

November 10, 1991

Route 7, Box 3055
Quincy, Florida 32351

Bob Progulske, President
Florida Chapter The Wildlife Society
U.S. Air Force
56 CSS/DEN
Avon Park, Florida 33825-5000

Dear Bob:

I apologize for the delay in getting you this review. Unfortunately, I was unable to find the original letter I wrote to you so I'm writing this anew. I've just about sorted everything out from the move and am in the process of getting it all organized and learning my way around. Any future requests you have of me will be handled in a much more timely manner.

As per your request, I reviewed the resolution from the Florida Section of the Society for Range Management. I also solicited comments from Pat Walsh, Wildlife Biologist on Three Lakes Wildlife Management Area. The following are our combined comments.

Generally, the overall intent of the resolution appears to be to focus more attention on the rangeland resources of Florida, educate the general public concerning these resources, and to solicit support from the State Legislature to manage these resources.

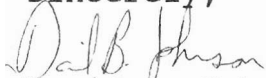
The rangelands of Florida are important components of our diverse state and the wise use and management of these resources are important for wildlife. The intent of this resolution clearly supports this view and therefore the resolution should be supported by our Chapter.

The generality of the resolution raised several questions. Is the intent of the resolution to establish a new government agency or will this be handled by an existing agency? If so which one is being targeted? Who will select and how will the committee be selected? Will plans or guidelines developed by this committee be available for public input and comment?

Even though several questions were raised the intent of the resolution should be beneficial to the resource. Comments on specific management practices or issues will have to be addressed at a later date when guidelines and plans are developed.

Please let me know if you have additional questions or need further information.

Sincerely,



David B. Johnson

AN IMPORTANT RESOLUTION

The officers of the Society for Range Management, Florida Section at their June 14, 1989, meeting at Rocking F Ranch in Ocala met, developed and adopted the following resolution.

WHEREAS, there are 9.5 million acres of native rangelands in the state of Florida which include grazeable woodland.

WHEREAS, proper management and understanding of how best to utilize rangelands is essential to the State's economic, social and environmental welfare.

WHEREAS, high energy costs demand low energy grassland agriculture, such as producing cattle on native rangelands, if Florida's cattle producers are to meet society's demand for low cost red meat.

WHEREAS, programs need to be developed and implemented for increased education, on-site technical assistance, extension and research.

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved that it is the position of the Society for Range Management, Florida Section that the following actions be taken:

1. The Governor, Commissioner of Agriculture and Consumer Affairs, and Vice President for the Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences should be fully briefed on Florida's rangeland resource. That their support be solicited to form a committee of top rangeland specialists from throughout Florida.
2. That this committee be tasked with the following:
 - a. Identify the values of Florida's rangeland including water storage and filtering capabilities, energy conservation, livestock production, wildlife habitat, recreation and aesthetics.
 - b. Identify the multiple use benefits of rangeland including wildlife, recreation and aesthetics.
 - c. Identify the needs of Florida's cattle producers with regard to this resource, specifically, they should find the type of information needed to allow for better utilization and conservation of Florida's rangelands.
 - d. Develop a plan to make the public more aware of our valuable rangeland resource.
 - e. Develop guidelines and support required, under which this program should be built. To that end the Governor should

solicit the support of the State Legislature to establish a range program that meets the needs of the people of Florida.

f. Contact the Florida Cattlemen's Association, Florida Farm Bureau, Florida Association of Conservation Districts, USDA Soil Conservation Service and other interested organizations and agencies to enlist their support in this action.