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The Honorable Rick Scott
The Capitol
400 S. Monroe St.
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0001

June 9, 2017

Dear Governor Scott,

On behalf of Audubon Florida I wish to offer the following comments in support of land acquisition items #12 and #13 on the June 14, 2017 Board of Trustees agenda.

We are excited to see the Department bring these to good ecosystem protection projects to the Cabinet for approval.

The Crews Groves conservation easement - Old Town Creek Watershed helps protect the headwaters of important Peace River tributaries. Conserving flatwoods and floodplain is a good way to protect water resources. Preservation of the upland communities protects important wildlife. FDEP's use an easement advances the goal of conserving land while retaining its economic benefits through private ownership and management.

The Blue Springs project in Gilchrist County is a terrific springs protection project with the added benefit of protecting riverine habitat along the Sante Fe River. The project demonstrates the value of protecting some Florida springs through land acquisition, while other springs benefit from water resource restoration strategies funded and authorized under the Legacy Florida Act signed into law last year.

We hope that the other members of the Florida Cabinet join you in approving these two great projects.

Eric Draper
Executive Director
Audubon Florida