



FLORIDA WEEKLY PHOTO

This is one of many signs along Corkscrew Road in the DR/GR.

roads, the sound of a drill on cement) are necessary.

“Who are the real stakeholders?” Bigelow asked. “Is it the landowners, the developers, or all of us?”

Last Tuesday, county leaders voted to put a one-year moratorium on mining and any zoning changes in the DR/GR.

“If I was a betting man, I’d think the state is going to take real exception to that,” Missimer said, adding that “water flows down hill, except during zoning hearings.”

County Commissioner Chariman Bob Janes said the area was suitable for multiple purposes, and that the one-year moratorium would give everyone time to think about what those purposes are.

“The [rock mines],” he said, “are a tremendous asset that there is a scarcity of and that we need. Once those natural resources are gone, they’re gone.”

Leaders have also taken actions towards providing a comprehensive plan for the area. They recently hired an impartial team of professional researchers, ecologists and hydrologists to conduct studies of the area.

An 80-page summary review of the report that team prepared summarizes the findings and reassures just how impartial the studies were, and how detached the facts are from the realities of government planning.

The opening pages are filled with dis-

claimers about the report’s unbiased nature. It is a “scientific study, not a planning policy document,” the contents of which are available only for “possible consideration” by Lee County staff.

The report also says that in the absence of sufficient information on some topics, one of which is the “ecological impacts associated with mining activities,” it declines to say whether they are “important for the future management of DR/GR lands in southeastern Lee County.”

On page 4 it lists all the things it is not intended to do: create public policy, provide DR/GR land with an environmentally holy status, offer opinions about whether or not it’s appropriate to mine or build on the land, claim to know the “value” of the land, or provide any recommendations about what you should or should not do on it or with it.

But it is also, even if inadvertently, a compelling argument for the beauty of a delicately interconnected ecosystem. Consider the term “landscape mosaic,” which the report uses to describe nature’s elegantly balanced backgrounds – now mixed with our own, sometimes less elegant, additions: mines, mobile homes, citrus groves, roads.

“The Florida black bear uses many habitat types,” the report tells us atonally. “...such as pine flat woods, cypress swamps, and mixed hardwood-pine, but may travel to specific locations to feed

on palmetto berries in the fall.”

One study found that specific areas within the DR/GR are considered to be among the best remaining areas of pine flat woods in this section of Florida, but they are not currently protected by any laws.

“Most of the last remaining pines flat woods are north of Cape Coral,” Bigelow said.

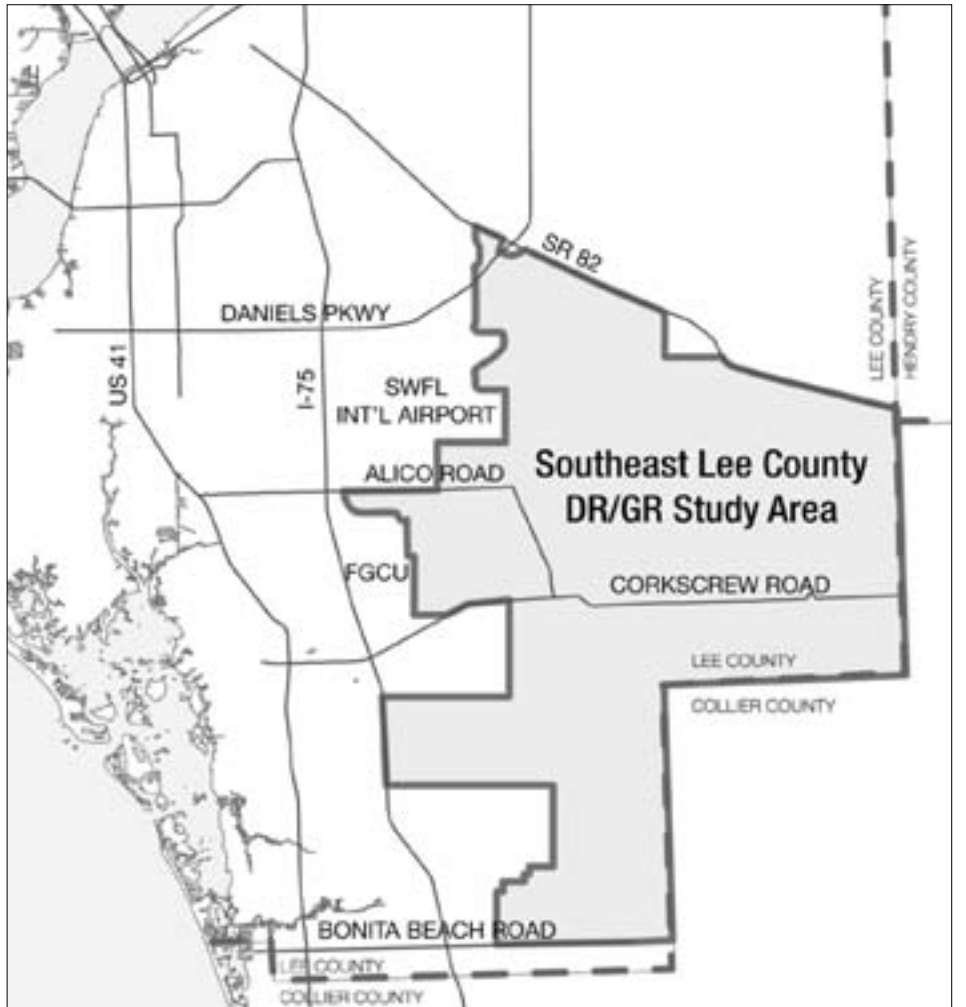
Another report, by the ECCL, gives a tour of where water flows through land in Estero, another instance of interconnectedness: “The Estero portion of the DRGR contains large wetland areas associated with a flow way that connects the Corkscrew Swamp Preserve to the Halfway Creek and Estero River flow ways that slowly transports rainwater from the interior under I-75 and through The Brooks, Coconut Point and between Marsh Landing and Fountain Lakes into Estero Bay. During and after heavy storms

some of this water is diverted north into the Estero River through the Villages of Country Creek and through old Estero on its way to Estero Bay. Any substantial development east of I-75 in the present DRGR area may cause future flooding problems in some or all of these communities. In addition the Estero DRGR area provides habitat to many animal and bird species, several of which are protected by Federal law and County Codes. “

But things change, get older, fall apart to become new again. In the DR/GR, like anywhere, life goes on – until it doesn’t.

“What do you want to have left, at the end?” Missimer had asked.

“Who are the real stakeholders?” Bigelow had questioned, having already come to the answer for himself long ago. “Is it the landowners, the developers, or all of us? ■



FLORIDA WEEKLY GRAPHIC

# LENO

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Officials at the Leno show would not comment on the discovery. They expressed no opinions about how this news could affect the immigration debate, nor did they volunteer any revelations about a potential run for the presidency by Leno. He would join Republicans Ronald Reagan (the late and 40th president, who appears on no American greenback), and Fred Thompson (not so late, and a mere candidate, also minus the nod of honor on an American bill) as an actor-turned-politician — that is, if he announces a bid for the high office, and by extension, the face of American legal tender.

But Leno officials asked to be kept informed of the story.

Bank officials, citing security reasons, would not confirm that the bill’s watermark resembled Leno and would not allow the tellers to be interviewed by Florida Weekly.

Wachovia spokesperson Christine Shaw, at the bank’s headquarters in Charlotte, N.C., confirmed that the bank branch in Fort Myers had received a counterfeit \$100 bill. “It was turned over to authorities,” she said.

The U.S. Secret Service, the agency responsible for currency security, said they’d never heard of a Jay Leno image on a bill.

“That’s a first,” said John Joyce, special agent in charge of the Tampa office of the U.S. Secret Service. “I’d be curious to see it.”

Joyce, who hadn’t seen the bill as of Florida Weekly’s press time — it had been mailed to their office from the bank — said the Leno image may just be a matter of interpretation.

“We get a lot of counterfeit bills from Columbia,” he said. “They simulate the watermark — it’s often what looks like a cartoon picture of Benjamin Franklin.”

Joyce also said the special pens used to determine if a bill is genuine are not always accurate.

The iodine-based pen turns black (meaning the bill is counterfeit) when it hits a starch. That’s what’s found in paper products. U.S. paper currency, Joyce said, is made of high-quality cloth. When the pen hits real bills it shows a light brown color.

“For it to not turn black they would have had to have used pretty good paper,” he said.

That’s what the Columbian counterfeiters may be using, Joyce said.

“They run offset printing presses and they use high-quality paper that doesn’t register with the pen.” ■

## How To Tell If It's Counterfeit (as of Florida Weekly's press time):

### >>PORTRAIT

**Genuine:** Face appears lifelike. It stands out sharply from the fine screen background of regular, unbroken lines. Lines in the face, hair, and clothing are distinct.

**Counterfeit:** Lines are blurred and may blend into the background, which itself may be too light or dark. Face and eyes may appear lifeless.

### >>PAPER

**Genuine:** Special, very high quality rag paper with small red and blue threads throughout is used. It has a distinctive texture and color.

**Counterfeit:** Paper may feel different or may be a different white than genuine paper. Red and blue lines may be drawn on to imitate the fibers.

### >>SEAL

**Genuine:** Saw tooth points are sharp and evenly spaced.

**Counterfeit:** Saw tooth points may be broken, blunt, or uneven. Seal may also be unclear.

### >>SERIAL NUMBER

**Genuine:** Figures are sharp and evenly spaced. On Federal Reserve Notes, the prefix letter agrees with the District letter in the seal.

**Counterfeit:** Poor impression may make the numbers too light or dark, or may be blurred. May also be unevenly spaced or out-of-line.

### >>BORDER

**Genuine:** Scroll work has fine crisscrossing lines which are sharp and unbroken.

**Counterfeit:** Lines may be blurred and are often broken.

### >>What To Do If You Find One...

- Do not return it to the passer. Keep it and write your name and the date on it so you can identify it later.
- Notify the nearest Secret Service office or police.
- Record who gave it to you along with where and when you got it. If you can, write down a description of the person who passed it, as well as information such as the license number of any vehicle used.

### >>What Happens Next?

The counterfeit will be confiscated by the Treasury Department to remove it from circulation, and as evidence in the event of prosecution of both the counterfeiters and the counterfeit passers. This means that the discoverer loses the face value of the counterfeit turned in. Anyone who is convicted of passing counterfeit currency can receive up to 5 years imprisonment and/or a fine up to \$10,000. Thus it is wiser to turn in a counterfeit bill, rather than try to pass it on to someone else. Only when everyone in the economy is concerned and willing to do their part in maintaining the currency’s integrity will the circulation of counterfeits be stopped...and our currency’s value insured.

### >>Speaking Of Counterfeits...Did You Know?

- that more than half of a bill is considered legal tender?
- that only the front of a dollar bill is valuable? If you were able to separate the front of a bill from the back, only the front half would be considered “money”
- That until 1929 our currency measured 7.42 x 3.13 inches. Since then currency has measured 6.14 x 2.61 inches-an easier size to handle and store.

Source: Bankersonline