



# EVERGLADES COALITION

## **Resolution in Support of Establishing a Southwest Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Area to Expand the National Wildlife Refuge System within the Greater Everglades Ecosystem**

**WHEREAS**, Southwest Florida is one of the country's most biologically diverse regions;

**WHEREAS**, Southwest Florida faces increasing threats such as rapid population growth, intensification of land use, and climate change;

**WHEREAS**, a new conservation area in Southwest Florida would aid in recovering the Florida panther and protect many rare and endemic species, including 74 federally and state listed threatened and endangered species;

**WHEREAS**, a new Southwest Florida conservation area would promote science-driven and landscape-level conservation and conserve significant lands and waters that would contribute to restoration of the Greater Everglades Ecosystem;

**WHEREAS**, the proposed Southwest Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Area would be a critical addition to the National Wildlife Refuge System and complement the state of Florida's successful efforts to protect the Florida Wildlife Corridor;

**WHEREAS**, a new Southwest Florida conservation area would allow USFWS to work with willing landowners to protect interconnected lands and waters through innovative partnerships and strategies;

**WHEREAS**, a new conservation area in Southwest Florida would allow for appropriate and compatible wildlife-dependent recreation;

### **NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED ON APRIL 18<sup>TH</sup> 2023:**

The Everglades Coalition, with nearly 60 organizations dedicated to protecting and restoring America's Everglades, urges USFWS to establish the Southwest Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Area to conserve unique natural communities and diverse wildlife for the benefit of all people.

Mark Perry  
Co-Chair

Kelly Cox  
Co-Chair

*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.*