



# SOUTH FLORIDA ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION TASK FORCE

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LEADERSHIP • PARTNERSHIP • RESULTS

## The South Florida Ecosystem Restoration Task Force: Overview for the Florida's Coral Reef Coordination Team Kickoff Meeting

Allyn Childress, OERI

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# The South Florida Ecosystem

- 18,000 square miles
  - 16 counties
  - Orlando to Key West
  - 9 million residents
- Diverse ecosystem
  - Rivers, Lakes, Bays
  - Uplands and Wetlands
  - Coral Reefs
- Significant federal conservation lands
  - 4 National Park Units
  - 16 National Wildlife Refuges



# South Florida Ecosystem Restoration Task Force

- Established by the **Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) of 1996** which outlines the Task Force's:
  - Membership
  - Organization
  - Purpose and Duties
- Subsequent WRDA legislation has added:
  - Specific duties regarding invasive species (WRDA 2020)
  - An additional state Task Force member (FWC; WRDA 2022)

# South Florida Ecosystem Restoration Task Force

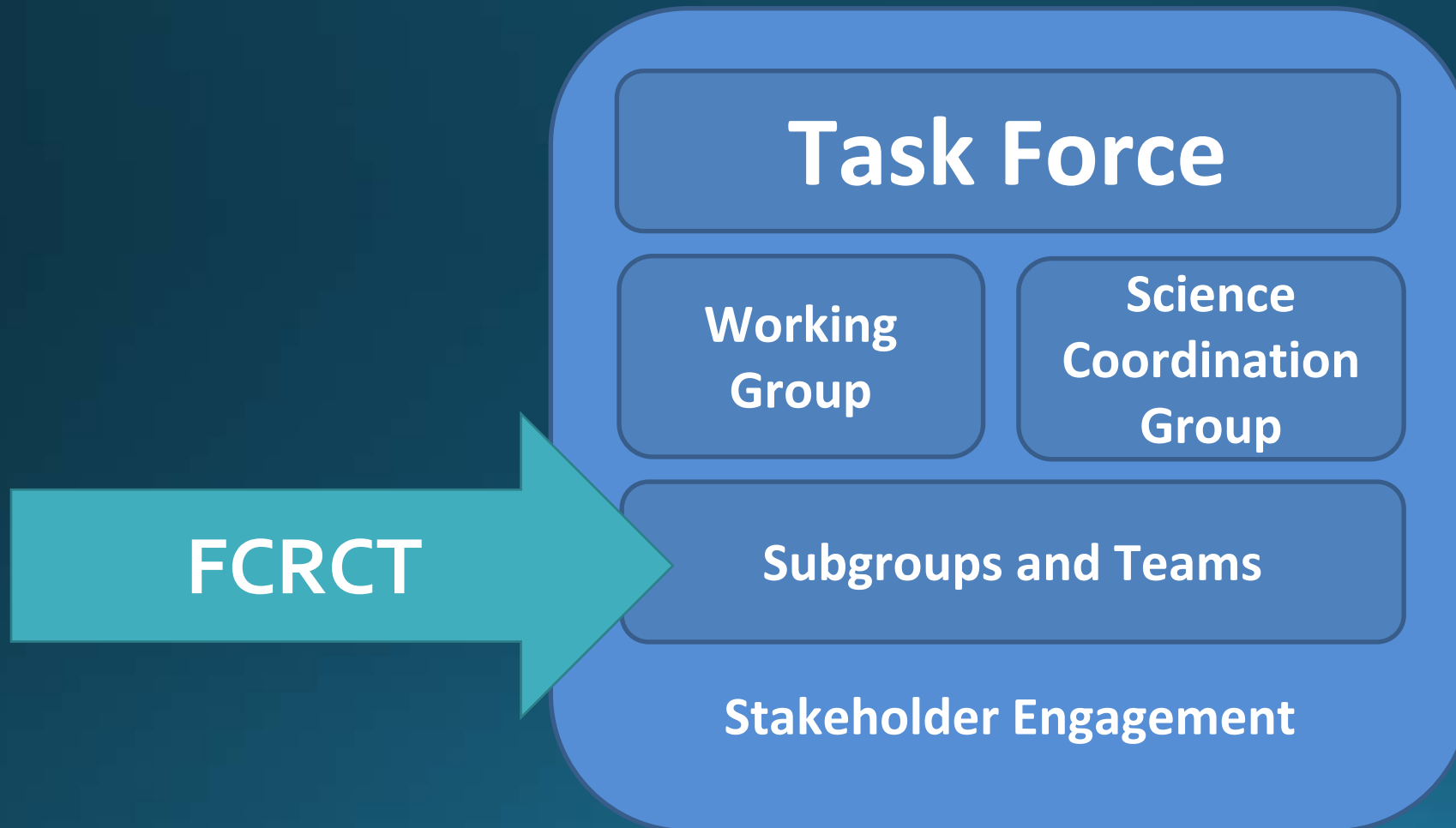
- The **Office of Everglades Restoration Initiatives (OERI)** supports the Task Force and its subgroups:
  - Regular Meetings
  - Workshops and Stakeholder Engagement Efforts
  - Reports, many of which are Congressionally required
  - Task Force website:

**[EvergladesRestoration.gov](http://EvergladesRestoration.gov)**

# Task Force Duties

- The primary duties of the Task Force are:
  - Intergovernmental coordination
  - Coordination of strategic science
  - Exchange of information
  - Facilitation and conflict resolution
  - Public participation and access

# Task Force Organization



# Task Force Membership

- **Federal Members (7):**
  - Secretary of the Interior (Chair)
  - Secretary of Commerce
  - Secretary of the Army
  - Attorney General
  - Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency
  - Secretary of Agriculture
  - Secretary of Transportation
- **Tribal Members (2):**
  - Miccosukee Tribe of Indians of Florida
  - Seminole Tribe of Florida
- **State/Local Members (6):**
  - State of Florida (3)
  - South Florida Water Management District (1)
  - Local Governments (2)

# Task Force Organization

- **Working Group (WG)**
  - Required by WRDA 1996
  - Includes additional agencies involved in restoration
- **Science Coordination Group (SCG)**
  - To coordinate science and research as required by WRDA 1996
  - Includes agency scientists and managers
- **Advisory bodies, subgroups, and teams** are established or designated as needed
- **Stakeholder engagement:** Task Force meetings and stakeholder workshops provide vital and innovative opportunities for public input.
- **Note:** The Task Force and its subgroups and teams are not considered advisory committees under the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA).



# Task Force Purpose

- The Task Force is the only forum that provides **strategic coordination** and a system-wide perspective to guide the separate restoration efforts being planned and implemented in the Everglades ecosystem
- The Task Force established **three strategic goals** for Everglades restoration:
  - Get the Water Right
  - Restore, Preserve & Protect Natural Habitats and Species
  - Foster Compatibility of the Built and Natural Systems

# Goal 1: Getting the Water Right



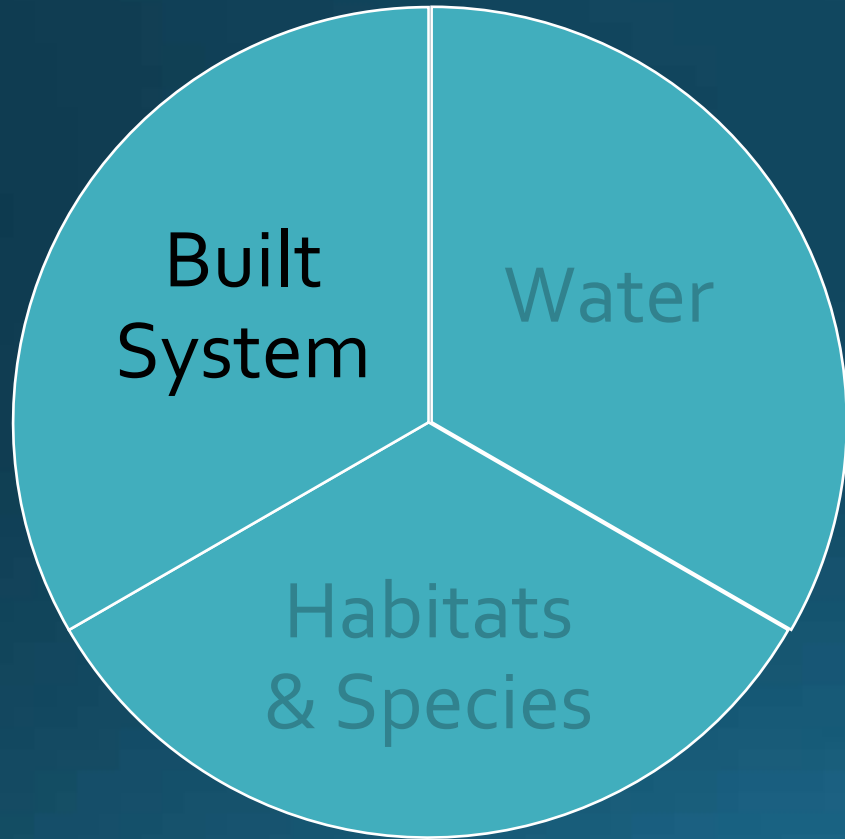
- **Getting the water right** is integral to Everglades restoration
- Projects, including the **Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan** (WRDA 2000), are being implemented to restore the **quantity, quality, timing and distribution** of water throughout the ecosystem

# Goal 2: Restore, Preserve & Protect Natural Habitats and Species



- Efforts to **restore, preserve, and protect** native habitats and species
  - **Conservation** of natural lands
  - Protection of **coral reefs**
  - Efforts to combat **invasive exotic species**

# Goal 3: Foster Compatibility of the Built and Natural Systems



- South Florida's **9 million residents** and the region's agricultural and tourism economies depend upon a healthy ecosystem
- Built system concerns include:
  - **Water supply**
  - **Flood protection**

# Questions?



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