



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

Everglades Coalition Resolution Urging the Suspension of Consideration of Bird Drive Recharge Area Land Surplus

WHEREAS, the Everglades ecosystem, spanning from the Kissimmee River Valley to Florida Bay, is a significant national resource and international treasure,

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 and National Parks and ecosystem-based economies,

WHEREAS, the Bird Drive Basin Recharge Area (Bird Drive) is within the historic footprint of the Everglades and has robust ecological values, and provides numerous ecosystem services in its current state with short hydroperiod wetlands in close proximity to key Wood Stork foraging and nesting habitat,

WHEREAS, system-wide wading bird nesting patterns is an indicator for the restoration success of the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan,

WHEREAS, Bird Drive was originally listed as a Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan project (project) and is the northern gateway to Everglades National Park,

WHEREAS, the Yellow Book explained that the project would seek to enhance and maintain the continued viability of wetlands within the basin, recharge groundwater and reduce seepage from the Everglades National Park buffer areas and provide C-4 flood peak attenuation and water supply deliveries to the South Dade Conveyance System and Northeast Shark River Slough,

WHEREAS, the project was determined by the Project Delivery Team to be infeasible in 2008,

WHEREAS, the South Florida Water Management District is considering the surplus of lands within Bird Drive,

WHEREAS, the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) has encouraged consistency among Florida's five water management districts to evaluate ecological, hydrologic factors through their land surplus decisions,



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Therefore, be it resolved:

1. The Everglades Coalition, with 54 organizations dedicated to protecting and restoring America's Everglades, hereby urges the South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD), FDEP, the Department of Interior (DOI), Miami Dade County, and other interested parties to work in a collaborative process with stakeholders to assess and protect the ecological values of the Bird Drive Basin Recharge Area, considering the area's function as a short hydroperiod wetland and proximity to wading bird nesting colonies.
2. The Everglades Coalition urges the SFWMD and FDEP to suspend consideration of the land surplus process for Bird Drive.

Approved: January 5, 2012.

Julie Hill-Gabriel

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