

State of Florida



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DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

HARMON W. SHIELDS
Executive Director

CROWN BUILDING / 202 BLOUNT STREET / TALLAHASSEE 32304

October 12, 1976

Mrs. Jerry Boyd
1411 East Horatio Avenue
Maitland, Florida 32751

Dear Mrs. Boyd:

Governor Askew has referred to us your letter of September 30, 1976, supporting state purchase of Gourd Neck Springs under the Environmentally Endangered Lands Program.

There seems to be some misunderstanding about the vegetation types found on the project. The field inspector identified the dominant hammock vegetation as magnolia, live oak, hickory, and hackberry. This vegetation characterizes a central Florida hammock not a tropical hammock.

Quoting from the Environmentally Endangered Lands Plan, pages 110-111:

"Tropical and semi-tropical hammocks are found on many of the tree islands in the Everglades and on many of the Florida Keys. Although the only truly tropical hammocks occur in the Keys, this category also includes those hammocks that contain some temperate-zone plants, but are primarily tropical. Remnants of these occur north to Palm Beach on the east coast and Sarasota on the west coast."

"Typical tropical trees are the strangler fig, gumbo-limbo, mastic, bustic, lancewood, the iron-woods, poisonwood, pigeon plum and Jamaica dogwood."

There was no way that the Interagency Planning Committee could stretch this tropical hammock category to include the Gourd Neck Springs proposal.

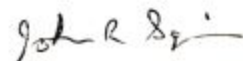
Let me assure you that we share your concern for the protection of this and all of Florida's natural resources, but this program has received many more proposals for acquisition than the available funds

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could possibly acquire, we must concentrate on attempting to acquire those few truly outstanding tracts that may be available.

Please let me know if you desire further information on this matter.

Sincerely,



John R. Squire
Recreation Planner Supervisor
Bureau of Plans, Programs and
Services
Division of Recreation and Parks

JRS:akh

cc: Mr. Ken Woodburn
Governor's Office