

SOUTH FLORIDA ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION TASK FORCE

Agenda

U.S. Department of the Interior
Yates Auditorium
1849 C Street, NW, Washington, DC 20240
October 29, 2019

Task Force Role: *The intergovernmental South Florida Ecosystem Restoration Task Force was created by the Congress in 1996 to provide the long-term strategic coordination of efforts to restore the 18,000 square mile South Florida Ecosystem. Its duties are to provide intergovernmental coordination, review project plans for the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (CERP), exchange information, facilitate the resolution of conflict, coordinate programmatic science, assist members in their restoration activities, report on restoration progress, and promote public participation.*

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| 10:00 – 10:10 | 1. Welcome, Goals for the Meeting and Administrative Items
<i>Purpose: The agenda and minutes from the April 2019 meeting will be presented for approval. Administrative items will also be reviewed.</i> | Dr. Timothy Petty,
Chair
Noah Valenstein,
Vice Chair |
| 10:10 – 10:30 | 2. Task Force Member Introductions and Opening Remarks
<i>Purpose: Each member has the option of providing brief introductory remarks.</i> | ALL |
| 10:30 – 10:40 | 3. SCG Leadership
<i>Purpose: The SCG has approved a leadership recommendation with the current Chair and Vice Chair swapping their leadership positions. The Task Force will be asked to approve the proposed appointments of the SCG Chair and Vice Chair in accordance with the SCG Charter.</i> | Adam Gelber |
| 10:40 – 11:00 | 4. Report on Working Group (WG) and Science Coordination Group (SCG) Activities
<i>Purpose: A progress update will be provided by the Chairs of the WG and SCG on the priorities. Update will also include a report on the Task Force sponsored public workshop held on the Integrated Delivery Schedule.</i> | Adam Gelber
James Erskine
Bob Johnson |
| 11:00 – 11:20 | 5. South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) Program and Project Update
<i>Purpose: The SFWMD will provide an update on ongoing restoration planning, design and construction. In addition to moving forward with features within the South Florida Ecosystem (SFER) Program, the SFWMD also manages the Restoration Strategies Program, a suite of projects created to improve water quality in America's Everglades.</i> | Megan Jacoby |
| 11:20 – 12:10 | 6. Corps of Engineers (CORPS) Program and Project Update
<i>Purpose: The Corps will provide an update on ongoing restoration planning, design and construction. Issues associated with the Western Everglades Restoration Project (WERP), lack of stakeholder consensus, and the Corps' planning process will also be discussed.</i> | COL Andrew Kelly
Howie Gonzales |

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12:10 – 12:30 **Public Comment**

12:30 – 1:45 **Lunch Break**

TASK FORCE CONSULTATION

1:45 – 2:15 **7. Consultation on the Integrated Delivery Schedule (IDS)** COL Andrew Kelly
Purpose: To present the 2019 update of the IDS. The IDS provides the roadmap for sequencing, planning, design and construction of both federal and state projects related to Everglades restoration. Presentation will include a discussion on Everglades Agricultural Area (EAA) Storage Reservoir, a component of the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (CERP), and its influence on re-sequencing.
Eva Velez
Megan Jacoby

2:15 – 2:45 **8. Consultation on Project Implementation Reports (PIRS)** Howie Gonzales
Purpose: The Programmatic Regulations require that PIRs be prepared in consultation with the Task Force.

- **Loxahatchee River Watershed Restoration Project (LRWRP)**

Purpose: The LRWRP aims to restore and sustain the overall quantity, quality, timing, and distribution of fresh waters to the federally designated “National Wild and Scenic” Northwest Fork of the Loxahatchee River.

- **Lake Okeechobee Watershed Restoration Project (LOWRP)**

Purpose: The LOWRP will improve water levels in Lake Okeechobee; improve the quantity and timing of discharges to the St. Lucie and Caloosahatchee estuaries; improve water supply for existing legal users of the Lake Okeechobee Service Area (LOSA); and increase spatial extent and functionality of wetlands.

END of TASK FORCE CONSULTATION

2:45 – 3:15 **9. Python Management - One Mission, Many Hands** Eric Sutton
Purpose: The invasive Burmese python is reproducing in south Florida and represents a significant threat to the Everglades and the entire south Florida ecosystem. Records since 1979 indicate over 9,000 Burmese pythons have been removed from Florida. The support and leadership of Governor DeSantis has helped combine the efforts of the National Parks Service, the South Florida Water Management District and the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, into a cohesive team dedicated to managing pythons in South Florida. This presentation provides a summary of the mission and current efforts of the three partners and future opportunities to control pythons in south Florida.

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3:15 – 3:45	10. Florida Coral Reef Tract Discussion <i>Purpose: To continue the discussion from the April 2019 meeting on the multi-faceted partnership response to the ongoing coral disease outbreak and its connection to Everglades restoration.</i>	Joanna Walczak Sarah Fangman
3:45 – 4:05	Public Comment	
4:05 – 4:15	Assignments, Next Steps and Closing Comments	Dr. Timothy Petty, Chair Noah Valenstein, Vice Chair
4:15	Adjourn	

Updated 10/24/19