



Explore, enjoy and protect the planet

BUILDING RESILIENT HABITATS



in the Greater Everglades Ecosystem

The Greater Everglades ecosystem comprises most of Florida from Orlando south through the Florida Keys. The region includes the majority of Florida's human population and generates most of the state's greenhouse gases. With increased storms, heat, fires, and sea level rise projected due to climate change, the Everglades is one of the most vulnerable ecosystems in North America. The Resilient Habitats campaign seeks to bring attention and protection to the wildlife, wilderness, and human communities that coexist in this unique region.

PROTECTING PANTHERS

The Florida panther has been listed as an endangered species since 1967. Although it's "protected," its habitat - the living and breeding ground needed to survive - is not. Today, only 100 panthers survive in the wild.

In 2010, Sierra Club, in partnership with the Conservancy of SW Florida, petitioned the Department of the Interior and the Fish and Wildlife Service to ensure the panther and its habitat will survive climate change.

Specifically, the Sierra Club petition:

- **documents overwhelming scientific evidence** that climate change will put enormous pressure on the panther's existing South Florida habitat;
- **requests that this habitat be protected as 'critical habitat,'** to avoid degrading this vital region;
- **requests that the government also protect vital panther habitat** to provide room to migrate and adapt to climate change as its impacts intensify in South Florida.

BUILDING THE SKYWAY

The federal government has finally broken ground on the first mile of bridging for Tamiami Trail and is moving forward to develop plans to elevate an additional five to six miles of the road that now dams the Everglades.

These plans would allow the River of Grass to flow naturally and fully once again to Everglades National Park. The restored flow would also help to build mangrove islands and provide a barrier to the rising seas that climate change will bring to Florida's coasts this century.

Add the planned purchase of US Sugar lands in the Everglades Agricultural Area, and Sierra Club's vision for a restored River of Grass gently flowing from Lake Okeechobee to the southern Everglades and Florida Bay is closer to becoming a reality.

SIERRA CLUB WINS IN COURT

EPA to Limit Water Pollutants

In 2010, new limits to curb sewage and fertilizer pollution were proposed by the EPA in a historic first step toward cleaning up Florida's waters. The change in federal policy comes more than a year after Sierra Club, working with four environmental groups, filed a lawsuit to compel the EPA to set strict limits on nutrient poisoning in public waters.

Sierra Club's work to secure the new EPA rules is part of our campaign to reduce nutrient pollution that feeds harmful red tide algae blooms off Florida's coasts. Red tide kills fish, manatees, and dolphins and poses threats to human health. Over the past two years, Sierra Club has secured strong fertilizer reduction ordinances in fifteen counties and cities in Florida.

These victories will help reduce red tide and make Florida's waters more resilient to climate change impacts.

CLIMATE RECOVERY PARTNERSHIP



Sierra Club's Resilient Habitats campaign is part of the Climate Recovery Partnership.

Comprised of six integrated campaigns, the Partnership comprehensively addresses the human causes and the devastating effects of today's most pressing environmental issue – climate change.

The Resilient Habitats campaign employs these key steps to reduce the vulnerability of ecosystems to climate change:

1. *protect large core areas and connecting migration corridors to allow plants and wildlife to move into more favorable habitats;*
2. *reduce or eliminate non-climate impacts that add and increase the stress on vulnerable species; and*
3. *apply ecologically appropriate climate-smart management programs that will build resiliency—all while substantially reducing global warming emissions.*

For more information about Sierra Club's work in Florida please contact Olivia Frazier at (727) 824-8813 ext. 309 or by email olivia.frazier@sierraclub.org



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GIVE TO SIERRA CLUB AND SUPPORT THE
EARTH FRIENDS CHALLENGE TO BENEFIT
THE RESILIENT HABITATS CAMPAIGN.

Conservation only receives 2% of all charitable giving. Most people believe it deserves more.

*Source: Giving USA

Your contribution to the Climate Recovery Partnership will help Sierra Club qualify for a generous challenge grant from our partner Earth Friends Wildlife Foundation to support critical work related to the Partnership's Resilient Habitats campaign.

AMOUNT PLEDGED: \$ _____

I will fulfill this gift in equal payments of \$_____ over the course of _____ year(s).

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