

*South Florida Ecosystem Restoration Task Force*

**Working Group and Science  
Coordination Group  
*Follow-up Actions from the  
June Task Force Meeting***

October 1, 2009

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

# Assignments

- The Task Force assigned three topics to the Working Group (WG)/Science Coordination Group (SCG)
  - *Climate Change Overview* provide a synthesis of the types of climate change research and actions that are being planned or conducted by the various agencies relevant to the restoration of the South Florida Ecosystem
  - *New Science Summary* provide a plain language synthesis of the new scientific and technical concepts that have evolved since the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (CERP) was authorized in 2000
  - *Invasive Exotic Animals* provide a summary of the key species and actions necessary to help control invasive exotic animals in south Florida

# **Actions to Date**

- **June 24** - *Task Force assignments*
- **June 30** - *WG/SCG members were asked to provide brief summaries of their efforts regarding the three topics*
- **July 10** - *WG/SCG members submitted 37 summaries*
- **July 15 WG/SCG meeting** - *members discussed the assignments, the three topics, submissions, timelines and potential formats; requested volunteers to work on drafting teams*
- **July/August** - *Drafting teams developed detailed outlines*

# **Actions to Date**

- **August:**
  - *Outlines developed into draft documents*
  - *Worked with communications experts to develop the Information Brief format*
- **September 1** - *draft documents distributed to WG/SCG members for input on content*
- **September 3** - *draft information briefs with graphics distributed to WG/SCG members for feedback*
- **September 8** - *comments provided*
- **September 10** - *deadline for comments extended to September 18*

# **Climate Change Information Brief**

- **Delineates climate change impacts:**
  - Rising temperatures
  - Reduced precipitation
  - More intense storms
  - Rising sea level
- **Natural system adaptation**
  - Describes the impacts of climate change on the natural system
  - Adaptation reduces ecosystem vulnerability and promotes resilience
- **Built system adaptation**
  - Describes the impacts of climate change on the built system
  - Adaptation strategies include:
    - Building codes and infrastructure changes
    - Coastal defenses and economies
    - Land use and growth management

# **Climate Change Information Brief**

- **Highlights the uncertainty regarding the range of climate change impacts**
- **Synthesizes the types of research and policy efforts that focus on managing a changing ecosystem**
- **Conclusions and recommendations**
  - **Traditional planning concept of “stationarity” is obsolete**
  - **Significant implications for**
    - **Landscape impacts**
    - **Water supply availability**
    - **Flood control capability**
    - **Restoration**
  - **New information needs must be met for decision-making**
  - **Coordination is key**

# **New Science Information Brief**

- **Describes new insights since CERP was authorized in 2000**
- **Highlights new understandings of the historic natural system, including hydrology, ecology, and connections between the two**
- **Recognizes continued degradation in the absence of ecosystem-wide restoration**
  - **Loss of landscape features**
  - **Invasive plants and animals**
  - **Water quality**
  - **Stressed estuaries**

# **New Science Information Brief**

- **Summarizes key advances in scientific tools and methods**
  - Improved models
  - Robust monitoring
- **Provides initial draft conclusions**

# **Invasive Exotic Animals Brief**

- **Provides context, threats and complexity of the invasive exotic animal challenge**
- **Builds on knowledge gained from experience in dealing with invasive exotic plants**
- **Outlines the key elements of strategic management**
  - **Prevent, detect, and assess**
  - **Assess, manage, control, and restore**
  - **Inform, advise, and educate**
  - **Organize, coordinate, and plan**

# **Invasive Exotic Animals Brief**

- **Summarizes key intergovernmental organizations and work products**
  - **Florida Invasive Animal Task Team (FIATT)**
    - Draft strategy for invasive exotic animals
    - List of priority species
  - **Everglades Cooperative Invasive Species Management Area (ECISMA)**
    - Rapid detection and early response plan
- **Describes additional actions that can be taken**
  - Prevention
  - Risk analysis and screening
  - Comprehensive national-level interagency planning and coordination
  - Requisite funding and resources

# **Status of the Assignments**

- **Three draft information briefs have been prepared and reviewed by the WG/SCG members**
- **These draft briefs synthesize a tremendous amount of complex information from scores of organizations**
- **Draft briefs provide the basis for more advanced discussions**

# **Information Briefs - Goals**

- **To convey critical restoration issues to the Task Force**
  - **Crisp and timely overviews of complex intergovernmental coordination issues**
  - **Emphasis on readability and graphics**
  - **Synthesis of critical points to improve understanding, dialogue, and coordination**
  - **Collaborative process incorporating member and non-member expertise**

# **Next Steps**

- **October 21/22 WG/SCG meeting**
  - Review three draft Information Briefs
  - Discuss remaining issues with each topic
- **Refine text and graphics**
- **Incorporate Task Force feedback on format**
- **Provide revised drafts to the Task Force when completed**

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# **Additional Information:**

**Office of the Executive Director  
(786) 350-9403  
[www.sfrestore.org](http://www.sfrestore.org)**

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