



SOUTH FLORIDA ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION TASK FORCE



LEADERSHIP • PARTNERSHIP • RESULTS

May 3, 2022 Task Force Meeting

Report on WG/SCG Activities

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Mission

Working Group (WG), Science Coordination (SCG) group and Subgroups

The mission of the Working Group and its subgroups is to support the Task Force in its efforts to achieve, in cooperation with all interested parties, the restoration, preservation and protection of the ecosystem while promoting a sustainable South Florida.

Working Group (WG)

Duties

... established to formulate, recommend, coordinate, and implement the policies, strategies, plans, programs, projects, activities, and priorities of the Task Force, pursuant to section 528(f)(2) of the Act. To assist the Task Force in its duties...

- Report preparation
- Financial planning
- Priorities assigned by the Task Force

Powers (authorities)

- Establish advisory bodies
- Advice and input from any interested, knowledgeable, or affected party

WG/ SCG Joint Meetings

Joint WG/ SCG Meetings

- Members discussion opportunities, current events, project updates, and technical presentation on topical subjects.
 - January, May, September 2021

Task Force Sponsored Public Engagement Workshops

- Create opportunities for the public to engage with the scientists, planners, and technical teams in a public setting.
 - Biscayne Bay and Southeastern Everglades (BBSEER)
 - Integrated Delivery Schedule (IDS)

WG/SCG Joint Meetings

Topics covered:

- South Florida ecosystem program and project updates
- Planning project updates
- Invasive and exotic species
- Aquifer Storage and Recovery (ASR) Program Science Plan
- Curtain wall & seepage management
- Everglades Regional Environmental Monitoring and Assessment Program (R-EMAP) Update
- REstoration COordination & VERification (RECOVER) briefings
- Coral disease response and restoration update

Science Coordination Group (SCG)

Duties

...established to coordinate the scientific aspects of policies, strategies, plans, programs, projects, activities, and priorities, pursuant to section 528(f)(2)(B) of the Act, and to coordinate scientific and other research associated with the restoration of the South Florida ecosystem, pursuant to section 528(f)(2)(G) of the Act.

Reporting:

- Science Coordination Plan: Tracks and coordinates programmatic level science and other research, identifies programmatic level priority science needs and gaps, and informs management decisions (2012)
- Invasive Exotic Species Strategic Action Framework (2020)
- System-wide Ecological Indicators Report

SCG - Mechanisms for Coordination

- Joint WG/SCG meetings
- Production of science and restoration reports
- Convenes scientific workshops on specific topics
- Participation in independent scientific meetings and conferences
- Develops scientific tools (i.e., system-wide ecological indicators) to address restoration issues and questions
- Utilizes independent scientific panels and experts to review products
- Reviews independently developed scientific and policy reports to remain current on restoration science, planning, and policy

SCG Past and Current Activities

Past Activities

- Significance of flow to Everglades restoration
- Hurricane Irma impacts whitepaper

Current Activities

- Science integration
- CISRERP VIII
 - Restoration science - RECOVER
 - Southern estuaries

Discussion

- Now: Discussion on WG and SCG Activities
- Next Up: State and Federal Program and Project Updates