

# Lessons in disturbance and restoration from long-term ecological research: 25 years of the Florida Coastal Everglades



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Bob Wright Centre, Room B150 (Flury Hall)

Presented by the

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Coastal ecosystems provide many benefits and services to society. Like many coastal ecosystems, the Florida Everglades has been threatened by diversion of fresh water to support urban and agricultural expansion but is undergoing widespread restoration of seasonal pulses of fresh water. Since 2000, the Florida Coastal Everglades Long Term Ecological Research (FCE-LTER) Program has been studying changes in nutrient biogeochemistry, wetland productivity, and the shifting ecology of vulnerable species. Restoration is returning fresh water to levels not seen in more than 100 years. The economic value of the Everglades ecosystems is multiples of billions of USD. Our long-term ecological research addresses why coastal ecosystems and services are changing and how they are explained by shifts in hydrology. Coastal regions around the world are experiencing rapid sea-level rise, the Everglades illustrates the capacity to mitigate and adapt to such uncertainties by continuing restoration efforts that ultimately protect nature and society.

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