

South Florida Ecosystem Restoration Task Force
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MEMORANDUM

June 30, 2002

To: Task Force Members
From: Office of the Executive Director
Re: Draft 2002 *Coordinating Success: Strategy for Restoration of the South Florida Ecosystem and Tracking Success Biennial Report (Strategy)*

As per the Chair's letter of June 11 to all Task Force members, please find enclosed an updated *Strategy* that incorporates comments to the Draft distributed at the June 7, 2002 Task Force Members. Copies of all comments received are also included in this package.

Technical corrections have been incorporated into this new draft; however there are several proposed substantive edits and policy issues for Task Force discussion regarding this document.

SUMMARY OF UNRESOLVED ISSUES FOR DISCUSSION

The substantive issues and policy level comments of the Task Force members can be grouped in a few general areas:

1. *Goal 3 Foster Compatibility of the Built and Natural System*
2. *Performance Measures/Indicators*
3. *Conflicting Goals in Hydroperiod Restoration*
4. *Water Quality*
5. *Flooding*
6. *Modified Waters Delivery Project*
7. *Clarification questions with respect to Programmatic Regulations and Task Force role in tacking progress*

1. **Goal 3 – Foster Compatibility of the Built and Natural System**

Recommend deletion of Goal 3. This goal has been difficult to identify measurable objectives and those that have been identified could be discussed under the first two goals: goal one (water) and two (habitat). This could be done by merging Subgoal 3 - A that discusses natural zones in urban areas into the Goal 2 section on habitat protection; merging 3 – B (flood protection for the built environment) and 3 – C (water supply for the built environment) into the Goal 1 section on water. Subgoal 3 – D (environmental justice) would be retained as one of the guiding principles of restoration, but not as specific subgoal. (Florida DEP – verbal comment from Ernie Barnett)

2. **Performance Measures and Indicators**

- **Recommend deletion** of all indicators of restoration success taken from the RECOVER 1999 Baseline Report and the US Fish and Wild Life Multi-Species Recovery work. These are referenced in 3 sections of the Document: Executive Summary, Vision and Indicators of Success, and in the Biennial Report Section. (Motion A Miccosukee Comments 6/7/02) and

Recommend deletion of the Linkages between Work Efforts and Ecosystem Restoration Section (pp. 62-66 in 6/7/02 draft – Motion B Miccosukee Comments 6/7/02).

- **Recommend deletion** of tree islands as an indicator of ecosystem health as it is unclear how significant short term recovery of tree islands may be achieved. (Army comments 6/21/02)
- **Recommend addition** If target retained identify “by what date” will reach tree island target – p.26 (DOI comments 6/28/02)

3. **Conflicting Goals in Hydroperiod Restoration**

Recommend addition of new section under Getting the Water Right called “Conflicting Goals in Hydroperiod Restoration.” Generally the language proposed outlines conflicting agency goals or legal interpretations, particularly the Endangered Species Act, which conflict with or inhibit natural hydroperiod restoration. (Proposed amendment by Dexter Lehtinen, Miccosukee Comments 6/21/02)

4. **Water Quality**

Recommend addition of a new paragraph in two places related to phosphorous levels and the inability of the District to meet the mandates of Everglades Forever Act. (Water Quality Section – pg.34 of Strategy and Biennial report section in the Ongoing Projects Predating CERP – pg.76). (Motion S and T Miccosukee Comments 6/7/02).

5. **Flooding**

- A series of motions to change Goal 3B – Maintain or Improve Flood Protection in a Manner Compatible with Ecosystem Restoration. These comments would change the context of the existing text as discussed by Mr. Lehtinen at the June Task Force meeting. (Motion 1 - 5 Miccosukee comments 6/07/02).
- Recommend replacement language for non-structural flood protection under 3B discussion of flood protection in the built environment that is also different in tone and content than the existing draft document. (Motion 6 & 7 Miccosukee comments 6/7/02)

6. **Modified Water Deliveries to Everglades National Park Project**

Multiple amendments to the discussion of the Modified Waters Delivery Project in the Major Accomplishments section of the Biennial report on page 77. (Motions K through P Miccosukee comments 6/7/02).

7. **Clarification Questions with respect to Programmatic Regulations and Task Force Role in tracking progress**

- How will the strategy goals, targets, and performance measures in the *Strategy* will be linked to similar items being described in the programmatic regulations? (Army Comments 6/21/02)
- How will the 200 performance measures discussed in the *Strategy* (pp.7 & 22) and to be prepared by the RECOVER teams relate to the interim goals discussed in the context of the programmatic regulations? (Seminole comments 6/27/02)
- Under Track and Assess progress it is not clear what role of Task Force Is. We track progress on major issues, but must rely on individual agencies to provide status reports and flag issues. We don't monitor per se, but serve as a clearinghouse. (DOI comments 6/28/02, p.21)