

Crooks Ranch Consent Agreement Extension Request

*Keith R. Smith, Deputy Director
Water Supply Department
February 14, 2007*



GB Meeting

September 14, 2005

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Lake Okeechobee

Palm Beach Co.
Hendry Co.

FLA 833

FLA 846

FLA 846

948 714



Crooks Ranch Consent Agreement

Background

- 1977 - CUP issued for 135 acres
- 2002 – Request to modify permit to increase acreage to 1,597
 - Applicant could not provide assurances that wetlands would not be harmed
 - 1st Consent agreement issued October 2004 to allow information to be collected and 687 acres to be irrigated

Crooks Ranch Consent Agreement

Background (continued)

- District conducted aquifer study on ranch
- Ranch did not provide all required information in a timely manner
- Allocation limits were exceeded

Crooks Ranch Consent Agreement

2nd Consent Agreement Issued
September 2006

- Allowed 746 acres to be irrigated
- Allocations again exceeded
- All required information provided by lessee

Crooks Ranch Consent Agreement

- **3rd Consent Agreement issued in September 2007 to allow farming while evaluation continued**
- **Lessee elected not to renew lease**
- **Data collection not possible with no operations on site**
- **Cannot attract a new lessee due to uncertainty in water supply (Consent agreement expires June 2008)**

Crook Ranch Consent Agreement

- Property owner is requesting consent agreement be extended three years
 - Three year certainty may allow a lessee to be attracted
 - Active farming by a lessee would allow required data to be collected
 - Data would support a permitting decision to be made