



Everglades Coalition

1000 Friends of Florida
Arthur R. Marshall Foundation
Audubon of Florida
Audubon Society of the Everglades
Audubon Society of Southwest Florida
Caloosahatchee River Citizens Association
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 Defenders of the Environment
Florida Keys Environmental Fund
The Florida Native Plant Society
Florida Oceanographic Society
Florida Sierra Club
Florida Wildlife Federation
Friends of Arthur R. Marshall Loxahatchee Wildlife Refuge
Friends of the Everglades
Hendry Glades Audubon Society
Izaak Walton League Florida Keys Chapter
Florida Division
Izaak Walton League of America Mangrove Chapter
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 Central Florida Group
Sierra Club Loxahatchee Group
Sierra Club Miami Group
South Florida Audubon Society
Tropical Audubon Society
The Urban Environment League
World Wildlife Fund

Everglades Coalition Resolution Supporting 5.5 Miles of Bridging in Tamiami Trail Next Steps Project

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, restoring the hydrology of the Everglades is of utmost importance for restoration efforts to recreate the quantity, quality, timing and distribution of water found in the historical system,

WHEREAS, the Tamiami Trail, built in 1928 to link Tampa and Miami, blocks natural freshwater flow through NE Shark River Slough into Everglades National Park and Florida Bay, which historically nourished the Everglades and provided the conditions necessary for wading bird colonies and other wildlife habitat,

WHEREAS, A Tamiami Trail one mile bridge is under construction which is a first step toward reestablishing freshwater flows into Everglades National Park, but experts recognize that much more bridging is required to achieve significant ecological benefits, as noted in the 2010 National Research Council's "Progress Toward Restoring the Everglades: The Third Biennial Review",

WHEREAS, the National Park Service has prepared a Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Tamiami Trail Modifications: Next Steps project, as directed by Congress, which identifies 5.5 miles of additional bridging as the preferred alternative,

WHEREAS, the National Park Service's preferred alternative, bridging 5.5 miles of Tamiami Trail, will provide the greatest measurable environmental benefits to the Everglades ecosystem and a significant boost to South Florida's economy through the creation of jobs in engineering, science and construction sectors.

Therefore, be it resolved:

1. The Everglades Coalition, with 53 organizations dedicated to protecting and restoring America's Everglades, hereby supports the National Park Service's preferred alternative, bridging 5.5 miles of Tamiami Trail,
2. The Everglades Coalition urges seamless integration between the proposed 5.5 miles of bridging and the 1 mile bridge underway, for a total of 6.5 miles of bridging to finally reconnect freshwater flows north and south of Tamiami Trail.

Approved September 24, 2010.

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