



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
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

RESOLUTION REGARDING FLORIDA FOREVER

WHEREAS, the Everglades Coalition is committed to protecting lands critical to the future of Florida's drinking water, economy, recreation, and quality of life; and

WHEREAS, the Florida Forever Program and its predecessor Preservation 2000 Program have immeasurably contributed to environmental health, quality of life, recreation, and sustainability in Florida for this and future generations; and

WHEREAS, Florida Forever has acquired over 1.3 million acres throughout Florida since 2000, and has done so through numerous successful partnerships with cities, counties, state agencies, water management districts, nonprofit organizations, private landowners, and others; and

WHEREAS, Florida Forever, through its partnerships with the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, and others, produces benefits that include clean air and water; healthy fisheries and wildlife habitat; improved water supply protection; and protected open spaces including greenway corridors, park lands, forests, bodies of water, and preserved working landscapes that sustain the state's \$87 billion agricultural industry and help preserve Florida's rural way of life; and

WHEREAS, Florida Forever, through the Florida Communities Trust, has assisted Florida's cities and counties in protecting their cultural and historical resources, meeting the challenges of growth management, directing development away from coastal high hazard areas and floodplains; fostering a healthier lifestyle for Floridians; and providing recreational outdoor experiences in both urban and rural settings; and

WHEREAS, Florida Forever has helped to save many of Florida's beaches, rivers, bays, forests, coral reefs and estuaries that provide the foundation for our \$65 billion tourism industry that attracts more than 80 million visitors each year, and specifically drives the state's \$8.1 billion fishing, hunting, and wildlife viewing industry; and

WHEREAS, more than 50 Florida local governments have enacted land acquisition financing programs in past decades, and these conservation finance programs serve to leverage Florida Forever funding and increase the impact of state land conservation funding; and

WHEREAS, former Governors Jeb Bush, Bob Martinez, Reubin Askew and Bob Graham have joined the more than 100 member groups of the Florida Forever Coalition and agreed to serve as co-chairs; and

WHEREAS, regular and consistent funding is required insure the continuity of Florida Forever and to preserve parks and recreational facilities, wildlife and wilderness areas, and open space for future generations of Floridians; and

WHEREAS, numerous opportunities exist today to protect properties that have long been identified as conservation and recreation priorities by the state, cities, and counties, because of the current reductions in real estate values across Florida; and

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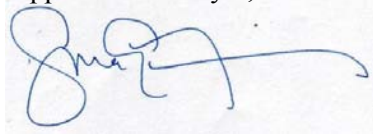
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WHEREAS, in 2008, the Florida Legislature reauthorized Florida Forever for an additional ten years;
and

WHEREAS, a 2009 public opinion survey conducted by members of the Florida Forever Coalition found that more than 67% of Florida's voters support continued legislative funding for the Florida Forever program,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Everglades Coalition urges the 2010 Florida Legislature to fund the Florida Forever program and to make Florida Forever a conservation success long into the future.

Approved January 7, 2010

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Sara Fain', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Sara Fain
National Co-Chair

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Mark Perry', with a large, stylized initial 'M'.

Mark Perry
State Co-Chair