

Kissimmee Valley Regional Restoration Coordination Team --- DRAFT Charter

BACKGROUND: In July 1997, the Working Group established a Kissimmee Valley Project Coordination Team. The primary objective of the team was to develop and maintain an integrated project coordination plan for the Kissimmee Valley and provision of project information for the annual Integrated Financial Plan. This work has been completed, however, continued efforts regarding restoration coordination are still needed. In April 2001, the Working Group convened a Regional Restoration Coordination Forum in the Kissimmee Valley. This forum resulted in the identification of three primary activities: 1) establishment of a regional Working Group team with broader regional membership to coordinate restoration projects, 2) development of a regional “report card”, and 3) establishment of an annual regional conference for information exchange. This charter establishes a regional restoration coordination team to carry out the three recommended activities.

PURPOSE: The Kissimmee Valley Regional Restoration Coordination Team (RRCT) will integrate, coordinate, and evaluate the region’s environmental restoration activities, and make recommendations to the Working Group as appropriate. The team will develop a report card and conference for the region as recommended at the regional forum, while promoting public outreach and involvement. The team will serve as the principle advisory body to the Working Group on the region.

MEMBERS:

Clell Ford - Highlands Soil & Water Conservation District
Dave Ferrell – U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Catherine Johnson - U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Gene Fults - U.S. Department of Agriculture - NRCS
Sandra Glenn – East Central Florida RPC
Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services
Florida Department of Environmental Protection
Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission
South Florida Water Management District
Seminole Tribe of Florida
Jeff Danter - The Nature Conservancy
Robert Nelson – The Nature Conservancy
Bill Dwinell – Friends of Lake Istapoga
Hillary Swain – Archbold Biological Station
Allyn Childress - OED
Rafaela Monchek – OED

GUIDANCE:

1. The team will serve in an advisory role, and not as a direct granting or operational agency.
2. The team will not supplant agency authority or have any regulatory authority.
3. The team should focus on the 3,000-square-mile Kissimmee River basin that forms the headwaters of the Everglades system. It extends southward from Orlando about 90 miles to Lake Okeechobee and includes an upper and lower basin. The upper basin contains a series of interconnected lakes, of which Lakes Tohopekaliga, Hatchineha,

Cypress, and Kissimmee are the largest. The lower basin contains Canal-38, Indian Prairie Basin, and remnants of the Kissimmee River.

4. The initial objective of the team is to develop a Kissimmee Valley "Report Card" that will provide a status update on restoration efforts in the region. The ecological performance measures on the Report Card should be derived from the regional conceptual model for the Kissimmee Valley. This shall be an annual effort/product of the team.
5. As part of the planning process for the annual report card, the team should identify issues that may impede the restoration effort and cannot be resolved within the team. These issues, as well as issues identified during implementation, should be presented to the Working Group for assistance.
6. The team should schedule its first meeting within 30 days and develop a meeting schedule as needed. Following the initial team meeting, the team leadership should coordinate with the Working Group chair or the OED to arrange a briefing at an appropriate Working Group meeting.
7. Team reports will be normally included in the Working Group's regularly scheduled meetings.
8. The team shall coordinate with entities involved in coordinating scientific/research efforts, including that of the Science Coordination Team (SCT) and the CERP's RECOVER team.

DELIVERABLES :

The team shall produce the following for review and approval of the Working Group:

1. The team will analyze and develop suggestions related to ecological conceptual models for use in the region.
2. The team will produce an Annual Report Card (beginning December 2001??) on the progress of the restoration efforts in the region.
3. The team will organize an Annual Regional Restoration Conference (beginning 2002) to increase awareness, understanding, and support for ecosystem restoration among leaders in the region and the public.

ADMINISTRATIVE INSTRUCTIONS:

1. All team meetings will be open to the public and time will be included in the agenda for public comment. Meetings will be advertised in accordance with the Pilot Public Affairs Procedures developed by the Working Group.
2. The OED will provide staff support, as needed, to assist the team.