

Manatee Plaintiffs

Lars Anderson is a Florida resident, nature writer, and owner of Adventure Outpost, a company that leads three to four kayak/canoe tours per week on over 60 Florida waterways, including one to two passive manatee watching tours per week during manatee season on Crystal River, Weeki Wachee, Blue Springs, and Ichetucknee River. In 2014, he received the “Award of Excellence from the Florida Master Naturalists program. His customers frequently express disappointment and disgust when they see manatees being swarmed by swimmer in areas they seek out for refuge. Instead, he would like to be able show his clients a true eco-tourism location, managed with integrity and concern for the species, and believes based on his experience as a business owner that this is what eco-tourists expect as well. FWS’s mismanagement actively hurts his recreational, aesthetic, and business interests.

Susan Aungst is a Florida resident and adjunct professor at Stayer University and at DeVry University and Keller Graduate School of Management who teaches, among other courses, an undergraduate environmental science course that includes the study of endangered species such as the manatee. She regularly visits a variety of manatee habitats like Three Sisters Springs, Homosassa Springs, Blue Springs, TECO power plant, Fort Myers Manatee Wildlife Refuge, Apollo Beach, and Crystal River. She makes these visits sometimes for pleasure, sometimes as an outreach educator for Save the Manatee Club, and sometimes as a member of the Manatee Awareness Coalition. As recently as January 2015 she has also observed manatees in the canal near her home in Tampa, Florida. On average, she observes manatees roughly fifteen times per year, and is profoundly disturbed by manatee harassment by “swim with” programs, which negatively impact her educational, recreational, and aesthetic interests.

Brack Barker is a Florida resident, certified Florida Master Naturalist, and the owner of Wild Florida Adventures, an eco-tourism company that operates in Citrus County. Mr. Barker and his company provide guided kayak and nature tours featuring a “hands off” observational approach that enables customers to appreciate, learn about, and enjoy nature’s flora and fauna without harming them. During the winter manatee season, he observes manatees roughly 4 days per week. Mr. Parker is also an amateur photographer who prefers photographing undisturbed manatees, but instead routinely ends up photographing omnipresent manatee harassment by “swim with” program tourists who touch, rub, corral, encircle, and chase manatees. Mr. Barker regularly receives complaints from customers who are deeply disturbed by rampant manatee harassment. Some customers have informed Mr. Barker that they will not repeat an observation tour unless and until “swim with” harassment is stopped. FWS’ mismanagement with regard to the Florida manatee harms Mr. Barker’s educational, recreational, aesthetic, and business interests.

Tracy Colson is a Florida resident and the owner of Nature Coast Kayak Tours, an eco-tourism company that operates in Citrus County. Ms. Colson and her company provide guided kayak tours in the Citrus County area, including “hands off” manatee

tours during the winter. She is also a former Manatee Watch volunteer (2003-2005) and a recent recipient of the Save and Manatee Club's "Manatee Hero Award." Ms. Colson is an amateur photographer and videographer. She visits manatee habitat at least once per week during the winter manatee season, and often photographs and videotapes manatee behaviors, invariably documenting harassment of manatees by swimmers. FWS' mismanagement with the regard to the Florida manatee has had an exceedingly negative impact on Ms. Colson's business; she no longer conducts kayak tours on Kings Bay because of the overcrowded and unsafe conditions as well as the unpleasant experience it has become for her and her customers seeing the manatees disturbed and harassed by swimmers. FWS' catering to the "swim with" industry and mismanagement with regard to the Florida manatee harms Ms. Colson's educational, recreational, aesthetic, and business interests.

Steve Kingery is a Florida resident, certified Florida Master Naturalist, retired scientist who has received the Save the Manatee Club's "Manatee Hero" award. From 2005-2008, he studied manatee-human interaction in Florida, particularly Crystal River, using animal counts, video recordings, and personal interviews with members of the public and with "swim with" operators and employees. Mr. Kingery places a high value on seeing this endangered species unmolested in the wild, and Kings Bay would be his favorite location for paddling and sailing were it not for the chaotic atmosphere and disturbing impacts to wildlife caused by the manatee interaction free-for-all of the "swim with" programs that FWS allows. FWS' catering to the "swim with" industry and mismanagement with regard to the Florida manatee harms Mr. Kingery's educational, recreational, and aesthetic interests.