

NOVEMBER 2019

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 CERP's objectives. The RECOVER team conducts scientific and technical evaluations and assessments for improving the 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 the 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 the 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.
- Ensure that a system-wide perspective is maintained throughout the restoration program.

Specific tasks to be carried out by RECOVER include:

- Recommend interim goals for the CERP.
- Develop performance measures.
- Evaluate system-wide impacts attributable to specific projects.
- Evaluate and integrate new scientific information.
- Develop and implement 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:

https://www.saj.usace.army.mil/RECOVER/Adaptive_Mgmt

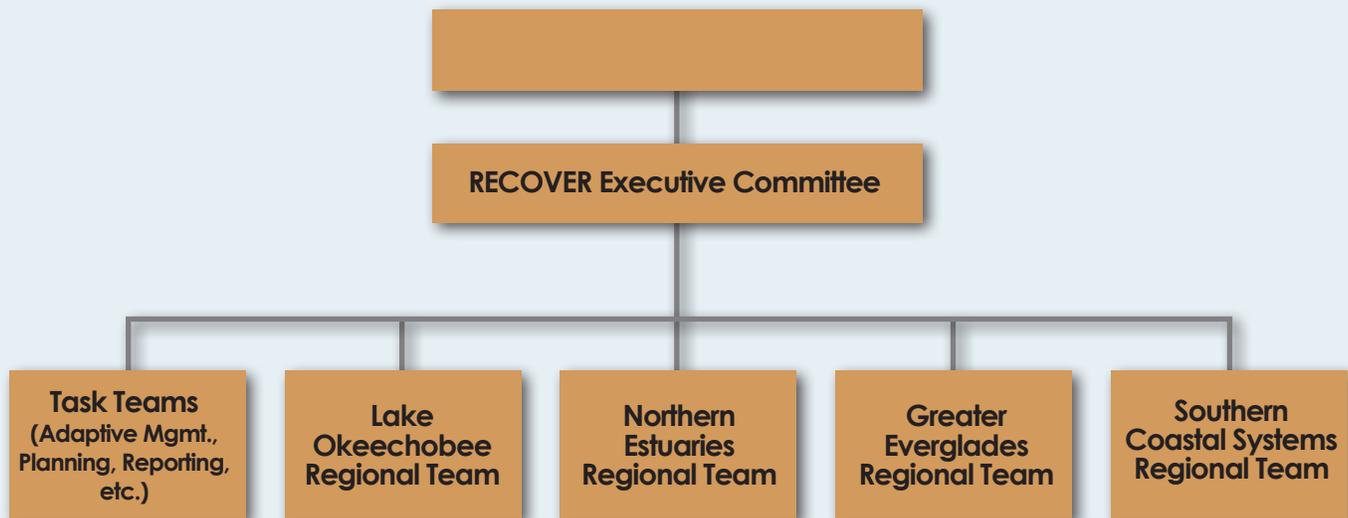


How does RECOVER work?

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?

SYSTEM STATUS REPORT (2019)

Biennial assessment of recent monitoring data that provides a baseline against which CERP performance will be measured. <https://evergladesecohealth.org/>

PERFORMANCE MEASURES*

Guide evaluation of project designs and assessment of CERP performance.

SCIENTIFIC KNOWLEDGE GAINED DOCUMENT*

Comprehensive summary of new scientific and technical knowledge gained since 2000.

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).

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.

TECHNICAL REPORTS ON SYSTEM-WIDE PERFORMANCE OF CERP

Simulates and evaluates CERP projects and their performance. <https://evergladesrestoration.gov/ssr> (System Status Reports 2006-2014)

MONITORING AND ASSESSMENT PLAN*

System-wide monitoring and assessment plan used to track and measure the performance of CERP.

SUPPORT TO PROJECTS*

Assistance with performance measure development, regional evaluations, adaptive management plans, and more.

**Available on request*



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, 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.



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

These are the roles of the RLG:

- Approve the annual RECOVER work plan and task prioritization.
- Provide input during development of major RECOVER work products.
- Review and approve major RECOVER products such as the System Status Report, Monitoring and Assessment Plan, etc.
- Identify and develop consensus positions communicated by the RECOVER Executive Committee 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

DONNA GEORGE
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Donna.S.George@usace.army.mil
(904) 232-1766

GRETCHEN EHLINGER
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Gretchen.S.Ehlinger@usace.army.mil
(904) 232-1766

PATTI GORMAN
South Florida Water
Management District
pgorman@sfwmd.gov
(561) 682-2432

BARRY ROSEN
U.S. Geological Survey
BRosen@usgs.gov
(407) 803-5508

BOB PROGULSKE
U.S. Fish and Wildlife
Services
Bob_Progulske@fws.gov
(772) 469-4299

DAVID RUDNICK
National Park Service
David_Rudnick@nps.gov
(305) 338-3508

STACY MYERS
Seminole Tribe of Florida
StacyMyers@semtribe.com
(954) 965-4380 ext.10632

CECELIA ANN HARPER
U.S. Environmental
Protection Agency
Harper.Cecelia@epa.gov
(470) 249-3125

JOAN BROWDER
National Oceanic
and Atmospheric
Administration
Joan.Browder@noaa.gov
(786) 242-5988

MICHAEL ANDERSON
Florida Fish and Wildlife
Conservation Commission
Michael.Anderson@myfwc.com
(561) 625-5133

REBECCA ELLIOT
Florida Department of
Agriculture & Consumer
Services
RElliott@sfwmd.gov
(561) 682-6040

GENE DUNCAN
Miccosukee Tribe of Indians
of Florida
GeneD@miccosukeetribe.com
(786) 298-6767

PAUL JULIAN
Florida Department of
Environmental Protection
Paul.Julian@dep.state.fl.us
(561) 408-2465



FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE VISIT:

<http://www.saj.usace.army.mil/Missions/Environmental/Ecosystem-Restoration/RECOVER/>