

# BISCAYNE BAY AND SOUTHEASTERN EVERGLADES ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION (BBSEER)

## National Environmental Policy Act Scoping Meetings

September 15 and 16, 2020



US Army Corps  
of Engineers®





# WELCOME AND OPENING STATEMENTS

**Andrew LoSchiavo**

**Chief, Restoration and Resources Section  
Planning and Policy Division**

**U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Jacksonville District**

**Jennifer Leeds**

**Bureau Chief**

**Ecosystem Restoration Planning  
South Florida Water Management District**



# MEETING PURPOSE AND AGENDA



- National Environmental Policy Act Overview
- Everglades Restoration Overview
- Project Scope
- Project Planning Process
- Planning Step 1: Problems and Opportunities; Goals and Objectives
- Scoping: Public Comments and Input





# NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY ACT (NEPA) AND PLANNING PROCESS

**Presenter:**

**Robert Kirby**

**U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Jacksonville District**



# NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY ACT (NEPA)

## Requires Federal agencies to:

- Consider environmental consequences of Federal actions on the human environment before making final decisions
- Solicit and consider public views on proposed action
- Consult with Tribal, Federal, state, and local governments concerning proposed actions
- Provide agencies with a mechanism to coordinate overlapping, jurisdictional responsibilities (E.O. 13807 One Federal Decision)



# NEPA PROCESS AND ASSESSMENTS

Prepare detailed assessments addressing the potential environmental effects related to a Federal action:

- **Categorical Exclusion (CAT-EX)**
- **Environmental Assessment (EA)**
- **Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)**





# COMBINED NEPA AND PLANNING DOCUMENTS PROCESS



## SIX-STEP PLANNING

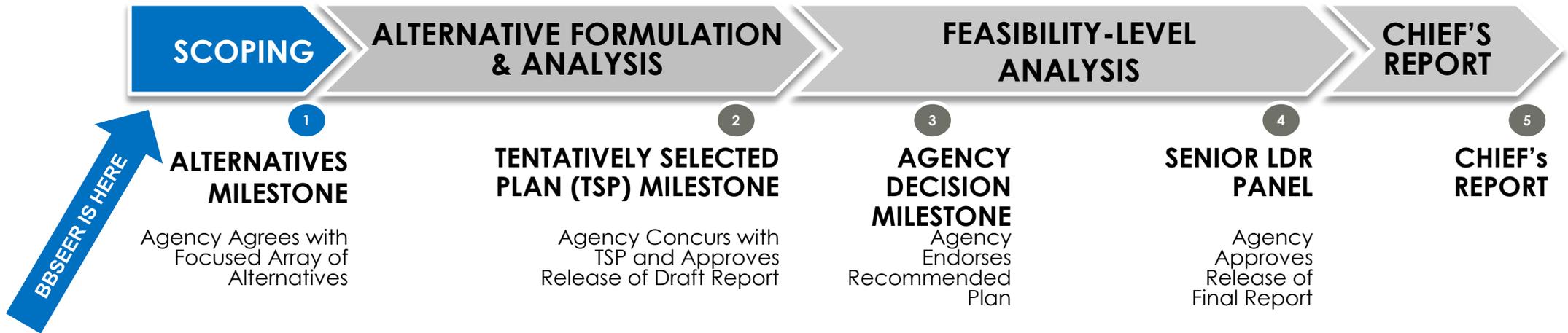
- Step 1: Problems and Opportunities;  
Goals and Objectives**
- Step 2: Forecast Existing  
and Future Conditions**
- Step 3: Develop Alternatives**
- Step 4: Evaluate Plans**
- Step 5: Compare Plans**
- Step 6: Select Plan**

## NEPA ASSESSMENT

- **Purpose and Need**
- **Affected Environment and  
No Action Alternative**
- **Range of Alternatives**
- **Environmental Effects**
- **Conclusions: Consultation and Coordination**



# SMART PLANNING PROCESS AND BBSEER DRAFT SCHEDULE



SEP 2020

## The study schedule is being developed

- Corps of Engineers policy is to complete studies in 3 years
- This study will be complex
- There are steps to request approval for more time
- The three recent CERP studies have needed 4+ years to complete



# OTHER PUBLIC PARTICIPATION OPPORTUNITIES



## Enhance opportunities for meaningful public engagement:

- Corps of Engineers hosting public meetings
- Draft NEPA Report public meeting
- Regularly scheduled Project Delivery Team meetings
- Use of existing forums to engage stakeholders
  - ▶ South Florida Water Management District Governing Board
  - ▶ South Florida Ecosystem Restoration Task Force
  - ▶ Water Resources Accountability and Collaboration (WRAC)
- Topic meetings to address particular issues
- Others





# BACKGROUND, PROJECT PURPOSE AND SCOPE UPDATE

**Presenter:**

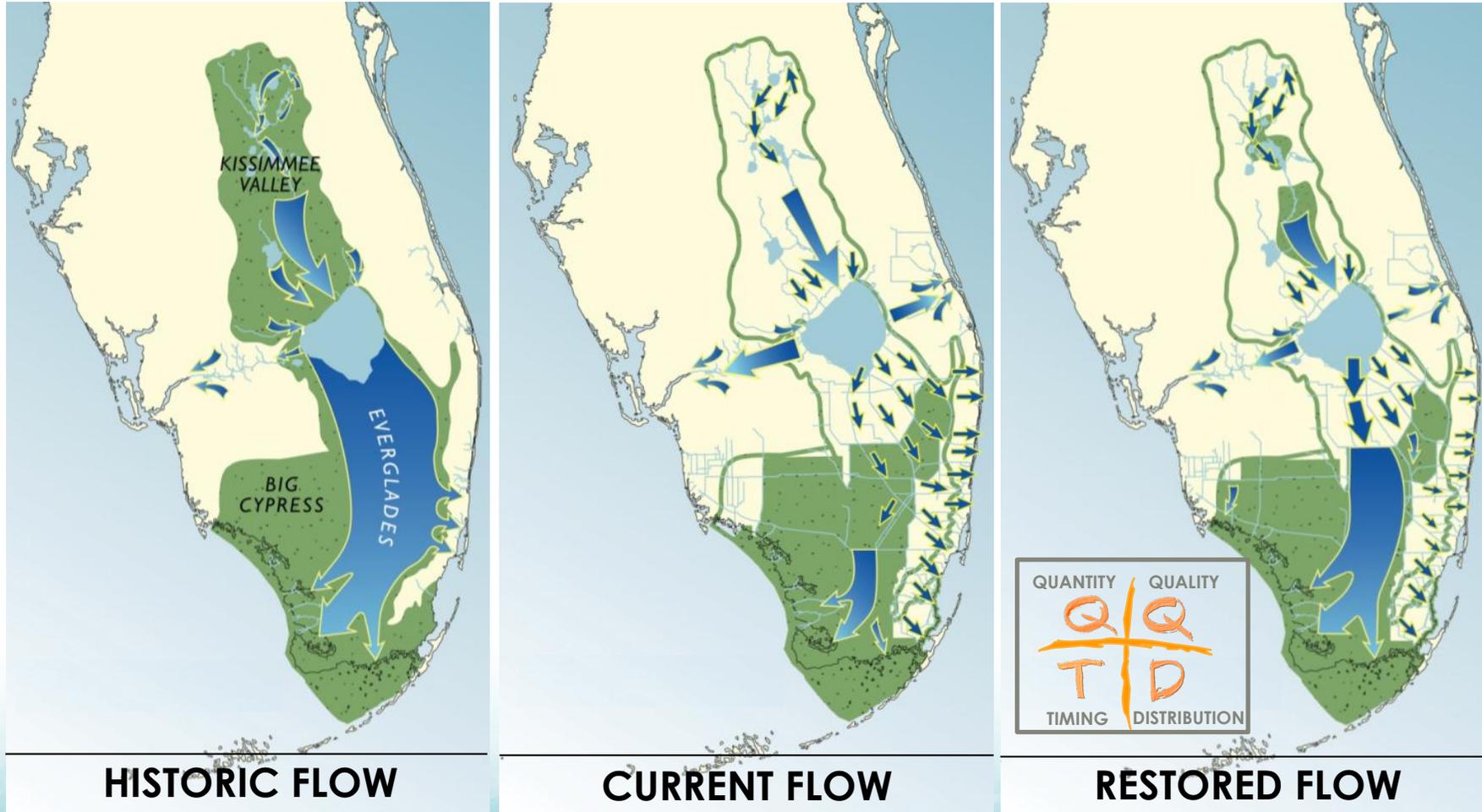
**Dr. Bradley Foster**

**U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Jacksonville District**





# COMPREHENSIVE EVERGLADES COMPREHENSIVE RESTORATION PLAN (CERP) GOAL

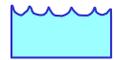




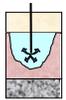
# COMPREHENSIVE EVERGLADES RESTORATION PLAN (CERP)



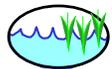
## ■ 68 Components



Surface Storage



Aquifer Storage and Recovery



Stormwater Treatment Areas (water quality)

■ ■ ■ Seepage Management

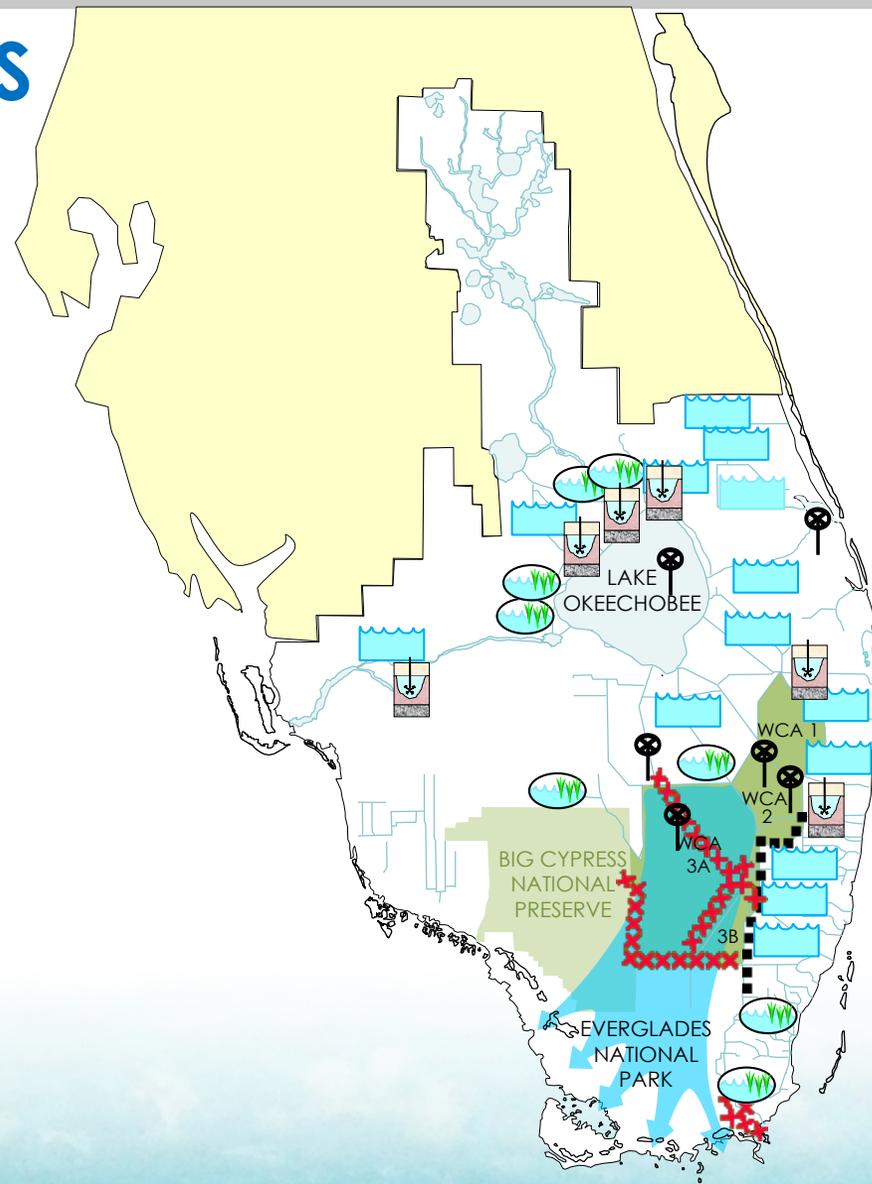


Removing barriers to flow



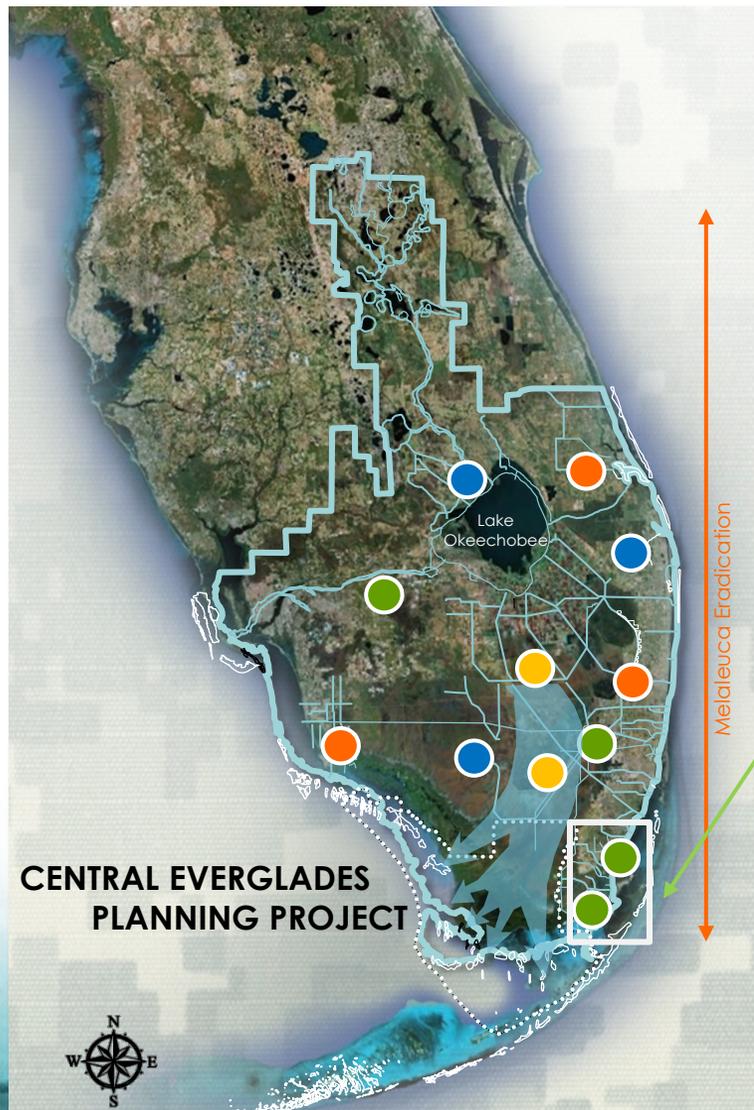
Revised operations

## ■ 30+ year implementation





# COMPREHENSIVE EVERGLADES RESTORATION PLAN (CERP)



## 1<sup>st</sup> Generation

- Site 1 Impoundment
- Indian River Lagoon – South (IRL-S)
- Picayune Strand Restoration Project
- Melaleuca Eradication and Other Exotic Plants

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Generation

- C-43 West Basin Storage Reservoir
- Broward County Water Preserve Area
- Biscayne Bay Coastal Wetlands
- C-111 Spreader Canal Western

## Central Everglades Planning Project

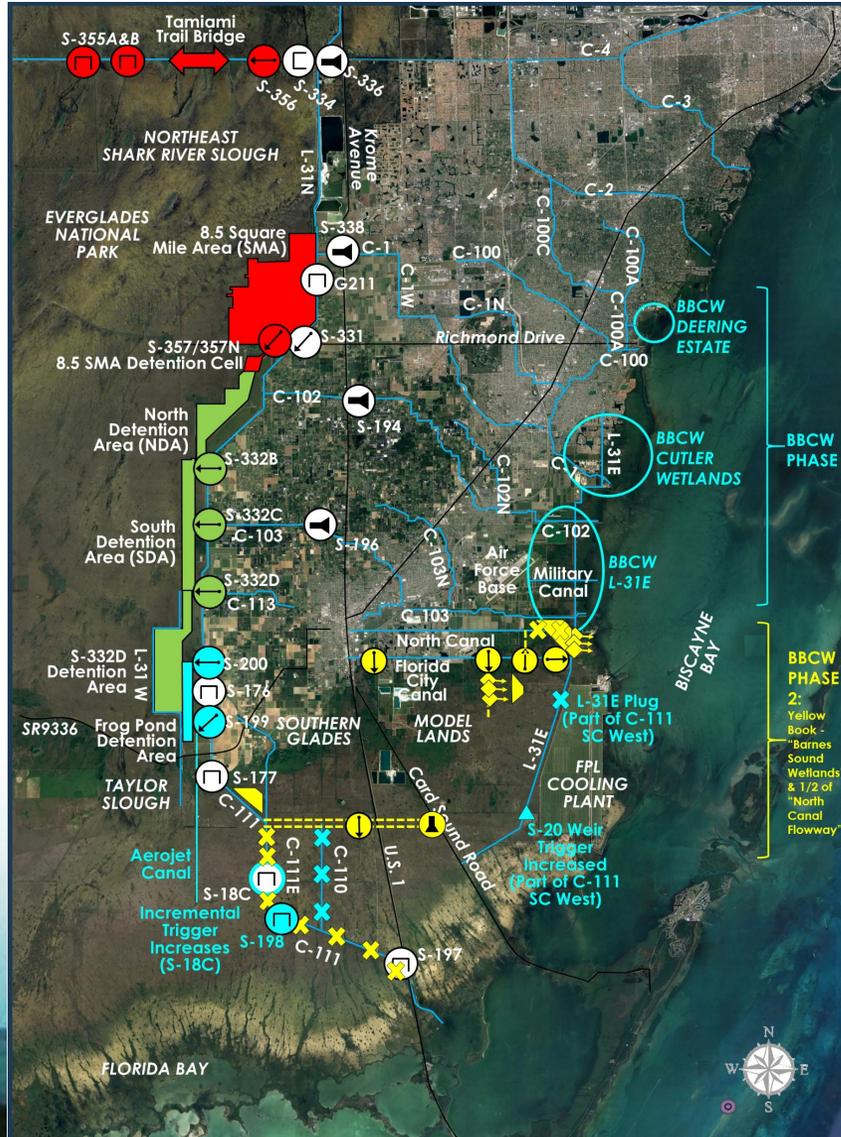
## EAA Reservoir

## CERP Planning/Design

- Loxahatchee River Watershed Restoration
- Lake Okeechobee Watershed Restoration
- Western Everglades Restoration



# BISCAYNE BAY COASTAL WETLANDS (BBCW) - PHASE 1 AND C-111 SPREADER CANAL WESTERN (SCW) BBSEER INCLUDES THE 2ND PHASES OF BBCW AND C-111 SCW

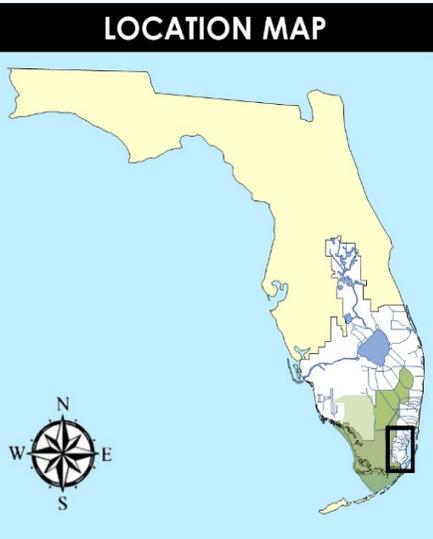


## Biscayne Bay Coastal Wetlands (BBCW), Phase 1

- Under construction
- Remaining features of Alternative O deferred to Phase 2

## C-111 Spreader Canal Western (SCW)

- Constructed and operated by SFWMD
- Expanded under SFWMD Florida Bay improvements
- Eastern spreader, pump station, stormwater treatment area, canal backfill deferred to Phase 2



LEGEND	
<b>AUTHORITIES   BUILT</b>	<b>FEATURES</b>
Modified Water Deliveries to ENP	Pump Station
C-111 South Dade	Culvert
Central & Southern Florida (C&SF)	Spillway
Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (CERP)	Spreader Structures
<b>CONCEPTUAL</b>	Removal or Fill/Plug
Remaining Yellow Book Features	STA
	Riser Culverts

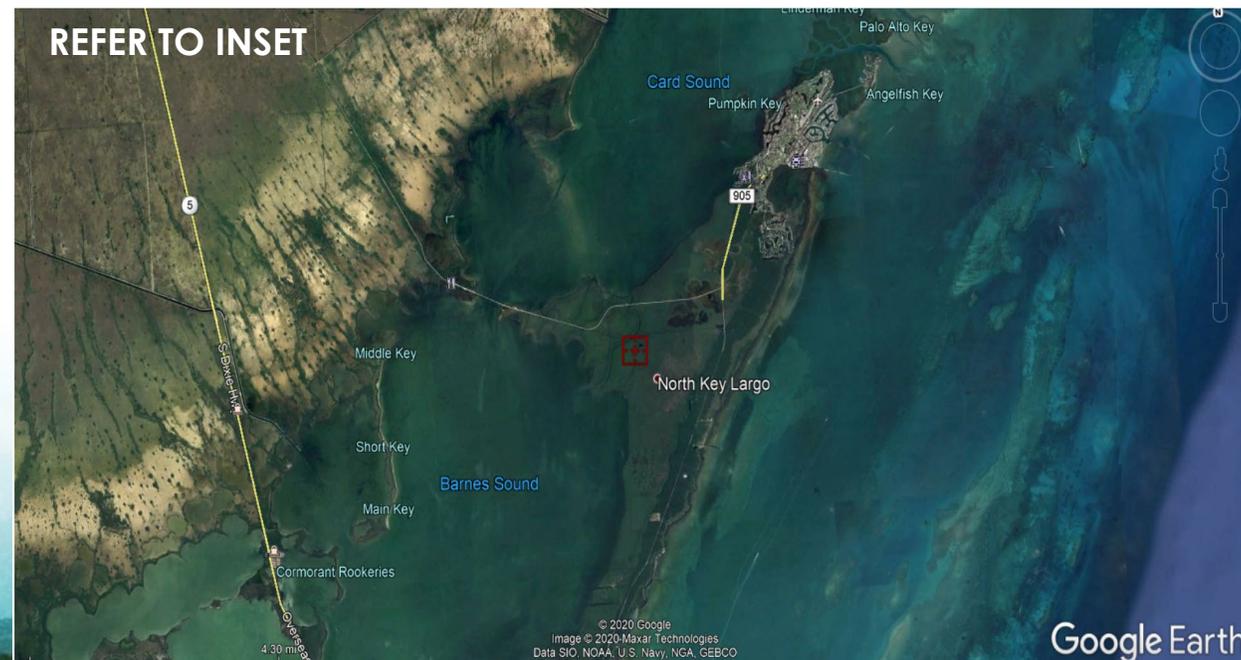
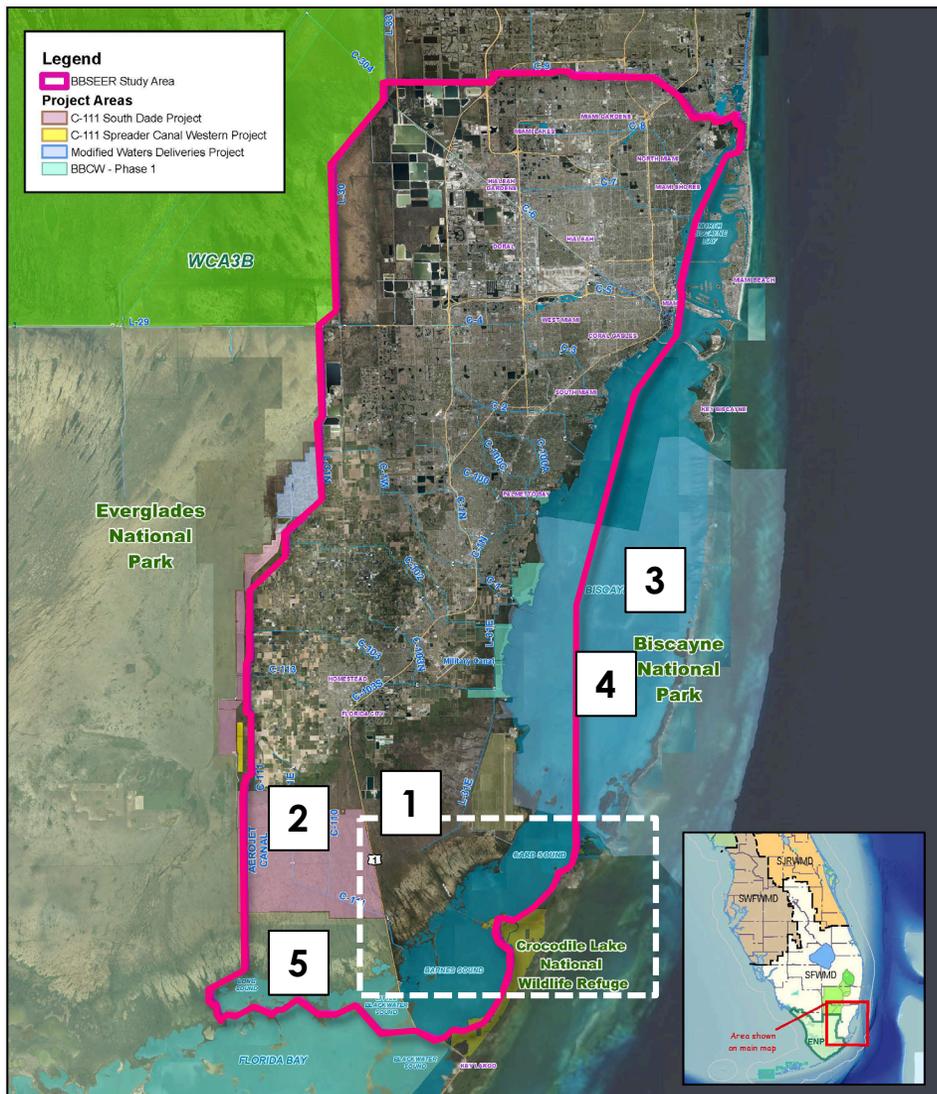
PROJECT PURPOSES
<b>MODIFIED WATER DELIVERIES (MWD) TO ENP</b> Re-distribute existing water flow to the eastern portions of Everglades National Park.
<b>C-111 SOUTH DADE</b> Work in concert with the MWD project to create a hydraulic ridge to reduce groundwater from seeping out of eastern ENP, enabling additional water flow into ENP and Florida Bay.
<b>C-111 SPREADER CANAL - WEST</b> Reduce unnatural and undesirable groundwater seepage out of ENP (Taylor Slough).
<b>C-111 SPREADER CANAL - EAST</b> Improve deliveries and enhance sheeflow in Model Lands and Southern Glades areas; reduce wet season flows into C-111; reduce potential flood risk in lower Miami-Dade area.
<b>BISCAYNE BAY COASTAL WETLANDS – PHASE 1 &amp; 2</b> Rehydrate wetlands and reduce point source discharges to Biscayne Bay; replace lost overland flow; and partially compensate for lost groundwater seepage by redistributing surface water from regional canals through a spreader system.



# CURRENT STUDY AREA (Southeast Miami-Dade County)

## NATURAL AREAS

- 1: Model Lands
- 2: Southern Glades
- 3: Biscayne Bay
- 4: Biscayne National Park
- 5: Everglades National Park (ENP) Eastern Panhandle



**BASE CREDITS:**  
Base map from South Florida Water Mgmt. District, State plane projection, Florida east zone, NAD 83-HARN, US feet.

**South Florida Water Management District**  
3301 Gun Club Rd, West Palm Beach, FL 33406  
561-686-8800

**Biscayne Bay Southeastern Everglades Ecosystem Restoration Project**

**IMPORTANT DISCLAIMER:**  
This map is a conceptual or planning tool only. The South Florida Water Management District does not guarantee or make any representation regarding the information contained herein. It is not self-executing or binding, and does not affect the interests of any persons or properties, including any present or future right or use of real property.

**IT GEOSPATIAL SERVICES**

Scale: 0 to 10 Miles / 0 to 14 Kilometers  
August 2020

User Name: hkostura  
Remedy ID Ticket: 00125040  
Map Produced on Date: 8/26/2020 8:15:26 AM  
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# BISCAYNE BAY AND SOUTHEASTERN EVERGLADES RESTORATION (BBSEER) STUDY



Includes plan development for the second phases of the authorized BBCW and C-111 SCW projects with the objectives of:

- Restoring ecological conditions in the Model Lands, Southern Glades, portions of ENP and coastal wetlands
- Restoring conditions in the nearshore zones of Biscayne Bay, including Biscayne National Park, Card Sound, Barnes Sound, and Manatee Bay
- Improving ecological and hydrological connectivity between Biscayne Bay coastal wetlands, the Model Lands, and Southern Glades
- Increasing resiliency of coastal habitats in southeastern Miami-Dade County to sea level change





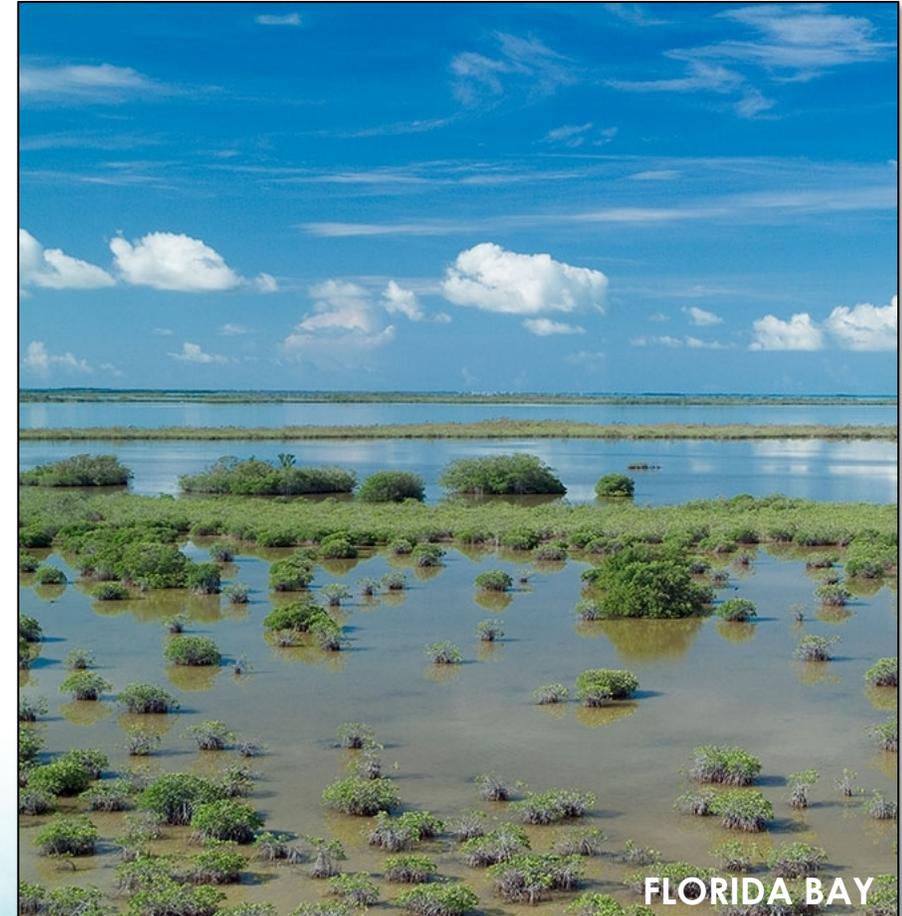
# CONSTRAINTS AND OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

## Constraints

- Do not reduce flood protection (Savings Clause)
- Do not eliminate or transfer existing legal sources of water (Savings Clause)
- Meet applicable water quality standards

## Other Considerations

- Maintain water deliveries to ENP, including Taylor Slough and Florida Bay
- Changes in water budgets/levels available in the project area since CERP was implemented





# QUESTIONS AND FOLLOW UP – EMAIL IS PREFERRED

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# WE REQUEST YOUR INPUT

## SCOPING COMMENTS FROM ELECTED OFFICIALS

- What are the main restoration problems that should be addressed?
- What type of management measures (features) should be considered?
- What types of environmental and human effects should be considered?
- What are the key risks and uncertainties associated with restoring freshwater flows to Biscayne Bay and the Southeastern Everglades?
- **Please press #2 to be placed in comment queue.**



# WE REQUEST YOUR INPUT SCOPING COMMENTS FROM PUBLIC



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# NEPA PUBLIC SCOPING COMMENTS



**Comments Due by October 2, 2020**

**Email Comments to:  
[BBSEERcomments@usace.army.mil](mailto:BBSEERcomments@usace.army.mil)**

**THANK YOU**

