

Standing for the Future of Florida State Parks

State parks were established for the benefit of the people of Florida by preserving the state's important natural and cultural resources and making them available for public use and enjoyment. Our elected and appointed officials are not providing leadership to fund, manage and expand Florida's state parks. Citizens who care about Florida's state parks stand together in supporting the following principles:

1. State parks will be managed for the primary purpose of conserving their natural and cultural resources and providing compatible resource-based recreation. Secondary uses will be approved only where they do not conflict with the primary purpose. (no cell towers, billboards, etc.)
2. State parks will meet recreation demand by expanding the park system and developing facilities at under-utilized parks rather than by accommodating additional visitors at parks where visitation already meets or exceeds their ecological carrying capacity. Park improvements that degrade resources or visitor experiences will not be made.
3. State parks will receive annual appropriations adequate to meet the needs for management of natural and cultural resources and recreation opportunities.
4. Cattle grazing will be conducted only on improved pasture as a temporary maintenance activity until ecological restoration can occur. Cattle leases will not be issued in natural areas and park land will not be converted to pasture.
5. Timber harvesting and thinning will be conducted only for resource restoration purposes. Sustained-yield forest management practices and commercial harvesting of forest products will not be conducted in state parks.
6. Recreational hunting will not be expanded beyond the three parks properties where it presently occurs: Cedar Key Scrub State Reserve; Rock Springs Run State Reserve and the Marjorie Carr Cross Florida Greenway.
7. "State parks" will be exempt from future legislation that requires agriculture or multiple-use to be approved on state conservation lands.
8. Public hearings will be conducted before any disposal of state park lands or transfer of parks to other management agencies.
9. DEP will be open and transparent to the public when considering changes in the way state parks are managed. The public will have ample opportunity to review and provide oral and written comments before changes are adopted.

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