

U.S. DOI OFFICE OF EVERGLADES RESTORATION INITIATIVES

South Florida Ecosystem Restoration Task Force

Event Title: Task Force Meeting

Date: Wednesday, March 7, 2012

Times: Tuesday, Mar 6, 2012
6:30 PM No host social @ Coral Springs Marriott

Wednesday, Mar 7, 2012
12:30 PM – 5:30 PM

Background: The South Florida Ecosystem Restoration Task Force (Task Force) was established by Congress in 1996 to ensure consistent strategies among all the partners working towards Everglades restoration.

On October 27, 2011, the Task Force convened a meeting in West Palm Beach, FL. At this recent meeting, senior policy officials from the Department of the Army, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the Department of the Interior, the Environmental Protection Agency, and the State of Florida, including the South Florida Water Management District and the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, made an important announcement. They announced a fast-track planning effort for the next generation of Everglades restoration that when authorized by Congress, will improve the Central and Southern Everglades by putting more fresh and clean water into the River of Grass. This planning effort is being called the Central Everglades Planning Process (CEPP). The Working Group was directed by the Task Force at its October 27, 2011 meeting to establish a protocol for public participation and sponsor public workshops to receive input from the public. The Task Force also directed the SCG to assess the loss of system-wide ecological indicators and provide recommendations on how to best retain their intended purpose. The Task Force directed the WG and SCG to work with RECOVER to review the Monitoring and Assessment Plan (MAP) to ensure it is positioned to support the Everglades next step planning process.

Description and General Purpose of the Meeting: The purpose of this meeting is to receive a briefing on CEPP. A report will also be provided on the WG and SCG Sponsored Workshops which have been held to date. The SCG will report back on their assessment of the system-wide ecological indicators reporting and on the monitoring needs of the CEPP. The Corps will provide a Program and Project Update. The schedule for the development and approval of Task Force reports due this year will also be reviewed.

Public Comment: Public comment will be taken after each agenda item.

Meeting and Lodging: Coral Springs Marriott
11775 Heron Bay Blvd., Orchid Room
Coral Springs, FL 33076
Phone: 954-753-5598
Fax: 954-753-2888
Toll Free: 1-800-228-9290
Group Reservation Name: South Florida Ecosystem Restoration Task Force
Government Rate: \$159.00 per night
Reservation Deadline: **Monday February 27, 2012**

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South Florida Ecosystem Restoration Task Force

- Driving Directions:** <http://www.marriott.com/hotels/travel/fllmc-coral-springs-marriott-hotel-golf-club-and-convention-center/>
- From Ft. Lauderdale/Hollywood Airport: Exit Airport to I-595 West to Sawgrass Expressway (FL-869) North to Coral Ridge Drive (Exit 14). Turn left on Coral Ridge Drive, go approx. ¼ mile to Heron Bay Blvd. and turn left. Hotel is ahead on the right.
 - From Miami International Airport: Exit Airport to Expressway 836 West to Expressway 826 North, to I-75 North to Sawgrass Expressway (FL-869) North to Coral Ridge Drive (Exit 14). Turn left on Coral Ridge Drive, go approx. ¼ mile to Heron Bay Blvd. and turn left. Hotel is ahead on the right.
 - From Palm Beach Airport: I-95 South to SW 10th Street Exit. Go right (West) on SW 10th Street which turns into the Sawgrass Expressway. Follow Sawgrass Expressway (FL-869) to Coral Ridge Drive (Exit 14). Turn right on Coral Ridge Drive, go approx. ¼ mile to Heron Bay Blvd. and turn left. Hotel is ahead on the right.
- Parking Directions:** Complimentary onsite parking
- Event Point of Contact:** Sandy Soto, Project Manager
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E-mail: ssoto@sfrestore.org
- Public Affairs Point of Contact:** Mary Plumb, Public Affairs Officer
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E-mail: meplumb@sfrestore.org
- Agenda:** Currently being drafted.