



## FLORIDA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

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February 15, 2026

State Affairs Committee Chair William Robinson  
303 House Office Building  
403 South Monroe Street  
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1300

SUBJECT: FNPS Recommends State Affairs Comm Decline Passage of HB 1421

Dear Chair Robinson:

The Florida Native Plant Society opposes passage of HB 1421, entitled Grazing on State Lands, which will be considered by the House State Affairs Committee on Tuesday, February 17. We ask that the Committee decline to advance this bill. In the truest sense, it is a solution in search of a problem. State-owned conservation lands, ranging from state parks to wildlife management areas and lands owned by the water management districts, are already leased for cattle grazing, WHEN AND WHERE APPROPRIATE. Florida's conservation lands – at least those owned by the state in fee title – should prioritize management that advances the protection of natural resources (e.g., habitat restoration, protection of threatened and endangered species, wetlands and water resources) and accommodates compatible recreational use by the public. Cattle grazing simply doesn't fit with such resource management priorities.

Under the right circumstances, we agree that it makes sense to allow grazing leases. Those circumstances include: 1) the grazing would not be in conflict with the property's adopted land management plan; 2) there is no imminent plan to engage in habitat restoration within the leased area; 3) no conflicts with protection of imperiled species exist; 4) there would be no infringement on established or planned public access and recreational use; 5) the leased area consists exclusively, or at least primarily, of improved pasture or other altered lands; 6) the necessary infrastructure (e.g., secure fencelines and water source) is already in place and will be maintained by the lessee; and 7) the grazing intensity will be consistent with a range management plan that meets the standards or recommendations of the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS).

Our state-owned conservation lands can already be made available for cattle grazing leases when the above kinds of circumstances are met. We see no need for this proposed legislation and believe it will just place unwarranted pressure on the agencies responsible for protecting our most sensitive natural areas to make them available for leases even when it is not consistent with a property's land management goals. Please vote NO on HB 1421.

Respectfully,

Eugene M. Kelly, President  
Florida Native Plant Society

*Preserving, conserving and restoring the native plants and native plant communities of Florida*

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