

impact on surrounding gateway communities and across the state. Ecosystem destruction produces huge costs associated with cleanup and restoration. The historical destruction of another famous wetland, the Florida Everglades, has cost taxpayers an estimated \$8.8 billion through the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (CERP)³⁸ for which the federal government has provided \$3.5 billion of which has been provided by the federal government \$5.3 billion has been paid for by Florida). The state of Florida allocated another \$3.5 billion for Everglades restoration activities in January 2023.³⁹ In total, CERP is expected to cost \$23.2 billion.⁴⁰ There is an enormous cost associated with trying to fix an ecosystem once it has been broken, and taxpayers, not industry groups, would be saddled with that cost.

Please stop this incursion into the Okefenokee Swamp and its environs.

Please deny this permit application.

John S. Quarterman
Suwannee RIVERKEEPER®
/s
WWALS Watershed Coalition, Inc.