



# SOUTH FLORIDA ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION TASK FORCE



LEADERSHIP • PARTNERSHIP • RESULTS

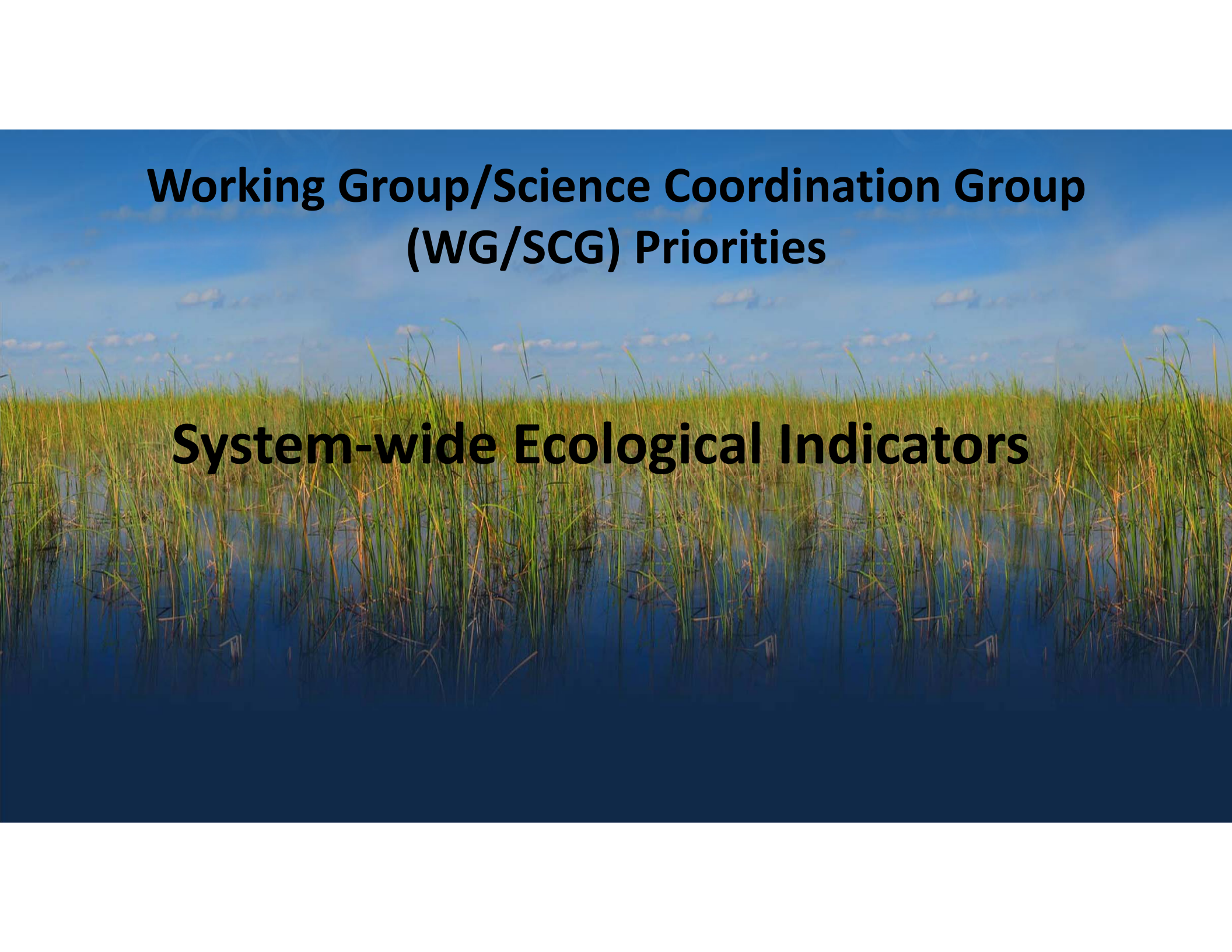
## Working Group/Science Coordination Group Priorities - Update

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[EVERGLADESRESTORATION.GOV](http://EVERGLADESRESTORATION.GOV)

# Working Group/Science Coordination Group (WG/SCG) Priorities

- The WG/SCG priorities were discussed at the June 20, 2019 meeting.
- Focus is currently on two of the more intensive efforts:
  - System-wide Ecological Indicators
  - Invasive Exotic Species
- A progress update will be provided to the Task Force at their October 2019 meeting.



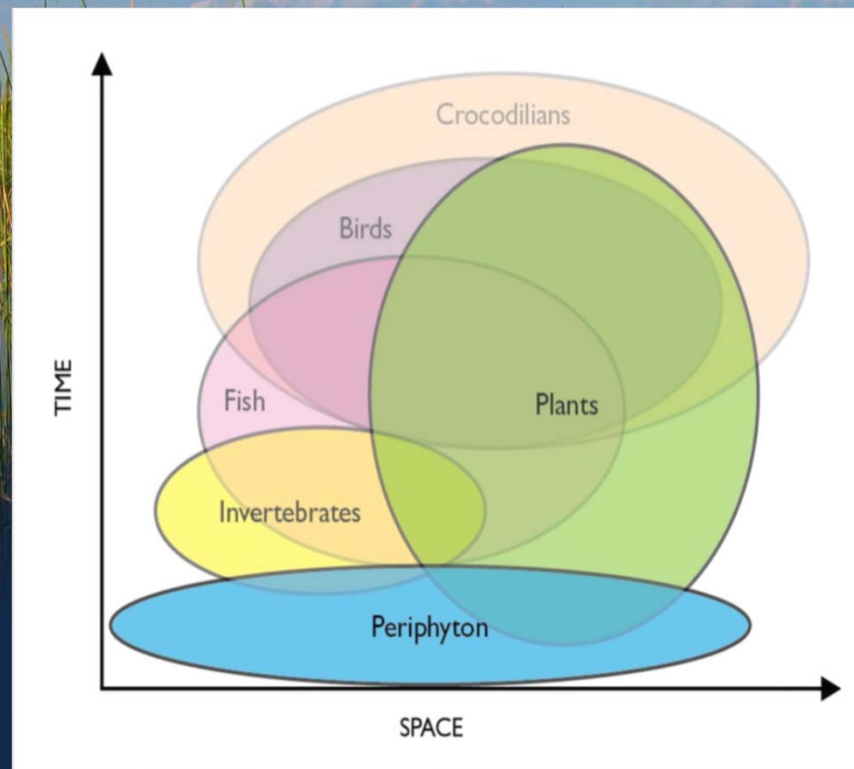
**Working Group/Science Coordination Group  
(WG/SCG) Priorities**

**System-wide Ecological Indicators**

# System-wide Ecological Indicators

- The current suite of indicators were chosen based upon their collective ability to comprehensively reflect ecosystem response in terms of space and time:

- Invasive Exotic Plants
- Lake Okeechobee Nearshore Zone Submerged Aquatic Vegetation
- Eastern Oysters
- Crocodilians (American Alligators and Crocodiles)
- Fish & Macroinvertebrates
- Periphyton



- Wading Birds (White Ibis & Wood Stork)
- Southern Coastal Systems Phytoplankton Blooms
- Florida Bay Submersed Aquatic Vegetation
- Juvenile Pink Shrimp
- Wading Birds (Roseate Spoonbill)

# System-wide Ecological Indicators

- **Issue:** Interest in assessing the current suite of indicators to determine whether they are still appropriate, have sufficient data, cover the right geographic area, are able to detect trends, etc.
- **Next Steps:** Review/update the system-wide ecological indicators.

# System-wide Ecological Indicators

- **Before assessing technical issues, must answer basic policy questions:**
  - How is the report being used?
  - How can we improve its utility?
- **One-on-one Interviews**
  - To obtain feedback regarding the purpose and utility of the current Biennial Report's Indicator section.
  - To assess the perceived value (benefits and needs) of the current reporting.


# System-wide Ecological Indicators

- **Next Steps:**

- OERI will reach out regarding policy-level interviews.
- This information will be helpful in structuring the next phase of activities.
- Long-term process, looking toward incorporation in the 2022 Biennial Report.

- **Points of Contact:**

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- Laura Brandt, USFWS, [Laura\\_Brandt@fws.gov](mailto:Laura_Brandt@fws.gov)



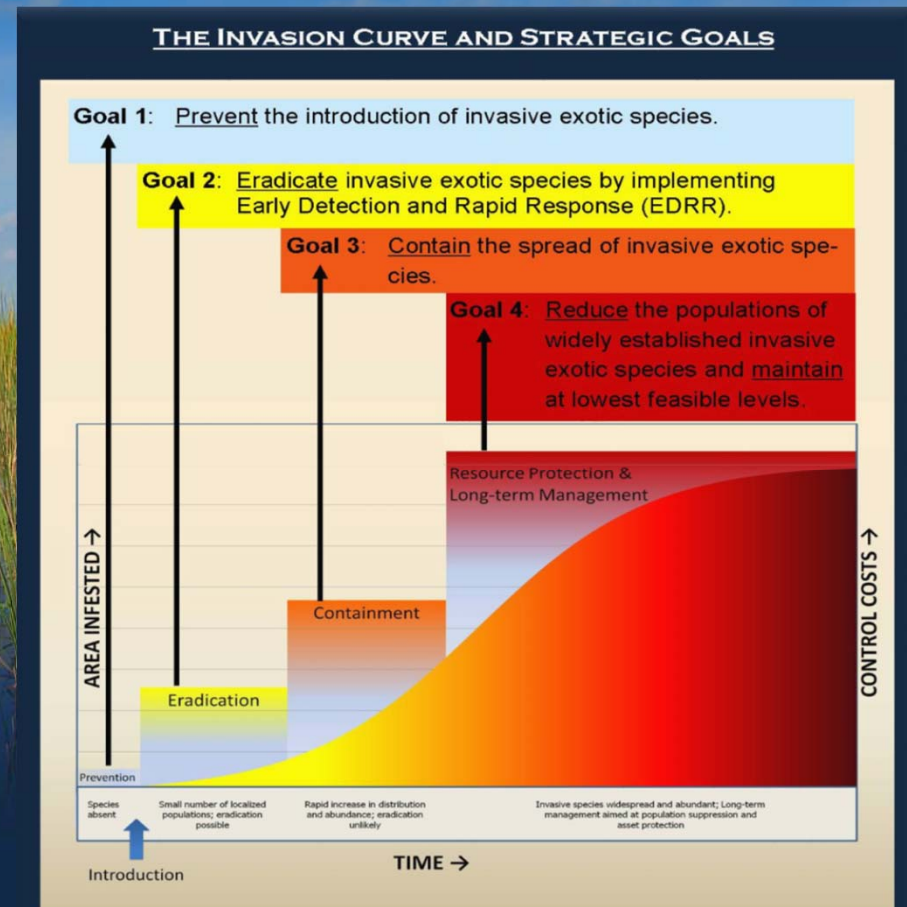
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**Invasive Exotic Species**



# Invasive Exotic Species Strategic Action Framework

- Core document with goals based on the 4 phases of the Invasion Curve.
- Case Studies for each phase.
- Preliminary Action Assessment that prioritized specific strategies and actions.
- Single-year Cross Cut Budget.



# Invasive Exotic Species

- There are many new efforts underway since the Framework was first developed.
- Will review and update the document as needed, including the Case Studies, priority actions, cross-cut budget, and the web-based Framework.

# Invasive Exotic Species

- **Next Steps:**

- OERI reached out to WG/SCG members to develop a list of experts/participants; please let us know if you need anyone added.
- Next steps are to assess existing elements in order to develop an updated Framework, starting with the base document and case studies.
- Goal is to finalize by the June 23, 2020 WG/SCG meeting.

- **Points of Contact:**

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**QUESTIONS?**