

Appendix B

Consultation Letters



EVERGLADES NATIONAL PARK
DRAFT

FLAMINGO COMMERCIAL SERVICES PLAN/ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT



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**United States Department of the Interior
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE**



**Everglades and Dry Tortugas National Parks
40001 State Road 9336
Homestead, Florida 33034**

In Reply Refer to:

L7615-FY06-013

Mr. Don Klima
Advisory Council on Historic Preservation
Old Post Office Building
1100 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Suite 809
Washington, DC 20004

Subject: Section 106 Compliance, Flamingo Commercial Services Plan/Environmental Assessment
Everglades National Park

Dear Mr. Klima:

The National Park Service (NPS) has embarked on a planning process, through the development of a Commercial Services Plan / Environmental Assessment (CSP/EA), to identify choices and make decisions about the future of the Flamingo area of Everglades National Park as soon as possible. In 2005, hurricanes caused overwhelming impacts to already aged facilities, and many of the visitor uses and services in Flamingo had to be shut down or reduced. The CSP will determine necessary and appropriate commercial services for the Flamingo area in accordance with all applicable laws and policies, while providing a viable long-term business opportunity for the concessioner(s) ultimately selected to operate the facilities.

In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act, the process and documentation for preparing the CSP/EA will be used to comply with §106 of the National Historic Preservation Act. In accordance with section 800.8(c) of the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation's regulations (36 CFR Part 800), I am notifying your office in advance of the park's intention to use the CSP/EA to meet its obligations under §106.

I have enclosed a project newsletter that has additional information about the planning process. As soon as the draft CSP/EA is available, we will send it to you for your review and comment, as this will be the document for assessing effects on cultural resources within the Flamingo Area of Everglades National Park. As required by 36 CFR 800, the Florida State Historic Preservation Officer has been notified regarding inclusion of Section 106 compliance within the Flamingo CSP/EA process.

Should you have any questions, please contact Fred Herling, Supervisory Park Planner, Planning and Compliance at Everglades National Park at 305-242-7704 or by email at fred_herling@nps.gov.

Sincerely,

Dan B. Kimball
Superintendent

Enclosure



**United States Department of the Interior
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE**



**Everglades and Dry Tortugas National Parks
40001 State Road 9336
Homestead, Florida 33034**

In Reply Refer to:

L7615-FY06-013

Mr. Dexter Lehtinen
Lehtinen, Vargas, Reiner, and Riedi
7700 N. Kendall Drive, Suite 303
Miami, FL 33156

Dear Mr. Lehtinen:

The National Park Service (NPS) has embarked on a planning process, through the development of a Commercial Services Plan / Environmental Assessment (CSP/EA), to identify choices and make decisions about the future of the Flamingo area of Everglades National Park as soon as possible. In 2005, hurricanes caused overwhelming impacts to already aged facilities, and many of the visitor uses and services in Flamingo had to be shut down or reduced. The CSP will determine necessary and appropriate commercial services for the Flamingo area in accordance with all applicable laws and policies, while providing a viable long-term business opportunity for the concessioner(s) ultimately selected to operate the facilities.

On October 27, 2006, I sent a letter to Billy Cypress, Chairman, Miccosukee Tribe of Indians of Florida, inquiring about government-to-government consultation concerning this study.

The purpose of this correspondence is to provide some background information about this project and forward a courtesy copy of my letter to Mr. Cypress for your records. In sending these documents, I intend no deviation from government-to-government protocol, but provide them as potentially useful information for your office.

Sincerely,

Dan B. Kimball
Superintendent

Enclosures:
Flamingo CSP/EA Newsletter
Letter to Tribal Leader



**United States Department of the Interior
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE**



**Everglades and Dry Tortugas National Parks
40001 State Road 9336
Homestead, Florida 33034**

In Reply Refer to:

L7615-FY06-013

Ms. Beth Carlson
Lewis, Longman, and Walker
1700 Palm Beach Lakes Boulevard
Suite 1000
West Palm Beach, Florida 33401

Dear Ms. Carlson:

The National Park Service (NPS) has embarked on a planning process, through the development of a Commercial Services Plan / Environmental Assessment (CSP/EA), to identify choices and make decisions about the future of the Flamingo area of Everglades National Park as soon as possible. In 2005, hurricanes caused overwhelming impacts to already aged facilities, and many of the visitor uses and services in Flamingo had to be shut down or reduced. The CSP will determine necessary and appropriate commercial services for the Flamingo area in accordance with all applicable laws and policies, while providing a viable long-term business opportunity for the concessioner(s) ultimately selected to operate the facilities.

On October 27, 2006, I sent a letter to Mitchell Cypress, President, Seminole Tribe of Florida, inquiring about government-to-government consultation concerning this plan.

The purpose of this correspondence is to provide some background information about this project and forward a courtesy copy of my letter to Mr. Cypress for your records. In sending these documents, I intend no deviation from government-to-government protocol, but provide them as potentially useful information for your office.

Sincerely,

Dan B. Kimball
Superintendent

Enclosures:
Flamingo CSP/EA Newsletter
Letter to Tribal Leader



**United States Department of the Interior
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE**



**Everglades and Dry Tortugas National Parks
40001 State Road 9336
Homestead, Florida 33034**

In Reply Refer to:

L7615-FY06-013

Dionè C. Carroll, Esq.
Miccosukee Tribe of Indians of Florida
P.O. Box 440021
Tamiami Station
Miami, FL 33144

Dear Ms. Carroll:

The National Park Service (NPS) has embarked on a planning process, through the development of a Commercial Services Plan / Environmental Assessment (CSP/EA), to identify choices and make decisions about the future of the Flamingo area of Everglades National Park as soon as possible. In 2005, hurricanes caused overwhelming impacts to already aged facilities, and many of the visitor uses and services in Flamingo had to be shut down or reduced. The CSP will determine necessary and appropriate commercial services for the Flamingo area in accordance with all applicable laws and policies, while providing a viable long-term business opportunity for the concessioner(s) ultimately selected to operate the facilities.

On October 27, 2006, I sent a letter to Billy Cypress, Chairman, Miccosukee Tribe of Indians of Florida, inquiring about government-to-government consultation concerning this study.

The purpose of this correspondence is to provide some background information about this project and forward a courtesy copy of my letter to Mr. Cypress for your records. In sending these documents, I intend no deviation from government-to-government protocol, but provide them as potentially useful information for your office.

Sincerely,

Dan B. Kimball
Superintendent

Enclosure

cc: Dexter Lehtinen, Esq.
Steve Terry
Fred Dayhoff
F.K. Jones



**United States Department of the Interior
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE**



**Everglades and Dry Tortugas National Parks
40001 State Road 9336
Homestead, Florida 33034**

In Reply Refer to:

L7615-FY06-013

Ms. Tricia Hoffer
Environmental Manager
FDEP S.E. District
400 N. Congress Avenue, Suite 200
West Palm Beach, FL 33401

Dear Ms. Hoffer:

I am writing to inform you that the National Park Service (NPS) has embarked on a planning process, through the development of a Commercial Services Plan / Environmental Assessment (CSP/EA), to identify choices and make decisions about the future of the Flamingo area of Everglades National Park as soon as possible. In 2005, hurricanes caused overwhelming impacts to already aged facilities, and many of the visitor uses and services in Flamingo had to be shut down or reduced. The CSP will determine necessary and appropriate commercial services for the Flamingo area in accordance with all applicable laws and policies, while providing a viable long-term business opportunity for the concessioner(s) ultimately selected to operate the facilities.

We seek the benefit of your comments on the Flamingo CSP/EA and input on issues and alternatives that should be considered, as well as any additional information, concerns or comments. The comment period continues through November 17, 2006. Please read the enclosed newsletter and use the attached form, or visit the National Park Service Planning, Environment and Public Comment (PEPC) website to submit your comments: <http://parkplanning.nps.gov>.

We look forward to your participation in the planning process. Should you have any questions about the study or the workshop, please contact Fred Herling, Supervisory Park Planner, by calling 305-242-7704, or by email at fred_herling@nps.gov.

Thank you for your time and interest in this project.

Sincerely,

Dan B. Kimball
Superintendent

Enclosure



**United States Department of the Interior
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE**

**Everglades and Dry Tortugas National Parks
40001 State Road 9336
Homestead, Florida 33034**



In Reply Refer to:

L7615-FY06-013

Mr. Emman Spain
Historic Resources Specialist
Seminole Nation of Oklahoma
P.O. Box 1498
Wewoka, Oklahoma 74884

Dear Mr. Spain:

The National Park Service (NPS) has embarked on a planning process, through the development of a Commercial Services Plan / Environmental Assessment (CSP/EA), to identify choices and make decisions about the future of the Flamingo area of Everglades National Park as soon as possible. In 2005, hurricanes caused overwhelming impacts to already aged facilities, and many of the visitor uses and services in Flamingo had to be shut down or reduced. The CSP will determine necessary and appropriate commercial services for the Flamingo area in accordance with all applicable laws and policies, while providing a viable long-term business opportunity for the concessioner(s) ultimately selected to operate the facilities.

The purpose of this correspondence is to provide some background information about this project and forward a courtesy copy of my letter to Mr. Chambers for your records. In sending these documents, I intend no deviation from government-to-government protocol, but provide them as potentially useful information for your office.

Sincerely,

Dan B. Kimball
Superintendent

Enclosures:
Flamingo CSP/EA Newsletter
Letter to Tribal Leader



**United States Department of the Interior
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE**

**Everglades and Dry Tortugas National Parks
40001 State Road 9336
Homestead, Florida 33034**



In Reply Refer to:

L7615-FY06-013

Mr. Fred Dayhoff, Tribal Representative
Miccosukee Tribe of Indians of Florida
Tamiami Station
P.O. Box 440021
Miami, FL 33144

Dear Mr. Dayhoff:

The National Park Service (NPS) has embarked on a planning process, through the development of a Commercial Services Plan / Environmental Assessment (CSP/EA), to identify choices and make decisions about the future of the Flamingo area of Everglades National Park as soon as possible. In 2005, hurricanes caused overwhelming impacts to already aged facilities, and many of the visitor uses and services in Flamingo had to be shut down or reduced. The CSP will determine necessary and appropriate commercial services for the Flamingo area in accordance with all applicable laws and policies, while providing a viable long-term business opportunity for the concessioner(s) ultimately selected to operate the facilities.

The purpose of this correspondence is to provide some background information about this project and forward a courtesy copy of my letter to Mr. Cypress for your records. In sending these documents, I intend no deviation from government-to-government protocol, but provide them as potentially useful information for your office.

Sincerely,

Dan B. Kimball
Superintendent

Enclosures:
Flamingo CSP/EA Newsletter
Letter to Tribal Leader



**United States Department of the Interior
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE**



**Everglades and Dry Tortugas National Parks
40001 State Road 9336
Homestead, Florida 33034**

In Reply Refer to:

L7615-FY06-013

Chairman Billy Cypress
Miccosukee Tribe of Indians of Florida
P.O. Box 440021
Tamiami Station
Miami, FL 33144

Dear Chairman Cypress:

This letter is to inquire whether your tribe desires to undertake government-to-government consultation in conjunction with the Flamingo Commercial Services Plan / Environmental Assessment (CSP/EA).

The National Park Service (NPS) has embarked on a planning process, through the development of a Commercial Services Plan / Environmental Assessment, to identify choices and make decisions about the future of the Flamingo area of Everglades National Park as soon as possible. In 2005, hurricanes caused overwhelming impacts to already aged facilities, and many of the visitor uses and services in Flamingo had to be shut down or reduced. The CSP will determine necessary and appropriate commercial services for the Flamingo area in accordance with all applicable laws and policies, while providing a viable long-term business opportunity for the concessioner(s) ultimately selected to operate the facilities.

Please contact me at your earliest convenience if you wish to undertake government-to-government consultation concerning the Flamingo CSP/EA. Even if you do not wish to engage in formal consultation, I would welcome any thoughts and recommendations you might have about this project.

Sincerely,

Dan B. Kimball
Superintendent

Enclosure

cc: Dexter Lehtinen, Esq.
Dionè C. Carroll, Esq.
Steve Terry
Fred Dayhoff
F.K. Jones



Miccosukee Tribe of Indians of Florida

Fred
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Business Council Members
Billy Cypress, Chairman

Jasper Nelson, Ass't. Chairman
Max Billie, Treasurer

Andrew Bert Sr., Secretary
William M. Osceola, Lawmaker

December 18, 2006

Superintendent Dan Kimball
Everglades National Park
40001 State Road 9336
Homestead, FL 33034

Dear Superintendent Kimball:

The Miccosukee Tribe of Indians of Florida received your letter concerning the Flamingo Commercial Services Plan/Environmental Assessment. We see no need to undertake government-to-government consultation at this time but may request to do so in the future. We do offer the following comments.

We note in the Public Scoping Notice that the Park Service is considering using Eco-Tents and Yurts as lodging facilities. We are opposed to these structures. This is South Florida, not central Asia or Bermuda. Historic old Florida Structures should be the standard for lodging facilities, not these other types of structures.

Thank you for consulting with the Miccosukee Tribe. Please contact Mr. Terry at the below number, Ext. 2243, if you require additional information.

Sincerely,

Billy Cypress
Billy Cypress
Tribal Chairman

PC: Steve Terry, Land Resources Manager
Fred Dayhoff, Tribal Consultant



**United States Department of the Interior
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE**



**Everglades and Dry Tortugas National Parks
40001 State Road 9336
Homestead, Florida 33034**

In Reply Refer to:

L7615-FY06-013

Ms. Audra Livergood
NOAA National Marine Fisheries Service
11420 N. Kendall Drive, Suite 103
Miami, FL 33176

Dear Ms. Livergood:

I am writing to inform you that the National Park Service (NPS) has embarked on a planning process, through the development of a Commercial Services Plan / Environmental Assessment (CSP/EA), to identify choices and make decisions about the future of the Flamingo area of Everglades National Park as soon as possible. In 2005, hurricanes caused overwhelming impacts to already aged facilities, and many of the visitor uses and services in Flamingo had to be shut down or reduced. The CSP will determine necessary and appropriate commercial services for the Flamingo area in accordance with all applicable laws and policies, while providing a viable long-term business opportunity for the concessioner(s) ultimately selected to operate the facilities.

Enclosed is a newsletter that describes the project. On the back of this letter is a table of the federally listed endangered, threatened, and candidate species that our data suggest have the potential to occur in the study area. To ensure that the park's planning effort adequately evaluates the potential effect that the project would have on threatened and endangered species, we would appreciate your review of the enclosed list and any other issues or concerns that should be considered. In keeping with the requirements of Section 7 consultation and NPS policy, as soon as the draft Flamingo CSP/EA is complete we will send you a copy with an official transmittal letter for your review and comment.

We look forward to your participation in the planning process. Should you have any questions about the project, please contact Fred Herling, Supervisory Park Planner, by calling 305-242-7704, or by email at fred_herling@nps.gov.

Thank you for your time and interest in this project.

Sincerely,

Dan B. Kimball
Superintendent

Enclosure

Federally listed species with potential to occur in the Flamingo area.

Common name	Species name	Federal status
Smalltooth sawfish	<i>Pristis pectinata</i>	Proposed
Atlantic hawksbill turtle	<i>Eretmochelys imbricate</i>	Endangered
Green turtle	<i>Chelonia mydas</i>	Endangered
Atlantic Ridley turtle	<i>Lepidochelys kemp</i>	Endangered
Atlantic leatherback turtle	<i>Dermochelys coriacea</i>	Endangered
Loggerhead turtle	<i>Caretta caretta</i>	Threatened

03 November, 2006

Dear Mr. Herling,

Thank you for your letter dated October 27, 2006 requesting input from the National Marine Fisheries Service's (NMFS) Protected Resources Division. Your letter states the National Park Service (NPS) has initiated a planning process through development of a Commercial Services Plan/Environmental Assessment (CSP/EA) to identify choices and make decisions about the future of the Flamingo area of Everglades National Park. Your letter requested our review of the species list provided by NPS. NMFS concurs with the species list provided. Federally-listed species under the purview of NMFS that may occur in the project area include smalltooth sawfish and five species of sea turtles (hawksbill, green, leatherback, loggerhead, and Kemp's Ridley).

For more information on these species, please visit our website:

<http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/pr/>

It is uncertain at this time whether improvements in the Flamingo area would effect the aforementioned species. However, if NPS determines that the proposed work will effect listed species under our purview, section 7 consultation is required. For your reference, we have enclosed NMFS' Sea Turtle and Smalltooth Sawfish Construction Conditions as well as NMFS' Recommendations for the Contents of Biological Assessments and Biological Evaluations.

Please contact Audra Livergood by phone at (305) 595-8352 or via e-mail should you have any questions concerning the information provided. We look forward to further communication with NPS concerning the future of the Flamingo area.

Thank you,

Audra Livergood

Enclosures (2)

(See attached file: BA GUIDE-INITGUIDE COMBO -working draft.doc)

See attached file: att6hp7v.doc)



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE
Southeast Regional Office
263 13th Avenue South
St. Petersburg, FL 33701

SEA TURTLE AND SMALLTOOTH SAWFISH CONSTRUCTION CONDITIONS

The permittee shall comply with the following protected species construction conditions:

- a. The permittee shall instruct all personnel associated with the project of the potential presence of these species and the need to avoid collisions with sea turtles and smalltooth sawfish. All construction personnel are responsible for observing water-related activities for the presence of these species.
- b. The permittee shall advise all construction personnel that there are civil and criminal penalties for harming, harassing, or killing sea turtles or smalltooth sawfish, which are protected under the Endangered Species Act of 1973.
- c. Siltation barriers shall be made of material in which a sea turtle or smalltooth sawfish cannot become entangled, be properly secured, and be regularly monitored to avoid protected species entrapment. Barriers may not block sea turtle or smalltooth sawfish entry to or exit from designated critical habitat without prior agreement from the National Marine Fisheries Service's Protected Resources Division, St. Petersburg, Florida.
- d. All vessels associated with the construction project shall operate at "no wake/idle" speeds at all times while in the construction area and while in water depths where the draft of the vessel provides less than a four-foot clearance from the bottom. All vessels will preferentially follow deep-water routes (e.g., marked channels) whenever possible.
- e. If a sea turtle or smalltooth sawfish is seen within 100 yards of the active daily construction/dredging operation or vessel movement, all appropriate precautions shall be implemented to ensure its protection. These precautions shall include cessation of operation of any moving equipment closer than 50 feet of a sea turtle or smalltooth sawfish. Operation of any mechanical construction equipment shall cease immediately if a sea turtle or smalltooth sawfish is seen within a 50-ft radius of the equipment. Activities may not resume until the protected species has departed the project area of its own volition.
- f. Any collision with and/or injury to a sea turtle or smalltooth sawfish shall be reported immediately to the National Marine Fisheries Service's Protected Resources Division (727-824-5312) and the local authorized sea turtle stranding/rescue organization.
- g. Any special construction conditions, required of your specific project, outside these general conditions, if applicable, will be addressed in the primary consultation.

Revised: March 23, 2006

O:\forms\Sea Turtle and Smalltooth Sawfish Construction Conditions.doc





**United States Department of the Interior
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE**



**Everglades and Dry Tortugas National Parks
40001 State Road 9336
Homestead, Florida 33034**

In Reply Refer to:

L7615-FY06-013

Kenneth Chambers, Principal Chief
Seminole Nation of Oklahoma
5th and Brown Streets
Wewoka, Oklahoma 74884

Dear Mr. Chambers:

This letter is to inquire whether your tribe desires to undertake government-to-government consultation in conjunction with the Flamingo Commercial Services Plan / Environmental Assessment.

The National Park Service (NPS) has embarked on a planning process, through the development of a Commercial Services Plan / Environmental Assessment (CSP/EA), to identify choices and make decisions about the future of the Flamingo area of Everglades National Park as soon as possible. In 2005, hurricanes caused overwhelming impacts to already aged facilities, and many of the visitor uses and services in Flamingo had to be shut down or reduced. The CSP will determine necessary and appropriate commercial services for the Flamingo area in accordance with all applicable laws and policies, while providing a viable long-term business opportunity for the concessioner(s) ultimately selected to operate the facilities.

Please contact me at your earliest convenience if you wish to undertake government-to-government consultation concerning the Flamingo CSP/EA. Even if you do not wish to engage in formal consultation, I would welcome any thoughts and recommendations you might have about this project.

Sincerely,

Dan B. Kimball
Superintendent

Enclosure



**United States Department of the Interior
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE**



**Everglades and Dry Tortugas National Parks
40001 State Road 9336
Homestead, Florida 33034**

In Reply Refer to:

L7615-FY06-013

Mitchell Cypress, President
Seminole Tribe of Florida
6300 Stirling Road
Hollywood, FL 33024

Dear Mr. Cypress:

This letter is to inquire whether your tribe desires to undertake government-to-government consultation in conjunction with the Flamingo Commercial Services Plan / Environmental Assessment (CSP/EA).

The National Park Service (NPS) has embarked on a planning process, through the development of a Commercial Services Plan / Environmental Assessment, to identify choices and make decisions about the future of the Flamingo area of Everglades National Park as soon as possible. In 2005, hurricanes caused overwhelming impacts to already aged facilities, and many of the visitor uses and services in Flamingo had to be shut down or reduced. The CSP will determine necessary and appropriate commercial services for the Flamingo area in accordance with all applicable laws and policies, while providing a viable long-term business opportunity for the concessioner(s) ultimately selected to operate the facilities.

Please contact me at your earliest convenience if you wish to undertake government-to-government consultation concerning the Flamingo CSP/EA. Even if you do not wish to engage in formal consultation, I would welcome any thoughts and recommendations you might have about this project.

Sincerely,

Dan B. Kimball
Superintendent

Enclosure



**United States Department of the Interior
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE**



**Everglades and Dry Tortugas National Parks
40001 State Road 9336
Homestead, Florida 33034**

In Reply Refer to:

L7615-FY06-013

Mr. Frederick Gaske
State Historic Preservation Officer
Division of Historical Resources - Bureau of Historic Preservation
Compliance and Review Section
R.A. Gray Building
500 S. Bronough Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0250

Subject: Section 106 Compliance for the Flamingo Commercial Services Plan / Environmental Assessment
Everglades National Park
Miami-Dade County, Florida

Dear Mr. Gaske:

The National Park Service (NPS) has embarked on a planning process, through the development of a Commercial Services Plan / Environmental Assessment (CSP/EA), to identify choices and make decisions about the future of the Flamingo area of Everglades National Park as soon as possible. In 2005, hurricanes caused overwhelming impacts to already aged facilities, and many of the visitor uses and services in Flamingo had to be shut down or reduced. The CSP will determine necessary and appropriate commercial services for the Flamingo area in accordance with all applicable laws and policies, while providing a viable long-term business opportunity for the concessioner(s) ultimately selected to operate the facilities.

In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act, the process and documentation for preparing the Flamingo CSP/EA will be used to comply with §106 of the National Historic Preservation Act. In accordance with section 800.8(c) of the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation's regulations (36 CFR Part 800), I am notifying your office in advance of the park's intention to use the Flamingo CSP/EA to meet its obligations under §106.

I have enclosed a project newsletter that has additional information about the planning process. As soon as the draft Flamingo CSP/EA is available, we will send it to you for your review and comment, as this will be the document for assessing effects on cultural resources within Everglades National Park. As required by 36 CFR 800, the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation has been notified regarding inclusion of Section 106 compliance within the Flamingo CSP/EA process.

Should you have any questions, please contact Fred Herling, Supervisory Park Planner, Planning and Compliance at Everglades National Park at 305-242-7704 or by email at fred_herling@nps.gov.

Sincerely,

Dan B. Kimball
Superintendent

Enclosure

COPY
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FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF STATE
Sue M. Cobb
 Secretary of State
 DIVISION OF HISTORICAL RESOURCES

Mr. Dan B. Kimball
 Everglades and Dry Tortugas National Parks
 40001 State Road 9336
 Homestead, FL 33034

November 21, 2006

RE: DHR Project File Number: 2006-9993/Received by DHR: November 1, 2006
 National Park Service/Everglades National Park
 Notice of Intent for a Flamingo Commercial Services Plan/Environmental Assessment
 Everglades National Park, Miami-Dade County

Dear Mr. Kimball:

This office received and reviewed the information for the above referenced project in accordance with Section 106 of the *National Historic Preservation Act of 1966*, as amended and *36 CFR Part 800: Protection of Historic Properties* and the *National Environmental Policy Act of 1969*, as amended. The State Historic Preservation Officer is to advise Federal agencies as they identify historic properties (listed or eligible for listing in the *National Register of Historic Places*), assess effects upon them, and consider alternatives to avoid or minimize adverse effects.

We note that there are a number of historic resources in the Flamingo area of Everglades National Park. We look forward to reviewing the Draft Environmental Assessment and coordinating with the National Park Service on ways to preserve and protect these irreplaceable resources.

If you have any questions, please contact James Toner, Historic Sites Specialist, by electronic mail at jtoner@dos.state.fl.us, or at 850-245-6333.

Sincerely,

Frederick P. Gaske, Director, and
 State Historic Preservation Officer

500 S. Bronough Street • Tallahassee, FL 32399-0250 • <http://www.flheritage.com>

Director's Office
 • FAX: 245-6436

☐ Archaeological Research
 (850) 245-6444 • FAX: 245-6452

☒ Historic Preservation
 (850) 245-6333 • FAX: 245-6437

☐ Historical Museums
 (850) 245-6400 • FAX: 245-6433

☐ Southeast Regional Office
 (954) 467-4990 • FAX: 467-4991

☐ Northeast Regional Office
 (904) 825-5045 • FAX: 825-6044

☐ Central Florida Regional Office
 (813) 272-3843 • FAX: 272-2340



**United States Department of the Interior
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE**



**Everglades and Dry Tortugas National Parks
40001 State Road 9336
Homestead, Florida 33034**

In Reply Refer to:

L7615-FY06-013

Ms. Lauren Milligan
Florida State Clearinghouse Coordinator
Florida Department of Environmental Protection
3900 Commonwealth Blvd., Mail Station 47
Tallahassee, FL 32399-3000

Dear Ms. Milligan:

Subject: Flamingo Commercial Services Plan / Environmental Assessment
Everglades National Park
Miami-Dade County

The National Park Service (NPS) has embarked on a planning process, through the development of a Commercial Services Plan / Environmental Assessment (CSP/EA), to identify choices and make decisions about the future of the Flamingo area of Everglades National Park as soon as possible. In 2005, hurricanes caused overwhelming impacts to already aged facilities, and many of the visitor uses and services in Flamingo had to be shut down or reduced. The CSP will determine necessary and appropriate commercial services for the Flamingo area in accordance with all applicable laws and policies, while providing a viable long-term business opportunity for the concessioner(s) ultimately selected to operate the facilities.

The enclosed newsletters (10 copies) are forwarded to your office for processing through appropriate State agencies. Additional copies are available through the National Park Service Planning, Environment and Public Comment (PEPC) site <http://parkplanning.nps.gov>.

Although more specific comments will be solicited during the public comment period, we request that permitting and permit reviewing agencies review the attached information and furnish us with whatever general comments they consider pertinent at this time. In addition, please provide a consistency review for this project in accordance with the State's Coastal Zone Management Program and the approved Comprehensive Plan of the local government jurisdictions.

We are looking forward to receiving your comments. Should you need additional information, please contact Fred Herling, Supervisory Park Planner at 305-242-7704, or by email at fred_herling@nps.gov.

Everglades National Park
Attn: Fred Herling, Flamingo CSP/EA
40001 State Road 9336
Homestead, FL 33034

Sincerely,

Dan B. Kimball
Superintendent

Enclosures



**United States Department of the Interior
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE**



**Everglades and Dry Tortugas National Parks
40001 State Road 9336
Homestead, Florida 33034**

In Reply Refer to:

L7615-FY06-013

Mr. Paul Souza
Field Supervisor, South Florida Field Office
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
1339-20th Street
Vero Beach, FL 32960

Dear Mr. Souza:

The National Park Service (NPS) has embarked on a planning process, through the development of a Commercial Services Plan / Environmental Assessment (CSP/EA), to identify choices and make decisions about the future of the Flamingo area of Everglades National Park as soon as possible. In 2005, hurricanes caused overwhelming impacts to already aged facilities, and many of the visitor uses and services in Flamingo had to be shut down or reduced. The CSP will determine necessary and appropriate commercial services for the Flamingo area in accordance with all applicable laws and policies, while providing a viable long-term business opportunity for the concessioner(s) ultimately selected to operate the facilities.

Enclosed is a newsletter that describes the project. On the back of this letter is a table of the federally listed endangered, threatened, and candidate species that our data suggest have the potential to occur in the study area. To ensure that the park's planning effort adequately evaluates the potential effect that the project would have on threatened and endangered species, we would appreciate your review of the enclosed list and any other issues or concerns that should be considered.

As a cooperating agency on the park's GMP project, Spencer Simon and others on your staff have already received copies of the newsletter. In keeping with the requirements of Section 7 consultation and NPS policy, as soon as the draft Flamingo CSP/EA is complete we will send you a copy with an official transmittal letter for your review and comment.

We look forward to working cooperatively with you on the planning and implementation of this project. If you have any questions or desire more information, please contact Fred Herling at (305) 242-7704 or at fred_herling@nps.gov.

Thank you for your time and interest in this important project.

Sincerely,

Dan B. Kimball
Superintendent

Enclosure

Federally listed species with potential to occur in the Flamingo area.

Common name	Species name	Federal status
Stock Island tree snail	<i>Orthalicus reses</i>	Threatened
American crocodile	<i>Crocodylus acutus</i>	Endangered
Eastern indigo snake	<i>Drymarchon corais couperi</i>	Threatened
Wood stork	<i>Mycteria americana</i>	Endangered
Cape Sable seaside sparrow	<i>Ammodramus maritimus mirabilis</i>	Endangered
Everglade snail kite	<i>Rostrhamus sociabilis plumbeus</i>	Endangered
Bald eagle	<i>Haliaeetus leucocephalus</i>	Threatened
Mangrove fox squirrel	<i>Sciurus niger</i>	Candidate
Florida panther	<i>Felis concolor coryi</i>	Endangered
West Indian manatee	<i>Trichechus manatus</i>	Endangered



**United States Department of the Interior
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE**



**Everglades and Dry Tortugas National Parks
40001 State Road 9336
Homestead, Florida 33034**

In Reply Refer to:

N1623-W FY06-011

The Hon. Larcenia Bullard
Florida Senate
8603 S. Dixie Highway
Miami, FL 33143

Dear Senator Bullard:

I am writing to inform you that the National Park Service (NPS) is expanding the scope of the Everglades National Park General Management Plan (GMP) to include a Wilderness Study for the East Everglades Expansion Area lands. The East Everglades Expansion Area is the only area within the park never to have been studied for its wilderness values. In 1978, Congress designated 1,296,000 acres of the park as the Marjory Stoneman Douglas Wilderness.

The wilderness study process will examine the entire East Everglades Expansion Area. The area will be studied for wilderness characteristics as defined in the Wilderness Act of 1964 (16 USC 1132). The intent is to solicit comments and information from the public and park stakeholders as to whether or not, and to what extent, a portion of the East Everglades Expansion Area should ultimately be recommended for wilderness designation.

The NPS will be holding a public open house on Wednesday, August 9, 2006. The purpose of this open house is to provide additional information about the proposed wilderness study and receive input from interested individuals and organizations. The open house will be held at the following location:

Date: Wednesday, August 9, 2006; Time: 5:30 – 8:30 p.m.
South Dade Regional Library (next to the South Dade Government Center)
10750 SW 211th Street
Miami, FL 33189

I have enclosed a scoping brochure with additional information about the wilderness study and the upcoming public open house. I would like to invite you to participate during the planning process, or designate a member from your staff. If you are unable to attend the scoping open house, other ways in which you may provide input are outlined in the scoping brochure. Additionally, if you would like to receive a personal briefing regarding this project, please contact my office at Everglades National Park, 305-242-7710.

We value your participation in this effort.

Sincerely,

Dan B. Kimball
Superintendent

Enclosure



**United States Department of the Interior
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE**



**Everglades and Dry Tortugas National Parks
40001 State Road 9336
Homestead, Florida 33034**

In Reply Refer to:

N1623-W FY06-011

The Hon. Mario Diaz-Balart
12851 S.W. 42nd Street, Suite 131
Miami, FL 33175

Dear Representative Diaz-Balart:

I am writing to inform you that the National Park Service (NPS) is expanding the scope of the Everglades National Park General Management Plan (GMP) to include a Wilderness Study for the East Everglades Expansion Area lands. The East Everglades Expansion Area is the only area within the park never to have been studied for its wilderness values. In 1978, Congress designated 1,296,000 acres of the park as the Marjory Stoneman Douglas Wilderness.

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Sincerely,

Dan B. Kimball
Superintendent

Enclosure



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NATIONAL PARK SERVICE**



**Everglades and Dry Tortugas National Parks
40001 State Road 9336
Homestead, Florida 33034**

In Reply Refer to:

N1623-W FY06-011

The Hon. Mel Martinez
United States Senate
317 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Martinez:

I am writing to inform you that the National Park Service (NPS) is expanding the scope of the Everglades National Park General Management Plan (GMP) to include a Wilderness Study for the East Everglades Expansion Area lands. The East Everglades Expansion Area is the only area within the park never to have been studied for its wilderness values. In 1978, Congress designated 1,296,000 acres of the park as the Marjory Stoneman Douglas Wilderness.

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Dan B. Kimball
Superintendent

Enclosure



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NATIONAL PARK SERVICE**



**Everglades and Dry Tortugas National Parks
40001 State Road 9336
Homestead, Florida 33034**

In Reply Refer to:

N1623-W FY06-011

The Hon. Bill Nelson
United States Senate
317 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Nelson:

I am writing to inform you that the National Park Service (NPS) is expanding the scope of the Everglades National Park General Management Plan (GMP) to include a Wilderness Study for the East Everglades Expansion Area lands. The East Everglades Expansion Area is the only area within the park never to have been studied for its wilderness values. In 1978, Congress designated 1,296,000 acres of the park as the Marjory Stoneman Douglas Wilderness.

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Dan B. Kimball
Superintendent

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NATIONAL PARK SERVICE**



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40001 State Road 9336
Homestead, Florida 33034**

In Reply Refer to:

N1623-W FY06-011

The Hon. Nan Rich
Florida Senate
777 Sawgrass Corporate Parkway
Sunrise, FL 33325-6256

Dear Senator Rich:

I am writing to inform you that the National Park Service (NPS) is expanding the scope of the Everglades National Park General Management Plan (GMP) to include a Wilderness Study for the East Everglades Expansion Area lands. The East Everglades Expansion Area is the only area within the park never to have been studied for its wilderness values. In 1978, Congress designated 1,296,000 acres of the park as the Marjory Stoneman Douglas Wilderness.

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Sincerely,

Dan B. Kimball
Superintendent

Enclosure



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NATIONAL PARK SERVICE**



**Everglades and Dry Tortugas National Parks
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Homestead, Florida 33034**

In Reply Refer to:

N1623-W FY06-011

The Hon. Ileana Ros-Lehtinen
2160 Rayburn H.O.B.
Washington, DC 20515-0918

Dear Representative Ros-Lehtinen:

I am writing to inform you that the National Park Service (NPS) is expanding the scope of the Everglades National Park General Management Plan (GMP) to include a Wilderness Study for the East Everglades Expansion Area lands. The East Everglades Expansion Area is the only area within the park never to have been studied for its wilderness values. In 1978, Congress designated 1,296,000 acres of the park as the Marjory Stoneman Douglas Wilderness.

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Dan B. Kimball
Superintendent

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NATIONAL PARK SERVICE**



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Homestead, Florida 33034**

In Reply Refer to:

N1623-W FY06-011

The Hon. Ken Sorenson
Florida House of Representatives
P.O. Box 699
90311 Overseas Highway, Suite A
Tavernier, FL 33070-0699

Dear Representative Sorenson:

I am writing to inform you that the National Park Service (NPS) is expanding the scope of the Everglades National Park General Management Plan (GMP) to include a Wilderness Study for the East Everglades Expansion Area lands. The East Everglades Expansion Area is the only area within the park never to have been studied for its wilderness values. In 1978, Congress designated 1,296,000 acres of the park as the Marjory Stoneman Douglas Wilderness.

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Superintendent

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