

**ENVIRONMENTAL CONFEDERATION OF SOUTHWEST FLORIDA
(ECOSWF)
2024 ACTIONS**

COMMITTEES:

Southwest Florida Water Management District Environmental Advisory Committee.

ECOSWF. Along with Governing Board member Rebecca Eger (League member) and Mr. Tobias created this committee.

ECOSWF attends these meetings and provides meaningful information for decision making and recommendations by the Committee.

Myakka River Management Coordinating Council

Attends the MRMCC meetings and provides information for decision making; presents requests for future meeting presentations (like the one on Dec, 13th regarding preservation forever; Flatford Swamp; Dark Skies).

Fisheating Creek Settlement Agreement Advisory Board (SAAB).

This Board was created as part of the settlement with Lykes Brothers that required a segment of Fisheating Creek be opened and kept open to the public.

Reviews the Management Plan for compliance with the Settlement Agreement.

ECOSWF was a party to this litigation.

CORRESPONDENCE:

Oppose SB 856/HB 839, SB 1008/HB 761, SB 1128/HB 919, and SB 1236/HB 617, to save the future of clean energy in Florida.

Protecting the right to exercise free speech and peaceable assembly has always been a bi-partisan endeavor. The protection of our state's diverse habitats and watersheds has also opposed to the "Combating Public Disorder" bills (HB1/SB484).

Oppose the Withlacoochee State Forest Land Swap

No Roads to Ruin

US Fish and Wildlife Service to request denial of a 50-year permit to take the Florida panther and 18 other Federal and state-listed species on land in eastern Collier County.

Letter relates to two (2) studies funded in the budget, and so contains two (2) line-item veto requests:

- Line-Item 1543a, the agricultural fertilizer rate study that gives \$4 million to UF-IFAS
- Line-Item 1756, an unspecified water quality study that gives \$25

ECOSWF recommends acquiring buffer lands for Highland Hammock Park.

Oppose Kingston Development in Lee County. Prime panther habitat local.

Opposing designation of potash and phosphate as critical minerals

RE: Governing Board Oct. 22, 2024 Consent Agenda Item 2.5 Operations, Lands and Resource Monitoring Committee: Release of Reservation of Right of Entry for the Purpose of Exploration for Phosphates, Minerals, Metals and Petroleum: SWF Parcel No. 20-708-128S (Charlotte County)

Oppose proposed Constitutional Amendment 2

Everglades National Park is seeking [public comment](#) on the park's wilderness stewardship plan, which will guide the preservation, management and use of the park's wilderness lands. The National Park Service (NPS) manages 97% of the park's 1.5 million acres as wilderness, including submerged marine lands.

Letter to EPA requesting phosphogypsum not be allowed to be used onsite (Mosaic) for road base.

LITIGATION:

Sierra Club v. USFWS Panthers Case .

Lawsuit challenging the decision to widen Florida State Road 29 and Florida State Road 82 in prime panther habitat in Hendry and Collier Counties.

ECOSWF was a party

UNITED STATES COURT OF APPEALS FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA CIRCUIT
SIERRA CLUB, et al., Petitioners, v. U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION, et al.,
Respondents.

Lawsuit challenging the hauling of "ticking time bombs". These would be tankers transported by rail with hazardous chemicals through neighborhoods.

NETWORKING:

ECOSWF has monthly teleconference calls for ECOSWF's Board and Cabinet members.

These meetings allow ECOSWF to know what is going on throughout the region.

Board and Cabinet members bring to ECOSWF's attention the items on which ECOSWF should act. Many of ECOSWF's letters are letters supported by over 39 organizations throughout the State.

Supports member organizations actions when approved by ECOSWF Board and that are not in conflict with other ECOSWF members.

Submitted,
Becky Ayech
President
ECOSWF