



# Department of Environmental Protection

Jeb Bush  
Governor

David B. Struhs  
Secretary

July 24, 2002

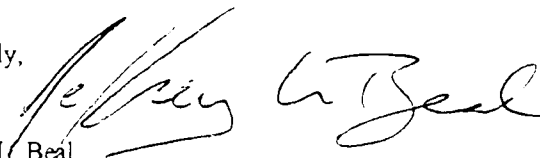
Bill Hodges  
Arbor Tree and Land, Inc.  
PO Box 1387  
Boynton Beach, FL 33425

Dear Bill:

Regarding the recent project entitled "N. Fork St. Lucie River Marsh Reconnection" conducted by your staff, I want to personally thank your organization for a job very well done. Despite numerous constraints (inclement weather, narrow passage, low bridge, and so on), your staff did a masterful job completing our project to our specifications. I especially appreciate the overtime and weekend work that was necessary to meet the deadline. Also, the crew was very flexible with us as we asked for slight alterations in design onsite to produce the best results for the marsh. The spoil bank has been in place for 80 years, making the task challenging. The crew leader (John Rollins), the operator (Pedro), and crew staff should be commended for their work ethic and attitude. John made certain that the logistics of the project were properly addressed and provided an over-abundance of native species for stabilization planting. Pedro graded the breaches within inches of our specifications. We are already seeing the benefits of the reconnection, evidenced by the capture of important fishery species on the marsh surface (snook).

Once again, thank you for supplying a very competent staff to this difficult project. The N. Fork is in need of further reconnection in many places. If we work together in the future, I am confident that your organization will do its best.

Sincerely,

  
Jeffrey L. Beal  
Southeast Florida Aquatic and Buffer Preserves  
9737 Gumbo Limbo Lane  
Jensen Beach FL 34957

*"Protect, Conserve and Manage Florida's Environment and Natural Resources"*

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