

Pahayokey Overlook

"Pahayokey" lives up to its name "Grassy Water" in the Seminole language. This wide, sheet flow of water originates in the headwaters of the Everglades north of Lake Okeechobee and passes through a network of public and private lands. Since 2000, water quality and quantity has been monitored and regulated by several agencies, as the result of The Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (CERP), a plan passed by Congress that provides a framework and guide to restore, protect and preserve the water resources of central and southern Florida, including the Everglades.

The Pahayokey area once provided a reliable food source for Gladesmen and indigenous people. Dugout canoes or skiffs were used to fish and hunt year-round in this peaceful waterscape. Clean water and healthy pollinator populations helped sustain the food web for fish, birds, and mammals. In the 21st century, we rely on contemporary conservation efforts to continuously improve ranching and agricultural practice, resulting in improved water quality.