



Twin Pines Minerals, LLC

Opposition is easy... If you don't have to prove your point

In the year since we introduced our mining proposal, what stands out to me is how insistent opponents are it will have a negative impact on the swamp. Yet not one study, nor any sound scientific evidence, has been offered to indicate we shouldn't surface mine, replace excavated soils, and reclaim the land which sits 2.7 miles away from the swamp.

Another thing that seems obvious, but is lost on most, is we are making a significant financial commitment, but not without 100% certainty our \$300 million investment is sound. We have understood from *day one* our funds will only be safe if our operations have no impact on the swamp.

So, we are spending millions on studies into the hydrology, geology and biology that will tell us if our project will harm the land, wildlife or the swamp. We're working with the best-of-the-best scientists who are currently sharing their studies with other academicians and finalizing their reports. The findings thus far give me no cause for concern.

There have been claims made that the studies are results-oriented, geared to show that the swamp will be protected. However, we mandated that they should be very intensive, because if we can't proceed safely from a financial standpoint, then now is the time to find out. Let me repeat; a safe swamp is a safe investment.

Another point about which I'm thinking is how selfish we've all become. We oppose almost any project that is too close to our homes, schools, businesses or natural environments. We want our modern conveniences, but also have selective standards of tolerance for the processes that help make them possible. Some who have the notion our project is wrong very likely use products made with the same raw materials we will be mining. Titanium is in smart phones and many other important products such as surgical tools, prosthetics, automobiles, aircraft, spaceships and military equipment among others.

There are not many titanium deposits that are as easily accessible as this one. Our method of extracting minerals is going to be quick, sound and repeatable, and will leave the land 100% plantable with the correct species nature intended. It is a much more environmentally friendly process than was proposed years ago.

I believe the short-term interruption in this small mining area is a minor intrusion versus what has been done on this land historically; growing non-native, commercial-grade timber and using fertilizers, herbicides and other chemicals.

Finally, I have come to realize that regardless of what science says, people are going to accuse us, or the Corps, of putting the swamp in danger. Frankly, I'm tired of talk. We've stepped up and are proving our case. For those who are so sure we're going to harm the swamp, it's time to step up and prove it.

Steve Ingle, President