

Surface Transportation Board

Incoming Correspondence Record

#EI-20839

Correspondence Information		Status: In Process	
* Required Fields		Recorded by David Navecky on 12/30/2014	
*Docket #:	FD 35852 0	Affiliation:	Self / Individual
*Name of Sender:	Thaddeus Mikolajczak	Letter Type:	Comment Form
Group:			
Attention Of:			
*Date Received:	12/19/2014	NEPA Type:	Scoping
Date of Letter:	12/19/2014	In Public Docket?	☐ Yes ☒ No
Group's Address:	522 Carmel Drive		
		Phone Number:	
Group's City:	Melbourne	Email Address:	
Group's State:	FL	Group's Zip Code:	-

Submitter's Comments

STB's Comments

Image Attachment(s)

An attachment has not been added.

Rec'd 12/19/14

E1-20859

ENVIRONMENTAL
IMPACT STATEMENT



Port Canaveral Rail Extension

How Do I Submit Comments?

DOCKET NO. FD 35852

- **Written Comments:** Complete and submit this form at a public meeting, or mail your comments to the Surface Transportation Board's address at the bottom of this page.
- **Recorded Comments:** Provide your comments to a court reporter at a public meeting.
- **Electronic Comments:** Submit electronic comments by visiting the Surface Transportation Board's website, www.stb.dot.gov, and clicking on the "E-Filing" link.

Please refer to Docket No. FD 35852 in all correspondence addressed to the Surface Transportation Board. The comment deadline is December 19, 2014.

REASONS AGAINST RAIL EXTENSION.
LAST YEAR THE MERRITT ISLAND NATIONAL
WILDLIFE REFUGE MARKED 50 YEARS OF WILDLIFE
PROTECTION AROUND THE KENNEDY SPACE
CENTER. IN ITS 50 YEARS, BIOLOGISTS SAY
THE REFUGE HAS BEEN CRUCIAL HABITANT
FOR MIGRATORY BIRDS, BOBCATS, FLORIDA
SCRUB JAYS AND GOPHER TORTOISES. MORE
THAN 500 SPECIES LIVE ON THE REFUGE
AND SURROUNDING ESTUARY; INCLUDING

NOTE: When an individual chooses to submit an Environmental Comment or some Other Submissions, his or her personal contact information is considered public information and is shared within and outside of STB without additional authorization.

THADDEUS MIKOLAJCZAK
NAME:
522 CARMEL DR
ADDRESS:
MELBOURNE, FL 32940
CITY, STATE, ZIP CODE:
PHONE:
E-MAIL:

Comments may be submitted today or mailed to:

Dave Navecky
Surface Transportation Board
ATTN: Environmental Filing,
Docket No. FD 35852
395 E Street, SW
Washington, D.C. 20423-0001

AT LEAST 15 FEDERALLY LISTED AS ENDANGERED,
OR THREATENED SUCH AS THE INDIGO SNAKE, AND
THE MANATEE

MILLIONS OF DOLLARS IN TOURIST MONEY IS BROUGHT
INTO BREVARD COUNTY FROM TOURISTS, JUST TO SEE
THE MERRITT ISLAND NAT'L WILDLIFE REFUGE.
TOURISTS ARE NOT COMING TO SEE PAVED ROADS,
R.R. TRACKS, TRAINS AND CONDOS. THEY ALSO WANT
TO SEE, AND FISH IN THE PRISTINE WATERS
OF THE BANANA RIVER. SOUTH OF RTE 528 THE
SEA GRASS IS DEAD UP TO SEBASTIAN, FLORIDA.

HOW COULD JOHN WALSH EVEN CONSIDER
PUTTING R.R. TRACKS, FREIGHT, WHICH WOULD
INCLUDE DANGEROUS CHEMICALS, FERTILIZER,
AUTOS, OIL, AND A BRIDGE OVER A MANATEE
- SANCTUARY IN THE BANANA RIVER. THE ANSWER
IS MONEY, BUT BIGGER IS NOT BETTER.

FOR 50 YEARS NASA HAS BEEN SATISFIED WITH
THE WAY IT CURRENTLY IS. SECURITY HAS BEEN
INTACT. NOW MR. WALSH WANTS TO CONNECT TO
EXISTING TRACKS THAT GO INTO SECURE AREAS OF
NASA, NEW TRACKS BRINGING TRAIN LOADS OF "WHO
KNOWS WHAT" INTO KENNEDY SPACE CENTER SECURE
AREAS. PLEASE DENY THIS CARGO-BY-RAIL PITCH.
THERE IS NO OTHER AREA ON THE EAST COAST LIKE ~~THE~~
NATIONAL WILDLIFE AREA. IT IS IRREPLACEABLE.

INSTEAD PLEASE RECONSIDER 528 FOR THE RAIL

THANK YOU.

MERRITT ISLAND WILDLIFE REFUGE AT 50



A gulf fritillary butterfly is one of many species found during a butterfly count conducted at the Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge last summer. CRAIG RUBADOUX/FLORIDA TODAY

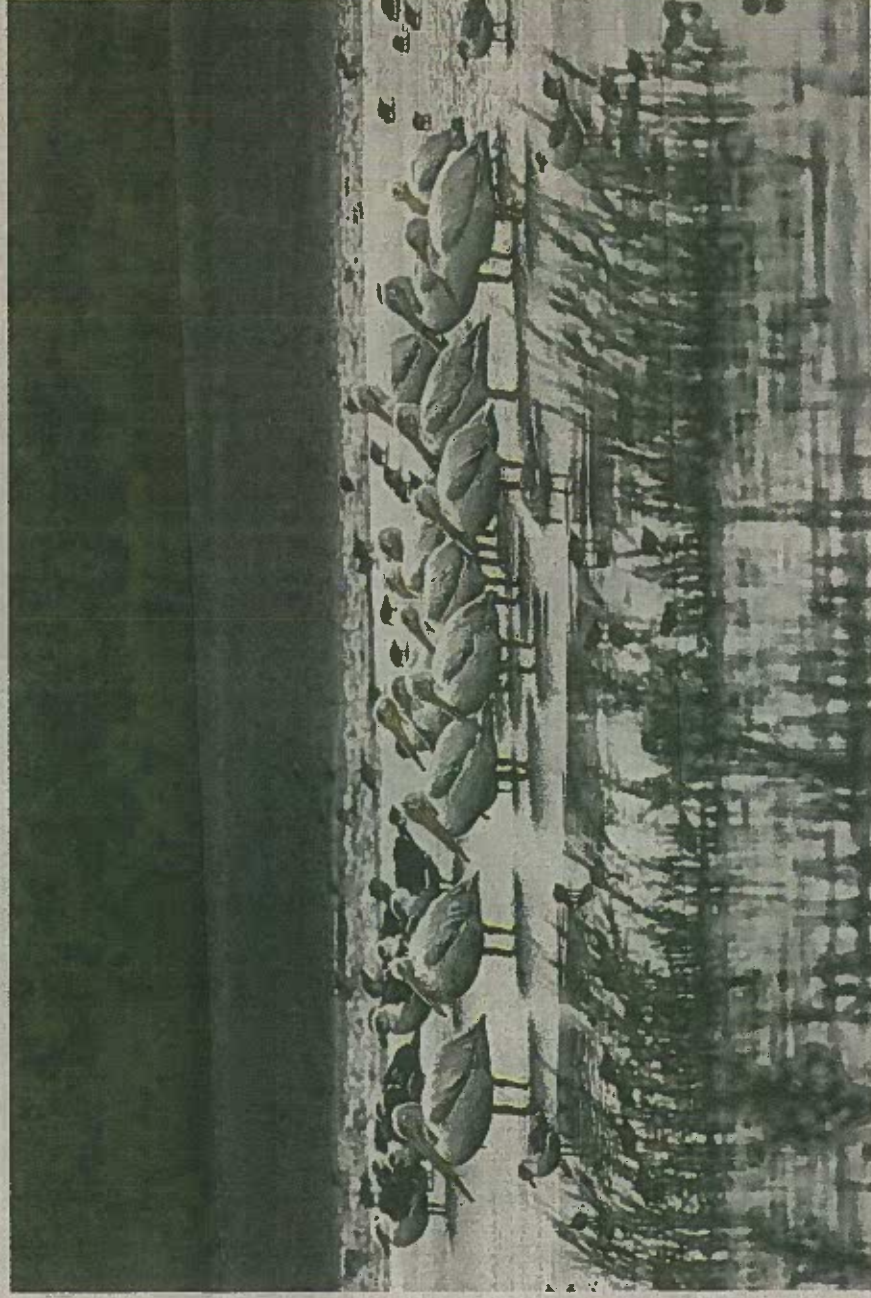
Rare species, sights thrive

Buffer to KSC matures into premier preserve

FROM PAGE ONE

's just a gorgeous piece of property."

DAN CLICK, president of the Merritt Island Wildlife Association



White pelicans are among the hundreds of animal species found at the Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge. The refuge marks its 50th anniversary Aug. 28. RIK JESSE/FLORIDA TODAY

MERRITT ISLAND NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

- » 140,000 acres of brackish estuaries, marshes and coastal dunes make up Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge.
- » Established Aug. 28, 1963, as an overlay of NASA's John F. Kennedy Space Center.
- » 1 million visitors go to the refuge each year.
- » Website: www.fws.gov/merrittisland
- » 500 species of animals live in the refuge, including 330 species of birds, 117 fish, 65 amphibians and reptiles and 31 mammals.
- » 1,045 different types of plants grown on the refuge.
- » The refuge has operated on a budget of more than \$2 million in recent years.
- » 25 employees

Source: Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge; Economic Benefits of Land Conservation A Case for Florida Forever 2009

INSIDE: Florida news, 12A | Obituaries, 19A | Comics, 14A | Advice and puzzles, 15A | Weather, 16A



Orlando photographer Ken Biye saw this bobcat crossing water along Black Point Drive at the Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge.

COURTESY OF KEN BIYE

Refuge bobcat finds new fans

By Rick Neale
FLORIDA TODAY

A photogenic bobcat with a distinctive notch in its left ear is attracting attention in the heart of the Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge.

The medium-sized bobcat has been spotted in recent months prowling along Black Point Wildlife Drive, a 7-mile scenic loop through pine flatwoods that affords views of waterfowl, alligators and shallow salt-water marshes.

"I saw it three times in August. He's a young cat, because he's got pretty good markings and spots on his body," said Tom Dunkerton, an avid bird-watcher and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service volunteer.

"They're like ghosts. They walk through that thick bush like it's nothing. I love encountering the bobcats. They're mysterious. I got a shot of him looking at me as he popped back on the road, and you can also see a bit



COURTESY OF BOB HARTMANN

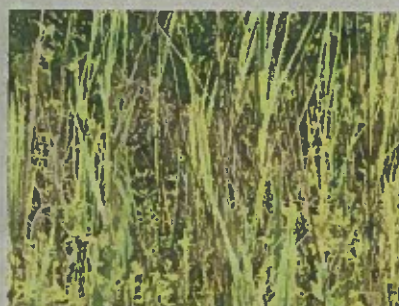
Bob Hartmann, a Southwest Ranches professional photographer, encountered the notch-eared bobcat on a trail.

of curiosity on his part," Dunkerton said.

Wildlife officials have posted photos of the bobcat on the refuge Facebook page the past four weeks, enticing sight-seers. Refuge Ranger Nancy Corona said the visitor center usually receives one bobcat sighting a week, most often during mornings and evenings.

"There's a lot of bobcats on the refuge. They usually hide in the brush, but every once in a while, one will come out and show off. What makes this one so interesting is, with his ear, you know you're seeing the same animal," Corona said.

"To me, it looks like he got into a fight. But I just don't know," she said. Dunkerton said he has



COURTESY OF TOM DUNKERTON.COM

Peering from the grass, the bobcat was photographed by Tom Dunkerton, a U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service volunteer.

photographed the notch-eared bobcat while it peeked through tall grass roughly 25 feet away.

Ken Biye, founding president of the Orlando Camera Club, captured an image of the sharp-fanged beast wading in a marsh from about 35 yards away, using a 600mm lens and a teleconverter from his car window.

"This guy that we got crossing the water was pure happenstance," recalled Biye, who has photographed nature scenes at the Merritt Island refuge the past decade.

"Next thing I knew, he came trotting out of the bush. He gets about even

with the car, and he stops and looks at us — like he's posing. Great, great shot. It's exciting when you get them, because they're so elusive," Biye said.

Bob Hartmann, a Southwest Ranches professional photographer, shared the same hiking trail with the bobcat last month near duck-hunting blinds off Black Point Wildlife Drive. It was early morning, and the spotted creature stopped in its tracks about 500 yards away.

"I snapped off a couple pictures before it noticed me — and then it started walking in my direction. And then, click click click click," Hartmann recalled.

"I'd love to know the story behind his ear."

Contact Neale at 321-242-3638, rneale@floridatoday.com or follow @RickNeale1 on Twitter.

