



TURNER
ENDANGERED
SPECIES
FUND

*Conserving biological
diversity by ensuring the
persistence of imperiled
species and their habitats
with an emphasis on
private lands.*

Nick Wiley, Executive Director
Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission
620 South Meridian Street, MS 2A
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-1600

May 28, 2014

Dear Mr. Wiley:

Nick

As owner of the Avalon Plantation in Jefferson County, Florida, I hereby agree to assist in the humane relocation of gopher tortoises from permitted gopher tortoise incidental take sites by offering sufficient habitat for up to 3 gopher tortoises per acre at the Avalon Annex recipient site which includes 505 acres of gopher tortoise habitat. Based on surveys of the existing gopher tortoise population, the Avalon Annex recipient site has sufficient space to receive a large number of tortoises.

The Annex recipient site is located at 30°25'06.67"N, 83°59'49.73"W (T1S,R3E,S1,2,11 & 12; Parcel ID #: 02-1S-3E-0000-0030-0000, 01-1S-3E-0000-0010-0000, 11-1S-3E-0000-0010-0000, 12-1S-3E-0000-0020-0000).

The Annex recipient site supports one of the finest examples of the once common longleaf pine forests, and is actively managed for recreation and conservation using frequent prescribed fire and open canopy forest practices. The long-term goal for the Avalon Annex site is to provide recreation opportunities and quality habitat for wildlife. The habitat on the Avalon Annex recipient site has soil types that provide suitable gopher tortoise habitat with the dominant vegetation consisting of longleaf pine forests and native understory. These sites will be managed by staff from the Avalon Plantation staff and Turner Endangered Species Fund. Gopher tortoises that are translocated to the Annex recipient site will be held in soft-release enclosures (Beltech fencing material) for 6 to 12 months, and the fence integrity will be regularly monitored throughout the enclosure period.

Please direct all future correspondence regarding my support of gopher tortoise recovery efforts to Mike Phillips, Executive Director, Turner Endangered Species Fund (mike.phillips@retranches.com).

Sincerely,

Mr. R. E. Turner
Founder & Trustee
Turner Endangered Species Fund