:** 406216 **Coder Name:** V_CHARTIER

Comment Text: I support all the choices that do the best job at preserving wildlife.

Organization: Everglades Cisma

Commenter: Stuart Krantz **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

WI1000 Wilderness (Non-Substantive)

Correspondence Id: 9 **Comment Id:** 418120 **Coder Name:** V_CHARTIER

Comment Text: Will it also increase the amount of protected wilderness? That is no hunting or such, not one leaf is to be touched for the misnomer of "development". Wild lands protected forever and not allowed to be touched.

Organization:

Commenter: v l **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 19 **Comment Id:** 419520 **Coder Name:** V_CHARTIER

Comment Text: I am a frequent visitor, kayak/canoe tour guide, naturalist and for several decades, observer of the decline of the 'largest wilderness area east of the Mississippi'. Recent changes that open previously restricted areas of the Park to recreational use have in my opinion been helpful and thoughtful. I hope this continues but consideration of what access is allowed should be a greater concern. Noise, artificial lights and the by-products of petroleum have destabilizing and erosive consequences for the plants, wildlife and human visitors. Technology is now allowing for alternative means of access which should be encouraged early and often. "Putting in the time and effort" not just the "having the money" to gain access improves the experience and reduces the consequences to the ecosystem but it needn't be all-or-nothing. Thoughtful alternatives and rational limitations with the benefit of the environment as The Priority should be sought.

Organization:

Commenter: Christopher T Carl **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 30 **Comment Id:** 419527 **Coder Name:** V_CHARTIER

Comment Text: Note: man has been in this area for over 10,000 years & our species is still a 'natural' occurrence to be sure. This solution strikes a positive mark on ALL wilderness characters - if not immediate, as a result of, in the future. This solution is relatively cheap, restores wilderness, will provide for solitude &/or recreation opportunities in the future, will be a 'reduced' development & becomes an untrammelled place mostly. Most importantly, this places a most hurricane resistant natural dam in these locations... a Red Mangrove stand.

Organization: National Park Service

Commenter: Nicholas D Roger **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 35 **Comment Id:** 419539 **Coder Name:** V_CHARTIER

Comment Text: We discourage the concept of designing canoe ramps into the dams at the Raulerson Canal and East Side Creek and recommend that Alternatives exist for each of these two structures that do not include ramps. We believe that the existing ramps on the dams at the East Cape Canal extension and the Homestead Canal are spatially located as effective and

adequate entry points alone for day usage of the no-motor zone region. We encourage the Park to explore whether or not more ramps are needed. Minimizing human disturbance is going to be a principal component to preserving integrity of these wetlands.

Organization: Audubon Florida

Commenter: Peter Frezza **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

WQ4000 Water Resources: Impact Of Proposal And Alternatives (Non-Substantive)

Correspondence Id: 34 **Comment Id:** 419529 **Coder Name:** V_CHARTIER

Comment Text: While the project's primary purpose is to reestablish the natural functions of the Marl Ridge and Cape Sable region through addressing saltwater intrusion and degradation of interior marsh ecosystems, implementation of this project may result in beneficial impacts to downstream waters and habitats. FKNMS is adjacent to and downstream from Everglades National Park and therefore as you examine the beneficial impacts this project may have for Everglades National Park and Florida Bay water quality parameters, marine and estuarine resources, and wildlife and habitat consider also the potential downstream benefits to FKNMS. These benefits could include more balanced fresh-water exchange and decreased sediment and nutrient inputs to seagrass habitats in the bay and to coral reef habitats located downstream on the ocean-side of the Florida Keys.

Organization: NOAA Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary

Commenter: Sean Morton **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 35 **Comment Id:** 419534 **Coder Name:** v_chartier

Comment Text: Our findings aided the Park's ability to bring attention to the problematic issues associated with the canals and the eventual completion of the very successful first phase of damming on East Cape and Homestead Canals. Since completion of Phase I, we have been documenting encouraging results of a lower and more stable salinity environment behind the dams and increasing productivity and diversity of prey fishes. We have been observing worsening conditions however, in the vicinity of Raulerson Canal and East Side Creek as both waterways continue to widen and transport more water in and out of the marsh. We have also been observing the continued deterioration of the House and Slagle's ditch dams; primarily at Slagle's, where piping at the dam is now worsening. Because of this, we are strongly advocating for continued progression of this second phase of dam restoration.

Organization: Audubon Florida

Commenter: Peter Frezza **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 41 **Comment Id:** 419552 **Coder Name:** V_CHARTIER

Comment Text: Page 2: Hydrologic analyses of the Cape Sable watershed would be useful. The current and historic volume and proportion of flows for the associated creeks, ditches and canals

as well as their seasonality would be helpful in determining potential impacts on associated biota.

Organization: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Commenter: Richard Fike **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 41 **Comment Id:** 419558 **Coder Name:** V_CHARTIER

Comment Text: Page 24: To what level and extent of restoration of historical hydrology and brackish conditions is it expected that these actions can accomplish?

Organization: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Commenter: Richard Fike **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 39 **Comment Id:** 419595 **Coder Name:** V_CHARTIER

Comment Text: 2. Reasonable assurance is required to be provided which demonstrates that the project has been designed and will be constructed in a manner to reduce or eliminate wetlands and other surface water resources direct and secondary impacts, in accordance with the Environmental Resource Permit Applicant's Handbook Volume I, subsection 10.2.1 (AH I, 10.2.1).

Organization: South Florida Water Management District

Commenter: Mindy Parrott **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 39 **Comment Id:** 419597 **Coder Name:** V_CHARTIER

Comment Text: 4. Reasonable assurance is required to be provided with demonstrates that the the project will not change the hydroperiod of a wetland or other surface water so as to adversely affect wetlands functions or other surface water functions, in accordance with AH I, 10.2.2.4.

Organization: South Florida Water Management District

Commenter: Mindy Parrott **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 39 **Comment Id:** 419599 **Coder Name:** V_CHARTIER

Comment Text: 6. Reasonable assurance is required to be provided which demonstrates that the project will not result in short term or long term water adverse water quality impacts, in accordance with AH I, 10.2.4.1 and 10.2.4.2.

Organization: South Florida Water Management District

Commenter: Mindy Parrott **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No

Correspondence Id: 39 **Comment Id:** 419600 **Coder Name:** V_CHARTIER

Comment Text: 7. The project may require authorization for the use of state owned sovereign

submerged lands, in accordance with Chapter 18-21, FAC.

Organization: South Florida Water Management District

Commenter: Mindy Parrott **Page:** **Paragraph:**

Kept Private: No