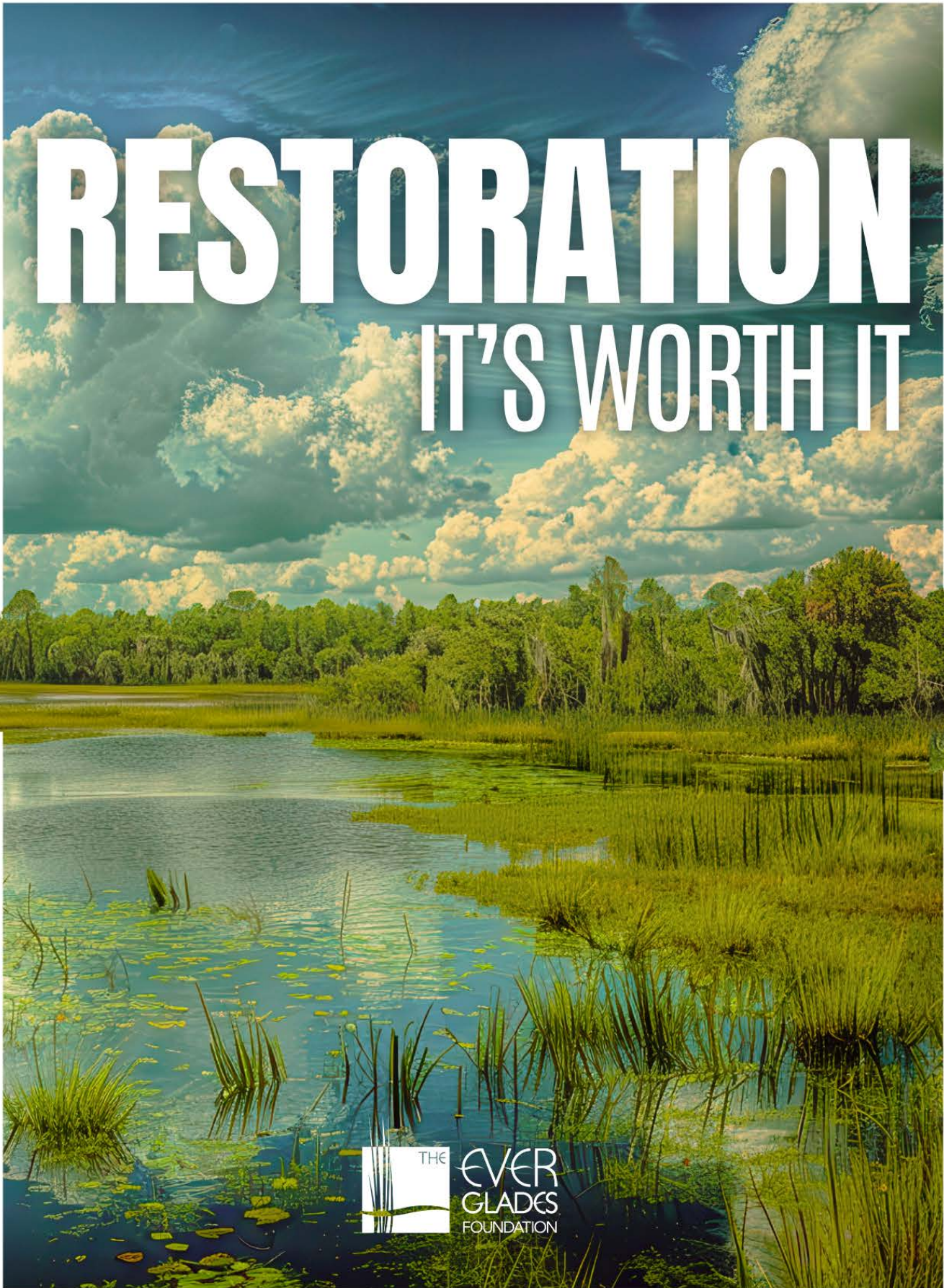


THE EVERGLADES FOUNDATION

RESTORATION IT'S WORTH IT



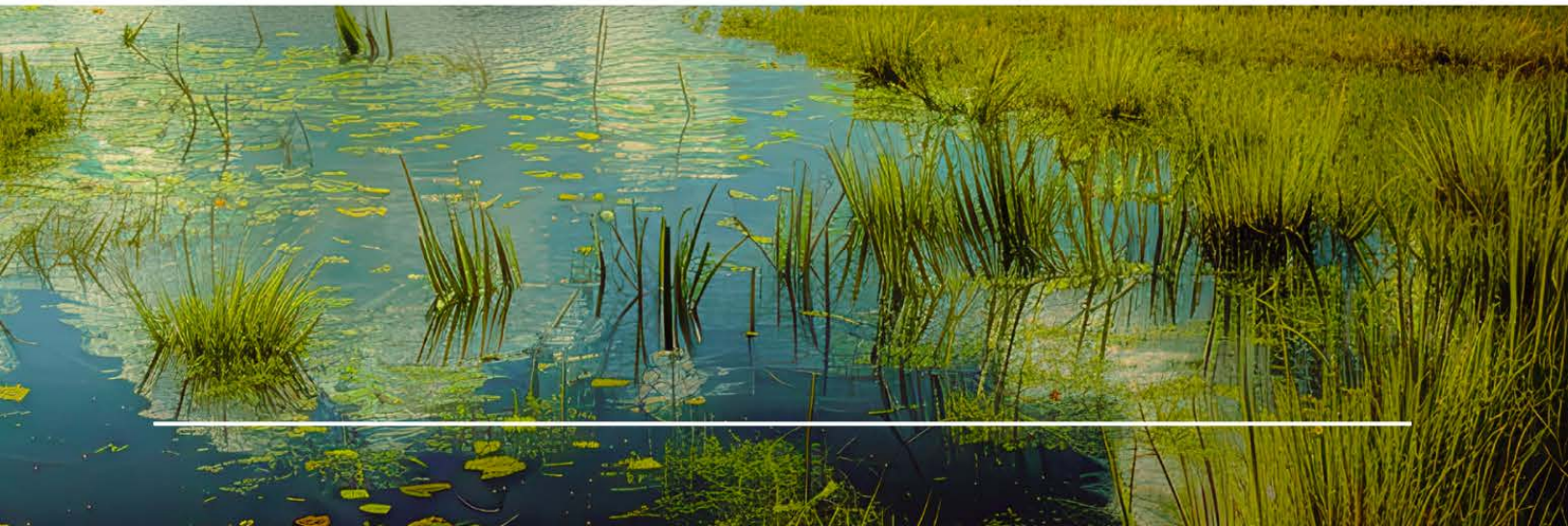
IMPACT REPORT | 2024 - 2025



MISSION & VISION

The Everglades Foundation works to restore and protect America's Everglades through science, advocacy, and education.

We strive for an Everglades with abundant freshwater for consumption, enjoyment, ecological health, and economic growth for generations to come.





The Everglades Foundation is not just protecting a global treasure –

it's leading the most ambitious ecosystem restoration project on the planet. Since 1993, when visionary philanthropists Paul Tudor Jones II and the late George Barley founded the organization, the Foundation has become the gold standard in environmental leadership, science-driven strategy, and bipartisan influence.

Backed by a world-class team of Ph.D. scientists, policy architects, educators, and communications experts, The Everglades Foundation is driving measurable change – restoring the flow of clean freshwater to the Everglades and Florida Bay, safeguarding biodiversity, and securing the future of Florida's economy and drinking water.

For donors, this is more than a cause. It's a legacy. Every dollar invested fuels groundbreaking science, shapes policy, and accelerates the momentum of a movement that is leading the future of conservation.





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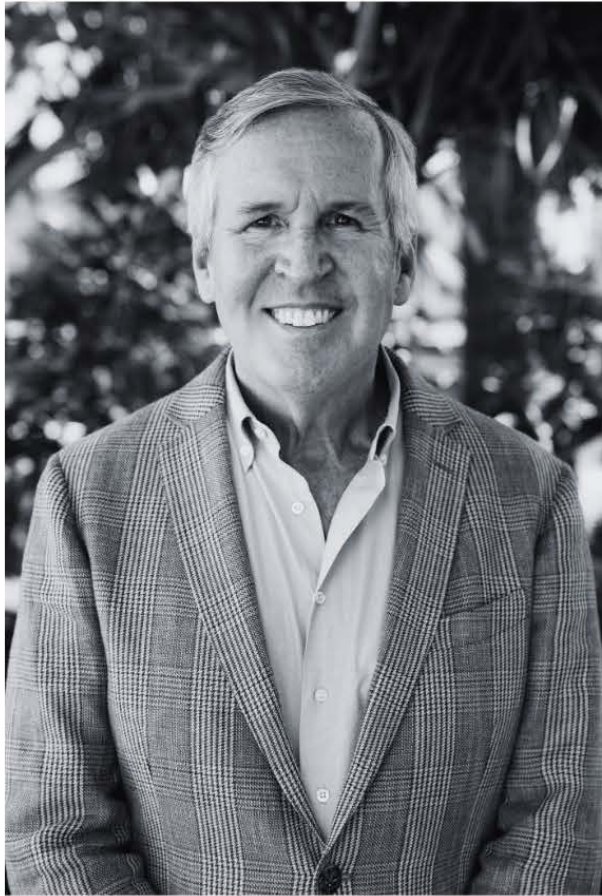
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THE YEAR IN NUMBERS



FROM THE CHAIRMAN



“Serving The Everglades Foundation is a privilege made even greater by the extraordinary Board of Directors I work with. Their advocacy, generosity, and strategic influence are driving the world’s largest ecosystem restoration forward — and I am honored to serve with them.”

A handwritten signature in black ink, which reads "Carlos M. de la Cruz, Jr." in a cursive script.

Carlos M. de la Cruz, Jr.
CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD



BOARD of Directors

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THE TRUTH FOUND IN SCIENCE PROVES RESTORATION IS WORTH IT




“At The Everglades Foundation, science drives restoration. It is the bedrock upon which our organization was built. It steers Everglades restoration in the right direction. The road to restoration is one of many miles and many chapters, but with sound science guiding us, we see a restored Everglades on the horizon.”

– Dr. Steve Davis, Chief Science Officer

Restoring and Protecting a \$1 Trillion Asset

By assigning monetary value to the goods and services the Everglades provides – such as clean water, flood protection, and carbon sequestration – we gain a clearer picture of its asset value. Moreover, economic studies illuminate the extensive activities linked to the Everglades ecosystem, demonstrating how natural assets, people, and built infrastructure work together to generate jobs, support businesses, and drive revenue within our Clean Water Economy. In short, restoring America’s Everglades isn’t just the right thing to do for the environment; it’s an investment in Florida for generations to come.



“Everglades restoration requires a deep knowledge of how the ecosystem contributes to the resilience of South Florida. We are pleased to support The Everglades Foundation’s research into the ecological, economic and resilience benefits provided by the Everglades.”

*Jeff and Mara Talpins
Everglades Science Supporters*



Building on Talent

It takes a team of experienced natural scientists – such as biogeochemists, ecologists, hydrologists, and engineers – to understand this environment and the benefits of restoration. We have expanded The Everglades Foundation’s interdisciplinary science team to include economics and resilience scientists, enhancing our capacity to translate environmental changes into metrics that reflect societal well-being. By effectively using scientific and economic analyses, The Everglades Foundation will continue to be the leading voice for Everglades restoration and the resiliency of South Florida.

Driving Biscayne Bay and Southeastern Everglades Ecosystem Restoration (BBSEER)

Our work has been critical to maintaining the full backfill of the C-111 canal (BBSEER project), which will deliver benefits to Florida Bay and Biscayne Bay, while also improving coastal wetland resilience. Upon completion, BBSEER will hydrate parched wetlands, reducing the risk of severe wildfires. Increased water flows into Florida Bay will improve mangrove habitats and seagrass beds.

The Everglades Foundation’s science team has been evaluating and providing technical input on this project for the past five years, and this year secured a major win: The tentatively selected BBSEER plan will now include complete backfill of the lower C-111 canal from just south of the entrance of Everglades National Park eastward to US-1. This critical action is necessary to restore freshwater flows into Florida Bay, and a new “spreader” feature will take C-111 water that is currently dumped out the S-197 into Manatee Bay and instead distribute it in more natural manner through marshes and mangroves in southern Miami-Dade County.



Photo: The Everglades Foundation

"The Everglades Agricultural Area Reservoir will be a game-changer for restoring America's Everglades. The Frisbie family is a proud supporter of The Everglades Foundation's endeavors and, in particular, their hard work to ensure the completion of this pivotal project and the promise it will bring for clean freshwater flowing again, down the Florida peninsula, as nature intended for generations to come."

-Dave & Suzanne Frisbie
Everglades Supporters

EAA Reservoir Embankment Contract Awarded

A pivotal moment was achieved in the historic effort to restore America's Everglades when the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers announced the award of the EAA Reservoir embankment contract. "This contract is the largest in U.S. Army Corps of Engineers history and worthy of celebration, said the Foundation's Chief Science Officer Dr. Steve Davis. "It is yet another indicator of the tremendous progress in our mission to restore and protect America's Everglades."

Once constructed, the EAA Reservoir will reconnect Lake Okeechobee to the Everglades and significantly reduce harmful discharges to the coastal estuaries.

NASA Research Supports the Value of Wetlands

The Everglades Foundation's science team collaborated with NASA's BlueFlux team to gain greater understanding of the value of wetlands as carbon sinks. The scientific data benefits the Foundation's advocacy for Everglades restoration efforts that will improve the wetlands' health and carbon-capturing capacity, and thereby the multiple benefits they provide such as clean drinking water and a flourishing economy.

As NASA reported, "Florida's tropical wetlands aren't just an important reminder of the beauty and richness of the state's natural history. They're also a critical reservoir of atmospheric carbon and a source of drinking water for millions of South Florida residents." NASA also quoted the Foundation's Chief Science Officer Dr. Steve Davis: "We know how valuable the wetlands are, but we need this reliable science to help translate their benefits into something that can reach people and policymakers."

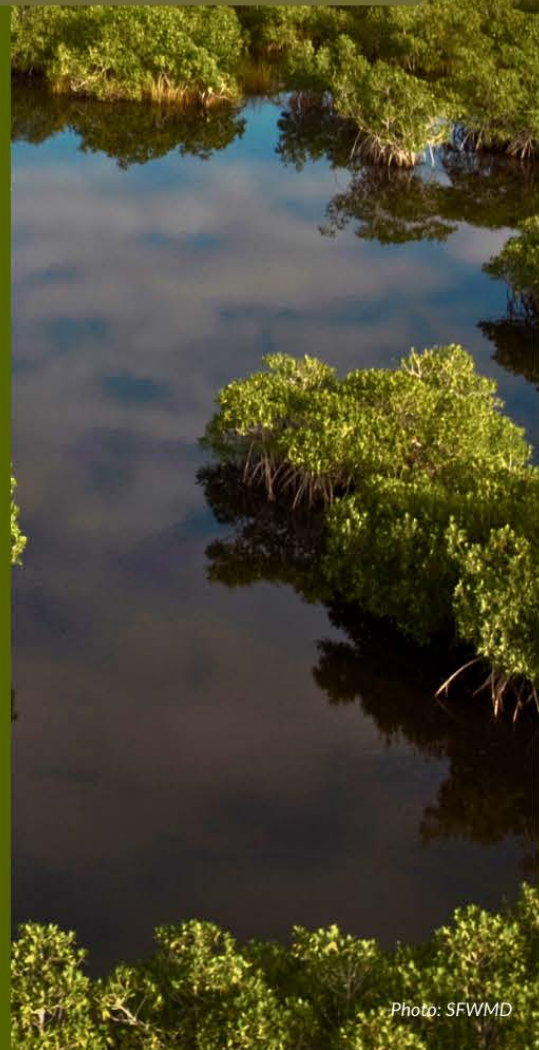


Photo: SFWMD



NASA further noted that scientists who have dedicated their careers to understanding and restoring South Florida's ecology are hopeful. "Nature and people can coexist," said the Foundation's Ecosystem and Resilience Scientist Meenakshi Chabba, Ph.D. "But we need good science and good management to reach that goal."

Photo: SEWMD

"We are proud to support The Everglades Foundation, whose scientific work has made important strides in scores of projects across the ecosystem. Their efforts demonstrate that Everglades restoration is working!"

Alan & Vicki Goldstein , Everglades Supporters

CREATING SOLUTIONS FOR A SUSTAINABLE WORLD:

ForEverglades® Research Enhancement Grants

Exclusively through the generosity of donors, The Everglades Foundation's prestigious ForEverglades Research Enhancement Grants program since 2008 has awarded more than \$2 million to 102 master's and doctoral students, many of whom are now esteemed scientists and leaders in their fields.

The 12-month research enhancement grants provide full-time graduate students up to \$30,000 for expenses associated with Everglades restoration research. The program met with such a positive response from promising students that the Foundation offered a first-ever series of honorable mentions, in addition to the eight awardees.



Gina Badlowski
Florida International University

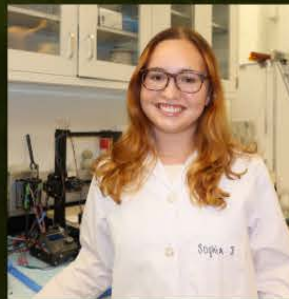


Daniel Petticord
Cornell University

THE MICKY AND MADELEINE ARISON FAMILY FOUNDATION



Carisa MacPherson
Florida Gulf Coast University



Sophia Jackson
University of Pennsylvania



"We are pleased to support the ForEverglades Fellows Program to advance Everglades science. Understanding the Everglades is critical to their successful restoration and long-term protection, which will ensure that this unique ecosystem continues to support our community and economy far into the future."

*Madeleine and Micky Arison
ForEverglades Fellows Supporters*

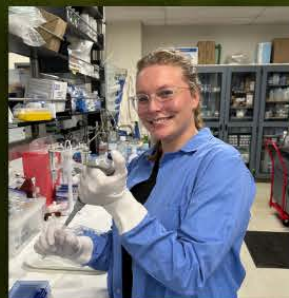
This year's class includes the highest number of out-of-state applicants, illustrating the program's expanding geographic reach and merit. The awardees' range of research reflects the intricacies of the Everglades ecosystem, with projects exploring the impact of sea level rise on coastal mangroves, coral reef restoration, ocean acidification, and the resilience of the system in the aftermath of fires, hurricanes, and drought.

The ForEverglades Research Enhancement Grants program is a joint initiative between The Everglades Foundation and its partners and supporters: Micky and Madeleine Arison Family Foundation, Bass Pro Shops/Cabela's Outdoor Fund, Florida International University, Green Family Foundation, Patrick P. Lee Foundation, and VoLo Foundation. The program also is generously supported by Batchelor Foundation, Crawford Taylor Foundation, Farmer Family Foundation, and Woodbury Foundation.



Jessika Reyes

Florida International University



Ania Szlembaraska

University of California - Davis



James Sturges

Florida International University



Charley Vance

Florida Gulf Coast University



THE EVERGLADES IS A \$1 TRILLION ASSET*

This assessment evaluated the annual contribution of eight ecosystem goods and services:



REAL ESTATE
\$9.2B



RECREATION
\$8.5B



HAZARD MITIGATION
\$8.4B



BIODIVERSITY & HABITAT
\$3.3B



WATER SUPPLY
\$1B



FOREST REGULATING
\$369M



COMMERCIAL FISHING
\$26.7M



CARBON SEQUESTRATION
\$781M

RESTORATION: IT'S WORTH IT

The restoration of America's Everglades is a source of **national pride**. It is the largest ecosystem restoration project ever undertaken and its success will, ultimately, serve as a **model for the world**.

Advancing restoration requires annual funding from both the state of Florida and the federal government. This partnership and continued commitment to **investing in America's Everglades is paramount** to the achievement of this historic endeavor. The Everglades Foundation has collaborated closely with bipartisan decision makers, including Florida's delegation, and diverse stakeholders for decades. Although some may perceive restoration activities to be costly, the fact is that failing to restore America's Everglades would cost us significantly more.

The Greater Everglades offers a broad range of **benefits to our communities and economy**. South Florida's unique ecosystem supports human health and well-being, enhances quality of life, protects against multiple natural hazards, and supports business opportunities and sustainable livelihoods, allowing the economy to thrive. Therefore, saving the Everglades is not just about the birds, it is also about the bottom line.

The Everglades Foundation is proud to have initiated the first of its kind economic research to determine the value of the Everglades. In collaboration with Earth Economics, our economics team has conservatively valued America's Everglades at **one trillion dollars**. This research will be expanded upon as our economics team continues to evaluate and demonstrate why investing in Everglades restoration **is worth it**.

I encourage you to refer to the full report on our website using the QR code below. Your **continued partnership and support** in ensuring that restoration maintains its momentum is vital to the **thriving economy** that depends on a healthy Everglades.



**See the full
report here**



A LANDMARK WEEK

in Washington, D.C.

The Everglades Foundation Champions Everglades Restoration

In a defining moment for conservation and economic stewardship, The Everglades Foundation led a high-impact week in Washington, D.C., rallying national attention around the restoration of America's Everglades.

At the heart of the week was a powerful message: the Everglades is not only a global treasure, it's a \$1 trillion economic asset. From unveiling a first-of-its-kind economic study to mobilizing bipartisan support, the Foundation demonstrated how donor investment is fueling measurable progress and lasting change.





On June 10, more than 300 leaders—including Members of Congress, Tribal representatives, scientists, and business executives—gathered at the U.S. Capitol Visitor Center for the America's Everglades Summit. Hosted by The Everglades Foundation, the event marked the forthcoming 25th anniversary of the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (CERP) and celebrated the momentum behind decades of donor-driven progress.



The Summit kicked off with remarks from Foundation Co-Founder Paul Tudor Jones on the economic importance of the Everglades to the Florida economy. The event also included a keynote speech from U.S. Department of the Interior Secretary Doug Burgum, as well as remarks from U.S. Representative **Brian Mast (R-FL)** and U.S. Representative **Debbie Wasserman Schultz (D-FL)**.

AMERICA'S EVERGLADES SUMMIT

Other notable voices included **Simon Perkins**, President of The Orvis Company, **Downey Magallanes**, Vice President of Federal Affairs at Enterprise Mobility, and **Mike Sole** Vice President of Environmental Services at NextEra Energy who discussed the economic return on investment in restoration. Federal leaders such as MG **Jason Kelly** of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and **Lee Forsgren**, Acting Assistant Secretary of the Army (Civil Works), joined U.S. Representatives **Byron Donalds (R-FL)** and **Jared Moskowitz (D-FL)** in outlining future priorities.

Reflections on the 25-year legacy of restoration included insights from Chairman **Talbert Cypress** of the Miccosukee Tribe of Indians of Florida, **Shannon Estenoz**, Former U.S. Department of the Interior Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks, **Porter Goss**, Former Director of the Central Intelligence Agency, and Former U.S. Representative and **Ryan Seiger**, Staff Director and Senior Counsel at U.S. House of Representatives, Subcommittee on Water Resources and Environment, with closing remarks delivered by U.S. Senator **Rick Scott (R-FL)**.



Hill Day: United Advocacy on Capitol Hill

On June 11, more than 150 stakeholders participated in Everglades Hill Day, meeting with lawmakers to advocate for full congressional support of President Trump's historic \$446 million FY26 budget request – the largest in the restoration program's history. We also conducted nearly 90 meetings with Members of Congress and key staff spanning congressional districts across nearly 30 states.

The Everglades Foundation, alongside its Board of Directors and Chairman's Advisory Council, joined forces with a broad coalition of partners – from chambers of commerce to conservation groups. This united front reflected the power of donor-backed collaboration, amplifying the message that Everglades restoration is a shared priority across sectors and communities.



A Path Forward

As restoration enters a pivotal decade of project completions, The Everglades Foundation is committed to accelerating progress and ensuring America's Everglades remains a bipartisan national priority. Donor support continues to be the backbone of this movement, fueling science, advocacy, and impact at every level.

“This week, we saw the full force of the Everglades restoration movement – from business leaders and scientists to Tribal representatives, environmental advocates, and bipartisan lawmakers – all united by one clear message: Restoring America's Everglades is not only possible, it's essential,” said Eric Eikenberg, CEO of The Everglades Foundation. “The breadth of voices and the momentum we've built in our nation's capital reflect the growing recognition that Everglades restoration is delivering results and deserves continued investment.”

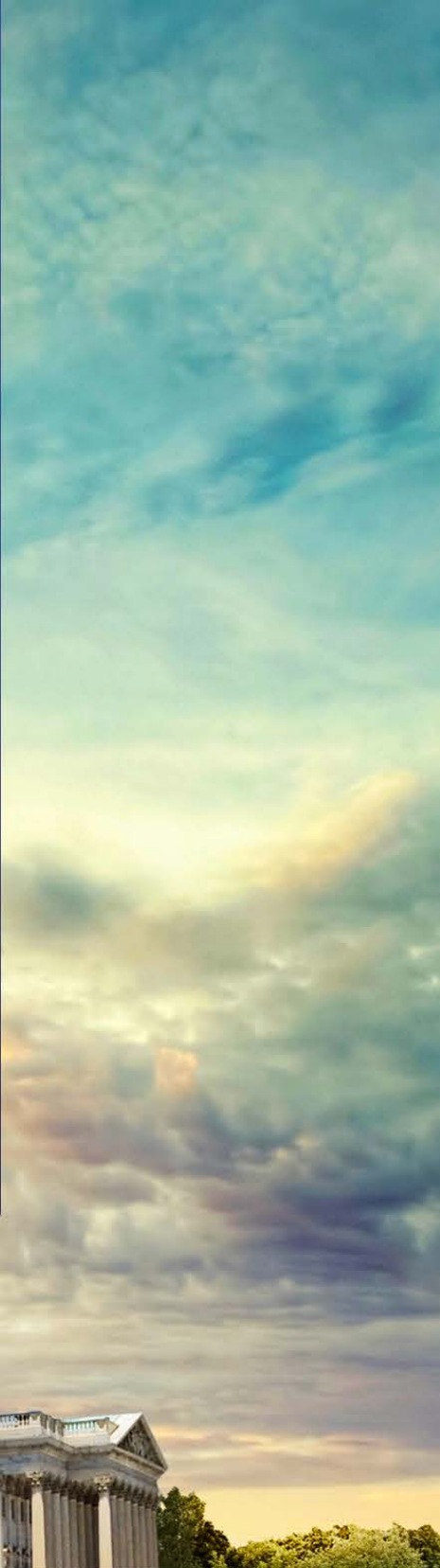




AMERICA'S EVERGLADES SUMMIT

"We've worked very hard to send a strong message about Everglades restoration - the population is growing, and we have to share Florida. We want to be a voice that's heard and at the table. That's the message we want to send."

**Chairman Talbert Cypress,
Miccosukee Tribe of
Indians of Florida**



ADVANCING EVERGLADES

RESTORATION THROUGH POLICY AND PARTNERSHIP

This fiscal year marked a pivotal chapter in the work to restore America's Everglades. From record-breaking federal funding to diverse engagement across Florida, The Everglades Foundation's Policy and Engagement team conveyed a vision of economic and environmental resilience and community stewardship.



FEDERAL MOMENTUM

RECORD FUNDING AND NATIONAL ADVOCACY

In a landmark achievement, FY25 federal appropriations were signed into law at \$415 million, with the FY26 President’s Budget recommending an unprecedented \$446 million—setting a new high-water mark for Everglades restoration funding.

One of the most significant federal milestones came on September 27, 2024, when the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers awarded a \$2.8 billion contract for the Everglades Agricultural Area (EAA) A-2 Reservoir Embankment—the final federal contract for the transformative project. Hundreds of millions in FY24 funding were immediately committed, underscoring the scale and momentum of federal investment.

In August 2024, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers signed the Record of Decision for the LOSOM. This updated regulatory schedule promises more equitable water management across South Florida, sending more water south to the Everglades and reducing damaging coastal discharges.





STATE LEADERSHIP

BOLD INVESTMENTS AND PROJECT LAUNCHES

Florida's commitment remained strong, with the legislature — guided by Governor DeSantis' recommendations — appropriating over \$800 million for Everglades and water quality initiatives. Of that, \$614 million was dedicated to the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (CERP).

The State of Florida will take the lead on two major projects that were authorized in the past year. These include the Lake Okeechobee Component A Reservoir (LOCAR), and the Western Everglades Restoration Project (WERP). The State of Florida, through the South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD), has already broken ground on the first component of WERP.



"Science-driven advocacy is critical to ensuring the Everglades are restored, and I'm proud to support The Everglades Foundation in leading the way with it's bipartisan diplomacy."

John Madigan
Everglades Supporter



Photos: SFWMD

ENGAGEMENT



BUILDING COALITIONS INSPIRING ACTION

The **Everglades Chamber Council** expanded its reach this year, welcoming three new members: Fort Myers Beach, Key Biscayne, and Key Largo Chambers of Commerce. With 10 chambers now represented, the Council meets quarterly to share updates on restoration progress, scientific research, and Foundation programs. Several chambers hosted briefings for their members, and three participated in the America's Everglades Summit—amplifying local voices on a national stage.

CURRENT COUNCIL MEMBERS:

- Islamorada Chamber of Commerce
- Chamber South
- Coral Gables Chamber of Commerce
- Sanibel Captiva Chamber
- Greater Naples Chamber
- Miami Beach Chamber of Commerce
- South Florida Hispanic Chamber of Commerce
- Fort Myers Beach Chamber of Commerce
- Key Biscayne Chamber of Commerce
- Key Largo Chamber of Commerce

ENGAGING INDUSTRIES

Realtors from Miami, Fort Lauderdale, Jupiter, Stuart, Fort Myers, and Sanibel-Captiva joined us for firsthand experiences at key restoration sites — including the EAA, C-43, and C-44 Reservoirs. An aiboat tour of the Everglades offered a visceral connection to the landscapes we work to protect.





PRESERVING PARADISE

WHERE BUSINESS MEETS THE EVERGLADES

In the heart of Southwest Florida,

a powerful alliance is reshaping the way companies think about conservation. The Preserving Paradise program — an innovative partnership between The Everglades Foundation, Captains for Clean Water, Sanibel-Captiva Conservation Foundation, and the Sanibel Captiva Chamber of Commerce — is rallying area leaders to protect our environment while strengthening our economy.

Over the past fiscal year, 23 trailblazers from across industries — media companies, resorts, restaurants, general contracting firms, banks, museums, and realtor associations — joined forces to explore the science and policy behind Everglades restoration. They participated in immersive field excursions, hands-on learning, and discussions connecting ecological health with economic vitality.

At the heart of the program is the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (CERP), the world's largest ecosystem restoration plan. With CERP as the backdrop, participants gained firsthand insight into how water quality, land use, and restoration efforts directly impact everything from tourism to property values.

What emerged wasn't just knowledge, but also momentum. The cohort's energy sparked collaboration, with participants eager to return as moderators, sponsors, and speakers for future sessions.

Thanks to generous donor support, Preserving Paradise is expanding its reach — offering more educational and networking opportunities that empower area leaders to advocate for sustainable growth. Their commitment proves that when leaders understand the stakes, they become champions for change.

EVENTS THAT INSPIRE

WOMEN IN CONSERVATION

The Everglades Foundation hosted its 4th annual Women in Conservation event in May at Manatee Lagoon, showcasing how storytelling can elevate conservation efforts and deepen public engagement.

Begoña Cazalis, Director of Communications at The Everglades Foundation, shared the vision behind the Foundation's Suncoast EMMY® Award-winning video series, "Everglades Stories From Across The Watershed." Launched in April 2024, the series captures the personal and professional connections individuals have with the Everglades – from fishing guides and scientists to photographers and park rangers – highlighting the ecosystem's profound impact on diverse communities.

The event also featured Alexa Elliott, Creator and Series Producer of the acclaimed PBS series "Changing Seas." Since its debut in 2009, Changing Seas has taken viewers on journeys showcasing the work of oceanographers and illuminating the threats facing marine environments.

Together, the speakers demonstrated how narrative can serve as a powerful tool for conservation – connecting people to nature, inspiring action, and preserving the legacy of our planet's most vital ecosystems.



An underwater photograph showing the surface of the water at the top with sunlight filtering through, and a dense field of green seagrass at the bottom. A dark green rounded rectangle is overlaid in the center, containing white text. A vertical white line is positioned at the top center of the page, extending down to the top of the dark rectangle.

LOOKING AHEAD

This year's achievements reflect the power of policy, partnership, and public engagement. As we look to the future, we remain committed to accelerating restoration, expanding our coalitions, and ensuring that America's Everglades thrives for generations to come.

"The future of Florida depends on the restoration of the Everglades. It's not just an environmental issue. It's essential to our drinking water, our economy, and our community that we restore and protect the Florida Everglades, now and for future generations. We are grateful for the leadership and tireless efforts of The Everglades Foundation to ensure progress continues with Everglades restoration. We cannot get over the finish line without them."

Michele and Michael Lenhard

Everglades Restoration Supporters

THE 8TH ANNUAL

JOHN AND NANCY MARSHALL EVERGLADES SYMPOSIUM



The Everglades Foundation hosted the annual John & Nancy Marshall Everglades Symposium, spotlighting the theme, “Art Inspired by the Everglades.” This year’s event brought together science, creativity, and advocacy to celebrate the unique role art plays in environmental awareness.

Renowned wildlife photographer and Communications Director of Miami-Dade Zoological Park, **Ron Magill**, delivered the keynote address, sharing his passion for wildlife and storytelling. He was joined by 2023 Green Family Foundation ForEverglades Fellow **Paige Kleindl**, a Ph.D. candidate at Florida International University’s Institute of Environment, and multidisciplinary artist **Kate Lynn Lewis**. Together, the panel explored how artistic expression can amplify conservation efforts and deepen public understanding of the Everglades’ ecological significance.



Mrs. Nancy Marshall delivered opening remarks.

WHERE LEARNING MEETS LEGACY

Empowering Florida's Future Through Everglades Literacy



"When we teach students about the Everglades, we're not just sharing facts, we're cultivating the next generation of environmental stewards."

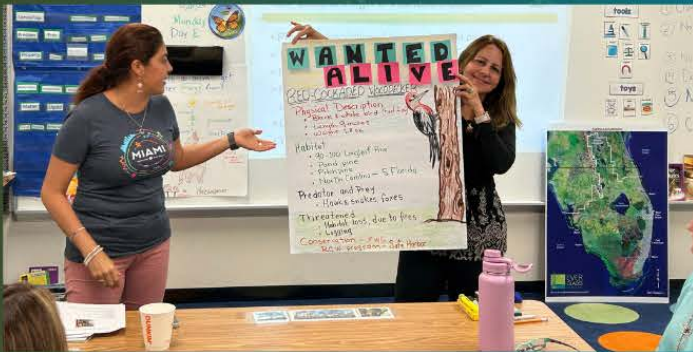
Everglades Literacy empowers young people to understand the value of this unique ecosystem, to protect Florida's water and wildlife, and to become voices for conservation in their communities.

When students truly understand what is at stake, they grow into defenders of Florida's future."

Domenic and Molly Ferrante
Everglades Education Supporters

Thanks to the generosity of our donors, 2025 was a landmark year for Everglades education. With your support, we trained 1,186 new teachers through 61 professional development sessions, impacting 278 schools in 18 counties. This brings our total to more than 8,000 trained educators who are now reaching more than 280,000 students with Everglades-focused learning. These teachers aren't just delivering lessons; they're cultivating the next generation of environmental stewards.





Our Everglades Champion Schools initiative continues to thrive, recognizing **107 schools** across **14 counties** for integrating Everglades education campus-wide and into their communities. **More than 24,000 students** were directly impacted, and thanks to donor-funded mini-grants, **32 schools** received \$30,000 to support immersive field experiences. Students explored Florida's ecosystems through swamp walks, airboat rides, water quality testing, and visits to places like Everglades National Park and Marinelab in the Keys—experiences that spark lifelong curiosity and care.



Creativity flourished with 750 submissions to our challenge coin artwork contest, and we were honored with seven School Board recognitions across the state—affirming the value of donor investment in our work.

Digital access also grew significantly, with schools across Florida integrating Everglades EcoQuest, our free online learning platform into their classrooms. Thousands of students nationwide logged in to explore the Everglades on their own terms, engaging with immersive, interactive content anytime and from anywhere.

We strengthened our commitment to educators by taking professional learning beyond the classroom and into the field. We hosted eight outdoor professional development experiences that immersed 85 teachers in the environments they teach about—helping them build deeper ecological understanding and stronger connections to place-based learning. We also worked with 65 pre-service teachers at Florida Gulf Coast University, equipping the next generation of educators with the tools to integrate Everglades Literacy into science instruction from day one.

Our team further amplified the program's reach by presenting at six major education conferences, ensuring that the value of outdoor, experiential learning—and the impact of Everglades Literacy—continues to grow across the state and beyond.

Student engagement soared with more than **60 presentations reaching 10,000+ students**, while our Families ForEverglades speaker series brought together **more than 80 participants** to strengthen community ties.



2024 EVERGLADES TEACHER SYMPOSIUM: A CELEBRATION OF IMPACT

More than 200 teachers and educators from 89 schools, 15 counties, and 10 organizations across Florida convened in Miami in July 2024 for the 7th annual Everglades Teacher Symposium. The free 2-day symposium paired with field trips provide educators with unique opportunities for professional development, creativity, and networking.

Hosted at Florida International University's Kovens Conference Center, the symposium featured a keynote presentation by National Geographic photographer and Board member of The Everglades Foundation Mac Stone, who shared powerful imagery and rich experiences. The symposium also highlighted educational initiatives such as the Everglades Literacy Program's EcoQuest, nature journaling, and student projects like designing a dream national park. Additional sessions featured the Florida Wildlife Corridor and impacts on the panther population, as well as insights from area educators.



Teachers praised the symposium for inspiring classroom engagement and for providing resources to educate students about the importance of the Everglades ecosystem, its biodiversity, and conservation challenges. Foundation leaders emphasized that empowering students with knowledge and motivation is key to ensuring the Everglades' preservation for years to come.



INSPIRATION, EXPLORATION AND EVERGLADES EDUCATION



Alexa Simeone, M.A., is a National Geographic Certified Educator and an Everglades Champion School teacher-facilitator at the City of Deerfield Beach Teen Center in Deerfield Beach, Fla. We spoke with her about her international background in initiatives in education and sustainable development, her work as Executive Director of Lele Art Lab, her experiences with the Everglades Literacy Program, and how the Teen Center became an Everglades Champion School.

The Making of a Champion

“The City of Deerfield Beach Teen Center earned Everglades Champion School status through dedication and hard work. Our youth attend after-school sessions every week to explore what makes the Everglades so special. They engage in hands-on projects, create art installations, tend to the garden, and participate in activities that deepen their understanding of environmental stewardship and community impact. Their curiosity and commitment to learning about the Everglades drive them to take action and educate others, making their work truly worthy of celebration. And I’d like to add that we are fortunate to have the support and encouragement of the Rotary Club of Deerfield Beach and the City of Deerfield Beach. Our Champion School achievements would not have been possible without them.”

A Serendipitous Swamp Walk

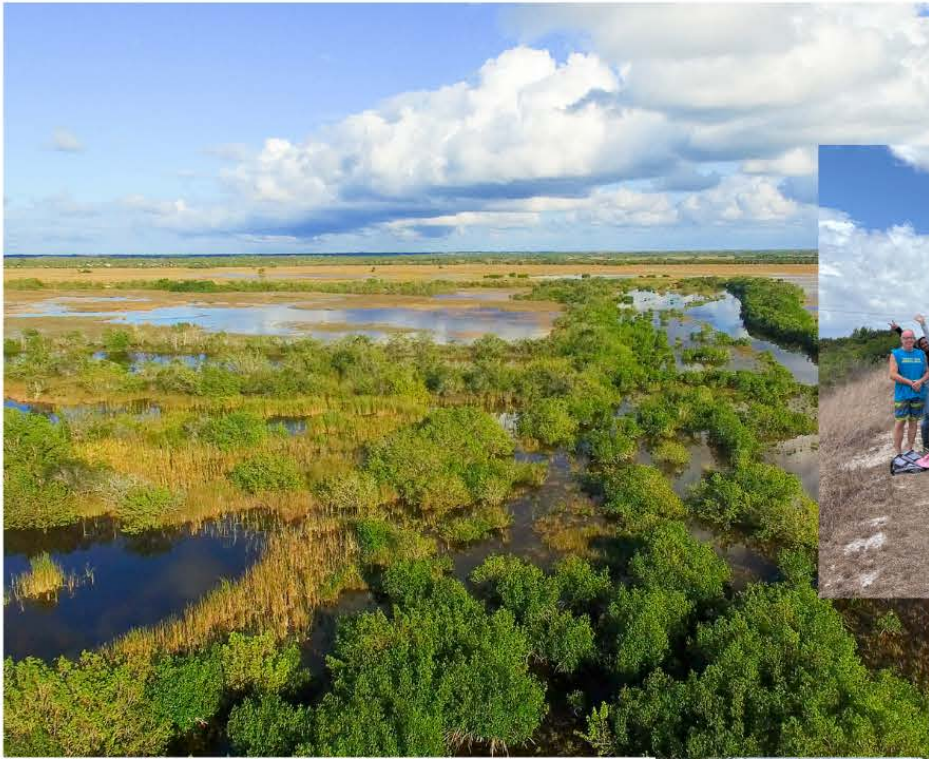
“I first learned about the Everglades Champion Schools program through a fellow educator and soon attended one of the teacher training sessions—a swamp walk for educators—that was both immersive and inspiring. The experience prompted me to rethink how we bring this learning journey to students, emphasizing our shared responsibility to protect our vital ecosystems, and empowering youth to recognize their role and amplify their voices for the betterment of the Everglades.”

Connecting Youth to a Meaningful Cause

“The Everglades Literacy Program is invaluable. It provides a variety of activities and free resources that connect youth to a meaningful cause, fostering a deeper understanding of the Everglades—its unique environment, the challenges it faces, and the changes it undergoes—while giving students opportunities to find their voices and advocate for its protection. It has inspired me to build programming that further engages students, helping them connect with the Everglades, feel empowered to take action, celebrate inclusion, and share their knowledge with their community, recognizing their vital role in protecting these ecosystems. Additionally, being part of the program has allowed us to secure a field trip grant that enables all our students to experience the Everglades firsthand and participate in engaging citizen science activities.”



“The program invites students into a new way of thinking, activities through which they can see their plastic usage footprint, how certain issues connect back to the Everglades, how they can reach out to city officials to ask about changes in policies, or to build a garden. They complete environmental civic action projects they are proud of, and share them with the community, reinforcing their learning and sense of impact. Through the Everglades literacy curriculum, students see themselves as ambassadors for their communities, develop ownership of their learning, and use storytelling to advocate for the Everglades. They leave feeling empowered, engaged, and inspired to take action.”



“To sum it up more succinctly: Engaging with the Everglades Champion Schools Program provides educators with free tools and experiences to inspire students in meaningful ways. Each environmental civic action project introduces new ideas and innovative approaches, while interactions with the Foundation team offer rich guidance and fresh perspectives. I encourage teachers to participate actively, explore hands-on activities, and see firsthand how the program can transform teaching, as well as students’ understanding of the Everglades.”

Learn about Everglades Champion Schools at EvergladesLiteracy.org/champions.





ON THE

RECORD

THE ART OF COMMUNICATIONS

This past year marked continued success for the Communications team in public outreach, engaging both new and longtime audiences with the story of America's Everglades and the urgency of its restoration. From our Suncoast EMMY® Award-winning series, *Everglades Stories from Across the Watershed*, to compelling publications and widespread media coverage, the Communications team amplified the voices of our science, advocacy, and education teams, bringing the Everglades' narrative to life and inspiring action.



EVERGLADES STORIES

FROM ACROSS THE WATERSHED



Everglades Stories participants join Foundation staff to celebrate the Suncoast Regional EMMY Award

The Everglades Foundation Awarded Prestigious Suncoast Regional EMMY®

Everglades Stories from Across the Watershed won a Suncoast Chapter of The National Academy of Television Arts & Sciences EMMY® Award for “Public Affairs – Series” in the 2024 competition. *Everglades Stories* documents diverse and compelling narratives from individuals living in different regions across the Everglades watershed. From a fishing guide to a scientist, from a photographer to a realtor, the stories represent a cross-section of voices that exemplify the interconnectedness between people and the Everglades.



Scan to view
Everglades Stories

Science in Action: A Front-Row Seat to Everglades Innovation

The Everglades Foundation unveiled “Science in Action,” a compelling six-part video series that takes viewers behind the scenes with the Foundation’s renowned science team. From biogeochemistry to economics, ecology to engineering, each episode spotlights how the Ph.D. experts are driving real-world impact in Everglades restoration.



A HISTORY OF RESTORATION

Our Science Insider magazine this year explored the history of Everglades restoration as we marked the 25th anniversary of the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (CERP). As reported, several of the 68 components outlined in the CERP have been completed and are showing benefits, while others are delivering benefits before reaching the construction finish line.

“Our science-based work has informed every Everglades restoration project, and will continue to do so long after the projects within CERP are constructed and operational.” — **Dr. Steve Davis, Chief Science Officer**



Scan to view the
Science Insider 2025



IN THE NEWS



Miami Herald

MIAMI-DADE COUNTY Not just a swamp:
Everglades worth \$31.5 billion to local economy each year, study finds



BBC NEWS

FLORIDA IS BUILDING THE WORLD'S LARGEST ENVIRONMENTAL RESTORATION PROJECT



Florida is embarking on an ambitious ecological restoration project in the Everglades: building a reservoir large enough to secure the state's water supply.

In February 2023, a large digger broke ground on a multi-billion dollar project that has been decades in the making: building a reservoir the size of Manhattan Island. The reservoir, which is part of an historic restoration of the Everglades ecosystem, is intended to help bring a secure, long-term supply of clean drinking water to Florida's residents.

The Everglades Agricultural Area (EAA) reservoir will be located south of Lake Okeechobee, the largest freshwater lake in Florida, and conservationists have dubbed the project "the crown jewel" of the Everglades' restoration.

"It is the single most important project to store, clean and send water from Lake Okeechobee to nourish the Everglades and supply clean drinking water to millions in South Florida," Meenakshi Chabba tells BBC Future Planet. Chabba is an ecosystem scientist at the Everglades Foundation, one of the non-profit organisations that advocated for the project.

41 Years MIAMI TODAY



Since taking on the role of Everglades Foundation's CEO in 2012, Eric Eikenberg has been South Florida's leading voice on expediting restoration efforts and bringing extensive public awareness for the Everglades.

During Mr. Eikenberg's tenure as CEO, The Everglades Foundation has provided scientific, technical, and policy support to various decision-makers in expediting Everglades restoration and engaging partners in corporate, philanthropic, and political

led an intense public awareness campaign that ultimately led to the passage of state and federal legislation authorizing the construction of a \$1.7 billion Everglades Agricultural Area (EAA) Reservoir south of Lake Okeechobee.

"This is the most impactful of all the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan projects. It will provide the necessary storage to reduce harmful discharges to our coastal estuaries and send much-needed clean water south to the Everglades and Florida Bay," he said of the reservoir, which is set to be completed by 2030.

Everglades restoration is about storing, cleaning and sending Lake Okeechobee's water south through reservoirs, stormwater treatment areas (STA) and canals, he said. The Everglades Agricultural Area Reservoir, and its accompanying STA, along with other restoration projects, will cut discharges to our estuaries by 55%. The Everglades restoration also provides drinking water

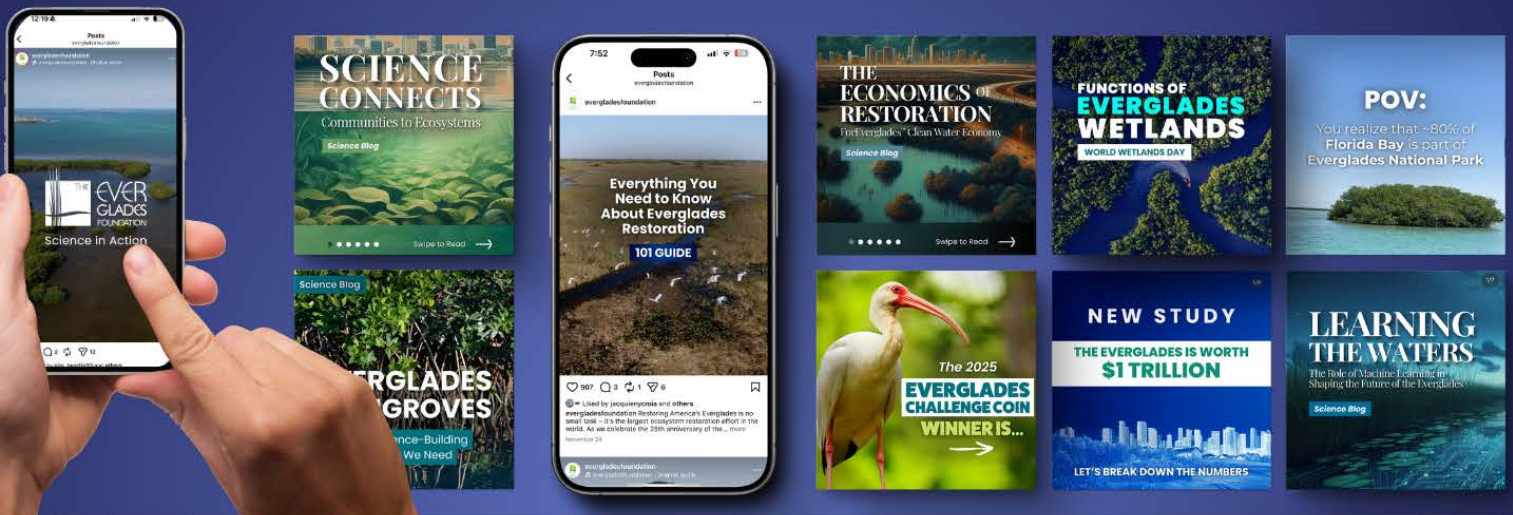


AMPLIFYING OUR MESSAGE

The Communications team continues to ensure the story of Everglades restoration is widely told. The compilation here illustrates how the work of The Everglades Foundation resonated across respected media outlets this year, amplifying our message and impact.

GETTING SOCIAL WITH THE EVERGLADES FOUNDATION

At The Everglades Foundation, our social media presence is a vital tool for sharing impactful stories and updates about our science, advocacy, education, and ongoing restoration efforts. Through engaging posts, we strive to inform and inspire our community, highlighting the importance of restoring the Everglades and showcasing the work being done to protect this unique ecosystem. Each screenshot featured here reflects our commitment to fostering awareness and encouraging support of America's Everglades.



HOSTING ASTRONAUT NICOLE STOTT IN THE EVERGLADES

Veteran NASA astronaut and aquanaut Nicole Stott joined the Foundation's Science team in January 2025 to explore and learn more about America's Everglades. Led by the Foundation's Chief Science Officer Dr. Steve Davis, and Ecosystem and Resilience Scientist Dr. Meenakshi Chabba, Stott experienced the wonder of the Everglades while discussing the importance of environmental restoration and protection.





A MESSAGE FROM OUR CEO

After more than thirty years dedicated to advocacy, education, and science – and thanks to your generosity – Everglades restoration efforts are showing tangible outcomes.

Wildlife has returned to the Kissimmee River, signaling the success of ongoing restoration projects. The strengthened Herbert Hoover Dike now enables a water distribution plan that benefits all communities across South Florida. To the west, the 10,000-acre C-43 Reservoir is operational. Construction is progressing rapidly on the Everglades Agricultural Area Reservoir, recognized as the crown jewel of restoration initiatives. Work on the C-44 Reservoir is also advancing quickly.

Together, these projects are expected to reduce algae-causing discharges by more than half and provide essential freshwater to the Everglades and Florida Bay.

Freshwater flows have been restored beneath the Tamiami Trail, revitalizing habitats for hundreds of species, including the endangered Florida Panther.

In June, we hosted the “America’s Everglades Summit” in Washington, D.C., where bipartisan support for restoration efforts was evident. Few causes bring policymakers together like the urgent mission to save this unique ecosystem. At the Summit, we released a study highlighting that the Everglades form the foundation of a “Clean Water Economy” valued at \$31.5 billion annually. Restoration is not only crucial for the environment, but also serves as a powerful economic engine that benefits all of us.

These achievements would not be possible without your steadfast support. On behalf of our Board and staff, THANK YOU. We hope you find this annual report inspiring, as it stands as a testament to your shared commitment to America’s Everglades.

Sincerely,



Eric Eikenberg
Chief Executive Officer

FOREVERGLADES® NAPLES

Goes Beyond the Horizon

Philanthropists, community leaders, and other passionate supporters of America's Everglades gathered March 27 at Arthrex One in Naples for the 12th annual ForEverglades benefit, themed "Beyond the Horizon." An outdoor cocktail reception was followed by a dinner and program with speakers including Governor Ron DeSantis, who noted the momentum behind Everglades restoration and his recommendation that the Florida Legislature invest \$982 million in additional funding in the year ahead.

The Everglades Foundation's CEO Eric Eikenberg noted what's at stake in the effort to restore America's Everglades. "It's Florida as we know it – the beaches, boating, and fishing. More than 80,000 businesses in South Florida rely on clean freshwater and a restored Everglades. Together, they generate one out of every five dollars in South Florida's economy. That's why we say Everglades restoration is good business."

Veteran NASA astronaut Nicole Stott, who made two space flights and spent 104 days in space on the International Space Station and Space Shuttle, delivered the keynote address. Against a backdrop of stunning visuals, she told the crowd, "We have the power to create a future for all life on Earth that is as beautiful as it looks from space."

Vice Chair of The Everglades Foundation Board of Directors Ellin Goetz co-chaired the event with Valerie Boyd Gargiulo. Senator Kathleen Passidomo served as Honorary Chair.

Generously supporting the event were Presenting Sponsor Hoffmann Family of Companies, and Legacy Sponsor Naples Beach Club, A Four Seasons Resort. Supporting Sponsors included Barron Collier, Jr. Foundation, Wilson & Johnson Private Foundation, TECO, Northern Trust, Naples Global Advisors, Hart Howerton, John R. Wood Properties, and media partner, Gulfshore Life.

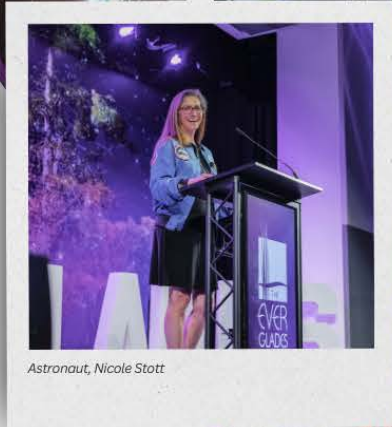


Photo: Mac Stone

FOREVERGLADES® PALM BEACH

BENEFIT CELEBRATES THE WATER THAT CONNECTS US ALL

The Everglades Foundation celebrated tremendous progress for the restoration of America's Everglades – the largest environmental restoration project in the world – at its annual ForEverglades Palm Beach Benefit at The Breakers on Saturday, Feb. 15.

Robert Indiana-inspired sculptures spelling out iconic lyrics by the legendary Earth, Wind & Fire marked the way as more than 650 philanthropists, advocates and partners gathered at the sold-out event, and “grooved” to some of the band’s greatest hits.

“We are energized like never before, with allies and supporters all over Florida and in every state,” The Everglades Foundation CEO Eric Eikenberg told the audience. “This is a new Congress and a new Administration, and we will need everybody on board to support Everglades restoration.”

Comedian Joe Zimmerman infused humor into the night after The Everglades Foundation Co-Founder and event co-host Paul Tudor Jones II reminded the crowd that life in Palm Beach is inextricably tied to the health of America’s Everglades. Foundation Board Member and National Geographic photographer Mac Stone took the crowd deep into the “soul of South Florida” through a short, immersive film that explores the Everglades’ astounding natural spaces, from cypress domes and tree islands to mullet runs and the southernmost estuary of Florida Bay.

In a particularly moving moment, beloved Foundation board member Jimmy Buffett was remembered with an auction of a private fishing expedition aboard his boat, The Last Mango.



Earth, Wind & Fire



Elizabeth and Lee Ainslie



Mish Tworkowski and Lia Reed Bohannon

NEW CORPORATE PARTNERS

SHARE COMMITMENT TO SUSTAINABILITY LEADERSHIP AND EVERGLADES EDUCATION

AMAZON

Amazon partnered with The Everglades Foundation to educate hundreds of Miami-Dade County teachers and students about the Everglades at the local level through the Everglades Literacy Education Program. Together, the organizations worked to educate today's decision-makers while preparing tomorrow's generation to be inspired to protect one of our greatest natural resources. Amazon's sponsorship also benefited the Foundation's historic, bipartisan America's Everglades Summit in Washington, D.C., which made a national case for Everglades restoration. Both initiatives contributed to advancing Everglades restoration – the largest environmental restoration project in the world.



"Equipping teachers with knowledge and free, multi-lingual resources is critical for reaching the next generation. Amazon is proud to partner in the STEM-based Everglades Literacy Education Program as it engages, educates, and ignites our children to be future stewards of America's Everglades. Together, we're committed to having a lasting positive impact on both local communities and our environment for generations to come."

-**Angie Santibanez**, Amazon's Head of
Community Engagement for Florida and Latin America

THE PALMS HOTEL & SPA

The Palms Hotel & Spa is proud to be among a global portfolio of planet Earth's most sustainable hotels, and The Everglades Foundation was proud to welcome them as a new Corporate Partner this year. Every detail of the hotel's guest experience reflects their commitment to preserving the environment while offering a relaxing, eco-conscious stay. A special package themed "The Wild Side" encourages guests to explore the Everglades with full-day tours and hikes "to experience the treasure up close and personal." Like The Everglades Foundation, The Palms represents sustainability leadership built upon action and impact.

"The Palms proudly supports The Everglades Foundation in safeguarding one of Florida's greatest natural jewels. The Everglades are not only a sanctuary of unparalleled beauty, but a vital lifeline for our environment, and we are committed to help preserving it for generations to come."

-**Tanja Morariu**, The Palms Hotel & Spa

I SQUARED

Like The Everglades Foundation, new Corporate Partner, I Squared Capital, is committed to making a difference in our future through transformational infrastructure. Whether enabling investments in state-of-the-art utilities technology or improving logistics and communications systems, I Squared believes that sound sustainability practices are inextricably linked to developing resilient investments and assets that generate long-term value for the global community. Their focus on the role of improving infrastructure to support long-term community sustainability inspired their commitment to The Everglades Foundation.

"I Squared Capital invests in the critical infrastructure that powers our world and makes it more sustainable. We support The Everglades Foundation for its leadership role in advancing the world's largest infrastructure redevelopment project that is restoring America's Everglades and securing South Florida's future."

-**Dominic McMullan**, Principal, Global Communications and External Affairs, I Squared Capital

WITH GRATITUDE TO OUR CORPORATE PARTNERS

Since 1993, the generosity and leadership of our Corporate Partners have played a vital role in our mission to restore and protect America's Everglades. Their support isn't just a gift; it's enabling real progress toward a healthier ecosystem, a more resilient future, and a lasting natural treasure for generations to come.

"Supporting the Everglades Literacy Program and Champions Schools Program for the past eight years has provided the opportunity to unite our commitment to education with our culture of environmental stewardship. These programs cultivate environmental awareness, build a culture of stewardship within schools and create pathways for students to become conservation leaders in their communities. We are proud to support the continued growth of these impactful programs through the NextEra Energy Foundation, the charitable arm of NextEra Energy, Inc. and Florida Power & Light Company."

-**Mike Sole**, Vice President
Environmental Services, NextEra Energy

"Spearmint Energy is pleased to partner with The Everglades Foundation to support the restoration of America's Everglades — the source of our drinking water and a significant contributor to our economy and quality of life. We are committed to increasing the sustainability and resilience of our community and the Everglades are key to South Florida's future."

-**Andrew Waranch**, Founder, President, & CEO
Spearmint Energy



OUR DONORS

*"We live on Key Largo. The restoration and preservation of the Everglades is critical for our community."
- Jay and Gretchen Riley*

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"The work of The Everglades Foundation is crucial to the future of South Florida – building resilience and economic security. We are pleased to support their strategic and scientific approach to restoring America's Everglades and to help move this monumental infrastructure project to completion."

- John & Weezie Gates

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"We cannot claim to love Florida and stand by while the Everglades disappears. Restoration is not just science – it's justice for our environment, our water, our wildlife, and our economy. If we fail to act now, we risk losing the quality of life we all know and love. Participating in the America's Everglades Summit in Washington, D.C. this past June, gave us an in-depth experience and enhanced awareness of the extreme involvement required by our state and federal officials, non-profit organizations, business leaders, chambers of commerce, universities, Tribal members, and local citizens – everyone working together in support of a restored Everglades!"

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MAKING HISTORY BY ENSURING EVERGLADES PROTECTION FOREVER

The Everglades Foundation this year reached a major milestone in its mission to protect one of the world's most vital ecosystems. Thanks to overwhelming support for its first endowment campaign, the Foundation raised an impressive \$76 million in gifts and pledges from 80 generous donors—surpassing its goal and laying the groundwork for lasting impact.

Launched in 2022, the ForEverglades Endowment Campaign drew enthusiastic support from individuals, foundations, and companies across the country. United by a shared belief in bipartisan restoration efforts, these supporters rallied around the idea of safeguarding the Everglades — not just for today, but for generations to come.

The endowment boosts the Foundation's ability to respond swiftly to emerging challenges, while also ensuring long-term sustainability. Dedicated funds will support the organization's three core pillars: science, advocacy, and education.



Marshall Field V and son Marshall Field VI

Leading the national campaign was Marshall Field V, a Foundation Board member, avid outdoorsman, and part of one of America's most philanthropic families.

"After restoration is complete, the Everglades will continue to be threatened by encroaching development, saltwater intrusion, and greater demands for its freshwater," Field said. "We must protect that water from being wasted, polluted, or diverted for private industry's exclusive use. Freshwater in Florida is the public's resource, and it must be valued for the biodiversity that depends upon it. This endowment is about where we want the Everglades to be long after we are gone."



Learn more about our campaign to leave a magnificent legacy at EvergladesFoundation.org/endowment

Inspired by the campaign's success, the Foundation launched the ForEver Friends Fund, a way for even more individuals and organizations to leave a legacy of protection for this irreplaceable ecosystem.

"I gave to the endowment to establish a Visiting Scholar in Economics because there is an urgent and ongoing need to support rigorous, data-driven research that deepens our understanding of the Everglades' economic value and informs smarter, long-term decisions to protect and restore this irreplaceable natural resource. Our knowledge of the Everglades will need to continue to expand to ensure protection of this unique ecological treasure and powerful economic engine for Florida and the nation."

-Dr. Sadek Wahba

We gratefully recognize the following donors for their pioneering endowment support.

The Lew and Dawn Allyn Family Fund Endowment
Anonymous
The Ashken Family Charitable Foundation
Cherie and Brandon Balena
Mrs. George M. Barley, Jr.
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Trust Under the Will of John G. Searle as
recommended by Michael and Nydia Searle
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Manning J. Smith III and Virginia Smith on behalf of
The Henry M. Rowan Family Foundation
Mike and Jeannie Sole
Mac and Hannah Stone
The Thorsen Endowment Fund
Giselle Wagner and Paul Myerson
Dr. Sadek Wahba/Wahba Science &
Economics Scholar Endowment Fund
Gary Wendt Endowment Fund
Mac and Catherine Willett
Ken Wilson and Ann Jackson

List reflects donors as of June 30, 2025

"The pioneering supporters of this endowment have played a vital role in a historic legacy," said The Everglades Foundation's CEO Eric Eikenberg. "We are deeply grateful to these philanthropists who share our vision for a healthy and vibrant Everglades, perpetually protected by skilled scientists, policy experts, and educators working to protect this global treasure."

– **Eric Eikenberg**, *The Everglades Foundation, Chief Executive Officer*

WAYS TO GIVE

Monthly, Annual, or Multi-Year Giving

A gift by check, credit card, money order, or wire transfer can be made as a monthly or annual payment, or a multi-year gift outlined in a pledge agreement.

Gift of Stock or Mutual Fund

Appreciated stocks can be transferred directly. You may also contribute through an IRA charitable rollover.

Planned Giving

A bequest can be made through your will or trust.

Other Deferred Giving

Beneficiary designations from life insurance or retirement plans can be made by updating your beneficiary designation form with the policyholder or by making an outright gift of a new policy.

- FOR MORE INFORMATION -

CONTACT GEORGE KOSAR, ASSOCIATE VICE PRESIDENT OF DEVELOPMENT

786.249.4419 or gkosar@EvergladesFoundation.org

If you include The Everglades Foundation in your plans, please use our legal name and Federal Tax ID Number.

Legal name: The Everglades Foundation, Inc.
18001 Old Cutler Road, Suite 625, Palmetto Bay, FL 33157
Federal Tax ID Number: 59-3228899

THE EVERGLADES LEGACY SOCIETY



JUPITER ISLAND COUPLE LEAVES LEGACY OF PROTECTION FOR THE WATER THEY LOVED

The Everglades Foundation was honored to receive this year a bequest of \$1 million from the estate of J. Gwynne and Frances W. Thorsen — a significant legacy gift that will have a profound impact on the Foundation's mission to restore and protect America's Everglades.

The Thorsens split their time between Hobe Sound, Florida, and Nantucket, Massachusetts. Gwynne Thorsen was a renowned designer whose eye for detail and love of the water influenced many beloved homes and features in both seaside communities. Frances passed away in November 2018, followed by Gwynne in December 2024. They named The Everglades Foundation as a beneficiary in a trust distributing their assets.

Their memory will live on through the work of the Foundation and the future generations that will benefit from a restored and protected Everglades. To create a legacy in the Thorsens' honor, The Everglades Foundation's Board of Directors directed their extraordinary gift to the Foundation's ForEverglades Endowment, where The Thorsen Endowment Fund will support the Foundation's mission in perpetuity — a stabilizing force that ensures there will always be talented science, policy, and education experts working on behalf of this national treasure.

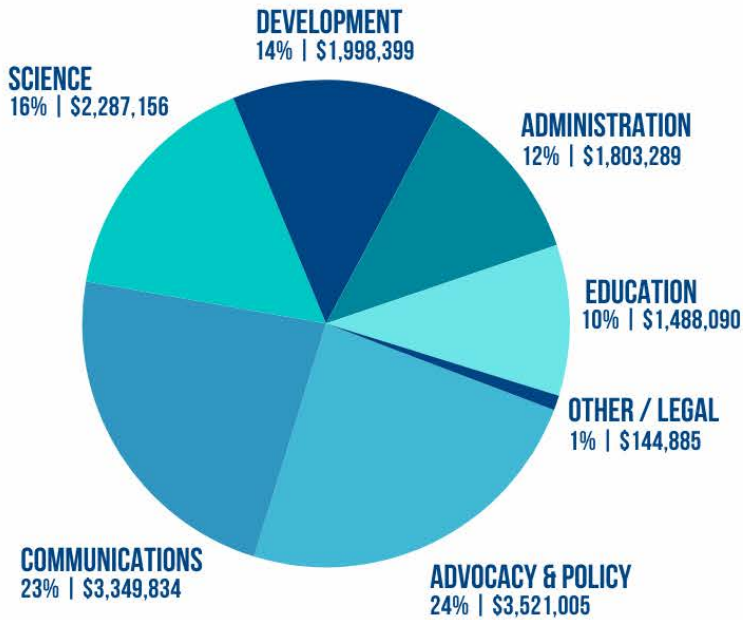
Bequests and other planned gifts leave a lasting imprint on The Everglades Foundation and America's Everglades. The Everglades Legacy Society recognizes supporters who have named The Everglades Foundation in their wills and estate plans, life insurance policies, and other ways of giving.

Please contact Julie Rosenfeld
jrosenfeld@EvergladesFoundation.org
and explore options for creating
your lasting Everglades legacy.
EvergladesLegacy.org

THE YEAR IN NUMBERS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2025

PROGRAMMATIC SPENDING

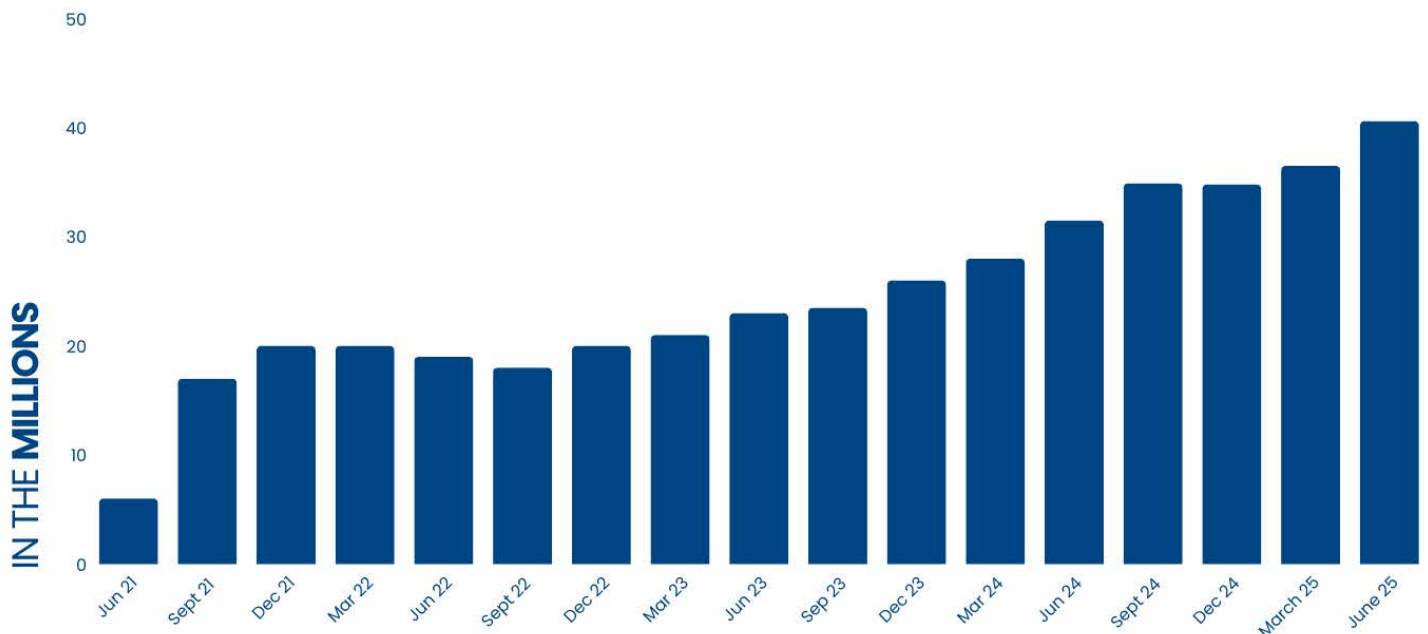


	WITHOUT DONOR RESTRICTIONS	WITH DONOR RESTRICTIONS	TOTAL
REVENUE	\$10,727,441	\$9,204,288	\$19,931,729
EVENT REVENUE NET OF EXPENSES	\$4,455,556	\$450,000	\$4,905,556

CHANGE IN NET ASSETS: \$13,681,718

BEGINNING	ENDING
\$50,338,941	\$64,020,659

HISTORIC ENDOWMENT GROWTH



THE EVERGLADES FOUNDATION

LEADERSHIP

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STEVE DAVIS, PH.D.

Chief Science Officer

HON. SHANNON ESTENOZ

Chief Policy Officer

PAUL HINDSLEY, PH.D.

Chief Economist

COREEN RODGERS

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JENNIFER DIAZ

Vice President of Education

BRADLEY WATSON

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THE EVERGLADES FOUNDATION



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