

Everglades Restoration Transition Plan – Phase 1

GEER 2010

Naples, Florida

July 15, 2010

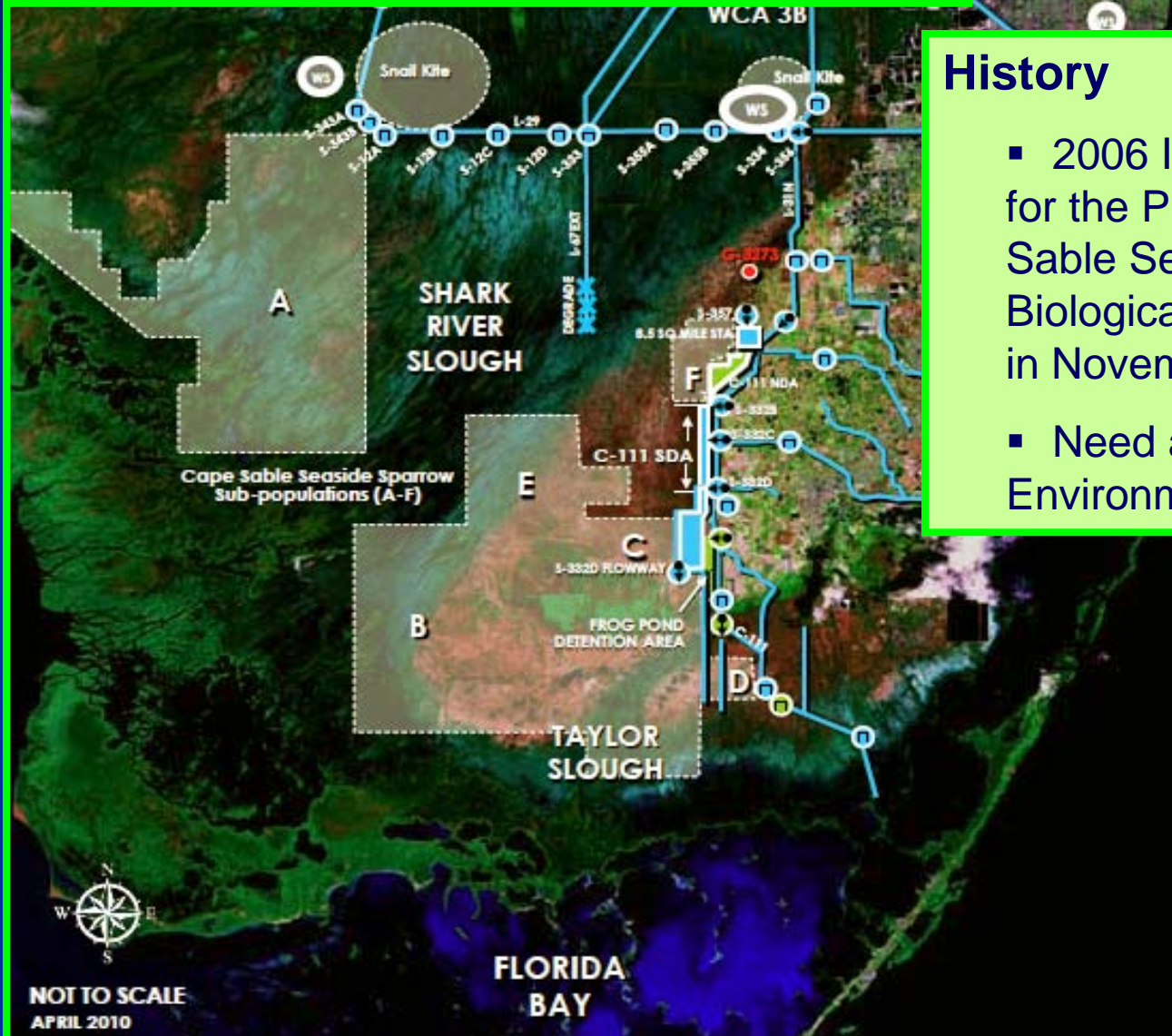
Everglades Restoration Transition Plan (Phase I)



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)



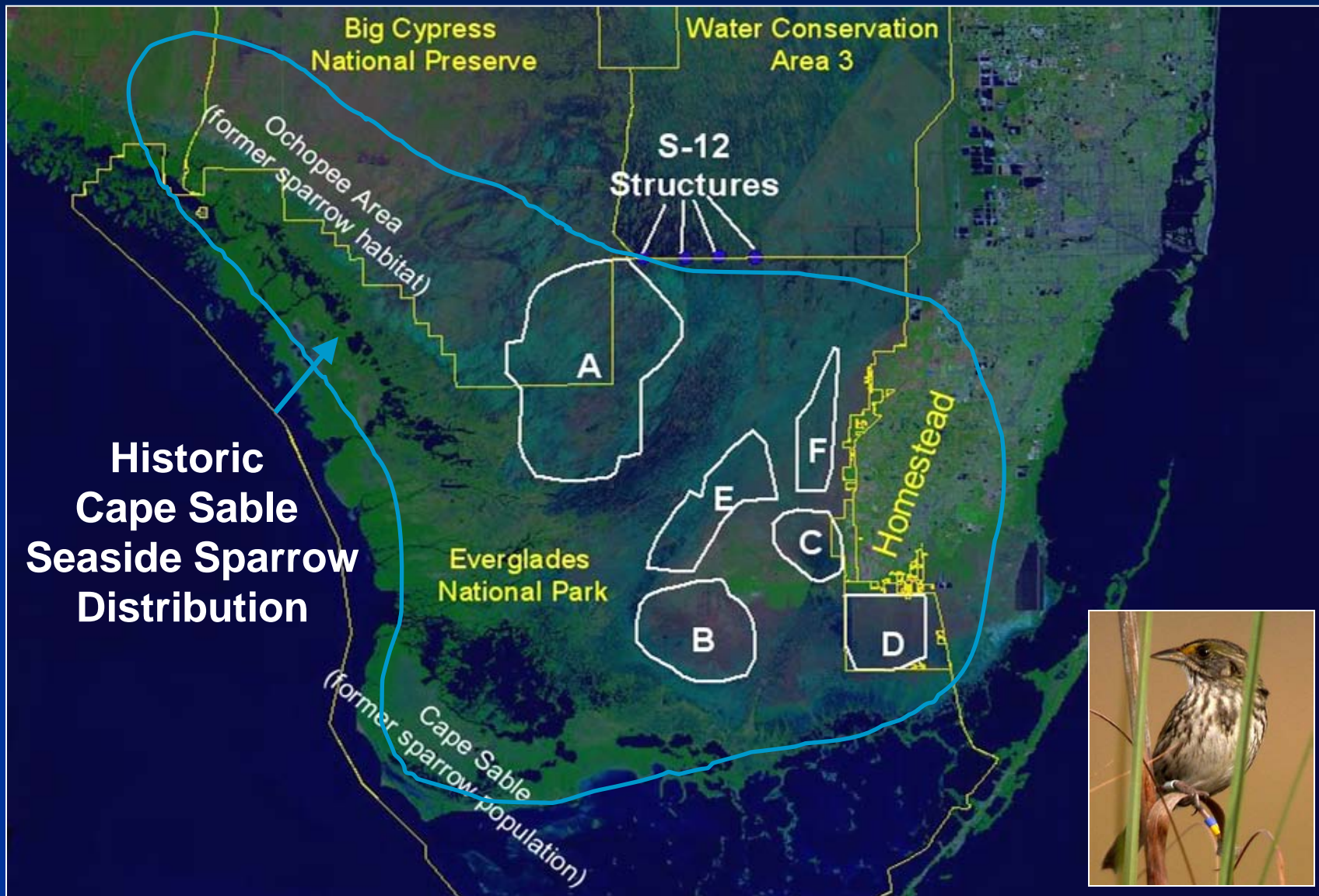
History

- 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

E

C

B

Homestead

Everglades
National Park

D

Cape Sable
(former sparrow population)



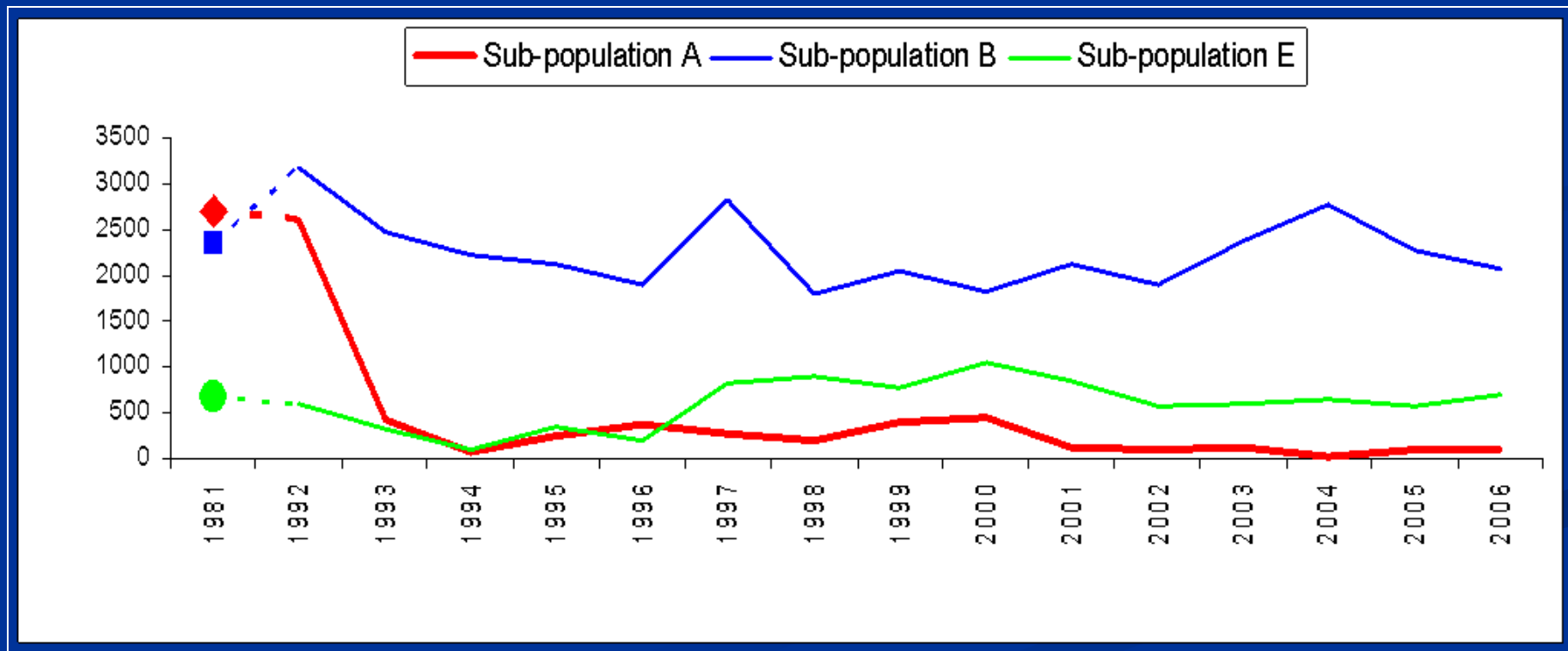


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Restoring America's Everglades – Recovering Multiple Species

Sparrow Background and Status

Large Sparrow Populations, 1981-2006





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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 20th Century
- The Importance of Apple Snails
- Water Conservation Area 3





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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*





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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

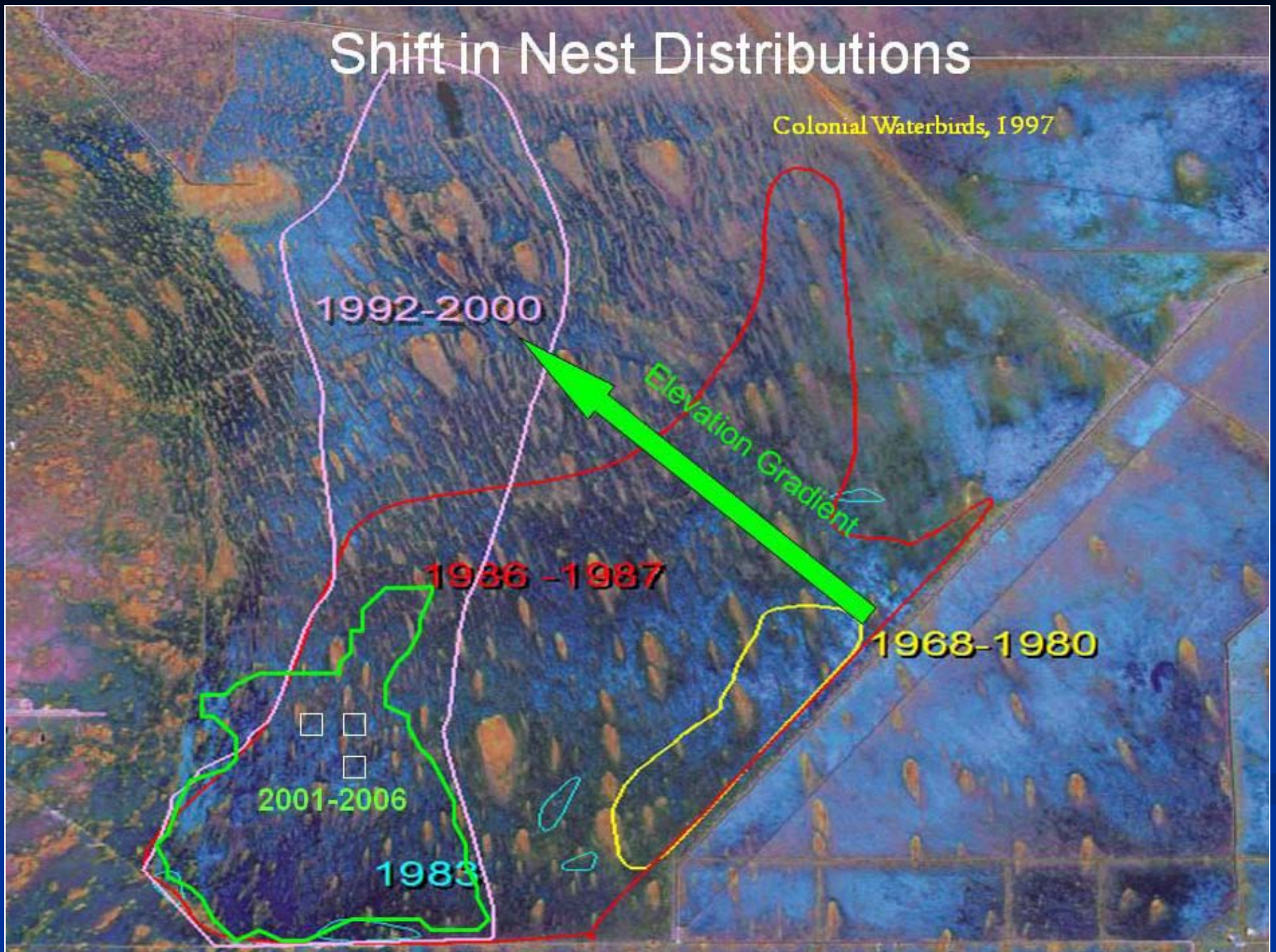
Elevation Gradient

1986-1987

1968-1980

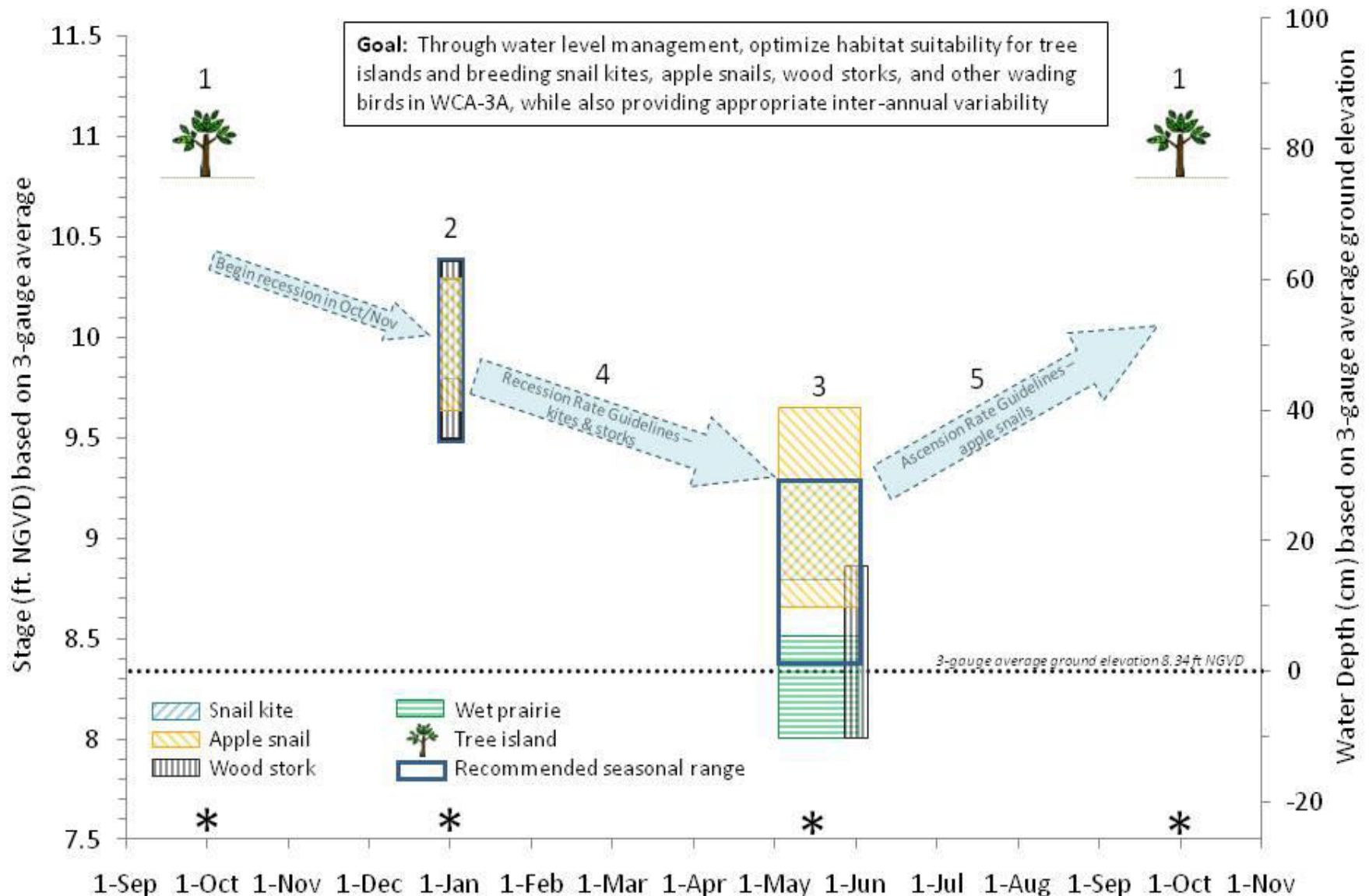
2001-2006

1983



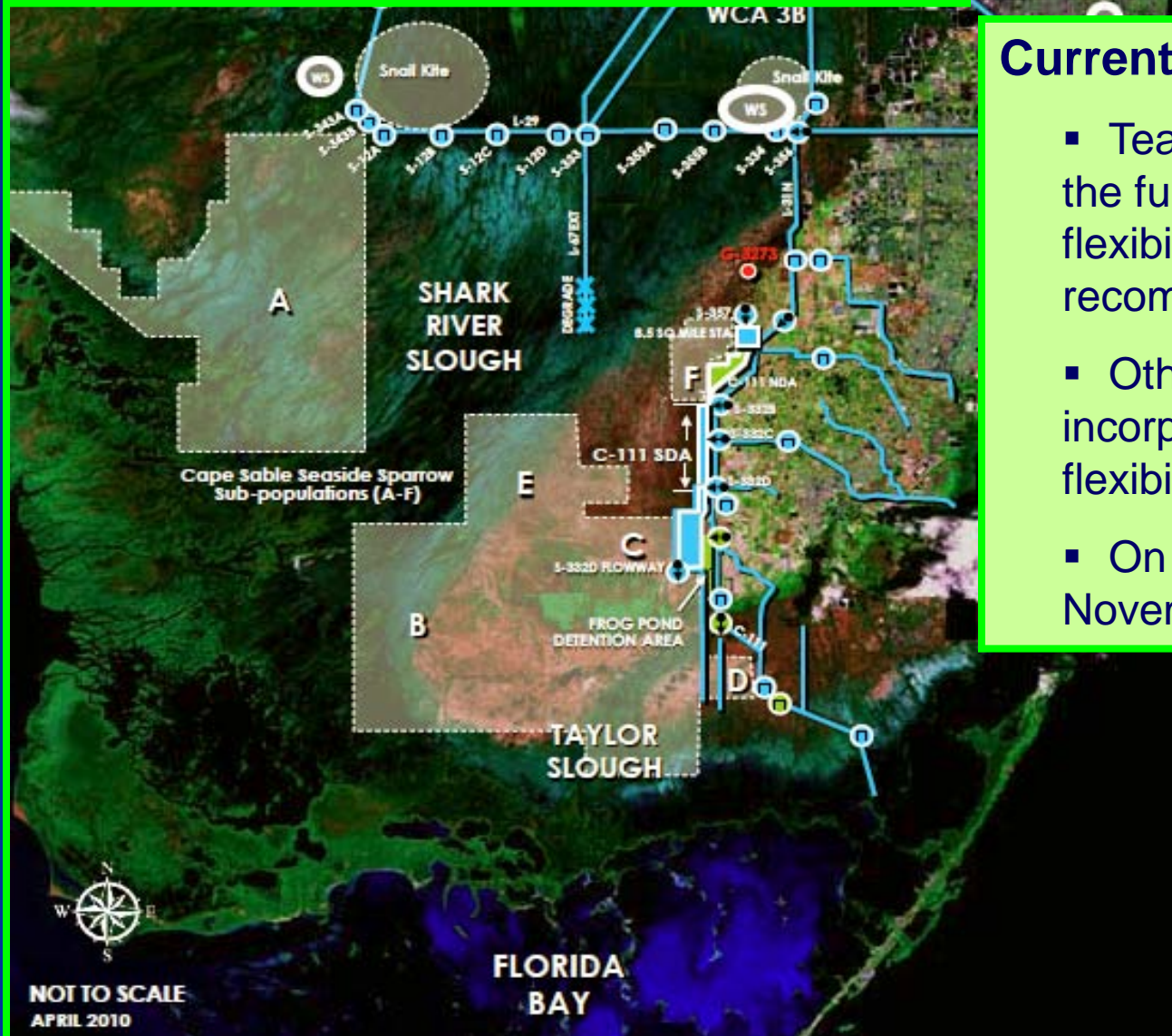
USFWS Multi-Species Transition Strategy for WCA-3A

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)