

The Engineers have built massive levees to contain runoff from Lake Okeechobee and constructed 1,400 miles of drainage canals in the name of flood control. Park Service officials complain bitterly that the Engineers have drained Everglades National Park almost dry in their efforts to halt wetlands flooding and reclaim glade country for agriculture.

Flood control advocates have said that reclamation is for people and Everglades Park is "for the birds." But I do not believe that is the question. The Park is for people and the farms are for people. The real question is how shall priorities be cut off by the local Florida landowners draining the Everglades. The Corps project has been underway 20 years. The construction has gone on and we are about 50 percent complete. We have looked at this problem for many years. It is a problem of water use, and part of the problem must be solved by working with the State of Florida which really has authority in the use of the waters of Florida.

PLANS TO CONTROL DROUGHT AND FLOOD CYCLES

In the last several years, we have been working on a plan to provide additional water to the Everglades. It is not a question of draining the Everglades. It is a question of adequate rainfall supplemented by a flow of water down into the Everglades from the north.

The glades are now getting twice as much water south of the Tamiami Trail per inch of rainfall as they have had before, and we are working toward a system which will enable us to continue and make a more reliable supply of water.

There is a great deal of talk about what is happening there. The glades used to go through a periodic cycle of drought and wet. There were losses in the glades at that time. This is the natural cycle. And, really, what they are looking for now is an even ecological cycle, a cycle that will prevent historic droughts. We think

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR-NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY-CORPS OF ENGINEERS

Joint Fact Sheet on:

WATER SITUATION AT EVERGLADES NATIONAL PARK

The Everglades National Park is primarily an aquatic area. The park has for several recent years experienced drought periods that have been extremely