

September 28, 2009

The Pegasus Foundation strives to improve the welfare of animals using the effective tools of education and selective granting. Pegasus maintains a presence in Florida through its ownership and management of the Caring Fields Animal Sanctuary in Palm City. We have also been active in a variety of wildlife issues that affect threatened and endangered species. Therefore, one of the missions of the Pegasus Foundation is to promote protection of Florida's environmentally sensitive areas which are critical for the survival of native and wildlife species.

Please, accept this letter in lieu of appearing at the September 22nd formal wilderness hearing on the possible entry of over 109,000 acres of south Florida habitat into the National Wilderness Preservation System.

There are at least 30 animals and 72 types of plants that are listed as endangered, threatened or as a species of special concern among the thousands of species of native Florida plants and animals found in the Big Cypress National Preserve. This land is a dire need for the survival of Florida's own state animal. The critically endangered Florida panther is endangered as a result of hunting and habitat loss throughout its original range, scientists estimate only about 80 to 100 panthers now remain to expose this land to invasive activities would be an absolute detriment.

The Pegasus Foundation supports the 146,000 acre Big Cypress National Preserve's Addition Lands and supports Alternative F - no motorized recreation in the Addition Lands. Please, do not open up these sensitive lands - 140 miles to off-road vehicles (ORV) or allow trails for motorized hunting on swamp buggies and ATVs' or hunting of any kind.

Please, make the only correct choice for Florida's beleaguered wildlife population and plant species. I respectfully request to be kept posted on this vital issue. Please mail materials to me at The Pegasus Foundation, 218 W. Main St., 3W, Hyannis, MA 02601.

Thank you.

Kind regards,

Susan Hargreaves
Director of Education
The Pegasus Foundation
Caring Fields Animal Sanctuary Education Center