UNIVERSITY OF ESTER AND EASTERN TRIBES, INC.

Resolution No. 2/95-05IMP


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

"Because there is strength in Unity"
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.