



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.



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