

South Florida Restoration Science Forum

<http://sofia.usgs.gov/sfrsf> • Kick Off May 17-19, 1999

The Embassy Suites Hotel, Boca Raton, FL



Kissimmee River canal and test fill



Lake Okeechobee



Everglades



Florida Bay



Old World Climbing Fern (exotic)



Asian Swamp Eel (exotic)



Urban Sprawl

Why you should attend – The Forum will highlight the powerful connection between science and management decisions in restoration efforts. You will see first-hand how the public's investment in science is paying off in support of better management decisions and restoration of imperiled south Florida Ecosystems – including the internationally recognized, globally significant Everglades. It will afford a unique opportunity for elected officials and other policy- and decision-makers, along with the general public, to see – under one roof – highlights of the most significant restoration science and management efforts underway.

The Forum participants will see displays showing the links between science and management decisions, discuss how to strengthen those links, and interact with the scientists doing the work.

Why the Forum is important – The Forum promotes the link between science and management. Scientists and decision-makers will come together to discuss the needs of each, in order to ensure that the plans for restoration are based in science, and are both the most cost-effective and highest quality possible. Continued vigilance over south Florida ecosystems is essential to prevent further harm and to restore them.

■ **EXHIBITS, DISPLAYS, AND BRIEFINGS:** Three floors of entrance exhibits and display rooms will help communicate the connection between science and sound resource management decisions. Staffed by scientists who actually do the work, the exhibits and displays will range from general overviews to more technically-oriented presentations. Each display is tied to a world-wide-web page for more detailed or related information. Forum attendees will be led in small groups to all or desired portions of the displays. Technology briefings provide instruction on current tools and resources that are available to help scientists and managers.

■ **RESTORATION CASE STUDIES:** Four speakers will present south Florida restoration case studies and will describe the strong links between science and management. A panel discussion and audience participation will follow each speaker. The displays reopen for two hours in the evening.

■ **STRENGTHENING THE LINKAGE BETWEEN SCIENCE AND RESOURCE MANAGEMENT:** This will be a round-table discussion among managers and scientists about improving the science/management linkage. What do decision-makers need from scientists? What do scientists need from decision-makers? The discussion will include audience participation.

Forum products: The displays, panels, and discussions will be professionally facilitated to develop specific products and action items to enhance the science/management connection. Soon after the Forum, products will be available on the web to keep you informed and involved.

Representatives from numerous federal, state, local, and non-governmental entities are organizing the Forum for the Science Coordination Team of the South Florida Ecosystem Working Group. The U.S. Geological Survey, the South Florida Water Management District and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers are the primary hosts.

To participate in the Forum, please visit <http://sofia.usgs.gov>. For information by telephone, call Heather Henkel **727-803-8747, extension 3028**.