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Modeling the Environment

Conservation of Lakes: Big Things Come in Small Packages

Florida’s officials have the Senate and the House of Representatives at odds. With Congress looking for a way to conserve lake habitat in the sunshine state, Senator Blowsmoke and Representative Foghorn have two different views in regards to what the best way is to go about the problem. Senator Blowsmoke’s “Big Lakes Bill” has the Senate calling for preservation of the five lakes with the largest areas and development of the thirty lakes with smaller areas. Representative Foghorn’s “Many Lakes Bill” on the other hand is in favor of developing only the five lakes with the largest perimeters while preserving the thirty lakes with smaller perimeters. With both legislators claiming that their bill will “preserve over 50% of lake habitat in Florida” it is difficult to distinguish which proposal will be better for Florida.

Senator Blowsmoke strongly believes that “Big Lakes = Big Conservation.” Her purposed bill will preserve 58% of lakes by area and lakes with greater area have the ability to house more wildlife. Since rainwater is able to make its way through the limestone beneath the surface of Florida’s land, sinkholes develop into deep lakes in Florida. This means the lakes that Blowsmoke is pushing to preserve not only have great area but most likely have great depth as well. In preserving the five lakes with the greatest area the plants and animals that live in these lakes will flourish. Blowsmoke’s bill will allow for five very large and successful ecosystems to develop. Since it is area that is being conserved however, the shorelines of these lakes may ultimately lead to the downfall. As the shoreline erodes, the lakes may become shallow as unwanted sediment may fall into the lakes and affect the wildlife that lives at the bottom of the lakes. That is why Representative Foghorn believes that his “Many Lakes Bill” which will preserve 62% of lake perimeter, is a better way to go about conserving lake habitat in Florida. Foghorn believes that by preserving many lakes shorelines, small ecosystems can develop successfully. Though these lakes may not be the largest in area, sinkholes have caused many of them to have great depth. Since many of these lakes are deep, they can hold many fish, algae, and other floating plants. By preserving the shorelines, the surrounding wildlife will flourish and result in even greater success of these lakes.   
 Representative Foghorn’s “Many Lakes Bill” will preserve a greater percentage of Florida’s lakes. By preserving the shoreline, Foghorn’s approach will provide a more long-term preservation than Senator Blowsmoke’s is able to. Many small and more unique ecosystems will be able to develop since different species will be able to find a lake where they can be successful. Representative Foghorn was correct with his pitch “More Lakes, More Conservation. Do the Math.” After doing the calculations and considering environmental factors, Foghorn certainly has the better bill.

Works Cited

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