

April 1981

## Smith Sale - Kissimmee Prairie - 1981-04-03

Audubon Lake Okeechobee Watershed Campaign Office

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MRS. ROSE K. SMITH - C  
(Possible addition to Kissimmee)

SELLER: MRS. ROSE K. SMITH  
(Winter address: 1807 N. SR 17, Sebring, Fla. 33870)  
(Summer address: P.O. Box 1583, Estes Park, Colo. 80517)

LOCATION: Okeechobee County, Florida

ACREAGE: 650 acres

BACKGROUND: On 8/1/80 NAS acquired 6090 acres of Kissimmee Prairie--to be known as the Ordway-Whittell Prairie Preserve--through grants of \$2.6 million from the Estate of Katharine Ordway and \$1 million from the Whittell Trust.

A strong possibility existed that funds would be made available to NAS to purchase three additional contiguous sections on the south end of the prairie.

UPDATE: On 4/3/81 Frosty Anderson wrote that a 650-acre tract located south of the Ordway-Whittell Prairie Preserve (see attached map) is now for sale. The owner, Mrs. Rose K. Smith, (recently widowed) must sell this property by August 1, 1981, if she is to receive any tax benefits for this year.

Our present assistant warden, Harvey Thomas, has leased this section for several years and has first refusal. The price to him would be \$450,000 (in cash or installments); he would be glad to buy it and sell to us at his cost, but if we can get the same offer, he says we should purchase it directly. (However, it was Rod Chandler's feeling that NAS would be obliged to pay the full asking price of \$500,000 if purchased directly.)

According to Frosty: "We often use this section as an unofficial access route to the Sanctuary. It has undisturbed prairie, two oak-palm hammocks, a sizable Indian mound and Comptie Slough, which has an established colony of wading birds in it. From the biological standpoint, this section is as valuable, or more so, than any of those 9 already in the Ordway-Whittell.

"It lies just west of Sections 6, 5, 4, owned by Andy Griffith, which we also are interested in."

# NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY

SANCTUARY DEPT.

West Cornwall Road, Sharon, Connecticut 06069

To: *Gomer Jones*  
From: *Frosty Anderson*

Date: *April 3, 81*  
Re: *Kissimmee Prairie*

24	19	20	
ORDWAY-			
25	30	29	
WHITTELL			
36	31	32	
SANCTUARY			
For 1 Sale Aug. 1-81	6	5	4
(Andy Griffith Owns)			

cc: Dusty Dunstan