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For Immediate Release

OCALA -- A unified Department of Natural Resources was proposed Monday by Ferris Bryant, candidate for Governor.

Bryant said the department he proposes to create, if voters elect him, will coordinate:

1. Flood and water control.
2. Sea Coast Beach Erosion control.
3. Fish and Wild Life Conservation.
4. ^{Retention} maintenance of the state's scenic beauty.
5. Soil and mineral development and conservation, ~~XXXXX~~^S
6. Forest and Woodland Conservation, ~~XXXX~~^A
7. Submerged land development.

"Too often the left hand has not known what the right hand is doing in flood control and natural resources conservation," Bryant said,

"Florida's natural resources are now administered by more than a dozen independent agencies, such as ^{forestry} several flood control outfits, game and fresh water agencies and so on. "

"The Department of ^{Natural} Natural Resources will not be placing ~~the~~ government on government but instead will coordinate and ^{embrace} embrace some important ~~functions~~ conservation functions now omitted completely. "

"The problems of managing our ~~nat~~ natural resources have become acutely intensified by Florida's transition from a frontier to an ~~xxx~~ urbanized state. "

"Our entire flood control program should be re-evaluated to achieve for local areas the maximum for their money and the greatest efficiency in flood control," Bryant said.

"The Central and South Florida Flood Control District must be answerable to the people it represents. This particularly applies to such areas as Martin, Broward, Hillsborough and Dade Counties," Bryant added.

"I am informed a great deal of water is being drained from St. Lucie County into the Martin County area -- and, if true -- remedial steps should be taken for the benefit of all concerned.

"And Broward County, as another example, will require the filling-in of considerable ~~land~~ ^I land -- now being used as a reservoir and game refuge -- for conversion to a jet airport."¹¹

"Of course, we must provide for that jet airport," Bryant said.

"But in making provision for it we must take into account the overall effect on the flood control system."¹²

"Dade County ~~of~~ ^{is} the heaviest taxpayer in this flood control district, but complains that too little money is being spent there. If that be true, the people there should have ~~xx~~ an opportunity to make an effective complaint and secure a change."¹³

"An additional problem is submerged land development," Bryant continued. "Some of Florida's most beautiful coastal and inter-coastal waters have been ruined by ill-advised dredging and filling. Moreover submerged areas sold by the state for development should have a definite sales price criteria so that the state can get the highest revenue obtainable to plow back into natural resources."¹⁴

"We need to establish suitable specifications and regulations to guide us in setting bulkheads," Bryant said. "And we also need a beach acquisition program to insure public access to and from the beaches."¹⁵

"Local erosion control efforts would also be co-ordinated under the

Natural
Resources Department," Bryant said.