

Avineon to map Florida Everglades

South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) contracted Avineon to provide baseline information needed to support the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (CERP) to revitalize endangered Everglades ecological system.

Through field work, GPS, photointerpretation, photogrammetry and GIS, Avineon will create vegetation maps from aerial imagery which will then be used to assess system-wide performance of CERP. The objective is to help document the location and type of vegetation habitats in the Everglades and, ultimately, provide the baseline information needed to address the response of the Everglades ecosystem implemented under CERP.

CERP, which was approved by Congress in 2000 under the Water Resources Development Act provides the framework for modifications and operational changes needed to restore the Everglades. Avineon's mapping work will support an adaptive assessment and monitoring program aimed at documenting changes in species composition and distribution.

"The support provided by Avineon will help us accurately track and document the results of our unprecedented efforts to restore and preserve the Everglades," said Chip Merriam, Deputy Executive Director of Water Resources for the agency.

The vegetation maps will be generated using photogrammetric workstations, and users will have the ability to query data by vegetation categories. The project will require a significant amount of field work and extensive training

and experience in plant identification and the use of GPS to locate and document vegetative species and communities. Avineon will primarily use helicopters to document wetlands and associated habitats thriving in the Everglades.

"The Everglades is a unique place and we're proud to lend our expertise to this monumental undertaking" said Keith Patterson, Director of Photogrammetry, Mapping and GIS for Avineon. "Contributing to CERP holds great importance as it will ultimately restore one of America's largest and most ecologically productive wetlands."

The South Florida Water

Management District is a regional, governmental agency that oversees the water resources in the southern half of the state—16 counties from Orlando to the Keys. It is the oldest and largest of the state's five water management districts, and its mission is to manage and protect water resources of the region by balancing and improving water quality, flood control, natural systems and water supply. The cleanup and restoration of the Everglades is its key mission [www.sfwmd.gov]

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