



FLORIDA CHAPTER
OF
THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY

2820 East University Avenue
Gainesville, Florida 32601

13 May 1971

Mr. Dale Crider
Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission
2606 N. E. 17th Terrace
Gainesville, Florida 32601

Dear Dale:

Carl Pierce has directed me to send you copies of the attached resolutions on oil drilling in the Big Cypress and violation of submerged land sale constitutional amendment. Both of these should be disseminated quickly for maximum effectiveness, especially the one concerning the oil drilling as that will likely be decided next week.

Please read over the resolutions and be prepared to give Carl your vote on them when he contacts you by phone next week.

Sincerely,

Allen R. Stickley, Jr.
Chairman, Resolutions &
Public Statements Committee

Encl.
Resolutions
Oil drilling
Submerged land

cc: Carl Pierce
Larry Shanks

RESOLUTION

VIOLATION OF SUBMERGED LAND SALE CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT

The Florida Cabinet on 16 March 1971 in Lake Worth, Palm Beach County, approved the sale of 3.928 acres of submerged State land contrary to the advice of a biological report from the Department of Natural Resources. Only two opposing votes were registered - those of Secretary of State Richard Stone and Attorney General Robert Shevin.

In the last general election, 72 percent of the voters in Florida approved a constitutional amendment stating that no further sales of State-owned submerged land would take place unless such sales were in the public interest.

Clearly this action by the Cabinet runs directly counter to the above amendment from an environmental point of view. The Executive Board of the Florida Chapter of the Wildlife Society on this day _____ condemns the March 16th action by the Cabinet and urges the Cabinet to act in accordance with the constitutional amendment concerned with the sale of submerged land.

RESOLUTION

OIL DRILLING IN THE BIG CYPRESS

This resolution concerns the application and the action prior to application of Phillips Petroleum Company for an oil drilling permit within the Big Cypress Watershed in Sec. 9, Twp. 49 S., R. 31 E., Collier County, Florida.

The Big Cypress Watershed is within the Everglades Ecosystem, one of the most unique ecosystems in the United States. The survival of this ecosystem depends on the even flow of "sheet water" through the glades. Road construction through this area can seriously impair this flow of water. Nonetheless, prior to application for the drilling permit, Phillips Petroleum built 7 miles of road into the Big Cypress Watershed and constructed a drilling site at the end of the road.

The Florida Chapter of the Wildlife Society condemns administrative policy that allows an oil company to lay a road and prepare a drilling site in the Everglades without a permit.

Regarding the granting of a permit to Phillips Petroleum to drill oil in the Big Cypress Watershed, the Florida Chapter feels that with proper safeguards oil drilling itself can perhaps be accomplished without causing significant pollution. But this does not prevent the deleterious effect on the hydrology of the ecosystem due to service roads - to say nothing of the effects of an oil pipeline if oil is

Therefore, the Executive Board of the Florida Chapter of the Wildlife Society on this day _____ recommends that the Everglades Ecosystem including the Big Cypress watersheds be considered an area off limits to oil and gas exploration until the State and Federal governments have ascertained that no damage of consequence will occur from the actual drilling, from the service roads connected with the drilling or from the associated pipelines if the wells produce.