

# SOUTH FLORIDA ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION (SFER) PROGRAM

Program & Project Update

SFER Working Group / Science Coordination Group  
(WG/SCG)

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23 June 2020



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# SOUTH FLORIDA ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION PROGRAM

## Agenda

### ■ Program Items

- ▶ 2020 Report to Congress
- ▶ CISRERP Contract Renewal
- ▶ Integrated Delivery Schedule (IDS)

### ■ Project Items

- ▶ Everglades Agricultural Area (EAA) Reservoir
- ▶ Central Everglades Planning Project (CEPP)
- ▶ WRDA 2020 projects:
  - Loxahatchee River Watershed Restoration Project
  - Lake Okeechobee Watershed Restoration Project (LOWRP)
  - C-111 South Dade
  - C-43 West Basin Storage Reservoir,
- ▶ Biscayne Bay and Southeastern Everglades Ecosystem Restoration (BBSEER) Project
- ▶ Modified Water Deliveries, Combined Operational Plan (COP)
- ▶ Lake Okeechobee System Operating Manual (LOSOM)



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# SOUTH FLORIDA ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION PROGRAM

## 2020 Report to Congress

- Section 601(I) of WRDA 2000 requires that the Secretaries of the Army and the Interior jointly submit a report to congress not less than every five years on the implementation of the plan.
- “...the determination of each Secretary, and the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, concerning the benefits to the natural system and the human environment achieved as of the date of the report and whether the completed projects of the plan are being operated in a manner that is consistent with the requirements of subsection (h)...”
- CERP was authorized in December of 2000.
- This report covers progress made between July 1, 2015 and June 30, 2020



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# SOUTH FLORIDA ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION PROGRAM

## 2020 Report to Congress



### 2015 – 2020 REPORT TO CONGRESS

Details the momentum that has sprung from previous years of Everglades restoration efforts – that will in turn, set the initial pace for further restoration progress in 2020 and beyond. The report is structured to mirror the multi-faceted aspects of the restoration program, and to highlight the collaboration of the many partners, team members, and stakeholders so vital to restoration success and its current and future momentum.

#### Cover Images:

Front: Tricolored Heron

Back: Record Bird Colonies at the Broad River

Photo Credits: Mark Cook, South Florida Water Management District



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# SOUTH FLORIDA ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION PROGRAM

## 2020 Report to Congress

#	Activity	Due Date	Notes
1	USACE SAJ Brief and Request for Support at WG/SCG	12/4/2019	Follow up written request goes to multiple entities including but not limited to SAJ, SFWMD, FDEP, NPS, FWS, DOI for authors/writers. (COMPLETE)
2	USACE SAJ receives contact information for 2020 RTC team members (Writers/PDT) and Review Team members (Quality Check Reviewers, direct supervisors or their designee, and OC)	1/27/2020	(COMPLETE)
3	PDT discusses revision(s) to RTC outline , section assignments, and schedule	1/27/2020	(COMPLETE)
4	PDT members <u>update</u> assigned section(s), <u>writeup</u> new section(s), and provide to Editor	3/28/2020	(COMPLETE)
5	PDT and Agency Reviews and Backchecks Complete. USACE SAJ submits draft 2020 RTC to USACE SAD and HQ	6/18/2020	
6	USACE SAJ Release draft 2020 RTC for public reviews	8/10/2020	30 day review
7	USACE SAJ briefs Task Force WG/SCG	9/17/2020	Tentative date from OERI
8	Agency Letters of Support	10/4/2020	
10	ASA-CW deliver Final Report to Congress	11/17/2020	
	SAJ sends FINAL 2020 RTC to Agencies	11/22/2020	
	2020 RTC Due Every 5 years from Original Authorization Date	12/12/2020	



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## CISRERP Contract Renewal

### CISRERP 2015-2020

- Memorandum of Agreement (MOA)
  - Implementing Parties - Department of Interior (DOI), USACE and State of Florida
  - Executed in 2015 and goes through April 2021
- Cooperative Agreement (CA)
  - National Academy of Sciences (NAS) and USACE
  - Approved Budget = \$1,925,000
  - Executed in 2015 and goes through August 2020

### CISRERP 2020-2025 Path Forward

- DRAFT - Memorandum of Agreement (MOA)
  - Implementing Parties - Department of Interior (DOI), USACE and State of Florida
  - Update to cover time period of 2020 - 2024
- DRAFT - Cooperative Agreement (CA)
  - National Academy of Sciences (NAS) and USACE
  - Budget = \$1,691,000
  - Scope includes the 2022 and 2024 report cycles



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## Integrated Delivery Schedule (IDS)

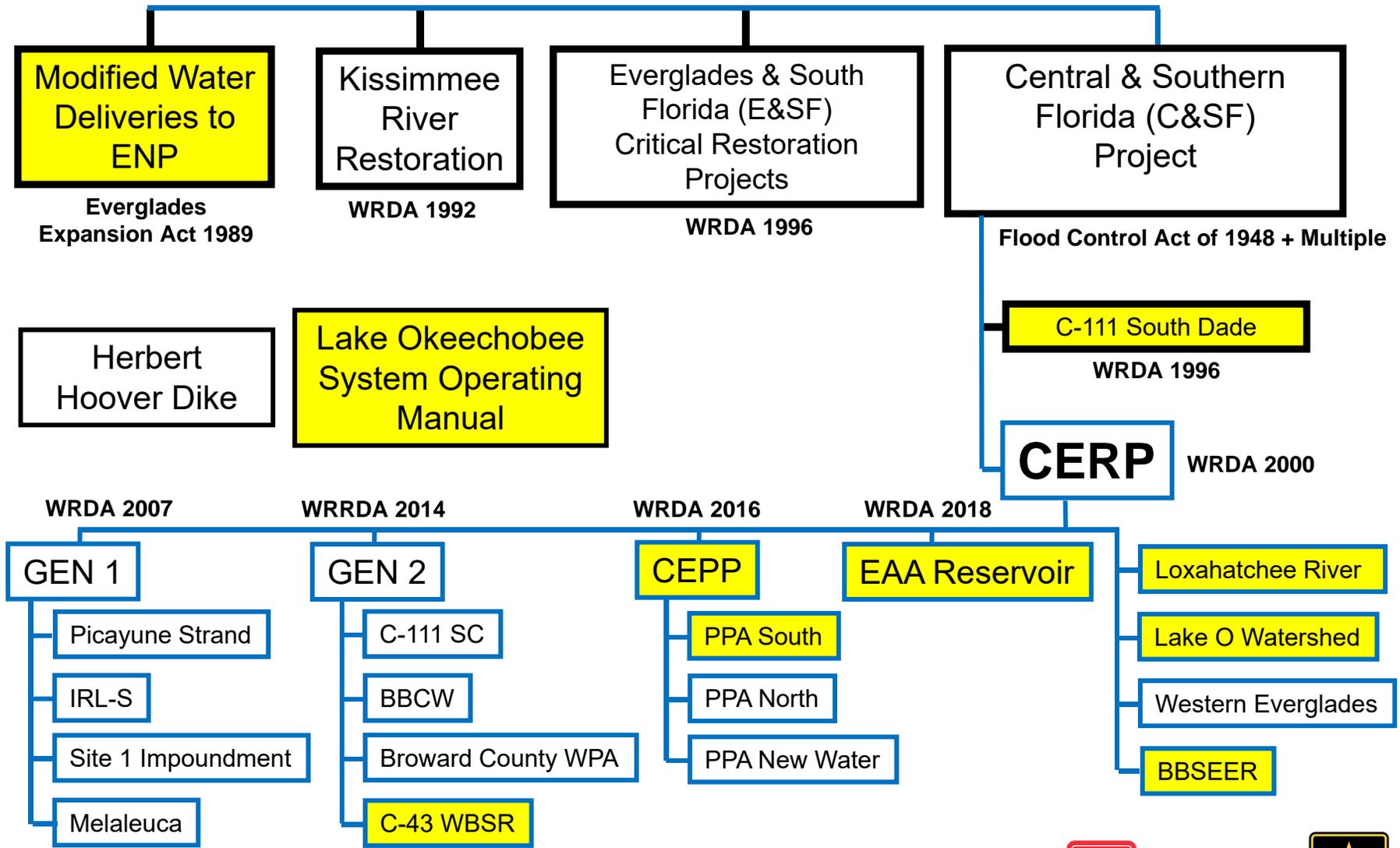
Schedule	Proposed Updates
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• July – September 2020 – updates by USACE and SFWMD</li> <li>• September 17, 2020 – Proposed Task Force Sponsored Workshop with Working Draft**</li> <li>• Final 2020 IDS Update – October Task Force meeting</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• President’s Budget FY21 and Justification Sheet - \$250M</li> <li>• State of Florida and SFWMD Budget FY21; SFWMD’s 2020 CIP - \$264M</li> <li>• America’s Water Infrastructure Act of 2020- possibilities/assumptions</li> <li>• Studies – the white part of the IDS on front page               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• BBSEER – revise rows previously shown as BBCW2 and C111SCE</li> <li>• Southern Everglades – revise row previously shown as Decomp Phase 2/ASR</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

**\*\*Request for WG/SCG Support**



# SOUTH FLORIDA ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION (SFER) PROGRAM

## Program Structure



**CERP** – Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan  
**GEN** – Generation; linked to Authorization  
**CEPP** – Central Everglades Planning Project

Foundation Projects



# SOUTH FLORIDA ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION PROGRAM

## Everglades Agricultural Area (EAA) Reservoir



### Everglades Agricultural Area (EAA)

#### Features:

- A-2 Reservoir: 10,500 acres with 240,000 acre-foot storage at ~23 feet deep
- A-2 Stormwater Treatment Area (STA): 6,500 acres
- Adds 160,000 to CEPP's 210,000 for a total of 370,000 average annual acre-feet of new water flowing through to the central Everglades

The purpose of Everglades Agricultural Area (EAA) is to improve the quantity, quality, timing, and distribution of water flows to the central Everglades (Water Conservation Area 3 (WCA-3) and Everglades National Park (ENP)).

#### Status:

- Authorized in WRDA 2018 (Section 1308)
- SFWMD design efforts ongoing; construction efforts initiated 20 April 2020
- USACE design efforts ongoing; awaiting construction funding and approval to execute Project Partnership Agreement (PPA) and award construction contract



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## WRDA 2020: Loxahatchee River Watershed Restoration Project

### Recommended Plan – Alternative 5R



Restore and sustain the overall quantity, quality, timing, and distribution of fresh waters to the federally designated “National Wild and Scenic” Northwest Fork of the Loxahatchee River. This project also seeks to restore, sustain, and reconnect the wetlands and watersheds that form the historic headwaters for the river and its tributaries.

### Status:

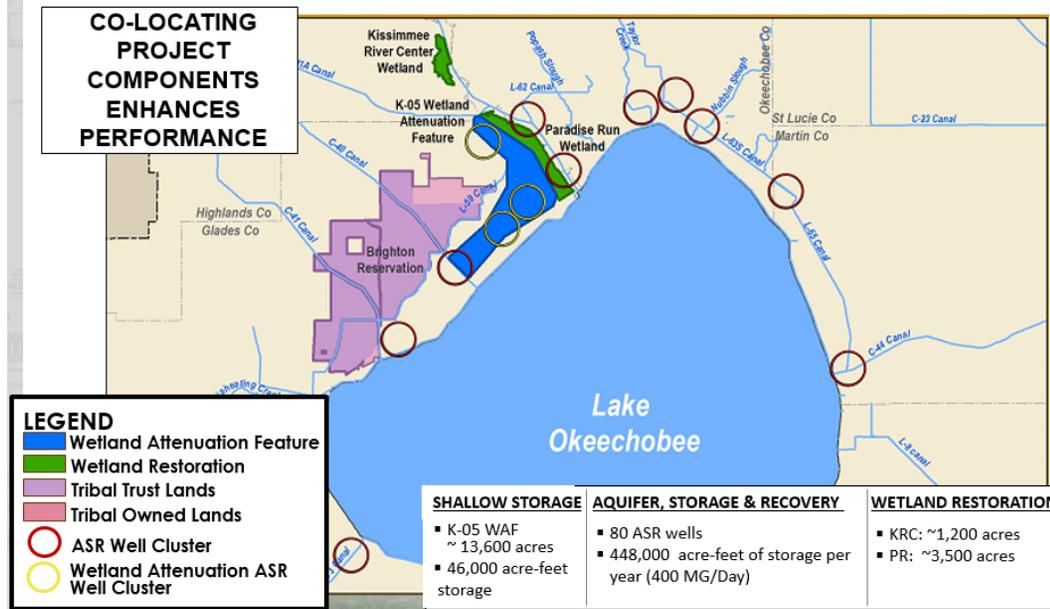
- Project Implementation Report (PIR) in final stages of development.
- State & Agency Review – February 2020
- Chief’s Report – May 2020
- WRDA 2020 Consideration



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## WRDA 2020: Lake Okeechobee Watershed Restoration Project

### Recommended Plan – Alternative 1BWR



Improve water levels in Lake Okeechobee; improve the quantity and timing of discharges to the St. Lucie and Caloosahatchee estuaries; restore degraded habitat for fish and wildlife throughout the study area; and increase the spatial extent and functionality of wetlands.

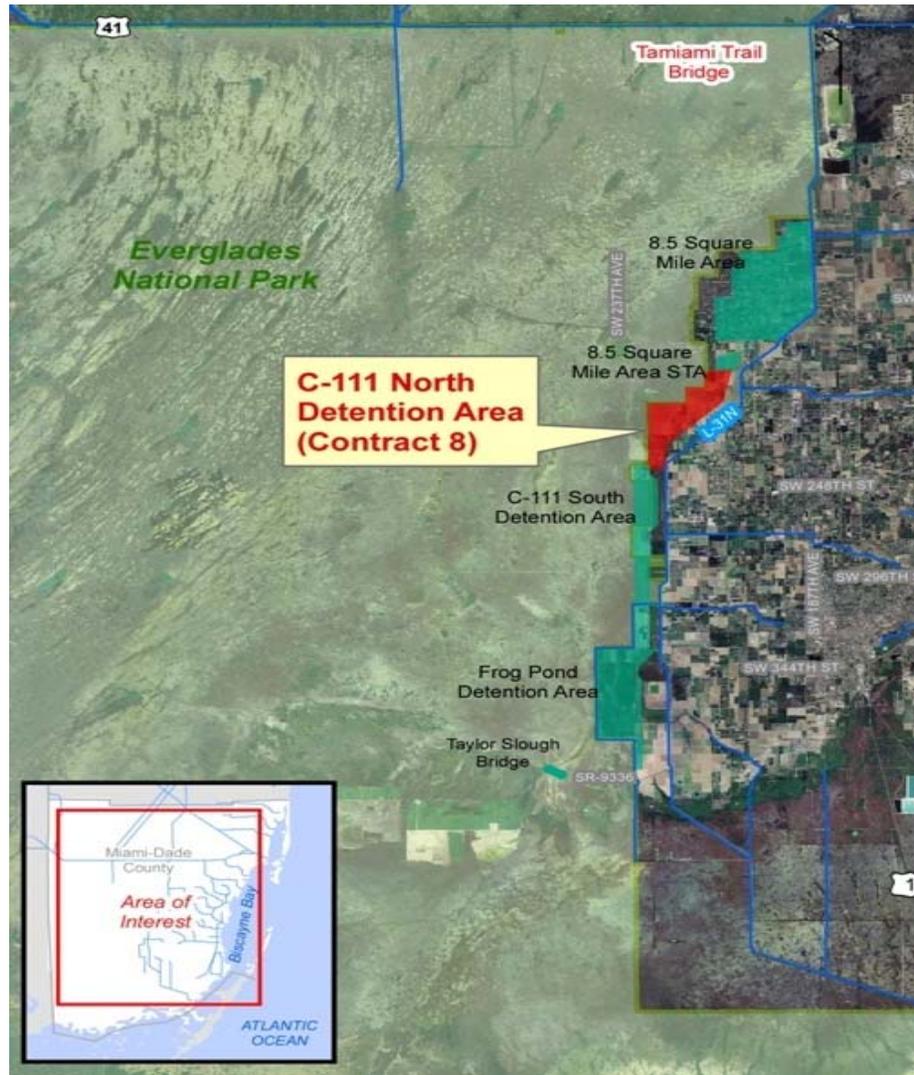
#### Status:

- Project Implementation Report (PIR) in final stages of development
- State & Agency Review – July 2020
- Chief’s Report – September 2020
- WRDA 2020/2022 Consideration



# SOUTH FLORIDA ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION PROGRAM

## WRDA 2020: Canal 111 (C-111) South Dade



Reduces water losses from Everglades National Park and improves freshwater flow to Taylor Slough and Florida Bay. Provides for 9,500 acre-feet of storage & seepage that reduces damaging canal discharges to Barnes Sound, reduces seepage losses from ENP, and maintains flood protection for commercial, residential, and agricultural properties to the east

### Status:

- Construction complete!
- Post authorization change report (PACR) to address temporary pump stations and O&M Cost Share in final stages of development
- State & Agency Review – July 2020
- Chief's Report – September 2020
- WRDA 2020/2022 Consideration



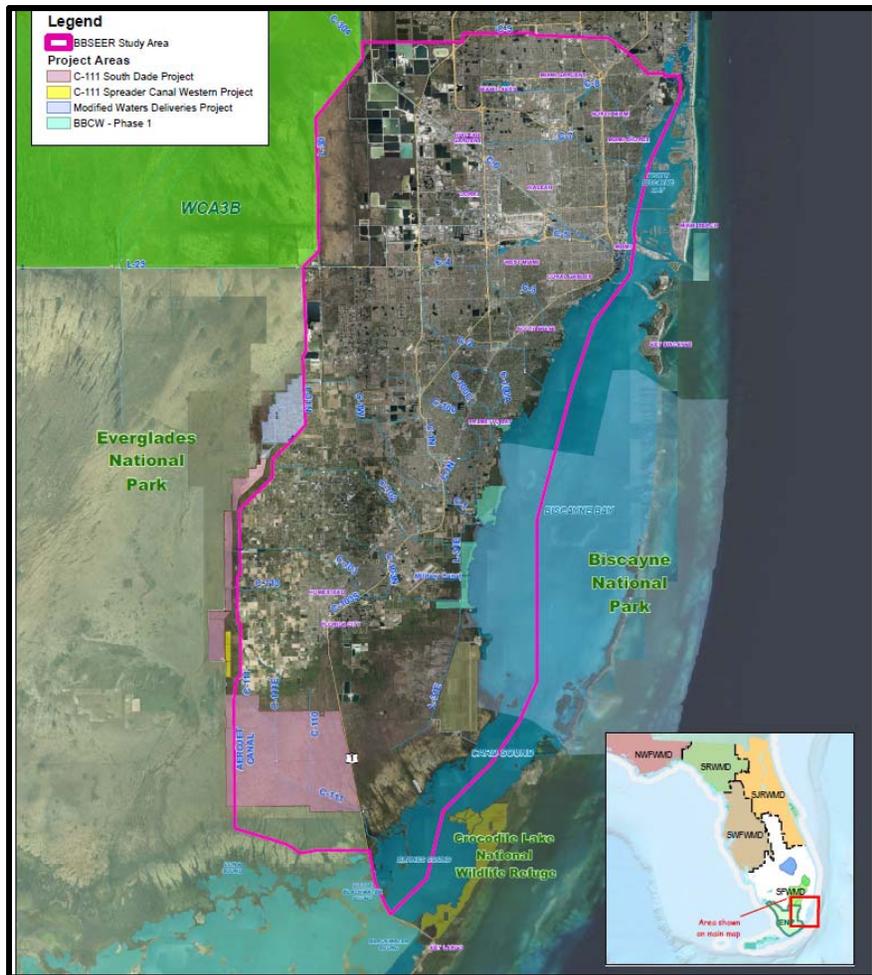
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## Biscayne Bay and Southeastern Everglades Ecosystem Restoration (BBSEER)



The purpose of the project is to improve the quantity, potential quality, timing and distribution of freshwater to Biscayne Bay, including Card Sound and Barnes Sound and Biscayne National Park, improve natural coastal glades habitat in the Model Lands and Southern Glades, and to improve resiliency of these coastal habitats in light of sea level change.

### Status:

- Finalizing development of Project Management Plan (PMP)
- Study initiation in late July 2020



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# SOUTH FLORIDA ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION PROGRAM

## Lake Okeechobee System Operating Manual (LOSOM)

### GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

**Goal:** Incorporate flexibility in Lake Okeechobee operations while balancing congressionally authorized project purposes.



Flood  
Control



Water  
Supply



Navigation



Recreation



Preservation  
of Fish  
& Wildlife

- **Objective 1.** Manage risk to public health and safety, life and property
- **Objective 2.** Continue to meet authorized purposes for navigation, recreation and flood control
- **Objective 3.** Improve water supply performance
- **Objective 4.** Enhance ecology in Lake Okeechobee, northern estuaries and across the south Florida ecosystem.



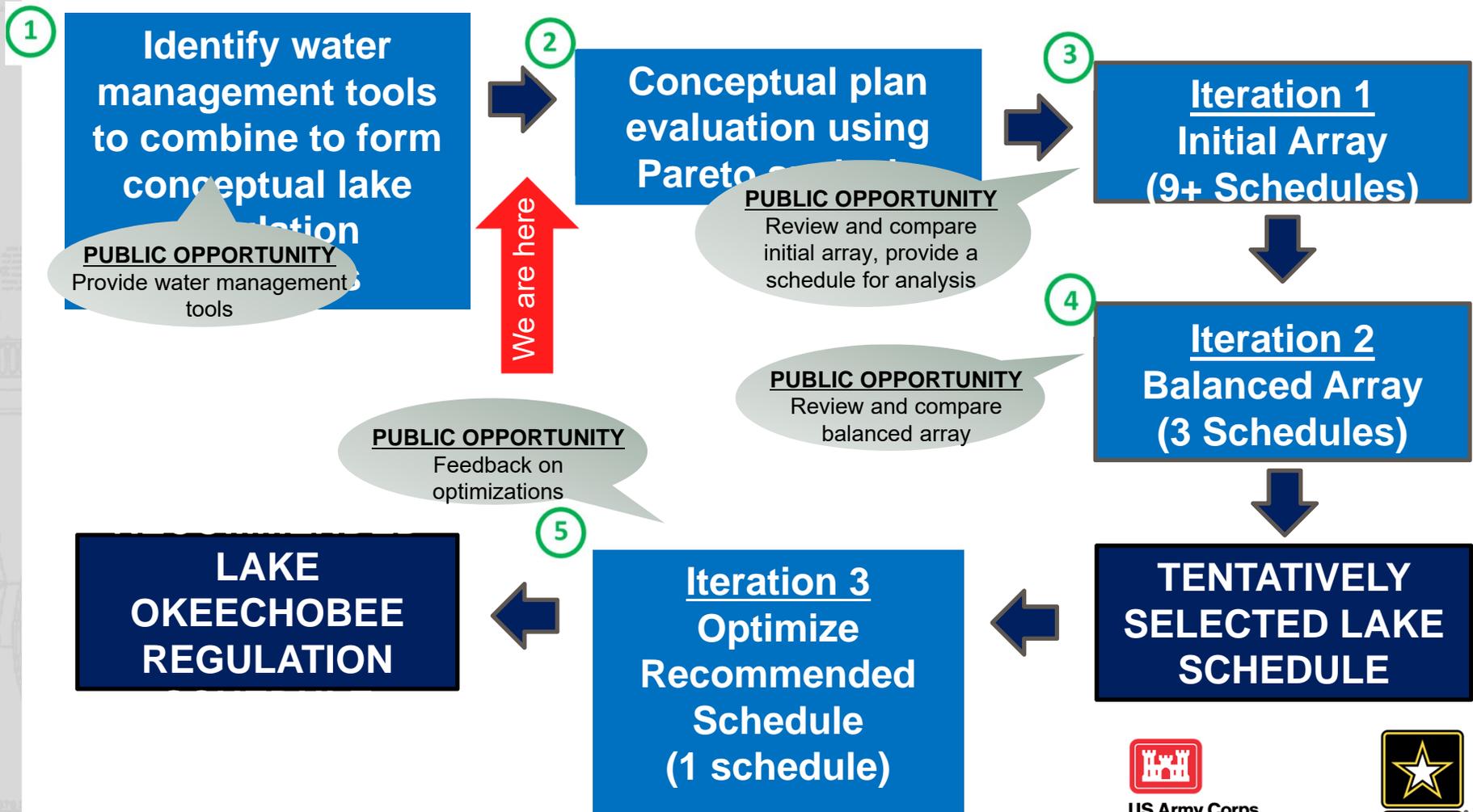
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## Lake Okeechobee System Operating Manual (LOSOM)

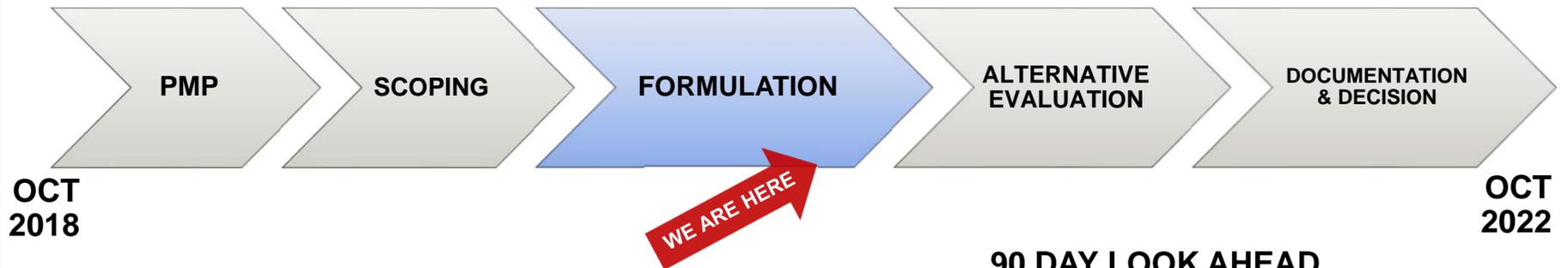
### LOSOM PLAN FORMULATION PROCESS



# SOUTH FLORIDA ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION PROGRAM

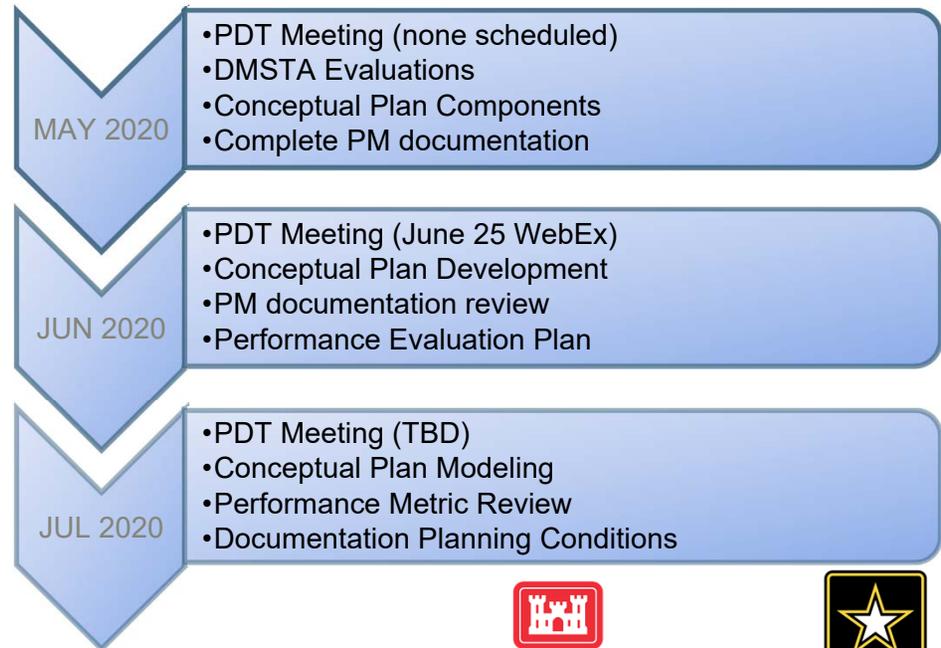
## Lake Okeechobee System Operating Manual (LOSOM)

### SCHEDULE



#### 90 DAY LOOK AHEAD

MILESTONE	DATE
Scoping Meetings (complete)	February - March 2019
Plan Formulation & Performance Evaluation Finalized	June 2020
Evaluation of Alternative Lake Schedules	June 2020 – July 2021
Draft Report Release	January 2022
Final Report Release	July 2022
Record of Decision (ROD)	October 2022



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