



Carol Mosley <earthweaver@gmail.com>

Concerns regarding SRWMD land

10 messages

Carol Mosley <earthweaver@gmail.com>
To: Hugh Thomas <hugh.thomas@srwmd.org>

Mon, Jun 30, 2025 at 8:44 PM

Good afternoon Mr. Thomas,

It has come to my attention that there is a permit request with the Army Corps for wetlands intrusion on land which SRWMD owns. The purchase, ownership and mineral rights leasing is a very confusing group endeavor that seems to leave the public out of the stated benefits. I have requested a public meeting with the Army Corps regarding this application in order to get a better understanding of why a private company is requesting to mine on publicly owned lands. I hope you can help to clarify just how and why things came to be as they now are.

I don't believe I will be able to make it in person to the meeting on July 8th in Live Oak. However, I will certainly prepare a statement that I hope will be shared at the meeting and will include your helpful explanations to my queries.

I have attached the Agreement between SRWMD and the Dept. of Military Affairs (DMA) regarding this property for reference. It states that the DMA will manage the property in keeping with the intent of the SRWMD. It also lists those intentions, which include public recreation and conservation. Obviously, mining and public access are at odds with each other. Thus, my confusion.

In September of 2015 SRWMD purchased the land from Rayonier but SRWMD did not obtain the mineral rights. Rayonier then leased those mineral rights to Chemours for mining of ilmenite sands on the property. I don't understand why SRWMD purchased this land "for public benefit" only to have it mined by a private entity. I understand how it provides a buffer for Camp Blanding, but why does SRWMD need to be involved at all? Why didn't Camp Blanding and Rayonier make their own deal for the land? Why include public use as a reason if that is not able to be done while the mineral rights are leased elsewhere?

I saw no terms that would ever terminate Rayonier's ability to have the land mined as long as there is anything worth taking. So when does the public expect to be able to use it for recreation?

This seems like a bad deal for SRWMD. What benefit does SRWMD get by their involvement? It would still provide a buffer for Camp Blanding (CB) and provide aquifer recharge if Rayonier and CB made their deal without SRWMD. The possibility for public use and public benefit seems to be the only reason for SRWMD to be involved at all.

Please help me understand WHY SRWMD made this deal. Did SRWMD actually pay money for the property? How much if so? Did SRWMD receive the income from any trees harvested from the property? How much if so? What benefit does SRWMD get for their involvement since the land is NOT actually available for public use?

With all due respect, this feels like someone was taken advantage of. Was it SRWMD in making a bad deal or one they didn't fully understand? Shame on Rayonier? Or was the public deceived about SRWMD's intentions for public use of the property? Please explain the public benefit of this deal.

I am very willing to discuss this by phone if that is desired. I anxiously anticipate your reply.

Sincerely,
Carol Mosley
(352) 485-2524 (landline)

2 attachments**1516-037_Management Agreement_Camp Blanding.pdf**
7071K**Warranty Deed SRWMD & Chemours 2015.pdf**
320K

Carol Mosley <earthweaver@gmail.com>
To: Tim.Alexander@srwmd.org

Mon, Jun 30, 2025 at 8:55 PM

Hello Mr. Alexander,
I understand that you are the person standing in for Mr. Thomas until July 7th, the day before the meeting. Since I am hoping to have some response prior to the meeting, I hope you can respond to my questions or steer me to the appropriate party.

With thanks,
Carol Mosley
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