

Michael Soukup To Direct South Florida Research Center

South Florida, with its sub-tropical climate, burgeoning population, and myriad environmental problems, is also the site of the NPS's South Florida Research Center. Located within Everglades NP, this unit, established in 1976 as a prototype for NPS field research facilities, focuses on the four NPS areas of Everglades and Biscayne National Parks, Big Cypress National Preserve, and Fort Jefferson National Monument.

In August, Michael A. Soukup, former Regional Chief Scientist, North Atlantic Region, became the new director of research. South Florida environmental issues are extremely complex. Delicate sub-tropical ecosystems have been abused in the name of progress and development, and the impacts on both the natural environment and the human inhabitants are only beginning to be understood. The current efforts to preserve and restore wetlands habitat have directed national and international attention to park programs, and critical management decisions. Perhaps the entire future of the Everglades depends on the quality and application of research.

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