



FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND CONSUMER SERVICES  
COMMISSIONER NICOLE "NIKKI" FRIED

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November 23, 2020

The Honorable John Meeks, Chairperson  
Levy County Board of County Commissioners  
Post Office Box 310  
Bronson, Florida 32621

Dear Mr. Meeks:

It is my pleasure to submit the enclosed payment of \$27,604.55 to the Levy County Board of County Commissioners. This payment reflects the distribution of the Goethe State Forest receipts for fiscal year 2019-2020 in accordance with Section 589, Florida Statutes.

The Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services manages 38 state forests encompassing over 1,153,691 acres. Through a comprehensive resource management plan, we encourage the use of forest lands for recreation, as a habitat for threatened and endangered plants and animals, for soil and water conservation, and as a source of raw materials for a dynamic wood-using industry.

During fiscal year 2019-2020, the Department collected approximately \$7,109,031 from the operation of state forests, including 4.2 million from the sale of timber and \$1,690,419.40 in recreation fees from over 20 million visitors.

As you know, these activities also benefit 13 counties that are home to Florida's income-producing state forests. These counties deemed fiscally constrained per Florida Statute 589.081 receive 15 percent of the gross receipts from a state forest in proportion to the acreage located in each county. Based on fiscal year 2019-2020 gross receipts, a total of \$343,346.79 is being distributed to Florida counties and school boards.

I hope these funds assist you in carrying out the Board's critical responsibilities.

Sincerely,

Nicole Fried  
Commissioner of Agriculture