

## **“Climate change impacts and recovery of endangered species in the Florida Keys”**

### **Summary:**

Climate change is impacting the recovery of endangered species in the Florida Keys, including the Key Largo wood rat, Lower Keys marsh rabbit, silver rice rat, and Florida key deer. These species face varying levels of threats based on their specific habitat requirements and current environmental conditions. Rising sea levels and saltwater intrusion due to climate change are disrupting the habitats of species that rely on tropical hardwood hammocks. For other species dependent on freshwater marshes, habitats are becoming inundated with saltwater impacting shrinking and fragmented populations. Finally other species face challenges from rising temperatures, habitat loss, and increased disease risks. Managing the Endangered Species Act in this context is complex, as it requires adapting conservation strategies to the changing climate and ensuring collaboration among various stakeholders to safeguard these species'