



Everglades Coalition

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

Everglades Coalition Resolution Supporting the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission’s Proposal to Enhance Regulation of Invasive Reptiles

Whereas, south Florida has a uniquely favorable environment for the introduction, establishment, and proliferation of nonnative, invasive reptiles;

Whereas, human activities have introduced nonnative, invasive reptiles into Florida’s ecosystems, resulting in established breeding populations that are expanding across the state;

Whereas, nonnative, invasive reptiles severely threaten Everglades ecosystems by preying on and outcompeting Florida’s native species, destroying and degrading habitat, and introducing disease and parasites;

Whereas, nonnative, invasive reptiles like the Burmese python have already caused severe declines of native species in the Everglades;

Whereas, nonnative, invasive reptiles threaten human health and safety and cause significant economic harm by destroying property and infrastructure, impacting tourism, and necessitating costly control and removal measures;

Whereas, the importation, possession, breeding, and sale of nonnative, invasive reptiles contribute to Florida’s invasive species problem when animals escape, or people release them;

Whereas, continuing to allow the importation, possession, breeding, and sale of nonnative, invasive reptiles undermines costly federal, state, and individual efforts to control and contain the spread of invasive reptiles and restore Florida’s native ecosystems;

Whereas, the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission is proposing to regulate some of the highest risk invasive reptiles as prohibited nonnative species: Burmese python (*Python molurus*), reticulated python (*Python reticulatus*), northern African python (*Python sebae*), southern African python (*Python natalensis*), amethystine python (*Morelia amethystinus*), scrub python (*Morelia kinghorni*), green anaconda (*Eunectes murinus*), Nile monitor (*Varanus niloticus*), green iguana (*Iguana iguana*), and tegus (genera *Salvator* and *Tupinambis*, all species);

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Whereas, listing these reptiles as prohibited nonnative species would limit their possession by permit to use for educational exhibition and research only, with exception for permitted possession associated with eradication and control measures;

Whereas, limiting the possession of these highest risk nonnative, invasive reptiles would enhance efforts to remove and contain the spread of these species and restore the Greater Everglades Ecosystem;

Now, therefore, be it resolved that: November 6, 2020.

The Everglades Coalition strongly supports the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission's proposed draft rules related to high-risk, nonnative, invasive reptiles, which would add the highest risk invasive reptiles to the list of prohibited nonnative species.



Mark Perry
Co-Chair



Marisa Carrozzo
Co-Chair

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