

FLORIDA FOREST SERVICE
(850) 681-5800



THE CONNER BUILDING
3125 CONNER BOULEVARD
TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA 32399-1650

FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND CONSUMER SERVICES COMMISSIONER WILTON SIMPSON

April 15, 2024

Deseree Mills
District 3 County Commissioner
Levy County Board of County Commissioners
310 School Street
P.O. Box 310
Bronson, FL 32621
(352) 317-1998

Dear Ms. Mills,

The Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, Florida Forest Service and the Management Plan Advisory Group for the Goethe State Forest will be conducting two in-person meetings on May 29, 2024, to take public comment on the draft 10-Year Land Management Plan of the Goethe State Forest. Details of these proceedings are included in the enclosed Public Notice.

In compliance with subsection 259.032(8)(b), Florida Statutes, the Florida Forest Service is requesting that an informational item be placed on the Levy County meeting agenda for the next available meeting, May 7, 2024, to briefly announce the Forest Service's draft plan. Enclosed is a copy of subsection 259.032(8)(b), Florida Statutes, a copy of our public notice with the agenda for the public hearing. Also, I will be attending the meeting to answer any questions you or any of the county council representatives may have.

Thank you for your cooperation regarding this matter. Please let me know if you have any questions at this point.

Sincerely,

Logan Deuel, Forestry Supervisor II
Goethe State Forest
Logan.Deuel@fdacs.gov
(352) 566-5215

Enclosures: - Goethe State Forest MPAG Public Meeting Notice & Agenda
- Subsection 259.032(8)(b), Florida Statutes

PUBLIC HEARING

FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND CONSUMER
SERVICES, FLORIDA FOREST SERVICE
&
THE GOETHE STATE FOREST
MANAGEMENT PLAN ADVISORY GROUP

Wednesday, May 29, 2024
@ 10:30 A.M.

Levy County Government Center Auditorium
310 School Street, Bronson, FL 32621

AGENDA

Call to Order, Introductions, and Remarks

Summary of Draft Plan

Questions/Answers on Plan Content

Public Comments

Summation and Adjournment

Copies of a working draft of the plan and the management prospectus are available before the date of the public hearing online at <https://www.fdacs.gov/News-Events/Event-Calendar>; by contacting the Waccasassa Forestry Center in writing at 5353 NE 39th Avenue, Gainesville, FL 32609; or by contacting Logan Deuel at (352) 566-5215. Special accommodations for persons with a disabling condition should be requested in writing to the Waccasassa Forestry Center's Administrative Office at the above listed address at least 72 hours in advance of these proceedings. You are hereby notified in accordance with Chapter 286.0105, Florida Statutes, should you decide to appeal any decision made as a result of, or take exception to any findings of fact with respect to any matter considered at the hearing and meeting referred to above, you may need to ensure that a verbatim record of the proceedings is made. Such record shall include the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is to be based.

Florida Statute 259.032(8)(b)

259.032(8)(b) Individual management plans required by s. 253.034(5), for parcels over 160 acres, shall be developed with input from an advisory group. Members of this advisory group shall include, at a minimum, representatives of the lead land managing agency, comanaging entities, local private property owners, the appropriate soil and water conservation district, a local conservation organization, and a local elected official. If habitat or potentially restorable habitat for imperiled species is located on state lands, the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission and the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services shall be included on any advisory group

required under chapter 253, and the short-term and long-term management goals required under chapter 253 must advance the goals and objectives of imperiled species management without restricting other uses identified in the management plan. The advisory group shall conduct at least one public hearing within the county in which the parcel or project is located. For those parcels or projects that are within more than one county, at least one areawide public hearing shall be acceptable and the lead managing agency shall invite a local elected official from each county. The areawide public hearing shall be held in the county in which the core parcels are located. Notice of such public hearing shall be posted on the parcel or project designated for management, advertised in a paper of general circulation, and announced at a scheduled meeting of the local governing body before the actual public hearing. The management prospectus required pursuant to paragraph (7)(c) shall be available to the public for a period of 30 days before the public hearing.