



# SOUTH FLORIDA ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION TASK FORCE

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LEADERSHIP • PARTNERSHIP • RESULTS

## The Task Force & Invasive Species: WRDA 2020

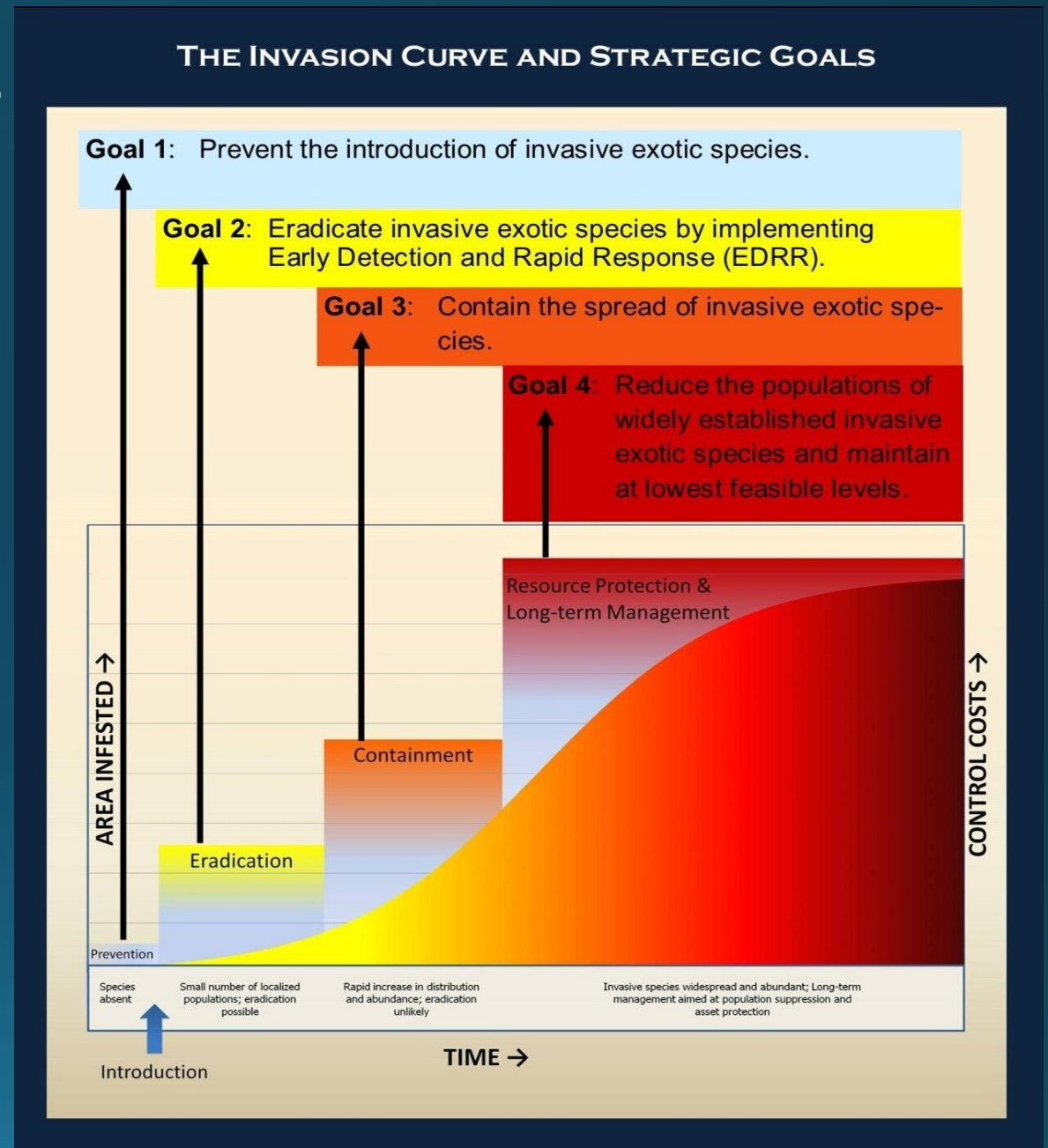
Carrie Beeler, OERI  
July 7, 2022

# Topics

- Welcome and Introductions
- Strategic Action Framework
- WRDA 2020 Requirements
- Proposed Process
- Anticipated Products
- Appointees
- Timeline & Meeting Schedule
- Whip Around Member Discussion

# Invasive Exotic Species Strategic Action Framework

- Initial Framework completed in 2015
- Updated in 2020
- 4 Goals organized along the Invasion Curve
- Includes a set of complementary resources
- <https://www.evergladesrestoration.gov/invasive-exotic-species-strategic-action-framework>



# Water Resources Development Act 2020

- The “SLITHER” Act was included in WRDA 2020 as “Invasive Species Risk Assessment Prioritization and Management”
- Amended WRDA 1996 to add specific duties to the Task Force related to invasive species
- The proposed process builds on the Framework effort




Photo Credit: Argentine Black and White Tegu  
by ECISMA

# WRDA 2020, Part 1

- “Develop and update, as appropriate, a priority list of invasive species that:
- (i) reflects an assessment of ecological risk that the listed invasive species represent;
- (ii) includes populations of invasive plants and animals that:
  - (a) are significantly impacting the structure and function of ecological communities, native species, or habitat within the South Florida ecosystem; or
  - (b) demonstrate a strong potential to reduce, obscure, or otherwise alter key indicators used to measure Everglades restoration progress.”

# WRDA 2020, Part 2

The priority list of invasive species “shall be used by the Task Force and agencies and entities represented on the Task Force to focus cooperative and collaborative efforts:

- (I) to guide applied research;
- (II) to develop innovative strategies and tools to facilitate improved management, control, or eradication of listed invasive species;
- (III) to implement specific management, control, or eradication activities at the appropriate periodicity and intensity necessary to reduce or neutralize the impacts of listed invasive species, including the use of qualified skilled volunteers when appropriate; and
- (IV) to develop innovative strategies and tools to prevent future introductions of nonnative species.”


# Task Force Recommendation

- At their May 3, 2022 meeting, the Task Force issued the following direction:

The Task Force directs the Working Group, Science Coordination Group, and the Office of Everglades Restoration Initiatives (OERI) to implement WRDA 2020 direction to develop a priority list of species, using the described requirements.



# Proposed Process, WRDA 2020 Part 1

- Convene a group of experts 
- Identify existing priority lists
- Discuss the value/utility of the WRDA priority list for member agencies
- Develop summary matrices that satisfies WRDA 2020, Part 1:
  - Priority plant and animal species
  - Tools used to assess ecological risk
  - Impacts and evidence of those impacts
- Develop supporting documents
- Determine future steps/role of team:
  - Methodology to update and assess/screen additional priority species
  - Efforts to satisfy WRDA 2020, Part 2



# Summary Matrix

- Ecological Risk, per WRDA 2020:
  - Priority list should reflect “an assessment of ecological risk that the listed invasive species represent.”
- Identify tools used for each priority species:
  - Regulatory
  - FISC screening tool
  - Animal Screening Tool
  - CISMA Screened (Best Professional Judgement)
  - Agency Screened
  - Other?

# Summary Matrix Continued

- Impacts of Species, per WRDA 2020:
  - “Significantly impacting the structure and function of **ecological communities, native species, or habitat** within the South Florida ecosystem; or
  - Demonstrate a strong potential to reduce, obscure, or otherwise alter **key indicators** used to measure Everglades restoration progress.”
- Identify How Impacts were Determined
  - Observed or physical evidence such as photo capture
  - Cited/literature review
  - Best professional judgement

# Products, WRDA 2020 Part 1

## Summary Matrix

- One for each, plants and animals
- How each species was assessed or screened
- Explanation of impacts
- How impacts were determined

## Supporting Documents

- Purpose
- How summary matrix was developed
- Descriptions of each assessment tool used
- Conversation about impacts and how they were determined
- Recommendations
- Appendices

# Invasive Species Appointees and Experts

## WG/SCG Agency Appointees

- Bill Thomas, FWS Refuge
- Art Roybal, FWS Services
- Jessica Spencer, USACE
- Kelli O'Donnell, NOAA
- Nick Aumen, USGS
- Bryan Falk, NPS
- Kristen Sommers & Matt Phillips, FWC
- LeRoy Rodgers, SFWMD
- Brenda Hovde, PBC
- Craig Van Der Heiden & Kevin Donaldson & Amy Castenada, Miccosukee Tribe
- Dr. Eric Rohrig, FDACs & Dr. Patti Anderson, FDACs
- Nathan Fikkert, USDA

## OERI

Carrie Beeler

Allyn Childress

## Other Experts

- SW CISMA-Mitch Barazowski and Dan Quinn
- ECISMA-LeRoy Rodgers and Dennis Giardina
- TC CISMA - Alexandra Onisko, Michael Yustin
- Deah Lieurance, UF IFAS (-Regional status assessment tool)
- Wes Daniels, USGS (NAS screening )
- Christina Romagosa (Animal screening tool)

# Meetings & Coordination Opportunities

## July

- WG/SCG 7<sup>th</sup>-process acceptance
- Kickoff meeting (11<sup>th</sup>)
- ECISMA Summit-presentation (19<sup>th</sup>)

## August

- Meeting
- Potential CISMA Briefings

## September

- WG/SCG-Sept 1 status update
- 3 Meetings -Incorporate WG/SCG member and stakeholder comments
- FISP Briefing (multiple CISMAs)
- SWCISMA Symposium (16th)

## October

- Task Force meeting October

\*Invasive Species Team Meeting

\*WG/SCG/TF meetings (report out to members and stakeholder input)

\*Briefing to CISMA members and potential stakeholder Input opportunities

**Carrie Beeler, Agenda item #11**

# Whip Around for Member Discussion

- Value/Utility of a WRDA 2020 Priority List for member agencies
- Proposed process
- Part 1 Products (Summary Matrix and Supporting Documents)
- Membership