



SOUTH FLORIDA ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION TASK FORCE

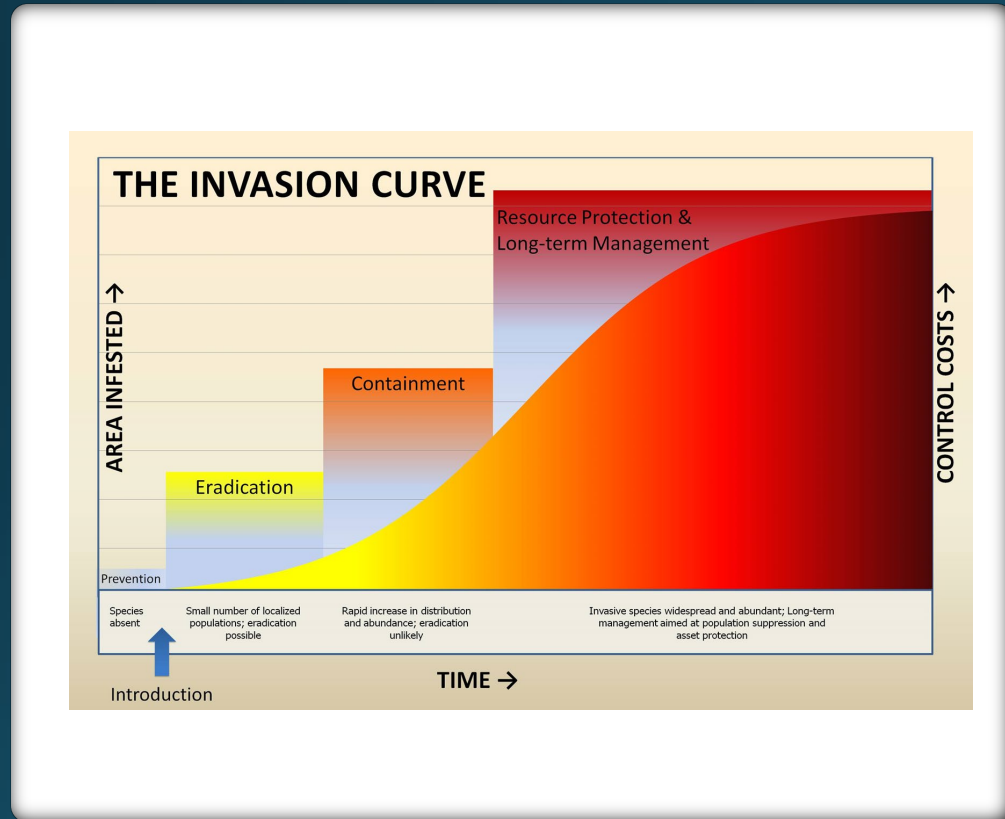


LEADERSHIP • PARTNERSHIP • RESULTS

Progress on Invasive Species Priorities

March 20, 2024

Task Force: Invasive Species Direction



WRDA 2020 :

Part 1: Develop a priority list of invasive species.

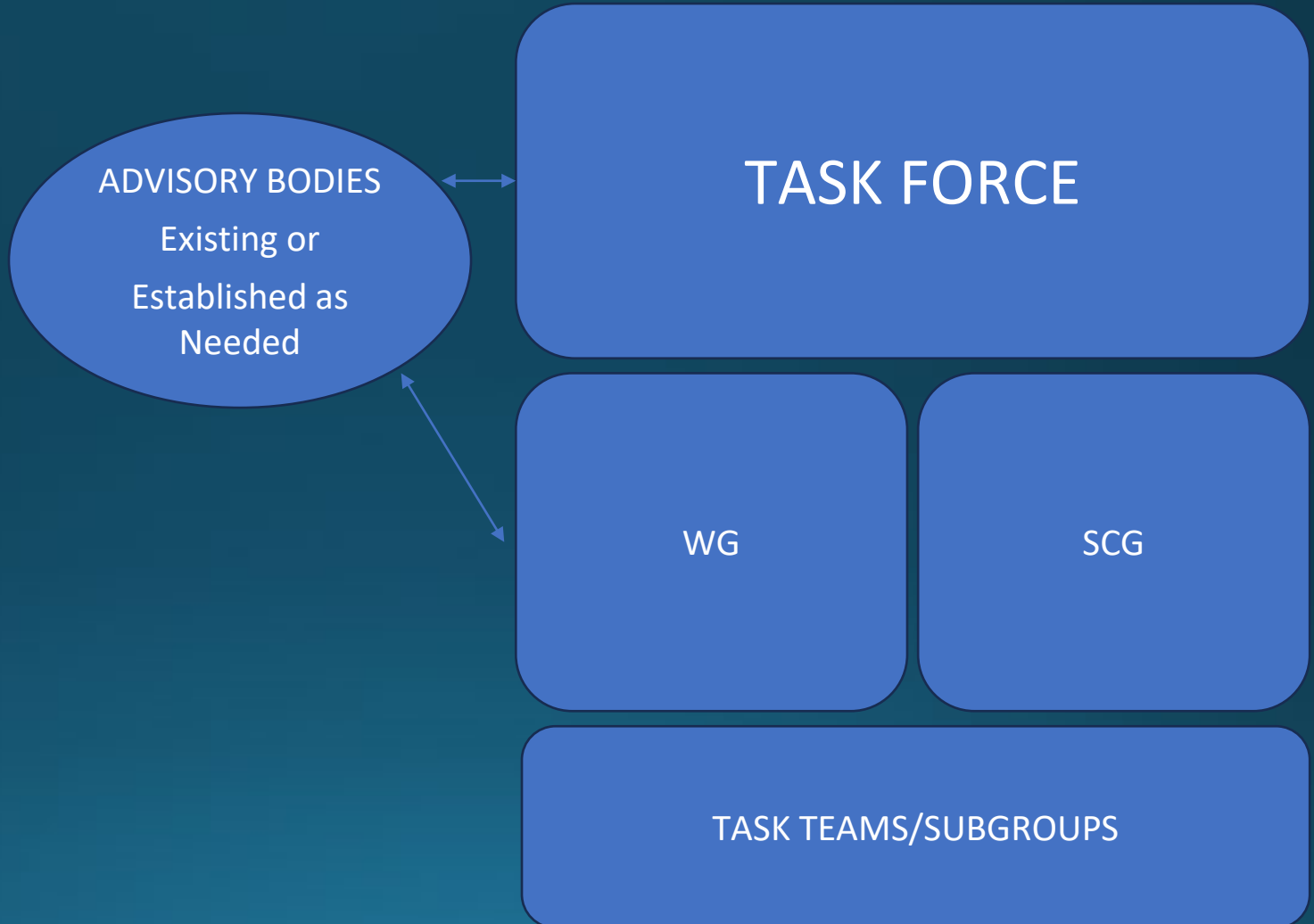
Part 2: Focus on cooperative and collaborative efforts to:

- 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.

Next Steps

WRDA Part 1: Developing a List of Priority Species

- Kicked off Science-Based Prioritization Process for **Eradication** and **Established Species** in late 2023
 - The University of Florida is spearheading this effort.
 - The ISAB will be involved through a series of expert workshops and meetings.
 - The process will include an assessment of key indicators of restoration success.

Next Steps, Continued

WRDA Part 2: Cooperative and Collaborative Efforts

- Continue work on Prevention recommendations (as reflected in the November 2023 two-pager seen here)
- Consider ISAB recommendation to begin efforts to develop coordinated response and removal strategies.
“An inventory of existing detection surveillance and tools in the South Florida ecosystem”

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.



Discussion