



# DEP CORAL PROTECTION AND RESTORATION UPDATE

February 2023





# MANAGING FOR RESILIENCE

*Path Forward, Long Term*



## Management and Restoration Goals:

1. Support passage of the **Restoring Resilient Reefs Act**.
2. Support **Everglades restoration** and unify with Florida's Coral Reef efforts.
3. Finalize reef restoration strategy and secure seed funding to jumpstart Florida's '**coral restoration economy**'.
4. Support increased funding through EPA's **South FL Geographic Initiative**.
5. Continue **stakeholder engagement** and update management plans.

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## Management and Restoration Goals:

### 1. Support passage of the **Restoring Resilient Reefs Act**.

**Update: Passed as part of the National Defense Authorization Act of 2022**

- Requires National Coral Reef Resilience Strategy and Coral Reef Action Plans for all US reefs.
- Establishes Coral Reef Stewardship Partnerships and Fund.
- Authorizes Emergency Assistance and Fund.
- Codifies US Coral Reef Task Force and expands non-voting membership to include Fishery Management Councils.
- Increased authorized funding amount but not fully appropriated.

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## Management and Restoration Goals:

1. Support passage of the **Restoring Resilient Reefs Act**.
2. Support **Everglades restoration** and unify with Florida's Coral Reef efforts.

**Update:** Florida's Coral Reef Coordination Team established.

- Collaborative Framework for water quality monitoring.
- Recommendations for environmental indicators and RECOVER performance measures.

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## Management and Restoration Goals:

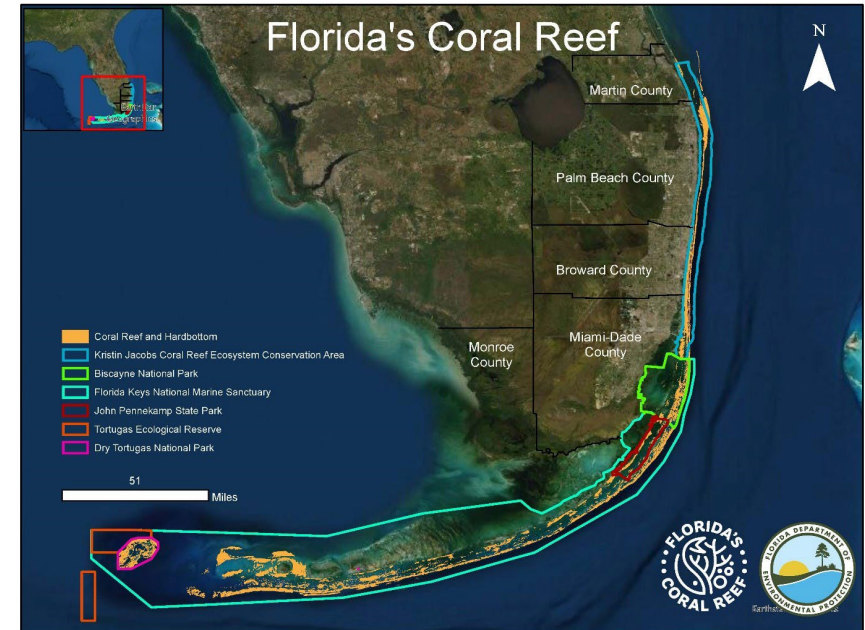
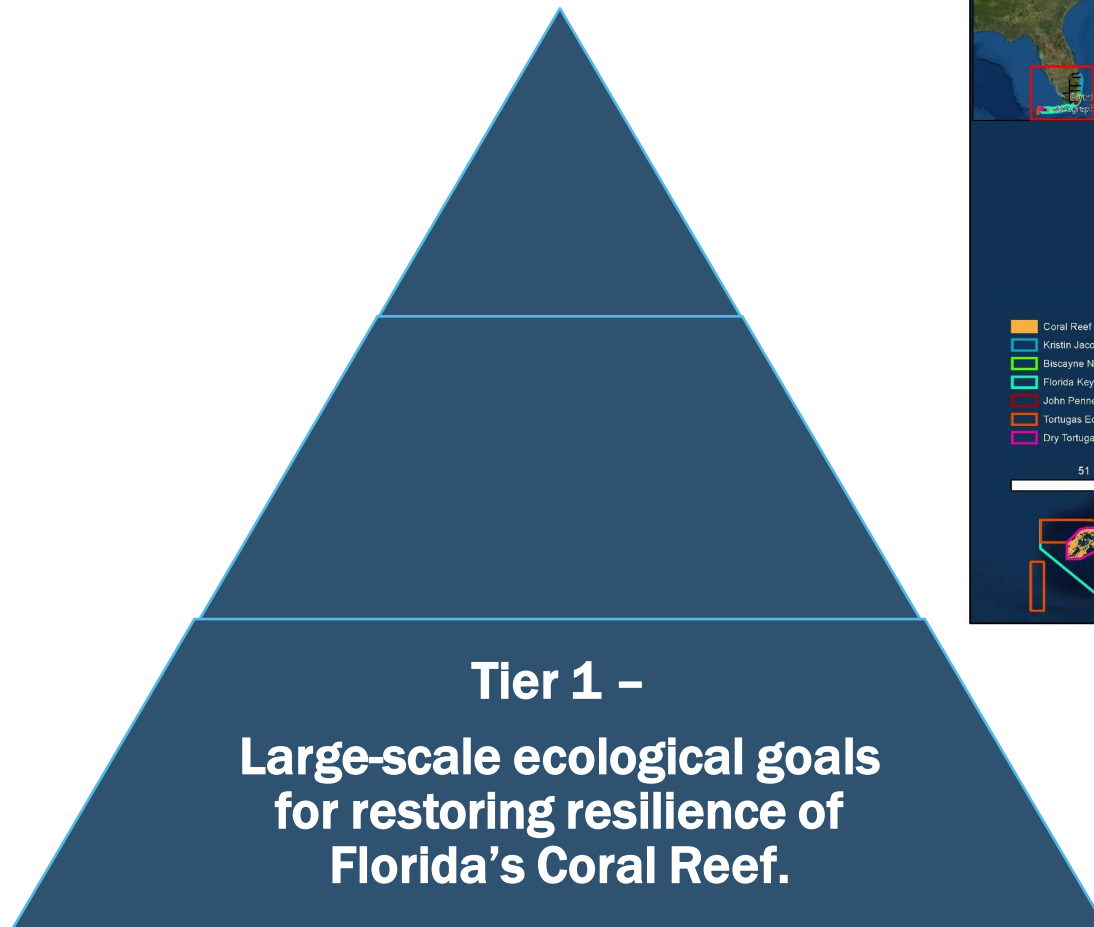
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**Update: Restoration Strategy Development  
FEMA Funding  
Governor's Executive Order 23-06**

# FLORIDA'S CORAL REEF RESTORATION



## Strategy Development – A Tiered Approach

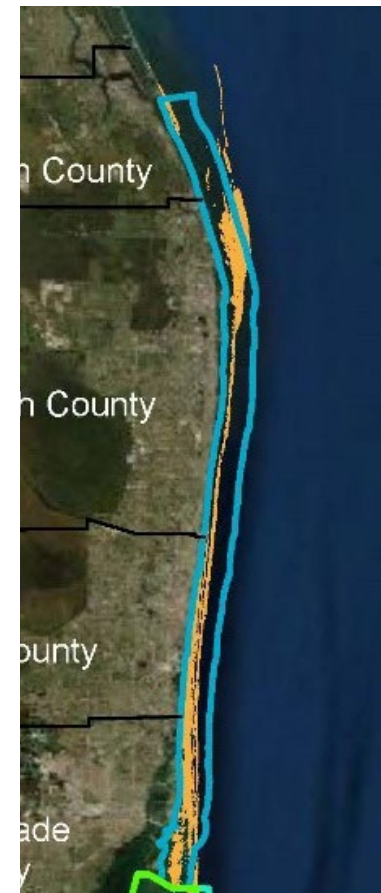
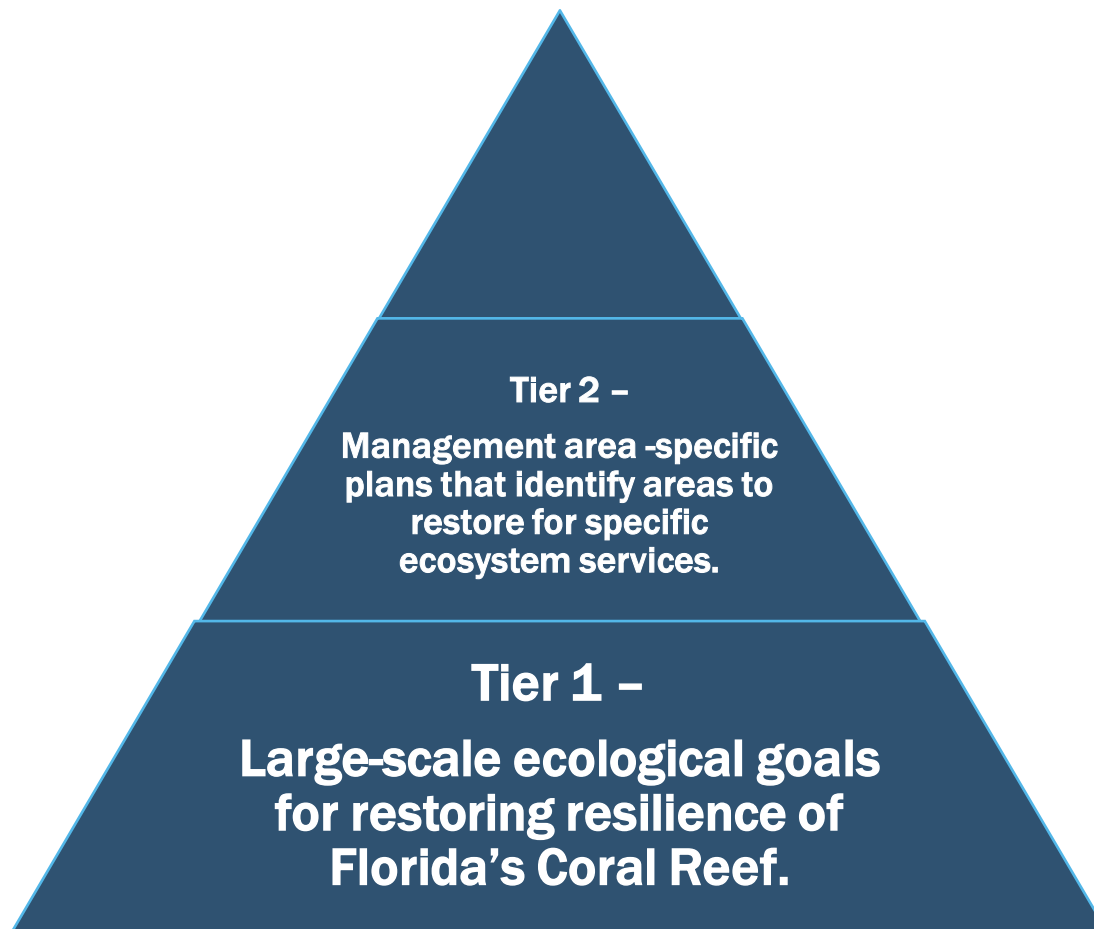




# FLORIDA'S CORAL REEF RESTORATION



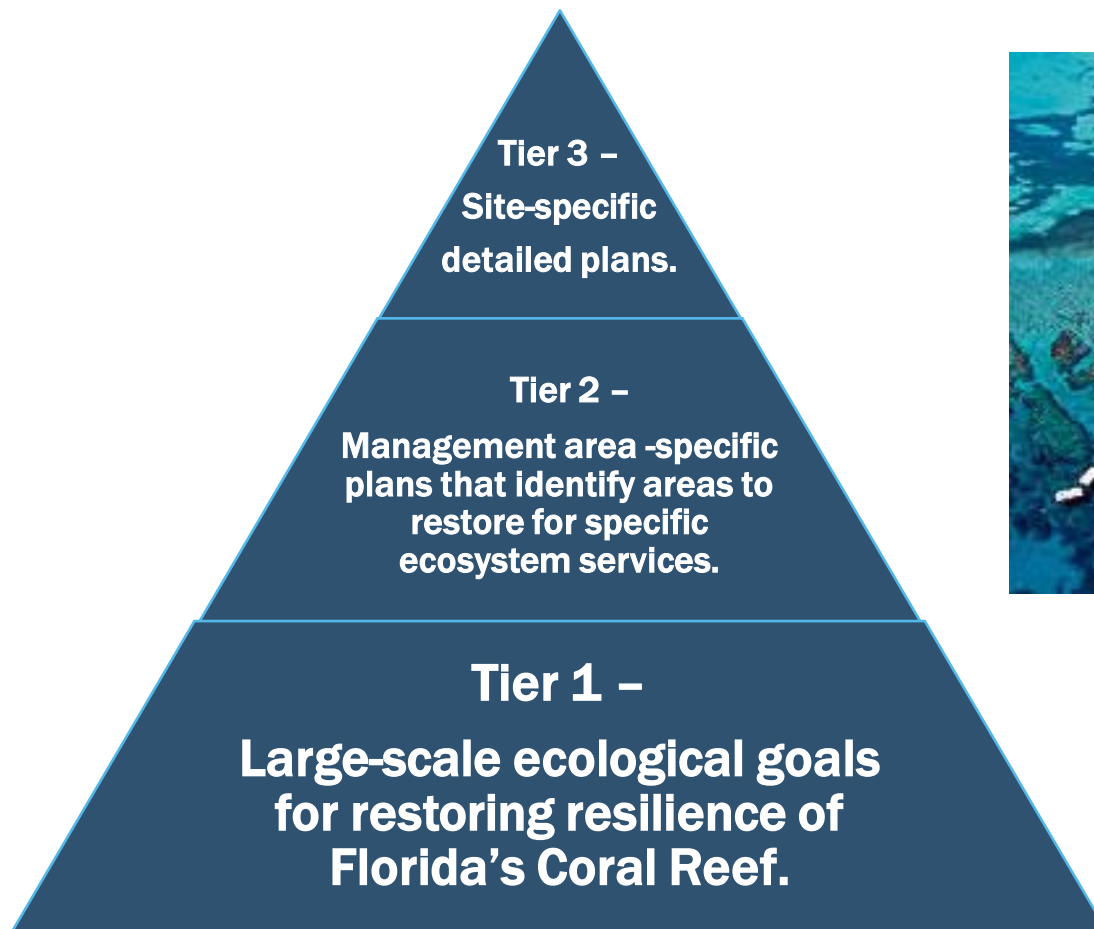
## Strategy Development – A Tiered Approach



# FLORIDA'S CORAL REEF RESTORATION



## Strategy Development – A Tiered Approach

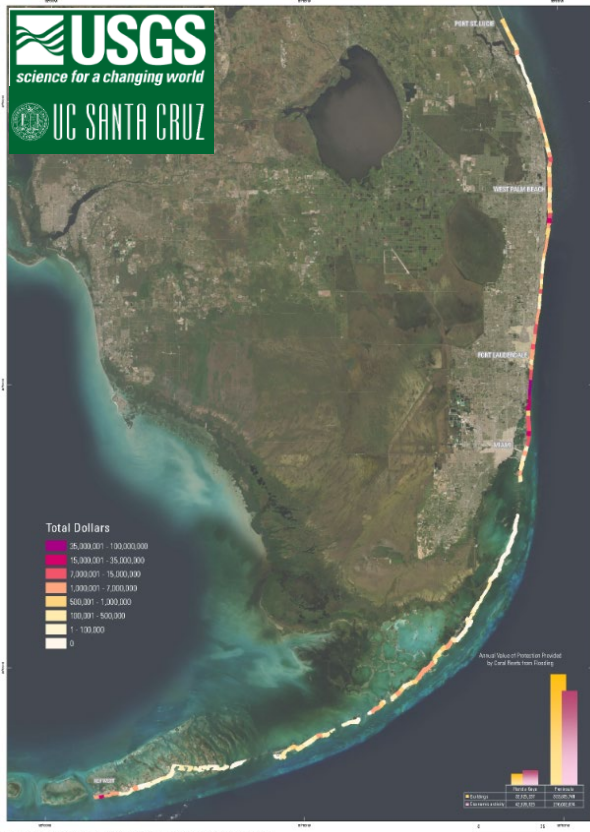




# FLORIDA'S CORAL REEF RESTORATION



## FEMA Funding



### Coral Reef Restoration for Risk Reduction (CR4): A Guide to Project Design and Proposal Development

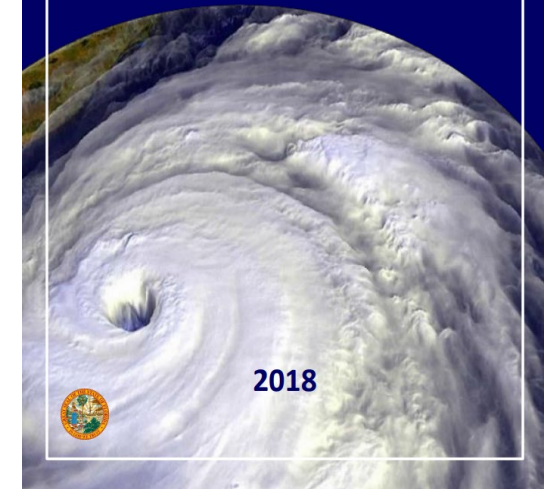


Photo credit: Curt Storlazzi, USGS

#### Working Group

Austen E. Stovall, University of California Santa Cruz  
Michael W. Beck, University of California Santa Cruz  
Curt Storlazzi, U.S. Geological Survey  
Juliette Hayes, US Army Corps of Engineers  
Janan Reilly, Federal Emergency Management Agency  
Jen Koss, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration  
Doug Bausch, NiyamIT/FEMA Hazus

### ENHANCED STATE HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN STATE OF FLORIDA



# FLORIDA'S CORAL REEF RESTORATION



## Governor's Executive Order 23-06

**Directs the Chief Resilience Officer and DEP to build upon our efforts protecting Florida communities from flooding, sea level rise, and future storm events by undertaking the following:**

**Establishing a Coral Reef Restoration and Recovery Initiative to increase the State's coral propagation and deployment capacity to restore the natural infrastructure that will enhance coastal flood and storm surge protections.**

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4. Support increased funding through EPA's **South FL Geographic Initiative**.

**Update: South Florida Ecosystem Enhancement Act Introduced  
(S. 119 / H.R. 628)**



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5. Continue **stakeholder engagement** and update management plans.

**Update: Draft Management Plan in internal DEP review  
SEFCRI Team meeting – TBD March/April**

# FY 22-23 FUNDING



## Resilient Coastlines and Waste Funding (\$9M RECURRING):

### Funds support:

- Mitigating the impacts of coral disease through research, intervention, propagation infrastructure and restoration trials.
- Continuing regional offshore water quality monitoring.

## \$20M Biscayne Bay Water Quality Improvement Grant

### Funds support Local Governments and Nonstate entities:

- Septic to sewer conversions.
- Stormwater infrastructure upgrades.
- Water quality monitoring and modeling.



# FY 23-24 PROPOSED FUNDING



## Resilient Coastlines and Waste Funding (\$12.2M RECURRING):

### Funds support:

- Mitigating the impacts of coral disease through research, intervention, propagation infrastructure and restoration trials.
- Continuing regional offshore water quality monitoring.

## \$20M Biscayne Bay Water Quality Improvement Grant

### Funds support Local Governments and Nonstate entities:

- Septic to sewer conversions.
- Stormwater infrastructure upgrades.
- Water quality monitoring and modeling.

## \*Proposed\* \$10M Coral Reef Restoration and Recovery Initiative Grant

- Restore 25 percent of Florida's Coral Reef by 2050.
- Restock Florida's Coral Reef with hardy native corals and other keystone species to re-establish and strengthen natural reproduction, dispersal, and recruitment patterns.
- Significantly enhance flood protection in SE Florida and strengthen coastal economies.



**THANK YOU!**



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