

UNITED SOUTH AND EASTERN TRIBES, INC. 711Stewarts Ferry Pike • Suite 100 • Nashville, TN 37214 Telephone: (615) 872-7900 • Fax: (615) 872-7417

UNITED SOUTH AND EASTERN TRIBES, INC.

Resolution No. 2/95-05IMP

RESOLUTION TO DEMAND THE SOUTH FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT AND THE U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS ALTER THEIR WATER REGULATION SCHEDULE OF THE EVERGLADES AND THE SECRETARY OF THE DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR ENFORCE HIS TRUST RESPONSIBILITY BY HAVING EVERGLADES NATIONAL PARK SHARE ADVERSITY DURING HIGH WATER CONDITIONS TO PREVENT THE FLOODING AND DIE OFF OF THE WHITE-TAILED DEER ON THE MICCOSUKEE TRIBE'S FEDERAL AND STATE LEASED LANDS.

- WHEREAS, the United South and Eastern Tribes, Incorporated (USET) is an inter-tribal organization comprised of twenty-one (21) federally recognized tribes; and
- WHEREAS, the actions taken by the USET, Inc. Board of Directors officially represent the intentions of each member tribe, as the Board of Directors is comprised of delegates from the member tribes leadership; and
- WHEREAS, the South Florida Water Management District ("District") and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers ("USCOE") control the water flows into and out of the Water Conservation Areas and Lake Okeechobee; and
- WHEREAS, Everglades National Park ("Park") controls the amount of water
 allowed into the Park; and
- WHEREAS, in the fall and winter of 1994-95, the Water Conservation Areas received record amounts of rainfall, including Tropical Storm Gordon; and
- WHEREAS, the resulting amount of rainfall throughout the historic Everglades is now channeled through a series of levees and canals into an area one-third the size of the historic Everglades which resulted in record high water conditions on the Miccosukee Tribe of Indians of Florida's ("Miccosukee Tribe") Federal Reservation and State Leased Lands; and
- WHEREAS, these high water conditions flooded out the tropical hammocks and caused the demise of the white-tailed deer herd; and
- WHEREAS, the Park refused to allow the District and the USCOE to implement all the steps necessary to relieve the high water conditions; and

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- WHEREAS, the District and the USCOE were not prepared to implement emergency procedures to relieve the high water conditions.
- NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that USET demands the Secretary of the Interior enforce his trust responsibilities to the Miccosukee Tribe by providing shared adversity with the Park during adverse conditions in the Everglades, and
- **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that USET demands the District and USCOE alter their water regulation schedule to prevent a re-occurrence of the high water conditions suffered by the Miccosukee Tribe.

CERTIFICATION

This resolution was duly passed at the Washington Impact Week meeting, at which a quorum was present, in Washington, D.C., on February 23, 1995.

Keller George, President

United South & Eastern Tribes, Inc.

Philip Tarbell, Secretary

United South & Eastern Tribes, Inc.