



Greater Everglades Restoration

What it means to you.





WHAT IS THE GREATER EVERGLADES RESTORATION?

- The world's largest ecosystem restoration effort
- Plan to increase water flow through the Everglades National Park
- Plan for a sustainable south Florida by ensuring clean and reliable water supplies to support exponentially growing population
- To provide flood protection

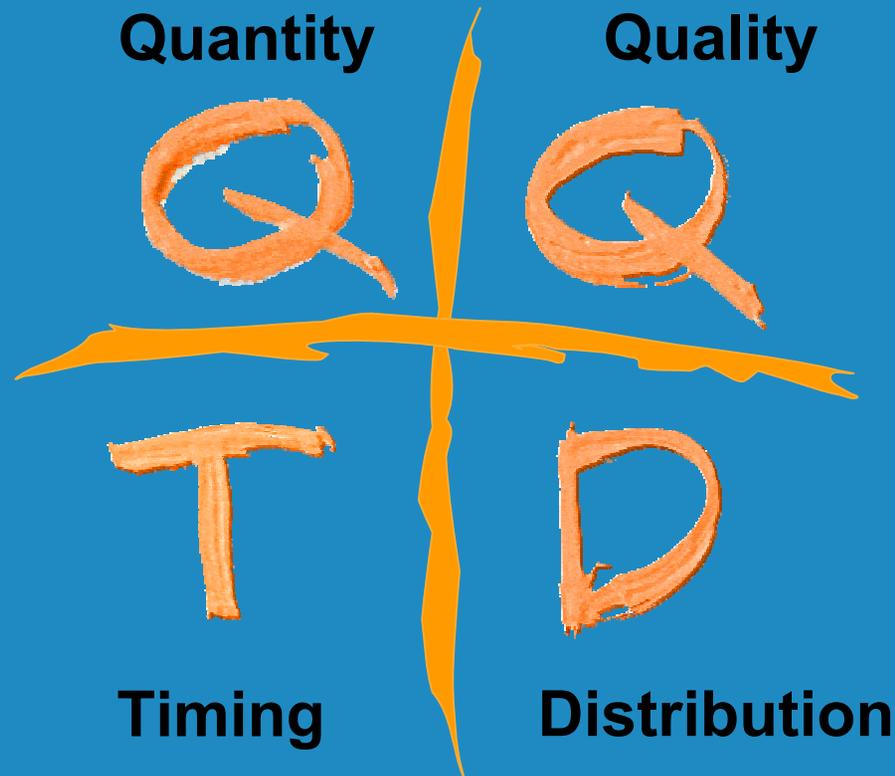


Why Restoration?

- 50% less Everglades
- 90% fewer wading birds
- 69 threatened or endangered species
- 5 feet of organic soil lost from the Agricultural Area
- 1.5 million acres infested by exotic plants
- 40,000 fewer acres of grass in Lake Okeechobee
- Fresh-water releases damage estuaries on both coasts
- Commercial fishing in Biscayne and Florida Bays declines
- 37% less living coral at sites in the Florida Keys

How will we restore?

By getting the water right!





Who is in charge?

- US Army Corps of Engineers
- South Florida Water Management District

“50-50 cost shared between federal and state”

- Expected to take over 20 years
- Cost over \$8 billion dollars

Restoration Leaders

- US Department of Army for Civil Works
- U.S. Department of the Interior
 - National Park Service
 - Fish and Wildlife Service
 - Geological Survey
- U.S. Department of Commerce
 - National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
- Environmental Protection Agency
- Seminole Tribe of Florida
- Miccosukee Tribe of Indians of Florida
- Florida Department of Environmental Protection
- South Florida Water Management District

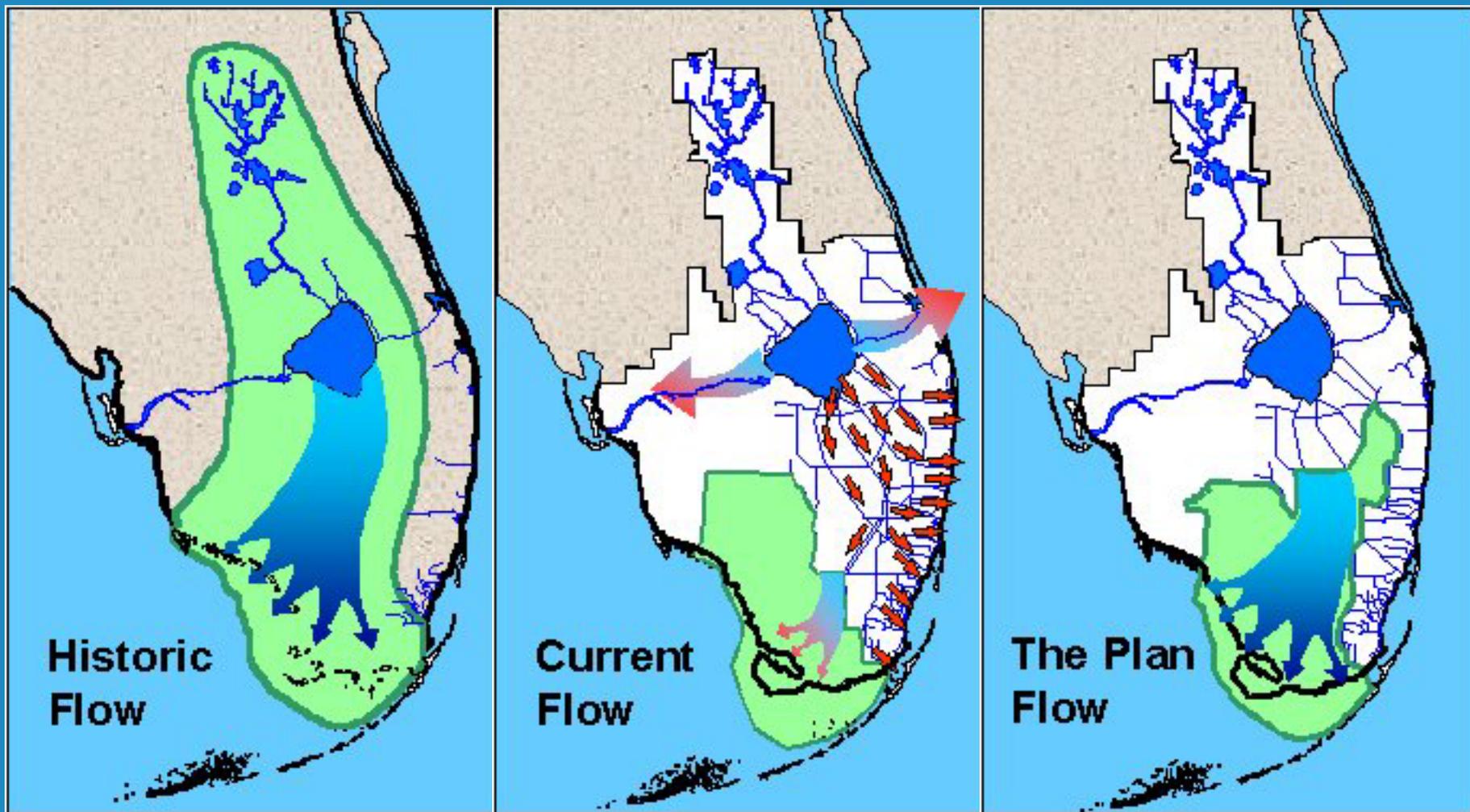


CERP

“Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan”

- 6 pilot projects
- 15 surface storage areas (~170,000 acres)
- 3 in-ground reservoirs (~11,000 acres)
- 19 stormwater treatment areas (~36,000 acres)
- 330 aquifer storage and recovery wells
- 2 wastewater reuse plants
- 240 miles of canals, levees and structures removed
- Operational changes

Water Flow





ARE COASTAL AREAS OF
CONCERN?
WHY?

NOAA's Role

1. Protect, restore, and manage the use of coastal and ocean resources through ecosystem-based management approaches.
2. Understand climate variability and change to enhance society's ability to plan and respond.
3. Serve society's needs for weather and water information.
4. Support the Nation's commerce with information for safe and efficient transportation.

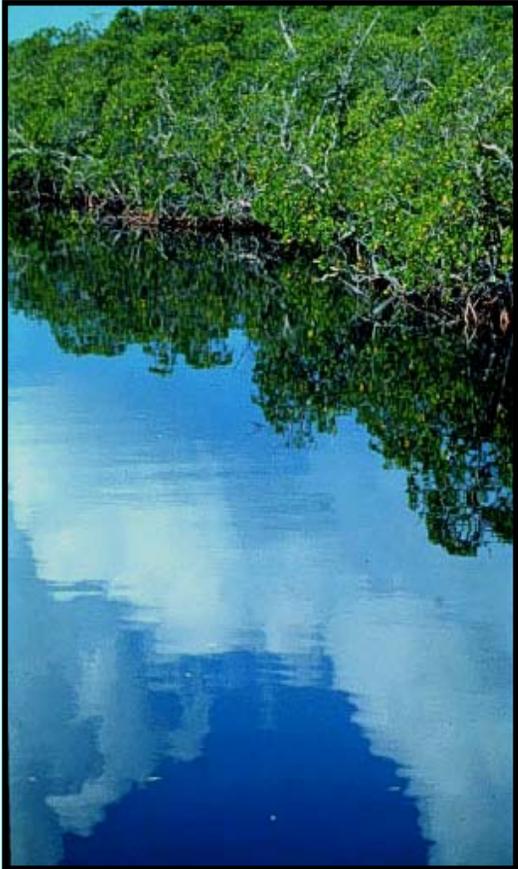
From NOAA's 2003 Strategic Plan



NOAA's Trusteeships and Responsibilities

- NOAA Fisheries
 - Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (FMCA) for conservation and management of living marine resources and critical habitats
 - Endangered Species Act (ESA) for the protection of endangered and threatened marine species
 - The Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA) for protection of marine mammals
- NOAA National Ocean Service
 - Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary and Protection Act.
 - Coastal Zone Management Act- Rookery Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve

Ecosystem Approach Includes the Full Seascape



Downstream effects...

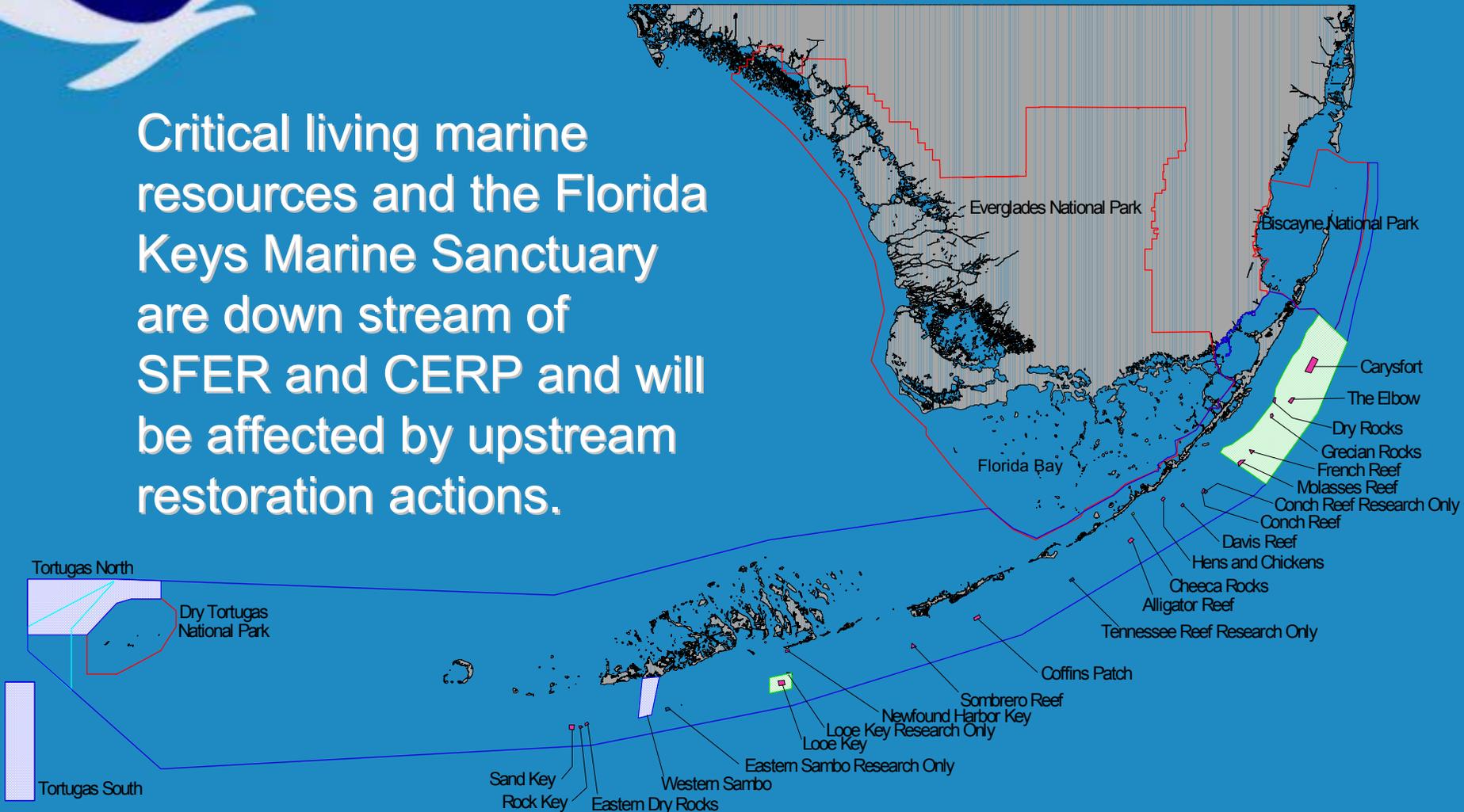


South Florida Ecosystem Restoration must include the Coastal Ecosystem.

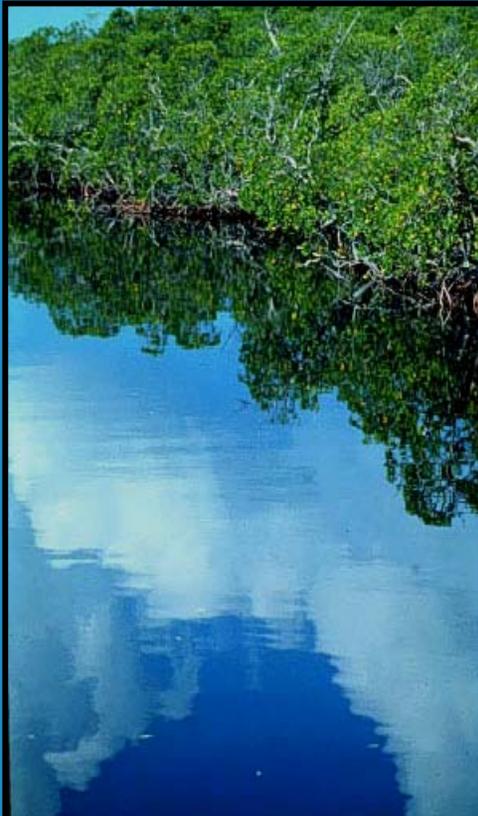
- Value to Florida and the U.S.
- Downstream 'sink'
- Showing signs of 'pressure'

This is one interconnected system.

Critical living marine resources and the Florida Keys Marine Sanctuary are down stream of SFER and CERP and will be affected by upstream restoration actions.



- South Florida Ecosystem Restoration includes the Coastal Ecosystem which is among the most threatened and among the most valuable
- If the health of the coastal ecosystem goes down hill, all upstream restoration fails.





Science and Adaptive Management

- Adaptive management requires a strong science base, models and ongoing monitoring
- These efforts require data and interpretations
- NOAA funded research helps provide the needed data and interpretations
- All the necessary science and outreach cannot be accomplished by a single agency

“NEED COLLABORATION AND PARTNERSHIPS”



Coastal Issues NOAA is tracking

- Water Quality
 - Nitrogen/Eutrophication in Florida Bay, along the SW shelf, and near the FKNMS
 - Mercury levels in Florida Bay fish
 - Endosulfan in South Dade Canals
- Living Marine Resources
 - Pink shrimp sensitivity to salinity in Florida Bay nursery
- Critical Habitat
 - Seagrass habitats
 - Florida Bay Murky Past
 - Coral Reef Tract

How Can We Make This Work?

- Public education
- Formal education
- Community outreach

“Using partnerships and existing networks”



South Florida Ecosystem Education Project

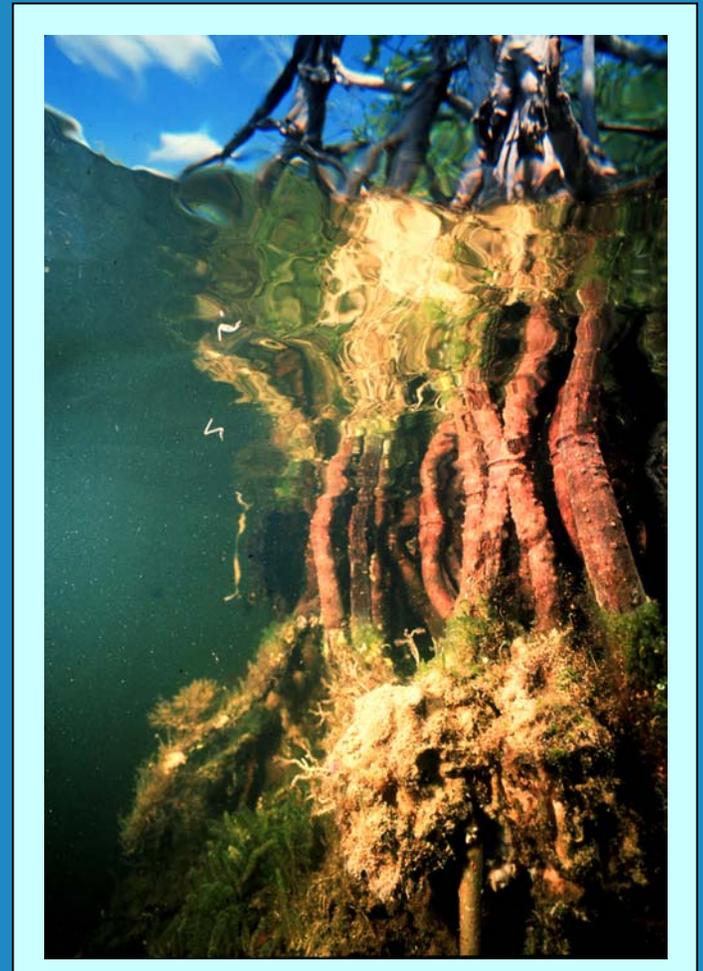
“PARTNERSHIP”

- Florida Sea Grant College Program
- National Sea Grant College Program
- NOAA’s Atlantic Oceanographic and Meteorological Laboratory
- NOAA’s Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary
- NOAA’s Southeast Fisheries Science Center



Partnership Goals

- Foster two-way communication between south Floridians and the NOAA's research community
- Empower citizens to participate in science-based decisions that affect their local marine ecosystems
- Provide outreach, education and general information about water quality and other issues affecting their coastal ecosystems





What Next?

- Learn more about restoration projects in your area
- Encourage partnerships in education and outreach projects
- Contact local elected officials or other governmental and non-governmental organizations and get involved
- Attend public hearings
- Make sure you have all the facts and make your opinion known
- Help promote education for local restoration projects

www.evergladesplan.org

www.aoml.noaa.gov/sfp

