



Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services
CHARLES H. BRONSON, Commissioner
The Capitol • Tallahassee, FL 32399-0800
www.doacs.state.fl.us

Please Respond to:

January 6, 2010

The Honorable Doug Gilpin, Chairman
Sumter County Board of County Commissioners
209 North Florida Street, Room 206
Bushnell, Florida 33513

Dear Mr. Gilpin:

It is my pleasure to submit the enclosed payment of \$38,800.65 to the Sumter County Board of County Commissioners. This payment reflects the distribution of the Withlacoochee State Forest receipts for fiscal year 2008-2009 in accordance with Section 589, Florida Statutes.

The Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services manages 35 state forests encompassing over 1,000,000 acres. Through a comprehensive resource management plan, we encourage the use of forest lands for recreation, as a habitat for threatened and endangered plants and animals, for soil and water conservation, and as a source of raw materials for a dynamic wood-using industry.

During fiscal year 2008-2009, the Department collected approximately \$7,376,999.00 from the operation of state forests, including \$5.7 million from the sale of timber and \$1,199,122.00 in recreation fees from over 1,155,000 visitors.

As you know, these activities also benefit the 33 counties that are home to Florida's income-producing state forests. These counties divide 15 percent of the gross receipts from a state forest in proportion to the acreage located in each county. Based on fiscal year 2008-2009 gross receipts, a total of \$1,106,549.99 is being distributed to Florida counties and school boards.

I hope these funds assist you in carrying out the Board's critical responsibilities.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Charles H. Bronson".

CHARLES H. BRONSON
COMMISSIONER OF AGRICULTURE



Florida Agriculture and Forest Products
Over \$100 Billion for Florida's Economy