



SOUTH FLORIDA ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION TASK FORCE



LEADERSHIP • PARTNERSHIP • RESULTS

Progress on Invasive Species Priorities Joint WG/SCG Meeting March 20, 2024

Adam Gelber, Director OERI

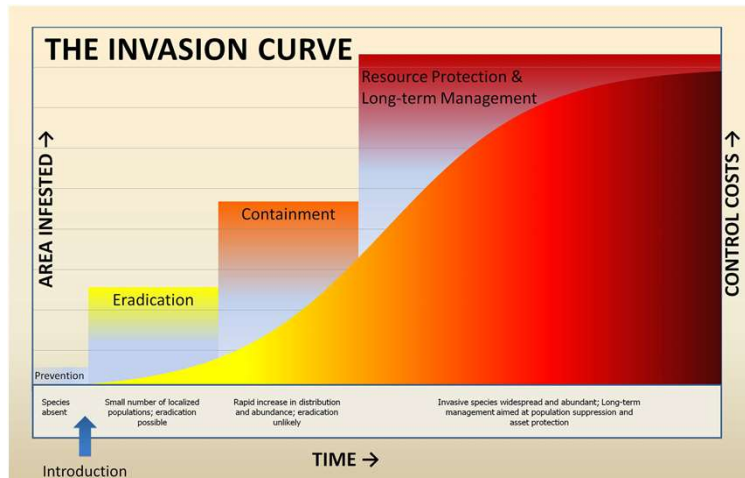
Task Force: Invasive Species Direction

WRDA 2020

Part 1: Develop a priority list of invasive species.

Part 2: Focus on cooperative and collaborative efforts to:

- Guide applied research
- Develop innovative strategies and tools
- Implement specific management, control, and eradication activities, including prevention



Task Force: Organizational Chart

Per their charters:

- The Task Force and Working Group can appoint an existing body as an advisory body or create one.
- The SCG can take advice from these advisory bodies.



Invasive Species Advisory Body (ISAB) Roles

Working Group

- Includes stakeholder input
- Has charter responsibilities
- Has voting protocols

REQUESTS AND
DIRECTS

PROVIDES EXPERT
OPINION

Invasive Species Advisory Body

- Does not make decisions
- Does not vote

*ISAB products are accepted by the WG and TF and can be edited based upon their input.

*The ISAB serves at the pleasure of the WG and TF.

Protect the South Florida Ecosystem from Invasive Species Impacts WRDA 2020: Progress

Progress on WRDA Part 1: Developing a List of Priority Species

Complete

- ✓ Initial Prevention List developed and accepted, 2022/2023
- ✓ UF/USGS Kicked off Decision Support Tools (DST) development for prioritizing invasive species, Dec 2023
- ✓ RECOVER members briefed ISAB on key indicators of restoration success, Oct 2023
- ✓ ISAB provided taxa experts to help design the DST, Jan 2024
- ✓ UF/USGS provided recommendation for incorporating indicators into the DST, Jan 2024

In Process

- ❑ Initial Technical Workshop with taxa experts to develop final question set for DST (Mar 26)
- ❑ ISAB/UF provide overview to WG of the DST Workshop findings and the platform (R Shiny App)
- ❑ Workshop #2 Developing priority list for Early Detection Species using the DST, Fall 2024
- ❑ Priority list for Established Species 2024/2025

Progress on WRDA Part 2: Cooperative and Collaborative Efforts

Complete

- ✓ Developed Recommendations to the WG and TF for Prevention

In Process

Develop coordinated response and removal strategies in order to implement Prevention Recommendation: *"To Prepare by Bolstering Detection Monitoring and Response Teams"*

- ☐ An inventory of existing detection programs and tools in the South Florida Ecosystem
- ☐ Optimize Inventory using Priority Species Lists for incipient populations (Prevention and Early Detected species)
- ☐ ISAB to discuss next steps and provide recommendations to WG for developing response and removal strategies

Protect the South Florida Ecosystem from Invasive Species Impacts WRDA 2020: Next Steps

Next Steps for WRDA Part 2

Implementing Actions as Identified within:

- **Prevention** Recommendations (as reflected in the November 2023 two-pager seen here)

Working Group Action Item

- ☐ Consider ISAB recommendation to begin efforts to develop coordinated response and removal strategies by first conducting an inventory of existing detection programs and tools.

South Florida Ecosystem Restoration Task Force Priority Invasive Species and Recommendations *Prevention*

WHAT: The Water Resource Development Act of 2020 (WRDA 2020)

Directed the South Florida Ecosystem Restoration Task Force (Task Force) to develop:

- ♦ A list of priority invasive species and
- ♦ Recommendations to protect the South Florida Ecosystem.

WHY: The Everglades is uniquely vulnerable to invasive species...

and the threats posed by these invasive species—to native habitats and species, the region's economy, and the South Florida Ecosystem restoration effort—are growing.

HOW: Building Coordination and Expertise from the "Ground Up"

An advisory body of experts was created representing federal, state, Tribal, and local governments, academia, and regional Cooperative Invasive Species Management Areas (CISMAs). Beginning with **Prevention** on the Invasion Curve, the group identified 19 species not yet in South Florida that ranked high in likelihood for arrival, establishment, and adverse impacts to native species and habitats (next page) and developed a suite of recommendations (below).

PREVENTION RECOMMENDATIONS	Regulations and Policies: Identify Opportunities and Gaps
	Research and Preparation: Support Research on Prevention Species & Bolster Detection Monitoring and Response Teams in Advance
	Outreach and Education: Involve Stakeholders, Inspection Agents, Experts, and the Public
	Equipment Decontamination: Review Policies & Protocols to Prevent Spread

ADVISORY GROUP ORGANIZATIONS* City of Sanibel Natural Resource Department | Everglades Cooperative Invasive Species Management Area | Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services | Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission | Miami-Dade County Department of Environmental Resource Management | Miccosukee Tribe of Indians of Florida | National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration | National Park Service | Office of Everglades Restoration Initiatives | Palm Beach County Environmental Resource Management | South Florida Water Management District | Southwest Florida Cooperative Invasive Species Management Area | Treasure Coast Cooperative Invasive Species Management Area | U.S. Army Corps of Engineers | U.S. Department of Agriculture | U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service | U.S. Geological Survey | University of Florida

*Additional organizations participated during Task Force, Working Group, and Science Coordination meetings.

Special Recognition: The advisory body identified prevention lists created through a horizon scan process for Florida (Lieurance et al., in press) as the starting point to prioritizing a list of high-risk species. Horizon scanning combines risk screening and consensus building to prioritize invasive species threats based on arrival likelihood and negative ecological and socioeconomic impacts.

PREVENTION	ERADICATION	CONTAINMENT	LONG-TERM MANAGEMENT
------------	-------------	-------------	----------------------

Discussion