

RECOVER

Restoration COordination & VERification

February 2007

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.

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** – working with project development teams to evaluate and maximize the contribution made by each project to the system-wide performance of CERP
2. **Assessment** – measuring and interpreting actual responses in the natural and human systems as CERP projects are brought on line
3. **Planning and Integration** – identifying potential improvements in the design and operation of CERP, consistent with plan objectives, and striving for consensus among agencies regarding scientific and technical aspects of the restoration plan

Objectives

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

- Evaluate and assess Comprehensive Plan Performance
- Develop refinements and improvements in the design and operational criteria of the plan during the implementation period
- Review the effects that other restoration projects may have on the performance of the Comprehensive Plan and ensure that a system-wide perspective is maintained the throughout restoration process

Specific tasks to be carried out by **RECOVER** include:

- Recommendation of interim goals for the plan
- 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 section of Appendix F of the Master Program Management Plan at <http://www.evergladesplan.org/pm/mpmp.cfm>.

How does RECOVER work?

In order to meet these objectives, **RECOVER** has been organized into three interagency, interdisciplinary task teams and an overall coordinating or leadership group. The **RECOVER** Leadership Group presides over an Assessment Team, a Planning Team, and an Evaluation Team. Each of these teams offers up to date meeting documents, reports and other pertinent documents produced by each team or group. 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.



The roles of the Leadership Group are to:

- Provide scientific oversight for CERP implementation
- Set overall priorities for **RECOVER**
- Coordinate the application of available resources and personnel among the teams to best focus on priority tasks
- Review and revise the tasks and teams where needed to ensure that **RECOVER** meets its objectives
- Issue the annual report card
- Ensure appropriate public and agency review of **RECOVER** documents
- Refine the overall vision of success for the Comprehensive Plan
- Make recommendations pertaining to the **RECOVER** budget
- Develop and Implement the CERP Adaptive Management Program

Interdisciplinary Teams

The **RECOVER** Leadership Group 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





◆ **Evaluation Team**

The **RECOVER** Evaluation Team is primarily responsible for forecasting the performance of plans and the designs relative to desired objectives by using predictive modeling and other tools.

Specifically these task are to:

- 1) Develop and refine regional evaluation performance measures
- 2) Review project-level goals, objectives, and performance measures from a system-wide perspective
- 3) Support the development and refinement of needed predictive models and tools
- 4) Evaluate alternative project plans and system-wide planning activities

◆ **Assessment Team**

The **RECOVER** Assessment Team is responsible for measuring the actual performance of implemented projects and interpreting that performance based on the analysis of information obtained from research, monitoring, modeling, or other relevant resources.

These tasks are to:

- 1) Create, refine and provide documentation for a set of conceptual ecological models for the total system
- 2) Create and refine a set of attribute-based biological performance measures for the Comprehensive Plan
- 3) Design and review the system-wide monitoring and data management program
- 4) Assess actual system responses as components of the Comprehensive Plan are implemented
- 5) Coordinate all scientific peer reviews of RECOVER documents.

◆ **Planning Team**

The **RECOVER** Planning Team has the lead responsibility for recommending refinements and improvements to the CERP throughout the implementation period. The **RECOVER** Planning Team is the “keeper” of information on the most current version of the CERP and “without project” conditions.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES	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 – Seeks continuous improvement in the Plan and its operations by using and building upon existing science and technology.	

Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan

RECOVER Leadership Group (RLG)

Assessment Team (AT)

Evaluation Team (ET)

Planning Team (PT)

RECOVER Program Managers

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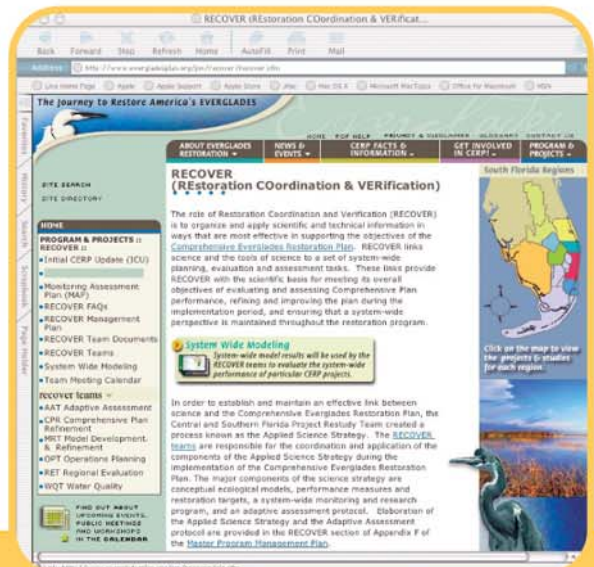
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For more detailed information on RECOVER please visit <http://www.evergladesplan.org/pm/recover/recover.cfm>. You may also find additional information pertaining to upcoming meetings and workshops on <http://www.evergladesplan.org/calendar/calendarIndex.cfm>.



A partnership of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, South Florida Water Management District and many other federal, state, local and tribal partners.