

1000 Friends of Florida *** Audubon of Florida *** Audubon of Southwest Florida
Everglades Foundation *** Everglades Trust *** Florida Wildlife Federation
Friends of the Arthur R. Marshall Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge
National Parks Conservation Association *** The Nature Conservancy
Sanibel Captiva Conservation Foundation *** South Florida Audubon Society
Urban Environment League

Rock Salt
Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Army (Civil Works)
108 Army Pentagon
Room 3E431
Washington, DC 20310-0108

July 1, 2009

Dear Mr. Salt,

On behalf of the undersigned organizations, we write to request that upon his retirement from the United States Army, Col. Paul Grosskruger be asked to continue on with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in a civilian capacity. In doing so, Col. Grosskruger could provide invaluable knowledge and experience to a program that is crucial to the survival of one of this nation's most treasured resources – America's Everglades.

During his tenure, Col. Grosskruger has gained a thorough understanding of Everglades issues and interests. As you know, this is something not done either quickly or easily. He has significantly improved relationships and communication with stakeholders and agencies involved in Everglades work – another difficult task. We have benefitted greatly from this improved communication, and have appreciated the Colonel's willingness to look for real solutions. Due to his high level of understanding of the complex projects and the diverse interested parties, we believe he should be asked to continue to serve his country as a manager who focuses on consensus-building, problem-solving, and expediting not only individual projects, but program initiatives. We believe this kind of addition to the Jacksonville team is especially important as we enter a time of increased funding and construction.

We also express our gratitude to Col. Grosskruger for his service as Commander of the Jacksonville District, and look forward to welcoming Col. Pantano as the new Commander.

Sincerely,

Charles G. Pattison, FAICP
President
1000 Friends of Florida

David Anderson
Executive Director
Audubon of Florida

Carol Newcomb Jones
VP and Conservation Chair
Audubon of Southwest Florida

Sara Fain
Everglades Restoration Program Manager
National Parks Conservation Association

Kirk Fordham
Chief Executive Officer
Everglades Foundation

Jennifer Conner
Assist. Director for Policy & Special
Projects
The Nature Conservancy

E. Thom Rumberger
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Rae Ann Wessel
Natural Resource Policy Director
Sanibel Captiva Conservation Foundation

Manley Fuller
President
Florida Wildlife Federation

Doug Young
President
South Florida Audubon Society

Dr. Tom Poulson
Friends of the Arthur R. Marshall
Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge

Fran Bohnsack
President
Urban Environment League

Cc: Brig. Gen. Todd Semonite, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Don Jodrey, Department of the Interior
Carol Wehle, South Florida Water Management District
Senator Mel Martinez
Senator Bill Nelson
Congressman Alcee Hastings
Congressman Ron Klein
Congressman Kendrick Meek
Congresswoman Debbie Wasserman-Schultz