



# Everglades Coalition

*Sent Via Email.*

## **A RESOLUTION OF THE EVERGLADES COALITION SUPPORTING INCLUSION OF A LARGE MAMMAL WILDLIFE CROSSING FEATURE UNDER US 41 IN CONJUNCTION WITH INSTALLATION OF WATER CONVEYANCE FEATURES FOR PICAYUNE STRAND RESTORATION PROJECT'S SOUTHWEST PROTECTION FEATURE**

**WHEREAS**, Picayune Strand Restoration Project (PSRP) is the first Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (CERP) project that was initiated in 2007, with ultimate objectives to restore over 70,000 acres of drained wetlands, imperiled species habitats and downstream estuaries by 2023; and

**WHEREAS**, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is permitting and planning the construction of the Southwest Protection Feature (SWPF) for the PSRP which includes flow conveyance features under US 41 near Collier-Seminole State Park; and

**WHEREAS**, PSRP serves, among other purposes, as the mitigation bank for all CERP project impacts to endangered Florida panthers; and

**WHEREAS**, the Florida Panther Recovery Implementation Team's 2017 Southwest Florida Road Hot Spots Report identifies the section of US 41 slated to get several PSRP SWPF conveyance features as a significant Florida panther mortality hotspot between 1996 and 2016; and

**WHEREAS**, Florida Panther (FP) 193 has a home range that overlaps the PSRP SWPF project area and extends south of US 41; and

**WHEREAS**, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) have all recommended inclusion of large mammal crossing facilities in conjunction with conveyance features for the SWPF phase of PSRP; and

**WHEREAS**, FDOT engineering staff have estimated costs of collocating a large mammal crossing facility with conveyance features for PSRP SWPF to be roughly equivalent to only conveyance features; and

1000 Friends of Florida  
Angler Action Foundation  
Audubon Florida  
Audubon of Southwest Florida  
Audubon of the Western Everglades  
Audubon Society of the Everglades  
Backcountry Fly Fishers of Naples  
Calusa Waterkeeper  
Cape Coral Friends of Wildlife  
Center for Biological Diversity  
Conservancy of Southwest Florida  
Defenders of Wildlife  
"Ding" Darling Wildlife Society  
Earthjustice  
Environment Florida  
Everglades Foundation  
Everglades Law Center  
Everglades Trust  
Florida Bay Forever  
Florida Conservation Voters Education Fund  
Florida Defenders of the Environment  
Florida Keys Environmental Fund  
Florida Native Plant Society  
Florida Oceanographic Society  
Friends of the Arthur R. Marshall  
Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge  
Friends of the Everglades  
Hendry-Glades Audubon Society  
International Dark-Sky Association,  
FL Chapter  
Izaak Walton League of America  
Izaak Walton League Florida Division  
Izaak Walton League Florida Keys Chapter  
Izaak Walton League Mangrove Chapter  
Lake Worth Waterkeeper  
Last Stand  
League of Women Voters of Florida  
Martin County Conservation Alliance  
Miami Pine Rocklands Coalition  
Miami Waterkeeper  
National Audubon Society  
National Parks Conservation Association  
National Wildlife Refuge Association  
Natural Resources Defense Council  
North Carolina Outward Bound School  
Ocean Research & Conservation Association  
Peace River Audubon Society  
Reef Relief  
Sanibel-Captiva Conservation Foundation  
Sierra Club  
Sierra Club Florida Chapter  
Sierra Club Broward Group  
Sierra Club Calusa Group  
Sierra Club Central Florida Group  
Sierra Club Loxahatchee Group  
Sierra Club Miami Group  
South Florida Audubon Society  
Southern Alliance for Clean Energy  
The Florida Wildlife Federation  
The Institute for Regional Conservation  
The National Wildlife Federation  
Theodore Roosevelt Conservation  
Partnership  
Tropical Audubon Society

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**WHEREAS**, roads significantly contribute to habitat loss and fragmentation; and these are the greatest threat to establishing and maintaining sustainable populations of the endangered Florida panther and many wildlife species including Florida black bear, Everglades mink, Osceola turkey, gopher tortoise, American alligator, and others; and

**WHEREAS**, vehicle strikes on roads are the leading human cause of mortality for panthers; and

**WHEREAS**, protection and recovery of imperiled wildlife, such as the Florida panther, is a major objective of CERP and the PSRP.

**Therefore, the 61 member organizations of the Everglades Coalition hereby resolve that:**

As part of the PSRP SWPF, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers should include a large mammal wildlife crossing facility in conjunction with installation of flow conveyance features under US 41 near Collier-Seminole State Park.

**APPROVED AND ADOPTED** this 17th day of July, 2020.



Mark Perry  
Co-Chair



Marisa Carrozzo  
Co-Chair

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