



# Everglades Coalition

1000 Friends of Florida  
Arthur R. Marshall Foundation  
Audubon of Florida  
Audubon Society of the Everglades  
Audubon of Southwest Florida  
Caloosahatchee River Citizens  
Association/ Riverwatch  
Clean Water Action  
Clean Water Network  
Collier County Audubon Society  
Conservancy of Southwest Florida  
Defenders of Wildlife  
Ding Darling Wildlife Society  
Earthjustice  
Environment Florida  
The Environmental Coalition  
Everglades Coordinating Council  
Everglades Foundation  
Everglades Law Center  
Florida Conservation Alliance  
Florida Defenders of the Environment  
Florida Keys Environmental Fund  
Florida Native Plant Society  
Florida Oceanographic Society  
Florida Wildlife Federation  
Friends of the Arthur R. Marshall  
Loxahatchee Wildlife Refuge  
Friends of the Everglades  
Hendry Glades Audubon Society  
Izaak Walton League Florida Division  
Izaak Walton League Florida Keys  
Chapter  
Izaak Walton League Mangrove Chapter  
Izaak Walton League of America  
Last Stand  
League of Women Voters of Florida  
Loxahatchee River Coalition  
Martin County Conservation Alliance  
National Audubon Society  
National Parks Conservation Association  
National Wildlife Federation  
National Wildlife Refuge Association  
Natural Resources Defense Council  
The Ocean Conservancy  
The Pegasus Foundation  
Sanibel-Captiva  
Conservation Foundation  
Save It Now, Glades!  
Sierra Club  
Sierra Club Broward Group  
Sierra Club Calusa Group  
Sierra Club Central Florida Group  
Sierra Club Florida Chapter  
Sierra Club Loxahatchee Group  
Sierra Club Miami Group  
The Snook and Gamefish Foundation  
South Florida Audubon Society  
Tropical Audubon Society  
The Urban Environment League  
World Wildlife Fund

## **Everglades Coalition Resolution Urging the Suspension of Consideration of Bird Drive Recharge Area Land Surplus**

WHEREAS, the Everglades ecosystem, spanning from the Kissimmee River Valley to Florida Bay, is a significant national resource and international treasure,

WHEREAS, restoration of the Everglades has commenced to return the abundance of wildlife once found in the Everglades, to recover thousands of acres of marshes and estuarine habitat, and to benefit Florida and National Parks and ecosystem-based economies,

WHEREAS, the Bird Drive Basin Recharge Area (Bird Drive) is within the historic footprint of the Everglades and has robust ecological values, and provides numerous ecosystem services in its current state with short hydroperiod wetlands in close proximity to key Wood Stork foraging and nesting habitat,

WHEREAS, system-wide wading bird nesting patterns is an indicator for the restoration success of the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan,

WHEREAS, Bird Drive was originally listed as a Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan project (project) and is the northern gateway to Everglades National Park,

WHEREAS, the Yellow Book explained that the project would seek to enhance and maintain the continued viability of wetlands within the basin, recharge groundwater and reduce seepage from the Everglades National Park buffer areas and provide C-4 flood peak attenuation and water supply deliveries to the South Dade Conveyance System and Northeast Shark River Slough,

WHEREAS, the project was determined by the Project Delivery Team to be infeasible in 2008,

WHEREAS, the South Florida Water Management District is considering the surplus of lands within Bird Drive,

WHEREAS, the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) has encouraged consistency among Florida's five water management districts to evaluate ecological, hydrologic factors through their land surplus decisions,



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*Therefore, be it resolved:*

1. The Everglades Coalition, with 54 organizations dedicated to protecting and restoring America's Everglades, hereby urges the South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD), FDEP, the Department of Interior (DOI), Miami Dade County, and other interested parties to work in a collaborative process with stakeholders to assess and protect the ecological values of the Bird Drive Basin Recharge Area, considering the area's function as a short hydroperiod wetland and proximity to wading bird nesting colonies.
2. The Everglades Coalition urges the SFWMD and FDEP to suspend consideration of the land surplus process for Bird Drive.

Approved: January 5, 2012.

*Julie Hill-Gabriel*

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