



For Immediate Release  
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Local Representatives Participate in  
River Lobby Day in Washington, DC,  
Tuesday, September 12, 2006

FORT MYERS – When the Caloosahatchee River was selected as the #7 Most Endangered River in the United States by American Rivers, several local organizations that supported the nomination decided that this was the appropriate time to send representation to Washington, DC. Each year, American Rivers gathers leaders from all over the county to convene at the Capital and work with our Congressional leaders on crucial Federal issues that also have local implications.

“The timing is perfect for us, as we are in the middle of the comment period for the US Army Corps of Engineers on the upcoming Lake Okeechobee release schedule, which is one of the very reasons that we listed the Caloosahatchee on our nomination paperwork”, according to Mary Rawl, former President of the Caloosahatchee River Citizens Association and now Executive Director of the PURRE Water Coalition.

Rawl will be traveling to Washington, DC, along with Jennifer Hecker, Conservancy of Southwest Florida. The primary focus on their visit will be to work on two major issues: the reauthorization of the Clean Water Act and the ironing out of the details for the Water Resources Development Act. “We will learn about the big-picture issues and how our local issues fit into that context”, according to Rawl.

Marti Daltry, president of the Caloosahatchee River Citizens Association, will not be traveling to Washington this year. Daltry instead will be coordinating the local efforts for River Lobby day.



According to Daltry, “Just as important as the personal visits from our local delegation are the efforts of each and every citizen of Southwest Florida. We are encouraging the people to do two things:

- Log onto the American Rivers’ website ([www.americanrivers.org](http://www.americanrivers.org)) and “Take Action” by calling our representatives in Washington, DC
- Write a letter to the Corps and tell them the new release schedule is unacceptable. The email for comments to the Corps is [publicmail.cesaj-cc@saj02.usace.army.mil](mailto:publicmail.cesaj-cc@saj02.usace.army.mil)”

To find out more about PURRE, please check the new website at [www.purre.org](http://www.purre.org) .

*PURRE’s Mission is to promote the protection and restoration of the Caloosahatchee, its estuary, the South West Florida environment and the broader South Florida ecosystem.*

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