

Talking points: Troyer Brothers Mine Hearing

Troyer Brothers Excavation seeks zoning approval for a 1,803 acre mining operation located in the SE Lee County DR/GR between Corkscrew Road and State Road 82. A 110 foot maximum mine depth is proposed including blasting and dewatering. Expected duration is 35 years. At over 1800 acres, this is the largest mine yet proposed for the environmentally sensitive DR/GR area. This proposed project is opposed by residents and environmental groups for many reasons, including:

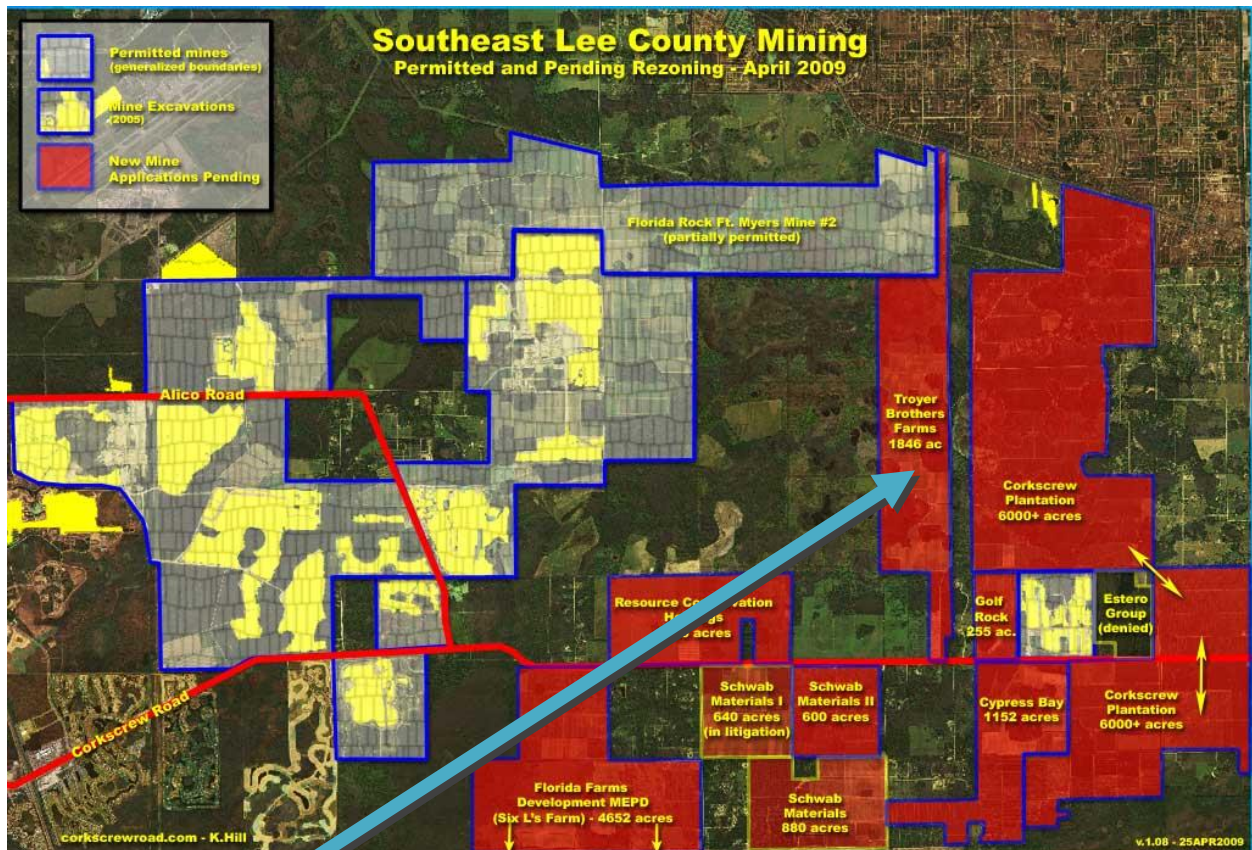
- Mining activity is ecologically disruptive and results in a permanent and irrevocable alteration to the natural landscape. These alterations create permanent adverse impacts to hydrology, surface water flow, and natural systems function of wetland and aquatic resources of regional importance such as the Imperia River and the Estero Bay Aquatic Preserve. To minimize degradation of these critical resources, mining should be restricted to those areas of Lee County already impacted by mining activities rather than encouraged in new areas.
- The proposed mine is located in an environmentally sensitive area of the DR/GR and directly adjacent to conservation lands including three tracts of the Lee County Imperial Marsh Preserve, the Corkscrew Regional Mitigation Bank, and the Airport Mitigation Bank. The proposed project is not compatible with surrounding conservation and preservation lands due to adverse impacts on wildlife and environmentally sensitive lands.
- Impacts to Federally listed species: The project site is comprised largely of historic wetland communities including cypress, freshwater marsh, prairie, and hydric pines. These wetland communities provide vital function as foraging sites for the endangered Woodstork and are located within the prime foraging area of the largest Woodstork rookery in the US.

The site for this proposed project is an established travel corridor for the Florida Panther. The project site boundary is included within Primary and Secondary Panther Habitat Protection Zones. As recently as 2008, FWS Panther telemetry data document repeated use of the subject property by the Florida Panther. Mining impacts such as blasting, equipment noise, dust, and bright lights would cause increased disturbance and would result in habitat loss, fragmentation of establish travel routes, and an increase in incidental vehicular deaths of this endangered species

- The proposed mining operation will produce a total of 13,300,000 two-way dump truck trips over the life of the project. The mining plan indicates that all truck traffic will use State Road 82, which will result in an unacceptable Level of Service for that roadway in less than 5 years. Further, the project southern property boundary includes 1000 feet of frontage and an unpaved access entrance on Corkscrew Road thus creating a high potential for future requests to route some portion of dump truck traffic on Corkscrew. This concentration of dump trucks will result in dramatic changes to the nature of the corridor traffic from commuter to industrial and will adversely affect the community character of Corkscrew and Estero.
- Existing rural residential landowners will be subject to adverse quality of life impacts. The predominant land use along the Corkscrew Road Corridor and the south eastern portion of the DR/GR for the past 50 years has been agricultural and low density rural residential. This has not historically been an industrial mining corridor. There has been no mining activity in this area

until 1999 when one dirt mine was approved with minimal opposition. Once the community experienced the impacts of mining activities, subsequent requests for permits have met with substantial opposition. Objections include truck traffic, blasting, noise, dust, lights, groundwater contamination, habitat loss, decreased property values, and changes in community character that can be expected when industrial uses encroach on an established rural community.

- There is no demonstrated and clear need for additional limerock materials. With regard to public interest in this project as it relates to availability of limerock as a needed resource, it is well documented that there is no current or anticipated shortage of supply. As recently established by the ongoing Lee DR/GR planning effort, there are sufficient limerock resources already permitted in Lee County to satisfy the demand of the 8 county SW Florida region well beyond 2030. This conservative estimate is based on demand during the peak of the early-2000's construction boom and does not include the partially permitted Florida Rock Mega-Mine #2.
- “Domino effect”: Approval of this zoning request would establish a new development pattern and set a precedent for six other rock mine applications pending on and around Corkscrew Road. Such an approval would predispose the area to a development pattern that would be inconsistent and incompatible with the intent of the DR/GR.



Location of proposed Troyer Brothers Excavation