

Comments and Questions of Carol Mosley for the SRWMD Board

Good morning,

I am hoping you can provide me with some answers to a confusing situation with land owned by SRWMD in Bradford County, where I am a homeowner.

In 2015 SRWMD purchased land from Rayonier but did not obtain the mineral rights. Rayonier then leased those mineral rights to Chemours for mining on the property. The purchase, ownership and mineral rights leasing is a very confusing group endeavor that seems to leave the public out of the stated benefits. SRWMD then entered into an agreement for management of the property with the Dept. of Military Affairs (DMA) in December 2015 that ends in 2040. (Warranty Deed and Management Agreement attached for reference)

My confusion lies with the language in the Management Agreement that states the intended purpose for the land and DMA's promise to manage the land in keeping with SRWMD's intentions. The Agreement says the land will be used for such things as a buffer for Camp Blanding, aquifer recharge and public use, such as recreation.

the CBJTC INRMP. The PROPERTY will be managed for the same goals of wildlife habitat restoration, public access, recreational opportunities and hunting as the CBJTC, so long as these uses do not interfere with or diminish planned or existing water resource projects of DISTRICT. The DMA shall assume primary management responsibilities that are consistent with the CBJTC INRMP, and shall include the following:

Why did SRWMD purchased this land "for public benefit" only to have it mined by a private entity? 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?

- c. Recreational opportunities and public access will be provided that meet the goals and objectives of the District and CBJTC planned uses of the property. CBJTC is currently included within the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission's (FWCC) Wildlife Management Area (WMA) program that allows for public access and hunting. It is the intent of the DMA to investigate extending that hunting format to the PROPERTY, at the appropriate time, with the agreement of the DISTRICT.

This seems like a bad deal for SRWMD. What benefit does SRWMD get by their involvement? 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. 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.

Thank you. Carol Mosley, 10121 SW 104th Ave, Hampton, FL 32044