

THE SOUTH FLORIDA ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION TASK FORCE

Updating The Strategy and Biennial Report Sub-Goal 2B: Invasive Exotic Species

JULY 2010 - JUNE 2012
STRATEGY AND BIENNIAL REPORT

Carrie Beeler,
USDOI Office of Everglades Restoration Initiatives

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Purpose and Audience

Strategy and Biennial Report

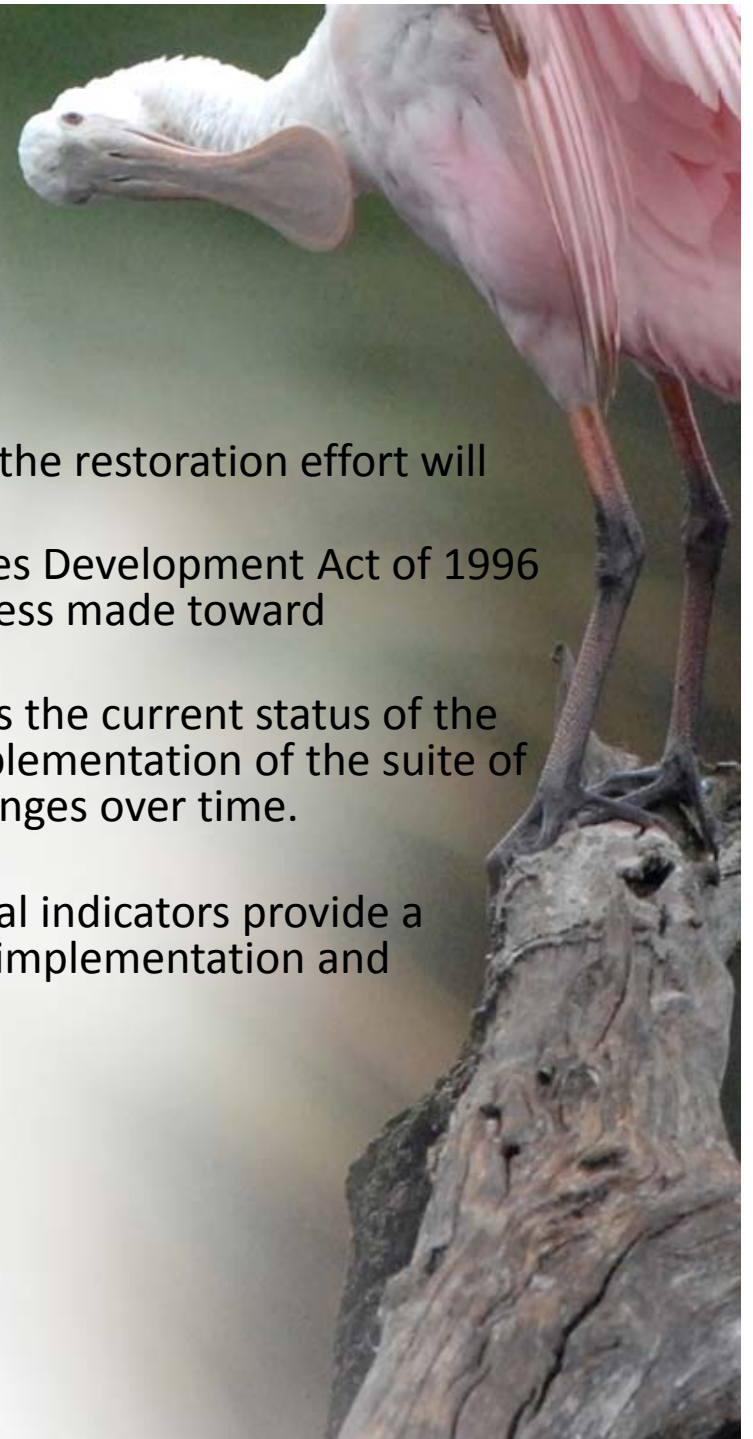
Report Purpose

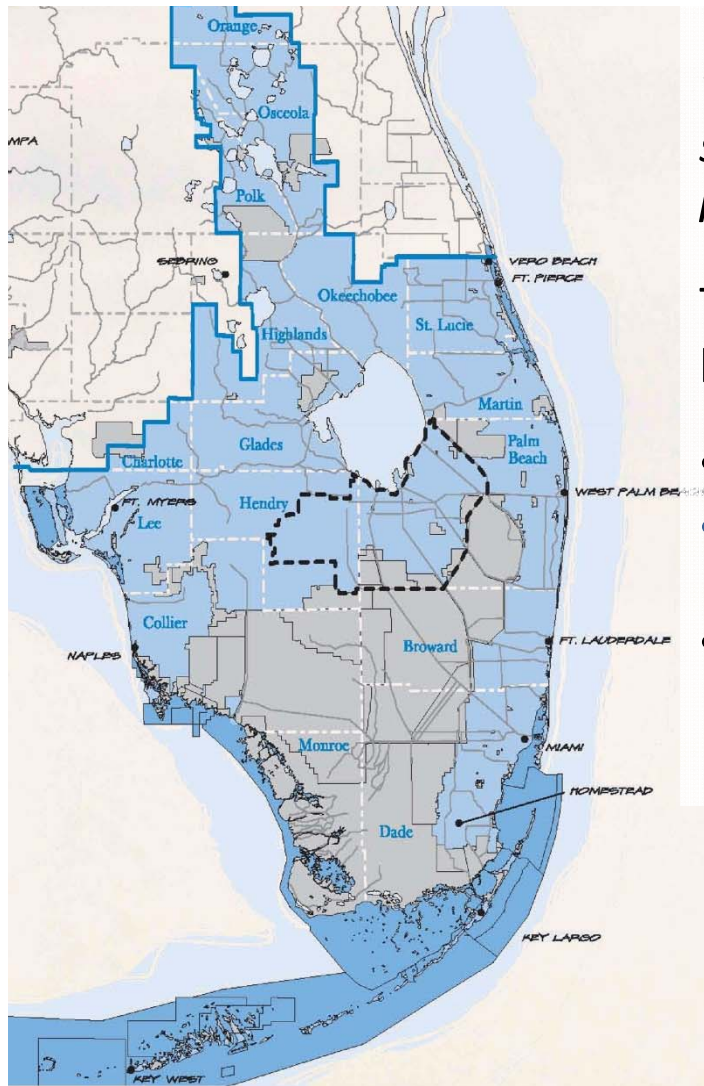
- **The Strategy:** Congressional direction to outline how the restoration effort will occur. Organized by three **strategic goals***.
- **Biennial Report:** Requirements of the Water Resources Development Act of 1996 to report biennially on Task Force activities and progress made toward restoration.
- **System-wide Ecological Indicators*** are used to assess the current status of the ecosystem and to track how it will respond to the implementation of the suite of restoration projects and system-wide operational changes over time.

*Combined, the strategic goals and system-wide ecological indicators provide a means of assessing restoration progress via both project implementation and ecosystem response.

Four principal audiences:

- United States Congress
- Florida Legislature
- Seminole Tribe of Florida
- Miccosukee Tribe of Indians of Florida





Vision: A healthy South Florida Ecosystem that supports diverse and sustainable communities of plants, animals, and people.

The Task Force organizes and tracks over 200 programs and projects by the three strategic goals:

- *Goal 1. Get the Water Right*
- *Goal 2. Restore, Preserve, and Protect Natural Habitats and Species*
- *Goal 3. Foster Compatibility of the Built and Natural Systems*



2010-2012 Strategy & Biennial Report

Goal 2: Restore, Preserve, & Protect Natural Habitats & Species

Subgoal 2-A: Restore, Preserve, & Protect Natural Habitats

- Objective 2-A.1: Complete acquisition of 5.7 million acres of land identified for habitat protection by 2020.
- Objective 2-A.2: Protect 20 percent of the coral reefs by 2015.
- Objective 2-A.3: Improve habitat quality for 2.4 million acres of natural areas in south Florida.

Subgoal 2-B: Control Invasive Exotic Plants & Animals

- Objective 2-B.1: Achieve maintenance control of Brazilian pepper, Melaleuca, Australian pine, and Old World climbing fern on south Florida's public conservation lands by 2020.
- Objective 2-B.2: Release two biological control insects per year for the control of invasive exotic plants.
- Objective 2-B.3: Achieve eradication of Gambian pouch rat by 2014.



Invasive Exotic Species Strategic Action Framework

Vision *The South Florida Ecosystem, including America's Everglades, its environmental, economic, and cultural values and human health, is protected from the harmful effects of invasive exotic species.*

Strategic Goals

Goal 1: Prevent the introduction of invasive exotic species.

Goal 2: Implement Early Detection and Rapid Response (EDRR).

Goal 3: Contain the spread of invasive exotic species.

Goal 4: Reduce the populations of widely established invasive exotic species and maintain at lowest feasible levels

Potential Approach for Updating Sub-Goal 2B:

Subgoal 2-B: Protect The South Florida Ecosystem from the harmful effects of invasive exotic species.

Objective 2-B.1: Prevent the introduction of invasive exotic species.

Objective 2-B.2: Implement Early Detection and Rapid Response (EDRR).

Objective 2-B.3: Contain the spread of invasive exotic species.

Objective 2-B.4: Reduce the populations of widely established invasive exotic species and maintain at lowest feasible levels.

**Subgoal 2-B: Protect The South Florida Ecosystem from the harmful effects of invasive exotic species. ~~Control Invasive Exotic Plants and Animals~~
~~Comprehensive Accomplishments July 2010–June 2012~~**

Objective	Projects	Status
<p><u>Maintenance and Control of Invasive Exotic Plant Species</u></p> <p>Objective 2-B.1-2-B.4: Achieve maintenance control of Brazilian pepper, melaleuca, Australian pine, and Old World climbing fern on south Florida's public conservation lands by 2020. <u>Reduce the populations of widely established invasive exotic species and maintain at lowest feasible levels</u></p>	Invasive Exotic Plants Control in Terrestrial and Aquatic Natural Systems [Project ID 2502]	Implementation: Maintenance control of melaleuca achieved in most regions of the Everglades Protection Area.
	Invasive Species Research and Information Exchange [Project ID 2503]	Implementation: Ongoing.
	Develop and implement a FWS Florida Invasive Species Strike Team [Project ID 2504] *move to EDRR	Implementation: Ongoing.
	C&SF:CERP - Melaleuca Eradication and Other Exotic Plants [Project ID 2505]	Construction: Rearing facility under construction. Completion expected October 2012.
	Everglades National Park Exotic Control Program [Project ID 2506]	Implementation: Ongoing.
	Hole-in-the-Donut [Project ID 2507]	Implementation: Ongoing.
	Aquatic and Upland Invasive Plant Management [Project ID 2508]	Implementation: Ongoing.
	Exotic Species Removal [Project ID 2509]	Implementation: Ongoing.
<p><u>Biological Control of Invasive Exotic Plants</u></p> <p>Objective 2-B.2: Release two biological control insects per year for the control of invasive exotic plants.</p>	Melaleuca Biological Control Agents [Project ID 2602]	Implementation: Ongoing.
<p><u>Control of Invasive Exotic Animals</u></p> <p>Objective 2-B.3: Achieve eradication of Gambian pouch rat by 2014</p>	Eradication of Gambian Pouch Rat [Project ID 2700]	Implementation: Ongoing.

Project Sheet Example

Program Name: Invasive Exotic Species Management
Project Name: Develop and Implement a FWS Invasive Species Strike Team (ISST)

Project ID: 2504

Lead Agency: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)

Funding Source: Federal

Goal(s) Addressed: ~~2.B.1~~ 2.B.2

Measurable Output(s): Project acres treated including Early Detection Rapid Response (EDRR) projects, gross area surveyed, actual infested acres treated, cost per acre, herbicide amounts utilized, prioritized lists of invasive plants and animals, modify or enhanced control methods, funding totals, invasive exotic plant species targeted, inventory and monitoring methodologies for invasive plants and animals, treatment effectiveness, assessment and evaluation.

Project Synopsis: Secure and appropriate Congressional funding to develop and implement a highly mobile FWS Invasive Species Strike Team (2-member) to rapidly respond to, and control incipient or newly established infestations (EDRR) of highly invasive exotic species (plants and animals) occurring on National Wildlife Refuges (NWRs) in Florida. The Region 4 Invasive Species Strike Team (R4 ISST) will provide administration, funding and oversight support for projects involving control and treatment of moderate and dense infestations of invasive exotic plants utilizing highly specialized and experienced exotic plant contractors on SE and Florida NWRs. In addition, the R4 ISST will provide technical assistance to Florida and SE NWR refuge managers and staff concerning invasive species identification, control and management, and lastly, will represent the interest of the FWS on associated invasive species task forces or working groups, i.e., Noxious Exotic Weed Task Team, Florida Invasive Animal Task Team and regional Cooperative Invasive Species Management Areas (CISMA) established throughout peninsular Florida.

Current Status: The FWS Invasive Species Strike Team was implemented and became operational as of October 1, 2004 (FY05), and will continue operations for purposes for which established assuming recurring Congressional cyclical funding allocations are received. The FWS ISST works collaboratively with all other local, county, state and federal agencies, and NGOs concerning invasive species management in the Everglades and throughout Florida. Measurable output information identified above is updated regularly in both ECOSTEMS and WEEDAR exotic tracking databases

Detailed Project Budget Information (\$1000s)

	Thru 2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	Balance to complete	Total
Federal	2,890	978	1,200	2739	1494	1494	N/A	6,795
State								
Tribal								
Local								
Other								
Total	2,890	978	1,200	739	494	494	N/A	6,795

Estimated Cost: ≥\$10 million

Project Schedule:

Start Date: October 1, 2004

Finish Date: N/A

Contact: William G. Thomas, Jr. Region 4
 Invasive Species Strike Team
 Leader, USFWS,
William_G_Thomas@fws.gov



DISCUSSION