

the journey to restore
America's
Everglades



Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (CERP) Overview



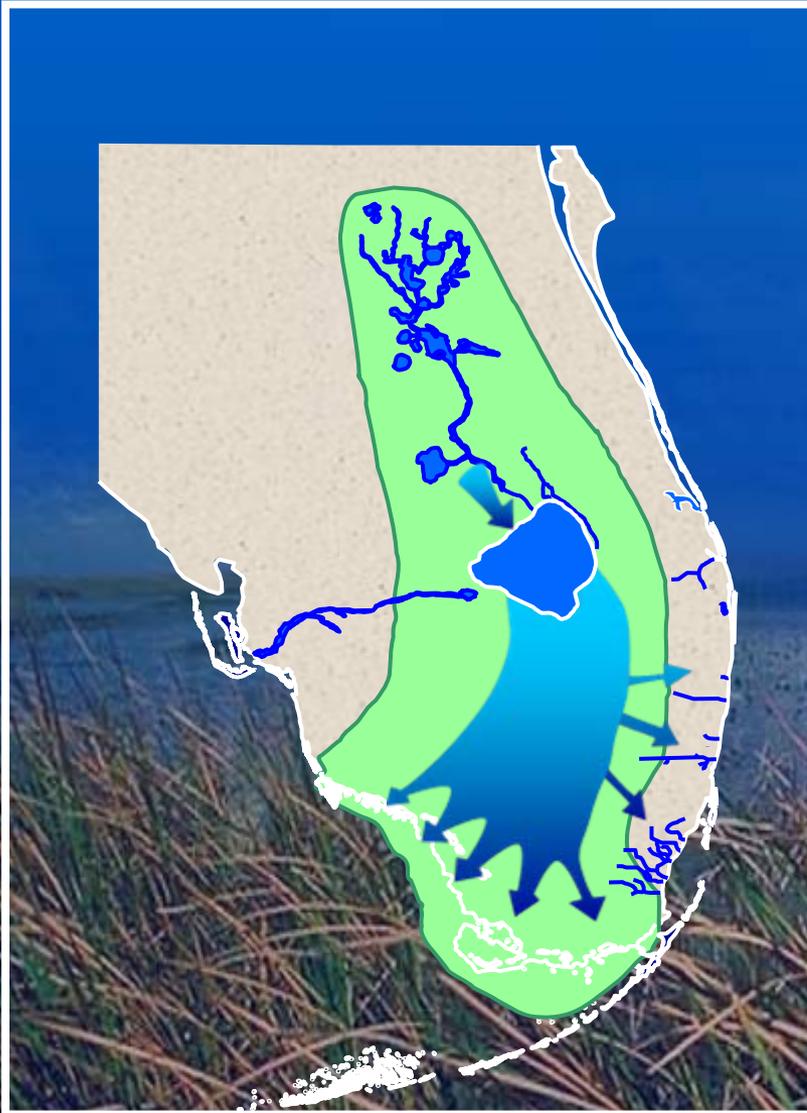
Mission

“The overarching purpose of the Plan is the restoration, preservation, and protection of the south Florida ecosystem while providing for other water-related needs of the region, including water supply and flood protection.”

- WRDA 2000

The Historic Everglades Ecosystem

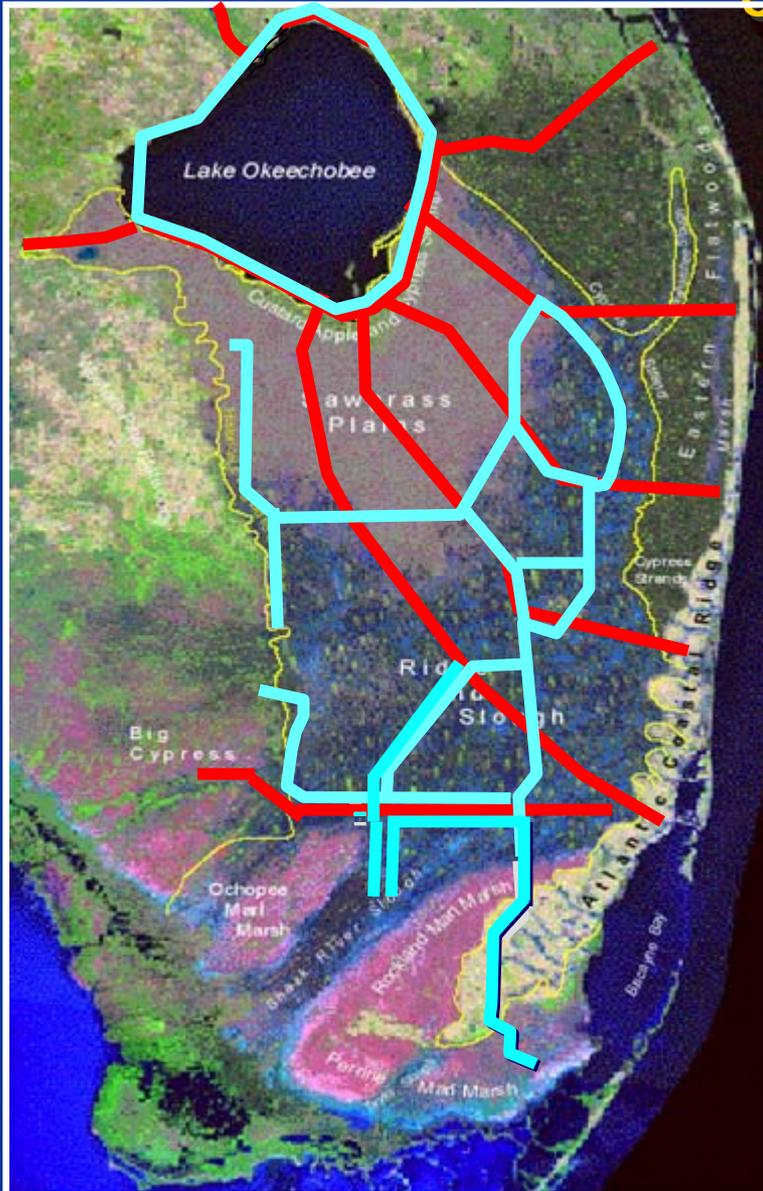
“River of Grass”



- Water connected the natural system, from top to bottom
- 9 million acres of wetlands providing a variety of wildlife and habitat
- Diverse mosaic of landscapes and seascapes

The Everglades: "They were changeless. They are changed "

- Marjory Stoneman Douglas



C&SF Project

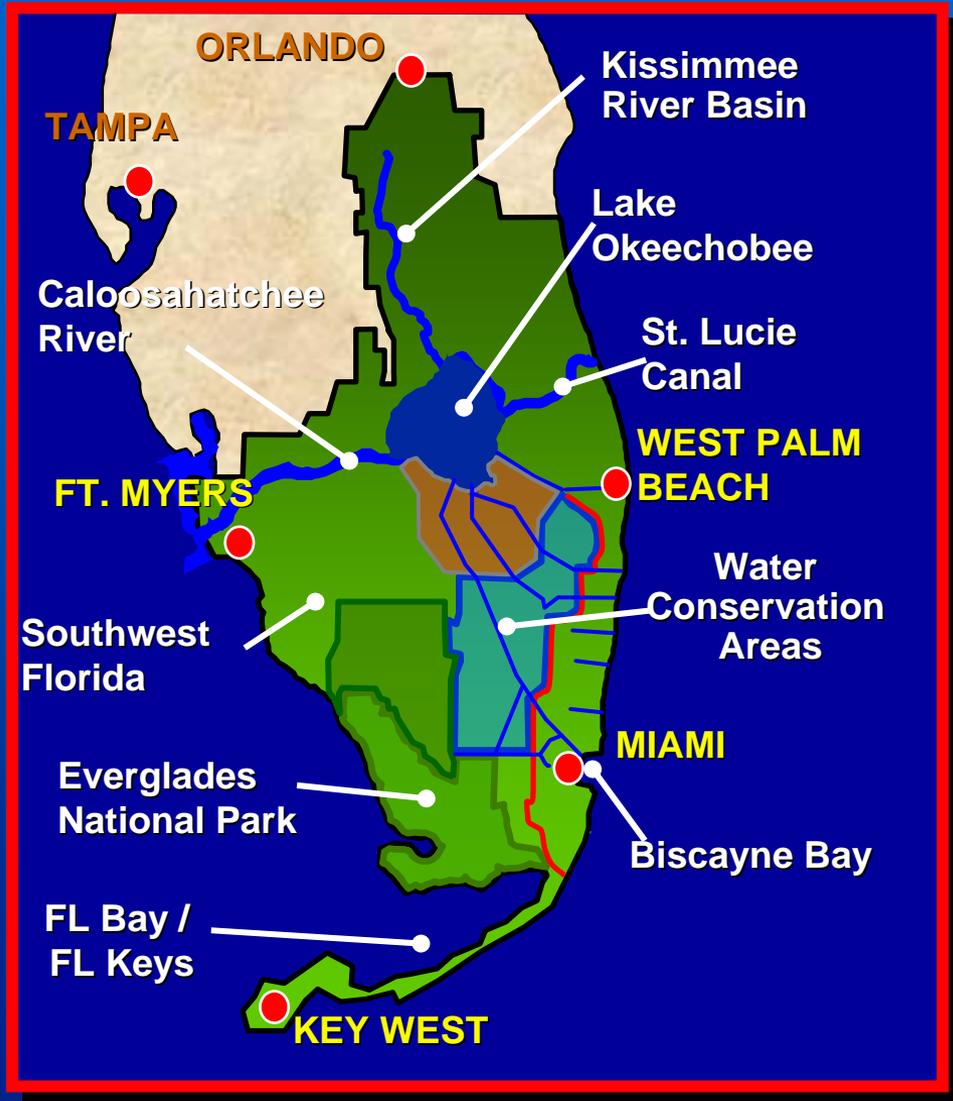


Construction of the South Dade System



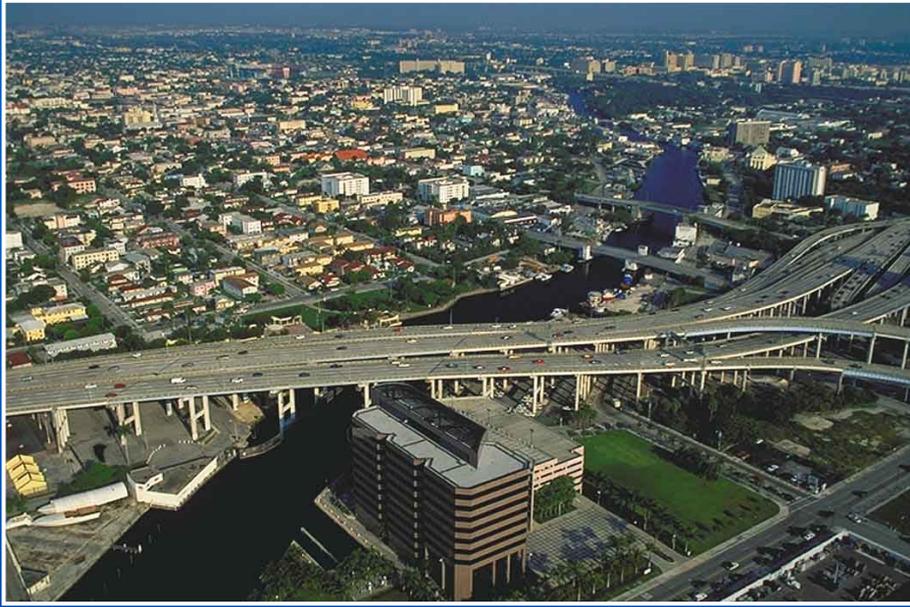
1965-1983

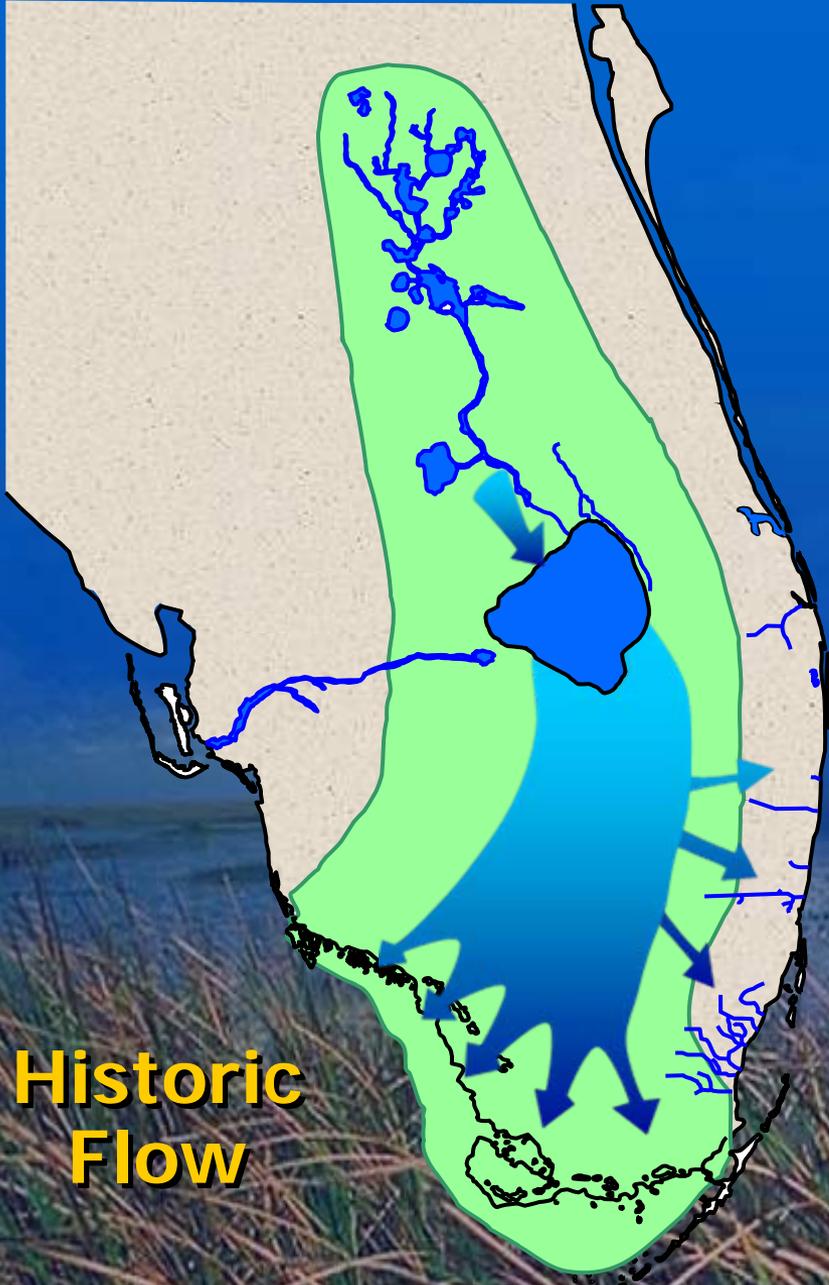
Central & Southern Florida Project (C&SF Project)



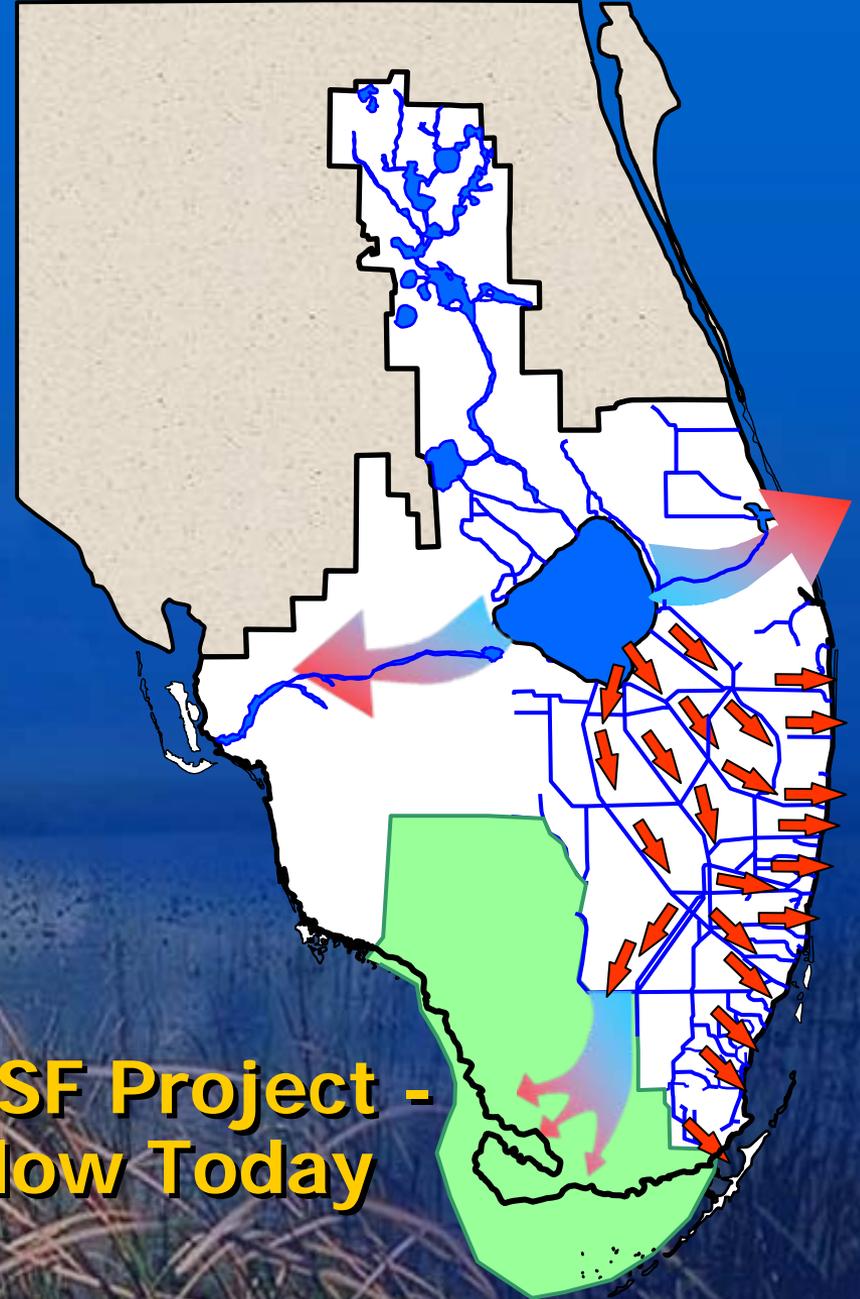
- **Authorization:** Flood Control Act of 1948 +
- **Purposes:** Flood control, water conservation and control, salt water intrusion, fish and wildlife, water supply to Everglades National Park, and environmental restoration
- **Features:** 46 bridges, 10 locks, 670 miles of canals, 809 miles of levees, 130 control and diversion structures, and 16 pump stations

South Florida Flourished





**Historic
Flow**



**C&SF Project -
Flow Today**



The expanding population increased demand for land, flood control, and water supply

An Ecosystem in Trouble

- Too much/too little water for the Everglades/south Florida ecosystem
- Massive reductions in wildlife including wading bird populations
- Degradation of water quality
- Repetitive water shortages and salt water intrusion
- Declining estuary health
- 1.7 billion gallons of water a day wasted to tide





What we are
doing about the
problem...

*Rescuing an Endangered Ecosystem:
The Plan to Restore America's Everglades*



*The Central and Southern Florida Project
Comprehensive Review Study
(The Restudy)*

On December 11, 2000, the President signed the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) of 2000, approving:

The Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (CERP)

- 68 Components
- 30+ years
- An estimated cost of \$10.9 billion

CERP Implementation Guidance

WRDA 2000

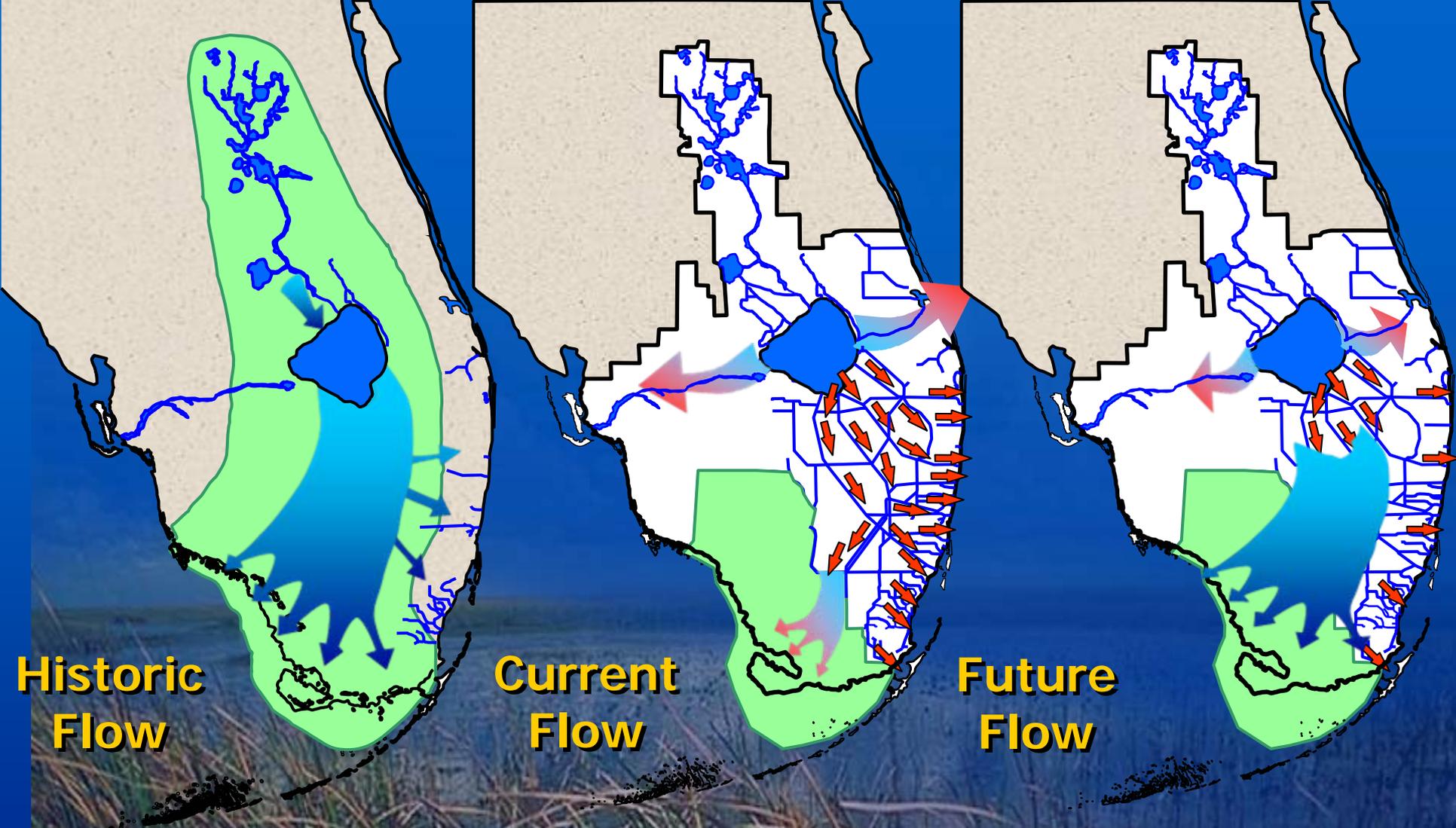
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graph TD; A[WRDA 2000] --> B["CERP Programmatic Regulations (ProRegs)  
November 2003"]; B --> C["6 Draft Guidance Memoranda (GM)  
April 2005"];
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CERP Programmatic Regulations (ProRegs)

November 2003

6 Draft Guidance Memoranda (GM)

April 2005



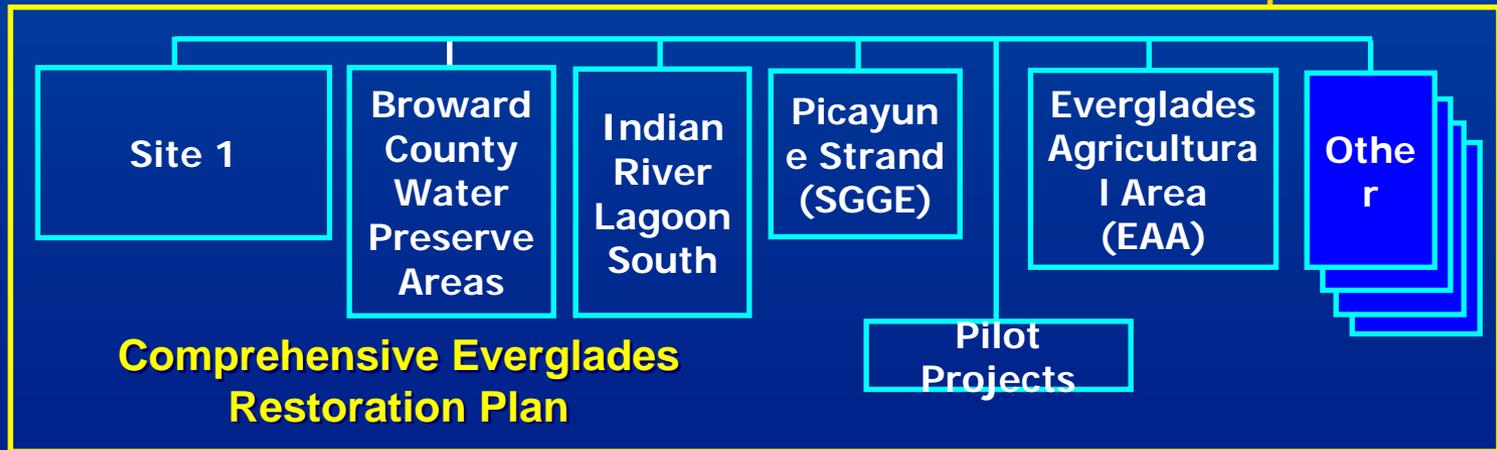
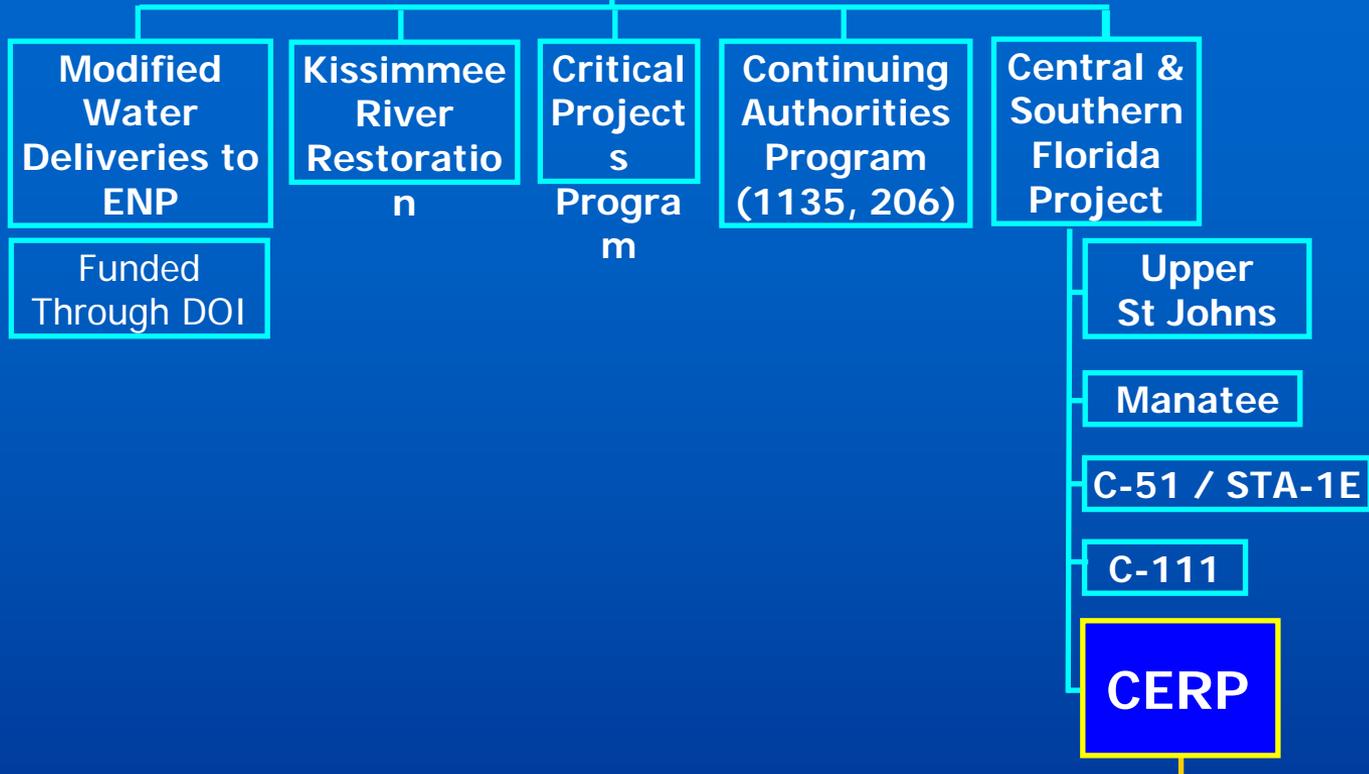
**Historic
Flow**

**Current
Flow**

**Future
Flow**

The Goal

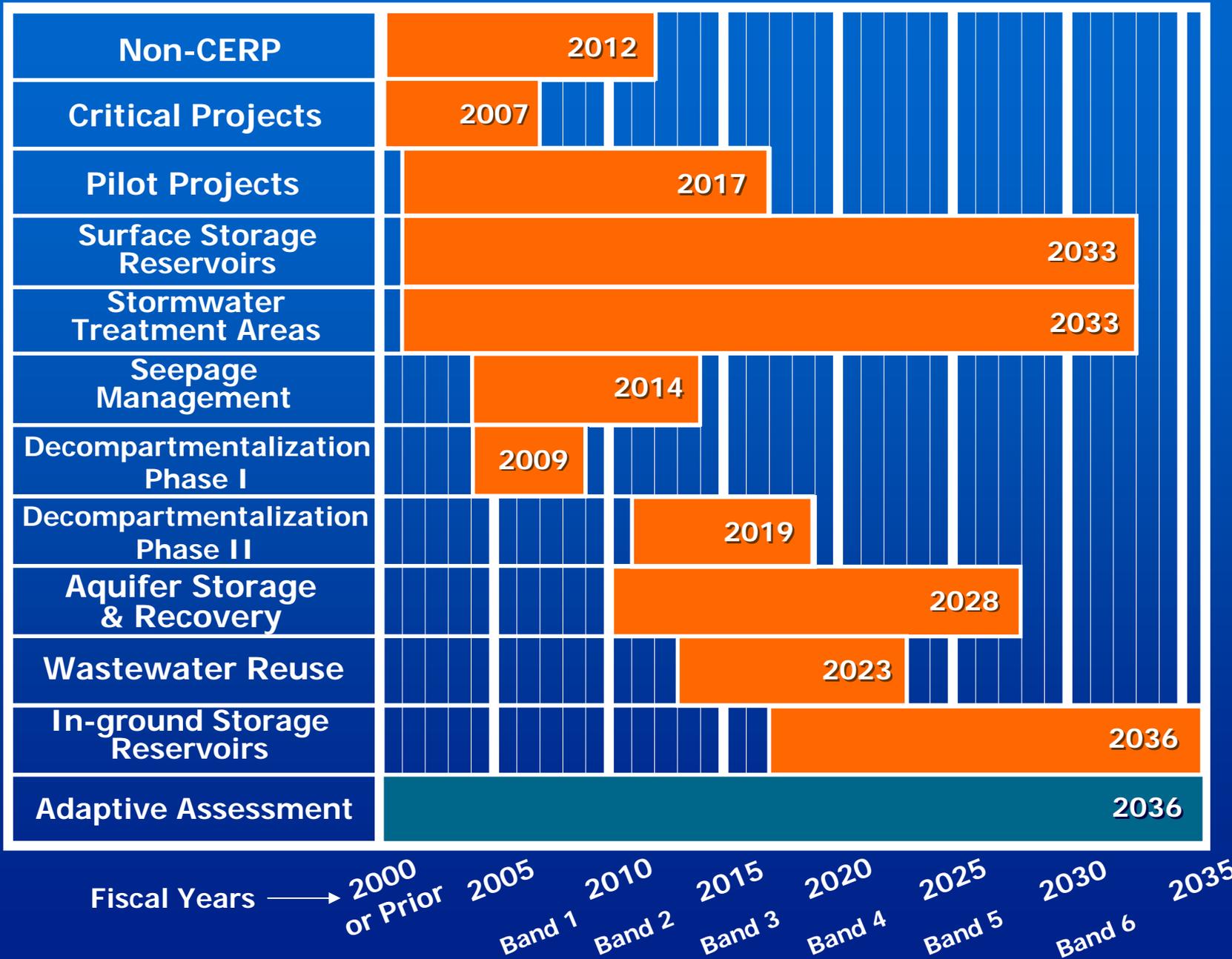
Current South Florida Ecosystem Restoration Program



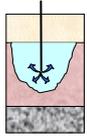
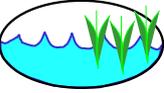
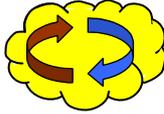
WRDA 2000 Authorizations

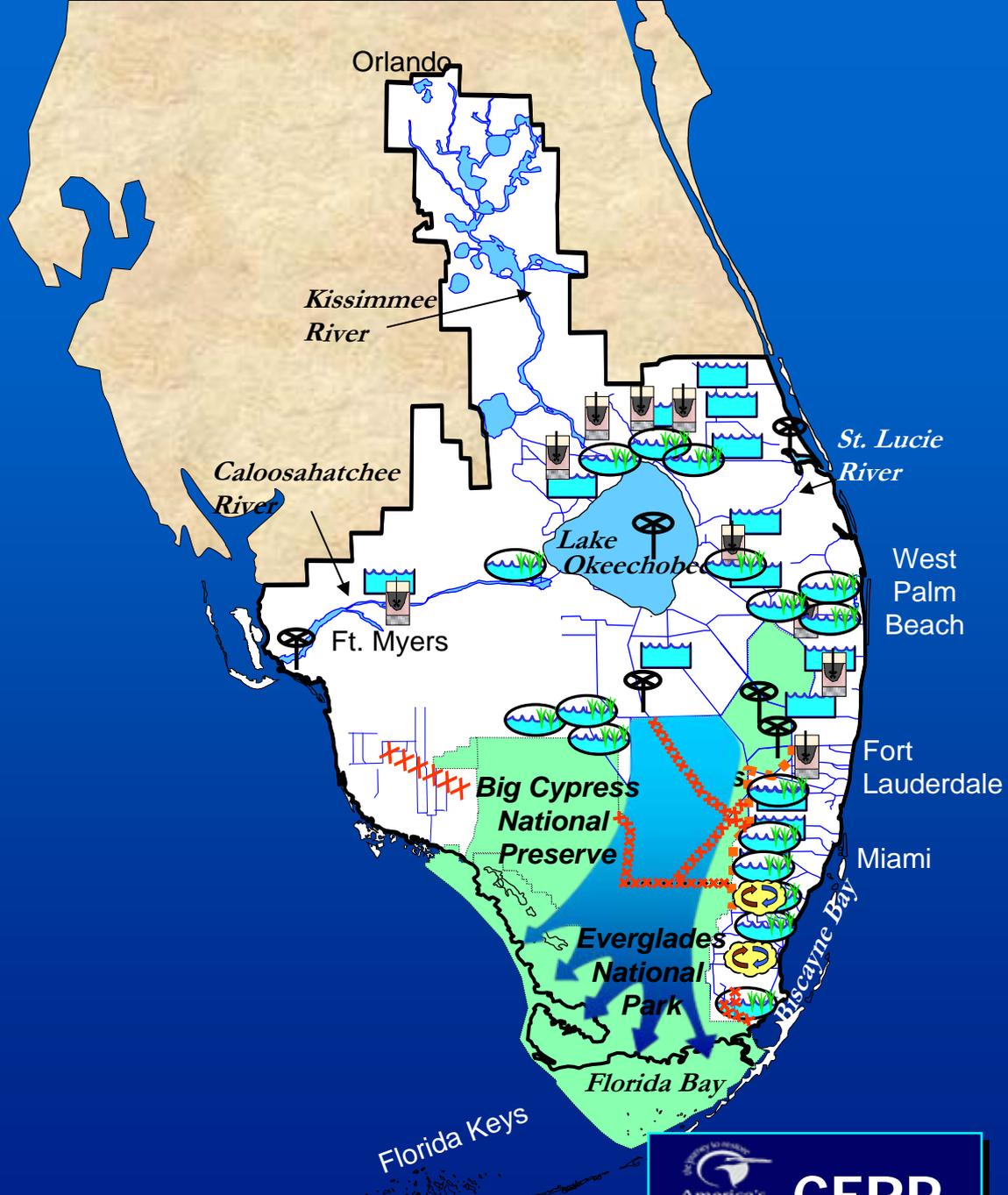
- Ten Initial Projects (includes Site 1 Impoundment) \$1 billion
- Four Pilot Projects (plus 2 by WRDA 1999) \$97 million
- Programmatic Authority (max \$25 mil/project) \$206 million
- Adaptive Management (\$10 mil/yr) for 10 years \$100 million

Total Implementation Plan for South Florida Ecosystem Restoration



68 CERP Components

-  Surface Water Storage Reservoirs – 180,000 acres
-  Aquifer Storage & Recovery – 330 wells
-  Stormwater Treatment Areas (STAs) – 36,000 acres
-  Reuse Wastewater – 2 Regional plants
-  Seepage Management
-  Removing Barriers to Sheetflow – 240 miles
-  Operational Changes

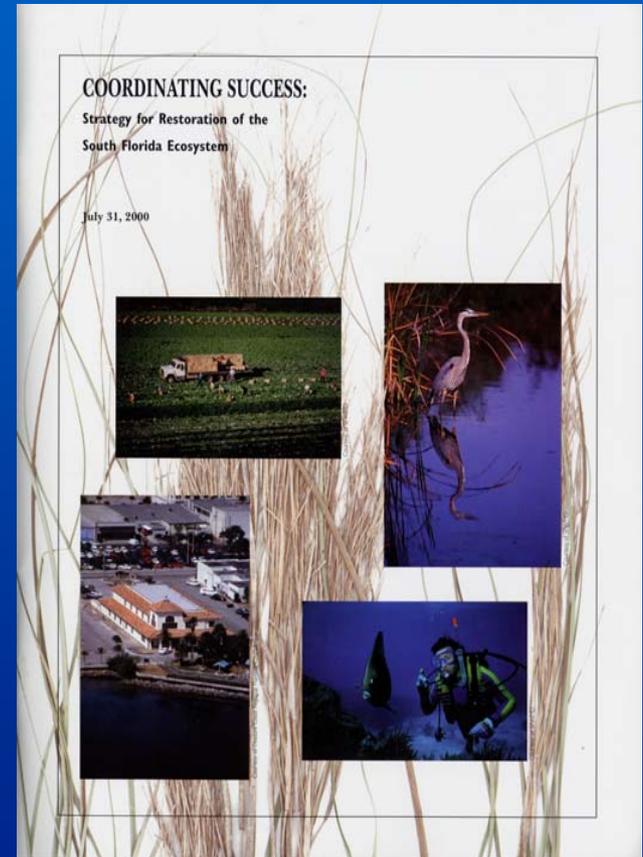


Other WRDA 2000 Requirements

- NAS Independent Scientific Review panel and biennial report to Congress
- Interim goals
- Implementation progress reports to Congress every five years
- Outreach to address impacts on socially or economically disadvantaged people and participation by small businesses

South Florida Ecosystem Restoration Task Force

- Initially established in 1993 as federal interagency partnership
- WRDA 1996 authorized task force, membership, and duties
- 14 members from Federal, State, tribal, and local governments
- Coordinates development of policies, strategies, etc.
- Florida based Working Group consisting of 22 agencies
- Provided Secretary of the Army with recommendations on the comprehensive plan

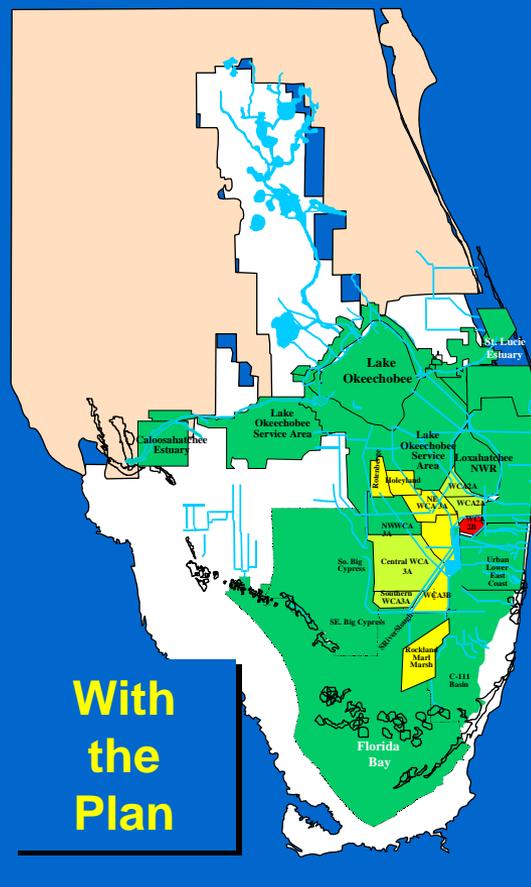
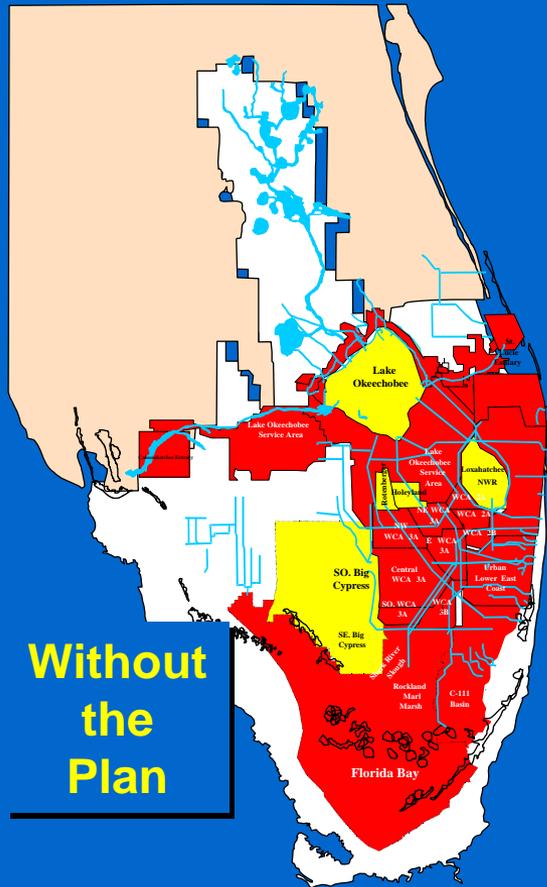


Acceler8

- \$1.8 Billion Program
- To be designed and constructed by the State
- Work is being done in advance of Federal funding to speed up implementation process



Future Ecosystem Conditions



-  = Successful
-  = Marginal
-  = Recovery Unlikely



CERP

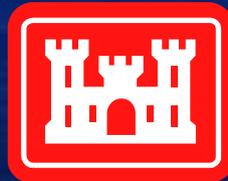
“There are no other Everglades in the world. They are, they have always been, one of the unique regions of the earth, remote, never wholly known”

-Marjory Stoneman Douglas
The Everglades River of Grass



Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (CERP)

Site 1 Impoundment Final Project Implementation Report (PIR) & Environmental Assessment (EA)



June 6, 2006

One Team - Relevant, Ready, Responsive, Reliable

Briefing Purpose

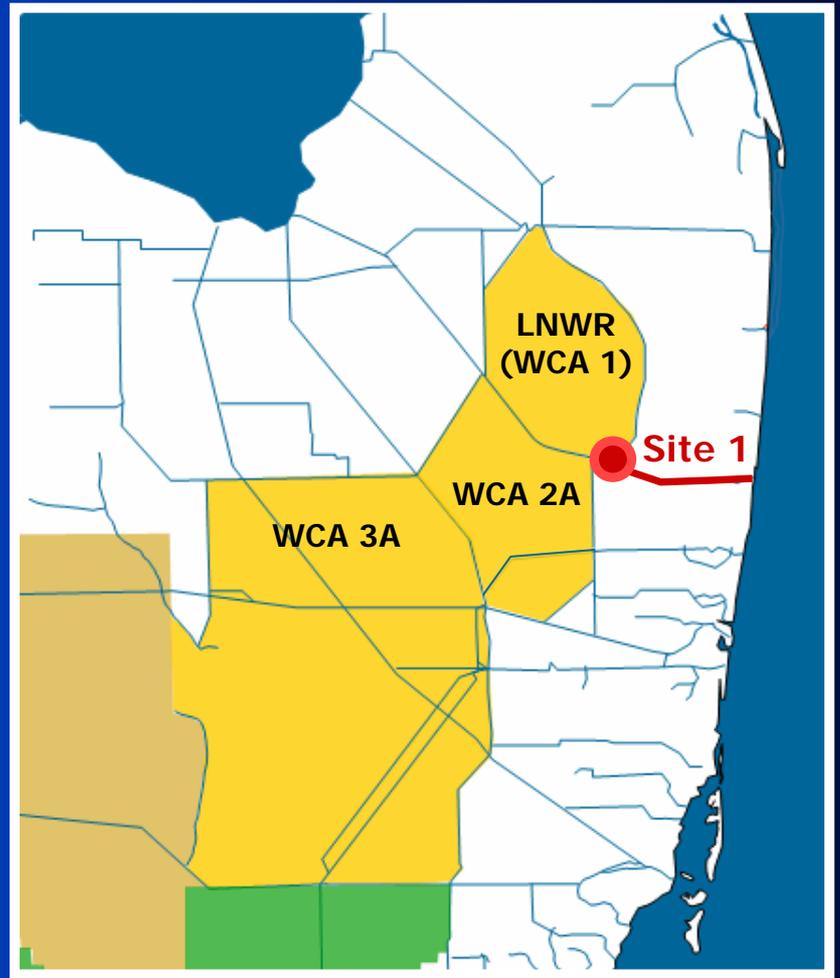
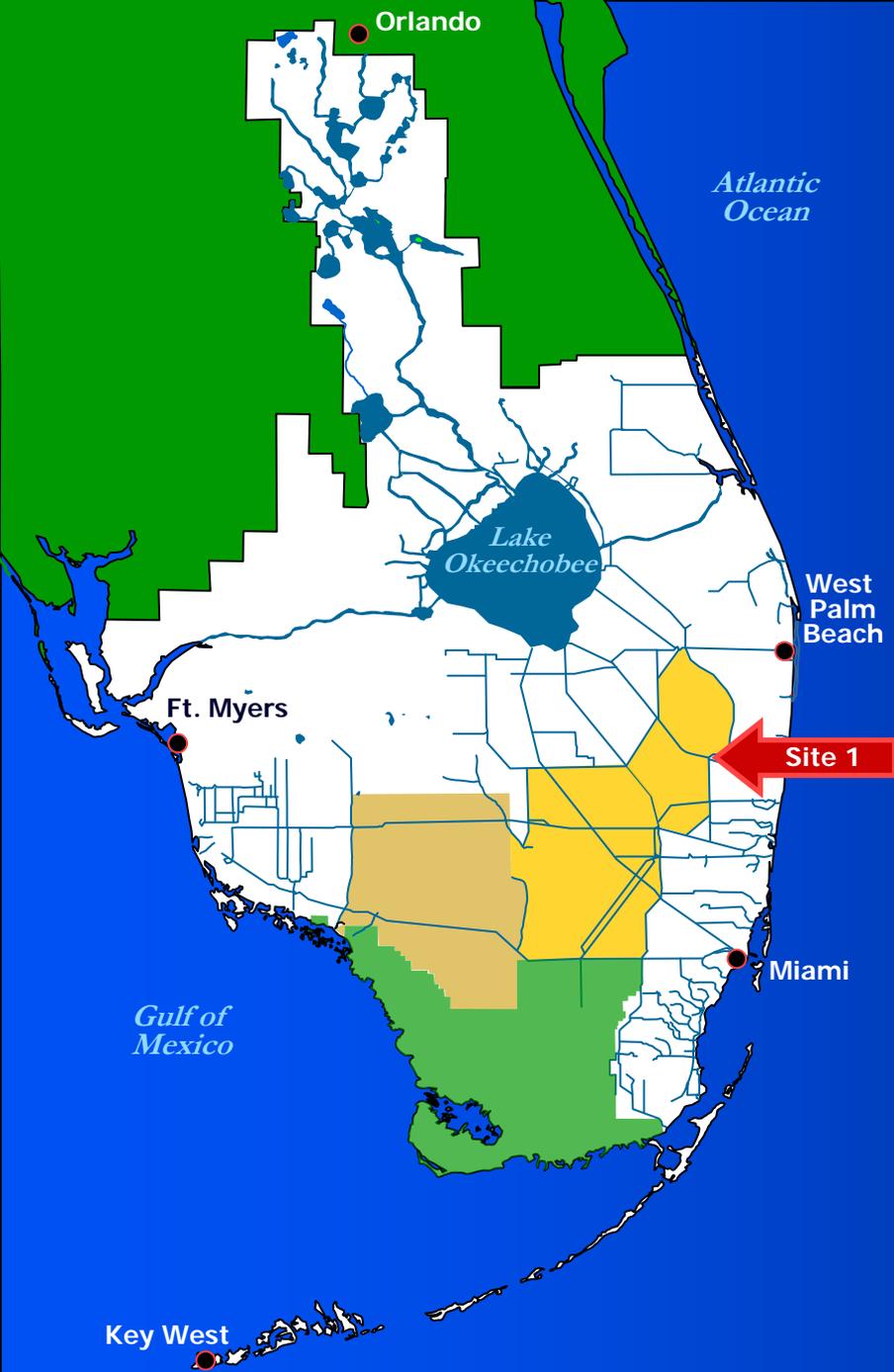
- Obtain Civil Works Review Board approval for:
 - Release of the Site 1 Impoundment Project Implementation Report and Environmental Assessment for final State and Agency review;
 - After updating report to include design refinements and cost information

Site 1 Impoundment Recommended Plan

- 1,660 acre above-ground impoundment, 8 feet deep
 - 16 ft Earthen Embankments
 - Inflow and Seepage Pump Stations
 - Seepage Collection System
 - Two Cells, Internal Levee and Structures
 - Hillsboro Canal Conveyance Improvement
 - Recreation Features of Recommended Plan
- \$ 56,732,000 PIR cost estimate
 - Section 902 limit = \$ 56,750,000
- Plan is cost effective and “best buy” after Cost Effectiveness/Incremental Cost Analysis (CE/ICA)
- Produces the greatest amount of National Ecosystem Restoration (NER) benefits
- Design refinements will increase cost above PIR cost estimate
 - Preliminary estimated cost of refined design approx. \$ 70,000,000

Authorization of Site 1 Impoundment

- Section 601 of WRDA 2000 - authorized the Site 1 Impoundment as 1 of 10 initial projects necessary to expedite ecological restoration of the everglades and other south Florida ecosystems
- Section 601 (b)(2)(C)(iii) - "(iii) Site 1 Impoundment, at a total cost of \$38,535,000, with an estimated Federal cost of \$19,267,500 and an estimated non-Federal cost of \$19,267,500"
- Contingent on PIR approval by the Secretary of the Army and Congressional Committees as well as cost (within 1986 WRDA 902 limit)



Site 1 Impoundment Project Location

Problems Identified

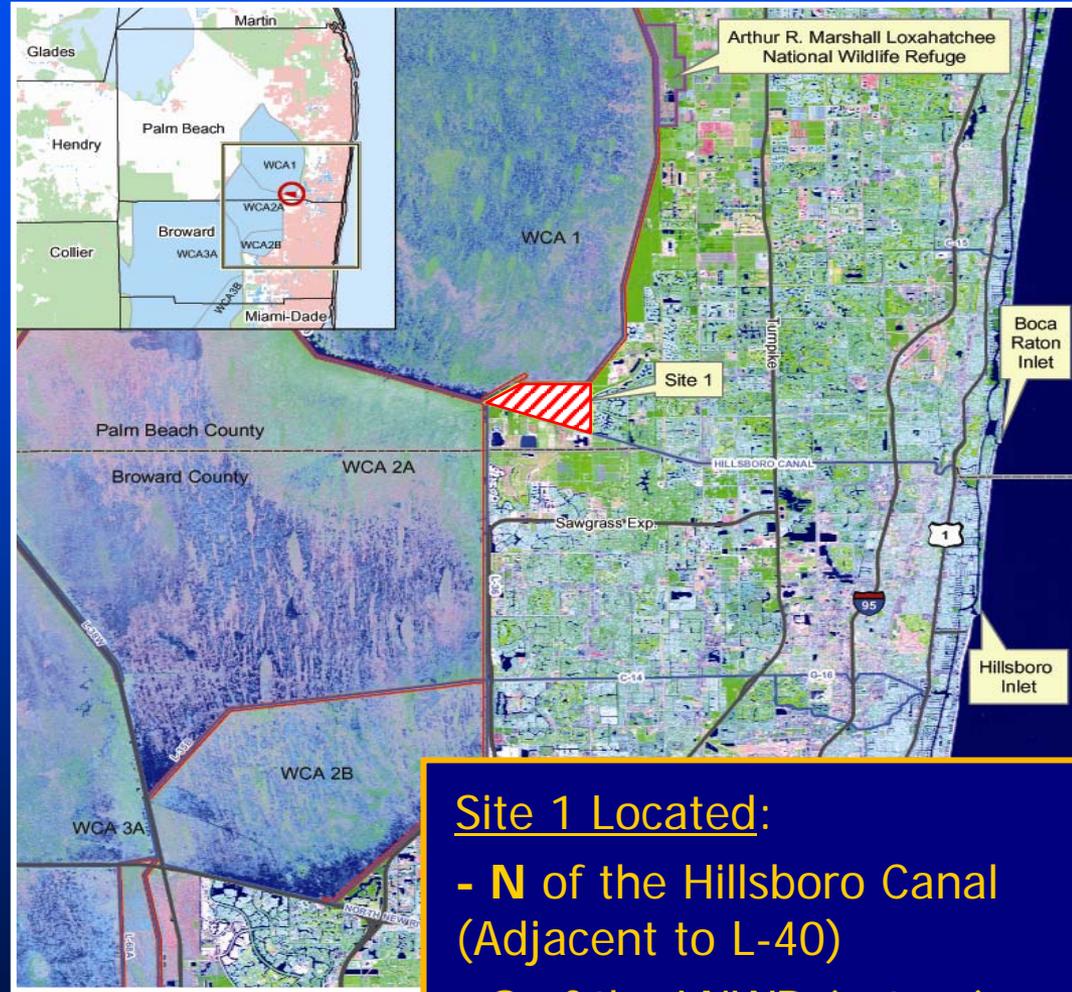
- Prolonged unnatural and undesirable water levels (stages) during wet and dry periods in LNWR (the Refuge) and WCA-2A (natural areas)
 - Not conducive to attaining and preserving desirable fish and wildlife habitat
- During dry periods - freshwater from natural area used to meet municipal, industrial, and aquifer protection demands
- During wet season - excessive volumes of freshwater discharged from Hillsboro Canal into Atlantic Intracoastal Waterway and adversely affect marine life in estuary
- Adverse affects on natural system hydroperiods and hydropatterns in the Refuge and WCA-2A
- Florida Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan identifies need for additional recreational opportunities
 - Opportunity to provide hiking and fishing on project lands

Site 1 Impoundment Project Purposes

- To reduce the demands on LNWR and Lake Okeechobee during the dry season and increase the quantity of water for municipal water supply and aquifer protection (by reducing the amount of water discharged to tide)
- Site 1 will accomplish project purpose by capturing and storing:
 - Excess runoff from Hillsboro Canal basin
 - Releases from LNWR and Lake Okeechobee discharge via the Hillsboro Canal
- Site 1 is a component of CERP (the Plan)
 - 1 of 68 components
 - Each component is crucial to system-wide Everglades restoration

Site 1 Existing Conditions

- Lands acquired with 1996 Federal Farm Bill and State funds
- Composition project lands:
 - Eastern 75 % is improved pasture land
 - Western 25 % was a plant nursery
- Mixed use development on adjacent lands
 - 2 Sand mining operations
 - Mulching facility
 - Proposed residential development



Site 1 Located:

- **N** of the Hillsboro Canal (Adjacent to L-40)
- **S** of the LNWR (WCA-1)
- **E** of S-39 structure in SW Palm Beach County

Future Without Project Conditions

- Further degradation of fish and wildlife habitat in LNWR, WCA-2A, and Hillsboro Canal
- Increased demands on natural system for water supply
- Project lands surplused in accordance with 1996 Federal Farm Bill
- Mixed commercial and residential development
- Flood-control releases discharged to tide

Planning Approach

Followed ASA Policy (24 Feb 2005) and CERP Plan Formulation Guidance (GM 2)

- Based on 1999 Restudy Plan and prior studies
- Reaffirmed:
 - Project-specific goals and purposes have not changed since Restudy
 - ✓ Reformulation not necessary
 - Project is cost effective and can be implemented on lands already acquired (Farm Bill)
- Formulation focused on optimizing size and features of the above-ground impoundment
- Formulated for system-wide environmental benefits in the Everglades

Planning Objectives

- Improve ecosystem function and quality of natural areas in the LNWR (147,000 acres) WCA-2A (135,000 acres)
 - Maximize the amount of water retained in Loxahatchee Refuge
- Increase spatial extent of functional estuarine habitat in Hillsboro Canal (650 acres)
 - Decrease damaging freshwater pulses into estuary from Lake Okeechobee and LNWR
- Improve native plant and animal abundance and diversity in the natural areas



Planning Constraints

- WRDA 2000 Assurances and Savings Clause
 - No elimination or transfer of existing legal sources of water without compensation
 - No reduction in 2000 level of service for flood protection
- Project cannot cause or contribute to violations of State water quality standards

Initial Array of Alternatives

- Seven initial alternative plans were evaluated (including No Action)
- Alternatives ranged in size from 9,960 acre-ft to 19,680 acre-ft
- Four plans eliminated based on screening criteria
 - Incompatible existing land use (mining)
 - Did not meet minimum system-wide need for additional storage

Final Array of Alternatives

Two final structural (NER) alternatives were identified in addition to the No Action alternative:

- Alternative A (No Action)
- Alternative B
 - 1,660 acre impoundment, 6 ft depth
 - 9,960 acre-ft storage capacity
- Alternative C
 - 1,660 acre impoundment, 8 ft depth
 - 13,280 acre-ft storage capacity

Methodology for Alternative Comparison

Hydrologic Benefit Unit (BU) – metric used for hydrological benefits; used to measure the effective storage of the impoundment as well as the water retained in the natural system using SFWMM output.

- Validated by environmental benefits analysis.
- Quantity = 1, 000 Acre-ft (Average Annual)

Habitat Unit (HU) – metric used for environmental benefits; quality of habitat over a geographical area

- Quantity x Quality = HU
- Quantity = Area
- Quality = Assign PM score between 0-1
 - 0 = worst, 1 = best
 - Score based on model output, best professional judgment, FWOP, FWP

Environmental Alternative Comparison

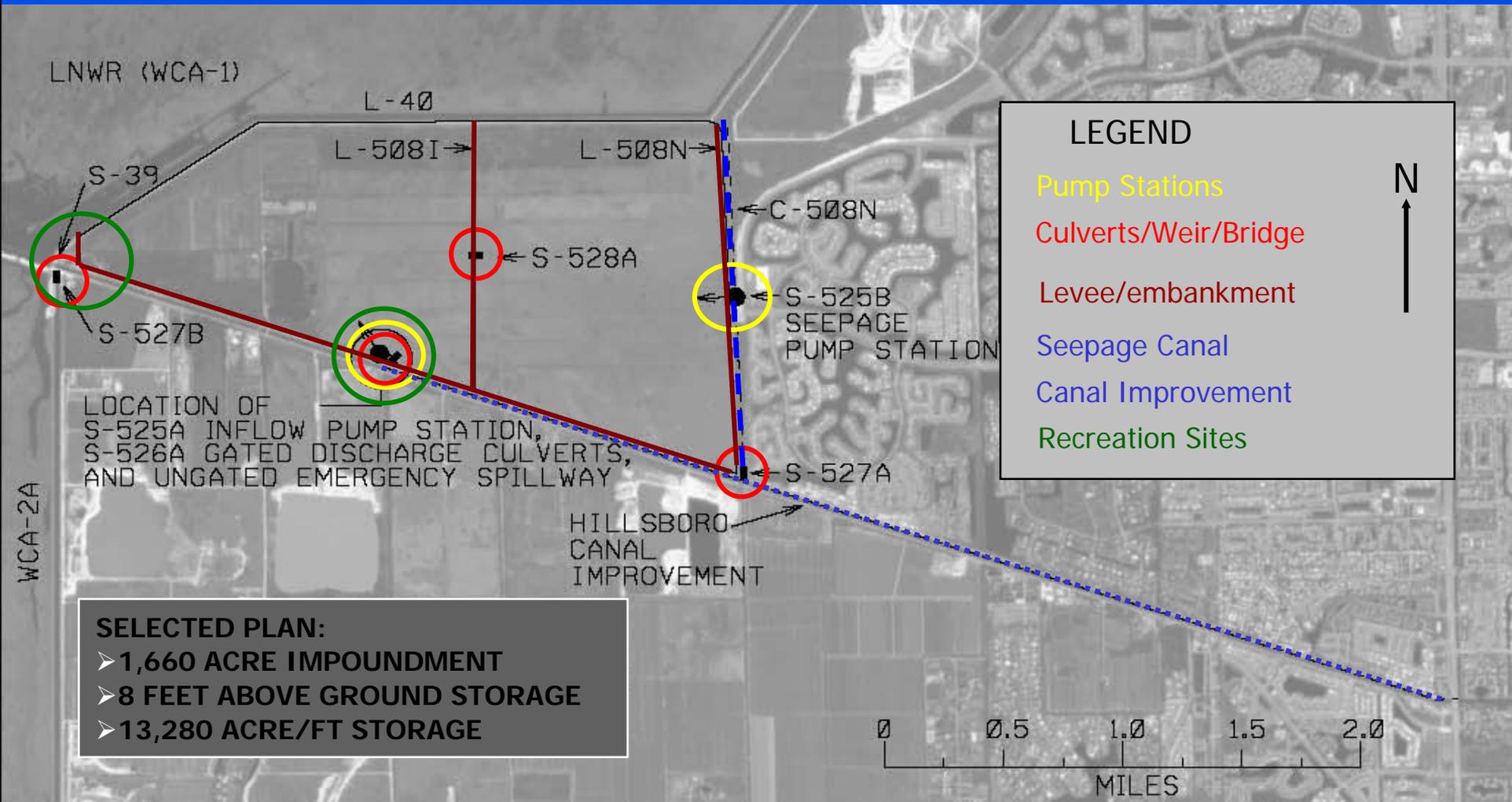
Metric = Habitat Units

Objective / Measure	Alt A No Action	Alt B 1,660 @ 6 ft	Alt C 1,660 @ 8 ft
Average Annual Cost	\$ 0	\$ 4,401,300	\$ 4,685,800
Ecosystem Function			
Reduction in acreage of cattail coverage in LNWR and WCA-2A	0	31, 090	34, 545
Increase in acres of Tree Islands in LNWR and WCA-2A	0	1,599	1, 777
Increases in acres of Periphyton in LNWR and WCA-2A	0	1, 471	1,635
Spatial Extent of Estuarine Habitat			
Improvements to the Hillsboro Estuarine Habitat	0	159	177

Recommended Plan – Alternative C

- 1,660 acre Impoundment at approximately 8 feet deep
 - 16 ft Earthen Embankments
 - Inflow and Seepage Pump Stations
 - Seepage Collection System
 - Two Cells, Internal Levee and Structures
 - Hillsboro Canal Conveyance Improvement
 - Recreation Features of Recommended Plan
- Produces the greatest amount of National Ecosystem Restoration (NER) benefits
 - 37,957 habitat units (acres improved) in LNWR and WCA-2A
 - 177 habitat units (acres improved) in Hillsboro Canal
- Cost effective and “best buy” after Cost Effectiveness/Incremental Cost Analysis (CE/ICA)
- \$56,732,000 total cost, PIR plan (under Section 902 limit)
 - Section 902 limit = \$56,750,000
- Refined design cost estimate approximately \$ 70,000,000

Recommended Plan – Alternative C



Recreation Features of the Recommended Plan

- Recreation features added as a result of public comment
- Authority: Replace/enhance impacted facilities developed during C&SF
 - Authorization for C&SF project recreation (1968 H.D. 369)
- Elevated boardwalks, viewing platforms, picnic shelters, canoe launches, and information kiosks
- Central site includes sanitation and parking
- Cost for recreation features = \$368,000 (within 10% rule)
- Recreation Benefit to Cost Ratio – 5.9 to 1
 - \$168,600 – average annual benefits
 - \$28,500 – average annual costs
- 50-50 cost-sharing for recreation features
 - O&M for recreation features is 100% non-federal

Project Assurances and the Savings Clause

- ID'd additional water for LNWR and ENP
 - 14 k acre-ft (avg. annual) of water stored by Site 1 Impoundment
 - Additional water in LNWR and ENP to be reserved or allocated by State of Florida prior to PCA
 - Additional water in ENP was unanticipated benefit, not considered for plan selection
- ID'd water to meet other water-related needs of the region
 - Net increase of 3.6 k acre-ft (avg. annual) to Hillsboro Canal Basin
 - Water used for municipal supply, aquifer protection
- No adverse effect on existing legal sources of water
 - Partial transfers of existing legal sources of water for:
 - Fish and Wildlife in LNWR
 - Municipal and agricultural users in Hillsboro Canal Basin
- No adverse effect on level of service for flood protection
 - Incidental improvement

Project Costs – Recommended Plan

Alternative C: 1,660-acres at 8 ft. depth

Initial Costs	Cost Estimate
Construction Cost	\$41,756,000
Non-Construction Costs	
Lands and Damages	\$8,364,000
Pre-Construction, Engineering, and Design	\$3,431,000
Construction Management	\$3,181,000
Sub-Total, Non-Construction Costs	\$14,976,000
Total Initial Cost	\$56,732,000
Annual Costs	
Interest and Amortization	\$3,682,000
OMRR&R	\$778,700
Restoration	\$773,600
Recreation	\$5,100
Monitoring	\$340,800
Total Annual Cost	\$4,801,500

Site 1 Impoundment

Cost-Sharing

	Federal	Non-Federal	Total
Sect 601(C) WRDA 2000 – non-federal share of CERP is 50%	\$28,366,000	\$28,366,000	\$56,732,000 (within 902 limit)
- Construction	\$24,184,000	\$24,184,000	\$48,368,000
- Real Estate (Lands acquired with 1996 Farm Bill)	\$4,182,000	\$4,182,000	8,364,000
Annual Cost			\$4,801,500
- Interest and Amortization			\$3,682,000
- Restoration OMRR&R	\$386,800	\$386,800	\$773,600
- Recreation OMRR&R	\$0	\$5, 100	\$5,100
- Monitoring			\$340,800

NEPA Compliance

- An Environmental Assessment has been prepared and integrated with the Draft and Final PIR
- Draft and Revised Draft PIRs were provided to Federal, State and local agencies, Native American Tribes, private organizations, and interested parties
- All comments were considered and incorporated as appropriate; responses to comments included in Final PIR
- FONSI signed April 06

Public Involvement

- Project Kickoff Meeting: Sept 05, 2002, Davie, FL
- Regularly briefed at Regional PDT meetings:
Jan 2004 – Dec 2005
- Public Meeting on Draft Report:
March, 1 2005 in Boca Raton, FL
- Public Comment Periods:
Feb 2005-Mar 2005 and Dec 2005-Feb 2006
- Public comments on draft report generally favorable
- Consultation with two Indian Tribes – Miccosukee
and Seminoles
- Email Correspondence

Public and Agency Review

- Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC)

Comment: Project does not comply with NEPA, WRDA 2000, and CERP Programmatic Regulations

Response: The PIR fully complies with NEPA, environmental concerns are addressed in the EA, FONSI signed by DE. **The project has been determined by EPA's evaluation to be adequate.** The PIR is a reaffirmation PIR that verifies that the project can achieve its intended purposes on the site first described in the Restudy Programmatic EIS (1999), and an EIS was not required. GM's #3 and #4 were used to quantify the amount of water to be reserved or allocated to achieve the benefits of the Plan as well as Savings Clause requirements.

Independent Technical Review (ITR)

- Internal ITR by staff from Jacksonville District
 - Project initiated in 2003
- ITR team reviewed the project at key milestones during the project development process:
 - Feasibility Scoping Meeting
 - Alternative Formulation Briefing
 - Draft Project Implementation Report
 - Revised Draft Project Implementation Report
 - Final Project Implementation Report
- External ITR compliance review for Final PIR - staff from Wilmington Regional Planning and Engineering Centers and Savannah District
- Issues have been resolved, certification has been provided

Highlights and Results of ITR

- Internal ITR resulted in minor changes to Draft PIR
- Internal ITR team reviewed changes in Revised Draft PIR
 - Updated Assurances & Savings Clause Report
- External ITR assessed compliance with prior Internal ITR
 - ITR comments were adequately addressed by PDT during the preparation of the Final PIR
 - No major technical issues identified; minor technical issues requiring further modifications to Final PIR were noted and resolved

The Project Delivery Process

- CERP PDTs are interagency and interdisciplinary
- PDT performed well at staff level
 - Benefited from active USFWS, FWC, and FDEP participation
 - Staff-level team met frequently (monthly/bi-weekly)

Consistency with Strategic Plan Approach

1. Holistic Approach

Site 1 and CERP designed to address multiple water resource problems

2. Manage Water Resources by Watershed

CERP was formulated on 18, 000 square miles of south Florida ecosystem

3. System Approach to Analyze Problems and Solutions

Site 1 and CERP evaluated economic, environmental, social, political, and other factors

4. Collaboration, Partnership, Teamwork → Solutions

Site 1 utilized multi-agency, multi-disciplinary team

5. Maximize Efficiency of Existing Resources

USACE, sponsor, and other agencies combined resources to maximize efficiency

Consistency with Environmental Operating Principles

1. Environmental Sustainability

Site 1 Impoundment is one of 68 components of the CERP, with the primary purpose of environmental restoration

2. Interdependence of Life and Physical Environment

Site 1 Impoundment project would provide immediate benefits to the Everglades system

3. Economic and Environment

Site 1 provides increased water supply and recreation opportunities

4. Accountability Under Law

The Site 1 PIR complies with all applicable laws

5. Mitigate Cumulative Impacts to the Environment

Adaptive management of Site to maximize benefits to the system

6. Build and Share Knowledge

An inclusive and open process that engaged all stakeholders, interest groups, and agencies

7. Respect the Views of Individuals and Groups

Public input was encouraged through public and stakeholder meetings

Project Implementation

- Initial detailed design underway (via State of Florida's Acceler8 program): Mar 2005
- Initial construction scheduled to begin (via Acceler8): August 2006
 - Section 404 Permit Application – Currently under review by Regulatory Division

Detailed Design Refinement

- Superiority increase
 - Armoring of interior slopes
 - Interior embankment/structures removed
 - Smaller pump station
 - Hillsboro Canal improvements eliminated
- Construction cost estimate approx \$70M
- Refinements do not effect plan selection and project outputs

Road to the Project Cooperation Agreement (PCA)

- Approved PIR to be transmitted to Congressional Committees for necessary resolutions
- USACE will design and construct Recommended Plan
 - Reservation/allocation of natural system water must be completed prior to execution of PCA

Recommendation

Approval of the Site 1 Impoundment Project Implementation Report and Environmental Assessment for final State and Agency review subject to updating report to reflect design refinements and cost estimate .



US Army Corps
of Engineers

One Team – Relevant, Ready, Responsive, Reliable

*Presentation
to the*

Civil Works Review Board

Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan

Site 1 Impoundment Final Project Implementation Report and Environmental Assessment

by

Lester S. Dixon

*Director of Programs
South Atlantic Division*

June 2006



US Army Corps
of Engineers

One Team – Relevant, Ready, Responsive, Reliable

Key Partners

- South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD)
 - Ken Ammon and Carol Wehle
- Department of Interior
 - Rock Salt (participating by phone)
- State and Federal Resource Agencies



US Army Corps
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One Team – Relevant, Ready, Responsive, Reliable

CERP Headquarters Team Members

- Vacant, GS-15 Program Manager
- Sue Hughes, Planning and Policy, SAD-RIT
- Gary Hardesty, GS-15, Planning and Policy
- Cliff Fitzsimmons, OWPR
- John Furry, OWPR
- Margaret Gaffney-Smith, Regulatory
- Brenda Johnson-Turner, SAD-RIT Real Estate
- Phil Steffen, Counsel
- Doris Valentin-Meyer, SAD-RIT Programs
- Jerry Webb, Engineering
- Dave Hewitt, PAO



US Army Corps
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One Team – Relevant, Ready, Responsive, Reliable

Rationale for SAD Support

- Concur with SAJ District Commander's findings & recommendations.
- Report complies with all applicable policy & laws in place at this time.
- Anticipate favorable response to the draft Chief's Report.
- Plan supported by sponsor and congressional delegation.
- Recognize advance work planned and supported by SFWMD



Certification of Legal & Policy Compliance

- Legal certification of the final Project Implementation Report made by SAJ District Counsel on 13 April 2006.
- Technical and Policy Compliance:
 - ITR compliance review completed 17 Apr 06.
 - ITR certification includes signature of review team members from SAJ, SAW and oversight concurrence by Ecosystem PCX - MVD.
 - ITR comments have been resolved.
 - Policy compliance issues have been resolved.



SAD Quality Assurance Activities

- Continuous involvement throughout development of the PIR.
- Assisted in establishment/oversight of external ITR compliance review mechanism.
- SAD Final Report Processing Checklist used to keep PDT focused on policy and ensure proposed plan reflects district leadership support.
- Review of Policy Compliance Memo: all issues have been adequately addressed.
- Examples of policy issues resolved
 - Display of project benefits (habitat units, hydrologic benefit units)
 - O&M cost sharing of proposed recreation features.



US Army Corps
of Engineers

One Team – Relevant, Ready, Responsive, Reliable

SAD Recommendation

- Approve Final Report
- Release for State and Agency Review
- Complete Chief's Report

Civil Works Review Board

Significant Policy Review Concerns

CERP, Site 1 Impoundment Project

Lee Ware, P.E.

Office of Water Project Review
Planning and Policy Compliance Division

Washington, DC – June 6, 2006



CERP, Site 1 Impoundment Project

Areas of Policy Concern:

- Without-Project Conditions
- Environmental Outputs
- Water Quality
- Impacts to Wetlands
- Incremental Analysis



CERP, Site 1 Impoundment Project

Areas of Policy Concern (continued):

- Cost-sharing
- Savings Clause
- Water Reservations



CERP, Site 1 Impoundment Project

Without-Project Conditions

Concern: The AFB materials indicated that under the future without-project conditions, the lands purchased for use in ecosystem restoration would be developed. It wasn't clear why development was likely.

Reason: Corps studies evaluate the most likely future conditions as a basis for planning and impact evaluation. Development seemed to be precluded.

Resolution: Farm Bill agreements provide that lands may be sold if not used for their intended purpose. Due to intense development pressures it is likely that the lands would be developed in the absence of a project.

Resolution Impact: Concern resolved



CERP, Site 1 Impoundment Project

Environmental Outputs

Concern: The AFB materials used two storage parameters as surrogate metrics for the ecosystem outputs in formulating alternatives.

Reason: Corps policy requires that formulation of ecosystem restoration projects be based on the environmental outputs of the alternatives considered.

Resolution: The draft and final PIR quantify environmental outputs to the degree possible as well as hydrologic performance.

Resolution Impact: Concern resolved



CERP, Site 1 Impoundment Project

Water Quality

Concern: AFB materials did not indicate whether Hillsboro Canal water quality met state standards nor describe state actions being undertaken to achieve compliance with WQ standards.

Reason: Non-Federal actions to achieve compliance with WQ standards are assumed to be undertaken. Corps projects are not intended to improve WQ or relieve local governments of their responsibilities.

Resolution: The Final PIR described canal WQ relative to standards, the effects of Site 1 on WQ, and its use of NSID waters.

Resolution Impact: Concern resolved



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Impacts to Wetlands

Concern: AFB materials indicated that no mitigation was required for the Site 1 project's adverse effects on wetlands. Clarification was needed.

Reason: Ecosystem projects do not generally include mitigation because of the overriding ecosystem benefits which they produce, although formulation and design attempt to minimize adverse effects.

Resolution: Draft and final report explained that avoidance of the pockets of wetlands was not practicable.

Resolution Impact: Concern resolved



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Incremental Analysis

Concern: The AFB materials presented CE/ICA using average annual storage and retention values compared to total first cost. Consideration was not given to IDC, OMRR&R, or timing of ecological outputs.

Reason: Corps guidance on CE/ICA requires comparison of average annual outputs to average annual costs during the period of analysis.

Resolution: The final report presents revised CE/ICA information, including both the Next Added Increment and System Formulation perspectives.

Resolution Impact: Concern resolved



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Cost-Sharing

Concern: The AFB materials showed the cost sharing as 50%/50% for lands purchased previously using Farm Bill funds, which is different than the Federal/non-Federal monies used in the actual purchase of project lands.

Reason: The Farm Bill provided funding to be used in acquiring lands for CERP projects in advance of their final designs, with a stipulation that the Federal funds expended be credited to the Federal share of the CERP project.

Resolution: Draft and final report recommended 50%/50% cost sharing consistent with the terms and flexibility for the particular grant language used in the purchase of the project lands.

Resolution Impact: Concern resolved



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Savings Clause

Concern: The results of hydrologic modeling needed clarification to assure that the analysis fully addressed the requirements of WRDA 2000 and provided a basis for public understanding of the project's operations and hydrologic effects.

Reason: WRDA 2000 requires CERP projects to assure that there are no adverse effects on existing legal sources of water and levels of service for flood control.

Resolution: A summary was added to the text to enhance public understanding of the results and conclusions. Additional text was added to help interpret the information presented on hydrologic model results and to clarify project operations and further refinements as designs progress.

Resolution Impact: The concern is resolved to the degree possible at this time.



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Water Reservations

Concern: Clarification was needed in the report to assure public understanding of the timing, quantity, and distribution of beneficial water and the basis for reservations to be made by the state.

Reason: Water made available to the natural system which is beneficial for protection of fish and wildlife is reserved by the state to assure its future availability for that purpose.

Resolution: The text was clarified to enhance understanding of the model analyses and results, how reservations are to be made by the state, and future refinements to be undertaken as design investigations progress.

Resolution Impact: The concern is resolved to the degree possible at this time.



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Section 902 Cost Limit

Concern: Ongoing review of the final PIR and EA identified the need to reconsider an AFB concern on maximum project cost. The District has confirmed that the project costs will exceed the Section 902 limit based on its coordination with the sponsor on the Acceler8 design efforts. Congress will need to authorize a higher project cost

Reason: Section 902 of WRDA86 established a maximum project cost for projects authorized in that and subsequent legislation, whereby cost growth cannot exceed 20% of the costs authorized by Congress, excluding the effects of inflation and subsequent legislation.

Resolution: The PIR and Chief's report must be revised to reflect the current estimate of project costs as a basis for Congressional authorization.

Resolution Impact: S&A review will be delayed by the report changes.



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Sponsor Credit

Concern: SFWMD may proceed with design and construction of Site 1 under the Acceler8 program and may seek legislation to receive credit for any work performed.

Reason: Congressional authorization is required to provide credit for work accomplished by a sponsor in advance of the PCA execution. ASA(CW) approves credits subject to a determination that the work is integral to the project, done to appropriate standards, and costs are reasonable.

Resolution: The recommendations section of the report has been revised to reflect support for authorization of sponsor credits, subject to the above conditions. Since the report must be processed to Congress due to the project cost increase, sponsor credit would also be authorized.

Resolution Impact: No impact on S&A review.



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HQUSACE Policy Compliance Review Team RECOMMENDATION

Release the PIR and EA for S&A Review
Pending Revision of Project Costs

