



About the Center

The South Florida Natural Resources Center (SFNRC), a division of Everglades National Park (ENP), provides scientific information and environmental assessments to the National Park Service (NPS) units of south Florida and to the Department of the Interior. Established in 1978, the center was given the unprecedented mandate to address the impacts of activities taking place outside park boundaries. This unique charter requires that center scientists conduct scientific inquiries into the ecology of the region as a whole, evaluating the impacts that land-use and water resources management actions have on the freshwater, estuarine, and coastal ecosystems of south Florida.

“To conduct and communicate science for the preservation and restoration of the south Florida ecosystem”

The SFNRC Mission Statement

Today, the SFNRC is organized around four major categories of activities: *Natural Resources Management*, *Inventory and Monitoring*, *Restoration Assessments*, and *Applied Science*. With a primary goal of ensuring a functional ecosystem and its associated biological diversity, center scientists work to conserve and, where necessary, restore the normal suite of interactions occurring among the biological and physical elements of the environment. The center, unique within the NPS for the size and complexity of its science mission, is dedicated to the NPS goal of preserving resources for the enjoyment of future generations.

Office Locations

South Florida Ecosystem Office

Center staff located at the South Florida Ecosystem Office work primarily on ecosystem restoration initiatives in south Florida.

950 N. Krome Avenue
Homestead, FL 33030-4443
(305) 224-4200 phone
(305) 224-4147 fax

Daniel Beard Center, Everglades National Park

The Daniel Beard Center provides the base for most of the field work done in ENP, including natural resources management and inventory and monitoring activities.

40001 State Road 9336
Homestead, FL 33034
(305) 242-7800 phone
(305) 242-7836 fax

Everglades Program Team

Located at the Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge, the Everglades Program Team, in partnership with the refuge, provides scientific recommendations on water quality issues.

c/o A.R.M. Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge
10216 Lee Road
Boynton Beach, FL 33437-9741
(561) 735-6000 phone
(561) 735-6008 fax

Florida Bay Interagency Science Center

The Florida Bay Interagency Science Center provides the base for research, natural resources management, and inventory and monitoring activities associated with Florida Bay and the Dry Tortugas.

98630 Overseas Hwy.
Key Largo, FL 33037
(305) 852-0324 x0327 phone
(305) 852-0325 fax

For more information, visit our website:

<http://www.nps.gov/ever>

South Florida Natural Resources Center



Ecosystem Restoration and Applied Science

The center plays a key role in the interagency process guiding the restoration of the Everglades ecosystem through four primary projects:

- *Hole-in-the-Donut*
- *Modified Water Deliveries* (MWD)
- *Canal-111* (C-111)
- *Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan* (CERP).

The Hole-in-the-Donut project is a cooperative effort between ENP and Miami-Dade County to restore an area of the park that is dominated by non-native plants back to a marl prairie wetland community. The



Tree islands located west of Taylor Slough
photo by William Perry, ENP

MWD and C-111 projects are designed to improve water deliveries to ENP, while CERP, a \$10.5 billion federal/state plan, serves to restore the south Florida ecosystem while providing for other water-related needs of the region. Implementation of these projects is guided by the best available science. The SFNRC participates in this process through its applied science programs, including the Critical Ecosystem Studies Initiative, which funds collaborative research needed for Everglades restoration.

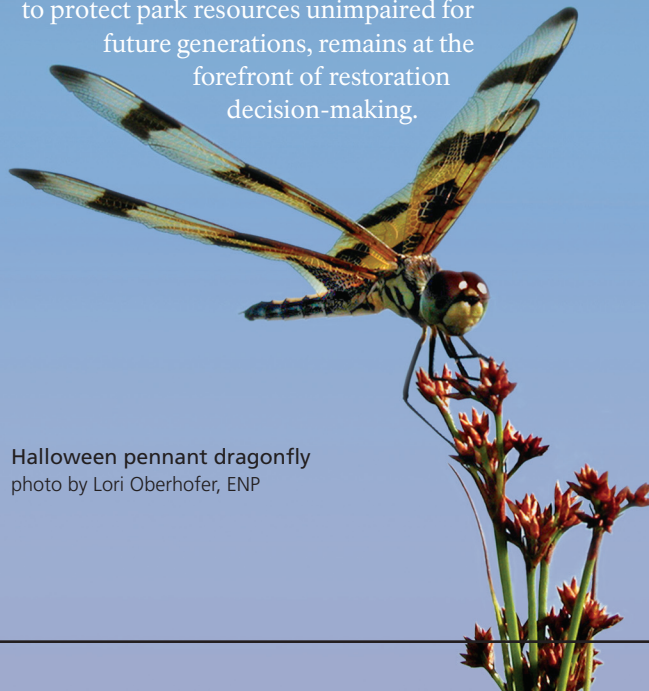
Cover, Great Egret
photo by Quan Dong, ENP

The Center's Role

The center serves four NPS units: Everglades National Park, Dry Tortugas National Park, Biscayne National Park, and Big Cypress National Preserve. Center scientists provide natural resources management advice, collect and analyze inventory and monitoring data, and conduct applied research for Everglades and Dry Tortugas National Parks. In addition, center scientists serve all four south Florida NPS units through evalu-

*South Florida Natural Resources Center:
land steward,
restoration partner*

ation of CERP projects. Finally, in order to support ongoing south Florida restoration efforts, the center works closely with its partner bureaus within the U.S. Department of the Interior, to coordinate and identify the science needed to restore the Everglades. This partnership ensures that the mission of the NPS, to protect park resources unimpaired for future generations, remains at the forefront of restoration decision-making.



Halloween pennant dragonfly
photo by Lori Oberhofer, ENP

Resources Management through Inventory and Monitoring

The center serves Everglades and Dry Tortugas National Parks by providing the best scientific information available to answer natural resources management questions. Center scientists draw on inventory



American alligator
photo by Lori Oberhofer, ENP

and monitoring data and ongoing interdisciplinary research conducted by NPS staff and scientists of universities and other agencies. These data contribute to an understanding of the linkages between hydrology and biology, the status of a number of threatened and endangered species, and the response of the system to management actions.

Examples of resources management activities include:

- Monitoring hydrologic conditions
- Inventorying native plant communities
- Wildlife management
- Implementing exotic plant and animal control measures
- Identifying threatened and endangered species within restoration project footprints
- Monitoring marine ecosystems
- Investigating abnormal events, such as algal blooms.