

Audubon of Florida's 2009 Legislative Priorities in Brief

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Everglades – Support purchase of US Sugar lands in the EAA to help Everglades restoration.

Florida Forever – Support full \$300 million in state appropriations for the Florida Forever program.

Water Policy – Protect “water for the environment” policies in Chapter 373 from erosion by utilities, local governments and developers trying to weight permitting in the direction of water rights.

Water Quality – Defend existing state, local and water management district rules protecting water quality. Focus on preventing new preemption of wetlands, mining and nutrient rules. Support DEP on new nutrient reduction policies.

Climate and Energy Policy – Support Governor Crist's agenda of legislative ratification of:

- Adoption of California Greenhouse Gas emission standards for cars and light trucks.
- The PSC's Renewable Portfolio Standard of 20% by 2020.

Growth Management – Prevent “sunset” of statutory basis for the state Department of Community Affairs. Prevent reduction in DCA's ability to use growth management laws to limit loss of wildlife habitat and damage to water resources.

Amendment 4 – Secure passage of enabling legislation for the Conservation Amendment allowing property tax exemption for land in perpetual conservation easement and allowing taxation according to use for lands managed for water and wildlife (with limits on the latter on term, size and recapture).

Seagrass - Seagrass legislation providing civil penalties for propeller scarring in aquatic preserves was vetoed last year as a result of mitigation banking language added to the bill at the last minute. Audubon supports the inclusion of these seagrass protections in FWC's agency bill, minus the mitigation banking language.

Springs - Legislation to provide better protection for Florida's springs is needed to address septic tank and land use issues among others. We support current legislation proposed by Senator Constantine.

Beaches/Coastal Wildlife The Beach Management Working Group established in proviso during the 2008 Legislative Session resulted in a package of statutory change recommendations, which improve DEP's beach management program while protecting wildlife. Audubon helped develop and supports these recommendations.