

November 6, 2023

Colonel Booth,

I hope that you are doing well. I am writing to you on behalf of the Bergeron Everglades Foundation with a heartfelt concern for the vulnerable state of Water Conservation Area 3A (WCA 3A). During a recent visit to the area, I was confronted with the distressing disappearance of native wildlife and restricted access to public lands due to escalating water levels. I have seen this with my own eyes for many years and know the inevitable devastation of this matter all too well. Something must be done.

The planned closure of several critical water control structures, including 343A, 343B, 333, and 333N, alongside the recent closure of S-12 A and the impending closure of S-12 B, has the potential to worsen the ongoing ecological crisis. With water levels already this high and a forecast predicting a wet fall season, our concerns are compounded.

I strongly urge you to move forward with the plan to open these structures and take immediate action to safeguard our delicate ecosystem. While acknowledging the complexities of water management, it is crucial that the preservation of our natural environment remains a top priority.

Your **prompt** intervention is **vital** in averting irreversible damage. We look forward to collaborating with you to devise solutions that ensure the sustainable future of WCA 3A.

Thank you for your attention to this critical matter.

Warmly,



Diamond Bergeron
Vice President, Bergeron Everglades Foundation
