

Science Coordination Group

Update: February 18, 2004

The SCG has three charges:

- 1) Drafting a Plan for coordinating science
- 2) Providing specific responses to priority work activities as assigned by the Task Force
- 3) Providing technical support to science aspects of Working Group documents

Status:

- The SCG has held 2 full meetings and 1 subgroup meeting
- Currently obtaining support from the Task Force office staff
- Considering contracting support

The SCG's most pressing item is the plan for coordinating science, due to Congress in September 2004.

This plan will:

- track and coordinate programmatic level science and other research
- identify programmatic level priority science needs and gaps
- facilitate management decisions

The Plan will

- Will complement existing science coordination efforts not duplicate them
- Will focus on gaps in coordination and gaps in needed science activities
- Reduce uncertainty and risk in Restoration Success

Rough Table of Contents

A. Purpose- charge and issues to be solved

B. Scope-articulation of goals

C. Methodology-

D. Gaps- in science and processes of coordination

E. Overlap/Duplication- in science and processes of coordination

F. Next Steps

Methods and Approach

I. Scope and Overarching Focus

- System-wide in scope
- Identify needed improvements in science, including research, modeling, monitoring
- The plan must communicate in a meaningful way
- Define a process for improved science coordination
- Reduce uncertainty and risk in the success of restoration
- Assist the Task Force in refining restoration objectives.

Methods and Approach

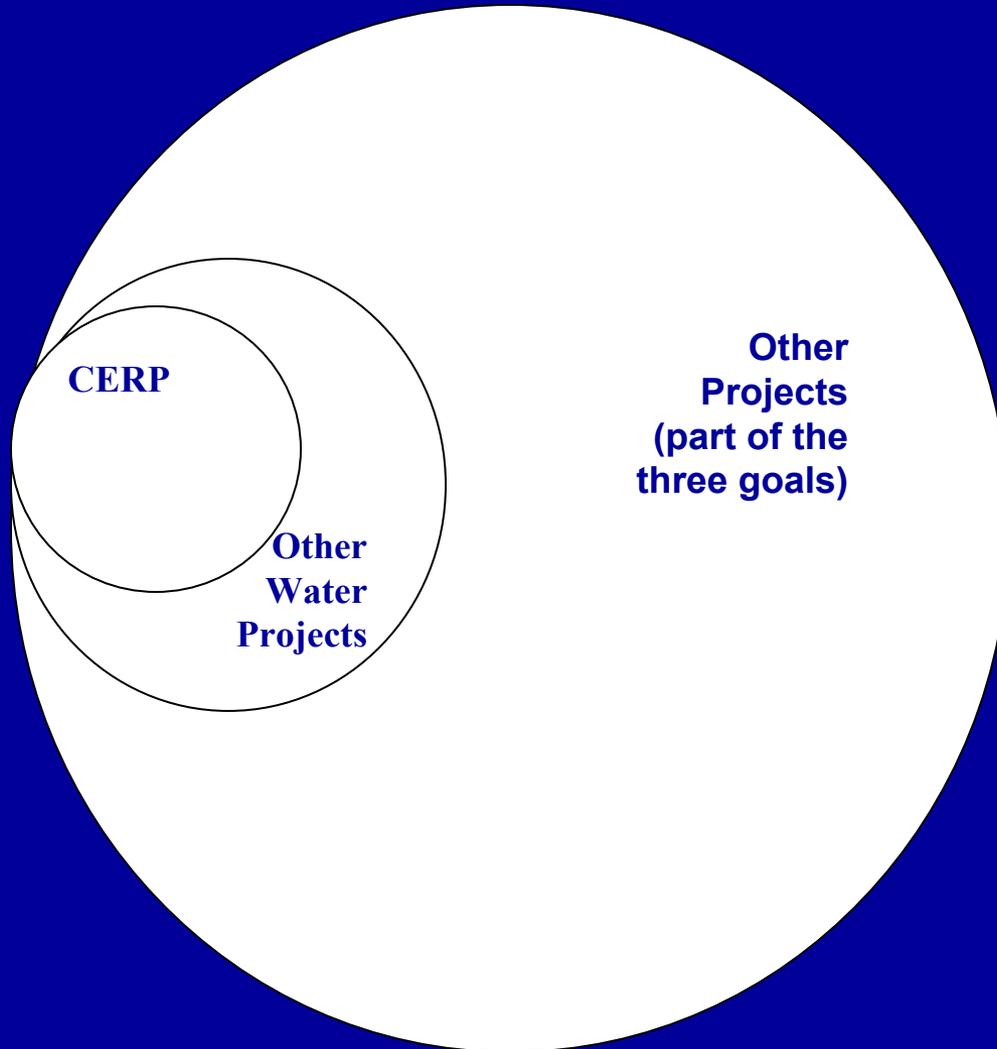
- II. Identify strategic science and processes to refine restoration objectives and to reduce uncertainty and risk to restoration success
 - a. Existing conceptual models will provide basis for total ecosystem science needs. A risk assessment process will determine strategic science priorities with focus on uncertainties.
 - b. Will include a focus on integration/synthesis, adaptive management protocols, and multi-agency science planning processes that will facilitate communication with management
 - c. Will include processes for peer review, science communication, and data integration and access.
- III. Identify existing programs that meet strategic science and process needs.

Methods and Approach

IV. Identification of programmatic needs and gaps

- Prioritization based on Task Force purposes, recommendations for remaining unaddressed strategic priorities and processes
- Based on risk to success of restoration

Coordination Concept Summary



- **System-wide monitoring**
- **Adaptive Management**
- **Improve coordination**
- **Reduce risk/ Uncertainty, conceptual models, peer review**
- **Gaps**
- **Oversight**

Timeline:

- March 2, 3rd SCG meeting at Krome ENP Center
- April 19, 4th SCG meeting at FIU
- End of April, draft of section identifying highest priority strategic science and processes
- End of June, draft of Gaps and Duplications section
- End of August, draft of the plan

A sub-team has been created to work with the contractor in between meetings.

TimeTable

Plan Section	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O
Identify Strategic science & processes			X						
Risk analysis for gaps and duplication					X				
Identify high priority gaps and duplication							X		
Draft Report							X	X	

Questions?