

(COPY-m)

Washington, D. C.
Oct. 25, 1928.

RE--PROPOSED TROPIC EVERGLADES NATIONAL PARK
LOCATION THE CAPE-SABLE REGION
OF SOUTH FLORIDA.

The State of Florida and particularly South Florida is to be congratulated in possessing within its confines an area so distinctive in its unique physical interests and from the standpoint of human attractiveness as to type up fully with Uncle Sam's rigid specifications as a National Park candidate.

We as well as posterity can be thankful for the broad vision exercised by our National Government in conserving the many great areas that so far comprise our splendid National Park System, each being a preeminent example of some one or many natural phenomena of outstanding features from the viewpoint of human interest.

The National Park System is as yet incomplete, in so far as there still remain to be added further areas representative, among other features of sea-level physical characters and an area representative of our country's tropics.

Where are the areas within the States combining these physical features in preeminent proportions and at the same time otherwise typing up with National Park standards?

Florida proves to be the fortunate State in not only having an area preeminently fitted for a sea-level National Park but also and within the same area physical conditions that are not only tropical in character but up to the present time have not suffered materially of their physical value and interest thro despoliation by man for his own personal ends.

The area referred to is known as the Cape-Sable district of South Florida and is our country's most southern point.

Within this area of some fifty miles square (2500 sq. miles) may be found a greater variety of physical phenomena, flora and fauna of a tropical and semi-tropical nature than perhaps exists anywhere else in the world within an area of similar size.

It will thrill every patriotic citizen of our great country to learn that this wonderful and distinctive area may be acquired and that Senator Duncan Fletcher so heartily approves the movement now taking definite shape that he has framed a bill to be presented at the opening of Congress authorizing the Secretary of the Interior thro the National Park Service to send into the Cape-Sable district without delay a staff of experts to give the whole project a searching investigation.

It has been the writer's privilege to meet many of our country's eminent public spirited citizens within the past few weeks and without exception the project of acquiring this Cape Sable section of South Florida for a National Tropic Park meets with their most hearty approbation.

Once the staff sent out by the National Park Service gives its stamp of approval to this project, it becomes the privilege of those interested in its consummation to set the necessary activities in motion so that the Federal Government's requirements may be met and the acceptance of this area as a part of the National Park System consummated.

Then and only then will this vast and wonderful tropic area come under the control, protection and development of our Federal Government and become a part of the great System of National Parks, preserving for all time America's only tropics and an outstanding area from the standpoint of unique

physical phenomena and human interest.

This Cape-Sable area in South Florida is richly endowed with unique features of great value to the biologist, nature student and artist. This is our country's only section within the boundaries of the States where the sightseer and tourist can find as many forms of stately palms, tropical orchids hanging from strange trees and see other truly tropical jungle growth, vieing in interest with unfamiliar tropic birds, butterflies and fish of various forms and colors; long reaches of tropic beaches and richly colored seas, verdure clad tropic islands, clear lakes and open glades. Here is where many tropic birds of fantastic forms and colors congregate in great rookeries and where that weird bird, the flamingo, formerly was wont to flock by the thousands and will again as well as myriads of water fowl who make this their winter resort, just as soon as our National Government takes this wonderful area under its protecting wing. "No other area of similar size in the world includes within its confines a greater diversity of flora, fauna and features of interest to the naturalist and sightseer," are the words of a national authority.

When once a part of the National Park System this Cape-Sable area will come exclusively under Federal control and will be preserved and protected for all time from the intrusion of outside exploitation: - it remains a nation's frontier where Nature's wonders are preserved largely as nature designs them and roadways, buildings, etc., are introduced only in so far as they are necessary for accessibility and for human comfort and enjoyment.

Since the dawn of human consciousness man has preyed on both the animal and vegetable kingdoms until all wild creatures have become fearful of him as their enemy.

The National Parks now open the doors to the dawn of an era where, within the Park's confines all forms of life will be protected and in time will not only cease to fear human beings, but look upon them as their protectors and friends.

When this state of relations is realized we will enjoy for the first time in human history the amazing privilege of actually seeing and communing with wild life, whereas heretofore we have but come into contact with frightened creatures.

Now we Floridians have a great duty to perform and it is our privilege and incumbent on us to take such initial steps as procedure in the case of other great areas, now part of the National Park System, have called for.

It is not from a utilitarian standpoint that the public spirited citizen approaches this problem but in so far as the project will call for funds to carry it along to the place where it can be accepted by the National Government, a well ordered program for procedure is before those whose interest prompts them to action.

The entire National Park System is preeminently a gift by the people to the people of our great country and while the National Government stands ready to accept additional areas to be included in the National Park System, they must type up to National Park standards and be approved by the Interior Department thro recommendation of the National Park Service.

If eligible from these severe standards a candidate for inclusion in the National Park System must be offered free of all encumbrances of any nature and be turned over by the State to the Federal Government for all time.

From an economic standpoint it is quite obvious that Florida is very fortunate in possessing this Cape-Sable area. It places Florida on the map

from many substantial angles. Once the Tropic Everglades National Park of South Florida becomes a reality such a flow of our great country's people as well as those from other countries will come intomand through the State to visit it that Florida will profit immeasurably in many ways.

Hon. Hubert Work in recent published account stated that "three million tourists have visited the National Parks the past season," and the number is increasing yearly by leaps and bounds.

This Tropic National Park would certainly create such a popular appeal through its uniqueness that at least one sixth of this number could be depended upon to visit the only tropic national park and the one offering genial climatic conditions for winter travel. On the basis of 500,000 visiting this Cape-Sable district annually, remaining in the State on an average of fifteen days each and spending three dollars per day it totals up to the tidy sum of \$22,500,000 per annum.

From this angle of approach it is quite evident that the State of Florida can very well afford to do its part toward making available such funds and other considerations as is her share. Individual interests in Florida can be depended on to contribute its share and any necessary balance in a required total can reasonably be expected to be forthcoming from the general public, whose present appreciation of what our National Parks stand for and a Tropic National Park especially, produce many individuals so situated that liberal cash contributions and personal influences will be freely contributed as not only a duty but a privilege.

Far transcending any economic consideration as a reason for or means of acquiring this area stands out the Nation wide importance of preserving this Cape-Sable section of South Florida as a National Park for all time:-

truly a wonderland supreme and one of our Nation's choicest jewels.

The writer expects to return to Florida within a few weeks and will bring a fund of practical data, serviceable in formulating a constructive campaign toward the consummation of this splendid project of preserving for all time this unique and altogether wonderful area in South Florida as part of the National Park System and to probably be known as the Tropic Everglades National Park of Florida.

In the meantime those receiving this letter are urged to be thinking constructively about this opportunity and be ready when the time comes to render constructive service.

It's truly a wonderful privilege to each and everyone who comes within the range of this opportunity to assist in this splendid movement by whatever means lie within his power.

Early action is quite in order and general conditions are more opportune at this time than ever before for carrying this project thro.

Truly yours for the Tropic Everglades
National Park of Florida,

Ernest F. Coe,

Home Address: Coconut Grove,
Florida,

Note: Not intended for Press release in its present form.

*This page is
currently
unavailable.*