**SOUTHWEST FLORIDA WATER**

**MANAGEMENT DISTRICT**

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“Identify Critical Environmentally Sensitive Ecosystems and Implement Plans for Protection and Restoration” Metric:

How to Compile, Analyze and Present

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# Purpose

The purpose of this document is to provide instruction on how to compile, analyze and present metrics in support of the District’s Strategic Plan or Business Plan. The details provided will ensure consistent generation and storage of this information for use in future metrics updates.

# Metric

# *Description*: The District’s Strategic Plan for 2014 – 2018 established a “Conservation and Restoration Goal” to identify critical environmentally sensitive ecosystems and implement plans to protect and restore those systems. The SWIM Program’s restoration efforts have focused on restoration, conservation and enhancement of ecosystems within the watersheds of Tampa and Sarasota Bays and Charlotte Harbor. The Estuary Programs for these three SWIM Priority waterbodies have or are in the process of developing restoration and enhancement goals for critical habitats in the watersheds. This metric will assemble acres restored and protected by the District and its partners in these three watersheds. All data will be evaluated against the established goals for each habitat type. Waterbodies and the goals for each habitat type are listed in the Appendix.

*Required Output:* The metric result will show the number of acres restored or enhanced compared to the restoration goals.

*Frequency of Reporting*: Metric results will be compiled and reported on using information generated by SWIM and our cooperators’.

*Responsible Party*: SWIM staff will extract, compile and report the results on this metric.

# How to Assemble the Data

Step 1. On June 30, query District project managers to provide restored acres on District Initiative or Cooperative Funding projects for the preceding 12-month period in each of the three estuary program watersheds.

Step 2. Categorize the restored acres into the habitat types based on the applicable estuary programs’ restoration goals (See Appendix).

# How to Analyze the Data

For habitat restoration in Tampa and Sarasota Bays compare the restored acres completed each year for each habitat type to the goals. For Charlotte Harbor, identify the restored acres completed each year for each habitat type.

# How to Present the Data

**Tampa Bay**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Habitat Type** | **Restoration Goal (acres)** | **District Progress (acres)** |
| Mangrove | Maintain existing | ### |
| Salt Marsh | 2,758 | ### |
| Coastal Uplands | Inadequate data | ### |
| Forested Freshwater Wetlands | 1,615 | ### |
| Non-forested Freshwater Wetlands | 17,088 | ### |

**Sarasota Bay (Ten Year Outlook)**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Habitat Type** | **Restoration Goal (acres)** | **District Progress (acres)** |
| Intertidal Marsh | 180 | ### |
| Non-forested Freshwater Wetlands | 110 | ### |

**Charlotte Harbor**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Habitat Type** | **District Progress (acres)** |
| Salt marsh | ### |
| Freshwater wetlands | ### |
| Coastal uplands | ### |

# Appendix

**Tampa Bay Habitat Restoration Goals**

The Tampa Bay Estuary Program (TBEP) established habitat restoration goals in its Habitat Restoration Master Plan Update (June 2010). This plan is expected to be updated in 2017 using the most recent land use data. The TBEP established freshwater wetland goals in its Master Plan for the Protection and Restoration of Freshwater Wetlands in the Tampa Bay Watershed (October 2014). The goals established by these documents are considered goals for an approximately 10-year planning horizon (Ed Sherwood, TBEP, personal communication).

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Habitat Type** | **Preservation**  **Goal (acres)** | **Restoration Goal (acres)** | **Current Deficit** |
| Mangrove | 15,139 | Maintain existing | Maintain existing |
| Salt Marsh | 4,395 | 7,600 | 2,758 |
| 1Coastal Uplands | ˜ 12,929 | Inadequate data | Unknown |
| Forested Freshwater Wetlands | 150,693 | 1,615 | 1,615 |
| Non-forested Freshwater Wetlands | 80,275 | 17,088 | 17,088 |

1 Interim Goal - TBEP to update in next iteration of TBEP Restoration Master Plan expected in 2017

The Preservation Goal acreages should not be considered to be protected in a preservation or conservation land use. Rather, the Preservation acreages reflect the aerial extent of acreage of habitat identified in the Land Use Land Cover Map for the year that was analyzed. The TBEP monitors progress towards the goals based on updates to the SWFWMD Land Use and Land Cover Maps which are updated approximately every three years.

The District will monitor progress toward the goals annually based on the acres of habitat restored or created by District Initiative and/or Cooperative Funding projects.

**Sarasota Bay Habitat Restoration Goals**

The Sarasota Bay Estuary Program’s (SBEP) Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan includes Freshwater and Saltwater Wetland Action Plan goals. Performance measures associated with this Action Plan include the restoration or creation of 18 acres of intertidal wetlands and 11 acres of non-forested freshwater wetlands annually.

For the purposes of the District’s monitoring, the annual habitat restoration goals for the Sarasota Bay watershed have been extended to reflect a 10-year planning horizon and thus the goals are to restore or create:

* 180 acres of intertidal wetlands
* 110 acres of non-forested freshwater wetlands

**Charlotte Harbor National Estuary Program Restoration Goals**

The Charlotte Harbor National Estuary Program has very broad goals for habitat protection and restoration in its 2008 Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan. Restoration acreages have not been apportioned to specific habitat types. In the interim, the District will report on the habitat restoration acreages completed within the CHNEP on an annual basis.

The District provides funding to the CHNEP through an annual cooperative agreement. A project to develop a Habitat Restoration Master Plan to establish restoration goals will be included in the FY2017 cooperative agreement.