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UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

January 14, 1935.

The Director,
National Park Service,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Director:

The following is the report of your committee, composed of H. C. Bryant, Assistant Director; Roger W. Toll, Superintendent of Yellowstone National Park; Oliver G. Taylor, Deputy Chief Engineer; and George M. Wright, Chief, Wildlife Division, appointed by you to determine satisfactory boundary lines for the authorized Everglades National Park.

Your committee began its work in Florida on Wednesday, December 5, and concluded it on Sunday, December 16. The boundary lines suggested in the Secretary's report of December 3, 1930, were discussed with many conversant with the area and the study involved numerous trips by automobile, air, and boat.

On this field study, the committee found extensive primeval conditions and many scientific features that are nationally significant and justify the establishment of this national park according to the high standards obtaining.

1. Geology. Although sedimentary rocks are presented in endless series in the park system, the Everglades area alone presents a picture of extensive sediments in the making. Coral reefs and eolithic limestones are present and extensive marsh areas reminiscent of past ages and explanatory of records shown in older rock series provide the geology student with valuable data and the public with a fundamental picture of sedimentation.

2. Botany. The best exhibits of tropical and sub-tropical plants found in the continental United States are to be found here. Many species of palm (some of them of local distribution) thrive in this area. A species of mahogany (local name madera), lignum vitae, fig, and buttonwood are native. Mangroves of three types margin the Gulf and Bay of Florida. Orchids and bromeliads decorate the trees and are reminders of tropical conditions.

3. Zoology. Few areas present so great a bird spectacle. Great rookeries of herons and ibis are found during the breeding season and in winter every overflowed area is teeming with bird life. Flamingoes formerly resorted to the area and may be restored; roseate spoonbills, rapidly disappearing under present conditions, still nest in numbers. Wild turkeys select the higher pine-covered areas. Among the distinctive species of birds of this region needing special protection are sandhill crane, limpkin, roseate spoonbill, Everglades kite, swallowtailed kite, Audubon caracara, and ivory-billed woodpecker.

Though reduced in number, the manatee or sea cow persists here and al-