

Species Management Kissimmee River: Snail Kites

During a State of Emergency declared by the Governor, SFWMD held water in the Upper Kissimmee Chain of Lakes to prevent algae from reaching South Florida families; USFWS said send it anyway to protect 10 bird nests.

- **Quote from USFWS [July 6, 2016, email](#) from Bob Progulske:** "The District does not have incidental take coverage for any snail kites or kite nests within the KCOL or the Kissimmee River. It is the Service's recommendation that the District return water levels back to Jun 27, 2016 conditions and coordinate with us regarding options on how to avoid or minimize take of snail kites in the KCOL and on the Kissimmee River."

July 6, 2016, Email

From: "Progulske, Donald" <donald_progulske@fws.gov>

Date: July 6, 2016 at 4:30:28 PM EDT

To: Martin <martin.mann@myfwc.com>, Tim <tim.coughlin@myfwc.com>, Arnold <Arnold.Brunell@myfwc.com>, Steve <sbousqu@sfwmd.gov>, Tyler <Tyler.Beck@myfwc.com>, "Welch, Zach" <zwelch@sfwmd.gov>, "Anderson, Brent" <branders@sfwmd.gov>, "Cheek, Michael" <mcheek@sfwmd.gov>, Timothy Breen <timothy_breen@fws.gov>, Steve Schubert <steve_schubert@fws.gov>, "Bates, Terrie" <tbates@sfwmd.gov>, "Summa, Eric P SAJ" <Eric.P.Summa@usace.army.mil>, "Mitnik, John" <jmitnik@sfwmd.gov>, <Adam.C.Stuart@usace.army.mil>

Subject: Everglade Snail Kite Nests on the Kissimmee River

Steve,

The purpose of this email is for the Service to inform the SFWMD that there are 10 active snail kite nests on the Kissimmee River flood plain as of 6/27/16. There appears to have been a rapid recession of approximately 1.4 feet in this area since the UF crew last surveyed (6/27/2016), which may result in unauthorized take of kite nests. The District does not have incidental take coverage for any snail kites or kite nests within the KCOL or the Kissimmee River. It is the Service's recommendation that the District return water levels back to Jun 27, 2016 conditions and coordinate with us regarding options on how to avoid or minimize take of snail kites in the KCOL and on the Kissimmee River. Thanks for your attention to this matter.

Bob

Bob Progulske

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