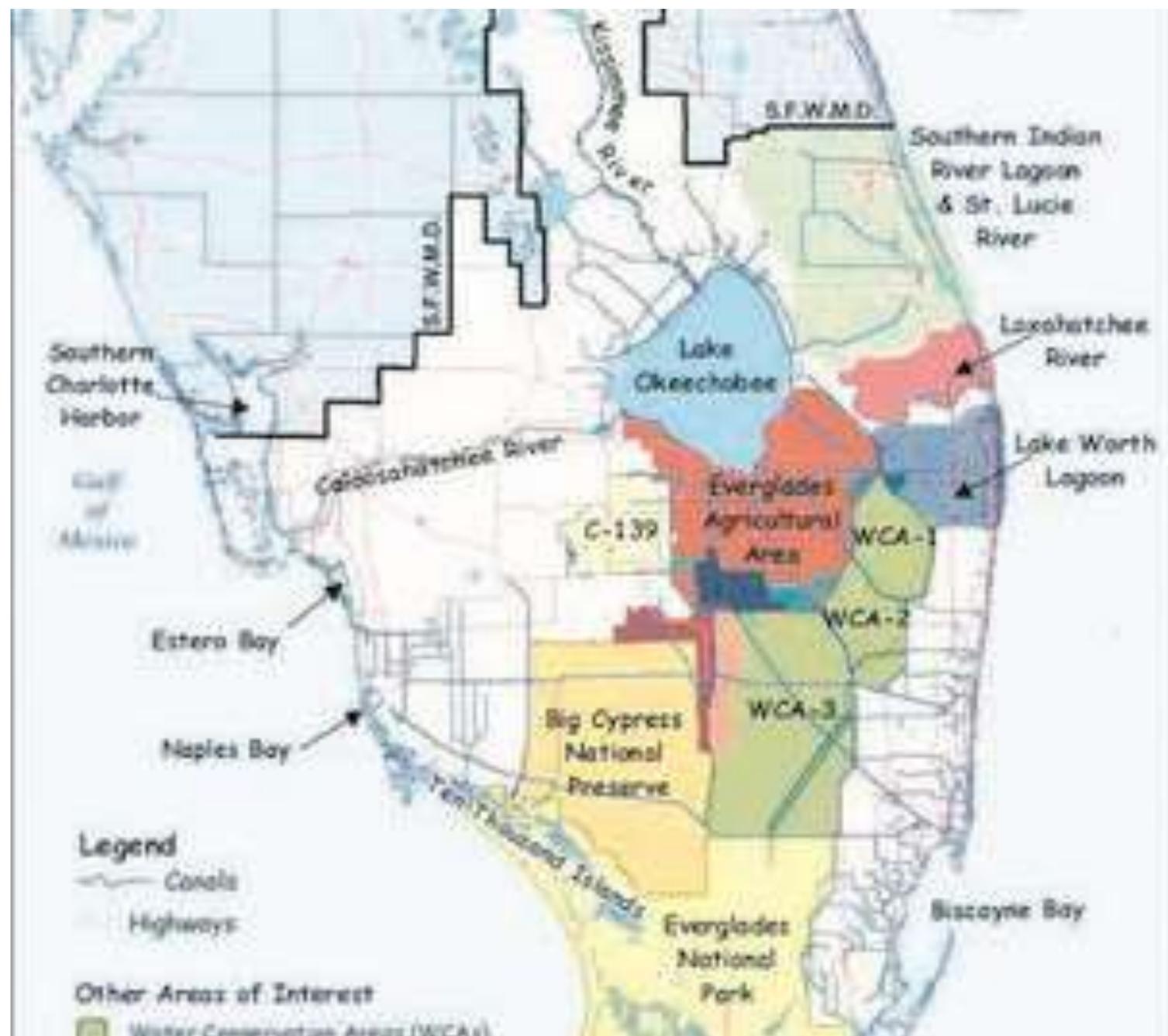


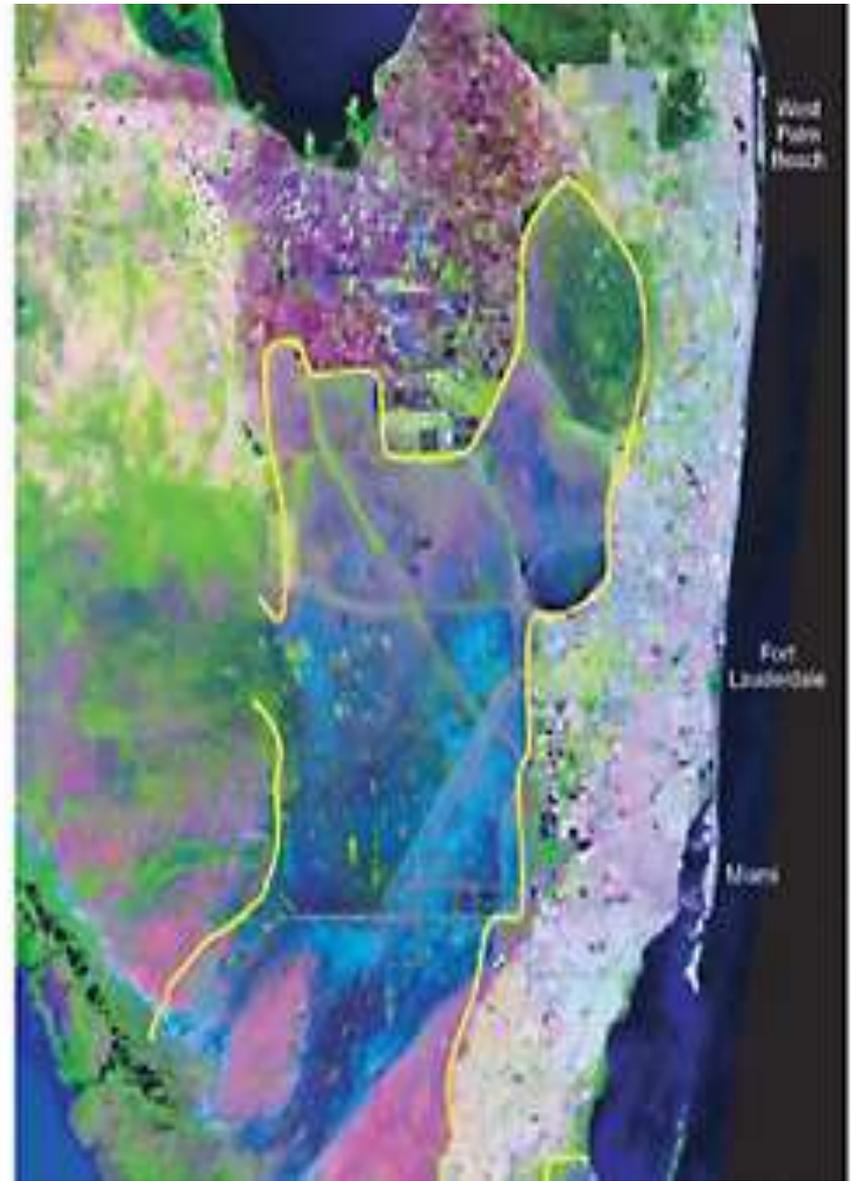


# The Key Points

1. Most of the Problems Are the Same Problem
2. It's a Water Storage Problem
3. We Should Fix the Problem

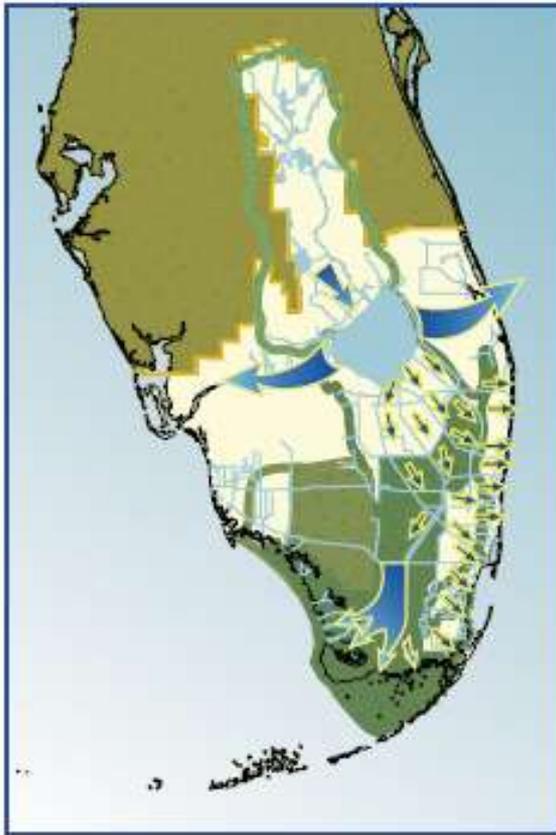




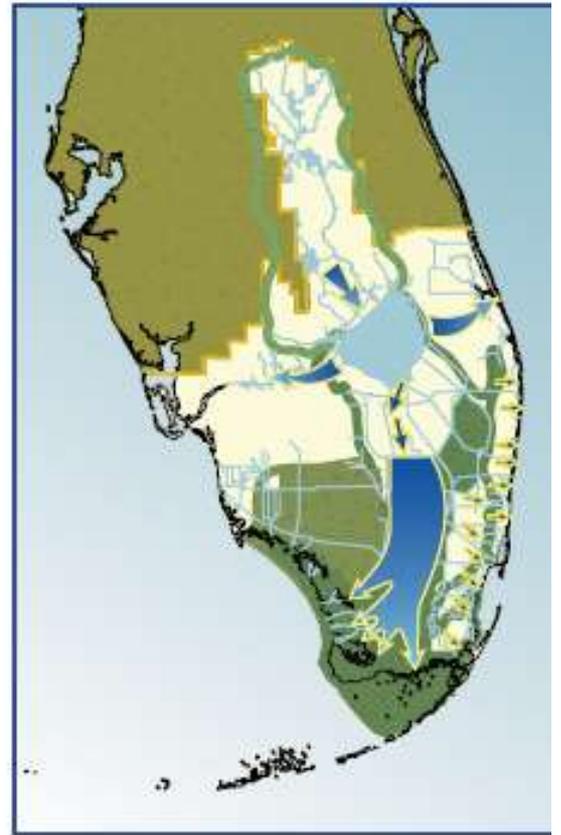




Pre-Drainage Flow



Current Flow



Restored Flow

## The Everglades Restoration Plan

The goal of the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan is to "get the water right," to mimic natural hydropatterns for the remaining natural areas while increasing water supplies and maintaining current levels of flood control for urban areas. The basic plan for restoration is to build new reservoirs, underground wells and artificial marshes to capture, store and filter all the water that escapes out to sea, then redirect it to the right areas in the right amounts at the right times of the year, in some cases using untested technology. The idea is that some semblance of the original water levels will attract some semblance of the original ecology: If you wet it, they will come.

### KEY TO MAP

-  Rivers, levees and canals
-  Current developed areas
- Proposed changes**
-  New or enlarged canals
-  Levees/canals to be removed
-  New pumps
-  Aquifer storage and retrieval wells
-  New reservoirs
-  Quarries as reservoirs
-  New stormwater treatment marshes
-  Wastewater treatment plants

0 30  
MILES

SOURCES: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers; South Florida Water Management District; Tom MacVicar, engineering consultant; U.S. Geological Survey  
GRAPHICS BY PATTERSON CLARK, SETH HAMBLIN AND LAURA STANTON—THE WASHINGTON POST

### 1 The Estuaries

Lake Okeechobee now rises quickly in wet years, threatening to burst its dike. So water managers send unnatural pulses east and west down the St. Lucie Canal and Caloosahatchee River, destroying the balance of fresh water and salt water in two of America's most diverse estuaries. **Restoration should provide alternatives to storing water in the lake, reducing stresses on the estuaries.**

**But:** The plan acknowledges that if its uncertain water-storage technologies don't materialize, the stresses on estuaries could get worse.

### 2 Lake Okeechobee

In wet times, the lake is a dumping ground for polluted runoff from cities, farms and pastures; in drought, it gets sucked dry by urban and agricultural users. **Restoration will provide new underground wells and reservoirs to reduce human reliance on the lake for water storage, plus manmade marshes to filter nutrients out of storm water that does end up there.**

**But:** Scientists don't know if the wells will work. The plan aims to filter out only one-fourth of the nutrients necessary to revive the lake.

### 3 Everglades Agricultural Area

The northern Everglades was drained in the 1950s to create 550,000 acres of farmland. But the EAA now blocks the sheet flow down the Everglades, and phosphorous from its sugar fields pollutes the Everglades. **The plan will convert 60,000 acres of sugar land into a reservoir to store water for irrigation and the Everglades.**

**But:** Many critics believe that much more of the EAA must be used to store water, and that much more of that storage must be used for the Everglades. While the \$800 million Florida project has cut phosphorous levels dramatically, they need to be cut much more.

### 4 Water Conservation Areas

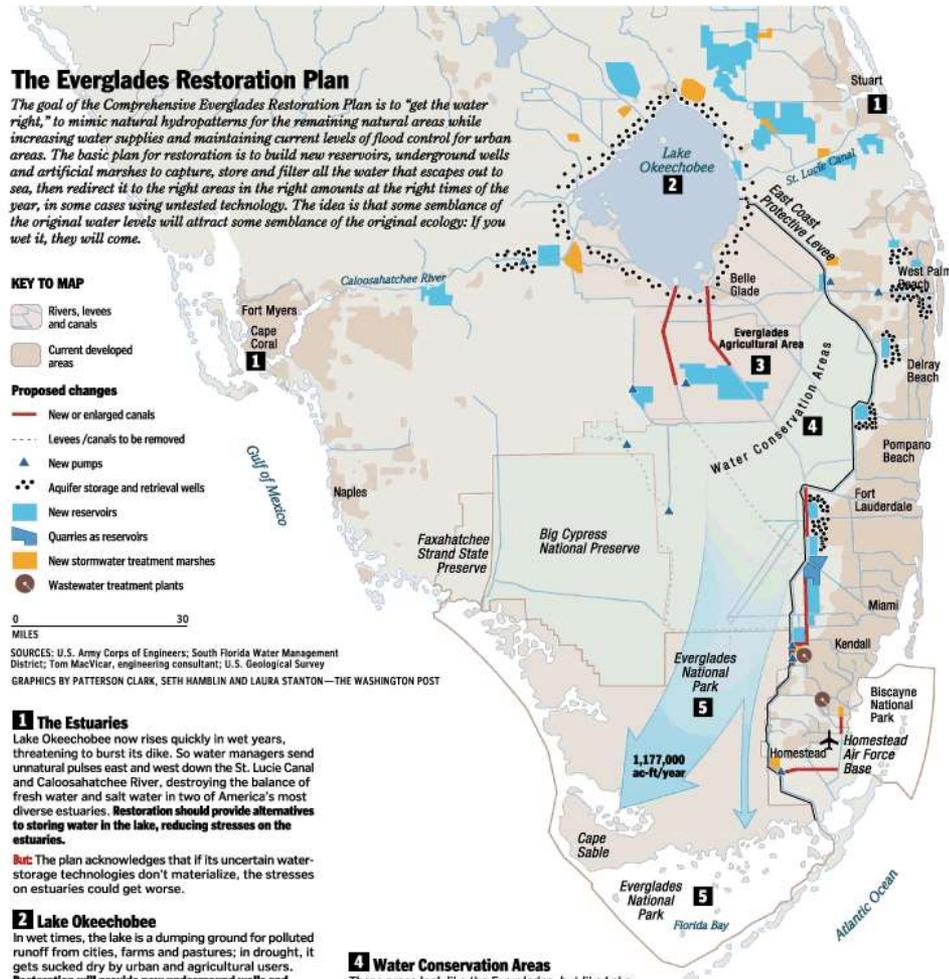
These areas look like the Everglades, but like Lake Okeechobee they drown in wet years and parch in dry years. Pollution is transforming their sawgrass into dense cattails. **The plan is supposed to allow the WCAs to be managed for ecological rather than human needs.**

**But:** Many scientists say the plan does not do nearly enough to remove barriers that fragment the WCAs and block the original sheet flow. Restoring water levels without restoring water quality could hasten the Everglades' destruction.

### 5 Everglades National Park and Florida Bay

The park is the heart of the Everglades; the bay contains the world's largest mangrove fringe. But much of the park's wildlife has vanished, and the bay has collapsed. The Clinton administration proposed that **the plan should assure the park 90 percent of its historical flows.**

**But:** The Clinton proposal was deleted from the plan; park officials say the plan will assure few benefits for the southern Everglades, and none for decades.



PHOTOS: [Click for gallery](#)

