



COFFEEN LAND TRUST

November 8, 2019.

Dear ARC Members,

Coffeen Land Trust, Inc. (CLT) respectfully requests that you approve the adoption of the September 2019 Topsail Hill Preserve Unit Management Plan, as written and presented by Division of Recreation and Parks planning personnel.

CLT is the not for profit 501 (c) (3) owner of Coffeen Nature Preserve, the community partner and direct neighbor to the west of Topsail Hill Preserve. As with Topsail's Management Plan we proudly acknowledge our iconic, designated "globally rare and imperiled" Coastal Dune Lake Fuller. It connects by marsh to Topsail Hill's Lake Morris, which outfalls to the Gulf of Mexico.

Topsail Hill Management Plan establishes a foundation and provides a precedent for the effort to protect the unparalleled beauty and diversity of our joint complex hydrologic system that provides habitat for protected and endangered species. These lakes are one of the rarest and unique ecological systems in the world and contribute to Walton County's ranking as one of the top ten most biodiverse areas in the nation. A Florida Senate Resolution designated Walton County's 15 named coastal dune lakes as State ecological treasures, recognizing their vital importance to the ecological and economic health of this state.

Like Topsail Hill, Coffeen Nature Preserve is a stronghold for the endangered Choctawhatchee Beach Mouse. It has a healthy Gopher Tortoise population along with an active Bald Eagle nest in our joint Mesic Hammock, a small, rare ecological community that must be protected from prescribed burning and public intrusion.

Coffeen Land Trust approves and endorses the management plan, as written. It is proud of the work done by the Division of Recreation and Parks, as we continue the partnership with Topsail Hill Preserve of environmental stewardship, balancing conservation with public recreation and educational opportunities.

Sincerely,

Susan Paladini

Manager Coffeen Nature Preserve.
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