

Perspectives on the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan Implementation Process

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Congress authorized the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (CERP) in 2000 as a program to “restore, preserve, and protect the south Florida ecosystem while providing for other water-related needs of the region, including water supply and flood protection.” At an estimated \$10.5 billion and a 35+ year timeline, CERP is the largest restoration project in the United States. To ensure that the goals and purposes of CERP were achieved, Congress also enacted programmatic regulations to establish processes necessary for implementing the plan. We will take a brief look at the process differences between a typical restoration planning study versus a CERP planning study. We will examine how the CERP planning process could benefit other restoration projects; and review lessons learned, and areas in need of improvement from a Federal agency’s perspective.

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