

**South Florida Ecosystem Restoration Task Force**  
Working Group March 27, 2001 - Tallahassee

Pursuant to the Directive adopted for Goal 3 development the following sub goal language is proposed for working group approval. Sub issue teams and the overall committee who recommend working group approval have reviewed this language. The next steps for the Goal 3 Steering Committee will be to develop the language and content that will accompany these sub goals in the same style as goals one and two in *Coordinating Success*, July 2000.

Excerpt from Strategy

**Goal 3: Foster Compatibility of the Built and Natural Systems**

*This goal will be realized when the built environment is compatible with ecosystem restoration goals.*

The State of Florida, the Seminole Tribe of Florida, the Miccosukee Tribe of Indians of Florida, and regional, county, and city governments make the decisions that guide and regulate the built environment. Those entities are currently analyzing the plans and regulations in place and the development that has resulted. Changes to the existing policies may be considered by the state and local governments. The above listed governmental entities may report to the task force on policy and legal changes. The task force will track the evolution of these changes and use the results to refine goal 3. The task force will coordinate the information it receives and will report on the final goals, sub goals, objectives, and projects in the update to this document.

**PRELIMINARY DRAFT SUB-GOALS FOR GOAL THREE**

**PROPOSED SUB GOAL 3A**

*Reduce and/or eliminate growth related negative impacts on the natural system.*

The tremendous population growth in Florida since the 1960s has resulted in adverse impacts on natural ecological systems such as loss of fish and wildlife habitat, severe drawdown of freshwater resources and saltwater intrusion, loss of coastal and barrier island habitat and water quality degradation, among other effects. The rapid rate and volume of growth and its accompanying development patterns have caused a renewed focus by state, local regional and national decision-makers and citizens, to put in place new methods to address the untended consequences of growth. To maintain a high quality of life for Florida's residents, policies and development patterns that protect and restore natural system must be encouraged.

### **PROPOSED SUB GOAL 3B**

#### **Promote Environmentally Sound and Economically Viable Agriculture**

Agriculture is a vital part of south Florida's economy and landscape. Most Agriculture is compatible with other land uses and serves as buffers between the natural and the built environment. Many of South Florida's threatened and endangered plant and animal species are provided habitat on private agriculture and forestry lands. We are losing our farmers and ranchers as a result of declining profitability, trade issues, and urban sprawl. Losing agriculture and the traditional South Florida rural character, or allowing it to become fragmented is not acceptable.

### **PROPOSED SUB GOAL 3C-1**

#### **Provide Flood Control to meet sustainable demands of urban and suburban communities.**

The primary goal of the restoration effort is to restore, preserve, and protect the health of the natural system. However, flood protection, so important to hurricane-prone south Florida, will be maintained and, in some cases, improved.

### **PROPOSED SUB GOAL 3C-2**

#### **Provide water resources to sustain the needs of the natural system and the demands of urban and suburban communities.**

The benefits of getting the water right are enormous. The entire south Florida ecosystem, including the Everglades, will become healthy, with many of its natural characteristics restored. In addition to the natural system being healthier urban and suburban communities will benefit from enhanced water resources.

### **PROPOSED SUB GOAL 3D**

#### **Incorporate Environmental Justice policies and programs into Task Force and Working Group effort.**

Cultural, social, occupational, historical, and economic characteristics of the community may amplify the environmental effects of restoration projects. Restoration projects should incorporate strategies for equitable participation in and equitable sharing of the benefits. Disproportionately high and adverse human health or environmental effects of programs, policies, and activities on minority and low-income populations must be addressed.