Council of the Original Miccosukee Simanolee Nation Aboriginal Peoples

Statement

November 21, 2013

In the 1700's and 1800's The Miccosukee Simanolee Nation entered into Agreements with the United States and entered into an Executive Agreement with the United States in 1842, which guaranteed and recognized the Miccosukee Simanolee Nation Aboriginal Peoples' title to about 5 million acres in south Florida. The Agreement was confirmed by Executive Order of the President in 1845. The Agreement has never been repudiated nor terminated by the United States or the Council of the Original Miccosukee Simanolee Nation Aboriginal Peoples, and it is still in effect.

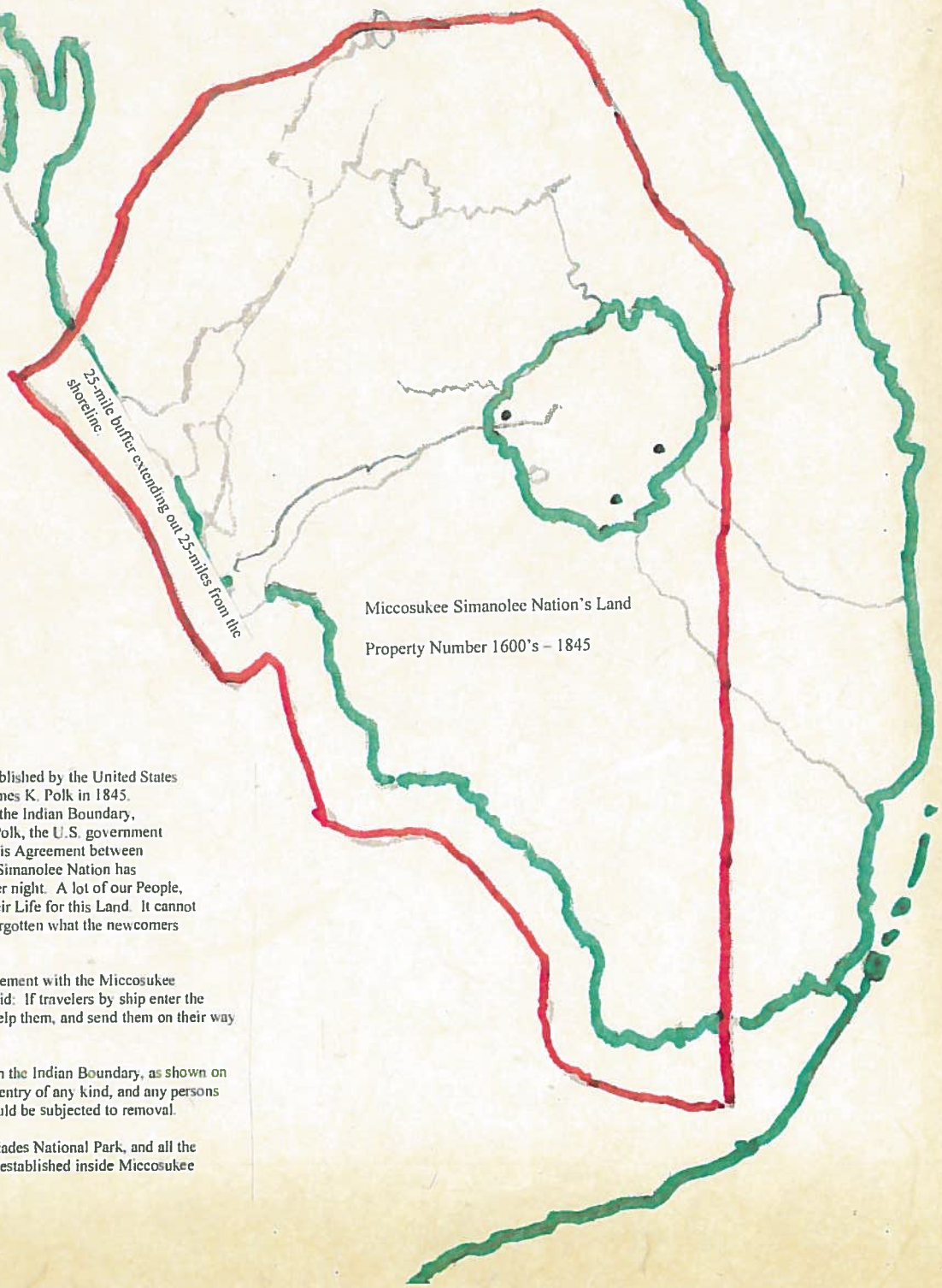
The Council of the Original Miccosukee Simanolee Nation Aboriginal Peoples is the same entity that entered into the 1842 Agreement. Later, others, Seminole and Miccosukee groups split off from the Original Miccosukee Simanolee Nation to form governments under the United States Indian Reorganization Act in 1957 and 1961. The Council of the Original Miccosukee Simanolee Nation Aboriginal Peoples continues to govern themselves under their Customary Law (Natural Law). (See Map, page 2, and Territorial Papers pages 3-5)

We still hold onto our Agreement, and we are not going to change it. We are going to keep reminding you, that the Agreement, you all came up with, at that time, between us, makes it illegal for you to build anything within the 5 million acres of Land, which is only a section of our Land. Our Land extends way beyond Florida State.

As you can see from the map on page 2, and territorial papers page 3-5, Big Cypress National Preserve, and Everglades National Park have been illegally established on Our Land.

Council of the Original Miccosukee Simanolee Nation Aboriginal Peoples

Billy C. Billie — Inez M. Osceola
HE-NE-HA-CEE
Cecil Osceola — Richard Osceola
Vincent Simmons
Victor Billie — Frank Billie Jr



The boundary shown on this map was established by the United States government and approved by President James K. Polk in 1845. The U.S. government called the boundary the Indian Boundary, and was agreed to by President James K. Polk, the U.S. government and the Miccosukee Simanolee Nation. This Agreement between the U.S. government and the Miccosukee Simanolee Nation has never been changed. It did not happen over night. A lot of our People, Miccosukee Simanolee Nation gave up their Life for this Land. It cannot be sold, or given away, and it cannot be forgotten what the newcomers have done to our People.

When the U.S. government made the Agreement with the Miccosukee Simanolee Nation, the U.S. government said: If travelers by ship enter the waters within 25-miles of the shoreline, help them, and send them on their way out.

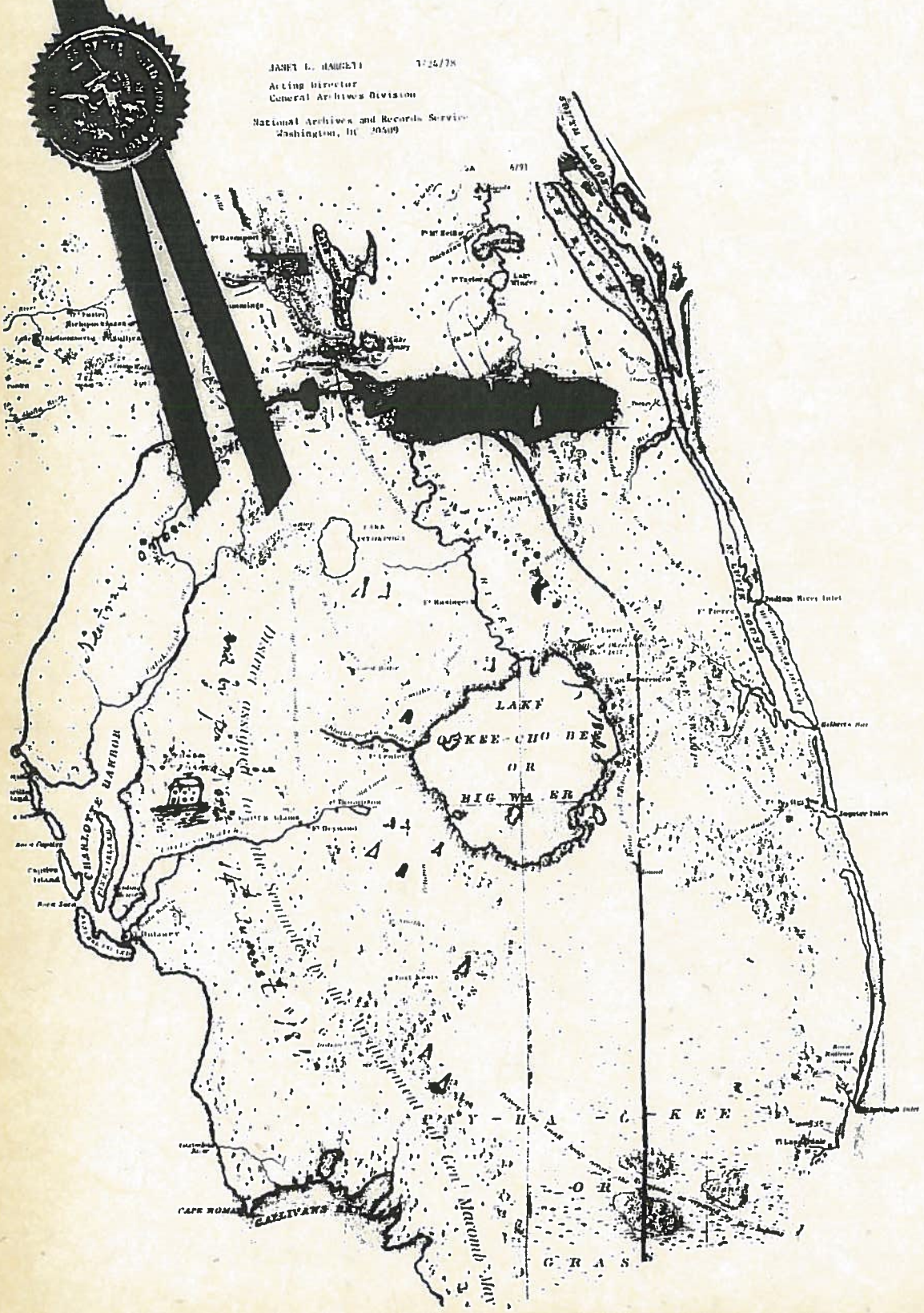
President Polk directed that all Land within the Indian Boundary, as shown on this map, be reserved from survey, sale or entry of any kind, and any persons making settlements within these limits would be subjected to removal.

Big Cypress National Preserve, and Everglades National Park, and all the others inside our Land have been Illegally established inside Miccosukee Simanolee Nation's Land.

GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION

JANET L. HARGETT 7/25/78
Acting Director
General Archives Division

National Archives and Records Service
Washington, DC 20409



Memorandum.

Within the red lines is the country assigned to the Seminoles by Treaty of North August 14 1842. In which, in the forenoon, they were allowed to live, hunt and plant.

Below the red and blue line is the neutral ground, under instructions from the Commissioner of the General Land Office of May 1845.

The House is the Indian Trading House

ΔΔ - Indian huts one, two, and three families.

EXHIBIT 2

[*Endorsed*] Hon^b Jas: Shields General Land Office May 20/45 Has directed the strip of land 20 miles wide around Dist set apart for Seminols in Flo. to be reserved from Survey & sale. Returns papers Copy sent to Brig Genl Worth with letter dated May 26. 1845.[a] L.T. May. 24. 1845 146 149 C 1845. L 82. Rec May 24/45 Adjt Genl.

JAMES SHIELDS TO VALENTINE Y. CONWAY

[NA:GLO, Lets. to SG, x]

May 20th 1845—

V.Y. CONWAY Es Sur Genl St Augustine Florida—

SIR, I transmit herewith a "Map of the Seat of War in Florida",[a] in which the boundaries of the District set a part for the use and occupancy of the Seminoles, by Genl Macomb in 1839, and Col Worth in 1842, are indicated as nearly correct as possible by red lines. Between these red lines, and those indicated in yellow on the accompanying map, is a strip of land twenty miles wide, which the President of the U. States on the 19th inst: directed should be reserved from survey and sale.[a] You will not therefore, under any circumstances, contract for the survey of the lands within this reservation, and if any of the contracts now in process of execution, or any part of them, are within these limits, you will direct the parties to close their labors within this reservation as speedily as possible, and if any surveys have been made within it since those of Messrs Reed, Randolph and Whitner, under their contracts of 1842, you will not return the plats to the Land Offices.[a]

Very respectfully Your obt svt

JA^s SHIELDS Commissioner

JAMES SHIELDS TO SAMUEL RUSSELL AND JOHN PARSONS

[NA:GLO, Lets. to Regs. and Recs., Bk. 19]

May 20th 1845.

REGISTER & RECEIVER, Newnansville, Florida.

GENTLEMEN, The President of the United States on the 19th instant directed that a Strip of the public lands twenty miles in width, around the District set apart for the use and occupancy of

[a] *Post*, p. 1079.

[a] Not present.

[a] *Cf. ante*, p. 1076.

[a] Answered June 2, 1845 (NA,GLO, Lets. from SG, Fla.), that the instructions will be followed.

the Seminoles shall be reserved from survey and sale. The boundaries of this reservation are indicated by yellow lines on the accompanying diagram, and do not include any of the lands in your District embraced by the recent Proclamation of the President. Under no circumstances will you permit any sale or entry of any kind of the lands embraced within the lines of this reservation.

Very respectfully Your Ob^t Servt

JA^s SHIELDS Commissioner

At one of the Big the Cypress National Preserve ORV Advisory Committee meetings, one of the committee members said he knew Jimmie Billie, the father of Bobby C. Billie, one of the Councilmen of the Council of the Original Miccosukee Simanolee Nation Aboriginal Peoples.

In April 1955, during hearings before the subcommittee on Indian Affairs of the Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs, Buffalo Tiger, interpreting for Jimmie Billie, made this statement:

Jimmie Billie say for his people, all we ask is for land and if people live on reservation want the money, they can go ahead and take the money, We are not going to fight against them. And we don't want those people fight against us. All we want is hunting land for our homes and our rights and to be Indians, and he likes the life to be Indian. That is what he wants, and that is what most of them want down there.

So, he says, if they want the money, they can go ahead and take the money and live on reservation. If they want that, we are not going to bother them, and as long as they don't bother us on this side, but he says you must recognize these people and us down here are two separate setups.

Jimmie Billie, Ingraham Billie, and thirteen other individuals acting on behalf of the General Council of the Miccosukee Simanolee Nation filed a document on September 17, 1954 with the Indian Claims Commission that states their principal concern as follows:

The Miccosukee Simanolee Nation has never authorized this claim, cannot be bound by this proceeding and has rights to lands in Florida that they are not willing to exchange for money, nor surrender.

We continue today with those words spoken by the General Council of the Miccosukee Simanolee Nation in 1954. We hold onto our rights to Lands in Florida and beyond and we are not willing to exchange the Lands for money, nor surrender to a foreign government.

The Council of the Original Micccosukee Simanolee Nation Aboriginal Peoples objects to the planned River of Grass Greenway, 76 mile multi-use corridor, FPL natural gas power plant, power lines to Raccoon Point Oil field, trails, roads, facilities, boat ramps, welcome centers, signage, access points, swamp buggies, air boats, and off road vehicles coming into and damaging our Land and our Waters, and disrupting the Wildlife on our Land and in our Waters. Somehow, you all are going to have to pay for the damage you have already done to our Land, our Waters, and Wildlife on our Land and in our Waters which is: The Earth, the Trees, the Plants, the Rivers, the Creeks, the Wetlands, the Animals, the Birds, the Fish, the Reptiles, the Insects, and all the others.

The building of man-made canals, ponds, and lakes must be stopped, and you must cover up the ones you have already created immediately. Otherwise, we will start to charge you for the damage you have caused to the Natural Systems, and Natural Areas on our Land and in our Waters.

Any kind of exotic species, snakes or any other kind of animals, fish or birds, or invasive plant and tree species must be removed and whoever brought them to our Land and Waters must take responsibility and remove them from our Land and Waters, and pay for the endangerment they have caused to the Natural Life on our Land and in our Waters.

The Council of the Original Miccosukee Simanolee Nation Aboriginal Peoples holds you all directly, personally accountable and liable for all the damage, destruction, desecration and destroying of our Land, and the Natural Creations, the Creator's (God's) Gift.

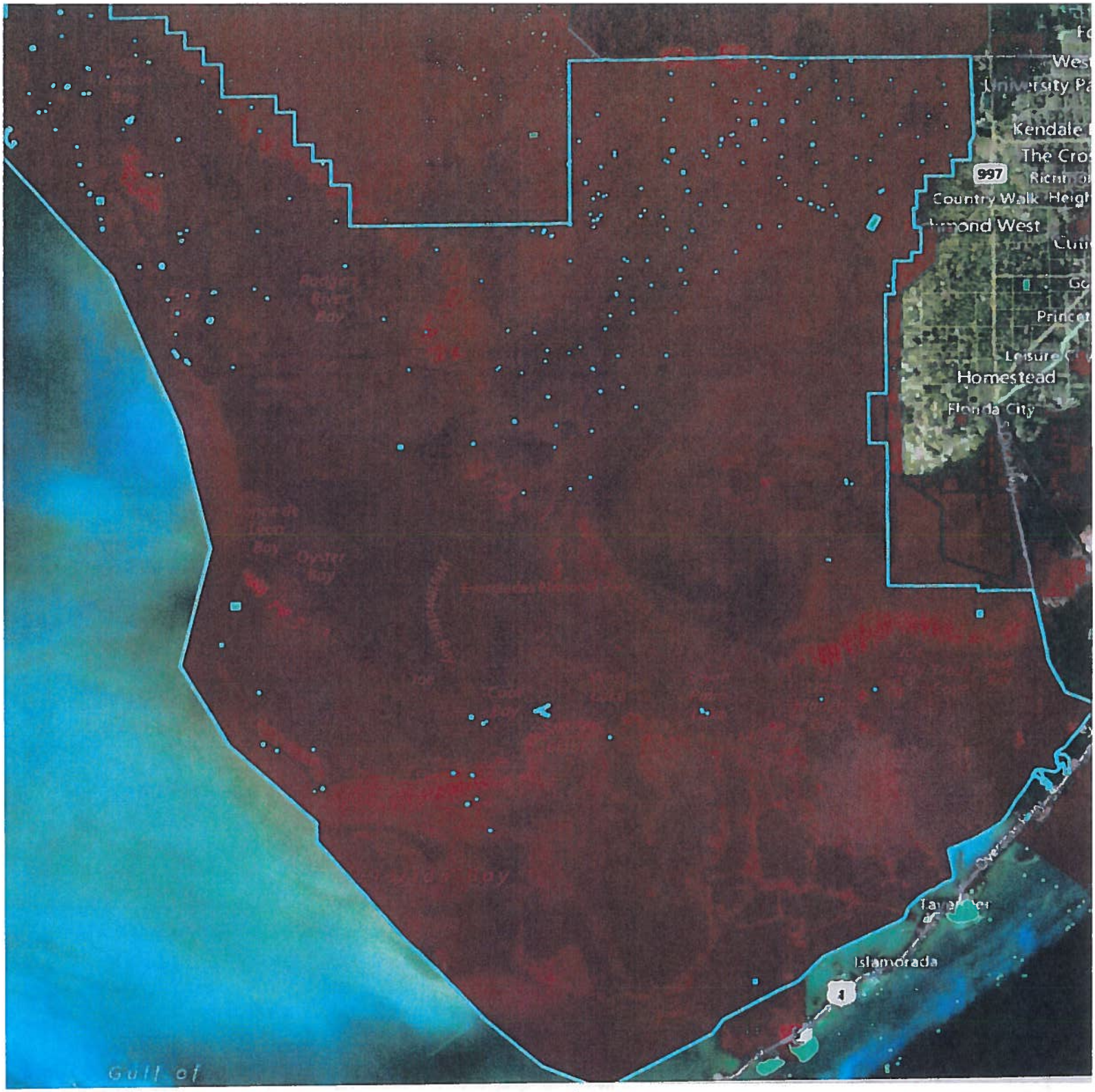
We know our history of our People, and certainly we know the ones you call Columbus, Juan Ponce de Leon, Pedro Menendez, and all the other illegal immigrants, who came illegally into our Land, of our Country, to kill, steal and destroy our Culture. And, we have our history of the American government telling the American military and American citizens to come into our Land and get rid of the Indians.

The majority of the blue dots, on the maps (pages 8-12) showing sections of Miccosukee Simanolee Land, represent Aboriginal Indigenous Grounds – Burial Grounds, Villages, Ceremonial Grounds, Campsites, and other Sacred Areas. These are the recorded sites, just a few. There are many, many more that have not been recorded. These are the grounds of our Ancient Relatives and of Miccosukee Simanolee people who died for us. We are the People of those People. We are still here. You cannot separate us from them.

The entire areas, within these maps, are Monuments to the Aboriginal Indigenous People. The Council of the Original Miccosukee Simanolee Nation Aboriginal Peoples holds all of you personally accountable and liable for the damage, destruction, desecration and destroying of our Sacred Areas, and for the removal of our Ancestors Human Remains and Belongings without consent from the Miccosukee Simanolee People.

The United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples recognizes the inherent Rights of Indigenous Peoples, especially their rights to their Lands, Territories and Resources and Promotes the Rights of Indigenous Peoples affirmed in treaties, agreements and other constructive arrangements with States.

The Council of the Original Miccosukee Simanolee Nation Aboriginal Peoples will continue to Defend our Inherent Rights, the Future of Life and the Natural World against your attacks on our Way of Life and the Natural World as our Elders have done since the illegal, aggressive and brutal immigration of the European Americans and other immigrants into our Aboriginal Indigenous Land.



Everglades National Park

In the 1700's and 1800's, the Miccosukee Simanolee Nation entered into Agreements with the United States and entered into an Executive Agreement with the United States in 1842, which guaranteed and recognized the Miccosukee Simanolee Nation Aboriginal Peoples' title to about 5 million acres in south Florida. The Agreement was confirmed by Executive Order of the President in 1845. The Agreement has never been repudiated nor terminated by the United States or the Council of the Original Miccosukee Simanolee Nation Aboriginal Peoples, and it is still in effect.

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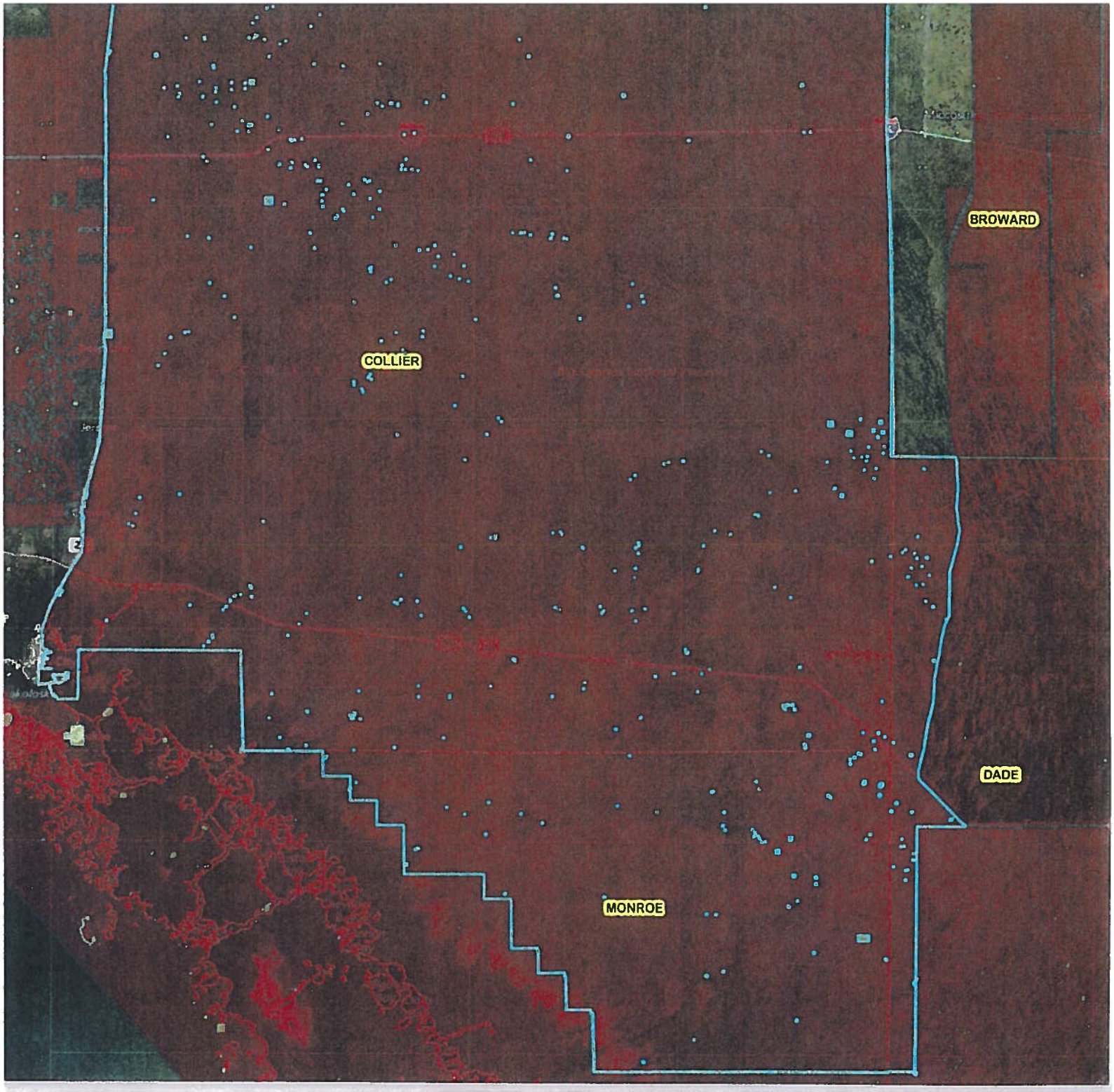

Big Cypress National Preserve

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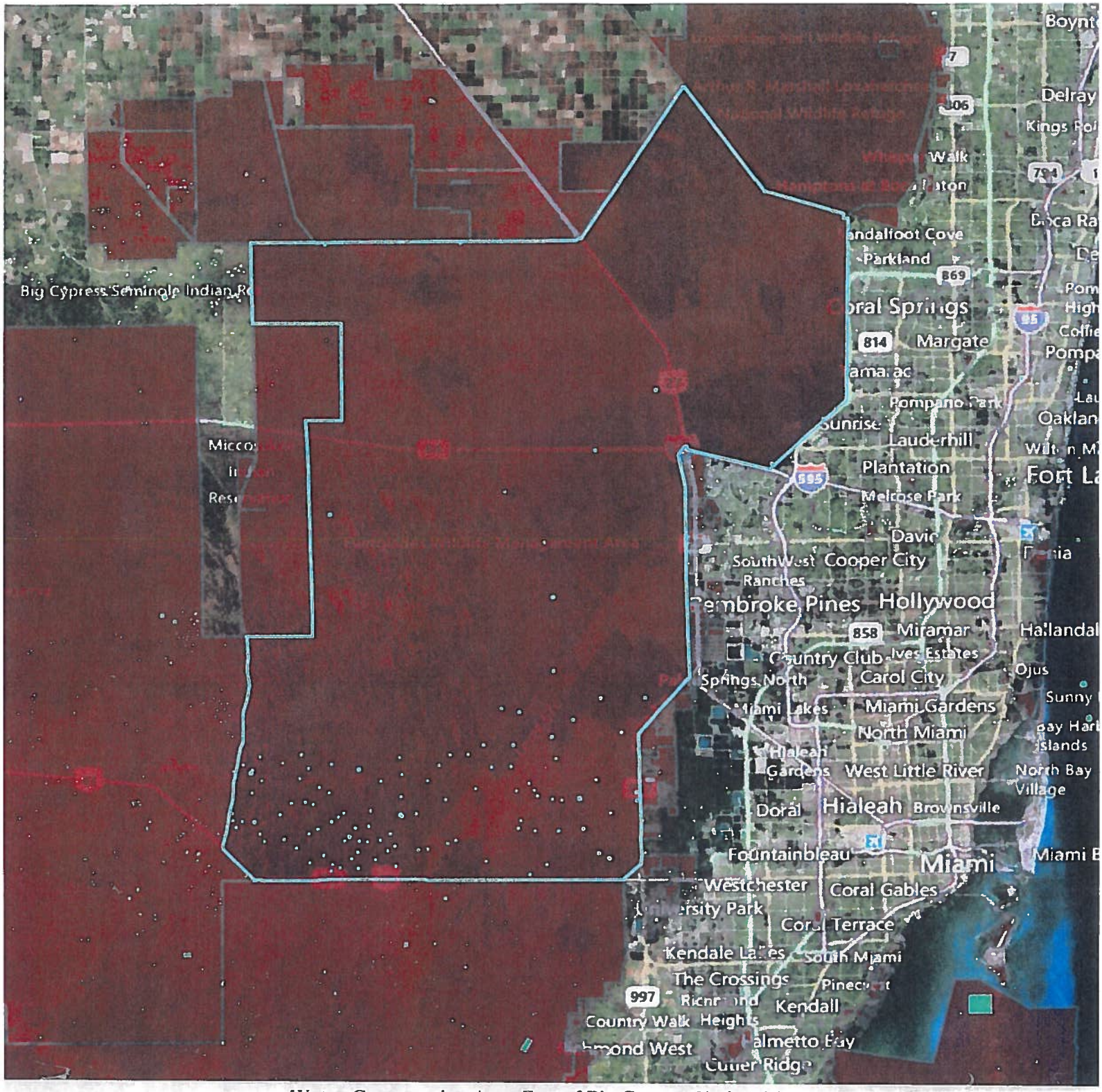

Water Conservation Area East of Big Cypress National Preserve,
North East of Everglades National Park

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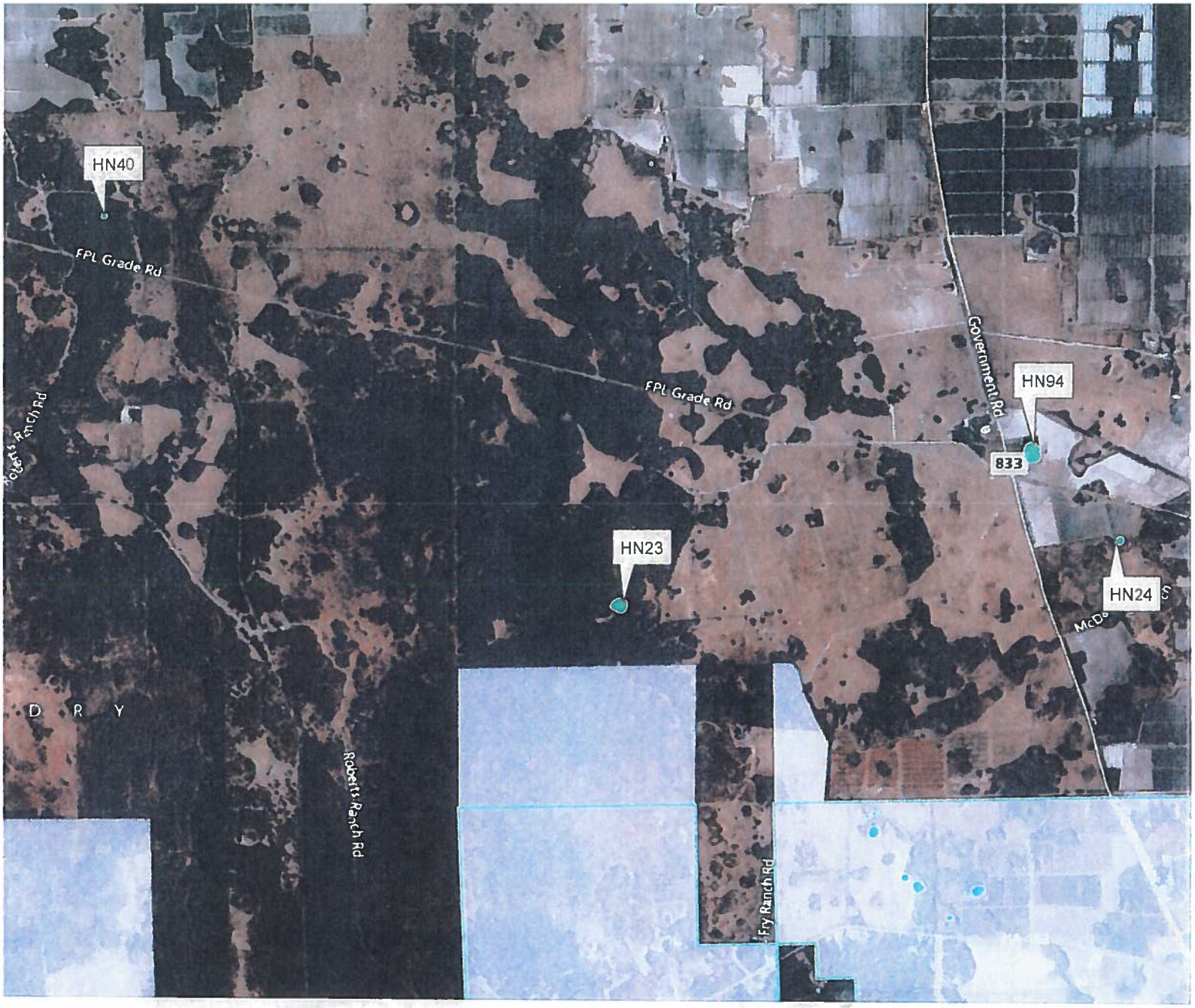

Area Northeast of Big Cypress National Preserve

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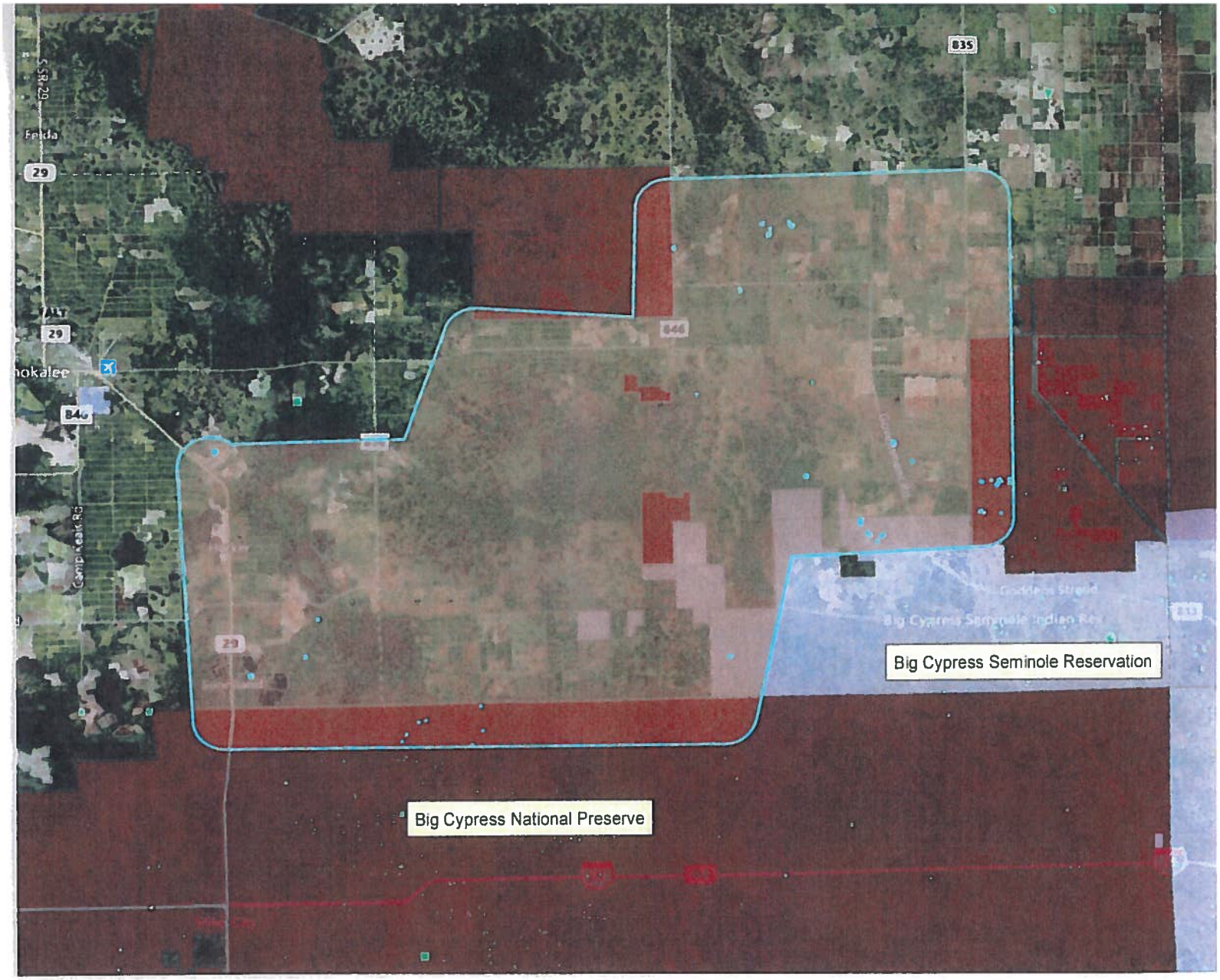

Area Northwest of Big Cypress National Preserve

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Council of the Original Miccosukee Simanolee Nation
Aboriginal Peoples

April 8, 2013

James E. Billie
Chairman
Seminole Tribe of Florida
6300 Sterling Road
Suite 430
Hollywood, Florida 33024

Re: Assistance in the Return of Ancestral Aboriginal Human Remains and Associated Grave Belongings.

In response to your letter of March 27, 2013 received on April 3, 2013, the Council of the Original Miccosukee Simanolee Nation Aboriginal Peoples agrees to work jointly with the Seminole Tribe of Florida in the Spirit of Cooperation towards the Repatriation and Reburials of Aboriginal Indigenous Ancestors Human Remains and their Belongings.

As Traditional Cultural Leaders, we agree, to provide assistance to the Seminole Tribe of Florida to insure that our Ancestral Aboriginal Human Remains and their Belongings are returned to the Earth according to the Natural Laws that the Creator passed on to us.

We are committed to proceed together in the Spirit of Cooperation in the return and reburial of our Ancestral Aboriginal Human Remains and their Belongings.

Bobby C. Billie
One of the Clan Leaders

Bobby C. Billie

cc: Paul Backhouse, Tribal Historic Preservation Officer, Seminole Tribe of Florida.

Contact Information: Council of the Original Miccosukee Simanolee Nation Aboriginal Peoples, P.O. Box 1452, Lake Placid, Florida 33862, Telephone: 904-654-0200, Email: Ancientrees@hotmail.com

SEMINOLE TRIBE OF FLORIDA

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Tribal Officers:
TONY SANCHEZ, JR.
Vice-Chairman
PRISCILLA D. SAYEN
Secretary
MICHAEL D. TIGER
Treasurer

March 27, 2013
Bobby C. Billie
Council of Original Miccosukee Simanolee Nation Aboriginal People
PO Box 1452
Lake Placid, Florida

RE: Assistance in the Return of Ancestral Aboriginal Human Remains and Associated Grave Goods

Mr. Billie:

Thank you for meeting with me on March 21st 2013. The Seminole Tribe of Florida (STOF) recognizes our shared ancestry and traditions and respectfully seeks your cooperative assistance, as traditional cultural leaders, in helping the STOF Tribal Historic Preservation Office (THPO) return the remains of our ancestors. Working within the guidelines of the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) and Florida Statute 872 the THPO acts at the direction of the STOF Tribal Council to identify cases whereby ancestral remains have been removed from their proper resting places. In such cases, identified as of importance to the Seminole Tribe of Florida and incorporated in a resolution by a vote of the Tribal Council, we request your assistance in performing the proper practices so that the remains may be returned to the earth.

I look forward to working with you on this important matter and respectfully await your indication that we can proceed together in a spirit of cooperation. We have a current matter concerning the return of remains from the University of Massachusetts and Amherst College which we would initially like your assistance in returning home.

Sho Naa Bish

James E. Billie, Chairman, Seminole Tribe of Florida

CC: Tony Sanchez, President, Seminole Tribe of Florida
Manuel Tiger, Council, Seminole Tribe of Florida
Marcellus Osceola, Council, Seminole Tribe of Florida
Andrew Bowers, Council, Seminole Tribe of Florida
Danny Tommie, Chairman's Executive Administrator, Seminole Tribe of Florida
Jim Shore, Legal Counsel, Seminole Tribe of Florida
Erica Ashton, Legal Counsel, Seminole Tribe of Florida
Paul Backhouse, Tribal Historic Preservation Officer, Seminole Tribe of Florida

"BUT I HAVE PROMISES TO KEEP & MILES TO GO BEFORE I SLEEP"

Council of the Original Miccosukee Simanolee Nation
Aboriginal Peoples

Statement of Opposition

November 21, 2013

Reference: Draft Report – River of Grass Greenway (Tourist' Bicycle Highway Trail) Feasibility Study Master Plan

We will oppose any plan to build any more trails, roads, bridges, access points to points of interests, trailheads, parking areas or the placement of any more signage for the benefit of tourists across "Environmentally Sensitive Lands, Critical Wildlife Habitat, "Natural Migrations Routes", and "Outstanding Water Bodies", within the so-called Big Cypress National Preserve or so-called Everglades National Park. Rights of Nature: "Nature has the Right to exist, and to maintain and regenerate its vital cycles." You cannot possibly mitigate all the damage you will create. As one of the consultants for this Project said: The Everglades is one of the last remaining Wilderness areas in the South", and "Every piece of the ecology off of 41 is Wetlands".

We will oppose any archaeological surveys conducted within the "Battle of Turner River Battlefield". We do not know if you understand us or not, the whole area is a burial ground, and we do not want you to disturb it. Leave that area alone!

We will oppose any other archaeological surveys conducted, or intrusion into our Sacred (Holy) Areas, or Removal of any of our Ancestors and their belongings, or any other findings, that you have suggested in this report, will be placed in public museums. Miccosukee Simanolee People do not go into other peoples' burial grounds (cemeteries) and disturb, damage and destroy their graves. We do not build roads, trails or bikeways or pathways in your cemeteries.

You are calling this project "River of Grass Greenway", but it should be called **"Tourists' Bicycle Highway Trail**." That is what is going to take place and we do not want it in our Land damaging, destroying and desecrating the Natural World and our Sacred Area.

There are just a few un-built Natural Areas left in Florida. You came into our Land like a cancer cutting down all the trees, building roads, building canals, building houses, towns, and cities and digging into the Mother Earth for gas, oil, minerals, and all the rest in order to feed your personal pleasure, convenience and profit making ventures - all at the expense of the Natural World.

Respecting the Natural World, Aboriginal Indigenous Peoples, practicing their Way of Life, when the environment is low, we move to a different area, to protect the Land, Trees, Plants, and Wildlife, and the others, from over use, and to give the Natural Areas, Natural Systems and Wildlife, time to renew there selves.

But, the newcomers to our Land never think about the other Life – only themselves. You must change your direction. Put yourselves into the Natural Creations, living in their Life. Don't you think they want a peaceful life and a Natural Undisturbed Life – the way the Creator (God) gave them to live? There must be a rebalancing of your values and understanding that the most important things, the Natural Areas and Natural Systems, that are left, must be protected. The Natural Creations have to have places where they do not have to fear the humans or the damage caused by human, coming across their land day after day, night after night. Nature is not a resource for human beings' personal pleasure, convenience and profit making. You cannot continue to invade their homes and their privacy and still call yourselves human beings.

The extensive destruction, damage and eventual loss of Ecosystems that will result from the construction of a 76 mile, 12-14 or 12-18 foot wide, 127.5 acres and more, hard-surfaced, multi use so-called River of Grass Greenway will be a contributing factor to the Ecocide of the so-called Big Cypress National Preserve and Everglades, and is unacceptable.

The planned River of Grass Greenway project, is a project created by humans, simply to satisfy their entertainment and recreational "wants" with total disregard for the Natural Environment, Natural Creations and Natural Life, which are: The Water, the Air, the Trees, the Plants, the Grasses, and all the Insects living in the Grasses, and all the other Creator's (God's) Creations: the Four Legged, the Two Legged with Wings, the Ones with the Fins and the Crawling Ones –the Snakes.

If you continue to damage the Natural Areas and Natural Systems you will eventually destroy all Life. You need to think about the damage, you are causing and think about the Future of All Life – All the Creator's (God's) Creations. The mass degradation and loss of Natural Areas and Natural Systems is happening on a mass scale, and when you abuse Mother Nature, Mother Nature does the same thing back to you – extreme weather conditions, fires, earthquakes, hurricanes, tornados, drought, floods. Money and so-called modern life creations, you can survive without, but we guarantee you, you cannot survive without water, and air, and that is what so-called modern life is destroying.

The so-called Everglades Restoration Project has been going on for, we do not know how long, and money has been allocated towards this Project year after year and nothing has been done yet - So-called Everglades Protection and Restoration. They are using the words "Everglades Restoration or Everglades Protection" to collect money, tax-payers money to make a living enjoying themselves, but so called Protection and Restoration has never really been done in our Land, in Miccosukee Simanolee Nation's Land. And, all the development in so-called Big Cypress National Preserve and Everglades National Park has been done illegally in our Land, in Miccosukee Simanolee Nation's Land.

Most American people do not want to tell the truth. They try to cover up the truth, of what they have done in the past, and they only write about what makes the history look

good for them. The history of the Miccosukee Simanolee Nation Aboriginal Peoples', of this Land, of this Country, has never been told or written rightly, and the history written, in this report, of our People, is not correct.

Paleo- Indian Period, Archaic Indians Period, Formative Calusa and Tequesta Indians Period, and Seminole – Miccosukee Period – Native Americans. These people are not American. I will say it again – they are not American. There was no such thing as Americans, at that time period.

Most Aboriginal Indigenous Peoples, throughout the World, live in their own Countries, and they lived their own Way of Life before the immigrant people came forcibly into their Lands and destroyed their Lands, and attempted to eliminate the Aboriginal Indigenous Peoples and their Cultures. Aboriginal Indigenous Peoples did not die only because of disease and slavery. People from other countries came into our Lands, and began slaughtering our People, killing our People, raping our People, doing whatever they could do to get rid of our People. They didn't just disappear. They tried to wipe the Aboriginal Indigenous Peoples out, but they were not successful. We are still here.

In the draft report on page 10, you state: "The Creeks that moved to Florida included speakers of the related, but separate Mikasuki and Muskogee languages, but came to be collectively know as: Seminoles by European Settlers"...This is an incorrect statement, maybe because you have come from other countries, maybe you have only been here for 4-6 generations, in our Land, but that does not make it your country, or give you the right to tell the story of our people. Where are the Cow Creeks, did they disappear?

The Miccosukee Simanolee Nation Aboriginal Peoples was recognized by the United States government in the early 1700's and 1800's, and has not changed since then. The Council of the Original Miccosukee Simanolee Nation Aboriginal Peoples is the same entity, and we still continue to govern ourselves under the Natural Law. We are separate from the Seminole Tribe of Florida and the Miccosukee Seminole Tribe who separated themselves from the Miccosukee Simanolee Nation and moved onto Federal trust lands (reservations) in 1957 and 1961 and adopted the United States system of government. They seem to be well recognized by the newcomers' government and business people, but they don't seem to be well recognized for caring about their culture or their connection with the Natural Environment.

The Council of the Original Miccosukee Simanolee Nation Aboriginal Peoples will continue to Defend the Rights of Nature and our Rights to Protect our Lands, and we are telling you: We do not want the River of Grass Greenway Project on our Land. It is an irresponsible, environmental destructive project that will cause irreversible ecological damage. We do not want any more development or destroying of the Creator's (God') Creations on our Land. If you proceed with this Illegal Project, the Council of the Original Miccosukee Simanolee Nation Aboriginal Peoples will hold you all individually personally accountable for your illegal serious Crimes against the Creator's (God's) Creations on our Land.

The United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples

The United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples recognizes Indigenous Peoples and the urgent need to Respect and Protect the Inherent Rights of Indigenous Peoples which derive from their politics, economic and social structures and from their cultures, spiritual traditions, histories and philosophies, especially their rights to their Lands, territories and resources and Promotes the Rights of Indigenous Peoples affirmed in treaties, agreements and other constructive arrangements with States and recognizes that control by Indigenous Peoples over development affecting Them and their Lands and Resources will enable them to maintain and strengthen their institutions, cultures and traditions and to promote their development in accordance with their aspirations and needs.

Aboriginal Indigenous Peoples that follow the Natural Laws created into the Aboriginal Indigenous Peoples by the Creator (God) Himself at the beginning of the Creation of Life were born into and have Rights that go way beyond these words created by the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. This Declaration is considered a "minimum standard" for non-indigenous people to begin working towards fulfilling their obligation to Aboriginal Indigenous Peoples.

Aboriginal Indigenous Peoples will continue to Defend the Future of Life against your attacks on their Way of Life, and the Natural World: the Sunlight, the Water, the Air, the Land, the Trees, the Birds, the Animals, the Fish, the Insects, and all that is Sacred to us, as our Elders have done since the illegal, aggressive and brutal immigration of the European Americans, and the other immigrants into our Aboriginal Indigenous Land.

The Creator (God) Himself gave us the Rights to live in His Creation. The Creator (God) Himself created the Original Aboriginal Indigenous Peoples into the Land at the beginning of the Creation of Life and the Creator (God) created into the Aboriginal Indigenous Peoples the Natural Law at the beginning of the Creation of Life.

The Creator's Gift is in us, which is: Our Way of Life and the Natural Law and all His Creation, which is: The Air, the Water, the Trees, the Plants, the Animals, the Fish, the Birds, the Reptiles, the Insects, and all the others, and for that reason we cannot accept other peoples' way of life or their man-made laws.

Council of the Original Miccosukee Simanolee Nation Aboriginal Peoples

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Council of the Original Miccosukee Simanolee Nation
Aboriginal Peoples

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The Council of the Original Miccosukee Simanolee Nation Aboriginal Peoples is a separate Nation from the so-called federally recognized Miccosukee Tribe of Florida and the Seminole Tribe of Florida. These two groups split off from the Original Miccosukee Simanolee Nation to form governments under the Indian Reorganization Act in 1957 and 1961. The Council of the Original Miccosukee Simanolee Nation Aboriginal Peoples continues to govern themselves under their customary laws.

Please note: The above contact information is the only contact information for the Council of the Original Miccosukee Simanolee Nation Aboriginal Peoples. Please direct your response or inquires to the address/email/ telephone number indicated above.