

waters of the Gulf Stream and crossing the said coral reef in Monroe County to the outlet of Tavernier Creek; thence following the mid-channel of Tavernier Creek to its western outlet into Florida Bay at the northwestern point of Plantation Key; thence southwesterly on the southeastern park boundary along the line of mean high tide of Florida Bay on the shores of Plantation Key, Upper Matecumbe Key, and Lower Matecumbe Key, and between these keys along the right-hand or western line of the right of way of the Florida East Coast Railway or the State Oversea Highway, whichever is most westerly, continuing along said right of way to a point in latitude 24°50'13"N. and longitude 80°45'46"W. of Greenwich; thence on a line bearing N. 62°40'W. crossing Florida Bay to the waters of the Gulf of Mexico; thence northerly and northwesterly on a line in the Gulf of Mexico surrounding Cape Sable not closer than the three mile jurisdictional limit so as to include all of the islands in Florida Bay and those within the area of the Ten Thousand Islands off the coast of the mainland, to the line bearing approximately N. 27°05'E. as determined by the southeasterly shore line of Chokoloskee Island at mean high tide and intersecting the northwesterly corner of the proposed Everglades National Park, heretofore described, and place of beginning.

The following is therefore the summary of our recommendations:

1. The Everglades section of Florida contains many outstanding scientific features of which unique plant and animal life appear paramount.
2. Primarily, waning natural resources of national significance are involved. Because these conservation factors surpass all others, the larger the area given protection the better will the fauna and flora be preserved. The stipulation in the Enabling Act that the area be permanently reserved as a wilderness also emphasizes the need for a large park and the main objective must be the preservation of all of the unique features of the region.

Conservation of extensive and widely scattered fauna and flora requires a large area of many square miles. This is particularly true when breeding and winter feeding grounds of birds and of aquatic mammals and reptiles are concerned. Emphasis must be placed on a sufficiently large area to provide adequate protection to all represented species. Only an approximation of the maximum boundary as set can fulfill conservation requirements and consequently approval of any material reduction in size must be avoided. Adequacy of protection of the natural resources of the area, now waning rapidly, is the criterion best used in determining boundaries.

3. The maximum authorized boundaries of the proposed Everglades National Park are more desirable than any smaller area because of conservation requirements involving protection from drainage developments, commercial exploitation, and safety for wildlife during winter migration to outlying feeding areas. Consequently, the entire area should be acquired and the maximum boundaries outlined in the Secretary of the Interior's original report, dated December 3, 1930, taken as the minimum acceptable to the Department of the Interior.