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What is RECOVER?

RECOVER (REStoration COordination & VERification) provides essential support to the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (CERP) in meeting its goals and purposes. RECOVER does this by applying a system-wide perspective to the planning and implementation of the CERP. RECOVER is a multi-agency team of scientists, modelers, planners and resource specialists who organize and apply scientific and technical information in ways that are most effective in supporting the objectives of CERP. The RECOVER team conducts scientific and technical evaluations and assessments for improving CERP's ability to restore, preserve and protect the south Florida ecosystem while providing for the region's other water-related needs. RECOVER communicates and coordinates the results of these evaluations and assessments to managers, decision makers and the public.

A CRITICAL MISSION

RECOVER plays a critical role in organizing and coordinating the many components of CERP. This mission is accomplished through three kinds of activities:

1. **Evaluation** – to evaluate, using numerical modeling and other tools, the performance of project and program plans and designs to ensure that they are fully linked to the system-wide goals and purposes of CERP.
2. **Assessment** – to develop and implement an appropriate ecological monitoring program in order to establish pre-restoration environmental conditions and track and define ecological response as restoration progresses. To provide the system-wide science perspective necessary to prudently ensure projects meet intended objectives and to guide planning and operations in order to maximize benefits to the natural system.
3. **Planning** – to identify and provide analyses regarding potential improvements in the design and operation of the CERP, consistent with the CERP objectives and to strive for consensus regarding scientific and technical aspects of the CERP.

OBJECTIVES

The RECOVER mission – evaluation, assessment and planning – is supported by three objectives:

- Evaluate and assess CERP performance
- Suggest refinements and improvements to the CERP during implementation and
- Ensure that a system-wide perspective is maintained throughout the restoration program

Specific tasks to be carried out by RECOVER include:

- Recommendation of interim goals for the CERP
- Development of performance measures
- Evaluations of system-wide impacts attributable to specific projects
- Evaluation and integration of new scientific information
- Development and implementation of a monitoring plan

For a complete and more detailed list and discussion of RECOVER activities, please see the RECOVER and Adaptive Assessment and Monitoring Project Management Plans located at:

www.evergladesplan.org/pm/recover/recover_docs/mgmt_plan/rec_pmp_final_aug_2004.pdf

and

www.evergladesplan.org/pm/recover/recover_docs/mgmt_plan/rec_aam_pmp_final_aug_2004.pdf

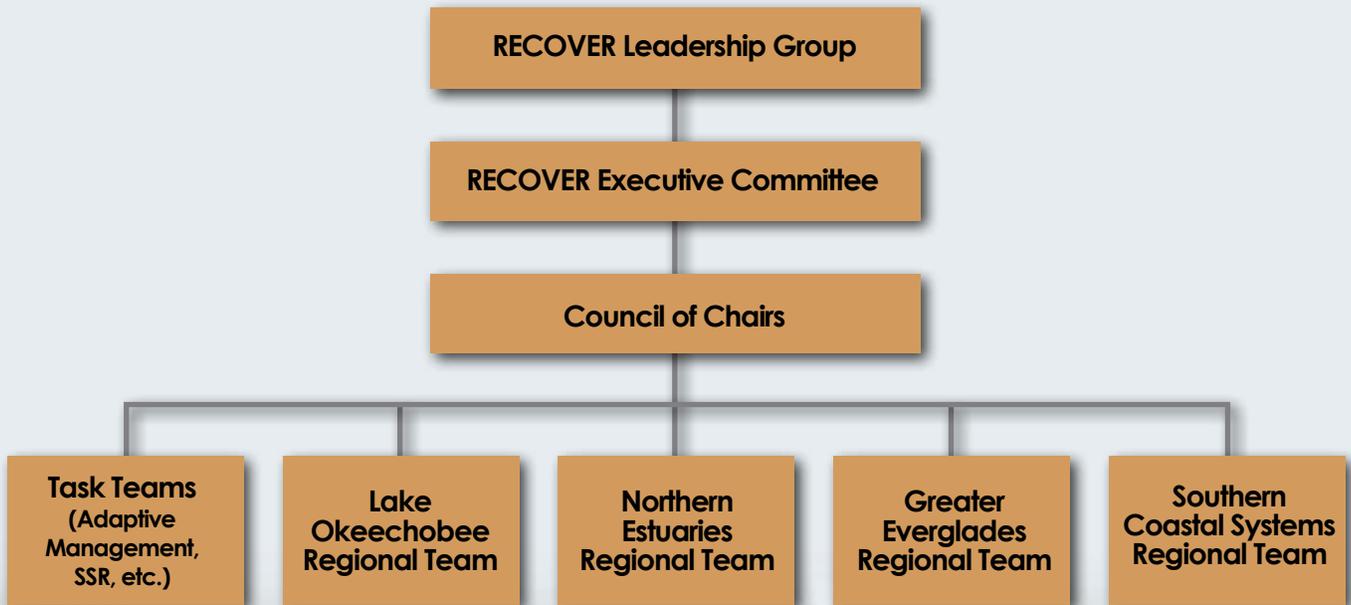


How does RECOVER work?

In order to meet these objectives, RECOVER is organized into a leadership group, an executive committee, a Council of Chairs and interagency, interdisciplinary task teams. The RECOVER Leadership Group presides over a Council of Chairs and Regional Teams that execute work for RECOVER's integration of planning, evaluation, and assessment activities. Overall management of the RECOVER process is performed by two program managers, one each from the South Florida Water Management District and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.



How is RECOVER Organized?



What products and support does RECOVER provide?

PERFORMANCE MEASURES

Guide evaluation of project designs and assessment of CERP performance. www.evergladesplan.org/pm/recover/eval_team_perf_measures.aspx

SYSTEM STATUS REPORT

Assessment of recent monitoring data that provides a baseline against which CERP performance will be measured. www.evergladesplan.org/pm/ssr_2009/ssr_main.aspx

SCIENTIFIC KNOWLEDGE GAINED DOCUMENT

Comprehensive summary of new scientific and technical knowledge gained since 2000. www.evergladesplan.org/shared-definition/sd_2010.aspx

CERP ADAPTIVE MANAGEMENT GUIDANCE

Describes how to apply adaptive management to the CERP program and projects (e.g., CERP Adaptive Management Integration Guide and CERP Guidance Memorandum 56). www.evergladesplan.org/pm/program_docs/adaptive_mgmt.aspx

CONCEPTUAL ECOLOGICAL MODELS

A set of qualitative descriptions of how the system works (i.e., the relationship between drivers, stressors, and attributes), used as a planning tool. www.evergladesplan.org/pm/recover/cems.aspx

TECHNICAL REPORTS ON SYSTEM-WIDE PERFORMANCE OF CERP

Simulates and evaluate CERP projects and their performance (e.g., 2015 Band 1 Report). www.evergladesplan.org/pm/recover/band_1_report.aspx

MONITORING AND ASSESSMENT PLAN

System-wide monitoring and assessment plan used to track and measure the performance of CERP. www.evergladesplan.org/pm/recover/recover_map.aspx

SUPPORT TO PROJECTS

Assistance with performance measure development, regional evaluations, adaptive management plans, and more. www.evergladesplan.org/pm/recover/rap_assist_projects.aspx



RECOVER adheres to the following principles:

RESTORATION

The goal of restoration is the recovery and sustainability of the defining characteristics of the greater Everglades ecosystem.

SCIENCE-BASED APPROACH

Incorporates objective and fact-driven investigations, constructive debate, and peer review.

TRANSPARENCY AND ACCESS

Offers transparency and universal access to tools and data.

CONSENSUS-BUILDING

Uses fair processes and strives to reach consensus on conclusions and proposals.

INCLUSIVENESS

Uses multi-governmental and interdisciplinary collaboration to foster inclusiveness.

ACCOUNTABILITY

Meets schedules, maintains professional responsibilities and efficiently provides quality products for CERP processes and teams.

ADAPTIVE MANAGEMENT

Addresses uncertainties by testing hypotheses, linking science to decision making and adjusting implementation to improve the probability of restoration success.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES



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The RECOVER Leadership Group (RLG) is a team that consists of the two RECOVER program managers and one member of each of the following:

- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
- National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- U.S. Geological Survey
- National Park Service
- Miccosukee Tribe of Indians of Florida
- Seminole Tribe of Florida
- Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services
- Florida Department of Environmental Protection
- Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission

The roles of the Leadership Group are to:

- Approve the annual RECOVER work plan and prioritization of tasks
- Provide input during development of major RECOVER work products
- Review and approve major RECOVER products such as the System Status Report (SSR), the Monitoring and Assessment Plan (MAP), etc.
- Select the Council of Chairs
- Identify and develop consensus positions communicated by the RECOVER Executive Committee (REC) on system-wide science-based issues needing elevation to senior management, policy and stakeholder organizations
- Identify agency/tribal staff members to participate on RECOVER Regional and/or Task Teams



RECOVER Leadership Group

DAVE TIPPLE

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

David.A.Tipple@usace.army.mil
(904) 232-1375

BOB PROGULSKE

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Bob_Progulske@fws.gov
(772) 469-4299

ERIC HUGHES

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Hughes.Eric@epa.gov
(904) 232-2464

REBECCA ELLIOT

Florida Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services

relliott@sfwmd.gov
(561) 682-6040

SUSAN GRAY

South Florida Water Management District

sgray@sfwmd.gov
(561) 682-6919

CAROL MITCHELL

National Park Service

Carol_Mitchell@nps.gov
(305) 224-4253

MICHELLE WOOD

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

Michelle.Wood@noaa.gov
(305) 361-4374

TERRY RICE

Miccosukee Tribe of Indians of Florida

TLRiceLLC@comcast.net
(786) 897-1021

BARRY ROSEN

U.S. Geological Survey

brosen@usgs.gov
(407) 803-5508

CHERISE MAPLES

Seminole Tribe of Florida

cmaples@semtribe.com
(954) 965-4380 x10632

MICHAEL ANDERSON

Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission

Michael.Anderson@myfwc.com
(561) 625-5133

CHAD KENNEDY

Florida Department of Environmental Protection

William.C.Kennedy@dep.state.fl.us
(561) 681-6706



FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE VISIT

www.evergladesplan.org/pm/recover/recover.aspx

You may also find additional information pertaining to upcoming meetings and workshops on

www.evergladesplan.org/calendar/Default.aspx