MEETING PURPOSE AND AGENDA

- Everglades Restoration Overview
- National Environmental Policy Act
- Project Planning Process
- Project Scope Update
- Next Steps
EVERGLADES RESTORATION
OVERVIEW
COMPREHENSIVE EVERGLADES COMPREHENSIVE RESTORATION PLAN (CERP) GOAL

HISTORIC FLOW  CURRENT FLOW  RESTORED FLOW
COMPREHENSIVE EVERGLADES RESTORATION PLAN

- **68 Components**
  - Surface Storage
  - Aquifer Storage and Recovery
  - Stormwater Treatment Areas (water quality)
  - Seepage Management
  - Removing barriers to flow
  - Revised operations

- **30+ year implementation**
CERP IMPLEMENTATION

- FOUNDATION PROJECTS
- 1ST GENERATION CERP
- 2ND GENERATION CERP (awaiting appropriations)

CEPP: Central Everglades Planning Project

- KISSIMMEE RIVER RESTORATION
- IRL-S C-44 RESERVOIR/STA
- C-51/STA-1E
- SITE 1 IMPOUNDMENT
- BROWARD COUNTY WATER PRESERVE AREAS
- MODIFIED WATER DELIVERIES
- BISCAYNE BAY COASTAL WETLANDS PHASE 1
- C-111 SPREADER CANAL
- C-111 SOUTH DADE

- C-43 RESERVOIR
- SEMINOLE BIG CYPRESS
- PICAYUNE STRAND

Map showing locations of CERP projects and regions.
NATURAL AREAS
1: Kitching Creek
2: Moonshine Creek
3: Cypress Creek
4: Lainhart Dam
5: Pal Mar
6: Hungryland Slough
7: J.W. Corbett Wildlife Management Area (WMA)
8: Dupuis Management Area
9: Loxahatchee Slough
10: Grassy Waters Preserve
NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY ACT AND PLANNING PROCESS
NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY ACT (NEPA) GOALS

- Requires Federal agencies to consider environmental consequences of Federal actions before making final decisions
- Solicit and consider public views on proposals
- Consult with Tribal, state, and local governments concerning plans
- Provide agencies with a mechanism to coordinate overlapping, jurisdictional responsibilities
NEPA PROCESS AND ASSESSMENTS

Prepare detailed statements addressing the potential environmental impacts related to a major Federal action:

- Categorical Exclusion (CAT-EX)
- Environmental Assessment (EA)
- Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)
WHAT IS NEW IN THE PLANNING PROCESS?

- Process and outputs are decision focused, and within the 6-step planning process
- **Risk and uncertainty** for each decision is acknowledged and appropriate level of details is managed
- Report developed from the beginning of the study, documenting the decisions
# NEPA Process and Estimated Planning Schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Stage</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Start Date</th>
<th>End Date</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Scoping</strong></td>
<td>Alternatives Milestone: Vertical Team concurrence on array of alternatives</td>
<td>MAY 2015</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>TSP Milestone: Vertical Team concurrence on tentatively selected plan</td>
<td>JUL 2016</td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td>Agency Decision Milestone: Agency endorsement of recommended plan</td>
<td>JAN 2017</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Feasibility-Level Analysis</strong></td>
<td>Chief’s Report</td>
<td>SEP 2017</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
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*Note: The timeline spans from MAY 2015 to SEP 2017.*
OTHER PUBLIC PARTICIPATION OPPORTUNITIES

Enhance opportunities for meaningful public engagement:

- Corps hosted public meetings
- Draft NEPA Assessment public meeting
- Regularly scheduled Project Delivery Team Meetings
- Use of existing forums to engage stakeholders
  - South Florida Water Management District Governing Board
  - Water Resources Advisory Commission
- Topic meetings to address particular issues
- Others
PROJECT PURPOSE AND SCOPE UPDATE
PROJECT PURPOSE

- Improve the Quality, Quantity, Timing and Distribution of water deliveries from watershed to the Loxahatchee River and Estuary

- Improve hydrologic connections between the protected natural areas at the headwaters to the ‘National Wild and Scenic’ Loxahatchee River North-West Fork and its tributaries
HISTORY OF LOXAHATCHEE RIVER WATERSHED RESTORATION PROJECT

2000
- Congress approved the Restudy (Yellow Book)

2003-2005
- North Palm Beach County Phase 1 Project Management Plan
- Substantial Hydrologic and Hydraulic and Geotechnical analyses
- USACE HQ Guidance Feasibility Scoping Meeting Guidance – benefits formulation approach, constraints, project assumptions

2006-2011
- Working on finalizing draft Alternative Formulation Briefing documents
- Management directed hold (2011)

2011-2013
- L-8 Reservoir component re-purposed as Flow Equalization Basin for Restoration Strategies
- Purchase of Mecca Farms by the SFWMD
LOXAHATCHEE RIVER WATERSHED
RESTORATION PROJECT PROBLEMS

- Altered timing and distribution of headwater base flows to the Northwest Fork of the Loxahatchee River
- Increased salinity effects on formerly freshwater reaches of the Loxahatchee River
- Increased wet season flows to Southwest Fork and Loxahatchee Estuary
- Loss of freshwater cypress floodplain adjacent to Loxahatchee River
LOXAHATCHEE RIVER WATERSHED RESTORATION PROJECT PROBLEMS CONTINUED

- Degraded natural area structure and function from altered hydrology
- Conversion of natural areas to agricultural, residential and industrial uses
- Loss of connectivity and barriers to flow between natural areas, river, and estuary
- Reduced native floral and faunal populations and diversity
- Degraded water quality in natural areas
CERP PROJECT GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

Consistent with CERP Goals and Objectives (Table 5-1)

1. Enhance Ecological Values
   A. Increase the total spatial extent of natural areas
   B. Improve habitat and functional quality
   C. Improve native plant and animal species abundance and diversity

2. Enhance Economic Values and Social Well Being
   A. Increase availability of fresh water (agricultural/municipal and industrial)
   B. Reduce flood damages (agricultural/urban)
   C. Provide recreational opportunities
   D. Protect cultural and archeological resources and values
NEXT STEPS
MANAGEMENT MEASURES UNDER CONSIDERATION

- Aquifer Storage and Recovery
- Storage
- Conveyance
- Sheetflow enhancement
- Operational changes
- Vegetation Management

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NEPA SCOPING COMMENTS

- Comments Due by February 5, 2015
- Mail To:
  Attention: Andrew LoSchiavo
  U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Jacksonville District
  701 San Marco Blvd
  Jacksonville, Fl 32207
- Email Comments to: Andrew.J.LoSchiavo@usace.army.mil
QUESTIONS AND FOLLOW-UP

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QUESTIONS AND FOLLOW-UP

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• Project Website: http://www.bit.ly/LRWRP_CERP