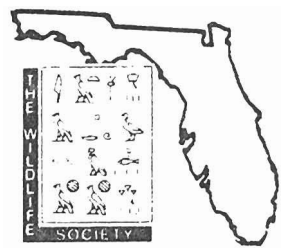


FLORIDA CHAPTER
THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY

September 22, 1995



Mr. Thomas M. Franklin
Wildlife Policy Director
The Wildlife Society
5410 Grosvenor Lane, Suite 200
Bethesda, MD 20814-2197

Dear Mr. Franklin:

In March, 1994 Mr. Brian Millsap, serving as President of the Florida Chapter of the Wildlife Society, asked me to review issues relating to the restoration of the Everglades Ecosystem. As you may recall, you had asked Mr. Millsap if the Florida Chapter might consider a set of guiding principles that could be used by the parent chapter during its reviews of various restoration plans and strategies.

Like the restoration of The Everglades itself, nothing about this process was easy or promptly resolved. My apologies to you for the long delay. During its Spring meeting our chapter reviewed and considered the enclosed statement of restoration principles. After a panel discussion and some further debate, the members voted to allow an additional 30 days for individual members to suggest changes or modifications; and that if these changes were approved by the Executive Board, they should then be forwarded to your office. The Executive Board met on 28 July and voted to approve the document enclosed.

We hope that these principles of restoration are suitable for the needs of the parent chapter. The primary difficulty of this process has been that, because of the myriad of plans being implemented or considered, we found it almost impossible to delve into specific, detailed recommendations. Please feel free to contact me if these principles are not suitable for your needs, or if you feel they need clarification. I can be reached at (407)640-6100. My fax number is (407)640-6108.

Sincerely,

Mark S. Robson
Chapter President

cc: Executive Board

**PRINCIPLES OF RESTORATION
for
THE FLORIDA EVERGLADES**

Florida Chapter
of
The Wildlife Society

V E R S I O N 2.2

The Everglades of Florida is a complex ecosystem encompassing the Kissimmee River and chain of lakes, Lake Okeechobee, the everglade marshes, coastal mangrove forests of extreme southern Florida, and Florida Bay. Referred to herein as "The Everglades", this ecosystem is widely recognized as a natural resource of global importance.

In consideration of recent concepts, proposals, and legislation regarding restoration of The Everglades, the National Chapter of The Wildlife Society has requested the assistance of the Florida Chapter in identifying principles that may be used to evaluate these plans. The following principles are offered by the Florida Chapter for such use. Furthermore, this document serves as a statement of biological principles for restoration of The Everglades that has been considered and approved by the membership of the Florida Chapter on the Fifth day of May, 1995.

ECOSYSTEM PRINCIPLES

1. Restoration should seek to acquire, protect, and restore all remaining areas of the historical (pre-1900) Everglades, including areas not presently under public ownership, if they continue to possess natural functions and features of The Everglades or if these functions and features could be restored. Lands that may not be restored fully but are nonetheless critical to The Everglades should be encouraged to support alternative land uses compatible with restoration efforts.
2. Restoration should seek to reduce or eliminate the fragmentation and compartmentalization of The Everglades.
3. Restoration should not sacrifice or compromise any naturally functioning, or potentially restorable, part of the system in order to restore the functions and features of another part.

HYDROLOGY

4. Restoration should accommodate seasonal and annual patterns of rainfall, and allow for infrequent extremes of drought and flood in line with stochastic variation.
5. Restoration should seek to maximize the hydrological functioning of The Everglades as a continuous (i.e., not fragmented), dynamic system that is driven primarily by

rainfall, with the concomitant natural movement of surface water, aquifer recharge, and storage. Conversely, while it may be necessary in certain areas to manage and manipulate hydrological resources, restoration should seek to minimize engineering solutions to the management of water resources of The Everglades, whether the purpose of that management is to emulate natural hydrological patterns or manipulate the system for human needs.

6. Restoration should achieve water quality standards for The Everglades such that all waters flowing into or through the system meet State of Florida Class III quality standards. This includes a standard for nutrients and other water contaminants that will prevent deleterious impacts to natural populations of aquatic flora or fauna.
7. Restoration should not include or consider the creation and management of water retention areas, settling ponds, or water treatment areas as being part of a naturally-functioning Everglades ecosystem.

FLORA AND FAUNA

8. Restoration should seek to restore or maintain a complete assemblage of the plant communities of The Everglades consistent with historical patterns of relative abundance, soil types, and hydrological profiles.
9. Management of plant communities should accommodate natural perturbations of fire, flood, drought, and hurricanes.
10. Restoration should seek to restore natural biodiversity by providing habitat for native wildlife and fish, given the limitations of irretrievable ecosystem degradation and loss in southern Florida. Wildlife management should emphasize the restoration and protection of a naturally-functioning ecosystem.
11. Restoration should recognize the critical importance of The Everglades to certain State and Federally-listed species of flora and fauna, and that maintenance of species historically indigenous to The Everglades is fundamental to the maintenance of ecosystem diversity. Restoration activities should clearly enhance the long-term survival potential of State or Federally-listed Endangered species, and not have a negative impact on the long-term survival potential of State or Federally-listed Threatened species.
12. Restoration should seek to remove, control, and monitor non-native flora and fauna, with an emphasis on noxious or invasive non-native species that may have a detrimental impact on native flora and fauna.
13. Restoration should include detailed study of mercury and other contaminants in The Everglades, and seek ways to reduce or eliminate the effect of contaminants on wildlife and humans.

HUMAN NEEDS

- 14. Restoration** should encourage the wise use and conservation of water resources in urban and agricultural areas to reduce competition for water needed in the restoration and natural functioning of The Everglades. This includes development of a flood control program that greatly curtails or eliminates the discharge of surface waters to tidewater.
- 15. Funding** for restoration should include the ways and means for monitoring critical components of the natural system, particularly threatened and endangered wildlife, and their responses to restoration. Key areas of missing information regarding The Everglades should be identified and prioritized, and research to fill in these information gaps should be incorporated.