

Everglades Restoration: What's Next?

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RESTORING AMERICA'S EVERGLADES

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Topics

- Introduction
- Integrated Delivery Schedule – Current Status
- Updated Information and Science
- Emerging Opportunities
- Everglades Restoration – What's Next

Getting the Water Right

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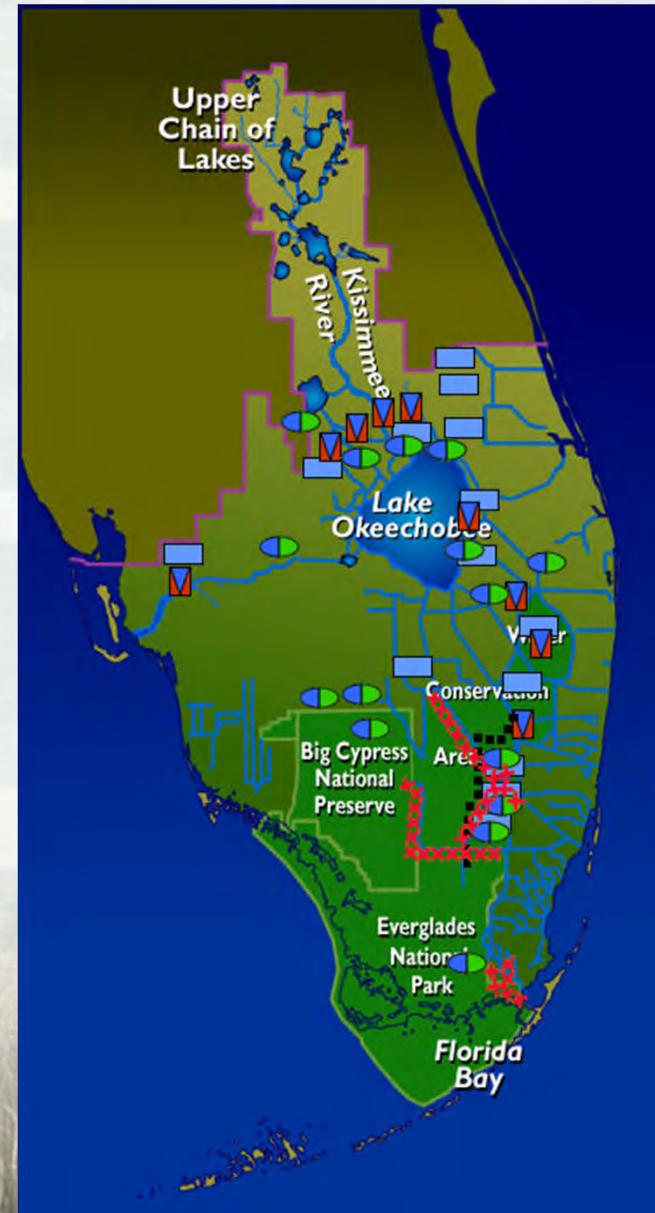
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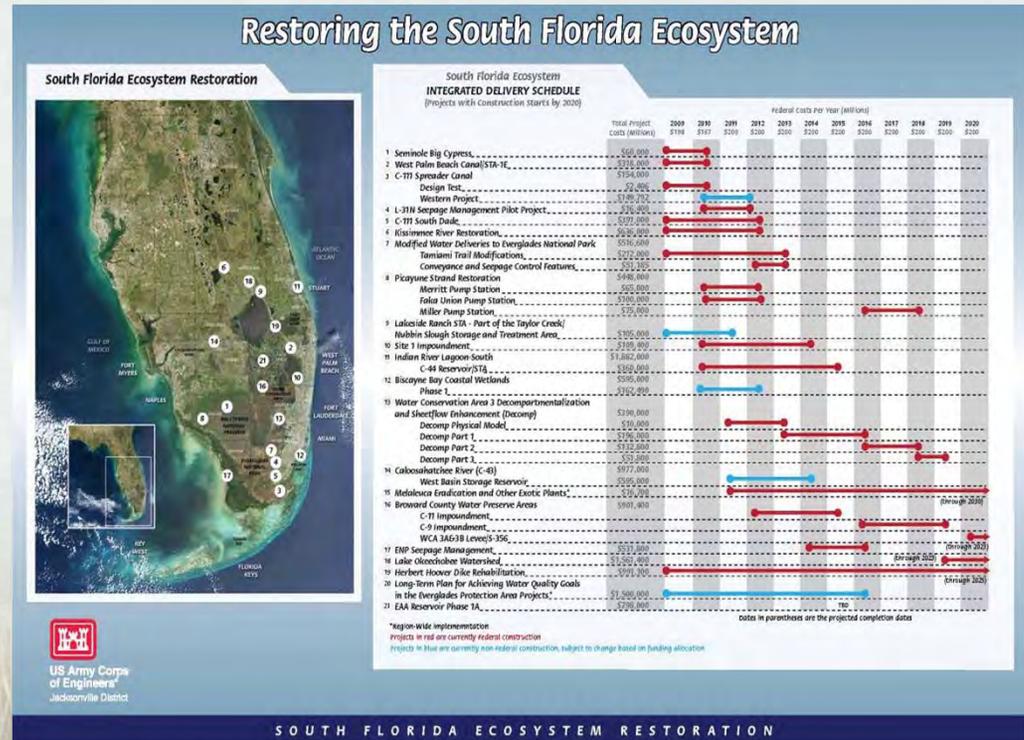
Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan

- 68 Components
 - Storage:  Surface  ASR
 - STAs for water quality 
 - Seepage management 
 - Removing barriers to flow 
 - Revised operations
- 30+ year implementation

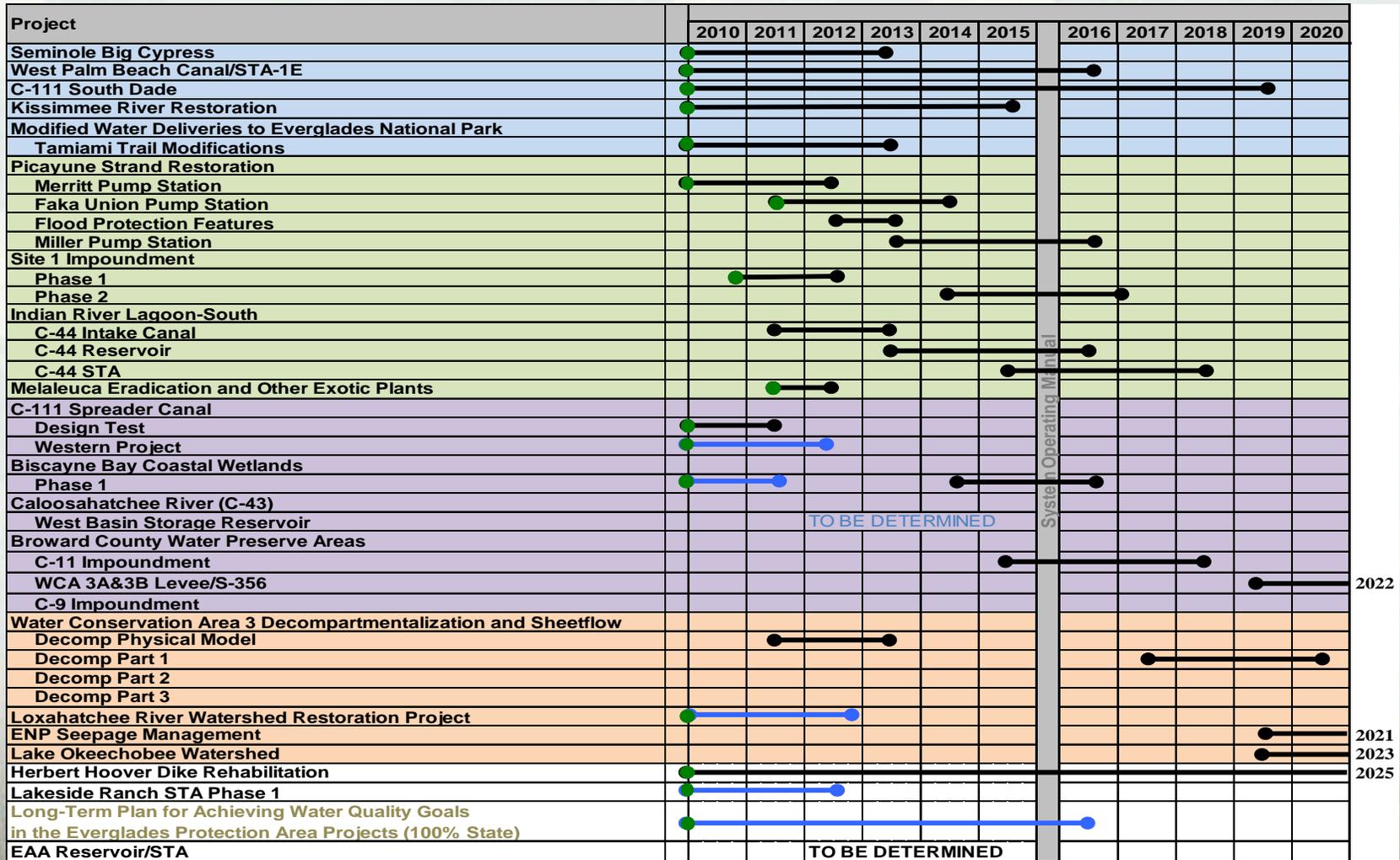


Program Sequencing: Integrated Delivery Schedule

- Focuses on projects to be under construction by 2020
- Guides sequencing of Federal and non-federal projects
- Phases large projects to provide early benefits and learning



Integrated Delivery Schedule

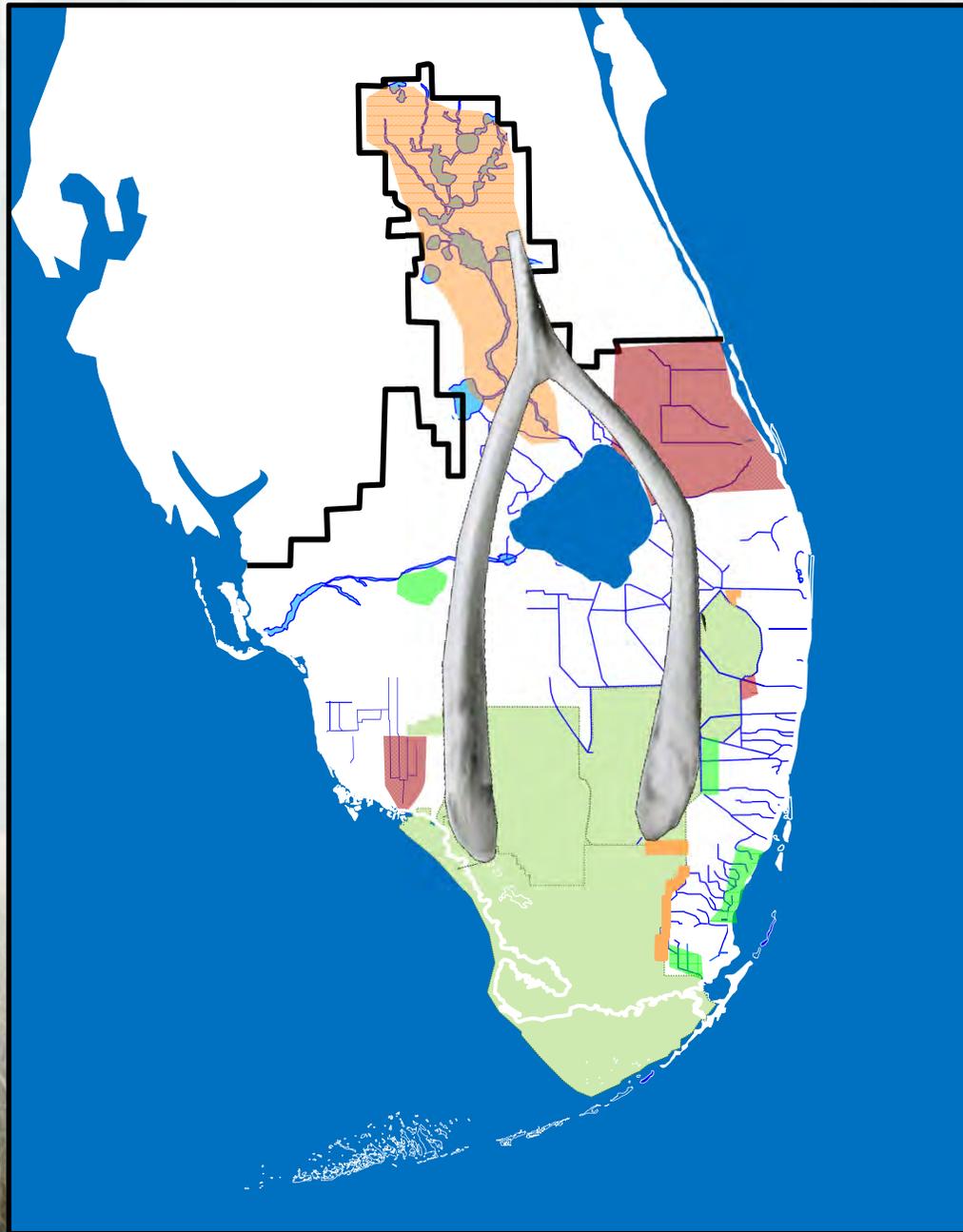


- Projects are currently federal construction.
- Projects are currently non-federal construction, subject to change based on further authorization and funding.
- Construction has started on these projects.

- Foundation Projects
- Generation 1 Projects
- Generation 2 Projects
- Generation 3 Projects
- Other Projects

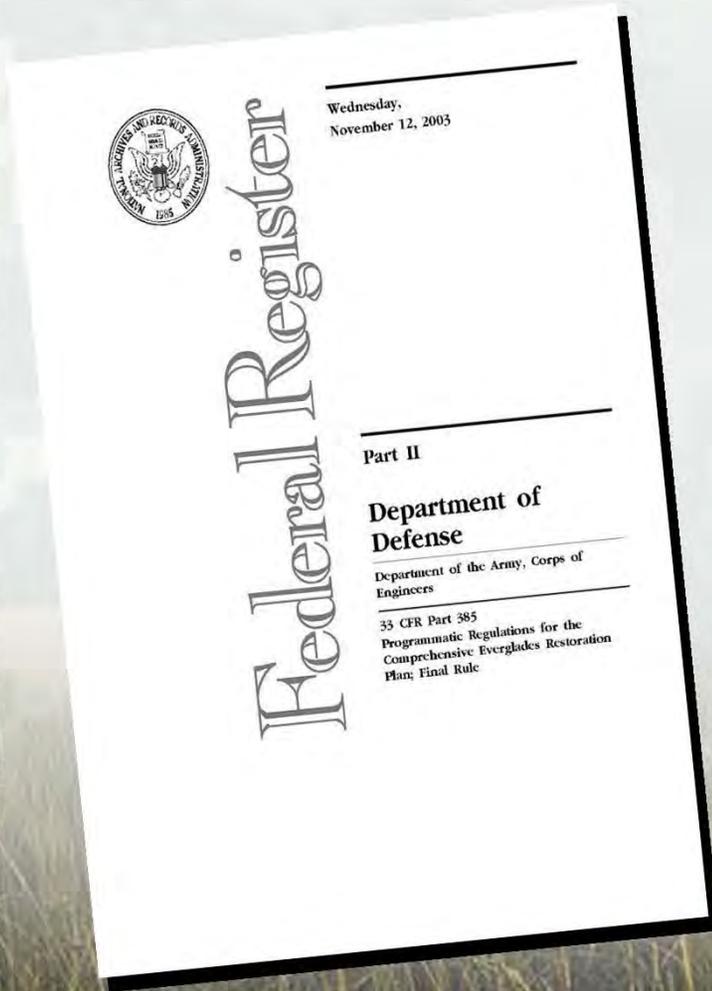
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August 2011



Implementation of Restoration Projects

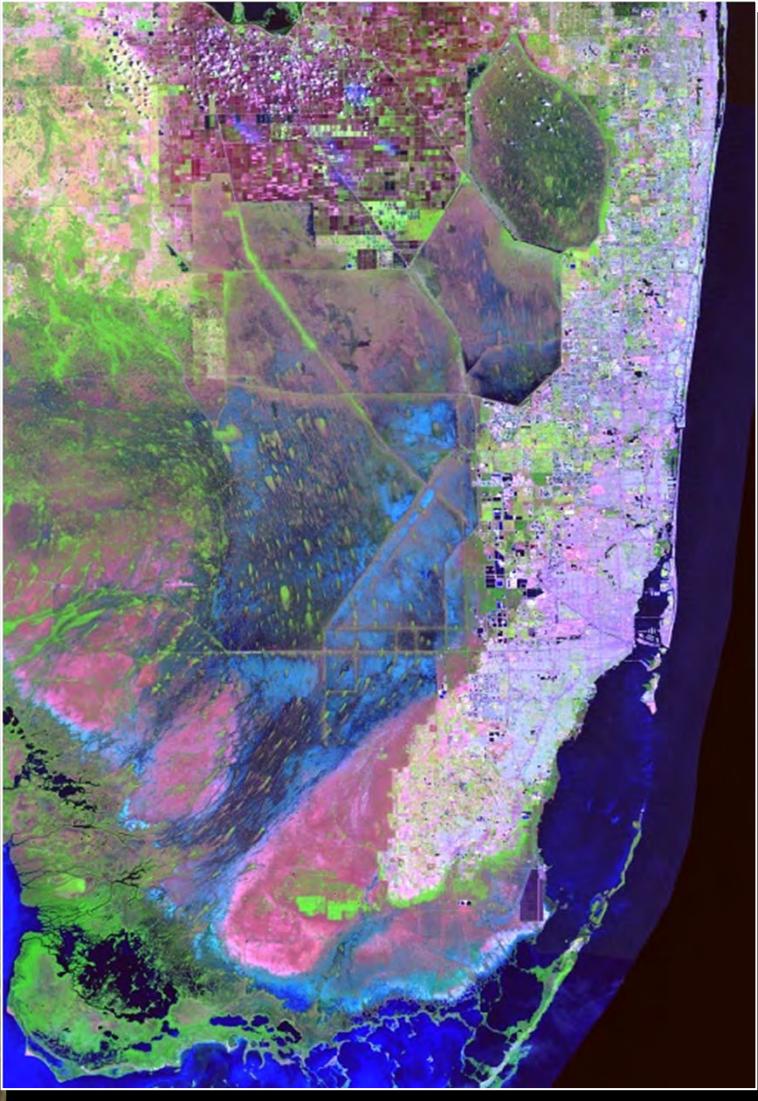
WRDA 2000 Section 601(h)(3)(C)



“ Programmatic regulations shall establish a process...

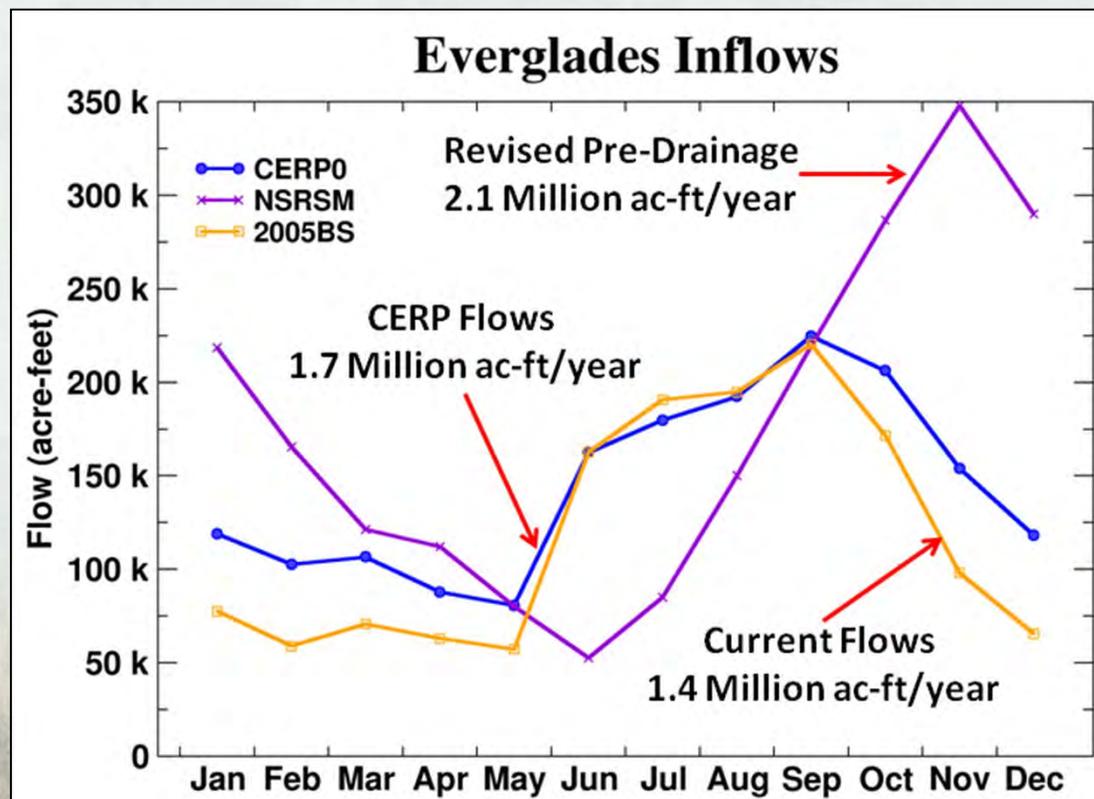
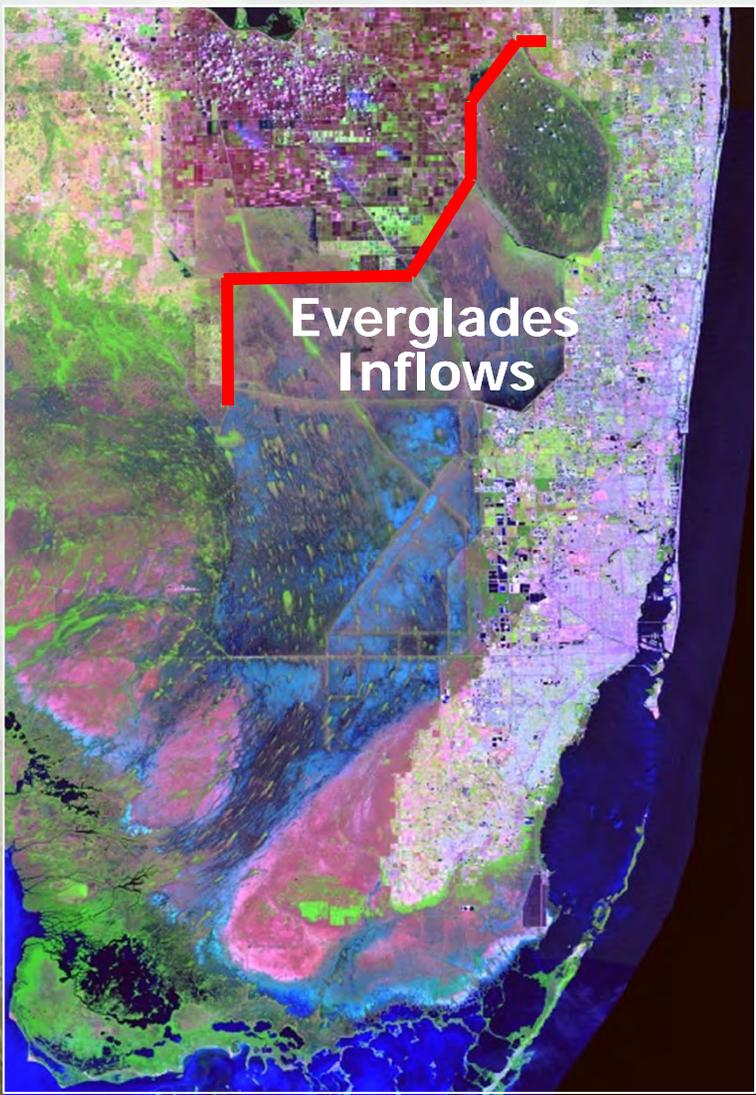
(II) To ensure that new information resulting from changed or unforeseen circumstances, new scientific or technical information or information that is developed through the principles of adaptive management contained in the Plan...are integrated into the implementation of the Plan”

Refining Our Understanding of the Pre-Drainage Everglades

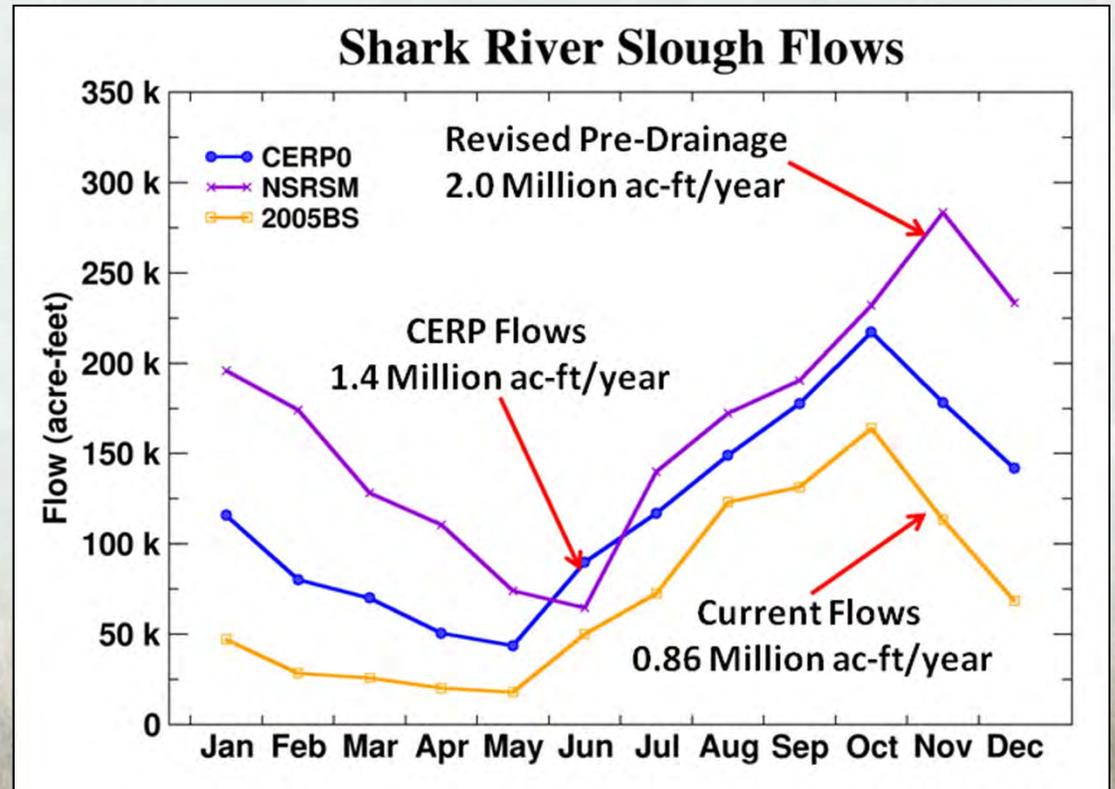
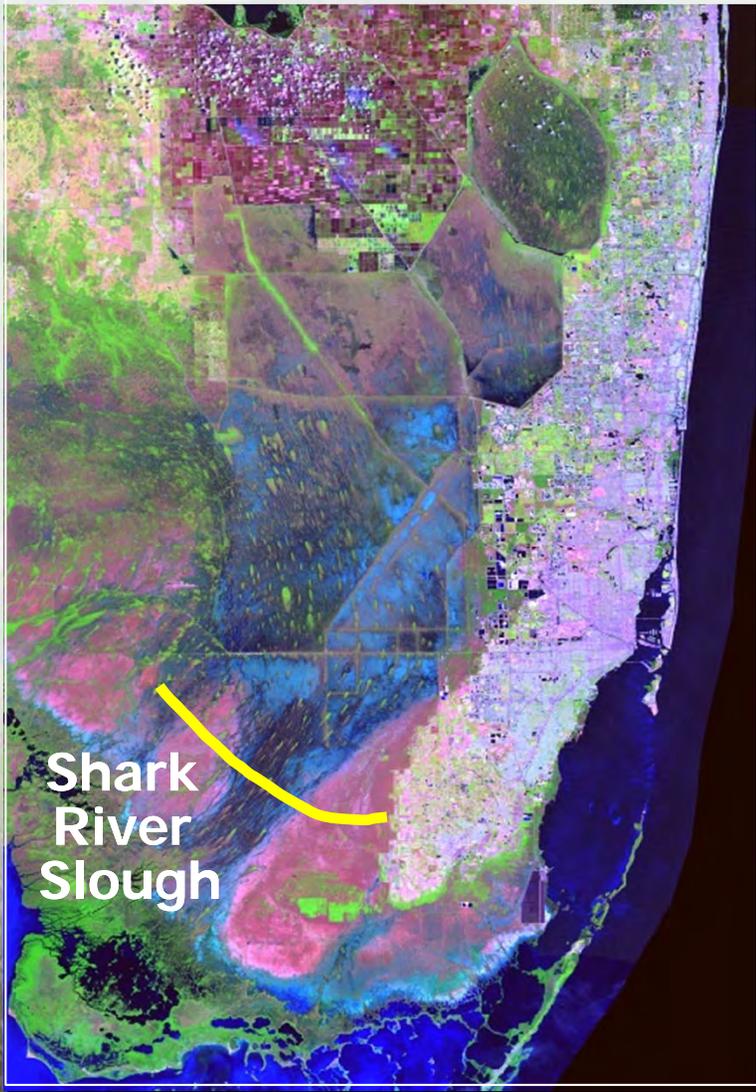


- Extensive information from paleo-ecological indicators and pre/post-drainage information that describes the evolution of the Everglades ecosystem
- A growing consensus of a wetter Everglades ecosystem (20th century), and how this influences restoration targets (Natural System Modeling)
- The importance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

Revised Water Flow Targets for the Everglades

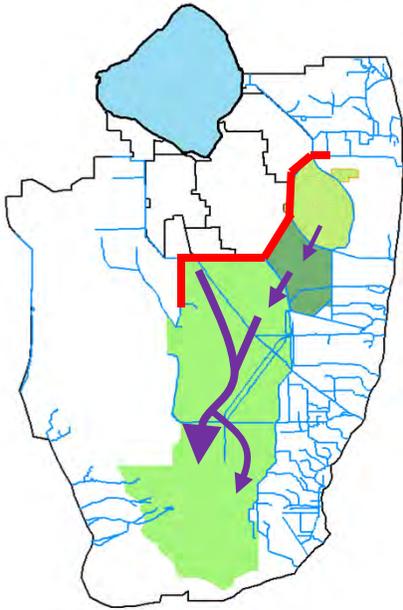


Revised Water Flow Targets for the Everglades

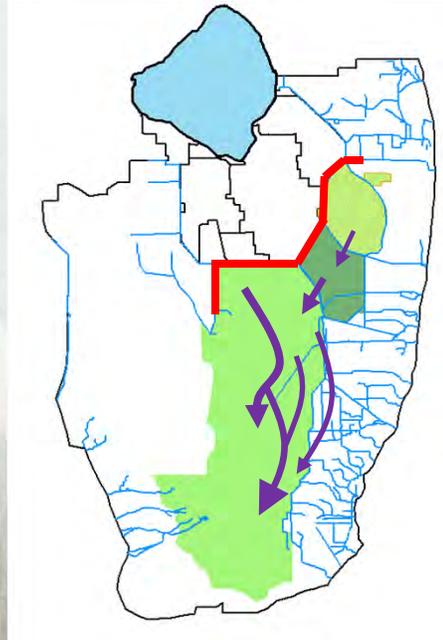


System Configuration and Primary Flow Directionality Scenarios Developed

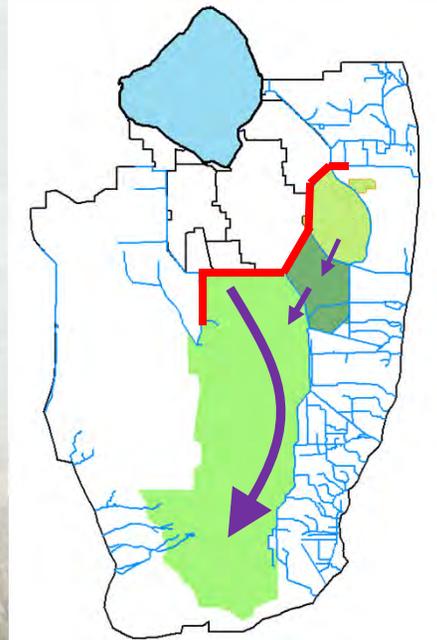
Current Conditions



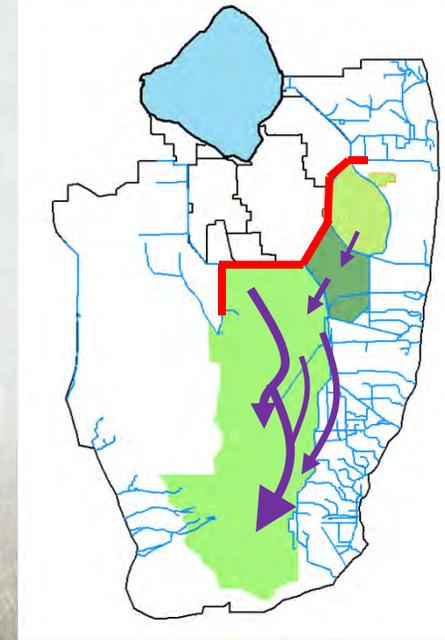
Scenario 1: CERP



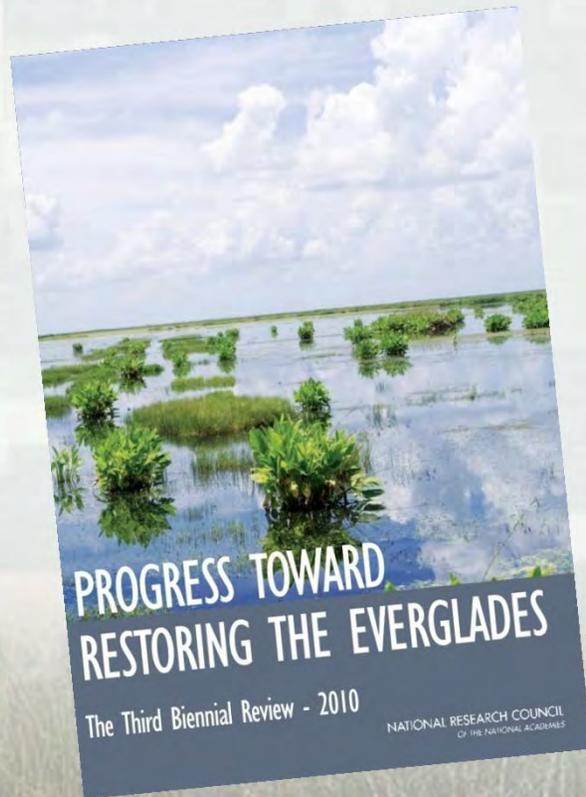
Scenario 2: Overland Flow



Scenario 3: Lake Belt

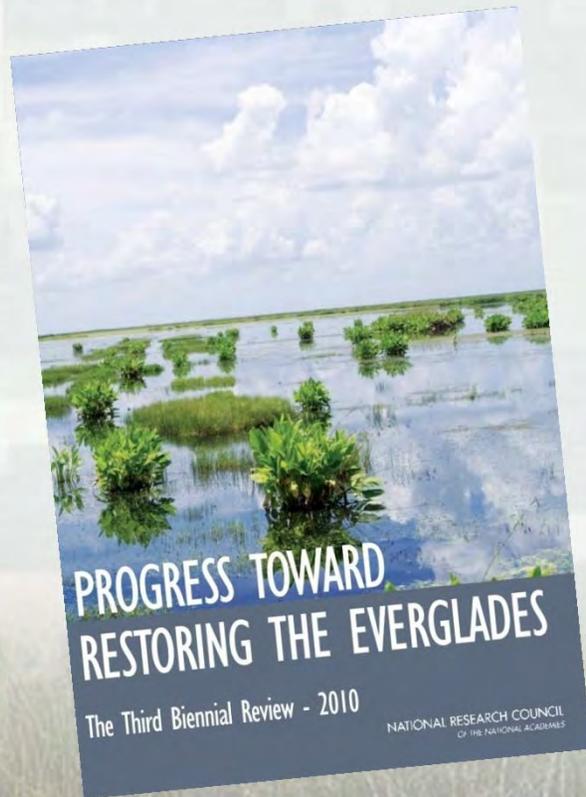


Independent Scientific Review: 2010 Report Recommendations



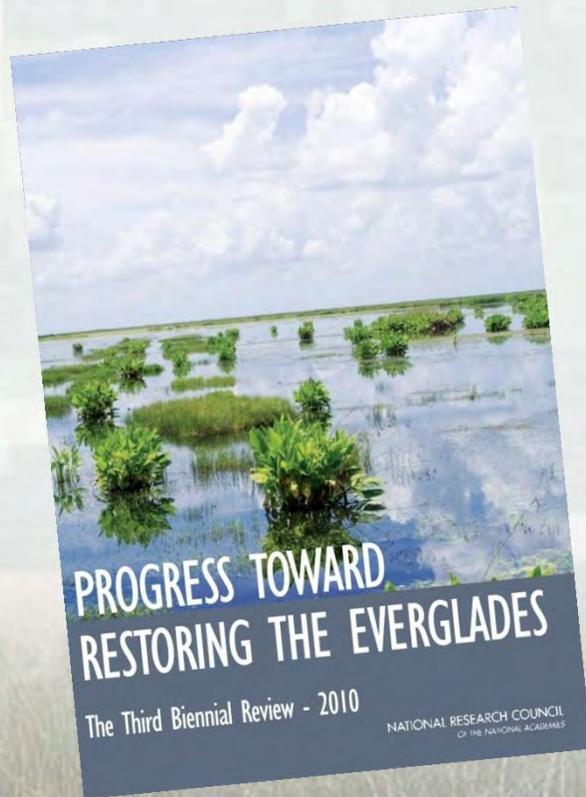
“Increasing water storage (and associated water quality treatment) is a major near-term priority....the Integrated Delivery Schedule does not currently have a plan for water storage to support planned projects in the remnant Everglades ecosystem...”

Independent Scientific Review: 2010 Report Recommendations



“...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”

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...”

CERP Planning Challenges

- Project Implementation Reports take too long to complete
- Third Generation projects face specific challenges
 - Projects cannot be formulated in isolation from one another (e.g. Decomp and Seepage Management)
 - Justification of individual projects

Current Corps Planning Process: The National Perspective

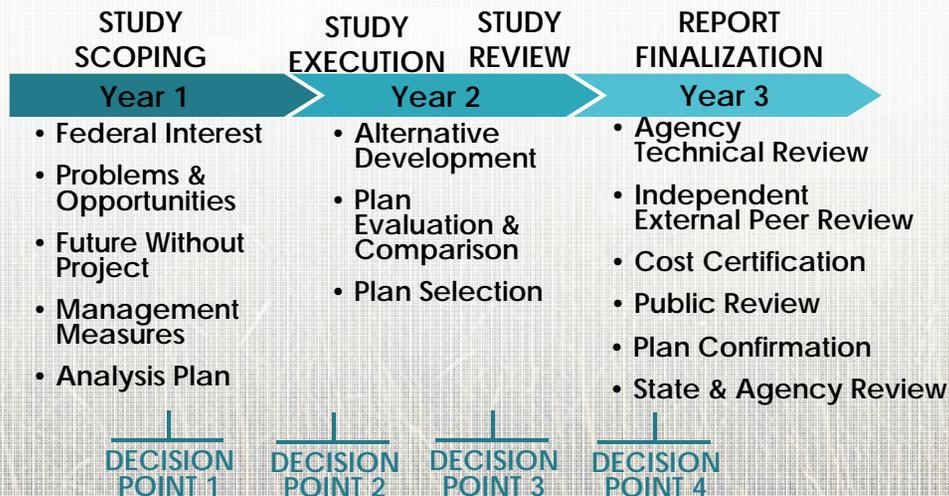
- Overly detailed, expensive, and takes a long time!
- The amount of time and data being invested in studies are not leading to a better product or decision
- Sponsors and Congress, as well as the Corps, are increasingly frustrated with the situation

Preauthorization Study Process

CURRENT PLANNING PROCESS: 6+ YEARS (approximate timeframes)



REVISED PLANNING PROCESS: 2+ YEAR (approximate timeframes)



The revised process consolidates key decisions into the early part of the study process, allowing for more clear scoping and focused attention on relevant details. It integrates early decision making with more flexible analysis and emphasizes focused risk management strategies.

Planning Process Transformation

- New process is about changing Corps decision making processes
 - Focuses on early decision making
 - Focuses on robust, clear scoping of analyses and decision-making criteria
 - Reduces unnecessary detail
 - Early vertical coordination
 - Designed to shave years off of the process

Planning Process Transformation: National Pilot Program

- Select up to 5-7 Pilot Projects Nationwide
- Demonstrate effectiveness and efficiencies of the new Civil Works Planning paradigm
- Inform future planning guidance
- Develop sustainable, replicable processes
- Senior OASA(CW) and HQUSACE program oversight

So...How Does This All Fit Together?

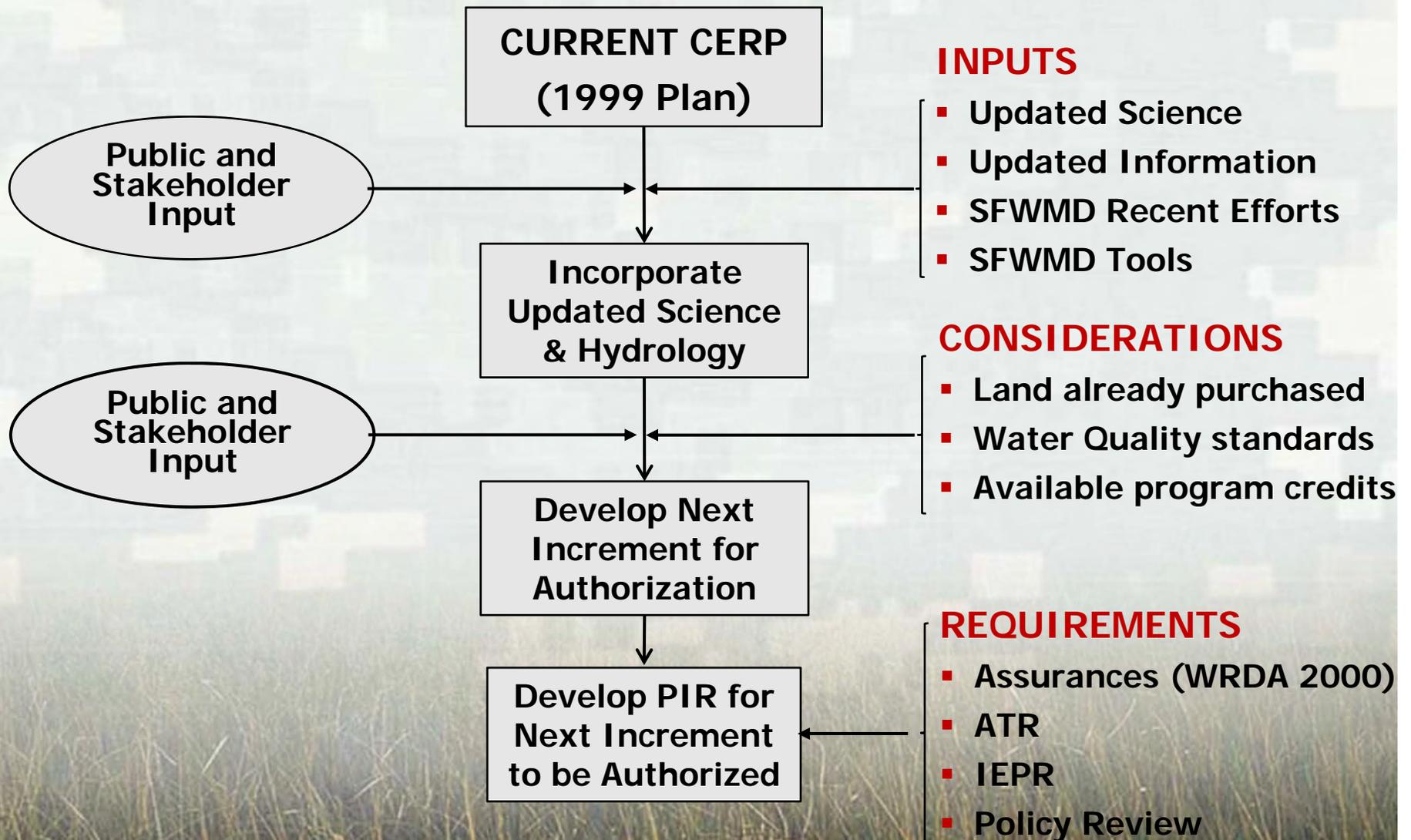
- We need to incorporate updated science and technical information into the Comprehensive Plan
- We need to begin work in the central Everglades – it's what's next for implementation (i.e. Third Generation)
- We have an opportunity to accomplish this work using the Corps Planning Transformation pilot process
- Initiate the Central Everglades Study

Central Everglades Study 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

Getting what's **LEFT** of
the **CENTER, RIGHT**

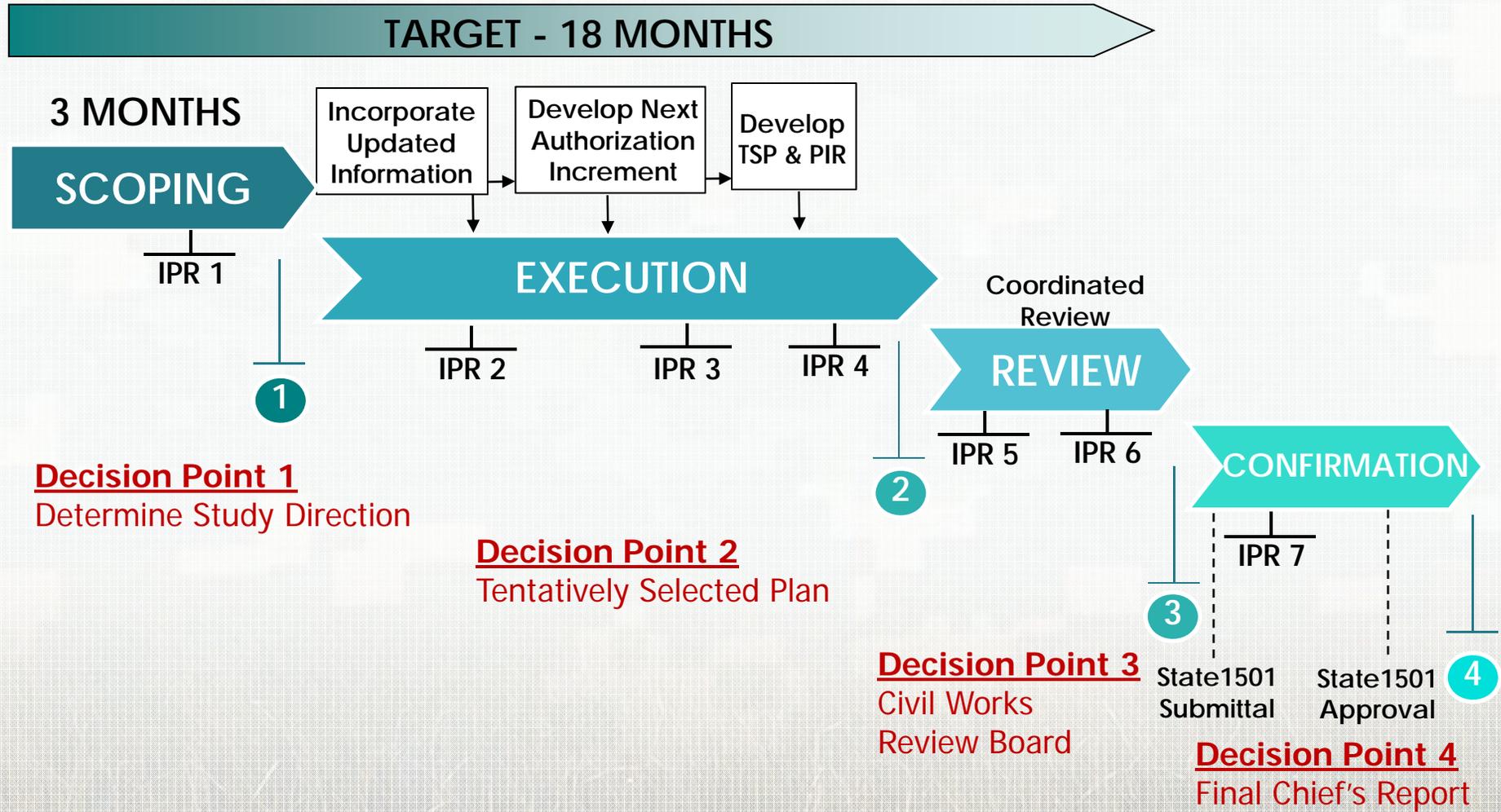
Central Everglades Study



Key Points About the Central Everglades Study

- 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

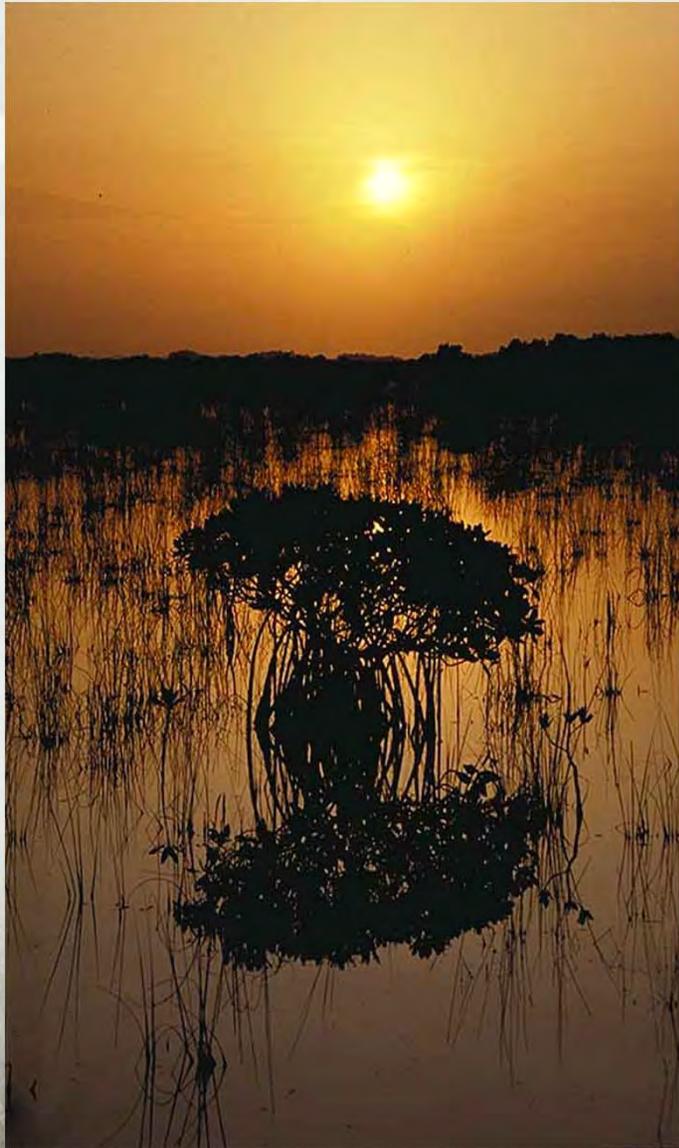
Central Everglades Study Process



IPR: In-Progress Review

Initial Study Activities

- Get team up and running
- Finalize study scope and schedule
- Complete inventory of tools and techniques
 - Initiate USACE model approval processes
- Initiate development of Review Plan
- Develop key assumptions
 - Policy/process assumptions
 - Future Without Project assumptions
- Initiate development of Risk Register
- Initiate public involvement process
- Prepare for Vertical Team meetings:
 - In-Progress Review 1 – early December
 - Decision Point 1 – early January



THANK YOU