



EVERGLADES COALITION

Governor Ron DeSantis
Florida State Capitol
400 S. Monroe St.
Tallahassee, FL 32399

July 3, 2025

RE: Alligator Alcatraz Threatens Decades of Everglades Restoration Work

Dear Governor DeSantis:

The Everglades Coalition is made up of nearly 60 organizations dedicated to protecting and restoring America's Everglades with a 12.2-million-constituent network of followers. We are writing to definitively oppose development of an immigration detention facility on the Dade-Collier Training and Transition Airport site, formerly the Everglades Jetport, surrounded by Big Cypress National Preserve and less than eight miles from the Marjory Stoneman Douglas Wilderness at Everglades National Park. The site is also in close proximity to the Miccosukee Indian Village, the Seminole Big Cypress Reservation, and federal and state-managed conservation areas – all of which stand to be detrimentally impacted by the detention center development plan outlined by the Florida Division of Emergency Management (FDEM).

The Everglades is a fragile and irreplaceable ecosystem that is central to the health, heritage, and future of Florida. Even “temporary” installations can have long-lasting impacts, introducing pollution, disrupting water flows, and threatening endangered species and habitats that recovery efforts have worked hard to protect.

Construction, even of temporary structures, in the remote heart of the Everglades will cause significant negative impacts, including wetland destruction; water, light, and noise pollution; and vehicle-wildlife collisions. It will put decades of Everglades restoration work at risk, would be in stark contrast to the State's significant leadership and investment in the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (CERP), and could undermine the multi-billion-dollar taxpayer investment in restoration that has been a priority for the DeSantis Administration.

The Everglades is a UNESCO World Heritage Site, home to countless endangered species, an essential part of the Florida economy that is estimated to provide \$1 trillion over the next 50 years, and a vital source of drinking water for more than nine million Floridians. It is a natural wonder beloved by Floridians from all walks of life.

We call on Governor DeSantis and Attorney General Uthmeier to abandon plans for “Alligator Alcatraz” immediately, and to continue on in our partnership to restore and protect our Everglades.

Sincerely,
The Everglades Coalition

The Everglades Coalition is a 501(c)3 alliance of local, state, and national conservation organizations dedicated to the full protection and restoration of America's Everglades.

evergladescoalition.org