



UNITED SOUTH AND EASTERN TRIBES, INC.

---

---

USET Resolution No. 2005:003

**OPPOSITION TO THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE PLAN TO ERADICATE WHITE-TAILED DEER IN  
BIG CYPRESS NATIONAL PRESERVE ON LOOP ROAD**

- WHEREAS,** United South and Eastern Tribes, Incorporated (USET) is an intertribal organization comprised of twenty-four (24) federally recognized Tribes; and
- WHEREAS,** the actions taken by the USET Board of Directors officially represent the intentions of each member Tribe, as the Board of Directors comprises delegates from the member Tribes' leadership; and
- WHEREAS,** the Big Cypress National Preserve (Preserve) is in the process of developing a plan to eradicate and/or reduce the population of white-tailed deer in the Loop Road area of the Preserve; and
- WHEREAS,** the purpose of said plan is to eliminate panther/human interactions on Loop Road by reducing the prey species on Loop Road; and
- WHEREAS,** the Miccosukee Tribe of Indians of Florida has certain rights in the Preserve, including the right of subsistence hunting; and
- WHEREAS,** the Miccosukee Tribe have no other place to subsistence hunt as the lands leased from the State of Florida and the Alligator Alley Reservation in Broward County suffered extensive flooding in 1994-1995 that effectively destroyed over 90 percent of the white-tailed deer herd in this area and has not recovered due to continuing flooding; and
- WHEREAS,** the Preserve has not consulted with the Miccosukee Tribe on this proposed plan to reduce the white-tailed deer herd on Loop Road; and
- WHEREAS,** the Miccosukee Tribal school children use Loop Road to view the white-tailed deer and learn about Miccosukee hunting traditions, cultures, and ceremonies; and
- WHEREAS,** this area on Loop Road has been a safe haven for white-tailed deer for over 50 years because the residents on Loop Road do not allow hunting near their homes and the Preserve recently instituted a safety zone in this area; and
- WHEREAS,** the plans to eradicate and/or reduce the population of white-tailed deer, the majority of which are female, would prevent the herd from expanding into other areas where the white-tailed deer population has already been severely depleted due to repeated flooding; and
- WHEREAS,** the Preserve has not followed any National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) guidelines, which are required as this is a federal decision that impacts an endangered species; therefore, be it
- RESOLVED** that the USET Board of Directors hereby states that the National Park Service should cease and desist from further action on this plan as no NEPA requirements have been met, there has been no consultation with the Miccosukee Tribe, and to allow this to go forward would result in further destruction of the white-tailed deer herd in South Florida.

*“Because there is strength in Unity”*

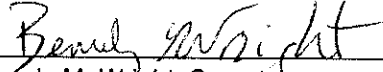
USET Resolution No. 2005:003

**CERTIFICATION**

This resolution was duly passed at the USET Annual Meeting & EXPO, at which a quorum was present, in Verona, NY, on Thursday, October 28, 2004.



Keller George, President  
United South and Eastern Tribes, Inc.



Beverly M. Wright, Secretary  
United South and Eastern Tribes, Inc.