



**U.S. Army Corps of Engineers**

Jacksonville District

Attn: Environmental Branch

701 San Marco Blvd.

Jacksonville, FL 32207

June 19, 2025

**Subject:** Support for Multi-Year Planned Temporary Deviation to the WCA 3A Regulation Schedule

To Whom It May Concern:

On behalf of the Cypress Chapter of the Izaak Walton League of America, we write to express our strong support for the proposed multi-year planned temporary deviation to the Water Conservation Area (WCA) 3A Regulation Schedule as outlined in the recent Environmental Assessment (EA) and Proposed Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) released by the Jacksonville District.

This long-overdue deviation represents a critical and necessary step toward more adaptive and ecologically responsible management of WCA 3A. For far too long, rigid date-based closures of the S-12A, S-12B, S-343A, and S-343B structures have prevented timely and much-needed relief during periods of prolonged high water, resulting in severe and measurable harm to tree islands, native wildlife populations—including white-tailed deer—and critical wetland habitats throughout the central Everglades.

We commend the Corps for acknowledging these adverse impacts and for advancing a deviation that prioritizes a conditions-based management strategy while continuing to coordinate closely with the Department of the Interior. This approach better reflects the dynamic and seasonal needs of the Greater Everglades ecosystem.

We are especially grateful that this deviation will serve as a bridge to the Central Everglades Planning Project (CEPP) Operational Plan, which we hope will permanently replace outdated restrictions with an approach that reflects both modern science and on-the-ground realities.

Thank you for your leadership and responsiveness to long-standing concerns raised by conservationists, sportsmen, and Everglades communities alike. We fully support this deviation and stand ready to assist in its successful implementation and communication.

Sincerely,

**Mike Elfenbein**

Executive Director

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