

Jupiter Inlet Lighthouse Outstanding Natural Area Scoping Meeting Background

What is the Jupiter Inlet Lighthouse Outstanding Natural Area (JILONA)?

President Bush signed Public Law 110-229 on May 8, 2008 establishing the Jupiter Inlet Lighthouse and the surrounding 126 acres as an Outstanding Natural Area (ONA) and to be managed as part of the U.S. Department of Interior, Bureau of Land Management's National Landscape Conservation System.

What is the purpose of the designation?

The purposes of the ONA are to protect, conserve, and enhance the unique and nationally important historic, natural, cultural, scientific, educational, scenic and recreational values of the Federal land surrounding the Lighthouse for the benefit of present and future generations, while –

- (A) Allowing certain recreational and research activities to continue in the ONA;
- (B) Ensuring that Coast Guard operations and activities are unimpeded within the boundaries of the ONA.

What is the first step?

The Law calls for development of a comprehensive management plan within 3 years to:

- (A) Provide long-term management guidance;
- (B) Ensure that the Outstanding Natural Area fulfills the purposes for which it was established.

Who will be involved in development of the management plan?

The management plan will be developed by the Bureau of Land Management in consultation with the US Coast Guard and our partners (such as Tequesta, Jupiter, Palm Beach County, Loxahatchee River Historical Society and Jupiter High School's Environmental Research and Field Studies Academy).

The management plan also is to be developed in a manner that ensures full public participation. In other words, what you think is extremely important to us and the success of our efforts.

What will be included the management plan?

The Public Law creating JILONA states the management plan shall include:

- (A) Objectives and provisions to ensure the protection and conservation of resource values including restoration of native plant communities, estuaries and healthy ecosystems;
- (B) Objectives and provisions to ensure to maintain or recreate historic structures;
- (C) An implementation plan for a program of interpretation and public education about the natural and cultural resources of the Lighthouse, the public land surrounding the Lighthouse, and associated structures;
- (D) A proposal for administrative and public facilities to be developed or improved that would accommodate visitors to the ONA;
- (E) Natural and Cultural Management Strategies for the ONA with an emphasis on interpretive, educational and long-term scientific uses of the area;
- (F) Recreational Use Strategies with an emphasis on passive recreation.

How will the ONA be managed?

The area will be managed in a manner that conserves, protects, and enhances the unique and nationally important historical, natural, cultural, scientific, educational, scenic, and recreational values of the ONA with an emphasis on the restoration of native ecological systems.

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This map prepared at the request of Congressman Tim Mahoney
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