



Horry County Parks and Open Space Board

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RE: Rezoning #2018-06-009

July 10, 2018

Dear Horry County Planning Commission,

The Horry County Parks and Open Space Board would like to express concern regarding the proposed rezoning of 864.52 acres from SF10/CFA to SF6 in the Bear Bluff area off of Highway 90 and Old Highway 90. The Bear Bone parcel PIN#3610000003 is immediately adjacent to the northern boundary of the Lewis Ocean Bay Heritage Preserve. This area has abundant Carolina Bays which are critical to Horry County's conservation plans and green infrastructure goals.

The Parks and Open Space Board is concerned over development in this area causing changes in hydrology, altering of critical ecosystem services provided by the Bays, and potential impacts to threatened, endangered, and rare species in close proximity. Increased density in this area as well as proximity to the Preserve also poses a potential heightened wildfire risk and may inhibit the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources from doing necessary controlled burns in the Lewis Ocean Bay Heritage Preserve.

The currently adopted 2009 Parks and Open Space Plan identifies this area in the Green Infrastructure Map as a critical as part of the "Lewis Ocean Bay Hub" which provides origin or destination for wildlife and ecological processes. Green Infrastructure Hubs are large areas of land that anchor an open space network and are critically important for preservation. The Plan further identifies this area as a "Forest Corridor Linkage" which provides connections that tie the system together to enable the network to work and provide sufficient space for native plants and animals to flourish while serving as corridors connecting ecosystems.

Horry County's currently adopted Comprehensive Plan, Envision 2025, identifies this area as a Scenic and Conservation Area which provides for ecosystem services and are intended to remain undeveloped in perpetuity due to the presence of ecologically significant features.

We respectfully request that the Planning Commission adhere to currently adopted plans, which were both recommended for adoption by the Planning Commission. Both the County's Envision 2025 Comprehensive Plan and the County's Parks and Open Space Plan clearly specify against increased development and further disruption of ecological systems in this area.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Pamela Dawson".

Pamela Dawson
Horry County Parks and Open Space Board Chairman
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CC: Ashley Cowen – Senior Planner and Staff Liaison to the Parks and Open Space Board, Horry County
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