

“Why Here, Why Now?:” Strategies to Prioritize Restoration

5th National Conference on Ecosystem Restoration

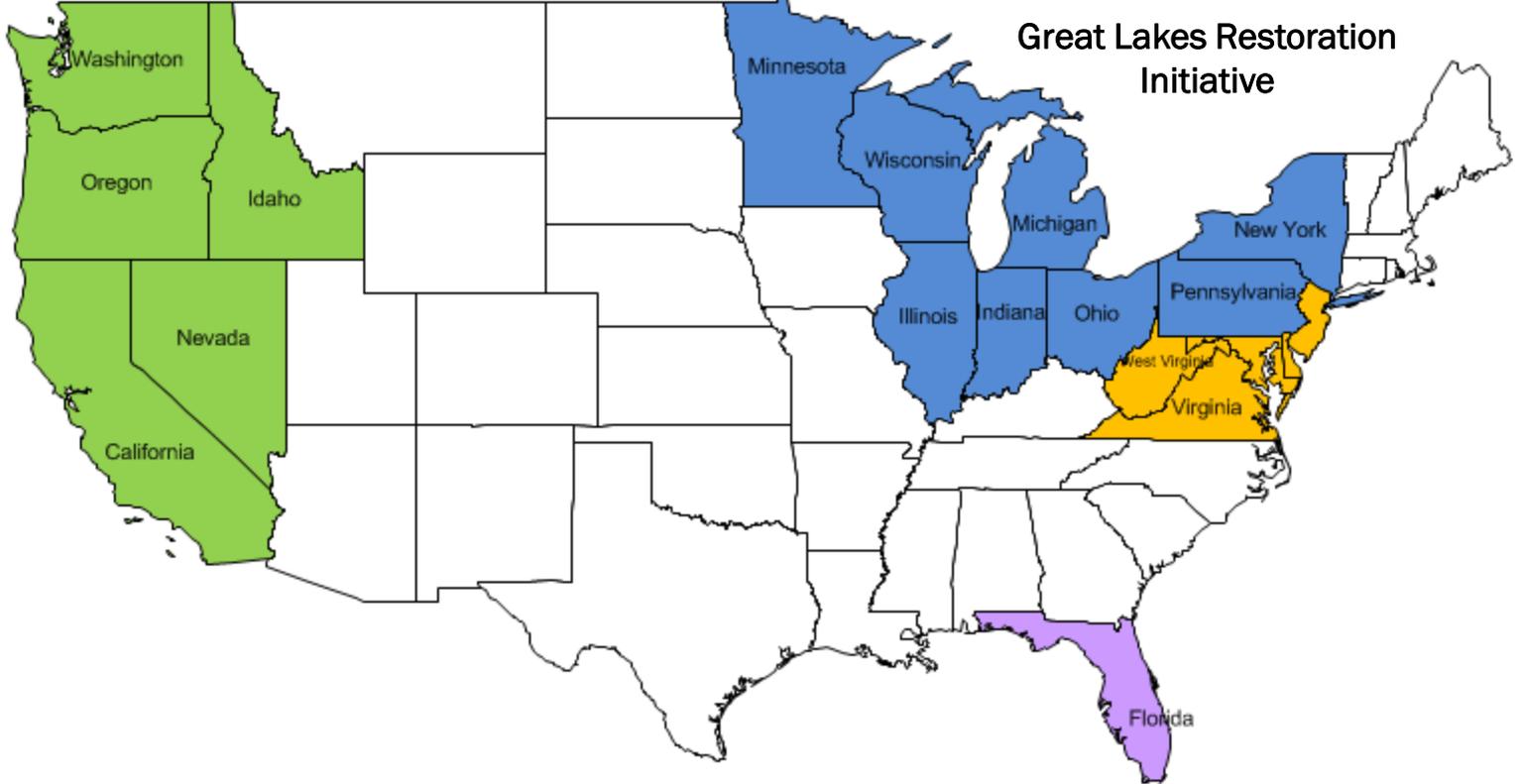
Russell M. Strach, Director
U.S. Geological Survey
Great Lakes Science Center



Regional Scale Restoration Strategies



Pacific Coastal
Salmon Recovery
Fund



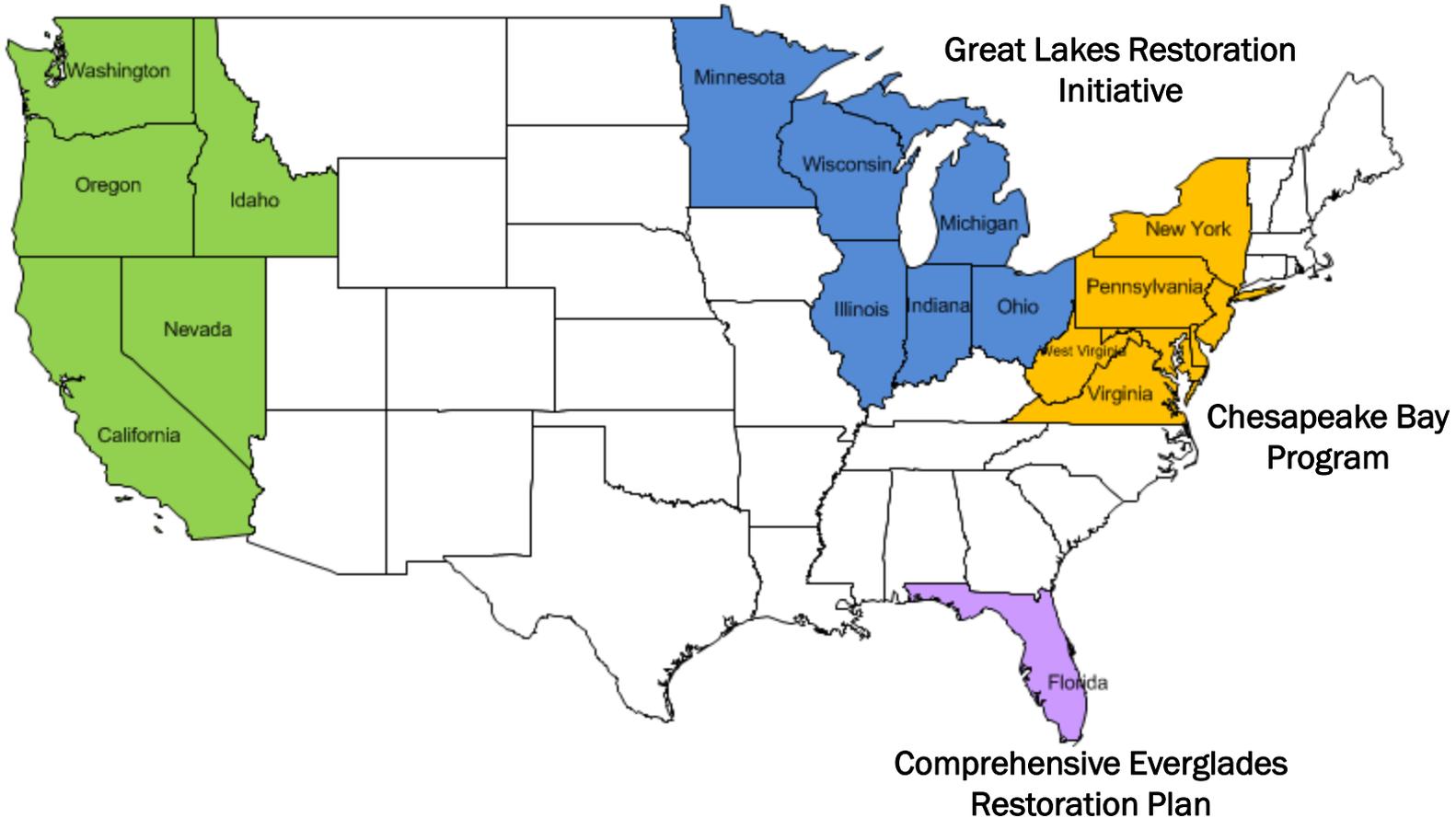
Great Lakes Restoration
Initiative

Comprehensive Everglades
Restoration Plan

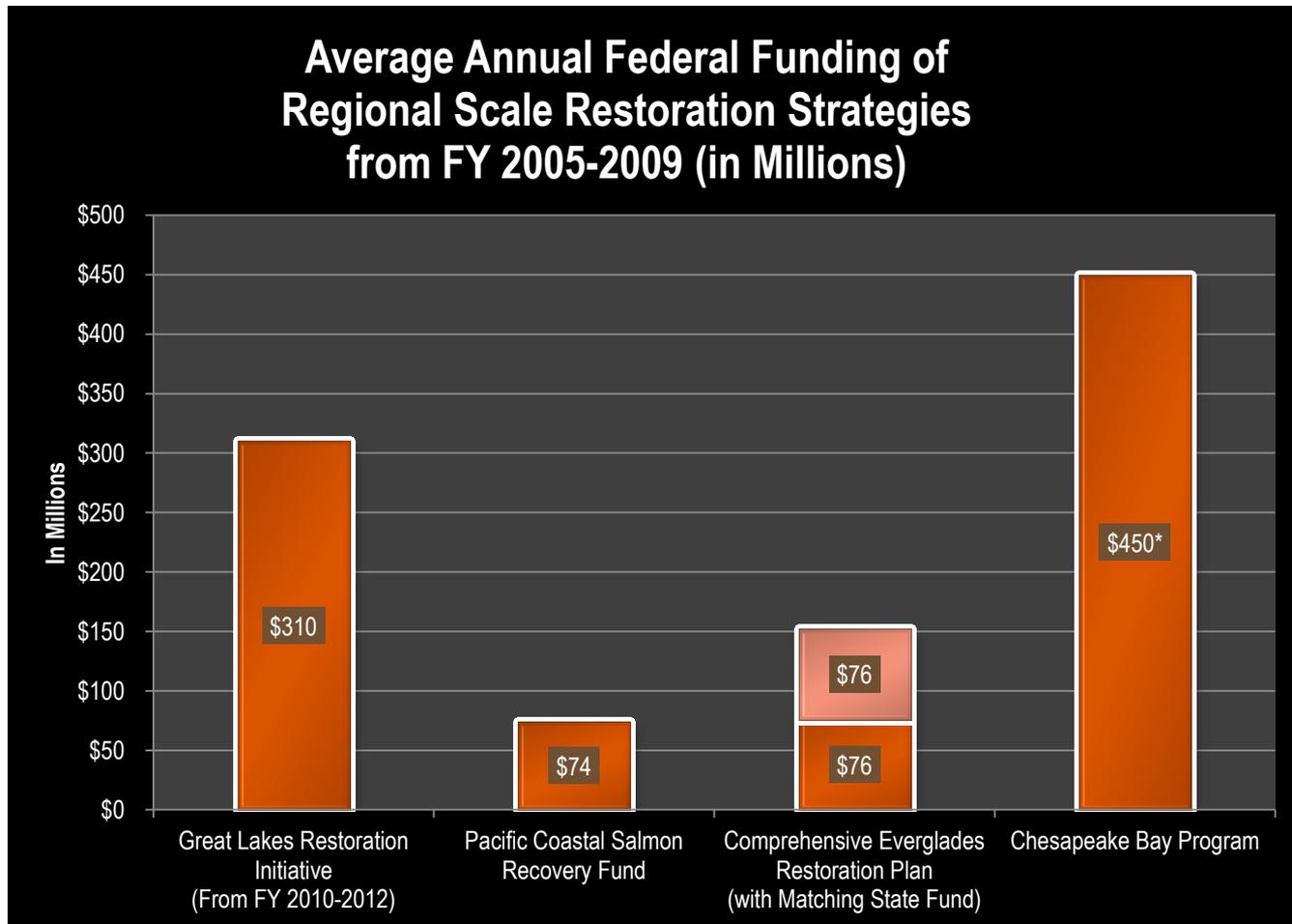
Regional Scale Restoration Strategies



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Program Funding



Senator Barbara Mikulski (D-MA)

- ☞ “The Chesapeake Bay is not only Maryland’s greatest natural resource, it’s part of who we are as Marylanders, our heritage and our culture. [Investing in the future of the Chesapeake Bay is an investment in the lives and livelihoods that depend on it.](#) That’s why I fight for federal money each year to improve and maintain this national treasure.”
- ☞ Mikulski signed **2009 Omnibus Appropriations Act** which included funding for Chesapeake Bay programs



Important Questions

☞ PCSRF: “Salmon Funding Fatigue”

- Getting tired of trying to save salmon

☞ Rep. Dicks (WA):

- *“How much do you need?”*
- *“When are we done?”*

☞ Advocates who are becoming skeptical...

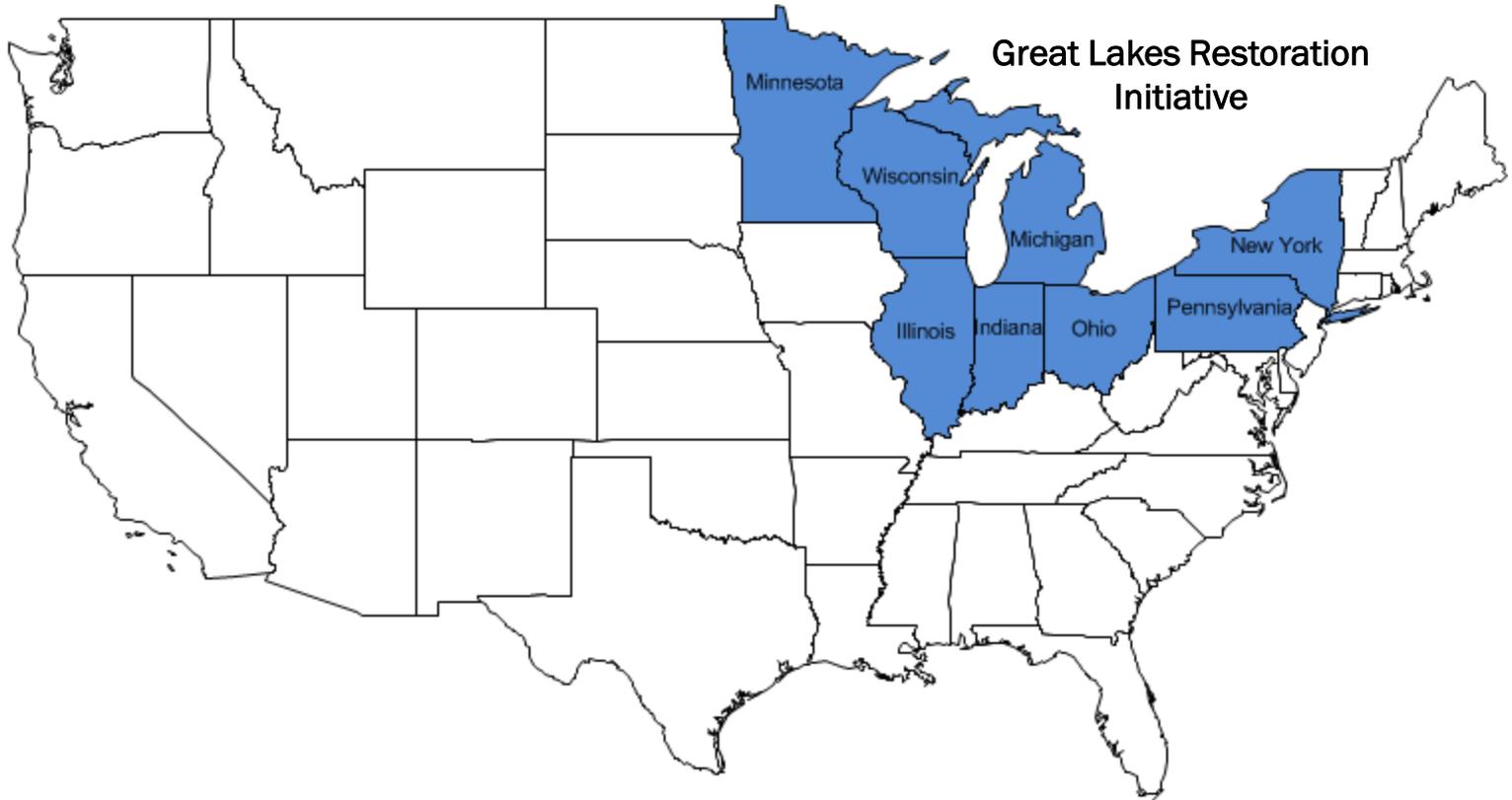
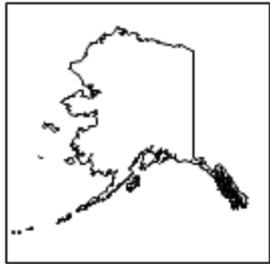


What Funders Want to Know

- ☞ How much will it cost?
- ☞ Who is going to benefit - how many and by when?
- ☞ Will your strategies address the scope of the problems?
- ☞ How to measure success?
- ☞ What's the best approach in redundant/competing funding strategies?
- ☞ What reporting framework will be used?
- ☞ What will you do when your funding runs out?



Great Lakes Restoration Initiative





Great Lakes Restoration Initiative

- ∞ Developed by **11 federal agencies** (Interagency Task Force) to address significant ecosystem problems in Great Lakes

- ∞ FY **2010-2014 Action Plan** lays out 5 focus areas:
 - Cleaning up toxics and areas of concern
 - Combating invasive species
 - Promoting nearshore health (protecting watersheds from polluted run-off)
 - Restoring wetlands and other habitats
 - Tracking progress and working with strategic partners

- ∞ **Action Plan's operating principles:** Accountability, Action, Urgency

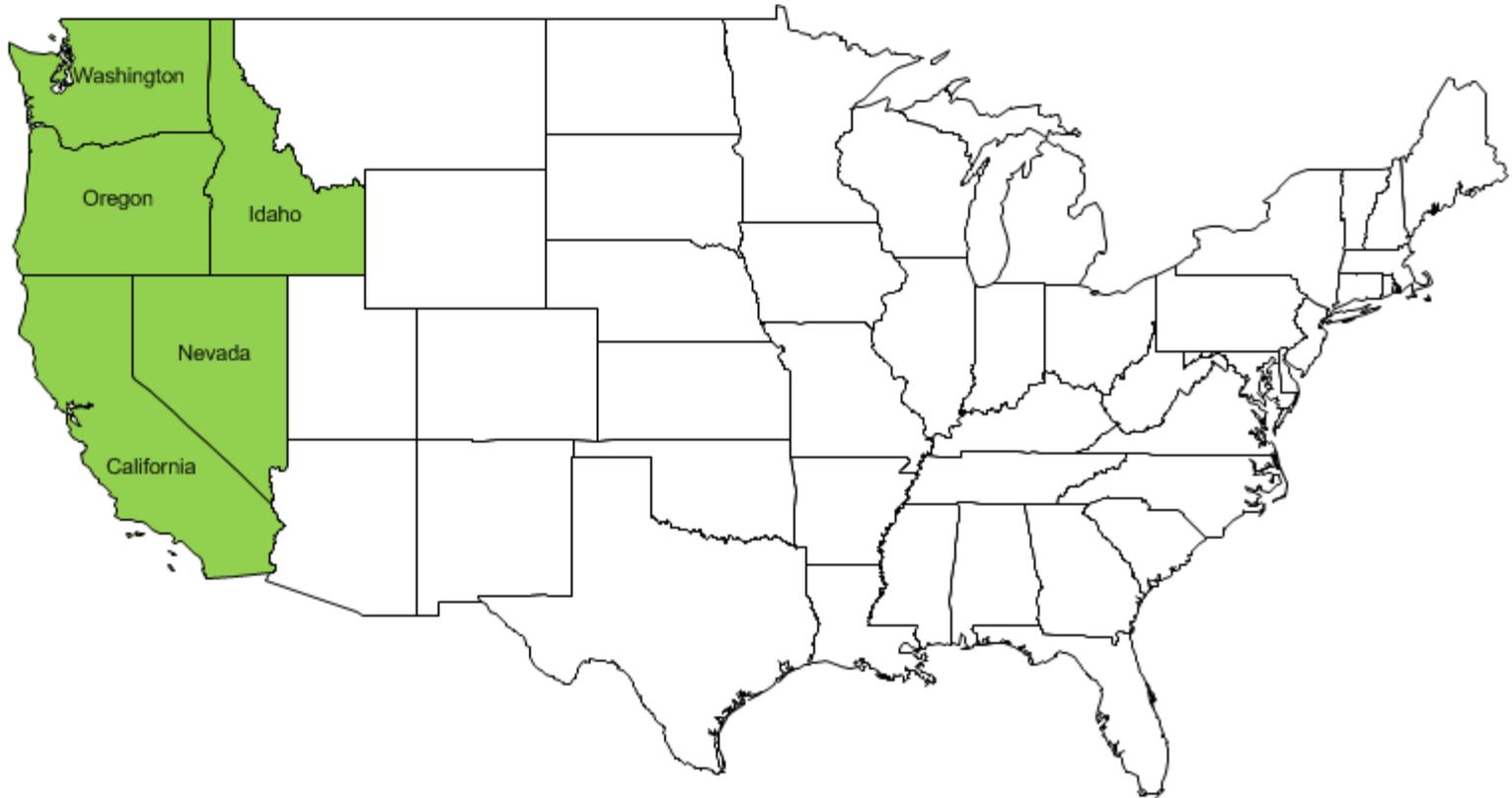
- ∞ **FY 2015-2019 Action Plan:** Interagency Task Force currently seeking public comments



Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund



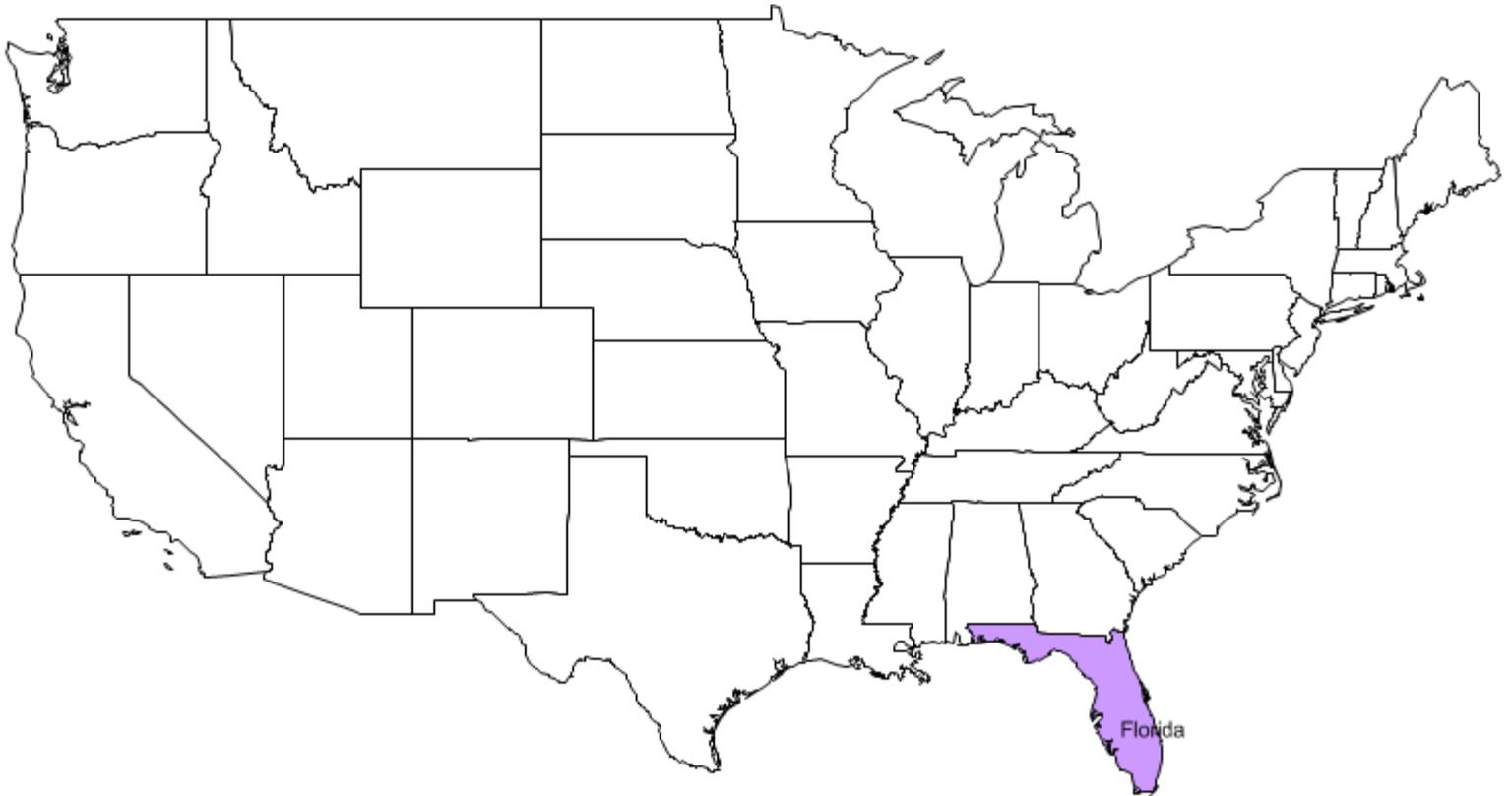
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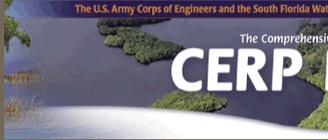
Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund

- ∞ **Established by Congress FY 2000** to protect, restore, and conserve Pacific salmon and steelhead and their habitats
- ∞ **Funded 10,000+ projects** among states, tribes of Pacific Coast region
- ∞ Performance **reporting framework** to track progress
- ∞ **Major accomplishments** since 2000:
 - 879,194 acres of habitat improved/added for Salmonid use
 - 5,336 miles of stream made accessible to spawning populations
 - 238,643,775 fish tagged, improving stock identification
 - supporting more effective fishery management practices
- ∞ **What constitutes success?**

Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (CERP)



**Comprehensive Everglades
Restoration Plan**



Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (CERP)

- ∞ **Formed in 2000** to restore South Florida ecosystem, including the Everglades
 - **Goal is to capture fresh water that now flows unused to the ocean** and the gulf and redirect it to areas that need it most.
 - The majority of the water will be for environmental restoration

- ∞ Estimated total cost of project **\$8.2 billion** (1999 price levels) to be **split 50/50 by federal/state**
 - Current estimated total cost \$13.5 billion (2009 price levels)

- ∞ **CERP to run 30+ years**



Chesapeake Bay Program



**Chesapeake Bay
Program**



Chesapeake Bay Program

- ∞ **Formed in 1983** for restoration and protection of Chesapeake Bay

- ∞ **1987 Chesapeake Bay Agreement; Chesapeake 2000**
 - Agreements that set goals for following 10+ years

- ∞ **In 2009 wanted to quicken progress of Program**
 - Switched to short-term milestone goals set for every 2 years



Different Ways to Prioritize

∞ Regional-scale restoration strategies have shown legitimate ways to prioritize

- **Great Lakes Restoration Initiative**
 - Tackle long-standing problems (Focus Areas)
- **Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund**
 - State planning projects (State-based)
- **Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan**
 - Long-term milestones, concept of adaptive assessment
- **Chesapeake Bay Program**
 - Short (two-year) milestones

∞ But none really answer:

Why here?

Why now?

...and how much more?

Suggestions

☞ “Collective Impact” (Kania & Kramer, 2011)

- Commitment of groups from various sectors working toward common agenda **for solving large-scale social problem**

☞ **Five conditions** that lead to powerful results

- Common Agenda
- Shared Measurement Systems
- Mutually Reinforcing Activities
- Continuous Communication
- Backbone Support Organizations



☞ Funders can **increase impact** by supporting groups working in collective processes