



Everglades Coalition

1000 FRIENDS OF FLORIDA
ARTHUR R. MARSHALL FOUNDATION
AUDUBON OF FLORIDA
AUDUBON SOCIETY OF THE
EVERGLADES
AUDUBON OF SOUTHWEST FLORIDA
CALOOSAHATCHEE RIVER CITIZENS
ASSOCIATION/ RIVERWATCH
CLEAN WATER ACTION
CLEAN WATER NETWORK
COLLIER COUNTY AUDUBON SOCIETY
CONSERVANCY OF SOUTHWEST
FLORIDA
DEFENDERS OF WILDLIFE
DING DARLING WILDLIFE SOCIETY
EARTHJUSTICE
ENVIRONMENT FLORIDA
THE ENVIRONMENTAL COALITION
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 WILDLIFE REFUGE
FRIENDS OF THE EVERGLADES
HENDRY GLADES AUDUBON SOCIETY
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
THE OCEAN CONSERVANCY
THE PEGASUS FOUNDATION
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
THE SNOOK AND GAMEFISH
FOUNDATION
SOUTH FLORIDA AUDUBON SOCIETY
TROPICAL AUDUBON SOCIETY
THE URBAN ENVIRONMENT LEAGUE
WORLD WILDLIFE FUND

RESOLUTION SUPPORTING INITIATING A CAPTIVE BREEDING PROGRAM FOR THE FLORIDA GRASSHOPPER SPARROW WHILE POPULATION PROBLEMS ARE DIAGNOSED

WHEREAS, the Florida Grasshopper Sparrow (*Ammodramus savannarum floridanus*) is endemic, restricted to, and dependent on, the Dry Prairie Ecosystem of central Florida, and

WHEREAS, more than 90% of Florida's Dry Prairie habitat has been converted to human uses, and

WHEREAS, the Florida Grasshopper Sparrow is on Florida's endangered species list and has been on the federal endangered species list since 1986, and

WHEREAS, the three populations remaining on conservation lands have reached their lowest counts in history in 2012:

- The Avon Park Air Force Range singing male counts dropped from 130 males in 1999, to 10 in 2004, and only one in 2012,
- The Kissimmee Prairie Preserve State Park point counts dropped from 150 singing males in 2002, to 14 in 2012,
- The Three-Lakes Wildlife Management Area population dropped from about 150 singing males in 2008, to 60 in 2012,

WHEREAS, sparrows are short-lived birds whose sub-populations can quickly go extinct, and

WHEREAS, managers and researchers of the Florida Grasshopper Sparrow Working Group have been convening for 10 years and are uncertain of the exact cause(s) of these rapid declines, and

WHEREAS, an extinct *Ammodramus* sparrow, the Dusky Seaside Sparrow (*A. maritimus nigrescens*), had its singing male counts drop from more than 140 in 1970 to less than 20 by 1976, and captive breeding efforts were initiated too late to capture any females, and

Whereas, ample conservation land exists to re-release sparrows to the wild when ready,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Everglades Coalition urges the United States Fish and Wildlife Service to proceed with alacrity in permitting and initiating a captive breeding program for the Florida Grasshopper Sparrow, and that appropriate land-managing agencies cooperate fully.



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