



The Everglades: Degradation and Challenges for Restoration

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Zoom: <https://cuboulder.zoom.us/j/95668504496>

(passcode: water)

Abstract:

The Everglades is a large wetland-coastal complex in South Florida. Around 1900 the Everglades were channelized and compartmentalized to allow for agriculture and flood protection. This disturbance led to degradation of ecosystem structure and function, including decreases in drainage, loss of water storage, and shifts in hydroperiod; deterioration of the natural landscape and habitat; eutrophication of the wetland and adjacent coastal waters; and declines in wildlife. In 2000 the State of Florida partnered with the federal government in the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan, which aims to “get the water right” through a complex suite of restoration projects extending through at least four decades. Driscoll will discuss the status of restoration efforts and future challenges.

Speaker Bio: Charles T. Driscoll received his PhD at Cornell University. He is currently Distinguished and University Professor of Civil and Environmental Engineering at Syracuse University, Syracuse, NY. Driscoll has testified at US Congressional and state legislative committee hearings and provided briefings to government agency and stakeholder groups on environmental issues. He has served on local, national and international committees pertaining to environmental management and policy, including the NASEM committee on Everglades restoration. His 500+ peer-reviewed publications have been cited about 49,000 times. He is a member of the National Academy of Engineering and a fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

Research Interests include: biogeochemistry, air pollution effects, climate change, ecosystem processes and phenomena, environmental modeling Current research includes: recovery of forest watersheds in the eastern US from acid deposition; environmental and health effects of mercury; costs and benefits of carbon dioxide emissions controls from the electricity sector; ecosystem restoration; and effects of changing climate on ecosystem structure and function.

