

**Collier County Conservation Collier Program
Caracara Prairie Preserve
2019 Cattle Lease Submitted Question Clarifications**

The following questions were submitted by interested applicants regarding the terms and allowable activities within the upcoming 2019 Caracara Prairie Preserve Draft Cattle Lease. Clarifications to the submitted questions can be found below for consideration. The deadline for submitting bid applications is December 3rd, 2018 at 12:00pm.

Will the perimeter fencing be replaced before the start of the lease on March 1, 2019?

The conditions of the lease include a provision in Article 1 that "The Demised Premises is leased in its "As Is, Where Is, and With All Faults" condition. Maintenance or improvements to existing perimeter fencing will be the responsibility of the lessee. As stated in Article 5 of the draft lease, "Prior to making any changes, alterations, additions or improvements to the Demised Premises, LESSEE will provide to LESSOR all proposals and plans for alterations, improvements, changes or additions to the Demised Premises for LESSOR'S written approval, specifying in writing the nature and extent of the desired alteration, improvement, change, or addition, along with the contemplated starting and completion time for such project." Requests for additions or major alterations to the existing perimeter fence would need to be submitted in writing to the preserve manager for approval.

Can the vegetation lining the western boundary perimeter fence line be removed for fence maintenance and repairs?

Vegetation can be removed along the western boundary perimeter. Efforts will be required to be coordinated with preserve management to ensure the necessary surveys for listed species that could be impacted by vegetation removal activities and equipment can be completed and mitigated for before action occurs (i.e. preserve staff surveying for gopher tortoise burrows/nesting crested caracara/nesting Big Cypress fox squirrel along the area of impact).

Can soil aeration equipment be used on the pastures to improve soil and forage quality?

Lessees interested in utilizing soil aeration equipment on the pastures will need to submit in writing an aeration plan to the preserve manager for approval. Impacts to ground nesting and burrowing wildlife species in the proposed areas will be considered when determining suitability of the area for aeration. Only applicable portions of the preserve that will not directly impact wildlife species or wetlands will be approved for aerator utilization.

Can permanent cattle shoots be constructed on the property?

Permanent cattle shoots are not available on the property currently and cannot be constructed for use under the current lease. Lessee's are required to bring in temporary cattle shoots to erect when needed. To reduce impacts to wildlife, the temporary cattle shoots cannot be left installed in a semi-permanent state, however if needed, lessee's will be allowed to store the panels on site in a designated location when not in use.

Is there public access allowed on the preserve?

The preserve hiking trails are open to the public from dawn till dusk, 7 days a week to hikers and recreationalists accessing the property on foot and via kissing gates. The property is included within the CREW Wildlife Environmental Area and Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) regulated hunts occur five times throughout the year. To view the dates for the 2018-2019 hunting season and read the area regulations, please visit: <http://myfwc.com/media/4436876/CREW.pdf>

Can I apply for USDA Drought Insurance as a lessee of the county?

Yes, utilizing USDA drought insurance is not limited by the terms of this lease. County Insurance Requirements for cattle lessees can be found in Article 10 of the draft cattle lease agreement, "LESSEE shall provide and maintain a farm liability policy which shall be approved by the Collier County Risk Management Department, for not less than an amount of One Million Dollars and No/100 Cents (\$1,000,000.00) throughout the term or any renewals thereof to this Agreement. In addition, LESSEE shall provide and maintain Worker's Compensation Insurance covering all employees meeting Statutory Limits in compliance with the applicable state and federal laws. The coverage shall include Employer's Liability with a minimum limit of Three Hundred Thousand Dollars and No/100 Cents (\$300,000.00) each accident."