

Estus Whitfield
EVG-8

Mr. Whitfield begins by identifying the use of hydrology by the Central and Southern Florida Flood Control Project (C&SFFCP) as a cause of present problems in the Everglades (page 1). He assesses the C&SFFCP and Corps of Engineers' sensitivity to ecological considerations in a historical perspective (page 2). He details his education and employment, emphasizing his review of the Corps of Engineers projects under the Office of Planning and Budgeting (page 2-5, 12-16 for Save Our Everglades, Deer Crisis Task Force). He analyzes the problematic relationship between the state, the Flood Control District, and the Corps (page 5-7).

Mr. Whitfield discusses the 1971 Governor's Conference on Water Management (page 8) and the work of environmentalists Art Marshall, Johnny Jones, and Marjory Stoneman Douglas (page 9-10). The creation of the Big Cypress National Preserve, Water Resources Act, Land and Water Management Act, and Conservation and Recreation Land Program signified a coming of age for the environmental movement (page 11).

On page 16-19, Mr. Whitfield finds continual difficulty in cleaning Lake Okeechobee, despite the creation of the Lake Okeechobee Technical Advisory Committee and appropriations from Department of Agriculture and the Water Management District. He then discusses the restoration of the Kissimmee River, looking at the initial reluctance and changing attitudes of the Corps of Engineers (pages 19-21). He presents the goals, effectiveness, and eventual politicization of the Everglades Coalition (page 21-22).

Mr. Whitfield compares Governors Bob Graham and Bob Martinez (page 23-24). He examines the 1988 lawsuit filed by U.S. Attorney Dexter Lehtinen, its politics, its purpose, and its impact on the relationship between state and federal government (24-26). He talks about the Surface Water Improvement and Management Act of 1987 (SWIM) as a whole system approach to improve watersheds and as the method of settling the lawsuit (page 26-27). He disagrees with moving Preservation 2000 funds to Everglades restoration (28). He describes Governor Lawton Chiles' concession to the lawsuit and the ensuing debate over how to clean the Everglades (30-33).

Mr. Whitfield examines taxation and politics in the environmental sphere (35-37). He addresses the Commission for Sustainable South Florida (37-38), the South Florida Restoration Task Force (39-41), and the resulting Comprehensive Restoration Plan (41-42). He recalls the controversy between environmental groups and Governor Chiles over 2 vetoed bills (43-44) and anger from the sugar industry over the Talisman land purchase (44). The environmental politics of the 1998 governor's race are examined, and he evaluates Governor Jeb Bush's post-election environmental record (45-46). He attributes the Everglades' international prominence to Senator Graham's early work and sees public opinion as a major factor in restoration (47-49).

He gives brief summary opinions on the South Florida Water Management District, the Department of the Interior, the environmental community, the Miccosukee Tribe, and the sugar industry (page 50-52). He addresses the obstacles to restoration and promotes objectivity as the key to good decision-making and planning in the Everglades project (page 52-53).