



# 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  
Bullsgar Alliance  
Caloosahatchee River Citizens Association  
Caloosahatchee Waterkeeper  
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  
Lake Worth Waterkeeper  
Last Stand  
League of Women Voters of Florida  
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  
Theodore Roosevelt Conservation  
Partnership  
Tropical Audubon Society

## **Everglades Coalition Resolution in Support of Strong Wilderness Stewardship Management within Everglades National Park**

**WHEREAS**, the U.S. Wilderness Act of 1964 defines wilderness as “undeveloped Federal land retaining its primeval character and influence, without permanent improvements or human habitation, which is protected and managed so as to preserve its natural conditions;”

**WHEREAS**, over 90% of Everglades National Park’s landscape is designated as wilderness, including 1.3 million acres designated as the Marjory Stoneman Douglas Wilderness in 1978;

**WHEREAS**, Everglades wilderness is home to dozens of endangered and threatened plant and animal species such as the Florida panther, American crocodile, and the snail kite;

**WHEREAS**, the health of the Everglades has been deeply impacted by human factors such as population growth and land development patterns, while at the same time the area provides essential services to the built community such as recharging South Florida’s drinking water supply and providing a buffer against damage from tropical storm wind and hurricanes;

**WHEREAS**, science plays a critical role in ongoing efforts to restore the Greater Everglades ecosystem and better protect wilderness habitat by improving freshwater flows to Everglades National Park and Florida Bay;

**WHEREAS**, motorized recreational activities can be damaging to wilderness habitat, including lasting damage to sawgrass prairies and sound disruption generated by airboat operations;

**WHEREAS**, numerous wilderness-friendly forms of recreation are available to allow national park visitors to experience the Everglades while leaving the ecosystem unimpaired;

**WHEREAS**, Everglades National Park is currently developing a Wilderness Stewardship Management Plan to establish policies and educate visitors about the importance of protecting wilderness while still allowing for the enjoyment and restoration of the natural ecosystem;

*Committed to full protection and restoration of America’s Everglades*

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Everglades Coalition, with 62 member organizations committed to the protection and restoration of America's Everglades, strongly supports the creation of a Wilderness Stewardship Management Plan for Everglades National Park that will:

- Oversee and support Everglades wilderness ecological functions
- Limit harmful activities and practices that adversely impact wilderness
- Maximize non-motorized recreational activities for the public enjoyment
- Establish best practices for necessary science to advance ecosystem restoration
- Educate visitors about the unique qualities of wilderness and ways to ensure its protection while enjoying Everglades National Park

**APPROVED AND ADOPTED** this 26<sup>th</sup> day of July, 2018.



Mark Perry  
Co-Chair



Marisa Carrozzo  
Co-Chair

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