



Everglades Coalition

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AUDUBON SOCIETY OF THE
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AUDUBON OF SOUTHWEST FLORIDA
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COLLIER COUNTY AUDUBON SOCIETY
CONSERVANCY OF SOUTHWEST
FLORIDA
DEFENDERS OF WILDLIFE
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THE ENVIRONMENTAL COALITION
EVERGLADES COORDINATING COUNCIL
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FLORIDA CONSERVATION ALLIANCE
FLORIDA DEFENDERS OF THE
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FLORIDA OCEANOGRAPHIC SOCIETY
FLORIDA WILDLIFE FEDERATION
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LOXAHATCHEE WILDLIFE REFUGE
FRIENDS OF THE EVERGLADES
HENDRY GLADES AUDUBON SOCIETY
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IZAAK WALTON LEAGUE FLORIDA KEYS
CHAPTER
IZAAK WALTON LEAGUE MANGROVE
CHAPTER
IZAAK WALTON LEAGUE OF AMERICA
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LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF
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SOUTH FLORIDA AUDUBON SOCIETY
TROPICAL AUDUBON SOCIETY
THE URBAN ENVIRONMENT LEAGUE
WORLD WILDLIFE FUND

August 16, 2012

Honorable Lisa P. Jackson
Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Ave, N.W.
Washington, DC 20460

RE: Restoring Florida's Gulf Coast

Dear Administrator Jackson,

The Everglades Coalition, an alliance of 57 local, state and national conservation organizations, recognizes the tremendous continued environmental and economic damage resulting from the 2010 Deepwater Horizon oil spill to natural ecosystems and communities scattered across America's Gulf coast. We are enthusiastic that the recent passage of the RESTORE Act holds those responsible for the disaster accountable and outlines that distribution of Clean Water Act penalties are spent to restore the damaged ecosystems and economies. We are confident that meaningful comprehensive restoration of Gulf coast ecosystems can be achieved and steps taken to guard against future environmental catastrophes.

As we work to improve the ecology and economy of the Gulf coast, it is important that any new projects considered protect the environment and do not result in further harm to our natural resources and wildlife habitat. All projects funded through Clean Water Act penalties should be protective of the environment, which is a foundation of Florida's economic sustainability.

The Gulf, which includes Florida Bay, the 10,000 Islands, the Caloosahatchee River and estuary, is part of the Everglades Ecosystem and the Everglades Coalition is committed to ensuring that funds are spent on projects which improve conditions in the southern Gulf coast of Florida. Lack of water management options within the altered Everglades ecosystem have resulted in environmental and economic damages to the Gulf coast, including severe impacts to commercial fishing and tourism industries. In order to make the Gulf coast economically viable and more resilient to future ecological harm, restoration projects that seek to reverse these damaging impacts and more closely recreate the natural quality, quantity, timing and distribution of freshwater flows through the Everglades, into the Gulf and Florida Bay should be made part of the comprehensive recovery plan and other efforts described in the RESTORE

www.evergladescoalition.org

Ph: 954-961-1280 ♦ Fax: 954-985-5047 ♦ 450 N. Park Rd, #301, Hollywood FL 33021

Act. By restoring the former functions of the Everglades ecosystem across the south Florida landscape, we increase the buffering capacity of our coastal ecosystems to withstand future impacts.

Two such projects that have direct benefits for the health of the Gulf are the C-43 West Basin Storage Reservoir and Tamiami Trail Next Steps bridging. When Lake Okeechobee reaches a certain high level, large pulses of nutrient-rich freshwater are released through the Caloosahatchee River. The releases can cause toxic algal blooms and other problems because of high nutrient loads, and greatly disrupt the delicate balance of freshwater and saltwater needed to maintain the health of the Caloosahatchee estuary. In times of drought, this estuary needs additional freshwater to maintain salinity levels that make it home to nearly 40% of Florida's rare, threatened and endangered species. To benefit the C-43 basin, which spans Charlotte, Collier, Lee, Hendry and Glades counties, the C-43 West Basin Storage Reservoir will retain 170,000 acre/feet of freshwater, helping reduce harmful Lake releases in times of flood and providing a necessary freshwater source in times of drought. Support of additional bridging Tamiami Trail will eliminate the harmful nutrient releases down the Caloosahatchee river and restore flows to Florida Bay estuary in the southern Gulf. Restoring these adequate freshwater flows source is also important for mitigating against impacts from unforeseen events like oil spills when water management options are critical. This project has tremendous value for the people who depend on the ecological health of the unique marine, estuarine and freshwater wetlands of the Gulf coast estuary for their livelihood.

We strongly urge the state of Florida and members of the Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Council to include projects that restore the Everglades when considering a comprehensive restoration plan and to carefully review the environmental impacts of all projects proposed to recover the economy and ecology of the Gulf coast. As the criteria for qualifying projects becomes clearer, we look forward to providing additional input regarding appropriate projects that would benefit the Everglades and Gulf ecosystems.

Thank you for your attention to this request.

Sincerely,



Dawn Shirreffs
National Co-Chair
954-961-1280 x 205
dshirreffs@npca.org

Jennifer Hecker
State Co-Chair
239-262-0304 x 250
jenniferh@conservancy.org



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August 16, 2012

Honorable Tom Vilsack
Secretary of the Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Ave, S.W.
Washington, DC 20250

RE: Restoring Florida's Gulf Coast

Dear Mr. Secretary,

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August 16, 2012

Honorable Janet Napolitano
Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security
U.S. Department of Homeland Security
Washington, DC 20528

RE: Restoring Florida's Gulf Coast

Dear Madam Secretary,

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Thank you for your attention to this request.

Sincerely,



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Jennifer Hecker
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August 16, 2012

Honorable Rebecca Blank
Acting Secretary of U.S. Department of Commerce
1401 Constitutions Ave, N.W.
Washington, DC 20230

RE: Restoring Florida's Gulf Coast

Dear Madam Secretary,

The Everglades Coalition, an alliance of 57 local, state and national conservation organizations, recognizes the tremendous continued environmental and economic damage resulting from the 2010 Deepwater Horizon oil spill to natural ecosystems and communities scattered across America's Gulf coast. We are enthusiastic that the recent passage of the RESTORE Act holds those responsible for the disaster accountable and outlines that distribution of Clean Water Act penalties are spent to restore the damaged ecosystems and economies. We are confident that meaningful comprehensive restoration of Gulf coast ecosystems can be achieved and steps taken to guard against future environmental catastrophes.

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August 16, 2012

Honorable Ken Salazer
Secretary of U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20240

RE: Restoring Florida's Gulf Coast

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Thank you for your attention to this request.

Sincerely,



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National Co-Chair
954-961-1280 x 205
dshirreffs@npca.org

Jennifer Hecker
State Co-Chair
239-262-0304 x 250
jenniferh@conservancy.org



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THE URBAN ENVIRONMENT LEAGUE
WORLD WILDLIFE FUND

August 16, 2012

Honorable Jo-Ellen Darcy
Assistant Secretary of the Department of the Army
108 Army Pentagon
Washington, DC 20310-0108

RE: Restoring Florida's Gulf Coast

Dear Ms. Darcy,

The Everglades Coalition, an alliance of 57 local, state and national conservation organizations, recognizes the tremendous continued environmental and economic damage resulting from the 2010 Deepwater Horizon oil spill to natural ecosystems and communities scattered across America's Gulf coast. We are enthusiastic that the recent passage of the RESTORE Act holds those responsible for the disaster accountable and outlines that distribution of Clean Water Act penalties are spent to restore the damaged ecosystems and economies. We are confident that meaningful comprehensive restoration of Gulf coast ecosystems can be achieved and steps taken to guard against future environmental catastrophes.

As we work to improve the ecology and economy of the Gulf coast, it is important that any new projects considered protect the environment and do not result in further harm to our natural resources and wildlife habitat. All projects funded through Clean Water Act penalties should be protective of the environment, which is a foundation of Florida's economic sustainability.

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Thank you for your attention to this request.

Sincerely,



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WORLD WILDLIFE FUND

August 16, 2012

Honorable Rick Scott
Governor of Florida
The Capitol
400 S. Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0001

RE: Restoring Florida's Gulf Coast

Dear Governor Scott,

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Thank you for your attention to this request.

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August 16, 2012

Honorable Herschel Vinyard
Secretary of Florida Department of Environmental Protection
3900 Commonwealth Blvd MS 49
Tallahassee, FL 32399

RE: Restoring Florida's Gulf Coast

Dear Secretary Vinyard,

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www.evergladescoalition.org

Ph: 954-961-1280 ♦ Fax: 954-985-5047 ♦ 450 N. Park Rd, #301, Hollywood FL 33021

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