



Florida Everglades photo © iStockphoto.com/mcpix

Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan

“The Dawson team played a key role in advancing Everglades restoration. Their expertise in all aspects of federal water and ecosystem restoration projects is outstanding.”

– Barbara Miedema
Sugar Cane Growers Cooperative



CLIENTS

The Florida Farm Bureau Federation, the Sugar Cane Growers Cooperative of Florida and other state sugar, citrus and agricultural interests.

BACKGROUND

For more than 20 years, federal and state officials, including the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, have managed the restoration and protection of the South Florida Everglades ecosystem. This effort includes the federal Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (CERP). With a cost of more than \$10.5 billion, CERP is the largest environmental project in U.S. history. Prior to its passage in 2000 and for more than a decade since, major stakeholders have asked Dawson & Associates to work with federal and state officials on rules that achieve ecological and economic balance.

RESPONSE

During CERP negotiations in the late 1990s, many lawmakers drafted problematic changes to the original Everglades restoration proposal from the Army Corps of Engineers and the State of Florida. These including undefined requirements and construction projects not supported by Corps' studies.

Recognizing the threat to CERP's passage, several major stakeholders asked Dawson & Associates to represent their interests. Working with Executive and Legislative Branch officials, the Dawson team prepared multiple technical analyses on behalf of our clients. We also maintained a respectful dialogue with environmental groups to develop a consensus on controversial issues. As a result, our team had a key role in shaping the final Everglades legislation.

Since CERP's passage, the Dawson team has worked for more than a decade with multiple sugar and agricultural clients, such as The Sugar Cane Growers Cooperative of Florida, to ensure that complex regulations governing design and implementation of the Everglades plan's individual elements were consistent with the law's language. A key element of that work involved successfully transitioning from Washington-based lobbying to addressing concerns and requirements of state and local federal officials, including the Corps of Engineers.