



Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services  
CHARLES H. BRONSON, Commissioner  
The Capitol • Tallahassee, FL 32399-0800  
www.doacs.state.fl.us

Please Respond to: Florida Division of Forestry  
Other Public Lands, Reg. 4  
12460 Chelsey Road  
Brooksville, FL 34613-4879

June 15, 2009

Hillsborough County  
Patricia Bean, Administrator  
Post Office Box 1110  
Tampa, FL 33601

Dear Ms. Bean:

I am a senior forester with the Florida Dept. of Agriculture and Consumer Services' Division of Forestry (DOF). Since 1927, our agency has provided advice to public and private landowners with their land management options. Events, related to wildfires and insect infestations of the 1990's, demonstrated the need to also extend these services to other governmental agencies. As a result, in 1998 Florida's legislature established the Other Public Lands (OPL) program within DOF's Bureau of Forest Management.

For the past twenty plus years, I have managed large tracts of state owned land. Over the last ten years, I have assisted other state, county, and local governments with timber and wildlife management issues. This includes Hillsborough County Parks and Recreation Department and Water Resource Services. During that time, DOF's OPL program has generated almost \$ 3,000,000 dollars in revenue in my region alone. Almost all of this money was generated from timber sales performed as part of a wildlife habitat improvement projects or from timber that had been destroyed by fire or insects. These are dollars that did not cost taxpayers anything and that many of these government agencies might not have otherwise even known was possible to obtain.

This letter is intended to make sure that you and the Commissioners know of our OPL program's existence. At the same time, I have followed with interest the issue of the Cone Ranch. I felt it only proper that you be made aware of the revenues that this wonderful piece of property has generated for Hillsborough County. The cattle lease, pine straw raking lease, and pine plantation thinning operation are now or have in the past brought the County a return on their investment. Before any decision is made on disposal of this property, I would like to discuss options with someone in authority within the County government. Any opportunity to enlighten the Commissioners, their staff, and/or the panel looking into the disposition proposal would be appreciated.

Thank you.

Sincerely,  
CHARLES H. BRONSON  
COMMISSIONER OF AGRICULTURE

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Butch Mallett", written over the printed name.

Butch Mallett  
Senior Forester, Other Public Lands, Region 4  
352/592-5696 or 850/228-7809 cell

CC: Jim Grubbs, FM



Florida Agriculture and Forest Products  
\$97 Billion for Florida's Economy