What is the South Florida Digital Gazetteer?

The South Florida Digital Gazetteer is …

- The “PLACE NAME” authority for places in South Florida for CERP!
- A GIS database of Official Names and “FOOTPRINTS” for natural and specific man-made features.
- Based on the USGS Geographic Names Information System (GNIS).
The Challenges of Defining a “Place”

- Where does one place end and another place start?
  - What is a recognizable boundary of the “Hole-in-The-Donut”?

- What is included as the extent of a place?
  - Does the “Everglades” include some, none, or all of “Lake Okeechobee?”
  - Which specific islands make up the “10,000 Islands” area?

- What is the (primary) name of a place?
  - Cork Screw Swamp VS. Corkscrew Swamp
Where does one place stop and another place start?

= “Footprint”
Why Build the South Florida Digital Gazetteer?

- USGS National Gazetteer (GNIS) has not been updated since 1987 for Florida
- Provide Place Name Thesaurus for all of CERP
- Promote clear communication among the CERP Partners
- GNIS National Coverage is not specific for all of South Florida’s unique feature types.
  - Spoil vs. Tree Islands
  - Project Boundaries
The Details behind the South Florida Digital Gazetteer

- Built with a Phased Approach
- Phase 1 – Prototype completed in 2004
  - Complete Database Schema
  - Process for uploading data and planned process for coordinating with the State and the USGS
- Phase 2 completed in 2007
  - Database populated with 8,000 Florida features
  - History capture ability
- Phase 3 completed in 2008-2009
  - Integration into CERP Applications
  - Momentum to bring in State Agency participation
How does data get into the South Florida Digital Gazetteer?

- Source of Official Place location data is identified
  - Examples (FDEP, SFWMD, Counties, other State Agencies)
- Data is pre-processed for correct projection and attribution
- Data is loaded into the Database using ArcGIS Desktop Tools
- Data is maintained manually at the current time
- Data update automation scripts will be deployed in Phase 3
The South Florida Digital Gazetteer!!!
Important Components of the South Florida Digital Gazetteer

- Capture History of a Place
  - Source of the information
  - Changes in Name or Boundary over time
- Capture Variant Names
  - Alternative names
  - Historical names
  - Component names (CERP Specific)
- Capture Subtypes
  - GNIS Feature Classes broken down into Florida Specific Subtypes
    - Islands – Spoil, Tree, Natural
    - Project Boundaries – CERP, Save Our Rivers, Critical Restoration Projects, etc
Key Findings

- Place names are useful for organizing and retrieving restoration data and information.
- Certain place names have historical recognition and deserve an “authoritative status.”
- Geospatial technology and methods are critical for developing and maintaining gazetteers.
- Web-based tools enable widespread access to place name-related information.
Where is the South Florida Digital Gazetteer being used?

- Base data used for the majority of CERP GIS Analysis and Mapping
- Spatially enable “non-spatial” data
- Link between GIS and Documentum
- Web Applications
- CERP Map Library

Available for your use in the CERPZONE!!!!
Document Place Name Keyword = Biscayne Bay Coastal Wetlands