

HR 9021

2006

1 House Resolution

2 A resolution recognizing the Division of Recreation and
3 Parks for its management of the state park system.

4
5 WHEREAS, the Division of Recreation and Parks of the
6 Department of Environmental Protection manages an expansive and
7 diverse state park system that comprises over 720,000 acres and
8 159 park properties, and

9 WHEREAS, Florida park rangers, managers, and support staff,
10 as dedicated interpreters and stewards of the most treasured
11 natural and cultural resources of "the Real Florida," are joined
12 by countless public and private partners that have helped
13 provide expanded resource-based recreational opportunities for
14 more than 17 million annual visitors to Florida's state parks,
15 and

16 WHEREAS, last year, the Friends of Florida State Parks and
17 78 citizen-support organizations assisted the Florida Park
18 Service, and more than 6,000 volunteers donated a record-
19 breaking 1 million hours of service, the equivalent of 505 full-
20 time employees, with a value of more than \$18 million, and

21 WHEREAS, in addition to preserving 720,000 acres of
22 Florida's finest, most pristine natural areas for enjoyment by
23 this and future generations, the Division of Recreation and
24 Parks provides an annual direct economic impact of \$665 million
25 and has created more than 13,000 jobs for the state's
26 communities, and

27 WHEREAS, at the recent National Recreation and Park
28 Association Annual Congress in San Antonio, Texas, the Division

HR 9021

2006

29 of Recreation and Parks was awarded the prestigious 2005
30 National Gold Medal Award for excellence as manager of the
31 nation's best state park system, the first state park system to
32 receive this award twice, NOW, THEREFORE,

33

34 Be It Resolved by the House of Representatives of the State of
35 Florida:

36

37 That the House of Representatives proudly recognizes the
38 Division of Recreation and Parks for its outstanding
39 accomplishments and urges the Department of Environmental
40 Protection to publicize those accomplishments and Florida's
41 celebrated state parks throughout 2006.

42

43 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be
44 presented to Collen M. Castille, Secretary of the Department of
45 Environmental Protection; Bob Ballard, Deputy Secretary of
46 Environmental Protection; and Mike Bullock, Director of the
47 Division of Recreation and Parks, as a tangible token of the
sentiments expressed herein.