

A collage of images related to the Everglades ecosystem, including a person kayaking, a panther, a bird, and a turtle, all set against a blue background.

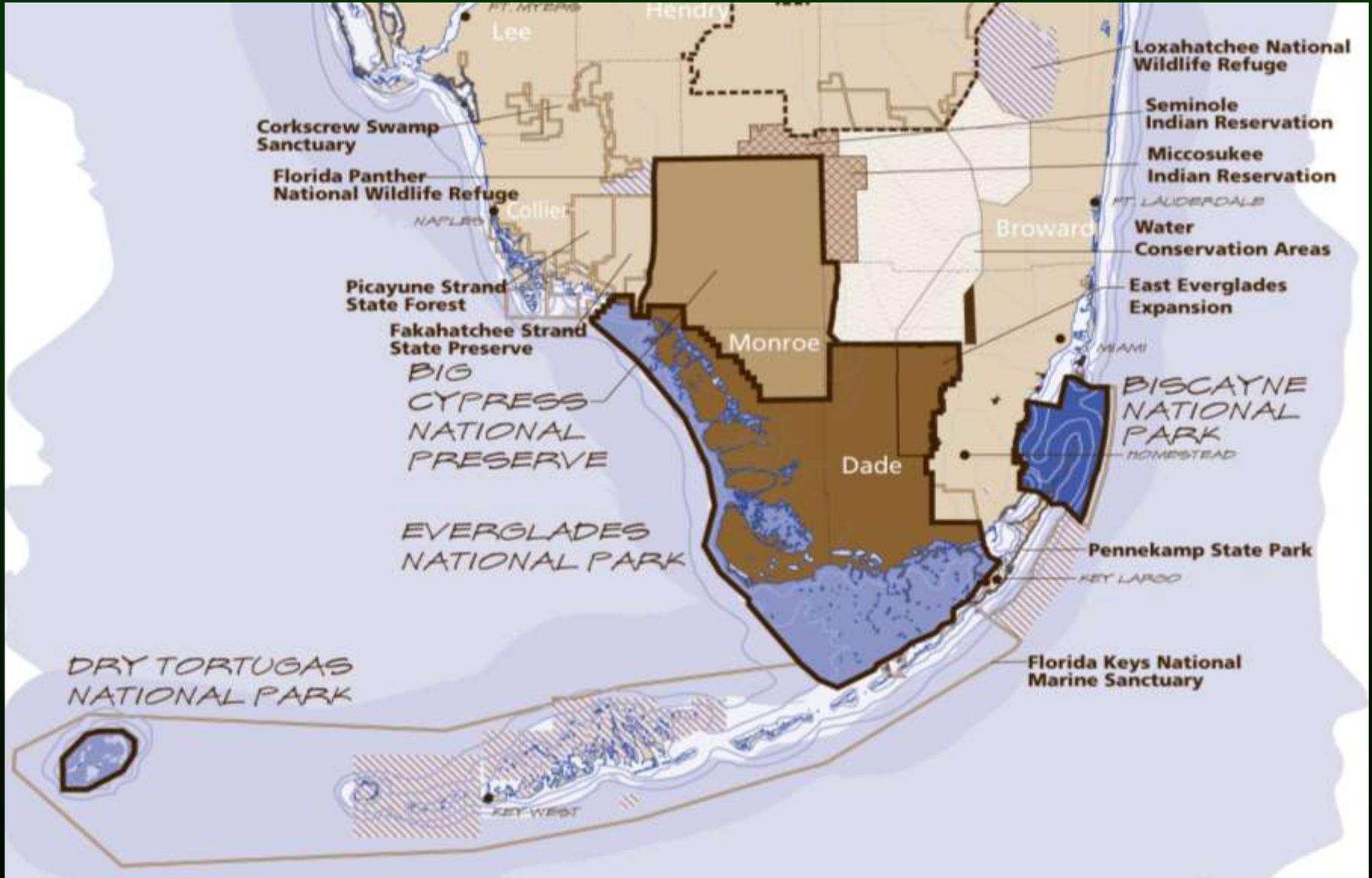
***Landscape Conservation Leadership
within the National Park Service***

**Strategic Habitat Conservation Workshop
Peninsular Florida
Landscape Conservation Cooperative
Palm Beach Gardens, Florida**

**Dan Kimball, Superintendent
Everglades & Dry Tortugas National Parks
December 9, 2009**



Everglades National Park



Everglades National Park



Everglades National Park

- **World Heritage Site**
- **International Biosphere Reserve**
- **Wetland of International Importance**
- **Largest sawgrass prairie in North America**
- **Largest mangrove ecosystem in Western Hemisphere**





DRY TORTUGAS NATIONAL PARK





Landscape Level Challenges

“... draining the Swamp”



Pre-Drainage System (circa 1850's)



Post-Drainage System (1995)



Indicators of Ecosystem Problems

- **90 - 95% reduction in wading bird populations**
- **66 listed species**
- **1 million acres under health advisories for mercury contamination**
- **1.5 million acres infested with invasive, exotic plants**



Landscape Level Challenges





Landscape Level Challenges



Climate Change



National Academy of Sciences Report: Progress Toward Restoring the Everglades: The Second Biennial Review, September 2008

- Sea Level Rise: Up to 14 inches by 2050 & 36 inches by 2100
- Precipitation: Down 10%-30%
- Temperature: Up 2F-5F
- Hurricanes: Intensity Up & Frequency ???
- Considerable uncertainty given long timeframes

Conclusion: Everglades restoration important to avoid irreversible loss & create healthier ecosystem more resilient to climate change



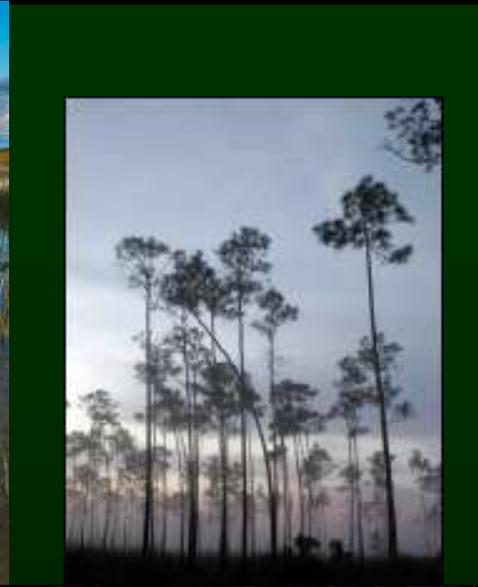
Everglades National Park

The Everglades





Everglades National Park





HURRICANE WILMA



**Mustang Corner Fire,
May, 2008**





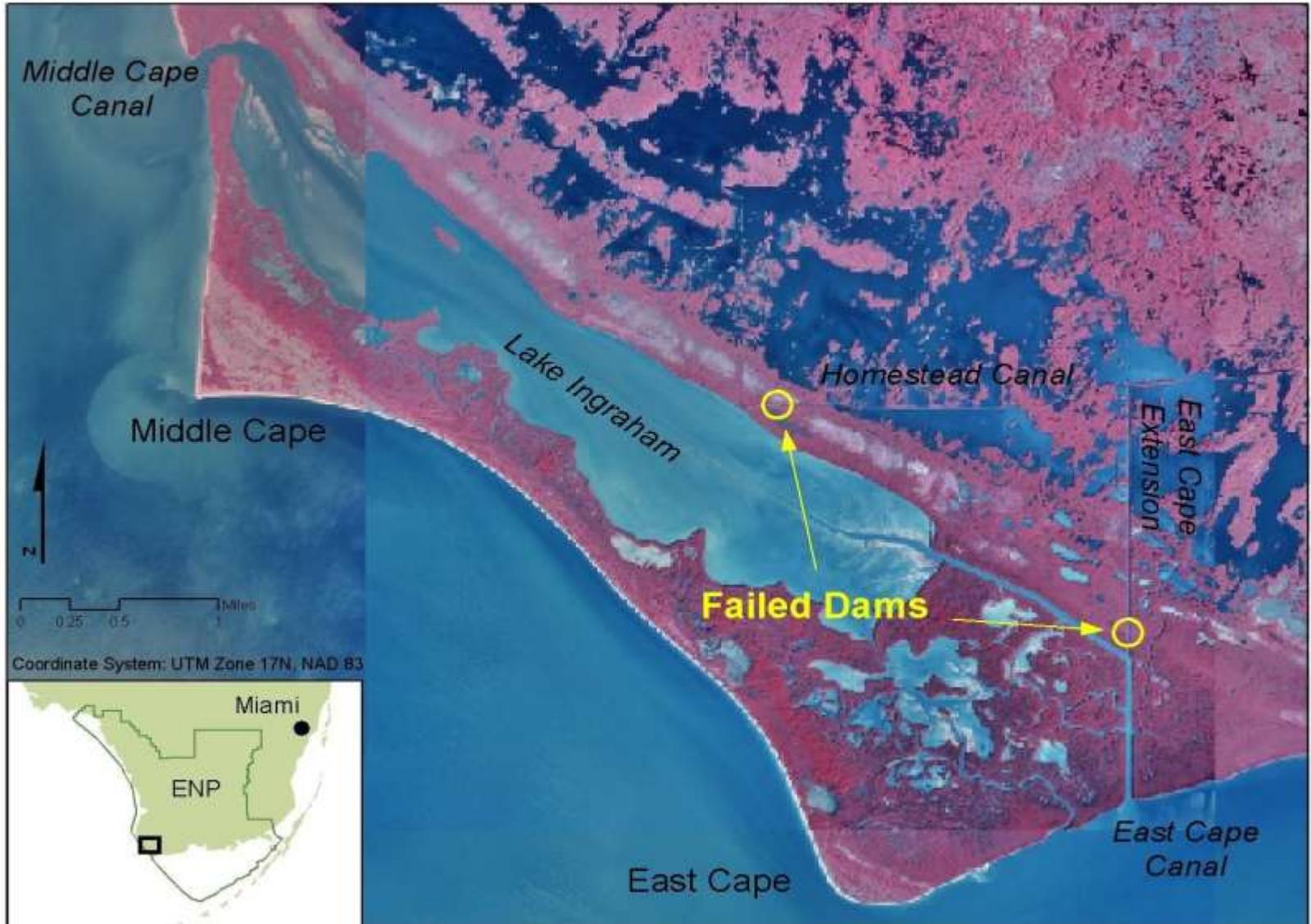


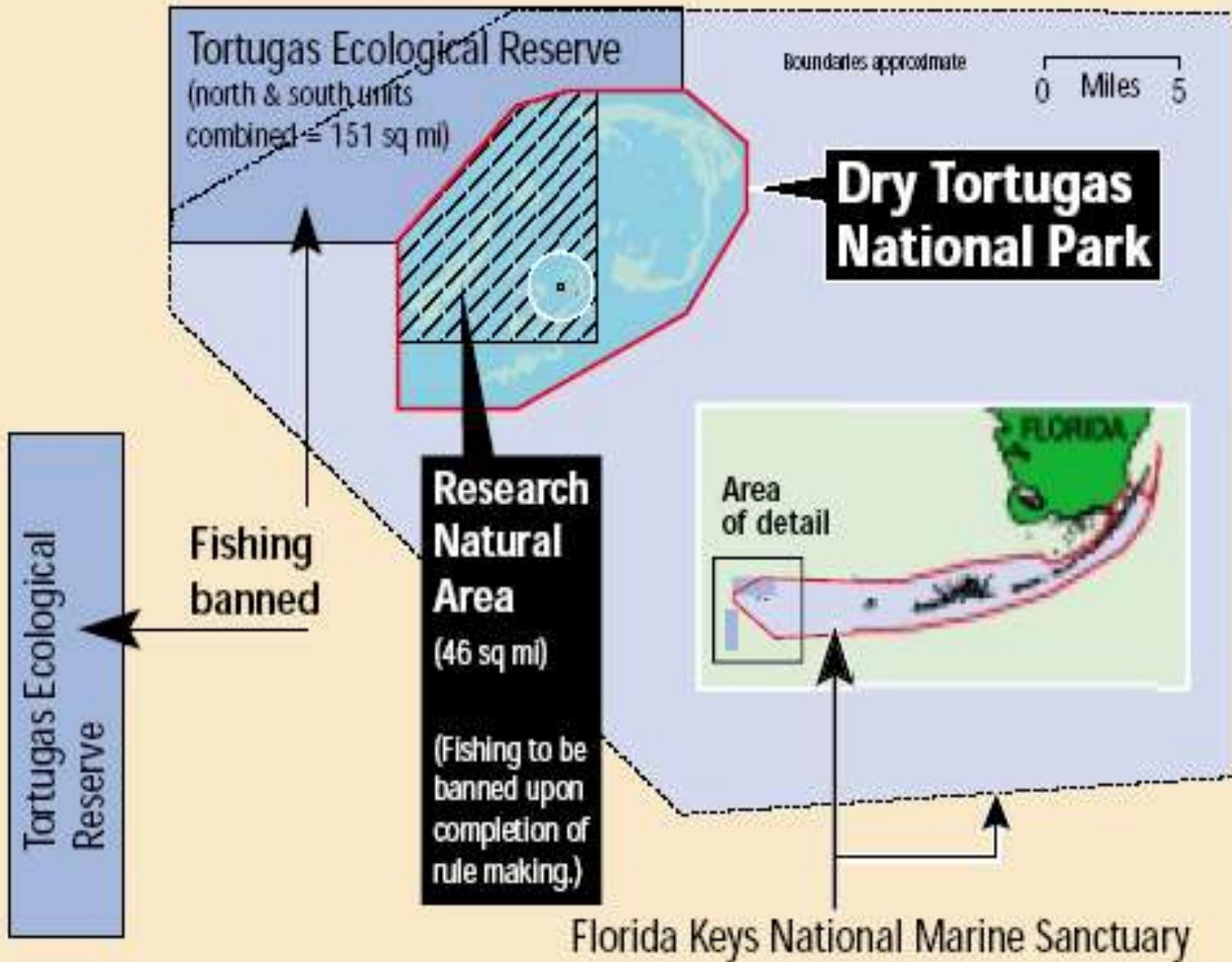
COMPREHENSIVE EVERGLADES RESTORATION PLAN



**GET THE WATER RIGHT, GET THE HABITAT RIGHT, &
COMPATIBILITY WITH THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT**

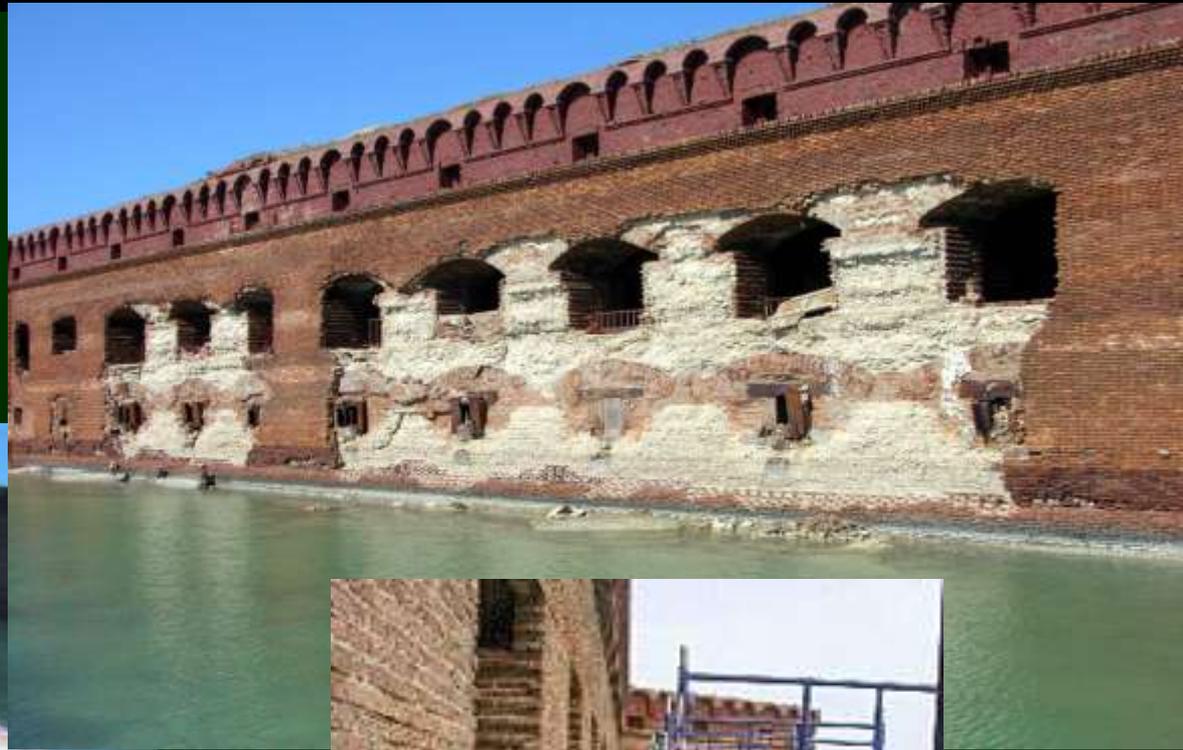
\$20B-\$25B & 35 Years







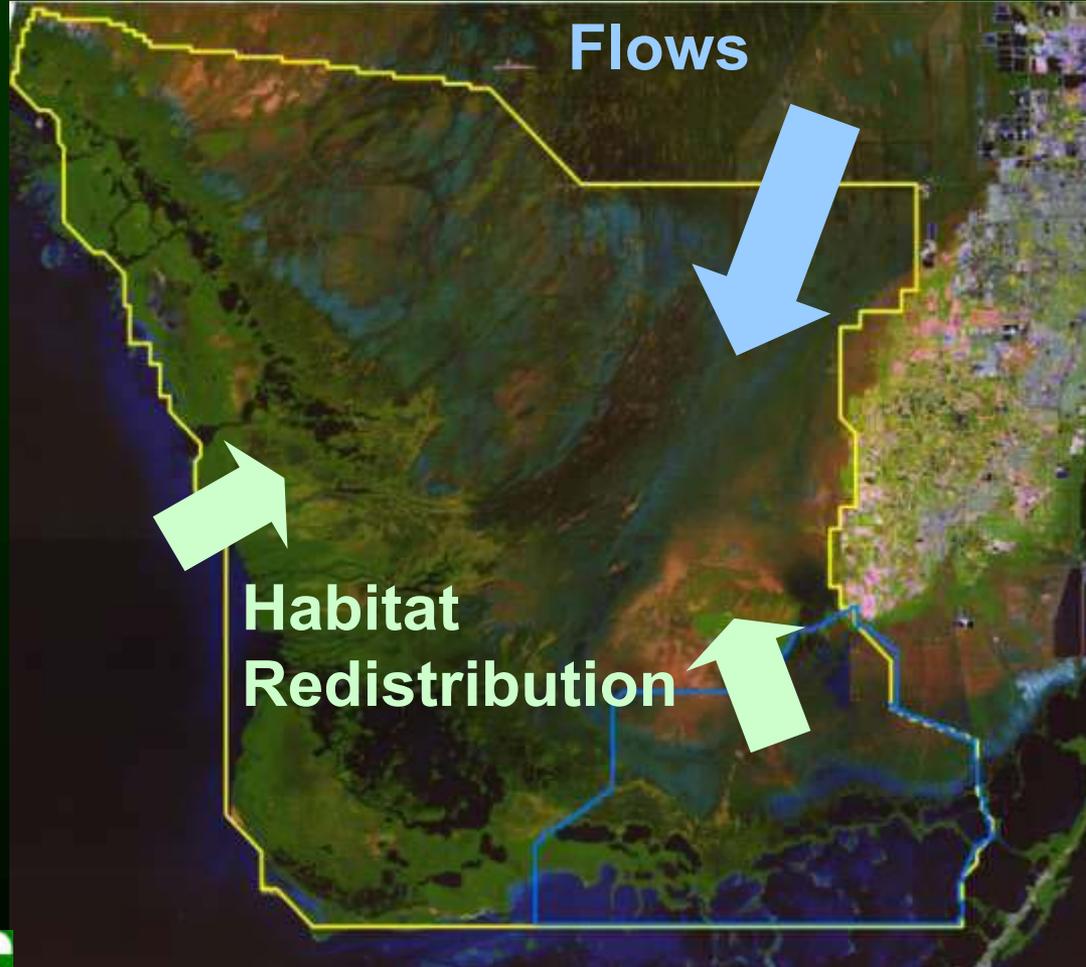
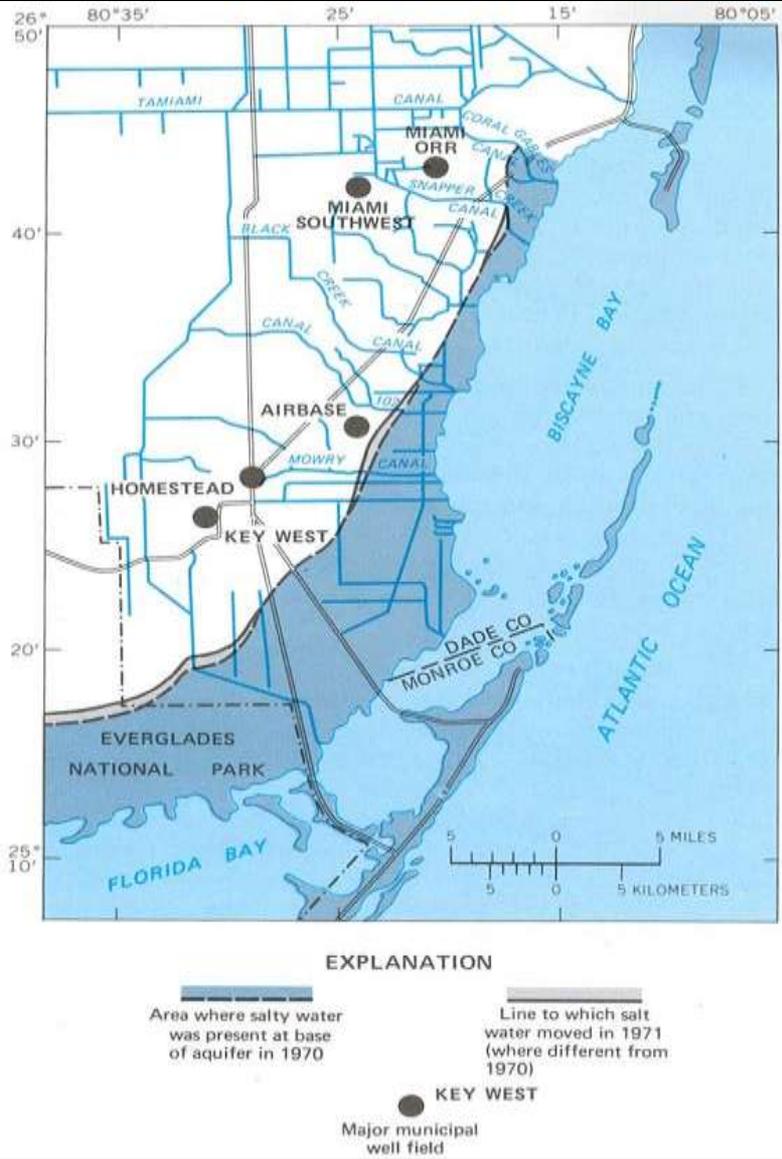
Dry Tortugas National Park





Everglades National Park





Salt Water Intrusion with Sea Level Rise



OTHER ACTIONS



- CLIMATE FRIENDLY PARKS PROGRAM
- CULTURAL RESOURCE AND FACILITY CONSTRUCTION & SITING ASSESSMENTS
- MIAMI-DADE CLIMATE CHANGE ADVISORY TASK FORCE
- EDUCATION & OUTREACH





Thoughts on Peninsula Florida LCC

- ✦ Recognize that we have existing science/research programs in Parks
- ✦ NPS Inventory & Monitoring Networks are already in place and functioning



Thoughts on Peninsula Florida LCC



✦ Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Units are already in place and functioning





Thoughts on Peninsula Florida LCC

- ✦ **LCC must focus on climate change – adaptation planning, vulnerability assessments, downscaling of models, scenario planning/decision support, data mgt, & communication/engagement/education**
- ✦ **LCC must focus on both natural and cultural resources**
- ✦ **LCC must be place-based & link to managers' needs**
- ✦ **LCC can take advantage of existing day-to-day DOI working relationships in South Florida**



Thank You!

