

Everglades Operations, Restoration, and Endangered Species Recovery Workshop

Agenda

Miccosukee Casino and Resort September 11, 2024

Purpose: To gather experts from various organizations to discuss factors related to operations, monitoring, and recovery of the Everglades ecosystem and the wildlife that depend on the habitat within that ecosystem. Special emphasis will be placed on the recovery and protection of endangered species. Panelists will discuss:

9:00 AM – 9:30 AM	Arrival, coffee and continental breakfast refreshments
9:30 AM – 10:15 AM	Welcome and introductions, opening statements from Tribal and agency leadership, workshop format
10:15 AM – 10:55 AM	ITEK (Indigenous Traditional Ecological Knowledge) <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Summary of previous IK statements from MTIF to set historical context and legacy of realized impacts in central Everglades for current discussion and workshop
11:00 AM – 11:30 AM	Meeting break
11:30 AM – 12:30 PM	Endangered Species within the Everglades Ecosystem <ul style="list-style-type: none">• T/E status/trends in MWCA3A and beyond• Impacts of current operations on wide array of non-listed species
12:30 PM – 1:30 PM	Lunch
1:30 PM – 2:15 PM	Cape Sable Seaside Sparrow Recovery <ul style="list-style-type: none">• New opportunities for habitat identification/land management and enhancement• CSSS captive breeding program and demographic study
2:15 PM – 3:15 PM	Water Management Operations within the Central Everglades <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Define conditions-based water operations approach, contrasted with date-based operations

- Identify capacity and options to send water to other parts of the system, including the intracoastal waterway, to reduce high water and ponding in MWCA3A
- Discussion of proactive approaches toward water management that takes cues from the environment and allows for system variability and stress

3:15 PM – 3:25 PM

Meeting break

3:30 PM – 4:15 PM

RECOVER Monitoring for the Everglades

- SW Florida Module development of CEMs, HCs, indicators, and performance metrics to result in a robust monitoring and assessment plan
- Opportunity to learn more by testing targeted water management and land management actions
- The connection between the primary and secondary productivity downstream of MWCA3A and south of Tamiami Trail and a better balance of flows through the system and across the Trail
- Prioritizing Lostman's Slough and the downstream Fertile Crescent wading bird colonies as a desired outcome to serve as a powerful indicator of positive/negative Everglades water management

4:15 PM – 5:00 PM

Future Conditions and Projects

- Possibility of modeling water operations after a more historic, balanced open flow of water that connects the central Everglades/Big Cypress flow ways to the coastal estuaries
- Highlight importance of pre-WERP construction activities to provide benefits (e.g., L-28 tieback levee culverts and other planned bridges/culverts between 40 and 50 mile bend that re-connect Lostman's Slough to Mullet Slough)

5:00 – 5:15

Closing remarks and adjournment