

SFWMD

Land Assessment

Kissimmee/Okeechobee Region

SME (Subject Matter Expert) Comments

**KISSIMMEE/OKEECHOBEE ASSESSMENT REGION**

**Subject Matter Expert (SME)**

**Comment Submission Form**

**Respondent:** Temperince Morgan

**Date:** 4/4/13

**Division Name:** State Policy and Coordination

**Bureau Name:** Everglades Policy and Coordination

**Region Being Reviewed:** Kissimmee Chain of Lakes, Kissimmee River, Lake Okeechobee, and Unassociated Area Parcels

**Select Area Name:** **Unassociated Parcels - St. Cloud Field Station Parcel**

**In your opinion, how well does the current use of the property further the District's core missions of Flood Control, Water Quality protection/improvements, Water Supply, and Natural Systems protection and restoration?**

In its current state, the assessment parcel does not contribute to the District's core missions.

**In your opinion, is there a better use of the property that would provide more effective support for the District's core missions?**

No comment

**In your opinion, is there a better use of the property that would provide support for other important natural resource or public use issues?**

No comment

**If the parcel does not contribute to the District's core mission, and has no recommended alternative use, explain why the parcel should be recommended for donation, exchange or surplus.**

The parcel does not contribute to the District's core missions and is a good candidate for surplus or exchange.

***Please attach maps, photos, etc., if needed, to provide additional support for your response.***

**KISSIMMEE/OKEECHOBEE ASSESSMENT REGION**

**Subject Matter Expert (SME)**

**Comment Submission Form**

**Respondent:** Temperince Morgan

**Date:** 3/18/2013

**Division Name:** State Policy and Coordination

**Bureau Name:** Everglades Policy and Coordination

**Region Being Reviewed:** Kissimmee Chain of Lakes, Kissimmee River, Lake Okeechobee, and Unassociated Area Parcels

**Select Area Name:** **KCOL - Lake Cypress NE Shore**

**In your opinion, how well does the current use of the property further the District's core missions of Flood Control, Water Quality protection/improvements, Water Supply, and Natural Systems protection and restoration?**

The majority of the site lies within the 54 foot contour and was acquired to obtain the rights necessary to increase water stages to make the Kissimmee River Restoration possible. Furthermore, the northern portion of this assessment area contains wetland hardwood forest. The site contributes to the District's core missions of natural systems protection and restoration.

**In your opinion, is there a better use of the property that would provide more effective support for the District's core missions?**

No, but additional efforts to further restoration and/or water storage/retention at the site could further the District's core missions.

**In your opinion, is there a better use of the property that would provide support for other important natural resource or public use issues?**

No

**If the parcel does not contribute to the District's core mission, and has no recommended alternative use, explain why the parcel should be recommended for donation, exchange or surplus.**

N/A

***Please attach maps, photos, etc., if needed, to provide additional support for your response.***

**KISSIMMEE/OKEECHOBEE ASSESSMENT REGION**

**Subject Matter Expert (SME)**

**Comment Submission Form**

**Respondent:** Temperince Morgan

**Date:** 3/18/2013

**Division Name:** State Policy and Coordination

**Bureau Name:** Everglades Policy and Coordination

**Region Being Reviewed:** Kissimmee Chain of Lakes, Kissimmee River, Lake Okeechobee, and Unassociated Area Parcels

**Select Area Name:** **Unassociated Parcels - Camp Mack Triangle Parcel**

**In your opinion, how well does the current use of the property further the District's core missions of Flood Control, Water Quality protection/improvements, Water Supply, and Natural Systems protection and restoration?**

This site is adjacent to a remnant oxbow of the C-37 Canal which connects Lakes Hatchineha and Lake Kissimmee. While their site contains mostly wetlands, the condition of these wetlands is not specified. It is unlikely that in its current state the sited contributes to the District's core missions.

**In your opinion, is there a better use of the property that would provide more effective support for the District's core missions?**

No comment

**In your opinion, is there a better use of the property that would provide support for other important natural resource or public use issues?**

The shape of the site limits its use for projects; however, the location of the site may make a good location for a passive use park with a small kayak or boat launch since there is access to both lakes Hatchineha and Lake Kissimmee from the site. Perhaps a local entity would be interested in partnering on such a project.

**If the parcel does not contribute to the District's core mission, and has no recommended alternative use, explain why the parcel should be recommended for donation, exchange or surplus.**

The site does not currently contribute to the District's core missions and the shape of the site limits its use for projects; therefore, it may be a good candidate for donation, surplus or exchange.

***Please attach maps, photos, etc., if needed, to provide additional support for your response.***

**KISSIMMEE/OKEECHOBEE ASSESSMENT REGION**

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**Date:** 3/18/2013

**Division Name:** State Policy and Coordination

**Bureau Name:** Everglades Policy and Coordination

**Region Being Reviewed:** Kissimmee Chain of Lakes, Kissimmee River, Lake Okeechobee, and Unassociated Area Parcels

**Select Area Name:** **KCOL - North KCOL Marshes**

**In your opinion, how well does the current use of the property further the District's core missions of Flood Control, Water Quality protection/improvements, Water Supply, and Natural Systems protection and restoration?**

The majority of the site lies within the 54 foot contour and was acquired to obtain the rights necessary to increase water stages to make the Kissimmee River Restoration possible. Therefore, the site contributes to the District's core missions of natural systems protection and restoration.

Furthermore, the wetland communities within this assessment unit attenuate stormwater runoff and provide water quality treatment and the site also provides a corridor between lakes Cypress and Kissimmee.

A NRCS Conservation Plan is under development with the Lessee for implementation of water retention and wetland restoration as part of the Dispersed Water Management Program.

**In your opinion, is there a better use of the property that would provide more effective support for the District's core missions?**

The land use assessment information indicates that there has been incremental efforts to restore the hydrology of this marsh and wet prairie system. Further hydrologic enhancement of the site would further contribute to the District's core missions.

**In your opinion, is there a better use of the property that would provide support for other important natural resource or public use issues?**

No

**If the parcel does not contribute to the District's core mission, and has no recommended alternative use, explain why the parcel should be recommended for donation, exchange or surplus.**

N/A

**Please attach maps, photos, etc., if needed, to provide additional support for your response.**

**KISSIMMEE/OKEECHOBEE ASSESSMENT REGION**

**Subject Matter Expert (SME)**

**Comment Submission Form**

**Respondent:** Temperince Morgan

**Date:** 3/18/2013

**Division Name:** State Policy and Coordination

**Bureau Name:** Everglades Policy and Coordination

**Region Being Reviewed:** Kissimmee Chain of Lakes, Kissimmee River, Lake Okeechobee, and Unassociated Area Parcels

**Select Area Name:** **KCOL - London Creek and Lower Lake Marion Creek**

**In your opinion, how well does the current use of the property further the District's core missions of Flood Control, Water Quality protection/improvements, Water Supply, and Natural Systems protection and restoration?**

A large portion of the site lies within the 54 foot contour and was acquired to obtain the rights necessary to increase water stages to make the Kissimmee River Restoration possible.

Furthermore, this assessment parcel is primarily floodplain swamps that surround the mouths of Lake Marion Creek and London Creek that flow into Lake Hatchineha.

Therefore, this site contributes to the District's core missions of water quality protection and natural systems protection and restoration.

In addition, this assessment area is located in the Lake Hatchineha Watershed. Lake Hatchineha is listed as impaired by the FDEP.

Comments on the London Creek Pasture Parcels are provided on a separate sheet.

**In your opinion, is there a better use of the property that would provide more effective support for the District's core missions?**

No, but additional efforts to further restoration and/or water storage/retention features at the site could further the District's core missions, however no dedicated funding for such efforts is known. Parcel has potential for the development and implementation of water retention and wetland restoration as part of the Dispersed Water Management Program.

**In your opinion, is there a better use of the property that would provide support for other important natural resource or public use issues?**

No

**If the parcel does not contribute to the District's core mission, and has no recommended alternative use, explain why the parcel should be recommended for donation, exchange or surplus.**

N/A

***Please attach maps, photos, etc., if needed, to provide additional support for your response.***

**KISSIMMEE/OKEECHOBEE ASSESSMENT REGION**

**Subject Matter Expert (SME)**

**Comment Submission Form**

**Respondent:** Temperince Morgan

**Date:** 3/18/2013

**Division Name:** State Policy and Coordination

**Bureau Name:** Everglades Policy and Coordination

**Region Being Reviewed:** Kissimmee Chain of Lakes, Kissimmee River, Lake Okeechobee, and Unassociated Area Parcels

**Select Area Name:** **Unassociated Parcels - Okeechobee Boat Ramp Parcel**

**In your opinion, how well does the current use of the property further the District's core missions of Flood Control, Water Quality protection/improvements, Water Supply, and Natural Systems protection and restoration?**

The site is currently a boat ramp with parking facilities. While it provides boating access to Lake Okeechobee, it does not contribute to the District's core missions in its current state.

**In your opinion, is there a better use of the property that would provide more effective support for the District's core missions?**

No

**In your opinion, is there a better use of the property that would provide support for other important natural resource or public use issues?**

No.

**If the parcel does not contribute to the District's core mission, and has no recommended alternative use, explain why the parcel should be recommended for donation, exchange or surplus.**

Okeechobee County currently manages the site as a boat ramp facility. Perhaps this would be a potential site for exchange or surplus to the current managing entity; however, the District would need to retain access to the boat ramp for activities such as launching boats to perform water quality monitoring.

***Please attach maps, photos, etc., if needed, to provide additional support for your response.***

**KISSIMMEE/OKEECHOBEE ASSESSMENT REGION**

**Subject Matter Expert (SME)**

**Comment Submission Form**

**Respondent:** Temperince Morgan

**Date:** 3/18/2013

**Division Name:** State Policy and Coordination

**Bureau Name:** Everglades Policy and Coordination

**Region Being Reviewed:** Kissimmee Chain of Lakes, Kissimmee River, Lake Okeechobee, and Unassociated Area Parcels

**Select Area Name:** **KCOL - London Creek and Lower Lake Marion Creek - Pasture Parcels**

**In your opinion, how well does the current use of the property further the District's core missions of Flood Control, Water Quality protection/improvements, Water Supply, and Natural Systems protection and restoration?**

The majority of the site lies within the 54 foot contour and was acquired to obtain the rights necessary to increase water stages to make the Kissimmee River Restoration possible. Therefore, this site contributes to the District's core missions of water quality protection and natural systems protection and restoration.

While the site is primarily pasture, portions of the site contain natural river floodplain and cypress dominated shoreline of northwestern Lake Hatchineha.

**In your opinion, is there a better use of the property that would provide more effective support for the District's core missions?**

No, but additional efforts to further restoration and/or water storage/retention features at the site could further the District's core missions, however no dedicated funding for such efforts is known.

**In your opinion, is there a better use of the property that would provide support for other important natural resource or public use issues?**

No comment

**If the parcel does not contribute to the District's core mission, and has no recommended alternative use, explain why the parcel should be recommended for donation, exchange or surplus.**

N/A

***Please attach maps, photos, etc., if needed, to provide additional support for your response.***



**KISSIMMEE/OKEECHOBEE ASSESSMENT REGION**

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**Region Being Reviewed:** Kissimmee Chain of Lakes, Kissimmee River, Lake Okeechobee, and Unassociated Area Parcels

**Select Area Name:** **KCOL - Catfish Creek**

**In your opinion, how well does the current use of the property further the District's core missions of Flood Control, Water Quality protection/improvements, Water Supply, and Natural Systems protection and restoration?**

The majority of the site lies within the 54 foot contour and was acquired to obtain the rights necessary to increase water stages to make the Kissimmee River Restoration possible. Therefore, this site contributes to the District's core missions of water quality protection and natural systems protection and restoration.

It also provides a wildlife corridor as indicated in the land use assessment information package and contains wetland communities, shoreline marshes and cypress that attenuate stormwater runoff and nutrients.

This site also supports the District's Water Quality protection/improvements core mission as it is located in the Lake Hatchineha watershed, a lake that is listed by the DEP as impaired.

Project site is currently under detailed design considerations for retention and wetland restoration as part the Dispersed Water Management Program.

**In your opinion, is there a better use of the property that would provide more effective support for the District's core missions?**

No, but additional efforts to further restoration and/or water storage/retention features at the site could further the District's core missions, however no dedicated funding for such efforts is known.

**In your opinion, is there a better use of the property that would provide support for other important natural resource or public use issues?**

No

**If the parcel does not contribute to the District's core mission, and has no recommended alternative use, explain why the parcel should be recommended for donation, exchange or surplus.**

N/A

**Please attach maps, photos, etc., if needed, to provide additional support for your response.**

**KISSIMMEE/OKEECHOBEE ASSESSMENT REGION**

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**Date:** 3/18/2013

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**Bureau Name:** Everglades Policy and Coordination

**Region Being Reviewed:** Kissimmee Chain of Lakes, Kissimmee River, Lake Okeechobee, and Unassociated Area Parcels

**Select Area Name:** **Unassociated Parcels - Clewiston Boat Ramp Parcel**

**In your opinion, how well does the current use of the property further the District's core missions of Flood Control, Water Quality protection/improvements, Water Supply, and Natural Systems protection and restoration?**

A portion of the site is a boat ramp with parking facilities. While the site contains wetlands, they are isolated and likely highly degraded. This site does not contribute to the District's core missions.

**In your opinion, is there a better use of the property that would provide more effective support for the District's core missions?**

No

**In your opinion, is there a better use of the property that would provide support for other important natural resource or public use issues?**

No. A portion of the site is leased to Glades County for operation of the boat ramp facility that provides access to Lake Okeechobee.

**If the parcel does not contribute to the District's core mission, and has no recommended alternative use, explain why the parcel should be recommended for donation, exchange or surplus.**

Perhaps this would be a potential site for exchange or surplus to the current managing entity; however, the District would need to retain access to the boat ramp for activities such as launching boats to perform water quality monitoring.

***Please attach maps, photos, etc., if needed, to provide additional support for your response.***

**KISSIMMEE/OKEECHOBEE ASSESSMENT REGION**

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**Region Being Reviewed:** Kissimmee Chain of Lakes, Kissimmee River, Lake Okeechobee, and Unassociated Area Parcels

**Select Area Name:** **KCOL - Rolling Meadows**

**In your opinion, how well does the current use of the property further the District's core missions of Flood Control, Water Quality protection/improvements, Water Supply, and Natural Systems protection and restoration?**

Some of the site lies within the 54 foot contour and was acquired to obtain the rights necessary to increase water stages to make the Kissimmee River Restoration possible. Furthermore, there is hydrologic enhancement at the site, a portion of the site is a large-scale mitigation project and it provides a corridor between two large state properties. Therefore, this site contributes to the District's core missions of water quality protection and natural systems protection and restoration.

Project site is currently under detailed design considerations for retention and wetland restoration as part the Dispersed Water Management Program.

**In your opinion, is there a better use of the property that would provide more effective support for the District's core missions?**

The project site is currently under detailed design considerations for retention and wetland restoration as part the Dispersed Water Management Program.

**In your opinion, is there a better use of the property that would provide support for other important natural resource or public use issues?**

No

**If the parcel does not contribute to the District's core mission, and has no recommended alternative use, explain why the parcel should be recommended for donation, exchange or surplus.**

N/A

***Please attach maps, photos, etc., if needed, to provide additional support for your response.***

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**Region Being Reviewed:** Kissimmee Chain of Lakes, Kissimmee River, Lake Okeechobee, and Unassociated Area Parcels

**Select Area Name:** **Unassociated Parcels - Sportsman's Village Parcel**

**In your opinion, how well does the current use of the property further the District's core missions of Flood Control, Water Quality protection/improvements, Water Supply, and Natural Systems protection and restoration?**

No comment

**In your opinion, is there a better use of the property that would provide more effective support for the District's core missions?**

No comment

**In your opinion, is there a better use of the property that would provide support for other important natural resource or public use issues?**

No comment

**If the parcel does not contribute to the District's core mission, and has no recommended alternative use, explain why the parcel should be recommended for donation, exchange or surplus.**

No comment

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**Region Being Reviewed:** Kissimmee Chain of Lakes, Kissimmee River, Lake Okeechobee, and Unassociated Area Parcels

**Select Area Name:** **KCOL - Tiger Lake**

**In your opinion, how well does the current use of the property further the District's core missions of Flood Control, Water Quality protection/improvements, Water Supply, and Natural Systems protection and restoration?**

The majority of the site lies within the 54 foot contour and was acquired to obtain the rights necessary to increase water stages to make the Kissimmee River Restoration possible. Therefore, this site contributes to the District's core missions of water quality protection and natural systems protection and restoration.

Furthermore, the wetland communities within this assessment unit attenuate stormwater runoff and provide water quality treatment and upland forested areas provide additional wildlife habitat.

**In your opinion, is there a better use of the property that would provide more effective support for the District's core missions?**

No, but additional efforts to further restoration and/or water storage/retention features at the site could further the District's core missions, but no funding for such activities is known. Parcel has potential for the development and implementation of water retention and wetland restoration as part of the Dispersed Water Management Program.

**In your opinion, is there a better use of the property that would provide support for other important natural resource or public use issues?**

No comment

**If the parcel does not contribute to the District's core mission, and has no recommended alternative use, explain why the parcel should be recommended for donation, exchange or surplus.**

N/A

***Please attach maps, photos, etc., if needed, to provide additional support for your response.***

**KISSIMMEE/OKEECHOBEE ASSESSMENT REGION**

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**Region Being Reviewed:** Kissimmee Chain of Lakes, Kissimmee River, Lake Okeechobee, and Unassociated Area Parcels

**Select Area Name:** **KCOL - Lake Kissimmee**

**In your opinion, how well does the current use of the property further the District's core missions of Flood Control, Water Quality protection/improvements, Water Supply, and Natural Systems protection and restoration?**

The majority of the site lies within the 54 foot contour and was acquired to obtain the rights necessary to increase water stages to make the Kissimmee River Restoration possible. Therefore, this site contributes to the District's core missions of water quality protection and natural systems protection and restoration.

Furthermore, the wetland communities within this assessment unit attenuate stormwater runoff and nutrients.

The assessment parcels are also located in the Lake Kissimmee Watershed, a lake that has draft Total Maximum Daily Load.

**In your opinion, is there a better use of the property that would provide more effective support for the District's core missions?**

Additional efforts to further restoration and/or water storage/retention features at the site could further the District's core missions. A NRCS Conservation Plan is under development with the Lessee for implementation of water retention and wetland restoration as part of the Dispersed Water Management Program.

**In your opinion, is there a better use of the property that would provide support for other important natural resource or public use issues?**

No comment

**If the parcel does not contribute to the District's core mission, and has no recommended alternative use, explain why the parcel should be recommended for donation, exchange or surplus.**

N/A

***Please attach maps, photos, etc., if needed, to provide additional support for your response.***

**KISSIMMEE/OKEECHOBEE ASSESSMENT REGION**

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**Region Being Reviewed:** Kissimmee Chain of Lakes, Kissimmee River, Lake Okeechobee, and Unassociated Area Parcels

**Select Area Name:** **KCOL - Lake Kissimmee - Oasis Marsh Parcel, outside of the floodplain**

**In your opinion, how well does the current use of the property further the District's core missions of Flood Control, Water Quality protection/improvements, Water Supply, and Natural Systems protection and restoration?**

The majority of the site lies within the 54 foot contour and was acquired to obtain the rights necessary to increase water stages to make the Kissimmee River Restoration possible. Therefore, this site contributes to the District's core missions of water quality protection and natural systems protection and restoration.

**In your opinion, is there a better use of the property that would provide more effective support for the District's core missions?**

No, but additional efforts to further restoration and/or water storage/retention features at the site could further the District's core missions, but no funding for such efforts is known.

**In your opinion, is there a better use of the property that would provide support for other important natural resource or public use issues?**

No comment

**If the parcel does not contribute to the District's core mission, and has no recommended alternative use, explain why the parcel should be recommended for donation, exchange or surplus.**

N/A

**Please attach maps, photos, etc., if needed, to provide additional support for your response.**

**South Florida Water Management District**  
**June 1, 2011**  
**Ecological Assessment of Tract AG100-008**

INTRODUCTION

This report is the result of a brief ecological assessment of Tract AG100-008. The subject property is being considered for surplus and disposition by the Governing Board of the South Florida Water Management District. Prior to a disposition of the property, the Governing Board will use this assessment as a factual foundation and aid in making a determination with respect to whether these tracts of property, which were acquired for a field station, are no longer needed for the field station or for conservation purposes.

BACKGROUND

The original intention for the purchase of property Tract AG100-008 was for construction of the St Cloud Field Station.

The property is located approximately a quarter of a mile south of the intersection of Canoe Creek Road and Old Canoe Creek Road/Pine Tree Drive. The property is generally rectangular but includes a triangular segment which fronts on Canoe Creek Road. Please refer to the location map/aerial photo on Figure 1, page 5.

METHODOLOGY

District biologists first conducted a desktop analysis of aerial photography, SFWMD geographic information (REGgss), and soil surveys to obtain initial information about Tract AG100-008 and potential habitats. Then a meandering- transect survey of the parcel was performed on May 27, 2011 to assess current ecological conditions and the relative ecological importance of the property. The property was analyzed for potential jurisdictional wetlands and surface waters, dominant vegetation communities, wildlife (including state or federally-listed species), and overall land conservation significance. All observations of dominant plant species and vegetation community types (FNAI 2010), reptiles, amphibians, birds, and mammals or their sign (e.g. tracks, nests, burrows, etc.) were recorded. Estimates of sizes of each community type were obtained through aerial interpretation using GIS.

RESULTS

The 20.41- acre property generally consists of improved pasture (with scattered pine), ditches and a small remnant wetland area. See Figure 2, page 6 for a map of the property's ecological features. Overall, the interior of the property is composed of poor quality habitats.



## Soils

According to the Soil Survey of Osceola County (USDA 1979), much of the property is comprised of Smyrna Fine Sand. This soil is described as nearly level, poorly drained soil in broad flat areas with the water table at a depth of less than 10 inches for 1 – to 4 months and between depths of 10 – 40 inches for more than 6 months most years. Natural vegetation for Smyrna Fine Sand is predominantly pine flatwoods.

Myakka Fine sand is found on the eastern side of the site. This soil is described as a poorly drained, nearly level soil in broad area in the flatwoods. The water table is at a depth of less than 10 inches for 1 to 4 months in most years and a depth of more than 40 inches during very dry seasons. Natural vegetation for Myakka Fine sand is predominantly pine flatwoods.

A finger of Basinger Fine Sand Depressional extends into the site on its western boundary. This is a poorly drained, nearly level soil in shallow depressions and poorly defined drainage ways in wetlands. Water stands on the surface for 6 to 12 months during most years. The native vegetation is predominantly water tolerant grasses and small woody shrubs, but in some cases (as seems to be the case here), the native vegetation is classified as a wetland.

## Upland Ecological Communities

The majority of the property (about 19.87 acres) consists of improved pasture (bahiagrass (*Paspalum notatum*), dog fennel (*Baccharis halimifolia*), and blackberry (*Rubus cuneifolius*)) with a scattering of slash pine (*Pinus elliotii* var. *densa*) and one or two longleaf pine (*Pinus palustris*). This area is flat and level with ditches apparently constructed to drain the site for pasture. See photograph3 page 10.

## Wetlands, Ponds and Ditches

There is one small (approximately 0.60 acres) wetland on site characterized as mixed forested wetland (FLUCFCS 630) (See Photographs 4 and 5 pages 11 and 12). The canopy is composed of slash pine (*Pinus elliotii*), sweet bay (*Gordonia lasianthus*), black gum (*Nyssa Sylvatica* var. *biflora*), red maple (*Acer rubrum*) and laurel oak (*Quercus laurifolia*) The shrub layer includes wax myrtle (*Myrica cerifera*), willow (*Salix caroliniana*), Chinese tallow (*Sapium sebiferum*), Brazilian pepper (*Schinus terebinthifolius*) and younger specimens of the canopy species. Groundcover includes blackberry, Virginia chain fern (*Woodwardia virginiana*), dog fennel (*Eupatorium capilifolium*), Caesar weed (*Urena lobata*), bushy bluestem (*Andropogon glomeratus*) and Smartweed (*Polygonum punctatum*). The wetland is infested with grapevine (*Vitis sp.*) which is found in the canopy and shrub layer. This wetland has been historically connected offsite to the southwest but has been severed from the main body of the wetland by Canoe Creek road. Ditches have been dug to drain the wetland and 5- 24 inch culverts run under the road within 100 feet of the wetland and at significantly lower elevations than the wetland bottom (See Photograph 6, page 13). There are some wet spots within the wetland but the adjacent ditching and the culverts have significantly altered the hydrology.

## Wildlife

A general reconnaissance of the property was conducted to identify wildlife presence, particularly species listed as endangered, threatened or species of special concern by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) or the US Fish and Wildlife Service. The majority of the species and tracks observed were common species, including Northern Mocking birds (*Mimus polyglottos*) and raccoon (*Procyon lotor*) marsh rabbit (*Sylvilagus pallustris*).

A southern bald eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus leucocephalus*) (Photograph 1, page 8) was observed flying over the site and an active nest occurs on site. southern bald eagles have been observed in the area. The Bald Eagle Management Plan adopted April 9, 2008 by the FWC provides guidelines for activities in proximity to bald eagle nests. Different levels of guidelines are provided based upon the distance that the activities are from the nest and the time of year (in or out of breeding season) in which activities are proposed. If the guidelines cannot or will not be followed a permit will be required.

One active gopher tortoise (*Gopherus polyphemus*) burrow was observed on site (Photograph 2, page 9). Some of the improved pasture areas which haven't been badly overgrown may provide limited habitat for tortoises. Because of the historic management as an improved pasture gopher tortoises which may have been historically present may have been discouraged by the activities. gopher tortoises are listed by the FWC as Threatened. Prior to any alteration in this area, thorough surveys for gopher tortoise burrows will be required in order to obtain a relocation permit from the FWC. This study was not an attempt to locate every burrow.

## SUMMARY

The site contains a low quality mixed forested wetland and poor quality pine improved pasture. The site supports state listed species (southern bald eagle and gopher tortoise). If sold as surplus, development of the site would require an Environmental Resource Permit, local government approvals and permits, and may require a gopher tortoise and southern bald eagle permits from the FWC if removal of the nest or gopher tortoise is required. Development of the site would also have to address local government upland conservation requirements, and potential restrictions on the timing/scope of development due to Southern bald eagle nesting.

## REFERENCES

Department of Transportation, 1985. Florida Land Use, Cover and Forms Classification System

District REGSS area of interest report , April 25, 2011

FWC, 2011. Eagle nest mapping :[www.MyFWC.com/eagle/mapping](http://www.MyFWC.com/eagle/mapping), accessed April 25, 2011

FWC, 2010 Florida's endangered species, threatened species, and species of special concern.  
[http://myfwc.com/docs/WildlifeHabitats/Threatened\\_Endangered\\_Species.pdf](http://myfwc.com/docs/WildlifeHabitats/Threatened_Endangered_Species.pdf)

FNAI,2010. Natural Communities Guide. <http://www.fnai.org/naturalcommguide.cfm>

USDA, 1979, Soil Survey of Osceola County.

Wunderlin, Richard P. Guide to the Vascular Plants of Central Florida, University Presses of Florida, 1982

Figure 1: Aerial photograph from REGSS Area of Interest Report



Disclaimer: This map is a conceptual or planning tool only. The South Florida Water Management District does not guarantee or make any representation regarding the information contained herein. It is not self-executing or binding, and does not affect the interests of any persons or properties, including any present or future right or use of real property. Not a Survey

2009 Color 2 Foot  
FDOT, Rel. 04/2009



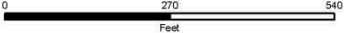

DATE : From 1/1/2009 To 12/31/1009		SOURCE : AirPhotoUSA	
RESOLUTION : 2 Foot		TYPE : COLOR	
LEGAL : n/a			
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Osceola County, FL ST. CLOUD	Sec/Twp/Rge 26/26/30	Date 5/26/2011	Latitude (DMS): 28° 11m 36s N Longitude (DMS): 081° 17m 19s W
		State Plane Coordinates X: 563245.69 Y: 1403124.05	Map # 2
AG100-008 Area of Interest Image Map		 South Florida Water Management District Environmental Resource Regulation Regulatory Program Support - GIS Section 3301 Gun Club Road West Palm Beach, FL 33406 Phone: (561) 682-6687	
 			

Figure 2: Map depicting major ecological features



**Legend**

- AG 100-008 Boundary
- Improved\_Pasture
- Mixed\_Forested\_Wetland

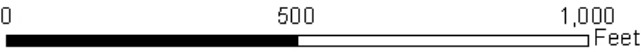
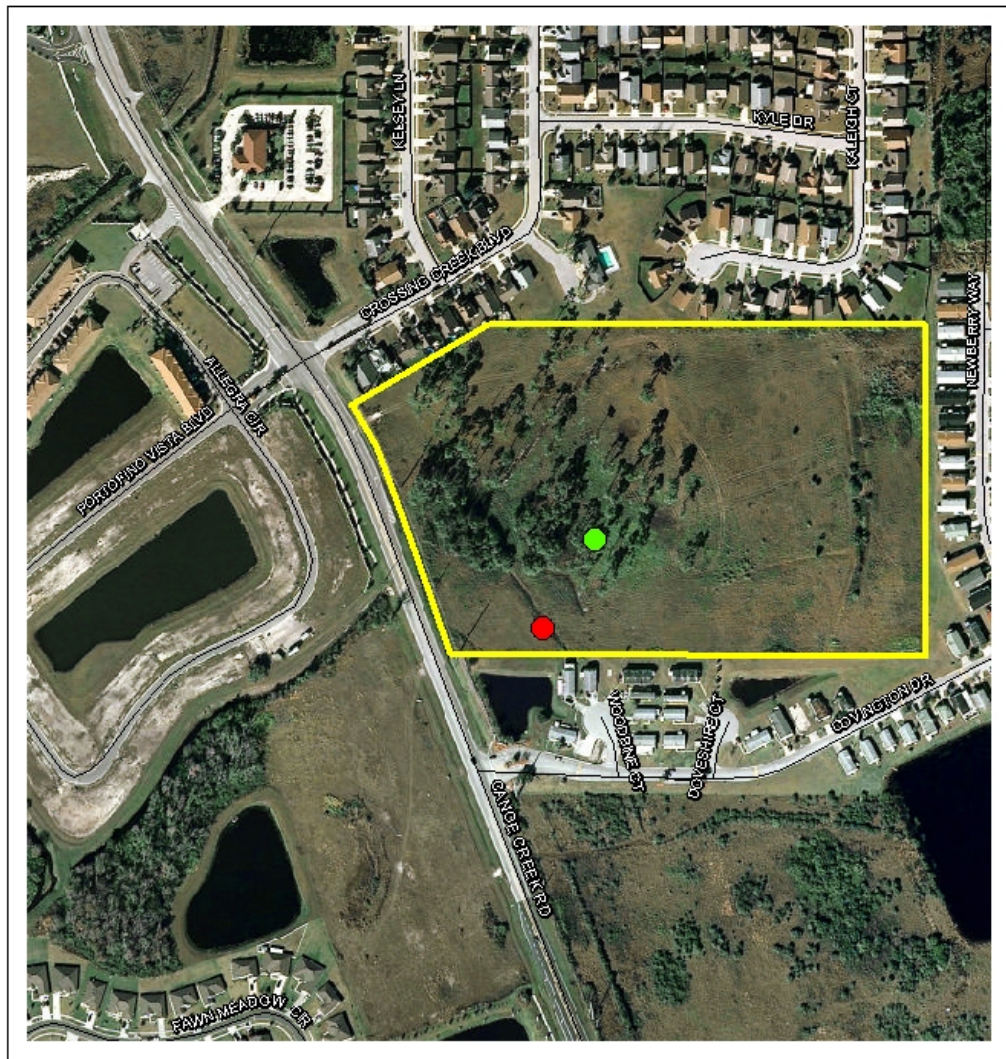


Figure 3: Gopher tortoise burrow and Bald eagle nest locations



**Legend**

- Gopher\_Tortoise\_Burrow
- Bald\_Eagle\_Nest\_Site
- AG100-008 Boundary



Photograph 1: Bald Eagle nest.



Photograph 2: Gopher tortoise burrow





Photograph 3: Improved pasture



Photograph 4: Wetland 1



Photograph 5: Wetland:



Photograph 6: 5-24-inch culverts



**KISSIMMEE/OKEECHOBEE ASSESSMENT REGION**

**Subject Matter Expert (SME)**

**Comment Submission Form**

**Respondent:** Temperince Morgan

**Date:** 3/18/2013

**Division Name:** State Policy and Coordination

**Bureau Name:** Everglades Policy and Coordination

**Region Being Reviewed:** Kissimmee Chain of Lakes, Kissimmee River, Lake Okeechobee, and Unassociated Area Parcels

**Select Area Name:** **Lake Okeechobee - Grassy Island / Taylor Creek**

**In your opinion, how well does the current use of the property further the District's core missions of Flood Control, Water Quality protection/improvements, Water Supply, and Natural Systems protection and restoration?**

The portion of the property that includes the Taylor Creek Pilot STA (east of Taylor Creek) and the Grassy Island Hybrid Wetland Treatment Technology site (HWTT)(northeast portion of the property) contributes to the District's core missions of water quality protection and natural systems protection and restoration.

The remainder of the property are managed through grazing leases and its current state does not contribute to the District's core missions.

A NRCS Conservation Plan is under development with the Lessee for implementation of water retention and wetland restoration as part of the Dispersed Water Management Program.

**In your opinion, is there a better use of the property that would provide more effective support for the District's core missions?**

The site contains the footprint for the Taylor Creek Reservoir which is a key component of the CERP Lake Okeechobee Watershed Project proposed tentatively selected plan. There have been delays in the implementation of the CERP LOWP primarily due to unresolved cost-sharing issues.

The District is also performing a feasibility study at the site on Parcels HF100-005 and HF100-006 west of NW 50th Drive to evaluate alternatives or options for the site including water quality or water storage options, conservation or potentially surplus the property.

The southern portion of the parcel west of NW 50th Drive has use limitations due to its proximity to the Okeechobee Airport and FAA restrictions on its use.

**In your opinion, is there a better use of the property that would provide support for other important natural resource or public use issues?**

No comment

**If the parcel does not contribute to the District's core mission, and has no recommended alternative use, explain why the parcel should be recommended for donation, exchange or surplus.**

No comment

***Please attach maps, photos, etc., if needed, to provide additional support for your response.***

**KISSIMMEE/OKEECHOBEE ASSESSMENT REGION**

**Subject Matter Expert (SME)**

**Comment Submission Form**

**Respondent:** Temperince Morgan

**Date:** 3/18/2013

**Division Name:** State Policy and Coordination

**Bureau Name:** Everglades Policy and Coordination

**Region Being Reviewed:** Kissimmee Chain of Lakes, Kissimmee River, Lake Okeechobee, and Unassociated Area Parcels

**Select Area Name:** **Lake Okeechobee - Lake Okeechobee Islands**

**In your opinion, how well does the current use of the property further the District's core missions of Flood Control, Water Quality protection/improvements, Water Supply, and Natural Systems protection and restoration?**

The Observation Island portion of the property are wetlands located in the Lake Okeechobee Western Marsh and contributes to the District's core missions of water quality protection and natural systems protection and restoration.

Suggest checking with the Water Quality Treatment Technologies section on restoration/enhancement activities on Torry, Kraemer and Ritta Islands and also confirm if these areas are still needed for the regulation schedule.

**In your opinion, is there a better use of the property that would provide more effective support for the District's core missions?**

No comment

**In your opinion, is there a better use of the property that would provide support for other important natural resource or public use issues?**

No comment

**If the parcel does not contribute to the District's core mission, and has no recommended alternative use, explain why the parcel should be recommended for donation, exchange or surplus.**

If they are not needed for the regulation schedule, then perhaps they would be good candidates for donation to a local government for recreation and preservation management.

***Please attach maps, photos, etc., if needed, to provide additional support for your response.***

**KISSIMMEE/OKEECHOBEE ASSESSMENT REGION**

**Subject Matter Expert (SME)**

**Comment Submission Form**

**Respondent:** Temperince Morgan

**Date:** 3/18/2013

**Division Name:** State Policy and Coordination

**Bureau Name:** Everglades Policy and Coordination

**Region Being Reviewed:** Kissimmee Chain of Lakes, Kissimmee River, Lake Okeechobee, and Unassociated Area Parcels

**Select Area Name:** **Lake Okeechobee - Lakeside Ranches**

**In your opinion, how well does the current use of the property further the District's core missions of Flood Control, Water Quality protection/improvements, Water Supply, and Natural Systems protection and restoration?**

The northern portion of the property west of the L64 Canal includes Phase I of the Lakeside Ranch STA which was recently constructed and start-up operations are anticipated in water year 2014. This portion of the property contributes to the District's core missions of water quality protection and natural systems protection and restoration.

The remainder of the property, in its current state, does not contribute to the District's core missions, but please see the response below for projects planned at the site.

**In your opinion, is there a better use of the property that would provide more effective support for the District's core missions?**

The site contains the footprint for both the Lakeside Ranch STA and the Brady Ranch STA which are key components of the CERP Lake Okeechobee Watershed Project proposed tentatively selected plan. There have been delays in the implementation of the CERP LOWP primarily due to unresolved cost-sharing issues.

Design of the Phase II of the Lakeside Ranch STA has been completed for the southern portion of the property west of the L64 Canal. Performance of Lakeside Ranch Phase I will inform decisions regarding the construction of Phase II. The lands east of the L64 canal include the proposed Brady Ranch STA.

If either Lakeside Ranch Phase II or Brady Ranch STA move forward, the lands they comprise would contribute to the District's core missions of water quality protection and natural systems protection and restoration.

The parcel has potential for the development and implementation of water retention and wetland restoration as part of the Dispersed Water Management Program.

**In your opinion, is there a better use of the property that would provide support for other important natural resource or public use issues?**

No comment

**If the parcel does not contribute to the District's core mission, and has no recommended alternative use, explain why the parcel should be recommended for donation, exchange or surplus.**

No comment

**Please attach maps, photos, etc., if needed, to provide additional support for your response.**

**KISSIMMEE/OKEECHOBEE ASSESSMENT REGION**

**Subject Matter Expert (SME)**

**Comment Submission Form**

**Respondent:** Temperince Morgan

**Date:** 3/18/2013

**Division Name:** State Policy and Coordination

**Bureau Name:** Everglades Policy and Coordination

**Region Being Reviewed:** Kissimmee Chain of Lakes, Kissimmee River, Lake Okeechobee, and Unassociated Area Parcels

**Select Area Name:** **Lake Okeechobee - Lemkin Creek**

**In your opinion, how well does the current use of the property further the District's core missions of Flood Control, Water Quality protection/improvements, Water Supply, and Natural Systems protection and restoration?**

The western portion of the property (west of Wolff Ditch) contains two operational Hybrid Wetland Treatment facilities and a pond (old rock borrow pit) that hydrates wetlands downstream. This portion of the site contributes to the District's core missions of water quality protection and natural systems protection and restoration.

The eastern portion of the property (east of Wolff Ditch) is an abandoned rock mining operation that is planned for the implementation of the Lemkin Creek Urban Stormwater Project to provide water storage and water quality improvement.

**In your opinion, is there a better use of the property that would provide more effective support for the District's core missions?**

There is not a better use of the western portion of the property. For the 90 acres East of Wolff Ditch, the District is planning on moving forward with a stormwater treatment facility.

**In your opinion, is there a better use of the property that would provide support for other important natural resource or public use issues?**

No comment

**If the parcel does not contribute to the District's core mission, and has no recommended alternative use, explain why the parcel should be recommended for donation, exchange or surplus.**

No comment

***Please attach maps, photos, etc., if needed, to provide additional support for your response.***



**KISSIMMEE/OKEECHOBEE ASSESSMENT REGION**

**Subject Matter Expert (SME)**

**Comment Submission Form**

**Respondent:** Temperince Morgan

**Date:** 3/18/2013

**Division Name:** State Policy and Coordination

**Bureau Name:** Everglades Policy and Coordination

**Region Being Reviewed:** Kissimmee Chain of Lakes, Kissimmee River, Lake Okeechobee, and Unassociated Area Parcels

**Select Area Name:** **Lake Okeechobee - North of Lake**

**In your opinion, how well does the current use of the property further the District's core missions of Flood Control, Water Quality protection/improvements, Water Supply, and Natural Systems protection and restoration?**

These assessment units are primarily cattle leases which do not further the District's core missions. However, most of the NE three sites contain some of the Paradise Run floodplains.

A NRCS Conservation Plan is under development with the Lessee for implementation of water retention and wetland restoration on portions of the site as part of the Dispersed Water Management Program.

**In your opinion, is there a better use of the property that would provide more effective support for the District's core missions?**

These parcels are located strategically at the southern portions in the Indian Prairie Sub-watershed which contribute one of the highest unit area loads of the 9 sub-watersheds in the Lake Okeechobee Watershed. As mentioned in the Land Use Assessment, information indicates that these sites were purchased to provide water storage and treatment; however, there are no funds identified to design and implement such projects in the near-term.

One of the components of CERP Lake Okeechobee Watershed Project, more specifically the Paradise Run Wetland Restoration, is located on a portion of Parcel MD100-17. No other projects under CERP are planned for the other parcels south of MD100-17.

**In your opinion, is there a better use of the property that would provide support for other important natural resource or public use issues?**

No comment

**If the parcel does not contribute to the District's core mission, and has no recommended alternative use, explain why the parcel should be recommended for donation, exchange or surplus.**

The assessment area (excluding the portion for the Paradise Run Wetland Restoration) is a good candidate for donation, exchange or surplus because it does not contribute to the District's core mission.

***Please attach maps, photos, etc., if needed, to provide additional support for your response.***

**KISSIMMEE/OKEECHOBEE ASSESSMENT REGION**

**Subject Matter Expert (SME)**

**Comment Submission Form**

**Respondent:** Temperince Morgan

**Date:** 3/18/2013

**Division Name:** State Policy and Coordination

**Bureau Name:** Everglades Policy and Coordination

**Region Being Reviewed:** Kissimmee Chain of Lakes, Kissimmee River, Lake Okeechobee, and Unassociated Area Parcels

**Select Area Name:** **Lake Okeechobee - Nubbin Slough**

**In your opinion, how well does the current use of the property further the District's core missions of Flood Control, Water Quality protection/improvements, Water Supply, and Natural Systems protection and restoration?**

The portion of the property that includes the Nubbin Slough STA project (approximately the southern 1/2 of the property) contributes to the District's core missions of water quality protection and natural systems protection and restoration.

The remainder of the property, including the Triangle Parcel, does not contribute to the District's core missions.

**In your opinion, is there a better use of the property that would provide more effective support for the District's core missions?**

The remainder of the property, excluding the Triangle Parcel has potential for the development and implementation of water retention and wetland restoration as part of the Dispersed Water Management Program.

**In your opinion, is there a better use of the property that would provide support for other important natural resource or public use issues?**

No comment

**If the parcel does not contribute to the District's core mission, and has no recommended alternative use, explain why the parcel should be recommended for donation, exchange or surplus.**

Portions of the property outside of the project footprint may be good candidates for exchange or surplus as they do not contribute to the District's core missions and no known projects are planned on these lands.

***Please attach maps, photos, etc., if needed, to provide additional support for your response.***

**KISSIMMEE/OKEECHOBEE ASSESSMENT REGION**

**Subject Matter Expert (SME)**

**Comment Submission Form**

**Respondent:** Lawrence Russell

**Date:** 03/05/2013

**Division Name:** St. Cloud Field Station

**Bureau Name:** Field Operations North

**Region Being Reviewed:** Kissimmee Chain of Lakes, Kissimmee River, Lake Okeechobee, and Unassociated Area Parcels

**Select Area Name:** **Unassociated Parcels - St. Cloud Field Station Parcel**

**In your opinion, how well does the current use of the property further the District's core missions of Flood Control, Water Quality protection/improvements, Water Supply, and Natural Systems protection and restoration?**

it does not serve in any way to it's original intended purpose as a field station site due to presence of a persistent eagle next. It is currently a liability to the District due to maintenance costs and restrictions due to presence of eagles.

**In your opinion, is there a better use of the property that would provide more effective support for the District's core missions?**

Would be better managed by Land Management or donated to local community as an urban park. it is only an expense for OMC.

**In your opinion, is there a better use of the property that would provide support for other important natural resource or public use issues?**

Would be better managed by Land Management or donated to local community as an urban park. it is only an expense for OMC.

**If the parcel does not contribute to the District's core mission, and has no recommended alternative use, explain why the parcel should be recommended for donation, exchange or surplus.**

***Please attach maps, photos, etc., if needed, to provide additional support for your response.***

**KISSIMMEE/OKEECHOBEE ASSESSMENT REGION**

**Subject Matter Expert (SME)**

**Comment Submission Form**

**Respondent:** Lawrence Russell

**Date:** 03/05/2013

**Division Name:** St. Cloud Field Station

**Bureau Name:** Field Operations North

**Region Being Reviewed:** Kissimmee Chain of Lakes, Kissimmee River, Lake Okeechobee, and Unassociated Area Parcels

**Select Area Name:** **Unassociated Parcels - Camp Mack Triangle Parcel**

**In your opinion, how well does the current use of the property further the District's core missions of Flood Control, Water Quality protection/improvements, Water Supply, and Natural Systems protection and restoration?**

Parcel has no value for field station operations and maintenance activities. There is a SCADA telemetry site on the parcel however so that departments input will be required.

**In your opinion, is there a better use of the property that would provide more effective support for the District's core missions?**

If not needed as a SCADA site, it would have no value to the District and should be surplus.

**In your opinion, is there a better use of the property that would provide support for other important natural resource or public use issues?**

If not needed as a SCADA site, it would have no value to the District and should be surplus.

**If the parcel does not contribute to the District's core mission, and has no recommended alternative use, explain why the parcel should be recommended for donation, exchange or surplus.**

***Please attach maps, photos, etc., if needed, to provide additional support for your response.***

**KISSIMMEE/OKEECHOBEE ASSESSMENT REGION**

**Subject Matter Expert (SME)**

**Comment Submission Form**

**Respondent:** Chesser/Ball

**Date:** 03 19 2013

**Division Name:** Oke Field Station

**Bureau Name:** North Field Ops

**Region Being Reviewed:** Kissimmee Chain of Lakes, Kissimmee River, Lake Okeechobee, and Unassociated Area Parcels

**Select Area Name:** **Lake Okeechobee - Grassy Island / Taylor Creek**

**In your opinion, how well does the current use of the property further the District's core missions of Flood Control, Water Quality protection/improvements, Water Supply, and Natural Systems protection and restoration?**

Okeechobee Field Station has no interest in this parcel outside the footprint of the existing STA

**In your opinion, is there a better use of the property that would provide more effective support for the District's core missions?**

NA

**In your opinion, is there a better use of the property that would provide support for other important natural resource or public use issues?**

NA

**If the parcel does not contribute to the District's core mission, and has no recommended alternative use, explain why the parcel should be recommended for donation, exchange or surplus.**

Na

***Please attach maps, photos, etc., if needed, to provide additional support for your response.***

**KISSIMMEE/OKEECHOBEE ASSESSMENT REGION**

**Subject Matter Expert (SME)**

**Comment Submission Form**

**Respondent:** Chesser/Ball

**Date:** 03 19 2013

**Division Name:** Oke Field Station

**Bureau Name:** North Field Ops

**Region Being Reviewed:** Kissimmee Chain of Lakes, Kissimmee River, Lake Okeechobee, and Unassociated Area Parcels

**Select Area Name:** **Lake Okeechobee - North of Lake**

**In your opinion, how well does the current use of the property further the District's core missions of Flood Control, Water Quality protection/improvements, Water Supply, and Natural Systems protection and restoration?**

Okeechobee Field Station has no interest in these parcels with the exception of the immediate areas adjoining L-59

**In your opinion, is there a better use of the property that would provide more effective support for the District's core missions?**

NA

**In your opinion, is there a better use of the property that would provide support for other important natural resource or public use issues?**

NA

**If the parcel does not contribute to the District's core mission, and has no recommended alternative use, explain why the parcel should be recommended for donation, exchange or surplus.**

Na

***Please attach maps, photos, etc., if needed, to provide additional support for your response.***

**KISSIMMEE/OKEECHOBEE ASSESSMENT REGION**

**Subject Matter Expert (SME)**

**Comment Submission Form**

**Respondent:** Pam Wade

**Date:** 2/28/2013

**Division Name:** Regulation

**Bureau Name:** Everglades Regulation Bureau

**Region Being Reviewed:** Kissimmee Chain of Lakes, Kissimmee River, Lake Okeechobee, and Unassociated Area Parcels

**Select Area Name:** **Lake Okeechobee - All**

**In your opinion, how well does the current use of the property further the District's core missions of Flood Control, Water Quality protection/improvements, Water Supply, and Natural Systems protection and restoration?**

**In your opinion, is there a better use of the property that would provide more effective support for the District's core missions?**

With the recent announcement of a Lake Okeechobee BMAP being developed, these areas may be used for future water quality projects that may assist the District to meet the Lake Okeechobee TMDL. The District units near Lake Okeechobee may be used on projects that will result in achieving further load reductions in the area.

**In your opinion, is there a better use of the property that would provide support for other important natural resource or public use issues?**

**If the parcel does not contribute to the District's core mission, and has no recommended alternative use, explain why the parcel should be recommended for donation, exchange or surplus.**

***Please attach maps, photos, etc., if needed, to provide additional support for your response.***

**KISSIMMEE/OKEECHOBEE ASSESSMENT REGION**

**Subject Matter Expert (SME)**

**Comment Submission Form**

**Respondent:** Chesser/Ball

**Date:** 03 19 2013

**Division Name:** Oke Field Station

**Bureau Name:** North Field Ops

**Region Being Reviewed:** Kissimmee Chain of Lakes, Kissimmee River, Lake Okeechobee, and Unassociated Area Parcels

**Select Area Name:** **Lake Okeechobee - Lakeside Ranches**

**In your opinion, how well does the current use of the property further the District's core missions of Flood Control, Water Quality protection/improvements, Water Supply, and Natural Systems protection and restoration?**

Okeechobee Field Station has no interest in this parcel east of L-64 retain existing STA and Phase II expansion.

**In your opinion, is there a better use of the property that would provide more effective support for the District's core missions?**

NA

**In your opinion, is there a better use of the property that would provide support for other important natural resource or public use issues?**

NA

**If the parcel does not contribute to the District's core mission, and has no recommended alternative use, explain why the parcel should be recommended for donation, exchange or surplus.**

Na

***Please attach maps, photos, etc., if needed, to provide additional support for your response.***



**KISSIMMEE/OKEECHOBEE ASSESSMENT REGION**

**Subject Matter Expert (SME)**

**Comment Submission Form**

**Respondent:** Chesser/Ball

**Date:** 03 19 2013

**Division Name:** Oke Field Station

**Bureau Name:** North Field Ops

**Region Being Reviewed:** Kissimmee Chain of Lakes, Kissimmee River, Lake Okeechobee, and Unassociated Area Parcels

**Select Area Name:** **Lake Okeechobee - Lemkin Creek**

**In your opinion, how well does the current use of the property further the District's core missions of Flood Control, Water Quality protection/improvements, Water Supply, and Natural Systems protection and restoration?**

Okeechobee Field Station has no interest in these parcels

**In your opinion, is there a better use of the property that would provide more effective support for the District's core missions?**

NA

**In your opinion, is there a better use of the property that would provide support for other important natural resource or public use issues?**

NA

**If the parcel does not contribute to the District's core mission, and has no recommended alternative use, explain why the parcel should be recommended for donation, exchange or surplus.**

Na

***Please attach maps, photos, etc., if needed, to provide additional support for your response.***

**KISSIMMEE/OKEECHOBEE ASSESSMENT REGION**

**Subject Matter Expert (SME)**

**Comment Submission Form**

**Respondent:** Jim Laing

**Date:** 3/19/2013

**Division Name:** Operations, Maintenance & Construction

**Bureau Name:** Land Resources

**Region Being Reviewed:** Kissimmee Chain of Lakes, Kissimmee River, Lake Okeechobee, and Unassociated Area Parcels

**Select Area Name:** **Lake Okeechobee - North of Lake**

**In your opinion, how well does the current use of the property further the District's core missions of Flood Control, Water Quality protection/improvements, Water Supply, and Natural Systems protection and restoration?**

NRCS Conservation Plan underway with lessee using DWM alternatives for water storage. This project meets multiple aspects of the District's core mission.

**In your opinion, is there a better use of the property that would provide more effective support for the District's core missions?**

No

**In your opinion, is there a better use of the property that would provide support for other important natural resource or public use issues?**

No

**If the parcel does not contribute to the District's core mission, and has no recommended alternative use, explain why the parcel should be recommended for donation, exchange or surplus.**

N/A

***Please attach maps, photos, etc., if needed, to provide additional support for your response.***

**KISSIMMEE/OKEECHOBEE ASSESSMENT REGION**

**Subject Matter Expert (SME)**

**Comment Submission Form**

**Respondent:** Chesser/Ball

**Date:** 03 19 2013

**Division Name:** Oke Field Station

**Bureau Name:** North Field Ops

**Region Being Reviewed:** Kissimmee Chain of Lakes, Kissimmee River, Lake Okeechobee, and Unassociated Area Parcels

**Select Area Name:** **Lake Okeechobee - Nubbin Slough - Triangle Parcel**

**In your opinion, how well does the current use of the property further the District's core missions of Flood Control, Water Quality protection/improvements, Water Supply, and Natural Systems protection and restoration?**

Okeechobee Field Station has no interest in this parcel

**In your opinion, is there a better use of the property that would provide more effective support for the District's core missions?**

NA

**In your opinion, is there a better use of the property that would provide support for other important natural resource or public use issues?**

NA

**If the parcel does not contribute to the District's core mission, and has no recommended alternative use, explain why the parcel should be recommended for donation, exchange or surplus.**

Na

***Please attach maps, photos, etc., if needed, to provide additional support for your response.***

**KISSIMMEE/OKEECHOBEE ASSESSMENT REGION**

**Subject Matter Expert (SME)**

**Comment Submission Form**

**Respondent:** Chesser/Ball

**Date:** 03 19 2013

**Division Name:** Oke Field Station

**Bureau Name:** North Field Ops

**Region Being Reviewed:** Kissimmee Chain of Lakes, Kissimmee River, Lake Okeechobee, and Unassociated Area Parcels

**Select Area Name:** **Lake Okeechobee - Nubbin Slough**

**In your opinion, how well does the current use of the property further the District's core missions of Flood Control, Water Quality protection/improvements, Water Supply, and Natural Systems protection and restoration?**

Okeechobee Field Station has no interest in the Phase II parcel

**In your opinion, is there a better use of the property that would provide more effective support for the District's core missions?**

NA

**In your opinion, is there a better use of the property that would provide support for other important natural resource or public use issues?**

NA

**If the parcel does not contribute to the District's core mission, and has no recommended alternative use, explain why the parcel should be recommended for donation, exchange or surplus.**

Na

***Please attach maps, photos, etc., if needed, to provide additional support for your response.***

**KISSIMMEE/OKEECHOBEE ASSESSMENT REGION**

**Subject Matter Expert (SME)**

**Comment Submission Form**

**Respondent:** Pam Wade - Everglades Regulation

**Date:** 2/28/2013

**Division Name:** Regulation

**Bureau Name:** Everglades Regulation Bureau

**Region Being Reviewed:** Kissimmee Chain of Lakes, Kissimmee River, Lake Okeechobee, and Unassociated Area Parcels

**Select Area Name:** **KCOL - Lake Cypress NE Shore**

**In your opinion, how well does the current use of the property further the District's core missions of Flood Control, Water Quality protection/improvements, Water Supply, and Natural Systems protection and restoration?**

**In your opinion, is there a better use of the property that would provide more effective support for the District's core missions?**

Currently TMDLs are being developed for Lakes Kissimmee, Cypress, Jackson, and Marian. The District units around these lakes have the potential to be used (on-site, sub-regional or regional projects) to reduce the loading into these lakes.

**In your opinion, is there a better use of the property that would provide support for other important natural resource or public use issues?**

**If the parcel does not contribute to the District's core mission, and has no recommended alternative use, explain why the parcel should be recommended for donation, exchange or surplus.**

***Please attach maps, photos, etc., if needed, to provide additional support for your response.***

**KISSIMMEE/OKEECHOBEE ASSESSMENT REGION**

**Subject Matter Expert (SME)**

**Comment Submission Form**

**Respondent:** Pam Wade - Everglades Regulation

**Date:** 2/28/2013

**Division Name:** Regulation

**Bureau Name:** Everglades Regulation Bureau

**Region Being Reviewed:** Kissimmee Chain of Lakes, Kissimmee River, Lake Okeechobee, and Unassociated Area Parcels

**Select Area Name:** **KCOL - Lake Kissimmee**

**In your opinion, how well does the current use of the property further the District's core missions of Flood Control, Water Quality protection/improvements, Water Supply, and Natural Systems protection and restoration?**

**In your opinion, is there a better use of the property that would provide more effective support for the District's core missions?**

Currently TMDLs are being developed for Lakes Kissimmee, Cypress, Jackson, and Marian. The District units around these lakes have the potential to be used (on-site, sub-regional or regional projects) to reduce the loading into these lakes.

**In your opinion, is there a better use of the property that would provide support for other important natural resource or public use issues?**

**If the parcel does not contribute to the District's core mission, and has no recommended alternative use, explain why the parcel should be recommended for donation, exchange or surplus.**

***Please attach maps, photos, etc., if needed, to provide additional support for your response.***

**KISSIMMEE/OKEECHOBEE ASSESSMENT REGION**

**Subject Matter Expert (SME)**

**Comment Submission Form**

**Respondent:** Pam Wade - Everglades Regulation

**Date:** 2/28/2013

**Division Name:** Regulation

**Bureau Name:** Everglades Regulation Bureau

**Region Being Reviewed:** Kissimmee Chain of Lakes, Kissimmee River, Lake Okeechobee, and Unassociated Area Parcels

**Select Area Name:** **KCOL - North KCOL Marshes**

**In your opinion, how well does the current use of the property further the District's core missions of Flood Control, Water Quality protection/improvements, Water Supply, and Natural Systems protection and restoration?**

**In your opinion, is there a better use of the property that would provide more effective support for the District's core missions?**

Currently TMDLs are being developed for Lakes Kissimmee, Cypress, Jackson, and Marian. The District units around these lakes have the potential to be used (on-site, sub-regional or regional projects) to reduce the loading into these lakes.

**In your opinion, is there a better use of the property that would provide support for other important natural resource or public use issues?**

**If the parcel does not contribute to the District's core mission, and has no recommended alternative use, explain why the parcel should be recommended for donation, exchange or surplus.**

***Please attach maps, photos, etc., if needed, to provide additional support for your response.***

**KISSIMMEE/OKEECHOBEE ASSESSMENT REGION**

**Subject Matter Expert (SME)**

**Comment Submission Form**

**Respondent:** Pam Wade - Everglades Regulation

**Date:** 2/28/2013

**Division Name:** Regulation

**Bureau Name:** Everglades Regulation Bureau

**Region Being Reviewed:** Kissimmee Chain of Lakes, Kissimmee River, Lake Okeechobee, and Unassociated Area Parcels

**Select Area Name:** **KCOL - Tiger Lake**

**In your opinion, how well does the current use of the property further the District's core missions of Flood Control, Water Quality protection/improvements, Water Supply, and Natural Systems protection and restoration?**

**In your opinion, is there a better use of the property that would provide more effective support for the District's core missions?**

Currently TMDLs are being developed for Lakes Kissimmee, Cypress, Jackson, and Marian. The District units around these lakes have the potential to be used (on-site, sub-regional or regional projects) to reduce the loading into these lakes.

**In your opinion, is there a better use of the property that would provide support for other important natural resource or public use issues?**

**If the parcel does not contribute to the District's core mission, and has no recommended alternative use, explain why the parcel should be recommended for donation, exchange or surplus.**

***Please attach maps, photos, etc., if needed, to provide additional support for your response.***



## KISSIMMEE/OKEECHOBEE ASSESSMENT REGION

### Subject Matter Expert (SME)

### Comment Submission Form

**Respondent:** Ayounga Riddick - Land Stewardship North

**Date:** 03/18/2013

**Division Name:** Operations, Maintenance, and Construction

**Bureau Name:** Land Resources

**Region Being Reviewed:** Kissimmee Chain of Lakes, Kissimmee River, Lake Okeechobee, and Unassociated Area Parcels

**Select Area Name:** **KCOL - All**

**In your opinion, how well does the current use of the property further the District's core missions of Flood Control, Water Quality protection/improvements, Water Supply, and Natural Systems protection and restoration?**

The Kissimmee Chain of Lakes assessment properties (Lake Cypress, N. Floodplain Marshes, Catfish Creek, London Creek/Lower Lake Marion Creek, Rolling Meadows, Lake Kissimmee Shore, and Oasis pasture) provide many fundamental functions that support the District's core missions. They provide flood attenuation, water supply, and water filtration for the surrounding area and basin. The KCOL area is a key component in restoring the Kissimmee River restoration.

**In your opinion, is there a better use of the property that would provide more effective support for the District's core missions?**

None

**In your opinion, is there a better use of the property that would provide support for other important natural resource or public use issues?**

Continue to enhance the public use program. Build more public use facilities such as shelters, picnic areas, and boat ramps.

**If the parcel does not contribute to the District's core mission, and has no recommended alternative use, explain why the parcel should be recommended for donation, exchange or surplus.**

The property contributes to the District's core mission.

***Please attach maps, photos, etc., if needed, to provide additional support for your response.***

**KISSIMMEE/OKEECHOBEE ASSESSMENT REGION**

**Subject Matter Expert (SME)**

**Comment Submission Form**

**Respondent:** Ayounga Riddick -Land Stewardship North

**Date:** 03/18/2013

**Division Name:** Operations, Maintenance, and Construction

**Bureau Name:** Land Resources

**Region Being Reviewed:** Kissimmee Chain of Lakes, Kissimmee River, Lake Okeechobee, and Unassociated Area Parcels

**Select Area Name:** **KCOL - Tiger Lake**

**In your opinion, how well does the current use of the property further the District's core missions of Flood Control, Water Quality protection/improvements, Water Supply, and Natural Systems protection and restoration?**

The area below the 54 ft elevation (flowage) provides many fundamental functions that support the District's core missions. They provide flood attenuation, water supply, and water filtration for the surrounding area and basin.

**In your opinion, is there a better use of the property that would provide more effective support for the District's core missions?**

It could be swapped for land and/or permanent access to land that will support the District's core mission.

**In your opinion, is there a better use of the property that would provide support for other important natural resource or public use issues?**

The area above the 54 ft elevation (improved lot) could be used for staff/officer housing.

**If the parcel does not contribute to the District's core mission, and has no recommended alternative use, explain why the parcel should be recommended for donation, exchange or surplus.**

Only a portion (below 54 ft elevation) of the property contributes to the District's core mission.

***Please attach maps, photos, etc., if needed, to provide additional support for your response.***

## KISSIMMEE/OKEECHOBEE ASSESSMENT REGION

### Subject Matter Expert (SME)

### Comment Submission Form

**Respondent:** Lawrence Glenn / Lake Ecological Assessment Unit

**Date:** 3/15/13

**Division Name:** Lake and River Ecosystem Section

**Bureau Name:** Applied Sciences Bureau

**Region Being Reviewed:** Kissimmee Chain of Lakes, Kissimmee River, Lake Okeechobee, and Unassociated Area Parcels

**Select Area Name:** **Lake Okeechobee - Lake Okeechobee Islands**

**In your opinion, how well does the current use of the property further the District's core missions of Flood Control, Water Quality protection/improvements, Water Supply, and Natural Systems protection and restoration?**

The islands in the lake provide some benefit to the core missions relative to when they were farmed, or if they were developed, but could provide additional benefit in terms of natural systems protection and restoration. There are areas of Ritta, Kreamer and Torry islands which contain very dense non-native vegetation (e.g. water lettuce, castor bean) or invasive natives (e.g. cattail), which likely restrict utilization by native wildlife, relative to the amount of habitat utilization that occurred prior to transformation of the land for farming. The islands are also one of the few locations where the endangered Okeechobee Gourd has been identified and also contain excellent remnant examples of the pond apple (*Anona glabra*) stands that once covered the entire southern region of the Lake. In addition, considerable effort and expense has been incurred in recent years in planting pond apple and other native vegetation on these islands. Due to their low elevations and location within the Herbert Hoover dike, any use or development of these islands would almost invariably lead to additional nutrient runoff and negatively impact our efforts to achieve the Lake O. TMDL.

**In your opinion, is there a better use of the property that would provide more effective support for the District's core missions?**

Providing consistent vegetation management would provide additional benefits to the District's core missions of natural systems protection and restoration.

**In your opinion, is there a better use of the property that would provide support for other important natural resource or public use issues?**

Providing additional public access (e.g. construction of a nature center and boardwalks) for supervised passive recreation would provide opportunities to educate the public as to the importance of wetland and marsh habitat to further enhance the District core missions regarding the environmental restoration of Lake Okeechobee.

**If the parcel does not contribute to the District's core mission, and has no recommended alternative use, explain why the parcel should be recommended for donation, exchange or surplus.**

***Please attach maps, photos, etc., if needed, to provide additional support for your response.***

**KISSIMMEE/OKEECHOBEE ASSESSMENT REGION**

**Subject Matter Expert (SME)**

**Comment Submission Form**

**Respondent:** Lawrence Glenn / Lake Ecosystem Assessment Unit

**Date:** 3/15/13

**Division Name:** Lake and River Ecosystem

**Bureau Name:** Applied Sciences

**Region Being Reviewed:** Kissimmee Chain of Lakes, Kissimmee River, Lake Okeechobee, and Unassociated Area Parcels

**Select Area Name:** **Lake Okeechobee - Lakeside Ranches**

**In your opinion, how well does the current use of the property further the District's core missions of Flood Control, Water Quality protection/improvements, Water Supply, and Natural Systems protection and restoration?**

This property provides some benefit to the core missions relative to if they were developed, but the 2/3rds of the property that is improved pasture provides little benefit in terms of natural systems protection and restoration. Improved pasture is not as beneficial as marsh or wetland habitat for flood control, water quality protection/improvements and water supply. Cattle grazing on improved pasture, especially this close to Lake Okeechobee is detrimental to water quality protection/improvements for the lake, since runoff from this type of habitat is generally high in nutrient content.

**In your opinion, is there a better use of the property that would provide more effective support for the District's core missions?**

Converting the improved pasture and vacant agricultural portion of the property to wetlands, marsh or forested habitat would provide additional benefits to the District's core missions, especially water quality protection/improvements and natural systems protection and restoration.

**In your opinion, is there a better use of the property that would provide support for other important natural resource or public use issues?**

Converting the improved pasture and vacant agricultural portion of this property to wetlands, marsh or forested habitat along with limited public access (e.g. construct a short boardwalk) would provide opportunities to educate the public as to the importance of wetland, marsh and forested habitat to further enhance the District core missions regarding the water quality protection and environmental restoration of Lake Okeechobee.

**If the parcel does not contribute to the District's core mission, and has no recommended alternative use, explain why the parcel should be recommended for donation, exchange or surplus.**

***Please attach maps, photos, etc., if needed, to provide additional support for your response.***

**KISSIMMEE/OKEECHOBEE ASSESSMENT REGION**

**Subject Matter Expert (SME)**

**Comment Submission Form**

**Respondent:** Lawrence Glenn / Lake Ecological Assessment Unit

**Date:** 3/15/13

**Division Name:** Lake and River Ecosystem

**Bureau Name:** Applied Sciences

**Region Being Reviewed:** Kissimmee Chain of Lakes, Kissimmee River, Lake Okeechobee, and Unassociated Area Parcels

**Select Area Name:** **Lake Okeechobee - Lemkin Creek**

**In your opinion, how well does the current use of the property further the District's core missions of Flood Control, Water Quality protection/improvements, Water Supply, and Natural Systems protection and restoration?**

In addition to its current use as a water quality improvement site, the wetland on the Lemkin property has become an important location relative to natural systems protection and restoration. Since rehydrateion the Lemkin wetland has developed into a low nutrient eleocharis marsh. District staff have converted a portion of it into a bulrush nursery from which plants can be harvested for other Lake O restoration activities and it is the site of a native apple snail hatchery whose production is used for apple snail stock enhancement activities. The wetland is also providing foraging oportunites for a variety of wading bird species as well as for the endangered Everglades snail kite.

**In your opinion, is there a better use of the property that would provide more effective support for the District's core missions?**

No, in my opinion, the rehydrated marsh portion of the property is already contributing very substantially to the District's core mission.

**In your opinion, is there a better use of the property that would provide support for other important natural resource or public use issues?**

Some additional vegetation management activities would help to maintain the marsh; specifically cattail and torpedo grass (both legacy plants from before rehydration) would benefit from control activities. Also, since the site is regularly visited from the Lemkin Creek side by commerical airboat tour operators, some signage at the weir at the outflow end of the wetland would help to promote the District's core mission to the visiting public.

**If the parcel does not contribute to the District's core mission, and has no recommended alternative use, explain why the parcel should be recommended for donation, exchange or surplus.**

***Please attach maps, photos, etc., if needed, to provide additional support for your response.***

## KISSIMMEE/OKEECHOBEE ASSESSMENT REGION

### Subject Matter Expert (SME)

### Comment Submission Form

**Respondent:** Lawrence Glenn / Lake Ecological Assessment Unit

**Date:** 3/15/13

**Division Name:** Lake and River Ecosystem

**Bureau Name:** Applied Sciences

**Region Being Reviewed:** Kissimmee Chain of Lakes, Kissimmee River, Lake Okeechobee, and Unassociated Area Parcels

**Select Area Name:** **Lake Okeechobee - North of Lake**

**In your opinion, how well does the current use of the property further the District's core missions of Flood Control, Water Quality protection/improvements, Water Supply, and Natural Systems protection and restoration?**

The properties north of the lake (mostly improved pasture) provide some benefit to the core missions relative to if they were developed, but provide little benefit in terms of natural systems protection and restoration. Improved pasture is not as beneficial as the original ecosystem in this area (marsh, wetlands) for flood control, water quality protection/improvements and water supply. Cattle grazing on improved pasture, especially this close to Lake Okeechobee is detrimental to water quality protection/improvements for the lake, since runoff from this type of habitat is generally high in nutrient content.

**In your opinion, is there a better use of the property that would provide more effective support for the District's core missions?**

Restoring these properties to wetlands or marsh habitat would provide additional benefits to the District's core missions, especially water quality protection/improvements and natural systems protection and restoration.

**In your opinion, is there a better use of the property that would provide support for other important natural resource or public use issues?**

Restoring these properties to wetlands or marsh habitat; coupled with public access (e.g. construction of a boardwalk on one of the properties) would provide opportunities to educate the public as to the importance of wetland and marsh habitat to further enhance the District core missions regarding the water quality protection and environmental restoration of Lake Okeechobee.

**If the parcel does not contribute to the District's core mission, and has no recommended alternative use, explain why the parcel should be recommended for donation, exchange or surplus.**

***Please attach maps, photos, etc., if needed, to provide additional support for your response.***

**KISSIMMEE/OKEECHOBEE ASSESSMENT REGION**

**Subject Matter Expert (SME)**

**Comment Submission Form**

**Respondent:** Lawrence Glenn / Lake Ecological Assessment Unit

**Date:** 3/15/13

**Division Name:** Lake and River Ecosystem

**Bureau Name:** Applied Sciences

**Region Being Reviewed:** Kissimmee Chain of Lakes, Kissimmee River, Lake Okeechobee, and Unassociated Area Parcels

**Select Area Name:** **Lake Okeechobee - Nubbin Slough**

**In your opinion, how well does the current use of the property further the District's core missions of Flood Control, Water Quality protection/improvements, Water Supply, and Natural Systems protection and restoration?**

This property provides some benefit to the core missions relative to if they were developed, but the portion that is improved pasture and degraded pasture (the triangle portion) provides little benefit in terms of natural systems protection and restoration. Improved pasture is not as beneficial as marsh or wetland habitat for flood control, water quality protection/improvements and water supply. Cattle grazing on improved pasture, especially this close to the water quality treatment cell and Lake Okeechobee is detrimental to water quality protection/improvements for the lake, since runoff from this type of habitat is generally high in nutrient content.

**In your opinion, is there a better use of the property that would provide more effective support for the District's core missions?**

Converting the improved and degraded pasture portion of the property to wetlands, marsh or forested habitat would provide additional benefits to the District's core missions, especially water quality protection/improvements and natural systems protection and restoration.

**In your opinion, is there a better use of the property that would provide support for other important natural resource or public use issues?**

Converting the improved and degraded pasture portion of this property to wetlands, marsh or forested habitat along with limited public access (e.g. construct a short boardwalk) would provide opportunities to educate the public as to the importance of wetland, marsh and forested habitat to further enhance the District core missions regarding the water quality protection and environmental restoration of Lake Okeechobee.

**If the parcel does not contribute to the District's core mission, and has no recommended alternative use, explain why the parcel should be recommended for donation, exchange or surplus.**

***Please attach maps, photos, etc., if needed, to provide additional support for your response.***

**KISSIMMEE/OKEECHOBEE ASSESSMENT REGION**

**Subject Matter Expert (SME)**

**Comment Submission Form**

**Respondent:** Marjorie Moore - Mitigation Program

**Date:** 3/18/13

**Division Name:** Operations, Maintenance & Construction

**Bureau Name:** Land Resources

**Region Being Reviewed:** Kissimmee Chain of Lakes, Kissimmee River, Lake Okeechobee, and Unassociated Area Parcels

**Select Area Name:** **KCOL - London Creek and Lower Lake Marion Creek**

**In your opinion, how well does the current use of the property further the District's core missions of Flood Control, Water Quality protection/improvements, Water Supply, and Natural Systems protection and restoration?**

With regard to the 1387.20 acre (GOAA) and 416.50 acre (Bellalago) tracts, they provide offsite mitigation for wetland impacts. Endowment funds have been provided to SFWMD for the long-term management of these tracts that lie within the London Creek tract. It is imperative that the SFWMD continue to manage these tracts for their wetland resource benefits, in perpetuity, in order to meet the required permit obligations. □

**In your opinion, is there a better use of the property that would provide more effective support for the District's core missions?**

No

**In your opinion, is there a better use of the property that would provide support for other important natural resource or public use issues?**

No

**If the parcel does not contribute to the District's core mission, and has no recommended alternative use, explain why the parcel should be recommended for donation, exchange or surplus.**

**Please attach maps, photos, etc., if needed, to provide additional support for your response.**



**KISSIMMEE/OKEECHOBEE ASSESSMENT REGION**

**Subject Matter Expert (SME)**

**Comment Submission Form**

**Respondent:** Marjorie Moore - Mitigation Program

**Date:** 3/18/13

**Division Name:** Operations, Maintenance & Construction

**Bureau Name:** Land Resources

**Region Being Reviewed:** Kissimmee Chain of Lakes, Kissimmee River, Lake Okeechobee, and Unassociated Area Parcels

**Select Area Name:** **KCOL - North KCOL Marshes**

**In your opinion, how well does the current use of the property further the District's core missions of Flood Control, Water Quality protection/improvements, Water Supply, and Natural Systems protection and restoration?**

With regard to the 26.82 acre (Major Realty), 600 acre (GOAA) and 250 acre (Universal) tracts, they all provide offsite mitigation within the McKinney tract for wetland impacts. Endowment funds have been provided to SFWMD for the long-term management of these tracts. It is imperative that the SFWMD continue to manage these tracts for their wetland resource benefits, in perpetuity, in order to meet the required permit obligations.

**In your opinion, is there a better use of the property that would provide more effective support for the District's core missions?**

No

**In your opinion, is there a better use of the property that would provide support for other important natural resource or public use issues?**

No

**If the parcel does not contribute to the District's core mission, and has no recommended alternative use, explain why the parcel should be recommended for donation, exchange or surplus.**

***Please attach maps, photos, etc., if needed, to provide additional support for your response.***

**KISSIMMEE/OKEECHOBEE ASSESSMENT REGION**

**Subject Matter Expert (SME)**

**Comment Submission Form**

**Respondent:** Dan Cotter

**Date:** 3/2013

**Division Name:** Operations, Maintenance & Construction

**Bureau Name:** Land Resources

**Region Being Reviewed:** Kissimmee Chain of Lakes, Kissimmee River, Lake Okeechobee, and Unassociated Area Parcels

**Select Area Name:** **Lake Okeechobee - Nubbin Slough**

**In your opinion, how well does the current use of the property further the District's core missions of Flood Control, Water Quality protection/improvements, Water Supply, and Natural Systems protection and restoration?**

**In your opinion, is there a better use of the property that would provide more effective support for the District's core missions?**

**In your opinion, is there a better use of the property that would provide support for other important natural resource or public use issues?**

Upon completion of the project the District is planning on allowing public use opportunities which would be consistent with the purposes of the project. The site may a very popular recreation area for the residents of Okeechobee similar to the Taylor Creek STA property.

**If the parcel does not contribute to the District's core mission, and has no recommended alternative use, explain why the parcel should be recommended for donation, exchange or surplus.**

**Please attach maps, photos, etc., if needed, to provide additional support for your response.**

**KISSIMMEE/OKEECHOBEE ASSESSMENT REGION**

**Subject Matter Expert (SME)**

**Comment Submission Form**

**Respondent:** Dan Cotter

**Date:** 3/2013

**Division Name:** Operations, Maintenance & Construction

**Bureau Name:** Land Resources

**Region Being Reviewed:** Kissimmee Chain of Lakes, Kissimmee River, Lake Okeechobee, and Unassociated Area Parcels

**Select Area Name:** **Lake Okeechobee - Grassy Island / Taylor Creek**

**In your opinion, how well does the current use of the property further the District's core missions of Flood Control, Water Quality protection/improvements, Water Supply, and Natural Systems protection and restoration?**

**In your opinion, is there a better use of the property that would provide more effective support for the District's core missions?**

**In your opinion, is there a better use of the property that would provide support for other important natural resource or public use issues?**

This area has been very well used for recreation. The Taylor Creek STA property, managed in partnership with Okeechobee County, is a very popular site for the local community to hike, nature view, and bike. In addition, a boardwalk has been designed by District engineers and would be constructed subject to future budget approval. The Grassy Island portion of the property on the west side of Hillard Rd. supports a very successful youth hunting program. The eastern portion of Grassy Island provides equestrian use and has one of the top bike trails in the State which is maintained by local volunteers.

**If the parcel does not contribute to the District's core mission, and has no recommended alternative use, explain why the parcel should be recommended for donation, exchange or surplus.**

***Please attach maps, photos, etc., if needed, to provide additional support for your response.***

**KISSIMMEE/OKEECHOBEE ASSESSMENT REGION**

**Subject Matter Expert (SME)**

**Comment Submission Form**

**Respondent:** Dan Cotter - Public Use Section

**Date:** 3/18/13

**Division Name:** Operations, Maintenance & Construction

**Bureau Name:** Land Resources

**Region Being Reviewed:** Kissimmee Chain of Lakes, Kissimmee River, Lake Okeechobee, and Unassociated Area Parcels

**Select Area Name:** **KCOL - Tiger Lake**

**In your opinion, how well does the current use of the property further the District's core missions of Flood Control, Water Quality protection/improvements, Water Supply, and Natural Systems protection and restoration?**

**In your opinion, is there a better use of the property that would provide more effective support for the District's core missions?**

The necessary flowage easements should be maintained on the property. The property should be reviewed for opportunities to be managed by another local government or agency.

**In your opinion, is there a better use of the property that would provide support for other important natural resource or public use issues?**

Yes, continue to retain a flowage easement on the property but review the possibility for another entity to manage the property for any potential public recreational opportunities and lake access.

**If the parcel does not contribute to the District's core mission, and has no recommended alternative use, explain why the parcel should be recommended for donation, exchange or surplus.**

**Please attach maps, photos, etc., if needed, to provide additional support for your response.**

**KISSIMMEE/OKEECHOBEE ASSESSMENT REGION**

**Subject Matter Expert (SME)**

**Comment Submission Form**

**Respondent:** Brian Garrett - Public Use & Wildlife

**Date:** 3-15-13

**Division Name:** Operations, Maintenance & Construction

**Bureau Name:** Land Resources

**Region Being Reviewed:** Kissimmee Chain of Lakes, Kissimmee River, Lake Okeechobee, and Unassociated Area Parcels

**Select Area Name:** **KCOL - Catfish Creek**

**In your opinion, how well does the current use of the property further the District's core missions of Flood Control, Water Quality protection/improvements, Water Supply, and Natural Systems protection and restoration?**

**In your opinion, is there a better use of the property that would provide more effective support for the District's core missions?**

**In your opinion, is there a better use of the property that would provide support for other important natural resource or public use issues?**

The habitat on this property attracts a diverse group of fauna including several potentially protected species such as bald eagles, other raptors (including federally listed Everglade snail kites and crested caracaras), eastern indigo snakes, Florida sandhill cranes, many species of wading birds, and a multitude of other migratory birds protected by the Migratory Bird Treaty Act of 1918. This property falls within the core-foraging areas for multiple wood stork nesting colonies. One of the best uses for this property is for it to remain in its current state for the the numerous species that utilize it and use it as corridor between other wildlife habitats.

**If the parcel does not contribute to the District's core mission, and has no recommended alternative use, explain why the parcel should be recommended for donation, exchange or surplus.**

***Please attach maps, photos, etc., if needed, to provide additional support for your response.***

**KISSIMMEE/OKEECHOBEE ASSESSMENT REGION**

**Subject Matter Expert (SME)**

**Comment Submission Form**

**Respondent:** Lawrence Glenn / Kissimmee River Restoration Evaluation Unit      **Date:** 3/12/13

**Division Name:** Water Resources      **Bureau Name:** Applied Sciences

**Region Being Reviewed:** Kissimmee Chain of Lakes, Kissimmee River, Lake Okeechobee, and Unassociated Area Parcels

**Select Area Name:** **KCOL - Catfish Creek**

**In your opinion, how well does the current use of the property further the District's core missions of Flood Control, Water Quality protection/improvements, Water Supply, and Natural Systems protection and restoration?**

This property is essential for the federally-authorized Kissimmee River Restoration Project. It was acquired to allow higher water levels, up to 54 feet, in Lakes Kissimmee-Cypress-Hatchineha-Tiger; thus, creating additional water storage when rainfall is abundant and subsequent release to the restored Kissimmee River in a manner that mimics the river's natural flow regime per a new Headwaters Regulation Schedule (HWRS). The reestablishment of the natural flow regime is critical for meeting the river restoration project objectives. Reflooded lands affected by the HWRS below 54 feet have to be acquired to ensure that original C&SF project flood control objectives are maintained, while simultaneously achieving the restoration project's environmental benefits. Land requirements for the project, which include the parcels in this review, are identified in Section 8.3 - Land Acquisition and Appendix H - Real Estate Supplement of the 1996 Kissimmee River Headwaters Revitalization Project: Integrated Project Modification Report and Supplement to the Final Environmental Impact Statement. Additionally, the South Florida Water Management District is required to provide proof of acquisition of all required project land interests for the Kissimmee River Restoration Project to the United States Army Corps of Engineers per the 1994 Project Cooperation Agreement. Funds expended on acquisition of required project lands are cost creditable per the 1994 Project Cooperation Agreement.

**In your opinion, is there a better use of the property that would provide more effective support for the District's core missions?**

NO

**In your opinion, is there a better use of the property that would provide support for other important natural resource or public use issues?**

NO

**If the parcel does not contribute to the District's core mission, and has no recommended alternative use, explain why the parcel should be recommended for donation, exchange or surplus.**

N/A

**Please attach maps, photos, etc., if needed, to provide additional support for your response.**

**KISSIMMEE/OKEECHOBEE ASSESSMENT REGION**

**Subject Matter Expert (SME)**

**Comment Submission Form**

**Respondent:** Lawrence Glenn / Kissimmee River Restoration Evaluation Unit      **Date:** 3/12/13

**Division Name:** Water Resources      **Bureau Name:** Applied Sciences

**Region Being Reviewed:** Kissimmee Chain of Lakes, Kissimmee River, Lake Okeechobee, and Unassociated Area Parcels

**Select Area Name:** **KCOL - Lake Cypress NE Shore**

**In your opinion, how well does the current use of the property further the District's core missions of Flood Control, Water Quality protection/improvements, Water Supply, and Natural Systems protection and restoration?**

This property is essential for the federally-authorized Kissimmee River Restoration Project. It was acquired to allow higher water levels, up to 54 feet, in Lakes Kissimmee-Cypress-Hatchineha-Tiger; thus, creating additional water storage when rainfall is abundant and subsequent release to the restored Kissimmee River in a manner that mimics the river's natural flow regime per a new Headwaters Regulation Schedule (HWRS). The reestablishment of the natural flow regime is critical for meeting the river restoration project objectives. Reflooded lands affected by the HWRS below 54 feet have to be acquired to ensure that original C&SF project flood control objectives are maintained, while simultaneously achieving the restoration project's environmental benefits. Land requirements for the project, which include the parcels in this review, are identified in Section 8.3 - Land Acquisition and Appendix H - Real Estate Supplement of the 1996 Kissimmee River Headwaters Revitalization Project: Integrated Project Modification Report and Supplement to the Final Environmental Impact Statement. Additionally, the South Florida Water Management District is required to provide proof of acquisition of all required project land interests for the Kissimmee River Restoration Project to the United States Army Corps of Engineers per the 1994 Project Cooperation Agreement. Funds expended on acquisition of required project lands are cost creditable per the 1994 Project Cooperation Agreement.

**In your opinion, is there a better use of the property that would provide more effective support for the District's core missions?**

No

**In your opinion, is there a better use of the property that would provide support for other important natural resource or public use issues?**

No

**If the parcel does not contribute to the District's core mission, and has no recommended alternative use, explain why the parcel should be recommended for donation, exchange or surplus.**

N/A

**Please attach maps, photos, etc., if needed, to provide additional support for your response.**

**KISSIMMEE/OKEECHOBEE ASSESSMENT REGION**

**Subject Matter Expert (SME)**

**Comment Submission Form**

**Respondent:** Lawrence Glenn / Kissimmee River Restoration Evaluation Unit      **Date:** 3/12/13

**Division Name:** Water Resources      **Bureau Name:** Applied Sciences

**Region Being Reviewed:** Kissimmee Chain of Lakes, Kissimmee River, Lake Okeechobee, and Unassociated Area Parcels

**Select Area Name:** **KCOL - Lake Kissimmee - Oasis Marsh Parcel, outside of the floodplain**

**In your opinion, how well does the current use of the property further the District's core missions of Flood Control, Water Quality protection/improvements, Water Supply, and Natural Systems protection and restoration?**

The portion of the property that is inside the 54 ft elevation contour is essential for the federally-authorized Kissimmee River Restoration Project. It was acquired to allow higher water levels, up to 54 feet, in Lakes Kissimmee-Cypress-Hatchineha-Tiger; thus, creating additional water storage when rainfall is abundant and subsequent release to the restored Kissimmee River in a manner that mimics the river's natural flow regime per a new Headwaters Regulation Schedule (HWRS). The reestablishment of the natural flow regime is critical for meeting the river restoration project objectives. Reflooded lands affected by the HWRS below 54 feet have to be acquired to ensure that original C&SF project flood control objectives are maintained, while simultaneously achieving the restoration project's environmental benefits. Land requirements for the project, which include the parcels in this review, are identified in Section 8.3 - Land Acquisition and Appendix H - Real Estate Supplement of the 1996 Kissimmee River Headwaters Revitalization Project: Integrated Project Modification Report and Supplement to the Final Environmental Impact Statement. Additionally, the South Florida Water Management District is required to provide proof of acquisition of all required project land interests for the Kissimmee River Restoration Project to the United States Army Corps of Engineers per the 1994 Project Cooperation Agreement. Funds expended on acquisition of required project lands are cost creditable per the 1994 Project Cooperation Agreement.

Although lands above the 54 ft elevation contour are not required directly for the Kissimmee River restoration project, maintaining ownership provides the District flexibility to investigate alternative uses including dispersed water management and STA implementation associated with the Northern Everglades and Estuaries Protection Plan, while also providing an additional buffering area during extreme flood events between state and privately owned lands.

**In your opinion, is there a better use of the property that would provide more effective support for the District's core missions?**

NO

**In your opinion, is there a better use of the property that would provide support for other important natural resource or public use issues?**

NO

**If the parcel does not contribute to the District's core mission, and has no recommended alternative use, explain why the parcel should be recommended for donation, exchange or surplus.**

N/A



**KISSIMMEE/OKEECHOBEE ASSESSMENT REGION**

**Subject Matter Expert (SME)**

**Comment Submission Form**

*Please attach maps, photos, etc., if needed, to provide additional support for your response.*

**KISSIMMEE/OKEECHOBEE ASSESSMENT REGION**

**Subject Matter Expert (SME)**

**Comment Submission Form**

**Respondent:** Lawrence Glenn / Kissimmee River Restoration Evaluation Unit      **Date:** 3/12/13

**Division Name:** Water Resources      **Bureau Name:** Applied Sciences

**Region Being Reviewed:** Kissimmee Chain of Lakes, Kissimmee River, Lake Okeechobee, and Unassociated Area Parcels

**Select Area Name:** **KCOL - Lake Kissimmee**

**In your opinion, how well does the current use of the property further the District's core missions of Flood Control, Water Quality protection/improvements, Water Supply, and Natural Systems protection and restoration?**

This property is essential for the federally-authorized Kissimmee River Restoration Project. It was acquired to allow higher water levels, up to 54 feet, in Lakes Kissimmee-Cypress-Hatchineha-Tiger; thus, creating additional water storage when rainfall is abundant and subsequent release to the restored Kissimmee River in a manner that mimics the river's natural flow regime per a new Headwaters Regulation Schedule (HWRS). The reestablishment of the natural flow regime is critical for meeting the river restoration project objectives. Reflooded lands affected by the HWRS below 54 feet have to be acquired to ensure that original C&SF project flood control objectives are maintained, while simultaneously achieving the restoration project's environmental benefits. Land requirements for the project, which include the parcels in this review, are identified in Section 8.3 - Land Acquisition and Appendix H - Real Estate Supplement of the 1996 Kissimmee River Headwaters Revitalization Project: Integrated Project Modification Report and Supplement to the Final Environmental Impact Statement. Additionally, the South Florida Water Management District is required to provide proof of acquisition of all required project land interests for the Kissimmee River Restoration Project to the United States Army Corps of Engineers per the 1994 Project Cooperation Agreement. Funds expended on acquisition of required project lands are cost creditable per the 1994 Project Cooperation Agreement.

Regarding Natural Systems protection, Rabbit Island in Lake Kissimmee is the location of a regionally significant wading bird colony comprised of at least 9 species, 4 of which are either state- or federally-listed as threatened/endangered. Lake Kissimmee's other islands and shoreline area also have one of the highest densities of nesting bald eagles in the contiguous United States.

**In your opinion, is there a better use of the property that would provide more effective support for the District's core missions?**

NO

**In your opinion, is there a better use of the property that would provide support for other important natural resource or public use issues?**

NO

**If the parcel does not contribute to the District's core mission, and has no recommended alternative use, explain why the parcel should be recommended for donation, exchange or surplus.**

N/A

**Please attach maps, photos, etc., if needed, to provide additional support for your response.**

**KISSIMMEE/OKEECHOBEE ASSESSMENT REGION**

**Subject Matter Expert (SME)**

**Comment Submission Form**

**Respondent:** Lawrence Glenn / Kissimmee River Restoration Evaluation Unit      **Date:** 3/12/13

**Division Name:** Water Resources      **Bureau Name:** Applied Sciences

**Region Being Reviewed:** Kissimmee Chain of Lakes, Kissimmee River, Lake Okeechobee, and Unassociated Area Parcels

**Select Area Name:** **KCOL - London Creek and Lower Lake Marion Creek - Pasture Parcels**

**In your opinion, how well does the current use of the property further the District's core missions of Flood Control, Water Quality protection/improvements, Water Supply, and Natural Systems protection and restoration?**

The portion of the property that is inside the 54 ft elevation contour is essential for the federally-authorized Kissimmee River Restoration Project. It was acquired to allow higher water levels, up to 54 feet, in Lakes Kissimmee-Cypress-Hatchineha-Tiger; thus, creating additional water storage when rainfall is abundant and subsequent release to the restored Kissimmee River in a manner that mimics the river's natural flow regime per a new Headwaters Regulation Schedule (HWRS). The reestablishment of the natural flow regime is critical for meeting the river restoration project objectives. Reflooded lands affected by the HWRS below 54 feet have to be acquired to ensure that original C&SF project flood control objectives are maintained, while simultaneously achieving the restoration project's environmental benefits. Land requirements for the project, which include the parcels in this review, are identified in Section 8.3 - Land Acquisition and Appendix H - Real Estate Supplement of the 1996 Kissimmee River Headwaters Revitalization Project: Integrated Project Modification Report and Supplement to the Final Environmental Impact Statement. Additionally, the South Florida Water Management District is required to provide proof of acquisition of all required project land interests for the Kissimmee River Restoration Project to the United States Army Corps of Engineers per the 1994 Project Cooperation Agreement. Funds expended on acquisition of required project lands are cost creditable per the 1994 Project Cooperation Agreement.

Although lands above the 54 ft elevation contour are not required directly for the Kissimmee River restoration project, maintaining ownership provides the District flexibility to investigate alternative uses including dispersed water management and STA implementation associated with the Northern Everglades and Estuaries Protection Plan, while also providing an additional buffering area during extreme flood events between state and privately owned lands.

**In your opinion, is there a better use of the property that would provide more effective support for the District's core missions?**

NO

**In your opinion, is there a better use of the property that would provide support for other important natural resource or public use issues?**

NO

**If the parcel does not contribute to the District's core mission, and has no recommended alternative use, explain why the parcel should be recommended for donation, exchange or surplus.**

N/A

**KISSIMMEE/OKEECHOBEE ASSESSMENT REGION**

**Subject Matter Expert (SME)**

**Comment Submission Form**

*Please attach maps, photos, etc., if needed, to provide additional support for your response.*

**KISSIMMEE/OKEECHOBEE ASSESSMENT REGION**

**Subject Matter Expert (SME)**

**Comment Submission Form**

**Respondent:** Lawrence Glenn / Kissimmee River Restoration Evaluation Unit      **Date:** 3/12/13

**Division Name:** Water Resources      **Bureau Name:** Applied Sciences

**Region Being Reviewed:** Kissimmee Chain of Lakes, Kissimmee River, Lake Okeechobee, and Unassociated Area Parcels

**Select Area Name:** **KCOL - London Creek and Lower Lake Marion Creek**

**In your opinion, how well does the current use of the property further the District's core missions of Flood Control, Water Quality protection/improvements, Water Supply, and Natural Systems protection and restoration?**

The portion of the property that is inside the 54 ft elevation contour is essential for the federally-authorized Kissimmee River Restoration Project. It was acquired to allow higher water levels, up to 54 feet, in Lakes Kissimmee-Cypress-Hatchineha-Tiger; thus, creating additional water storage when rainfall is abundant and subsequent release to the restored Kissimmee River in a manner that mimics the river's natural flow regime per a new Headwaters Regulation Schedule (HWRS). The reestablishment of the natural flow regime is critical for meeting the river restoration project objectives. Reflooded lands affected by the HWRS below 54 feet have to be acquired to ensure that original C&SF project flood control objectives are maintained, while simultaneously achieving the restoration project's environmental benefits. Land requirements for the project, which include the parcels in this review, are identified in Section 8.3 - Land Acquisition and Appendix H - Real Estate Supplement of the 1996 Kissimmee River Headwaters Revitalization Project: Integrated Project Modification Report and Supplement to the Final Environmental Impact Statement. Additionally, the South Florida Water Management District is required to provide proof of acquisition of all required project land interests for the Kissimmee River Restoration Project to the United States Army Corps of Engineers per the 1994 Project Cooperation Agreement. Funds expended on acquisition of required project lands are cost creditable per the 1994 Project Cooperation Agreement.

Although lands above the 54 ft elevation contour are not required directly for the Kissimmee River restoration project, maintaining ownership provides the District flexibility to investigate alternative uses including dispersed water management and STA implementation associated with the Northern Everglades and Estuaries Protection Plan, while also providing an additional buffering area during extreme flood events between state and privately owned lands.

**In your opinion, is there a better use of the property that would provide more effective support for the District's core missions?**

NO

**In your opinion, is there a better use of the property that would provide support for other important natural resource or public use issues?**

NO

**If the parcel does not contribute to the District's core mission, and has no recommended alternative use, explain why the parcel should be recommended for donation, exchange or surplus.**

N/A

**KISSIMMEE/OKEECHOBEE ASSESSMENT REGION**

**Subject Matter Expert (SME)**

**Comment Submission Form**

*Please attach maps, photos, etc., if needed, to provide additional support for your response.*

**KISSIMMEE/OKEECHOBEE ASSESSMENT REGION**

**Subject Matter Expert (SME)**

**Comment Submission Form**

**Respondent:** Lawrence Glenn / Kissimmee River Restoration Evaluation Unit      **Date:** 3/12/13

**Division Name:** Water Resources      **Bureau Name:** Applied Sciences

**Region Being Reviewed:** Kissimmee Chain of Lakes, Kissimmee River, Lake Okeechobee, and Unassociated Area Parcels

**Select Area Name:** **KCOL - North KCOL Marshes**

**In your opinion, how well does the current use of the property further the District's core missions of Flood Control, Water Quality protection/improvements, Water Supply, and Natural Systems protection and restoration?**

The portion of the property that is inside the 54 ft elevation contour is essential for the federally-authorized Kissimmee River Restoration Project. It was acquired to allow higher water levels, up to 54 feet, in Lakes Kissimmee-Cypress-Hatchineha-Tiger; thus, creating additional water storage when rainfall is abundant and subsequent release to the restored Kissimmee River in a manner that mimics the river's natural flow regime per a new Headwaters Regulation Schedule (HWRS). The reestablishment of the natural flow regime is critical for meeting the river restoration project objectives. Reflooded lands affected by the HWRS below 54 feet have to be acquired to ensure that original C&SF project flood control objectives are maintained, while simultaneously achieving the restoration project's environmental benefits. Land requirements for the project, which include the parcels in this review, are identified in Section 8.3 - Land Acquisition and Appendix H - Real Estate Supplement of the 1996 Kissimmee River Headwaters Revitalization Project: Integrated Project Modification Report and Supplement to the Final Environmental Impact Statement. Additionally, the South Florida Water Management District is required to provide proof of acquisition of all required project land interests for the Kissimmee River Restoration Project to the United States Army Corps of Engineers per the 1994 Project Cooperation Agreement. Funds expended on acquisition of required project lands are cost creditable per the 1994 Project Cooperation Agreement.

Although lands above the 54 ft elevation contour are not required directly for the Kissimmee River restoration project, maintaining ownership provides the District flexibility to investigate alternative uses including dispersed water management and STA implementation associated with the Northern Everglades and Estuaries Protection Plan, while also providing an additional buffering area during extreme flood events between state and privately owned lands.

**In your opinion, is there a better use of the property that would provide more effective support for the District's core missions?**

NO

**In your opinion, is there a better use of the property that would provide support for other important natural resource or public use issues?**

NO

**If the parcel does not contribute to the District's core mission, and has no recommended alternative use, explain why the parcel should be recommended for donation, exchange or surplus.**

NO

**KISSIMMEE/OKEECHOBEE ASSESSMENT REGION**

**Subject Matter Expert (SME)**

**Comment Submission Form**

*Please attach maps, photos, etc., if needed, to provide additional support for your response.*



**KISSIMMEE/OKEECHOBEE ASSESSMENT REGION**

**Subject Matter Expert (SME)**

**Comment Submission Form**

**Respondent:** Lawrence Glenn / Kissimmee River Restoration Evaluation Unit      **Date:** 3/12/13

**Division Name:** Water Resources      **Bureau Name:** Applied Sciences

**Region Being Reviewed:** Kissimmee Chain of Lakes, Kissimmee River, Lake Okeechobee, and Unassociated Area Parcels

**Select Area Name:** **KCOL - Rolling Meadows**

**In your opinion, how well does the current use of the property further the District's core missions of Flood Control, Water Quality protection/improvements, Water Supply, and Natural Systems protection and restoration?**

Most of this property is within the 54 ft elevation contour that is essential for the federally-authorized Kissimmee River Restoration Project. It was acquired to allow higher water levels, up to 54 feet, in Lakes Kissimmee-Cypress-Hatchineha-Tiger; thus, creating additional water storage when rainfall is abundant and subsequent release to the restored Kissimmee River in a manner that mimics the river's natural flow regime per a new Headwaters Regulation Schedule (HWRS). The reestablishment of the natural flow regime is critical for meeting the river restoration project objectives. Reflooded lands affected by the HWRS below 54 feet have to be acquired to ensure that original C&SF project flood control objectives are maintained, while simultaneously achieving the restoration project's environmental benefits. Land requirements for the project, which include the parcels in this review, are identified in Section 8.3 - Land Acquisition and Appendix H - Real Estate Supplement of the 1996 Kissimmee River Headwaters Revitalization Project: Integrated Project Modification Report and Supplement to the Final Environmental Impact Statement. Additionally, the South Florida Water Management District is required to provide proof of acquisition of all required project land interests for the Kissimmee River Restoration Project to the United States Army Corps of Engineers per the 1994 Project Cooperation Agreement. Funds expended on acquisition of required project lands are cost creditable per the 1994 Project Cooperation Agreement.

Although lands above the 54 ft elevation contour are not required directly for the Kissimmee River restoration project, maintaining ownership provides the District flexibility to investigate alternative uses including dispersed water management and STA implementation associated with the Northern Everglades and Estuaries Protection Plan, while also providing an additional buffering area during extreme flood events between state and privately owned lands.

**In your opinion, is there a better use of the property that would provide more effective support for the District's core missions?**

NO

**In your opinion, is there a better use of the property that would provide support for other important natural resource or public use issues?**

NO

**If the parcel does not contribute to the District's core mission, and has no recommended alternative use, explain why the parcel should be recommended for donation, exchange or surplus.**

N/A

**KISSIMMEE/OKEECHOBEE ASSESSMENT REGION**

**Subject Matter Expert (SME)**

**Comment Submission Form**

*Please attach maps, photos, etc., if needed, to provide additional support for your response.*

**KISSIMMEE/OKEECHOBEE ASSESSMENT REGION**

**Subject Matter Expert (SME)**

**Comment Submission Form**

**Respondent:** Lawrence Glenn / Kissimmee River Restoration Evaluation Unit      **Date:** 3/12/13

**Division Name:** Water Resources      **Bureau Name:** Applied Sciences

**Region Being Reviewed:** Kissimmee Chain of Lakes, Kissimmee River, Lake Okeechobee, and Unassociated Area Parcels

**Select Area Name:** **KCOL - Tiger Lake**

**In your opinion, how well does the current use of the property further the District's core missions of Flood Control, Water Quality protection/improvements, Water Supply, and Natural Systems protection and restoration?**

Most of the property is within the 54 ft elevation contour that is essential for the federally-authorized Kissimmee River Restoration Project. It was acquired to allow higher water levels, up to 54 feet, in Lakes Kissimmee-Cypress-Hatchineha-Tiger; thus, creating additional water storage when rainfall is abundant and subsequent release to the restored Kissimmee River in a manner that mimics the river's natural flow regime per a new Headwaters Regulation Schedule (HWRS). The reestablishment of the natural flow regime is critical for meeting the river restoration project objectives. Reflooded lands affected by the HWRS below 54 feet have to be acquired to ensure that original C&SF project flood control objectives are maintained, while simultaneously achieving the restoration project's environmental benefits. Land requirements for the project, which include the parcels in this review, are identified in Section 8.3 - Land Acquisition and Appendix H - Real Estate Supplement of the 1996 Kissimmee River Headwaters Revitalization Project: Integrated Project Modification Report and Supplement to the Final Environmental Impact Statement. Additionally, the South Florida Water Management District is required to provide proof of acquisition of all required project land interests for the Kissimmee River Restoration Project to the United States Army Corps of Engineers per the 1994 Project Cooperation Agreement. Funds expended on acquisition of required project lands are cost creditable per the 1994 Project Cooperation Agreement.

Although lands above the 54 ft elevation contour are not required directly for the Kissimmee River restoration project, maintaining ownership provides the District flexibility to investigate alternative uses including dispersed water management and STA implementation associated with the Northern Everglades and Estuaries Protection Plan, while also providing an additional buffering area during extreme flood events between state and privately owned lands. .

**In your opinion, is there a better use of the property that would provide more effective support for the District's core missions?**

NO

**In your opinion, is there a better use of the property that would provide support for other important natural resource or public use issues?**

NO

**If the parcel does not contribute to the District's core mission, and has no recommended alternative use, explain why the parcel should be recommended for donation, exchange or surplus.**

N/A

**KISSIMMEE/OKEECHOBEE ASSESSMENT REGION**

**Subject Matter Expert (SME)**

**Comment Submission Form**

*Please attach maps, photos, etc., if needed, to provide additional support for your response.*

## KISSIMMEE/OKEECHOBEE ASSESSMENT REGION

### Subject Matter Expert (SME)

### Comment Submission Form

**Respondent:** Linda Crean - Water Quality Section

**Date:** 3/18/13

**Division Name:** Water Resources

**Bureau Name:** Water Quality Bureau

**Region Being Reviewed:** Kissimmee Chain of Lakes, Kissimmee River, Lake Okeechobee, and Unassociated Area Parcels

**Select Area Name:** **KCOL - All**

**In your opinion, how well does the current use of the property further the District's core missions of Flood Control, Water Quality protection/improvements, Water Supply, and Natural Systems protection and restoration?**

The properties all serve at least one (but most provide many) of the District's core missions. These projects positively impact the water supply/quality, flood control and natural resources' protection in this region. These properties will also have increasing value as this region moves through the BMAP process. Additional regional restoration features may need to be implemented when the TMDL is not met in 2015. Many of these properties are critical to moving forward through the remaining Phases of the Kissimmee River Restoration and in achieving water quality targets for Lake Okeechobee.

**In your opinion, is there a better use of the property that would provide more effective support for the District's core missions?**

The properties all have some value in how they are currently being utilized and will likely assume added uses as this region goes through the BMAP process and the deadline for achieving the Lake TMDL passes. These larger management initiatives have not identified how these properties could be used in the future, but more restoration projects that improve water quality and the timing of flows to Lake Okeechobee will be needed to achieve the target. Water storage is a critical issue north of the lake and any opportunities to better utilize these properties for this purpose will need to be identified. Owning this land already is a savings for taxpayers that will be realized when additional projects are identified and the land is already available for use.

**In your opinion, is there a better use of the property that would provide support for other important natural resource or public use issues?**

Much of this region is still going through the BMAP process and these large scale management initiatives have not yet identified what future restoration projects and efforts will be needed in order to reach the Lake's TMDL. The land associated with the Kissimmee River Restoration is critical to moving forward with the final phases of the project and provides protection out to the hundred year flood plain.

**If the parcel does not contribute to the District's core mission, and has no recommended alternative use, explain why the parcel should be recommended for donation, exchange or surplus.**

N/A

**Please attach maps, photos, etc., if needed, to provide additional support for your response.**

## KISSIMMEE/OKEECHOBEE ASSESSMENT REGION

### Subject Matter Expert (SME)

### Comment Submission Form

**Respondent:** Linda Crean

**Date:** 3/18/13

**Division Name:** Water Resources

**Bureau Name:** Water Quality

**Region Being Reviewed:** Kissimmee Chain of Lakes, Kissimmee River, Lake Okeechobee, and Unassociated Area Parcels

**Select Area Name:** **KR - All**

**In your opinion, how well does the current use of the property further the District's core missions of Flood Control, Water Quality protection/improvements, Water Supply, and Natural Systems protection and restoration?**

The properties all serve at least one (but most provide many) of the District's core missions. These projects positively impact the water supply/quality, flood control and natural resources' protection in this region. These properties will also have increasing value as this region moves through the BMAP process. Additional regional restoration features may need to be implemented when the TMDL is not met in 2015. Many of these properties are critical to moving forward through the remaining Phases of the Kissimmee River Restoration and in achieving water quality targets for Lake Okeechobee.

**In your opinion, is there a better use of the property that would provide more effective support for the District's core missions?**

The properties all have some value in how they are currently being utilized and will likely assume added uses as this region goes through the BMAP process and the deadline for achieving the Lake TMDL passes. These larger management initiatives have not identified how these properties could be used in the future, but more restoration projects that improve water quality and the timing of flows to Lake Okeechobee will be needed to achieve the target. Water storage is a critical issue north of the lake and any opportunities to better utilize these properties for this purpose will need to be identified. Owning this land already is a savings for taxpayers that will be realized when additional projects are identified and the land is already available for use.

**In your opinion, is there a better use of the property that would provide support for other important natural resource or public use issues?**

Much of this region is still going through the BMAP process and these large scale management initiatives have not yet identified what future restoration projects and efforts will be needed in order to reach the Lake's TMDL. The land associated with the Kissimmee River Restoration is critical to moving forward with the final phases of the project and provides protection out to the hundred year flood plain.

**If the parcel does not contribute to the District's core mission, and has no recommended alternative use, explain why the parcel should be recommended for donation, exchange or surplus.**

N/A

**Please attach maps, photos, etc., if needed, to provide additional support for your response.**

**KISSIMMEE/OKEECHOBEE ASSESSMENT REGION**

**Subject Matter Expert (SME)**

**Comment Submission Form**

**Respondent:** Brian Garrett - Public Use & Wildlife

**Date:** 3-15-13

**Division Name:** Operations, Maintenance & Construction

**Bureau Name:** Land Resources

**Region Being Reviewed:** Kissimmee Chain of Lakes, Kissimmee River, Lake Okeechobee, and Unassociated Area Parcels

**Select Area Name:** **KCOL - Lake Cypress NE Shore**

**In your opinion, how well does the current use of the property further the District's core missions of Flood Control, Water Quality protection/improvements, Water Supply, and Natural Systems protection and restoration?**

**In your opinion, is there a better use of the property that would provide more effective support for the District's core missions?**

**In your opinion, is there a better use of the property that would provide support for other important natural resource or public use issues?**

The habitat on this property attracts a diverse group of fauna including several potentially protected species such as bald eagles, other raptors (including federally listed Everglade snail kites and crested caracaras), eastern indigo snakes, Florida sandhill cranes, whooping cranes, many species of wading birds, and a multitude of other migratory birds protected by the Migratory Bird Treaty Act of 1918. There is at least one bald eagle nest on the property and these eagles likely use it as a foraging area. This property falls within the core-foraging areas for multiple wood stork nesting colonies. One of the best uses for this property is for them to remain as preserves for the numerous species within this area.

**If the parcel does not contribute to the District's core mission, and has no recommended alternative use, explain why the parcel should be recommended for donation, exchange or surplus.**

***Please attach maps, photos, etc., if needed, to provide additional support for your response.***

**KISSIMMEE/OKEECHOBEE ASSESSMENT REGION**

**Subject Matter Expert (SME)**

**Comment Submission Form**

**Respondent:** Brian Garrett - Public Use & Wildlife

**Date:** 3-15-13

**Division Name:** Operations, Maintenance & Construction

**Bureau Name:** Land Resources

**Region Being Reviewed:** Kissimmee Chain of Lakes, Kissimmee River, Lake Okeechobee, and Unassociated Area Parcels

**Select Area Name:** **KCOL - Lake Kissimmee**

In your opinion, how well does the current use of the property further the District's core missions of Flood Control, Water Quality protection/improvements, Water Supply, and Natural Systems protection and restoration?

In your opinion, is there a better use of the property that would provide more effective support for the District's core missions?

In your opinion, is there a better use of the property that would provide support for other important natural resource or public use issues?

The habitats provided on these properties attract a diverse group of fauna including several potentially protected species such as bald eagles, ospreys, & other raptors (especially federally listed Everglade snail kites and crested caracaras), eastern indigo snakes, Florida sandhill cranes, whooping cranes, many species of wading birds, waterfowl, and a multitude of other migratory birds protected by the Migratory Bird Treaty Act of 1918. Portions of these lands (specifically Oasis Marsh) appear to offer habitat that could attract federally endangered Florida grasshopper sparrows. There are multiple bald eagle nests on these properties and the eagles likely use much of the land as a foraging areas. These properties fall within the core-foraging areas for multiple wood stork nesting colonies. The Oasis Marsh property has a confirmed crested caracara pair that use the property for nesting and foraging. One of the best uses for these properties is for them to remain as preserves for the numerous species within this area.

If the parcel does not contribute to the District's core mission, and has no recommended alternative use, explain why the parcel should be recommended for donation, exchange or surplus.

**Please attach maps, photos, etc., if needed, to provide additional support for your response.**



**KISSIMMEE/OKEECHOBEE ASSESSMENT REGION**

**Subject Matter Expert (SME)**

**Comment Submission Form**

**Respondent:** Brian Garrett

**Date:** 3-18-13

**Division Name:** Operations, Maintenance & Construction

**Bureau Name:** Land Resources

**Region Being Reviewed:** Kissimmee Chain of Lakes, Kissimmee River, Lake Okeechobee, and Unassociated Area Parcels

**Select Area Name:** **Lake Okeechobee - Lake Okeechobee Islands**

In your opinion, how well does the current use of the property further the District's core missions of Flood Control, Water Quality protection/improvements, Water Supply, and Natural Systems protection and restoration?

In your opinion, is there a better use of the property that would provide more effective support for the District's core missions?

In your opinion, is there a better use of the property that would provide support for other important natural resource or public use issues?

The habitats provided on these islands attract many faunal species for nesting/breeding activities including some potentially protected species like raptors, wading birds, and other species of migratory birds protected by the Migratory Bird Treaty Act of 1918. There is a known bald eagles nests on Observation Island. Observation Island also falls within the core foraging range of a wood stork nesting colony. One of the best uses for these properties is for them to remain as preserves for the numerous species within them.

If the parcel does not contribute to the District's core mission, and has no recommended alternative use, explain why the parcel should be recommended for donation, exchange or surplus.

***Please attach maps, photos, etc., if needed, to provide additional support for your response.***

**KISSIMMEE/OKEECHOBEE ASSESSMENT REGION**

**Subject Matter Expert (SME)**

**Comment Submission Form**

**Respondent:** Brian Garrett

**Date:** 3-18-13

**Division Name:** Operations, Maintenance & Construction

**Bureau Name:** Land Resources

**Region Being Reviewed:** Kissimmee Chain of Lakes, Kissimmee River, Lake Okeechobee, and Unassociated Area Parcels

**Select Area Name:** **Lake Okeechobee - Lakeside Ranches**

**In your opinion, how well does the current use of the property further the District's core missions of Flood Control, Water Quality protection/improvements, Water Supply, and Natural Systems protection and restoration?**

**In your opinion, is there a better use of the property that would provide more effective support for the District's core missions?**

**In your opinion, is there a better use of the property that would provide support for other important natural resource or public use issues?**

The multiple habitats provided on this property attract many faunal species including several potentially protected species such as raptors (especially bald eagles and federally threatened crested caracara), gopher tortoises, burrowing owls, eastern indigo snakes, Florida sandhill cranes, and many other species of migratory birds protected by the Migratory Bird Treaty Act of 1918. There are two known eagles nests on the property. Many species of migratory bird (such as killdeer, black-necked stilts, and Florida sandhill cranes) are known to nest within Nubbin Slough STA. This property falls within the core foraging range of at least one wood stork nesting colony. One of the best uses for this property is for it to remain as a preserve for the numerous species within it.

**If the parcel does not contribute to the District's core mission, and has no recommended alternative use, explain why the parcel should be recommended for donation, exchange or surplus.**

**Please attach maps, photos, etc., if needed, to provide additional support for your response.**

**KISSIMMEE/OKEECHOBEE ASSESSMENT REGION**

**Subject Matter Expert (SME)**

**Comment Submission Form**

**Respondent:** Brian Garrett

**Date:** 3-18-13

**Division Name:** Operations, Maintenance & Construction

**Bureau Name:** Land Resources

**Region Being Reviewed:** Kissimmee Chain of Lakes, Kissimmee River, Lake Okeechobee, and Unassociated Area Parcels

**Select Area Name:** **Lake Okeechobee - Lemkin Creek**

**In your opinion, how well does the current use of the property further the District's core missions of Flood Control, Water Quality protection/improvements, Water Supply, and Natural Systems protection and restoration?**

**In your opinion, is there a better use of the property that would provide more effective support for the District's core missions?**

**In your opinion, is there a better use of the property that would provide support for other important natural resource or public use issues?**

This facility likely attracts many species of wading birds as well as other migratory birds protected by the Migratory Bird Treaty Act of 1918.

**If the parcel does not contribute to the District's core mission, and has no recommended alternative use, explain why the parcel should be recommended for donation, exchange or surplus.**

**Please attach maps, photos, etc., if needed, to provide additional support for your response.**

## KISSIMMEE/OKEECHOBEE ASSESSMENT REGION

### Subject Matter Expert (SME)

### Comment Submission Form

Respondent: Linda Crean

Date: 3/18/13

Division Name: Water Resources

Bureau Name: Water Quality

Region Being Reviewed: Kissimmee Chain of Lakes, Kissimmee River, Lake Okeechobee, and Unassociated Area Parcels

Select Area Name: **Lake Okeechobee - All**

**In your opinion, how well does the current use of the property further the District's core missions of Flood Control, Water Quality protection/improvements, Water Supply, and Natural Systems protection and restoration?**

These properties all currently further at least one of the District's core missions. These projects positively impact the water supply/quality, flood control and natural resources' protection in this region. These properties will also have increasing value as this region moves through the BMAP process. Additional regional restoration features may need to be implemented when the TMDL is not met in 2015. Many of these properties could take on even more added value for achieving water quality targets for Lake Okeechobee.

**In your opinion, is there a better use of the property that would provide more effective support for the District's core missions?**

The properties all have some value in how they are currently being utilized and will likely assume added uses as this region goes through the BMAP process and the deadline for achieving the Lake TMDL passes. These larger management initiatives have not identified how these properties could be used in the future, but more restoration projects that improve water quality and the timing of flows to Lake Okeechobee will be needed to achieve the target. Water storage is a critical issue north of the lake and any opportunities to better utilize these properties for this purpose will need to be identified. Owning this land already is a savings for taxpayers that will be realized when additional projects are identified and the land is already available for use.

**In your opinion, is there a better use of the property that would provide support for other important natural resource or public use issues?**

Much of this region is still going through the BMAP process and these large scale management initiatives have not yet identified what future restoration projects and efforts will be needed in order to reach the Lake's TMDL.

**If the parcel does not contribute to the District's core mission, and has no recommended alternative use, explain why the parcel should be recommended for donation, exchange or surplus.**

N/A

***Please attach maps, photos, etc., if needed, to provide additional support for your response.***

**KISSIMMEE/OKEECHOBEE ASSESSMENT REGION**

**Subject Matter Expert (SME)**

**Comment Submission Form**

**Respondent:** Brian Garrett - Public Use & Wildlife

**Date:** 3-15-13

**Division Name:** Operations, Maintenance & Construction

**Bureau Name:** Land Resources

**Region Being Reviewed:** Kissimmee Chain of Lakes, Kissimmee River, Lake Okeechobee, and Unassociated Area Parcels

**Select Area Name:** **KCOL - London Creek and Lower Lake Marion Creek**

**In your opinion, how well does the current use of the property further the District's core missions of Flood Control, Water Quality protection/improvements, Water Supply, and Natural Systems protection and restoration?**

**In your opinion, is there a better use of the property that would provide more effective support for the District's core missions?**

**In your opinion, is there a better use of the property that would provide support for other important natural resource or public use issues?**

The habitat on this property attracts a diverse group of fauna including several potentially protected species such as bald eagles, other raptors (including federally listed Everglade snail kites and crested caracaras), eastern indigo snakes, Florida sandhill cranes, whooping cranes, many species of wading birds, and a multitude of other migratory birds protected by the Migratory Bird Treaty Act of 1918. There is at least one bald eagle nest on these properties and these eagles likely use both areas as foraging areas. This property falls within the core-foraging areas for multiple wood stork nesting colonies. One of the best uses for these properties is for them to remain as preserves for the numerous species within this area.

**If the parcel does not contribute to the District's core mission, and has no recommended alternative use, explain why the parcel should be recommended for donation, exchange or surplus.**

***Please attach maps, photos, etc., if needed, to provide additional support for your response.***

**KISSIMMEE/OKEECHOBEE ASSESSMENT REGION**

**Subject Matter Expert (SME)**

**Comment Submission Form**

**Respondent:** Brian Garrett - Public Use & Wildlife

**Date:** 3-15-13

**Division Name:** Operations, Maintenance & Construction

**Bureau Name:** Land Resources

**Region Being Reviewed:** Kissimmee Chain of Lakes, Kissimmee River, Lake Okeechobee, and Unassociated Area Parcels

**Select Area Name:** **KCOL - London Creek and Lower Lake Marion Creek - Pasture Parcels**

In your opinion, how well does the current use of the property further the District's core missions of Flood Control, Water Quality protection/improvements, Water Supply, and Natural Systems protection and restoration?

In your opinion, is there a better use of the property that would provide more effective support for the District's core missions?

In your opinion, is there a better use of the property that would provide support for other important natural resource or public use issues?

The habitat on these parcels attract a diverse group of fauna including several potentially protected species such as bald eagles, other raptors (including federally listed Everglade snail kites and crested caracaras), eastern indigo snakes, Florida sandhill cranes, many species of wading birds, and a multitude of other migratory birds protected by the Migratory Bird Treaty Act of 1918. These parcels fall within the core-foraging areas for multiple wood stork nesting colonies. One of the best uses for this property is for it to remain in its current state for the the numerous species within this area that utilize it.

If the parcel does not contribute to the District's core mission, and has no recommended alternative use, explain why the parcel should be recommended for donation, exchange or surplus.

***Please attach maps, photos, etc., if needed, to provide additional support for your response.***

**KISSIMMEE/OKEECHOBEE ASSESSMENT REGION**

**Subject Matter Expert (SME)**

**Comment Submission Form**

**Respondent:** Brian Garrett - Public Use & Wildlife

**Date:** 3-15-13

**Division Name:** Operations, Maintenance & Construction

**Bureau Name:** Land Resources

**Region Being Reviewed:** Kissimmee Chain of Lakes, Kissimmee River, Lake Okeechobee, and Unassociated Area Parcels

**Select Area Name:** **KCOL - North KCOL Marshes**

**In your opinion, how well does the current use of the property further the District's core missions of Flood Control, Water Quality protection/improvements, Water Supply, and Natural Systems protection and restoration?**

**In your opinion, is there a better use of the property that would provide more effective support for the District's core missions?**

**In your opinion, is there a better use of the property that would provide support for other important natural resource or public use issues?**

The habitats provided on these properties attract a diverse group of fauna including several potentially protected species such as bald eagles, other raptors (especially federally listed Everglade snail kites and crested caracaras), eastern indigo snakes, Florida sandhill cranes, whooping cranes, many species of wading birds, and a multitude of other migratory birds protected by the Migratory Bird Treaty Act of 1918. Portions of these lands appear to offer habitat that could attract federally endangered Florida grasshopper sparrows. There are multiple eagle nests on these properties and the eagles likely use much to the land as a foraging areas. These properties fall within the core-foraging areas for multiple wood stork nesting colonies. One of the best uses for these properties is for them to remain as preserves for the numerous species within this area.

**If the parcel does not contribute to the District's core mission, and has no recommended alternative use, explain why the parcel should be recommended for donation, exchange or surplus.**

**Please attach maps, photos, etc., if needed, to provide additional support for your response.**

**KISSIMMEE/OKEECHOBEE ASSESSMENT REGION**

**Subject Matter Expert (SME)**

**Comment Submission Form**

**Respondent:** Brian Garrett

**Date:** 3-18-13

**Division Name:** Operations, Maintenance & Construction

**Bureau Name:** Land Resources

**Region Being Reviewed:** Kissimmee Chain of Lakes, Kissimmee River, Lake Okeechobee, and Unassociated Area Parcels

**Select Area Name:** **Lake Okeechobee - North of Lake**

**In your opinion, how well does the current use of the property further the District's core missions of Flood Control, Water Quality protection/improvements, Water Supply, and Natural Systems protection and restoration?**

**In your opinion, is there a better use of the property that would provide more effective support for the District's core missions?**

**In your opinion, is there a better use of the property that would provide support for other important natural resource or public use issues?**

The habitats provided on these properties attract many faunal species including several potentially protected species such as raptors (especially federally threatened crested caracara), eastern indigo snakes, Florida sandhill cranes, and many other species of migratory birds protected by the Migratory Bird Treaty Act of 1918. One of the best uses for these properties is for them to remain as preserves for the numerous species within it.

**If the parcel does not contribute to the District's core mission, and has no recommended alternative use, explain why the parcel should be recommended for donation, exchange or surplus.**

***Please attach maps, photos, etc., if needed, to provide additional support for your response.***



**KISSIMMEE/OKEECHOBEE ASSESSMENT REGION**

**Subject Matter Expert (SME)**

**Comment Submission Form**

**Respondent:** Brian Garrett

**Date:** 3-18-13

**Division Name:** Operations, Maintenance & Construction

**Bureau Name:** Land Resources

**Region Being Reviewed:** Kissimmee Chain of Lakes, Kissimmee River, Lake Okeechobee, and Unassociated Area Parcels

**Select Area Name:** **Lake Okeechobee - Nubbin Slough**

**In your opinion, how well does the current use of the property further the District's core missions of Flood Control, Water Quality protection/improvements, Water Supply, and Natural Systems protection and restoration?**

**In your opinion, is there a better use of the property that would provide more effective support for the District's core missions?**

**In your opinion, is there a better use of the property that would provide support for other important natural resource or public use issues?**

The habitats provided on this property attract many faunal species including several potentially protected species such as raptors (especially federally threatened crested caracara), gopher tortoises, burrowing owls, eastern indigo snakes, Florida sandhill cranes, and many other species of migratory birds protected by the Migratory Bird Treaty Act of 1918. Many species of migratory bird (such as mottled ducks, black-necked stilts, and Florida sandhill cranes) are known to nest within Nubbin Slough STA. This property falls within the core foraging range of at least one wood stork nesting colony. One of the best uses for these properties is for it to remain as a preserve for the numerous species within it.

**If the parcel does not contribute to the District's core mission, and has no recommended alternative use, explain why the parcel should be recommended for donation, exchange or surplus.**

***Please attach maps, photos, etc., if needed, to provide additional support for your response.***

**KISSIMMEE/OKEECHOBEE ASSESSMENT REGION**

**Subject Matter Expert (SME)**

**Comment Submission Form**

**Respondent:** Brian Garrett

**Date:** 3-18-13

**Division Name:** Operations, Maintenance & Construction

**Bureau Name:** Land Resources

**Region Being Reviewed:** Kissimmee Chain of Lakes, Kissimmee River, Lake Okeechobee, and Unassociated Area Parcels

**Select Area Name:** **Lake Okeechobee - Nubbin Slough - Triangle Parcel**

**In your opinion, how well does the current use of the property further the District's core missions of Flood Control, Water Quality protection/improvements, Water Supply, and Natural Systems protection and restoration?**

**In your opinion, is there a better use of the property that would provide more effective support for the District's core missions?**

**In your opinion, is there a better use of the property that would provide support for other important natural resource or public use issues?**

The habitat provided on this property attracts a few faunal species including some potentially protected species such as raptors (including eagles and federally threatened crested caracara), Florida sandhill cranes, and some other species of migratory birds protected by the Migratory Bird Treaty Act of 1918.

**If the parcel does not contribute to the District's core mission, and has no recommended alternative use, explain why the parcel should be recommended for donation, exchange or surplus.**

**Please attach maps, photos, etc., if needed, to provide additional support for your response.**

**KISSIMMEE/OKEECHOBEE ASSESSMENT REGION**

**Subject Matter Expert (SME)**

**Comment Submission Form**

**Respondent:** Brian Garrett - Public Use & Wildlife

**Date:** 3-15-13

**Division Name:** Operations, Maintenance & Construction

**Bureau Name:** Land Resources

**Region Being Reviewed:** Kissimmee Chain of Lakes, Kissimmee River, Lake Okeechobee, and Unassociated Area Parcels

**Select Area Name:** **KCOL - Rolling Meadows**

**In your opinion, how well does the current use of the property further the District's core missions of Flood Control, Water Quality protection/improvements, Water Supply, and Natural Systems protection and restoration?**

**In your opinion, is there a better use of the property that would provide more effective support for the District's core missions?**

**In your opinion, is there a better use of the property that would provide support for other important natural resource or public use issues?**

The habitat on this property attracts a diverse group of fauna including several potentially protected species such as bald eagles, other raptors, Florida sandhill cranes, many species of wading birds, waterfowl, and a multitude of other migratory birds protected by the Migratory Bird Treaty Act of 1918. There are multiple eagle nests on the property and the eagles likely use much of the land as a foraging areas. This property falls within the core-foraging areas for multiple wood stork nesting colonies. One of the best uses for this property is for it to remain in its current state for the the numerous species that utilize it and use it as corridor between other wildlife habitats.

**If the parcel does not contribute to the District's core mission, and has no recommended alternative use, explain why the parcel should be recommended for donation, exchange or surplus.**

***Please attach maps, photos, etc., if needed, to provide additional support for your response.***

**KISSIMMEE/OKEECHOBEE ASSESSMENT REGION**

**Subject Matter Expert (SME)**

**Comment Submission Form**

**Respondent:** Brian Garrett

**Date:** 3-18-13

**Division Name:** Operations, Maintenance & Construction

**Bureau Name:** Land Resources

**Region Being Reviewed:** Kissimmee Chain of Lakes, Kissimmee River, Lake Okeechobee, and Unassociated Area Parcels

**Select Area Name:** **Lake Okeechobee - Grassy Island / Taylor Creek**

**In your opinion, how well does the current use of the property further the District's core missions of Flood Control, Water Quality protection/improvements, Water Supply, and Natural Systems protection and restoration?**

**In your opinion, is there a better use of the property that would provide more effective support for the District's core missions?**

**In your opinion, is there a better use of the property that would provide support for other important natural resource or public use issues?**

The habitats provided on these properties attract many faunal species including several potentially protected species such as raptors (especially federally threatened crested caracara), gopher tortoises, burrowing owls, eastern indigo snakes, Florida sandhill cranes, and many other species of migratory birds protected by the Migratory Bird Treaty Act of 1918. Many species of migratory bird (such as wood ducks, mottled ducks, osprey, purple gallinules, great blue herons, black-necked stilts, and Florida sandhill cranes) are known to nest within Taylor Creek STA. These properties fall within the core foraging range of multiple wood stork nesting colonies. One of the best uses for these properties is for them to remain as preserves for the numerous species within it.

**If the parcel does not contribute to the District's core mission, and has no recommended alternative use, explain why the parcel should be recommended for donation, exchange or surplus.**

***Please attach maps, photos, etc., if needed, to provide additional support for your response.***

**KISSIMMEE/OKEECHOBEE ASSESSMENT REGION**

**Subject Matter Expert (SME)**

**Comment Submission Form**

**Respondent:** Brian Garrett - Public Use & Wildlife

**Date:** 3-15-13

**Division Name:** Operation, Maintenance & Construction

**Bureau Name:** Land Resources

**Region Being Reviewed:** Kissimmee Chain of Lakes, Kissimmee River, Lake Okeechobee, and Unassociated Area Parcels

**Select Area Name:** **KCOL - Tiger Lake**

**In your opinion, how well does the current use of the property further the District's core missions of Flood Control, Water Quality protection/improvements, Water Supply, and Natural Systems protection and restoration?**

**In your opinion, is there a better use of the property that would provide more effective support for the District's core missions?**

**In your opinion, is there a better use of the property that would provide support for other important natural resource or public use issues?**

The habitat on this property attracts a diverse group of fauna including several potentially protected species such as bald eagles, other raptors, Florida sandhill cranes, many species of wading birds, waterfowl, and a multitude of other migratory birds protected by the Migratory Bird Treaty Act of 1918. This property falls within the core-foraging areas for multiple wood stork nesting colonies.

**If the parcel does not contribute to the District's core mission, and has no recommended alternative use, explain why the parcel should be recommended for donation, exchange or surplus.**

***Please attach maps, photos, etc., if needed, to provide additional support for your response.***

**KISSIMMEE/OKEECHOBEE ASSESSMENT REGION**

**Subject Matter Expert (SME)**

**Comment Submission Form**

**Respondent:** Kissimmee River Restoration Evaluation Unit

**Date:** 3/12/13

**Division Name:** Water Resources

**Bureau Name:** Applied Sciences

**Region Being Reviewed:** Kissimmee Chain of Lakes, Kissimmee River, Lake Okeechobee, and Unassociated Area Parcels

**Select Area Name:** **Unassociated Parcels - Camp Mack Triangle Parcel**

**In your opinion, how well does the current use of the property further the District's core missions of Flood Control, Water Quality protection/improvements, Water Supply, and Natural Systems protection and restoration?**

This parcel may have been purchased for the Kissimmee River Restoration Project because it lies below the 54 ft elevation contour. The elevation should be verified; if it is below 54 ft, it should be kept.

**In your opinion, is there a better use of the property that would provide more effective support for the District's core missions?**

NO

**In your opinion, is there a better use of the property that would provide support for other important natural resource or public use issues?**

NO

**If the parcel does not contribute to the District's core mission, and has no recommended alternative use, explain why the parcel should be recommended for donation, exchange or surplus.**

If it is above 54 ft elevation, it could be surplus.

**Please attach maps, photos, etc., if needed, to provide additional support for your response.**

**KISSIMMEE/OKEECHOBEE ASSESSMENT REGION**

**Subject Matter Expert (SME)**

**Comment Submission Form**

**Respondent:** Dan Cotter - Public Use Section

**Date:** 3/18/13

**Division Name:** Operation, Maintenance and Construction

**Bureau Name:** Land Resources

**Region Being Reviewed:** Kissimmee Chain of Lakes, Kissimmee River, Lake Okeechobee, and Unassociated Area Parcels

**Select Area Name:** **KCOL - All**

**In your opinion, how well does the current use of the property further the District's core missions of Flood Control, Water Quality protection/improvements, Water Supply, and Natural Systems protection and restoration?**

Current allowable public use and recreation in the KCOL is consistent with District policy, statutory requirements, and the purposes for which the property were acquired including the requirements under the Save Our Rivers program.

**In your opinion, is there a better use of the property that would provide more effective support for the District's core missions?**

**In your opinion, is there a better use of the property that would provide support for other important natural resource or public use issues?**

The existing public use and recreation in the region should continue to be supported.

**If the parcel does not contribute to the District's core mission, and has no recommended alternative use, explain why the parcel should be recommended for donation, exchange or surplus.**

***Please attach maps, photos, etc., if needed, to provide additional support for your response.***

**KISSIMMEE/OKEECHOBEE ASSESSMENT REGION**

**Subject Matter Expert (SME)**

**Comment Submission Form**

**Respondent:** Dan Cotter

**Date:** 3/27/13

**Division Name:** Operations, Maintenance & Construction

**Bureau Name:** Land Resources

**Region Being Reviewed:** Kissimmee Chain of Lakes, Kissimmee River, Lake Okeechobee, and Unassociated Area Parcels

**Select Area Name:** **KR - All**

**In your opinion, how well does the current use of the property further the District's core missions of Flood Control, Water Quality protection/improvements, Water Supply, and Natural Systems protection and restoration?**

Current allowable public use and recreation in the entire Kissimmee River Region is consistent with District policy, statutory requirements, and the purposes for which the property were acquired including the requirements under the Save Our Rivers program.

**In your opinion, is there a better use of the property that would provide more effective support for the District's core missions?**

**In your opinion, is there a better use of the property that would provide support for other important natural resource or public use issues?**

The existing public use and recreation in the region should continue to be supported. The KR region provides outstanding opportunities for camping, hunting, fishing, boating, hiking and equestrian use. Additionally, several miles of the Florida National Scenic Trail traverses through District properties in this region. A boardwalk has been designed by the District to replace the existing one located in the Bluff Hammock area. The construction is subject to future budget approval.

**If the parcel does not contribute to the District's core mission, and has no recommended alternative use, explain why the parcel should be recommended for donation, exchange or surplus.**

***Please attach maps, photos, etc., if needed, to provide additional support for your response.***



**KISSIMMEE/OKEECHOBEE ASSESSMENT REGION**

**Subject Matter Expert (SME)**

**Comment Submission Form**

**Respondent:** Jim Laing - Land Stewardship South

**Date:** 3/19/2013

**Division Name:** Operations, Maintenance & Construction

**Bureau Name:** Land Resources

**Region Being Reviewed:** Kissimmee Chain of Lakes, Kissimmee River, Lake Okeechobee, and Unassociated Area Parcels

**Select Area Name:** **KCOL - Rolling Meadows**

**In your opinion, how well does the current use of the property further the District's core missions of Flood Control, Water Quality protection/improvements, Water Supply, and Natural Systems protection and restoration?**

Project under design for Catfish Creek Restoration using DWM alternatives. This project meets multiple aspects of the District's core mission.

**In your opinion, is there a better use of the property that would provide more effective support for the District's core missions?**

No

**In your opinion, is there a better use of the property that would provide support for other important natural resource or public use issues?**

No

**If the parcel does not contribute to the District's core mission, and has no recommended alternative use, explain why the parcel should be recommended for donation, exchange or surplus.**

N/A

***Please attach maps, photos, etc., if needed, to provide additional support for your response.***