



# 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 advocating the Valuation of Ecosystem Services as decision-support for Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (CERP) implementation.

**WHEREAS**, The White House Council on Environmental Quality's draft revised version of *Principles and Guidelines* on national water and land resources policy will consider both monetary and non-monetary benefits to justify and select a project that has the greatest net benefits, in which case the monetary benefits can capture reduced damages measured in dollars while the non-monetary benefits can capture the increased economic benefits associated with protected or enhanced ecosystem services and biodiversity; and

**WHEREAS**, In a 2005 Study titled *Valuing Ecosystem Services – Toward Better Environmental Decision Making*, the National Research Council recommends that policymakers use economic valuation as a means of evaluating the trade-offs in environmental policy choices, further that an assessment of benefits and costs should be a part of the information set available to policy makers in choosing among alternatives; and

**WHEREAS**, In the 2005 Study, the National Research Council notes that when the economic benefits of ecosystem services are not estimated, they are de facto given a value of zero, and this in turn appears to result in a political process that undermines the national policy of *no net loss of wetlands*; and

**WHEREAS**, The National Research Council 2010 Biennial Report notes that the concept of valuing ecosystem services is promising, and Everglades restoration planners should be alert to specific opportunities to improve the methods for economic valuation of ecosystem services and adapt them to the Everglades; and

**WHEREAS**, The 2010 Plan for Coordinating Science update to the South Florida Ecosystem Restoration Task Force includes Ecosystem Services as an emerging theme; and

**WHEREAS**, Government and non-government time and expense is being put into "A Conference on Ecosystem Services" - a biennial conference known as ACES, whose 2008 and 2010 sponsorship includes virtually all CERP federal government partners, including U.S. Geological Survey employees as Co-Chairs, the U.S. Department of Agriculture Office of Environmental Markets and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration who is the first to implement a protocol of valuing ecosystem services as part of their CERP implementation approach; and

**WHEREAS**, When restoration benefits for Everglades restoration are calculated using the total economic valuation framework recommended by the 2005 National Research Council Study, the benefit-to-cost ratios appear to exceed 6:1, with the results that dollar benefits defined provide the significant basis for supporting Everglades restoration; and

**WHEREAS**, Existing and restored ecosystem services have significant economic value, with the overarching challenge to calculate the public and private benefits in terms of total economic value as a means of achieving an optimal approach of maximizing benefits at the least cost over a long term,

*Therefore Be It Resolved* that the Everglades Coalition requests the South Florida Ecosystem Restoration Task Force establish a policy of applying **Valuing Ecosystem Services** to aid in the analysis of alternatives, decision-support and economic benefits synthesis for Everglades Restoration, and that the Science Coordination Group and Working Group should facilitate the execution of this policy as a means of providing a case study for the nation to follow.

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