Oriola Arapi

Modeling the Environment

9/24/12

Group Project 2 Write Up

Senator Blowsmoke and Representative Foghorn have both proposed two completely different bills for preserving the lake habitat in Florida. Senator Blowsmoke’s proposal, the Big Lake Bill, is in favor of preserving the five largest lakes and using the smaller lakes for development. Senator Foghorn, on the other hand, believes that preserving the smaller lakes is more important. His proposal, the Many Lakes Bill, hopes to secure the largest lakes for development while leaving the smaller lakes untouched. Both proposals do indeed preserve over 50% of the lake habitat in Florida. Senator Blowsmoke’s proposal preserves 58% and Representative Foghorn’s proposal preserves 62%. With that in mind, the issue now becomes one of the importance of human use vs. organism preservation.

With the Big Lake Bill, leaving the large lakes untouched means that the animals, such as fish and beavers, can continue to make their homes there. This also adds to the aesthetic beauty of the lake habitat. More lake area means more of the same types of animals can continue to live there. The Many Lakes Bill, however, is in favor of protecting the lake shorelines and the smaller lakes. Large lakes may have a larger population of the same kind of animals living there, but small lakes and lake shorelines are rich in biodiversity teeming with micro-organisms and bacteria that are vital to the growth of the ecosystem in that area.

It is difficult to say which type of environment is more important in sustaining the lake’s ecosystem, so we should also focus on the way humans will use each environment. Will development in the larger lakes be more productive for people or can the smaller lakes provide enough space for recreational use? With the larger lakes out of the way and the smaller lakes left to be used for recreation, what will it be developed into?

At least, if the larger lakes were to be developed, that will give people enough space for boating, fishing, and other recreational use. This, along with the preservation of the smaller lakes, which are, again, teeming with biodiversity, provide a cooperative environment between humans and animals.