

# EVERGLADES RESTORATION TRANSITION PLAN

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***Trusted Partners Delivering Value,  
Today and Tomorrow***





# ERTP Presentation Format



BUILDING STRONG

1. ERTP Background
2. ERTP Timeline
3. Why Are We Reinitiating?
4. Cape Sable Seaside Sparrow Sub Population Locations
5. Water Management Opportunities Included in the Biological Assessment
6. Projected Timeline for Actions Anticipated to Improve Conditions for the CSSS



# ERTP Background



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- Replaced the Interim Operating Plan (IOP)
- Governs water management operations for Water Conservation Areas (WCAs), Everglades National Park (ENP) and South Dade Conveyance System (SDCS)
- Multi-Species Approach (FWS Multi-Species transition Strategy)
- Lowered Zone A of WCA 3A Regulation Schedule as an Interim Risk Reduction Measure



# ERTP Timeline



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- Biological Opinion Nov 2010
- Final Environmental Impact Statement Dec 2011
- Record of Decision Oct 2012
- Re-initiated Consultation Nov 2014
- Biological Assessment Jul 2015
- Biological Opinion Expires ~~Jan 2016~~  
**Apr 2016**



# Why Are We Reinitiating?



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- The 2010 ERTP Biological Opinion Incidental Take Reinitiation Trigger exceeded
  - *“If the annual CSSS population estimate falls below 2,915 sparrows [Mean population estimate 2001-2009 = 3,145 ± 230], reinitiation of consultation must occur.”*
  - 2014 Range-wide survey revealed population estimate of 2,720 birds.
- The BO scheduled to expire Jan 2016

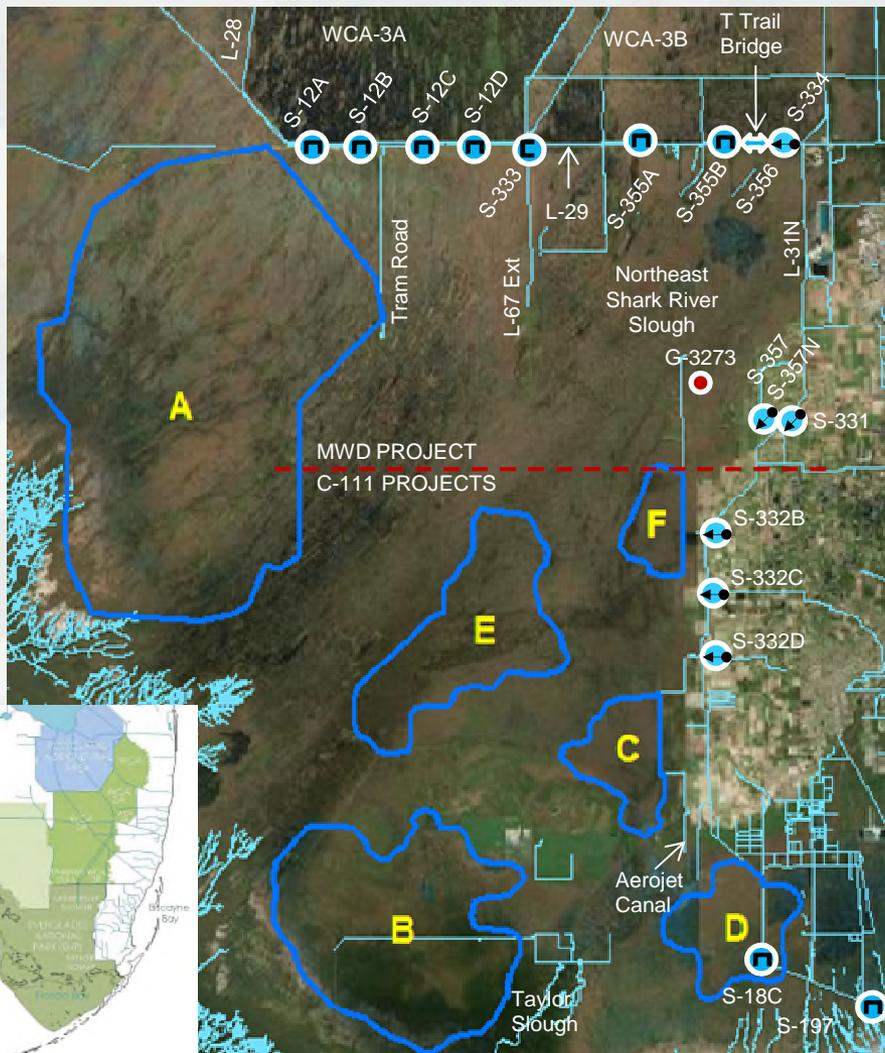


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# Cape Sable Seaside Sparrow



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# Water Management Opportunities Included in the Biological Assessment



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- Increase or enhance **operational flexibility** within ERTTP to move water away from Cape Sable Seaside Sparrow, Subpopulation A nesting areas
- **Move** Modified Water Deliveries to Everglades National Park Project **increment test schedules to the left**
  - Increment 1 - Spreadsheet analysis to quantify how much additional water was moved through the S-333 structure as opposed to the S-12 structures



# Water Management Opportunities Included in the Biological Assessment



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- **Examine Western Flows** Test to further investigate flows affecting Cape Sable Seaside Sparrow, Subpopulation A (CSSS-A)
  - Scope and develop an alternative to L-28 and associated western flows to move water away from CSSS-A to the west through Big Cypress

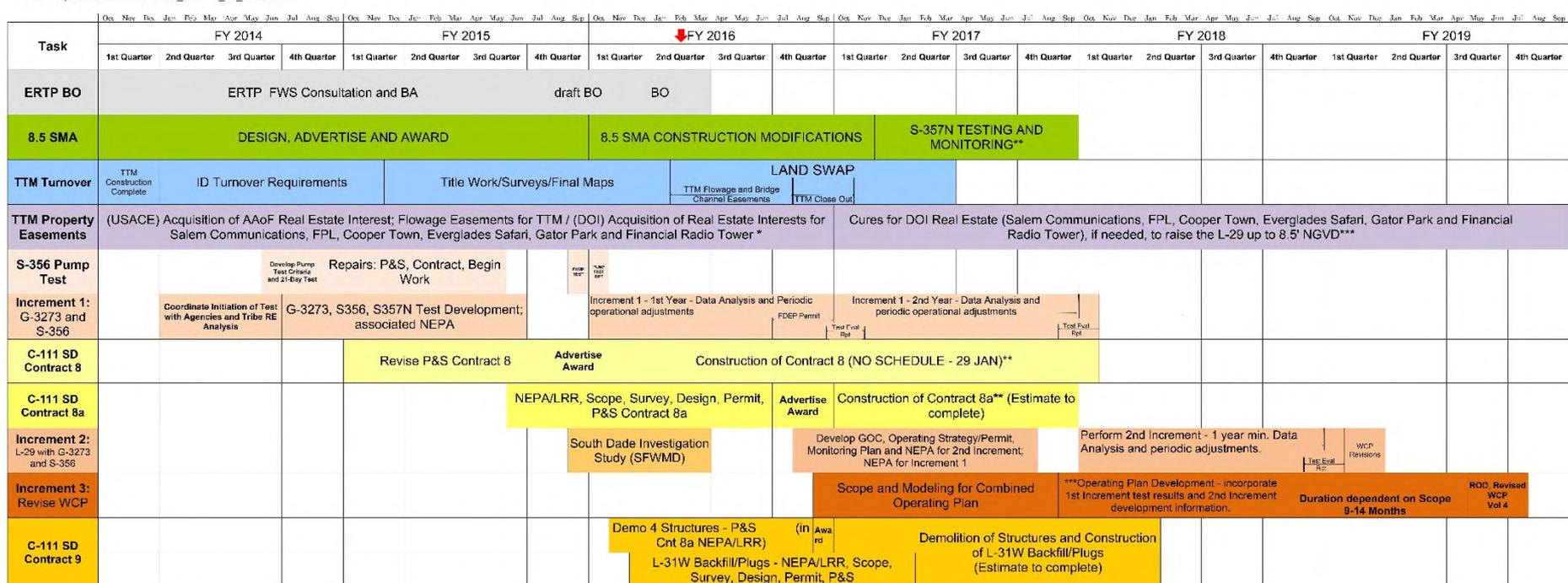


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# Projected Timeline for Actions that are Anticipated to Improve Conditions for Cape Sable Seaside Sparrow



COP Dependencies Gantt Chart\_DRAFT\_16\_0213.xlsx



\* EASEMENTS MUST BE ACQUIRED PRIOR TO IMPLEMENTATION OF INCREMENT 2 (> 7.5' NGVD in L-29 Canal)

\*\* MUST BE CONSTRUCTED/TESTED PRIOR TO IMPLEMENTATION OF INCREMENT 2

\*\*\* ONE YEAR OF INCREMENT 2 TESTING NEEDED PRIOR TO IMPLEMENTATION OF INCREMENT 3: REVISION OF WCA/ENP/SDCS WCP (Vol. 4). UNTIL CURES ARE COMPLETE, THE L-29 CANAL CANNOT BE RAISED UP TO 8.5' NGVD AND COP CANNOT BE FULLY IMPLEMENTED.

February 2016

The Everglades Restoration Transition Plan (ERTP) defines operations for the constructed features of the Modified Water Deliveries (MWD) to Everglades National Park (ENP) and Canal 111 South Dade (C-111 SD) projects until those projects are fully completed and a Combined Operational Plan (COP) is implemented. ERTP, which was implemented in October 2012, is a modification of the 2002/2006 Interim Operational Plan (IOP) for Protection of the Cape Sable Seaside Sparrow (CSSS) with operational flexibilities to provide further hydrological improvements amenable to multiple listed species. ERTP is intended to cover operations until the full implementation of COP, which will be implemented upon the completion of construction of MWD

Project and C-111 SD Project features. Concurrent with construction completion, two field tests (Increment 1 and Increment 2) will be conducted to allow interim benefits towards restoration and to assist future development of the COP; Increment 1 was initiated as a temporary deviation to ERTP in October 2015.

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