



SOUTH FLORIDA ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION TASK FORCE



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**Working Group/Science Coordination Group
CISRERP VIII Update
Science to Support Decision Making**

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EVERGLADESRESTORATION.GOV

Committee on Independent Scientific Review of Everglades Restoration Progress (CISRERP)

The Eighth CISRERP Biennial Review on Progress Toward Restoring the Everglades was publicly released in March 2021.

- Biennial Reports provide: (1) Assessment of progress in restoring the natural system, (2) Evaluation of specific scientific and engineering issues that may impact progress in achieving natural system restoration goals, and (3) review of monitoring and assessment protocols to be used for evaluation of CERP progress.
- The Eighth Biennial Report covered the usual topics of the Restoration Plan in Context, Restoration Progress, but also included three chapters focused on the Combined Operational Plan, Estuaries and Coastal Systems, and Science to Support Decision Making.



Science to Support Decision Making

CISRERP has provided detailed reviews of our science programs (monitoring, modeling, data/information synthesis) in their prior reports CISRERP 2014, 2016, 2018.

What's Changed/Why Focus More on Science Support Now? Our science support programs must evolve as restoration implementation progresses.

Prior Science Focus: Support for planning, design, construction, monitoring was focused on status and trends, modeling/synthesis focused on assessing project specific benefits.

New Science Focus: Support for larger regional-scale project implementation, operational refinements, and adaptive management. Science should focus more on understanding ecosystem function, landscape dynamics, tied to water management responses.

System Scale Analyses: Larger projects COP/LOSOM are coming on-line, requiring whole-system vs individual project focus, goal - applying science to better inform operations.

Science to Support Decision Making

CISRERP has identified four examples of ongoing or forthcoming decisions that can benefit from Systems Analysis: and the more refined and consistent application of available science:

Integrating Science and Project Planning/Scheduling. The IDS could include systems analysis to more formally evaluate each project's contribution to overall CERP performance, to prioritize projects that make the largest improvements at the ecosystem scale.

Assessment of Restoration Outcomes and Adaptive Management. Understanding project-level and systemwide responses and their interacting causal factors through data analysis and modeling.

Near-term Operational Decision Making. As more projects come online, operational decisions will be more complex, and these decisions, including operational changes, will benefit from tools and strategies that can efficiently and actively bring science and systems-level understanding to bear on near-term decisions.

Science Planning and Investment. Identifying and prioritizing science to support future management of CERP infrastructure. Ongoing research on issues such as peat collapse and the effects of sea-level rise demonstrate that science in support of the CERP must adapt. Decisions on the highest priority science should be informed by a systems-level perspective, considering which information can add value to restoration progress.

Science to Support Decision Making

Proposal:

- Build on our current WG/SCG RECOVER Partnership. Setup an interagency team to examine the CISRERP VIII science support recommendations.
- Establish a continuing dialogue with CISRERP during their next Biennial Review to look for specific opportunities for refining our science support for monitoring, modeling, and synthesis.
- Report back to the WG/SCG on the team's progress.



QUESTIONS?