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&
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U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
ATTN: Stu Appelbaum
P.O. Box 4970
Jacksonville, Fl. 32232-0019

Subject: Programmatic Regulations for the CERP (Final Rule 2003)

Dear Sir;

I am writing as representative of the Collier Sportsmen and Conservation Club, Inc. We are a Southwest Florida organization that has traditionally enjoyed recreational activities within the South Blocks now named The Picayune Strand State Forrest. We are an organization of approximately 150 local families that enjoy camping, picnicking, hiking, fishing, wildlife viewing, hunting and ORV riding.

We have attended many meetings on the Picayune Strand and voiced concerns that our interests and culture have not been considered. While I realize this is another effort in futility, I would like for the record to state that we are still interested in managed activities within this unit and we are NOT going away!

I personally wasted five years of my life sitting on the Picayune Strand Liaison Advisory Committee. We worked on several aspects of managed recreation and designated trail plans only to be told that the USFWS has decided to make this land for all practicality, a private panther preserve.

We seem to constantly be sold the same bill of goods. Government agencies start out by selling a new project with the idea everyone will benefit, lands will be protected from development and recreation will be established for everyone. Then we are assured we will be included and asked to build support by lobbying our representatives. The process begins and when the details are slowly developed, the sportsmen are tossed out again. Enough is enough!

We are addressing an area that has been most severely altered (This means it is not pristine, God protected from man, old growth spotted owl territory exclusive!) It has been dredged, burned, divided with roads and sold over and over. The concept that you are attempting to restore it is terrific and would be better supported if you included man in your plans. This area was used before development and even after development of roads for many forms of recreation. Some activities are not compatible and all need to be managed. Given the condition of these lands and the fact that man and panthers are existing together (i.e. The Big Cypress National Preserve which the USFWS also has jurisdiction in) demonstrates that designated ORV trails can work if given an opportunity.

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I am offering these comments to state that something has gone wrong in the process. CERP was supposed to have a recreational component to it. Do you have a required cultural study on these lands that would verify my comments? If such a study has been done, it has certainly been IGNORED!

I am asking again as representative of around 150 local taxpaying families, please consider us in your plans for our public lands. 50,000 public acres should be large enough for some designated ORV trails. There is never a problem with making hiking and horse trails out of buggy trails.

Thank you for allowing me to submit the above comments.

Sincerely,

Wayne Jenkins

Wayne Jenkins

President