

## Major Victory for Ecosystem Restoration Projects

**Washington, DC** - The U.S. Congress voted on November 8th to override the president's veto of the Water Resources Development Act, a \$23 billion piece of legislation that authorizes more than \$5.5 billion for key ecosystem restoration projects. The president issued his veto on Nov. 2, citing the bill's cost. This marks the first time Congress has overridden a veto in this Administration and only the 106th time in history.

Audubon has lobbied for passage of WRDA for five years and urged the congressional override because of the bill's funding to key Audubon priorities like the Everglades, the Great Lakes, coastal Louisiana, and the Mississippi River.

"In today's historic veto override, Congress has kept its promise to restore America's Everglades and made an historic national commitment to the protection of more of America's most sensitive and valuable ecosystems, including the Gulf Coast, the Mississippi River, and the Great Lakes," said April Gromnicki, Audubon's Director of Ecosystem Restoration. "If there is a cause that merits a historic vote such as this, it's fitting that the cause be to restore some of our most special places before they are lost forever."