

**SAMPLE SESSION PROPOSAL – GEER** *(This document is provided solely as an instructional sample. This is not an officially submitted proposal.)*

**Title:** Application of Paleoecological Information to Restoration Planning and Resource Management

**Summary:**

The purpose of this session is to bring together scientists conducting paleoecologic research in the Greater Everglades Ecosystem with managers and stakeholders responsible for making resource management and restoration planning decisions. Scientists will present their latest results in ecosystem history and paleoecologic research with an emphasis on the application of their findings to perceived management needs. Natural cycles of change (climate, sea level) versus anthropogenic changes will be discussed in terms of the impact on restoration goals and targets. Managers and stakeholders will present information on the status of their information needs related to the history of the ecosystem, what gaps in information exist, and as we move forward with restoration, what will be the information needs for adaptive management. In addition, a component of the session will address how paleoecologic data could potentially be utilized by hydrologic and/or ecologic modelers. Panel discussions following the talks will allow direct interaction between the scientists and the managers and will address application of paleoecologic data and the challenges of restoring a dynamic system that has a long-term history of change.

**Tentative Agenda:**

*Morning session: 1.5 hours\**

Brief 5-10 minute Introduction to session by organizers

Begin with invited speakers – plan is to have paired sets of scientists, and the managers who have used (or will use) their data present one after the other.

*Afternoon session: 1.5 hours\**

Panel discussion – minimum of 45 minutes – discussion will begin by dealing with any outstanding questions from the earlier session, with the speakers available to answer these questions. The organizers will have a set of topical discussion questions prepared to lead/guide the direction of the discussion if necessary.

\*These could be combined into one, 90-minute session – with brief invited talks given by experts, followed by a panel discussion.

### **Audience for Session:**

This session will be of interest to all researchers working in ecosystem history and paleoecology and to all stakeholders and land managers who need to make decisions about restoration based on historical conditions of the ecosystem. Managers will be provided with examples of how paleoecologic information can be used to establish baseline conditions or to set performance measures and targets for restoration. Understanding the cycles and rates of change of the ecosystem under both natural and anthropogenic conditions is an essential component of restoration and will allow managers to set sustainable, realistic and cost-effective goals. By looking at past sequences of change, we can predict the response of the system to future changes, both natural and anthropogenic. Scientists will be provided with examples from managers on what types of information are needed and how these results can best be utilized.

Stakeholders and managers will benefit from this session by understanding the scope of paleoecologic research, what information has been compiled to date, and how these data can be used to address restoration goals. Scientists will benefit from this session by understanding what management information needs are, and how they can tailor the presentation of the scientific results to address these management needs.

### **Organizers of Session:**

G. Lynn Wingard  
MS 926 A National Center  
US Geological Survey  
Reston, VA 20192  
703-648-5352  
FAX: 703-648-6953  
lwingard@usgs.gov

Patrick A. Pitts  
US Fish & Wildlife Service  
1339 20th Street  
Vero Beach, FL 32960  
772 562-3909 X250  
FAX: 772-778-2568  
Patrick\_Pitts@fws.gov

### *Qualifications of organizers:*

**G.L. Wingard** has been conducting ecosystem history research in South Florida since 1994 and is Chief of the USGS Ecosystem History of South Florida Estuaries Project. She has served as a USGS representative on several CERP Project Delivery Teams, and helped to write the USGS Science Plan for South Florida and the DOI Science Plan for South Florida.

**P.A. Pitts** has been involved with CERP since 2002 and has served as the USFWS representative on several CERP Project Delivery Teams, such as the Biscayne Bay Coastal Wetlands Project. He is a member of CERP's RECOVER Evaluation Team (ET), which takes a system-wide approach to planning CERP. A former research scientist, Pitts recognizes the need to incorporate sound science into restoration planning decisions, and he was instrumental in guiding the ET Southern Estuaries sub-team to utilize paleoecological data to set salinity targets for Florida and Biscayne bays.

### List of Invited Participants in Paleoecology Session

Name	Contact Information	
Thomas Cronin	Address:	MS 926A USGS National Center 12201 Sunrise Valley Drive Reston, VA 20192
	Phone	703-648-6363
	FAX	703-648-6953
	Email	tcronin@usgs.gov
Evelyn Gaiser	Address:	Department of Biology Florida International University Miami, FL 33199
	Phone	(305) 348-6145
	FAX	(305) 348-4096
	Email	gaisere@fiu.edu
Lorraine Heisler	Address:	1339 20 <sup>th</sup> Street Vero Beach, Florida 32960
	Phone	(772)-562-3909 x264
	FAX	(772)-778-2568
	Email	cholmes@usgs.gov
Chuck Holmes	Address:	600 Fourth Street South St. Petersburg, FL 33701
	Phone	(727) 803-8747 X3056
	FAX	(727) 803-2032
	Email	Lorraine_heisler@fws.gov
Scott Ishman	Address:	Geology Department Mail Code 4324 Southern Illinois University Carbondale, Ill 62901-4324
	Phone	(618) 453-7377
	FAX	(618) 453-7393
	Email	sishman@geo.siu.edu
Bill Orem	Address:	MS 956 USGS National Center 12201 Sunrise Valley Drive Reston, VA 20192
	Phone	703-648-6273
	FAX	
	Email	borem@usgs.gov
Patrick Pitts	Address:	US Fish & Wildlife 1339 20th Street Vero Beach, FL 32960
	Phone	(772) 562-3909 X250
	FAX	
	Email	Patrick_Pitts@fws.gov

Michael Savarese	Address:	10501 FGCU Blvd S Ft. Myers, FL 33965
	Phone	(239) 590-7165
	FAX	(239) 590-7200
	Email	msavares@fgcu.edu
<i>Peter Swart</i>	Address:	<i>University of Miami RSMAS 4600 Rickenbacker Causeway Miami, FL 33031</i>
	Phone	(305) 421-4103
	FAX	(305) 361-4632
	Email	pswart@rsmas.miami.edu
Deb Willard	Address:	MS 926A USGS National Center 12201 Sunrise Valley Drive Reston, VA 20192
	Phone	703-648-5320
	FAX	703-648-6953
	Email	dwillard@usgs.gov
Lynn Wingard	Address:	MS 926A USGS National Center 12201 Sunrise Valley Drive Reston, VA 20192
	Phone	703-648-5352
	FAX	703-648-6953
	Email	lwingard@usgs.gov
Christopher McVoy	Address:	South Florida Water Management District
	Phone	(561) 682-6510
	FAX	
	Email	cmcvoy@sfwmd.gov
Don Deis	Address:	
	Phone	904-363-6100
	FAX	
	Email	drdeis@pbsj.com
Collin Saunders	Address:	Florida International University
	Phone	305-348-7319
	FAX	
	Email	
Frank Marshall	Address:	Consultant
	Phone	386-427-0694
	FAX	
	Email	fmarshall@ectinc.com