

**Babcock Ranch Preserve
Ranch Management Workshop**

February 23, 2009

Attendees

Arnie Sarlo, Babcock Ranch Management
Mark Llewellyn, Genesis Group
Joe Petrich, Genesis Group
Marcus Carnegie, Genesis Group
Lora Silvanima, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission
Jerrie Lindsey, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission

Meeting Notes

1. Reviewed the morning's discussion.
2. Arnie suggested a special hunt permit
 - a. Six (6) camps on a draw basis (on east side of Telegraph Swamp)
 - b. Easier to manage
 - c. Provides good income
 - d. FWC will need to work through this. It will not be a lease.
 - e. This option would be considered outside the NE hunt area.
 - f. Jerrie Lindsey – Need to consider ADA compliance.
3. Fencing swamp or a buffer around the swamp is cost prohibitive.
4. Cows can coexist with trails.
5. Tomato fields need to remain and can coexist with hunting.
6. Lee County property farm fields will sunset in 2011.
 - a. Will not plant pines
 - b. Attempt to lease for next two (2) years for farming
 - c. This property will also be good for hunting
 - d. North of the farm fields is very beautiful
7. Consider boardwalk through cypress swamp.
8. Discussed potential trail head and trail on west side of Lee County property.
9. Piezometer access continues.
10. Kitson has mitigation requirements, partially on Cung Lake.

11. Curry Lake dries every year but is very wet during the wet swamp.
12. SFWMD has established the weir control structures.
13. Babcock Ranch, Inc. will need to work through the transition when the LLC takes over.
14. Consideration should be given to accessing the lodge.
15. Eco Tour headquarters is located on state lands. Access to the Eco Tour is across Kitson Property.
16. Wells for Eco Tour are on Kitson Property.
17. North access road will also have agriculture (sod, watermelon).
18. Sporting Clay site provides one employee home that would be lost. Might be a good campground site also.
19. Spillway road provides incredible birding opportunity.
20. Jacks Camp area is a special location.
21. Horses for Handicapped uses the airstrip each year for a fundraiser (scheduled for March 14th).
22. Arnie is working on a cracker cattle drive to move down to the Lee Civic Center – charging to participate for ranch revenue.
23. Endurance rides could be considered. They would need to be scheduled and organized.
24. Very unique turkey hunting opportunities, also quail. *special hunt.
25. Discussed the potential for a native nursery.
26. Cabins were also discussed
 - a. AC
 - b. Soft adventure



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(Lora Silvanima – Notes)

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Meeting Notes

1. Old Sporting Clay site – good to make it back operational. Employee staffing house in the area, would have to be potentially moved. Good area for camping.
2. Arnie – anything in the rules that says certain recreation enhancement have to be added to the area?
3. Jerrie – no. Need to look at the possibility and feasibility of recreation activities on the area.
4. Arnie – there will be camping on the private Kitson property. Don't want camping at BRP to compete with this.
5. Jerrie – may need to offer different types of camping. Need to clarify type of camping that will be offered on Kitson property.
6. Arnie – BRP, LLC will not object to hunting and other activities happening at the same time on the same area, but that may not be the safest way to proceed.
7. Can only put camping on disturbed areas.
8. Arnie – possible to bid out a draw for particular hunting seasons for certain areas. In the past when they knew who was on what leased hunting area, this was easier to manage and safer. Guided hunts take more staff and are not as much of a money maker.
9. Arnie can provide a look at the map of the old hunt least system, but he only has one copy. Old hunt cabins are in fair shape but they are slipping into disarray.
10. Fencing around the swamp would break the bank of the LLC.



11. Farm leases need to be kept in order to make the ranch financially viable.
12. Concern about what will happen when farms have to leave Lee County property. Difficult for LLC staff to manage the land for something else. Concern that the property will become a haven for exotic species. What will Lee Co. do to help off-set the cost of managing this property?
13. Could be used for native plant nurseries but there isn't currently enough of a market to make it financially feasible.
14. Potential to put a board walk out into the cypress swamp in an area where the cypress swamp has been cut.
15. Cracker cattle drive as a money maker.
16. Enough property for endurance riding. Could have this be an event and use volunteers to help with the gates and cows?
17. Turkey hunting very popular. Space for 7 hunters.