



Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services
CHARLES H. BRONSON, Commissioner
The Capitol • Tallahassee, FL 32399-0800

Please Respond to:
Division of Forestry
Tallahassee District
865 Geddie Road
Tallahassee, FL 32304

April 14, 2009

MEMORANDUM

To: Jeff Vowell, Chief of Field Operations
John Browne, Land Acquisition Administrator

From: Ken Weber, Forestry Center Manager, Tallahassee *KW*

Through: Sonny Greene, Deputy Chief, Field Operations Bureau

Subject: Wilson Property – Lake Taiquin State Forest, Leon County

Chris Worrell, Chris Colburn and I toured the Wilson Property (484 acres) in December 2008 and we all feel it is a suitable acquisition for reasons listed below.

- Initial revenue from the 116 acres of loblolly that would be sold.
- It has mature longleaf pine which is virtually non-existent on LTSP
- Protection of land that will certainly be developed in the next market upturn
- Diverse property with upland and lowland habitat
- Would connect to the LTSP North Ochlockonee Tract
- Well defined boundary for easy management and controlled access
- Borders the Ochlockonee River with nice 15-20 ft bluff for primitive camping and hiking
- Would enhance the North Ochlockonee Tract recreation opportunities for the public

Some of the negative issues with the property include:

- The property has planted Loblolly that would need to be cut and converted to Longleaf
- Fire management (smoke) would be a difficult task due to the property location
- There was discussion that the current residence might be getting a ten acre in holding that could conflict with public use and management
- There is a new modular home on the site that would need to be maintained by placing employee in it or converted to a meeting site.
- The property would only connect to a short strip along Tower Road. The county owns the land at the boat ramp. The boat ramp area is notorious for littering and a congregating site for parties. (See map). If the purchase is pursued, we would recommend the option of adding the Crowder property to the tract for a more suitable corridor along Tower Road.

This is a beautiful piece of property. It would have its own value to the LTSP management objectives. Attached is an aerial photo layout to help you with any assessment. Let me know, if you need any more information. You can reach me at 414-1131, or you can contact Chris Colburn @ 414-1129.

cc: Steve Bohl, Assistant Chief, Forest Management Bureau



Florida Agriculture and Forest Products
\$53 Billion for Florida's Economy