

2026 Florida Legislative Priorities



The Everglades Coalition is an alliance of nearly **60 local, state, and national conservation and environmental organizations** dedicated to full restoration of the greater Everglades ecosystem, from the Kissimmee Chain of Lakes into Lake Okeechobee, through the “River of Grass,” out to Florida Bay and the Florida Keys. The Everglades is widely recognized as one of the world’s most unique and spectacular natural wonders, and Florida has a compelling interest in protecting and restoring the ecosystem due to its tremendous economic and ecological value.

In 2026, the Everglades Coalition urges the Florida Legislature to:

- 1 Fully fund Everglades restoration.**
- 2 Strengthen protection for all Florida waters.**
- 3 Reinstate robust land use planning to promote sustainable growth and utilize funding for land conservation purchasing. Prioritize acquiring key restoration areas such as lands around the Everglades Agricultural Area and Miami-Dade County.**
- 4 Protect Everglades restoration infrastructure from sea level rise, stronger storms, and water flow changes with resilient design and adaptive management.**
- 5 Prevent harmful development in the footprint of authorized Everglades restoration projects and safeguard other important conservation lands.**

9 Million More than **1/3 of Florida’s population** depends on the Everglades for their daily water supply.

3 Million Number of **jobs in Florida** that depend on a healthy Everglades.

\$240 Million Florida’s seafood industry generates **hundreds of millions of dollars** annually. A healthy Everglades supports healthy fisheries.

\$533 Million Economic output from **2.8M visits** to Big Cypress National Preserve, Biscayne National Park, and Everglades National Park.

120K **Jobs** supported by Florida’s fishing and boating industry.

4:1 Every dollar invested in Everglades restoration generates four dollars in public benefits – a **4:1 ROI**.

84K **Number of businesses** across the Everglades watershed that are dependent on clean water and a healthy Everglades to survive.

For more information about our positions, scan the QR code or visit our website at EvergladesCoalition.org/PositionPapers

