

PROCLAMATION

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF MARION COUNTY, FLORIDA

WHEREAS, August 9, 2024, marks Smokey Bear’s 80th birthday. This proclamation also recognizes Smokey Bear’s wildfire prevention campaign, “Only you can prevent forest fires,” as the longest-running public service campaign in the United States history; and

WHEREAS, Smokey Bear’s message about the importance of preventing human-caused forest fires is as important today as it was when it was first coined in 1944 for all who visit and enjoy the natural abundance of Marion County’s national and state forests; and

WHEREAS, the Florida Forest Service’s mission is to protect Marion County and Florida residents from the dangers of forest fires, as well as manage forest resources through efforts that will sustain protected land for generations to come; and

WHEREAS, the Florida Forest Service firefighters bravely respond to forest fires in that threaten communities, forest lands, and adjoining infrastructure, help to preserve Marion County’s natural resources; and

WHEREAS, the Florida Forest Service and Smokey Bear provided public awareness efforts regarding the importance of forest fire prevention and encouraged participation in Smokey Bear’s Reading Challenge to over 770 individuals by partnering with the Marion County Public Library System during the summer of 2024;

NOW THEREFORE, the Board of County Commissioners of Marion County, Florida, by virtue of the authority vested in us, hereby applaud and celebrate Smokey Bear’s 80th birthday and express our gratitude to the men and women of the Florida Forest Service for their tireless efforts to prevent forest fires when visiting forests and natural areas.

DULY PROCLAIMED this 20th day of August 2024.

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
MARION COUNTY, FLORIDA**

MICHELLE STONE, CHAIR

KATHY BRYANT, VICE CHAIR

CARL ZALAK, III, COMMISSIONER

ATTEST:

CRAIG CURRY, COMMISSIONER

GREGORY C. HARRELL, CLERK

MATT MCCLAIN, COMMISSIONER