

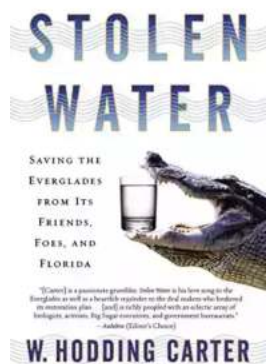
Florida's Everglades: A Battle for Preservation

Florida's Everglades, spanning over 1.5 million acres of marshes, wetlands, and forests, is one of the most diverse and fragile ecosystems in the United States. This remarkable landscape, often referred to as the "River of Grass," holds immense ecological significance and is home to numerous endangered species.

The Threats Looming Over the Everglades

The Everglades face a number of grave challenges, fueled by the interests of both its friends and foes. On one side, agriculture, urban development, and pollution pose significant threats. The increasing demand for land for farming and housing constantly encroaches upon the Everglades, disrupting its delicate balance.

The excessive use of fertilizers and pesticides in nearby farmlands has led to harmful runoff, contaminating the water flowing into the Everglades. This pollution not only affects the flora and fauna but also threatens the drinking water supply of millions of Floridians.



Stolen Water: Saving the Everglades from Its Friends, Foes, and Florida

by W. Hodding Carter (Kindle Edition)

★★★★☆ 4.4 out of 5

Language : English

File size : 1940 KB

Text-to-Speech : Enabled

Screen Reader : Supported

Enhanced typesetting : Enabled

Word Wise : Enabled

Print length : 290 pages

Hardcover : 480 pages

Item Weight : 1.39 pounds

Dimensions

: 6 x 1.06 x 9 inches



However, the Everglades also faces threats from those who aim to protect it. The implementation of certain preservation strategies, such as the construction of dikes and dams, has inadvertently altered the natural flow of water within the Everglades. While these projects aimed to control flooding and protect nearby communities, they had unintended consequences on the ecosystem. The diminished water flow disrupts the patterns of native plants and animals, leading to imbalances that jeopardize their survival.

Florida's Role in Preserving the Everglades

Florida, being the heartland of the Everglades, holds a crucial responsibility in its preservation. The state has recognized the urgency of the situation and taken steps towards restoration. The Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (CERP) was initiated in 2000, with the goal of restoring the natural water flow and protecting the ecosystem.

CERP focuses on the removal of invasive species, construction of stormwater treatment areas, and the improvement of water quality. By simulating and bringing back the natural flow of water, the plan aims to restore the Everglades' delicate ecological balance while maintaining the interests of nearby communities and agricultural activities.

Involvement of Environmental Organizations

Several environmental organizations are actively involved in championing the preservation of the Everglades. The Everglades Foundation, for instance, advocates for ecosystem restoration and funds scientific research to support the

cause. Their efforts have been instrumental in raising awareness about the importance of the Everglades and lobbying for its protection.

Another organization, the National Parks Conservation Association (NPCA), works to ensure policy and funding support for the Everglades' restoration. Through public engagement and advocacy, NPCA brings attention to the challenges faced by this unique ecosystem and pushes for sustainable solutions.

Public Support and Conservation Education

An essential component in saving the Everglades lies in generating public support and fostering conservation education. By creating awareness about the importance of this fragile ecosystem, people can make informed choices that aid in its preservation.

Educational programs, nature tours, and engagement with schools and communities play a crucial role in building a connection between people and the Everglades. The more individuals understand the significance and beauty of this natural treasure, the more likely they are to actively contribute to its protection.

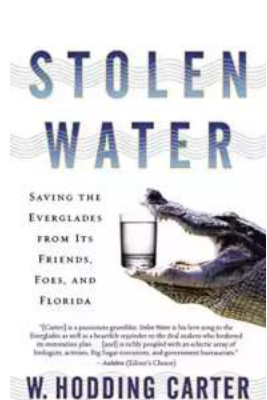
The Way Forward

The challenges of saving the Everglades from its friends, foes, and even Florida itself may seem daunting, but they are not insurmountable. It requires a harmonious effort from all stakeholders, including environmental organizations, policymakers, industries, and individuals.

Conservation initiatives, such as CERP, need continued support and funding to ensure their success. Strict regulations must be imposed on agriculture and urban development to minimize their impact on the ecosystem. Moreover,

research and scientific advancements should guide restoration efforts, ensuring the long-term sustainability of the Everglades.

If we unite as stewards of this invaluable natural wonder, we can secure a future where the Everglades thrives, supporting diverse wildlife, providing clean water, and captivating generations to come.



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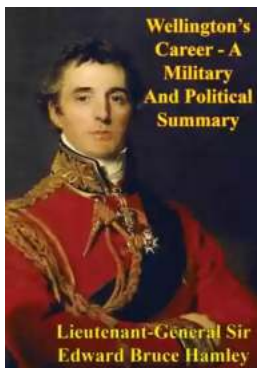
A riotous journey through America's most controversial, beautifully unapproachable, and abused wilderness -- the Florida Everglades.

In December 2000, President Clinton signed into law a \$7.8 billion restoration plan for the Everglades that garnered national attention and has since become America's touchstone for environmental issues. Enter W. Hodding Carter, a man already bemused by the state of Florida and determined to see what, if any, progress has been made with the Everglades. For reasons unclear even to him,

this amazing, remote, mosquito-infested, hard-to-love region has captured Carter's imagination and won't let go. So, for the past few years, Carter has examined the Everglades from all angles -- social, political, cultural, environmental -- culminating in an ungodly canoe trip through the heart of the Everglades.

But this being Hodding Carter -- a man who sailed a Viking ship dressed in serge for one book and followed in the footsteps of Lewis and Clark for another -- a canoe trip the length of the Everglades is merely the tip of the iceberg. *Stolen Water* finds him adopting a manatee, and auditioning to be a mermaid at Weeki Wachee Springs -- not enough that he reports on things, he actually has to do them, too, often to hilarious effect. In the end, though, his tireless reporting reveals the Everglades as never before. Not content with merely observing, he also interviews all the key players, from environmentalists to sugar farmers to Senator Bob Graham, and gives them just enough rope to hang themselves.

Always humane, often controversial, and highly readable, Hodding Carter has brought to life this murky, alluring place through his powerful eyewitness account and swampy mishaps. *Stolen Water* is narrative nonfiction at its best, from one of our most talented and funny writers.



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