

Diana Umpierre – Sierra Club Organizing Representative, Everglades Restoration Campaign

In June 2016, Diana Umpierre joined Sierra Club as Organizing Representative for the Our Wild America's Everglades Restoration Campaign to help coordinate broad, volunteer-based citizen grassroots efforts to promote the protection and restoration of America's Everglades. In this capacity she works to empower people to protect and restore ecological sensitive habitats, including wetlands; to stop fossil fuel and development threats; to promote equitable access to nature; to defend environmental protections and endangered wildlife; and to advocate for nature-based climate adaptation that help wildlife and bring environmental justice to frontline marginalized communities. This work includes mentoring volunteer leaders; supporting action alerts, letters to government officials, press releases, press conferences, rallies and marches, public participation in government meetings; representing Sierra Club in coalitions; and tracking, reviewing and summarizing government environmental documents, actions and policies that may impact the Everglades. In 2020, her efforts were recognized via an Everglades Coalition Grassroots Activism Award.

She has also supported Sierra Club's grassroots organizing efforts on other environmental issues. In 2016, she contributed to efforts that defeated an anti-solar Florida constitutional amendment by setting up a statewide phone bank, recruiting volunteers to work at polling sites and coordinating two simultaneous press events. In 2017, she helped coordinate collaboration and amplify the work of partners that mobilized thousands to marches across Florida during the Peoples Climate March. And in 2019, she helped mobilize Sierra's support in youth-led climate events in South Florida. She has also supported Sierra's grassroots movement building and litigation efforts to defend bedrock environmental federal policies and listed species, including the endangered Florida Key deer and Florida panther. She has supported Sierra's fundraising efforts for partners in the frontlines providing humanitarian disaster relief to impacted communities in Puerto Rico, Haiti and the Bahamas.

Since 2012, she has volunteered time to educate and advocate on the need to protect the night, primarily via the International Dark-Sky Association (IDA). In 2013, she was named IDA's Dark Sky Defender Volunteer of the Year. She served 6 years (2015-2020) on the IDA board of directors, elected democratically by its international membership, and in 2017 she served as their first Hispanic and female Board President. Her love for the natural nocturnal world also motivated her to help update Sierra Club's 50-year old national policy on light pollution and start a digital national campaign asking mayors across the USA to protect the night. And, in 2021, she coordinated the 1st Miami Dark Sky Week in partnership with Miami-Dade County, City of Homestead, National Park Service and several academic and not-for-profit partners. She's now working to expand grassroots engagement and the network of partners protecting, restoring and celebrating the nocturnal America's Everglades.

In her prior life in Florida and New Jersey, she worked for the Everglades Coalition, Broward County Aviation Department (Planning & Environmental Division), South Florida Water Management District (Water Resources Division), City of Miami (Information Technology Department/ GIS Team), PBS&J (now Atkins), McLaren/Hart, and GEO Engineering (now Haley & Aldrich).

She's a proud Boricua (Puerto Rican), mom of a very talented son, a Certified Planner via the American Institute of Certified Planners (AICP) and a Certified GIS Professional via the GIS Certification Institute. She earned a Bachelor of Sciences in Geological Sciences from Cornell University's College of Engineering.

All of these experiences have led Diana to be, as she puts it, "ridiculously passionate" about her work at Sierra Club.

She's tweets as @DianaEverglades (about the Everglades) and as @DianaUmpierre (about the night and everything else ;)

Photo: <https://www.sierraclub.org/sites/www.sierraclub.org/files/blog/Diana%20Umpierre.png>

LinkedIn Profile: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/dianaumpierre/>