

Congressionally directed reporting Requirements for the Task Force

I. Water Resources Development Act of 1996

Shall prepare an integrated financial plan and recommendations for coordinated budget requests for the funds proposed to be expended by agencies and entities represented on the Task Force for the restoration, preservation, and protection of the South Florida ecosystem.

Shall submit a biennial report to Congress that summarizes the activities of the Task Force; the policies, strategies, plans, programs, projects, activities, and priorities planned, developed, or implemented for the restoration of the South Florida ecosystem and progress made toward the restoration.

II. Other Congressional Directive

Strategic Plan

The Secretary of the Interior, in his capacity as Chair of the South Florida Restoration Task Force, is directed to develop a region-wide strategic plan as recommended by the General Accounting Office. The plan should coordinate and integrate Federal and non-federal activities necessary to achieve the three ecosystem restoration goals. The Secretary is directed to submit a progress report to the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations in February 2002, and the final strategic plan no later than July 31, 2000. This plan should be updated every two years.

Total Cost Report

It would be useful to have a complete estimate of the total costs to restore the South Florida ecosystem. The House and Senate Committees on Appropriations believe that this new estimate will exceed the \$7,800,000,000 estimate that has been used over the last five years. This recalculated estimate should include all three goals of this initiative, namely, (1) getting the water right, (2) restoring and enhancing the natural habitat, and (3) transforming the built environment. The Congress and the American people are committed to this project. Over \$1,300,000,000 has been appropriated to date; however, and the public deserves to know how much this project will truly cost. This information should be submitted to the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations no later than February 1, 2000, and should be updated biennially.