

Strategic Coordination and Documentation for 2010

June 24, 2010

2010 Task Force Reports

- Biennial Report
- Strategic Plan
- Integrated Financial Plan
- Land Acquisition Strategy
- Plan for Coordinating Science

Biennial Report

**2008 Biennial
Report**

Proposed

**2010 Combined
Strategic Plan and
Biennial Report**

Enhance readability, utility and
streamline

Link to traditional Biennial Report
on Web to provide more detailed
information

Background

Citation: Water Resources Development Act 1996

Purpose: Reports restoration activities and progress made towards
restoration

Frequency: Biennially: Last report covered July 2006 – June 2008

Strategic Plan

2008 Strategic Plan

Proposed

2010 Combined Strategic Plan and Biennial Report

Enhance readability, utility and streamline

Link to traditional Biennial Report on Web to provide more detailed information

Background

Citation: House Conference Report 106- 479

Purpose:

- *Outlines how the restoration will occur*
- *Identifies resources needed*
- *Establishes responsibility for accomplishing actions*

Frequency: Biennially: Last report 2008

Integrated Financial Plan

**2009 Integrated
Financial Plan**



**2010 Integrated
Financial Plan**
Same format

Background

Citation: *Water Resources Development Act 1996*

Purpose:

- *Integrates Financial Information*
- *Reports on individual restoration projects*

Frequency: *Annually; Last report covered July 2008 - June 2009*

Land Acquisition Strategy

**2009 Land
Acquisition Strategy**



**2010 Land
Acquisition Strategy**
Same format

Background

Citation: GAO RCED-00-84

Purpose:

- Describes land acquisition needs for projects with federal nexus*
- Provides a broad picture of all land acquisition initiatives*

Frequency: Annually; Last report covered July 2008 - June 2009

Plan for Coordinating Science

**2008 Plan for
Coordinating Science**

Proposed

**2010 Update - Plan for
Coordinating Science**

Summarize the 2008 Plan, new efforts since 2008, and next steps
Link to 2008 Plan for Coordinating Science on Web to provide more detailed information

Background

Citation: House Report 108-195

Purpose: Documents how the Task Force coordinates science

Frequency: Biennially: Last report 2008

Timeline

- July – WG and SCG review first draft of: Combined Biennial Report and Strategy, traditional 2010 Biennial Report, Land Acquisition Strategy, and Plan for Coordinating Science Update
- August – WG and SCG review second draft of: Combined Biennial Report and Strategy, traditional 2010 Biennial Report , Land Acquisition Strategy, and Plan for Coordinating Science Update
- October – Task Force review: Third draft of the Combined Biennial Report and Strategy, Land Acquisition Strategy and Plan for Coordinating Science Update (the traditional 2010 Biennial Report will be posted on the website for reference)

Additional Information:

Biennial Report, Strategy, and Integrated Financial Plan

Contact: Marsha Bansee

Phone: (305) 348-6746

Email: mbansee@sfrestore.org

Land Acquisition Strategy

Contact: Theresa Woody

Phone: (305) 348-1833

Email: twoody@sfrestore.org

Plan for Coordinating Science

Contact: Carrie Beeler

Phone: (305) 348-6745

Email: cbeeler@sfrestore.org

Office of the Executive Director

(305) 348-1665

- New Science: Advancing Understanding of the South Florida Ecosystem

- Climate Change in South Florida

- Invasive Exotic Animals: Managing a Threat to Everglades Restoration

New Science: Advancing Understanding of the South Florida Ecosystem

Climate Change in South Florida

Invasive Exotic Animals: Managing a Threat to Everglades Restoration

Non-native plant and animal species are defined as those species living in an area outside their native range. If a non-native species causes or is likely to cause economic or environmental damage or pose a threat to human health and safety, it is considered an invasive species. Invasive species have infested millions of acres of natural areas in the United States with the associated loss of native species. In Florida, invasive species have been documented to alter the biological structure and function of entire ecosystems, sometimes leading to irreversible changes in ecosystem processes and food webs.

Invasive exotic species cause serious environmental and economic losses and the management and control of these species costs billions of dollars each year in the United States. Research in the United States, United Kingdom, Australia, South Africa, India, and Brazil indicates that over 120,000 non-native species of plants, animals, and microbes have invaded these countries. Many have

caused major economic losses in agriculture and forestry, as well as negative impacts to ecological integrity (Eisenhart et al. 2001). Feral cats and pigs, for example, are responsible for the extinction of various native animal species and habitat damage around the world. Though precise economic costs associated with some of the most damaging exotic species are not available, it is estimated that non-native species invasions in the above six nations are causing more than \$514 billion per year in damages (Florencio et al. 2001).

Invasive animal species are a rapidly increasing environmental and economic problem in south Florida. Florida is second only to Hawaii in the severity of the threat posed by invasive species and is particularly vulnerable to the introduction and spread of invasives because of its subtropical climate, major ports of entry, and the pet, aquarium, and ornamental plant industries. Of the known and deriving animal species introduced into south Florida, four are amphibians, 32 are fish, 12 are birds, 46 are reptiles, 17 are mammals, and approximately 79 are invertebrates (SPWRAD 2006). One high-profile example in the Everglades is the Burmese python (see photo at left). According to Fish and Wildlife Service records, legal wildlife shipments into the United States between 2000 and 2004 comprised over one billion individual exotic animals, representing 2,241 different species from 190 countries (Aldhouse 2007, Smith et al. 2009). This number does not include any parasites or diseases these individuals might have harbored. Only a small percentage has been subjected to risk analysis, a critical need to prevent and manage unwanted introductions.



Ongoing scientific research provides insight into the habits and impacts of Burmese pythons in the Everglades ecosystem. Photo courtesy Everglades National Park.

Whereas invasive exotic plants have been the focus of various planning, prevention, and management activities for the past 35 years, the focus on invasive animals essentially began within the past decade. In addition, invasive animals are much more difficult to manage and eradicate. Experts in every taxonomic group (mammals, reptiles, amphibians, fish, invertebrates, etc.) are needed to work collaboratively on invasive animals. The lag in time and the expansive scope of the invasive animal issue present an immense challenge in the Everglades. However, the management of invasive animal species can draw from the many lessons learned regarding invasive plants. The exact methodologies may differ, but the same primary strategies apply.

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