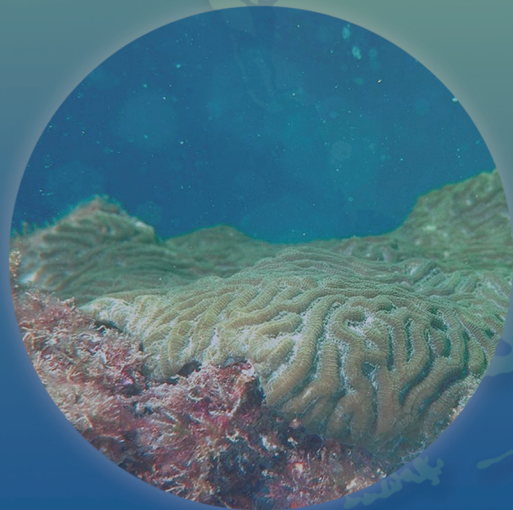


Florida's Wildlife : On the Frontline of Climate Change

August 20-22, 2008 • Rosen PLAZA, Orlando



Welcome



Welcome to our first gathering for Florida's Wildlife: On the Frontline of Climate Change. Over the next few days, experts and professionals will share their knowledge and forecasts for fish and wildlife in Florida in the context of climate change. This unique event will cover topics that span global, national, and statewide perspectives, species biodiversity, and policies for habitat management. These sessions will better prepare us for six concurrent workshops that follow. Your contribution in one of these workshops will help the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) management and policy makers as they develop climate change strategies to ensure the best possible future for Florida's wildlife.

The agenda was developed by the FWC along with our planning committee dedicated to bringing you this dynamic program. Please visit with them, along with our sponsors and exhibitors, and get acquainted with others while you are here.

Lastly, please take a minute to complete the evaluation form and return it to the Center for Environmental Studies staff at our registration desk. Thank you for joining us.

Best regards,

Ken Haddad

Executive Director

Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission

Program Committee

David Anderson.....	Audubon of Florida
Len Berry	Center for Environmental Studies at Florida Atlantic University (FAU)
Bill Bird	Coastal Conservation Association
Chuck Collins (chair)	Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC)
Sheri Coven	Department of Community Affairs, Intergovernmental Affairs
Doreen DiCarlo (coordinator)	Center for Environmental Studies at FAU
Kellyn Eberhardt	Environmental Defense, Florida Climate Project
Laura Hartt	National Wildlife Federation
Jerry Karnas	Environmental Defense, Florida Climate Project
Jay Liles	Florida Wildlife Federation
TJ Marshall	Florida Coastal & Ocean Coalition
Doug Parsons	FWC, Florida's Wildlife Legacy Initiative
Anne Morkill	US Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS), Nat'l Key Deer Refuge
Charles Pattison	1000 Friends of Florida
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Winifred Perkins	Florida Power and Light
Barbara J. Powell	Everglades Coordinating Council
Perran Ross	University of Florida (UF), Wildlife Ecology and Conservation
Jim Seph	UF, Institute of Food & Agricultural Sciences
Doug Shaw	The Nature Conservancy, Conservation Science
Kelley Smith	Department of Environmental Protection, Strategic Projects and Planning
Margo Stahl	FWS, Hobe Sound Nat'l Wildlife Refuge

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ENVIRONMENTAL DEFENSE FUND

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For more than 70 years, the National Wildlife Federation has worked to protect wildlife for our children's future. Through our nationwide network of grassroots activists and wildlife enthusiasts dedicated to protecting wildlife and wild places, we address 3 primary goals: (1) Confronting global climate change, (2) Protecting and restoring wildlife, and (3) Connecting people with nature.

A key priority of National Wildlife Federation is protecting wildlife and other natural resources from the harmful impacts of global climate change. To this end, NWF has issued cutting-edge reports on the impacts of global warming on natural resources, helped developed policy and management responses, assisted in integration of climate change into state wildlife action plans, ensured that federal climate change legislation contains dedicated funding to protect and restore natural resources threatened by climate change.

FLORIDA OCEANS AND COASTAL COUNCIL

The Vision of the Florida Oceans and Coastal Council

The Florida Oceans and Coastal Council (Council) envisions the bountiful ocean and coastal resources of Florida as a perpetual life-support system and the foundation of our economy and society.

The Council will promote innovative research and the use of scientific results to guide management and stewardship of Florida's ocean and coastal resources for future generations.

The Council will support the enhancement of Florida's academic and marine research institutions into an integrated network, cooperating and partnering with public agencies, industries, environmental organizations and citizens.

Florida will be an internationally-recognized leader in marine science and ecosystem-based management.

<http://www.floridaoceanscouncil.org>



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Agenda

Wednesday, August 20

9:00-10:00am	Refreshments with Exhibitors	BALLROOM FOYER
10:00-10:45am	Welcome <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Chuck Collins, Regional Director, Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) and Summit Facilitator• Ken Haddad, Executive Director, FWC• Rodney Barreto, Chairman, FWC	BALLROOM A
10:45-12:00pm	Climate Change Impacts <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Climate Science and Reports from Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Virginia Burkett, Senior Climate Change Scientist, Global Change Research, USGS• Florida, Current and Anticipated Changes and Uncertainties Thomas Crisman, Patel Professor of Environment, Patel Center for Global Solutions at University of South Florida• Florida's Wildlife and Their Changing Community Thomas Eason, Conservation Initiatives Coordinator, Habitat and Species Conservation, FWC	BALLROOM A
12:00-1:30pm	Lunch (included)	BALLROOM B
1:30-3:30pm	Biodiversity: Species on the Frontline <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ocean Effects Hal Wanless, Professor/Chair of Department of Geological Sciences, University of Miami• Characteristics of Marine Climate Sensitive Species (marine, coral reefs and fish habitat) Robert van Woesik, Professor, Department of Biological Sciences, Florida Institute of Technology• Characteristics of Terrestrial Climate Sensitive Species (necessity of adaptive land corridors) Reed Noss, Davis-Shine Professor of Conservation Biology, University of Central Florida• Managing Terrestrial Exotic Species Scott Hardin, Exotic Species Coordinator, Habitat and Species Conservation, FWC (fauna) Greg Jubinsky, Program Manager, Invasive Plant Management, FWC, (flora)• Future of Agriculture: Conflicts and Opportunities Keith Ingram, Coordinator, Southeast Climate Consortium & Scientist, UF/IFAS, Agricultural and Biological Engineering Moderator: Len Berry, Director, Center for Environmental Studies at Florida Atlantic University	BALLROOM A
3:30-3:45pm	Refreshment Break with Exhibitors	BALLROOM FOYER
3:45-5:15pm	Policies and Communication <p>Panel discussion on policy issues related to habitat and species management, human needs, hunting, fishing, boating, and outdoor recreation; linking climate change initiatives with the conservation community; congressional climate change and cap and trade legislation; communication issues: increase awareness of climate change impacts and our capacity to respond, including education & outreach (intra-agency, inter-agency, general public).</p> <p>Panelists:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Tim Breault, Director, Habitat and Species Conservation, FWC• Paul Souza, Supervisor, South Florida Ecological Services Office, Fish and Wildlife Service• Margaret Davidson, Director, NOAA Coastal Services Center• John Cooper, Senior Advisor to the Bipartisan Policy Center• Steve Adams, Staff Director, Governors Action Team on Energy and Climate Change, State of Florida• John Kostyack, Executive Director, Wildlife Conservation and Global Warming, National Wildlife Federation Moderator: Jerry Karnas, Director, Florida Climate Project, Environmental Defense	BALLROOM A
5:15-7:00pm	Welcome Reception and Poster Session (included)	BALLROOM FOYER

Agenda



Thursday, August 21

7:30-8:30am	Breakfast with Exhibitors	BALLROOM FOYER
8:30-9:15am	Presentation: Wildlife Response to Climate Change and the Management Challenge to Help Species Adapt, Jean Brennan, Defenders of Wildlife Senior Climate Change Scientist and Recognized Member Recipient of the 2007 Nobel Peace Prize Award to the IPCC Introduction to Workshops, Chuck Collins, FWC Regional Director	BALLROOM A
9:30-5:00pm	Six Concurrent Workshops with FWC Leaders Your contribution in one of these six workshops will guide FWC management and policy makers as they develop guidelines in their Climate Change Strategy Document. <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Hunting and Fishing Leaders: Diane Eggeman, Director of Hunting and Game Management; Mark Robson, Director of Marine Fisheries• Invasive Organisms on Biodiversity in Future Climates Leader: Greg Holder, Regional Director, Southwest• Natural Resource Management and Land-use Planning Leader: Jerrie Lindsey, Director, Office of Recreation Services• Native Terrestrial Species, Communities, and Ecosystems Leader: Tim Breault, Director, Habitat and Species Conservation• Marine, Coastal, and Estuarine Ecosystems Leader: Gil McRae, Director of Fish and Wildlife Research Institute• Inland Aquatic and Semi-aquatic Ecosystems Leader: Darrell Scovell, Director of Freshwater Fisheries Management	2ND FLOOR SALONS SALON 9 SALON 10 SALON 11 SALON 12 SALONS 13 AND 14 SALON 18
12:00-1:30pm	Lunch (included) <i>Dinner on own (restaurants are within walking distance, visit our registration desk or the concierge for more information)</i>	BALLROOM B

Friday, August 22

7:30-8:30am	Breakfast with Exhibitors	BALLROOM FOYER
8:30-11:30am	Reports on Workshops from FWC Leaders	BALLROOM A
10:00-10:30am	Refreshment Break with Exhibitors	
11:30-12:00pm	FWC's Directive for Florida's Wildlife from Ken Haddad, Executive Director Adjourn	

Workshops

Thursday, August 21, 2008, 9:30 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Hunting and Fishing

Leaders: Mark Robson, Director Marine Fisheries Management, and Diane Eggeman, Director, Hunting and Game Management

9:30 a.m.

Welcome, workshop goal and format

Goal: To assess concerns and risks to game species and related impacts to hunting and fishing opportunities. Identify changes needed in policy, planning, monitoring, research and management to ensure continued recreational opportunity and economic benefit associated with hunting and fishing.

Format: Introduce staff and roles. Explain workshop goal and process. Workshop process will be a structured brainstorming framework to obtain participant input.

9:45 a.m.

Hunting, Fishing and Climate Change in Florida — Management Challenges by John Cooper

John Cooper is the Senior Policy Advisor to the Bipartisan Policy Center, Washington, D.C.

10:15 a.m.

Concerns

List things you are worried about or would consider unacceptable outcomes of climate change as it affects fishing and hunting.

10:35 a.m.

Impacts

Impacts are anticipated or unanticipated outcomes, direct or indirect consequences, and can be positive or negative, tangible, emotional, and of different types (e.g., ecological, economic, social, legal).

What are some potential impacts on game species populations or hunting and fishing opportunities? How might increased rate of change and increased uncertainty affect harvest management?

11:10 a.m.

Assumptions and uncertainties

Identifying assumptions and uncertainties should help us develop monitoring and management responses to fill information gaps and assess risk.

What will we assume about future abundance of current game species and the human demand for associated recreational opportunity?

Noon - 1:30 p.m.

Lunch

1:30 p.m.

Constraints and opportunities

Constraints are barriers or limits in the system that might affect the potential response (e.g., funding, policies, public support, and reliable information)

Are there tradeoffs regarding FWC capacity to address current hunting and fishing issues vs. redirect to plan for future outcomes resulting from climate change?

2:10 p.m.

Desired future condition

This is a description or vision of what, in light of climate change, you hope the future holds for hunting and fishing in Florida.

What species, population levels and harvest opportunities might we expect to protect and enhance?

2:50 p.m.

Break

3:05 p.m.

Interventions, adaptations, actions

Identify things that need to be done to guard against the negative impacts we identified and help achieve the desired future condition.

What should FWC be doing or planning to ensure continued hunting and fishing opportunity and associated economic benefit?

4 p.m.

Workshop summary/identify major themes for the final report

List the five or six most important items or key points from each category.

5 p.m.

Adjourn

Workshops



Invasive Organisms on Biodiversity in Future Climates

Leader: Greg Holder, Southwest Regional Director

9:30 a.m.

Welcome and workshop goals

Goals:

- To generate relevant information and concerns about the possible effects of climate change on invasive plants and animals in Florida for FWC managers and policy makers and others.
- To identify future management direction and research needs.
- To articulate “next-step” actions and identify partnering opportunities.

10 a.m.

Concerns

Climate change will influence the distribution of nonnative invasive plants and animals in Florida. For example, regionally specific invasive species may expand their range further impacting native species.

What major concerns will this pose for native plant and animal communities' managers?

11 a.m.

Impacts (positive or negative)

“Listed” plants and animals receive increased protection and management attention in Florida. These species frequently occupy habitat that are also used by invasive plants and animals, which may respond differently to changing climatic conditions (e.g. disproportional increase in numbers, distribution or both).

Considering the preceding statement, what specific invasive species impacts do FWC managers and policy makers need to anticipate in their effort to conserve listed species to Florida?

Noon – 1:30 p.m.

Lunch

1:30 p.m.

Assumptions or uncertainties

Given the assumptions associated with the effects of changing temperatures, weather patterns, atmospheric carbon dioxide levels, etc., on natural bio-controls.

Will climate change make it more difficult to predict the risk associated with importation of plants and animals within Florida? What is needed to resolve the uncertainty?

2:15 pm

Constraints and opportunities

Assuming the number of harmful invasive plants and animals and the extent of areas they occupy will change in response to climate change.

Should actions be undertaken to prevent this from occurring? If so, what actions are the most important for FWC to take?

Regionally specific distributions of native plants and animals may expand their range in response to climate change, which may adversely impact other native species.

Should steps be taken to monitor range changes of native plant and animal species?

3 p.m.

Break

3:15 p.m.

Interventions needed

Additional actions may be needed to address nonnative plant and animal introductions and the redistribution of nonnative invasive species already in Florida.

What proactive steps can the FWC take to further limit the introduction of invasive plants and animals and control the spread of climate change induced invasive species?

Invasive exotic plants and animals know no boundaries. If public conservation lands' managers wish to achieve long-term success, it is important for them to reach out and collaborate with all stakeholders to effect prevention and treatment of invasive species on a landscape scale. Some suggest that the necessary infrastructure to address issues related to the impacts of invasive plants and animals, as it relates to climate change, may be inadequate.

With the preceding statement in mind, what changes are needed to improve FWC's collaboration or infrastructure to improve existing partnerships or create new ones?

4:15 p.m.

Display and review workshop outputs

5 p.m.

Adjourn

Workshops

Natural Resource Management and Land Use Planning

Leader: Jerrie Lindsey, Director, Office of Recreation Services

9:30 a.m.

Welcome, workshop goal and format

Goal: To ensure that land use planning adequately addresses the potential impacts of climate change on fish and wildlife resources and the habitats they are dependent upon.

Format: Structured brainstorming on the topic areas below.

9:50 a.m.

Assumptions and uncertainties

Clarifying assumptions and describing uncertainties can be a diagnostic tool to reveal management gaps or deficiencies.

What assumptions about climate change are being made that need to be acknowledged for more effective land use planning?

What uncertainties need to be addressed relative to potential climate change impacts and how might land use planning address those uncertainties?

10:30 a.m.

Concerns

Concerns include things that are worrisome or viewed as unacceptable outcomes.

What major concern(s) do you have about land use planning relative to conserving fish and wildlife populations or habitat in the face of climate change?

11:10 a.m.

Impacts

Impacts include anticipated or unanticipated outcomes, direct or indirect consequences, and can be positive or negative, tangible or intangible and of different types (e.g., ecological, economic, social, legal, etc.).

What impacts to fish and wildlife populations or habitat might occur that land use planning should consider?

Noon - 1:30 p.m.

Lunch

1:30 p.m.

Constraints and opportunities

Constraints can be thought of as barriers and can be tangible such as fiscal resources or intangible (like public apathy).

What could limit how our land use planning can mitigate impacts of climate change?

Opportunities can exist or be created to increase potential or capacity. Some constraints also can be viewed as potential opportunities.

In what ways could potential benefits from land use planning be increased?

2:10 p.m.

Desired future condition

The desired future condition can be thought of as a goal or outcome.

What would things be like if recommended management actions or interventions are completed?

2:50 p.m.

Break

3:05 p.m.

Interventions/actions

Management actions are explicit interventions that may be employed to maintain a desired current condition or to create the desired future condition.

What actions need to be taken so land use planning can mitigate, minimize or avoid adverse impacts associated with climate change?

3:45 p.m.

Workshop summary/Identify major themes for the final report.

Develop a list of five or six key points each for the concerns, impacts, assumptions, uncertainties, constraints, opportunities, and interventions or management actions that have been identified.

5 p.m.

Adjourn

Workshops



Native Terrestrial Species, Communities, and Ecosystems

Leader: Tim Breault, Director, Habitat and Species Conservation

9:30 a.m.

Welcome, workshop goal and format

Goal: To generate information, thoughts and ideas to address ecological, economic, social, cultural or legal impacts of climate change on inland ecosystems, species and habitats

Format: Structured brainstorming to identify concerns, impacts (positive and negative), assumptions or uncertainties, constraints or opportunities, desired future condition(s) and needed interventions or actions related to the effects of climate change on native terrestrial species, communities, and ecosystems.

9:50 a.m.

Concerns

Concerns should include things that you are worried about or what you view as unacceptable outcomes.

If we assume that climate change will change plant and animal communities, what major concern(s) does this pose for us?

10:30 a.m.

Impacts

Impacts should include anticipated or unanticipated outcomes, direct or indirect consequences, and can be positive or negative, tangible, emotional, and of different types (e.g., ecological, economic, social, legal, etc.).

If we anticipate changes to plant and animal communities, what are positive or negative impacts that may be anticipated?

11:10 a.m.

Assumptions or uncertainties

Using assumptions or describing uncertainties can be a diagnostic tool to reveal management gaps or deficiencies.

What uncertainties need to be addressed relative to climate change impacts to native plant and animal communities?

Noon - 1:30 p.m.

Lunch

1:30 p.m.

Constraints/opportunities

Constraints can be thought of as barriers to being able to mitigate impacts associated with climate change and can be tangible like fiscal resources, policies, laws, and lack of specific authorities, or intangible like public apathy or insufficient public support. Most constraints can be viewed as potential opportunities.

2:10 p.m.

Desired future condition

The desired future condition can be thought of as a goal or outcome of management actions or interventions.

What is it we are trying to achieve by addressing impacts to fish and wildlife resources created by climate change?

2:50 p.m.

Break

3:05 p.m.

Interventions/actions

Management actions are explicit interventions that may be employed in such a way as to enable maintenance of a desired current condition or creation of the desired future condition.

What needs to be done to mitigate, minimize or avoid adverse impacts associated with climate change? What can be done to enhance or manage positive changes?

3:45 p.m.

Workshop summary/identify major themes for the final report.

Develop a list of five or six key points each for the concerns, impacts, assumptions/uncertainties, constraints/opportunities, and interventions or management actions that have been identified.

5 p.m.

Adjourn

Workshops

Marine Estuarine and Coastal Systems

Leader: Gil McRae, Director, Fish and Wildlife Research Institute

9:30 a.m.

Welcome, workshop goal and format

Goal: To develop framework and foundation for needed actions and interventions that would address the key issues raised by climate change in our context of marine estuarine and coastal wildlife.”

Format: Structured brainstorming to identify concerns, impacts (positive and negative), assumptions or uncertainties, constraints or opportunities, desired future condition(s) and needed interventions or actions related to the effects of climate change on native terrestrial species, communities, and ecosystems.

9:40 a.m.

What are the main concerns?

10 a.m.

What are the likely impacts (positive and negative) of climate change in marine, estuarine and coastal systems?

Impacts include anticipated or unanticipated outcomes, direct or indirect consequences, and can be positive or negative, tangible, emotional, and of different types (e.g., ecological, economic, social, legal, etc.).

10:30 a.m.

Break

10:45 a.m.

What are the major assumptions or uncertainties?

How will we factor in system complexity, rate and magnitude of change and different adaptability of species and habitats?

How can we scale agency responses to match the importance and value of different system components (e.g., species, resources)?

11:15 a.m.

What constraints and opportunities does climate change present?

Are there data gaps, resource and capacity limitations? Are there partnerships or funding opportunities?

Noon – 1:30 p.m.

Lunch

1:30 p.m.

What are the desired future goals?

What is it we are trying to achieve by addressing impacts to fish and wildlife resources created by climate change? Examples: maintain ecosystem service and function and commercial and recreational values, minimize species and habitat loss, maintain policy and resource management options and flexibility, focus action on priority and feasible outcomes and capitalize on positive changes, such as new fisheries?

2 p.m.

What actions and interventions are needed based on the foundation discussed to this point?

3 p.m.

Break

3:15 p.m.

Review interventions and proposed actions.

Are there more important actions (priorities)?

4:30 p.m.

Display and review workshop outputs, and outline workshop report.

Develop five or six key points each for the concerns, impacts, assumptions/uncertainties, constraints/opportunities, and interventions or management actions that have been identified.

5 p.m.

Adjourn

Workshops



Inland Aquatic and Semi-aquatic Systems

Leader: Darrell L. Scovell, Director, Freshwater Fisheries Management

9:30 a.m.

Welcome, workshop goal and format

Goal: To generate information, thoughts and ideas to address ecological, economic, social, cultural or legal impacts of climate change on inland aquatic and semi-aquatic systems, species and habitats.

Format: Structured brainstorming to identify concerns, impacts (positive and negative), assumptions or uncertainties, constraints or opportunities, desired future condition(s) and needed interventions or actions related to the effects of climate change on inland aquatic and semi-aquatic systems.

9:50 a.m.

Concerns

Concerns include things that you are worried about or things that you view as unacceptable outcomes.

Plant and animals' dependent upon inland aquatic and semi-aquatic systems change in reaction to changes in climate. What major concern(s) does this pose for us?

10:30 a.m.

Impacts

Impacts should include anticipated or unanticipated outcomes, direct or indirect consequences, and can be positive or negative, tangible, emotional and of different types (ecological, economic, social, legal, etc.).

If we anticipate changes to plant and animal communities in inland aquatic or semi-aquatic systems, what are positive or negative impacts that may be anticipated?

11:10 a.m.

Assumptions or uncertainties

Using assumptions or describing uncertainties can be a diagnostic tool to reveal management gaps or deficiencies.

What uncertainties need to be addressed relative to climate change impacts on aquatic and semi-aquatic systems?

Noon – 1:30 p.m.

Lunch

1:30 p.m.

Constraints/opportunities

Constraints can be thought of as barriers to mitigating impacts. However, many constraints also can be viewed as potential opportunities.

What tangible constraints or opportunities (for example, fiscal resources, policies, laws and lack of specific authorities) or intangibles, such as public apathy or insufficient public support, may we confront when trying to mitigate for impact of climate change in inland aquatic and semi-aquatic systems?

2:10 p.m.

Desired future condition

The desired future condition can be thought of as a goal or outcome of management actions or interventions.

What are we trying to achieve by addressing impacts to fish and wildlife resources created by climate change in inland aquatic and semi-aquatic systems?

2:50 p.m.

Break

3:05 p.m.

Interventions/actions

Management actions are explicit interventions that may be employed to maintain a desired current condition or create a desired future condition.

What needs to be done to mitigate, minimize, or avoid adverse impacts to inland aquatic and semi-aquatic systems associated with climate change?

3:45 p.m.

Workshop summary/identify major themes for the final report.

Develop a list of five or six key points each for the concerns, impacts, assumptions/uncertainties, constraints/opportunities, and interventions or management actions that have been identified.

5 p.m.

Adjourn

About Our Speakers and Moderators

Steve Adams

**Staff Director, Governor's Action Team on Energy and Climate Change
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Steve Adams directs energy and global climate change policy for Florida Governor Charlie Crist. In this capacity, he is currently coordinating the climate change policy development activities of the Administration and the Governor's Action Team on Energy and Climate Change.

He most recently served as Director of Planning and Strategic Projects for Florida's Department of Environmental Protection with responsibilities for managing the central policy development, planning, and analysis functions of the Department.

Steve has nearly fifteen years of public policy and non-profit experience in energy, environment and natural resource management issues.

Rodney Barreto

Chairman

**Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission
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Commissioners@MyFWC.com**

Rodney L. Barreto was appointed by Governor Jeb Bush to the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission in August 2001 and reappointed by Governor Charlie Crist in February 2007. He is serving his fourth term as chairman of the Commission. He first took on that role in 2004, and his fellow commissioners re-elected him as chairman for 2006, 2007 and 2008.

Rodney is owner and president of Barreto Group, a real estate investment and development firm. He is also the founding partner of Floridian Partners, LLC a strategy-management firm with offices in Miami and Tallahassee that develops and manages effective corporate and public affairs strategies to achieve specific business results.

Rodney Barreto is widely known for his civic involvement. He most recently was chairman of the 2007 Super Bowl Host Committee. Barreto chaired the 62nd annual U.S. Conference of Mayors, held in Miami, as well as the 1999 Super Bowl Host Committee, the 1999 Breeder's Cup Championship and the 1999 Sister Cities International Convention. He also co-chaired the City of Miami Centennial celebration. In addition, Rodney Barreto was the founder of the Big Orange New Year's celebration that takes place in downtown Miami every Dec. 31. He is a board member for U.S. Century Bank, Baptist Health Foundation and Goodwill Industries of South Florida.

Prior to his career in public affairs and real estate, Barreto was a City of Miami police officer. He earned his Associate of Arts degree from Miami Dade Community College and his Bachelor of Arts degree in professional studies from Barry University.

Leonard Berry

Director

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Len Berry has been the Director for the Center for Environmental Studies (CES), a Type I Center at Florida Atlantic University (FAU) since its inception in 1994. The mission of the Center is to collect, analyze, and promote the use of scientifically sound information concerning tropical and sub-tropical, freshwater and estuary ecosystems worldwide. Len served as Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs at FAU from 1987 to 1993 and was Professor of Geography, Director of the Graduate School of Geography and Provost at Clark University, Massachusetts from 1970 to 1987.

Len's current interests include effective information systems for natural resource management and environmental education. He has studied tropical environments in East and South Asia, and later in Eastern Africa, with 12 years residence in that area in various university positions. In Africa, Len developed an interest in natural resource management and rural development, including work on regional planning problems for the Tanzania government. He has studied issues of climate change in Africa and the U.S. for the past twenty years. Len has also authored/edited 27 books, over 250 professional papers and reports along with consultant work for many environmental development agencies, such as USAID, UNSO, UNEP, and the World Bank.

He has a Ph.D. in physical aspects of tropical geomorphology from Bristol University in England, where he was born.

Tim Breault

**Director, Division of Habitat and Species Conservation
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Tim is a Certified Wildlife Biologist and is employed by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission as the Director, Division of Habitat and Species Conservation. This division is responsible for habitat management on 1.4 million acres of state-owned conservation lands, restoration of degraded aquatic habitats, providing science-based habitat technical assistance to public and private sector landowners, management of endangered and threatened species, management of nongame wildlife, implementation of Florida's Wildlife Legacy Program, control of non-native animals and control and management of invasive non-native plants.

Tim Breault has over 34 years of professional experience in fish and wildlife management which spans the state from the Everglades marshes to the Panhandle forests and from coastal habitats to inland habitats.

About Our Speakers and Moderators



Jean Brennan
Senior Climate Change Scientist
Defenders of Wildlife
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Jean Brennan is the Senior Climate Change Scientist for Defenders of Wildlife, based in Washington, DC. Her work at Defenders focuses on the challenges facing native North American wildlife and natural ecosystems adapting to climate changes caused by global warming.

Jean has taught Air Resource Management at the University of California at Davis, and Conservation Biology at the University of Michigan, School of Natural Resources. She is an experienced population biologist and has conducted research on primates, carnivores, and large mammals in Kenya, Madagascar, Malaysia, and Indonesia.

Prior to joining Defenders Science staff, she worked as a Science Officer for the U.S. Department of State, Office of Global Change. She served as a member of the U.S. Delegation to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) and has participated in the IPCC Good Practice Guidance Workshops, and coordinated technical reviews on behalf of the U.S. on several IPCC Special Report & Publications (Aviation and the Global Atmosphere; Land Use, Land-Use Change and Forestry; Technology Transfer; and Emission Scenarios). Jean is also the member recipient of the 2007 Nobel Peace Prize Award to the IPCC.

Jean holds a Doctorate from the University of Tennessee in Population Biology and Ecology, and a Masters of Science in Anthropology from the University of Pennsylvania.

Virginia Burkett
Chief Scientist, Global Change Research
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Virginia Burkett is the Chief Scientist for Global Change Research at the U.S. Geological Survey. She was formerly Chief of the Forest Ecology Branch at the National Wetlands Research Center and Associate Regional Chief Biologist for the USGS Central Region.

Virginia has served as Director of the Louisiana Coastal Zone Management Program, Director of the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, and Assistant Director of the Louisiana Geological Survey. She has published extensively on the topics of global change and low-lying coastal zones. She was a Lead Author on the United Nation's IPCC Third and Fourth Assessment Reports (2001 and 2007) and an IPCC Technical Paper on Water (2007). She coordinated both the Coastal and Southeast synthesis chapters of the U.S. National Assessment of climate change and its impacts. During her career Virginia has been appointed to over 40 Commissions, Committees, Science Panels and Boards.

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Chuck Collins is the South Regional Director for the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC). The FWC has responsibility for rule-making, management, enforcement, and science relative to fish and wildlife resources statewide.

Chuck currently oversees FWC operations in the ten counties that comprise the FWC South Region. From 1985 until 2004 he served in law enforcement investigating cases involving major resource violations, boating crashes, vessel theft, and title fraud. He has been declared an expert in boating crash reconstruction and accident investigation. Chuck has lectured extensively in these areas for numerous agencies and organizations including the International Association of Marine Investigators, IBEX, United States Coast Guard, United States Customs, FWC Academy, Alaska State Law Enforcement, and other local law enforcement agencies. In 2004 Chuck was selected as FWC's Officer of the year and by Shikar-Safari Club International as Florida's Conservation Officer of the Year. In addition, Chuck was named 2004 National Boating Law Enforcement Officer of the year.

Chuck received a Bachelor of Science in Public Administration from Barry University and a Masters of Business in Crisis Management from Florida Atlantic University.

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Prior to his current role as a senior advisor to the Bipartisan Policy Center and the Wildlife Management Institute, John Cooper served 22 years as Senior Special Agent with the Law Enforcement Division of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

In 1995, he began working as the Secretary of the South Dakota Department of Game, Fish & Parks. He served for twelve years with SDGFP, retiring in January, 2007 to pursue climate change work. In addition, he has served as President of the Association of Fish & Wildlife Agencies (2006), Chairman of the National Fish Habitat Board, Vice-Chair of the North American Wetlands Conservation Council and Chairman of the Western Association of Fish & Wildlife Agencies Habitat Committee. These experiences have placed John in a position to honestly and frankly discuss climate change and its forecasted impacts on species he and his family hunts and fishes for in his personal life.

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Thomas L. Crisman is an Aquatic Ecologist with broad experience on the ecology, conservation and management of lakes, streams and wetlands in Florida and throughout the subtropics and tropics.

Following a thirty year career at the University of Florida, he joined University of South Florida in 2007 as Patel Professor of Environment in the Patel Center for Global Solutions and the Division of Integrative Biology, Department of Biology. He has given over 250 professional presentations world wide and is the author of over 120 scientific publications.

Currently, Tom is actively engaged in aquatic conservation, ecosystem restoration and ec hydrology. The latter focuses on water allocation for human and conservation purposes in sustainable ways.

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Margaret A. Davidson has served since 1996 as the Director of NOAA's Coastal Services Center, a national enterprise established to accelerate access to the science and technology capabilities of NOAA and its partners to improve coastal and ocean resource management as practiced at state and local levels. From August 2000 to October 2002, Margaret also served as the Acting Assistant Administrator of NOAA for Ocean Services and Coastal Zone Management.

Before coming to NOAA, Margaret served sixteen years with the South Carolina Sea Grant Consortium and thirteen as the Executive Director. She began her coastal career as an Assistant Attorney General and Special Counsel for the Louisiana Department of Justice.

Margaret has served in positions of leadership for several national and professional organizations, regularly teaches a graduate level multi-disciplinary course, and is frequently requested to serve as a facilitator and presenter for civic and professional organizations. Her professional interests include climate and weather variability and its impact on coastal resources, integrated coastal management, and aquaculture and fisheries management.

Margaret was a Fulbright Scholar for coastal resource management at Prince of Songkhla University, Thailand in 1992-93. She holds a MMA from the University of Rhode Island and a JD from Louisiana State University.

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Thomas Eason is a wildlife biologist and administrator with the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC). He began his career working on black bears during the summer of 1992 and studied various aspects of bear ecology until 2003 when he took on new duties as the Wildlife Diversity Manager for Florida. He now heads efforts on Florida's Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategy and recently was promoted to serve as FWC's Conservation Initiatives Coordinator.

He received his B.S. and M.S. in Wildlife Science at Virginia Tech and the University of Tennessee, respectively, and completed his Ph.D. in Ecology from the University of Tennessee as well.

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Ken Haddad is the Executive Director of the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC). The FWC has responsibility for rule-making, management, enforcement, and science relative to fish and wildlife resources statewide. Ken is responsible for the leadership and management of the FWC and serves a seven-member Commission that has rule-making authority.

Ken also serves as member of the state lands Acquisition and Restoration Council, Chairman of the Science Coordinating Group of the Everglades Restoration Task Force, is a member of the Executive Committee of the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies, past President of the Southeastern Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies, and secretary-treasurer of the Wildlife Foundation of Florida. He is also an appointed member of the federal Sportfishing and Boating Partnership Council.

About Our Speakers and Moderators



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Scott Hardin is Exotic Species Coordinator for Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC). He deals with a variety of non-native species, ranging from viruses to mollusks to large vertebrate taxa including the reproducing population of Burmese pythons in the Everglades. Activities run the gamut from prevention (regulations, education and outreach, risk analysis) to early detection/rapid response (Gambian pouched rat eradication in the Florida Keys, purple swamphens in south-east Florida).

Scott represents FWC on several organizations, including the Gulf and South Atlantic Regional Panel on Aquatic Invasive Species, Florida Invasive Species Working Group, Florida Invasive Animal Task Team, and Southeastern Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies Aquatic Nuisance Species Committee.

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Greg Holder has worked in the wildlife conservation profession for over thirty years. The majority of his professional career has been with the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC). He was employed by the Florida Game and Freshwater Fish Commission (GFC) as a wildlife biologist in 1980. In that capacity, he has researched and worked with white-tailed deer, American alligator, waterfowl, bald eagles, wading birds and shorebirds.

From 1988-1990, Greg was the GFC-Division of Wildlife's Surface Water Improvement and Management project leader. In 1990, he transferred to West Palm Beach where he worked as the Regional Wildlife Biologist for the GFC until 1992. In 1992, Greg transferred to Lakeland as the Regional Director for the Commission's Southwest Region where he continues to serve FWC.

Greg earned a M.S. degree in Wildlife Ecology at Mississippi State University in 1979.

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Since 2004, Keith Ingram has held his present position as coordinator of the Southeast Climate Consortium based in the Department of Agricultural and Biological Engineering of the University of Florida. Keith is responsible for developing and guiding research and outreach programs

on the application of climate forecasts and other climate information to minimize risks associated with climate variability and climate change for agricultural and natural resource management. He is also responsible for developing new partnerships with private industry and others to develop and apply new climate information technologies for economic growth in the state of Florida.

Keith has conducted a broad range of research on environmental agronomy and physiology of rainfed farming systems; in 1990 he began to conduct research on how global environmental change and climate variability affect agricultural production systems, including the interactive effects of carbon dioxide and heat stress on crop growth, development, and productivity.

After earning his Ph.D. in Agronomy from the University of Florida in 1980, Keith followed a diverse career path, holding research positions with the Hawaiian Sugar Planters Association, the International Rice Research Institute, the University of Georgia, and now with the University of Florida.

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Greg Jubinsky is currently the Program Manager with the Florida Fish and Wildlife Commission (FWC), Invasive Plant Management Section. Prior to his work at FWC, he held several positions with the Department of Environmental Protection since 1977, concentrating his efforts on coordinating statewide weed management programs in aquatic systems and since 1996, focusing exclusively on upland weed management.

Greg is a graduate of the University of Central Florida with degrees in Limnology and Botany. A member since 1985, Greg served on the Board of Directors for the Florida Native Plant Society and more recently, served as Chair of the Florida Exotic Pest Plant Council. He was recently awarded the Cooperative Conservation Award by the U.S. Department of Interior.

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Jerry Karnas is Florida Climate Project Director for Environmental Defense. Prior to joining Environmental Defense, Jerry directed the Global Warming Campaign for the National Wildlife Federation in the Southeast. While with the National Wildlife Federation, Jerry also leads campaigns to protect Florida's waterways and wildlife from mercury contamination, safeguard the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge from oil drilling, and ensure that the Clean Water Act continues to provide protections for waterways.

He has been helping to educate Floridians on conservation since the start of his career at Newfound Harbor Marine Institute on Florida's Big Pine Key. There he headed efforts to educate Florida's elementary, middle and high school students on coral reef ecology.

About Our Speakers and Moderators

In 1999 he joined the Save the Manatee Club where he played an instrumental role in Gov. Jeb Bush's Manatee Summit and helped local governments complete comprehensive Manatee Protection Plans. Jerry's background is steeped in Florida coastal life. During high school and college he fished commercially for mullet and grouper out of Cortez, Florida. Jerry also built coastal commercial fishing boats.

Jerry attended Swarthmore College in Swarthmore, PA. He graduated with a double major in Political Science and Environmental Studies.

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John Kostyack leads National Wildlife Federation's nationwide initiative to conserve wildlife and ecosystems threatened by climate change. A top priority of this initiative is enacting natural resources protection and funding provisions in federal global warming legislation.

John frequently writes and lectures on meeting the challenges of conserving U.S. wildlife and ecosystems. With Professor Dan Rohlf, he recently published "Conserving Endangered Species in an Era of Global Warming" (Env. Law Rptr. April 2008). He also is the author, with Professor Reid Ewing, of *Endangered by Sprawl: How Runaway Development Threatens America's Wildlife* (January 2005), the first national study to quantify the impact of sprawling land use patterns on the nation's biological diversity. He serves on the steering committee of the Wildlife Habitat Policy Research Program, a national grant-making program developing new tools to accelerate conservation of U.S. wildlife habitat. John is a longtime leader in Endangered Species Act policy and litigation. He helped to win the endangered species conservation tax incentive for private landowners recently passed by Congress. He has testified before Congressional committees on a wide variety of ESA matters, has led coalition efforts to strengthen the ESA, and has won victories in cases to protect habitat for the ivory-billed woodpecker, Key deer, Florida panther, gray wolf, and Swainson's hawk. He also represented a diverse coalition of wildlife conservationists in an amicus brief to the U.S. Supreme Court in the Court's first-ever global warming case, *Massachusetts v. EPA*.

John holds a Bachelor's degree in Economics from the University of Virginia and a J.D. cum laude from Stetson University College of Law.

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Jerrie Lindsey is the Director of the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission's Office of Recreation Services. Her office is responsible for planning and developing wildlife-viewing focused recreation opportunities on the state's wildlife management areas and facilitating wildlife-viewing tourism statewide.

During her career, Jerrie has worked in environmental education and recreation programs for the Legislature, Florida Department of Natural Resources and the Florida Recreation and Park Association.

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Gil McRae has twenty-one years experience as a scientist and administrator for natural resource organizations at state, federal and international levels. He is currently the Director of the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission's Fish and Wildlife Research Institute (FWRI). FWRI conducts monitoring and research associated with Florida's fish and wildlife and their habitats from its headquarters in St. Petersburg and from more than thirty field locations distributed throughout the state. Research at FWRI is conducted in partnership with many state and federal agencies, universities, non-profit organizations, and private industry.

Gil is a Special Graduate Faculty Member of the College of Marine Science at the University of South Florida, a Florida Commissioner on the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission, a member of several committees of the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies, Co-Chair of the Florida Oceans and Coastal Resource Council, and a member of Mote Marine Laboratory's Science Advisory Committee.

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Reed Noss is the Davis-Shine Professor of Conservation Biology at the University of Central Florida and the President of the Florida Institute for Conservation Science.

He has worked as an Ecologist for the Ohio Department of Natural Resources, Florida Natural Areas Inventory, and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and for several universities during his 35+ years in the environmental field.

Reed is the author of more than 260 articles and several books. He was recently recognized by ISI HIGHLYCITED.COM (Thomson Scientific) as one of the 500 most highly cited authors in all fields during the most recent review decade (1993-2003). He was Editor-in-Chief of *Conservation Biology*, the leading journal in the field, from 1993 through 1997, is Past President of the Society for Conservation Biology (1999-2001), and Past-President of the North American Section of the Society (2006-2008). He is certified as a Senior Ecologist by the Ecological Society of America and is an elected Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science. He recently served on the Acquisition and Restoration Council for the Florida Forever land conservation program and was Vice Chair of a Federal Advisory Committee for the U.S. Global Climate Change science program. His present research involves the application of science to conservation planning on regional to continental scales.

Reed has a B.S. in Education from the University of Dayton, a M.S. in Ecology from the University of Tennessee, and a Ph.D. in Wildlife Ecology from the University of Florida.

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Mark Robson is the Director of the Division of Marine Fisheries Management for the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC). Mark has worked for the FWC for 29 years, starting out as a wildlife technician in the Big Cypress Wildlife Management area. He has served as a wildlife management biologist, a regional nongame wildlife biologist and a regional director in southern Florida prior to his current position in Marine Fisheries Management.

Mark has a B.S. degree in Wildlife Management and a M.S. degree in Wildlife Ecology. He is a native of Florida and has spent most of his life living and working in our state.

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Darrell Scovell is the Director of the Division of Freshwater Fisheries Management with the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission. He has spent over thirty years in Florida working in freshwater fisheries management.

Darrell has a Master of Science degree from Auburn University.

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Paul Souza is the Field Supervisor for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's South Florida Ecological Services Office, one of the largest in the country. The office is entrusted with conserving the wealth of natural resources in south Florida, including 67 threatened and endangered species and their habitats. The office is also a proud partner in the effort to restore America's Everglades. Paul has ten years of experience with the Service, and has served in south Florida since March of 2005, first as Assistant Field Supervisor and then as Deputy Field Supervisor before being named Field Supervisor in October 2006.

Before coming to south Florida, Paul worked in the Service's Branch of Advanced Planning and Habitat Conservation in Washington, DC. He served there as the national lead for the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act and helped manage the branch's budget and performance, which includes about \$30 million and 300 full-time employees overseeing activities related to the National Environmental Policy Act, Federal Power Act, Clean Water Act, and other environmental statutes. He also represented the Service on the Trilateral Committee, composed of natural resource agencies in Canada, Mexico and the United States, and focused on threatened and endangered species conservation. While in Washington, Paul also served as a representative for the Assistant Director for Fisheries and Habitat Conservation in the Director's Science Excellence Program.

Paul has a Bachelor's degree in Environmental Studies with an emphasis in Ecology from the University of California at Santa Barbara, and a Master's degree in Environmental Planning and Natural Resources Management from Florida State University.

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Robert van Woesik's research interests are broad but ultimately linked to population and community ecology of scleractinian corals. They include the spatial and temporal assessment of coral communities and the application of this ecology to the management of coral reefs. Robert's approach is often multi-disciplinary utilizing a combination of empirical and mathematical techniques to examine the mechanisms underlying large-scale patterns of coral community structure and diversity. Most recently, Robert has become particularly interested in ecological questions relating to coral bleaching and coral-algal symbioses.

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Harold R. Wanless is professor and Chair of the Department of Geological Sciences at the University of Miami. He and his students have been studying the dynamics and evolution of tropical shallow marine and coastal environments of south Florida and the Bahamas since the mid 1960s. Especially important to this research has been documenting the influence of changing sea level and catastrophic events, such as hurricanes. They are now using this understanding to better predict the future of our coastal environments in the face of global warming.

Harold is actively interacting with policy and legislative groups to guide necessary decisions, including speaking at the Everglades Coalition annual meeting and various Florida Legislative committees.

Harold holds a B.A. from Princeton University; M.S. from University of Miami; and a Ph.D. from Johns Hopkins University.

Poster Abstracts

Use of Supplemental Nest Structures by Key Largo Woodrats

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The Key Largo woodrat (*Neotoma floridana smalli*) is a nocturnal rodent endemic to tropical hardwood hammock on the island of Key Largo, FL. The species was declared endangered in 1984 after numerous studies placed its population in sharp decline. Reports have suggested that a limiting factor in the survival of the population may be a lack of viable nesting material and nesting sites. Therefore, 152 specially-designed supplemental nest structures have been placed in Crocodile Lake National Wildlife Refuge (CLNWR) since 2004. We completed a trapping survey of the structures. Forty-two unique woodrats were trapped at 53 structures. Hispid cotton rats (*Sigmodon hispidus*) and endangered Key Largo cotton mice (*Peromyscus gossypinus allapaticola*) also were trapped at the structures. At one supplemental nest structure, we fitted two infrared video cameras, which allowed us to document Key Largo woodrat presence and behavior as well as the presence of other animals in the nest structure. Woodrat presence observed at the site was relatively high compared to non-predator (e.g., crabs, snails, etc.) and predator (e.g., snake) presence throughout the observation period (February through December, 2007). Woodrat presence did not fluctuate with the rate of non-predator or predator visits. Woodrats observed in the structure engaged in a wide range of species-typical behavior. Taken together, these data support the contention that supplemental nest structures are readily used by the Key Largo woodrat population in CLNWR. This type of structure may become an increasingly important management tool as climate change affects ecosystem health in the Florida Keys.

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Ocean Acidification, Bioindicators and Florida Reefs

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Ocean acidification is the latest of emerging climate change concerns. Florida's economic reliance on tourism and fishing should make acidification impacts a high research priority. The concentration of CO₂ in the atmosphere will reach twice the preindustrial level by the middle of this century. This increase will reduce the calcium carbonate saturation state of

the surface ocean by 30% relative to the preindustrial level, which will inhibit calcification rates of corals and other reef-building organisms. Thus, ocean acidification reduces the probability for recovery of coral populations that have been declining since the 1970s. The loss of reef cover has far-reaching implications; these reefs are crucial habitat without which fish populations will suffer seriously. Reefs also protect low lying coastlines from storm waves.

Foraminifera are shelled marine protists whose fossils are widely used in oil exploration and paleoceanographic research. Strategies also are being developed to use foraminifers as bioindicators of environmental conditions that support coral growth. Assemblages in reef sediments can indicate if water quality is suitable for reef growth. Shell abnormalities are being investigated as an indicator of ocean acidification, while other species exhibit bleaching similar to that in corals. The Reef Indicators Lab at the University of South Florida is collaborating with researchers and managers in the Environmental Protection Agency, NOAA the US Geological Survey and other agencies to further develop these promising tools. Resulting data will be utilized as part of graduate students' theses and for long-term monitoring.

A Plant Phenology Network for the Southeastern United States

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Plant phenology is increasingly recognized as a vital approach for understanding how ecosystems respond to climatic changes. Spatially extensive patterns of phenological observations have been closely linked to climate variability; several studies have demonstrated a trend of earlier leaf emergence and bloom dates over the last several decades for lilac and cloned lilac species in the northern U.S. The USA National Phenology Network (USA-NPN) has been established to integrate phenological event observations on a national level with remotely-sensed weather and vegetation data. Initially, the network focused on the north-central portions of the continental U.S but is currently being extended to include the southeastern U.S. in order to provide a framework for quantifying the effects of climate changes unique to the Southeast.

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) projections for the southeastern U.S. suggest that higher maximum summer temperatures, higher evapotranspiration rates, and higher rainfall intensities combined with longer periods without rainfall will occur. The Southeastern Coastal Plain is relatively flat with a significant portion of the landscape comprised of swamps, marshes, and floodplain wetlands adjacent to slow-moving streams. Plant community structure and ecosystem dynamics in the Southeastern Coastal Plain have developed under conditions of abundant water close to the land surface. Prolonged droughts, higher maximum summer temperatures, and higher evapotranspiration rates may stress plant communities and cause shifts in the spatial extent of sensitive species, changes in community structure along hydrologic gradients, and changes in diversity and ecosystem function. Projected effects of climate change in the southeastern U.S. are: (1) accelerated wildfire frequency resulting from longer periods without rainfall, (2) reduced soil moisture available for plant transpiration, (3) increased infestation of southern forest stands by pine bark beetles, and (4) changed ecosystem community dynamics.

Poster Abstracts



Establishing the network in the southeastern United States is of outmost importance as the southeast is probably the most difficult of regions in the United States to distinguish regional climate change effects from the variability imposed by local weather effects. The magnitude of climate changes will likely be less severe in the southeast than in colder regions, but no less important to ecosystem dynamics. A plant phenology network for the southeastern U.S. will consist of a tiered approach consistent with the USA-NPN and include: (1) intensive sites focused on process studies, (2) spatially extensive environmental networks focused on standardized observations, (3) scientific networks with educational components (college campuses, nature preserves with educational programs, etc.), and (4) remote-sensing products that can be assimilated to extend surface observations.

Modeling Landscape Habitat Shifts from Climate Change in Everglades National Park

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Both Everglades restoration and sea-level rise may cause substantial spatial changes in habitat availability and location in Everglades National Park. The Biological Resources Branch at Everglades and Dry Tortugas National Parks has initiated a modeling effort to assist predictions of the interaction of sea-level rise and restoration alternatives on estuarine and inland habitats. Landscape-level habitat models are coupled to TIME hydrologic model outputs to provide decision-support for restoration and sea-level rise scenarios. Initial habitat suitability models have been constructed for juvenile spotted seatrout (*Cynoscion nebulosus*), blue crab (*Callinectes sapidus*), amphibian communities, and turtle grass (*Thalassia testudinum*). Vegetation community succession models are in development as a central element in identification of potential shifts in distribution of floral, and consequently, suitable faunal habitat. Vegetation modeling will attempt to include climate change effects such as precipitation, temperature and fire pattern changes on succession and spatial distribution of communities. Habitat models for additional estuarine and inland wildlife species are planned in cooperation with USGS and university researchers. This study is one part of a developing climate change program to provide spatial decision support assessment tools for the landscape-scale assemblages of habitats needed to support Everglades National Park fish and wildlife resources.

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Wildlife Habitat Planning Strategies, Design Features and Best Management Practices for Florida Communities and Landowners

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1000 Friends of Florida has just completed a project to develop a document addressing wildlife habitat planning strategies, design features and best management practices for Florida communities and landowners. The project was made possible by a grant from Florida's Wildlife Legacy Initiative. The product of this effort was to identify and document a series of planning tools, design features and approaches that can be used by local governments, landowners and others to conserve, link and sustain important wildlife habitat in Florida as our landscapes continue to develop. Printed and on line versions of the document are available. For the on line version go to www.floridahabitat.org and then to the manual button and click.

Role of Climate in Predicting Invasion Dynamics of Two Exotic Invaders in a North Florida Forest Ecosystem

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Florida has become the national epicenter of alien plant introductions. Climate plays an important role in the introduction and spread patterns of invasive species. Millions of acres of forestland in Florida are being occupied by alien invasive plants threatening their ecological and economic integrity. We evaluated the effects of climate on the future establishment and spread of Florida's two most notorious exotic species: *Lygodium japonicum* (Japanese climbing fern) and *Imperata cylindrica* (cogon grass) using Blackwater river state forest, a 195,000 acres forest in northwestern Florida as the study site. We used ecological niche modeling to test the hypotheses that occurrence of each invasive species on the landscape was closely associated with specific climatic variables. A total of 534 and 384 occurrence points for *L. japonicum* and *I. cylindrica* respectively were used for the modeling activity. Results indicated that growth patterns of both Japanese climbing fern and cogon grass were mostly affected by precipitation. Cogon grass spread patterns were most affected by 'precipitation of wettest month' whereas Japanese climbing fern was largely affected by 'annual precipitation'. It was concluded that future spread patterns of both species relative to climate can be accurately predicted using ecological niche modeling. The model can be calibrated and used for the entire state of Florida or elsewhere in the southeastern U.S and can serve as a tool to predict invasion patterns of other invasive plants as affected by climate of the region.

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Poster Abstracts

Global Climate Change and Its Effects on Large Carnivore Habitat in Florida

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Florida is an especially timely example of the potential negative impacts of climate change on biodiversity. Forecasted effects of global warming on Florida include increased hurricane intensity, an estimated temperature increase of nearly 3°F by 2025, sea level rise of 0.5 m – 5m, and a 10% annual decrease in precipitation - all of which could have profound ecological effects on Florida's unique peninsular ecosystems and biota. We applied several prominent climate change models to the habitats of Florida black bear (*Ursus americanus floridanus*) and Florida panther (*Puma concolor coryi*), two wide-ranging carnivores that have experienced dramatic post-Columbian range reductions. Our predictive model indicated that a climate change-induced sea level rise of only 1 m will reduce black bear habitat in Florida by 9%, and Florida panther habitat by 29 %, at 3 m by 20% and 62%, at 5 m by 31% and 90% respectively. The consequences are particularly dire for the panther which has no other populations outside of low-lying south Florida. Cost surface analyses identified likely migration routes that would link south Florida bear and panther populations to suitable habitat to the north. However, without rapid conservation actions that establish populations to the north, we predict that the Florida panther may go extinct in the wild due to climate change effects.

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Green Corner



Go Zero

Using The Conservation Fund's (TCF) Go Zero Program, the Center for Environmental Studies will calculate carbon dioxide emissions that will result from the energy use at the summit, as well as from travel. Energy use will be translated to dollars, which will be donated to TCF for native tree planting in protected parks and wildlife refuges across the nation. As they grow, these new forests will help clean the air that we breathe, filter the water we drink, restore sensitive wildlife habitat and enhance public recreation areas for current and future generations.



The Rosen PLAZA is a Florida Department of Environmental Protection certified green lodge.

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