



DATE: July 15th, 2025

SUBJECT: Miccosukee Tribe Takes Further Action to Oppose Alligator Alcatraz

Tamiami Trail, FL - The Miccosukee Tribe of Indians of Florida (the “Tribe”) is filing suit as an intervening plaintiff in the case being brought by Friends of the Everglades, Center for Biological Diversity, and Earthjustice against the State and Federal governments, over their failure to conduct environmental review or engage in permitting before construction of the facility. The Tribe remains committed to ensuring its traditional lands are not used as a detention facility.

Rather than the Big Cypress being an uninhabited wasteland for alligators and pythons, as some have suggested, it is traditional Tribal homelands and home to fifteen traditional Miccosukee and Seminole villages, bordered by the Miccosukee Water Conservation Area 3-A and the Miccosukee Reserved Area. One village and school bus stop is approximately 1,000 feet away from the detention facility’s entrance, and eleven villages or ceremonial grounds are within 3 miles. The landscape has protected the Miccosukee and Seminoles for generations. This past year, Miccosukee leadership worked alongside conservative interest groups in southwest Florida, traveling to and from Washington, D.C. to defend public and Tribal rights to continue to live, hunt, and fish in the Big Cypress.

The proposed facility is a poor use of Florida’s resources. Annual upkeep is projected north of \$450 million, with potential partial reimbursement from our FEMA dollars, which will inevitably frustrate the hard work by the Florida Legislature this past session to cut wasteful spending, put Floridians at risk in the middle of hurricane season, and cause untold negative environmental impacts from unpermitted fill, insecticide fogging, 24/7 light pollution, vehicle traffic, flight traffic, and more.

In the words of **Chairman Talbert Cypress** of the Miccosukee Tribe of Indians of Florida, “The Miccosukee Tribe is committed to ensuring that our ancestral lands in Big Cypress will not become a permanent detention facility. We have reached out to the State and Federal governments and expressed our concerns, but we have not yet been advised of a closure date. As a consequence, we must take legal action to compel the parties to remove this facility, given its outsized budgetary, environmental, community safety, and logistical impacts. We are hopeful that the administrations will change course and preserve these lands.”

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