



SOUTH FLORIDA ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION TASK FORCE



LEADERSHIP • PARTNERSHIP • RESULTS

Task Force Meeting June 1, 2023

Report on WG/SCG Activities

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WG/SCG Joint Meetings

- Member discussion opportunities, current events, project updates, and technical presentations on topical subjects.
 - January, March, and May 2023
 - **Upcoming:** September 2023

Task Force Sponsored Public Engagement Workshops

- Create opportunities for the public to engage with scientists, planners, and technical teams in a public setting.
- **Upcoming:** Integrated Delivery Schedule (IDS)
 - September 2023: Public Engagement Workshop
 - October 2023: Final IDS presented to Task Force



Florida's Coral Reef Coordination Team

- Serves as the principal advisory body to the WG/SCG for issues impacting Florida's Coral Reef and associated resources.
- Includes federal, state, and local government representatives and provides a venue for stakeholder engagement.
- Meetings:
 - Kickoff meeting on February 14, 2023,
 - First regular meeting on March 15, 2023
 - **Upcoming:** June 28, 2023
- Primary focus is water quality monitoring
 - Developing a database of relevant programs



WG/SCG Planning Sessions

- January 2023: Conducted a brainstorming session on the goals and objectives for the coming year
- February 2023: Conducted a refinement process on the raw brainstorming session results
- Process highlighted progress on many fronts and identified some areas for improvement

WG/SCG Planning Sessions

- The raw brainstorming results were grouped into 8 categories.
- The first 6 categories were further refined at the February 2023 meeting.
 1. Coordination & Communication
 2. Products
 3. Goal 1: Get the Water Right
 4. Goal 2: Restore, Preserve, and Protect Natural Habitats and Species
 5. Goal 3: Foster Compatibility of the Built and Natural Systems
 6. Climate Change
 7. Meeting Format
 8. CISRERP Recommendations: Science Plan/Lead Scientist Role

WG/SCG Planning Sessions

The refined list was ranked Low, Medium, or High on 3 factors:

- 1. Impact of WG/SCG on issue** (our ability to move the needle)
 - Low = Other entities already moving issue forward
 - Medium = Positive impact of WG/SCG on issue
 - High = WG/SCG would fill important gap in coordination or expertise
- 2. Impact of issue on Everglades restoration**
 - Low = Minimal impact or slow-moving longer-term goal
 - Medium = Helpful but not urgent
 - High = Pivotal to restoration and/or urgent
- 3. Level of effort to tackle and succeed on the issue**
 - Low = Easy and/or Quick to address (Memos, Presentations)
 - Medium = More effort and time needed (Small group efforts, 1-2 year max)
 - High = Large Projects (Requires multiple engagements and long-term efforts)

CATEGORY	TOPIC	WG/SCG Impact on Topic	Impact of Topic on Restoration	Level of WG/SCG Effort
Goal 1	Integration of CERP and non-CERP; could have a 2-day meeting to determine science planning on how to incorporate non-CERP projects/plans/activities with CERP	5	5	2
Coordination & Communication	Identify what restoration managers need and who can provide it (identify gaps in research funding/resources)	5	5	3
Coordination & Communication	Address questions driven by restoration that managers need answered to make decisions; possible workshop to hear from managers re: needs over next 5 years	5	5	3
Coordination & Communication	Recognize gaps in overall ecosystem restoration effort and think about what's next; perhaps a workshop and develop a product for the Task Force	5	5	5
Climate Change	Impacts on ecology and indicator species	5	5	5
Climate Change	How to provide CERP benefits under changing climate; the restoration effort is based on storage, how is that impacted by climate change? How can restoration still provide benefits?	5	5	5
Products	Inventory of ongoing science and research; would facilitate better coordination and communication	5	3	3
Products	Generate consensus documents on difficult issues (climate change, ITEK, social science, indicators still trending downward, etc.)	5	3	5
Coordination & Communication	Incorporate and learn from Indigenous Traditional Ecological Knowledge (ITEK): translation of ITEK; capture inputs & outputs	3	5	3
Goal 1	Move water south	3	5	3

CATEGORY	TOPIC	WG/SCG Impact on Topic	Impact of Topic on Restoration	Level of WG/SCG Effort
Goal 1	Water quality	3	5	5
Goal 1	CERP: How can WG/SCG help work through difficult issues (WERP, LOWRP, BBSEER, etc.)	3	5	5
Goal 2	System-wide changes, plant community changes, short- or long-term impacts; look beyond water quality monitoring	3	5	5
Goal 3	Restoration isn't occurring in a vacuum; the built environment keeps growing/expanding causing impacts on resources (FWC has a report that could be informative)	3	5	5
Coordination & Communication	Do a better job of looking inward at agency capabilities and resources, there is a lot of funding for project construction; recognize that small projects and efforts can help move the whole restoration effort forward	3	3	1
Goal 3	Holistic view, ecosystem as a whole	3	3	3
Goal 1	New science, innovative technologies: how to get additional storage and water quality treatment needed especially if limited by land acquisition	3	3	5
Climate Change	How to capture climate change in modeling/evaluation tools beyond sea level rise	3	3	5
Goal 2	Habitat restoration	2	5	5
Goal 3	Local land acquisition/conservation efforts: how do those dovetail with overall restoration effort	2	3	1

WG/SCG Planning Sessions

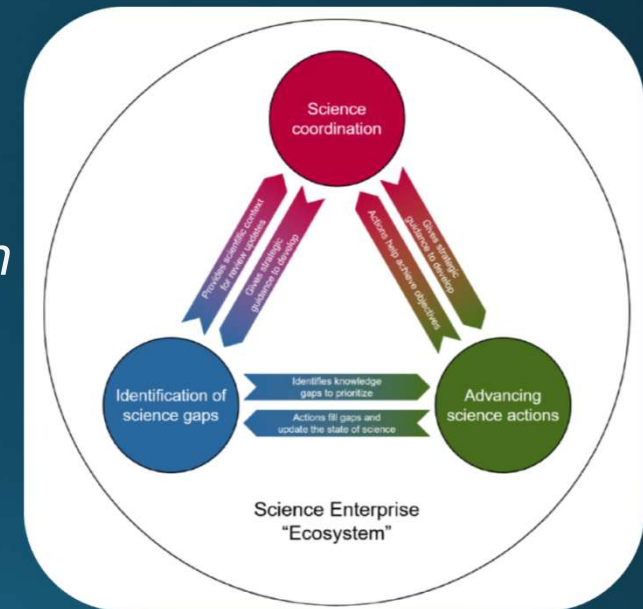
- Topics raised by members that are already initiated, in progress, or incorporated in other area would include:
 - **Identifying gaps and thinking about the next steps**
 - Integrated Delivery Schedule (IDS)
 - **Impacts on ecological indicator species**
 - WRDA 2020 invasive species effort addressing part of this
 - Integrate various indicator reporting efforts
 - **Inventory of ongoing science and research & looking inward at agency capabilities and resources**
 - Integrating RECOVER into the WG/SCG and Task Force.

SCG – Science Plan

- National Academies – 9th Biennial Review

The Role of a Science Plan in Everglades Restoration

- Science aids decision making
- Requires synthesis and analysis of monitoring data
- Identifies critical knowledge gaps
- Science used to refine modeling tools
- Identifies uncertainties that could hamper restoration progress
- Magnitude of science needs requires multiple organizations



SCG – Science Plan

- WG/SCG Planning Sessions

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SCG – Science Plan

"A science plan identifies science actions that are recognized as multi-group priorities and are feasible to implement and perform – gathering and coordinating scientists, managers, and policy makers around a common set of priorities no single organization has the capacity to address on its own."

- SCG - Plan for Coordinating Science 2010
- Leverage RECOVER's effort to update the CERP MAP
- Guide resource investment across multiple agencies

Discussion



Mullet slough