South Florida Ecosystem Restoration Task Force

2012 Reporting Requirements

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2012 Task Force Reports

- Strategy and Biennial Report
- Integrated Financial Plan
- Land Conservation Strategy
- Plan for Coordinating Science

Purpose of Reports

- Provide an overarching framework for coordinating individual efforts
- Document our collective and individual plans and efforts
- Communicate progress to key audiences

Goals for 2012

- Revise key objectives to better highlight progress and results
- Explore options for improving some of the less specific metrics

Strategy and Biennial Report

- Outlines how restoration will occur
- Identifies resources needed
- Establishes responsibility for accomplishing actions
- Reports restoration activities, benefits and progress made towards restoration
- Satisfies requirements of:
  - WRDA 1996
  - House Conference Report 106-479

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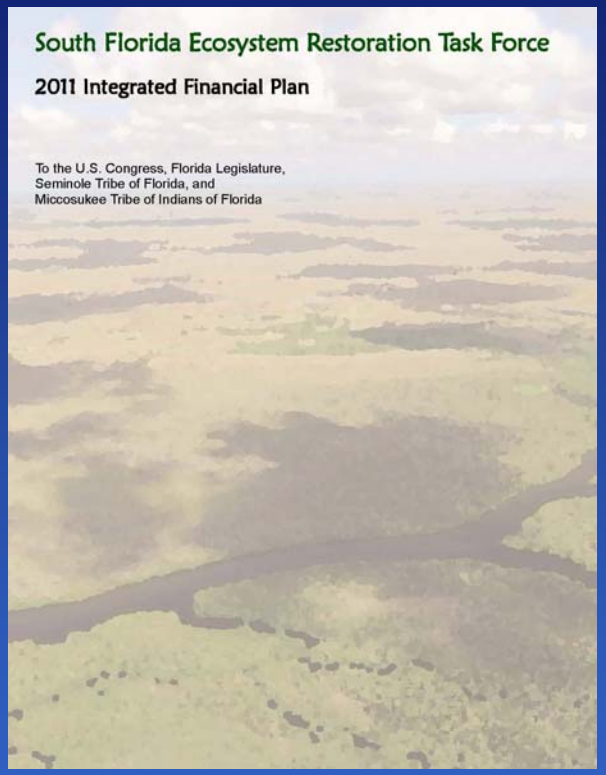
Integrated Financial Plan



- Integrates financial information
- Reports on progress, status, and costs on individual restoration projects
- Satisfies requirements of: Water Resources Development Act 1996

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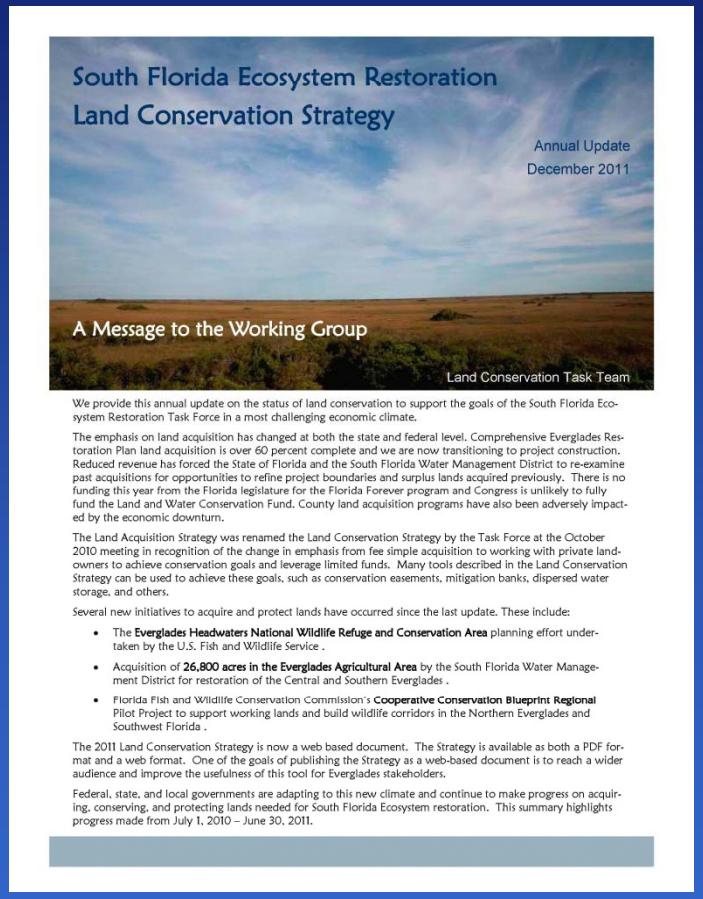
Land Conservation Strategy



South Florida Ecosystem Restoration
Land Conservation Strategy

Annual Update
December 2011

A Message to the Working Group

Land Conservation Task Team

We provide this annual update on the status of land conservation to support the goals of the South Florida Ecosystem Restoration Task Force in a most challenging economic climate.

The emphasis on land acquisition has changed at both the state and federal level. Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan land acquisition is over 60 percent complete and we are now transitioning to project construction. Reduced revenue has forced the State of Florida and the South Florida Water Management District to re-examine past acquisitions for opportunities to refine project boundaries and surplus lands acquired previously. There is no funding this year from the Florida legislature for the Florida Forever program and Congress is unlikely to fully fund the Land and Water Conservation Fund. County land acquisition programs have also been adversely impacted by the economic downturn.

The Land Acquisition Strategy was renamed the Land Conservation Strategy by the Task Force at the October 2010 meeting in recognition of the change in emphasis from fee simple acquisition to working with private landowners to achieve conservation goals and leverage limited funds. Many tools described in the Land Conservation Strategy can be used to achieve these goals, such as conservation easements, mitigation banks, dispersed water storage, and others.

Several new initiatives to acquire and protect lands have occurred since the last update. These include:

- The **Everglades Headwaters National Wildlife Refuge and Conservation Area** planning effort undertaken by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service .
- Acquisition of **26,800 acres in the Everglades Agricultural Area** by the South Florida Water Management District for restoration of the Central and Southern Everglades .
- Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission's **Cooperative Conservation Blueprint Regional** Pilot Project to support working lands and build wildlife corridors in the Northern Everglades and Southwest Florida .

The 2011 Land Conservation Strategy is now a web based document. The Strategy is available as both a PDF format and a web format. One of the goals of publishing the Strategy as a web-based document is to reach a wider audience and improve the usefulness of this tool for Everglades stakeholders.

Federal, state, and local governments are adapting to this new climate and continue to make progress on acquiring, conserving, and protecting lands needed for South Florida Ecosystem restoration. This summary highlights progress made from July 1, 2010 – June 30, 2011.

- Describes the land acquisition needs for projects with federal participation
- Provides a broad picture of all land acquisition initiatives – Federal, state, regional, and local
- Satisfies requirements of: GAO RCED-00-84

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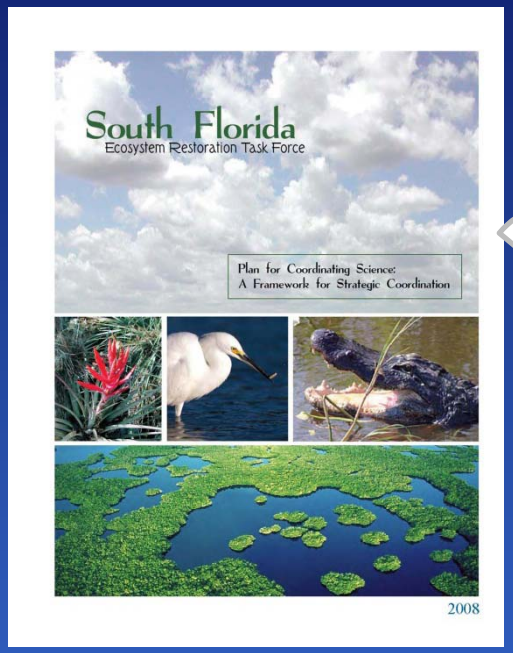
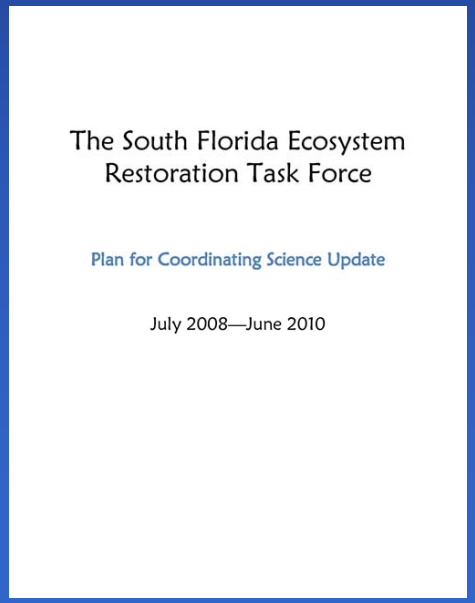
Plan for Coordinating Science





- Documents how the Task Force coordinates science
- Satisfies requirements of: House Report 108-195

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PROPOSED SCHEDULE

- March - Email request for Points of Contact
- March - First Drafts distributed to WG/SCG
- April - First Draft comments due
- July - Second Drafts distributed to WG/SCG and Task Force
- August - Second Draft comments due
- September - Third and final Drafts distributed to WG/SCG and Task Force
- October/November - Task Force acceptance/approval

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