



Everglades Coalition

1000 Friends of Florida
 Arthur R. Marshall Foundation
 Audubon of Florida
 Audubon of Southwest Florida
 Audubon Society of the Everglades
 Broward County Audubon Society
 Caloosahatche River Citizens Association
 Clean Water Action
 Clean Water Network
 Collier County Audubon Society
 The Conservancy of Southwest Florida
 Defenders of Wildlife
 Earthjustice
 Everglades Law Center
 The Environmental Coalition
 Everglades Coordinating Council
 Environment Florida
 Florida Defenders of the Environment
 Florida Division of the Izaak Walton League of America
 Florida Keys Chapter of the Izaak Walton League of America
 Florida Keys Environmental Fund
 Florida Native Plant Society
 Florida Oceanographic Society
 Florida Sierra Club
 Florida Wildlife Federation
 Friends of Arthur R. Marshall Loxahatchee Wildlife Refuge
 Friends of the Everglades
 Izaak Walton League of America
 Last Stand
 League of Woman Voters of Florida
 Loxahatchee River Coalition
 Mangrove Chapter of the Izaak Walton League of America
 Martin County Conservation Alliance
 National Audubon Society
 National Parks Conservation Association
 National Wildlife Federation
 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 Central Florida Group
 Sierra Club Loxahatchee Group
 Sierra Club Miami Group
 Tropical Audubon Society
 The Urban Environment League
 World Wildlife Fund

Florida Forever Resolution

WHEREAS, **the Everglades Coalition**, is committed to protecting lands critical to the future of Florida's drinking water, economy, and quality of life; and

WHEREAS, **the Everglades Coalition** represents **49** member organizations; and

WHEREAS, Florida Forever has helped to save many of Florida's beaches, rivers, bays, forests, coral reefs and estuaries that provide the foundation for our \$3 billion tourism industry; and

WHEREAS, Florida Forever has acquired more than 600,000 acres throughout Florida since 2000 and allocates \$300 million annually to purchase environmentally sensitive and other lands; and

WHEREAS, Florida is experiencing rapid population growth, with approximately 1,100 new residents every day in recent years; and

WHEREAS, the effectiveness of Florida Forever has diminished because of escalating land prices and the impacts of inflation; and

WHEREAS, virtually all of the funding for the Florida Forever program through the Fiscal Year 2009-2010 is already obligated to or anticipated for planned land purchases, leaving practically no funding for new conservation projects for the next two years; and

WHEREAS, a 2007 survey conducted by members of the Florida Forever Coalition found that more than 70% of Florida's voters approve of the Florida Forever program; and

WHEREAS, there is no second chance to protect Florida's great resources, and the costs of Florida's most special places will only increase in the future.

NOW, THEREFORE, the Everglades Coalition resolves and recommends

1. That the Florida Legislature enact legislation to create and fund a successor to the Florida Forever program and to immediately double funding for Florida Forever to \$600 Million, because of the enormous need for land conservation funding in our state.

BE IT SO RESOLVED, on March 31, 2008

Mark D. Perry
State Co-Chair

Sara Fain
National Co-Chair