



REstoration, COordination, VERification (RECOVER)

Monitoring & Assessment for the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan

South Florida Ecosystem Restoration
Task Force, April 25, 2024

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PRESENTATION OUTLINE

- RECOVER Refresher
- Monitoring & Assessment Plan (MAP)- Good News!
- MAP Evaluation



WHO IS RECOVER?

- CERP Programmatic and system-wide perspective
- Collaborative and consensus-based
- Ensures CERP implementation is guided by the best available science
- **Three Major Components**

- **Assessment** - measuring system-wide performance of projects through research and monitoring
- **Evaluation** - forecasting project performance through predictive modeling and performance measures
- **Planning** - integrating RECOVER with planning and operation of the system

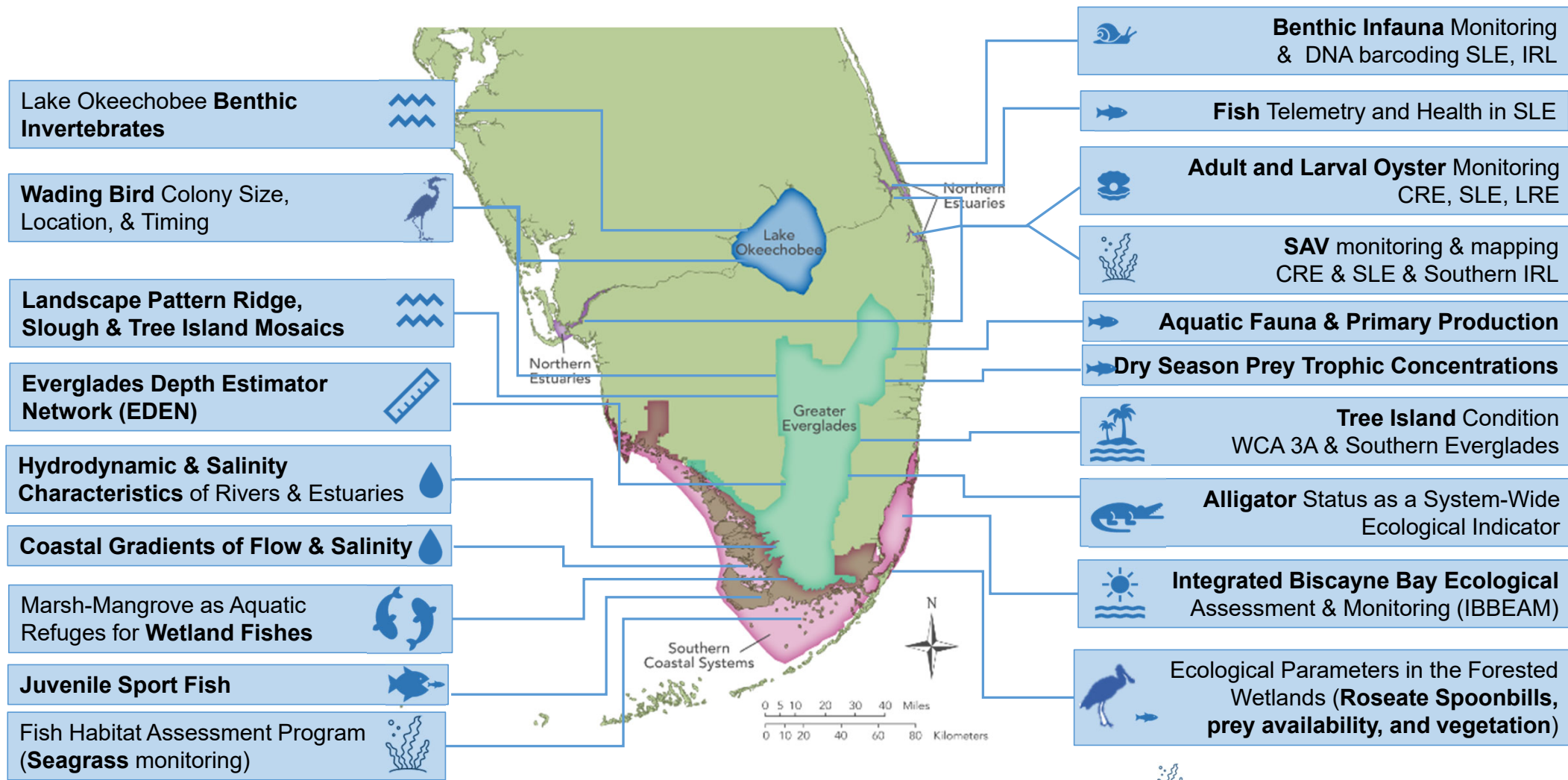


RECOVER MONITORING & ASSESSMENT PLAN: OBJECTIVES

- Establish pre-CERP reference state
- Provide the **assessment of the system-wide responses**
- **Detect unexpected responses** of the ecosystem to changes in stressors, resulting from CERP activities
- Support scientific investigations designed to **increase ecosystem understanding, establish cause and effect relationships, and interpret unanticipated results**



MONITORING FOR CERP IS SYSTEM-WIDE



RECOVER MAP: GOOD NEWS!

THANK YOU!

- **\$3.2M one-time (FY24) FDEP support for RECOVER Monitoring & Assessment Plan**
- Mapping, tool development, critical science needs, and shortfalls of existing MAP

NORTHERN ESTUARIES: ~\$1.1M

- Benthic Mapping, sediment chemistry
- SAV Aerial Mapping
- Infauna sampling
- Large-bodied fish movement



LAKE OKEECHOBEE: \$330K

- Littoral vegetation mapping
- SAV and Wading Bird Models for Performance Measure development



GREATER EVERGLADES: \$1.2M

- Topographic/Vegetation mapping in WCAs
- Tree Island soil elevation change

SOUTHERN COASTAL SYSTEMS: \$540K

- Mangrove Experimental Manipulation Exercise (MEME) for coastal resiliency



RECOVER MONITORING & ASSESSMENT UPDATE

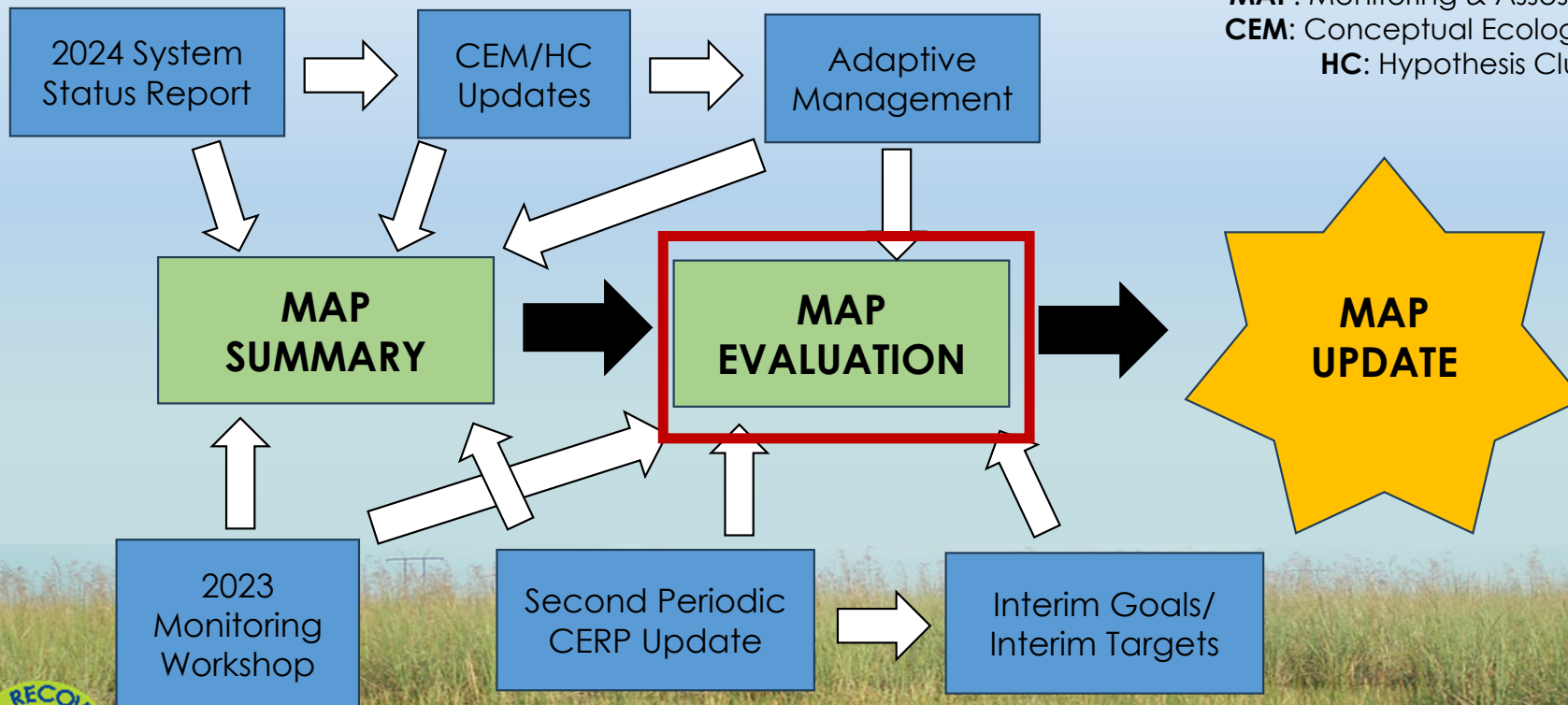
ACRONYMS

CERP: Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan

MAP: Monitoring & Assessment Plan

CEM: Conceptual Ecological Model

HC: Hypothesis Cluster



RECOVER MAP EVALUATION

- Two Part System-Wide Evaluation:

1. **Statistical review** of the rigor of the current monitoring design for key indicators (**wading birds, prey forage, and vegetative communities**)- **USGS**
2. **New information:** Science since 2009; Second Periodic CERP Update, CERP Programmatic Uncertainties-
RECOVER



RECOVER MONITORING SUPPORTS:

CERP Programmatic Support

- Predictive Evaluation Tools (**RECOVER Performance Measures, Habitat Suitability Index Models, USGS Joint Ecological Modeling**)
 - Interim Goals and Interim Targets (IG/IT)
- Evaluation and Assessment Reports (**IG/IT, Periodic CERP Update, System Status Report, Report to Congress**)

Project-Specific Support

- Inform Project Justification during Planning Phase
 - Regulatory Support
- Leverage & Supplement Project-Level Monitoring
 - Adaptive Management Guidance
- RECOVER Recommendations to Improve Project Performance Measures,
 - Evaluate Alternatives, Monitoring & Adaptive Management Plans
- RECOVER support during Design & Implementation (Project Operations, Monitoring and Adaptive Management)

South FL Ecosystem Restoration Support (CERP & non CERP)

- SFWMD annual South Florida Environmental Report
- South Florida Ecosystem Task Force (**System-wide Stoplight Indicator Report & Biennial Report**)
 - South Florida Wading Bird Report
- Inform Water Control Plan Development
- Inform Weekly Water Management Decisions



LOOKING AHEAD: COORDINATION SUPPORT



THANK YOU

RECOVER Program Managers

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