



# **Tracking Progress on Science Synthesis Projects**

**South Florida Ecosystem Restoration Task Force  
Science Coordination Group**

# Why Should the Science Coordination Group Track the Progress of Science Synthesis Projects?

- ▶ **Science Coordination Goal:** Ensure sound, timely and relevant scientific information is available to support decisions at all points in the restoration process through coordinating efforts, sharing information, and identifying and filling information gaps (SFERTF, PCS, 2008).
- ▶ The Task Force created the Science Coordination Group “*to ensure that science is incorporated into decision making as effectively and efficiently as possible*” (SFERTF, PCS, 2008).
- ▶ The Task Force member organizations have invested hundreds of millions of dollars on restoration-related scientific activities. We can’t efficiently review all of these projects, but tracking progress on these ongoing science synthesis efforts can greatly facilitate this higher level review process.
- ▶ ***Should the SCG serve as a clearinghouse and integrator of these efforts for the Task Force?***

## Similarity of Approaches Across the Science Synthesis Efforts

- ▶ Each of the three ongoing Science Synthesis efforts involve:
  - ▶ Reviewing new scientific/technical knowledge, and identify critical information gaps.
  - ▶ Improving our restoration targets and key ecosystem attributes.
  - ▶ Revising our indicators or performance measures for tracking restoration success.
- ▶ Other common themes in several of these synthesis efforts include:
  - ▶ Using this information to evaluate key science/policy questions or dilemmas facing Everglades restoration.
  - ▶ Explicit integration of human dimensions science and societal processes into decision making.
- ▶ ***Should the SCG work with these three synthesis efforts to ensure a level of consistency across these projects?***

## How can we Assist the Task Force in Coordinating and Applying Science in a Strategic Way?

- ▶ An approach could be to work with the three science synthesis projects to apply the PCS's basic mechanisms for coordinating and applying science.
  - ▶ Use the WG/SCG meetings to regularly review the science and policy issues that come to light through these synthesis projects.
  - ▶ Use the SCG to promote agreement on approaches, compatibility of the evaluation tools, help to ensure that critical information gaps are addressed.
  - ▶ Host joint workshops to bring scientists and managers together to discuss the key restoration questions.
  - ▶ Provide support for independent reviews of the work products from these synthesis studies.
- ▶ ***Should the SCG work with these three synthesis efforts to facilitate workshops, independent reviews, and/or through the creation of an issue team(s)?***

## Next Steps in Tracking Progress of the Science Synthesis Efforts

- ▶ Each of the these three ongoing Science Synthesis efforts have planned presentations at the Greater Everglades Ecosystem Restoration (GEER) conference in July 2010.
- ▶ Recommend that we have as many WG and SCG members attend these presentations as possible.
- ▶ Request a written status report on the progress of each of these projects, and schedule a follow-up SCG session to get more in-depth information.
- ▶ ***Do we want to include these updates as a regular part of future SCG meetings as a way of implementing the Plan for Coordinating Science?***