



Carol Mosley <earthweaver@gmail.com>

Concerns regarding SRWMD land

10 messages

Carol Mosley <earthweaver@gmail.com>
To: Hugh Thomas <hugh.thomas@srwmd.org>

Mon, Jun 30, 2025 at 8:44 PM

Good afternoon Mr. Thomas,

It has come to my attention that there is a permit request with the Army Corps for wetlands intrusion on land which SRWMD owns. The purchase, ownership and mineral rights leasing is a very confusing group endeavor that seems to leave the public out of the stated benefits. I have requested a public meeting with the Army Corps regarding this application in order to get a better understanding of why a private company is requesting to mine on publicly owned lands. I hope you can help to clarify just how and why things came to be as they now are.

I don't believe I will be able to make it in person to the meeting on July 8th in Live Oak. However, I will certainly prepare a statement that I hope will be shared at the meeting and will include your helpful explanations to my queries.

I have attached the Agreement between SRWMD and the Dept. of Military Affairs (DMA) regarding this property for reference. It states that the DMA will manage the property in keeping with the intent of the SRWMD. It also lists those intentions, which include public recreation and conservation. Obviously, mining and public access are at odds with each other. Thus, my confusion.

In September of 2015 SRWMD purchased the land from Rayonier but SRWMD did not obtain the mineral rights. Rayonier then leased those mineral rights to Chemours for mining of ilmenite sands on the property. I don't understand why SRWMD purchased this land "for public benefit" only to have it mined by a private entity. I understand how it provides a buffer for Camp Blanding, but why does SRWMD need to be involved at all? Why didn't Camp Blanding and Rayonier make their own deal for the land? Why include public use as a reason if that is not able to be done while the mineral rights are leased elsewhere?

I saw no terms that would ever terminate Rayonier's ability to have the land mined as long as there is anything worth taking. So when does the public expect to be able to use it for recreation?

This seems like a bad deal for SRWMD. What benefit does SRWMD get by their involvement? It would still provide a buffer for Camp Blanding (CB) and provide aquifer recharge if Rayonier and CB made their deal without SRWMD. The possibility for public use and public benefit seems to be the only reason for SRWMD to be involved at all.

Please help me understand WHY SRWMD made this deal. Did SRWMD actually pay money for the property? How much if so? Did SRWMD receive the income from any trees harvested from the property? How much if so? What benefit does SRWMD get for their involvement since the land is NOT actually available for public use?

With all due respect, this feels like someone was taken advantage of. Was it SRWMD in making a bad deal or one they didn't fully understand? Shame on Rayonier? Or was the public deceived about SRWMD's intentions for public use of the property? Please explain the public benefit of this deal.

I am very willing to discuss this by phone if that is desired. I anxiously anticipate your reply.

Sincerely,
Carol Mosley
(352) 485-2524 (landline)

2 attachments**1516-037_Management Agreement_Camp Blanding.pdf**
7071K**Warranty Deed SRWMD & Chemours 2015.pdf**
320K

Carol Mosley <earthweaver@gmail.com>
To: Tim.Alexander@srwmd.org

Mon, Jun 30, 2025 at 8:55 PM

Hello Mr. Alexander,
I understand that you are the person standing in for Mr. Thomas until July 7th, the day before the meeting. Since I am hoping to have some response prior to the meeting, I hope you can respond to my questions or steer me to the appropriate party.

With thanks,
Carol Mosley
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2 attachments**1516-037_Management Agreement_Camp Blanding.pdf**
7071K**Warranty Deed SRWMD & Chemours 2015.pdf**
320K

Troy Roberts <Troy.Roberts@srwmd.org>
To: "earthweaver@gmail.com" <earthweaver@gmail.com>

Wed, Jul 2, 2025 at 9:24 AM

Good morning, Ms. Mosley,

I just wanted to let you know that we received your email and will be following up with you soon.

Thanks, and have a happy Fourth of July holiday.

Troy Roberts, CPM

Office Chief, Communications and Outreach

Suwannee River Water Management District

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From: Carol Mosley <earthweaver@gmail.com>

Sent: Monday, June 30, 2025 8:44:09 PM

To: Hugh Thomas <Hugh.Thomas@srwmd.org>

Subject: Concerns regarding SRWMD land

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Tim Alexander <Tim.Alexander@srwmd.org>
To: Carol Mosley <earthweaver@gmail.com>

Wed, Jul 2, 2025 at 10:42 AM

Good morning, Ms. Mosley,

I have requested the District's Communication and Outreach office respond to your email.

I will follow up with them on Monday, as to the response they provided.

Have a good Independence Day weekend,

Timothy W. Alexander

Assistant Executive Director

Business and Community Services

Suwannee River Water Management District

9225 CR 49, Live Oak, FL 32060

386.362.1001

800.226.1066 (FL Toll Free)

386.209.8597 (cell)

From: Carol Mosley <earthweaver@gmail.com>

Sent: Monday, June 30, 2025 8:55 PM

To: Tim Alexander <Tim.Alexander@srwmd.org>

Subject: Fwd: Concerns regarding SRWMD land

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Hello Mr. Alexander,

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Carol Mosley <earthweaver@gmail.com>
To: Troy Roberts <Troy.Roberts@srwmd.org>

Wed, Jul 2, 2025 at 1:08 PM

Mr. Roberts,
Thank you for responding. I look forward to hearing from you with more info. Have a wonderful holiday.
With thanks,
Carol Mosley
[Quoted text hidden]

Carol Mosley <earthweaver@gmail.com>

Mon, Jul 7, 2025 at 2:16 PM

To: Troy Roberts <Troy.Roberts@srwmd.org>
Cc: Hugh Thomas <hugh.thomas@srwmd.org>, Tim.Alexander@srwmd.org

Good morning Mr. Roberts,

Attached are my questions and concerns regarding the SRWMD fee simple purchase from Rayonier that I reference in my original email to Mr. Hugh Thomas. I am unable to attend the July 8th meeting in person, but I would appreciate it if my comments can be read to the Board as public comments in hopes of further investigation and response. I realize that the job of SRWMD is vast and requires public input and alerts in order to be fully informed and able to act in the best public interest. I hope you will view my queries in that light.

With thanks,
Carol Mosley
10121 SW 104 Ave
Hampton, FL 32044
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3 attachments



SRWMD Mosley comments 0625.odt
206K



1516-037_Management Agreement_Camp Blanding.pdf
7071K



Warranty Deed SRWMD & Rayonier 2015.pdf
320K

Troy Roberts <Troy.Roberts@srwmd.org>
To: Carol Mosley <earthweaver@gmail.com>
Cc: Hugh Thomas <Hugh.Thomas@srwmd.org>, Tim Alexander <Tim.Alexander@srwmd.org>

Mon, Jul 7, 2025 at 4:57 PM

Ms. Mosley,

I appreciate your email and interest in this property. I hope I'm able to answer some of the questions you have.

As you stated in your email, the District acquired this property in 2015. This was done in partnership with Camp Blanding, who helped fund the property's acquisition, to provide a buffer for their continued operations. Additionally, the District felt that acquiring this property would ensure its future restoration once mining operations are completed, as well as identify potential future projects for flood mitigation.

The mineral rights were held by a third party prior to our acquisition of the property. The District does not issue a regulatory permit for mining on this property and a mining operation has existed in this area since the late 1940s.

Since the acquisition of the property, one tree harvesting operation has taken place ahead of mining in that area. This took place last year on 128 acres of the tract, resulting in approximately \$190,000 in revenue for the District, which is utilized to further our land management goals in Bradford County and across the District.

An additional harvesting operation is tentatively scheduled to take place within the next year.

The District continues to work with all parties involved to ensure the continued protection and future restoration of this property to align with the District's core mission.

I have printed off copies of your letter and will ensure that it is included in the packet for our Governing Board members tomorrow.

If you have any additional questions, please let me know.

Troy Roberts, CPM

Office Chief, Communications and Outreach

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From: Carol Mosley <earthweaver@gmail.com>

Sent: Monday, July 7, 2025 2:16 PM

To: Troy Roberts <Troy.Roberts@srwmd.org>

Cc: Hugh Thomas <Hugh.Thomas@srwmd.org>; Tim Alexander <Tim.Alexander@srwmd.org>

Subject: Re: Concerns regarding SRWMD land

Some people who received this message don't often get email from earthweaver@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

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Carol Mosley <earthweaver@gmail.com>

To: Troy Roberts <Troy.Roberts@srwmd.org>

Cc: Hugh Thomas <Hugh.Thomas@srwmd.org>, Tim Alexander <Tim.Alexander@srwmd.org>

Mon, Jul 7, 2025 at 6:24 PM

Mr. Roberts,

Thank you for your rapid response and for assuring my comments will be shared with the Board. Now I know that SRWMD at least regains some of the funds invested (don't know how much was/is SRWMD's investment) through the harvesting of pines. But, you don't mention my concern about the land being used for recreation, which is clearly stated as a goal.

Camp Blanding (CB) and Rayonier could have made this deal without SRWMD and the goals of CB buffer and aquifer recharge would still be met. Rayonier owns more than 25% of the landmass in Bradford County. The value of water retention and aquifer recharge of these tree farms is not lost on me. I am also not unaware of the danger posed if Rayonier were to sell massive tracts for development. Since Rayonier has maintained the mineral rights on this SRWMD purchase in perpetuity, we have no assurance that the land will ever be available for recreation purposes. Will that occur in my generation or the next, or the one after that? The only way to guarantee that aspect of SRWMD's intentions for public recreation is for SRWMD to purchase the mineral rights from Rayonier. Absent such action, the promise of public recreation is idle.

As for the pines harvested, my understanding is that Chemours is seeking a ten year 404 permit that includes mining of the wetlands, which is obviously not land suitable for pine forested tree farms unless it has been drained. As the saying goes, "Everybody knows, pines don't like wet toes." But, tree farms could be used for hunting and wetlands can provide public and scientific exploration, in addition to their value as buffers and aquifer recharge. It is this public use that the extraction of minerals prevents.

Let me state my questions of concern more succinctly.

Did SRWMD make ANY attempt to purchase the mineral rights along with the surface rights to the land?

Did SRWMD know that Rayonier intended to almost immediately lease the mineral rights to Chemours or was SRWMD not aware of Rayonier's plans?

If yes, then why did SRWMD say that the land would be available for recreation? If not, then who is responsible for the lack of due diligence and how does that get remedied?

Is there any reason why parts of the property that are not being mined or harvested could not be opened for hiking, hunting and exploring?

When does SRWMD anticipate that the land will actually be made available for public recreation? What year or at least decade?

Please address my concerns about lack of public use despite that being stated as a goal of the purchase. It seems to be the only unmet goal.

With anxious anticipation,
Carol Mosley

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Carol Mosley <earthweaver@gmail.com>

Wed, Jul 9, 2025 at 3:06 PM

To: Troy Roberts <Troy.Roberts@srwmd.org>

Cc: Hugh Thomas <Hugh.Thomas@srwmd.org>, Tim Alexander <Tim.Alexander@srwmd.org>

Good afternoon Mr. Roberts,

As you might imagine, I was disappointed that the Board and the public could not hear my words spoken at the meeting yesterday. I specifically asked that they be read and was left with the impression that they would be, despite being also included in the agenda packet. Though this is the first time I have asked personally, I have seen this absentee reading being done in the past and was impressed to see the SRWMD take such an interest in hearing from and accommodating the public. I'm a big believer of government in the sunshine. If there is a particular procedure I failed to do in order to have my comments read, please let me know what I missed. Otherwise, it would seem to be a random decision of someone's. I am 74 years old caring for someone even older than I am and making a 3-4 hours trip to give three minutes of comments in person would be a grueling effort. I was shocked to hear someone holler out that it wasn't necessary because the comments were in the record. But, I don't want to get hung up on this. I want to find the answers to my questions!

Let me stress that this matter is of the essence since the public has been denied use of the land for the last ten years and a permit from Chemours has been requested for another ten years. Waiting for the next monthly meeting for the Board to hear my concerns may be too late. Surely you are aware of the permit request for mining the land.

Your response provided very little information other than what I already knew from the documents I shared with you. Those documents clearly state that recreation is to be a component of the purchase in addition to Camp Blanding buffering and water retention and recharge. I was thrilled to be steered to you for answers, assuming that your title of Communications and Outreach put me in touch with the person in the know. I am still hopeful that you are the person who knows the answers I seek or will find them for me.

For your convenience, I'm repeating the questions I posed in my email above in hopes of receiving your answers prior to my contacting the Board directly to express my concerns. I know how easily information can be overlooked in those huge Board packets and I would not like that to be the case with this time sensitive matter. And, when I approach the Board, I want to be adequately informed so as not to misspeak.

Did SRWMD make ANY attempt to purchase the mineral rights along with the surface rights to the land?

Did SRWMD know that Rayonier intended to almost immediately lease the mineral rights to Chemours or was SRWMD not aware of Rayonier's plans?

If yes, then why did SRWMD say that the land would be available for recreation? If not, then who is responsible for the lack of due diligence and how does that get remedied?

Is there any reason why parts of the property that are not being mined or harvested could not be opened for hiking, hunting and exploring?

When does SRWMD anticipate that the land will actually be made available for public recreation? What year or at least decade?

Respectfully and with hope,
Carol Mosley
[Quoted text hidden]

Troy Roberts <Troy.Roberts@srwmd.org>

Fri, Jul 11, 2025 at 9:45 AM

To: Carol Mosley <earthweaver@gmail.com>

Cc: Hugh Thomas <Hugh.Thomas@srwmd.org>, Tim Alexander <Tim.Alexander@srwmd.org>

Good morning, Ms. Mosley,

Thank you for the follow-up email.

Regarding the Governing Board meeting on Tuesday, the District does not have a policy that written comments will be read as part of the Board meeting. If a member of the public is not present and has submitted written comments, each Board member is provided a copy of the comments, which we did on your behalf. I apologize if my response indicated that the comments would also be read aloud in the meeting.

To answer your questions, the mining rights for the Double Run Creek property were not available for purchase at the time of acquisition and were not offered as part of the transaction. The rights were previously leased by a third party with the intent that mining operations would continue, which the District was aware of at the time of acquisition. Any subsequent transactions regarding the mining rights would not fall under District jurisdiction.

The primary goal of the acquisition was to support Camp Blanding military buffers, while subsequently exploring the opportunity for flood abatement and water resource development projects. This language is expressly listed in the District's resolution for the land purchase, which the Board approved. Recreation and public access were not included as primary goals of the acquisition.

The management plan references public access and recreation, only if the opportunities do not interfere with a project. The site is still considered a project area.

Because the property is managed by the Florida Department of Military Affairs, any public access to the property would be initiated and led by that agency. Questions regarding future access and timing should be directed to the Florida Department of Military Affairs, per the management agreement.

We appreciate your love for the resource and recreation. If you are interested in recreational opportunities on District lands, please visit www.mysuwanneeriver.com.

Troy Roberts, CPM

Office Chief, Communications and Outreach

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From: Carol Mosley <earthweaver@gmail.com>

Sent: Wednesday, July 9, 2025 3:07 PM

To: Troy Roberts <Troy.Roberts@srwmd.org>

Cc: Hugh Thomas <Hugh.Thomas@srwmd.org>; Tim Alexander <Tim.Alexander@srwmd.org>

Subject: Re: Concerns regarding SRWMD land

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