

Restoring America's Everglades



– *Natural Resources Update* –

Briefing for the South Florida Ecosystem Restoration Task Force

Washington, DC

June 24, 2009



U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Restoring America's Everglades – Recovering Multiple Species

Outline of Presentation

- I. The Challenge of Invasive Species
- II. Multi-Species Conservation in the Transition to Everglades Restoration
- III. Climate Change and the Value of Everglades Restoration





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The Challenge of Invasive Species

- 1,200 Plants
- 1,150 Insects
- 196 Birds
- 47 Reptiles
- 43 Fish
- 30 Mammals
- 4 Amphibians



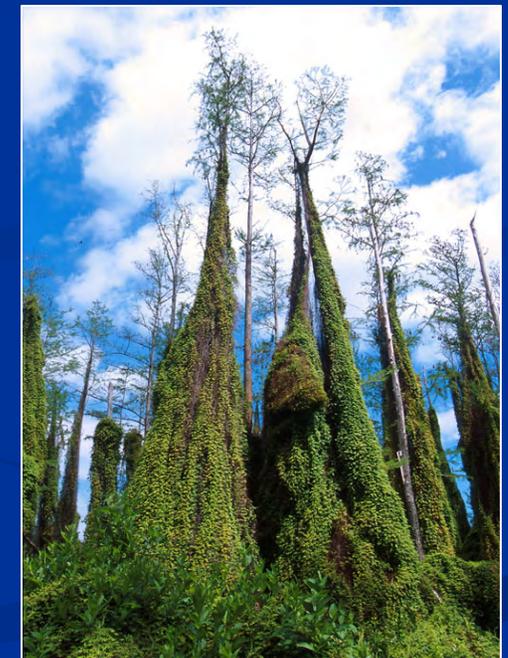


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The Challenge of Invasive Plants

- Melaleuca
- Lygodium – Old World Climbing Fern
- Brazilian Pepper
- Some Successes
- Challenges Ahead





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The Challenge of Invasive Fish

- Asian Swamp Eel
- Tilapia
- Oscar
- Many Others
- Some Successes
- Challenges Ahead





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The Challenge of Invasive Animals

- Burmese Pythons
- Nile Monitor Lizards
- Iguanas
- Some Successes
- Challenges Ahead



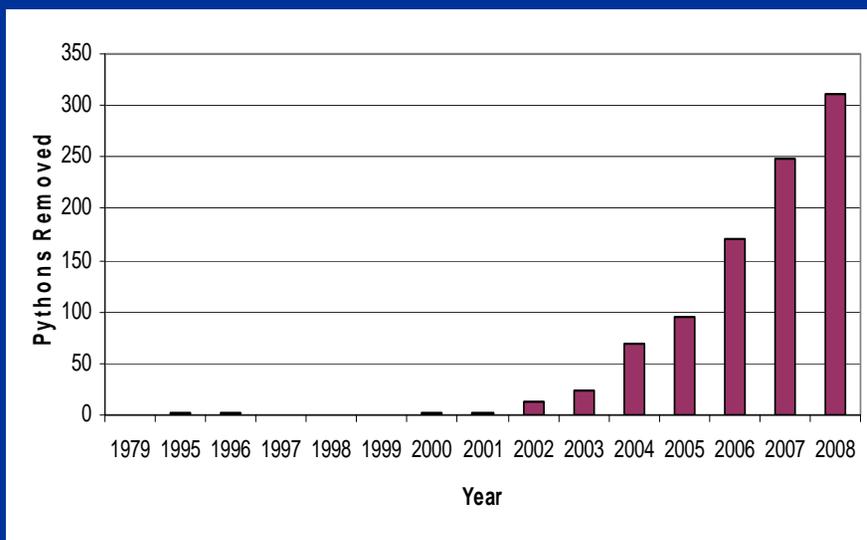


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The Challenge of Invasive Animals

- What Are We Doing?
- Multi-Stakeholder Partnership
- What Do We Need?
- Multi-Faceted Strategy





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Multi-Species Conservation in the Transition to Restoration

- Cape Sable Seaside Sparrow
- Snail Kite
- Wood Stork
- Roseate Spoonbill

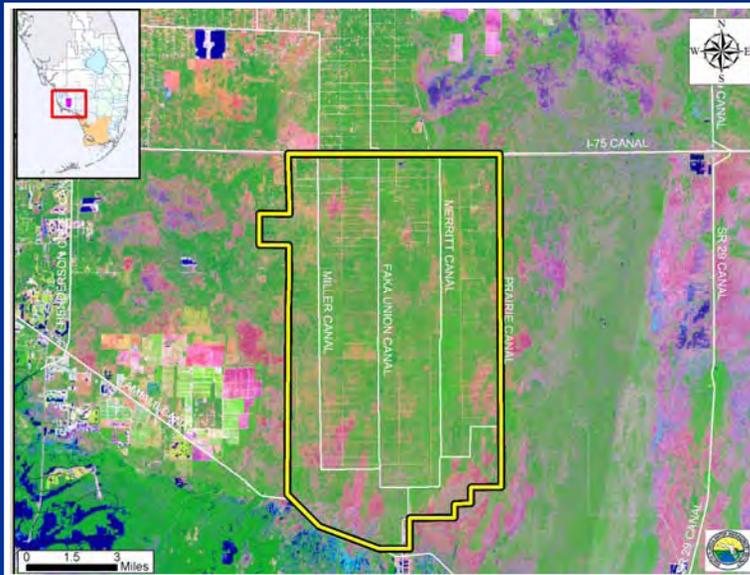




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Picayune Restoration – A Success in Progress



PURPOSE/BENEFITS

Restoration:

- Restore and enhance the wetlands in the project footprint
- Restore a natural sheet-flow to Ten Thousand Islands NWR

Water Quality:

- Improve water quality and reduce volume of water delivered to estuaries

DESCRIPTION

- 85 square miles including 48 miles of canals, 290 miles of roads which changed healthy wetland into a distressed system





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The Challenge of Climate Change

- Everglades on the Front Line
- 67 Threatened and Endangered Species
- Native Fish and Wildlife Species
- The Link to the “Big Three” Threats:
 1. Exotic Species
 2. Land Use Change
 3. Water Infrastructure and Needs



- * Florida panther * Key deer * Key Largo cotton mouse * Key Largo woodrat
- * Lower Keys rabbit * Rice rat * Audubon's crested caracara * Cape Sable seaside sparrow
- * Everglade snail kite * Florida scrub-jay * Wood stork * American crocodile * Green sea turtle
- * Hawksbill sea turtle * Kemp's ridley sea turtle * Leatherback sea turtle * Loggerhead sea turtle
- * Schaus swallowtail butterfly * Stock Island tree snail * Key tree-cactus

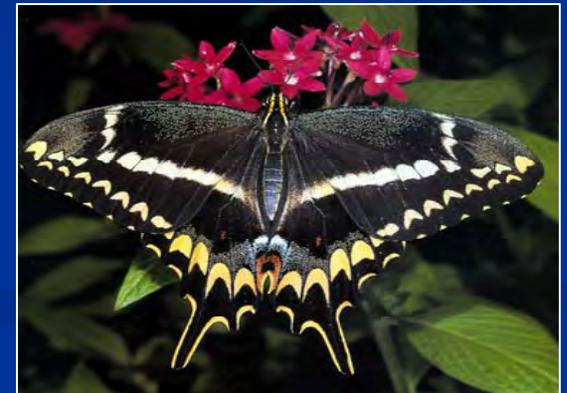


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The Challenge of Climate Change – Needs

- Everglades Restoration = Resilience for Species, Water Supply Benefits
- More Tools to Incorporate Impacts of Climate Change in Everyday Action
- Multi-Stakeholder Coordination
- Better Understanding of Impacts Beyond Sea Level Rise
- Seize the Momentum at Hand

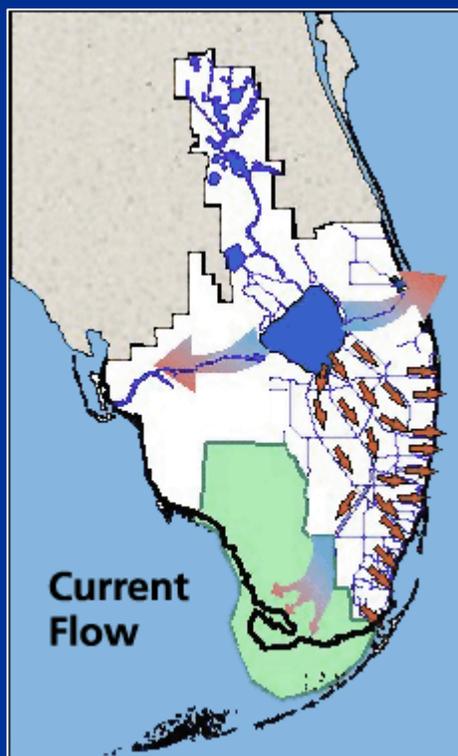
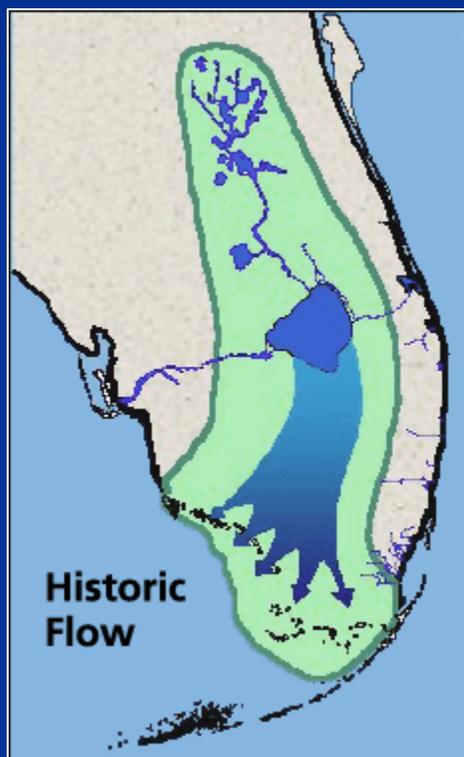




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The Challenge of Climate Change – Needs



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