



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

Resolution of Support for the Proposed Greater Everglades Partnership Initiative, including an Everglades Headwaters National Wildlife Refuge and Conservation Area, expansion of the Florida Panther National Wildlife Refuge and protection of the Fisheating Creek region

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's ecosystem-based economies; and,

WHEREAS, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) has proposed the Greater Everglades Partnership Initiative (Initiative) to conserve land, water and wildlife resources of the Greater Everglades Ecosystem, creating a matrix of conservation lands and critical wildlife corridors (*see: <http://www.fws.gov/southeast/evergladesheadwaters/index.html>*); and,

WHEREAS, the Initiative consists of three study areas: the Everglades Headwaters area, the area around Florida Panther National Wildlife Refuge/Caloosahatchee River, and the Fisheating Creek area, which each offer important and unique opportunities for wildlife conservation and benefits to Florida's water resources; and,

WHEREAS, the Initiative emphasizes a new collaborative public conservation approach on willing landowner private ranches to achieve major habitat and watershed benefits through tools such as conservation easements, wetland restoration, and payment for ecological services agreements, as well as traditional acquisition; and,

WHEREAS, this collaborative Initiative offers opportunities for increasing both economic and ecological values of Florida's agricultural and ranching landscape; and, as well as the range of uses consistent with the National Wildlife Refuge Organic Act;

WHEREAS, the FWS has completed the Land Protection Plan for the Everglades Headwaters National Wildlife Refuge and Conservation Area after receiving considerable favorable public comments, both written and in public hearings.

Therefore, be it resolved:

The Everglades Coalition, with 56 organizations dedicated to protecting and restoring America's Everglades, hereby supports the FWS efforts with public and private partners to further the Greater Everglades Partnership Initiative, including Everglades Headwaters National Wildlife Refuge and Conservation Area, Florida Panther National Wildlife Refuge and Fisheating Creek.

Julie Hill-Gabriel
State Co-Chair
305-371-6399 x136
Jhill-gabriel@audubon.org

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