



FLORIDA WILDLIFE FEDERATION

Affiliated With National Wildlife Federation

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RE: Yates Creek, Taylor County, Florida

To Whom It May Concern:

On behalf of the Florida Wildlife Federation and its approximately 60,000 members and supporters, please accept this letter of support for the proposed purchase/acquisition of a coastal site in Taylor County, Florida known as Yates Creek. I have personally visited the site, and found it to be uniquely beautiful and pristine, with an abundance of land-based and aquatic wildlife and birdlife. The purpose of the acquisition of this property, which includes both Little Spring Creek and Yates Creek, would be to create a public park that would not only offer public access to the Gulf via the boat ramp already in place, but also provide an area for kayaking, primitive camping, nature trails, bird-watching stations and the opportunity for people to learn of the rich history of the area.

Even though Taylor County has the longest continuous coastline in the state along the Gulf of Mexico, there is very limited public access to the Gulf along the county's coast. Consequently, a public park in the Yates Creek area would be a tremendous asset to Taylor County, its residents and paying tourists. Indeed, eco-tourism is the quickest growing segment of the tourism economy.

The park would be designed to protect native habitat in this environmentally sensitive area, thus allowing the public to experience a taste of "Old Florida", while enjoying outstanding outdoor recreation. Moreover, the estuarine nursery areas of places like Yates Creek are critical to the ecology of the entire Gulf.

Thank you for your consideration as to funding this much-needed project with available BP Deepwater Horizon settlement funds.

Cordially,

Preston T. Robertson
Vice-President/General Counsel