

**South Florida Ecosystem Restoration Task Force Office
Florida International University Park Campus
11200 SW 8th Street, OE Building, Room 165
Miami, Florida 33199**

MAR 31 2003

MEMORANDUM

TO: Task Force Members

FROM: Ann R. Klee, ^{AK}Chair

SUBJECT: Proposal for Celebrating the Tenth Anniversary of the Task Force

1. This year marks the 10th anniversary of the South Florida Ecosystem Restoration Task Force. This proposal seeks to use this milestone as an occasion to establish goals and priorities for the next decade of ecosystem restoration in South Florida and observe and reinforce ongoing partnerships and restoration efforts. Three activities are proposed: a conference, a publication, and a press workshop. We hope that the conference will increase public awareness of and support for Everglades restoration and reinforce bipartisan support and multi-government commitment. Following are proposed activities:

a. **CONFERENCE:** A two-day conference is recommended for early December in the greater Miami area in conjunction with a regularly scheduled Task Force meeting. The participants would include those engaged in Everglades restoration efforts in the past 10 years, public officials, scientists, interest group leaders, reporters, and concerned citizens. It is estimated that 300 to 500 could attend.

A portion of the conference would focus on lessons learned with the majority of the conference devoted to future challenges and priorities. Speakers, panels, and discussion groups would be used.

b. **PUBLICATION:** A publication would be prepared for distribution to conference participants. It would include a history of the Task Force and the evolution of ecosystem restoration in South Florida. In addition, the publication would include a series of mini-essays from leaders who have been involved in restoration efforts. The essays would reflect upon lessons learned and future opportunities in regard to such issues as leadership, planning, organizational coordination, conflict management, science, and public outreach.

c. **PRESS WORKSHOP:** A press workshop would be held the day before the conference to review the historical highlights of the Task Force and ecosystem restoration in South Florida, progress to date, and present and future challenges. The conference would involve many senior scientists and managers engaged in restoration activities. Press kits and publications will be distributed.

2. If approved, I recommend that Rock Salt be appointed to plan and manage the activities outlined above. Rock will seek our input through this process.