



FLORIDA CHAPTER OF THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY

RESOLUTION ON KISSIMMEE RIVER VALLEY RESTORATION

WHEREAS the Florida Chapter, The Wildlife Society is an organization of professional wildlife biologists concerned with the scientific and rational management of our valuable natural resources,

WHEREAS channelization of the Kissimmee River Valley has resulted in wholesale destruction and degradation of fish and wetlands wildlife habitat, declines in fish and wetlands wildlife populations, and associated recreational opportunities,

WHEREAS the U. S. Congress has conveyed its desire, within constraints imposed on other benefit considerations, to regain fish and wildlife resource values and environmental amenities lost as a result of implementation of the report of the Chief of Engineers on Central and Southern Florida (House Document 643, 80th Congress),

WHEREAS an accurate assessment of various system modification alternatives in terms of regaining lost fish and wildlife values and lost environmental amenities can be accomplished only when an accurate and detailed description of pre-channelization conditions and project losses which have occurred to date have been developed.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Florida Chapter, The Wildlife Society:

Supports restoration of the unique riverine wetlands ecosystem in the form and extent existing prior to channelization,

Advocates adoption of pre-channelization conditions as the goal of assessment of various restoration alternatives in terms of regaining lost fish and wildlife resource values and environmental amenities.