

# CENTRAL EVERGLADES PLANNING PROJECT:



*Restoring the Heart  
of the Everglades*

## Natural Resources Leadership Institute Practicum: Managing Endangered Species Conflicts in Ecosystem Restoration

PRESENTED BY

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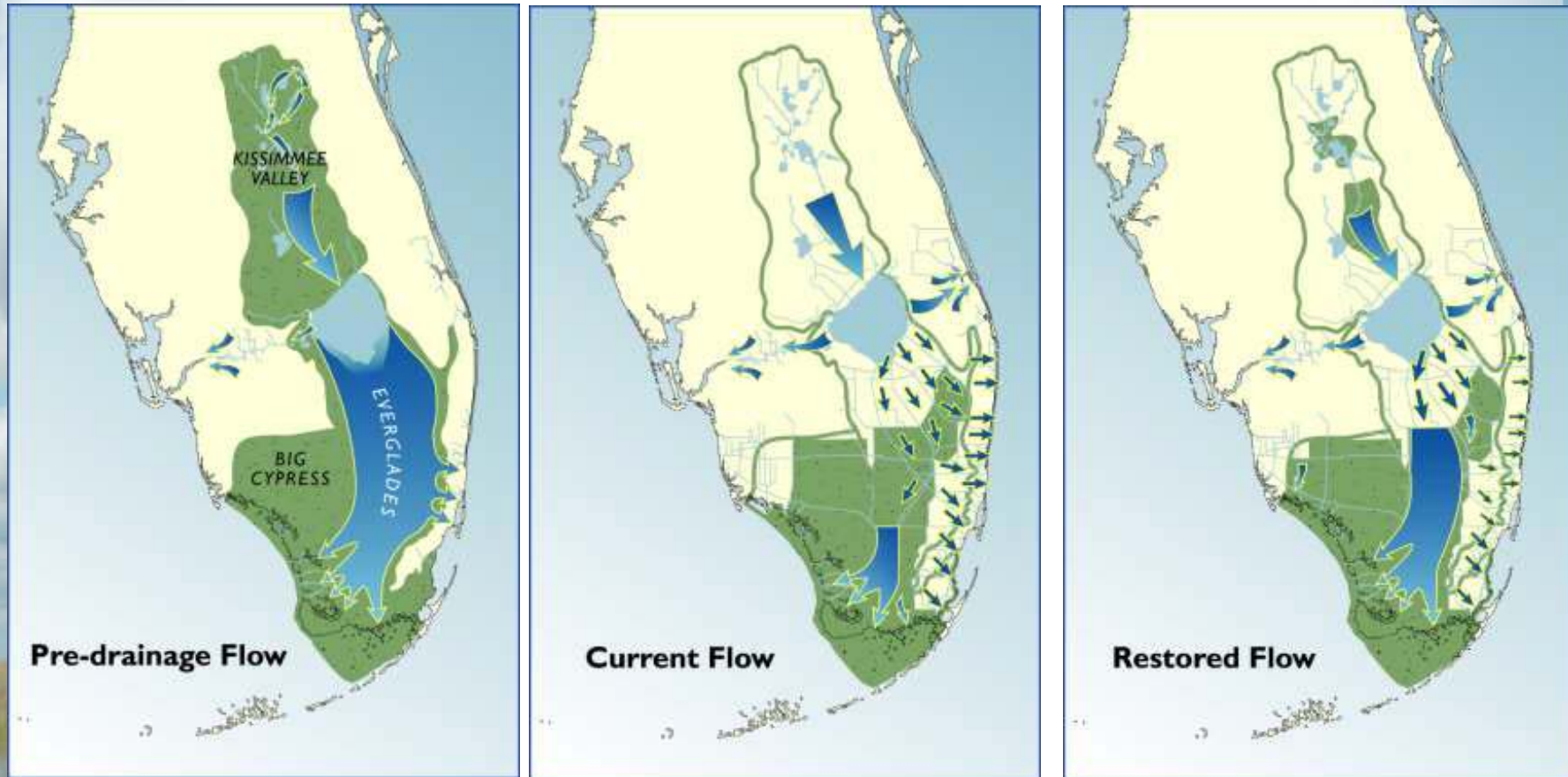
Guy Carpenter  
Florida Fish and Wildlife  
Conservation Commission

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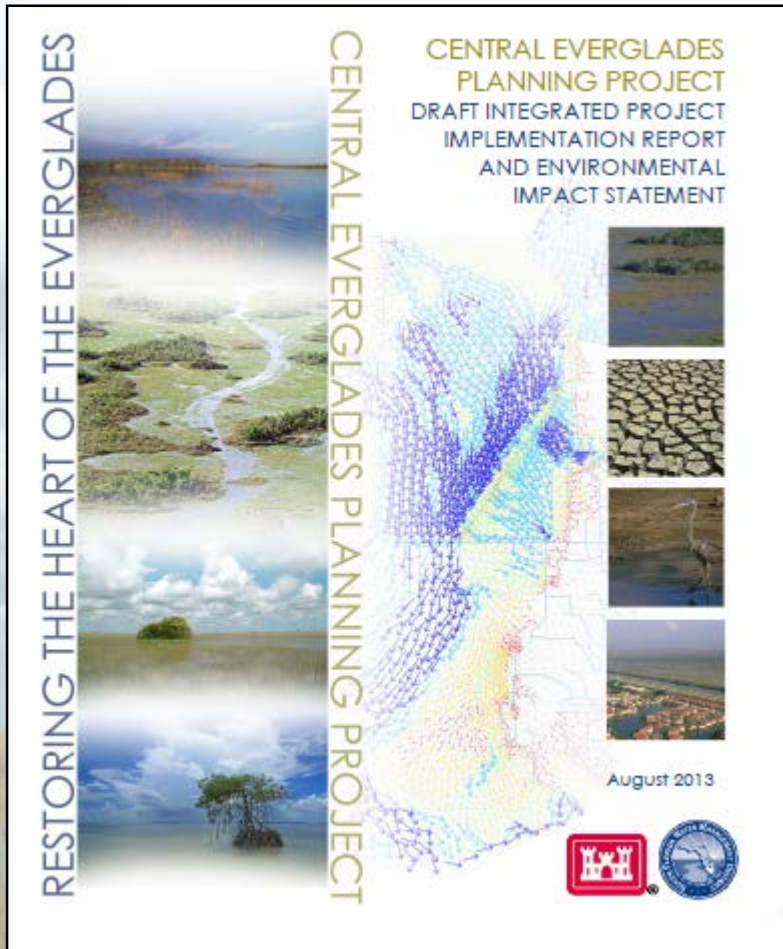
# Presentation Outline

- Central Everglades Planning Project
- Issue Description
- Stakeholders
- NRLI Practicum Goals & Objectives
- Practicum Actions
- Next Steps
- NRLI Keys to Success

# Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan



# Central Everglades Planning Project

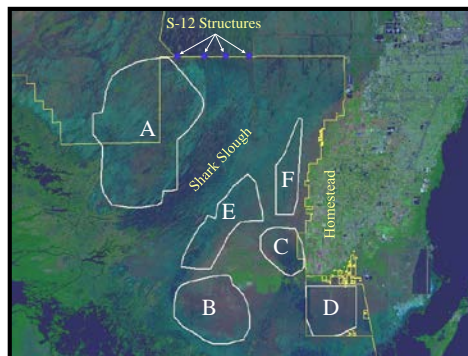


## GOAL:

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.

# Issue Description

- Endangered Cape Sable seaside sparrow resides within marl prairie habitat solely within Everglades National Park
- Marl prairie hydroperiod: 90-120 days
- Sparrows nest 17-23 cm above ground surface and require dry conditions to successfully reproduce



# Issue Description

- In 1999 U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (FWS) determined “jeopardy” on Cape Sable seaside sparrow as a result of Corps’ water management (i.e. introduction of restoration flows into Everglades National Park)
  - Jeopardy: species in immediate danger of extinction
- Since 1999:
  - Water flow to Everglades National Park has been reduced and rerouted
  - Sparrow population has not recovered
  - FWS has stated that restoration of historical flow path is the answer to sparrow’s dilemma



# Bottom Line

- Central Everglades Planning Project will increase hydroperiods within marl prairie resulting in an adverse affect on the sub-species



# NRLI Practicum Goals & Objectives

- Goals:
  - ▶ Conclude consultation for the endangered Cape Sable seaside sparrow under the Endangered Species Act of 1973 for the Central Everglades Planning Project.
  - ▶ Develop Memorandum of Understanding for Cape Sable Seaside Sparrow Conservation Plan.
- Objectives:
  - ▶ Participatory, consensus based process
  - ▶ Develop mitigation and interim measures to avoid Jeopardy on the Cape Sable seaside sparrow
  - ▶ Avoid reduction in ecosystem restoration benefits ascribed to implementation of Central Everglades Planning Project



# The Big Questions???

- Does U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service call "jeopardy" on this new project and force reformulation of the plan?
- U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service has suggested limiting flows again to Everglades National Park which would limit benefits to the downstream environment, including Florida Bay; thus if flows are limited, how do you "sell" a multi-billion dollar project to Congress and U.S. citizens that shows limited restoration benefits?
- Do you call "jeopardy" and raise the issue to the Council on Environmental Quality to request an exemption from the Endangered Species Act? (Note: This has been granted once since 1978)
- How will an exemption/"jeopardy" decision be viewed by the public/play out in the press (i.e. largest U.S. restoration project results in extinction of an endangered species only found in a National Park)?
- Are there interim measures that can enhance the population now, identify future appropriate habitat and "prepare" the habitat and population for change?

# Stakeholders

## Core Stakeholders:

- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
- U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
- Everglades National Park
- Department of the Interior
- South Florida Water Management District

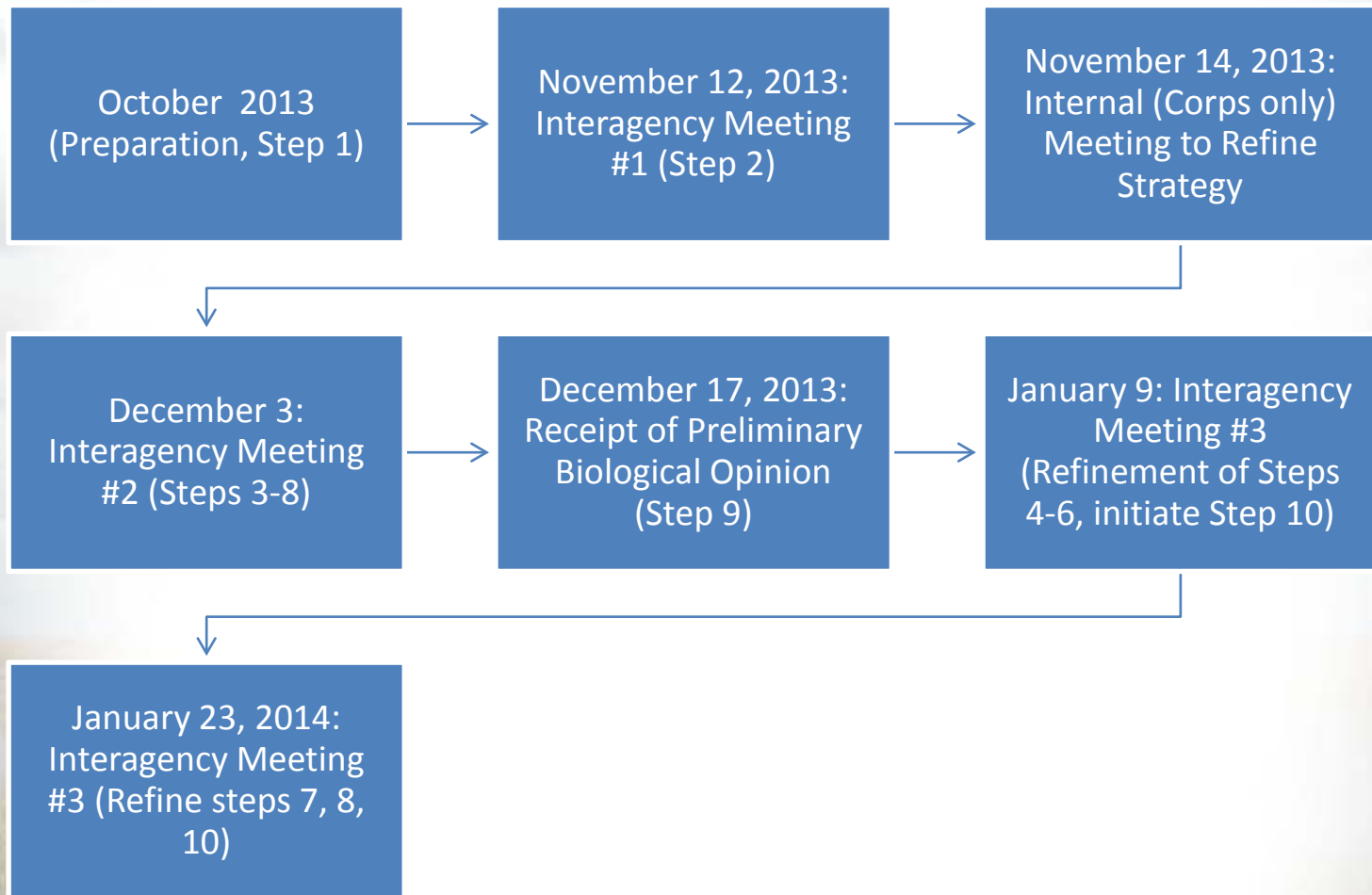
## Other Stakeholders:

- State Agencies
- Native American Tribes
- Environmental Groups (Audubon of Florida, Everglades Foundation, National Parks Conservation Association, etc.)
- Center for Biological Diversity
- Everglades Scientists
- Public

# Methodology

- 1) Identification of Core Stakeholders
- 2) Establish Preliminary Meeting to Identify Core Stakeholder Interests
- 3) Identify Gaps in Scientific Data
- 4) Determine Science/Funding Source and Process to Acquire Necessary Data
- 5) Identify Potential Mitigation/Interim Measures Necessary to Avoid Jeopardy to Cape Sable Seaside Sparrow
- 6) Utilize Timeline Tool to Determine Sequence of Interim and Mitigation Measures Necessary to Avoid Jeopardy
- 7) Identify Authority and Funding Stream for Interim Measures
- 8) Negotiate Monitoring and Mitigation Measures to be Included in Terms and Conditions for Central Everglades Planning Project U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service Biological Opinion
- 9) Receive U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service Biological Opinion
- 10) Complete Memorandum of Understanding for Cape Sable Seaside Sparrow Conservation Plan (Final Product)

# Practicum Actions

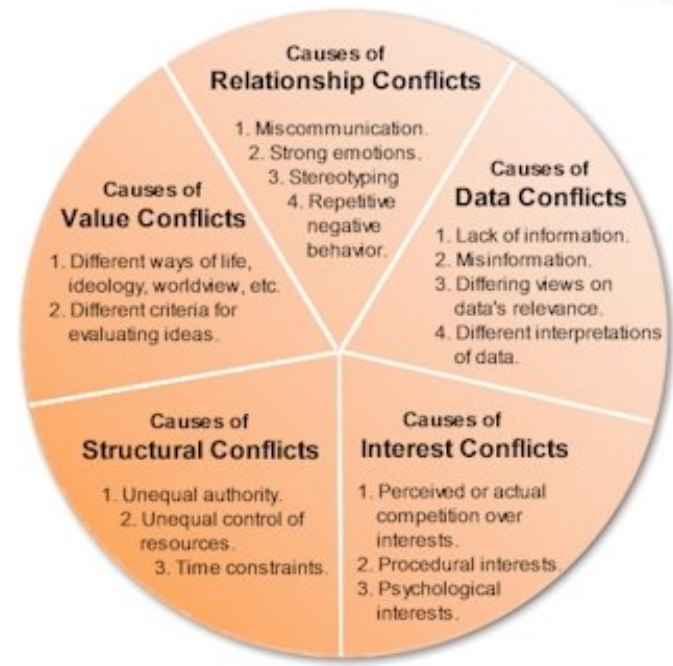


# Next Steps

- 8) Negotiate Monitoring and Mitigation Measures to be Included in Terms and Conditions for Central Everglades Planning Project U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service Biological Opinion
- 9) Receive Revised U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service Biological Opinion
- 10) Complete Memorandum of Understanding for Cape Sable Seaside Sparrow Conservation Plan (Final Product)

# NRLI Keys to Success

- Multi-Stakeholder Process
- Triangle of Satisfaction
- Interests vs. Positions
- Listening
- Negotiation Skills
- Timeline Tool
- Process Agenda



# Questions?

