



# Everglades Coalition

1000 Friends of Florida  
Arthur R. Marshall Foundation  
Audubon Florida  
Audubon Society of the Everglades  
Audubon of Southwest Florida  
Audubon of the Western Everglades  
Biscayne Bay Waterkeeper  
Caloosahatchee River Citizens  
Association / Riverwatch  
Center for Biological Diversity  
Clean Water Action  
Conservancy of Southwest Florida  
Defenders of Wildlife  
Ding Darling Wildlife Society  
Earthjustice  
Environment Florida  
Everglades Coordinating Council  
Everglades Foundation  
Everglades Law Center  
Florida Conservation Alliance  
Florida Defenders of the Environment  
Florida Keys Environmental Fund  
Florida Native Plant Society  
Florida Oceanographic Society  
Florida Wildlife Federation  
Friends of the Arthur R. Marshall Loxahatchee  
National Wildlife Refuge  
Friends of the Everglades  
Hendry Glades Audubon Society  
Institute for Regional Conservation  
Izaak Walton League Florida Division  
Izaak Walton League Florida Keys Chapter  
Izaak Walton League Mangrove Chapter  
Izaak Walton League of America  
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  
Ocean Research & Conservation Association  
Reef Relief  
Sanibel-Captiva Conservation Foundation  
Save It Now, Glades!  
Sierra Club  
Sierra Club Broward Group  
Sierra Club Calusa Group  
Sierra Club Central Florida Group  
Sierra Club Florida Chapter  
Sierra Club Loxahatchee Group  
Sierra Club Miami Group  
Snook and Gamefish Foundation  
South Florida Audubon Society  
Southern Alliance for Clean Energy  
Tropical Audubon Society  
The Urban Environment League of  
Greater Miami

## **A Resolution Of The Everglades Coalition In Support Of Additional Funding For Controlling Invasive Exotic Plant Species In The Arthur R. Marshall Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge**

WHEREAS, the Arthur R. Marshall Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge is a 147,374-acre wetland marsh and wildlife sanctuary located in Palm Beach County, Florida and includes the most northern remnant of the historic central Everglades wetland ecosystem;

WHEREAS, despite all of its treasures, the refuge is in serious danger of quickly becoming an exclusive haven for invasive plants;

WHEREAS, the land on which the Refuge was established is owned by the State of Florida and managed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) under a 50-year License Agreement;

WHEREAS, in 2002, the License Agreement with the South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) was renewed and included 13 performance measures;

WHEREAS, several of these performance measures are related to the control of exotic vegetation, including one of these performance measures which states that the Refuge's goal is to achieve maintenance control of Melaleuca, Brazilian pepper, Australian pine, and Old World climbing fern by 2017;

WHEREAS, despite significant progress in meeting this challenge under the current funding levels, the Refuge will struggle to meet this requirement;

WHEREAS, to sufficiently control and maintain control of the four species, the current invasive exotic species funding of \$2 million for on-the-ground work is insufficient;

WHEREAS, a total of \$6 million per year for the next 4 years has been identified as the funding level needed to ensure compliance with this lease agreement and \$2 million per year after that for maintenance;

WHEREAS, President Obama's FY 2016 budget requests only \$2 million to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for this purpose, an additional \$4 million must be appropriated toward this important goal;

WHEREAS, there is a shared state and federal responsibility to protect native ecosystems against invasive species.

Therefore, be it resolved:

The Everglades Coalition, with 57 organizations dedicated to protecting and restoring America's Everglades, urges the Interior, Environment and Related Agencies Appropriations Subcommittees of the U.S. Senate and U.S. House of Representatives to increase President Obama's FY 2016 request by \$4 million for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to control invasive exotic plant species in the Arthur R. Marshall Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge.

Approved: March 24, 2015

*Cara Capp*

Cara Capp  
National Co-Chair

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jason Totoiu". The signature is stylized with long, sweeping horizontal strokes.

Jason Totoiu  
State Co-Chair