



Everglades Coalition

1000 Friends of Florida
Arthur R. Marshall Foundation
Audubon Florida
Audubon of Southwest Florida
Audubon of the Western Everglades
Audubon Society of the Everglades
Backcountry Fly Fishers of Naples
Caloosahatchee River Citizens Association/
Riverwatch
Center for Biological Diversity
Clean Water Action
Conservancy of Southwest Florida
Defenders of Wildlife
"Ding" Darling Wildlife Society
Earthjustice
Environment Florida
Everglades Foundation
Everglades Law Center
Everglades Trust
Florida Conservation Voters Education Fund
Florida Defenders of the Environment
Florida Keys Environmental Fund
Florida Native Plant Society
Florida Oceanographic Society
Friends of the Arthur R. Marshall
Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge
Friends of the Everglades
Hendry-Glades Audubon Society
International Dark-Sky Association,
FL Chapter
Izaak Walton League of America
Izaak Walton League Florida Division
Izaak Walton League Florida Keys Chapter
Izaak Walton League Mangrove Chapter
Last Stand
League of Women Voters of Florida
Loxahatchee River Coalition
Martin County Conservation Alliance
Miami Pine Rocklands Coalition
Miami Waterkeeper
National Audubon Society
National Parks Conservation Association
National Wildlife Refuge Association
Natural Resources Defense Council
North Carolina Outward Bound School
Ocean Research & Conservation Association
Reef Relief
Sanibel-Captiva Conservation Foundation
Save It Now, Glades!
Sierra Club
Sierra Club Florida Chapter
Sierra Club Broward Group
Sierra Club Calusa Group
Sierra Club Central Florida Group
Sierra Club Loxahatchee Group
Sierra Club Miami Group
Snook and Gamefish Foundation
South Florida Audubon Society
Southern Alliance for Clean Energy
The Florida Wildlife Federation
The Institute for Regional Conservation
The National Wildlife Federation
The Urban Environment League of
Greater Miami

August 16, 2017

Larry Williams, State Supervisor
South Florida Ecological Services Office
United States Fish and Wildlife Service
1339 20th Street
Vero Beach, Florida 32960

Nick Wiley, Executive Director
Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation
Commission
620 S. Meridian Street
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-1600

Re: Appreciation for Florida Grasshopper Sparrow recovery efforts

Dear Mr. Williams and Mr. Wiley:

On behalf of the 61 member organizations of the Everglades Coalition committed to the protection and restoration of America's Everglades, we write to extend our appreciation for continued funding for Florida Grasshopper Sparrow (FGSP) recovery. As you know, the FGSP is one of the most endangered bird in the continental United States. Its decline started as Florida's globally-imperiled (G2) dry prairie ecosystem lost 90-95% of its area to human conversion. Today, three large conservation areas protect native habitat for sparrows, but two of these sub-populations now are functionally extinct and the third, at Three Lakes Wildlife Management Area, has declined to perilously low levels.

Thanks in part to the efforts of your agencies, land managers and researchers have tested the results of different land management approaches; research efforts have improved demographic knowledge; and efforts to improve nest success through predator management, flooding protection, and cross fostering have proven successful. A captive breeding program is producing new birds, and possible disease factors are being identified. We are hopeful that extinction can be prevented if the causes for the decline finally can be identified and adequate native habitat protected.

Your agencies have partnered very effectively with the Florida Grasshopper Sparrow Working Group that is comprised of state, federal, university, NGO, and other partners, who in turn are contributing large amounts of time and resources to recovery efforts. As a result, considerable research, management and captive breeding knowledge has been amassed, state and federal agencies own large tracts of conservation lands, and talented partners with resources and skills continue the push to save this endemic bird of America's Everglades.

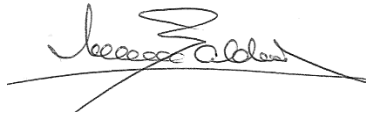
Committed to full protection and restoration of America's Everglades

We thank you for your efforts to save this species from extinction.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mark Perry". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "M" and "P".

Mark Perry
Co-Chair

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael J. Baldwin". The signature is cursive and includes a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Michael J. Baldwin
Co-Chair

Committed to full protection and restoration of America's Everglades

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