

# Plan for Coordinating Science

**Task Force Update  
December 6 & 7, 2006  
Key West, Florida**



# Plan for Coordinating Science

- **TASK FORCE CHARTER STATEMENT** - “Draft a science coordination plan that tracks and coordinates programmatic-level science and other research, identifies programmatic level priority science needs and gaps, and facilitates management decisions”



# Directives to the SCG

1. Develop a scientifically defensible process for identifying programmatic-level restoration science needs and gaps.
2. Have the process independently reviewed.
3. Prepare a plan using this process to identify system-wide restoration science needs and gaps.
4. Ensure an open and transparent forum for the development of the plan



# **Response to the Task Force Comments from September '06 Meeting**

- Developed a clearer statement of the purpose and use of the plan
- Developed actions specifically tailored for Task Force coordination role



# Plan Use and Purpose

- *Reference document*
- *Provides process for identifying needs and gaps*
- *Science-planning and science-budgeting tool*
- *Recognizes and respects individual agency activities and procedures*
- *Does not set individual agency priorities or fiscal allocations.*



# Four Major Sections

- **Science Needs & Gaps** (geographically by RECOVER module)
- **Information Sharing** (Agency & Task Force science information)
- **Quality Assurance** (Task Force science products)
- **Progress Tracking** (Task Force action implementation)

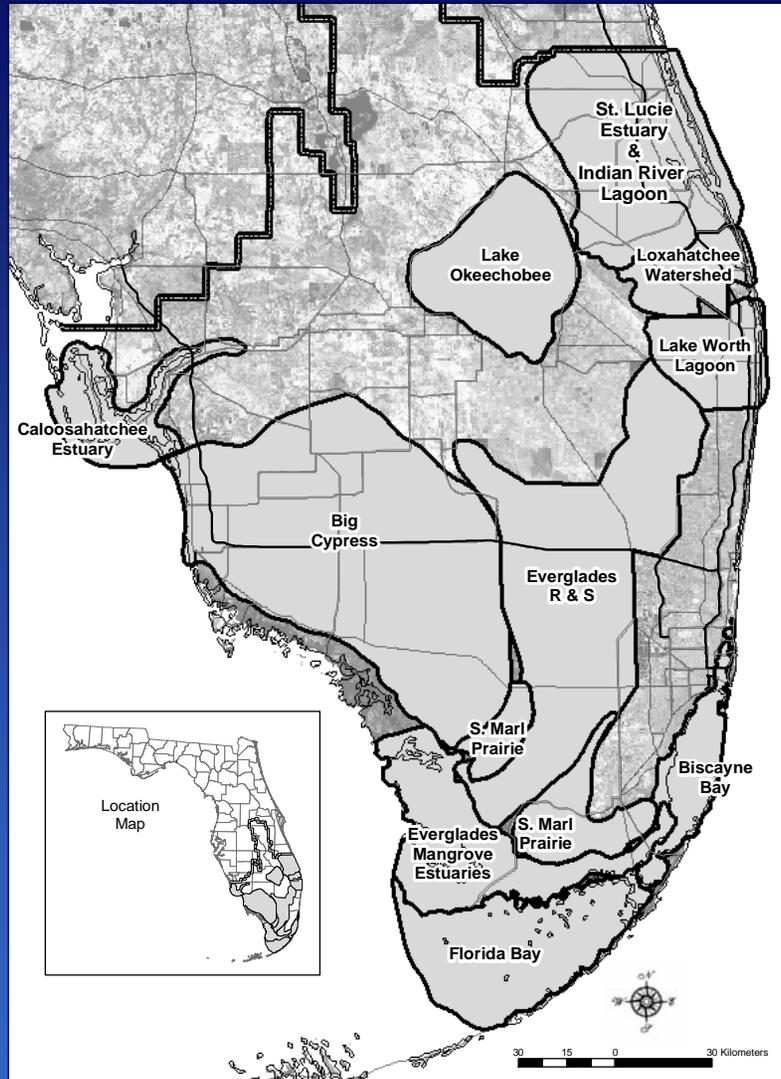


# Science Needs and Gaps



## South Florida Ecosystem Restoration Task Force

# Conceptual Ecological Models within RECOVER MAP Regional Modules



### Northern Estuaries

- Caloosahatchee Estuary
- Lake Worth Lagoon
- St. Lucie Estuary & Indian River Lagoon
- Loxahatchee Watershed

### Southern Estuaries

- Biscayne Bay
- Florida Bay

### Greater Everglades

- Everglades Ridge and Slough
- Southern Marl Prairies
- Big Cypress Regional Ecosystem
- Everglades Mangrove Estuaries

### Lake Okeechobee

### Total System



# **Needs and Gaps Action Summary**

- Distribute the plan within organizations and encourage use as a reference of the priority science needs and gaps for ecosystem restoration
- Consider this plan in science-planning and science-budgeting within each organization
- Continue ongoing science plans and activities that currently fill critical science needs



# Information Sharing



# Information Sharing

## ➤ ELEMENTS OF INFORMATION SHARING

- Web-based information sharing “Google-like” system
- Conferences, Workshops & Symposia (Research, Monitoring, Modeling)
- Syntheses of Scientific Work Products (Research, Monitoring, Modeling)



Science Coordination Group



# South Florida Ecosystem Restoration Task Force

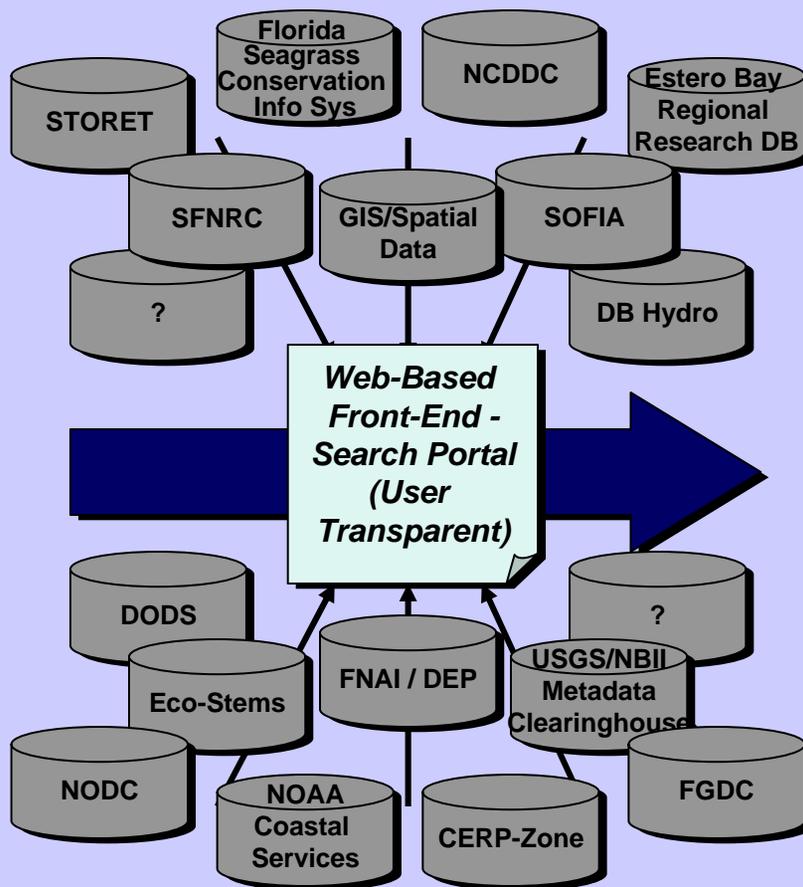
## Possible Information Components

- **Project Information**
  - Title and Abstract
  - PI Name and Contact Info
  - Amount of Funding / Duration

- Final Project Reports
- Publication / Research Products
- Summarized/Reported Data
- SFERTF Calendar Input
  - Conferences
  - Symposia
  - Workshops
  - Other Related SF Restoration Projects
- Special Reports
- Management Information / Analysis
- Agency Reports and Plans
- Other Restoration Programs in SF

Minimum Requirements

## Searchable Web-based System



## Possible Outputs

- Monthly/Quarterly SCG Newsletter
- SCG Calendar
- PI / Project Info
- Ad-Hoc Reports
- Bi-Annual TF Report
- Five-Year Report to Congress
- SF Environmental Report (SFWMD)
- Progress tracking for SCG



# South Florida Ecosystem Restoration Task Force

How Would You Like a "Google" for Everglades Restoration?

The screenshot shows a Microsoft Internet Explorer browser window with the Google homepage. The address bar shows 'http://www.google.com'. The search bar contains the text 'Pink Shrimp + Florida Bay'. Below the search bar are two buttons: 'Google Search' and 'I'm Feeling Lucky'. To the right of the search bar are links for 'Advanced Search', 'Preferences', and 'Language Tools'. Above the search bar are navigation links for 'Images', 'Groups', 'News', 'Froogle', 'Local', and 'more »'. A callout box highlights the search bar and navigation links, with a mouse cursor pointing to the 'Google Search' button.

This is being developed jointly with COE, SFWMD, SCG, & RECOVER



[www.sfrestore.org](http://www.sfrestore.org)

# **Information Sharing Action Summary**

- Support the Task Force information sharing program through interagency agreements to make science information available for the “Google-like” science information catalogue
- Continue to support and use existing meeting and conference forums as a basis for improved science coordination



# Quality Assurance



## Quality Assurance of Science Products

- Incorporated policy statement:
  - *“Scientific data collection and analyses shall be conducted according to current industry and academic standards, under transparent and reproducible procedures that support restoration projects, decision-making, and information sharing among Task Force member agencies”*
- Describes ability of Task Force to ensure quality of Task Force science products



# Quality Assurance Action Summary

- Ensure independent review of Task Force science products



# Progress Tracking



# Tracking Progress and Updating the Plan Recommends that the SCG:

- Brief Task Force annually on overall progress and updates
- Update Plan biennially and review the needs, gaps, & actions



# Next Steps?

