



Dear Senator/Representative,

We, the undersigned, are hunters, anglers, wildlife professionals and outdoors businesses from across the country. We are calling on Congress to take bold action to restore America's Everglades. The clock is ticking for one of America's natural treasures. Florida Bay is on a knife's edge. Today, the bay is in crisis from last year's drought with more than 10,000 acres of sea grass die-off already evident. Meanwhile the St. Lucie and Caloosahatchee estuaries are regularly subjected to excessive polluted water releases that also destroy important seagrass and oyster habitat.

The Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (CERP) was passed in 2000 with a promise to fix these manmade, cyclical disasters. However, delays in funding and project implementation have put restoration behind schedule. Now, more than 15 years later, sportsmen and women are bearing witness to escalating problems that threaten Florida's natural resources and economy as well as our way of life.

South Florida is the "Fishing Capital of the World", generating more than \$7.6 billion in annual revenue and supporting over 100,000 jobs. Marinas, hotels, lodges, gas stations, grocery stores, tackle shops, restaurants, boat dealerships, and outdoor magazines throughout the state rely upon healthy Everglades wetlands and estuaries that support abundant sea trout, bonefish, snook and redfish and numerous other recreationally and commercially important species.

Restoring America's Everglades is essential not only to preserve our cultural heritage but also to support a robust outdoor recreation industry in Florida. Despite significant public investment to date and strong bipartisan support, little progress has been made to deal with the fundamental problem-insufficient fresh water flow through the River of Grass into Florida Bay. Restoring water flow from Lake Okeechobee into the Everglades system will not only put an end to wasteful and damaging discharges to the St. Lucie and Caloosahatchee estuaries, it will also help to relieve extreme high water conditions in the water conservation areas – vast tracks of marsh in south Florida that serve critical flood control, water supply, and wildlife habitat functions.

We urge you to prioritize dedicated funding, and accelerate science-based restoration solutions like the Central Everglades Planning Project and water storage needed to protect the wetlands and address the fundamental problem before it's too late.

Delay is no longer an option. Our paradise is vanishing today. We stand ready with you to ensure healthy habitat and a strong ecological and economic future for the people who live and recreate in the Everglades. We must save this special place for future generations to enjoy.

Respectfully,

National Wildlife Federation

Vanishing Paradise, a program of the National Wildlife Federation

Florida Wildlife Federation

National Businesses, Organizations and Media:

Activist Angler.com
Americana Outdoors
American Sportfishing Association
Argia Media
B.A.S.S Conservation
B.A.S.S LLC
Backcountry Hunters & Anglers
Bass Angler Magazine
Bowhunting.net
British Field Trial Society of America
Byewood Press
Cabela's Collegiate Bass Fishing
Cabela's Deer Gear
Cabela's Fishermans Handbook
Cabela's Sporting Dog Adventures
CARECO TV LLC
Christian Water Fowlers Association
Compass Game Works, LLC
ConservAmerica
Conservation Force
Conservatives for Responsible Stewardship
Dan Small Outdoors LLC
Dan Small Outdoors Radio
Davenport Solutions
Decoy Outdoors
Dr. Fitz Consulting
Drake Waterfowl Systems
Duck Commander Company
eDIGImag eMagazine Publishing
Fins to Feathers
Fishhound.com
Fishing for Life
Fowl Play Game Calls
FowlNation.com
Full Throttle Hog Dogs
Gator Trax Boats
Gulf Coast Chapter British Field Trial Society
Gun Talk TV
Gun Talk Radio
Guns and Gear TV
Guy Harvey Magazine
Guy Harvey Magazine's On-line Fisherman
Hardcore Waterfowler
Haydel's Game Calls Inc.

Hoffmann Game Birds
HuntingLife.com
Ice Men TV
In Fisherman Magazine
Into the Outdoors Radio Show
Keep America Fishing
Kelly Outdoors Radio
Kelly's Calls – Custom Made Duck Calls & Goose Calls
Kevin Paulson
Lucky Dog Lanyards
LuckyTackleBox.com
NET500.CG Communications
O'fieldstream Outdoor Journal
OOAK Digital Gallery
Outdoor Guide Magazine
Outdoor Hub
Quintessential Communication Inc.
Recycled Fish
Reel Shot Guide Service
Reel Shot TV
Rugged Living
Shellshocked Outdoors
Shooters Of Faith
Southern Chaos
Spirit of the Outdoors Radio Show
Sportsmanshub.com
Stanley Jigs Inc.
Sundog, Inc
Sure-Shot Game Calls
TeamRealDuck
The Action Hub
Traditions Media LLC
Tru Recoil
United States Freshwater Fishing Federation
USA Fly Fishing Team
USA Ice Fishing Team
USA Junior Fly Fishing Team
US Angling Association
WomenHunters.com
Yamaha Whitetail Diaries

State-based Businesses, Organizations and Media:

Alabama B.A.S.S. Nation (AL)
Asche Studios (LA)
Big "O" Charters LLC (LA)
Black Bear Conservation Coalition (LA)

Cajun Boy Airboats (LA)
Cajun Catch Seafood (LA)
Cajun Fishing Adventures (LA)
CatchDat! Charters (LA)
Category 5 Outdoors (LA)
Chris Moran's Marina, LLC (LA)
Comrade Sporting Club (LA)
Creative Cajun Cooking (LA)
Gorman Brothers (LA)
Gotta Go Charters (LA)
Louisiana B.A.S.S. Federation Nation (LA)
Louisiana Fly Fishing Charters (LA)
Marsh Rat Guide Service (LA)
Plantation Tire and Car Care (LA)
B.A.S.S. Nation of Virginia (VA)
Bill Linder Photography (MN)
Brian Brosdahl Promotions (MN)
Bro's Guide Service (MN)
Maxxed Out Guide Services (MN)
Boggy River Ranch (OK)
Brogden Farms (OK)
Cimarron Valley Guide Services (OK)
Classic Taxidermy(OK)
ColoradoOutdoors.net (CO)
Double D Guide Service (OH)
Blue Heron Communications (OK)
Driftwood Outdoors (MO)
Fishing & Hunting Texas (TX)
Gulf Coast Waterfowl Festival (TX)
Georgia B.A.S.S. Nation (GA)
Goose Cowboys Guide Services (OK)
Gordys Wildlife (OK)
Hawk Associates Marketing, Inc (AZ)
Headhunters NW (OR)
Oregon BASS Nation (OR)
Heartland Outdoors (IL)
Ideal Veterinary Hospital (TN)
Jim Klug Outdoor Photography (MT)
Jim Reynolds Outdoors, LLC (AR)
Shellshocked Outdoors (AR)
Woerner Outdoors Consulting, Inc. (AR)
Keep Florida Fishing (FL)
Lampe Publications LLC (IL)
Marshland Outdoors (IL)
Larry R. Richardson & Associates (MS)
Michael Furtman Writing and Photography (MT)

Mid-South Tackle and Hunting Show (OK)
Montgomery Productions (OK)
Oklahoma Tackle and Hunting Show (OK)
Missouri Valley Waterfowlers Association (MO)
NewMexicoOutdoors.net (NM)
North Carolina BASS Nation (NC)
Orvis Rod and Tackle (VT)
Rocky Mountain Television Productions LLC (CO)
RockyMountainOutdoors.net (CO)
Salters Jiggin Poles (LA)
Scale Damage Bow Fishing (LA) Spot
on Fishing Adventures (LA) Soggy
Acres Labrador Retrievers (WI) Wolf
Pack Adventures (WI)
Specialty Outdoor Services (OK)
Texas Waterfowl Association (VA)
The Outdoor Kitchen Show (LA)
Trail Escapes, LLC (LA)
Turner House Productions (LA)
Venice Charters Unlimited (LA)
Wildhorse Creek Hunters and Anglers (OK)
Yellow Dog Fly-fishing Adventures (MT)