

Restoring America's Everglades



– *Conserving the Cape Sable Seaside Sparrow* –

Briefing for the South Florida Ecosystem Restoration Task Force

Key West, Florida

December 7, 2006



U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

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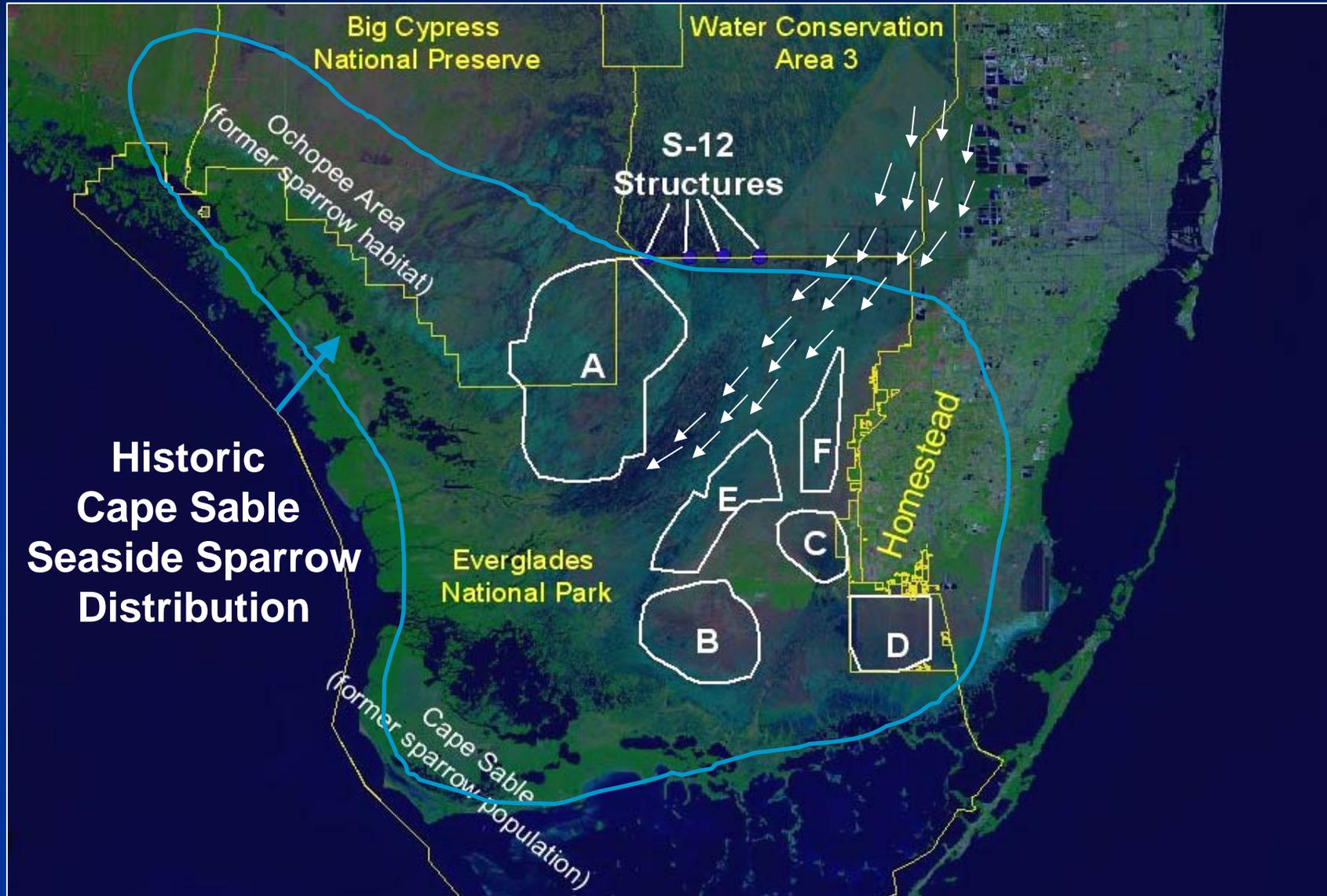
Outline of Presentation

- I. Sparrow Background and Status
- II. Using the Best Available Science
- II. Critical Habitat Designation
- IV. Peer Review and Public Comment
- V. Challenges, Opportunities, and Next Steps
- VI. Take Home Messages



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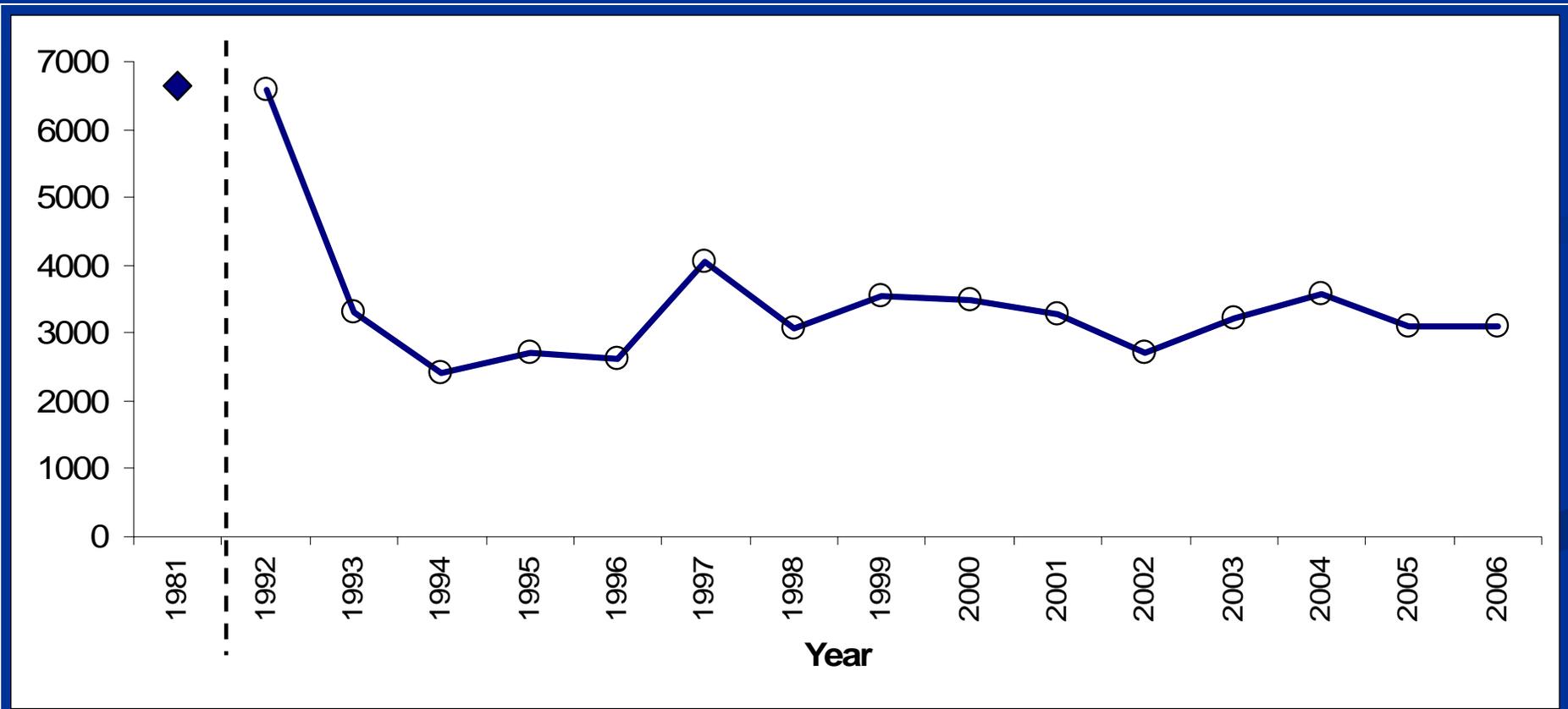


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Sparrow Background and Status

Total Sparrow Population, 1981-2006



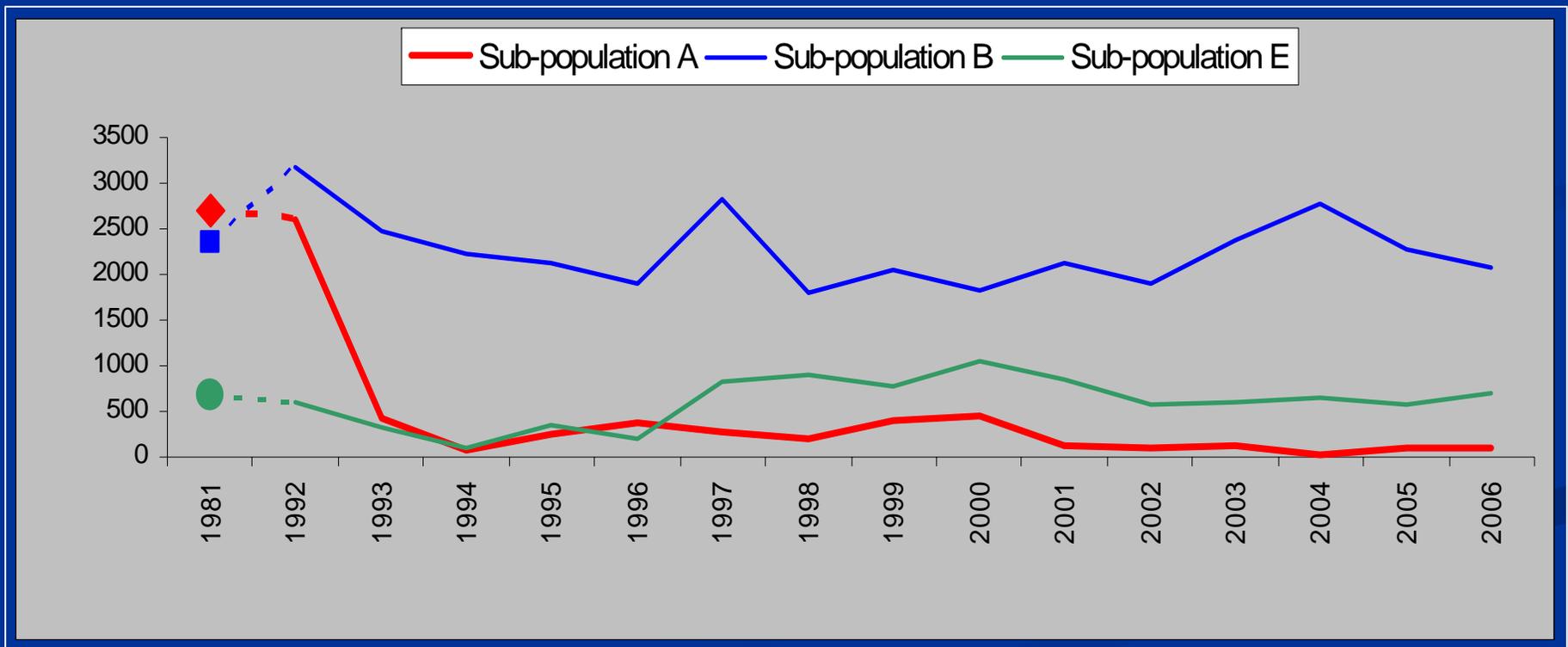


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Sparrow Background and Status

Large Sparrow Populations, 1981-2006





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Using the Best Available Science

Avian Ecology Workshop, 2003

- Cape Sable Seaside Sparrow
- Snail Kite
- Wood Stork
- Roseate Spoonbill





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Using the Best Available Science

Avian Ecology Workshop – Findings

- “Strong Indications” Restoration Will Benefit All Four Species
- Restore Natural Flow from WCA 3A to 3B and into NE Shark River Slough
- Uncertainties in Transition to Full CERP, Especially for Sparrows
- Monitoring and Adaptive Management Are Keys to Success



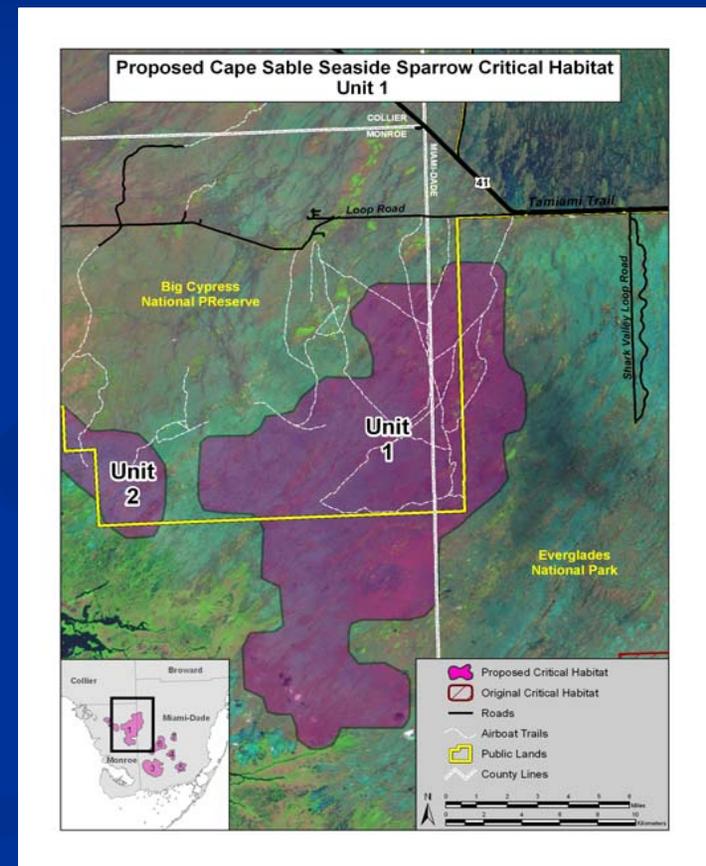


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Critical Habitat for the Sparrow

- What Is Critical Habitat?
- Why Are We Proposing to Revise the Boundary?
 - *First Designated in 1977*
 - *Petition to Revise in 1999*
 - *Court Order to Publish Proposal by October 2006*
 - *Court Order to Complete Rule by October 2007*

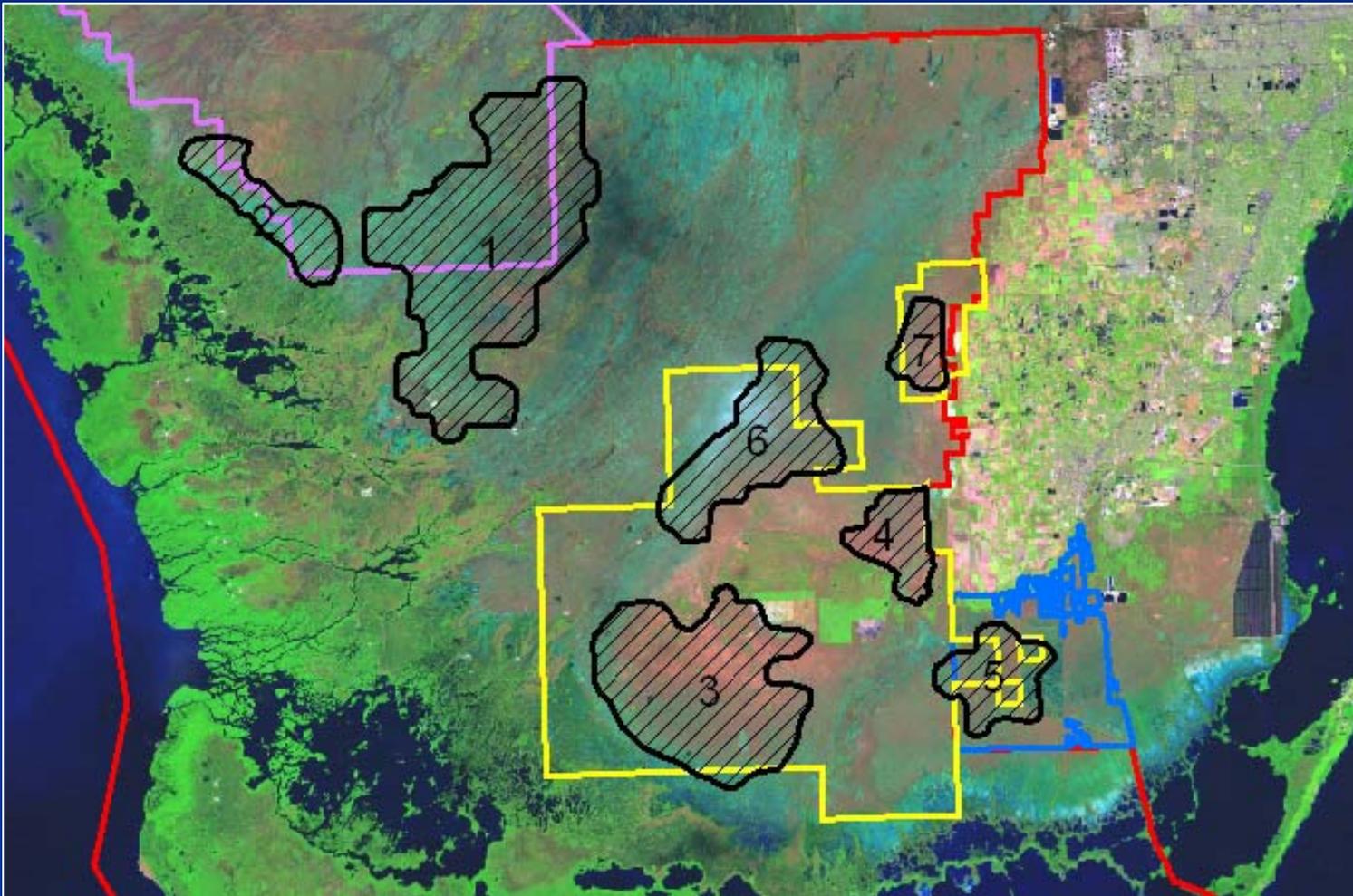




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Critical Habitat for the Sparrow





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Critical Habitat for the Sparrow

Proposed Changes

- Sparrow Survey Data
- Detailed Habitat Information
- Primary Constituent Elements
 - *Openness – “Horizon Effect”*
 - *Soils and Vegetation*
 - *Hydrology*
- Net Decrease of 40,000 Acres
- Subpopulation A





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Critical Habitat for the Sparrow

Proposed Rule Review Process

- 1st Public Comment Period Closes January 2
- Public Hearing in Winter/Spring
- Economic Analysis –
2nd Public Comment Period
- Independent Peer Review
 - *Miccosukee Tribe of Indians*
 - *FWC*
 - *SFWMD*
 - *Nine Scientists in Total*



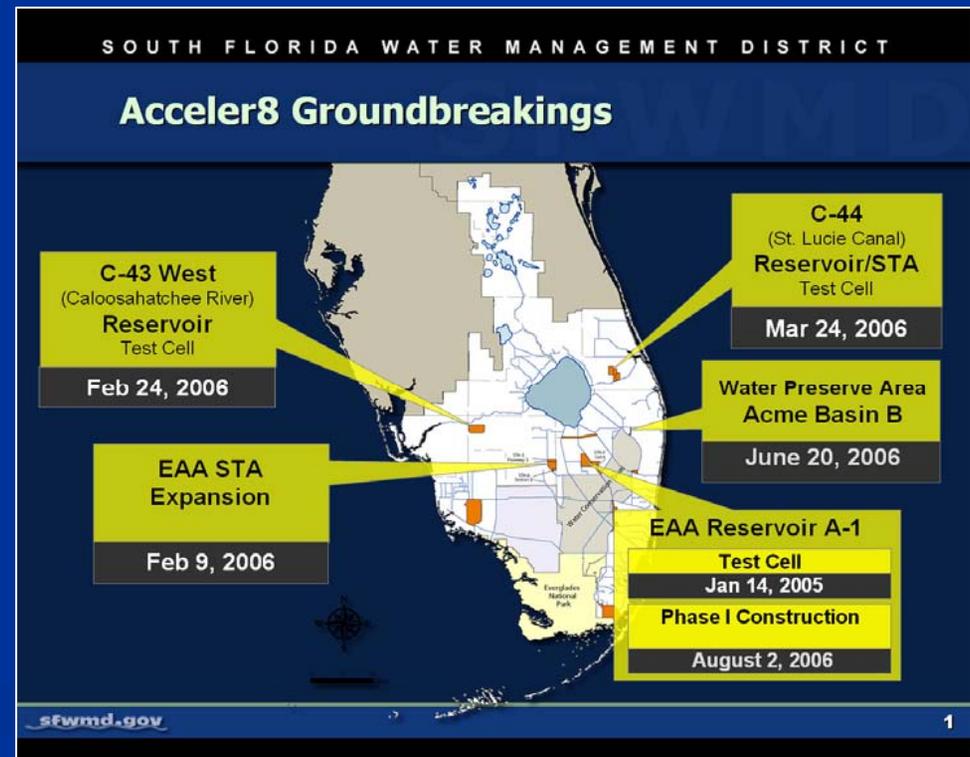


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Challenges, Opportunities, and Next Steps

- The Transition to Everglades Restoration
- Modeling Limitations:
Natural System Model
- Marl Prairie Measures
- Adaptive Management
- Advances in Science
- Build Upon Avian Ecology Workshop





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Take Home Messages

- Maximizing Ecosystem Restoration Is Priority #1
- Safeguarding Against Jeopardy and Adverse Modification Required under ESA
- Best Available Science Suggests Everglades Will Benefit Multiple Species, Including Sparrows
- Start from a Solid Foundation and Adaptively Manage to Maximize Overall Goals



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