



# Everglades Restoration Transition Plan – Phase 1

GEER 2010

Naples, Florida

July 15, 2010

# Everglades Restoration Transition Plan (Phase I)

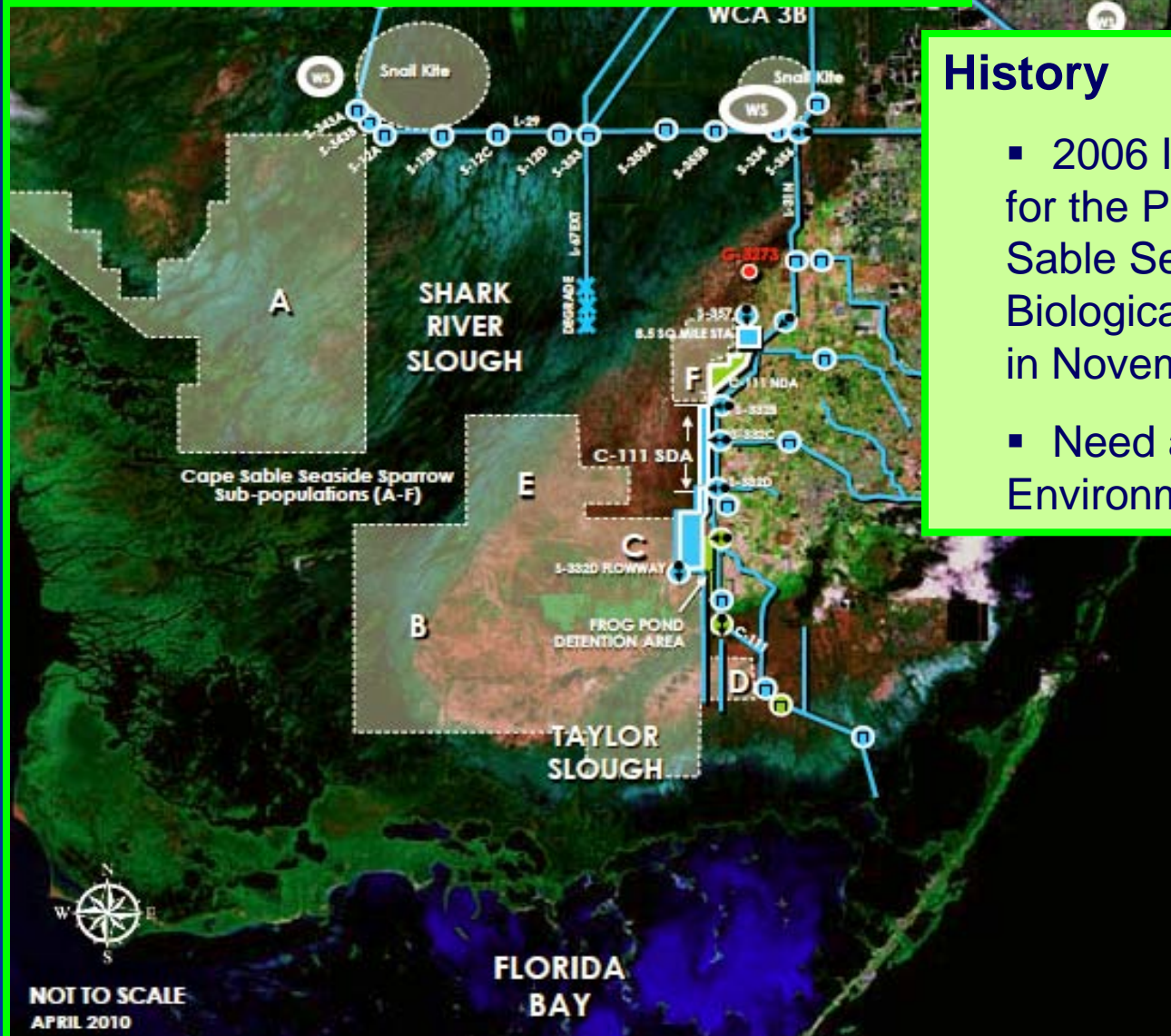


## Goals

- Conserve multi-species in the transition to full Everglades restoration
- Modify the current operational regime in Water Conservation Area 3 with the latest science
- Use real-time information to improve conditions with the flexibility available today
- Take incremental steps toward restoration and monitor to improve future operational plans



# Everglades Restoration Transition Plan (Phase I)



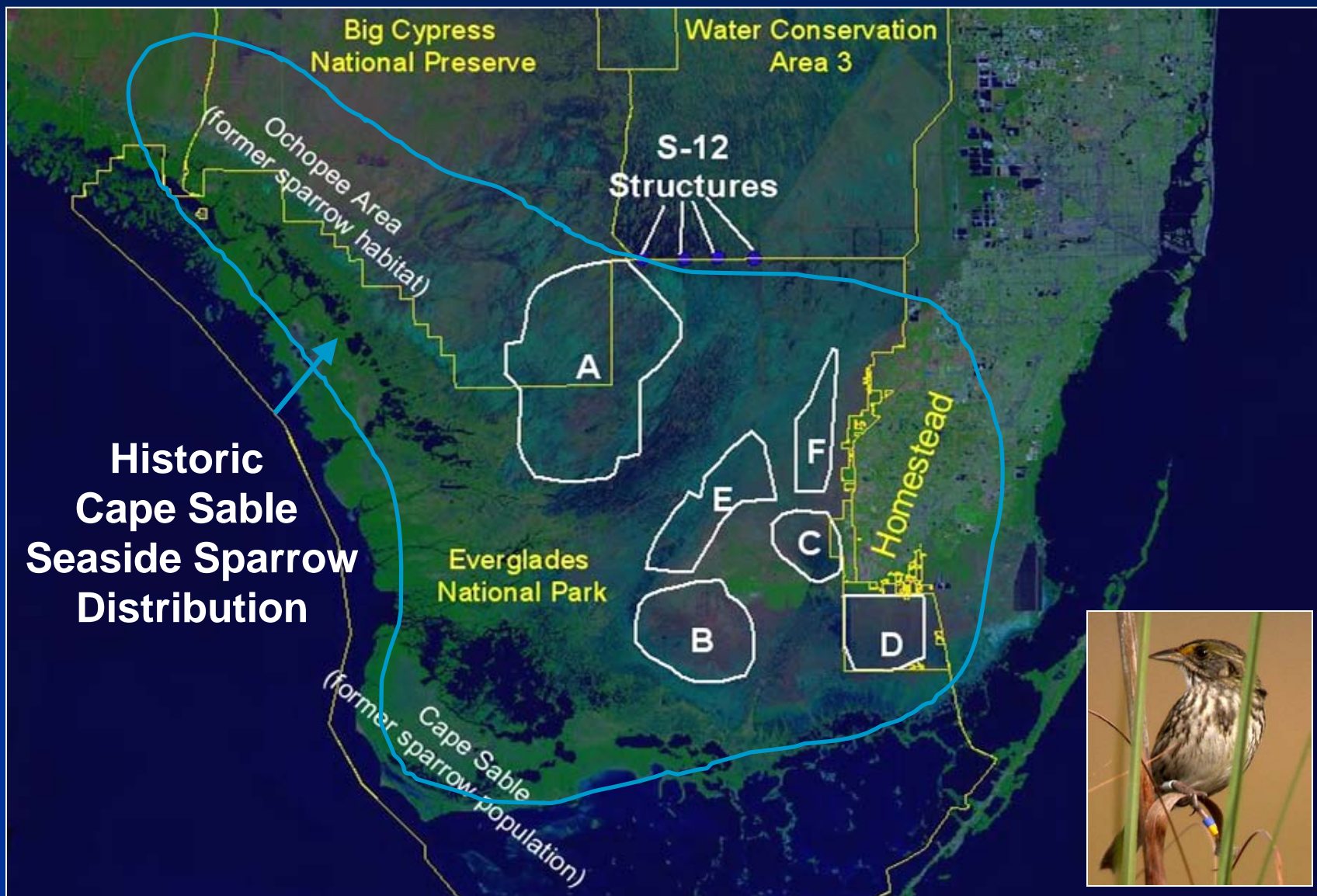
## History

- 2006 Interim Operational Plan for the Protection of the Cape Sable Seaside Sparrow (IOP) Biological Opinion (BO) expires in November 2010
- Need a new BO and National Environmental Policy Act review



# U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

## *Restoring America's Everglades – Recovering Multiple Species*



**Historic  
Cape Sable  
Seaside Sparrow  
Distribution**

Big Cypress  
National Preserve

Water Conservation  
Area 3

Ochopee Area  
(former sparrow habitat)

S-12  
Structures

A

F

E

C

Everglades  
National Park

Homestead

B

D

(former sparrow population)



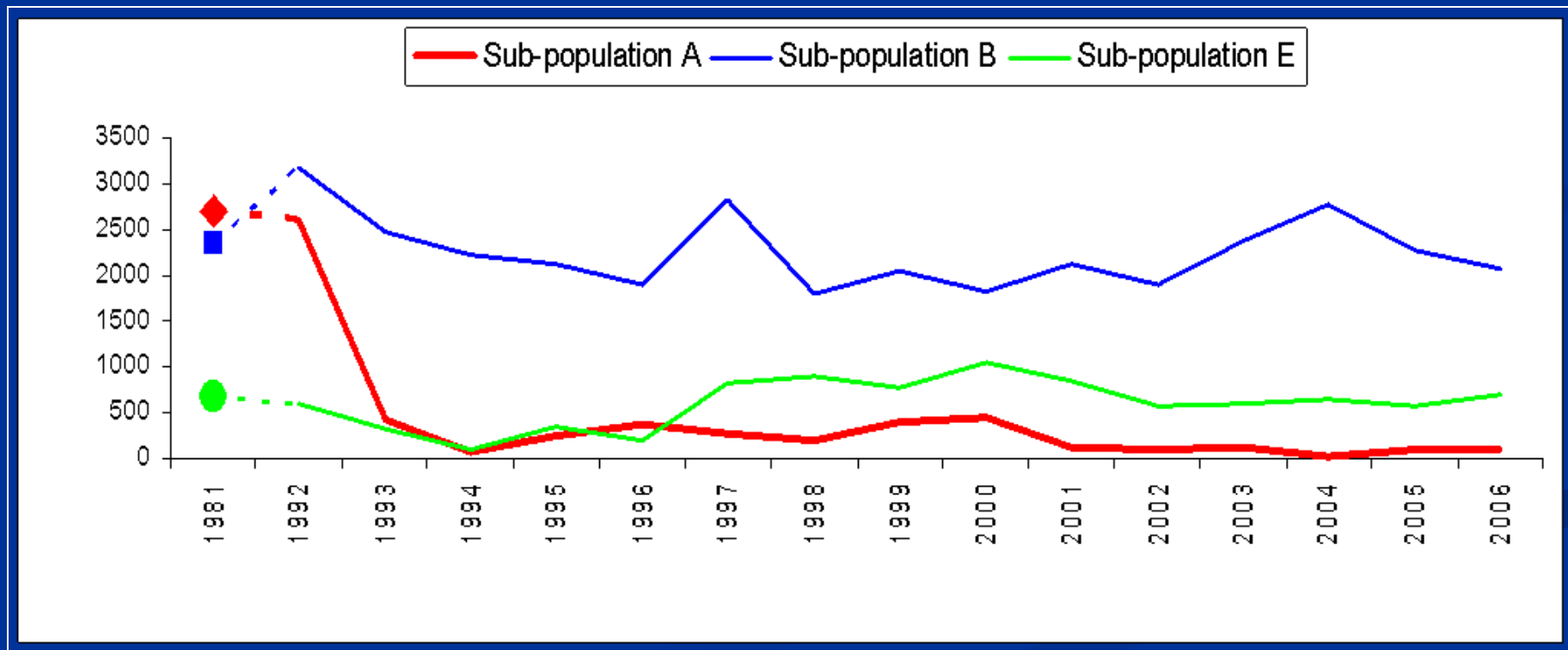


# U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

*Restoring America's Everglades – Recovering Multiple Species*

## Sparrow Background and Status

Large Sparrow Populations, 1981-2006







# U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

## *Restoring America's Everglades – Recovering Multiple Species*

### **Snail Kite Background and Status**

- Wide Ranging Everglades Indicator
- Population Decline from Over 3,000 in the Year 2000 to Fewer than 700 Today
- Two-Year Droughts
- Degradation of Habitat from Water Infrastructure of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century
- The Importance of Apple Snails
- Water Conservation Area 3





# U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

## *Restoring America's Everglades – Recovering Multiple Species*

### **Restoration and Recovery Review 2007**

#### Sustainable Ecosystems Institute

- The Charge:  
*Conduct an Independent Review of the Best Available Science*
- Key Question:  
*How to Advance Restoration and Recovery and Address Uncertainty?*
- Multi-Faceted Approach:
  - *Create Independent Panel of Scientists*
  - *Open Forum – Species and Hydrology*
  - *Prepare Recommendations – Peer Review*





# U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

## *Restoring America's Everglades – Recovering Multiple Species*

### Restoration and Recovery Review 2007

- Findings: Restoration Is Needed to Recover Imperiled Birds
- The Transition to Restoration Is Key
- Strategic Habitat Conservation Is Our Guide





# Shift in Nest Distributions

Colonial Waterbirds, 1997

1992-2000

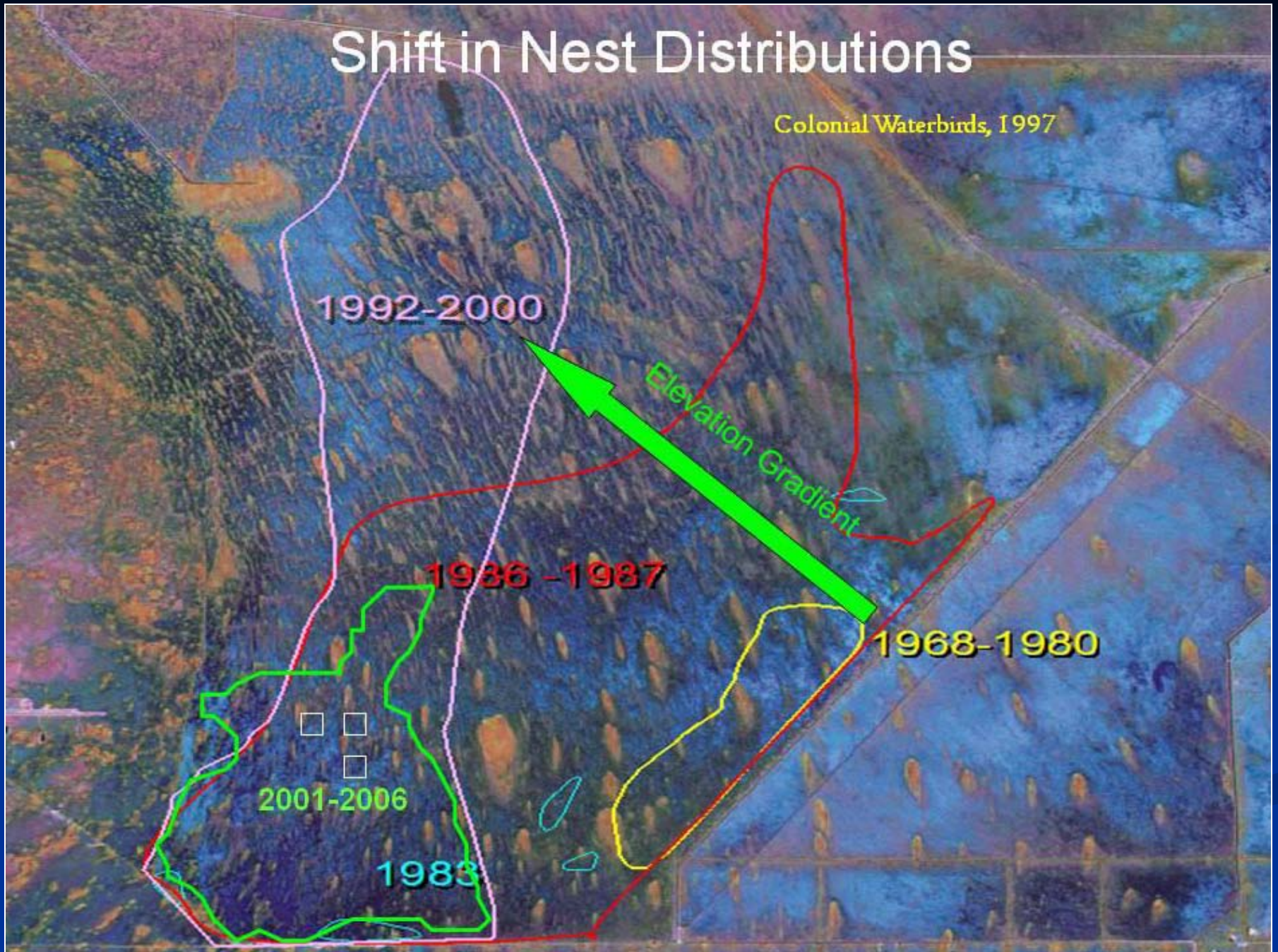
Elevation Gradient

1986-1987

1968-1980

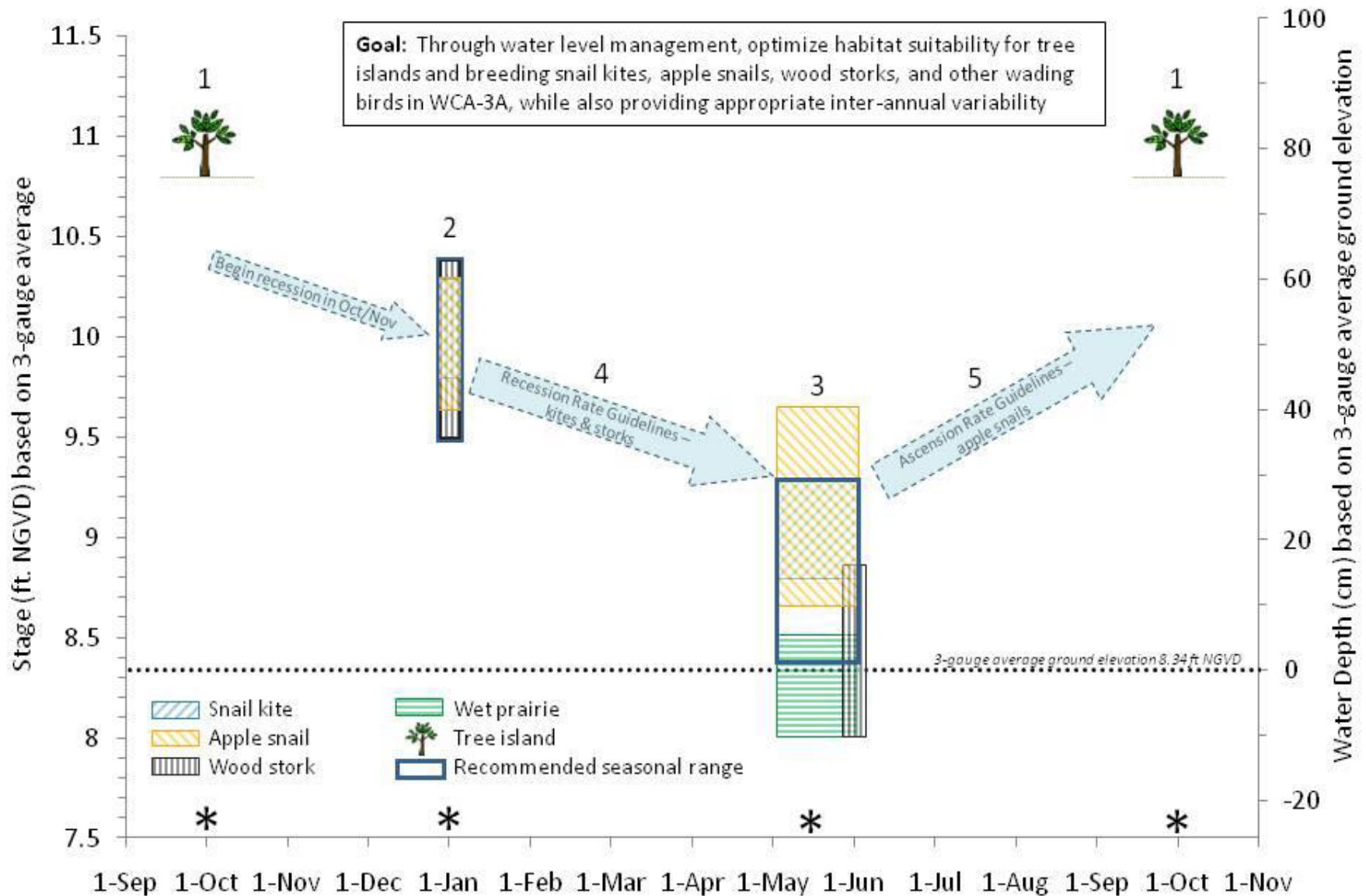
2001-2006

1983



# USFWS Multi-Species Transition Strategy for WCA-3A

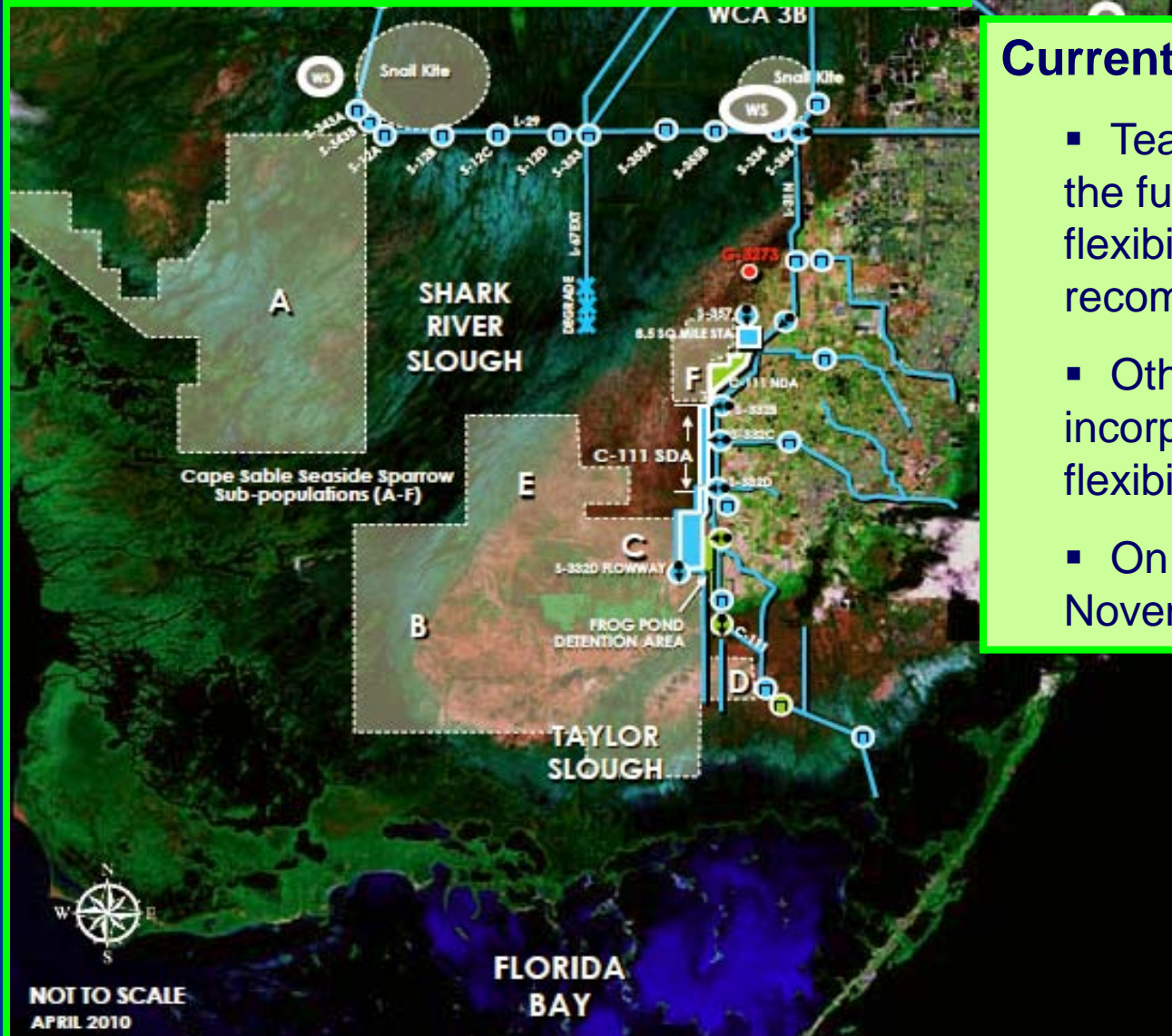
Draft July 1, 2010



\* Interagency Meeting – Management decisions (targets) to be determined by an interagency team. The team should meet regularly throughout the year (minimum October, January, and May). The intent is to manage for inter-annual variation with seasonal targets based on an interagency assessment of species’ needs (evaluated w/monitoring data), forecasted climatic conditions, and past years’ hydrology.

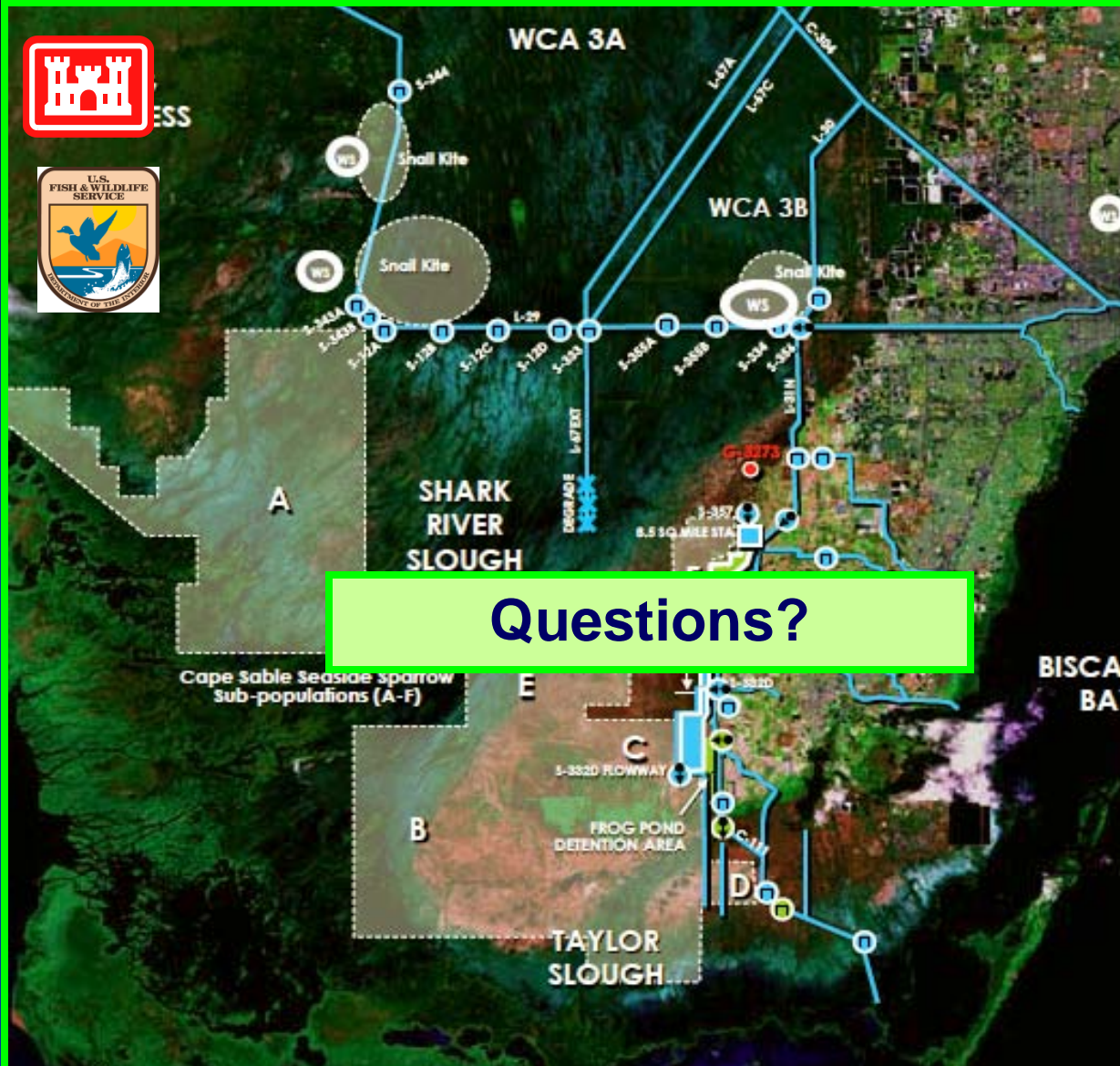


# Everglades Restoration Transition Plan (Phase I)



- ## Current Status
- Team currently reviewing the full suite of operational flexibilities in order to recommend a plan
  - Other ERTTP phases may incorporate additional flexibilities
  - On schedule to meet November 2010 deadline





**Questions?**

**Everglades Restoration Transition Plan (Phase I)**

