

The Florida Ecosystem Restoration Network (FERN).... a new approach to restoration coordination in Florida



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What is the FERN?

A network of restoration partners meeting regularly to improve coordination of landscape-level restoration



Approach

* Partner driven process *

* Keep it simple *

* Achieve “wall to wall carpeting” *

* Let the process evolve organically *

* Meet as needed, stay engaged and connected *

Guiding Partners

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
FL Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission
FL Department of Environmental Protection
FL Water Management Districts
NOAA-Fisheries
The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
The Florida Forest Service
The National Estuary Programs
The U.S. Forest Service
The Nature Conservancy
The Department of Transportation
National Resources Conservation Services
The Environmental Protection Agency
National Park Service

Our Mission

To facilitate communication and collaboration on habitat restoration and planning activities across Florida's landscapes.



Our Vision

A network of partners that is effective in maximizing conservation benefits of restoration throughout Florida to promote connectivity across regions and habitat types



How we define restoration

The creation or re-establishment of functioning natural ecosystems





Habitat restoration needs

- Well-planned and developed projects
- No duplication in effort or funding
- Pooling of those existing/limited resources
- Coordination across and within agencies
- Restoration viewed on multiple scales
- A collective process-why we choose what we do

Our Goals

Coordinated restoration in Florida

- Increase communication across agencies and programs
- Provide venue to share information
- Create a strategic approach to restoration planning & implementation across landscape





How to accomplish this?

- Regional & statewide meetings
- Web-based clearing house
 - project information
 - project maps
 - resource information

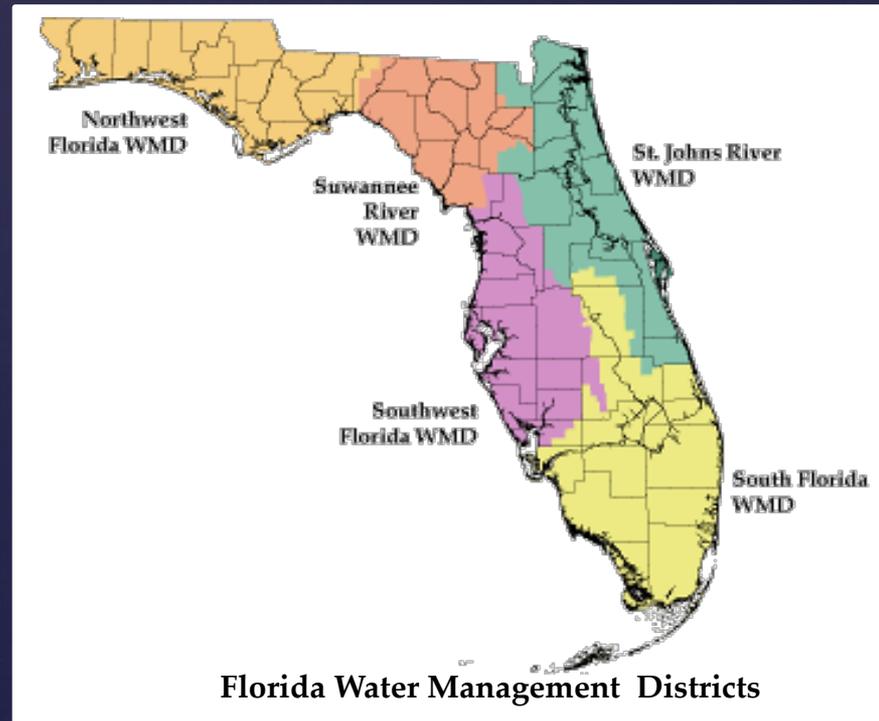
How to accomplish this?

- Regional meetings
 - identify completed & ongoing projects
 - define future goals
 - collective prioritization for future projects



Regional restoration teams

- Five regional teams based on WMD
- Team-leads for each region- create regional networks & coordinate with FERN
- Not intended to replace existing groups/teams
- Determine structure, appropriate partners & level of participation





Why join the FERN?

- Improved project planning, permitting & design
- Systems approach vs. project approach
- Information sharing
- Increased transparency
- Advances science of restoration

Why join the FERN?

- Coordinated regional strategy 
greater support & wave of future
- Avoid duplicative efforts and funding
- Benefits from collective focus
- Pooling of resources & expertise



What are we requesting?

- Regional participation & leadership to expand statewide restoration network
- Sharing of regional information on challenges & potential solutions
- The identification of regionally completed projects and future projects
- Assist us in moving the needle on habitat and species conservation

What is next?

- Regional meetings- summer 2015
- Potential statewide restoration summit- early 2016
- Exploring potential for statewide DB
- Spread the word!



Regional team leads

- **SW region: Lindsay Cross, Stephanie Powers**
- **SJR region: Steve Miller, Gary Raulerson**
- **Suwanee Region: Nicole Adimey, Katie Konchar, Scott Johns**
- **NW Region: Brian Pelc, Brad Ellis, Brian Camposano, Fred Robinette**



Get involved

FERN Co-Chairs:

Nicole Adimey (nicole_adimey@fws.gov)

Kent Smith (kent.Smith@myfwc.com)



Questions?

