

# SOUTH FLORIDA ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION TASK FORCE

## Agenda

Stewart Lee Udall Department of the Interior Building  
Yates Auditorium  
1849 C Street, NW, Washington, DC 20240  
October 19, 2022

**Task Force Role:** *The intergovernmental South Florida Ecosystem Restoration Task Force was created by the Congress in 1996 to provide the long-term strategic coordination of efforts to restore the 18,000 square mile South Florida Ecosystem. Its duties are to provide intergovernmental coordination, review project plans for the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (CERP), exchange information, facilitate the resolution of conflict, coordinate programmatic science, assist members in their restoration activities, report on restoration progress, and promote public participation.*

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| 9:30 - 9:45   | <b>1. Welcome, Goals for the Meeting and Administrative Items</b><br><i>Purpose: The agenda and meeting summary from the May 2022 meeting will be presented for approval. Administrative items will also be reviewed.</i>  | Tanya Trujillo<br>Chair<br>Shawn Hamilton<br>Vice Chair |
| 9:45 – 9:55   | <b>2. South Florida Ecological Conditions Following Hurricane Ian</b><br><i>Purpose: The South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) will provide an update on current hydrologic conditions in major South Florida ecosystems and associated ecological response.</i> | Lawrence Glenn<br>SFWMD                                 |
| 9:55 – 10:25  | <b>3. Task Force Member Introductions and Opening Remarks</b><br><i>Purpose: Each member has the option of providing brief introductory remarks.</i>   | ALL   |
| 10:25 – 10:35 | <b>4. Momentum in Everglades Restoration</b><br><i>Purpose: The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) and the SFWMD will highlight the current momentum and financial investments that are being made in Everglades restoration.</i>  | COL James Booth<br>USACE<br>Drew Bartlett<br>SFWMD      |
| 10:35 – 10:55 | <b>5. Office of Everglades Restoration Initiatives (OERI)</b><br><i>Purpose: The Director of the OERI will provide an update on the Task Force's reporting requirements as well as highlight work done by the OERI.</i>  | Adam Gelber<br>OERI                                     |
| 10:55 – 11:15 | <b>6. U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Program and Project Update</b><br><i>Purpose: The USACE will provide an update on restoration planning, design, construction, and operational projects.</i>   | Eva Velez<br>USACE                                      |
| 11:15 – 11:35 | <b>7. South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) Program and Project Update</b><br><i>Purpose: The SFWMD will provide an update on ongoing restoration planning, design, and construction.</i>  | Mindy Parrott<br>SFWMD                                  |

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| 11:35 – 12:05 | <b>8. Western Everglades Restoration Project (WERP)</b><br><i>Purpose: The Corps will consult with the Task Force on the status of the Tentatively Selected Plan (TSP) for WERP.</i>   | Steve Baisden<br>USACE                                  |
| 12:05 – 12:25 | <b>Public Comment</b>  |   |
| 12:25 – 2:00  | <b>Lunch Break</b>   |   |
| 2:00 – 2:20   | <b>9. REstoration COordination and VERification (RECOVER) Update</b><br><i>Purpose: To provide an update on monitoring efforts and how they are used to support science-based decision making. RECOVER is a multi-agency team of scientists, modelers, planners, and resource specialists who organize and apply scientific and technical information to ensure Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (CERP) implementation is guided by the best available science.</i>   | Gina Ralph<br>USACE                                     |
| 2:20 – 2:40   | <b>10. Integrated Delivery Schedule (IDS)</b><br><i>Purpose: The USACE will present the Working Draft of the 2022 IDS. The IDS provides the roadmap for sequencing, planning, design, construction and operations of both federal and state projects related to Everglades restoration.</i>  | Tabitha Elkington<br>USACE                              |
| 2:40 – 3:00   | <b>11. Herbert Hoover Dike (HHD) and Lake Okeechobee System Operating Manual (LOSOM)</b><br><i>Purpose: The USACE will provide a project update on the HHD Rehabilitation Project that will include the path forward to project completion. An update will also be provided on LOSOM. The purpose of LOSOM is to develop a new operational strategy for Lake Okeechobee including a regulation schedule and operating criteria for water control structures while considering Central and Southern Florida (C&amp;SF) infrastructure that is completed or will soon be operational such as the completion of the rehabilitation of HHD. The goal of LOSOM is to incorporate flexibility in Lake Okeechobee operations while balancing the congressionally authorized project purposes.</i> | Ingrid Bon<br>Tim Gysan<br>USACE                        |
| 3:00 – 3:15   | <b>12. Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) 2020 - Invasive Species Risk Assessment Prioritization and Management</b><br><i>Purpose: WRDA 2020 directs the Task Force to develop a priority list of invasive species that significantly impact the structure and function of ecological communities, native species, or habitats within the South Florida Ecosystem. Using guidance issued by the Task Force and the WG/SCG, the OERI is facilitating a team of experts in accomplishing this task. An update will be provided on the team's activities, criteria and list development, and next steps.</i>  | Adam Gelber<br>Carrie Beeler<br>Allyn Childress<br>OERI |

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3:15 – 3:25	<b>13. Report on Working Group (WG) and Science Coordination Group (SCG) Activities</b> <i>Purpose: A progress update will be provided by the Chairs of the WG and SCG on the priorities, activities, and accomplishments since the May 2022 Task Force meeting.</i>	Adam Gelber James Erskine Lawrence Glenn
3:25 – 3:35	<b>14. National Research Council (NRC) Report</b> <i>Purpose: Consistent with the requirements of WRDA 2000, an update on the expected topics that will be included in the Committee on Independent Scientific Review of Everglades Restoration Progress report (Progress Toward Restoring the Everglades, The Ninth Biennial Review, 2022) will be provided.</i>	Bob Johnson OERI
3:35 – 3:55	<b>Public Comment</b>	
3:55 – 4:00	<b>Assignments, Next Steps and Closing Comments</b>	Tanya Trujillo Chair Shawn Hamilton Vice Chair
4:00	<b>Adjourn</b>	

Updated 10/14/22