

Central Everglades Planning Project

Presented by:

Kim Taplin

Chief, Central Everglades Study Branch

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Jacksonville District

Working Group Sponsored
Public and Stakeholder
Workshop
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RESTORING AMERICA'S EVERGLADES

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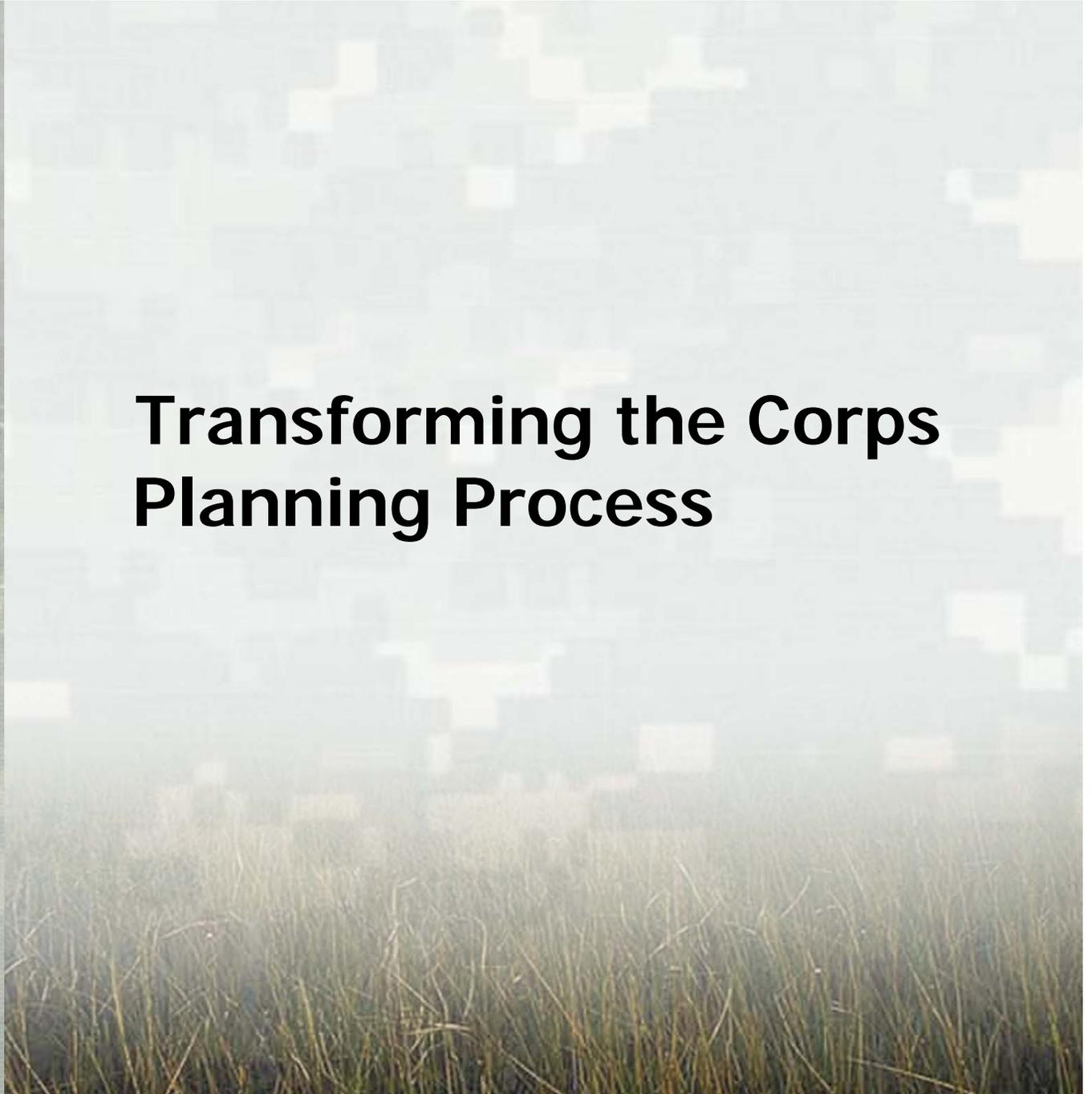


Topics

- **Corps' National Pilot Program for Planning Process**
 - **Goal – understanding of purpose and goals, and application to Central Everglades Planning Project**
- **Scope & Schedule**
 - **Goal – input on proposed scope of effort and expedited schedule**
- **Tools & Techniques**
 - **Goal – input on proposed level of detail**



Transforming the Corps Planning Process





The Drivers

- **Corps Reform**
- **WRDA 2007**
 - Section 2031 requires revisions to the Principles and Guidelines
 - Section 2033 under Planning Process Improvements outlines cost risk analysis, benchmark goals of 2-4 year study process, centers of expertise

The New Planning Paradigm:

- **Produce quality decision documents in a more timely fashion**
- **Develop a more efficient and effective planning process**
- **Evolving Process – starting with a National Pilot Program**

Current Corps Planning Process: The National Perspective

CURRENT PLANNING PROCESS: 6+ YEARS (approximate timeframes)



- Overly detailed, expensive, and takes a long time!
- The amount of time and data being invested in studies are not leading to a better product or decision
- Sponsors and Congress, as well as the Corps, are increasingly frustrated with the situation

Five Concepts for Change

- Manage and balance appropriate **level of detail** and **acknowledge uncertainty**
- Vertical team integration and **engagement of decision makers** early in the process
- Identify **Federal Interest** up front
- Recognize that there is **no single “best” plan** and that there are **quantitative and qualitative** methods for alternative comparison and selection
- Ensure all **resources** needed (funding, human resources, data and information) are identified and available up front

Vision for Future Planning

- Single phase study process with clearly defined decision points
- Actionable and concise decision documents
- Quality engineering, economics and environmental analysis (National Environmental Policy Act)
- Identifies areas of risk and uncertainty
- Consistent with emerging concepts of revised Planning Regulations and Guidance
- Completed in 18-24 months (a target)

Decision Point (DP) Meetings with Corps Leadership

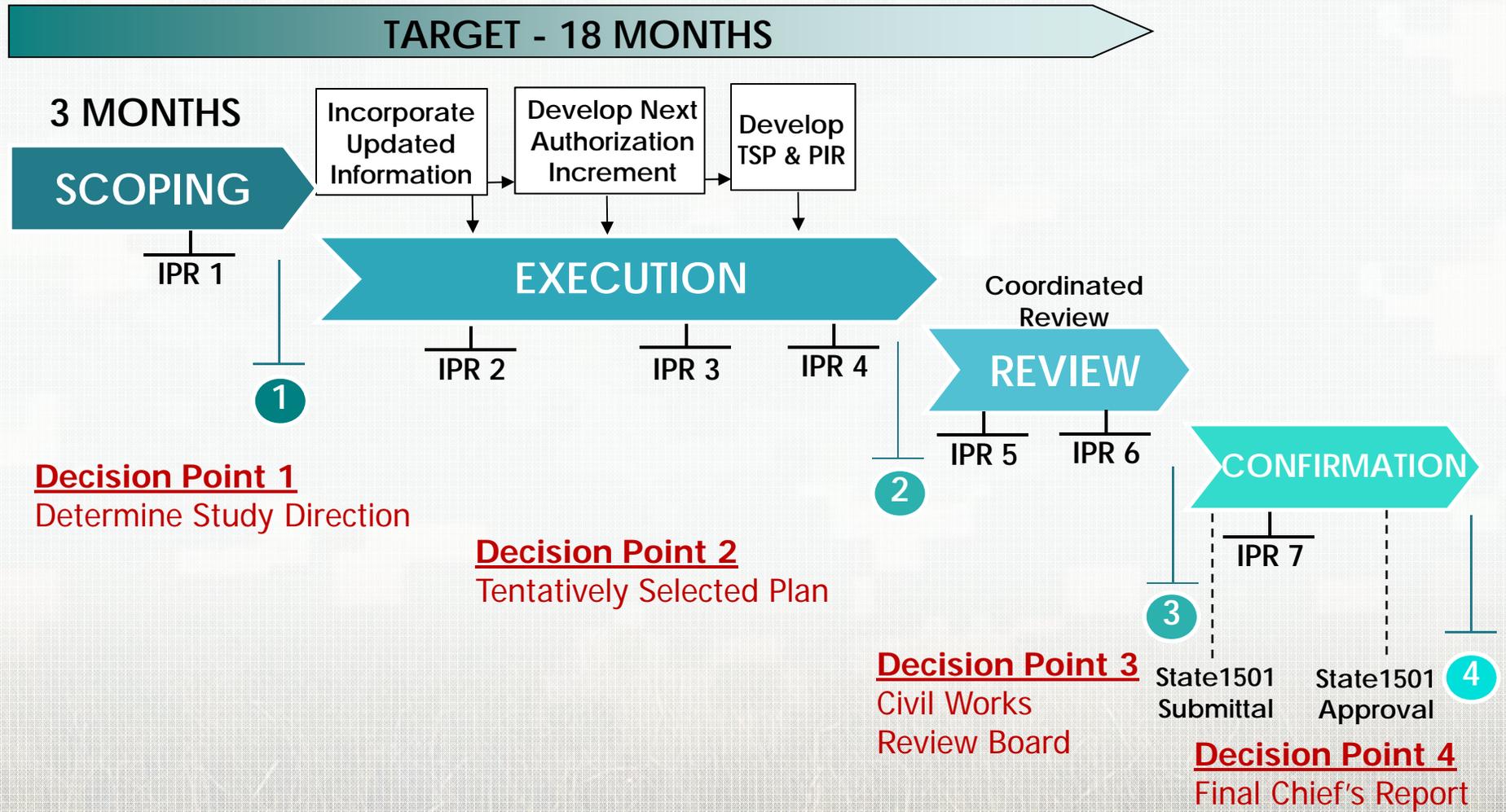
- DP1**
 - Based on information presented, do we continue the study?
 - Achieve vertical team agreement on study methodology, including: Key components of risk, acceptable level of risk, approach for risk reduction

- DP2**
 - Agree on Tentatively Selected Plan (TSP)
 - Determine if the Draft Report is ready for concurrent review

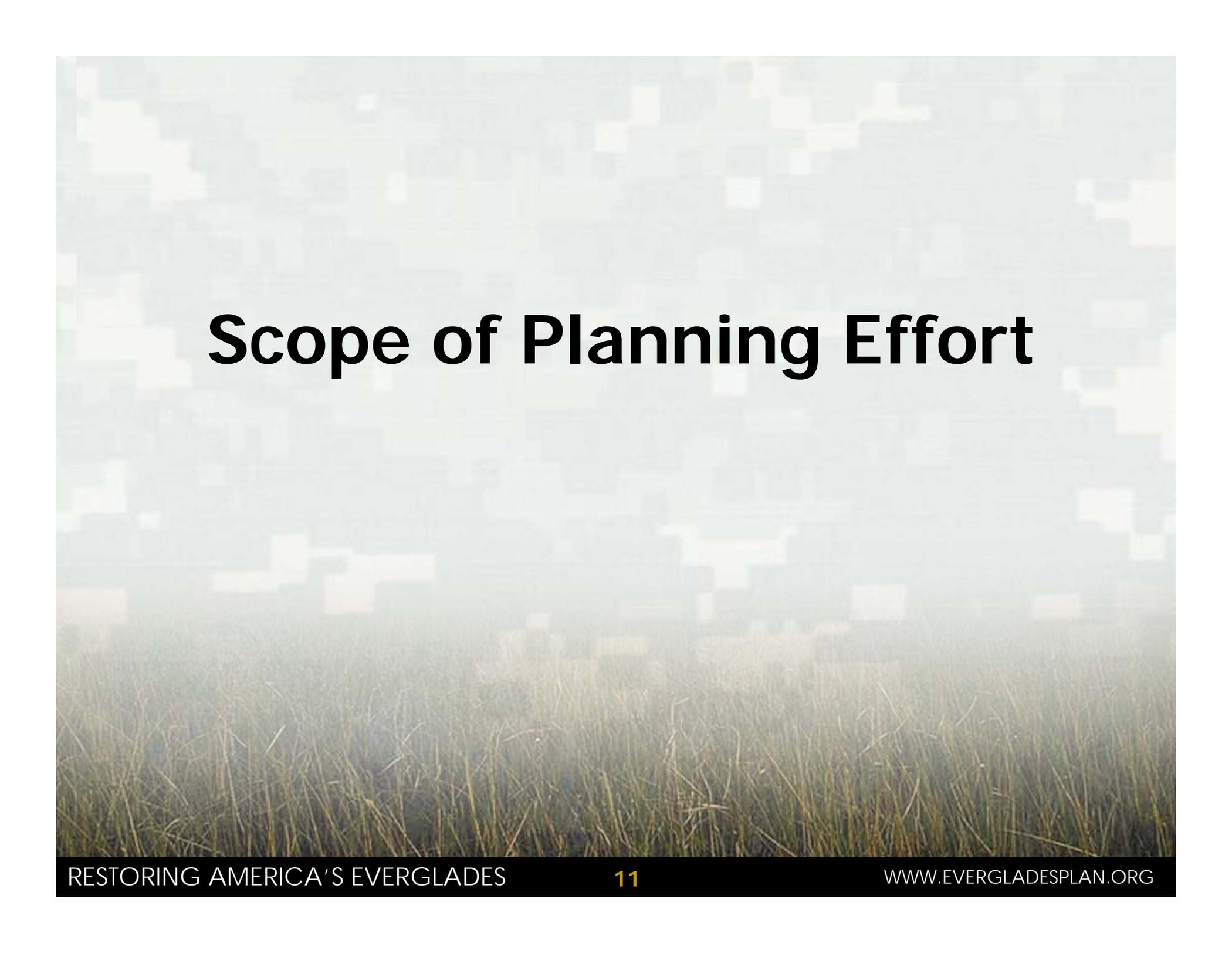
- DP3**
 - Civil Works Review Board (CWRB) or similar - intended to be a final check on the document and decision(s) after Independent External Peer Review (IEPR), Agency Technical Review (ATR) and Public Comment
 - Approval to release the final report for State and Agency Review.

- DP4**
 - Sign Chief of Engineers' Report

Central Everglades Process

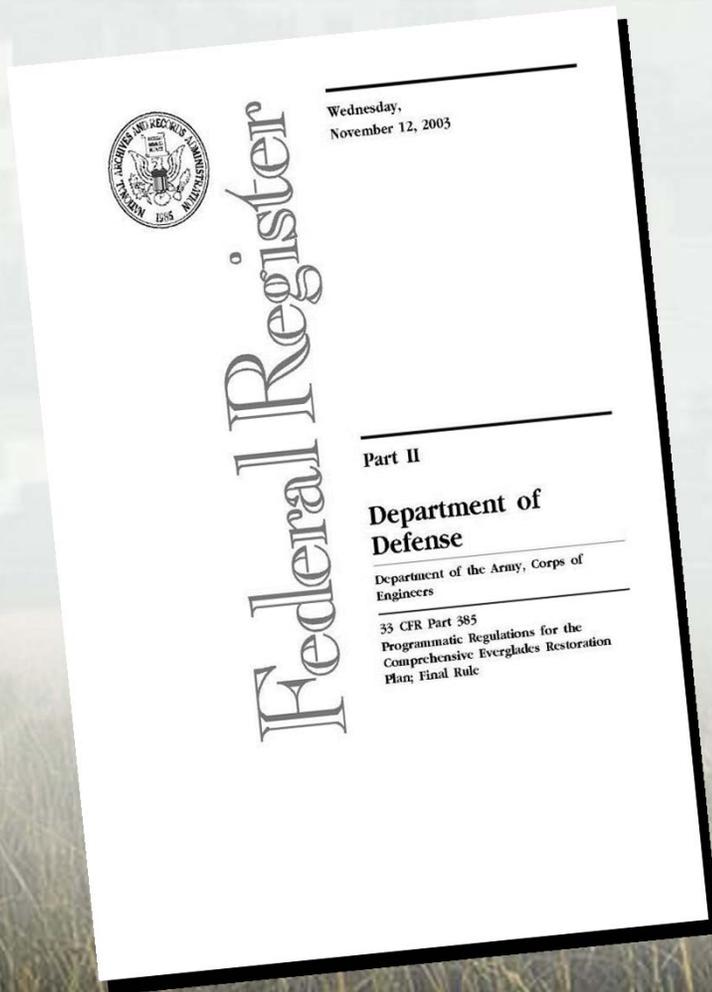


IPR: In-Progress Review with Corps Leadership



Scope of Planning Effort

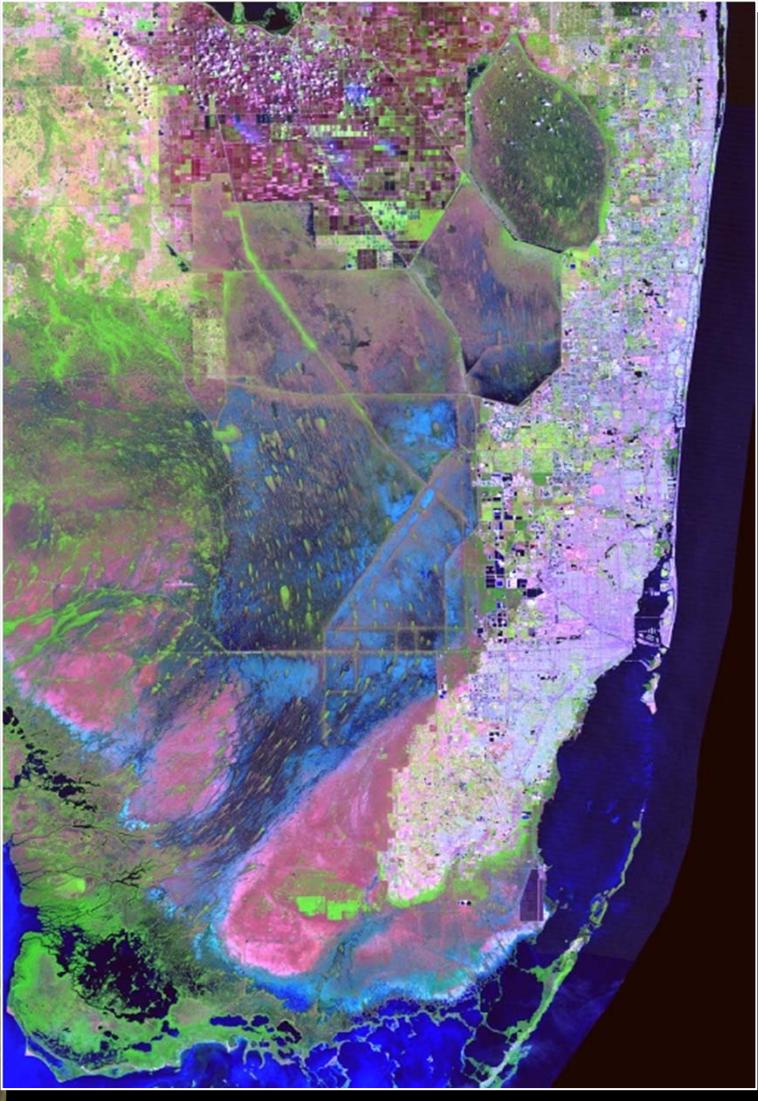
WRDA 2000 Section 601(h)(3)(C)



“ Programmatic regulations shall establish a process...

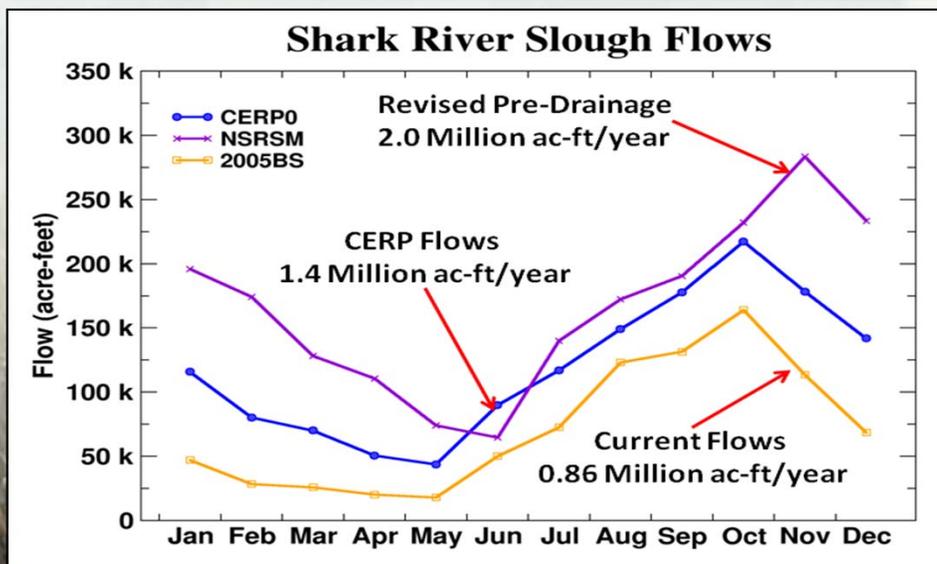
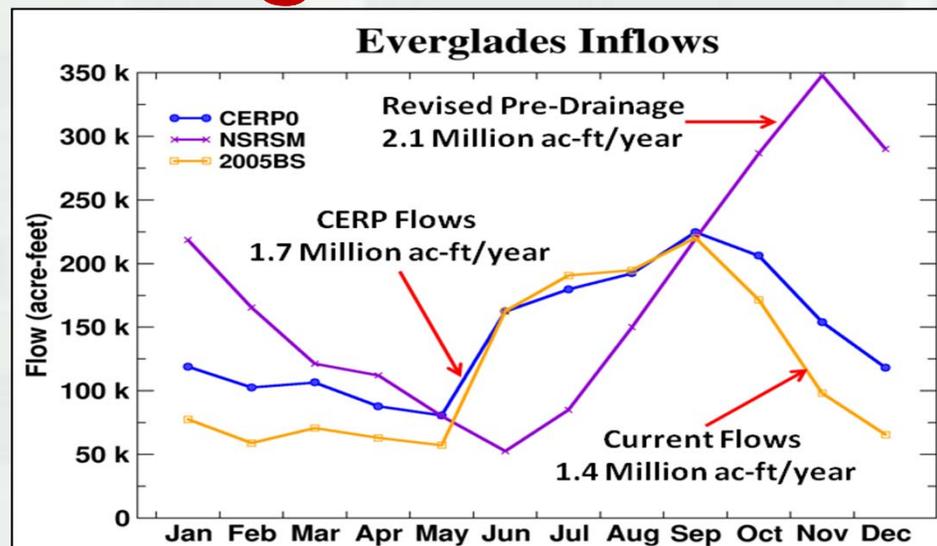
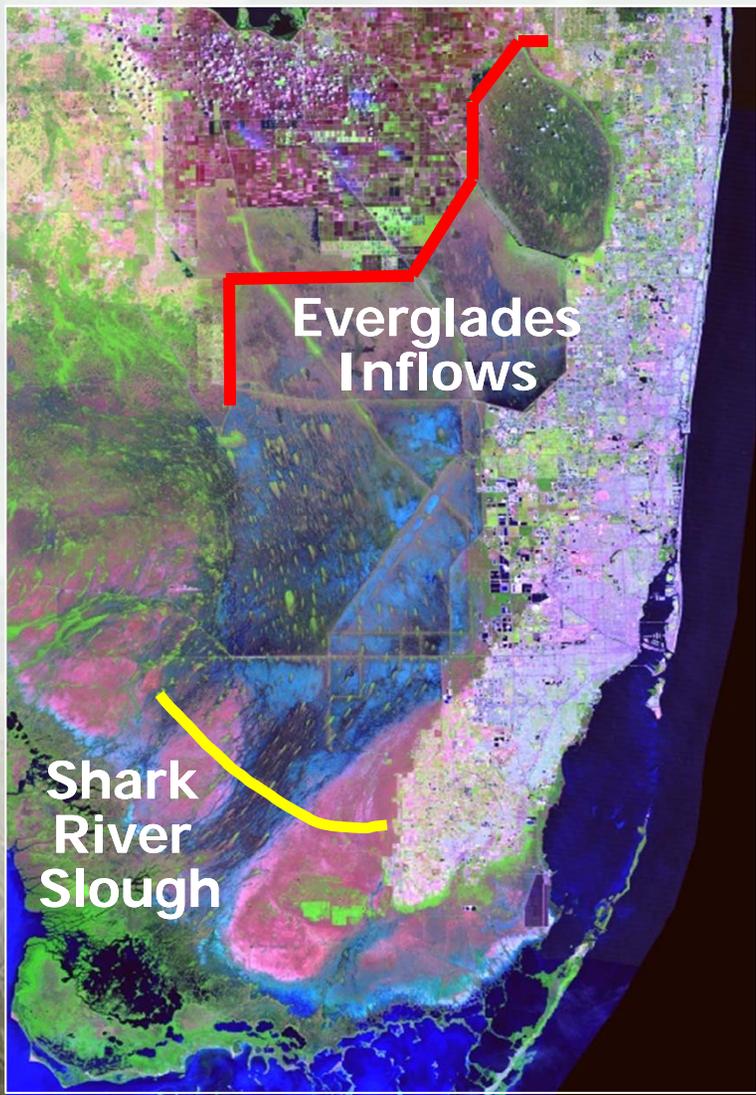
(II) To ensure that **new information** resulting from changed or unforeseen circumstances, **new scientific or technical information** or information that is developed through the principles of adaptive management contained in the Plan...are **integrated into the implementation** of the Plan”

Refining Our Understanding of the Pre-Drainage Everglades

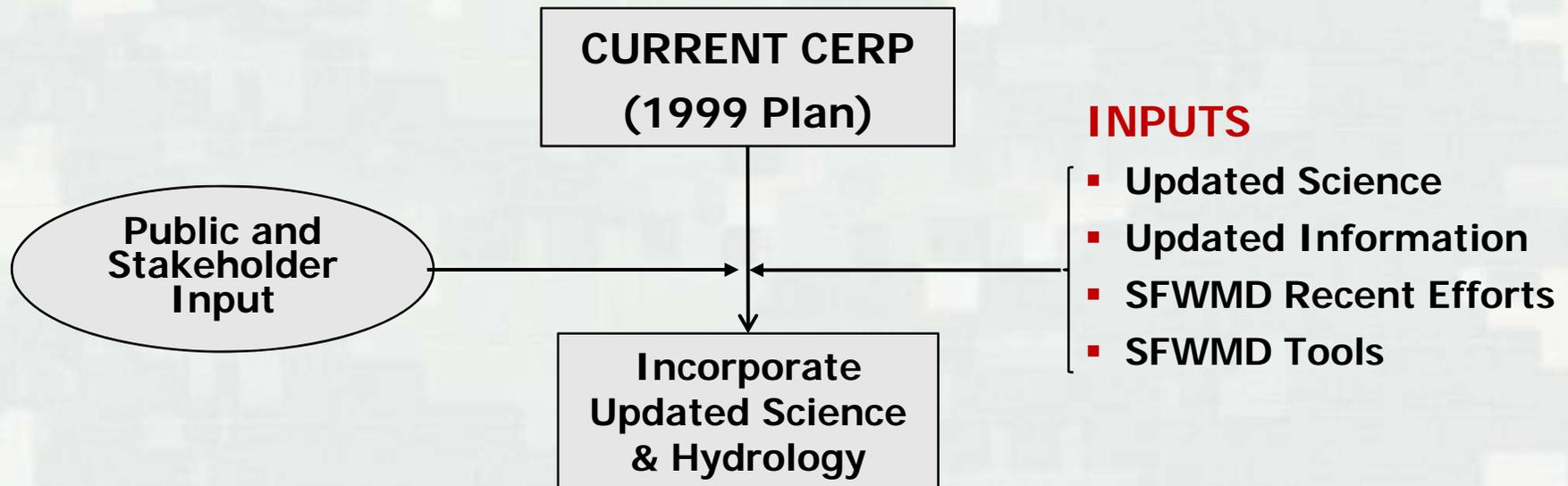


- Extensive information from paleo-ecological indicators and pre/post-drainage information that describes the evolution of the Everglades ecosystem
- A growing consensus of a wetter Everglades ecosystem (20th century), and how this influences restoration targets (Natural System Modeling)
- The importance of Lake Okeechobee in driving Everglades hydrology and salinities in the downstream estuaries

Revised Water Flow Targets for the Everglades

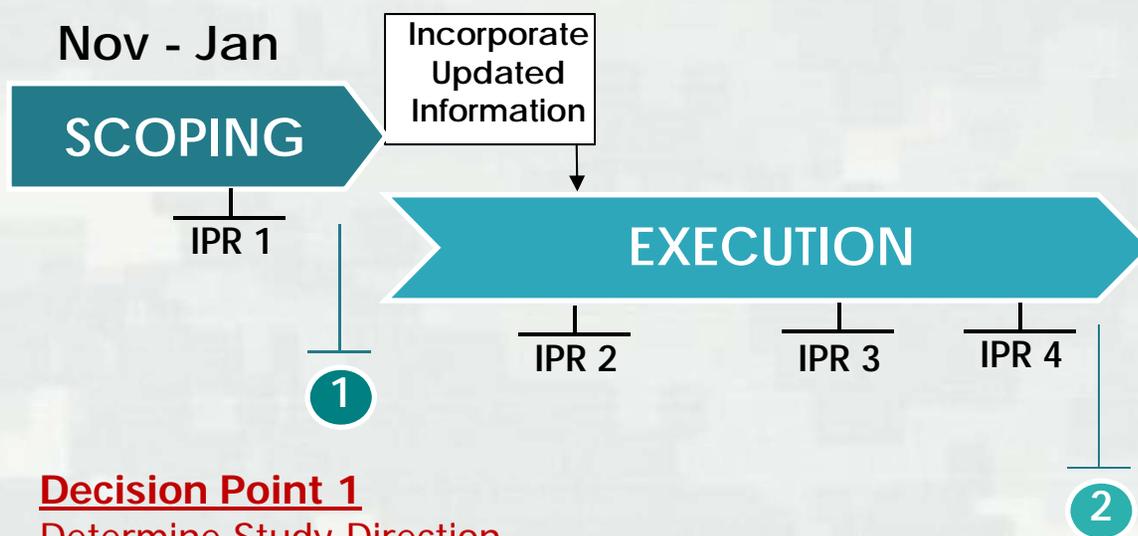


Central Everglades Planning Project



- We are not starting over or re-formulating CERP
 - We are acknowledging and incorporating updated information and science
- We will use models and tools developed by SFWMD for their recent planning process

Central Everglades Process



Decision Point 1
Determine Study Direction

Decision Point 2
Tentatively Selected Plan

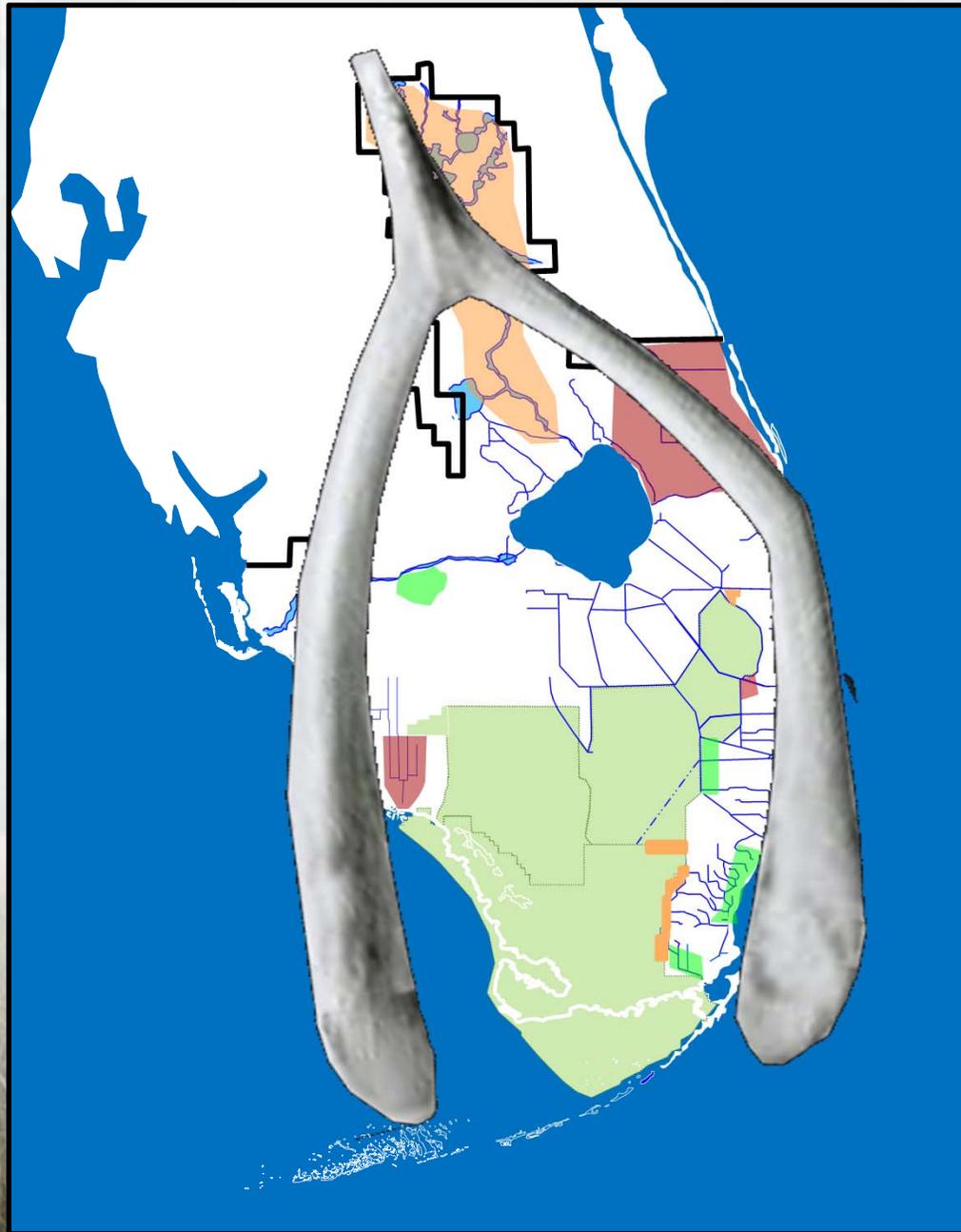
- Acknowledge and incorporate updated information and science into Project Implementation Report

IPR: In-Progress Review with Corps Leadership



Scope of Planning Effort

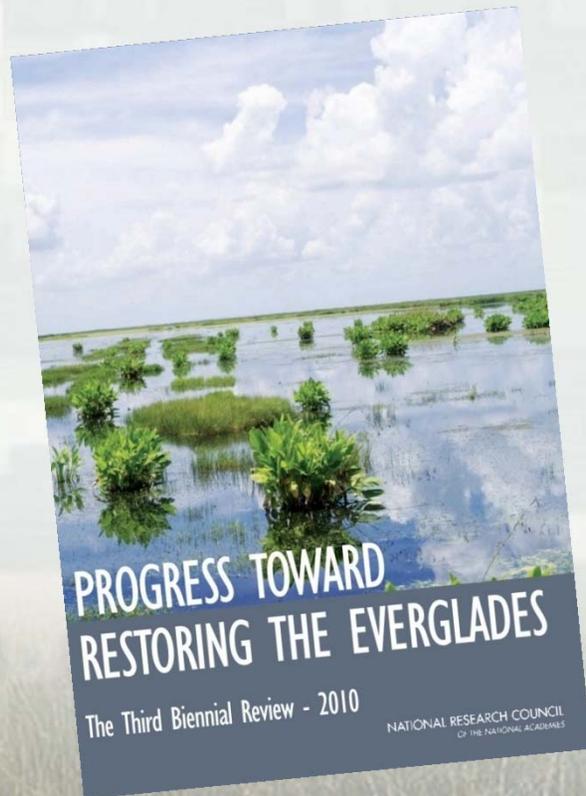
“Next Increment” for Authorization



CERP Implementation

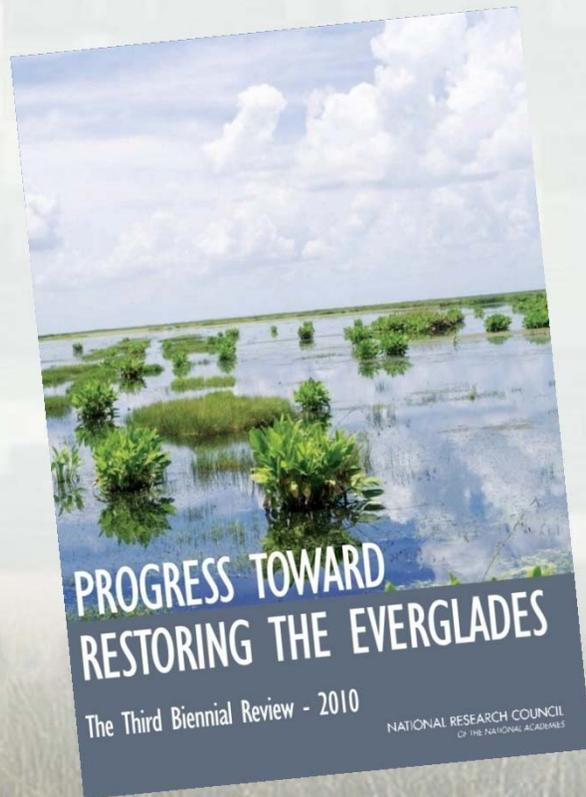
- Foundation Projects
 - Kissimmee River
 - C-111 South Dade
 - C-51/STA-1E
 - Modified Water Deliveries
- 1st Generation CERP
 - Site 1 Impoundment
 - IRL-South
 - Picayune Strand
- 2nd Generation CERP
 - C-43 Reservoir
 - Broward County WPA
 - C-111 Spreader Canal
 - Biscayne Bay Coastal Wetlands

Independent Scientific Review: 2010 Report Recommendations



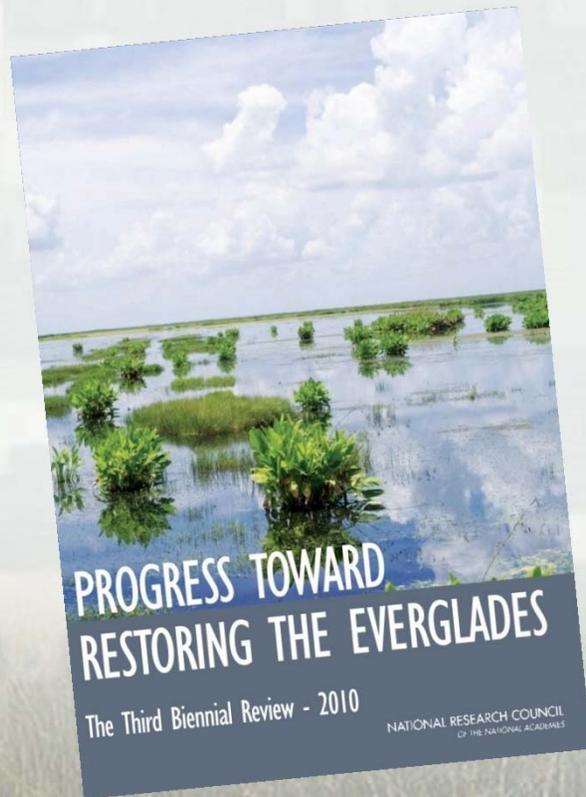
“Increasing water storage (and associated water quality treatment) is a major near-term priority....the Integrated Delivery Schedule does not currently have a plan for water storage to support planned projects in the remnant Everglades ecosystem...”

Independent Scientific Review: 2010 Report Recommendations

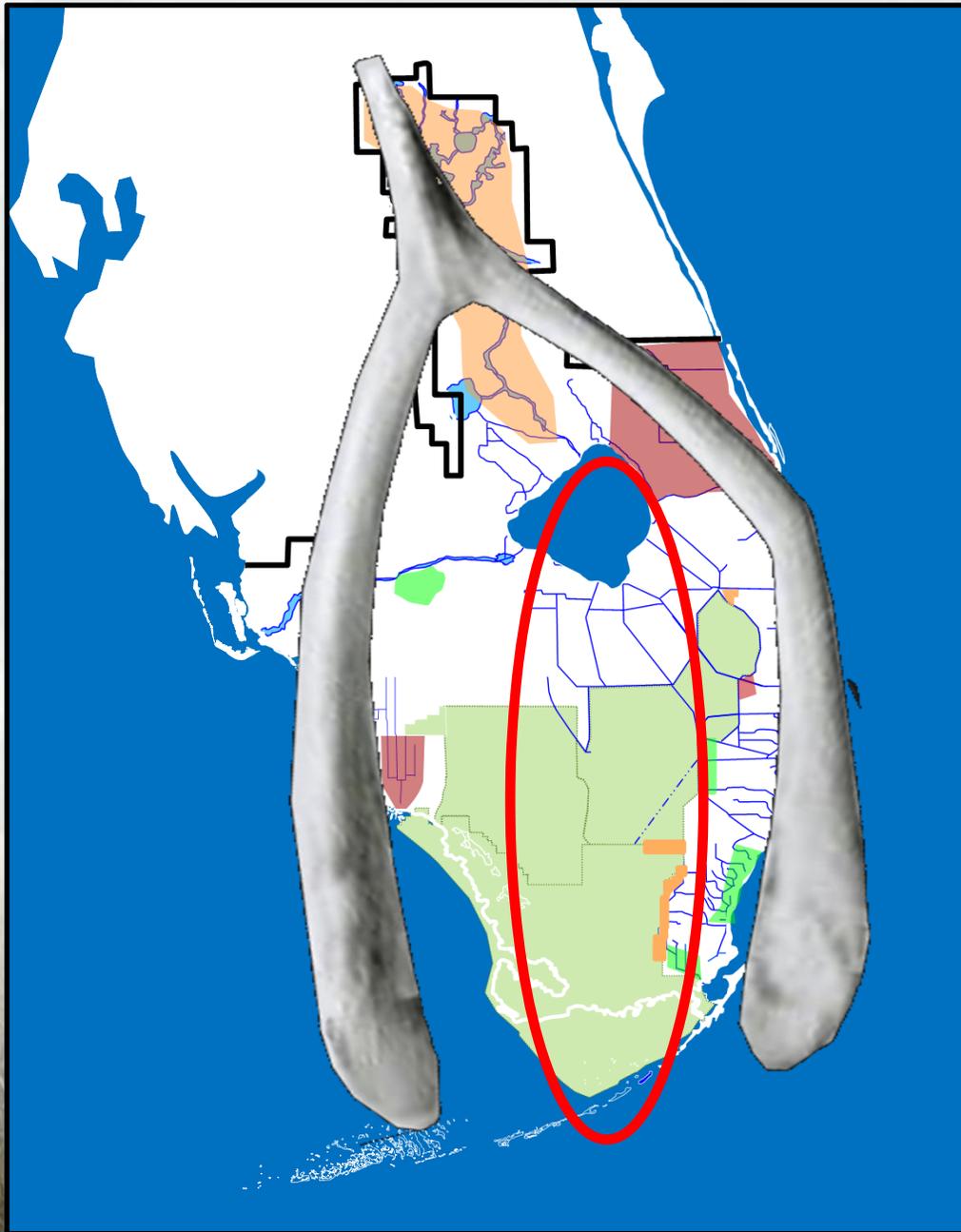


“WCA-3 is a growing focus of public controversy and management concern because of its location and the way the entire system is operated to manage water distribution and quality...To some degree, this situation has been exacerbated by the current operation of the compartmentalized Everglades...”

Independent Scientific Review: 2010 Report Recommendations



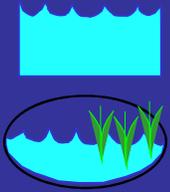
“...projects should be scheduled with the aim of achieving substantial restoration benefits as soon as possible...Decomp, seepage management, and critical foundation projects...offer significant restoration benefits...but the benefits cannot be fully realized without the provision of additional water, which will require substantial new storage and associated water quality treatment”



What's Next

- "Central Everglades" in context of "center" of the wishbone
- Goals
 - Reduce damaging discharges to east and west coast estuaries
 - Restore habitat in the central Everglades, focusing on the "River of Grass"
 - Deliver "new" sources of clean water to the Central Everglades and ENP
- Considerations
 - Land Available
 - Water Quality
 - Herbert Hoover Dike
 - Savings Clause

CERP Components Under Consideration



Storage, treatment and conveyance in the EAA



Decomartmentalization and sheetflow enhancement



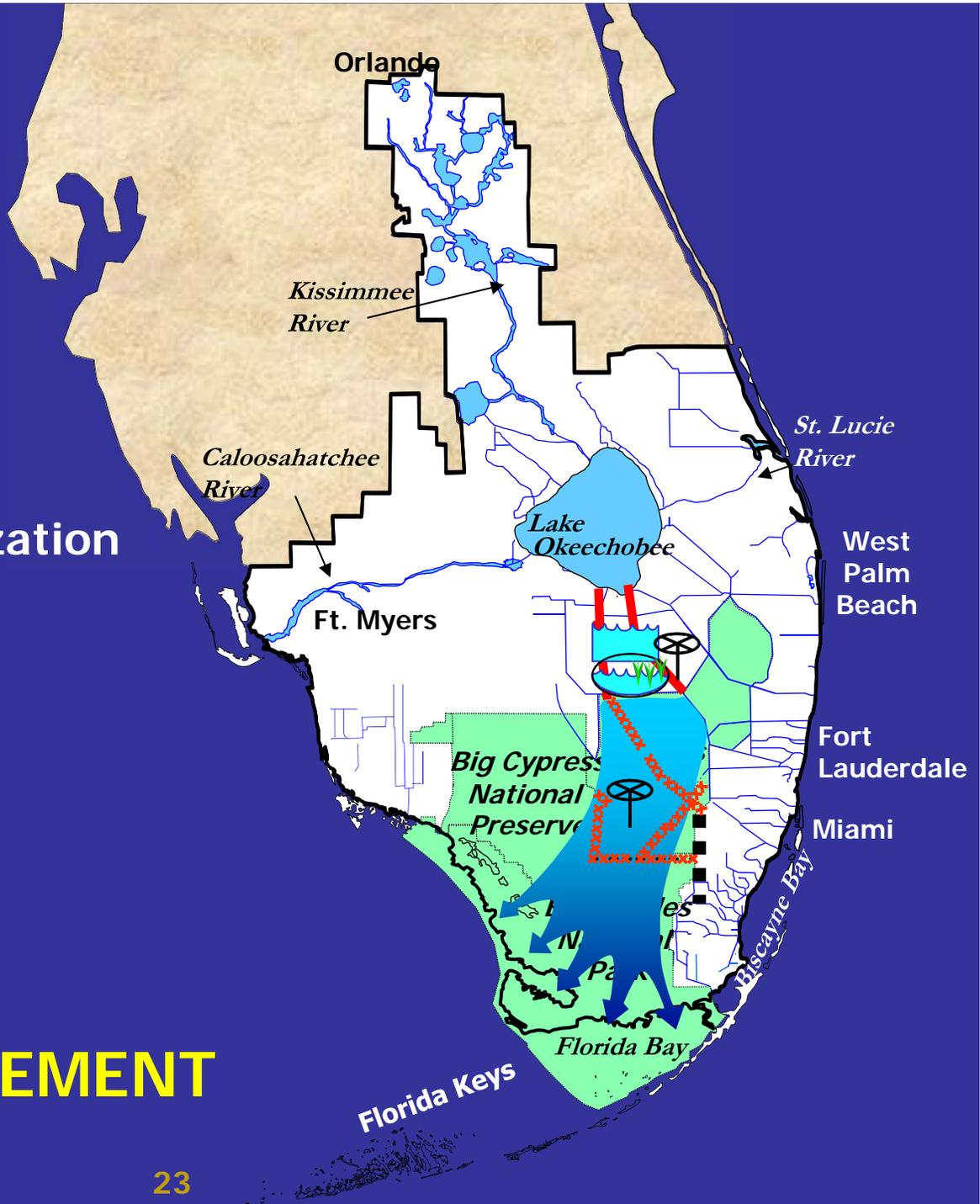
Seepage management



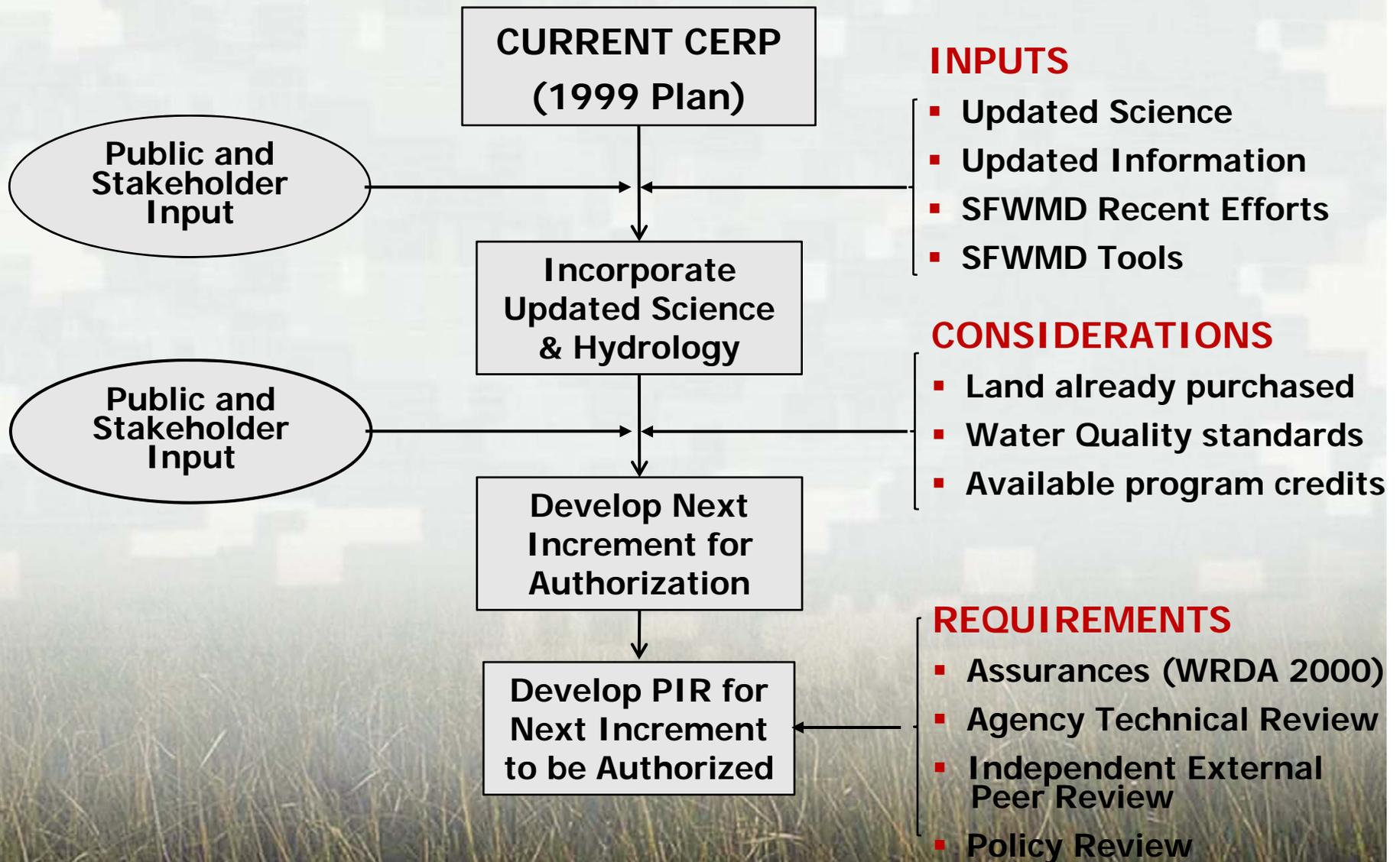
Operational Changes



Feasible 1st INCREMENT



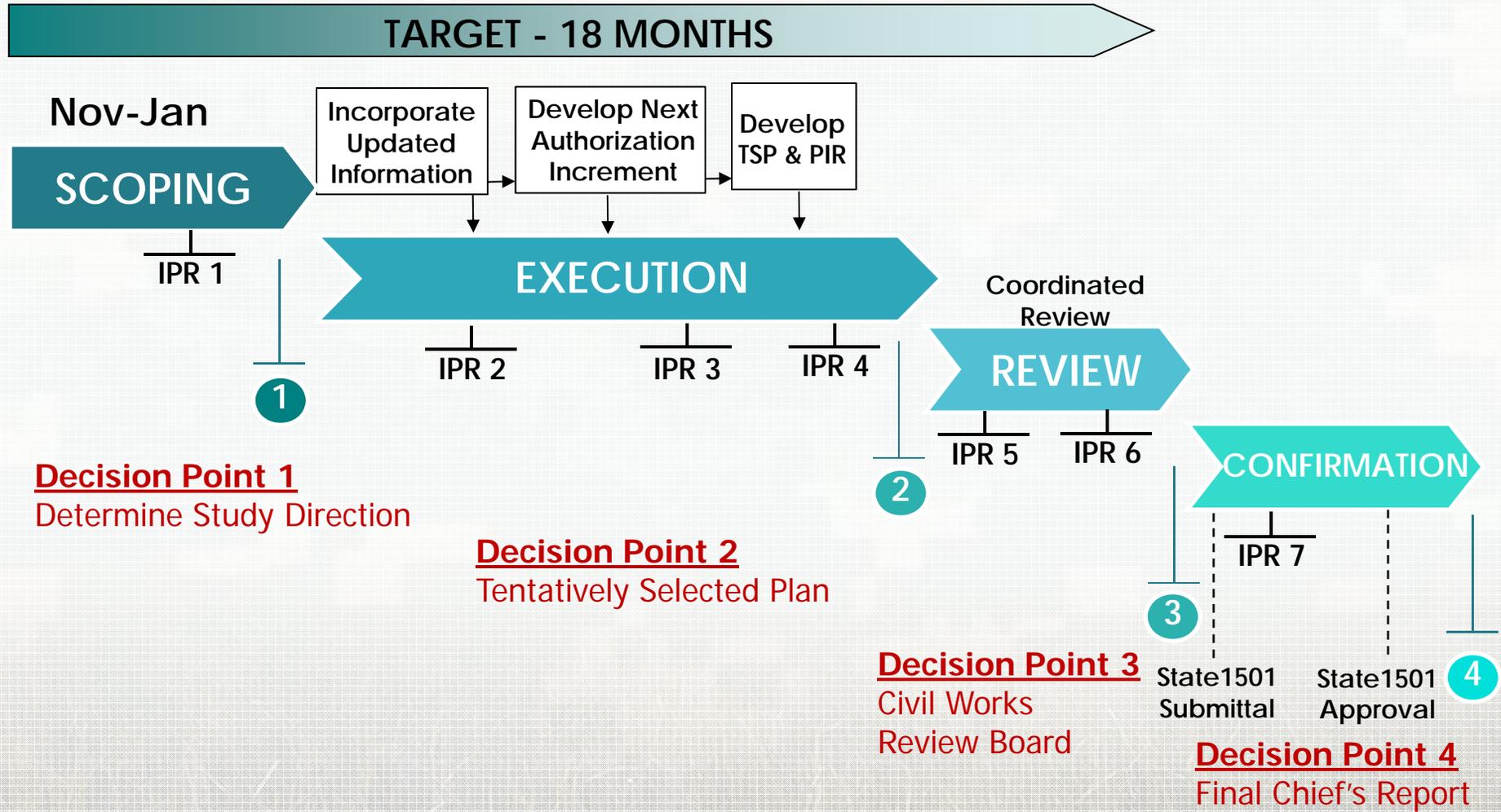
Central Everglades Planning Project



Key Points About the Central Everglades Planning Project

- We are not starting CERP over
 - Incorporate updated information and science
 - Prepare PIR for next project(s) to be authorized
- We will use existing legal authorities
 - NEPA still applies
 - WRDA 2000 requirements still apply
 - Programmatic Regulations still apply
 - Authorization and Appropriation processes still apply
 - Independent External Peer Review laws still apply
- We will use models and tools developed by SFWMD for their recent planning process
- We will accomplish this study using the Corps Planning Transformation pilot process
 - Level of analysis appropriate to the decision with acceptable risk

Central Everglades Schedule



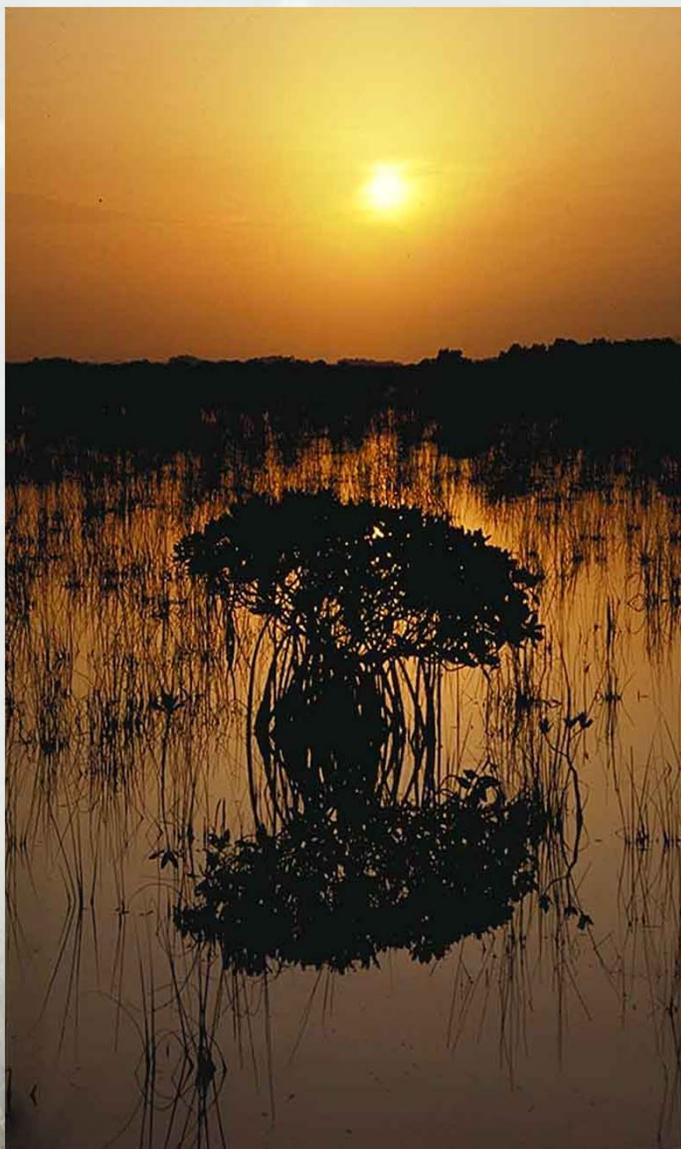
IPR: In-Progress Review with Corps Leadership

Current Status

- Study process initiated on November 1
 - Planning Team is up and running
 - Initial interagency PDT meeting scheduled for November 30
- Study scope and schedule is being finalized
- Scoping letter (NEPA) sent
 - Scoping workshops scheduled for December 14 and 15
- Preliminary information being developed for discussion
 - Inventory of models and tools
 - Without project condition assumptions
 - Development of Decision Risk Register
 - Development of Review Plan
- Working Group has adopted protocol for enhanced public and stakeholder engagement
 - Initial workshop scheduled for November 30
 - Second workshop scheduled for December 16
- Team preparing for Vertical Team meetings
 - In-Progress Review 1 – early December
 - Decision Point 1 – early January

Discussion Topics for Next Meeting on December 16th

- Planning assumptions
- Planning objectives
- Performance measures
- Evaluation methods



DISCUSSION