



SOUTH FLORIDA ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION TASK FORCE



LEADERSHIP • PARTNERSHIP • RESULTS

The South Florida Ecosystem Restoration Task Force: Roles & Responsibilities

Adam Gelber, Executive Director

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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



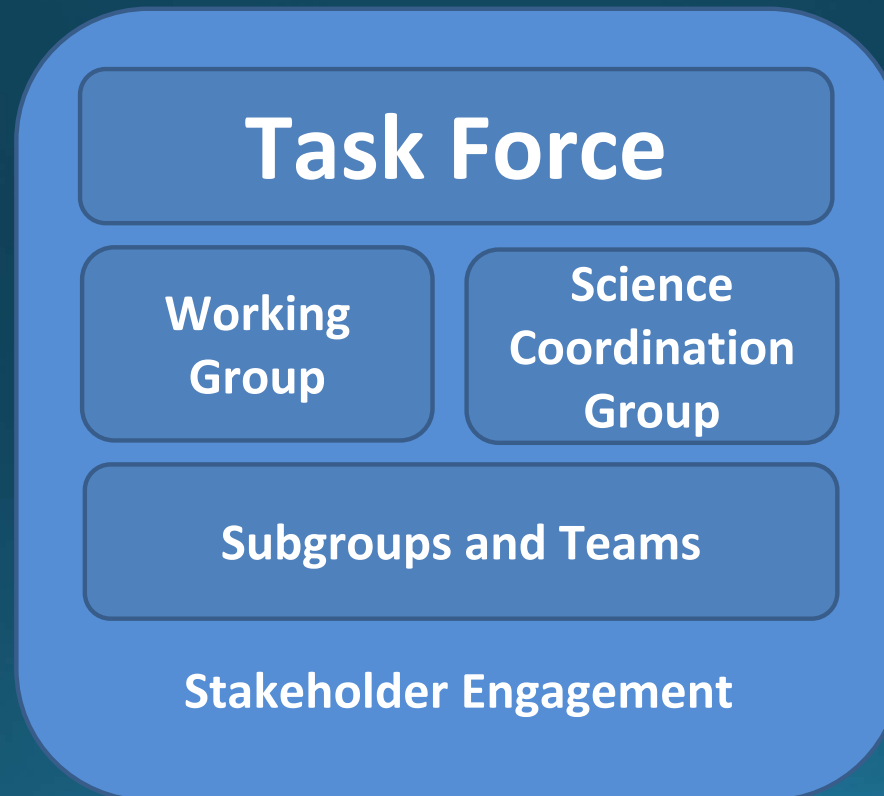
South Florida Ecosystem Restoration Task Force

- Established by the **Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) of 1996** which outlines the Task Force's:
 - Membership
 - Organization
 - Purpose and Duties
- The **Office of Everglades Restoration Initiatives (OERI)** supports the Task Force and its subgroups:
 - Meetings and workshops
 - Reports
 - EvergladesRestoration.gov

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):**
 - 1 representative of the Miccosukee Tribe of Indians of Florida
 - 1 representative of the Seminole Tribe of Florida
- **State/Local Members (5):**
 - 2 representatives of the State of Florida
 - 1 representative of the South Florida Water Management District
 - 2 representatives of local government in the State of Florida

Task Force Organization



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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

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 Duties: Reports

Biennial Report

Fulfills requirements of WRDA 1996 to report biennially on Task Force activities and **progress** made toward restoration.

Biennial Report Timeline

- April 2022:** OERI Request for Information sent to agency points of contact
- May 27:** **Request for info due to OERI**
- June 2022:** First draft out to WG/SCG for comments
- July 2022:** Final draft distributed to WG/SCG
- Sept 2022:** WG and SCG acceptance
- October 2022:** Final draft to Task Force for approval
- Oct-Dec 2022:** Task Force approval of 2022 biennial report for OMB/DOI clearance, followed by transmittal to Congress and posting on website

Integrated Financial Plan (IFP):

Fulfills requirements of WRDA 1996 to report annually on the progress, status, and costs of individual restoration projects; contains **detailed project sheets**.

Integrated Financial Plan (IFP) Timeline

May 2022: OERI Request for Information will be sent to agency points of contact

July 2022: Project sheets due to OERI

Sept 2022: IFP completed

Cross-cut Budget

Provides **coordinated budget requests** for the federal and state agencies represented on the Task Force.

Cross-Cut Budget Timeline

March 2022: OERI Request for Information sent to agency points of contact

May 20, 2022: Funding information due to OERI

June 2022: Cross-Cut completed

System-wide Ecological Indicators Report

Assesses current ecosystem health and provides a means to track **ecosystem response** to restoration; summary included in the Biennial Report.

System-wide Ecological Indicators Report Timeline

March 2022: Request for Information sent to indicator scientists

May 20, 2022: Indicator Sections summary for the Biennial Report are due to Laura Brandt

June 20, 2022: System-wide Ecological Indicators Full Report sections due to Laura Brandt

Questions?

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