

CALL TO ACTION: NORTH RANCH SECTOR PLAN

Contributed by Marjorie Holt
Thursday, May 14 2015
Last Updated Thursday, May 14 2015

One of the largest real estate developments in Florida's recent history will be voted upon at a public hearing in Osceola County, Kissimmee, on Monday, May 18, 2015 at 5:30 P.M.

As Conservation Chair for our group, I have been part of the stakeholder group providing input to Deseret Ranch and Osceola County's proposed long range plan. Our group supports Osceola County's Independent Environmental Peer Review and we are asking you to contact Osceola Commissioners and encourage them to transmit the Peer Review to the state for additional review. Here is the information:

CALL TO ACTION: Contact Osceola County Commissioners and attend public hearing in Kissimmee on Monday, May 18, 2015, 5:30 P.M.
North Ranch Sector Plan, massive proposal includes 133,000 acres, 500,000 population located on Deseret Ranch lands.

MESSAGE TO COMMISSIONERS: <http://www.osceola.org/about-osceola-county/bcc/commissioners/>

Osceola Commissioners should not transmit this massive development to the state for additional review without consideration of the Environmental Plan Peer Review conducted by three renowned environmental scientists – Dr. Richard Hilsenbeck, Dr. Reed Noss, and Dr. Jay Exum.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The Applicants are requesting Commissioners vote to transmit long range development plan for additional state review as part of the adoption process.

Osceola County requested that the environmental plan be reviewed to assure that the natural systems and associated species of conservation concern are adequately identified and addressed in the plan.

The Peer Review Team concluded that given the North ranch's strategic location in the natural setting of east-central Florida, 19,107 acres (put into perpetual preservation) of additional conservation lands are needed.

The Environmental Plan Peer Review is one of the guiding principles for handling the growth that is expected to occur by promoting a growth pattern that will "preserve, enhance, and restore the county's large-scale natural systems.

Here is the link to read more about the North Ranch Sector Plan, Peer Review of the Environmental Plan, dated April 2015 http://www.osceola.org/core/fileparse.php/2731/urlt/042015_North-Ranch-Sector-Plan-Peer-Review-Report.pdf

The Central Florida Group sincerely thanks the Osceola Commissioner who requested and supported funding for the Environmental Peer Review.

Marjorie Holt, Chair/ Conservation Chair, Sierra Club Central Florida Group marjorieholt@earthlink.net

