

Appendix 7B-2: RECOVER-Project Delivery Team Interaction Strategy

Orlando Ramos-Gines, Steven Gilbert, Kimberly Chuirazzi
and Lisa Sterling

The Programmatic Regulations (DOD, 2003) require that Restoration Coordination and Verification (RECOVER) assist project teams in ensuring that their project design is linked to the goals and purposes of the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (CERP). More specifically, RECOVER strives to provide the following assistance to project teams:

- Assist project teams in understanding how project goals and objectives relate to overall CERP goals and objectives
- Assist project teams in implementing adaptive management strategies in project planning
- Provide information on the latest modeling assumptions for project planning
- Provide the scientific basis for project activities such as performance measure development, monitoring plan development, and determining project benefits
- Work with the project teams to determine which project alternative plan represents the best systemwide performance

RECOVER has developed an interaction strategy for the project teams to ensure that adequate assistance is provided to the projects (**Figure 1**). The 10 points of interaction presented on the diagram represent the minimum interactions between RECOVER and a project team. If RECOVER has concerns regarding the project or if the project team makes a request, additional interactions will take place.

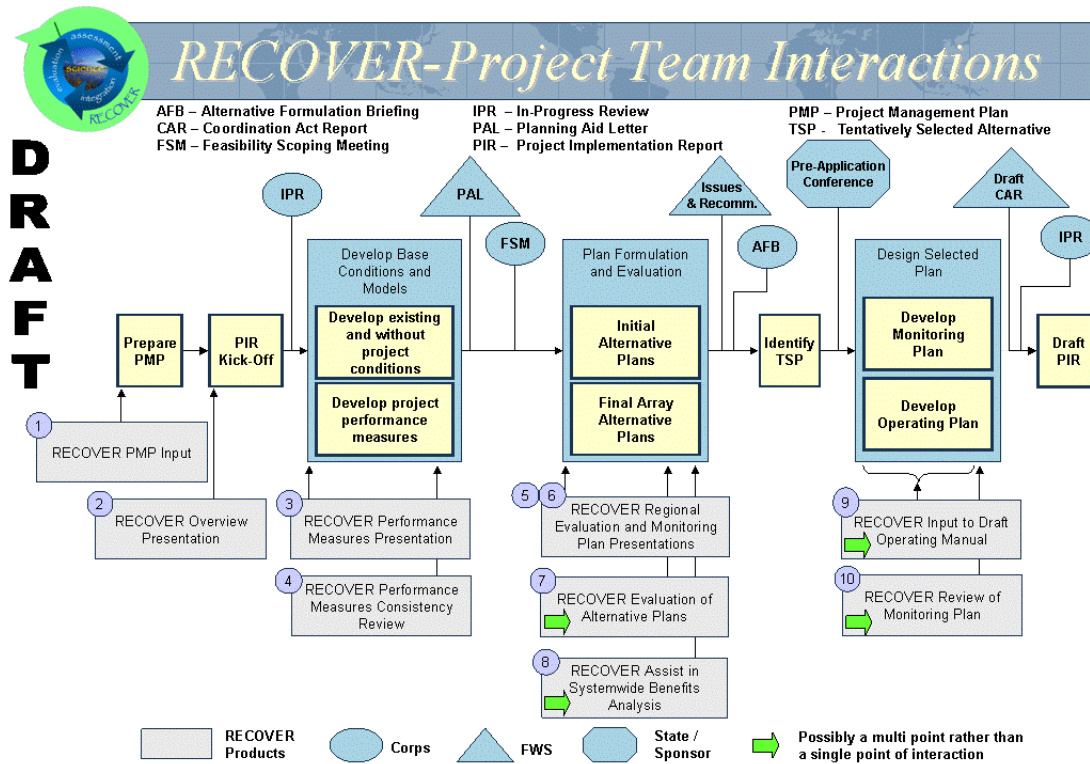


Figure 1. RECOVER-Project Team Interaction Strategy.

The following is an explanation of the points of interaction:

1. **RECOVER Input to PMP** – As part of the Project Management Plan (PMP) development process, RECOVER will provide the project team with language describing interactions between the project team and RECOVER technical teams, to be included in Section 7.0 Functional Area Plans of the PMP. This language will outline specific interaction points and a proposed timeline for those interactions based on the standard U.S. Army Corps of Engineers planning process. It is suggested that these interactions be included in the project's schedule.
2. **Project Kickoff Meeting: RECOVER Overview Presentation** – When the project team first organizes, RECOVER will provide an overview of RECOVER's purpose, scope of interactions, and systemwide view. This interaction is intended as a broad overview of RECOVER to familiarize the project team with the following concepts:
 - How project goals and expected benefits relate to broader CERP objectives
 - How to manage uncertainties during project planning, including considering the potential for robust alternatives, pilot studies, sensitivity analyses, or physical models
 - What conceptual ecological models and CERP restoration hypotheses are applicable to the project area
 - How Monitoring and Assessment Plan (MAP) activities are applicable to the project area

- What role RECOVER has in reviewing project-level performance measures, conducting regional evaluations, reviewing project monitoring plans, and providing input for project operating manuals
 - What systemwide modeling assumptions will be provided for the South Florida Water Management Model (SFWMM) Existing Condition, Future Without Project Condition, and Future With CERP Condition to conduct plan formulation activities
3. **Performance Measure Development: RECOVER Performance Measure Presentation** – Because RECOVER is involved in reviewing project-level performance measures, it is beneficial to both RECOVER and the project team to meet and discuss performance measure development and RECOVER's role in reviewing the project's performance measures. This interaction is intended to familiarize the project team with the following concepts:
- Applying systemwide performance measures and interim goals and targets
 - Minimizing redundancy while maintaining consistency between project and systemwide performance measures
 - Ensuring consistency between project and systemwide performance measures
4. **Performance Measure Consistency Review** – The RECOVER Evaluation Team will review project-level performance measures to ensure consistency with systemwide performance measures. This interaction will be conducted by a program manager according to RECOVER's Standard Operating Plan (SOP) for consistency reviews. The SOP as well as previous reviews conducted by RECOVER can be found at the following website:

http://www.evergladesplan.org/pm/recover/eval_team_reports.cfm

RECOVER's report should be included in the Project Implementation Report (PIR), Annex E: Reports Provided by RECOVER. The project team should also notify RECOVER as to how the comments are being addressed.

5. **Plan Formulation: RECOVER Regional Evaluation Presentation** – A presentation from RECOVER should be scheduled to assist the project team with the following concepts specific to project evaluation:
- RECOVER's evaluation of project alternative plans
 - RECOVER's assistance in determining which benefits to evaluate and how they relate to systemwide monitoring
 - RECOVER's role in determining the project team's contribution toward interim goals and targets
 - RECOVER's availability to provide input during the initial development of the project's alternative plans, at the project team's request
6. **RECOVER Monitoring Plan Presentation** – RECOVER will deliver a presentation providing information related to project monitoring plans. This presentation may be integrated with the Plan Formulation Regional Evaluation (Point 5) presentation or provided separately to a subset of the project team. Key points in this presentation will include the following:
- Relating project monitoring to project goals and objectives
 - Identifying monitoring in the project area that could be used or built upon

- Assessing project success and fostering adaptive modifications to improve project performance
 - Providing available guidance documents on monitoring plan development
 - Reviewing the project monitoring plan for consistency with systemwide assessment based monitoring under the MAP
7. **RECOVER Evaluation of Project Alternative Plans** – The RECOVER Evaluation Team will conduct a review of a project’s final array of alternative plans and report on the performance of each in the context of the whole system. Currently, RECOVER uses the SFWMM to evaluate plans at the system scale. Smaller or hydrologically distinct projects that cannot be effectively modeled using the SFWMM are evaluated using the project’s performance measures, available regional modeling output, and best professional judgment.

The project team should contact RECOVER as the final selection of alternative plans nears. Once the project team has begun modeling its final array of alternative plans, RECOVER should begin its review process. Information pertaining to the project’s alternative plan modeling (SFWMM or other regional model) should be given to RECOVER upon completion of model runs. Current planning guidance requires RECOVER’s evaluation of alternative plans to be included in the project’s Alternative Formulation Briefing (AFB) package sent to the South Florida Water Management District. It is imperative that RECOVER begin its evaluation as soon as modeling results are available to ensure that the report is completed at least 35 days prior to the project’s scheduled AFB meeting. This interaction will be conducted according to RECOVER’s SOP for regional evaluations. The SOP as well as previous regional evaluations conducted by RECOVER can be found at the following website:

http://www.evergladesplan.org/pm/recover/eval_team_reports.cfm#rea

RECOVER’s report should be included in the project PIR, Annex E: Reports Provided by RECOVER, and the project team should notify RECOVER as to how their submitted comments are being addressed.

8. **Systemwide Benefits Analysis** – The RECOVER Evaluation Team is developing a systemwide benefits methodology to assist the project teams in quantifying a project’s systemwide benefits. Once completed, the Evaluation Team will provide assistance to the project teams in applying this methodology to the individual project if needed.
9. **Project Monitoring Plan Review** – RECOVER’s review of project monitoring plans is intended to (1) ensure the design and implementation of project-level monitoring plan components are consistent, complimentary, and compatible with the MAP; (2) identify any duplication of monitoring efforts or reliance on the MAP by the project team; and (3) identify potential information developed by the project team that may be incorporated into future systemwide assessment reports. This interaction will be conducted by the RECOVER Assessment Team in accordance with their SOP for project-level monitoring plan reviews. This SOP can be found at the following website:

http://www.evergladesplan.org/pm/recover/recover_docs/rap/rec_rap_rev_proj_mon_plans.pdf

RECOVER's report should be included in the PIR, Annex E: Reports Provided by RECOVER, and the project team should notify RECOVER as to how their submitted comments are being addressed.

10. **Project Operating Manuals** – RECOVER's Planning Team is available to provide assistance in developing each project's draft operating manual and interim operating strategy in order to optimize the performance of each feature in the context of the rest of the CERP and the overall system-level goals. This interaction is not required; assistance is provided at the project team's request.

LITERATURE CITED

DOD. 2003. Programmatic Regulations for the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan; Final Rule. Department of Defense, 33 CFR Part 385, *Federal Register*, November 12, 2003.