

September 2000

Jay, Lyn meeting - 2000-09-09

Audubon Lake Okeechobee Watershed Campaign Office

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AUDUBON OF FLORIDA

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Jay Slack, Project Leader
United States Fish and Wildlife Service
South Florida Field Office
PO Box 2676
Vero Beach, FL 32961-2676

September 9, 2000

Dear Lyn and Jay:

This letter is written to inform you that Haynes Williams has built a reservoir right next to the two culverts between Audubon and the 101 Ranch, the "Audubon Outlet" (see attached map). This impoundment was not part of our agreements in the Consent Decree for the Florida Grasshopper Sparrow case, and may affect our drainage. The South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) gave him a permit modification to build the impoundment in July 2000. The reason you did not hear about this until now is because the SFWMD took my name off the mailing list for the 101 Ranch permit, and also removed the Department of Justice and the United States Fish and Wildlife Service.

I am uncertain why we were removed from the mailing list. I sent a document request to the SFWMD for all pertinent documents about this application. You can obtain a copy of this permit modification by contacting Beth Colavecchio at 561-687-6736 and asking for application number 991216-2, permit number 47-00227-S. The 101 Ranch also applied for another permit modification on July 21, application number 000620-21 (changing impoundment culvert configurations—I have not reviewed this yet). We apparently are not on that mailing list either.

I have not had time to review this modification to determine the magnitude of the threat this impoundment is to our water flow. However, the reservoir is directly downstream of our culverts, occupies about half the receiving wetland, and in a simple analysis, if the pump stops, our drainage water will pile in the other half of the wetland, being "twice as deep," and may block our water flow.



A STRATEGIC ALLIANCE OF THE FLORIDA AND NATIONAL SOCIETIES IN PARTNERSHIP WITH 45 LOCAL AUDUBON CHAPTERS



Lyn Jacobs
Jay Slack
September 7, 2000
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We can discuss this after you obtain a copy of the modified permit. You can call me or Jay Jurgens. We are scheduled to return to Judge Moore in about a year to report on the success of the drainage plan and this changes things to some extent.

Sincerely,



Paul N. Gray, Ph.D.
Manager

C: Frank Finch, Executive Director, SFWMD
Stuart Strahl, Audubon
J. A. Jurgens, Esq.