

The Everglades: Wetlands not Wastelands  
Marjory Stoneman Douglas Overcoming the Barriers of Public Unawareness and the Profit  
Motive in South Florida

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*"Marjory was the first voice to really wake a lot of us up to what we were doing to our quality of life. She was not just a pioneer of the environmental movement, she was a prophet, calling out to us to save the environment for our children and our grandchildren."<sup>1</sup>*

*- Florida Governor Lawton Chiles, 1991-1998*

## **Introduction**

Marjory Stoneman Douglas was a vanguard in her ideas and approach to preserve the Florida Everglades. She not only convinced society that Florida's wetlands were not wastelands, but also educated politicians that its value transcended profit. From the late 1800s, attempts were underway to drain large parts of the Everglades for economic gain.<sup>2</sup> However, from the mid to late 20th century, Marjory Stoneman Douglas fought endlessly to bring widespread attention to the deteriorating Everglades and increase public awareness regarding its importance. To achieve this goal, Douglas broke societal, political, and economic barriers, all of which stemmed from the lack of familiarity with environmental conservation, apathy, and the near-sighted desire for immediate profit without consideration for the long-term impacts on Florida's ecosystem. Using her voice as a catalyst for change, she fought to protect the Everglades from urban development and draining, two actions which would greatly impact the surrounding environment, wildlife, and ultimately help mitigate the effects of climate change. By educating the public and politicians, she served as a model for a new wave of environmental activism and she paved the way for the modern environmental movement.

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<sup>1</sup> Richard Severo, "Marjory Douglas, Champion of Everglades, Dies at 108," *The New York Times* (New York City, New York), May 15, 1998, <https://timesmachine.nytimes.com/timesmachine/1998/05/15/956759.html?pageNumber=23>.

<sup>2</sup> M.J. Clarke, *An Economic and Environmental Assessment of Florida Everglades Sugarcane Industry* (Baltimore, MD: Johns Hopkins University, 1977), 140.

## Societal, Economic, and Political Factors Posing a Barrier to Everglade Preservation

National and regional unawareness regarding the importance of wetlands promoted a widely-accepted practice to drain them for farming, dumping grounds, or destruction for profit. In the 1600s, approximately 221 million acres of wetlands existed in the United States. While colonization and societal priorities resulted in a significant decline, this decline accelerated in the 19th century with national expansion promoting the draining of the Everglades and other wetlands for agricultural use<sup>3</sup> and prompted an era of innovative technology and industrial growth. “From the middle of the nineteenth century to the middle of the twentieth century, the United States went through a period in which wetland removal was hardly questioned. Indeed, it was considered the proper thing to do.”<sup>4</sup> In 1881, real-estate developer Hamilton Disston attempted, for the first time, to drain the Everglades for agricultural purposes,<sup>5</sup> and while he was unsuccessful, he opened the door for politicians to promote the draining of the Everglades for economic gain and political status. In 1904, Gubernatorial candidate Napoleon Bonaparte Broward centered his platform on draining “that abominable pestilence-ridden swamp.”<sup>6,7</sup> These promises attracted tourists and, unfortunately, a surge of hunters, resulting in a rapid decline of native species.<sup>8,9</sup>

In the first half of the 20th century, American involvement in two World Wars, a rapidly increasing population, and industrial growth fueled a thirst for land, resulting in the creation of

<sup>3</sup> Dahl and Allord, "History of Wetlands," 22.

<sup>4</sup> Christopher F. Meindl, Derek H. Alderman, and Peter Waylen, "On the Importance of Environmental Claims-Making: The Role of James O. Wright in Promoting the Drainage of Florida's Everglades in the Early Twentieth Century," *Annals of the Association of American Geographers* 92, no. 4 (2002): 683, <https://doi.org/10.1111/1467-8306.00311>.

<sup>5</sup> "Hamilton Disston Found Dead," *The New York Times* (New York City, NY), May 1, 1896, <https://timesmachine.nytimes.com/timesmachine/1896/05/01/105747339.html?pageNumber=1>.

<sup>6</sup> "Napoleon B. Broward: Life And Times Of A Florida Governor," last modified 1974, PDF.

<sup>7</sup> National Park Service, "Drain the Swamp: Reclaiming the Everglades," National Park Service, accessed November 28, 2019, <https://www.nps.gov/subjects/southfloridacollections/drain-the-swamp.htm>.

<sup>8</sup> Michael Grunwald, *The Swamp: The Everglades, Florida, and the Politics of Paradise* (New York: Simon & Schuster, 2007), 120.

<sup>9</sup> Bill White, "Just About Everything," *Adirondack Daily Enterprise* (Saranac Lake, NY), January 27, 1953, <http://nyshistoricnewspapers.org/lccn/sn86033360/1953-01-27/ed-1/seq-6/>.

projects dedicated to manipulating US water resources.<sup>10</sup> Spanning over two million acres<sup>11</sup>, the Everglades were thought to be “unsightly areas and mucky barriers to progress,”<sup>12</sup> whose sole purpose was to breed mosquitoes. The facts, however, told a much different story. With its natural architecture, the Everglades can catch and hold water, thereby preventing flooding, while feeding streams, maintaining lakes in dry weather, and providing fresh drinking water.<sup>13</sup> Home to over 70 endangered species, 50 unique reptiles, 300 species of fish<sup>14</sup>, 360 species of birds<sup>15</sup>, and 700 kinds of plants, the Everglades play an integral role in the preservation of wildlife.<sup>16</sup> Interestingly, the birds and fish keep the mosquito population in check.<sup>17</sup> Despite these benefits, governmental incentives coupled with a distorted public view created a momentum in favor of decimating the Everglades.

Continued legislation in the 1930s, such as the Sugar Cane Act of 1934, exploited wetlands for sugarcane production,<sup>18</sup> causing yields to increase from 410,000 to 873,000 tons between 1931 to 1941.<sup>19</sup> Farmers were further incentivized by the Central and Florida Project approved by Congress in 1948, which provided monetary support for farmers to drain wetlands<sup>20</sup>

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<sup>10</sup> Thomas E. Dahl and Gregory J. Allord, "History of Wetlands in the Conterminous United States," *U.S. Geological Survey: National Water Summary on Wetland Resources* 2425 (1996): 22, PDF.

<sup>11</sup> Appendix I

<sup>12</sup> "The Wetlands," *The New York Times* (New York City, NY), May 19, 1974, accessed February 8, 2020, <https://timesmachine.nytimes.com/timesmachine/1974/05/19/117537124.html?pageNumber=222>.

<sup>13</sup> "The Wetlands."

<sup>14</sup> National Park Service, "Threatened and Endangered Species," National Park Service, accessed February 8, 2020, <https://www.nps.gov/ever/learn/nature/techecklist.htm>.

<sup>15</sup> National Park Service, Birds, National Park Service, accessed February 8, 2020, <https://www.nps.gov/ever/learn/nature/birds.htm>.

<sup>16</sup> Nina Burleigh, "Tears for the Magnificent and Shrinking Everglades, a 'River of Grass,'" *The New York Times*, January 27, 2020, accessed February 8, 2020, <https://www.nytimes.com/2020/01/27/travel/everglades-florida.html>.

<sup>17</sup> "The Wetlands."

<sup>18</sup> Clarke, *An Economic*, 140.

<sup>19</sup> Clarke, *An Economic*, 141.

<sup>20</sup> R.W. Burwell and L.G. Sugden, "Potholes: Going, Going, ...," in *U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and North Dakota State University Extension Services*, 375, previously published in *Waterfowl Tomorrow* (Washington, D.C.), 1964, 369-80, PDF.

and enabled the Army Corps of Engineers to divert the water normally flowing into the Everglades from Lake Okeechobee.<sup>21,22</sup>

Fortunately, one woman literally and figuratively entered the landscape. Marjory Stoneman Douglas provided a resonating and constant voice that educated the uninformed public and politicians on the value of the Everglades. Ultimately, she steered the path away from urban development and toward protection and restoration.

### **Douglas's Rise as the "Grande Dame of the Everglades"**

After graduating from Wellesley college in 1912, Douglas moved to Miami to join her father, who owned the *Miami Herald*.<sup>23</sup> It was there that she launched her writing career. Initially tasked with writing about weddings and other "feminine" issues, she shifted to write about civil and women's rights, as well as urban planning and sanitation.<sup>24</sup> In 1920, she launched an editorial column called "The Galley." She leveraged this forum to spread the concept of regionalism which she summarized as, "making the people of a locality more conscious of the unique possibilities of that locality....teaching people, all over again, to enjoy the richness of their boundaries..."<sup>25</sup> She frequently argued that South Florida's tropical environment distinguished it from the rest of the country. In 1928, her growing appreciation for the local environment led her to join the Tropical Everglades National Park Association headed by Ernest Coe. She was initially skeptical, not actually understanding the value of this "too buggy, too wet,

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<sup>21</sup> Bart Frazier, "Destroying the Everglades," The Future of Freedom Foundation, last modified June 1, 2007, accessed February 12, 2020, <https://www.fff.org/explore-freedom/article/destroying-everglades/>.

<sup>22</sup> Kate Stein, "Everglades 101: Just How Does This Thing Work, Anyway?," WLRN, last modified March 5, 2017, accessed February 12, 2020, <https://www.wlrn.org/post/everglades-101-just-how-does-thing-work-anyway#stream/0>.

<sup>23</sup> Sandy Levins, "Marjory Stoneman Douglas: Grand Dame of the Everglades," Wednesday's Women, last modified March 14, 2018, accessed February 12, 2020, <https://wednesdayswomen.com/marjory-stoneman-douglas-grand-dame-of-the-everglades/>.

<sup>24</sup> Levins, "Marjory Stoneman," Wednesday's Women.

<sup>25</sup> Jack E. Davis, "Green Awakening: Social Activism and the Evolution of Marjory Stoneman Douglas's Environmental Consciousness," *The Florida Historical Quarterly* 80, no. 1 (2001): 55, <http://www.jstor.org/stable/30149433>.

too generally inhospitable” wetland.<sup>26</sup> However, as she learned more, her realization of its importance to the Southern Florida ecosystem continued to crystallize. When she was invited by Rinehart & Co. to contribute to the landmark series, “Rivers in America,” she wrote *The Everglades: River of Grass*, which examined the biological relationship between humans and the environment.<sup>27</sup> This book signaled the birth of her environmental activism and “remains the definitive reference on the plight of the Florida Everglades.”<sup>28</sup>

### Douglas’s Strategies to Break Barriers

Having done extensive research on the complex ecosystem of the Everglades to write her book, *River of Grass*,<sup>29,30</sup> Douglas’s major barrier was effectively disseminating this knowledge to the public.<sup>31</sup> “There are no other Everglades in the world. They are, they have always been, one of the unique regions of the earth; remote, never wholly known,”<sup>32</sup> she wrote. This first line from her book is regarded as the most famous passage ever written about the Everglades,<sup>33</sup> inspiring the community and the politicians to take action. She encouraged people to view the Everglades not as a “worthless swamp,”<sup>34</sup> but rather a special place worth preserving.<sup>35</sup> Her book, published in 1947, was a catalyst, coupled with Ernest Coe’s efforts, for the designation of the Everglades as a national park; Douglas’s first step to ensure the continued protection of this

<sup>26</sup> Levins, "Marjory Stoneman," Wednesday's Women.

<sup>27</sup> Davis, "Green Awakening," 68.

<sup>28</sup> Jack E. Davis, "'Conservation Is Now a Dead Word': Marjory Stoneman Douglas and the Transformation of American Environmentalism," *Environmental History* 8, no. 1 (January 2003): 53-76, <https://www.jstor.org/stable/3985972?seq=1>.

<sup>29</sup> James LeMoine, "Everglades Sentinel on Watch at 100," *The New York Times* (New York City, NY), April 8, 1990,, <https://timesmachine.nytimes.com/timesmachine/1990/04/08/194390.html?pageNumber=20>.

<sup>30</sup> Marie Snider, "This Side of 60," *The Journal and Republican* (Lowville, NY), April 3, 1996, <http://nyshistoricnewspapers.org/lccn/sn93063682/1996-04-03/ed-1/seq-10/>.

<sup>31</sup> "Literary Snapshot Marjory Stoneman Douglas." *Orlando Sentinel*, May 05, 1991. 4, <https://explore.proquest.com/elibrary/document/277895618?accountid=45383>.

<sup>32</sup> Marjory Stoneman Douglas and Robert Fink, *The Everglades: River of Grass*, 70th ed. (Sarasota, Florida: Pineapple Press, 2017), 5.

<sup>33</sup> Michael Grunwald, *The Swamp: The Everglades, Florida, and the Politics of Paradise* (New York: Simon & Schuster, 2007), 205.

<sup>34</sup> Marjory Stoneman Douglas, "Story of the Glades," *The New York Times* (New York City, NY), November 23, 1947, [Page #],

<https://www.nytimes.com/1947/11/23/archives/story-of-the-glades-the-everglades-river-of-grass-by-marjory.html?searchResultPosition=14>.

<sup>35</sup> Severo, "Marjory Douglas."

wetland.<sup>36</sup> “Her book was the first to stimulate widespread understanding of the Everglades ecosystem and ultimately served to awaken the desire to restore its health.”<sup>37</sup> Unfortunately, the book was not enough.

Throughout the 1940s and 50s, the Army Corps of Engineers constructed a series of canals to divert the flow of water away from the marshes.<sup>38</sup> Recognizing that this 1,400 mile long system would have detrimental effects on the surrounding environment,<sup>39</sup> Douglas leveraged every speaking opportunity to condemn officials for destroying the natural ecosystems of the Everglades.<sup>40</sup> Over the next 2 decades, she was also a strong vocal advocate for a number of social issues ranging from securing basic sewage services for vulnerable black populations in Miami<sup>41</sup> to the Equal Rights Amendment.<sup>42</sup>

In 1969, at the age of 79, Douglas created the Friends of the Everglades in response to the proposed construction of a jetport in the Big Cypress sector of the Everglades.<sup>43,44</sup> While people criticized her for getting involved, she justified herself on the basic principles of patriarchy. "It is a woman's business to be interested in the environment. It's an extended form of housekeeping,"<sup>45</sup> she said. Douglas traveled all over Florida denouncing the project, in hopes of attracting national attention to this issue, while also increasing membership in the Friends of the

<sup>36</sup> Susan Heller Anderson, "Chronicle," *The New York Times* (New York City, NY), April 9, 1991, <https://www.nytimes.com/1991/04/09/style/chronicle-626091.html?searchResultPosition=26>.

<sup>37</sup> House of Representatives Committee on Resources, *Marjory Stoneman Douglas Wilderness and Ernest F. Coe Visitor Center, Everglades National Park*, report no. 105-328 (n.p., 1997), 1, <https://www.congress.gov/congressional-report/105th-congress/house-report/328/1>.

<sup>38</sup> Marjory Stoneman Douglas, "America's Last Frontier," *The New York Times* (New York City, NY), January 6, 1952, <https://www.nytimes.com/1952/01/06/archives/americas-last-frontier-road-to-the-sun-by-marjory-stoneman-douglas.html?searchResultPosition=10>.

<sup>39</sup> Richard E. Mooney, "Marjory Douglas's Everglades," *The New York Times* (New York City, NY), April 8, 1990, <https://www.nytimes.com/1990/04/08/opinion/the-editorial-notebook-marjory-douglas-s-everglades.html?searchResultPosition=21>.

<sup>40</sup> Richard Worsnop, "Saving the Everglades," *Press-Republican* (Plattsburgh, NY), May 13, 1989, <http://nyshistoricnewspapers.org/lccn/sn88074101/1989-05-13/ed-1/seq-4/>.

<sup>41</sup> Marjory Stoneman Douglas, "Elizabeth Virrick's Work in Coconut Grove's Black Community," interview, Everglades Digital Library, last modified June 16, 1983, accessed May 21, 2020, [http://everglades.fiu.edu/two/transcripts/SPC95A\\_10.htm](http://everglades.fiu.edu/two/transcripts/SPC95A_10.htm).

<sup>42</sup> Davis, "Conservation Is Now a Dead," 53-76.

<sup>43</sup> National Park Service, "Everglades Jetport," National Park Service, accessed December 3, 2019, <https://www.nps.gov/bicy/learn/historyculture/miami-jetport.htm>.

<sup>44</sup> White, "Just About."

<sup>45</sup> Margaria Fitcher, "Guardian of the Glades Dies at 108," *The Miami Herald* (Miami, FL), May 14, 1998, *The Miami Herald*.

Everglades.<sup>46</sup> While the developers continuously attacked her, calling her “a damn butterfly chaser,” Douglas kept voicing her opposition.<sup>47</sup> Determined to get the book into the hands of politicians in Washington, “Douglas was able to get Nixon’s daughter to read the book, and then she showed it to her father.”<sup>48</sup> Ultimately, on January 15th, 1970, President Nixon announced “an outstanding victory for conservation”<sup>49</sup> as the construction of the jetport was abandoned.<sup>50</sup> By unwaveringly bringing attention to the issue, she broke the barrier of public apathy. “The Everglades were always a topic, but now they promised to become more than that. They promised to become a reason for things, a central force in my existence...”<sup>51</sup>

As her sole purpose, Douglas continued to voice her opposition on every possible platform. In 1983, Dade County was considering the approval of construction in the Everglades by the Army Corps of Engineers.<sup>52</sup> At the hearing, standing 5 feet tall, Douglas was the only opposing voice. While the residents were furious, and even booed her,<sup>53</sup> she responded in a playful tone. “Can’t boo any louder than that?”<sup>54</sup> “Look. I’m an old lady. I’ve been here since eight o’clock. It’s now eleven. I’ve got all night, and I’m used to the heat.”<sup>55</sup> She tirelessly rallied support for her efforts and, ultimately, succeeded in preventing the permits from being issued.<sup>56</sup> Through innumerable speeches and meetings with officials and politicians, she continued to disseminate and inspire. In one instance, at a speech addressing the harmful practices of the

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<sup>46</sup> Severo, “Marjory Douglas.”

<sup>47</sup> Davis, “Conservation Is Now a Dead,” 53-76.

<sup>48</sup> Edwin S. Grosvenor, “Tears for Marjory Stoneman Douglas,” American Heritage, last modified September 2018, accessed May 19, 2020, <https://www.americanheritage.com/tears-marjory-stoneman-douglas#2>.

<sup>49</sup> Robert B. Semple Jr., “Everglades Jetport Barred By a U.S.-Florida Accord,” *The New York Times* (New York City, NY), January 16, 1970, <https://timesmachine.nytimes.com/timesmachine/1970/01/16/76676850.html?pageNumber=1>.

<sup>50</sup> National Park Service, “Everglades Jetport,” National Park Service.

<sup>51</sup> Marjory Stoneman Douglas, *Voice of the River* (Sarasota, FL: Pineapple Press, 1987), 224.

<sup>52</sup> Anderson, “Chronicle.”

<sup>53</sup> Jack E. Davis, *An Everglades Providence: Marjory Stoneman Douglas and the American Environmental Century* (Athens: University of Georgia Press, 2009), 533.

<sup>54</sup> Davis, *An Everglades*, 533.

<sup>55</sup> Davis, *An Everglades*, 534.

<sup>56</sup> Severo, “Marjory Douglas.”

Army Corps of Engineers, as a colonel dropped his pen on the floor and went to pick it up, Douglas stopped her speech and said, "Colonel! You can crawl under that table and hide, but you can't get away from me!"<sup>57</sup> Her forceful, witty words were her strongest weapon. Recognizing that sustained protection would require an educated and informed youth, she often lectured to students, teaching them about air and water pollution, sugarcane farming, and the Everglades delicate ecosystem.<sup>58</sup> She knew that it would be the youth who would carry on the battle and she needed to arm them with the facts.

### **Douglas's Impact in Shaping the Political Landscape**

As a result of Douglas's continued advocacy, politicians began voicing their support to restore the Everglades based on science and facts. Federal policies, such as the "Swampbuster," eliminated incentives that made the destruction of wetlands economically desirable.<sup>59</sup> In 1971, the Governor of Florida, Reubin Askew, said at a Conference on Water Management that:

It is time we stopped viewing our environment through prisms of profit, politics, geography or local and personal pride. It is time for us to work together... to accept the truth about our problems in South Florida, and to set about solving them. It is time for us to do all of these things... because you know as well as I that the alternative will be disastrous... economically as well as aesthetically.<sup>60</sup>

His successor, Bob Graham, even more inspired by Douglas, formulated an aggressive policy, "Save the Everglades" Plan<sup>61</sup>, which sought to "rejuvenate the

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<sup>57</sup> Julie Hausserman, "Leaving an Environmental Hot Seat," Tampa Bay Times, last modified April 19, 1999, accessed February 12, 2020, <https://tampabay.newspapers.com/image/326804629/?terms=Leaving%2Ban%2Benvironmental%2Bhot%2Bseat>.

<sup>58</sup> Marjory Stoneman Douglas, "Sources of Everglade Pollution," interview, *A Tale of Two Women: Marjory Stoneman Douglas and Marjorie Harris Carr*, last modified June 15, 1983, accessed February 13, 2020, [http://everglades.fiu.edu/two/transcripts/SPC950B\\_2.htm](http://everglades.fiu.edu/two/transcripts/SPC950B_2.htm).

<sup>59</sup> Philip Shabecoff, "Protecting Wetlands From Cars, People and Economics," *The New York Times*, last modified November 10, 1985, accessed February 11, 2020, <https://timesmachine.nytimes.com/timesmachine/1985/11/10/143650.html?pageNumber=230>.

<sup>60</sup> Governor Reubin Askew, "Governor's Conference on Water Management in South Florida " (speech, South Florida , 1971).

<sup>61</sup> Mooney, "Marjory Douglas's."

Kissimmee-Okeechobee-Everglades ecological system and the environment of South Florida.”<sup>62</sup>

As her impact spread, the Florida House of Representatives named her “Lady of the Everglades.”<sup>63</sup> In 1993, President Clinton awarded her the Medal of Freedom and, subsequently, spent millions to remove farmland from sugar cane growers and restore the natural flow of water within the wetlands.<sup>64</sup>

At the age of 107, her voice remained steady and strong. She addressed politicians, while also inspiring younger generations, empowering them to enact change.<sup>65</sup> “We’re put on this planet to make a difference and age doesn’t take away the responsibility.”<sup>66</sup> In a recent interview with Connie Washburn, a member of the Friends of the Everglades, she recounted taking three of her students to hear Douglas speak. When one student bent over to thank Douglas for saving the Everglades, Douglas, with her huge hearing aids and thick black glasses, responded, “Oh my dear, the Everglades are not saved yet. It’s up to you, up to young people.”<sup>67</sup> Douglas would be gratified to see her philosophy about age and activism in action today as those at the other end of the spectrum, like Greta Thunberg, are the new “Voices of the River.”

### **Douglas’s Continued Spirit in South Florida After Her Death**

Two year after Douglas’s death in 1998, Congress passed the 30-year Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (CERP), a public and private collaboration, aimed at restoring,

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<sup>62</sup> Memorandum by Governor Bob Graham, "A Program for the Florida Everglades," 1985, <https://merrick.library.miami.edu/cdm/singleitem/collection/asm0060/id/4/rec/2>.

<sup>63</sup> Lady of the Everglades, H.R. Res. 707, 1985 House of Representatives (Fla. Apr. 2, 1985) (University of Miami Library: Digital Collections).

<sup>64</sup> John H. Cushman Jr., "Clinton Backing Vast Effort to Restore Florida Swamps," *The New York Times* (New York City, NY), February 18, 1996, accessed February 8, 2020, <https://timesmachine.nytimes.com/timesmachine/1996/02/18/054011.html?pageNumber=1>.

<sup>65</sup> Snider, "This Side."

<sup>66</sup> Snider, "This Side."

<sup>67</sup> Connie Washburn, interview, Old Westbury, NY, December 5, 2019.

protecting, and preserving 18,000 square miles.<sup>68,69,70</sup> President Clinton remarked, “Long before there was an Earth Day, Mrs. Douglas was a passionate steward of our nation’s natural resources and particularly her Florida Everglades.”<sup>71</sup>

In 2007, the South Florida Water Management District bought 180,000 acres of land from the U.S. Sugar Corp to clean and store water for neighboring communities.<sup>72,73</sup> Unfortunately, despite restoration plans, 50% of the original wetlands are gone<sup>74</sup>, and the Everglades continue to shrink, due to continued development.<sup>75</sup> Most importantly, Florida continues to lose mangrove forests, a major species of the Everglades, which absorb carbon dioxide that is trapped in the tree’s biomass. Based on a scientific cost estimate developed by researchers at Florida International University (FIU) and funded by the National Science Foundation, the stored carbon is worth between \$2 billion and \$3.4 billion.<sup>76</sup> Without this carbon sink, carbon would be released into the atmosphere with devastating consequences. As the world looks to develop novel carbon capture solutions, ironically, one is in our backyard. "If there isn't enough freshwater flowing through the Everglades, we may eventually lose some of the mangroves," said Mahadev Bhat, FIU scientist and author of the journal paper. "Once you let

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<sup>68</sup> Everglades Foundation, "How Can We Save the Everglades?," Everglades Foundation, accessed December 1, 2019, <https://evergladesfoundation.org/the-everglades/restoration-projects/saving-the-everglades/>.

<sup>69</sup> National Park Service, "Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (CERP)," National Park Service, accessed December 1, 2019, <https://www.nps.gov/ever/learn/nature/ceerp.htm>.

<sup>70</sup> South Florida Water Management District, "Restoration Strategies for Clean Water for the Everglades," South Florida Water Management District, accessed December 1, 2019, <https://www.sfwmd.gov/our-work/restoration-strategies>.

<sup>71</sup> National Women's Hall of Fame, "Marjory Stoneman Douglas," National Women's Hall of Fame, accessed May 22, 2020, <https://www.womenofthehall.org/inductee/marjory-stoneman-douglas/>.

<sup>72</sup> Everglades Foundation, "How Can We Save," Everglades Foundation.

<sup>73</sup> Lucas Daprile, "South Florida Water Management District emails show U.S. Sugar Corp. lobbyist's influence," TCPalm, last modified August 30, 2017, accessed December 1, 2019, <https://www.tcpalm.com/story/news/investigations/2017/08/30/u-s-sugar-lobbyist-influence-over-florida-water-pollution-rules/464671001/>.

<sup>74</sup> Florida Center for Instructional Technology, "The Florida Everglades," Exploring Florida, accessed February 8, 2020, <https://fcit.usf.edu/florida/lessons/everglades/everglades.htm>.

<sup>75</sup> Nina Burleigh, "Tears for the Magnificent and Shrinking Everglades, a 'River of Grass,'" *The New York Times* (New York City, NY), January 27, 2020, accessed February 8, 2020, <https://www.nytimes.com/2020/01/27/travel/everglades-florida.html>.

<sup>76</sup> Cheryl Dybas and Evelyn Gonzalez, "Everglades Mangroves' Carbon Storage Capacity worth Billions," National Science Foundation, last modified November 14, 2016, accessed February 12, 2020, [https://www.nsf.gov/discoveries/disc\\_summ.jsp?cntn\\_id=190254](https://www.nsf.gov/discoveries/disc_summ.jsp?cntn_id=190254).

stored carbon out, that same carbon can lead to increased global warming and cost society a lot more."<sup>77</sup> As Governor Lawson Chiles noted, Douglas was a prophet.

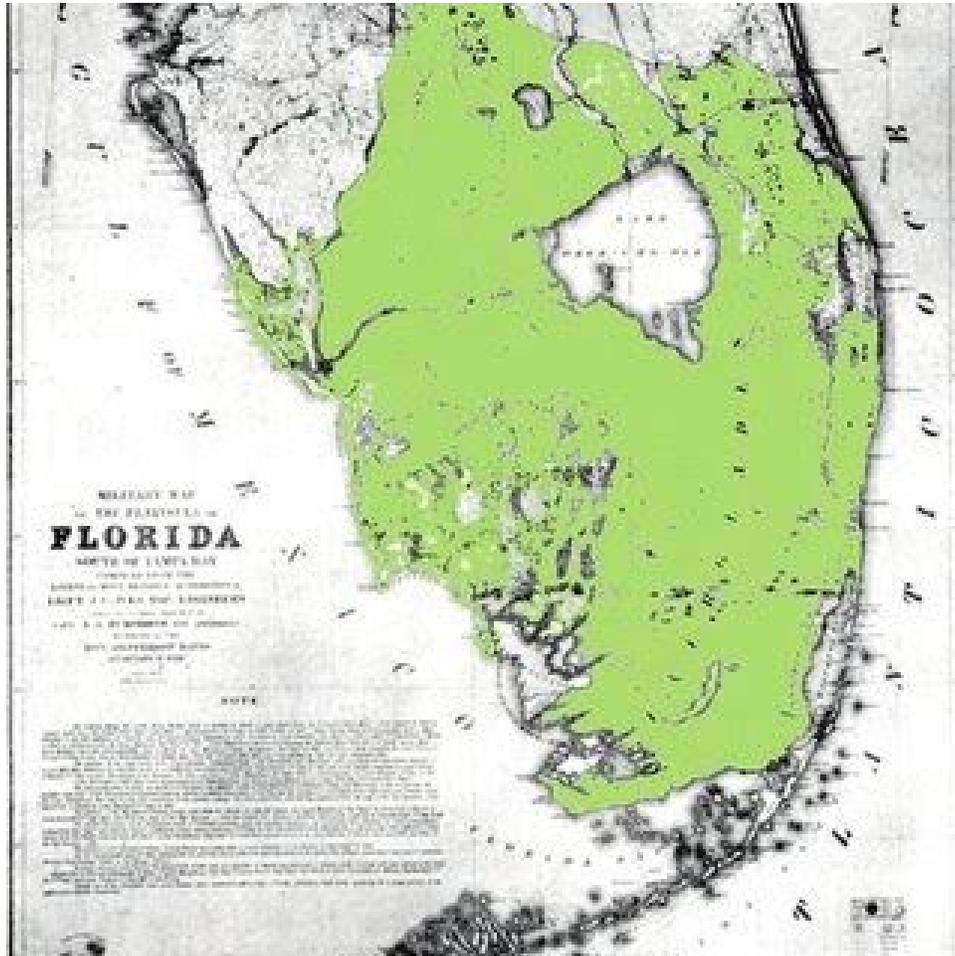
## **Conclusion**

While her name may be most famously associated with the tragic mass shooting in February 2018 at the school that bears her name, it also reflects the strength and resolve of the students who now fight for gun reform. Douglas faced many barriers to become the “Defender of the Everglades.” Through her perseverance to educate and raise awareness based on facts and science, she turned barriers into opportunities, and created a ripple effect of change. The energy of one resounding force effectively transferred to all those around her. Despite her gender and age, she changed minds and, ultimately actions, both locally and nationally. The concept that our actions today affect tomorrow was perhaps her greatest lesson. For her, inaction was not an option. As the “Voice of the River,” she demonstrated that by raising awareness, barriers can be overcome. As the youth today rally and march to demand tangible actions to mitigate climate change, they raise awareness and ultimately will drive action. Marjory Stoneman Douglas demonstrated that evidence-based advocacy to promote awareness is society’s most powerful weapon to overcome and break barriers.

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<sup>77</sup> Dybas and Gonzalez, "Everglades Mangroves," National Science Foundation.

## Appendix I



This 1856 map highlights the expansiveness of the Everglades, and its overarching presence in the community of South Florida.

*Military Map of the Peninsula of Florida South of Tampa Bay, map (n.p.: Lieut. J.C. Ives Top Engineers, 1856).*

## Annotated Bibliography

**Primary Sources**

Anderson, Susan Heller. "Chronicle." *The New York Times*, April 9, 1991.  
<https://www.nytimes.com/1991/04/09/style/chronicle-626091.html?searchResultPosition=26>.

This article, published in the New York Times, emphasizes Douglas' devotion to restoring the environment and her impact on her local community, even at such an old age. I used to show how Douglas did not let her age get in the way of her passion. More specifically, this article describes that instead of celebrating her 101st birthday, which is a feat within itself, Douglas asked that trees be planted in her name, which came to be known as "Plant a Tree for Marjory." This campaign lasted until Earth Day, where a total of 100,000 trees were planted and after planting the first tree at the nature center, Harvey Ruin, a Dade County Commissioner, called Mrs. Douglas "a child of the 1890s and a role model of the 1990s."

Askew, Reubin. "Governor's Conference on Water Management in South Florida." Speech, 1971. Florida Memory. Accessed February 13, 2020. <http://fpc.dos.state.fl.us/memory.html>.

This speech, given by the 37th Governor of Florida, Reubin Askew, shows the change in Florida's views of the environment and their duty to protect it. This fundamental idea is exactly what Douglas wanted to bring to light and shows her ability to influence many in the face of ignorance. This speech helped me realize how Douglas was able to change the minds of politicians to finally recognize the Everglades as a part of the culture of South Florida, stressing this idea of "regionalism" even further.

Burwell, R.W., and L.G. Sugden. "Potholes: Going, Going, ...," In *U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and North Dakota State University Extension Services*. Previously published in *Waterfowl Tomorrow* (Washington, D.C.), 1964, 369-80. PDF.

This source was particularly important because it highlighted the magnitude at which the United States Government was in fact facilitating the destruction of the Everglades, promoting drainage of the lands for agriculture and urban development, which is evidenced by the fact that they provided help to farmers to learn how to properly drain these areas. This source helped me formulate the barriers that the government continually put in place that hindered the protection of wetlands, specifically the Everglades. Lastly, the federal government began to share the costs of these drainage projects which is further evidence as to their continued support for this destruction in order to make a profit.

Clarke, M.J. *An Economic and Environmental Assessment of Florida Everglades Sugarcane Industry*. Baltimore, MD: Johns Hopkins University, 1977.

This source was critical in helping develop the barrier of continued destruction of the Everglades that permeated throughout South Florida's community and this source

helped to qualify the idea that these actions stemmed from the federal government, who passed the Sugarcane Act of 1934, which exponentially increased the usage of Everglades' land for the cultivation of sugarcane. Furthermore, this source revealed how quickly sugar cane agriculture proliferated throughout the Everglades, which led to the continued destruction and the continuing unawareness of the importance of the Everglades.

Cushman Jr., John H. "Clinton Backing Vast Effort to Restore Florida Swamps." *The New York Times*, February 18, 1996. Accessed February 8, 2020.  
<https://timesmachine.nytimes.com/timesmachine/1996/02/18/054011.html?pageNumber=1>.

This article, published in the New York Times, reveals the change in the perception on the federal level regarding the importance of the Everglades and the need to preserve and protect the thousands of species that inhabit the area. It truly shows how effective Douglas was in breaking the barrier of unawareness of the critical nature that the Everglades holds, shaping a new political landscape in which laws were created to help the Everglades, not destroy it. She made them realize that the Everglades are wetlands, not wastelands.

Dahl, T.E., and C.E. Johnson. *Wetlands-Status and Trends in the Conterminous United States, Mid-1970's to Mid-1980's*. Updates of the National Wetlands Status Report. Washington, DC.: United States Congress, 1991. Accessed February 11, 2020.  
<https://www.fws.gov/wetlands/documents/Wetlands-Status-and-Trends-in-the-Conterminous-United-States-Mid-1970s-to-Mid-1980s.pdf>.

This report, published by the United States Congress, was essential in formulating the context for the history of wetlands and the increased promotion of their destruction in the United States. In addition, it showed me that millions of acres of wetlands were lost due to urban development and agriculture, placing this barrier not just on the local level of South Florida, but rather it made it more clear that this destruction pervaded throughout American society, from coast to coast.

Dahl, Thomas E., and Gregory J. Allord. "History of Wetlands in the Conterminous United States." *U.S. Geological Survey: National Water Summary on Wetland Resources 2425* (1996): 19-26. Accessed February 11, 2020.  
<https://water.usgs.gov/nwsum/WSP2425/history.html>.

This source, published by the U.S. Geological Survey, laid the fundamental groundwork for the barrier of unawareness and continued destruction of the Everglades in the era when Douglas was first starting out as a journalist, not even an activist. However, it was more important in calling attention to the shift in the perspective of the importance of the Everglades, due to increasing awareness after 1970.

Douglas, Marjory Stoneman. "Elizabeth Virrick's Work in Coconut Grove's Black Community." Interview. Everglades Digital Library. Last modified June 16, 1983. Accessed May 21, 2020. [http://everglades.fiu.edu/two/transcripts/SPC95A\\_10.htm](http://everglades.fiu.edu/two/transcripts/SPC95A_10.htm).

This source helped me because it provided the information regarding what Marjory Stoneman Douglas was doing between the years 1947 and 1969, which spans from one the Everglades were designated as a national park to when she formed the Friends of the Everglades. It showed that Douglas was altruistic in her endeavors and truly wanted to help all of society, regardless of race or class differences.

———. "Sources of Everglade Pollution." Interview. *A Tale of Two Women: Marjory Stoneman Douglas and Marjorie Harris Carr*. Last modified June 15, 1983. Accessed February 13, 2020. [http://everglades.fiu.edu/two/transcripts/SPC950B\\_2.htm](http://everglades.fiu.edu/two/transcripts/SPC950B_2.htm).

This transcript from an interview with Marjory Stoneman Douglas highlights how she had a wealth of knowledge regarding the damage that was being done to the Everglades and how she sought to open the eyes of the youth to this damage, so they can take up the mantle for the environment and ensure that in the future, the Everglades are protected and don't continue to deteriorate on an unprecedented scale, affecting the natural cycles that are essential for wildlife in South Florida.

———. *Voice of the River*. Sarasota, FL: Pineapple Press, 1987.

This autobiography of Marjory Stoneman Douglas provides additional insight into Douglas' early life and how she became so passionate and dedicated to saving the Everglades and the surrounding ecosystem. Specifically, her experiences with Florida and its landscape when she was very young and how she was influenced very early on concerning humanity's duty to protect the environment.

Douglas, Marjory Stoneman, and Robert Fink. *The Everglades: River of Grass*. 70th ed. Sarasota, Florida: Pineapple Press, 2017.

Another book written by Marjory Stoneman Douglas, *River of Grass*, which is now the infamous name for the Everglades, helped disseminate the notion of the beauty of the Everglades and its natural wildlife, asserting that it's not just a marshy wetland, but an elegant and complex river of grass that supports a myriad of animals and plant life.

Fitcher, Margaria. "Guardian of the Glades Dies at 108." *The Miami Herald*, May 14, 1998. The Miami Herald.

This article, written shortly after the death of Marjory Stoneman Douglas is critical in the aspect that it revealed how Marjory used the systemic barrier of patriarchy in society to her advantage, stating that her tending to the environment was just an extended form of housekeeping because women were still mainly expected to live private lives in a domestic and home setting, rather than venturing out for themselves and pursuing their true passions.

Graham, Governor Bob. Memorandum, "A Program for the Florida Everglades ," 1985.  
<https://merrick.library.miami.edu/cdm/singleitem/collection/asm0060/id/4/rec/2>.

This source, also written by Bob Graham, shows the impact that Marjory Stoneman Douglas had on her local politicians and their attitude towards the protection of the Everglades. The fact that she, a woman, was able to convince a man in a position of authority, at such an old age, is an homage to her feat of breaking the barrier of ignorance towards the environment and breaking the barrier of rooted patriarchy in American society. In addition, this program describes exactly what Douglas advocated and addresses the problems that she highlights, which is critical when looking at her contributions to the preservation of the Everglades.

Hausserman, Julie. "Leaving an Environmental Hot Seat." Tampa Bay Times. Last modified April 19, 1999. Accessed February 12, 2020.  
<https://tampabay.newspapers.com/image/326804629/?terms=Leaving%2Ban%2Benvironmental%2Bhot%2Bseat>.

This article, published in the St. Petersburg Times, outlined how Marjory Douglas went beyond just writing her book in 1947 to spread the facts about the importance of the Everglades and how humanity is causing its deterioration, losing its natural beauty that once permeated throughout the Southern Florida community. It highlights her determination in increasing awareness of the importance of wetlands in a time when they were regarded as wastelands, only existing to produce a profit.

House of Representatives Committee on Resources. *Marjory Stoneman Douglas Wilderness and Ernest F. Coe Visitor Center, Everglades National Park*. Report no. 105-328. N.p., 1997.  
<https://www.congress.gov/congressional-report/105th-congress/house-report/328/1>.

This report published by the House of Representatives provides insight into how impactful Marjory Stoneman Douglas' actions were and the fact that they were recognized at an extremely high level, such as Congress, influencing them to protect the Everglades and ensure its security as a national park.

Lady of the Everglades , H.R. Res. 707, 1985 House of Representatives (Fla. Apr. 2, 1985)  
 (University of Miami Library: Digital Collections ).

This resolution, passed by the Florida House of Representatives, helps to visualize the legacy that Douglas was leaving behind even before she died, and how impactful her actions were. It shows that she was recognized for her continued conservation efforts, being dubbed "Lady of the Everglades," which is simply an homage to her fight for the protection of the River of Grass.

LeMoyné, James. "Everglades Sentinel on Watch at 100." *The New York Times*, April 8, 1990.  
<https://timesmachine.nytimes.com/timesmachine/1990/04/08/194390.html?pageNumber=20>.

This newspaper article, published in the New York Times, reveals how Marjory Douglas became so interested in the Everglades when she began researching it for her book in the collection, Rivers of America. She became connected to the wildlife and the grass, creating a sacred bond that she vowed she wouldn't break, by voicing the facts

about the condition of the Everglades and how it is an essential component of Floridian community and way of life.

"Literary Snapshot Marjory Stoneman Douglas." *Orlando Sentinel*, May 05, 1991. 4, <https://explore.proquest.com/elibrary/document/277895618?accountid=45383>.

This literary snapshot of Marjory Stoneman Douglas, published in the *Orlando Sentinel*, describes the continued barriers were still permeating through Southern Florida with regards to the Everglades and the whole concept that Douglas was trying to shine a light on which was that the conquest of natural places has consumed society and will continue to consume society until we truly realize the services that these diverse ecosystems provide to us.

*Military Map of the Peninsula of Florida South of Tampa Bay*. Map. N.p.: Lieut. J.C. Ives Top Engineers, 1856.

This map was important because it highlighted the expansiveness of the Everglades and how it was such an integral part of the community of South Florida. It wasn't just a wetland in the middle of the community, it was the community, and it was part of the culture of South Florida. Something that was often overlooked when humanity indiscriminately built upon its land for agriculture and drained its waters for urban development. Douglas needed to show them how important it truly was.

Mooney, Richard E. "Marjory Douglas's Everglades." *The New York Times*, April 8, 1990. <https://www.nytimes.com/1990/04/08/opinion/the-editorial-notebook-marjory-douglas-s-everglades.html?searchResultPosition=21>.

This newspaper segment in the *New York Times* provides insight into the inaction in South Florida until the 1980s but also describes the power of Douglas' book, with direct quotes that help support the notion that there is only one Everglades in the world and it needs to be protected. It is also important to note that the article also mentions how Governor Bob Graham was instrumental in helping Douglas' vision come to life, with his "Save Our Everglades" plan.

"Napoleon B. Broward: Life And Times Of A Florida Governor." Last modified 1974. PDF.

This informational sheet concerning the life and legacy of one of Florida's former governors, Napoleon Broward, helped formulate the barrier for South Florida's ignorance of the environment, especially towards the importance of the Everglades. It also helps reveal how much Douglas had to overcome and the magnitude of the barrier she faced when protesting humanity's actions towards the marshland, which further allows us to understand how powerful she was in changing people's perspectives.

National Women's Hall of Fame. "Marjory Stoneman Douglas." National Women's Hall of Fame. Accessed May 22, 2020. <https://www.womenofthehall.org/inductee/marjory-stoneman-douglas/>.

I used this source to demonstrate the respect that President Clinton had for Marjory Stoneman Douglas and her efforts, while also highlighting the

impact of her efforts as a whole.

*The New York Times*. "Hamilton Disston Found Dead." May 1, 1896. Accessed February 11, 2020.

<https://timesmachine.nytimes.com/timesmachine/1896/05/01/105747339.html?pageNumber=1>.

This news article, published in the New York Times, provides additional support for the barrier of humanity's ignorance of the environment and one of the events that served to set off a domino effect for the destruction of the Everglades. Specifically, written after his death, this article shined a spotlight on how Hamilton Disston, for the first time in South Florida, tried to drain the Everglades in order to increase space for agriculture, which would influence future politicians in doing the same, such as Napoleon Broward.

*The New York Times* (New York City, NY). "The Wetlands." May 19, 1974. Accessed February 8, 2020.

<https://timesmachine.nytimes.com/timesmachine/1974/05/19/117537124.html?pageNumber=222>.

This article, published in the New York Times, was critical in emphasizing the practical importance of the Everglades and the multitude of ways that wetlands are beneficial to the surrounding community due to the fact that they help prevent floods and are home to thousands of wildlife that promote the stability of the surrounding ecosystem. Marjory Douglas wanted people to recognize this importance and beauty and how we were destroying it for the sake of profit, while we should be trying to preserve nature.

Sample Jr., Robert B. "Everglades Jetport Barred By a U.S.-Florida Accord." *The New York Times* (New York City, NY), January 16, 1970.

<https://timesmachine.nytimes.com/timesmachine/1970/01/16/76676850.html?pageNumber=1>.

This news article was extremely important in establishing how Douglas broke barriers with regards to humanity's ignorance toward the Everglades' protection and how its importance was recognized by the most powerful man in the world: The President of the United States.

Severo, Richard. "Marjory Douglas, Champion of Everglades, Dies at 108." *The New York Times*, May 15, 1998.

<https://timesmachine.nytimes.com/timesmachine/1998/05/15/956759.html?pageNumber=23>.

This obituary was important because it specifically mentions how Douglas fought against the Army Corps of Engineers and their future development projects in the Everglades on the local level. It details the opposition she had, but also highlights how she used her age as comedy, lightening the mood, further allowing her to convince the people of Dade County how important the Everglades were.

Shabecoff, Philip. "Protecting Wetlands From Cars, People and Economics." *The New York Times*. Last modified November 10, 1985. Accessed February 11, 2020. <https://timesmachine.nytimes.com/timesmachine/1985/11/10/143650.html?pageNumber=230>.

This New York Times article revealed how there was a significant change seen in the policies created by the federal government regarding how to address the destruction of wetlands. It highlights the shift in how politicians recognized the vital importance of the Everglades and the need to abandon the profit motive in order to stimulate restoration and preservation for an area that the federal government, in the past, disregarded and in fact, created policies that facilitated its destruction.

Slaughter, Frank G. "America's Last Frontier." *The New York Times*, January 6, 1952. <https://www.nytimes.com/1952/01/06/archives/americas-last-frontier-road-to-the-sun-by-marjory-stoneman-douglas.html?searchResultPosition=10>.

This article in the New York times provides context for what was occurring in South Florida when Douglas wrote her book, *The Everglades: River of Grass*. It specifically mentions that in Miami, there were men who were obsessed with drainage and the construction of canals, at the expense of the environment, which also went against the wishes of the community members who wanted to witness the beauties that the Florida ecosystem had to offer.

Snider, Marie. "This Side of 60." *The Journal and Republican* (Lowville, NY), April 23, 1997. <http://nyshistoricnewspapers.org/lccn/sn93063682/1997-04-23/ed-1/seq-14/>.

This source discusses not only how Marjory Stoneman Douglas was honored in Miami, but also the knowledge and lessons that Douglas wanted to disseminate to future generations so they can also take action, not just for the cause of environmentalism, but in life itself. It is also important to note that this source states that Douglas was considering staying out of the fight for the Everglades at the age of 78, near-blind, realizing that ignorance consumed this society and that business won over nature. However, this barrier didn't stop her. It inspired her and facilitated the creation of the Friends of the Everglades and her fight for 30 years to ensure that the Everglades weren't destroyed, but, instead, were acknowledged for their natural beauty and diversity. "We are put on this planet to make a difference", Douglas says, which is exactly what she has demonstrated.

———. "This Side of 60." *The Journal and Republican* (Lowville, NY), July 14, 1998. <http://nyshistoricnewspapers.org/lccn/sn93063682/1998-07-14/ed-1/seq-9/>.

This article, written shortly after Douglas' death, contains the reason why Douglas fought for the Everglades at such an old age and gives additional insight into the fact that a passion can start at the age of 80. Not only does it describe her as the guardian of the Everglades, but it also mentions how she was recognized by the nation as a whole. This source states that upon hearing about her death, President Bill Clinton stated that she was "a passionate steward of our nation's natural resources - particularly her Florida Everglades." This helps support the notion that with Douglas' actions increased awareness about the situation in the Everglades, which turned many eyes to the

developers and politicians who sought to destroy the wildlife and natural ecosystem that was the "core" of Florida.

- . "This Side of 60." *The Journal and Republican* (Lowville, NY), September 28, 1994. [http://nyshistoricnewspapers.org/lccn/sn93063682/1994-09-28/ed-1/seq-27/#date1=01%2F01%2F1950&index=10&date2=12%2F31%2F2000&searchType=advanced&SearchType=phrase&sequence=0&words=Douglas+Marjorie+Stoneman&proxdistance=&to\\_year=2000&rows=20&ortext=&from\\_year=1950&proxtext=&phrasertext=Marjory+Stoneman+Douglas+&andtext=&dateFilterType=range&page=1](http://nyshistoricnewspapers.org/lccn/sn93063682/1994-09-28/ed-1/seq-27/#date1=01%2F01%2F1950&index=10&date2=12%2F31%2F2000&searchType=advanced&SearchType=phrase&sequence=0&words=Douglas+Marjorie+Stoneman&proxdistance=&to_year=2000&rows=20&ortext=&from_year=1950&proxtext=&phrasertext=Marjory+Stoneman+Douglas+&andtext=&dateFilterType=range&page=1).

This newspaper segment titled "This Side of 60" highlights the wisdom that Douglas passed on at the age of 104 and how, although she was blind and her brain was deteriorating, she wrote her autobiography, "Voice of the River." Her perseverance to ensure that her knowledge about the Everglades was disseminated to the public is shown through this segment and also through the medium of the works of literature she wrote.

- . "This Side of 60." *The Journal and Republican* (Lowville, NY), April 3, 1996. <http://nyshistoricnewspapers.org/lccn/sn93063682/1996-04-03/ed-1/seq-10/>.

This source captures the essence of the physical barriers that manifested within Douglas before she even truly fought for the Everglades. She really started when she was 78 and half-blind, but, as this segment says, "She single-handedly saved the Everglades from developers and politicians."

- . "This Side of 60." *The Journal and Republican* (Lowville, NY), November 3, 1993. <http://nyshistoricnewspapers.org/lccn/sn93063682/1993-11-03/ed-1/seq-17/>.

This source mainly provides insight into how Douglas was dealing with her old age, which showed that she was even more positive and determined than ever, still serving as a political force to be reckoned with. Furthermore, she has been labeled the "eco-conscience of Florida", thus showing how her actions have been widely recognized, which further enables her to bring more and more attention to the condition of the Everglades and humanity's duty to preserve and protect it.

- . "This Side of 60." *The Journal and Republican* (Lowville, NY), September 22, 1993. <https://nyshistoricnewspapers.org/lccn/sn93063682/1993-09-22/ed-1/seq-27/>.

This same segment, published when Douglas was 103, explores how she was still fighting strong for the protection of the Everglades, using her voice and motivation to serve as a catalyst for change in society. While giving a concise and honorable background on the beginnings of Douglas' career, the highlight lies when Snider discusses the impact that Douglas has had on legislation and the government of Florida. For example, the article states that "Politicians think twice before trying to pass legislation Douglas opposes," which just demonstrates the power Douglas has at such an old age and the success that has accompanied her in her fight for environmentalism.

Washburn, Connie. Interview. Old Westbury, NY. December 5, 2019.

This interview was invaluable in providing insight into the actions of Marjory Stoneman Douglas and her activism when she was at the old age of 105. It really called attention to the wisdom that Douglas had for young people, which is embodied today in the Youth Climate Movement, as activists such as Greta Thunberg fight for the protection of the environment in the face of the climate crisis. Douglas would be gratified to see her philosophy come to life and proliferate so rapidly throughout the world.

White, Bill. "Just About Everything ." *Adirondack Daily Enterprise* (Saranac Lake, NY), January 27, 1953. <http://nyshistoricnewspapers.org/lccn/sn86033360/1953-01-27/ed-1/seq-6/>.

This newspaper article, while briefly mentions Marjory Stoneman Douglas, dives deep into the wildlife and habitats of the Everglades, discussing the rare species that inhabit the area, which make it a spectacle to visit. The article also touches on the topic of man killing this natural beauty, with hunters shooting these species

Worsnop, Richard. "Saving the Everglades." *Press-Republican* (Plattsburgh, NY), May 13, 1989. <http://nyshistoricnewspapers.org/lccn/sn88074101/1989-05-13/ed-1/seq-4/>.

This brief newspaper article exhibits the widespread dissemination of the actions of Marjory Stoneman Douglas, based on the fact that her actions were being covered in newspapers all the way in New York, while her base was in Florida.

## Secondary Sources

Burleigh, Nina. "Tears for the Magnificent and Shrinking Everglades, a 'River of Grass.'" *The New York Times*, January 27, 2020. Accessed February 8, 2020. <https://www.nytimes.com/2020/01/27/travel/everglades-florida.html>.

This article, though published this year, was invaluable in providing the context for the barrier of unawareness in South Florida while also addressing the long term impacts of this barrier, highlighting how the Everglades have continued to shrink, greatly affecting 8 million people who rely on the wetlands for fresh drinking water. In addition, it ties together how climate change has impacted the condition of the wetlands, revealing the need for activism that Marjory embodied even more today, which is seen through youngsters such as Greta Thunberg.

Daprile, Lucas. "South Florida Water Management District Emails Show U.S. Sugar Corp. Lobbyist's Influence." TCPalm. Last modified August 30, 2017. Accessed December 1, 2019. <https://www.tcpalm.com/story/news/investigations/2017/08/30/u-s-sugar-lobbyist-influence-over-florida-water-pollution-rules/464671001/>.

This source was particularly helpful in comprehending the long-term impacts of Douglas actions, particularly in the realm of governmental policy that was formulated to address the many problems that faced the Everglades, such as water management and safe treatment.

Davis, Jack E. "'Conservation Is Now a Dead Word': Marjory Stoneman Douglas and the Transformation of American Environmentalism." *Environmental History* 8, no. 1 (January 2003): 53-76. <https://www.jstor.org/stable/3985972?seq=1>.

This source provided additional information into how Marjory Stoneman Douglas used her opposition and demeaning remarks from her male counterparts to further fuel her engine to fight for conservation and spark the light inside her that would continue to burn well into her extremely old age of 108.

———. *An Everglades Providence: Marjory Stoneman Douglas and the American Environmental Century*. Athens: University of Georgia Press, 2009.

This book was critical in establishing a clear line of opposition that Douglas faced when voicing her concerns for the condition of the Everglades and how it will continue to deteriorate if we don't take urgent action. Similarly with the barrier of patriarchy, Douglas used her old age to her advantage, creating a sympathetic atmosphere when people criticized her and her efforts.

———. "Green Awakening: Social Activism and the Evolution of Marjory Stoneman Douglas's Environmental Consciousness." *The Florida Historical Quarterly* 80, no. 1 (2001): 43-77. <http://www.jstor.org/stable/30149433>.

This source was extremely important because it showed me why Marjory Stoneman Douglas became so passionate in saving the Everglades. I used this source to demonstrate Douglas's love for regionalism and the idea to preserve regional identities. It demonstrated how Douglas believed that the Everglades were a part of the culture of South Florida and to destroy would mean destroying that culture.

Dybas, Cheryl, and Evelyn Gonzalez. "Everglades Mangroves' Carbon Storage Capacity worth Billions." National Science Foundation. Last modified November 14, 2016. Accessed February 12, 2020. [https://www.nsf.gov/discoveries/disc\\_summ.jsp?cntn\\_id=190254](https://www.nsf.gov/discoveries/disc_summ.jsp?cntn_id=190254).

This source was important because it applied the importance of the Everglades to the most pertinent issue in society today, which is the climate crisis. It highlights how mangrove forests, which comprise a major part of the Everglades, are a key player in storing carbon and humanity's continued destruction of the Everglades releases this stored carbon in the atmosphere, accelerating the rate of global warming. Thus, Marjory really was a prophet in calling out to the younger generations to take action because the climate crisis will be severely affecting their futures.

Everglades Foundation. "How Can We Save the Everglades?" Everglades Foundation. Accessed December 1, 2019. <https://evergladesfoundation.org/the-everglades/restoration-projects/saving-the-everglades/>.

This source highlighted additional long-term impacts of Douglas' actions, specifically the fact that the South Florida Water Management District voted to buy up to 180,000 acres of land from the sugar corporations that were destroying the wetlands for personal economic gain, rather than understanding how their actions were contaminating the water and affecting the surrounding community.

Florida Center for Instructional Technology. "The Florida Everglades." Exploring Florida. Accessed February 8, 2020. <https://fcit.usf.edu/florida/lessons/everglades/everglades.htm>.

This source was important in pinpointing the long term impacts of Marjory's work, even the bad. Although Marjory Douglas was able to change the perception of the way wetlands were viewed in South Florida, they did still continue to deteriorate and this source provided the fact that 50% of the original wetlands are gone, which highlights the need to embody Marjory's philosophy can take action to conserve the environment.

Frazier, Bart. "Destroying the Everglades." The Future of Freedom Foundation. Last modified June 1, 2007. Accessed February 12, 2020. <https://www.fff.org/explore-freedom/article/destroying-everglades/>.

This source was essential in formulating the barrier of national unawareness and ignorance to the protection and preservation of wetlands, which was evidenced by the fact that Congress created policies and laws to promote sugarcane agriculture in the Everglades, a practice that was extremely destructive to the wetlands. It simply showed how embedded the perception that wetlands were only wastelands were in society, on both a local and national level.

Grosvenor, Edwin S. "Tears for Marjory Stoneman Douglas." American Heritage. Last modified September 2018. Accessed May 19, 2020. <https://www.americanheritage.com/tears-marjory-stoneman-douglas#2>.

I used this source to further elucidate the connection between Douglas's efforts and Nixon's announcement that prevented the construction of the jetport in the Big Cypress sector of the Everglades. This source showed me how it was due to Douglas's determination and her written words in her book, *River of Grass*, that educated politicians in Washington, including future President Nixon, on the importance of the Everglades and the urgent need to protect it.

Grunwald, Michael. *The Swamp: The Everglades, Florida, and the Politics of Paradise*. New York: Simon & Schuster, 2007.

This book further brought to light humanity's ignorance to the environment and to the diverse and rare wildlife that inhabited the Everglades before Douglas witnessed the destruction South Florida had caused. It highlights the magnitude of the barrier that Douglas had to truly break in order to reach the minds of the surrounding community and convince them to take action and support the protection of the Everglades.

Levins, Sandy. "Marjory Stoneman Douglas: Grand Dame of the Everglades." Wednesday's Women. Last modified March 14, 2018. Accessed February 12, 2020. <https://wednesdaywomen.com/marjory-stoneman-douglas-grand-dame-of-the-everglades/>.

This source was critical in providing some background information on Marjory Stoneman Douglas' early life and jobs and how she initially became interested in the

Everglades. It provides further information into why she wrote her book, *River of Grass*, which would later be the epitomized name for the Everglades, the wetlands she would continue to fight so hard to protect.

"Marjory Stoneman Douglas: The Woman." *Catalyst: Workplaces that Work for Women* (blog). Entry posted April 5, 2018. Accessed May 22, 2020.  
<https://www.catalyst.org/2018/04/05/marjory-stoneman-douglas-the-woman/>.

I used this source to show how Douglas cared about issues across the entire social spectrum, including gun violence, as she asked to be present at the signing of the Brady Bill.

Meindl, Christopher F., Derek H. Alderman, and Peter Waylen. "On the Importance of Environmental Claims-Making: The Role of James O. Wright in Promoting the Drainage of Florida's Everglades in the Early Twentieth Century." *Annals of the Association of American Geographers* 92, no. 4 (2002): 682-701.  
<https://doi.org/10.1111/1467-8306.00311>.

This source was important in highlighting the practices of draining parts of the Everglades for agriculture in the 19th century and how this practice evolved, which further led to the creation of the barrier of humanity's ignorance to the environment and their only view of it as a piece of land to make profit out of.

National Park Service. Birds. National Park Service. Accessed February 8, 2020.  
<https://www.nps.gov/ever/learn/nature/birds.htm>.

This source simply provided the number of birds that inhabit the Everglades, which is 400 different species, thus highlighting the extreme diversity that comprises the Everglades and what was at stake in the face of the continued destruction of the wetlands.

———. "Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (CERP)." National Park Service. Accessed December 1, 2019. <https://www.nps.gov/ever/learn/nature/cerp.htm>.

This source was essential in highlighting the specifics of the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan which serves as an example of a long-term impact of Douglas' crusade.

National Park Service . "Drain the Swamp: Reclaiming the Everglades ." National Park Service. Accessed November 28, 2019.  
<https://www.nps.gov/subjects/southfloridacollections/drain-the-swamp.htm>.

This information published by the National Park Service provided additional historical context for the past drainage and treatment of the Everglades before Marjory Douglas brought to light the importance of these wetlands to the community.

National Park Service. "Everglades Jetport." National Park Service. Accessed December 3, 2019.  
<https://www.nps.gov/bicy/learn/historyculture/miami-jetport.htm>.

This source also published by the National Park Service also provides additional insight into the Jetport project that Douglas fought hard to stop and the success of her actions for her future endeavors.

———. "Marjory Stoneman Douglas." National Park Service. Last modified April 14, 2015. Accessed September 29, 2019.

<https://www.nps.gov/ever/learn/historyculture/msdouglas.htm>.

This source provides general background information on the Everglades National Park and Douglas' role in re-establishing it to its former glory. It is also reliable because it was published on the National Park Service's website, so the information can be used later for additional background.

———. "Threatened and Endangered Species." National Park Service. Accessed February 8, 2020. <https://www.nps.gov/ever/learn/nature/techecklist.htm>.

This source reveals the importance of the Everglades because it discusses the abundance of different species that inhabit the area, increasing its biodiversity and creating a thriving, yet stable ecosystem, that provides for the surrounding community. It outlines how the flora and fauna create a complex ecosystem that is beneficial for the community, ensuring that the mosquito populations are kept in check so that they don't cause a problem for the Southern Florida community.

"Restoration Strategies for Clean Water for the Everglades." South Florida Water Management District. Accessed December 1, 2019.

<https://www.sfwmd.gov/our-work/restoration-strategies>.

This strategy published by the South Florida Water Management District highlighted how South Florida was improving water quality and restoring the water flow from Lake Okeechobee to the Everglades, which is one of the aspects of the protection of the Everglades that Marjory strived to reveal.

Stein, Kate. "Everglades 101: Just How Does This Thing Work, Anyway?" WLRN. Last modified March 5, 2017. Accessed February 12, 2020.

<https://www.wlrn.org/post/everglades-101-just-how-does-thing-work-anyway#stream/0>.

This source was important in providing a background on the geography of South Florida and the geography of the Everglades in relation to other bodies of water, most notably Lake Okeechobee.