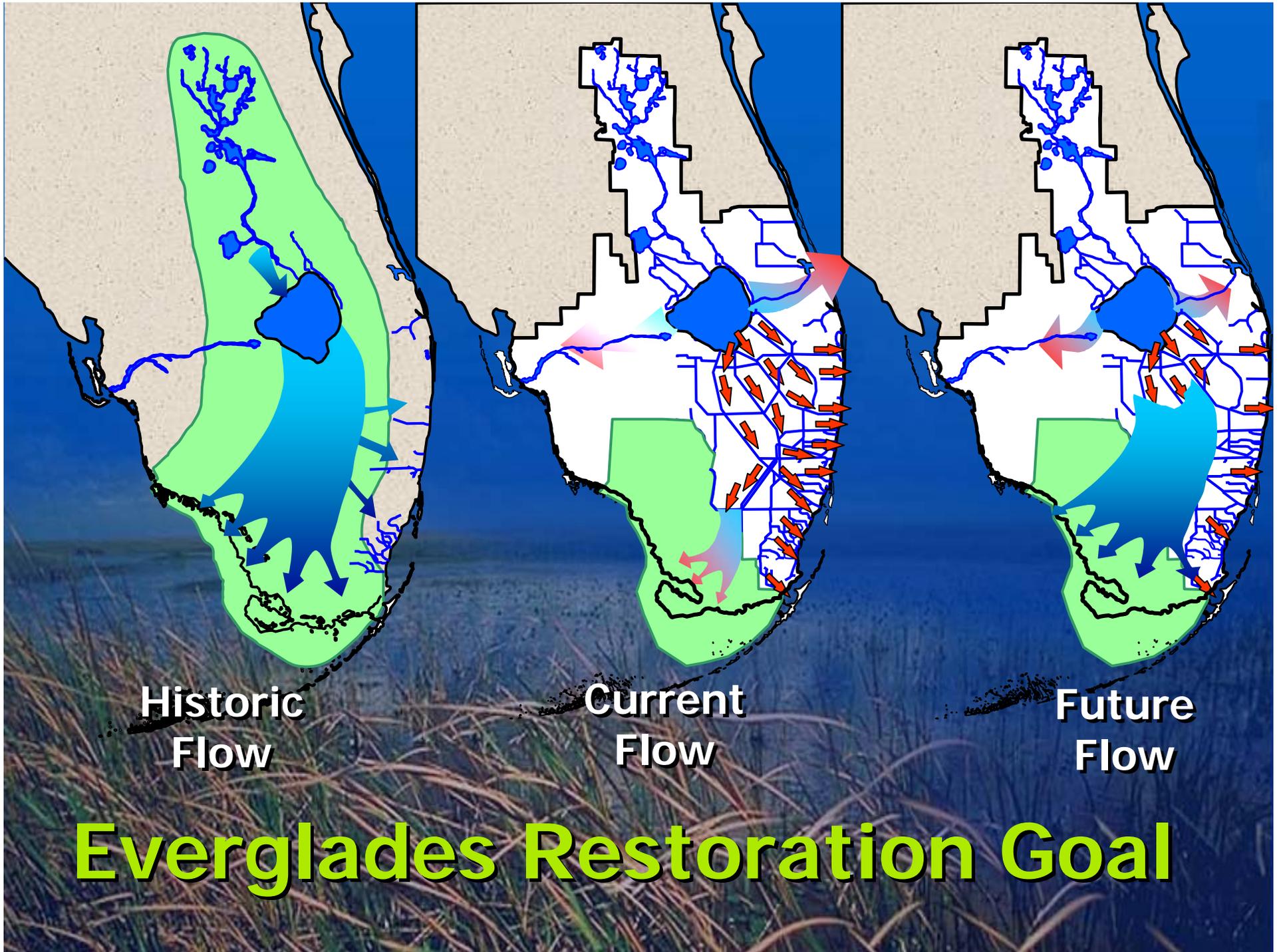


Restoration of the Everglades

WCA-3A

Decomartmentalization and Sheetflow Enhancement



**Historic
Flow**

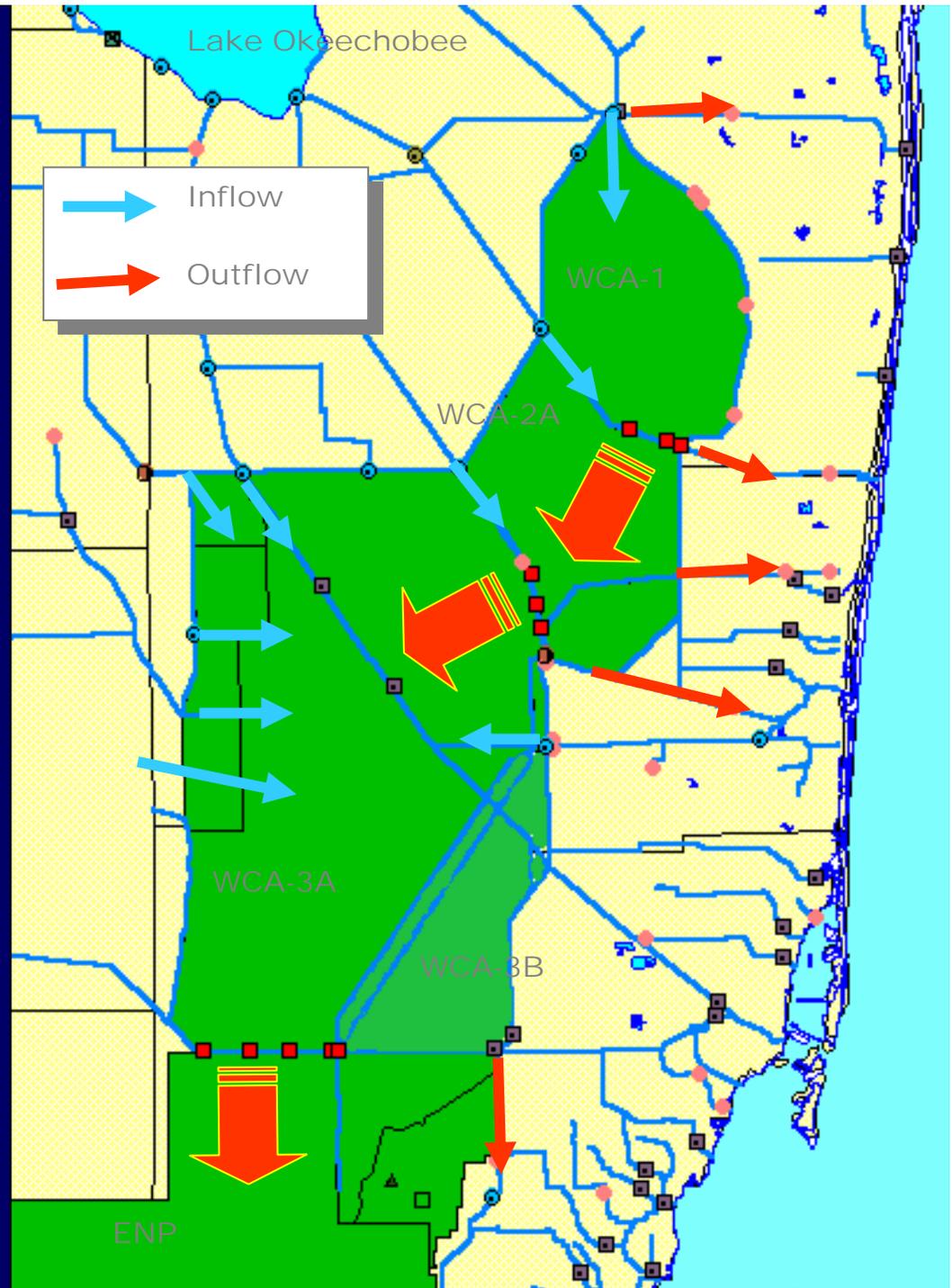
**Current
Flow**

**Future
Flow**

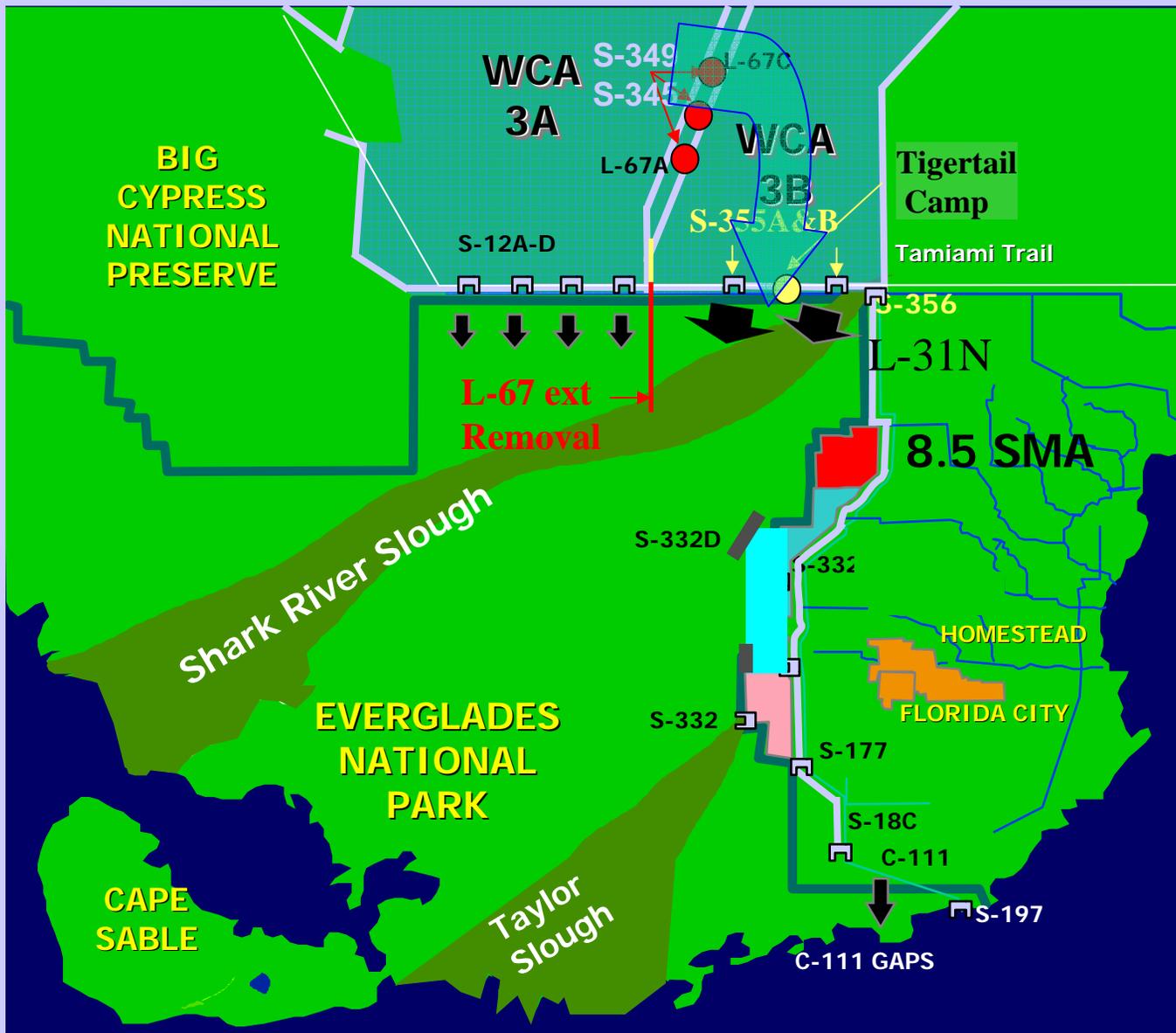
Everglades Restoration Goal

Current Flow Patterns through Everglades

- Major structures within the WCAs discharge south toward Everglades National Park
- Smaller structures discharge east, primarily for water supply purposes
- Flows largely confined to Western Shark Slough
- Little capacity to move water into Northeastern Shark Slough



Modified Water Deliveries to Everglades National Park



Authorized as part of the Everglades National Park Expansion Act of 1989:

- \$398 million
- construction by Corps of Engineers

Includes:

- Re-establishing historical flow path into ENP.
- Protection of developed areas, housing, businesses, and agriculture areas
- Improvement to Tamiami Trail to allow greater flows and higher water levels

Status:

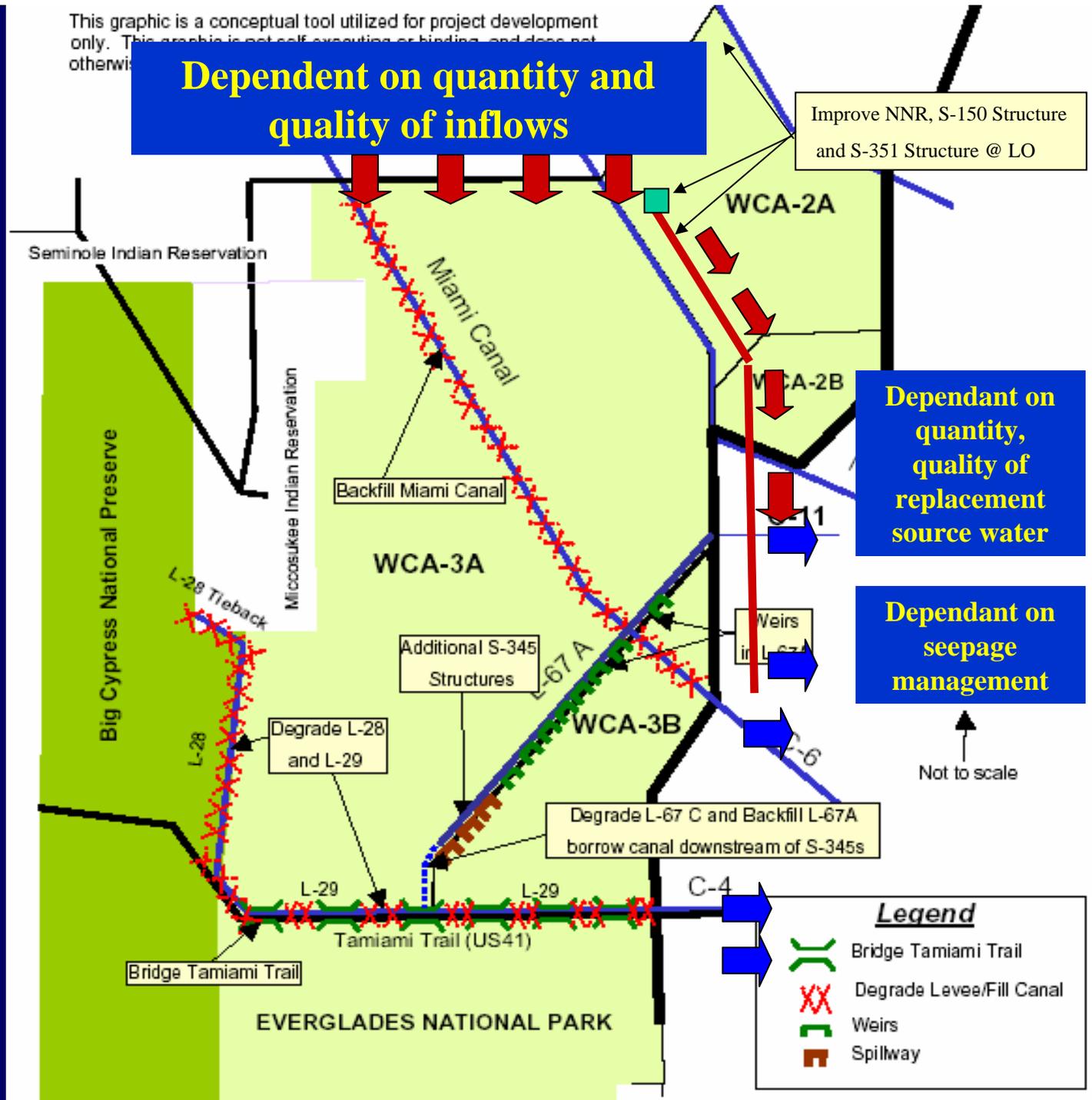
- Construction is underway

Decomp Yellow Book Plan

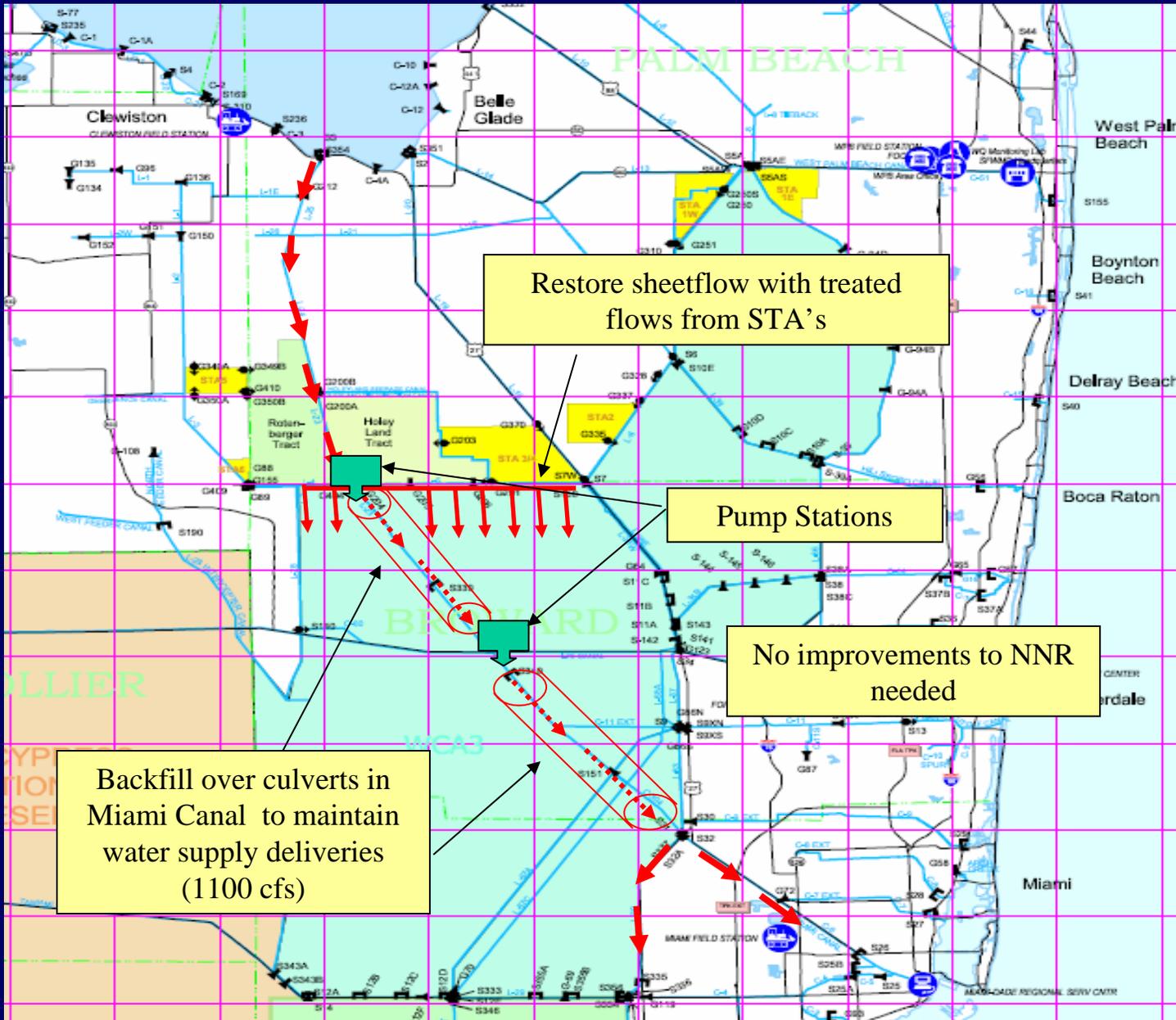
“Heart” of the restoration effort

Stakeholders eager to see progress on Decomp

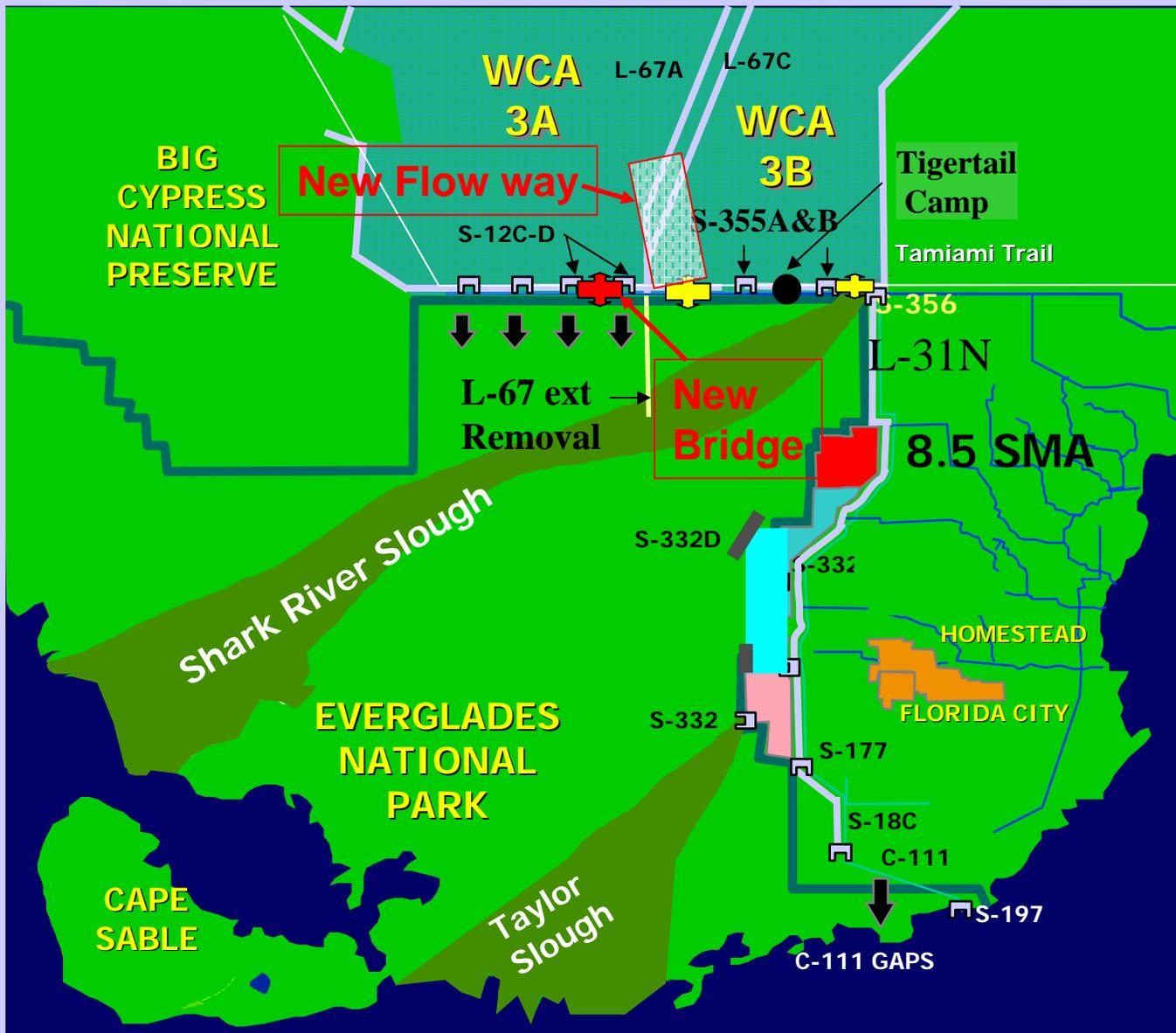
This graphic is a conceptual tool utilized for project development only. This graphic is not self-executing or binding, and does not otherwise constitute a contract.



Miami Canal Backfill Proposal



Lower DECOMP Plan



Decomp Bridge and Flow through:

- New Bridge between S-12C and D to allow for free flow of water from WCA 3A.
- New Flow way from WCA 3A through 3B into NESRS

Positive Aspects

- **Miami Canal Component**
- Will restore the natural sheet flow patterns in the northern part of WCA-3A
- Will prevent the “short circuiting” of flows to the south and thus the over-drying of northern 3A
- Adjacent spoil from the Miami Canal excavation is not sufficient to backfill canal, thus additional material would be required or only plugs used.

Positive Aspects

- Plan would not require excavating or enlarging North New River across Everglades
- *Excess material not needed will be used to construct tree islands*—Needs further discussion
- Meets Savings Clause needs for water supply and provides potential for increased water supply to Broward and Miami-Dade County
- Provides clear route south from Lake Okeechobee for discharges, independent of water levels in WCA's or STA treatment capacity

Positive Aspects

- Reduces high lake stages and damaging discharges to the estuaries.
- Allows only clean water to be discharged into Everglades from STA's and overland flow through WCA 3A.
- WCA's will have better water quality inputs as a larger percentage will come from the STA's
- Less overloading of STA's
- *Filling the Miami Canal reduces the route for exotics to travel*—Needs further discussion

Positive Aspects

- **Southern Everglades Component**
- Will eliminate the ponding effect in southern WCA-3A
- Reduces nutrient loading to ENP by restoring natural sheet flow in WCA 3A
- Equilibrates flows among WCA 3A, WCA 3B and ENP
- Restores significant ecological connectivity in heart of Everglades
- Promotes natural hydrology in the marsh
- Combines opportunity for learning as we achieve important restoration benefits

Key Issues

- **Impacts to Natural Resources**
- Water diversion from Biscayne Bay or other natural areas
- Various aspects of proposed pump station in the Water Conservation Area (WCA)
- Promote recovery of endangered species
- Seek significant net improvement to tree islands
- Ensuring appropriate quality of fill for the Miami Canal

Key Issues

- **Water management issues**
- Develop clear protocols for allocating water, including allocations in a drought
- Clarify water reservation expectations for the proposal.
- Address “water budget” issues in the northern part of the system.
- Key is the detailed operating protocols
- Proposal should quantify the reduction of water levels in Lake Okeechobee and improved flows to the estuaries

Key Issues

- **Recreation issues**
- Include efforts that SAFER has made to save fisheries
- Consistent with agreements for improved public access
- Seek net improvement of fishing opportunities
- Seek improved hunting opportunities in WCA's

Key Issues

- **Water Quality**
- Source transfer issues, (water quantity and quality) for the wellfields (current source is regulated as aquifer water source not surface water.)
- Water quality issues are greater than nutrient and drinking water standards
- Clarify STA performance expectations
- Assess requirement to deliver clean water, (e.g. STA may be needed in Miami-Dade at the discharge point and potential other locations as well.)

Key Issues

- **Design Issues**
- Investigate the potential for the pipes to impede movement of groundwater
- Flesh out options to accommodate the ability to route water to Broward County
- Investigate the long term operating cost increases associated with the proposal.
- Maintain a watershed focus and include topics such as, the effective dynamic storage of the overall system and soil subsidence.
- Impacts of removing significant portions of the L29, L67A and L67C levee's must be carefully assessed

Key Issues

- **Interface with other projects**
- Consider how this project may reduce ASR dependency
- Closely integrate with seepage management projects along the L-30 and L-31
- Examine implications and opportunities for the Lake belt component
- Ensure compatibility with Broward County WPA project

Key Issues

- **Science and Adaptive Management**
- The links between the proposed DECOMP and DAMP need to be carefully described, particularly in relation to effectiveness and timing
- Identify potential opportunities for additional learning.

Key Issues

- **Policy Issues**
- Concern with lack of federal authorization and appropriations
- Clarify that this is only phase 1 of Decomp
- Clarify costs and phases within the proposal

Comments?