

SOUTH FLORIDA ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION TASK FORCE

DRAFT Agenda

Stewart Lee Udall Department of the Interior Building
Yates Auditorium
1849 C Street, NW, Washington, DC 20240
November 15, 2023

Task Force Role: *The intergovernmental South Florida Ecosystem Restoration Task Force was created by the Congress in 1996 to provide the long-term strategic coordination of efforts to restore the 18,000 square mile South Florida Ecosystem. Its duties are to provide intergovernmental coordination, review project plans for the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (CERP), exchange information, facilitate the resolution of conflict, coordinate programmatic science, assist members in their restoration activities, report on restoration progress, and promote public participation.*

- | | | |
|--------------|---|--|
| 9:00 – 9:15 | <p>1. Welcome, Goals for the Meeting and Administrative Items
<i>Purpose:</i> The agenda will be presented for approval. Administrative items will also be reviewed.</p> | Shannon Estenoz
Chair
Shawn Hamilton
Vice Chair |
| 9:15 – 9:45 | <p>2. Task Force Member Introductions and Opening Remarks
<i>Purpose:</i> Each member has the option of providing brief introductory remarks.</p> | ALL |
| 9:45 – 9:50 | <p>3. Approval of June 2023 Meeting Summary
<i>Purpose:</i> The summary from the June 2023 meeting is being provided for member approval.</p> | |
| 9:50 – 10:10 | <p>4. Office of Everglades Restoration Initiatives (OERI)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Cross Cut Budget and Integrated Financial Plan (IFP) Status Update
<i>Purpose:</i> The Cross-Cut Budget is required annually by the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) of 1996. The Fiscal Year 2024 Cross-Cut Budget provides coordinated budget requests for the Everglades ecosystem restoration efforts in south Florida with information by both federal and state agencies represented on the Task Force. The IFP is also required annually by the WRDA 1996. The 2023 IFP provides detailed project sheets for federal, state, Tribal, and local government restoration projects that contribute to the accomplishment of the Task Force's three strategic goals.
• Implementing Sec. 504, Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) 2020 – Invasive Species Risk Assessment, Prioritization and Management
<i>Purpose:</i> WRDA 2020 directs the Task Force to develop a priority list of invasive species that significantly impact the structure and function of ecological communities, native species, or habitats within the South Florida Ecosystem. Using guidance issued by the Task Force and the Working Group/Science Coordination Group, the OERI is facilitating a team of experts to accomplish this task. A progress update will be provided. | Adam Gelber
OERI |

Continued – November 15, 2023

- **Task Force Charter**

Purpose: The original Task Force Charter was updated to reflect the WRDA 2020 and WRDA 2022 which added an additional state member.

- **2024 Meeting Calendar**

Purpose: Proposed meeting dates will be provided for Task Force, Working Group and Science Coordination Group Meetings.

10:10 – 10:30	5. U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Program and Project Update <i>Purpose: The USACE will provide an update on restoration planning, design, construction, and operational projects. Briefing will include the Second Periodic Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (CERP) Update which will be conducted to ensure the goals and purposes of the Plan are achieved with new or updated modeling that includes the latest available scientific, technical, and planning information.</i>	Eva Velez USACE
10:30 – 10:50	6. South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) Program and Project Update <i>Purpose: The SFWMD will provide an update on ongoing restoration planning, design, and construction.</i>	Mindy Parrott SFWMD
10:50 – 11:10	7. Integrated Delivery Schedule (IDS) <i>Purpose: The USACE and the SFWMD will present the 2023 IDS. The IDS provides the roadmap for sequencing, planning, design, construction, and operations of both federal and state projects related to Everglades restoration.</i>	Tabitha Elkington USACE Mindy Parrott SFWMD
11:10 – 11:40	Public Comment	
11:40 – 1:10	Lunch Break	
1:10 – 1:30	8. Western Everglades Restoration Plan (WERP) <i>Purpose: The goals of the WERP are to improve the quantity, quality, timing, and distribution of water in the Western Everglades to re-establish ecological connectivity, reduce the severity and frequency of wildfires, and restore low nutrient conditions.</i>	Angie Dunn USACE Jennifer Reynolds SFWMD
1:30 – 1:45	9. REstoration COordination and VERification (RECOVER) Update <i>Purpose: To provide an update on monitoring efforts and how they are used to support science-based decision making. RECOVER is a multi-agency team of scientists, modelers, planners, and resource specialists who organize and apply scientific and technical information to ensure CERP implementation is guided by the best available science.</i>	Phyllis Klarmann SFWMD

Continued – November 15, 2023

1:45 – 2:05	10. Report on Working Group (WG) and Science Coordination Group (SCG) Activities <i>Purpose: A progress update will be provided by the Chairs of the WG and SCG on the priorities, activities, and accomplishments since the June 2023 Task Force meeting. The WG and SCG will also undertake a process to update its charters.</i>	Adam Gelber James Erskine WG Chair Lawrence Glenn SCG Chair
2:05 – 2:20	11. Independent Scientific Review Panel Memorandum of Agreement Extension Request <i>Purpose: A Memorandum of Agreement between the Department of the Army, represented by the Assistant Secretary of the Army (Civil Works), the U.S. Department of the Interior, represented by the Director of the Office of Everglades Restoration Initiatives, and the State of Florida, represented by the Secretary of the Department of Environmental Protection for the purpose of establishing an Independent Scientific Review Panel to be convened by a body such as the National Academy of Sciences, for reviewing the progress of the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan towards achieving the natural system restoration goals of the Plan expires November 17, 2025. A 4-year extension is requested and must be executed no later than November 17, 2024.</i>	Gina Ralph USACE
2:20 - 2:50	Public Comment	
2:50 – 3:00	Next Steps and Closing Comments	Shannon Estenoz Chair Shawn Hamilton Vice Chair
3:00	Adjourn	

Updated 11/01/23