



Everglades Coalition

MEDIA ADVISORY

DATE FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
JANUARY 5, 2010

RELEASE **25th Annual Everglades Coalition Conference to be held in West Palm Beach January 7-10, 2010**
Elected Officials, Environmental Groups, and Community Leaders to Discuss The Changing Face of Everglades Restoration

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WHAT: The Everglades Coalition will host its 25th Annual Conference at the PGA Resort and Spa in Palm Beach Gardens. Hosted by the Arthur R. Marshall Foundation, the conference will bring together elected officials, community and environmental activists, and the general public to discuss the *Changing Face of Everglades Restoration*, and develop solutions for the next ten years of the 2000 landmark law, the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan. Conference sessions focus on the state of Florida's River of Grass Initiative, climate change, diversity in restoration, national restoration initiatives, and ecosystem services programs, among other topics.

Featured speakers and events are scheduled to include:

THURSDAY, January 7
6:00 p.m.—*U.S. Senator **Bill Nelson*** (Masters Ballroom)

FRIDAY, January 8
7:30 a.m.—***Stan Meiburg**, Acting Regional Director for EPA Region 4*
(PGA Ballroom)

8:45 a.m.—“2020 Vision for the Everglades”
***Sam Hamilton**, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Director*
Jo-Ellen Darcy, Assistant Secretary of the Army
Mike Sole, Secretary of the Florida Department for Environmental Protection
*Carol Wehle, Executive Director, South Florida Water Management District **John Adornato**, National Parks Conservation Association, moderator*
(British Ball Room)

****10:15 a.m.—Coalition Press Conference****
Everglades Coalition Representatives (Oakmont Room)

10:45 a.m.—“The River of Grass Initiative: An Historic Opportunity for Everyone to Win”
Tom Van Lent, Everglades Foundation, moderator (British Ballroom)
Senator Jeff Atwater, Florida Senate President

12:15 p.m.—
Nancy Sutley, Chairwoman, White House Council of Environmental Quality
U.S. Representative **Ron Klein** (PGA Ballroom)

2:15–4:00 p.m.—*Florida Senate Select Committee on Florida’s Inland Waters* (British Ballroom)

7:30 p.m.—**Thomas Strickland**, Assistant Secretary of the Interior for Fish, Wildlife, and Parks
(PGA Ballroom)

SATURDAY, January 9

12:15 p.m.—**Alex Sink**, Florida Chief Financial Officer
Former U.S. Senator **Bob Graham** (PGA Ballroom)

7:30 p.m.—U.S. Representative **Tom Rooney** (PGA Ballroom)

SUNDAY, January 10

9:30 a.m.—Guided Tour Arthur R. Marshall Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge
Sam Hamilton, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Director, will address the Coalition, and guided tours will be available to a remnant of the Cypress forest that once stretched south to Miami-Dade; a butterfly garden; and an 80-acre microcosm of the Everglades where restoration techniques are tested.

WHERE:

PGA Resort and Spa
400 Avenue of the Champions
Palm Beach Gardens, FL 33418
(800) 633-9150
Website: www.pgaresort.com

The Everglades Coalition is an alliance of 53 local, state, and national conservation, environmental, and civic organizations dedicated to full restoration of the greater Everglades ecosystem. Its conference is the largest annual forum for Everglades conservation and restoration, bringing together the Coalition’s membership with its local, state, and federal partners. Members of Congress and the Florida state legislature, and other political figures come to the conference to discuss their positions, pledge their support and present challenges to the community.

For more information about the Everglades Coalition and the Conference, or to register online, visit: www.evergladescoalition.org.

For press credentials, materials, and questions, contact Shannon Andrea at 202-454-3371 or sandrea@npca.org.

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