

What are the top Everglades Restoration or other regional issues that the Connectivity Team should focus on?

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BBSEER - Biscayne Bay Southeastern Everglades Ecosystem Restoration plan (Part of CERP). Designed to rehydrate wetlands in Biscayne; includes FL Bay and C-111 canal.

Ballast water. Awareness of this as a potential issue was raised with coral disease; ballast water is sometimes exchanged in FKNMS. Even if not focused, recognize this as a potential threat.

✓
Sequencing and timing of Everglades Projects, so the Team can calendar opportunities for engagement. Integrated Delivery Schedule (IDS).

Turkey Point. Keep aware of developments here (cooling canals, possible expansion, use of treated wastewater).

Urban pollution inputs. Miami has untreated stormwater, failing septic tanks, etc. Consider connectivity of these urban nutrient loads.

Regulatory Changes. The State of Florida recently assumed permitting authority of section 404 of the CWA.

Consider northern projects as well. Ensure the Team is informing the SAC and community about the bigger picture connectivity of these to the Keys.

Ecosystem threats (have as a standing agenda item). Attempts to commercialize and expand Homestead Air Reserve. Expand Oil Drilling in Big Cypress National Preserve.

Southern Everglades Study (white portion of Integrated Delivery Schedule - IDS). This has not started yet but may affect Taylor Slough/Florida Bay.

Funding for restoration is the #1 challenge. There is an opportunity for SAC to understand USACE civil works budgets/how all federal money flows (this is a driver and limitation).

✓
Combined Operational Plan (COP). Projected water releases/management for the coming year. What is different/how can releases be handled? What can we expect?

Lake O System Operations Manual (LOSOM) updates can potentially affect northern estuaries and provide ecological benefits to the Keys.

DEP has process to identify/correct impaired waters, including an effort in the Keys. Ag/mainland non-point sources are included in BMAPs created by DEP. *Resource for corrective actions being implemented.

Influence of contaminants and toxicants (microplastics, personal care products, petroleum products, etc.) in the water that can potential influence the health of the ecosystem.

✓
Everglades Restoration 101!

Mainland visitors to FKNMS. How does the SAC/FKNMS reach these visitors to help them responsibly recreate?

Agriculture and potential pollution entering Florida Bay/coastal waters? (at least learn more to determine if it should be a priority focus area).

✓
Closure of mainland wastewater outfalls (slated for closure in a few years; keep up to date on this).

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Everglades Restoration-Related Topics



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Other Regional Issues

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