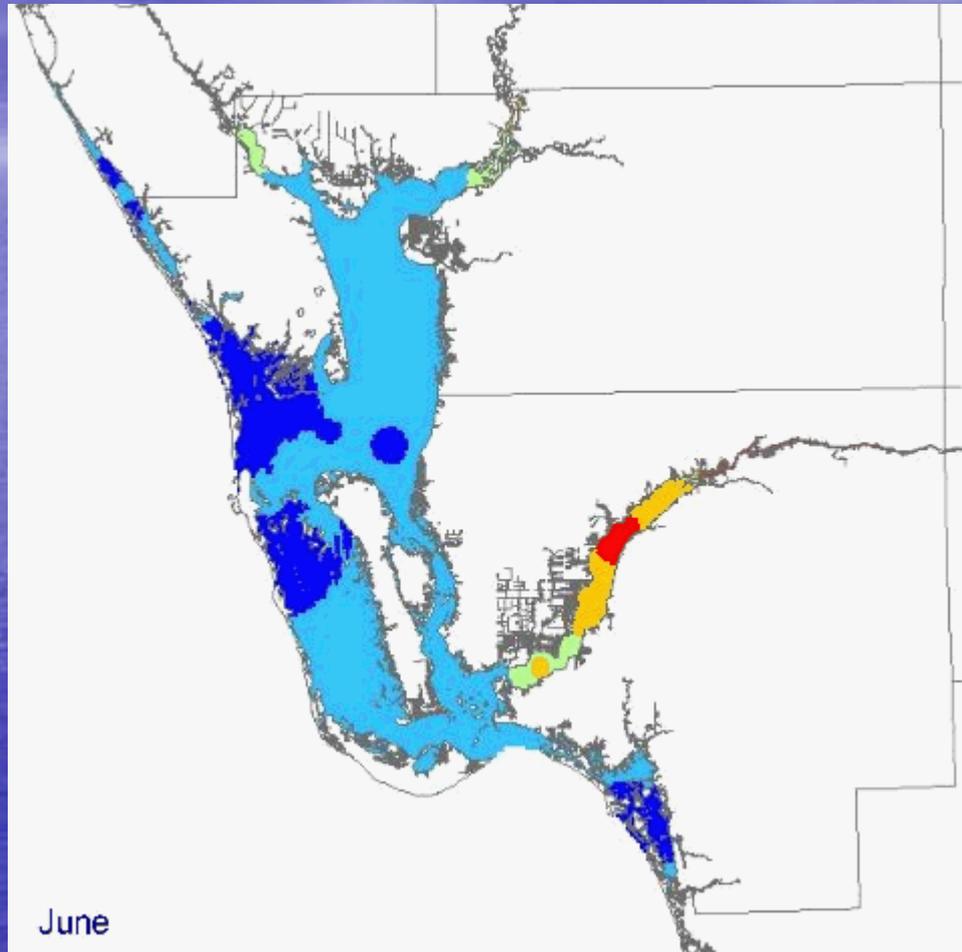




Welcome to
Lee County

The River Runs Through It

Ray Judah, Chairman, Lee County Board of
County Commissioners

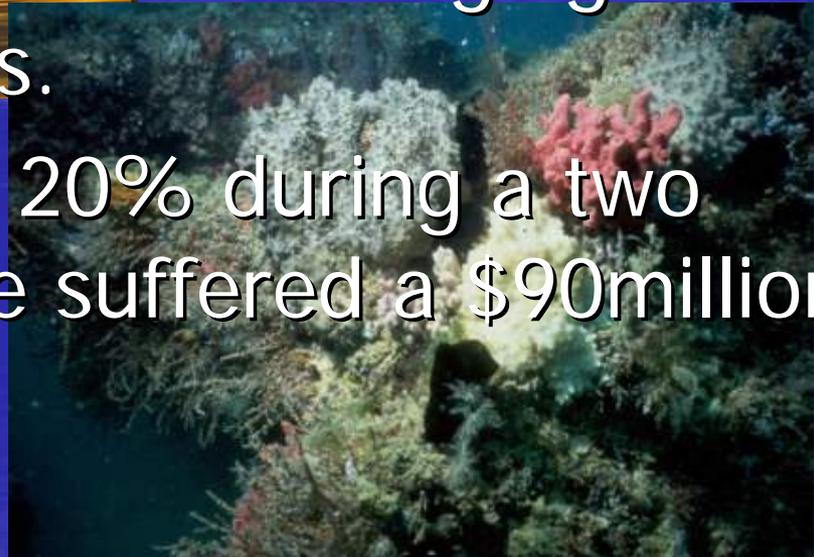


The River is Central To Our Economy

- It was our first "Highway"
- It is central to our ecotourism
- It's management is central to the success of our fishing industry
- When it suffers, we suffer
- When we get too much water, the water turns "red"
- Too little, blue green

Tourism

- A \$three billion a year industry, tourism is attracted primarily to the coast
- Surveys here and elsewhere depict impacts as high as 35% on lodging and 29% on restaurants.
- Using an impact of 20% during a two month red tide, Lee suffered a \$90million loss

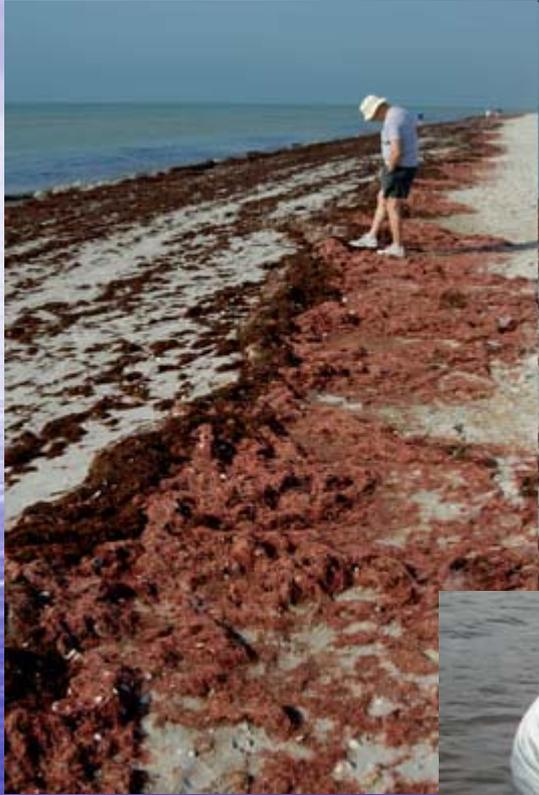


Fishing

- Lee County is third highest in fish landings, 2007 6.2m/lbs, down from 9.7m/lbs in 2004
- We have clam farming, blue and stone crabbers, shrimpers, bait, mullet, fishing guides, and Dads showing kids how to fish.
- Adverse water flows reduces all, near shore much more than offshore.



Too much, the water turns Red



Too little or too much and the water turns Green



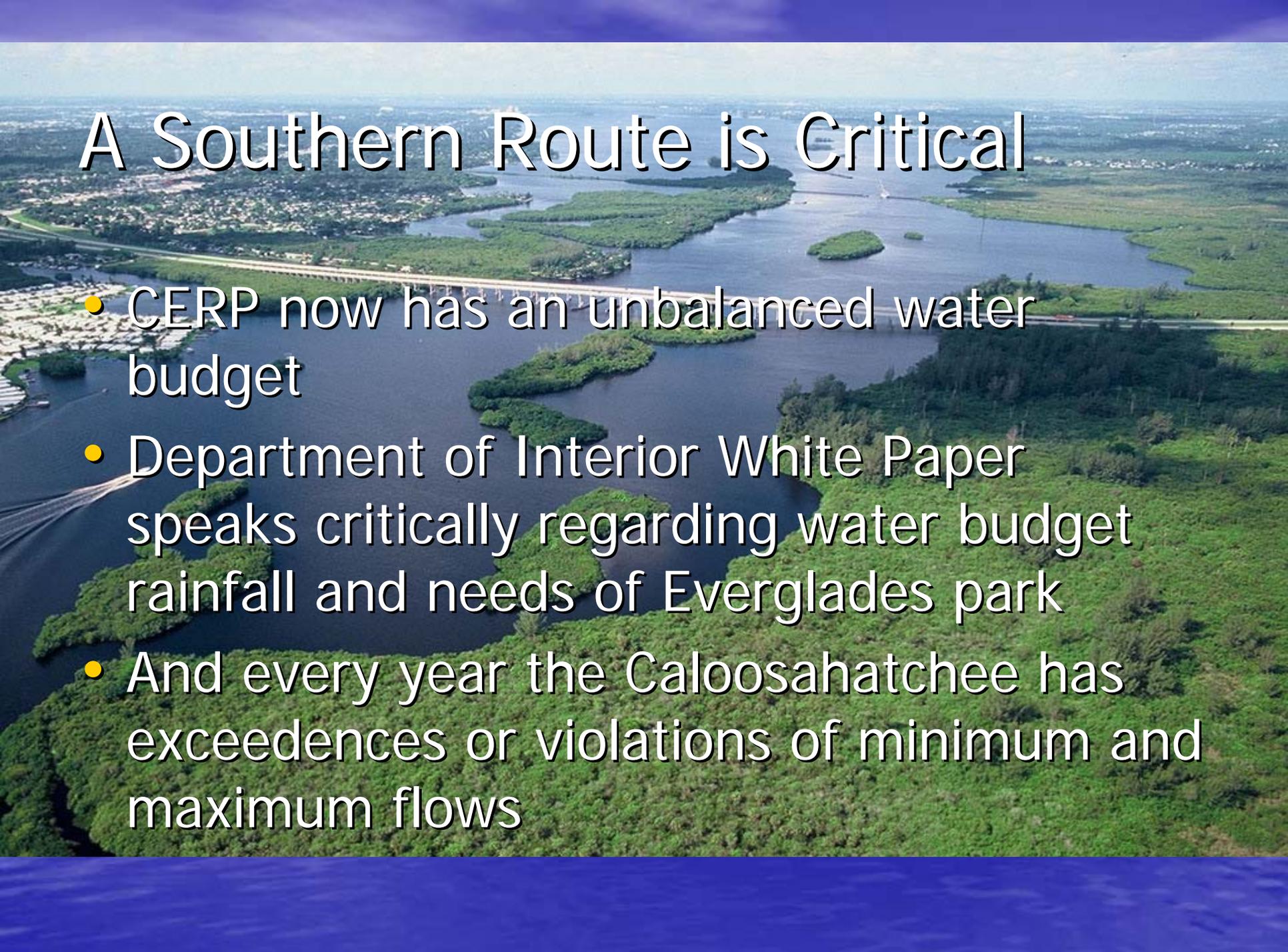
We are striving to “get our water quality right”

- Fertilizer Ordinance (adopted)
- Central Sewer effluent reuse (x%)
- Package plant reduction (through central sewer) and regulation (pending)
- OSTDS replacement (through central sewer) and maintenance regulation (pending)
- Stormwater change from Flow to Storage

But we need to get the Lake and River flows right

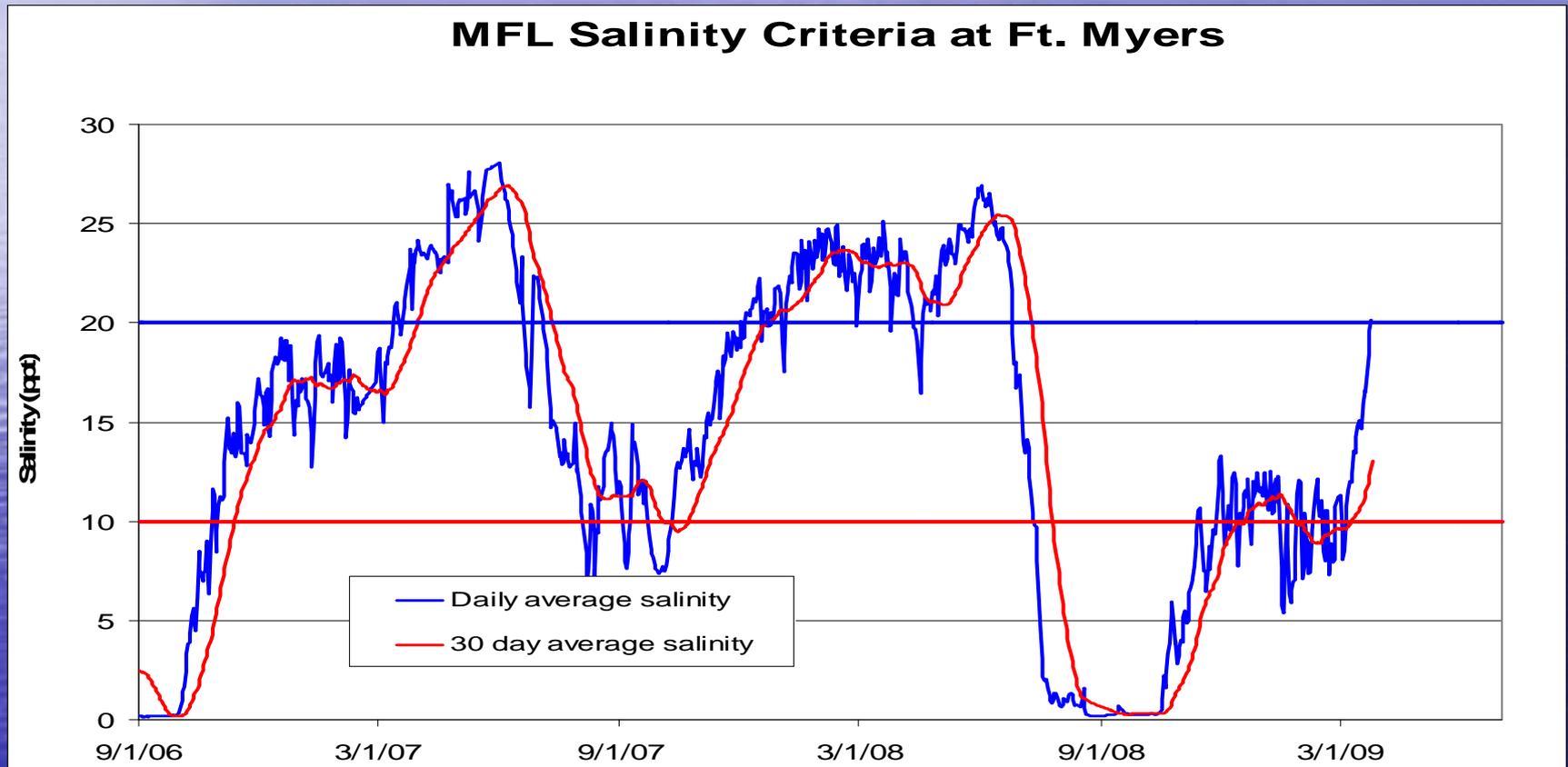
- New Lake Okeechobee regulation schedule (done)
- Lower Charlotte Harbor SWIM Plan (done)
- Caloosahatchee River Watershed PP (done)
- SWFFS (Pending completion)
- TMDLs (Pending)
- Southern Flowway.....

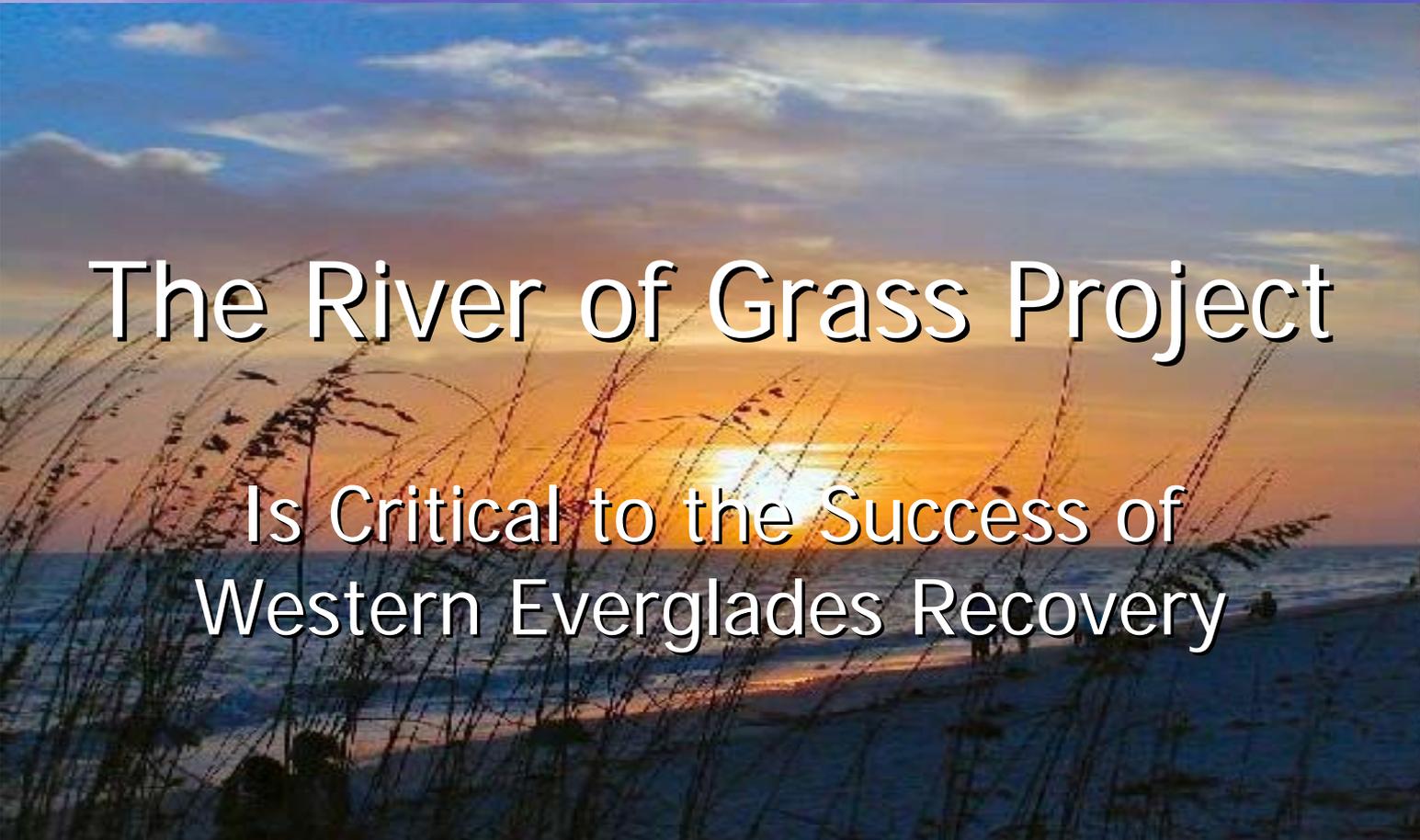
A Southern Route is Critical

An aerial photograph of a large waterway, likely a canal or river, winding through a lush green landscape. A long bridge spans across the water in the middle ground. The surrounding area is densely vegetated with green trees and shrubs. In the background, a city or town is visible under a clear sky.

- CERP now has an unbalanced water budget
- Department of Interior White Paper speaks critically regarding water budget rainfall and needs of Everglades park
- And every year the Caloosahatchee has exceedences or violations of minimum and maximum flows

Just a sample-guess when new regulation schedule went into effect



A photograph of a sunset over a body of water, with tall grasses in the foreground. The sun is low on the horizon, creating a warm orange and yellow glow. The sky is filled with soft, white clouds. The water in the foreground is dark blue, and the grasses are silhouetted against the bright light of the sunset.

The River of Grass Project

Is Critical to the Success of
Western Everglades Recovery