

THE SOUTH FLORIDA ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION TASK FORCE

Updating The Strategy and Biennial Report Sub-Goal 2B and 3D: Invasive Exotic Species

JULY 2010 - JUNE 2012
STRATEGY AND BIENNIAL REPORT

Carrie Beeler and Marsha Bansee-Lee
USDOl Office of Everglades Restoration Initiatives

www.sfrestore.org

Purpose and Audience

Strategy and Biennial Report

July 1, 2012 – June 30, 2014

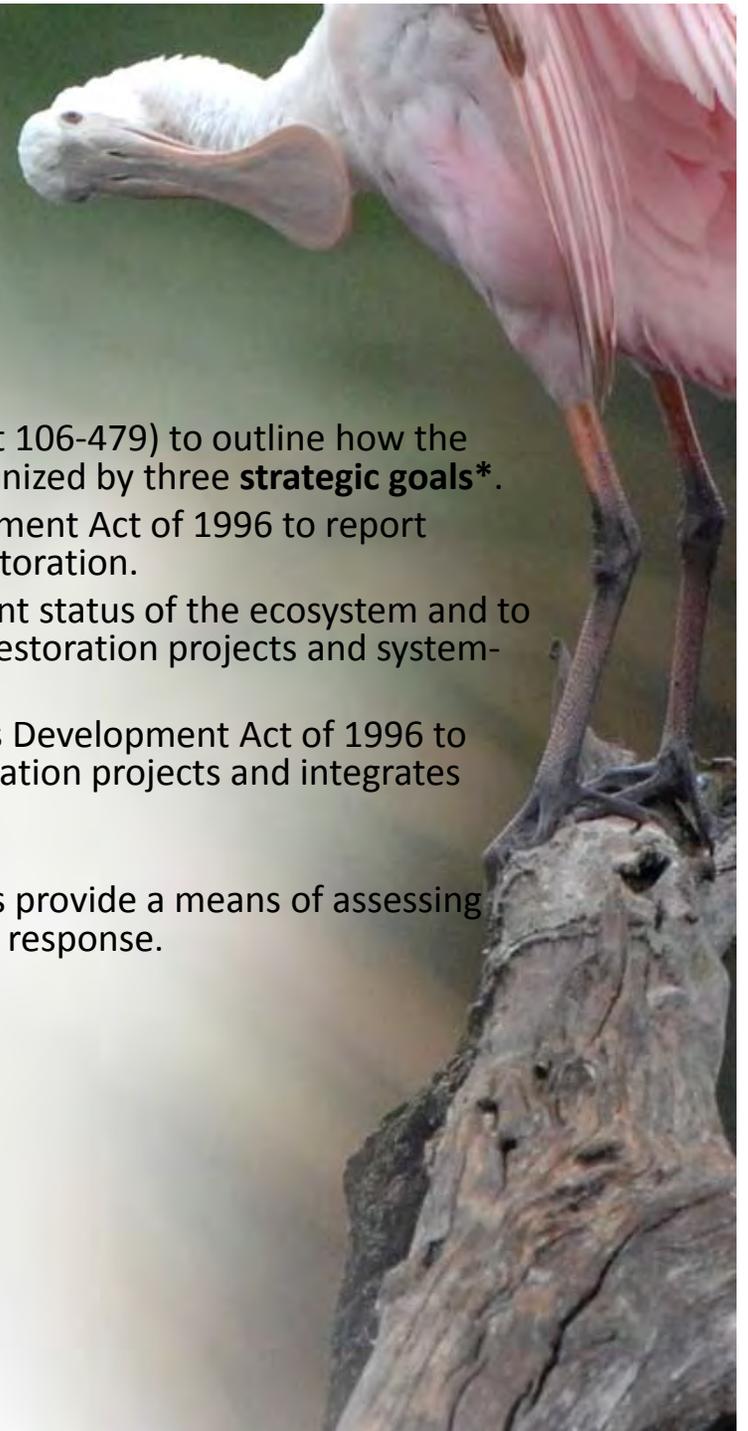
Report Purpose

- **The Strategy:** Congressional direction (House Conference Report 106-479) to outline how the restoration effort will occur and identify resources needed. Organized by three **strategic goals***.
- **Biennial Report:** Requirements of the Water Resources Development Act of 1996 to report biennially on Task Force activities and progress made toward restoration.
- **System-wide Ecological Indicators*** are used to assess the current status of the ecosystem and to track how it will respond to the implementation of the suite of restoration projects and system-wide operational changes over time.
- **Integrated Financial Plan:** Requirements of the Water Resources Development Act of 1996 to report annually on progress, status and costs of individual restoration projects and integrates financial information

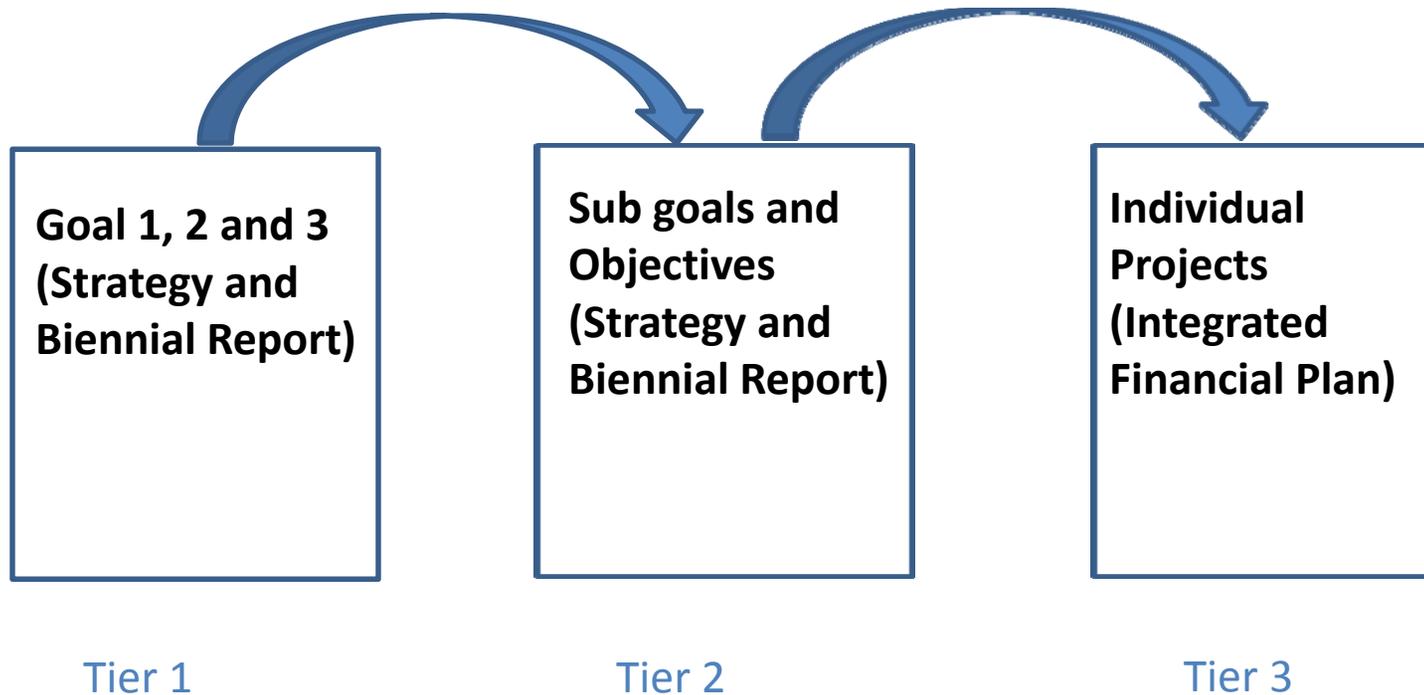
*Combined, the strategic goals and system-wide ecological indicators provide a means of assessing restoration progress via both project implementation and ecosystem response.

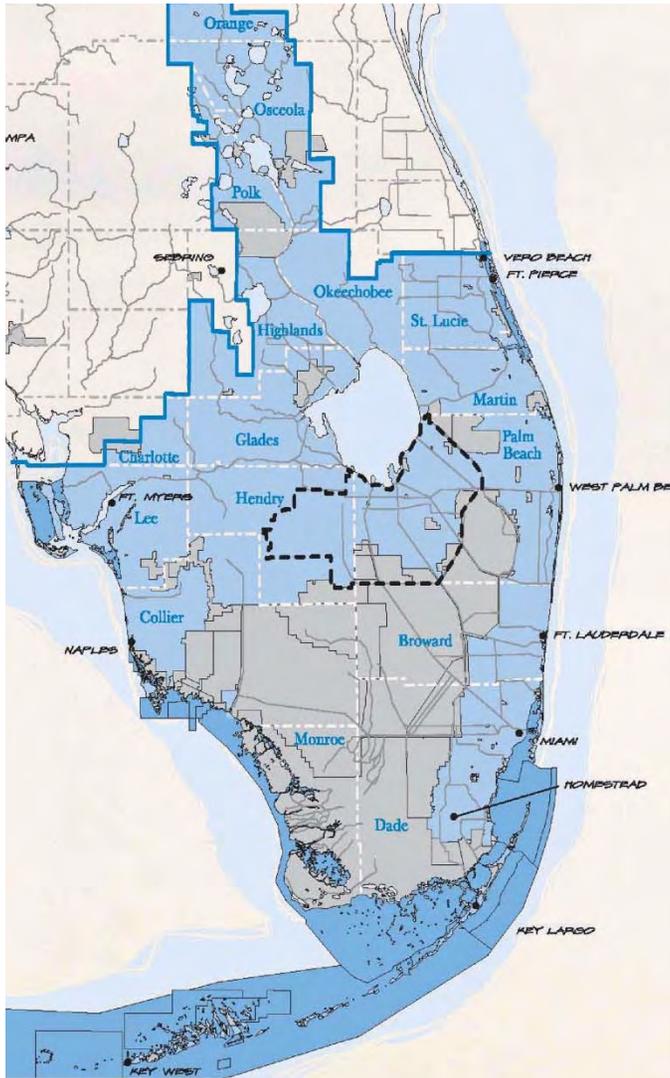
Four principal audiences:

- United States Congress
- Florida Legislature
- Seminole Tribe of Florida
- Miccosukee Tribe of Indians of Florida



How The Reports Fit Together





Vision: A healthy South Florida Ecosystem that supports diverse and sustainable communities of plants, animals, and people.

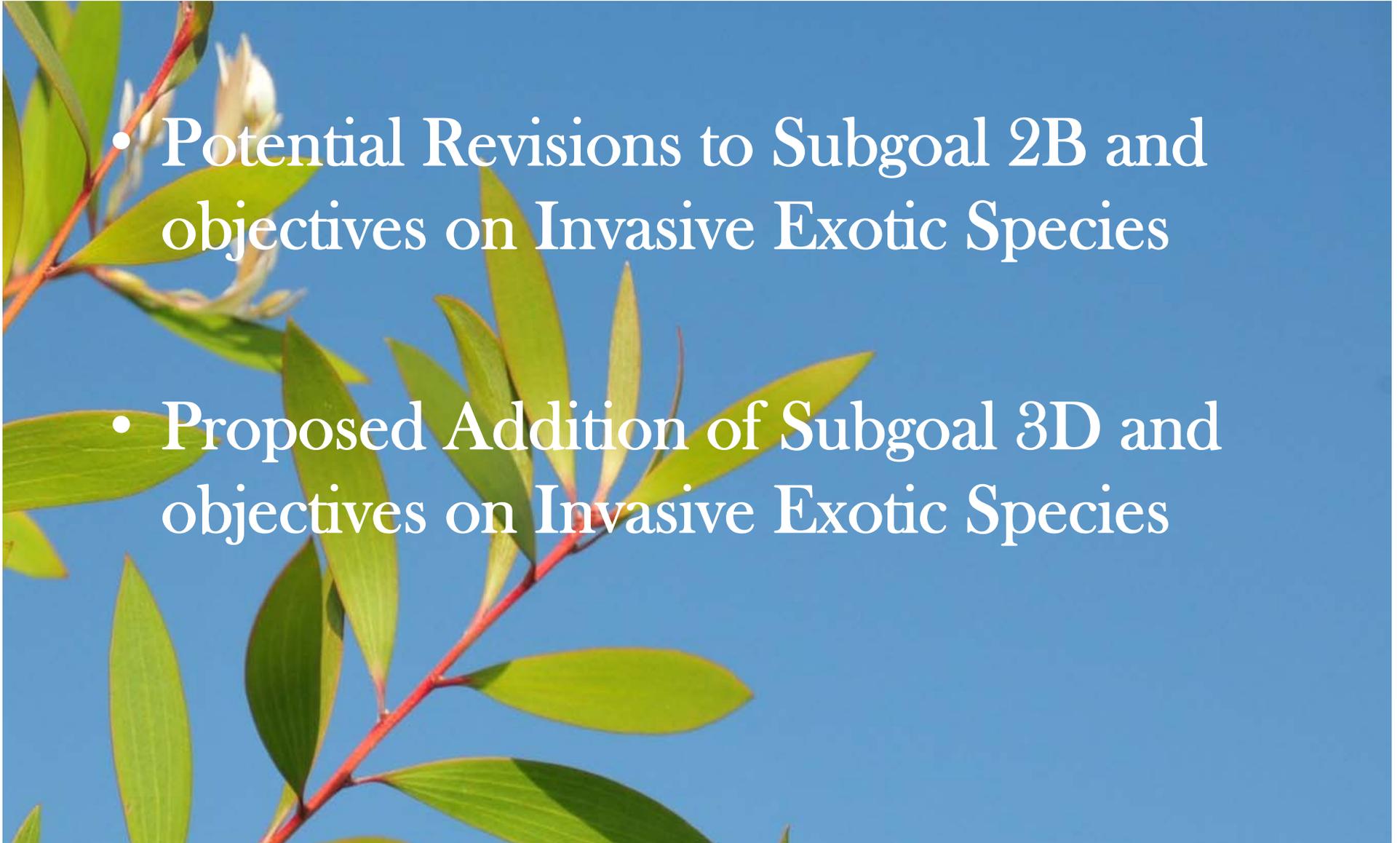
The Task Force organizes and tracks over 200 programs and projects by the three strategic goals:

- *Goal 1. Get the Water Right*
- *Goal 2. Restore, Preserve, and Protect Natural Habitats and Species*
- *Goal 3. Foster Compatibility of the Built and Natural Systems*



Working Group/Science Coordination Group Feedback Today

- Potential Revisions to Subgoal 2B and objectives on Invasive Exotic Species
- Proposed Addition of Subgoal 3D and objectives on Invasive Exotic Species





Invasive Exotic Species Strategic Action Framework

Vision *The South Florida Ecosystem, including America's Everglades, its environmental, economic, and cultural values and human health, is protected from the harmful effects of invasive exotic species.*

Strategic Goals

- Goal 1: Prevent the introduction of invasive exotic species.
- Goal 2: Eradicate Invasive Exotic Species by Implementing Early Detection and Rapid Response (EDRR).
- Goal 3: Contain the spread of invasive exotic species.
- Goal 4: Reduce the populations of widely established invasive exotic species and maintain at lowest feasible levels.

2010-2012 Strategy & Biennial Report

Goal 2: Restore, Preserve, & Protect Natural Habitats & Species

Subgoal 2-A: Restore, Preserve, & Protect Natural Habitats

- Objective 2-A.1: Complete acquisition of 5.7 million acres of land identified for habitat protection by 2020.
- Objective 2-A.2: Protect 20 percent of the coral reefs by 2015.
- Objective 2-A.3: Improve habitat quality for 2.4 million acres of natural areas in south Florida.

Subgoal 2-B: Control Invasive Exotic Plants & Animals

- Objective 2-B.1: Achieve maintenance control of Brazilian pepper, Melaleuca, Australian pine, and Old World climbing fern on south Florida's public conservation lands by 2020.
- Objective 2-B.2: Release two biological control insects per year for the control of invasive exotic plants.
- Objective 2-B.3: Achieve eradication of Gambian pouch rat by 2014.



Invasive Exotic Species Strategic Action Framework

Subgoal 2B: Protect The South Florida Ecosystem from the harmful effects of invasive exotic species.

Objectives

Objective 2-B.1: Prevent the introduction of invasive exotic species.

Objective 2-B.2: Eradicate Invasive Exotic Species by Implementing Early Detection and Rapid Response (EDRR).

Goal 2-B.3: Contain the spread of invasive exotic species.

Goal 2-B.4: Reduce the populations of widely established invasive exotic species and maintain at lowest feasible levels

Potential Approach for Updating Sub-Goal 2B:

Subgoal 2-B: Protect The South Florida Ecosystem from the harmful effects of invasive exotic species.

Objective 2-B.1: Prevent the introduction of invasive exotic species.

Objective 2-B.2: Eradicate Invasive Exotic Species by Early Detection and Rapid Response.

Objective 2-B.3: Contain the spread of invasive exotic species.

Objective 2-B.4: Reduce the populations of widely established invasive exotic species and maintain at lowest feasible levels.

POTENTIAL Subgoal 2-B Protect The South Florida Ecosystem from the harmful Effects of invasive exotic species. July 2012–June 2014

Objective	Projects	Status
<u>Prevention</u> Objective 2-B.1: Prevent the introduction of invasive exotic species.	Other Existing Projects	
<u>EDRR</u> Objective 2-B.2: Eradicate Invasive Exotic Species through Early Detection and Rapid Response.	Develop and implement a FWS Florida Invasive Species Strike Team [Project ID 2504]	Implementation: Ongoing
	Eradication of Gambian Pouch Rat [Project ID 2700]	Implementation: Ongoing
<u>Containment</u> Objective 2-B.3: Contain the spread of invasive exotic species	Other Existing Projects	
<u>Long-Term Maintenance and Control</u> Objective 2-B.4: Reduce the populations of widely established invasive exotic species and maintain at lowest feasible levels.	Invasive Exotic Plants Control in Terrestrial and Aquatic Natural Systems [Project ID 2502]	Implementation: Maintenance control of Melaleuca achieved in most regions of the Everglades Protection Area
	Invasive Species Research and Information Exchange [Project ID 2503]	Implementation: Ongoing
	C&SF:CERP - Melaleuca Eradication and Other Exotic Plants [Project ID 2505]	Construction: Rearing facility under construction. Completion expected October 2012
	Everglades National Park Exotic Control Program [Project ID 2506]	Implementation: Ongoing
	Hole-in-the-Donut [Project ID 2507]	Implementation: Ongoing
	Aquatic and Upland Invasive Plant Management [Project ID 2508]	Implementation: Ongoing
	Exotic Species Removal [Project ID 2509]	Implementation: Ongoing
	Melaleuca Biological Control Agents [Project ID 2602]	Implementation: Ongoing

Project Sheet Example

Detailed Project Budget Information (\$1000s)

Program Name: Invasive Exotic Species Management
Project Name: Develop and Implement a FWS Invasive Species Strike Team (ISST)
Project ID: 2504
Lead Agency: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)
Funding Source: Federal
Goal(s) Addressed: ~~2.B.1~~ 2.B.2

	Thru 2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	Balance to complete	Total
Federal	2,890	978	1,200	2739	1494	1494	N/A	6,795
State								
Tribal								
Local								
Other								
Total	2,890	978	1,200	739	494	494	N/A	6,795

Measurable Output(s): Project acres treated including Early Detection Rapid Response (EDRR) projects, gross area surveyed, actual infested acres treated, cost per acre, herbicide amounts utilized, prioritized lists of invasive plants and animals, modify or enhanced control methods, funding totals, invasive exotic plant species targeted, inventory and monitoring methodologies for invasive plants and animals, treatment effectiveness, assessment and evaluation.

Project Synopsis: Secure and appropriate Congressional funding to develop and implement a highly mobile FWS Invasive Species Strike Team (2-member) to rapidly respond to, and control incipient or newly established infestations (EDRR) of highly invasive exotic species (plants and animals) occurring on National Wildlife Refuges (NWRs) in Florida. The Region 4 Invasive Species Strike Team (R4 ISST) will provide administration, funding and oversight support for projects involving control and treatment of moderate and dense infestations of invasive exotic plants utilizing highly specialized and experienced exotic plant contractors on SE and Florida NWRs. In addition, the R4 ISST will provide technical assistance to Florida and SE NWR refuge managers and staff concerning invasive species identification, control and management, and lastly, will represent the interest of the FWS on associated invasive species task forces or working groups, i.e., Noxious Exotic Weed Task Team, Florida Invasive Animal Task Team and regional Cooperative Invasive Species Management Areas (CISMA) established throughout peninsular Florida.

Current Status: The FWS Invasive Species Strike Team was implemented and became operational as of October 1, 2004 (FY05), and will continue operations for purposes for which established assuming recurring Congressional cyclical funding allocations are received. The FWS ISST works collaboratively with all other local, county, state and federal agencies, and NGOs concerning invasive species management in the Everglades and throughout Florida. Measurable output information identified above is updated regularly in both ECOSTEMS and WEEDAR exotic tracking databases

Estimated Cost: ≥\$10 million

Project Schedule:

Start Date: October 1, 2004

Finish Date: N/A

Contact: William G. Thomas, Jr. Region 4
 Invasive Species Strike Team
 Leader, USFWS,
William_G_Thomas@fws.gov

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Goal 3: Foster Compatibility of the Built & Natural Systems

Subgoal 3-A: Use & Manage Land in a Manner Compatible with Ecosystem Restoration

- Objective 3-A.1: Designate or acquire an additional 10,000 acres of lands needed for parks, recreation, and open space to complement South Florida Ecosystem restoration through local, state, and federal programs by 2015.
- Objective 3-A.2: Increase participation by 350,000 acres in the Grassland Reserve Program, Wetland Reserve Program, Farm and Ranch Land Protection Program, and the Environmental Quality Incentive Program to promote compatibility between agricultural production and South Florida Ecosystem restoration by 2014.
- Objective 3-A.3: Increase the use of educational programs and initiatives to further public and local government understanding of the benefits of South Florida Ecosystem restoration.

Subgoal 3-B: Maintain or Improve Flood Protection in a Manner Compatible with Ecosystem Restoration

- Objective 3-B.1: Objective 3-B.1: Maintain or improve existing levels of flood protection for the urban, agricultural, and natural environments.
- Objective 3-B.2: Objective 3-B.2: Rehabilitate the Herbert Hoover Dike to provide adequate levels of flood protection to the communities and lands surrounding Lake Okeechobee.

Subgoal 3-C: Provide Sufficient Water Resources for the Built & Natural Systems

- Objective 3-C.1: Plan for regional water supply needs.
- Objective 3-C.2: Increase volumes of reuse on a regional basis.
- Objective 3-C.3: Increase water made available through the state's Water Protection and Sustainability Program and the SFWMD Alternative Water Supply Development Program.

Proposed Approach for Adding Sub-Goal 3D

Goal 3: Foster Compatibility of the Built & Natural Systems

Subgoal 3D: Reduce Invasive Exotic Species Pathways Originating from the Built Environment

- Objective 3-D.1:** Increase awareness of the impacts of invasive exotic species on south Florida's environment, economy, cultural values, and human health.
- Objective 3-D.2:** Continue existing and develop new partnerships that focus on reducing pathways.

Potential: Subgoal 3-D Reduce Invasive Exotic Species Pathways Originating from the Built Environment. July 2012–June 2014

Objective	Projects	Status
<p><u>Outreach and Education</u></p> <p>Objective 3-D.1: Increase awareness of the impacts of invasive exotic species on the South Florida ecosystem, economy, cultural values and public health</p>	Other Existing Projects	
	Other Existing Projects	
	Other Existing Projects	
	Other Existing Projects	
<p><u>Partnerships</u></p> <p>Objective 3-D.2: Continue existing and develop new partnerships that focus on reducing pathways.</p>	Other Existing Projects	
	Other Existing Projects	
	Other Existing Projects	
	Other Existing Projects	

2014 Strategy and Biennial Report Timeline

- **March:** *Strategy and Biennial Report* document was distributed to POCs for update
- **April 18:** Updated *Strategy and Biennial Report* information due
- **May:** *Integrated Financial Plan* sheets distributed for update
- **June:** Second draft of the *Strategy and Biennial Report* distributed to WG and SCG for comments, *Integrated Financial Plan project sheets due*
- **July:** Second draft of the *Strategy and Biennial Report* comments due
- **September:** Third and Final drafts of the *Strategy and Biennial Report* distributed to TF, WG and SCG
- **October/November:** Final *Strategy and Biennial Report* on Task Force meeting agenda for approval



DISCUSSION