

## Council of the Original Miccosukee Simanolee Nation Aboriginal People

*The United Nations Declaration of Indigenous Rights recognizes Indigenous People and the urgent need to Respect and Promote the Inherent Rights of Indigenous People 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 People affirmed in treaties, agreements and other constructive arrangements with States, and recognizes that control by Indigenous People 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.*

March 23, 2011

Pedro Ramos, Superintendent  
Big Cypress National Preserve  
HCR 61 Box 110  
Ochopee, Florida 34141

### **Notice of Objection to: Illegal Off Road Vehicle Trails and Permits – Big Cypress National Preserve New Addition Lands.**

The Council of the Original Miccosukee Simanolee Nation Aboriginal People only just learned by accident that you signed a record of decision for so-called Big Cypress National Preserve New Addition Lands.

Someone called you, on our behalf, and you told him we went to all the meetings about the off road vehicles and permits. That is not true. When we heard that, to us, that is a lie statement. Now we know who you are. Also the Council of the Original Miccosukee Simanolee Nation Aboriginal People did not come from the "Creek". That statement is not true either. The Council of the Original Miccosukee Simanolee Nation Aboriginal People came from the Earth, and the Law we follow comes from the Creator.

The only meetings we went to were at Everglades City, when the park staff was talking about the "Wilderness Land" and Big Cypress National Preserve "New Addition Lands", and at Loop Road, and Turner River. Those are the only meetings we went to. So, everything you did Pedro is illegal, because you did not sit down and talk with us first.

The Council of the Original Miccosukee Simanolee Nation Aboriginal People told you many times, we want to be told step-by-step what is going on in our Aboriginal Land.

Indigenous Aboriginal People, living the way of Life they have always lived, before the newcomers came into this land, do not have computers, addresses, or telephones, but you do know how to contact us, because you are living in our Land.

It is never going to be a "done deal", just because you signed a piece of paper, because you did things illegally, like the other things that have been done in the past, and you never contacted the Council of the Original Miccosukee Simanolee Nation Aboriginal People.

Pedro, you and your staff and others made a mistake by not telling the Indigenous Aboriginal People of this land, given the responsibility to care for it, before you signed the paper - an illegal action, and, it is not right what you have done.

So-called Big Cypress National Preserve and New Addition Lands and beyond were illegally established on Indigenous Aboriginal Lands. In all of that area and beyond, when the newcomers came in, they hunted down the Indigenous Aboriginal Simanolee Nation, and slaughtered them, young or old, the man or the woman. The whole area is a monument of Indigenous Aboriginal Simanolee People. You have to remember this is their Land. It has nothing to do with federally recognized tribes or government to government.

We made an agreement, Indigenous Aboriginal Simanolee Nation with so-called united states flag of the people. Based on that Agreement, you are not supposed to bring your law into this area.

Indigenous Aboriginal Simanolee People sacrificed them selves, and won the battle. Because of this, we do have a right to say no, to the people, who are not suppose to be there, and who are doing things illegally, in our Indigenous Aboriginal Land. Again, you are not suppose to bring your law, into this area, but you can use that law, to force the people living, in our Indigenous Aboriginal Land, to get them out, or get yourself out! You cannot force your law on Indigenous Aboriginal People. It does not belong to us.

The Council of the Original Miccosukee Simanolee Nation Aboriginal People strongly objects to what you have done illegally. You have no right to destroy a Natural System - damaging the Wildlife Habitat (Endangered Panther habitat), damaging the Land, and the Air, and destroying Vegetation and disrupting the Natural Water Flow and Water Quality.

This illegal action, you have taken, will have a devastating effect on our Indigenous Aboriginal Way of Life, our Culture, Sacred Areas, and Sacred Burial Grounds. And, this has also been taking place illegally throughout Florida and beyond. The Council of the Original Miccosukee Simanolee Nation Aboriginal People does not want you to destroy us, and our future, as you are destroying your own. We want to continue living on our Aboriginal Land, His Creation, the Way He created it to be.

All Creation has a right to survive on this Earth and raise their families, same as you do. You are violating the Rights of the Council of the Original Miccosukee Simanolee Nation Aboriginal People, and the rights of the Birds, Animals, Reptiles, Fish, Insects, Plants, Trees, and Waters, and the Air.

When we had a meeting with you Pedro, at loop road, we spoke about the future of the one you call Big Cypress National Preserve, and one of your staff said it was so beautiful, I wish it could stay this way forever, we said to you: "In the future it is going to be like a Disney world". You said it is never going to happen, and now you are doing exactly what you said was never going to happen

You must not have understood what we were talking about. What we were talking about is: Disney world stands for tourist attraction, where everyone can come and can spend money on it, and that is what you are trying to do - make it a tourist attraction. That is what we were talking about.

In the past, in Big Cypress National Preserve, there were a lot of off road vehicles, swamp buggies, four wheelers, all terrain vehicles, and campsites destroying the natural vegetation, small ponds, and natural sheet flow within the Natural Areas of the Preserve. The Council of the Original Miccosukee Simanolee Nation Aboriginal People had a fight, and other environmental groups had a fight, with the staff of the Big Cypress National Preserve, and others, to stop or slow down the devastation caused by these vehicles, within the natural areas of Big Cypress National Preserve, and we were able to slow it down.

We saw people removing the gravel roads in the Big Cypress National Preserve, and when we saw that, we saw that you were doing something right, but now Pedro, defenders of wildlife and other groups are creating more vehicle trails and permits and roads in the Big Cypress National Preserve New Addition Lands, and now, you are also disturbing the Natures and Wildlife again in Loop Road.

Big Cypress National Preserve staff and others have said: The Natural Areas, in the Big Cypress National Preserve New Additional Lands, where we plan to put the trails and roads in, are already disturbed and some of those areas already have roads, but when you removed the gravel roads from other places in the Preserve, the Natures quickly took

those areas back. It is just the language you use to make it all right to go ahead and do it, but it is not all right.

You can remove the roads, in the Big Cypress National Preserve New Addition Lands, and, like in other places, in a few years you won't be able to tell what was there before. That is what you need to do, because that is one of the only places left in Florida for the Natures and Wildlife to survive in. So, we are going to protect it, the way it has been, long before the european americans and the others came across into our Lands.

You cannot separate the Land, the way you think, because it is all connected. It is one Earth. But, you, the newcomers, try and separate it into sections: Big Cypress National Preserve, Everglades National Park, and the New Addition Lands in order to do the things, the way you want to do. The so-called managers of these areas come and go, and they always bring the new thoughts and new ideas, but the Council of the Original Miccosukee Simanolee Nation Aboriginal People are still here saying the same thing and we know exactly what you are going to do because we know the american people, who came from the other countries.

The Council of the Original Miccosukee Simanolee Nation Aboriginal People asks you the question:

**“Why do the people of the other countries come into our Land and destroy it?”**

The Council of the Original Miccosukee Simanolee Nation Aboriginal People do not want anymore vehicle trails or roads on Indigenous Aboriginal Land or anymore permits issued or anymore disturbances of any kind in our Indigenous Aboriginal Land because again, you never told us what you were going to do.

When you put those trails, roads, vehicles and people into the natural areas, into the wildlife habitat, you are going to find the Endangered Panther and all the other Wildlife coming into people's homes, and when they come into the peoples' homes, the people will kill them, and you are going to find the Endangered Panther and all the other Wildlife lying dead all over the roads killed by the peoples' vehicles.

Defenders of wildlife do not seem to be defenders of wildlife – it seems like they are defenders of the cars, trucks, off road vehicles, and all the others. And the defenders of wildlife did the same thing working with the department of transportation (DOT) in the Big Cypress National Preserve.

There is no agreement between the Council of the Original Miccosukee Simanolee Nation Aboriginal People and the department of transportation (DOT). The department of transportation never told the Council of the Original Miccosukee Simanolee Nation Aboriginal People what they were going to do. The department of transportation made a decision what they were going to do, without first sitting down with the Council of the

Original Miccosukee Simanolee Nation Aboriginal People, and then the department of transportation (DOT) told the contractor to meet with us and tell us what they were going to do. It is not what we said. We cannot meet with the "contractor". There is no agreement between us! The department of transportation needs to sit down with the Council of the Original Miccosukee Simanolee Nation Aboriginal People before we can come to agreement. But, we do not know if we can come to an Agreement or not because the Council of the Original Miccosukee Simanolee Nation Aboriginal People does not want any more disturbances in our Indigenous Aboriginal Land. With that it is illegal what you all are doing in our Indigenous Aboriginal Land.

You call it US 41 highway. Only what we remember is: We were chased down by the white people, and the killing of our people took place to put that road up. It took place illegally under the gun. They never paid one cent. So, it does not belong to you. You are doing the same thing over and over and over again. We do not owe you anything. You owe us!

Everything the newcomers say is not what we see and that is what we call forked tongue. They never speak the truth. They say one thing and they do other things. I guess some of you call it turn tail.

You all need to think about the things you are doing and you need to think about the future, what are you going to pass on to your kids? You cannot pass on to them just the money. They need Clean Air, Clean Water, and a Clean Earth to survive on. If this Sacred (Holy) Land, the Way the Creator has given us is destroyed by the new comers, the new society, the Earth of Life will be destroyed.

Indigenous Aboriginal People have been given the responsibility by the Creator (God) himself to be the Caretakers of the Mother Earth - which is the Natural Law given to us by the Creator, (God) and we cannot change that Law. It is not the government's land.

**You need to stop the things you are doing in the Creator's Creation.**

Don't just be kids playing around all the time! Grow up! Put away your toys: off road vehicles, swamp buggies, 4-wheelers, all terrain vehicles, and all the others! You need to become an adult and be a human being. What happened in Japan can happen here, because of the nuclear power plants, oil, gas, natural gas, coal burning plants, and all the others. You must act responsibly, and be held accountable for the things you destroy.

European American people and the others who came from the other countries need to Respect and Care for the Creator's Creation. That is what the Council of the Original Miccosukee Simanolee Nation Aboriginal People is responsible for, so that all Creation will continue forever. That is always the hope of the Council of the Original Miccosukee

Simanolee Nation Aboriginal People. Which means we also have to protect the ones we call our enemies. The ones, who came into our Country, and, because of the money, took away the future of the unborn life or generations yet to come. If all the natures and natural systems are destroyed the money is not going to help you, the technology is not going to help you, and there will be no running water for your house anymore. There is no other place to go. There is no other place like the Mother Earth. We see you going up and down in the space hoping to find another place to live, and water, and all that junk you send up in the space, will come back down on us.

You have to think about and care about your kids, your grand kids, great- great grandkids, and unborn grandkids. That is how far we have to look at it, and that is why we don't create the guns, or electricity, and we don't dig for oil, or dig canals or ditches, or all the other things you have done on our Indigenous Aboriginal Land, the Creator's Creation.

You owe us, the Original Indigenous Aboriginal People of this Land and you owe them, the unborn life, we are talking about. And you owe all the other life, the Water, the Air, the Trees, the Plants, the Grasses, the Rivers, the Streams, the Oceans, the Animals, the Fish, the Birds, the Insects, and the Reptiles.

**Council of the Original Miccosukee Simanolee Nation Aboriginal People**

Bobby C. Billie

*Bobby C. Billie*

Cecil Osceola

*Cecil Osceola*

Vincent Jimmy

*Vincent Jimmy*

Copied to: List attached.

[*Endorsed*] Hon<sup>b</sup> Jas: Shields General Land Office May 20/45  
Has directed the strip of land 20 miles wide around Dist set apart  
for Seminoles in Flo. to be reserved from Survey & sale. Returns  
papers Copy sent to Brig Genl Worth with letter dated May 26.  
1845.<sup>60</sup> L.T. May. 24. 1845 146 149 C 1845. L 82. Rec May 24/45  
Adj<sup>t</sup> Genl.

JAMES SHIELDS TO VALENTINE Y. CONWAY

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

May 20<sup>th</sup> 1845—

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

SIR, I transmit herewith a "Map of the Seat of War in Florida",<sup>61</sup>  
in which the boundaries of the District set a part for the use and  
occupancy of the Seminoles, by Gen<sup>l</sup> 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 19<sup>th</sup> inst: directed should be re-  
served from survey and sale.<sup>62</sup> You will not therefore, under any  
circumstances, contract for the survey of the lands within this reserva-  
tion, 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 Mess<sup>rs</sup>  
Reed, Randolph and Whitner, under their contracts of 1842, you  
will not return the plats to the Land Offices.<sup>63</sup>

Very respectfully Your obt svt

JA<sup>s</sup> SHIELDS Commissioner

JAMES SHIELDS TO SAMUEL RUSSELL AND JOHN PARSONS

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

May 20<sup>th</sup> 1845.

REGISTER & RECEIVER, Newnansville, Florida.

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

<sup>60</sup> *Post*, p. 1079.

<sup>61</sup> Not present.

<sup>62</sup> Cf. *ante*, p. 1076.

<sup>63</sup> Answered June 2, 1845 (NA, GLO, Lets. from SG, Fla.), that the instructions  
will be followed.

cc List:

-7-

President Barack Obama  
Vice President Joe Biden  
Speaker of the House, Washington, D.C.  
Speaker of the House, Florida House of Representatives  
President, the Florida Senate  
Governor Rick Scott  
Senator Bill Nelson  
Dennis Bartalino, BCNP  
Damon Doumleie, BCNP  
Ed Clark, BCNP  
Bob DeGross, BCNP  
David Vela, NPS  
Jon Jarvis, NPS  
Ken Salazar, US Dept. Interior  
Everglades National Park  
Picayune Strand State Forest  
James R. Karels, FSFS  
ORV Advisory Committee, BCNP  
Thomas L. Tidwell, USFS  
Martha Twarkins, NFS  
Lucy Moore, NFS  
Jamie Simms Hipp, USDA  
Tony Tooke, NFS  
Fred Clark, NFS  
Joel Holtrop, NFS  
FNFS  
Paul Souza, USFW  
Chuck Collins, Florida FFWCC  
Rowan Gould, USFWS  
Roy LaHood, USDOT  
Stephanie C. Kopelousos, FDOT  
Chris Piazza, FDOT  
Steve Nappi, FDOT  
M. J. Bizerra, FDOT  
Nicole Bloome, FDOT  
Elizabeth Fleming, DOW  
Mitchell Cypress, Seminole Tribe  
Colley Billie, Miccosukee Tribe  
Principal Chief, Seminole Nation, Oklahoma  
Collier County Commissioners  
Everglades City Commissioners  
Florida Highway Patrol Division in Collier County  
Naples Police Department  
Bob Carr, Archeologist  
Bill Steele, Archaeologist