# Everglades National Park

# 2000

Annual Report

# Contents



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The 2000 Annual Report and general park information are available on our web site at **www.nps.gov/ever**
These materials may also be obtained by contacting:
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# Message from the Superintendent

Superintendent Maureen Finnerty

I am pleased to submit this annual report for Everglades National Park. The year 2000 was one of continued accomplishment on behalf of preserving this unique national treasure. It was also a year of new beginnings as exciting new directions were charted for the park and for restoration of the greater Everglades Ecosystem.

Our report continues to be organized along the requirements of the Government Performance and Results Act. We are linking our accomplishments to park mission, long term, and annual goals and providing measurable outcomes that reveal the effectiveness of our efforts on behalf of the American people to preserve the park unimpaired for the benefit of future generations.

The year was marked by several significant accomplishments in ecosystem restoration. Approximately 94% of the authorized East Everglades expansion area had been acquired by year's end. Public ownership of this new addition to the park is crucial to achieve restoration targets in the northeast Shark River Slough.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers completed two new expanded bridges and two box culverts along the main park road to accommodate increased water flows through the Taylor Slough and into northeast Florida Bay. The Corps also completed its Record of Decision on the 8.5 Square Mile Area that will allow progress to resume in the Shark Slough restoration, while allowing the majority of residents who choose to remain in the area to do so.

Thanks to conducive weather conditions and some emergency water management actions, the highly endangered Cape Sable Seaside Sparrow appears to have had a moderately successful breeding season, although numbers were slightly down from the 1999 season.

In May, the Governor of Florida came to the park to sign the State's commitment to be a full and active partner in funding and implementing Everglades restoration, the "Everglades Restoration Investment Act". The partnership was completed when the Congress passed and the President signed Public Law 106-541, "The Everglades Restoration Act of 2000".

This comprehensive conceptual plan is estimated to cost $ 7.8 billion and require 36 years to complete. Its stated purpose is to restore, preserve, and protect the South Florida ecosystem while providing for other water-related needs. This unprecedented commitment of the people of the nation and the State of Florida is the best hope for saving the park and the rest of the remaining Everglades system and of seeing them eventually function in a more natural manner.

This report is dedicated to the many people, agencies and organizations who worked cooperatively and tirelessly to make this ambitious plan a reality.

Maureen Finnerty

## Park Purpose and Significance

Everglades National Park is a public park for the benefit and enjoyment of the people. It is set apart as a permanent wilderness preserving essential primitive conditions, including the natural abundance, diversity, behavior, and ecological integrity of the unique flora and fauna.

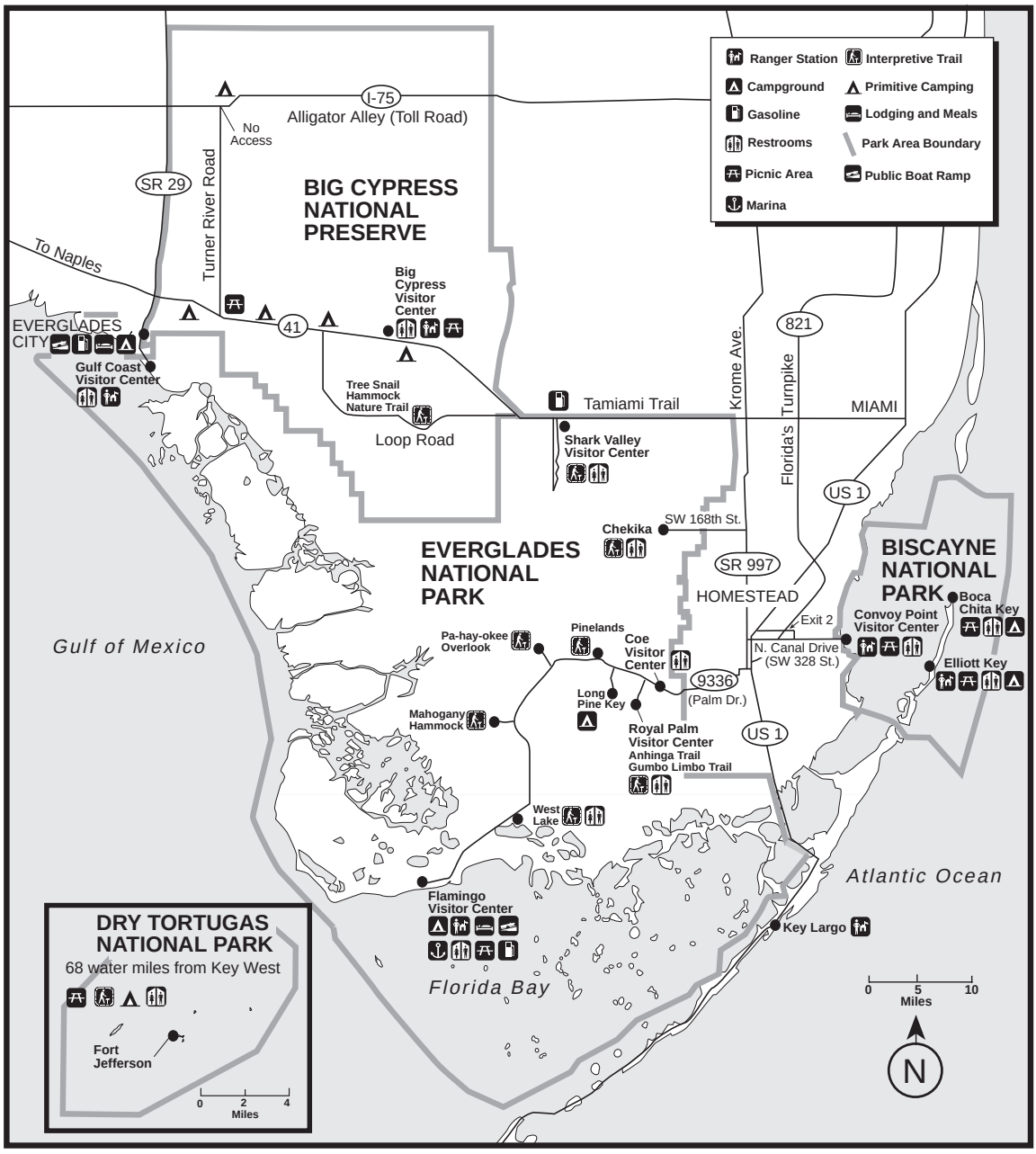
It is nationally and internationally important because it:

- qualifies as a world heritage site, a biosphere reserve, a wetland of international importance, and an outstanding Florida water
- supports the largest stand of protected sawgrass prairie in North America
- serves as a crucial water recharge area for South Florida through the Biscayne aquifer
- provides sanctuary for 14 threatened and endangered species
- supports the largest mangrove ecosystem in the western hemisphere
- constitutes the largest designated wilderness in the Southeast that provides foraging habitat and breeding grounds for migratory wading birds
- contains important cultural resources and is the homeland of the Miccosukee Tribe of Indians of Florida
- functions as a nationally significant estuarine complex in Florida Bay, providing a major nursery ground that supports sport and commercial fishing
- comprises the only subtropical reserve on the North American continent, presenting a major ecological transition zone where diverse temperate and tropical species mingle
- functions as a major corridor and stopover for neotropical migrants in the South Florida ecosystem
- encompasses resources that directly support significant economic activities
- engenders inspiration for major literary and artistic works
- offers a place where recreational, educational, and inspirational activities occur in a unique subtropical wilderness.


Photos from top:
1 Visitors are drawn to Mrazek Pond by the many species of birds that concentrate there.
2. World Heritage Site plaque
3. Snowy egret in breeding plumage

# Park Map

Everglades National Park is one of four areas of the National Park System in South Florida. The park encompasses 1,509,000 acres, stretching more than sixty miles north to south and forty miles east to west. It holds the largest expanse of wilderness east of the Rocky Mountains; 1,296,500 acres of this vast national park are protected as designated wilderness.



# Park Facilities

Since the establishment of Everglades National Park, the development of visitor facilities has progressed according to a concept of preserving the park's wilderness qualities and keeping developmental encroachments to a minimum. This concept is consistently reflected in the park's legislation, planning and management. Developed areas reflect, and are limited to patterns already existing in 1934.

The original footprint of park development was established in the 1950's and early 1960's and was complete by 1964. As a result of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and other environmental legislation enacted in the early 1970's, there has been greater regulation of resource impacts from park construction. While park facilities have been periodically upgraded to meet changing standards and codes, there has been a consistent focus on minimizing development. Sensitive planning, design and construction ensure park facilities are appropriate, sustainable and of the highest quality.

Today, the developed areas remain basically unchanged from the 1960's, occupying "less than 1,200 acres...", less than 0.1% of the 1.4 million acres contained within the original park boundary.

Rehabilitation of existing facilities at Shark Valley and West Lake and planning for the same at Flamingo and the East Everglades emphasizes meeting today's life-safety codes, accessibility concerns, and modern expectations, while limiting the development to previously disturbed areas. Where possible, disturbed areas will be restored to their natural state.

The West Lake boardwalk provides visitor access into the mangrove estuary. Rehabilitation of the boardwalk used "lumber" made from recycled materials.

**Development and Facilities**

82 miles of surfaced roads
156 miles of trails (including canoe trails)
5 miles of surfaced trails
2 miles of elevated boardwalk trails:
- Anhinga Trail, Pa-hay-okee Overlook, Mahogany Hammock, West Lake, Eco Pond, Shark Valley

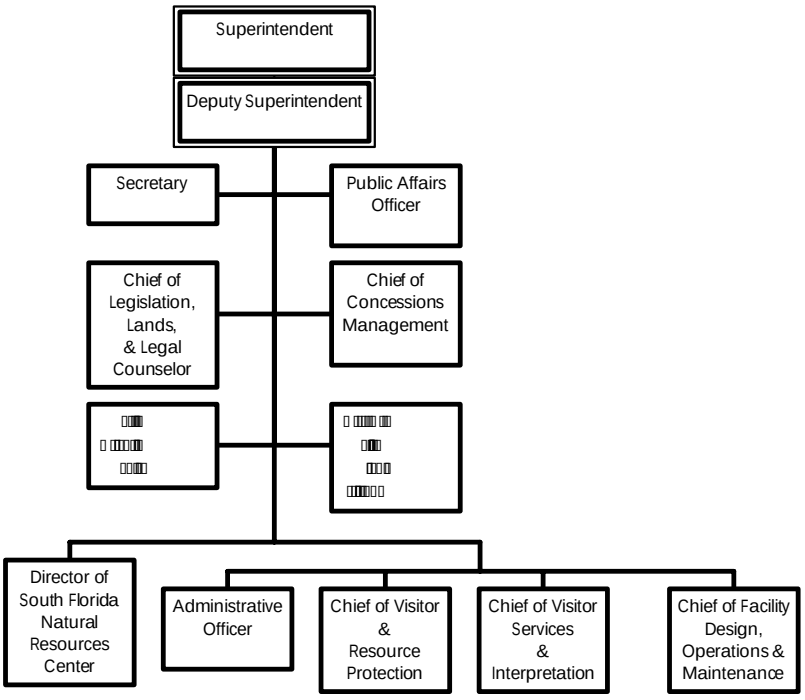
160 educational signs and exhibits
3 campgrounds:
- Flamingo, 295 sites
- Long Pine Key, 108 sites
- Chekika, 20 sites

48 designated backcountry campsites
3 fee collection stations:
- Main Entrance, Chekika, and Shark Valley

301 buildings:
- 5 visitor centers
- headquarters
- maintenance and utility buildings
- 2 research facilities
- 2 environmental education camps
- housing for park and concession employees

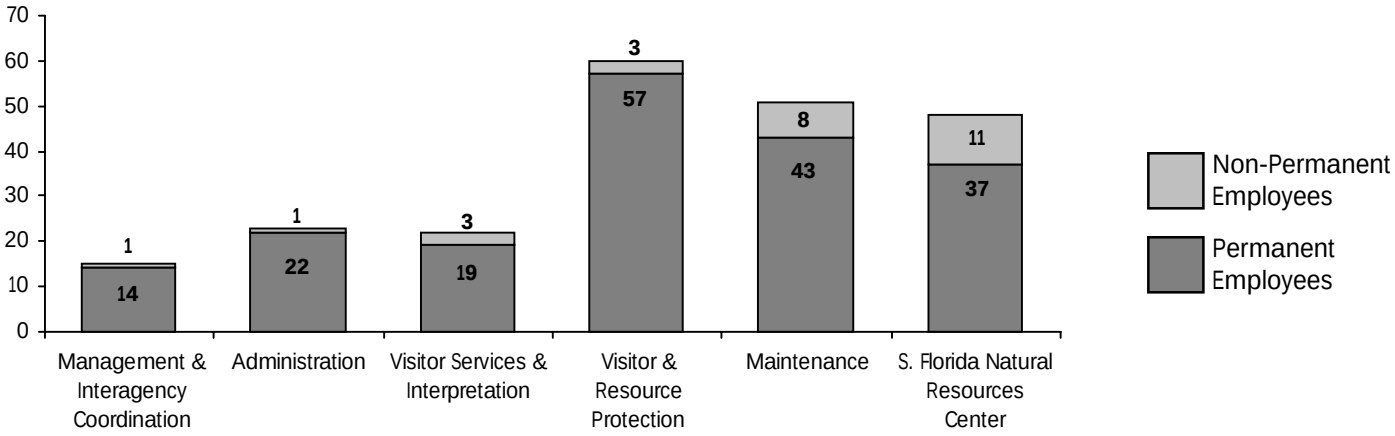
3 concessioners:
- **Flamingo Lodge, Marina, and Outpost Resort** motel and housekeeping cottages; restaurant; gift shop; marina and store; rental boats, houseboats, and canoes; sight-seeing boat tours.
- **Shark Valley Tram Tours** sight-seeing tram tours, rental bicycles, snacks.
- **Everglades National Park Boat Tours** sight-seeing boat tours, rental canoes, gift shop, snacks.

# Park Organization




## Total Employees by Division

219 employees as of September 30, 2000




Renee Castiglione and Linda Roehrig tend the Headquarters reception desk, greeting business visitors and responding to phone, mail and e-mail inquiries for information.

# South Florida Ecosystem Restoration

The National Park Service plays a vital role in efforts to restore the South Florida Ecosystem, an 11,000 square mile region extending from the Kissimmee River near Orlando to the Florida Keys. Originally a vast expanse of wetland, pineland, wilderness, mangroves, coastal islands and coral reefs; this is now one of the continent's most highly populated and manipulated regions. The four national park units of South Florida protect about 2.5 million acres that embody some of the best and most complete examples of the natural and cultural history of South Florida.

The natural systems of the four parks also sustain South Florida's quality of life and economy. They are vital to the survival of fish, wildlife and recreational areas that support the region's $13 billion annual tourist industry. The Everglades provide and protect the fresh water that enables people to live and do business in much of this area. It is the source of drinking water for 5 million people and sustains a productive agricultural industry. Today, these parks are among the most threatened in the nation due to external development and population pressures. Their survival is linked to efforts to restore portions of the larger ecosystem as well as its original functions and to lay the basis for a sustainable future for the region.

## Partnerships for Restoration

A strong public and private partnership is addressing the immediate needs of the natural system and is exploring ways of achieving and maintaining a sustainable future for South Florida. Building on the State of Florida's commitment to "Save Our Everglades", the **South Florida Ecosystem Restoration Task Force** and **Working Group** coordinates and develops consistent policies, strategies, plans, programs, and priorities for restoring the South Florida ecosystem. In July 2000, the Task Force submitted its ***Strategy for the Restoration of the South Florida Ecosystem*** to Congress. It describes more than 200 federal, state, tribal, and local programs designed to restore and sustain the South Florida ecosystem and to provide information needed to coordinate the restoration effort. The Governor's Commission for the Everglades, created by Governor Jeb Bush in 1999, serves as an advisory body to the Task Force, evaluates and makes recommendations on the funding and implementation of the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan, and represents the diverse citizens and organizations with an interest in Everglades restoration and South Florida issues. The **National Park Service** actively participates in the ecosystem restoration efforts, as members of the Working Group and other restoration groups. NPS staff are involved in establishing goals for ecosystem restoration, evaluating the design and implementation of restoration projects, conducting scientific research, and monitoring field conditions to measure progress. Through ongoing interpretive and outreach programs, the South Florida parks are committed to educating the public about the need for restoring the ecosystem.

**South Florida Ecosystem Restoration Partners**

**-Task Force-**

Department of the Interior (TF Chair)
Department of Agriculture
Department of the Army
Department of Commerce
Department of Justice
Department of Transportation
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Miccosukee Tribe of Indians of Florida
Seminole Tribe of Florida
State of Florida

**-Working Group-**

Florida Department of Environmental Protection (WG Chair)
Atlantic Oceanographic and Meteorological Laboratory/NOAA
Bureau of Indian Affairs
Department of Justice
Federal Highway Administration
Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary/NOAA
National Marine Fisheries Service/NOAA
Natural Resources Conservation Service
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
U.S. Geological Survey
USGS, Biological Resources Division
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
U.S. National Park Service
Miccosukee Tribe of Indians of Florida
Seminole Tribe of Florida
Office of the Governor of Florida
Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Affairs
Florida Department of Community Affairs
Florida Game and Freshwater Fish Commission
Florida Department of Transportation
Governor's Commission for a Sustainable South Florida
South Florida Water Management District
Broward County Department of Natural Resources
Dade County Department of Environmental Resources
Palm Beach County Planning Department
Palm Beach County Water Utilities Department
Southwest Florida Regional Planning Council

# Restoration in Action

## The Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan

The Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (CERP) was submitted to Congress by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in July 1999, and approved in the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) of 2000. This conceptual plan provides a framework for "modifications and operational changes to the Central and Southern Florida Project that are needed 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." The plan has identified 68 individual projects that will take more than 30 years to build, at an estimated cost of $7.8 billion that is to be shared equally by the federal government and the state of Florida. If all projects are successful, Everglades National Park, Biscayne National Park, and Big Cypress National Preserve could be transformed from some of the most threatened units in the National Park System to integral components of a healthy south Florida ecosystem.

An initial $1.4 billion was authorized to implement four pilot technology projects (water storage technology - including aquifer storage and recovery, in-ground reservoir technology, canal seepage management, and wastewater reuse technology) and eleven initial projects (including above ground storage reservoirs, stormwater treatment areas, elimination of canals that impede sheet flow of water into northeast Florida Bay, raising ten miles of Tamiami Trail to accommodate increased water flows and levels to the south, filling in portions of the Miami Canal, and continuing adaptive assessment and monitoring). Requests for authorization of the remaining plan features will come in subsequent WRDA proposals beginning in 2002.

The plan will be implemented through partnerships of federal, state, local, and tribal governments, as well as numerous other interests in the region, including the environmental community, agriculture, developers, tourism interests and private industry. The principal agencies for implementation are the Army Corps of Engineers (federal) and the South Florida Water Management District (state).

Reports on the progress and experience in implementing the plan, and particularly the success of its efforts to restore the natural system are due to Congress not less than every 5 years. An independent scientific peer review process is also required under the terms of the law. Finally, the law authorizes a feasibility study to determine the options for delivering additional water to Everglades National Park to meet its restoration and resource management requirements. Water quality remains a concern throughout the plan and will be addressed in each project specific planning, design, construction and operating phase.

Interagency teams of scientists, planners and other specialists will be organized to bring the highest possible level of talent, expertise, and perspective to the effort. The National Park Service will have a continuing involvement in all phases of the plan's implementation. NPS scientists and managers will actively participate in the RECOVER (adaptive management and assessment and ecosystem recovery process) team and the various project implementation teams.

The plan projects that environmental improvements will follow hydrologic changes. The plan has the potential to realize improvements in the ecosystem during the first 10 years of its implementation. In fact, coupled with the projects currently underway in the Kissimmee River and other areas, we may see gradual, but very important, improvements over the next few years. It will take many years, perhaps 25 to 50, to obtain all of the benefits that the plan seeks to achieve. It took many years to bring about the Everglades' decline – it will be a similarly long process to bring it back to a healthier condition.


In May 2000, Governor Jeb Bush came to the park to sign the "Everglades Restoration Investment Act", the State of Florida's commitment to be a full and active partner in funding and implementing Everglades restoration. The partnership was completed when the Congress passed and the President signed "The Everglades Restoration Act of 2000".

## Restoration Accomplishments in 2000

**Get the Water Right** - restore natural hydrologic functions and water quality in wetland, estuarine, marine, and groundwater systems, while also providing for the water resource needs of urban and agricultural landscapes.

- **Federal and State Funding for the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (CERP):** passage of CERP by the Florida legislature and the U.S. Congress was accomplished with a broad-based coalition of support at the state and federal levels. The state authorized $1 billion over the next 10 years for Everglades restoration; the "Save Our Everglades Trust Fund" was created to manage these funds. Congress authorized an initial $1.4 billion to implement 4 pilot projects, 10 specific project features, an adaptive assessment and monitoring program, and programmatic authority to quickly implement smaller projects.
- **Kissimmee River Restoration Project:** this joint SFWMD/COE project, authorized in WRDA 1992, is under construction and will restore over 40 sq. miles of river/floodplain ecosystem including 43 miles of meandering river channel and 27,000 acres of wetlands. Over 3 miles of the C-38 canal have been backfilled, a 1/4-mile-long section of river channel has been recarved and linked to remnant river channels, restoring flow through more than 8 miles of the river.
- **Everglades Construction Project:** In 1999 and 2000, the SFWMD completed construction on three additional stormwater treatment areas (STA-1 West, STA-2, and STA-5), bringing the total treatment area in operation to over 18,000 acres in four STAs. The phosphorus removal performance of the STAs has exceeded expectations, with discharges from STA-1W, STA-2, and STA-6 consistently below 30 ppb). Construction on STA-1 East began in May 2000.
- **Modified Water Deliveries to Everglades National Park:** this NPS/DOI funded project modifies the water management system to restore more natural waterflow in Shark River Slough. In June 1999, the COE initiated a Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS) to review its project plans for the 8.5 Square Mile Area (SMA), a component of the Modified Water Deliveries Project. In December 2000, the COE issued a Record of Decision (ROD) for the revised 8.5 SMA; it specifies a buffer area between Everglades NP and the remaining developed portions of the 8.5 SMA through acquisition and flowage easements. An accelerated construction schedule is underway to complete sufficient project features to allow waterflow restoration by December 2003.

**Restore, Preserve, and Protect Natural Habitats and Species** - restore the diversity, abundance, and behavior of native animals and plants and halt the spread of invasive species

- **Habitat Acquisition:** state and federal agencies have acquired 4.7 million acres for ecosystem restoration purposes (4.55 million acres for habitat; .15 million acre for water storage). 299,505 acres, at a cost of $495.8 million, were acquired in 1999 and 2000. Funding came from the Farm Bill, the Florida Preservation-2000 and Conservation and Recreation Lands (CARL) Programs, the Land and Water Conservation Fund, and other federal, state, regional, and local sources.
- **Threatened and Endangered Species Recovery:** in November 1999 a Multi-Species/Ecosystem Recovery Implementation Team (MERIT) was appointed to oversee implementation of the South Florida Multi-Species Recovery Plan. MERIT includes 36 members representing federal, state, and local governmental agencies, two tribal governments, academia, industry, and the private sector.
- **Exotic Species Management:** the state of Florida spends more than $87 million each year on exotic plant control. *Melaleuca* has been removed from over 100,000 acres in the Everglades Protection Area at a cost of over $24 million. Program implementation involves integrated strategies and long-term systemwide approaches, including development of biological control agents. Populations of the melaleuca snout beetle (*Oxyops vitiosa*) have increased enormously since their release and in several areas have had dramatic effects on *melaleuca*. Congress approved funding for an Invasive Plant Quarantine Facility, in Fort Lauderdale, Florida.

### Foster Compatibility of the Built and Natural Systems

- **Sustainable Agriculture:** the Working Group's Sustainable Agriculture Task Team developed a report detailing current conditions, concerns, and recommendations related to the conversion of agricultural lands to other land uses. Approximately 150,000 acres of productive agricultural land statewide are converted to other uses each year. Growth pressures, rising property values and taxes, and other economic challenges to the agricultural industry have often resulted in development of agricultural lands that could otherwise have been used to sustain the state's water resources, wildlife, open space, and environment.
- **Governor's Commission on Growth:** in July 2000, Governor Jeb Bush created the Growth Management Study Commission to assess the effectiveness of Florida's growth management system and to determine revisions needed for the 21st century. The commission will prepare a report to the governor and the legislature by February 15, 2001, containing specific recommendations for addressing growth management in Florida.
- **Flood Control and Water Supply:** water supply plans were completed for the SFWMD's 4 regional water supply planning areas: Lower East Coast, Upper East Coast, Kissimmee Valley, and Lower West Coast. Each plan aims to meet the water supply needs of the region during a 1:10 year drought without harming the environment. The plans contain recommendations for water resource and water supply development projects to achieve the goal, along with project funding and implementation schedules. Plans will be updated every 5 years.

Source of information: South Florida Ecosystem Restoration Task Force Biennial Report, FY 1999-2000

# Other Partnerships

Ecosystems do not stop at political boundaries; their mutually shared values and influences are felt in a wider context. Everglades National Park has continued to respond to its broader role through active involvement in the loca, national and world communities.

## Educational Partnerships

For the twenty-ninth year, the park worked with Miami-Dade, Broward, Monroe, and Collier and Lee County Public Schools to provide curriculum-based, on-site programs for 14,549 students. The annual "Envirothon", a scholastic competition in which teams of high school students test their knowledge of the Everglades and environmental issues, was jointly sponsored by the park and the Miami-Dade/ Monroe County school districts. One hundred sixty-four students participated.

Fifth-graders, from four Miami-Dade County public schools and the Miccosukee Indian School, took part in “Hands-on-the-Land”, a new resource monitoring program. The students conducted scientific studies in 4 different park habitats, recording their data and creating a web page to describe their findings. The pilot program was made possible through a $25,000 grant from the Environmental Protection Agency. The program will be continued with support from Miami-Dade County public schools.

## Miami National Parks Community Partners

The National Park Service, in partnership with the National Parks Conservation Association (NPCA) and several multi-cultural organizations, created the Community Partners Program to engage diverse populations in park visitation, the workforce, park planning, park protection and in decision-making. The Miami National Parks Community Partners Program is a community-based group, which includes five South Florida National Parks and a number of local organizations. It is one of six such groups organized in major cities around the country.

Over the past year, the Miami Community Partners worked on increasing the number of visitors from under-represented and culturally diverse segments of the local communities to the national parks, by identifying interested groups and organizing special interpretive programs and tours. They also worked on advancing National Park Service employment recruitment efforts, by:

- developing partnerships with several Community Partners to advance recruitment efforts of the South Florida Parks. These partnerships included trips to partner sites to give training in locating and using USAJOBS and providing assistance in the federal hiring process.
- conducting a career fair, targeting career counselors and placement coordinators of local universities and high schools throughout Florida, which resulted in creating contacts with those who have the best access to students and their needs. A second fair is planned to recruit students for seasonal and temporary positions.
- creating an internship opportunity in the Human Resources Office at Everglades National Park. The internship was a result of targeted recruitment of programs associated with migrant farmers in the local area.

## Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary

Everglades National Park continues to have a close working relationship with the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary (FKNMS). There is shared recognition of the mutual influences between park and sanctuary administration, including Florida Bay, associated water quality, the coral reef tract, operations and management. The park is a formal participant in the FKNMS’ Water Quality Steering Committee. The FKNMS is an active partner in the ecosystem restoration effort. The two agencies continued their collaboration with the Environmental Protection Agency in the production of "Waterways". This half-hour television show airs widely in the

Students in the Everglades Hands-on-the-Land program are engaged in monitoring biological resources in the pinelands habitat.

region and explores the natural resources and environmental issues of South Florida.

The NPS and the FKNMS are continuing an interagency planning effort to protect sensitive Tortugas habitats. The Dry Tortugas National Park General Management Plan Amendment will determine ways to enhance resource protection while continuing to provide high quality visitor experiences. The FKNMS' Tortugas 2000 effort will establish a marine ecological reserve to protect biodiversity and ecosystem integrity.

## International Programs

Everglades National Park continues to address increasing levels of interest and demand for participation in cooperative professional activities with national park/protected area, tourism, scientific, and regional planning and development interests of other nations. The park's international significance under treaty and multinational agreements, and the unprecedented size, scope, and complexity of Everglades ecosystem restoration, have created global interest in its management issues.

Everglades is the only property in the United States that has been formally recognized, under the three major designations, as having international significance. It is a World Heritage Site, a Wetland of International Importance, and a Biosphere Reserve. The park is managed according to U.S. law and jurisdiction, but the nation has voluntarily pledged to protect the site in perpetuity. These designations are a tremendous source of pride, as well as increased economic benefits from international tourism. The international community has agreed the Everglades are unique and superlative. Their loss would not only be a loss for all Americans, in whose care they are entrusted, but for all people who recognize that they are irreplaceable.

Park Ranger Alan Scott introduces a group of Miami children to the Everglades during a park visit organized by the Miami Community Partners.

Geographically and culturally, the park's location makes it part of Miami's position as a gateway to Latin America and the Caribbean. Biogeographically, its significance as a subtropical coastal wetland and marine estuary means that its mission encompasses a shared heritage with other nations of the region, in terms of migratory avian and marine species, air and water quality, and impacts of tourism, immigration, and general development and stability of neighboring countries.

In 2000, the park provided professional orientation and learning programs to over 450 foreign park representatives, in areas ranging from park management and specific operations interests, to ecosystem planning, restoration, and management. Notable visits included foreign military officers from over 40 nations attending training at the U.S. Army War College and the U.S. State Department's Foreign Service Institute Senior Seminar; both groups learning from Everglades' example for potential application to environmental issues in other parts of the world.

In October 1999, the park's Research Director participated in an international seminar on wetlands restoration, sponsored by the Spanish Government, held at the Doñana National Park in Spain. In August 2000, former Superintendent Dick Ring traveled to China as head of the NPS Delegation under the Service's agreement with the Chinese Government. The delegation traveled through southeast China and to Beijing where they negotiated the terms of a cooperative training program.

**World Heritage Site Status**

The park was recognized by the 120 member nation World Heritage Convention in 1979 as unique site of "outstanding universal value to mankind". In 1993, the park was also placed on the List of World Heritage in Danger in recognition of specific and long term threats to the integrity of its globally significant resources. It remains on the "endangered list". The park is required to prepare and submit an annual monitoring report on the status of its efforts for recovery. The international community remains aware of the continuing nature of the threats facing the park and agrees that failure to restore park resources would


The park's Research Director participated in an international wetlands seminar at Doñana National Park in Spain.

diminish the shared heritage of all people. A concept paper was prepared and submitted on the park's long term prospects and status on the endangered list.

**Bahamas National Trust**

Under the terms of the National Park Service/ Bahamas National Trust Memorandum of Agreement, the park represented the Service at two meetings of the Trust Council and cooperated in additional exchange activities:

- The park reviewed and made recommendations on two pieces of national legislation before the Bahamian Parliament affecting national parks and protected areas and reviewed proposed park management recommendations.
- In March, the Memorandum of Agreement was renewed for another 5 year period by an exchange of letters between the Director of the National Park Service and the President of the Trust's Council.

**Brazil**

In October, 1997, the United States and Brazil, under the bilateral agreement "Common Agenda for the Environment", signed a joint declaration designating Everglades National Park and the Brazilian Pantanal National Park as "Partner Parks". The interior wetlands characteristics of both parks provide points of common interest and the opportunity to share techniques and approaches to resource conservation and park management.

Cooperative exchanges have been suspended due to lack of funding. Both sides are endeavoring to identify funds that would allow for resumption of limited staff exchanges. Information exchanges are ongoing and occasional Brazilian conservation staff visiting the south Florida region under other auspices have met with park staff and continued the collaborative dialogue.

**Coral Reef Protection**

On June 11, 1998, the President signed Executive Order 13089 directing federal agencies to take actions to assist in protecting coral reefs, to fully consider the impacts of their actions on coral reefs, to further scientific research, including mapping and monitoring, and to undertake international initiatives for the same purposes. Utilizing existing relationships with the Bahamas National Trust and contacts with World Heritage Site managers, Everglades will also pursue implementation of the Order's provisions with respect to international cooperation.

## 2000 Performance and Results

This section summarizes Everglades National Park's accomplishments in Fiscal Year 2000. The park's mission goals describe the desired future conditions that would best fulfill the park purpose. They are broad descriptions expressed in terms of resource condition and visitor experience. Outcome-based, measurable long-term goals provide steps for achieving progress towards the mission goals over a five-year period.

Wildlife activity along the Anhinga Trail draws large groups of visitors during the dry winter and spring months.

### Preserve Everglades National Park Resources

*Mission Goal: Hydrological conditions within Everglades National Park and the South Florida ecosystem are characteristic of the natural ecosystem prior to Euro-American intervention, including water quality, quantity, distribution and timing.*

**Long Term Goal: By September 30, 2002, restoration of (X#) of acres in the C-111 basin, Florida Bay and (X#) of acres in the Northeast Shark Slough begins with the completion of 100% of pre-construction work to redistribute water deliveries.**

**Modified Water Deliveries Project:** In December 2000, the Corps of Engineers (COE) signed a Record of Decision for the 8.5 Square Mile Area component of the Modified Water Deliveries Project. The plan calls for a buffer between the 8.5 Square Mile residential area and Everglades National Park, protecting both the natural resources of the park and providing additional flood control for residents of the area. This agreement now makes reintroduction of water into Northeast Shark Slough possible.

Everglades National Park participated in an interagency evaluation process to evaluate plans for restoring the hydrologic connection between Water Conservation Area 3A, Water Conservation Area 3B, and Northeast Shark Slough. Through the detailed hydrologic modeling associated with this process, the COE completed a Value Engineering Study that recommends replacing the original 1992 design features (S-345 and S-349) with passive weirs for conveying water from Conservation Areas 3A and 3B into the park. These features will improve ecological performance, as well as significantly decrease the cost of implementation.

Based on modifications to the other components of the project, it was also determined that modifications to the Tamiami Trail would be required to better accommodate the increased water flows and levels. Scoping was initiated in 2000; five alternatives for modifying Tamiami Trail have been identified; ranging from adding additional bridges to the existing highway to constructing an elevated causeway.

**C-111 Basin and Florida Bay:** In October 2000, the Corps of Engineers completed the construction of two new bridges across Taylor Slough, which will allow better distribution of flow in Taylor Slough towards Florida Bay. Moreover, several sections of the Old Ingraham Highway, the original road from Miami to Flamingo, that blocked flow through the slough were removed.

**Accomplishments**

- Staff participated in an interagency team to analyze the design and analysis of the water control features to allow water flow into Northeast Shark Slough while protecting nearby urban and agricultural areas from flooding.
- Coordinated the project implementation of Modified Water Deliveries with the Corps of Engineers and the South Florida Water Management District, the project's local sponsor.
- Participated in the NEPA scoping process and alternative development for the Tamiami Trail project.
- Worked jointly with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to produce:
  - a Department of the Interior Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act Report for the 8.5 Square Mile Area, analyzing the effects on natural resources of Everglades National Park for a suite of alternatives.
  - a Department of the Interior Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act Report on the draft C-111 General Reconnaissance Report Supplement.
  - several analyses of how proposed water management systems operations for the benefit of the Cape Sable seaside sparrow would affect the natural resources of Everglades National Park and the rest of the Everglades.

Construction of two new bridges across Taylor Slough was completed in 2000. The bridges are part of a project to increase freshwater flow to Florida Bay.

*Mission Goal: Everglades National Park is restored and protected in ways that allow natural processes, functions, cycles, and biota to be reestablished and maintained in perpetuity, and that allow archeological and historical resources to be appropriately preserved.*

**Long Term Goal: By September 30, 2002, 109,506 acres in the East Everglades addition are protected through acquisition.**

**Land Acquisition:** land acquisition in the park's East Everglades addition is a key component of hydrological restoration of Northeast Shark River Slough. Operation of the components of the Modified Water Deliveries Project cannot begin until land acquisition is completed. The park manages a program, in coordination with the Department of the Interior, NPS Washington Office and Naples Lands Office, Department of Justice and state agencies, to secure appropriated funds, necessary authorities and actions to acquire all lands in the East Everglades addition. Acquisition has been proceeding at an accelerated rate; as of the end of FY 2000, the federal government has acquired approximately 91,420 acres. Acquisition of the remaining 18,086 acres is projected to be completed late in FY 2001.

**Hydrological Monitoring:** The park maintains more than 75 monitoring sites in the marshes and uplands of Everglades National Park and the surrounding area, and 28 monitoring sites in the park's estuarine areas. This network is used to monitor rainfall, water levels, tides, wind, salinity and other key hydrologic indicators. The information is essential to determining the response of the marsh and its flora and fauna to changes in water management. In addition, Everglades National Park is conducting a number of hydrologic field studies that address fundamental science questions related to Everglades restoration. The park is currently researching how flow in the Everglades affects tree island formation, the importance of topography, and in water conditions needed for soil development.

**Accomplishments**

- Acquired 17,784 acres, in the East Everglades addition, at a cost of $12,218,877.
- Produced a report entitled "Hurricane Irene and its effects on Everglades National Park."
- Developed a new quality-control procedure on all hydrologic data collected in the park.
- Developed a system allowing users real-time access to all hydrological data collected by Everglades National Park.
- Led, in coordination with the U.S. Geological Survey, evaluations and review of projects in hydrologic modeling and topographic data collection.

**Long Term Goal: By September 30, 2002, 1220 acres in the Hole in the Donut are restored.**

Since 1996, a major project has been underway to remove Brazilian pepper, *Schinus terebinthifolius*, from 6,250 acres of formerly farmed wetlands and forested uplands in the Hole-in-the-Donut. Funding for the project comes from the Miami-Dade County Freshwater Wetland Mitigation Trust Fund to support direct wetland restoration and a research and monitoring program.

Prescribed burning is used as a tool to accelerate the recovery of disturbed acres in the Hole-in-the-Donut.

**Accomplishments**

- 235 acres were stripped of Schinus and the surface rubble scraped down and piled pending future determination of its disposition.
- Burned 200 acres during preparation for a larger prescribed burn planned for FY 2001.

Removal of cattails around the pond at Chekika has enhanced the natural appearance of the area.

**Long Term Goal: By September 30, 2002, 21,000 acres of disturbed park lands are restored.**

This goal includes a number of significant natural resources management and scientific research programs.

**Exotic Plant Control Program:** The park has an active, ongoing program to map, treat or remove invasive exotic plants and to monitor post-treatment methods and the recovery of native plant communities. More than 200 exotic pest plants threaten natural plant communities throughout the park, resulting in decreased habitat value for wildlife, displacement of native plants, and alteration of ecological processes. *Melaleuca*, *Casuarina*, and *Schinus* are a problem in the native marsh, prairie and tree island habitats. In 2000, Old World Climbing Fern, *Lygodium*, a new, significant invasive plant, was found in the mangrove/coastal prairie habitats of the park. Control of this species includes herbicidal treatment, followed by prescribed burning.

Miami-Dade County and the South Florida Water Management District provided cost-share funding to support exotic plant removal in the East Everglades District. A full year of *Melaleuca* control with funding from Miami-Dade County ($200,000) and from the South Florida Water Management District ($60,000). Future funding commitments from Miami-Dade County may hinge on the ability of the NPS to undertake a greater cost-share role.

Park rangers supported exotic plant removal and treatment efforts at the district level. Prescribed burning is used as a tool to control plant invasion. In FY 2000, eradication projects conducted by fire management and district personnel contributed to the ongoing restoration of 4,528 acres. Due to the park's response to the need for personnel during the national wildland fire emergency, exotic vegetation monitoring and removal at the district level was reduced in 2000.

**Critical Ecosystem Studies Initiative (CESI):** FY 2000 marked the 4th year of the Department of the Interior's CESI program. Scientific programs, funded and supported through CESI, include hydrologic modeling,

biological modeling, and research on ecological processes in the south Florida ecosystem. They are considered to be essential to the overall ecosystem restoration effort. Everglades National Park serves as the administrative agency for CESI, which involves coordination with the U.S. Geological Survey (Water Resources and Biological Resources Divisions), U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Environmental Protection Agency, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the South Florida Water Management District, the Seminole Tribe of Indians and the Miccosukee Tribe of Indians of Florida. Most FY 2000 CESI-funded projects were continuations of multi-year projects.

**Florida Bay Program and Adjacent Marine Waters:** Everglades National Park and the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission co-chair the interagency Florida Bay Program Management Committee (PMC). This integrated science program reviews and coordinates research activities in Florida Bay; 85% of which is within the park's boundaries. The program has established priorities, based on management needs and information gaps, for research permits issued by the park. More than $6 million annually has gone to the support of this program. Priority interest areas include sediment core sampling to determine historical patterns of sea grass mortality, modeling to assess circulation patterns in bay waters, and extensive water quality monitoring.

The park supports the ongoing interagency science program through the Florida Bay Interagency Science Center in Key Largo. Research vessels, laboratories and a dorm are available for use by scientists holding Everglades National Park research permits.

With generally wetter conditions in south Florida from 1994 into 2000, relatively more fresh water, from localized rainfall and through drainage from more northern areas of the park, has reached Florida Bay. Results have been lower water salinity and reductions in the sizes of algae blooms, suggesting that attempts to restore water flows through the extent of the park will be effective in restoring the ecological balance of Florida Bay. Scientists from the Florida Marine Research Institute concluded that any physical or chemical process which increases sediment porewater sulfide seems to kill turtlegrass. This lethal stress occurs seasonally, highest in the fall, which is consistent where seagrass die-off patches are known.

**Accomplishments**
**Exotic Plant Control**

- Completed reconnaissance flights across the park, in February 2000, to determine the occurrence of exotic pest plants. This will be an annual activity.
- Treated approximately 200 acres of dense *Melaleuca,* in the northeast corner of the park, by aerial application of herbicides.
- Continued removal of cattails at the Chekika Berm Mitigation Project in the East Everglades District.
- Treated 720 acres of *Lygodium* (Old World Climbing Fern) along the inland side of the southwestern Gulf Coast mangrove zone.
- Conducted 4 prescribed burns on 2,088 acres in the coastal prairie area to control *Lygodium*. Burns were accomplished during the most extreme level of national fire preparedness for wildland fires with permission from the National Multi-Agency Coordination Group in Boise, Idaho.
- Conducted prescribed burns on 2,416 acres of pinelands to control invasion of *Schinus*.
- Removed exotic vegetation from 20 acres in the Flamingo District.
- Removed exotic vegetation, totaling 4 acres, from 2 sites in the Gulf Coast District.

Park fire personnel work on a prescribed fire ignited to maintain native pinelands and control the spread of exotic plants.

**Long Term Goal: By September 30, 2002, 3 of the 14 threatened and endangered species populations in the park (including Cape Sable Seaside Sparrow, crocodile, eagle, panther, manatee and osprey) improve and 4 remain stable.**

**Wildlife Inventory and Monitoring:** park wildlife biologists and rangers inventory and monitor federally listed threatened and endangered species and other key wildlife species. Work is carried out in cooperation with other federal and state agencies including: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, USGS Biological Resources

A special event was held in January 2000 to mark the reintroduction of 29 native wild turkeys to pinelands in the park.

Division, Florida Wildlife and Fish Conservation Commission, South Florida Water Management District, and the Florida Marine Research Institute,. Park staff served on the interagency Multi-Species/ Ecosystem Recovery Implementation Team (MERIT), appointed in November 1999, to oversee implementation of the *South Florida Multi-Species Recovery Plan.*

Nesting surveys showed that wading bird nests increased in 2000 over 1999, probably indicative of fairly favorable drying conditions in the foraging areas. 1,592 Wood stork nests were recorded in the park, including a record number in the Rodgers River rookery.

**Manatee Recovery:** Everglades National Park is one of Florida's last remaining wild places where manatees may be able to survive and continue to evolve as a significant component of a natural ecosystem. NPS biologists and park rangers are involved in a variety of interagency efforts to monitor the population and health of manatees in the park and assess the effects of restoration projects on the species.

The park participated in two statewide synoptic aerial surveys during the winter of 1999-2000. Observers counted a total of 1,630 manatees during the first survey, 2,223 during the second. Of these totals, 45 manatees were observed in the park on the first survey and 105 on the second. Manatee counts can vary widely within a single winter season and between years; NPS biologists are participating in efforts to improve the synoptic survey methods.

In addition, the park continued to participate in the USFWS-coordinated captive manatee rehabilitation and release program. In March of 2000, two captive animals were released in the park. The park provides logistical support for initial release of these animals and for periodic recaptures required for health assessments. The park also provides aerial and boat based post-release radio tracking to aid in assessing animal condition and adjustment to the wild. The park was involved in aerial and boat based radio tracking of wild caught and tagged manatees in the Ten Thousand Islands area of southwest Florida. This project was initiated by USGS-BRD in 2000 to provide information necessary to evaluate the effects of restoration projects on the manatee and to develop appropriate manatee protection strategies within the national park. The first animal tagged for the project has already yielded valuable insight on daily patterns of movement and habitat use. The park continued to participate in the verification and salvage of manatee carcasses, contributing to a state-coordinated network which, through necropsies, provides valuable data on manatee life history, as well as cause of death.

**Cape Sable Seaside Sparrow (CSSS):** the Cape Sable Seaside Sparrow has the most restricted range of any bird in the United States. It is found almost entirely within Everglades National Park and the Big Cypress National Preserve and the Southern Glades Wildlife and Environmental Area in South Florida. The sparrow lives only in wet prairie habitats and requires several months of dry conditions during its March-July breeding season because it builds its nest very close to the ground, where they are susceptible to flooding. For the second year, special emergency water management actions implemented by the Corps of Engineers, combined with dry spring weather provided enough dry days to allow the sparrow to successfully breed. The sparrow appears to have had a moderately successful 2000 breeding season. The 2000 total population estimate is 3,488 breeding birds, down slightly from the 1999 estimate of 3,552.

**Florida Panther:** the Florida panther population in Everglades National Park presently consists of 5 females and 1 male. During the past year, 2 young panthers were captured and radio-collared. Both recently separated from their mothers and are on their own. Examination of the panthers at the time of capture showed that all individuals are in good health. The park panther population increased by 2 individuals in the past year.

**American Crocodile:** twenty-six nests of the endangered American crocodile were found in the park during the 2000 nesting season (69% successful and 27% depredated by raccoons). A total of 101 hatchlings were captured, measured, and tagged. The total number of nests increased in 2000 compared to 1999. However, the number of depredated nests significantly increased from the previous year. The loss of nests to depredation is the result of raccoons that have become specialists in depredating crocodile nests. Management strategies to decrease raccoon depredation are being investigated, however funds for implementation are lacking.

**Pineland Bird Reintroduction:** the park continued a project to reintroduce extirpated native pineland birds, including the Brown-headed Nuthatch, Eastern Bluebird, and Florida wild turkey. The effectiveness of translocations of Brown-headed Nuthatches and Eastern Bluebirds has exceeded the park's expectations. The percentage of translocated individuals that have become established on a breeding territory and the number of breeding territories has increased each year. The number of juveniles and overall population size has also increased. Adults for both species have returned to breed in successive years, and, for nuthatches, juveniles produced in Long Pine Key in 1999 reproduced and produced juveniles in 2000. This is seen as an important benchmark for successful reintroductions, since reintroduction programs for passerine species are few, and successful programs are fewer still. The project will continue in FY 2001.

In January of 2000, 29 native wild Florida turkeys were released to Long Pine Key, through a cooperative effort with the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission and the National Wild Turkey Federation. The combination of data collected by radio-tracking and incidental field observations will allow the NPS to determine how turkeys are using park habitat and provide information on the survival and reproduction of the released birds.

**Habitat Management for Endangered Species:** fire management activities are planned and implemented to support efforts to protect threatened and endangered species and to enhance and restore species habitat. FY 2000 prescribed burn objectives fell short of planned targets as a result of impacts from western fire activity, restrictions on burn authorizations, and staff vacancies.

**Accomplishments**

**Wildlife Inventory and Monitoring**

- Conducted monitoring surveys for wading birds, alligators, and white-tailed deer via systematic reconnaissance flights.
- Participated in cooperative study of raccoon control methods to reduce depredation of sea turtle nests.
- Monitored sea turtle nesting sites on Indian, Kingston, Picnic and Tiger Keys in the Gulf Coast District.
- Successfully adjudicated alligator poaching case resulting in a fine and probation for the defendant.
- Removed over 44 commercial lobster/crab traps illegally placed in park waters.

**Manatee Recovery**

- Participated in statewide manatee aerial surveys.
- Provided post-release monitoring of captive born and raised manatees.

**Cape Sable Seaside Sparrow**

- Conducted two surveys of the 6 populations during the nesting season to obtain estimates of population size, representing the first time more than one survey was conducted.
- Conducted studies of the sparrow to clarify species behavioral dynamics and habitat features.
- Placed over 4,000 sandbags along the Shark Valley tram road to restrict water flow into CSSS breeding areas during the critical nesting season.

**Florida Panther**

- Conducted routine radio telemetry monitoring of panthers for October-February.

**Crocodile**

- Coordinated annual monitoring of crocodile nesting in the park.

Over 4,000 sandbags were placed at culverts along the Shark Valley tram road to protect the Cape Sable Seaside Sparrow's habitat during its nesting season. The sandbags were removed at the end of the season.

**Long Term Goal: By September 30, 2002, phosphorus levels entering the park are 8 ppb in the Shark River Slough and 6 ppb in the Taylor Slough/Coastal Water Basin.**

Everglades National Park was designated an Outstanding Florida Water (OFW) in 1979. Water quality monitoring has been underway since the 1970s. In 1988, the federal government sued the state of Florida for water quality violations related to degraded water quality at park inflow points. In 1992, a federal consent decree was signed, and in 1994, a massive water quality protection program was initiated by the state. More than $750 million will be spent to reach new, more stringent water quality standards for upstream agricultural areas.

Phosphorus concentrations entering Shark River Slough averaged 10 ppb. in 2000, similar to the 1999 average of 9 ppb. However, the year 200 also saw the completion of Storm Water Treatment Areas 1 West, 2, 5 and 6. This should decrease phosphorus inputs from the Everglades Agricultural Area into the Everglades. In Taylor Slough, phosphorus concentrations averaged 8 ppb, similar to the 7 ppb observed in 1999. The Corps of Engineers and the South Florida Water Management District are working to design a storm water treatment area for the C-111 Project, which is slated for completion in 2006?

The Water Quality Compliance and Evaluation program monitors and evaluates the water quality entering Everglades National Park. Water of extremely high quality is needed to protect the native flora and fauna of the Everglades. Scientists at Everglades National Park work closely with university researchers, consultants and off government agencies to develop and implement technologies that restore the natural water quality of waters entering Everglades National Park.

The park's outdated wastewater treatment systems threaten the quality of adjacent surface water and groundwater. National Park Service funding is being provided over the next 10 years to replace and upgrade the park's wastewater infrastructure. Park maintenance staff and scientists will continue to monitor the groundwater and surface water at internal sites, as well as all of the inflow points.

**Accomplishments**

- Produced quarterly reports on the status of phosphorus entering the park to determine compliance with the Consent Degree.
- Produced the Dynamic Model for Stormwater Treatment Areas, integrating advanced treatment technologies into existing stormwater treatment area designs.
- Managed the technical program for the Florida International University Dosing Study, the Florida International University Transect Study, the Environmental Protection Agency/Florida International University Everglades Mercury Study, and the University of Florida Best Management Practices study.
- Participated in the interagency Everglades Advanced Technologies Initiative Team.

**Long Term Goal: By September 30, 2002, 90 of the 120 standards for storage and protection of museum collections are met.**

Museum collections for Everglades, Biscayne, and Dry Tortugas National Parks and Big Cypress National Preserve are managed and housed at the Daniel Beard Center in Everglades National Park. During the second half of FY 2000, no new progress was made toward this specific goal due to the resignation of the museum curator in May. The position was vacant at the close of fiscal year.

**Accomplishments**

- Coordinated research permitting for Everglades and Dry Tortugas National Parks. This function was transferred to the Physical Resources Branch upon the curator's departure. Identified need and process for upgrading research permitting to conform to new NPS standards.
- Archived 40 boxes of documents that belonged to the late Dr. William B. Robertson.
- Completed Annual Inventory of Museum Property.

**Long Term Goal: By September 30, 2002, -0- of the 150 archeological sites in the park identified on ASMIS are in good condition, but no sites have degraded from baseline conditions due to human activity.**

Park law enforcement rangers and volunteers inspect and monitor recorded archeological sites to minimize threats that would result in further deterioration in the condition of the sites. Patrols to monitor archeological and cultural sites were impacted by staffing shortages and accessibility due to low water levels; however, most recorded sites in the districts were visited at least once during the course of the year.

**Accomplishments**

- Posted and monitored, two cultural sites in East Everglades District following acquisition of the property by the National Park Service.
- GPS coordinates for over 80 archeological sites in the Tamiami District were loaded onto the park's GIS system; produced maps to facilitate ongoing site monitoring.
- Reinterred human remains in the Gulf Coast District after notification to the NPS Southeastern Archeological Center (SEAC) and the Miccosukee Tribe of Indians of Florida.
- Transferred artifacts found at a cultural site in the Gulf Coast District to SEAC.
- Accessed all recorded sites in the Flamingo District; there was no deterioration of condition due to human-caused factors, however 2 sites have become overgrown with vegetation.

**Long Term Goal: By September 30, 2002, 8 of the natural resource data sets related to South Florida ecosystem are acquired/developed.**

Modern scientific research and monitoring are critically dependent upon the availability of efficient and powerful computing capabilities. Everglades National Park has developed and maintains scientific databases to provide easy access to information for present and future analysis. A Geographic Information (GIS) database of information collected at Everglades National Park allows for map production, statistical reporting, spatial analysis and data modeling in support of research efforts associated with ecosystem restoration and other environmental studies. The ORACLE database is a comprehensive system that gives scientists the ability to determine the effects environmental parameters have on organisms.

**Accomplishments**

**GIS Database**

- Supported programming, mapping, analyses and internet download of hydrological and biological monitoring efforts for the Modified Water Deliveries Project, Across Trophic Level System Simulation (ATLSS), Water Preserve Areas (WPA) , Lower East Coast service area (LEC) and Southern Glades Management Area (SGMA) models.
- Obtained and catalogued Digital Ortho Quarter Quad covering entire Everglades Ecosystem (SFWMD boundary)
- Developed South Florida Water Management Model Indicator Regions Mapping and Statistical Analysis Book.
- Produced a variety of GIS products to support a number of projects and management objectives, including:
  -Hole-in-the-Donut restoration.
  -NPS participation in the Homestead Air Force Base SEIS project.
  -GIS trails based on vegetation/archeological sensitivity/sustainability for the Big Cypress National Preserve ORV Trail Designation project;
  -analytical maps and statistical reports in support of the establishment of a Research Natural Area at Dry Tortugas National Park.
  -exhibit maps and an East Everglades Map Book for land acquisition trials.
- Created ARC/INFO program to quantitatively analyze University of Georgia vegetation data based on quad, park or user-defined area.
- Created Shark River Conductivity Analysis Application within ArcView.

**ORACLE Databases**

- Developed databases, and entered data for the creel census, bald eagles and osprey, sooty terns, and freshwater fish.
- Designed vegetation database; it will undergo scientific review before implementation.

## Public Use, Enjoyment and Experience of the Park

*Mission Goal: Visitors to Everglades National Park have the opportunity to experience the park's unique subtropical wilderness values.*

**By September 30, 2002, 95% of park visitors are satisfied with appropriate park facilities, services and recreational opportunities.**

A visitor survey conducted in in March 2000 indicated that **94%** of park visitors were satisfied with park facilities, services and recreational opportunities.

Enjoyment of the park and its resources is a fundamental part of the visitor experience. Visitor satisfaction is affected by the quality of park programs, facilities, and services, whether provided by the NPS, concessioners, or permittees. All efforts directed towards the preservation, protection, restoration, operation, maintenance of the park's resources, facilities and visitor services reported in this goal.

Flooding and damage resulting from Hurricane Irene, in October 1999, led to extended closures of two park areas. Shark Valley was closed until late December, but reopened in time for the busiest part of the winter season. The Chekika day-use area and campground in the East Everglades District remained closed for the rest of the fiscal year.

Park rangers in the Visitor and Resource Protection Division routinely patrol wilderness areas to minimize the threats to resources. Contact with visitors is initiated to enhance visitor satisfaction with recreational opportunities in the park.

**Concession Services:** The NPS contracts with three private concessioners to provide a variety of visitor services, including:

**Everglades National Park Boat Tours** at Everglades City - visitors may enjoy boat tours, canoe rentals and browsing the gift shop.

The Chekika area was closed from mid-October 1999 through late December 2000 due to flood damage from Hurricane Irene.

Rehabilitation of the Bobcat boardwalk was completed with funding from the Fee Demonstration program.

**Flamingo Lodge, Marina and Outpost Resort** - provides overnight lodging, food service, a marina, boat tours, boat, canoe or bicycle rentals and gift shop.

**Shark Valley Tram Tours** - offers an open-air tram tour through Everglades prairie, bicycle rentals, souvenirs and convenience items.

In addition, the NPS manages over 390 active Incidental Business Permits for guided recreational fishing, bus tours, canoe/kayak outfitters, charter boat trips, and birdwatching trips conducted in the park.

**Accomplishments**

**Maintenance and Rehabilitation of Facilities and Services**

- Completed restroom rehabilitation, including 6 restrooms in the Flamingo visitor center and restaurant, West Lake, Hidden Lake and Loop Road Environmental Education Centers, and the Gulf Coast Visitor Center.
- Rehabilitated two boat launch ramps, including fabrication of ramp extension units in the Flamingo District.
- Completed replacement of the Bobcat boardwalk nature trail at Shark Valley.
- Completed rehabilitation of West Lake boardwalk.
- Upgraded accessible parking at all major visitor sites, including the Ernest F. Coe Visitor Center

and the Royal Palm, Flamingo, Shark Valley, and Gulf Coast areas to meet accessibility standards.

- Completed conversion of park-owned vehicle fleet to GSA lease fleet following evaluation of fleet use, preparation of a detailed cost analysis of alternatives, and development of a fleet conversion strategy.

**Visitor and Resource Protection**

- Replaced markers along wilderness water areas, including the park boundary and the Intracoastal Waterway in Florida Bay.
- Selected a seagrass restoration project site and method in conjunction with Research, district personnel and the NPS Washington Office of Resource Damage Assessment.
- Investigated 248 incidents of disturbed natural features/grounding incidents, 36 sanitation and refuse incidents that included 19 dumping cases.
- Identified 20 illegal airboat intrusions into the park, representing a steady decrease over the past 3 years.

**Concessions Services**

- Conducted periodic inspections of concessions' facilities to assure quality visitor service.
- Negotiated interior renovations for 40 lodging units at Flamingo Lodge.
- Conducted Concessions Capitol Improvement Program at Shark Valley according to park priorities.

**By September 30, 2002, the rate (25.62) of visitor accidents/incidents will decrease by 10% to 23.06.**

All efforts to ensure the safety and security of park visitors are included in this goal, such as maintenance of park facilities for the health and safety of visitors, visitor protection activities that directly contribute to the safety and security of visitors (law enforcement, search and rescue, and criminal investigations); and the identification, investigation and correction or mitigation of sources of injury and property damage experienced by visitors.

The park's ability to provide adequate law enforcement patrols and emergency response was impacted during FY 2000 by staffing shortages, due to personnel transfers and out-of-park details or assignments, along problems associated with an aging vehicle and vessel fleet. However, by allocating more

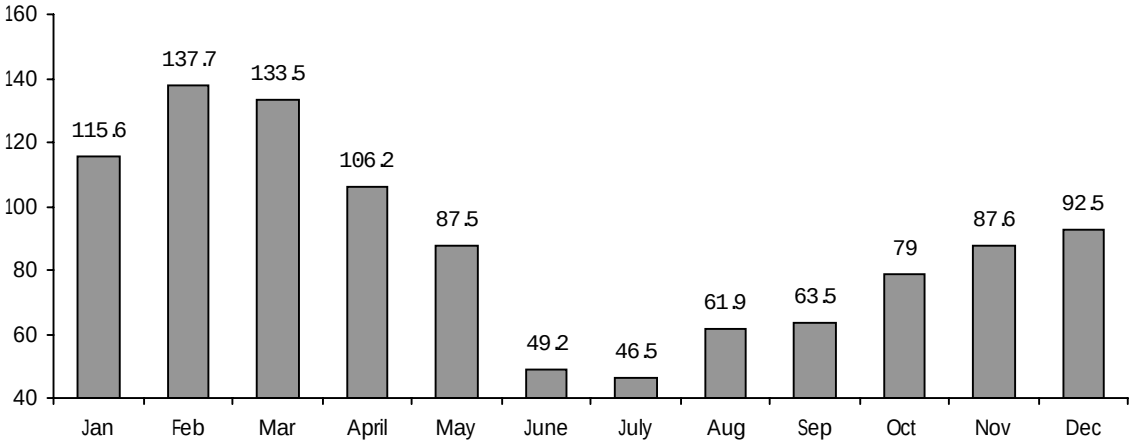
Park Ranger Mike Foster investigates an illegal dump of household garbage in the East Everglades District. Two individuals were arrested and found guilty of violating the Clean Water Act.

funding to training and by augmenting out-of-park training with local and in-park training, qualifications for all emergency response personnel were maintained throughout the year.

**Accomplishments**

- All law enforcement rangers maintained necessary certifications.
- Responded to 88 incidents requiring Emergency Medical Services and 62 Search and Rescue incidents.
- Awarded a $150,000 contract to upgrade and modernize the radio console in the 24-hour Communications Center, which serves the 4 South Florida national park areas.
- Obtained a new ambulance and fire truck for the Flamingo District.

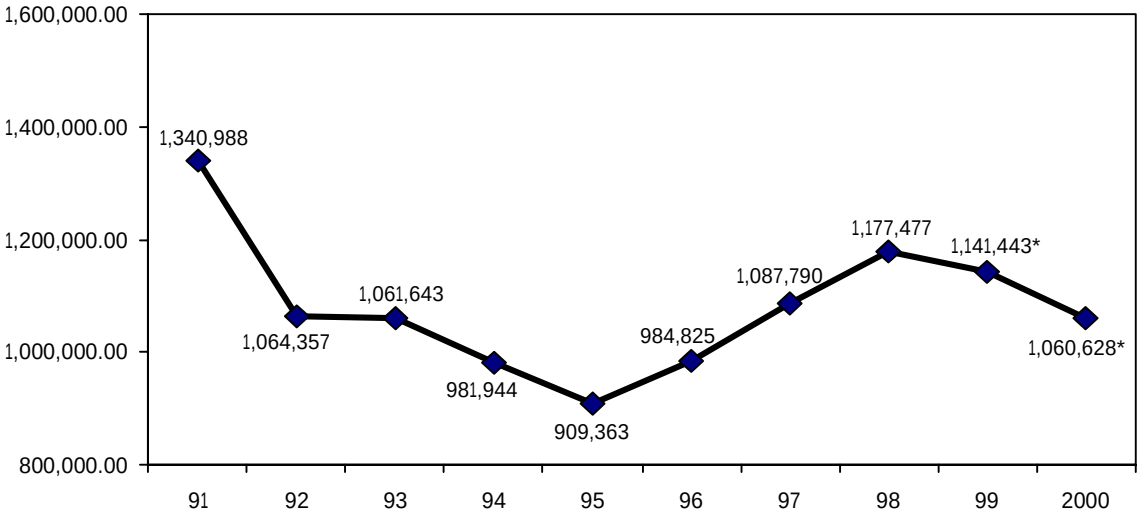
## 2000 Monthly Visitation




X 1,000

Monthly totals include recreational and non-recreational visits.

## 10 Year Visitation
## 1991-2000




*The Chekika area was closed from mid-October 1999 through late December 2000 due to damage from Hurricane Irene in October 1999.
The park's highest visitation occurred in 1972 with 1,773,302 visitors

*Mission Goal: Public Understanding and Support - The public understands and appreciates Everglades National Park and its role in the South Florida ecosystem and provides support in achieving the park purpose.*

**By September 30, 2002, 65% of park visitors understand and appreciate the significance of Everglades National Park.**

Visitors' experiences grow from enjoying the park and its resources to understanding why the park exists and the significance of its resources. Increased understanding of the park's resources, processes and issues breeds increased desire to preserve and protect them. Satisfactory visitor experiences build public support for preserving this country's heritage as contained in the parks. Everglades National Park is actively working to reach more diverse audiences in such a manner that is inclusive and meets the modern, changing needs of park visitors and neighbors.

**Interpretation and Visitor Services:** the park's five visitor centers are the primary facilities for orienting visitors to park resources, along with its significance and role in the ecosystem. Visitor centers, with the exception of Flamingo, were operated by uniformed staff daily throughout the year. The Flamingo Visitor Center was staffed daily during the peak visitation months, December-April. It was open intermittently the rest of the year. Approximately 60-85% of interpretive personnel time is spent staffing visitor centers. During the peak winter season, over half of the interpretive staff was multi-lingual.

Throughout the year, the park's interpretive staff conduct programs and activities to enhance visitors' understanding of the park's significance and its role in the ecosystem. A full and varied schedule of interpretive programs was offered during the winter season. In 2000, the South Florida National Parks launched a joint Junior Ranger program. A National Park Foundation grant of $5,400 was used to produce a booklet, badges and patches.

A pilot interpretive fee program, launched in 1999, was continued for a second year. Special on and off-site programs, customized to the specific needs and interests of a group were provided through the winter season. Fee Demo. funding allowed the park to hire a seasonal interpretive ranger to conduct the programs and a program aide to collect and process program fees.

Non-personal interpretive and communication services, such as wayside exhbits, publications, and the world wide web increasingly serve to enhance the park's efforts to reach diverse audiences and build awareness of the park's significance.

**Curriculum-based education programs:** these are the park's primary long-term outreach tools for promoting stewardship and scientific literacy. The park offers on- and offsite day programs and onsite residential camps; teacher workshops, and new or revised educational materials. Flooding from October-December 1999, resulting from Hurricane Irene, had a significant impact on the education program, creating the need to reschedule many programs and causing some cancellations.

**Community Outreach:** throughout the year, park managers and staff participated in a variety of outreach programs, festivals and special events throughout the region. The park continued to be an active member of the Dade County Fair exhibits program; the education coordinator served as superintendent of the fair's nature center. The park, with funding from the fair, created a new exhibit called South Florida Habitats. Park staff provided art work, painting, set up and exhibit judging. Over 750,000 people visited the three-week fair. Park staff also served on an interagency team to develop an Everglades ecosystem restoration exhibit at the Museum of Discovery and Science in Ft. Lauderdale, Florida.

According to a visitor survey conducted in March 2000, **90%** of park visitors understand and appreciate the significance of Everglades National Park.

Park Ranger Jackie Dostourian introduces visitors to the sublety and complexity of the Everglades ecosystem.

**Public Affairs and Media Relations:** presentation of the park and its positions were handled in a manner consistent with agency policies and reflected well on the park and its image. Active and effective relationships were maintained with local, national and international media; press coverage was generally balanced and positive. Factual, issue-oriented information was made available to the public through visitor programs, publications and services. Park employees, at all levels and in all divisions, maintained active liaison with elected officials, community leaders and groups, and partnership organizations throughout the year.

The park's educational efforts are supported by its partnership with the Florida National Parks and Monuments Association (FNPMA). The Association provided $8,104 back to the park for support of interpretive and educational programs, special events, publications and the annual volunteer appreciation banquet. Printing of the "Visitors Guide to the National Parks and Preserves of South Florida" and the annual "School Visits to South Florida National Parks" was made possible through a $23,000 donation.

**Accomplishments**

**Interpretation and Visitor Services**

- 458,031 visitors were contacted at 5 park visitor centers.
- 60,348 visitors participated in ranger-led programs, including:
  -Flamingo: offered 41 interpretive programs/ week during the winter season, including canoe trips, evening campground programs, a children's program, and daily bird walks,
  -Gulf Coast: canoe trips, daily talks, and evening programs during the winter season.
  -Pine Island/Royal Palm: daily guided walks year round on the Anhinga Trail; 26 programs/week during the winter season, including nature walks, talks and evening camprgound programs.
- Conducted 101 on and off-site programs for 3,733 visitors through the interpretive fee program.
- Implemented a Junior Ranger program.
- Completed a new exhibit on the role of fire in the Everglades ecosystem.
- Prepared and submitted park content for new "Park Profiles" databases on ParkNet, the official NPS web site.
- Recorded 1,320,147 "hits" on the official web site - www.nps.gov/ever.

**Curriculum-based Education Programs**

- Conducted 154 on-site day trips for 7,915 students from Miami-Dade, Broward and Collier Counties. Participating teachers evaluated the program at 98 on a scale of 100.
- Conducted the one-day Miami-Dade/ Monroe County Public Schools Envirothon in March of 2000, with 164 high school students participating.
- Conducted 32 three-day camping programs for 2,684 participants from Miami-Dade, Broward, Collier, Lee and Monroe counties.
- Conducted 6 teacher workshops for 107 teachers.

**Public Affairs and Media Relations**

- Arranged media opportunities for NPS/park positions during sensitive legislative process leading to CERP authorization.
- Prepared briefing statements, draft testimony, talking points, and followup materials during Congressional hearings for FY 2001 appropriations and CERP oversight hearings.
- Arranged special events, including two on site programs by the Governor of Florida.
- Arranged and supported implementation of 18 orientation visits by senior Administration and Congressional staff.
- Prepared and distributed both routine and high visibility press releases throughout the year.

Five visitor centers, such as the Ernest F. Coe Visitor Center, provide visitor orientation to the park and the Everglades ecosystem.

## Strengthen and Preserve Resources and Enhance Recreational Opportunities Managed by Partners

This goal category relates to resources that partners - not the National Park Service - manage.

*Mission Goal: Natural and cultural resources are conserved through formal partnerships.*

**Park Goal: The Seminole and Miccosukee Tribes have the opportunity to exercise their existing tribal rights within Everglades National Park to the extent and in such manner that they do not conflict with the park purpose.**

The NPS, the Seminole Tribe of Florida and the Miccosukee Indian Tribe of Florida work to resolve issues of mutual interest through cooperative and coordinated working relationships. The park has a cooperative working relationship with the Miccosukee Tribe in areas of mutual assistance and interest, including environmental education, law enforcement, emergency response and structural/ wildfire training.

The Miccosukee Tribe continues to request park support in teaching their students about Everglades resources. In 2000, 3 park employees were honored at the Miccosukee School graduation for their outstanding support. The school also provided a schoolroom, fully equipped with resource materials for Everglades studies. The school principal attributes increased science test scores to the park's education programming.

Park Ranger Allyson Polocz helps Miccosukee Indian students imprint plaster molds with natural foliage.

**Accomplishments**

- Conducted 6 day programs for students in grades K-12 at the Loop Road Education Center; 402 people participated.
- Park staff served as judges for the Miccosukee school's science fair.

*Mission Goal: Through partnerships with other federal, state, and local agencies and non-profit organizations, a nationwide system or parks, open space, rivers, and trails provides educational, recreational, and American conservation benefits for the American people.*

**Long Term Goal: By September 30, 2002, 47,651 acres are conserved in the South Florida ecosystem through acquisition by legislated partnerships.**

The South Florida Ecosystem Restoration (SFER) Task Force and Working Group coordinate and develop consistent policies, strategies, plans, programs and priorities for restoring the South Florida ecosystem. A major goal of the Task Force is to maximize the spatial extent of wetlands and other habitats by acquiring land needed for restoration. The NPS assists with land acquisition provided through the Task Force/Working Group partnership.

The Superintendent of Everglades National Park is the NPS representative on the SFER Working Group. At the direction of Congress, the Task Force/Working Group completed a Strategic Plan in FY 2000, establishing results-oriented goals, outlining the restoration process, identifing resources needed and establishing responsibility for accomplishing actions. Park staff represented the NPS on the strategic planning team, provided technical and logistical support for NPS participation in the Task Force/ Working Group, and coordinated staff participation from the 3 South Florida NPS areas to synthesize policy positions for presentation at Task Force/ Working Group meetings. The NPS provided timely and accurate input to Working Group projects and documents, including the annual Cross-Cut Budget, Sustainable Agriculture Report, and Integrated Financial Plan.

# Organizational Effectiveness

*Mission Goal: Everglades National Park has a diverse, motivated, and professional workforce allowing it to be a responsive, efficient, safe, and accountable organization.*

## Human Resources

The Human Resources Office at Everglades National Park services five south Florida national park areas and the South Florida Ecosystem Restoration Task Force on all matters relating to recruitment/staffing for vacant positions, classification and position management, personnel actions, employee benefits, training, performance/misconduct, grievances and labor relations.

**Accomplishments**

**Position Management:**

- Completed 32 classification requests: Everglades NP-21, Dry Tortugas NP-2, Biscayne National Park-9.

**Employee Benefits:**

- Conducted workshops during open seasons for the Federal Employees Health Benefits program.
- Provided employee notification and assistance during open season for Thrift Savings Plan, a retirement savings program.
- Processed 9 retirement applications and provided 17 retirement computation estimates.
- Processed 102 awards, including 25 STAR for a total of $25,304; 50 On-the-Spot for a total of $21,860; 25 Time-Off; and 2 Quality Step Increases (QSI).
- Processed Personnel Actions and maintained Official Personnel Files (OPF's) for approximately 416 employees during peak season.

**Employee Development:**

- Processed 161 training requests.
- Co-sponsored, with NPS Southeast Regional Office, Compass II and Fundamentals of Supervision training courses.
- Provided Diversity Workshop and Performance Management training to all employees.

**Labor Relations:**

- Notified all employees and supervisors of rights to union representation, employee performance planning and results reporting requirements, individual development plans, and leave policies.
- Conducted a session on disciplinary/adverse actions, individual development plans", and an overview of the "Supervisor's Handbook" during an all supervisor's meeting.

**By September 30, 2002, 242 employees' performance plans (100% of park workforce) are linked to appropriate strategic and annual performance plans.**

**Accomplishments**

- 40% of employees' annual performance plans were linked to appropriate strategic and annual performance plans.

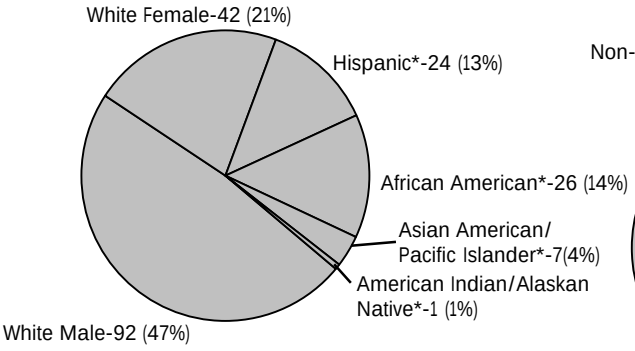
**By September 30, 2002, 23 of 53 employees in 4 targeted series (025, 401, 1015, 1640) in the park workforce are members of underrepresented groups.**

**Accomplishments**

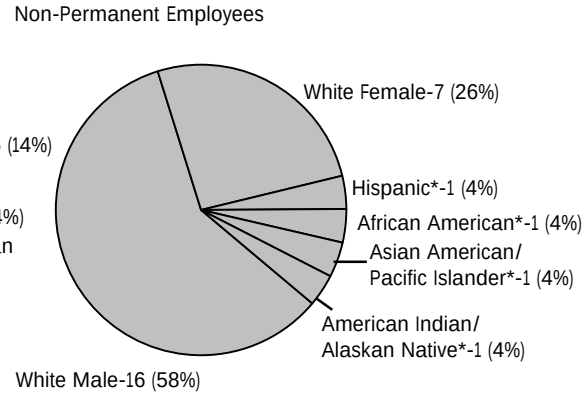
- Sponsored a career fair in conjunction with the Miami Community Partners Group.
- Issued 58 vacancy announcements, including 41 merit promotion, 11 seasonal and 6 temporary.
- Requested 23 Office of Personnel Management (OPM) registers, including 21 for permanent positions and 2 for term positions.
- Attended 11 job fairs, participants at 9 were predominantly minority.
- Incorporated new human resources section on park's expanded web site to provide information on employment opportunities in the South Florida national parks.

## Workforce Diversity

Permanent Employees



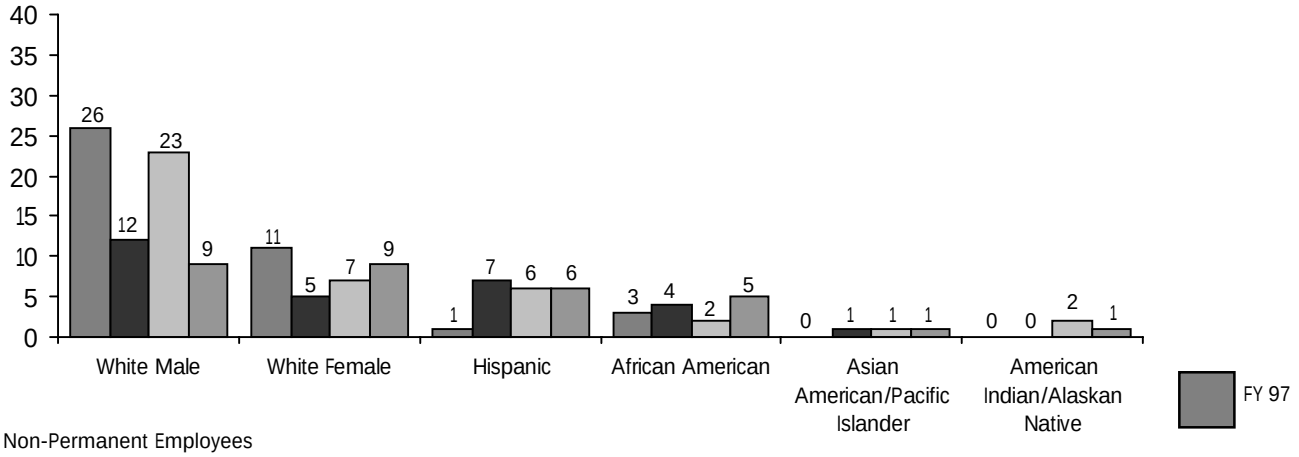

Non-Permanent Employees



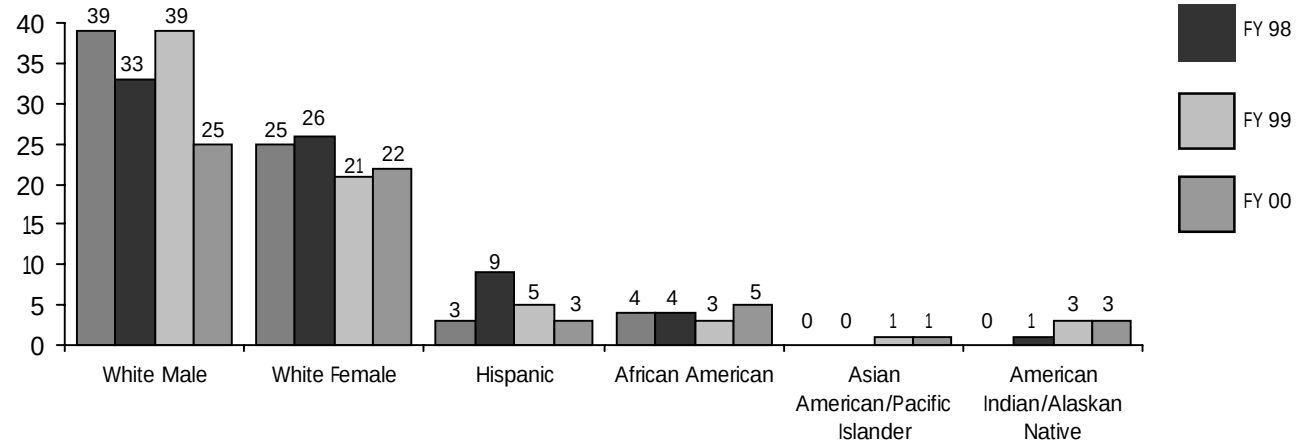

*Includes both Male and Female employees

## Hiring Statistics
## FY 1997 - FY 2000

Permanent Employees




Non-Permanent Employees



## Housing

**By September 30, 2002, 20 employee housing units classified as being in poor or fair condition are removed, replaced or upgraded to good condition.**

The National Park Service has historically provided employee housing in remote locations or other places where it is beneficial to the government and supports the protection of park resources and visitors. Everglades National Park has 59 housing units, including single family residences and apartments. Many of the housing units were built in the 1950s and 1960s and have deteriorated. The presence of lead-based paint and asbestos are added factors that significantly increase rehabilitation costs. Humid, summer weather requires off-season use of air conditioners in seasonal housing to reduce damage to appliances and furnishings.

**Accomplishments**

- Completed biannual revision of Housing Management Plan.
- Completed exterior painting of 2 housing units (out of 8 planned over 3 years), bringing the total to 3.

## Employee Safety

**By September 30, 2002, the employee lost-time injury rate will decrease 50% from the park's 1992-1996 average (6.36).**

**Accomplishments**

- Safety Officer actively participated as a member in the NPS Southeast Region Safety Advisory Team, attending all meetings and completing requested assignments.
- Evaluated all employee work sites for compliance with appropriate OSHA standards.
- Provided safety training to maintenance staff and other employees upon request.
- Analyzed and reported all employee injury accidents.
- Provided safety training to supervisors during all-supervisors meeting.

## Park Planning and Compliance

**By September 30, 2002, all formal management decisions about resources and visitor impacts which potentially affect the natural and cultural resources of the park are based on adequate scientific information and do not cause any derogation of park values.**

**General Management Plan (GMP):** work was initiated to prepare a new GMP for Everglades National Park. The park's existing Master Plan was approved in 1979. Since that time, key issues have been dramatically altered by changes in legislation, expansion of the park, continuing population growth of South Florida, and the integration of park management with regional water management and the South Florida ecosystem restoration effort. The planning process is expected to take 3 years to complete.

**Strategic Plan:** the park revised its strategic plan for the period covering fiscal years 2001-2005.

**Environmental Compliance Program:** this program assures park compliance with requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act and other laws. Activities include preparation of compliance documents for projects at Everglades and Dry Tortugas National Parks and coordinating review of outside agency planning/compliance documents. The park's compliance specialist position was vacant all year. Compliance issues were handled by affected park divisions, with technical input from the South Florida Natural Resources Center.

**Accomplishments**

**General Management Plan**

- Prepared project agreement in coordination with the NPS's Denver Service Center (DSC).
- Prepared GMP work plan and schedule; prepared draft scoping plan.
- Arranged site visit for DSC team; initiated internal scoping

**Strategic Planning**

- Completed Strengths Weaknesses Opportunities and Threats (SWOT) Analysis; presented results to all supervisors meeting.
- Revised Strategic Plan for FY 2001-2005.

**Environmental Compliance:**

- Completed draft compliance program management plan.

## Volunteer in Parks Program

**By September 30, 2002, the number of volunteer hours increase by 10% from 1997 totals.**

Everglades National Park has an active volunteer program, particularly during the winter months. Volunteers work in all aspects of park operations and many return year after year. In FY 2000, 108 volunteers contributed 14,530 hours, a drop of approximately 26.3% from 1997. In 1997, 241 volunteers contributed 19,702 hours. The most significant declines occurred in visitor/resource protection and resources management volunteer projects. In previous years, large volunteer groups participated in cleanup projects in the East Everglades and Gulf Coast Districts. Because of the extended closure of Chekika, no group projects were held in the East Everglades District. The Gulf Coast District did not have the staff needed to coordinate volunteer participation in the annual, statewide coastal cleanup day. In addition, the park's volunteer coordinator position was vacant for part of Fiscal Years 1999 and 2000, making it difficult to actively recruit volunteers and process applications. It appears that a combination of these factors contributed to the drop in volunteer hours.

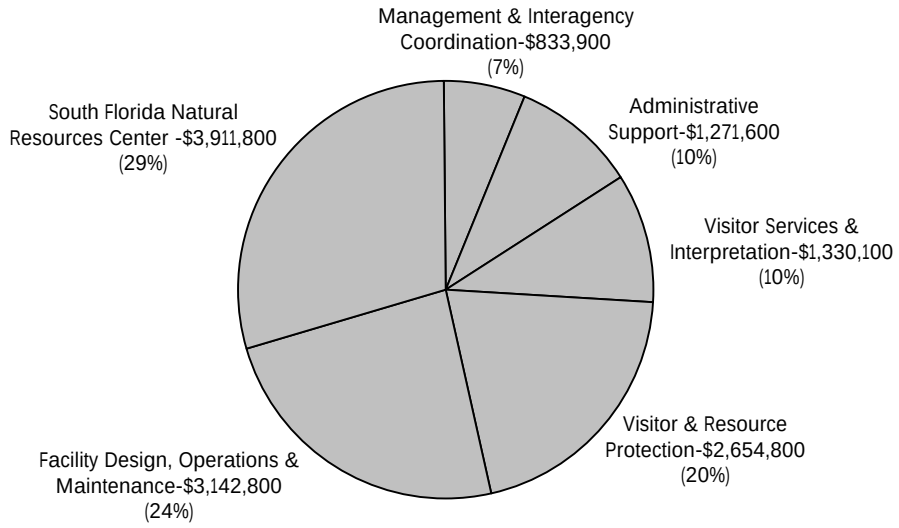
**Accomplishments:**

- Held annual volunteer recognition banquet.
- Campground Host volunteer hours increased by 20% over the 1997 level.
- Interpretation volunteer hours increased by 14% over the 1997 level.

Volunteers Bill and Maureen Hall worked at the Hidden Lake Education Center. They maintained facilities and equipment. They worked extensively with teachers and students attending camps, assisting with groups' arrivals and helping students prepare for canoe trips.

# FY 2000 Financial Summary

## Operating Budget Base Allocations (ONPS) - $13,145,000



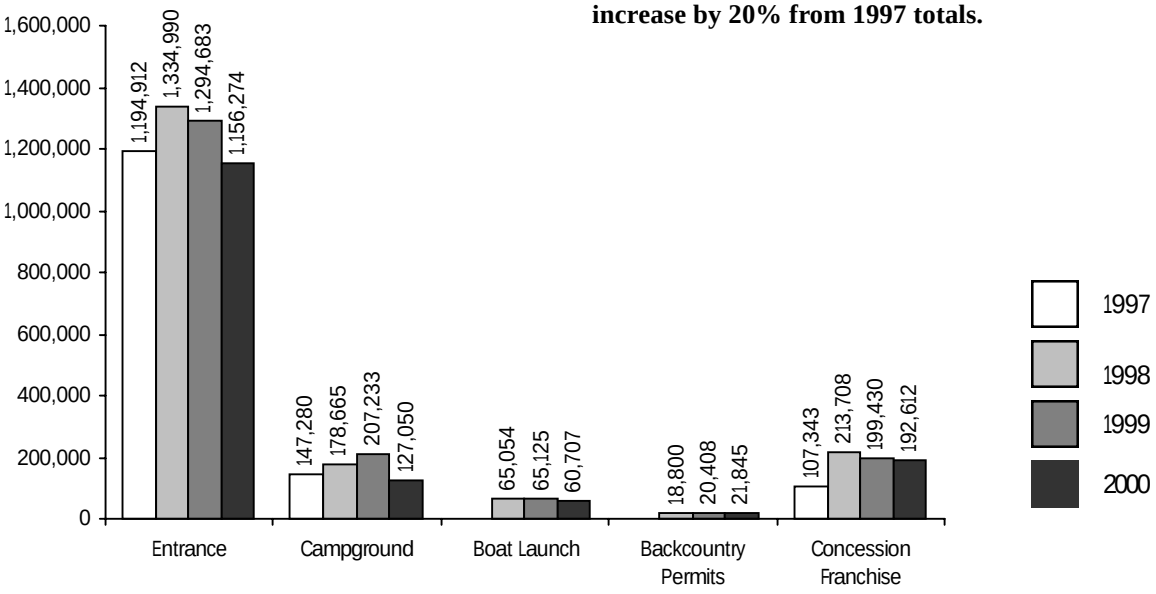

## Funding for Special Initiatives and Programs

(Other than ONPS)

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Critical Ecosystem Studies Initiative (CESI) | 8,707,400 | Hurricane Irene Damage and Recovery | 114,200 |
| Cyclic Repair/Rehabilitation | 1,210,500 | Hazardous Materials Removal | 40,000 |
| Fee Demonstration | 1,117,400 | Donations | 30,000 |
| Modified Water Deliveries Project | 400,000 | Air Quality | 12,000 |
| Equipment Replacement | 200,500 | Volunteer-in-Parks Program | 7,200 |

## Fee Revenues

**By September 30, 2002, the amount of receipts from park entrance, recreation and other fees increase by 20% from 1997 totals.**



**Budget and Fiscal** branch staff supported Everglades and Dry Tortugas National Parks and the South Florida Ecosystem Restoration Task Force in all areas of budget and fiscal responsibility, including budget tracking, reporting, travel (temporary and relocation). FY 2000 closeout was successful. **Contracting and Property Management** staff provided acquisition services in the procurement of supplies and services and the management of government property.

**Accomplishments**

**Budget and Fiscal**

- Processed all utility bills, including telephone and electric, ensuring accurate charges, on time payment, and investigation/correction of irregularities or misuse of government-provided services.
- Used Federal Financial System (FFS) to input and track accounting data, including obligations, expenditures, transfers, bills of collection and deposits.
- Processed 825 travel authorizations and vouchers.
- Processed 14 permanent changes of station.
- Processed 95 Bills of Collection.

**Contracting and Property Management**

- Completed annual property inventory.
- Generated $19,885 through two small lot sales of surplus property.
- Donated 254 items of obsolete computer equipment to Miami-Dade School system.
- Processed 19 certificates of unserviceable property.
- Issued two new contracts in the amount of $150,361.
- Issued six contract modifications in the amount of $1,258.916.
- Concluded 37 new cooperative/interagency agreements in the amount of $3,185,427.
- Modified 48 existing cooperative/interagency agreements in the amount of $5,983,559.
- Completed 2,273 small purchase transactions totalling $3,651,178.

## Economic Value of Everglades National Park

In South Florida, a healthy environment means jobs for thousands of people in an economy that depends overwhelmingly on tourism.

The park uses the Money Generation Model (MGM) to provide current information about the role of the park in the regional economy. The MGM uses standard visitor statistics collected by the park and extrapolates direct sales benefits, tax benefits and job benefits. These figures illustrate the economic benefits directly attributable to Everglades National Park during FY 2000.

Sales Benefits.....$151,550,634
Increased Tax Revenue.....$9,850,791
New Jobs Created.....6,062

In addition, the visitor services and facilities provided by the three park concessions are economically important, as the following figures indicate.

Concession Gross Receipts.....$7,190,757
People Employed by Concessions.....205

# FY 2001 Budget and Goals

## Budget Highlights

**Resource Preservation and Management: .....$4,860,600**
Everglades National Park actively manages diverse biological, hydrological and cultural resources to maintain, rehabilitate and perpetuate their inherent integrity.
Specific programs include:

- Tracking and management of specific ecosystem restoration projects, such as Modified Water Deliveries and C-111.
- Scientific research to provide accurate scientific information to guide management decisions related to ecosystem restoration.
- Inventory and monitoring to describe the marine, wildlife, aquatic, vegetation and archeological resources under NPS stewardship and monitor their condition to detect or predict changes.
- Long-term efforts to remove invasive, exotic plants such as *melaleuca* and Brazilian pepper.
- Efforts to stabilize or increase populations of threatened or endangered species, such as the Cape Sable Seaside Sparrow, American crocodile and the Florida panther.
- Fire management to maintain viable habitats for many species.
- Resource protection (law enforcement) efforts to protect resources from damage, loss, injury or mortality as a result of visitor activities.
- Compliance issues, including establishment of an oversight team for South Florida restoration projects.

**Visitor Services: .....$4,128,300**
The National Park Service offers a variety of visitor services that allow the public diverse opportunities to experience and learn about the unique resources of Everglades National Park. $15,000 in estimated fee revenues will be dedicated to improved visitor services.
Specific programs include:

- Operation and maintenance of visitor centers, campgrounds, environmental education centers, nature trails, canoe trails and wilderness campsites.
- Ranger-led activities, such as talks, walks, canoe and bicycling trips, and campfire programs which promote an understanding of the park's significance.
- Curriculum-based, environmental education program, now in its 30th year, which has introduced over 250,000 students to the Everglades.
- Management of activities related to concessions which provide lodging, food service and tours.
- Visitor protection activities providing for the protection, safety and security of park visitors, employees, concessioners, and public and private property.

Park Rangers remove a nuisance alligator from the Long Pine Key picnic area.

**Facility Operations and Maintenance: .....$3,175,700**

- Operation and maintenance of facilities for visitor use, such as the visitor centers, campgrounds, and roads and trails. $412,600 in estimated fee revenues will be used to rehabilitate and upgrade visitor facilities, including boardwalk trails, boat/canoe launches, backcountry campsites, and replacement of wayside exhibits.
- Operation and maintenance of facilities that support the park's administrative and operational needs, including administrative and district offices, maintenance and utility buildings, research facilities and employee housing.

**Park Administration: .....$2,343,300**
This program area includes management staff and the administrative support functions for the park, such as budget, contracting and procurement, property management, and human resources.

Total: ..... $14,295,000

## Strategic Plan and Goals

The park's five-year strategic plan and long-term goals have been rewritten to cover fiscal years 2001-2005. The numbered long-term goals, through September 30, 2005, and the FY 2001 annual goals (indicated by bullets), are presented below.

1. 1220 acres in the Hole in the Donut are restored.
- 620 acres in the Hole in the Donut are restored.
2. Restoration of (X#) of acres in the C-111 basin, Florida Bay and 109,506 acres in the Northeast Shark Slough begins with the completion of 100% of pre-construction work to redistribute water deliveries.
- 50% of pre-construction work is completed to begin restoration of 150,000 acres.
3. 109,506 acres in the East Everglades addition are protected through acquisition.
- 70,523 acres in the East Everglades addition are protected through acquisition (increase of 9,729 acres).
4. 21,000 acres of disturbed park lands are restored.
- 8,400 acres of disturbed park lands are restored (4,200 additional).
5. 3 of the 14 threatened and endangered species populations in the park (including Cape Sable Seaside Sparrow, crocodile, eagle, panther, manatee & osprey) improve and 4 remain stable.
- 0 T&E species populations improve and 14 remain stable.
6. Phosphorus levels entering the park are 8 ppb in the Shark River Slough and 6 ppb in the Taylor Slough/Coastal Water Basin.
- Phosphorus levels in the park are 8 ppb in the Shark River Slough and 6 ppb in the Taylor Slough/Coastal Water Basin.
7. By September 30, 2005, 90 of the 120 standards for storage and protection of museum collections are met.
- 90 standards for storage and protection are met.
8. -0- of the 150 archeological sites in the park identified on ASMIS are in good condition, but no sites have degraded from baseline conditions due to human activity.
- 150 identified archeological sites have not degraded from baseline conditions (-0- are in good condition).
9. 8 of the natural resource data sets related to South Florida ecosystem are acquired/developed.
- 8 data sets are acquired/developed.
10. 95% of park visitors are satisfied with appropriate park facilities, services and recreational opportunities.
- 92% of park visitors are satisfied.
11. The rate (25.62) of visitor accidents/incidents will decrease by 10% to 23.06.
- The visitor accident/incident rate will decrease by 4% to 24.60.
12. 86% of park visitors understand and appreciate the significance of Everglades National Park.
- 35% of visitors understand & appreciate the park's significance.
13. 242 employees' performance plans (100% of park workforce) are linked to appropriate strategic and annual performance plans.
- 97 employees annual performance plans are linked to appropriate strategic & annual performance plans.
14. 23 of 53 employees in 4 targeted series (025, 401, 1015, 1640) in the park workforce are members of underrepresented groups.
- 20 of 53 employees in 4 targeted series in the park workforce are members of underrepresented groups.
15. 20 employee housing units classified as being in poor or fair condition are removed, replaced or upgraded to good condition.
- 8 employee housing units are in good condition (increase of 2).
16. The employee lost-time injury rate will decrease 50% from the park's 1992-1996 average (6.36).
- The employee lost-time injury rate will decrease 50% to 3.18 (7 LTIs).
17. The number of volunteer hours increase by 10% from 1997 totals.
- Volunteer hours will increase 4%.
18. The amount of receipts from park entrance, recreation and other fees increase by 20% from 1997 totals.
- Fee receipts increase by 8%.

The National Park Service cares for special places saved by the American people so that all may experience our heritage.

EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA

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