



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
Tropical Audubon Society

October 21, 2016

Tammy Whittington
Superintendent
Big Cypress National Preserve
33100 Tamiami Trail East
Ochopee, FL 34141

Dear Ms. Whittington:

On behalf of the 61 members of the Everglades Coalition committed to the protection and restoration of America’s Everglades, we congratulate Big Cypress National Preserve for becoming the first National Park Service (NPS) unit east of the Mississippi River to earn an International Dark Sky Place designation and the second location to earn this designation in the State of Florida and within the Greater Everglades Ecosystem.

Big Cypress National Preserve has some of the last remaining dark night skies in Florida, where it is still possible to view the Milky Way. It is also one of the most biologically diverse areas within the America’s Everglades with many species that depend on a natural nocturnal environment to thrive, including fireflies, moths, the endangered Florida Panther, Florida Bonneted Bat and ghost orchid.

By earning a Silver-tier International Dark Sky Park designation, the Preserve has distinguished itself for having good quality night skies and exemplary nighttime lightscapes. The Preserve has set an example in stewardship of the night sky by improving its own outdoor lighting to reduce local impacts of light pollution and by educating the public on a diversity of topics related to the night. This designation will also help elevate the importance of night sky conservation across South Florida and encourage others to protect this valuable natural resource.

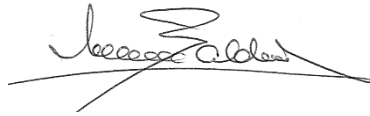
We commend the Preserve for its outstanding night sky conservation efforts and playing its part in protecting the America’s Everglades at night.

Committed to full protection and restoration of America’s Everglades

Sincerely,

Cara Capp

Cara Capp
National Co-Chair



Michael J. Baldwin
State Co-Chair

cc: Jonathan B. Jarvis, Director, National Park Service
Stan Austin, SE Regional Director, NPS
Karen Treviño, Chief, NPS Natural Sounds and Night Skies Division
Pedro Ramos, Superintendent, Everglades National Park
Collier County Commissioners
Miami-Dade County Commissioners
Monroe County Commissioners

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