EVERGLADES RESTORATION TRANSITION PLAN

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ERTP Presentation Format

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ERTP Background

- Replaced the Interim Operating Plan (IOP)
- Governs water management operations for Water Conservation Areas (WCAs), Everglades National Park (ENP) and South Dade Conveyance System (SDCS)
- Multi-Species Approach (FWS Multi-Species transition Strategy)
- Lowered Zone A of WCA 3A Regulation Schedule as an Interim Risk Reduction Measure
ERTP Timeline

- Biological Opinion Nov 2010
- Final Environmental Impact Statement Dec 2011
- Record of Decision Oct 2012
- Re-initiated Consultation Nov 2014
- Biological Assessment Jul 2015
- Biological Opinion Expires Jan 2016
- Biological Opinion Expires Apr 2016
Why Are We Reinitiating?

- The 2010 ERTP Biological Opinion Incidental Take Reinitiation Trigger exceeded
  - “If the annual CSSS population estimate falls below 2,915 sparrows [Mean population estimate 2001-2009 = 3,145 ± 230]], reinitiation of consultation must occur.”
  - 2014 Range-wide survey revealed population estimate of 2,720 birds.
- The BO scheduled to expire Jan 2016
Water Management Opportunities Included in the Biological Assessment

- Increase or enhance operational flexibility within ERTP to move water away from Cape Sable Seaside Sparrow, Subpopulation A nesting areas

- Move Modified Water Deliveries to Everglades National Park Project increment test schedules to the left
  - Increment 1 - Spreadsheet analysis to quantify how much additional water was moved through the S-333 structure as opposed to the S-12 structures
Water Management Opportunities Included in the Biological Assessment

- Examine Western Flows Test to further investigate flows affecting Cape Sable Seaside Sparrow, Subpopulation A (CSSS-A)
  - Scope and develop an alternative to L-28 and associated western flows to move water away from CSSS-A to the west through Big Cypress
The Everglades Restoration Transition Plan (ERTP) defines operations for the constructed features of the Modified Water Deliveries (MWD) to Everglades National Park (ENP) and Canal 111 South Dade (C-111 SD) projects until those projects are fully completed and a Combined Operational Plan (COP) is implemented. ERTP, which was implemented in October 2012, is a modification of the 2002/2006 Interim Operational Plan (IOP) for Protection of the Cape Sable Seaside Sparrow (CSSS) with operational flexibilities to provide further hydrological improvements amenable to multiple listed species. ERTP is intended to cover operations until the full implementation of COP, which will be implemented upon the completion of construction of MWD Project and C-111 SD Project features. Concurrent with construction completion, two field tests (Increment 1 and Increment 2) will be conducted to allow interim benefits towards restoration and to assist future development of the COP; Increment 1 was initiated as a temporary deviation to ERTP in October 2015.