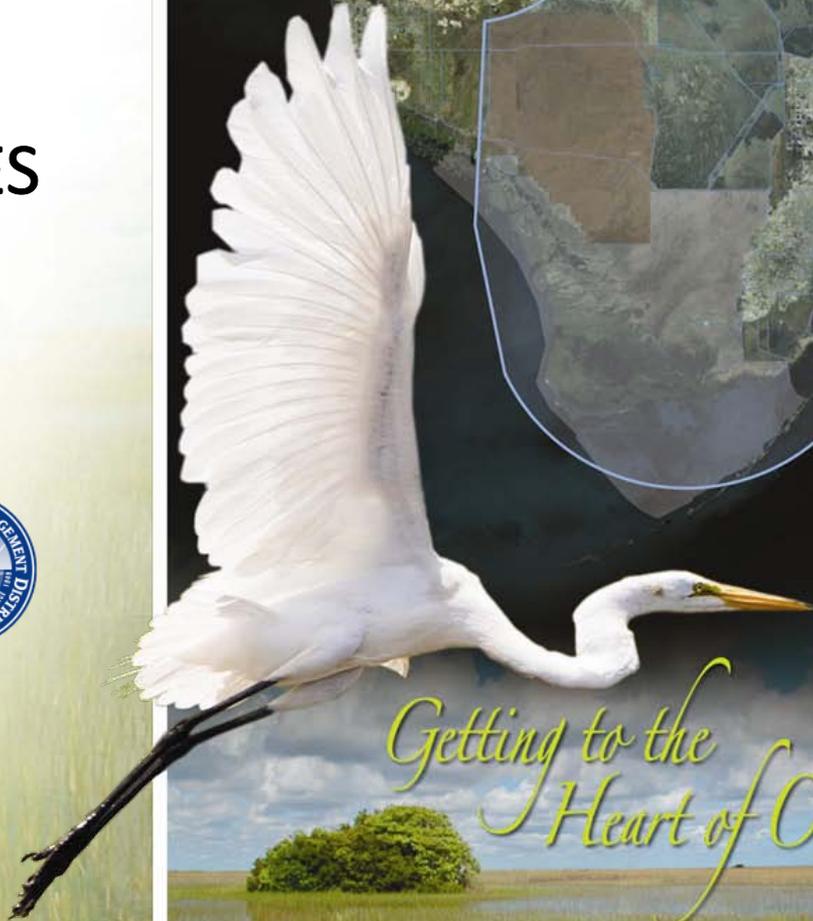


CENTRAL EVERGLADES PLANNING PROJECT



*Getting to the
Heart of CERP*

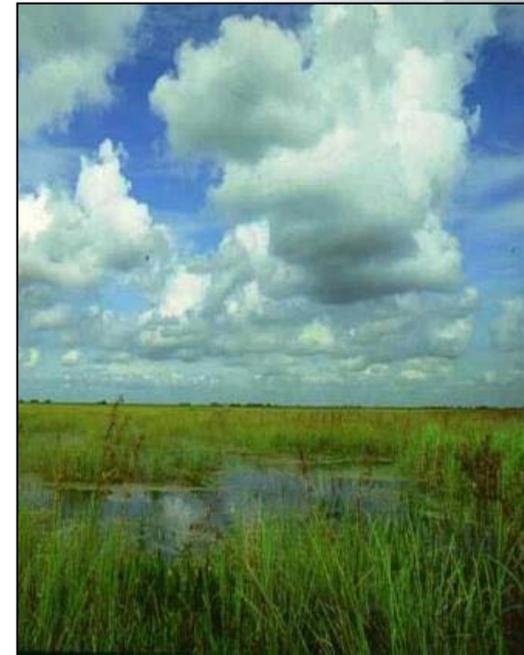
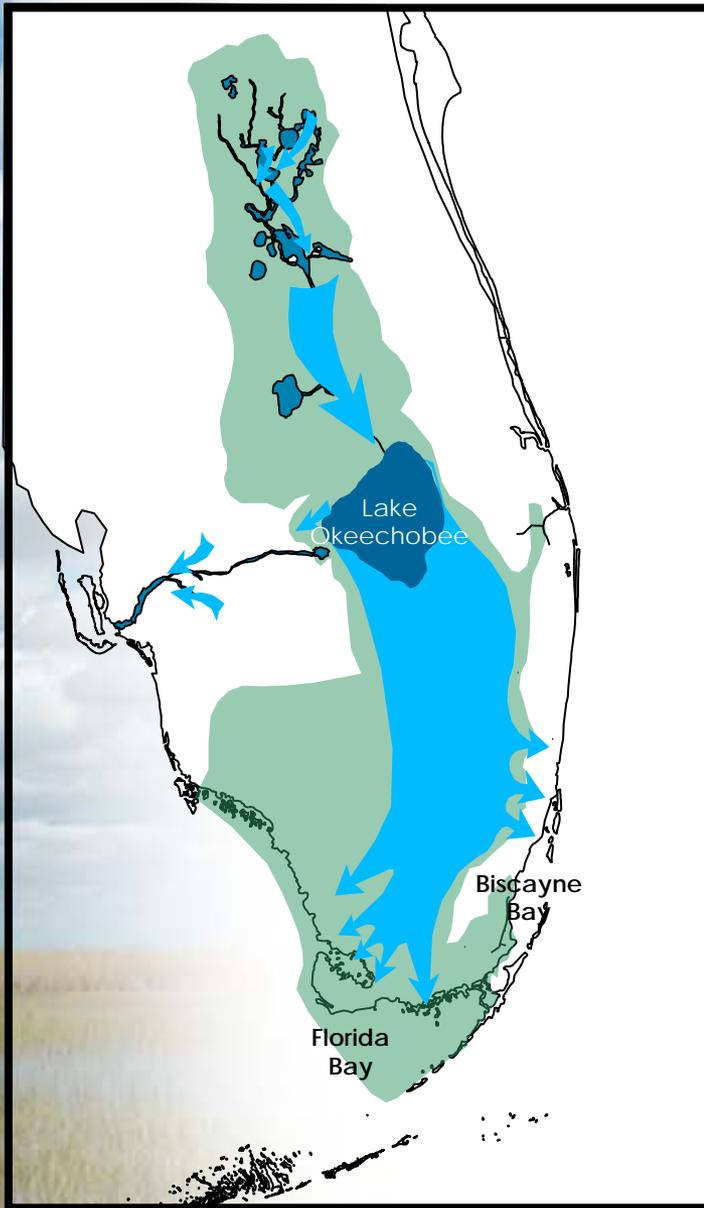
South Florida Water
Management District
**Governing
Board**
January 12, 2012

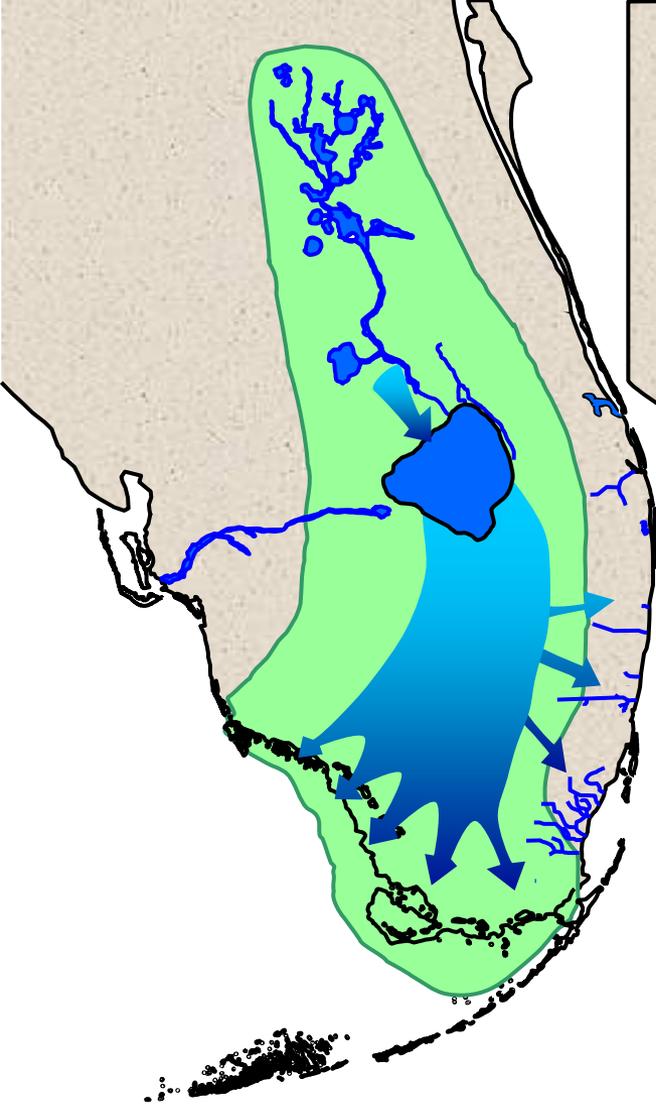
Tom Teets,
Federal Policy Chief

Office of Everglades
Policy and Coordination

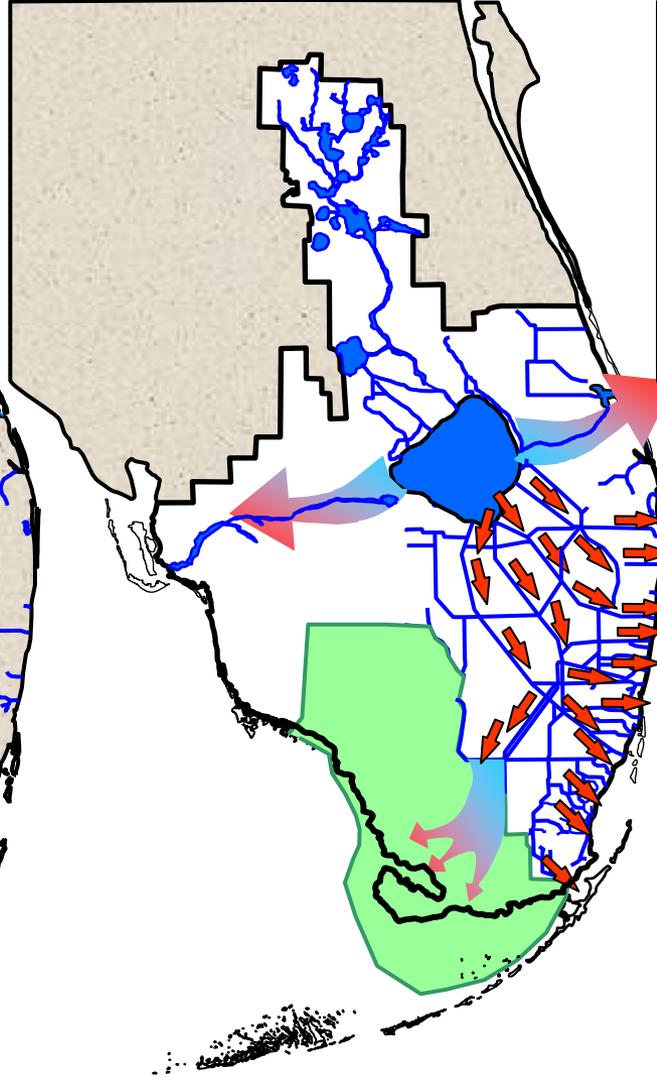
Historic Everglades - Overview

- Continuous water flow from central Florida through Lake Okeechobee and south into Florida Bay
- Natural system composed of over 9 million acres of lakes, rivers and wetlands
- Unique and diverse mosaic of habitat

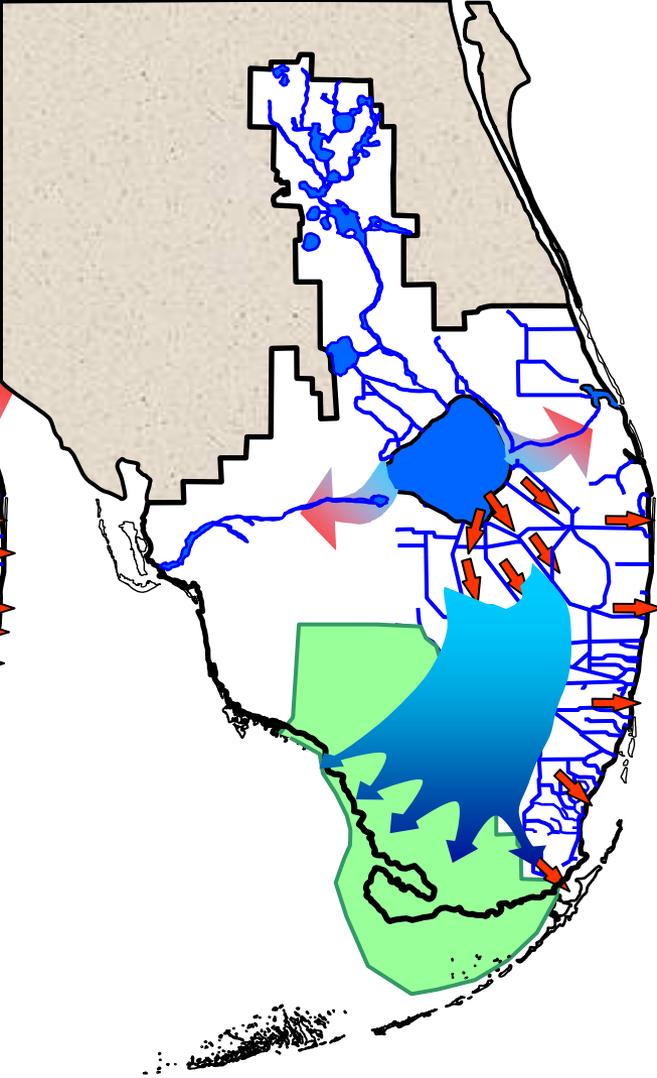




**Historic
Flow**



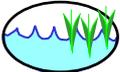
**Current
Flow**

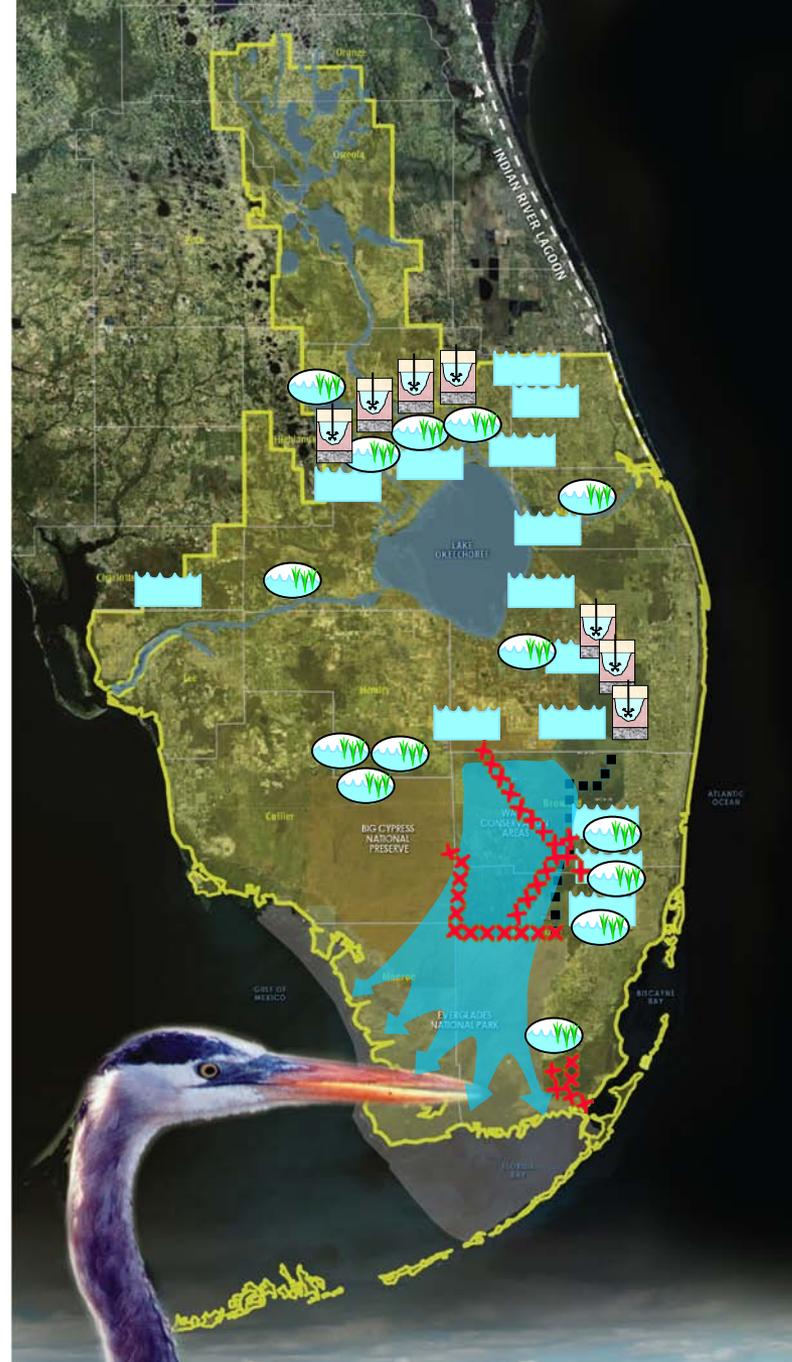


**Future
Flow**

Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (CERP)

■ 68 Components

- ▶ Storage  Surface  ASR
 - ▶ STAs for water quality 
 - ▶ Seepage management 
 - ▶ Removing barriers to flow 
 - ▶ Revised operations
- ## ■ 30+ Year Implementation



CERP Implementation

Foundation Projects

- ▶ Kissimmee River
- ▶ C-111 South Dade
- ▶ C-51/STA-1E
- ▶ Modified Water Deliveries

1st Generation CERP

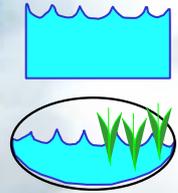
- ▶ Site 1 Impoundment
- ▶ IRL-South
- ▶ Picayune Strand

2nd Generation CERP

- ▶ C-43 Reservoir
- ▶ Broward County WPA
- ▶ C-111 Spreader Canal
- ▶ Biscayne Bay Coastal Wetlands



CERP Components Under Consideration



Storage, treatment and conveyance in the EAA



Decomartmentalization and sheetflow enhancement

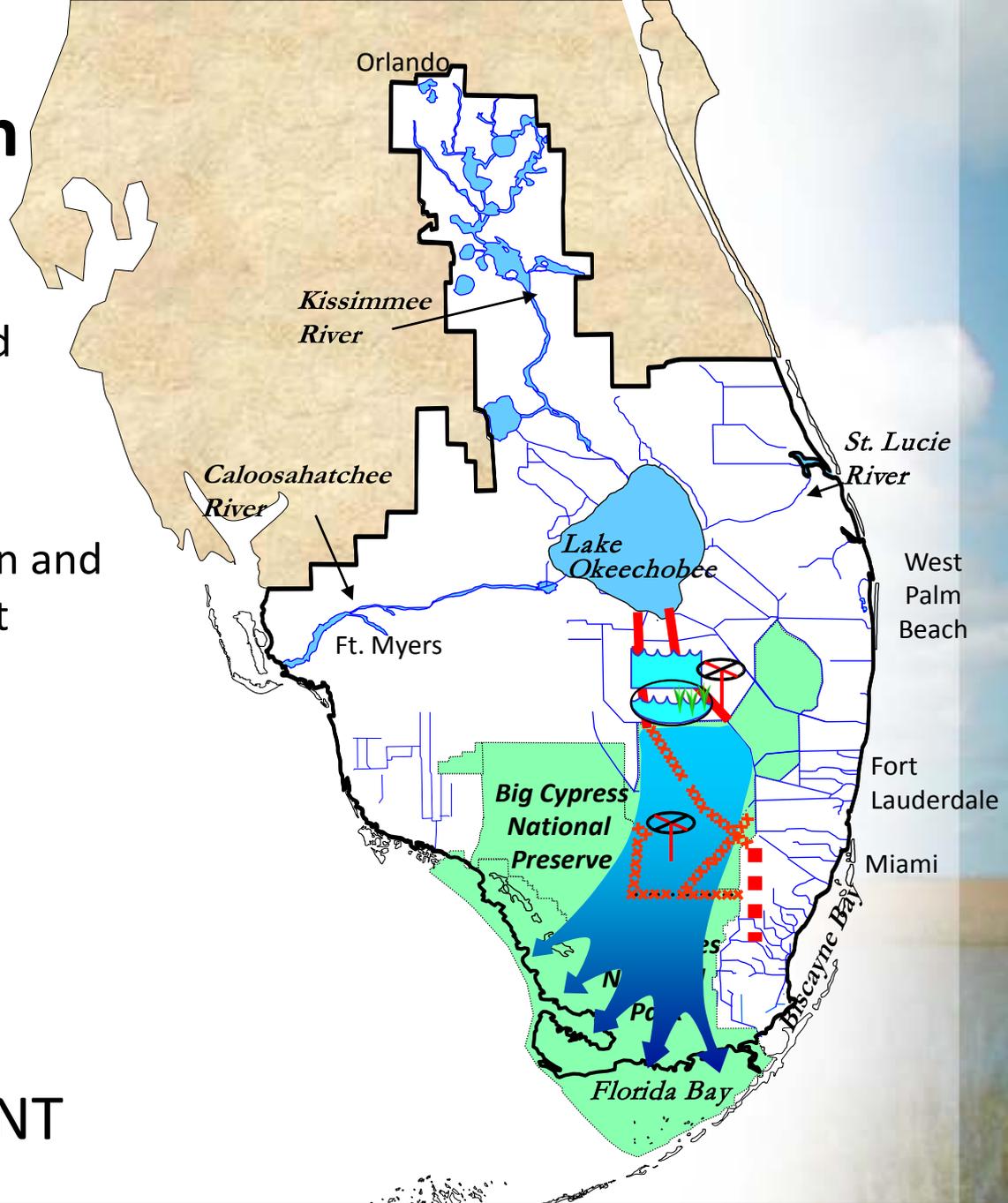


Seepage management



Operational Changes

Feasible 1st INCREMENT



Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan

Central Everglades – Benefits

- **Revitalizes the state-federal restoration partnership**
 - ▶ Replaces litigation with cooperative approach
- **Creates momentum for Congressional action**
 - ▶ Improves potential for project authorizations and appropriations and, subsequently, for State to receive *cost-share credit* for work already completed and lands acquired
- **Capitalizes on a streamlined Corps planning process**
 - ▶ Ability to get projects planned and readied for Congressional authorization and appropriation within 2 years
 - ▶ Currently, average time for completion of Corps planning process is 6+ years
- **Focuses projects on lands already acquired**

Central Everglades – SFWMD's Role

- Serve as Local Sponsor
- Streamlined planning effort
- Provide technical expertise
- Modeling
- Plan formulation
- Facilitate public participation



CENTRAL EVERGLADES PLANNING PROJECT

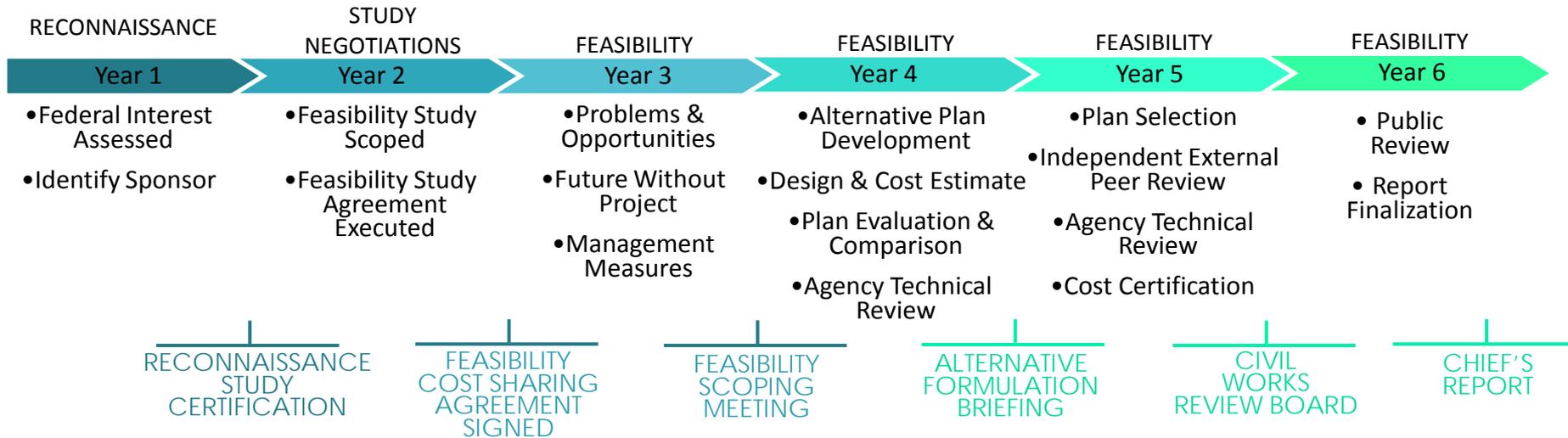


*Getting to the
Heart of CERP*

Study Plan and Process

Corps Planning Process Transformation

CURRENT PLANNING PROCESS: 6+ YEARS (approximate timeframes)

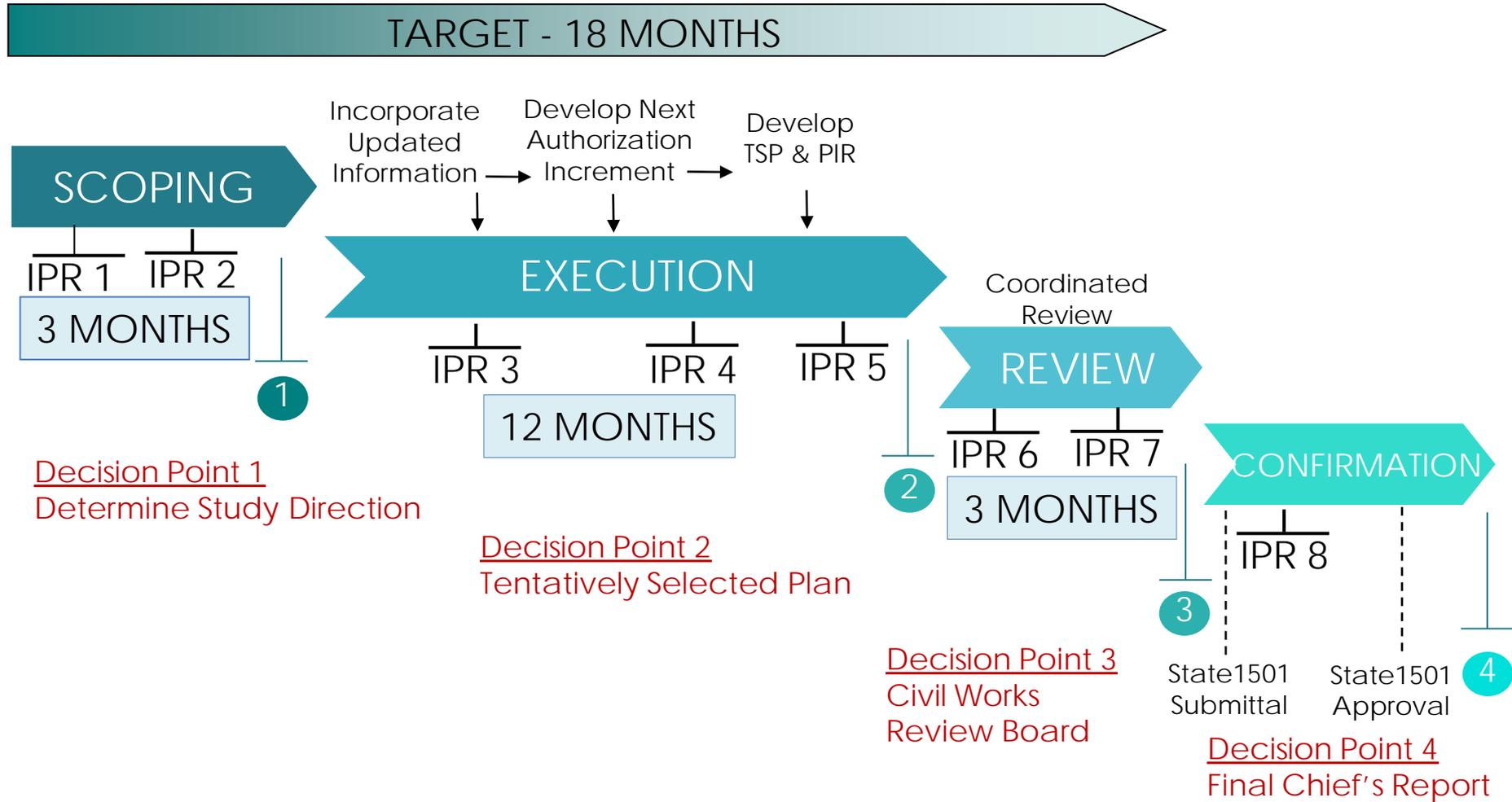


- Overly detailed, expensive, and takes a long time!
- The amount of time and data being invested in studies are not leading to a better product or decision
- Sponsors and Congress, as well as the Corps, are increasingly frustrated with the situation

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

Central Everglades Process



IPR: In-Progress Review with Corps Leadership

Public Participation Process



CENTRAL EVERGLADES PLANNING PROJECT



*Getting to the
Heart of CERP*



Study Area

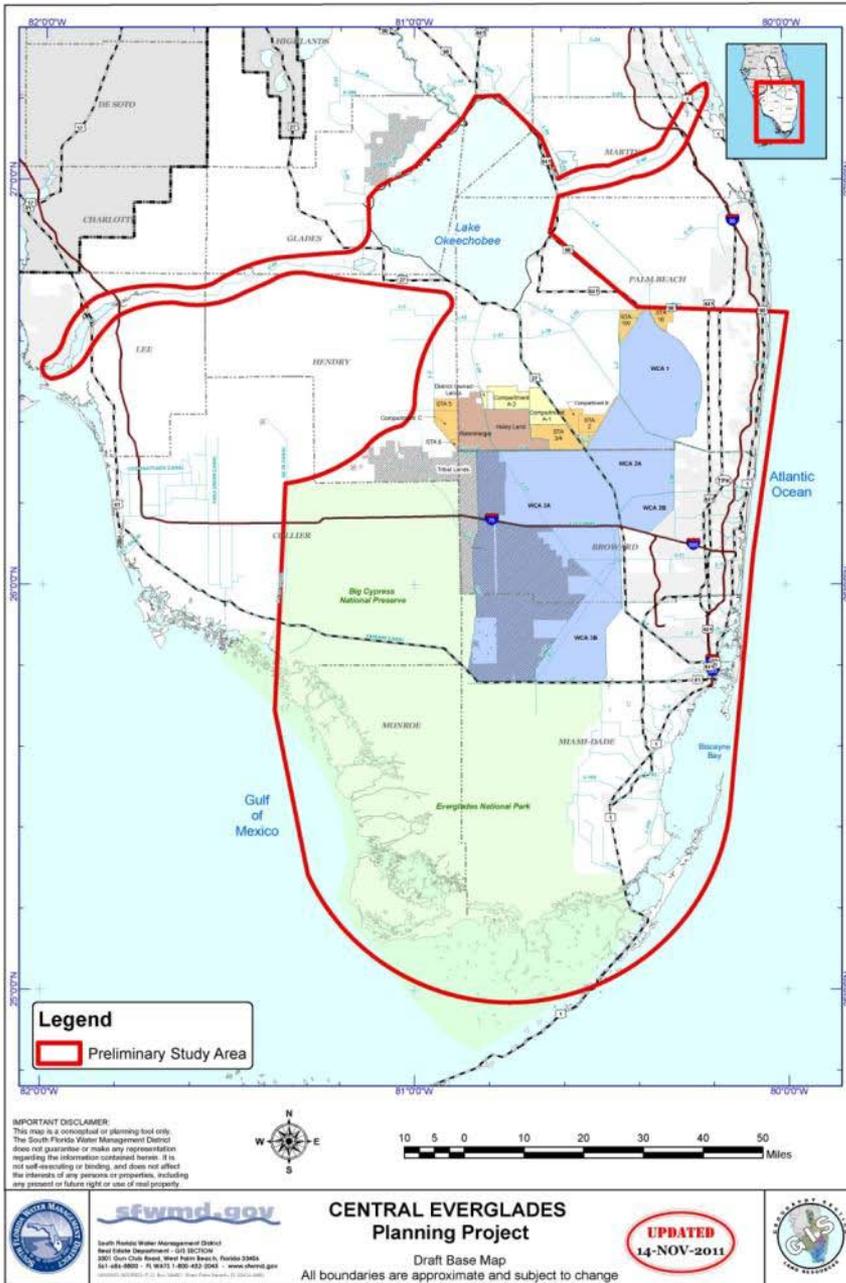
Goals, Objectives,
Constraints
and Other
Considerations

Study Area Map

(Areas that maybe affected by the project)

Encompasses:

- Lake Okeechobee & Lake Okeechobee Service Area
- St. Lucie Estuary
- Caloosahatchee Estuary
- Everglades Agricultural Area
- Water Conservation Area 3
- Everglades National Park
- Florida Bay & Biscayne Bay
- Lower East Coast Service Area



Central Everglades - Goal

- To improve the quantity, quality, timing and distribution of water in the Northern Estuaries, Water Conservation Area 3, and Everglades National Park in order to restore the hydrology, habitat and functions of the natural system



Central Everglades - Objectives

- Restore seasonal hydroperiods and freshwater distribution to support a natural mosaic of wetland and upland habitat in the Everglades system
- Improve sheetflow patterns and surface water depths and durations in the Everglades system in order to reduce soil subsidence, frequency of damaging fires, and decline of tree islands and decrease salt water intrusion

Central Everglades –Objectives (Continued)

- Reduce water loss out of the natural system to promote appropriate dry season recession rates for wildlife utilization
- Restore more natural water level responses to rainfall to promote plant and animal diversity and habitat function
- Reduce high volume discharges from Lake Okeechobee to improve the quality of oyster and SAV habitat in the northern estuaries

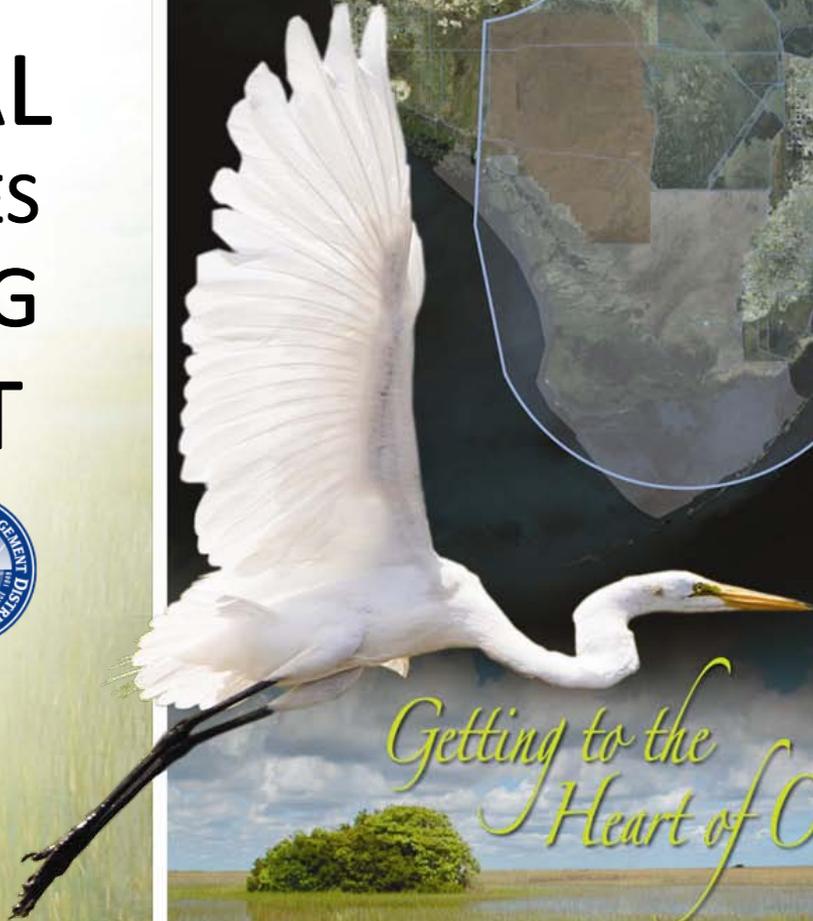
Central Everglades - Planning Constraints

- In accordance with Section 601(h)(5) of WRDA 2000 and Chapter 373.1501(4)(d), F.S.
 - ▶ Avoid any reduction in level of service for flood protection existing as of December 2000 caused by Plan implementation
 - ▶ Provide replacement sources of water of comparable quantity and quality for existing legal users caused by Plan implementation
- Meet applicable Water Quality Standards

Central Everglades – Other Considerations

- Lands purchased for restoration
- Use of available CERP cost-share credits
- Minimize adverse effects to Federally and State listed species under the Endangered Species Act and Florida Statutes
- Migratory Bird Treaty Act Compliance
- Agricultural Chemical Impacted Soils
- Impacts to Cultural Resources
- Impacts to Recreation
- Impacts to Prime and Unique Farmlands
- Environmental Justice

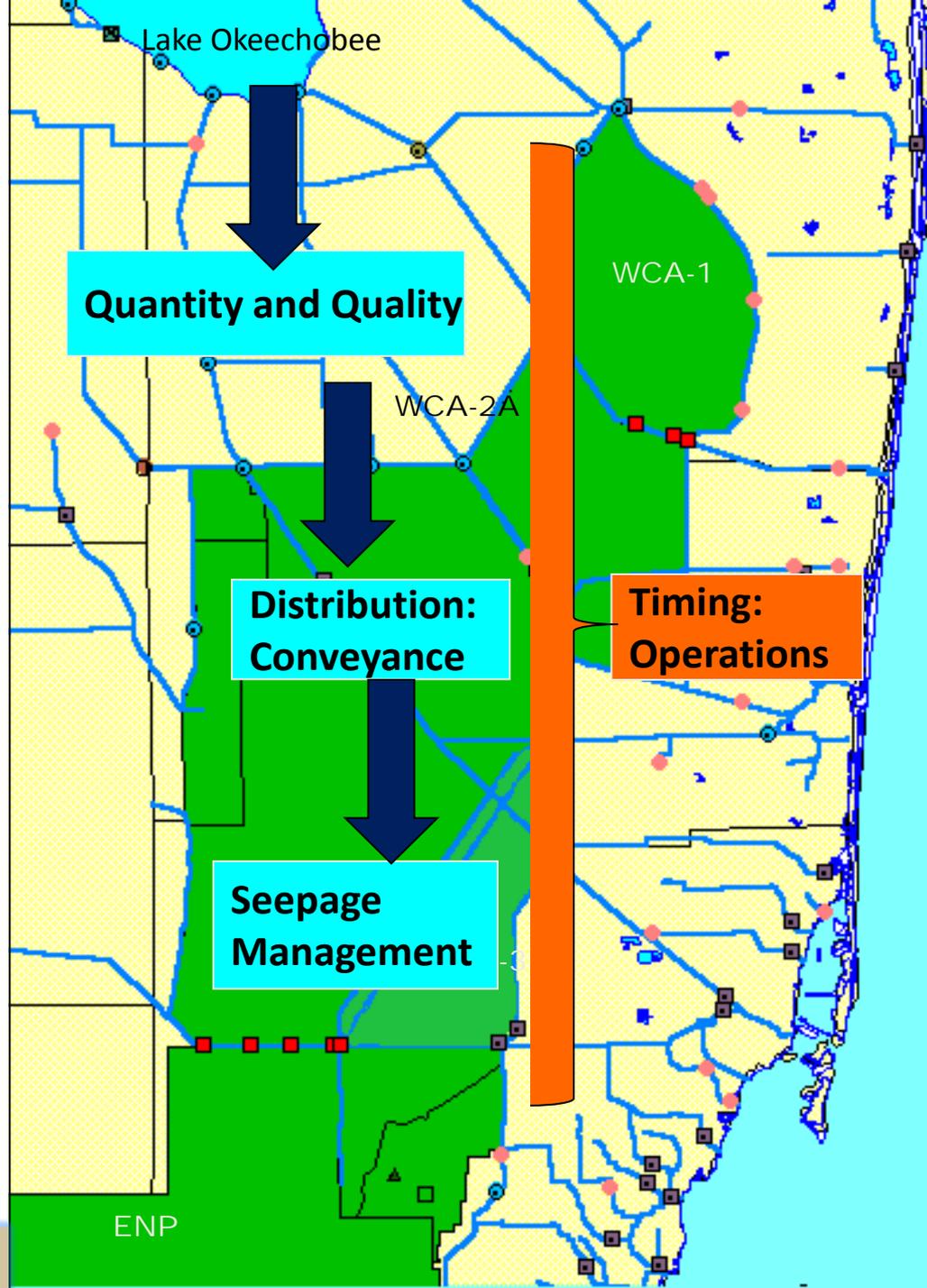
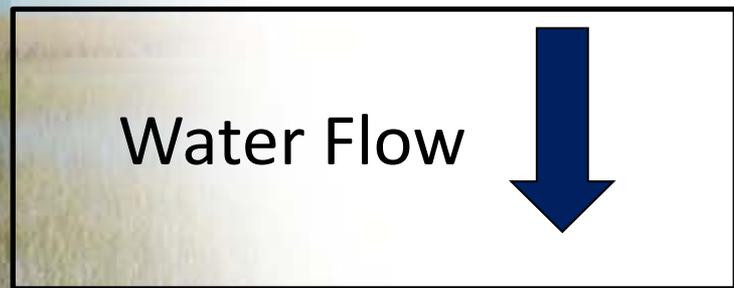
CENTRAL EVERGLADES PLANNING PROJECT



*Getting to the
Heart of CERP*

Plan
Formulation
Strategy for
Authorization of
Next Increment

- Plan Formulation strategy will consist of a three-part sequential process that follows the natural path of water through the Everglades system and highlights the interdependent nature of the CERP components



Central Everglades Planning Process - Status

- Established Project Delivery Team and held 2 PDT meetings
- Participated in 2 Working Group sponsored public workshops
- Held 2 In Progress Review meetings with Corps Headquarters and Assistant Secretary's staff
- Briefed and Discussion at WRAC and WRAC Recreational Workshop
- Scoping Phase-ending January 20th
 - ▶ Identified problems, goals, objectives, opportunities, constraints, assumptions
 - ▶ Defined Existing and Future w/o Project Conditions
 - ▶ Identified preliminary list of Performance measures and Evaluation Methodology

Central Everglades Planning Process – Next Steps

- Complete Scoping phase by the end of January 2012
- Working Group Sponsored Public Workshop- January 25
- Decision Point 1 – January 27 meeting with Corps Headquarters and Assistant Secretary's staff
- Key Policy issues
 - EAA Water Quality Assumptions
 - Focusing EAA formulation on land in SFWMD ownership
- Plan Formulation phase begins February 2012 (approximately 12 months)
 - Focus will be on identifying the initial increment of Central Everglades restoration



QUESTIONS?

Visit www.evergladesplan.org for updates and current information