

U. S. National Museum  
Washington, D. C.  
December 8th, 1932

Mr. Ernest F. Coe, Chairman  
Everglades National Park Association  
Miami, Florida

My dear Mr. Coe:

The region of southwestern Florida encompassed within the Everglades National Park project is well known to me personally. I had the good fortune to explore this region scientifically in 1918. An account of the region and the work was published in the "Anthropology of Florida" (Published by the Florida State Historical Society, sm. 4to, Deland, Fla. 1922). As to the eminent fitness of the region for a national park, I may say as follows:

In connection with my work (Anthropology) I have visited many parts of the world. I have become particularly directly acquainted with most of the United States from the Gulf to Alaska. In all these travels I have never seen a region more charming and interesting from the points of view of the naturalist, the fisherman, the archaeologist and others, and at the same time less fit for ordinary habitation than the southwestern part of Florida, known justly as the "10,000 Island Region".

It is a natural jewel which should be preserved for the American people as a whole forever. It will form, as largely it is already, an ideal sanctuary of the colorful water fowl and other birds of the Gulf. It is a bit of paradise for the fisherman.

The region teems with mounds and other remains of ancient man, which should be preserved for posterity. The entire coast region of this part of Florida is a part of the continent in constant highly instructive process of formation.

The creeks, bayous, "sounds" and outside shallows are biological laboratories of inestimable value.

The whole region is so pristine and wild that it is hard to realize that it may be so near to civilization.

I may earnestly say that the establishment by the American Government of no national park was more justified than will be that of the southwestern portion of Florida under consideration. Under proper supervision it will become almost immediately an enchanting spot for the tourist and the student of nature, and a scientific open-air observatory of the highest order.

Respectfully yours,

(Signed) Dr. Ales Hrdlicka, Curator  
Division of Physical Anthropology