

**Public Comments and Staff Responses Concerning  
Proposed Minimum Flows for the  
Chassahowitzka and Homosassa River Systems**

**Additional Documents No. 1**

Documents Received, Sent or Developed between  
October 19, 2012 and October 30, 2012



October 30, 2012

*2,642 Pages in Addition to this Cover Sheet*

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** `robert traister [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 2:03 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

`robert traister gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"these creatures are important to all of us you should take action of this or explain to the people why you do not care? "

3353 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** A G Connor [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 28, 2012 11:58 AM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

A G Connor gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"All creatures on this planet are important and we are to be good stewards here."

8860 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

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The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

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and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

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These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Aaron Ellis [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 3:01 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Aaron Ellis gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"The world's water sustains life, provides shelter and is necessary for the flourishing of EVERY LIVING THING, manatees as much as humans."

4605 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

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The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** aaron wolford [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 28, 2012 9:28 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

aaron wolford gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"the world"

9773 other people have also signed the following message:

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The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Adam Petrycki [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 4:48 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Adam Petrycki gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"We need to stop creating unsustainable processes. If it's not possible to recreate what you take out, it's not sustainable."

5779 other people have also signed the following message:

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Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** adam sikora [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 6:04 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

adam sikora gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"I have seen the manatees myself going to the warm waters for shelter, it is a beautiful sight to be preserved"

6331 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

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The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Adolph Antonacci [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 8:13 AM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Adolph Antonacci gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Recently SWIFTMUD allowed an Ocala company access to our water supply . I am conserving my use of our water supply and SWIFTMUD gives it away free!  
"

2737 other people have also signed the following message:

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Thank you.

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## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** adriano lambe [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 28, 2012 7:55 AM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

adriano lambe gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"This is most important to the manatees, far beyond that represented for those of us who sign the petition. I can only hope that the SWFWMD and our Governor shows more concern, heart and conscience for the environment than the two leading candidates presently dukeing it out for the presidency. "

8246 other people have also signed the following message:

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## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Adriyel Manzoratte [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Monday, October 29, 2012 1:02 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Adriyel Manzoratte gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Because manatees deserve to live. Life has been given to them, us huans have no right to murder these peaceful animals."

10673 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

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Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

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Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** agata mosery [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Friday, October 26, 2012 6:47 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

agata mosery gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. "

2256 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Aidee Maldonado [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 2:45 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Aidee Maldonado gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"I love manatees!"

4350 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Aimee Cody [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 6:06 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Aimee Cody gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"I'm a Florida resident, and manatees are the most wonderful creatures we have."

6343 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** alan fricker [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 2:12 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

alan fricker gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Manatees are the ultimate defenseless mamal on earth and should be given every chance to survive their number 1 predator---man and man's decisions "

3634 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Alan Hehe [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 28, 2012 2:03 AM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Alan Hehe gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"I believe ALL life is precious & that all creatures deserve life."

8031 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Albert Navarro [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 6:54 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Albert Navarro gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Manatees are a symbol of Florida's natural resources."

6641 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

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These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Alex Brice [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 4:07 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Alex Brice gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"We own property on The Chaz. We have spent many thousands of dollars converting our septic tanks to help clean this Outstanding Florida Water. I say Zero percent reduction of flows and Zero percent loss of habitat! "

5409 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

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The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Alex Rojo [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Monday, October 29, 2012 10:21 AM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Alex Rojo gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Manatees are very gentle creatures, and I am getting sick and tired of politicians messing up with nature. Manatees do not have the right to vote but they have the right to live"

10406 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

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Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Alexia Rodrigo [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 8:06 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Alexia Rodrigo gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"I lived in Florida for some time and I've seen these beautiful creatures. As a strong environmentalist I believe it's extremely important for people to preserve the worlds wildlife. We share the Earth my countless other creatures and it is our duty to respect that."

6984 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees, and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Alexis bellovich [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Friday, October 26, 2012 8:46 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Alexis bellovich gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"I love Florida springs"

2442 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

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The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Alfred Van Guilder [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 10:59 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Alfred Van Guilder gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"I already asked dick scott to retire.He is useless! I'm tired of him DESTROYING this great State. Let's get together, and VOTE him out of office! "

7699 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

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and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

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These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Alice Gridley [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Monday, October 29, 2012 8:36 AM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Alice Gridley gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"We are so fortunate in Florida to have manatees. Please, do not screw it up!"

10189 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Alice Smith [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 5:29 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Alice Smith gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"As a Floridian and life long resident I hate to see any more threats to this species habitat. "

6118 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** ALICIA ZICCHINO [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 12:35 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

ALICIA ZICCHINO gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"The manatees are already in danger. Lets not decrease the amount of habitat they have!"

2870 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

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The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** alison morton [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Friday, October 26, 2012 5:23 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

alison morton gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Disruption of our ecosystems have long term, often irreparable effects"

2038 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

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The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** alison van dusen [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 2:09 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

alison van dusen gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"every animal counts"

3538 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

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These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Allegonda van den Broek [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 4:16 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Alllegonda van den Broek gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Becasuse mantatees rely on the springs"

5486 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** allison juceam [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 4:41 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

allison juceam gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"We live with the Manatees around us and we often see what people do to harm them, inviting them with hoses on their docks, speeding through no wake zones. We are responsible for the harm that has fallen on these creatures. Their habits are not large enough as it is. They live on fresh water and the springs in question are the last source left on a scale large enough to support them."

5724 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees, and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Allison Spencer [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Friday, October 26, 2012 10:04 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Allison Spencer gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"I love the manatees!"

2551 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Allyson Speizer [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 2:24 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Allyson Speizer gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Save our manatees and save our springs for future generations!"

3947 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Amado Martinez [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 28, 2012 5:40 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Amado Martinez gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"As a scuba diving instructor I'm a conservationist. So we must conserve the natural habitat of the Manti in order for some day remove it from the endangered list."

9441 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Amanda Miles [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Friday, October 26, 2012 5:22 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Amanda Miles gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Manatees deserve our protection."

2031 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Amber Daniels [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 4:09 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Amber Daniels gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"For the Manatees!!"

5426 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

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These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Amelia Barnard [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 8:50 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Amelia Barnard gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"water is our most important resource.  
"

7208 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

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These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** AMOSS FERTIL [mailto:[mail@change.org](mailto:mail@change.org)]  
**Sent:** Monday, October 29, 2012 12:07 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

AMOSS FERTIL gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"I love nature and wildlife."

10594 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Amy Austin [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 2:17 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Amy Austin gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"This response by Dee Atkins was too good not to borrow/repeat (Thank you, Dee!):

Our rivers are already in critical condition and to allow any percentage at all in flow reduction is unconscionable. SWFWMD already allows water use permits to be issued for the cost to \$50 and no metering when someone 'says' they are only going to take 50,000 gallons per day. Of course, with no metering, how do they know how much water is being taken? Crystal River is going to be the next for MFL's to be set, and if permits without metering are already being issued, it scares me to death what they will do setting MFL's. The water permit issued recently is being transported to Ocala to be sold as bottled water. Water transfer!! And no metering on how much is really being taken. SWFWMD is allowing flow reduction in rivers that are already dying or dead. Data that is being used to justify this action can be manipulated to provide the desired results. Use common sense....look at the rivers....look at the lack of aquatic plants that are conducive to the rivers....look at the salinity in areas that used to be fresh water....look at the decrease in wild life, fish, and flora and fauna, look at the degradation of our spings. It is obvious to the lay person what it happening...surely the scientists are smart enough to see what's going on without graphs and numbers and such. If we, the people who love are waterways can see what's happening, there's no data in the world that can change what is obvious to those of us who are aware and feel the pain of watching our rivers and our wildlife die."

3763 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them

too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees, and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Amy Campbell [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Monday, October 29, 2012 11:12 AM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Amy Campbell gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"I LOVE ANIMALS! "

10504 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Amy Hibberd [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Monday, October 29, 2012 12:10 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Amy Hibberd gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"  
love this place....please leave it alone."

10598 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** amy hyslop [mailto:amy@change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 8:25 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

amy hyslop gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"manatees are florida"

7075 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Amy Knowles [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 7:27 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Amy Knowles gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"It is important to preserve and protect every facet of Florida's threatened and essential coastal, wetland and upland ecosystems, each dependant upon the health of the others."

6810 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Amy McReynolds [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Friday, October 26, 2012 6:12 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Amy McReynolds gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Never mess with the ecosystem!"

2185 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Amy Nelson [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 2:04 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Amy Nelson gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"To Those in Power @ "SWFWMD",  
I emphatically request you "rethink" any change that would violate these spring-fed rivers... for they ARE designated as "home" ~ under the FEDERAL Endangered Species Act ie. "Florida Outstanding Waterways" specifically...  
Mr. Rick Scott,  
It is Your Duty to enforce Federally mandated statutes to protect our fragile Florida wildlife, as well as fresh water coastal ecosystems.  
P.S. I am Active Politically, I Vote, & I will be watching this issue closely.  
Thank You for your consideration."

3405 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

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Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees, and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** amy smith [mailto:amy.smith@change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 2:37 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

amy smith gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"they are a treasure to the world"

4198 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Amy Stowe [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 28, 2012 9:36 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Amy Stowe gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"We need to protect the more pristine areas of Florida that we can, especially if it could endanger and threaten our precious wildlife. At least, we need to know the environmental impact ahead of time if there is a real human need to move an established ecosystem."

9787 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees, and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Ana Haget [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 7:19 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Ana Haget gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Where are the poor manatees going to live. Save their homes! They should be able to live there all year."

6775 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

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Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Andra Hearn [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 28, 2012 1:14 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Andra Hearn gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Manatees need this!"

9034 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

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These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Andrea Lamoureux [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 28, 2012 7:32 AM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Andrea Lamoureux gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"All lives seem to be cast aside today no matter if you are human or animal.be the voices and support for all the unfortunate !!"

8218 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Andrea Tallini [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 2:09 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Andrea Tallini gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"I live in florida and the manatees should be protected"

3540 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** ANDRES GARCIA [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 28, 2012 8:06 AM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

ANDRES GARCIA gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Save the Manatee!"

8269 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

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Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

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The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Andreu J MacAndrew Richardson [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Friday, October 26, 2012 5:45 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Andreu J MacAndrew Richardson gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"The environment and the preservation of wildlife is sacrosanct above all else. It is irreplaceable and must be maintained, preserved and held sacred no matter the financial, economic or social cost. Nothing matters more."

2123 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

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These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Andrew Douglass [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 2:15 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Andrew Douglass gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Springs"

3726 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

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Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

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FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Andrew Paliuca [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Monday, October 29, 2012 8:18 AM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Andrew Paliuca gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"the rivers are stressed enough as is...fresh water flow is critical to these rivers. SWFMD....please do what is right for nature and our unique regional area of FLorida"

10159 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

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Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Andrew Sutherland [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Monday, October 29, 2012 9:15 AM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Andrew Sutherland gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"The natural springs of FL are our greatest resource."

10250 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

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Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Angela Baich [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 4:55 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Angela Baich gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"As a Florida native, I lived to see too much destruction of the enviroment, especially fresh water rivers and springs. If not protected, Florida will end up sucked dry."

5834 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

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The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Angela Logalbo [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Friday, October 26, 2012 10:38 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Angela Logalbo gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Why would this NOT be important?"

2577 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

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The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Angela Murrell [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Friday, October 26, 2012 5:30 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Angela Murrell gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"keeping wildlife safe is a duty that all people should be held accountable for, they where here long before us and we are destoring their habitates. They are the childern of this earth and its our job to help them live in this ever changing world that we seem hell bent on destoring."

2072 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosasa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees, and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

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These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Angeline Pino [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Monday, October 29, 2012 1:54 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Angeline Pino gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Because Miami needs to conserve its wild life. Since as long as I can remember I have seen the Everglades go through abuse and have seen our waterways fall victim to not only pollution but overuse."

10731 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

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The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

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Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Anita Hartmann [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 2:49 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Anita Hartmann gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Manatees are struggling to survive! They need our support. Do not impact their ecosystem by reduction in flow!

I vote and as an activist influence the votes of others. We will be watching your action with this issue.

Thank you,  
Anita Hartmann  
352-489-0240  
Dunnellon, FL"

4416 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

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Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Ann Sayward [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 28, 2012 6:53 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Ann Sayward gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"The fresh water in our rivers and springs is of major importance for people and the environment. If you don't care about the Manatees who also bring tourists to the area, then think of the Money. Low flow in the rivers increases the possibility of salt water intrusion which devalues property and kills needed vegetation. Please remember what happened to New Orleans because the outlying vegetation was destroyed."

9527 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

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Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees, and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** ann stonifer [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 3:40 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

ann stonifer gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Do we have to kill everything? "

5112 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Anna Berardi [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 28, 2012 3:32 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Anna Berardi gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Water is important for manatees AND people. Let's do what's right."

9247 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Anna Diliberto [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Monday, October 29, 2012 9:35 AM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Anna Diliberto gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"save the Manatees - no flow reduction!!!!"

10305 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Anna Shaft [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 2:30 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Anna Shaft gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"We have a responsibility to SAVE wildlife!"

4066 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Anna Stacholy [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Monday, October 29, 2012 8:11 AM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Anna Stacholy gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"These gentle creatures deserve our care"

10142 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** ANNE BOWMAN [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Monday, October 29, 2012 9:15 AM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

ANNE BOWMAN gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"THE MANATEES ARE NOT THE ONLY ANIMALS THAT NEED THE SPRINGS PROTECTED, THERE ARE LOTS OF FISHERIES AND OTHER ANIMALS -LIKE HUMANS THAT DEPEND ON KEEPING THE SPRINGS FLOWING. NO REDUCTIONS ON FLOW!"

10255 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees, and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

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These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Anne Molinas [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 28, 2012 1:59 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Anne Molinas gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Protecting the environment and wildlife is very important. Florida is way over developed and there is too much disregard for nature, which is also an important resource for a healthy life and economy, not just construction and development."

9104 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

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The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Annette Perdomo [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 6:29 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Annette Perdomo gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"53 years living in Florida I have seen their tragic decline"

6481 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

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and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** annmarie kerr [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 2:22 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

annmarie kerr gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Worked 4 vet and wildlife center. Saw 2 many animals,including manatees(I lived in Fl Everglades) if only one is injured or killed that is too many."

3913 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Anthony DiValentin [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 28, 2012 9:55 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Anthony DiValentin gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"For my kids."

9811 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Antonio Cardillo [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 4:14 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Antonio Cardillo gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"The manatees deserve the same consideration as any other natural resource. Further they draw visitors from around the world to observe these beautiful and gentle creatures in their natural habitats."

5471 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Antonio Fernandez [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Monday, October 29, 2012 7:41 AM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Antonio Fernandez gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"The survival of the species is crucial to the Florida ecosystem"

10105 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** April browne [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 4:24 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

April browne gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"We have to stop this !!! And everything like it NOW!"

5570 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** april cooper [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 7:52 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

april cooper gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"i love the river and manatees don't have a voice  
"

6921 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

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FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** April Frizalone [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 3:54 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

April Frizalone gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"I live in Florida! I love the Manatees!!!"

5277 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

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These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** April Rexroad [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 28, 2012 3:42 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

April Rexroad gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"I used to be a resident of Florida and I have seen the scars on many of the manatees already from boats and other man-made dangers and I believe we need to do more to protect these animals. Reducing their habitats would be a step in the wrong direction."

9260 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees, and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

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These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Arline Winfield [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Monday, October 29, 2012 1:14 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Arline Winfield gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"I saw 2 manatees in my canal yesterday. They are wonderful parts of nature and deserve protection. "

10687 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** arnold m. duhrkopp [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Monday, October 29, 2012 9:27 AM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

arnold m. duhrkopp gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"because i paddle many rivers, streams and lakes in central florida and see constantly the failing waters"

10288 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Arnold Tarling [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Friday, October 26, 2012 6:02 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Arnold Tarling gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"When they are gone we can't create another one."

2163 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Arthur Amolsch [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 4:01 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Arthur Amolsch gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Manatees were here first."

5334 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Arthur Wood [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 28, 2012 9:23 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Arthur Wood gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"We do not need to stress already stressed rivers. We have a very beautiful area and we need to keep it that way."  
"

9762 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Ashlee Tziganuk [mailto:ashlee@change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 2:16 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Ashlee Tziganuk gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"I grew up along these rivers and I couldn't bear to see the manatees negatively affected by human actions!"

3744 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Ashley Blendinger [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 2:43 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Ashley Blendinger gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Because they are magnificent creatures that deserve a home that is not interrupted by humans. "

4312 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

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These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Astara Edmonds [mailto:[mail@change.org](mailto:mail@change.org)]  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 28, 2012 11:05 AM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Astara Edmonds gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"We must preserve the water in our springs and rivers. It is vital."

8725 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

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These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Athena Philips [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Monday, October 29, 2012 2:53 AM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Athena Philips gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"I spend much time in and around the waters of Citrus County. Our thirst must be addressed in better ways than just continuing to open the tap. Salinity disruptions are damaging our rivers as much as invasive plants. The waters are not at historic "natural levels" and further reductions are sapping a diminished resource. Please reconsider and don't adopt these MFLs."

10022 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees, and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Audra Brookins [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 28, 2012 2:21 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Audra Brookins gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"I grew up swimming with these wonderful, peaceful creatures! They are not only completely harmless they do a service by eating the water plants that end up blocking our water ways."

9136 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Audrey Lima [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 28, 2012 8:35 AM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Audrey Lima gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Do the right thing you douchebag."

8331 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

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and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Audrey Smith [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 28, 2012 9:39 AM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Audrey Smith gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Please show some compassion for the native wildlife of Florida. They were here first!!"

8486 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

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These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** b abernathy [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 6:53 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

b abernathy gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Manatees are awesome gentle creatures who prey on no one and cause no environmental harm. We need to protect them!"

6631 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** B Peet [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 2:31 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

B Peet gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"From Pensacola, my son's class went on a field trip there last year, and we took the Boy Scout troop there for a weekend as well. The economic impact is significant, and if the manatees are lost, so is the tourist industry."

4086 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Barbara Burt [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 11:05 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Barbara Burt gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Springs are vital for tourism, healthy ecosystems that support humans, plants and animals. we cannot continue to degrade these precious natural resources."

7717 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

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The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Barbara Gooding [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 28, 2012 12:12 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Barbara Gooding gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Manatees are Floridas treasure! We must do everything to protect them!!!"

8897 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

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The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

---

**From:** Barbara Johnson [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 28, 2012 8:34 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Barbara Johnson gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"All of Florida's rivers and springs are important to me. Water is Florida's greatest treasure and it's biggest problem. There are too many people who don't understand that unless we stop wasteing water we will turn on a tap one day and there won't be any water. The natural ecosystems were designed the way they are because they worked that way and we keep playing with things and changing the natural order of things. We are losing our precious resources and Florida'a natural beauty. We have abundant wildlife still in Florida but we won't have it anymore if we keep ruining their habitat. I am a native Floridian and we are ruining the Florida that I know and love. "

9687 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

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possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees, and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** barbara keene [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 28, 2012 10:31 AM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

barbara keene gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Because HOW IMPORTANT ARE MANATEES TO FLORIDIANS?? ANSWER THAT! RICK SCOTT, THEY WERE HERE BEFORE US AND HOPEFULLY THEY WILL BE HERE LONG AFTER."

8635 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Barbara McGuire [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Friday, October 26, 2012 5:59 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Barbara McGuire gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"I grew up spending my summers in Homosassa and Weeki Wachee. I saw the reduction of the Manatees first hand. These creatures need our help. Please do not reduce the flow of the fresh water to our rivers. "

2158 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Barbara Ouellette [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 6:06 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Barbara Ouellette gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"The Springs need to be protected for more damage occurring in our state's natural water habitats. Please protect these for our generation and the future generations to come."

6341 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

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and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

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These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** BARBARA PIETRANGELO [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 28, 2012 8:31 AM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

BARBARA PIETRANGELO gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"For many years we have visited Homosassa Springs with our grandchildren - they have learned so much from these trips - please save the Springs for them and their children!"

8318 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

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and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Barbara Sallee [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 2:01 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Barbara Sallee gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Manatees and other wetland inhabitants need a good flow of water to survive and be healthy."

3296 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

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The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Barbara Schardt [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Friday, October 26, 2012 5:24 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Barbara Schardt gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Beause this is one of the beautiful mammals that are only found in our Fl. waters. They need to be cared forso future peoples will be able to study them and enjoy them."

2041 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosasa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Barbara White [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Monday, October 29, 2012 2:31 AM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Barbara White gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Manatees are so sweet...help them!!"

10015 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

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Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Barbara Wilbur [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 3:05 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Barbara Wilbur gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Go swimming with these gentle giants and you would do everything you could to protect them. "

4661 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

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Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Barry McWeeney [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 28, 2012 10:46 AM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Barry McWeeney gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"I'm a Florida native and believe these creatures deserve to continue living in "Their" natural surroundings uninhibited by man!!!"

8674 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Barry Ware [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 4:51 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Barry Ware gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"We need to STOP messing with Wildlife Habatats Period !!"

5802 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Becky Reep [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Monday, October 29, 2012 8:26 AM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Becky Reep gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Sorta a "no-brainer" on the value of our Florida springs....they are ESSENTIAL! They have been a part of nature's design for eons....mankind needs to take a lesson from the Master and leave them alone unless it's doing something to preserve and protect them - like signing this petition!!"

10172 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees, and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Ben Oswald [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 28, 2012 10:55 AM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Ben Oswald gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Because Manatees are already stressed enough."

8697 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Benjamin Burton [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Friday, October 26, 2012 6:46 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Benjamin Burton gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Protecting an endangered species should always be a priority."

2253 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Benjamin Phillips [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Friday, October 26, 2012 7:00 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Benjamin Phillips gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"I have always been in awe of Florida's natural beauty- anything done to harm its natural residents would be a shame. It's not worth it."

2282 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Bennett Hoffman [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 28, 2012 9:09 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Bennett Hoffman gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"I like manatees "

9745 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Berdina Joseph [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 28, 2012 8:14 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Berdina Joseph gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"love wild life"

9654 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Bernard Yokel PhD [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 4:08 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Bernard Yokel PhD gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Florida is long past the time when it can afford to depreciate functioning ecosystems, particularly those systems that harbor endangered species such as the West Indian Manatee. In a State that relies on growth and tourism it is vital to protect the quality and productivity of its waters. "

5417 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees, and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Beryl Lipoff [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 28, 2012 11:44 AM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Beryl Lipoff gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"When our wild life disappears, what does that say for our existence? I am a Florida resident I have had the privilege of seeing these wondrous creatures. I implore that there should be NO flow reductions. "

8823 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Beth Hammer [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Monday, October 29, 2012 8:21 AM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Beth Hammer gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"As a full-time Florida resident, we know the importance of protecting these special creatures. Please understand & save their environment. "

10162 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

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and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

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These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Betsy Livingstone [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 10:05 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Betsy Livingstone gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Manatees are having a tough time. Please don't make it harder for them to survive."

7528 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

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and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Bettina Moser [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 2:18 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Bettina Moser gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"THIS IS EXTREMELY IMPORTANT FOR ME AS PRESERVATION OF THE WATERWAYS FOR MANATEES ULTIMATELY BENEFITS NOT ONLY THE MANATEES BUT EVERYBODY IN A MYRIAD WAYS. "

3791 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees, and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Betty Klein [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 8:29 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Betty Klein gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"it just is"

7101 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

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These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Betty Pearce [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 12:48 AM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Betty Pearce gave the following reason for signing this petition:

" many natural habitats are, and have been, destroyed. It needs to stop to preserve the beauties of the earth. "

2653 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

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The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Betty Whitmer [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Friday, October 26, 2012 5:24 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Betty Whitmer gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"We need to watch over every creature. Not just r self. We need to do the right thing"

2039 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

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The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Beverley Wiskow [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 28, 2012 2:37 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Beverley Wiskow gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"With so much of what we knew as old Florida gone, it would be tragic if yet another of our very special resources were destroyed. PLEASE protect the manatees."

9163 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

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Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Beverly Strickland [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 6:53 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Beverly Strickland gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"We should not be losing water or habitat"

6626 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Bianca Green [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Friday, October 26, 2012 8:49 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Bianca Green gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"we only have one mother earth. she does not belong to us, but rather we belong to her...it is our moral obligation to protect the beauty of every creature "

2447 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Bill Wukitz [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 28, 2012 7:55 AM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Bill Wukitz gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"I live in Florida I love manatees let us save this gentle species."

8249 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

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Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Bill Yule [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 2:00 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Bill Yule gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"These harmless beautiful creatures have had to struggle for years to stay alive and need understanding help from people who can change their lives; YOU. Say NO! NO! to reduction in water flow. It is your duty."

3270 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Blythe Broecker [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 28, 2012 1:03 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Blythe Broecker gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"I made a bill about this! So happy to see it is a bigger deal now! :D"

9012 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** bob fulford [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 8:29 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

bob fulford gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"do you know prime facie?"

7095 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

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The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Bobby Pulliam [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Friday, October 26, 2012 7:29 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Bobby Pulliam gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Why wouldn't this be important to anyone?"

"

2332 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

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The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** BobbyAnn Loper [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 28, 2012 9:36 AM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

BobbyAnn Loper gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Every creature matters."

8480 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

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The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Bonnee Jones [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 28, 2012 4:34 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Bonnee Jones gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"We Must save our fresh water from salt water adn degradation  
"

9348 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosasa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Bonnie Baird [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 8:40 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Bonnie Baird gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"These gentle creatures were here first. These endangered creatures are at our mercy and NEED to be saved. If it wasn't for us, they would not be endangered."

7161 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Bonnie Headley [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 6:06 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Bonnie Headley gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"I have watched the wildlife habitats of Florida's wildlife shrink or disappear all together during my lifetime and I would like to know that they will still be around for my children and grandchildren. We have to put a stop to it or we will all lose. "

6340 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees, and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Bonnie Readinger [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Monday, October 29, 2012 3:15 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Bonnie Readinger gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"When we don't protect natural habitat it is not only the plants and wildlife that are injured. Ultimately we will suffer the consequence. We are killing our planet and killing ourselves."

10821 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Bradley Powers [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Monday, October 29, 2012 3:23 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Bradley Powers gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Natural ecosystem and habitat survival."

10832 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Brandy Cannon [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 1:58 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Brandy Cannon gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"I am. Florida resident, I love our natural resources and wildlife. Please do all that we can to preserve both."

3194 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Brenda Breil [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 2:33 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Brenda Breil gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"It is part of the heart of Florida."

4113 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

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The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Brenda James [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 4:14 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Brenda James gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"This is important for Manatees. Rick Scott is destroying the Great State of Florida! by the time he leaves office Florida will be owned by his cronies not the tax-payers!!!"

5474 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

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and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

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These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Brenda Reeves [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 3:23 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Brenda Reeves gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Because Manatees are wonderful for Florida."

4886 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Brett Shaffer [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Monday, October 29, 2012 3:39 AM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Brett Shaffer gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"The homosassa springs area is full of childhood memories, I want to help preserve it."

10029 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Brian Belton [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 28, 2012 7:49 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Brian Belton gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Protect natural condition of Florida resources"

9612 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Brian Dearwater [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 28, 2012 9:13 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Brian Dearwater gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Spring fed rivers are treasures to be preserved for future generations."

9751 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Brian Klein [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Monday, October 29, 2012 1:23 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Brian Klein gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"We need to keep natural flow of the river for the balance of nature"

10699 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Brian Suttles [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 2:06 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Brian Suttles gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"I believe that we need to protect the habitat for such wonderful creatures as the manatee."

3446 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Brigitte Steinmann Riddle [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Monday, October 29, 2012 9:34 AM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Brigitte Steinmann Riddle gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Manatees are a major Florida natural resource and tourism magnet"

10302 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

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These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Bruce Florek [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 8:32 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Bruce Florek gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"This is MY back yard. Don't mess around in my back yard."

7116 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

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These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Bruce Gaba [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 7:37 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Bruce Gaba gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"these animals are our Florida heritage; Rick Scott has gotten to big for his britches, He's already gotten rid of our bullet train, What else Will he get rid of that we need ??"

6849 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

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Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Brucie Cummings [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 2:56 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Brucie Cummings gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"We all too often make "improvements" without considering the whole picture."

4531 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Bryan Ott [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 28, 2012 9:46 AM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Bryan Ott gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Wildlife can't help themselves we must do it for them."

8507 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** BRYCE GALLENINE [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Friday, October 26, 2012 7:30 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

BRYCE GALLENINE gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"I LOVE THE MANATEES! "

2336 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Burgess Newcomb [mailto:mail@change.org]  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 28, 2012 10:34 AM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Burgess Newcomb gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"It's my backyard, ,life style and my choice to not agree with the direction SWFWMD is heading in."

8640 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** C G [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 2:45 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

C G gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Rick Scott, how dare you further endanger these magnificent creatures?"

4344 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Cailin Callahan [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 2:57 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Cailin Callahan gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Mamatees are emblematic for Florida. We must save their over wintering springs and protect both the local habitat of these springs and watershed that affect water quality in these critical over-wintering waterways."

4541 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Callie Riley [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 8:43 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Callie Riley gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Manatees are an endangered species, that must be protected."

7176 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

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The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Calvin Hayes [mailto:cal@change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 9:49 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Calvin Hayes gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"It is important to the manatees."

7464 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

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These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** cammie burke [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 28, 2012 4:54 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

cammie burke gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Because manatees are AWESOME and they need protection!"

9375 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Candy Lambourn [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 3:36 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Candy Lambourn gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Because if we don't start saving our species we won't have anything left on this earth, including us. Stop screwing up nature and the way things are supposed to be!!!"

5058 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Candy Strafford [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 8:38 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Candy Strafford gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Once gone, we can never recover destroyed habitats or extinct species. We need to live simply, so others can simply live. "

7150 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Capt Marvin Siple [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 6:41 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Capt Marvin Siple gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"As a USCG licensed master, and 3rd generation native, the water is in my blood. This sort of reckless activity makes me "bleed" too. If the state needs more potable water, have all the new residents bring their own!! "

6551 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Capt. Rich Vierra [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Monday, October 29, 2012 1:57 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Capt. Rich Vierra gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"manatees are Gods creatures. Why should we always care about ourselves first?"

10737 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Cara L. Campbell [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 2:10 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Cara L. Campbell gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Stop destroying Florida's natural resources !!"

3579 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Cara Read [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 2:36 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Cara Read gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"I've lived in Florida for over 30 years and I feel we should do everything in our power to protect the amazing creatures for we are the reason there are so few now, therefore it is our responsibility to help them as much as we can!"

4187 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

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These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** carl brewer [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 12:02 AM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

carl brewer gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"I live here"

2623 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

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and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

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These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Carl Veaux [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Monday, October 29, 2012 12:53 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Carl Veaux gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"We need adequate flows so the Manatees have enough water to live in during their visits to these springs . Especially when its cold for they will die from overlong exposures chilly water . And you will be killing the tourist trade to these areas with no Manatees to see ."

10664 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees, and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Carlos Quiroga-Lassepas [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 3:42 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Carlos Quiroga-Lassepas gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"On occasion it would be nice to do something that is not harmful to other creatures."

5144 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Carlos Sanchez [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 4:47 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Carlos Sanchez gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"

Manatees are a part of FL and we must protect and preserve them."

5770 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Carlos Vega [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 1:53 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Carlos Vega gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Save nature.. Also please stop destroying entire forests. We need the oxygen and animals need their homes. Build up, not out."

2979 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

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Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Carlotta Marshall [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Monday, October 29, 2012 12:22 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Carlotta Marshall gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"I grew up in florida and this was all part of my childhood and I'd hate to think it wasn't part of the life of children to come"

10616 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Carmel Severson [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 3:34 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Carmel Severson gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Manatees are endangered because of our bad choices, we need to make better choices that will ensure their future."

5025 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** carmen micheletti [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 12:07 AM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

carmen micheletti gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Need to save our springs"

2631 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

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Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Carol Allegretti [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 28, 2012 11:39 AM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Carol Allegretti gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"We need to do whatever we can to save these very delicate creatures that are so much a part of our Florida waterways."

8807 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

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The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Carol Andrews [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 2:58 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Carol Andrews gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"I live in Homosassa; I came here because I love nature. Do not take that away!"

4555 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

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Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** CAROL BECHT [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 28, 2012 5:13 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

CAROL BECHT gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"The manatees need to keep that habitat."

9400 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** carol braspennickx [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 1:53 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

carol braspennickx gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"because the govenor is so stupid and has no feelings for humans let alone animals."

2995 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** carol chapin [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 6:35 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

carol chapin gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"I kayaked near Homosassa last year and loved seeing and being around the manatees."

6520 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Carol Clark [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 7:03 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Carol Clark gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"How could this not be important?"

6682 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Carol Dewing [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 28, 2012 9:08 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Carol Dewing gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Manatees are beautiful creatures that need protecting!!"

9742 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Carol DiSibio [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Monday, October 29, 2012 11:13 AM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Carol DiSibio gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"It's their world too; and we need to help preserve it for them."

10507 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** CAROL MACIK [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 28, 2012 12:01 AM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

CAROL MACIK gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Manatees are just big old softies and should be protected from harm."

7868 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Carol Schleuning [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 2:53 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Carol Schleuning gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Manatees are unique and wonderful to observe. They must be protected at all cost."

4483 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

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These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Carol Walton [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 28, 2012 7:16 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Carol Walton gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"We have to be the voices for the wildlife."

9566 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Carol Warren [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 8:49 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Carol Warren gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"I grew up in FL with the Manatees and until my Mom got sick with cancer we went to Melbourne to see them frequently. They are loving and trusting and often clowns, especially the babies. We got so much joy just watching them."

7207 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees, and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Carole Berk [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 2:36 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Carole Berk gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"We spend a lot of time in Homosassa and the manatees are an asset that needs protection!!!"

4188 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Carole Kirkpatrick [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 28, 2012 4:57 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Carole Kirkpatrick gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"We canoe a lot on the Chassahowitzka, and cannot fathom how badly this is going to impact the environment. You are going to completely spoil a wonderful place."

9379 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Carole L Esley [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 12:51 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Carole L Esley gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"I am firmly on the side of Manatees and any other species endangered by the callousness of humans who believe the earth is theirs to plunder. We need to have a world in ecological balance and protect every species in danger. These springs are essential to the survival of the Manatees ~ such beautiful creatures!

"

2883 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees, and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Carole Moore [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 2:04 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Carole Moore gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Saving wildlife is urgent."

3404 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Carole Schaffer [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Friday, October 26, 2012 8:34 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Carole Schaffer gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Save an endangered animal!"

2428 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Carole Smith [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 28, 2012 2:05 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Carole Smith gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"What is Beauty ?, God makes these Animals !!!"

9115 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

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The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Carolyn Biddle [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Monday, October 29, 2012 9:22 AM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Carolyn Biddle gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"This effects everything we do. If we don't protect our recourses, there will be nothing. "

10276 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Carolyn Desmarais [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 5:49 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Carolyn Desmarais gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Time to stand up for the Manatees that have NO VOICE! Have visited when the Manatees where wintering in the spring, with out of state family. We were BLESSED to have our boat held up for 20 mins while the docile creatures swam around doing what we humans call making LOVE!

Let's make sure we have Manatees for the future generations to see, not just to read about in a book, because they are extinct!"

6251 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees, and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Cary Christenson [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 28, 2012 10:43 AM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Cary Christenson gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"I think we TAKE, TAKE, TAKE! We must slow down!"

8663 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Cassandra Curtis [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 28, 2012 7:49 AM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Cassandra Curtis gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"I have visited these places and they are some of the most special spots I have visited in the world. We need to preserve the diversity or special places"

8239 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Cassandra Godfrey [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Monday, October 29, 2012 1:31 AM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Cassandra Godfrey gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Manatees are unable to help themselves so we need to stand up for these beautiful creatures before it is too late."

9998 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Cassy Watson [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 1:52 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Cassy Watson gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Preserving these Manatees for future generations should be important to everyone!"

2952 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** catherine christensen [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Friday, October 26, 2012 9:00 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

catherine christensen gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Their habitat relies on our protection from civilization's destructive priorities"

2467 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

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The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Catherine figieri damron [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Friday, October 26, 2012 6:16 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Catherine figieri damron gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"To save them all"

2196 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

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The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Catherine Harrelson [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Friday, October 26, 2012 5:58 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Catherine Harrelson gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Florida's freshwater springs and rivers are critical to the health and economic vitality of the state. And most are in serious decline, yet the powers that be want to continue withdrawing water at an unsustainable rate. Floridians understand the importance of water. It's time to stand up to protect it."

2155 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

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Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees, and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Catherine Kaylor-South [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 28, 2012 1:06 AM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Catherine Kaylor-South gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"I Love the Manatees .... I want them to be around for my Grandchildren and my Great grandchildren ."

7977 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Catherine Mills [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Monday, October 29, 2012 10:54 AM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Catherine Mills gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"I am a resident of Chassahowitzka and I feel that any reductions in the flow of the spring will adversely effect our spring and river and the wildlife around us. "

10465 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

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and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Catherine Newbill [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 28, 2012 8:02 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Catherine Newbill gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Manatees are amazing and deserve to survive in the native habitat. There are many ways to conserve water so less is needed. Having a green lawn not only pollutes the waterways by fertilizer run-off, a green lawn also depletes the water table. Conservation is key. "

9640 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

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The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Cathy Baker [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Monday, October 29, 2012 5:50 AM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Cathy Baker gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Save Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for Florida's Manatees and for future generations"

10045 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Cecelia Conley [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 10:11 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Cecelia Conley gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"I Love Manatees they are so sweet and spiritual"

7544 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

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The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Chad Bower [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 12:08 AM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Chad Bower gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"I fish SW florida ( catch and release ) We need to be focusing on ways to IMPROVE our environment, not destroying it."

2632 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

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Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Chad Herman [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Monday, October 29, 2012 9:01 AM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Chad Herman gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"It's sad we have to work to save creatures that ask only to live and simply be."

10224 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

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## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Charles Botts III [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Monday, October 29, 2012 8:40 AM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Charles Botts III gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"I and my family live on the Withalacoochee River and I work for the Town of Yankeetown, also on the Withalacoochee River, and I am concerned that SWFWMD is moore concerned for the short- term commercial use of our resources than the long-term impact for all of the citizens and the environment we live in."

10194 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

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Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees, and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Charles Levy [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 28, 2012 2:03 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Charles Levy gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Protection of this amazing species is good for our souls and our economy."

9111 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Charles Pfeifer [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 11:50 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Charles Pfeifer gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"I like to visit Florida to see the wildlife and nature of this unique state. I will stop going and spending my money there if Florida will not take care of this important natural asset"

7834 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Charles Savoree [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Friday, October 26, 2012 6:18 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Charles Savoree gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Because there is No excuse to endanger these Gentle Animals. Florida needs to learn to Quit playing God with the Enviroment, and let nature take it's course. You would think they would have learned from the Everglades...but No.

"

2200 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees, and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** charles scott [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 28, 2012 4:50 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

charles scott gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"What happens to our non-human friends will soon happen to us!"

9368 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Charles Snyder [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Friday, October 26, 2012 7:06 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Charles Snyder gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"I live in Citrus county and a 15 % reduction in habitat on these rivers is unacceptable. "

2297 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

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FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Charles Wiggins [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 2:56 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Charles Wiggins gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"It does not take a rocket scientist to understand the ramifications involved to the wildlife. They are much more important than someone making money off of this."

4533 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** charlie mann [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 4:12 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

charlie mann gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"We alter natural habitats enough just by developing land. Leave the water ecosystems alone"

5458 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

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Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Charlie McCoy [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Friday, October 26, 2012 6:58 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Charlie McCoy gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"When will "staff" (the usual scapegoat when elected official want their way anonymously) actually use lack of natural resources as a reason to discourage growth, and save wildlife habitat to boot?"

2280 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

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The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Charlotte Fant [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Friday, October 26, 2012 5:21 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Charlotte Fant gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"There is little space left for the manatees to congregate in warm water."

2029 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Charlotte Fleming [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 5:26 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Charlotte Fleming gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Manatees are a sacred symbol of Florida, and how we treat them matters both to them and to the people of Florida. Don't let a little girl say to her grandmother, "Nana, were there ever really manatees, and did they dance and swim in this spring?""

6081 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees, and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Charlotte Wright [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 4:27 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Charlotte Wright gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Manatees are a native Florida species. They are also endangered. I would like to think we as caretakers of these beautiful animals, will do what we can to help them. It is up to us to protect them so future generations can enjoy them."

5600 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees, and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Chelsea McMillan [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Friday, October 26, 2012 10:57 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Chelsea McMillan gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"I grew up with Manatees in Chassahowitzka. Say NO to reductions in flow."

2595 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Cheri Bickley [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 8:29 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Cheri Bickley gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"I don't think any of God's creature's should be hurt  
"

7096 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** cherlynn seroski [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 5:47 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

cherlynn seroski gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"I love all of gods creatures and think there is room for all to live..."

6237 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

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The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Cheryl Long [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 4:21 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Cheryl Long gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"These gentle animals need to be saved."

5533 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

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The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

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Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Chris Erwin [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 28, 2012 9:04 AM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Chris Erwin gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"We should take care of the world we live in and those who live in it even though it might not be "cost-effective" to the greedy politicians who just seek to stuff their own pockets with cash they don't need. "

8392 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

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The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Chris Redding [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 7:53 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Chris Redding gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Manatees seem to think I'm one of the. They used to gravitate towards me at Port Canaveral. They let me pet them and swim with them. They love being scratched on their backs. They were beautiful!!! and very gentle."

6929 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Christina Reed [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 10:39 AM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Christina Reed gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Manatees have no way to speak up for themselves"

2813 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** christine ellis [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 28, 2012 1:34 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

christine ellis gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"This is a beautiful part of our world it is our duty to protect them"

9068 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

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and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** christine hayes [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 28, 2012 12:09 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

christine hayes gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"the manatees are suppose to be protected and especially here in citrus county. we can not do anything like reduce their water ways that can jepordize their existence."

8892 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

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The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

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The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Christine Thomas [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 4:31 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Christine Thomas gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"These gentle creatures need our help, we are the ones that have endangered them."

5638 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Christopher Reiss [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Monday, October 29, 2012 9:20 AM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Christopher Reiss gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"It is essential to have a healthy natural environment that supports a diversity of flora and fauna ~ for far too long human water greed has been allowed to dominate Florida's water management agencies. There are now compelling reasons to preserve/restore natural habitats, especially surface and subterranean aquatic systems The Manatees deserve our protection."

10268 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees, and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Christopher Wilson [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Monday, October 29, 2012 2:44 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Christopher Wilson gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"I grew up on the Chassahowitzka and have already seen the flow greatly reduced. Enough is enough. "

10799 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

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The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Christy Fayard [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 28, 2012 3:59 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Christy Fayard gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Leave Mother Nature alone!!! Let HER decide!! NOT the stupid humans!Please!!"

9294 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

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The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Chuck Diehl [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 9:23 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Chuck Diehl gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"We , as the public , should do everything possible to maintain these special wildlife areas."

7356 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

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Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Cindy Bradley [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 4:19 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Cindy Bradley gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"I oppose reducing the flow of water to the manatee habitat ... I really, really oppose it and I remember an elected officials record each and every time I vote."

5520 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Cindy Johnson [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 4:37 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Cindy Johnson gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Man needs to leave nature alone."

5689 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

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Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** cindy klein [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 28, 2012 7:57 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

cindy klein gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"chassahowitzka is my home, i have seen first hand, over many years the flow of our springs decline, not just here, but statewide. coastal springs will die first, then our interior springs will cease. ground water pumping will continue, then, when we suck it all dry, we will begin what we should have already started years ago. desalinization, it will come to that eventually anyway, why not start now. lets lead the way to the future and restore our springs, i say no to increased pumping of our most precious recourse, stop ground water pumping now. given the chance, nature will heal itself, it would be a great loss if we continue on the current path.

"

9629 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees, and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Cindy Maxwell [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 4:34 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Cindy Maxwell gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"They are part of FLorida's wild life and need to be kept there."

5665 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** cindy nichols [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 4:05 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

cindy nichols gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"because I love manatees, they deserve to be treated humanly...they need a place to go where the water is warm, we brought them here, they did not ask to come..."

5381 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** cindy stoppa [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Monday, October 29, 2012 3:34 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

cindy stoppa gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Manatees are an endangered species,,,and one of Florida icons.  
Do not reduce the the flow to the HOMOSASSA and CHASSAHOWITZKA RIVERS.... "

10844 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

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These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** CJ King [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 2:29 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

CJ King gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Please, don't do this. You will be hurting a treasure of the Florida wildlife."

4046 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

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The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Claire Cowart [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 8:37 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Claire Cowart gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"We need to stop messing with nature and accept our role as protector instead of usurper."

7138 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

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Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Claire Ford [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Monday, October 29, 2012 11:19 AM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Claire Ford gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"These gentle and wonderful creatures have no one else to help them but us."

10514 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Clarence Sweet [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 28, 2012 9:03 AM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Clarence Sweet gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Because people keep F ing with nature and need to stop!!!!"

8390 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Claudia Howat [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 28, 2012 9:28 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Claudia Howat gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Why mess with nature, when it's going to make things worse?"

9771 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Claudia Smith [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 1:51 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Claudia Smith gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"We must preserve the species for the next generation."

2942 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Claudia Todd [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 2:08 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Claudia Todd gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"why in the world would you want a reduction in flow to the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka"

3505 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Clay Steinmann [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 8:29 AM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Clay Steinmann gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"We must save what little natural habitat thats left."

2744 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

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These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** CLYDE P ADAMS Jr [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 11:35 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

CLYDE P ADAMS Jr gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"they were here before He was."

7796 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

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These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Cody Bellamy [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 9:58 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Cody Bellamy gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Natural wildlife needs to be saved. Especially if they are going extinct."

7505 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

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These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Colette Wilt [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 28, 2012 8:58 AM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Colette Wilt gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Because I love the manatee."

8382 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Colleen Randolph [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 5:27 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Colleen Randolph gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"I love the mammals!!!!"

6095 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Colleen Veard [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 28, 2012 11:51 AM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Colleen Veard gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Because preserving wildlife matters!"

8839 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** connie boppre [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 1:57 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

connie boppre gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"we MUST avoid reducing any manatee habitat !!!!"

3139 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** constance mc donnell [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 4:42 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

constance mc donnell gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Please save what few creatures we have left in Florida....please"

5737 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Cori Register [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 28, 2012 1:16 AM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Cori Register gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"I love the manatees!"

7986 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Cory Mead [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 28, 2012 3:07 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Cory Mead gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"I love all the wild life in the Florida creeks and rivers while I'm out fishing. I can't tell you how many times I have wanted to give jerks in power boat and jet skis that whip up and down the back creeks with no regard for other boaters or wildlife. Do not endanger our water system wild life with your actions. They have enough to battle with out there with stupid inconsiderate humans as it is. "

9208 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees, and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** courtney sapp [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Monday, October 29, 2012 10:43 AM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

courtney sapp gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Manatees need a home too!! "

10446 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Covington Campbell [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Friday, October 26, 2012 7:28 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Covington Campbell gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Manatees are an important part of our ecosystem."

2327 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** creston tanner [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 2:31 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

creston tanner gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"No To Reductions in Flow, these animals need our help!"

4086 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Crystal Schroeder [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 11:04 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Crystal Schroeder gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Manatees need to be safe. They are beautiful harmless creatures."

7713 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Cyndi Winton [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 28, 2012 1:26 AM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Cyndi Winton gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"ALL wildlife should be important to ALL people!!"

7996 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

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and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Cynthia Alexander [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 2:01 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Cynthia Alexander gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"They are our Mermaids and they are we love them here in FL and they are so gentle they swim with us all the time. "

3310 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** CYNTHIA BROWN [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 2:55 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

CYNTHIA BROWN gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"in this day and age, there are too many humans, and all the population does is, KEEP expanding. Time to put a stop to it and make all our efforts go towards preserving our natural resources. Duh. "

4511 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Cynthia Doyle [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Friday, October 26, 2012 5:19 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Cynthia Doyle gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"I love our manatees!"

2015 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

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Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** cynthia hoch [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 6:50 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

cynthia hoch gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"i love manatees  
"

6613 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

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The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Cynthia Mayes [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 7:25 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Cynthia Mayes gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"I am a true native Floridian who has never lived outside of Florida at all. Native Floridians are as rare as the manatees themselves. The manatees deserve as much protection as possible."

6801 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

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FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Cynthia Spiller [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 28, 2012 10:21 AM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Cynthia Spiller gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Manatees ARE quintessential Florida Let's save what is left of this resource. Ecotourism will bring in billions of dollars but only if there is an ecosystem left to visit. "

8612 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** D Wyatt [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 5:33 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

D Wyatt gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"How could this not be important to a Floridian? The manatee is the absolute symbol of our state, and we must do everything we can to protect them and their habitat."

6147 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** D. Vermeal [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Friday, October 26, 2012 5:11 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

D. Vermeal gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Manatees are innocent.

Floridians love the manatees.

We need to protect them and watch out for them. We get as much pleasure in them as they get when they swim around and enjoying and residing in their habitat."

1963 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees, and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** DALE CRAVEN [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 28, 2012 9:48 AM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

DALE CRAVEN gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"It is every bodys responsibility to protect and preserve the wildlife in Florida."

8509 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Damaris Krois [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Friday, October 26, 2012 5:54 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Damaris Krois gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"We need to protect these gentle creatures!"

2146 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Damian Beu [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 7:22 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Damian Beu gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Being a Florida resident, myself, I value our habitat, and the lives within our ecosystem. Follow an Ego-System, and everyone and everything suffers at the expense of making oneself look good to the rest of the gang. We have enough problems as they are (on the political front, especially), and sanctuaries are few enough, as is. To eliminate our habitats, for the sake of looking good for your peers is a dick move, especially towards nature in this case.

Be wise about this. I can guarantee your kids/grandkids would want to see manatees and dolphins. If you want to stay good with them, I suggest you listen to us, and don't go through with the reduction."

6792 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees, and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

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The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Dan Howard [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 7:52 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Dan Howard gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"We must protect the endangered Manatees."

6920 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

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The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

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The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Dan Racine [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Friday, October 26, 2012 4:53 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Dan Racine gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Mother Nature KNOWS BEST. So, don't mess with Mom."

1933 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

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The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Dana House [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 28, 2012 5:54 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Dana House gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"My family has been here since the 1880's. I continue to watch the destruction on our ecosystem. Since politicians seem to respond to dollars, have you considered the billions that will be lost to Florida's major income source by this continued destruction?"

9454 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees, and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Dana Nielsen [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Friday, October 26, 2012 4:39 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Dana Nielsen gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"OK YOU'RE NOT ALLOWED TO TOUCH THEM... WHAT ON EARTH IS THAT LADY DOING?  
(BREAKING THE LAW!!!!)"

1924 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Dana Shreve [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Monday, October 29, 2012 10:31 AM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Dana Shreve gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"I have been protecting manatees since I was a little girl. "

10429 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Daniel Campos [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 10:52 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Daniel Campos gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Manatees are important species in our Florida waters!"

7676 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Daniel Haber [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 28, 2012 7:15 AM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Daniel Haber gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"When I was growing up, these animals were so plentiful, it was common to have a herd of them grazing on the banks while we were fishing. Now to see the population decimated to this point is just wrong. We need to make sure they have every chance possible to survive and rebound."

8197 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees, and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Daniel McNally [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 5:40 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Daniel McNally gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"I grew up on the Homosassa River and the manatee where there before any of us and we should protect these innocent mammals. "

6193 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Daniel Spink [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 4:56 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Daniel Spink gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"I love the natural wildlife of Florida and do not want to have it put into a position of peril by decreasing the flow of water."

5839 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

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Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worst-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** danielle colucci [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 12:04 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

danielle colucci gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"RICK SCOTT IS AN ASS!!!! I hope he is out this election day!!!! Can't wait to see that"

2857 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

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These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Daun Elias [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 2:44 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Daun Elias gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"We need to protect these gentle mammals and prevent from unnecessary injuries and ensure they are in a safe environment for their future."

4337 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Dave Abel [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 6:06 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Dave Abel gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"I VISIT THESE SPRINGS REGULARLY AND KAYAK DOWN THE RIVERS. LEAVE THEM ALONE"

6346 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Dave Kirby [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 4:43 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Dave Kirby gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Everybody who comes to Florida wants to see the manatees. Please, don't chase them away."

5747 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** David Beahn [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 2:46 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

David Beahn gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"I'm so tired of the GOP being so self absorbed in themselves and their cronies, It sure would be nice to see some compassion for others."

4363 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** David Carroll [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 4:39 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

David Carroll gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Rick Scott hates manatees almost as much as poor people."

5712 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** David Dehner [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 11:40 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

David Dehner gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"It's important to save the area's where the Mantee live. "

7808 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** David Jeffreys [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 8:42 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

David Jeffreys gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Manatees are gentle aquatic mammals who should not be endangered."

7175 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** David Mark [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 8:08 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

David Mark gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Care for creation is a faith commitment."

6997 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

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These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** David Ogden [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 6:22 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

David Ogden gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Because manatees are part of the Florida wildlife system and should be preserved."

6439 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

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Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** david parks [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 3:18 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

david parks gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"I KNOW your decision will be based on only two things.

1. Your "PERCEIVED " political gain.
2. The amount of financial gain."

4824 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees, and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** David Raines [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 6:10 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

David Raines gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"If we don't love nature we need to get a change of Attitude! Loving nature is akin to loving ourselves and not is akin to planing our own murder."

6374 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

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The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** DAVID ROYALE [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 4:40 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

DAVID ROYALE gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"The springs must be saved."

5716 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

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The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** David Stewart [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 4:24 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

David Stewart gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"We have made great strides in saving the Manatees. Don't return to the mistakes of the past and endanger the ecosystem "

5576 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

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These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** David Vance [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 12:16 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

David Vance gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"they are beautiful!"

2862 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

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These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Dawn Sedlock [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 1:58 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Dawn Sedlock gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"The manatee is my favorite gentle giant!"

3196 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

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The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Deanna Trier [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 28, 2012 12:57 AM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Deanna Trier gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"I've swam with the manatees in Homosassa springs Florida and they need to to be protected from any invironmental changes to help increase their numbers. There are very few manatees left in this area and we need to help them not hurt them!"

7963 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

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The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Debbie Coulsey [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Monday, October 29, 2012 12:27 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Debbie Coulsey gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"I am tired of Our government not thinking ahead and instead thinking money all the time. We already know these animals are endangered so why would you even think of changing there living space? You also affect every other animal, Birds, fish they all live in harmony which it seems humans can't seem to understand. WE have to STOP infringing on there homes!!!"

10625 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

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The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Debbie Krolikiewicz [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 5:20 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Debbie Krolikiewicz gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Love the manatees, they need our protection."

6037 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Debbie LaFlam [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 7:01 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Debbie LaFlam gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Without the warm water the Manatees will die!"

6672 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Debbie Martin [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 28, 2012 6:47 AM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Debbie Martin gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"The Florida Manatee is an important part of our ecosystem."

8177 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** debbie senta [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 2:23 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

debbie senta gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"I want to protect these creatures for future generations, we can live without them but who wants to? "

3919 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Debbie Taylor [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Monday, October 29, 2012 12:48 AM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Debbie Taylor gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Once these gentle giants are gone.....they are gone forever."

9977 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Deborah Anderson [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 7:50 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Deborah Anderson gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Manatees are a Florida treasure and should always be protected!"

6912 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Deborah Butler [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 28, 2012 10:30 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Deborah Butler gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Manatees are an endangered species. If they don't have an appropriate environment to live in they cannot survive. SAVE THEIR ENVIRONMENT!"

9860 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

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These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Deborah CHARLOW [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 5:23 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Deborah CHARLOW gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"I don't want to implore or beg anybody about this issue. I demand they look at this situation and use some common sense. The People demand it."

6059 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Deborah Hardy [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 28, 2012 9:11 AM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Deborah Hardy gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"life  
"

8417 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Deborah London [mailto:[mail@change.org](mailto:mail@change.org)]  
**Sent:** Monday, October 29, 2012 12:41 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Deborah London gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"These prehistoric animals face great challenges due to human beings boating activity - because humans want to live a boating lifestyle these animals are suffering."

10646 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Deborah Switzer [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 2:05 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Deborah Switzer gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"These animal have already had to met with challenges with our land developing, their instincts direct them and it's a fragile situation to preventing them to go through their cycle. We need to save these lovely creatures. i was fortunate to swim with these animals, it was a moving eperience. I would love to think that my grandchildren could also someday have the experience. When you make changes in the ecosystem, we change things that in the long run cost us more, not to mention destroy life that can't be replaced"

3417 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosasa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees, and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Debra L Gomes [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 4:17 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Debra L Gomes gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"No reduction in flow to Manatees!"

5498 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

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The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Debra Weiss [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 28, 2012 5:24 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Debra Weiss gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"

Any reduction in the flow of our waterways will negatively affect the marine life and the lives of all the other birds and animals in our surrounding areas."

9416 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees, and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Dee Atkins [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Friday, October 26, 2012 9:12 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Dee Atkins gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Our rivers are already in critical condition and to allow any percentage at all in flow reduction is unconscionable. SWFWMD already allows water use permits to be issued for the cost to \$50 and no metering when someone 'says' they are only going to take 50,000 gallons per day. Of course, with no metering, how do they know how much water is being taken? Crystal River is going to be the next for MFL's to be set, and if permits without metering are already being issued, it scares me to death what they will do setting MFL's. The water permit issued recently is being transported to Ocala to be sold as bottled water. Water transfer!! And no metering on how much is really being taken. SWFWMD is allowing flow reduction in rivers that are already dying or dead. Data that is being used to justify this action can be manipulated to provide the desired results. Use common sense....look at the rivers....look at the lack of aquatic plants that are conducive to the rivers.....look at the salinity in areas that used to be fresh water....look at the decrease in wild life, fish, and flora and fauna, look at the degradation of our springs. It is obvious to the lay person what it happening...surely the scientists are smart enough to see what's going on without graphs and numbers and such. If we, the people who love are waterways can see what's happening, there's no data in the world that can change what is obvious to those of us who are aware and feel the pain of watching our rivers and our wildlife die."

2487 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water

habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees, and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** dee sweet [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 28, 2012 10:58 AM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

dee sweet gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"manatees are endangered and we need to protect their springs and waterways for their survival."

8710 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

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The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Del Mucci [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Monday, October 29, 2012 9:40 AM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Del Mucci gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"It's time to stop encroaching on our environment because government can't manage the population growth and have it conform to being sustained by the environment. We need to take responsibility for balancing our intake and refuse with what the land will support instead of allowing big businesses to rape and plunder the land for profit at the expense of tax payers who continue to support these projects without having a vote. "

10324 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

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These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** DELORIS GUTIERREZ [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Friday, October 26, 2012 5:15 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

DELORIS GUTIERREZ gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"we need are manatees so keep the water flowing please"

1989 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Denis Hanlon [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 3:47 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Denis Hanlon gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"SAVE THE MANATEES AND OTHER SPECIES, NOT MENTION THE ECOSYSTEM ITSELF!!!"

5192 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Denise Key [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Monday, October 29, 2012 12:06 AM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Denise Key gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Anything that endangers our beautiful wildlife should be a NO. There is a way for all of us to be sustainable."

9953 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

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and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

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These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Denise Ragsdale [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 8:04 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Denise Ragsdale gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"The destruction of wildlife habitat in Florida must end. All creatures on this planet deserve the right to exist - not just humans! Some control of the water use by humans needs to be exerted as soon as possible. Haven't we pumped enough water to St. Petersburg and surrounding areas from outside their borders? When will the development end. Stop killing the wildlife that makes this planet worth living on."

6970 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

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Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees, and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Denise Rivera [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 10:33 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Denise Rivera gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Weve already destroyed SO many animals habitats we need to stop! "

7618 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Dennis Barron [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 3:39 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Dennis Barron gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Once these animals are gone, they're gone. Short term benefit for long term disaster. Good thinking. Shame on you. "

5097 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

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and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

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These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** dennis dye [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 4:00 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

dennis dye gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Because it is life  
"

5330 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

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The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Dennis Phelan [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 2:28 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Dennis Phelan gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Clear, fresh water habitats are hard to find in Florida and should be preserved to protect to habitat, manatees and other species, as well as for continued recreational use."

4030 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

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The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Diana David [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Monday, October 29, 2012 3:44 AM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Diana David gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"I LOVE manatees. They are the epitomy of all that is good in a creature. I have been very proud my parents lived in Manatee County."

10030 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

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Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** diana drake [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 10:22 AM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

diana drake gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Love to see them well and swimming along!"

2799 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** diana iturralde [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Monday, October 29, 2012 9:35 AM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

diana iturralde gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Manatees have always been a big part of my life and are of huge importance to the balance of the Florida ecosystem. I think they deserve for us to help maintain their environment."

10307 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Diana Law [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Friday, October 26, 2012 9:07 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Diana Law gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"I am a former FL resident and my family still lives there. I would like to see the natural places protected for future generations."

2476 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

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Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

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The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Diana Lineback [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Monday, October 29, 2012 12:33 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Diana Lineback gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"In Area we have taken to much land and water away from aniamals. We need to clean up areas that are abandon and buld there and not go for wetlands to build."

10635 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosasa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Diana Wolak [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 3:44 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Diana Wolak gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Save the manatees!"

5161 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

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The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** diane beechner [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 28, 2012 12:25 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

diane beechner gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"I believe strongly in preserving and providing the habitats of our native Florida species."

8927 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

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The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Diane Dequevedo [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 28, 2012 10:54 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Diane Dequevedo gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"They are gentle; they are endangered. I don't know if they are unique to Florida, but they are certainly a tourist draw."

9893 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

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The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Diane Lewis [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Friday, October 26, 2012 5:48 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Diane Lewis gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"I am a 5th generation FL native. I have seen too much of my precious state destroyed, it needs to be stopped. I am also an avid kayaker and amateur photographer and enjoy combining both of these activities. If they continue to reduce flows I will not be able to enjoy kayaking on some of my local rivers."

2132 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

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FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees, and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Diane Schroeder [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Friday, October 26, 2012 5:40 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Diane Schroeder gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"WE need to be smart and quite destroying what is good for us. Nature only has us to help ."

2099 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Diane Zodda [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Friday, October 26, 2012 6:21 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Diane Zodda gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Manatees are wonderful, and love to go down to the springs to watch them"

2206 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Diann Bimmerle [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 2:15 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Diann Bimmerle gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Because they don't hurt the environment only the boaters hurt them. "

3712 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

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Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

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The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** dianna XXX [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 7:09 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

dianna XXX gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"they are so important to save. this is only place we find manatees. protect protect protect "

6722 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

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and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Dick Costello [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 28, 2012 2:13 AM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Dick Costello gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"The manatee is more important than any other animal in Florida. It is a symbol of what is Florida's unique place in the world.  
"

8039 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees, and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Dietmar Fuchs [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Monday, October 29, 2012 7:09 AM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Dietmar Fuchs gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"As a resident of Florida, as a friend of this earth and of the environment I strongly condemn your efforts to further damage Florida's unique gifts from God, namely its springs. May God who made mankind stewards over His creation be your judge."

10084 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Dillon Mooney [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 28, 2012 12:45 AM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Dillon Mooney gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"life "

7945 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

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The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Dolores Hesselbrock [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 28, 2012 7:45 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Dolores Hesselbrock gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"I care about all living things on this planet and I believe they have a right to live out their lives as nature intends. We have options and can change our habits to accomodate them whereas they can live only as their species and bodies allow."

9606 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

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These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Dominique Vendetta [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 10:18 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Dominique Vendetta gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Save the animals!!!"

7562 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Don GREIWE [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Monday, October 29, 2012 2:42 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Don GREIWE gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Great part of Florida's natural history. Preservation a must"

10794 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Don Hanover [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 6:36 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Don Hanover gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Old Florida needs to be saved and it runs on water, too.

"

6524 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Don Jackson [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Monday, October 29, 2012 12:41 AM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Don Jackson gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"This is a Florida animal and should be saved at all costs!"

9974 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Don Love [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 28, 2012 5:33 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Don Love gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Enough is enough."

9430 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** DON RICHERT [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 3:57 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

DON RICHERT gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Love the manatees!"

5303 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Dona Gould [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 28, 2012 12:13 AM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Dona Gould gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Why do they want to reduce the flow? For business? For farming? It really seems more important than either of those to protect our waterways natural flow and stop destroying our habitat. All the little things are already adding up and showing how quickly we are destroying the beautiful world we are supposed to be protecting. Quality of life is more important than money."

7886 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees, and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Donna Carroll [mailto:[mail@change.org](mailto:mail@change.org)]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 2:01 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Donna Carroll gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Manatees are such gentle and innocent mammals. They need our protection and assistance whenever possible! Shame on Gov Scott!!!!!"

3303 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Donna Fisher [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 3:41 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Donna Fisher gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"love the animals"

5129 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Donna Greene [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 2:11 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Donna Greene gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"These animals need a safe habitat with room to thrive."

3593 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Donna Herriman [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 9:51 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Donna Herriman gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Because manatees are such gentle creatures that they don't deserve this!!!"

7476 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Donna J Watson [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 28, 2012 8:47 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Donna J Watson gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"I spend a lot of time on the river and want to preserve it"

9706 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Donna Marcialis [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 5:10 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Donna Marcialis gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Manatees are a natural part of Florida; how much of our State are we willing to sacrificer to highways and shopping malls?"

5958 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosasa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Donna Mavity [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 28, 2012 12:21 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Donna Mavity gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"I don't believe in human progress destroying wildlife. Why are humans more important than animals? We are supposed to be the caretakers of the earth and its inhabitants. Not destroyers"

8922 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** donna otero [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 8:30 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

donna otero gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"The manatees r important to me, Gov Scott should be ashamed of himself"

7107 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

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These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** donna wholihan [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 28, 2012 8:31 AM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

donna wholihan gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Wildlife is just as important as mankind and if the two are not supported together, neither one thrives."

8316 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

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These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Doris Aquije [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 2:56 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Doris Aquije gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Amo a los animales, pobrecitos, están a merced del hombre."

4535 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

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FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Doris Cox [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 5:44 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Doris Cox gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"There is not much of the wild Florida left, what we have we must protect."

6216 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Doris Osburn [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 28, 2012 10:10 AM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Doris Osburn gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"One of the primary reasons we moved to this area was because of the wonderful rivers here. We fish, paddle and enjoy these waters tremendously and feel that every effort should be made towards restoration, and that water flow reduction is not consistent with that goal."

8584 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees, and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Dorothy Segel [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 28, 2012 2:17 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Dorothy Segel gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"I always loved those sea cows. "

9130 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Dorrie Kanofsky [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 2:00 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Dorrie Kanofsky gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Our manatees are sacred..in Florida we should be doing everything possible to help them thrive!"

3253 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Dory Carone Suttle [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 28, 2012 10:03 AM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Dory Carone Suttle gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Manatees are our neighbors, and an important part of our ecosystem."

8560 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Dot Riffel [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 2:12 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Dot Riffel gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"For all the reasons stated in the letter. We need the companionship of God's creatures"

3625 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Doug Coleman [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Friday, October 26, 2012 10:35 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Doug Coleman gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Aside from recreational use and natural beauty, these springs depletion signal an unsustainable drawdown of the aquifer...a very bad scenario. "

2574 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

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These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Dr Corey Wolff [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 28, 2012 9:08 AM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Dr Corey Wolff gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Because Florida's manatees are a vitally important part of our State's unique heritage as well as a beautiful, gentle mammal that deserves protection."

8406 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

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The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Drew Martin [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 5:10 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Drew Martin gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"We need to protect these rivers."

5963 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Eddie Stamborski [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 10:02 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Eddie Stamborski gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters. Florida's Gulf waters get too cold for Manatees during winter months, and manatees unable to find thermal refuge in coastal springs like Chassahowitzka and Homosassa would certainly perish."

7516 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees, and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Eduardo Rubiera [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 4:32 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Eduardo Rubiera gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Frankly, you never know if the science behind these assertions are correct or not, but I do endorse the thinking of not messing with the natural flow of springs, including 'sucking' water to fill plastic bottles to sell."

5649 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Edward Anderson [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 6:58 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Edward Anderson gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Manatees are cool, and endangered"

6657 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Edward Norcross [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Monday, October 29, 2012 6:38 AM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Edward Norcross gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"The water in the springs stays warm enough in the winter to give the manatees a place to go where there is fresh water and vegetation"

10068 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Edward Temple [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 28, 2012 6:45 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Edward Temple gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"These gentle mammals are a joy to behold"

9517 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Eileen Hilliard [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 28, 2012 6:32 AM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Eileen Hilliard gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Because every life has a value."

8163 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Eileen Kimsey [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 5:31 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Eileen Kimsey gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"These springs are refuge for imperiled and endangered species of flora and fauna. They MUST NOT reduce the flow of fresh water. There will be loss of life of plants and animals. Please don't reduce the water flow."

6129 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Eileen Lowe [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 5:37 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Eileen Lowe gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Because they're manatees!"

6176 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Eilene Glick [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Friday, October 26, 2012 6:10 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Eilene Glick gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Eilene A. Glick "

2180 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Elaine Burr [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 8:23 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Elaine Burr gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Fishing"

7067 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Elena Santiago [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Monday, October 29, 2012 12:01 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Elena Santiago gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Manatees (and many others) rely on the spring runs and fresh water "

10585 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Elenora Sabin [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Friday, October 26, 2012 8:49 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Elenora Sabin gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"As a Floridian living on the Gulf Coast I love to see manatees. These endangered sea mammals deserve more protection, not further endangerment."

2449 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Elisabeth Perras [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 7:51 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Elisabeth Perras gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"For the late ann Thomas , my mentor.For our song Let the rivers run Free and for the Manatees, the real mermaids our grandchildren and their children need to see....  
"

6913 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees, and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Elizabeth Balbin [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Friday, October 26, 2012 10:21 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Elizabeth Balbin gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"FLorida manatees are one of the most beautiful and gentle creatures. We should do everything in our power to protect them and their environment. "

2567 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Elizabeth Griffith [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 5:33 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Elizabeth Griffith gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"I want my grandchildren to experience the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa, and their wildlife, healthy and beautiful."

6151 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

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Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

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These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Elizabeth Jenkins [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 7:08 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Elizabeth Jenkins gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"all animals"

6713 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

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Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Elizabeth Smyth [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Friday, October 26, 2012 5:08 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Elizabeth Smyth gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"I live off Dixie Bay at the Islands and even here we see the results of water quality and supply. Oten there are manatee here mating, otters and dolphins. Don't let them ruin our waters."

1955 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosasa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees, and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Elizabeth Steib [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 28, 2012 8:21 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Elizabeth Steib gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"I support preserving the habitats that wildlife, especially those which are endangered depend. We cannot allow the Florida manatee to become another tragic statistic in this state."

9669 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Ellen Bukstel [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 2:00 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Ellen Bukstel gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Save Florida Wildlife"

3261 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

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Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Ellen Dalbo [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 3:41 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Ellen Dalbo gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"I live in Florida. It would be nice if Gov. Scott actually did the right thing for once."

5131 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Ellen Klee [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 28, 2012 3:58 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Ellen Klee gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Reducing the water flow of our rivers and springs will increase influx of saltwater intrusion to our coastal areas and stagnate our waterways with runoff contaminants."

9290 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Ellen Koven [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 2:23 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Ellen Koven gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"I have lived in Florida for 34 years and my family and I have enjoyed the beauty of springs like Blue Spring, Gemini Spring, DeLeon Springs, Rock Springs, etc. We love to watch the gentle sea cows each year as they make their way back to the Blue Spring run. They cannot protect themselves; please protect them and Florida's fragile ecosystem."

3936 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees, and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Ellen Norbom [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 5:39 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Ellen Norbom gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Because the manatees are endangered and are a very special anima."

6187 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

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These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Ellen Saunders [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 1:30 AM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Ellen Saunders gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"I own property in Seabring Florida and have seen the devastation caused to the wild life. Please protect the environment."

2667 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

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and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Elsie Miranda [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 6:30 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Elsie Miranda gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Governor-- have a conscience. The world is so much bigger than ourselves, and manatees remind us of that by their very history."

6491 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Elwyn Green [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 28, 2012 5:16 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Elwyn Green gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"As a native of South Florida I have grown up with the manatees and watched as careless boaters and other enemies have hurt their population severely. Every effort to help these slow docile creatures is a blessing within itself."

9406 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees, and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Emily DeLattre [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 28, 2012 5:25 AM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Emily DeLattre gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Because I grew up in Florida and love the manatees and natural rivers there. Always! "

8133 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Emily Hoon [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 6:50 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Emily Hoon gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Manatees are one of the first attractions to Florida for me. Aside from wanting to save the species, I want others to be attracted to our state to see them."

6612 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Emily Nice [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 7:40 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Emily Nice gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Florida's wildlife should be protected because it preserves our economy of tourism and mostly, it's the right thing to do."

6865 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Eric Dietrich [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 4:05 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Eric Dietrich gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Manatees are important to eco system of Florida."

5384 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Eric Durham [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Friday, October 26, 2012 5:33 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Eric Durham gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"No further reductions should be allowed. These spring fed fresh water ecosystems need to be protected from further degradation. "

2079 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

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The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** erica nord [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Monday, October 29, 2012 12:01 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

erica nord gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Manatees are beautiful endangered species

"

10586 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

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These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Erin Newbeck [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 2:04 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Erin Newbeck gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"I live near the indian river, and i see them all the time. Animals need places to live just like we do. Please don't destroy their homes."

3401 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Ethian Hugo Carvajal [mailto:[mail@change.org](mailto:mail@change.org)]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 10:12 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Ethian Hugo Carvajal gave the following reason for signing this petition:

["etiennehugo@yahoo.com"](mailto:etiennehugo@yahoo.com)

7550 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** EVA CORDOVA [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Monday, October 29, 2012 9:20 AM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

EVA CORDOVA gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"I love manatees!"

10272 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Evelyn Ruiz [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Monday, October 29, 2012 8:24 AM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Evelyn Ruiz gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Love to save the manatees."

10170 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Faith Ralston [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 3:32 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Faith Ralston gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Our waterways is what makes US special, and to share the waters is esential to our own survival.

"

4997 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosasa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees, and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Fawn Scher [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Friday, October 26, 2012 10:58 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Fawn Scher gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"I lived in Fl my whole life and i love manatees, they deserve respect"

2597 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Frances Larson [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 28, 2012 7:23 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Frances Larson gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Natures beauty and water clarity"

9576 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

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These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** francine slack [mailto:francine.slack@change.org]  
**Sent:** Friday, October 26, 2012 5:29 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

francine slack gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"We need to save our springs and the wildlife which depends upon it because our health and our state's economy are prime beneficiaries as well."

2067 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

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These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** francis butera [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 28, 2012 2:55 AM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

francis butera gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Minimum Flow levels were set to protect the biological health for entire ecosystems. Disregarding these levels will cause a permanent and acute negative reduction in the biological health and balance of these systems. "

8073 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

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Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Frank Espinoza [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 2:48 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Frank Espinoza gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"We need Manatees for the future generation to experience them."

4403 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** frank fojtik [mailto:frank.fojtik@change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 3:47 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

frank fojtik gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"because rick scott is a weeniehead"

5188 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Frank Kopczynski [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Friday, October 26, 2012 5:44 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Frank Kopczynski gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"I would like to leave at least one or two of the things I love about Florida for my grandchildren"

2116 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Frank Reyes [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 2:31 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Frank Reyes gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"because i was born dade county fl"

4084 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** frank slate [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 6:43 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

frank slate gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"you know PINK slip has destroyed enough in the state.. he needs to keep his grubby hands off or stop this operation completely"

6568 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Frank Staff [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 28, 2012 3:10 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Frank Staff gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Frank Staff"

9215 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Fred Price [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Friday, October 26, 2012 8:23 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Fred Price gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"to save the manatee's"

2417 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

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These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Gabe Freund [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 28, 2012 10:31 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Gabe Freund gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"I am a Floridian that cares for the environment."

9862 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

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and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** gabe miller [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 3:07 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

gabe miller gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Because it disgusts me that my governor wouldn't take the necessary steps to help protect an endangered species. If this goes through he will have forever lost my vote."

4688 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Gaby Melzer [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Friday, October 26, 2012 6:52 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Gaby Melzer gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Manatees are such gentle, amazing creatures - Please don't cause them to freeze to death in the Winter - they need to be able to seek refuge from the cold in the springs! Manatees already have so much working against them - I urge you not to add another thing to the list!

"

2266 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees, and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Gail Currie [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 28, 2012 8:39 AM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Gail Currie gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"These waterways are the habitat to numerous wildlife, waterlife, trees, flowers, etc. To decrease the flow will certainly kill off a lot of these Federally Endangered Species and ruin Florida's Outstanding Waterways."

8340 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Gail Hickman [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 7:43 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Gail Hickman gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"I love our wildlife. Manatees are special to the State of Florida. I'm not happy with the idea the governor of the state, would Not protect these special animals. Please avoid the reduction of flow to these rivers. "

6881 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Gail Knight [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 2:45 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Gail Knight gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"The manatees are already in trouble please don't allow them to be endangered further. Do no reduce the water flow to their habitat."

4347 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Gail Nadeau [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Friday, October 26, 2012 6:04 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Gail Nadeau gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"I live in Florida & think that people are taking to much of essential habitats away from wonderful animals like the Manatees & Want them to be here for future generations so it is important to preserve & help them in little ways like this. "

2168 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees, and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

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These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Gale Lee [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 8:55 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Gale Lee gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Manatees are a Florida treasure. Let's do our best to protect them!"

7236 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

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Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Garry W. Spencer [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 5:08 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Garry W. Spencer gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Less flow means greater concentration of pollution."

5945 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

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The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

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The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Gary Henderson [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 3:57 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Gary Henderson gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"The entire state of Florida is under siege from developers. These remaining wild places that provide food, water and shelter for Florida's indigenous wildlife need to be preserved, or we are ALL diminished. "

5307 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Gayle Sheets [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 28, 2012 6:55 AM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Gayle Sheets gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"The Homosassa and Chassowitzka are a natural treasure and must be saved. "

8182 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** George Harbin [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 12:01 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

George Harbin gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"I live nearby and use them frequently. I refuse to let our river flows be reduced for commercial and other than residential and local business uses"

2855 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** GEORGE LEONI [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 2:51 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

GEORGE LEONI gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"all animals, as well as manatees should have the right to live

"

4444 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** George Mackison [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 1:56 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

George Mackison gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"We must all strive to do everything we can to preserve all the diverse species that still remain on this earth."

3091 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** George Ruman [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 28, 2012 1:00 AM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

George Ruman gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Important native mamal - a resource that must be preserved"

7966 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** GEORGIA KAKAROUKAS [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Friday, October 26, 2012 6:35 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

GEORGIA KAKAROUKAS gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Manatees are a part of Florida's natural environment and a thing of beauty. Why do people like Rick Scott want to destroy our national treasures? Probably to put more money in his pocket. Stop thinking about yourself and your lobbyist and start thinking about our state. Cannot wait to vote you out of office."

2232 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees, and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Gerald Green [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Friday, October 26, 2012 7:45 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Gerald Green gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Save the manatees and our springs. Stop the cheap sale of our spring waters to commercial bottles. "

2360 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

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These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Gerald Stanley [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 28, 2012 8:43 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Gerald Stanley gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"I own property on Crawford Creek that empties into the Chassahowitzka River. The degradation of the trees along Crawford Creek is terrible and anymore reduction in the flow of fresh water form the springs will only increase the degradation of our coastal rivers and creeks."

9702 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees, and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Geraldine Carboni [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 28, 2012 2:54 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Geraldine Carboni gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"I am both a resident of NYC and Florida. Until about 20 years ago, I didn't even know manatees existed. We need to preserve these "gentle giants" for our grandchildren's grandchildren."

9196 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Geraldine Remington [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 3:31 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Geraldine Remington gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Manatees are beautiful, gentle, and endangered living creatures - shame on you for even considering with reductions in flow! Please use your power to SAVE these creatures, not to make them extinct!"

4977 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Gerri DiBartolo [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 28, 2012 10:16 AM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Gerri DiBartolo gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"As a nature lover, I am asking that veyou do whatever it takes to save the manatees' habitat."

8601 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

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Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Gilbert Curry [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 4:49 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Gilbert Curry gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"As a lifelong citizen of the State of Florida I have enjoyed the beauty, flora, and wildlife of both the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers and their estuary system since I was a child. I consider the health of these ecosystems as part of my natural heritage and feel strongly that it is something that should be passed intact to future generations."

5783 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees, and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Gilbert Hall [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 3:29 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Gilbert Hall gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Manatees need a safe place with clean warm water to survive. Let us stop helping the big corporations who steal our water supply to provide their crops, cattle cheap water while helping to make the Manatees extinct. It is time to put a STOP to all of this. Big corporation governor Scott only has the interests of the big money like himself in mind - not the environment or the people who live here."

4956 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees, and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Gina Caracci [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 6:51 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Gina Caracci gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"The manatees are endangered as it is, reducing their habitat will NOT help the situation. Im guessing politics doesnt care much about anything other than their bottom line though. Floridas waterways are shrinking as it is so THEY must be preserved before the state is dry. STOP ALLOWING GREED TO DESTROY EVERYTHING!"

6617 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees, and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

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These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Ginger Thompson [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Monday, October 29, 2012 1:21 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Ginger Thompson gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"The manatees need a place to stay warm in the winter. It's not our right to take their home!"

10697 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

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The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** giselle fetigan [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 4:53 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

giselle fetigan gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"It is important to maintain a habitat for our florida manatees. These beautiful creatures need a place to live and breed to assure their existence for future generations"

5822 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

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Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Gloria Morotti [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 1:53 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Gloria Morotti gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Our manatees are so precious. "

2979 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Grace McCullohs [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 6:50 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Grace McCullohs gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"manatees are already threatened by human actions and they have nowhere else to go

"

6613 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Grant Campbell [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 11:56 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Grant Campbell gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Florida's manatee population is already stressed. We should be cleaning our waters and giving them more."

7858 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Greg holemanGregHoleman [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Friday, October 26, 2012 7:01 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Greg holemanGregHoleman gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"I live here"

2284 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** gregory smith [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 28, 2012 6:16 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

gregory smith gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"all life is precious but the slower ones need a better break."

9483 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Guillermo Secola [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 5:04 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Guillermo Secola gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"They are pretty animals and help the enviroment, and just because they deserve to live they are protected animals and is our responsability."

5910 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosasa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

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These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Gwen Dunlop [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 9:33 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Gwen Dunlop gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"We need to protect our environment AND our manatees!"

7394 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

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The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Harriet Toretzky [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 1:55 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Harriet Toretzky gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"I feel that all animals that live in the ocean sea and rivers need to be protected"

3047 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

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The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Hawk Pat [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Monday, October 29, 2012 6:37 AM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Hawk Pat gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Why should we be the last generation to see Florida Manatees of clear flowing springs?"

10067 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Heather Bell [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 28, 2012 7:09 AM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Heather Bell gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Because we are mismanaging our water and manatees shouldn't suffer."

8192 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Heather Campbell [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Friday, October 26, 2012 9:42 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Heather Campbell gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Rick Scott has no regard for the environment what-so-ever. Good luck with this petition against his anti-green administration. "

2530 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Heather Donnelly [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Friday, October 26, 2012 5:23 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Heather Donnelly gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Here's the thing: It's wrong to put the manatee on a license plate and then not protect it's habitat. You shouldn't get to be proud of a creature you are imperiling with extinction."

2037 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Heather Hintz [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 28, 2012 1:20 AM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Heather Hintz gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Manatees are special and need help"

7992 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Heidi King [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 5:31 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Heidi King gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"I believe that sustainability is a balance between nature and people, and I believe the board can make savvy decisions that reflect concern for both. "

6132 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Helen Ciampi [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 2:59 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Helen Ciampi gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"We need to keep our waterways the way they were meant to be."

4574 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

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The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Helen Cuan [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Friday, October 26, 2012 7:09 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Helen Cuan gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"We need to protect species that are in danger. As a result, they need of fresh water habitats for their continued survival. "

2298 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

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These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Helen Mertz [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 2:32 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Helen Mertz gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"The manatee is an integral part of Floridas Eco system. We should do all we can to protect them."

4106 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Helen Powers [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 3:25 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Helen Powers gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"As a Florida native, I am saddened by the lack of respect that Rick Scott, big business and big developers have for the wildlife and environment here in Florida. The environment here is what makes Florida Paradise!"

4913 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Helene Donovan [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 28, 2012 12:53 AM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Helene Donovan gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"I cannot even believe that there would be a need for a petition to save Florida's Gentle Giants. These mammals bring millions of tourism dollars to the state, are an endangered species and we have to petition our elected governor to protect their habitat? Is he crazy, dumb, or simply in the pockets of those who benefit? If someone can provide me with any other rational explanation, I will listen. However, this should not even be up for discussion. NO REDUCTIONS IN FLOW!!!!!"

7960 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees, and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** herb shelton [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 4:44 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

herb shelton gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Scott, leave it alone!"

5755 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Hilary Kacser [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 28, 2012 12:39 AM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Hilary Kacser gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Manatees are endangered. Reducing fresh water flow to the two spring-fed rivers will let the water get too cold for the manatees and too brackish for fresh water species to survive.

Numerous rare and imperiled species of plants and animals -- from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to Southeastern Fresh Water Mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, and Manatees (and many, many more) -- rely for survival on the spring runs and fresh water habitats of the greater Chassahowitzka-Homosassa spring-fed Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and associated fresh water forested wetlands.

Do not further "degrade" the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems. Do not risk "extirpating" forever these spring-fed fresh water ecosystems by increased salt water intrusion. "

7935 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees, and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Holly Farish-Hunt [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 9:50 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Holly Farish-Hunt gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"These beautiful creatures are an integral part of my FL environment and contribute to the beauty and balance of nature. Please do all you can to protect them as they are gentle creatures."

7470 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Hope Gormandy [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 4:29 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Hope Gormandy gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"It's important to our biodiversity and our ecological systems to keep Manatees safe and in their habitats."

5619 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Ian Jarrett [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 10:51 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Ian Jarrett gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"We need to reduce our use of water, not increase supply. manatees are just one species that suffer as we mess with the delicate balance of South Florida water systems."

7674 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** ida mackey [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 11:52 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

ida mackey gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Because manatees are God's most beautiful creatures"

7839 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** ileana pieze [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 3:39 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

ileana pieze gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"is our wildlife!we have to do as much as we can! lovely animal :)"

5095 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Ingrid Hinkelmann [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 28, 2012 11:48 AM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Ingrid Hinkelmann gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"keep all wildlife safe, ban hunting altogether of any species"

8834 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Irene Pilinger [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Friday, October 26, 2012 10:07 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Irene Pilinger gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"I love manatees and go to visit the parks to see them every winter."

2556 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Irene Pousette [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 2:20 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Irene Pousette gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"All animals are important to me. And manatees are beautiful creatures."

3857 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Iris Meyer [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 3:51 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Iris Meyer gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"We need to protect and respect our wildlife,once they are gone, we are next."

5253 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Irma Quiroz [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 28, 2012 7:12 AM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Irma Quiroz gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"when I came to USA, back in the 72's..I was so delighted for the view of such a wonderful animals. and like this I want my grand children be able to see the wonders of Florida..."

8195 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Isabella Fernandez [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 6:05 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Isabella Fernandez gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Manatees are beautiful and peaceful creatures that have a right to their homes and well being. Humans do not have the right to rob them of this. "

6332 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

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These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Isabella Welsh [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 28, 2012 10:13 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Isabella Welsh gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Manatees are such wonderful animals. They are capable of teaching destructive humans great lessons. Gentle, paced, and beautiful, the fact that they are at risk of extinction is sickening. Sea cows are just absolutely wonderful."

9834 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees, and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Ivan Mago [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 28, 2012 8:48 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Ivan Mago gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Wild life is part of our planet's ecosystem. They all deserve our respect and protection"

9707 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** J Bell [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Friday, October 26, 2012 8:49 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

J Bell gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Manatees deserve our protections... As it is humans that made them endangered and destroyed their homes!"

2450 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** J. L. Blinne [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 3:01 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

J. L. Blinne gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Manatees are natural dwellers in our Florida waters and should be protected no matter what."

4612 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

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and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Jack Rogers [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 2:14 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Jack Rogers gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"In the last decades we have seen continued degradation of our precious springs across Florida. We need to stop the damage now. I ask that you act now to preserve these most precious resources before they are lost. "

3672 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Jack Schofield [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 28, 2012 12:25 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Jack Schofield gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Maintaining existing flows is important to the economy of Florida. While populations will increase in the state the reduction of our flow levels of our rivers and springs to provide water resources is not an effective way to provide for future growth. In fact it will affect the areas in the state that provide an opportunity to view Florida in its natural state.

Living on the Withlacoochee River in Yankeetown for the first time since I moved here we had salt water intrusion at our property. Maintaining current flow levels is a must.

Jack Schofield

"

8928 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the

Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees, and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** jacki Gilson [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 1:57 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

jacki Gilson gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"The manatees need all the help we can give them, NOT more challenges to overcome!"

3160 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

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The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Jacki Wilmot [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 28, 2012 8:40 AM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Jacki Wilmot gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"love manatees and all wildlife  
"

8344 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

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Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Jackie Williams [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 28, 2012 8:16 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Jackie Williams gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"NO, NO, NO. PLEASE SIGN!"

9659 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

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FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Jacob Magnuson [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 3:40 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Jacob Magnuson gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"I like manatees."

5107 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** jacqueline berghorn [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 2:51 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

jacqueline berghorn gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"WE ALL NEED FRESH WATER TO DRINK!"

4441 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Jacqueline Casey [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 28, 2012 9:19 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Jacqueline Casey gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"This is important to me because sea creatures are an irreplaceable part of the state's beauty. Lacking these wondrous creatures is simply unacceptable!"

9753 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Jacqueline Day [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 28, 2012 11:04 AM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Jacqueline Day gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"gentle giants. "

8724 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Jacqueline Georgi [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Friday, October 26, 2012 6:38 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Jacqueline Georgi gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"As a resident of Florida, it is of great importance to me that we protect the natural environment of the state as well as the wild life. The manatees are a beautiful part of Florida."

2241 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Jacqueline Jeffries [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 28, 2012 9:48 AM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Jacqueline Jeffries gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"It's my river."

8511 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Jacqueline Mathis [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 28, 2012 1:08 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Jacqueline Mathis gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"I have been going to the springs since I was a little girl, always say "you can't experience Florida until you've been to the springs." Our manatees are a Florida asset and should be protected at any cost."

9022 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

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These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** jacquelyn hubbard [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 28, 2012 7:40 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

jacquelyn hubbard gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"I am a kayaker and love the outdoors. 15% reduction is unacceptable."

9599 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

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These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Jacquelyn Rein [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Monday, October 29, 2012 8:03 AM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Jacquelyn Rein gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Please do not further endanger the manatees by increasing the river flow. Please save our natural resources & manatees for future generations."

10133 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Jacqui Thomas [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 1:03 AM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Jacqui Thomas gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"If we do not protect God's creations, then what good are we to God>"

2661 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Jada Vanpelt [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 28, 2012 9:05 AM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Jada Vanpelt gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Because I live there"

8399 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Jaime Morales [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 28, 2012 1:16 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Jaime Morales gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Everything about nature is very important to me."

9037 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** James Branaman [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Friday, October 26, 2012 5:16 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

James Branaman gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"This could allow salt water intrusion and affect many plants and animals in the ecosystem. "

1996 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** James Clark [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Monday, October 29, 2012 2:02 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

James Clark gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Why would anyone not support maintaining natural habitat for an endangered species when there is no negative impact for humans by doing so...."

10746 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** James Doud [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 9:50 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

James Doud gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"We need to do all we can to save the manatees!"

7472 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** James Downey [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 28, 2012 8:37 AM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

James Downey gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"All life, not just human life, has value on Earth. We are custodians of something unique and precious in this universe."

8338 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

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These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** James Igler [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 28, 2012 11:06 AM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

James Igler gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"The health of the environment...this place we call home... is far more important then anything else.... with out it...what do we have... a concrete jungle.... NO THANK YOU!!!! Please do NOT allow this reduction to happen"

8727 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees, and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** james monroe [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 3:07 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

james monroe gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Am tired of humans stealing and degrading the habitats of God's beautiful creatures, usually for greedy motives."

4686 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** JAMES N BRICAULT [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 2:09 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

JAMES N BRICAULT gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Life should come before fuel. All forms of life."

3542 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

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Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** James Norman [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 7:09 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

James Norman gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"We already have barnacle's on our dock. The saltwater is already intruding where it should only be fresh water."

6722 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

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The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** James Sasser [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 28, 2012 7:33 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

James Sasser gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Helps environment and wildlife."

9591 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

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The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** James Stewart [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Monday, October 29, 2012 12:50 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

James Stewart gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"I am both a kayaker and a drinker of this water. It needs protected!"

10658 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** james vessell [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 4:57 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

james vessell gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"as the humans in this world continue to get reckless with out any regards. to our children .there is nothing left but meanness towards each other"

5855 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

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These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** James Yarwood [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 11:34 AM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

James Yarwood gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Manatee's bring many out of state tourists to these areas.  
Manatee's hurt no one, and their needed enviroment should not be compremized."

2842 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

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The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Jamie Beineke [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 3:38 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Jamie Beineke gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"We need to save our wild life areas that are still natural for our future generations"

5079 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

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and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Jamie Sandstedt [mailto:jamie@change.org]  
**Sent:** Friday, October 26, 2012 5:11 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Jamie Sandstedt gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"They are beautiful, peaceful creatures that need and deserve to have their natural habitat."

1961 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Jan Davison [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 8:21 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Jan Davison gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"I love the manatees and they need to be protected."

7054 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Janalee F Garwood [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 4:23 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Janalee F Garwood gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"I'm interested in the survival of the manatee and very tired of seeing Florida decisions made on behalf of big business and political "friends""

5558 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Jane Ciesielski [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Friday, October 26, 2012 10:38 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Jane Ciesielski gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"and say yes to reduced speed of boats to protect the manatees."

2576 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Jane McKinney [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 2:00 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Jane McKinney gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"This is their home and many will die without it!!"

3250 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Janet Baksh [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 5:46 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Janet Baksh gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Manatees are very sensitive creatures, and they're having enough trouble surviving without people deliberately altering their habitat!!"

6234 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Janet Croft [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 28, 2012 1:09 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Janet Croft gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"These are unique creature that should be preserved as long as possible. Also natures wonders should not be messed with.. "

9027 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

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The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Janet Durgen [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Monday, October 29, 2012 11:37 AM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Janet Durgen gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"I want to protect the Florida wildlife we now have and MAY have in the future by leaving the natural ecosystem ALONE!!! We must find other intelligent means to provide for our needs. Our earth is exhausted and cannot withstand much more of our lack of foresight and respect!"

10546 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees, and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** janet gardner [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 8:16 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

janet gardner gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"I love the Manatees!!!"

7037 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Janet Hassele [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Friday, October 26, 2012 6:37 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Janet Hassele gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"The Manatees can't speak for themselves so it's up to us to be their voice."

2235 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Janet Penrose [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 28, 2012 5:31 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Janet Penrose gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"The Chassahowitzka River is down significantly from just a few years ago. It needs to be restored and protected before it is too late."

9428 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Janet Rectenwald [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 2:41 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Janet Rectenwald gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"I believe all of nature should be respected and cared for."

4270 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Janice Brooks [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 6:08 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Janice Brooks gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"The manatees are worth a lot more to the Florida tourism economy in the long term, so they need to have their habitat protected, not further degraded."

6354 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Janice LeBlanc [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 28, 2012 3:02 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Janice LeBlanc gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"The cruelty to animals has got to stop."

9202 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Janice McSween [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 9:30 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Janice McSween gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Haven't we destroyed enough of Florida's wilds and wildlife? "

7386 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Janice Montalto [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 28, 2012 10:09 AM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Janice Montalto gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Leave these gentle giants homes alone. They need protection."

8582 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

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These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Janice Smith [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 4:24 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Janice Smith gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"I want the manatees around for generations to come!"

5577 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

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Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Janice Stralow [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Monday, October 29, 2012 6:21 AM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Janice Stralow gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"We have to preserve our wildlife not only so future generations can enjoy sharing what nature has to offer in our very unique Florida, but also to preserve our planet. We cannot continue to degrade the balance of nature thru man made efforts and expect the planet to be here for future generations. "

10060 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees, and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** JaQuanda Perry [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Monday, October 29, 2012 9:13 AM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

JaQuanda Perry gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"I Want My Kids Too Be Able Too See These Animals That People Are Trying Too Kill Off"

10246 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Jared Kimble [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 10:29 AM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Jared Kimble gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"We have to practice love for all creatures and life. We have to learn to respect the environment better than we have in the past."

2806 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Jarell Fox [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 28, 2012 2:36 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Jarell Fox gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Because I LOVE seacows (manatees)."

9160 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Jaren Vitale [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 3:24 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Jaren Vitale gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Manatees are a key connection and honored residents. We have no right to limit their quality of life or terminate their life. "

4890 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Jasmine Grandcourt [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 28, 2012 2:35 AM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Jasmine Grandcourt gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"protection animal and heart"

8060 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Jaxs Powell [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Friday, October 26, 2012 5:39 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Jaxs Powell gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Manatees are an endangered species and therefore are protected. Reducing the fresh water flow destroys their home and the homes of many other wildlife. It is irresponsible and a crime against earth, animals and humans. "

2097 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

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These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Jay Allbritton [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 2:17 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Jay Allbritton gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Manatees rule! Save them now! "

3772 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

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The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Jean Alford [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 7:02 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Jean Alford gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"We have a responsibility to protect Florida wildlife."

6677 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Jean Holbrook [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Monday, October 29, 2012 8:53 AM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Jean Holbrook gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"I fear for the future of our wildlife, our clean water, and our coastal ecology. We cannot continue to destroy these resources."

10216 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** jeanette mayer [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 28, 2012 9:21 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

jeanette mayer gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"if we don't save in the wild, they may go the way of the passenger pigeon EXTINCT !!!!"

9756 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Jeanette Nicotra [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 28, 2012 10:36 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Jeanette Nicotra gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"We should do whatever possible to ensure the safety and preservation of our wildlife."

9867 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Jeani Johnson [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 9:18 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Jeani Johnson gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"People must STOP KILLING our beloved animals & fowl & sea life - LIVE and LET LIVE! STOP KILLING!

What has happened to the people in this killing world! All they want to do is to over populate the world with PEOPLE and kill off all of our wild life! STOP PBEING HOGS - SHARE THIS WORLD WITH ANIMALS, WE NEED THEM!!"

7337 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees, and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** jeanne hopwood [mailto:jeanne@change.org]  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 28, 2012 10:04 AM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

jeanne hopwood gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"We need to save these animals"

8567 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Jeff Abbott [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 4:21 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Jeff Abbott gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"These reductions must stop. It is not just about manatees but the commercial fishing industry as well. Oysters, scallops, stone crabs, are just examples of sea food that requires fresh water to thrive. Take a holistic approach, study the implications."

5544 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

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The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** JEFF ADAMS [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 4:50 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

JEFF ADAMS gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"ALL SEA CREATURES ARE IMPORTANT is this important to you?"

5788 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

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The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** jeff bernstein [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 28, 2012 8:39 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

jeff bernstein gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"I love our rivers!"

9696 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Jeff Glitzenstein [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 28, 2012 6:40 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Jeff Glitzenstein gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"I'm a plant conservation biologist. Preservation of rare species and habitats is what I do. "

9505 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Jeff McGriff [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 28, 2012 10:07 AM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Jeff McGriff gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Preservation. "

8578 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Jeffrey Haarsma [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 28, 2012 8:01 AM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Jeffrey Haarsma gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Manatees are almost endangered. We must protect them."

8261 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Jeffrey Nelson [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 28, 2012 11:30 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Jeffrey Nelson gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Because we have already damaged our environment too much already. And because I have compassion and concerns about other living things on this planet. "

9927 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Jennifer Bordner [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Monday, October 29, 2012 7:26 AM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Jennifer Bordner gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"I'm tired of people disregarding homes of the wildlife as if it doesn't matter. It's like the government doesn't even care about that being a home for manatees. They are already at huge risk with the boaters. They don't need a man made risk that doesn't have to be. "

10090 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees, and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Jennifer Calder [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 6:20 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Jennifer Calder gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Our Florida springs are natural treasures. "

6427 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

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The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Jennifer Ellerman-Queen [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 2:09 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Jennifer Ellerman-Queen gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Manatees are important to natural Florida!"

3534 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

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These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Jennifer Marsh [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Friday, October 26, 2012 9:04 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Jennifer Marsh gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"The manatees are special animals that should be protected."

2471 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

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Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Jennifer Meyer [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 8:01 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Jennifer Meyer gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Because I love going there to canoe and get back to nature, so to speak. This is just crazy! Why mess with mother nature and the flow of anything. Government sucks if you guys do this!"

6952 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Jennifer Robson [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 28, 2012 10:51 AM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Jennifer Robson gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Love the manatees & would hate to see their numbers diminish because of more intrusion on their homes by humans!"

8686 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

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These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Jenny Bast [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Monday, October 29, 2012 10:17 AM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Jenny Bast gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Because it is the right thing to do. Besides God put us in charge of all the animals, not to let them die, to keep them alive."

10404 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

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Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** jerry weinstock [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 3:55 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

jerry weinstock gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"I think they are a part of the eco-system we live in----and they come into my canal and I love them"

5284 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Jessica M [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 2:38 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Jessica M gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Quit screwing with the rivers! "

4233 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** jewel grubman [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 9:58 AM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

jewel grubman gave the following reason for signing this petition:

" uniuqr , harmless life form should be saved not killed carelessly"

2787 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

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The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Jhan Snyder [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 28, 2012 10:19 AM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Jhan Snyder gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Diversity of life should be a priority to all americans. Not only that but the Manatee has become an ambassador for the tourist industry in Florida just like the Dolphin and as such should be protected and their habitat cared for accordingly."

8607 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

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The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Jill Jacoby [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Friday, October 26, 2012 5:19 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Jill Jacoby gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"We are the only place in the world where you can swim in the springs with the Manatee! We love them and they love us!"

2009 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

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The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Jill Kunesh [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 3:52 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Jill Kunesh gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"We need to protect manatee environment, not pass things that reduce the amount of it."

5261 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Jim McElveen [mailto:[mail@change.org](mailto:mail@change.org)]  
**Sent:** Monday, October 29, 2012 8:12 AM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Jim McElveen gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Save the manatees, not kill them! "

10145 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Jim Stevenson [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Monday, October 29, 2012 6:43 AM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Jim Stevenson gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"To protect public lands that were acquired to protect Florida's waters especially springs."

10072 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** jim whitehead [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 3:30 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

jim whitehead gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Rick Scott is an idiot?"

4967 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Jimmy Carrell [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 28, 2012 9:02 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Jimmy Carrell gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"I go to Homosassa Springs State Park often, and there are always tourists there. Why would anyone go if the ecology changes due to reduced flows?"

9736 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life-saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** jimmy liu [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 28, 2012 8:43 AM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

jimmy liu gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"its not right to reduce the water when endangered manatees need it to live in the winter"

8356 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** JOAN BRYANT [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Monday, October 29, 2012 11:23 AM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

JOAN BRYANT gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"FLORIDA'S ENTIRE FUTURE IS DEPENDENT ON OUR SPRINGS, RIVERS AND AQUIFER BEING HEALTHY. THE ANIMALS EFFECTED ARE INDICATIVE OF THE HEALTH OF THE WATER SYSTEMS."

10522 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees, and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

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These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Joan Davis [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 28, 2012 1:27 AM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Joan Davis gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"It would be a travesty to not protect the integrity of Florida's springs. Shame on the SWFWMD for not doing its job responsibly. We must demand that this does not happen."

7998 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

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These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Joan Wertheimer [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Monday, October 29, 2012 8:19 AM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Joan Wertheimer gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"We need to save all of our wildlife before it is too late which sometimes happens"

10160 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** joan wolff [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 1:53 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

joan wolff gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"all wild life balances the environment."

2993 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** JoAnn Deckant [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 4:48 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

JoAnn Deckant gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Please, don't do this, can we push all of our wildlife away. Water is vital for both human life and marine life."

5778 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

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and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** joann fasulo-armstrong [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 6:03 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

joann fasulo-armstrong gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"beautiful creatures need these homes."

6321 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

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These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** joann wells [mailto:joann@change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 5:38 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

joann wells gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"i thought we were supposed to protect florida, not kill it...stop this stupid micromanagement."

6180 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

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The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Joanna Caputa [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 8:02 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Joanna Caputa gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"How could the SWFWMD and Rick Scott jeopardize the things that make our state worth living here? And, if you have to look at the "bottom line", what tourist would want to come and visit, knowing we are purposely destroying our own precious rivers and wildlife? "

6958 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees, and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Joaquin del Cueto [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 2:02 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Joaquin del Cueto gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Save Big Bird and the West Indian Manatees!"

3320 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

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The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Joaquin Sanchez [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 28, 2012 8:56 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Joaquin Sanchez gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"I am opposed to giving away millions of gallons of spring water to foreign bottlers and foreign billionaires that want to take our water to over develop my state. "

9720 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

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The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Jocelyn Slater [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 28, 2012 11:01 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Jocelyn Slater gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"West Indian Manatees are a Federally recognised endangered species. That should, by the same federal laws that protect the manatees, automatically protect all elements of their habitat which fall under United States control. They already have enough trouble with boat strikes. They don't need us to add cold stress and habitat degradation onto that."

9899 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

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Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees, and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Joe Snavely [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 28, 2012 7:24 AM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Joe Snavely gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"We need to do all that we can to protect these wonderful and majestic creatures. We need to respect our wonderful natural resources and these magnificent animals are unique in all the world."

8210 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Jo-Ellen Cox [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 28, 2012 9:00 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Jo-Ellen Cox gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"for the simplest reasons, we need to protect our wildlife from extinction and deminishing habitats whether on land or in the water. This spring is vital to the manatees survival. Please spare these creatures."

9729 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** john barrieau [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 7:17 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

john barrieau gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"YA JUST GOTTA LOVE MANATEES,OTHERWISE.LIKE GOVERNOR SCOTT,YOU SUCK!"

6758 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

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and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** John Carter [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 28, 2012 6:36 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

John Carter gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"To much development has already damaged both the lands and water resources of this state. It is time to realize that these things belong to the future. Regreates do not repair damages that could have been avoided if we only halted and considered the negative results of our decesions"

9504 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosasa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees, and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** john channell [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 28, 2012 4:47 AM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

john channell gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"nature can take care of it's self  
"

8116 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

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The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** John Dooley [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 3:50 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

John Dooley gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Overuse of water has consequences."

5231 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

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The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** John Felice [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 3:02 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

John Felice gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"This is an irresponsible decision to reduce the flow level that has little upside benefit with a substantial amount of risk. "

4622 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

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The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** John Fletcher [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 8:10 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

John Fletcher gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Aid the fresh water environment and stop salt water intrusion and destruction  
"

7008 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** John H Shaver [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 3:22 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

John H Shaver gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"This is near my home; I see these gentle creatures quite often. "

4869 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** John Humphrey [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Monday, October 29, 2012 7:52 AM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

John Humphrey gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Beautiful, peaceful animals. Their native territory."

10116 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** John J. Lynagh [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 8:15 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

John J. Lynagh gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"We have lost enough of our wildlife and animals. "

7033 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** John Lord [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 12:45 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

John Lord gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Our rivers are dying as things are know, why is the government advocating speeding up the process rather than looking for a solution? Are golf courses that important?"

2879 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** John Malaney [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 2:11 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

John Malaney gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Our natural resources are not only vital to mammals such as the Manatee, but to human beings as well. By destroying these precious resources we are slowly destroying ourselves. They should be protected and conserved for future generations."

3584 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees, and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** John O'Keefe [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Friday, October 26, 2012 4:53 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

John O'Keefe gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"While it has been many years since I last visited Homosassa Springs, I still vividly remember the almost ethereal manatees there. They are among the gentlest and most helpless creatures to be found, but we humans seen determined to wipe them out through both thoughtless and planned actions. We must come to understand that there are consequences to our actions -- in this case, bad consequences!"

1934 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees, and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** John Simon [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 6:11 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

John Simon gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"We have visited the area and wish to help save the manatees."

6377 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

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These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

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Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Jon Boliek [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 10:21 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Jon Boliek gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"We need Manatees!"

7571 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

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Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Jon Reynolds [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 8:04 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Jon Reynolds gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Because Manatees kick ass!"

6968 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** JON SODERLUND [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 2:35 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

JON SODERLUND gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"I went swimming with the Manatees and I had a baby and an adult Manatee come up to me and both kissed me and the adult hugged me!"

4163 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Jonathan Gentle [mailto:mail@change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 1:56 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Jonathan Gentle gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"I live in Fort Myers and do not want to see any loss of wildlife  
"

3084 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** jorge j tamargo [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 28, 2012 7:29 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

jorge j tamargo gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"ONCE ALLOWED TO RESTRICT IT CAN EASLY BE MADE WORSE."

9587 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Jose Perez [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 2:00 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Jose Perez gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Save these magnificent creatures, stop your insanity governor, we had enough."

3264 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Joseph Duncan [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 9:39 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Joseph Duncan gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"I am sick of Rick Scott's inept rule in my state of Florida!"

7418 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Joseph Tarach [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Monday, October 29, 2012 10:19 AM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Joseph Tarach gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"we've harmed, endangered , and killed to many of God's creatures... it needs to stop"

10405 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

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The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Josh Houston [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 28, 2012 1:40 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Josh Houston gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"I live in Citrus County."

9076 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

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The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Joy Priem [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 7:56 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Joy Priem gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"When the manatees and the elephants go.....We're done for!!!!"

6940 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

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Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** joy zacharia [mailto:joy@change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 2:04 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

joy zacharia gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Because they are precious members of our planet and deserve equal right to fresh, clean water. Besides, I see them every weekend at the Safety Harbor pier and feel a kinship to them."

3388 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Joyce Bowers [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 6:13 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Joyce Bowers gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Manatees are harmless animals and I enjoy seeing their playful behavior in the canals we must protect them! "

6388 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Joyce Smith [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 6:39 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Joyce Smith gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Changing the environment of the rivers will have an adverse effect on the wild life, fauna, and all aquatic life. Building more home in areas that don't have adequate water, while homes and shopping centers sit vacant; is not a judicious use of our natural resources. "

6542 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees, and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Joyce Soutar [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Monday, October 29, 2012 9:56 AM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Joyce Soutar gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"I don't want to see the Manatees become extinct."

10355 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Joyce Swaim [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 28, 2012 12:02 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Joyce Swaim gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Our manatees are such gentle giants...a gift from God to our waters. Why do some humans always hold such disregard for simple & kind forms of life? SWFTMUD has too much political power & influence. Let the manatees live in their habitat."

8871 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees, and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** juan rodriguez [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 11:30 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

juan rodriguez gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"protect fauna"

7778 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Judi Stephens [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Friday, October 26, 2012 5:53 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Judi Stephens gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"They are gentle giants. To take away their water is to try to kill them. We have to learn to share the earth with the animals - not continue to take everything, without care. "

2139 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

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Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Judi Weiss [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 2:53 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Judi Weiss gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"These magnificent, slow moving creatures must be saved. Manatees are Florida."

4482 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

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The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Judith Be [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 3:45 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Judith Be gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"We love the manatees. They are wondrous beings in our world and their environment must be protected."

5166 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Judith Cannon [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 10:59 AM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Judith Cannon gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"If you reduce the natural existence of life on Earth, you reduce your own existence. Like gravity, it's the simplest law of the universe - even kids in a ghetto understand 'what goes around, comes around.'"

2824 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Judith Raymond [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 4:38 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Judith Raymond gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"I live 10 mins. away from Blue Spr. State Park, and the manatees are the park's "claim to fame." For a well used state park, I want manatees in the water! Judy"

5698 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Judith Schnee [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 3:11 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Judith Schnee gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"I want to preserve the manatees, and keep them from becoming an extinct species. Too many species of animal life have become extinct. Let's all save our manatees!"

4744 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Judith Warren [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 28, 2012 6:47 AM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Judith Warren gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"We Floridians need to work together to protect the wild life that share this land, this environment with us. "

8176 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Judy Albury [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 4:04 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Judy Albury gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Manatees are a Florida treasure. Please protect them."

5362 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Judy Foster [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 28, 2012 6:01 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Judy Foster gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"It Really seems like we need to protect our waterways and animals so we can preserve this way of life before it is all taken away.."

9469 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

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These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** judy goodson [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Monday, October 29, 2012 2:15 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

judy goodson gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"manatees r a part of fla. heritiage."

10769 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

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and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

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These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Judy Stimson [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 4:18 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Judy Stimson gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Manatees are part of our FL assets and support the tourist industry."

5509 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Judy Wallace [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Monday, October 29, 2012 1:13 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Judy Wallace gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"I was born here in 1940 and remain vigilant on our natural habitat and environment."

10685 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Julia Aires [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 3:11 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Julia Aires gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"I have taken my grandchildren there to see the Manatees and would like to continue!!"

4750 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

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Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** julie moss [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 3:26 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

julie moss gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"safe places for manatees is very important."

4928 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

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These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Julie Pisani [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 7:21 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Julie Pisani gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"People owe respect to nature, to manatees and all non people animals. We take so much, time to give back. Time to say thankyou to all the beauty & innocence people destroy everyday for selfish needs..."

6784 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

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These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Julie Scheurich [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Monday, October 29, 2012 10:36 AM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Julie Scheurich gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"It's their Florida too!"

10436 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Julie Shepherd [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 28, 2012 6:43 AM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Julie Shepherd gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"These beautiful creatures are a Florida treasure and indigenous to this area, we have a responsibility to care for them."

8171 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** June Dawson [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 1:57 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

June Dawson gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Loss of flow will cause problems for the ecosystems of which the Manatee are a very important part!"

3146 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

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The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** K. J. [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 5:04 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

K. J. gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"I have lived in FL my whole life and FL's unique wildlife is important to me and my family. We need to protect these beautiful treasures -now- "

5906 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

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Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Kandi Davis [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 28, 2012 6:06 AM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Kandi Davis gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"these animals are beautiful animals.They depend on those warmer waters in the winter.Our government has no right to change the way water flows.Leave well enough alone."

8152 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Kara Hammar [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 6:21 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Kara Hammar gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Manatees are Florida's unique "gentle giants", which need our natural Springs to thrive, even in a mild winter. Huge safety haven for these amazing creatures!"

6437 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Karen Boudrie [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 3:50 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Karen Boudrie gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Our Springs in Florida are our life blood"

5232 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Karen Burroughs [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 2:27 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Karen Burroughs gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Florida is no longer paradise for wildlife or residents. We MUST start protecting what abundance we were given or we will lose it all."

3998 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Karen Johnson [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 28, 2012 11:21 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Karen Johnson gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"I'm so sick of the conservative, anti environmental Florida government destroying everything in the name of greed."

9916 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** karen klimaszewski [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 28, 2012 11:45 AM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

karen klimaszewski gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"This animal is particular to the Florida waters"

8826 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

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These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** karen meeks [mailto:karen@change.org]  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 28, 2012 2:48 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

karen meeks gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"I live in Fla. on the bimini basin and watch manatees here."

9184 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

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These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Karen Stover [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Monday, October 29, 2012 1:05 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Karen Stover gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Endangered species protection is a priority!"

10677 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

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The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Karen Taragowski [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 1:56 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Karen Taragowski gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"All wildlife should be protected."

3119 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** KAREN TURNER [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Friday, October 26, 2012 8:19 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

KAREN TURNER gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"To many people are not even aware these cuties exist. Let's change that! I was born & raised in Fl. so it is very important to me."

2410 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Karin Mari [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 28, 2012 3:06 AM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Karin Mari gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"THEY HAVE ALREADY TAKEN PATHS FOR PANTHERS FOR THE FT. MYERS AIRPORT AND NOW THIS. TIRED OF DISTRUCTION FOR THE ANIMALS TO SURVIVE."

8077 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

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The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Karina Parmenter [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 3:10 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Karina Parmenter gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Who in their right mind would consider reducing the flow of springs? Haven't we learned anything from the Everglades? We need to leave what animal habitats we have alone."

4733 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** karl paniczny [mailto:karl@change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 7:37 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

karl paniczny gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Save the Manatees, at ALL costs!!"

6852 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Karla Garcia [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 4:03 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Karla Garcia gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"These animals are important to our ecosystems, without them it could have an impact on the habitat and also impact humans. But mainly because they deserve to be here just as much as humans."

5359 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

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FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

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These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Karleah Sidky [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 28, 2012 1:46 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Karleah Sidky gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"To save the manatees!!!!!"

9082 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

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Thank you.

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## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Karolina Quearry [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Monday, October 29, 2012 12:07 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Karolina Quearry gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"preservation should be important to everyone"

10593 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

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The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Katelyn Baxter [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 6:31 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Katelyn Baxter gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"These are endangered species ... our job is to protect these beautiful kind creatures. Please do not endanger them further by changing the environment in which they live. "

6493 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Katherine Booth [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 4:49 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Katherine Booth gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Manatees are my favorite of all aquatic mammals, and I have an adopted "daughter"/ manatee, named Ariel, in Homosassa Springs!"

5787 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Katherine Leech [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 28, 2012 8:24 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Katherine Leech gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"I conserve water and think if we all did more conservation water would not need to be taken from one area to another which is expensive and masks the real need to focus on living with the water we have in our own area."

9673 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

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Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Katherine mayers [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 28, 2012 12:47 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Katherine mayers gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Absolutely No Leave the Manatee Alone its bad enough when MORONS try to ride them Don't go after their habitat "

8975 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

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and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Katherine Vale [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 28, 2012 4:01 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Katherine Vale gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"To avoid further environmental degradation and reduction of species I feel we all have a moral and aesthetic imperative to preserve nature's gifts."

9299 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** kathie vogel [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Monday, October 29, 2012 12:30 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

kathie vogel gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Protect these gentle giants!"

10628 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Kathleen Bacheller [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 28, 2012 2:24 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Kathleen Bacheller gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"This iconic mammal has no one but us to speak for it. It needs these springs for its winter refuge. I love to walk the trails at Homosasa and see them, I've grown up with that and future generations deserve that too!"

9139 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosasa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Kathleen Eickwort [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 6:48 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Kathleen Eickwort gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Enough degradation of wildlife habitat has happened already.."

6596 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

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The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Kathleen Galgano [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 28, 2012 1:27 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Kathleen Galgano gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"The old growth cypress and many species that reside therein is a treasure not only to Florida, but to our nation. Please do not degrade this important ecosystem. This is important. Thank you."

9056 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

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Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Kathleen Johnson [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Monday, October 29, 2012 1:38 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Kathleen Johnson gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"We came from PA in 2001 and never saw a manatee. Now we just love watching them and hope they'll be here forever."

10721 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Kathleen Martin [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Monday, October 29, 2012 9:26 AM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Kathleen Martin gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"because wild life and nature are important to the balance, humans aren't"

10284 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Kathleen Myers [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Friday, October 26, 2012 7:01 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Kathleen Myers gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"I am a resident of Florida and believe that our wildlife should be protected, not endangered. "

2283 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Kathleen Spinks [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Monday, October 29, 2012 8:16 AM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Kathleen Spinks gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"We need to stop messing with nature and leave it alone. These are beautiful rivers which house the gentle, peaceful manatees other animals and of course fish."

10154 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Kathleen Wedzik [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 2:39 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Kathleen Wedzik gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"reduction in natural spring flow will cause loss of natural habitat in each of these fragile spring-fed fresh water coastal ecosystems."

4236 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Kathryn Berendes [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 28, 2012 4:45 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Kathryn Berendes gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Manatees are very special to our state. They have been endangered for some time. Now they will essentially be deprived of their habitat."

9364 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

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These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Kathryn D'Ambrosio [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 3:51 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Kathryn D'Ambrosio gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Grew up in Florida and the springs are the home to many amazing creatures and is one of Floridas natural beauties"

5245 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

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The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Kathryn Konigsberger [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 28, 2012 4:36 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Kathryn Konigsberger gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"History! Wild Life! Preservation of the original Florida is more important than some developers getting even richer. Oops I forgot my audience..."

9351 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Kathryn Onorata [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 28, 2012 11:29 AM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Kathryn Onorata gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"We need to protect what we have - before it's all gone."

8785 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Kathryn Roan [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 6:29 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Kathryn Roan gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"I've lived in Florida all my life and I love the manatees! Please save them!"

6479 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Kathy Gutierrez [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 6:33 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Kathy Gutierrez gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Saving any living entity is crucial for this world. We need more compassion toward life of any kind. Please, let us all do our job and save the manatees and all animals. We are their voice."

6503 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Kathy Jameson [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 4:36 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Kathy Jameson gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Manatees need to be protected in anyway we can. "

5680 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Kathy Manning [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Monday, October 29, 2012 9:28 AM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Kathy Manning gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Endangered Manatees need our protection!"

10294 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** kathy nichols [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 2:00 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

kathy nichols gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"i have lived in Florida for two years and i have not seen very many of them yet "

3259 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Kathy Sheerin [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 7:13 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Kathy Sheerin gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"I lived in Homosassa Springs and know its natural beauty and these magnificent mammals. It must be protected!"

6742 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

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The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Kathy Sherrod [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Friday, October 26, 2012 8:45 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Kathy Sherrod gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Our economy is dependent upon our tropical and subtropical ecology. We must be good stewards of the Garden we were entrusted with."

2440 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

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These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Kathy Skipper [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Friday, October 26, 2012 8:00 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Kathy Skipper gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"I think we should do all we can to preserve the natural waterways of Florida & it's habitat. Plus Endangered species such as the manatee depend on these waterways & endangered species should be protected"

2379 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Kathy Sutton [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 28, 2012 9:30 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Kathy Sutton gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"All wild animals are precious and we must preserve their habitats. We must also preserve our natural springs for ourselves and our offspring. We must save the beauty of nature and the wild places left in Florida as they are treasures for recreation and tourism."

9776 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees, and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Kathy Taggi [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Monday, October 29, 2012 11:54 AM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Kathy Taggi gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Numerous rare and endangered species of animals and plants require adequate levels of water; reduction in fresh water could eliminate these species/plants/animals."

10572 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Kathy Vaughn [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 28, 2012 8:02 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Kathy Vaughn gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"As a kayaker, I cherish FL waterways and am dismayed at their decline over the last decade. Please work to preserve these ecosystems for all!!!"

9639 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

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and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Katie Williams [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 3:45 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Katie Williams gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"I kind of wish the photo to the petition didn't show someone breaking manatee harassment laws, but photo aside, this petition should be important to every Floridian. It's our duty to protect these gentle giants, especially in a time when the current governing powers in Florida are thwarting environmental efforts left and right. "

5169 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

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FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees, and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Kay Frysinger [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 8:43 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Kay Frysinger gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"This is important to me because it is not up to the water management board to make life and death sentences for manatees, the manatees are very affected by temperature differences and they need the protection of the warmer waters in the winter. "

7182 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees, and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Kaylynn Niggle [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 2:53 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Kaylynn Niggle gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"These are the nicest creatures--  
nothing bad should happen to them."

4487 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

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Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Keith Flotte [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 3:17 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Keith Flotte gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"One of the most docile creatures you'll ever see and/or meet sometime!"

4818 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

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Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Keith Hayden [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 28, 2012 12:28 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Keith Hayden gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"We need to protect our endangered species anyway we can, for future generations to enjoy."

8933 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Keith Larson [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 28, 2012 12:35 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Keith Larson gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"I live and fish here and enjoy the wildlife. Instead of pumping more water out, start restricting subdivisions and require new residents to acquire more land, like all 10 acre parcels and that would start helping our water situation. Also quit pumping to other counties. If a county can not provide enough water for a new resident, than they can't sell another building permit until they figure another way, like desal plants."

8952 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees, and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** kelly dean [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 4:36 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

kelly dean gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"I Love going out on the river's and seeing the manate's and swimming with them."

5679 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Kelly Fogarty [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 5:26 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Kelly Fogarty gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"These areas and endangered species need to be protected and maintained for our future generations. "

6089 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Kelly Greene [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 28, 2012 6:01 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Kelly Greene gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Manatees are nearly extinct. I don't want to see this beautiful mammal disappear from the face of the earth. They should be protected for future generations."

9468 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Kelly Smith [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Monday, October 29, 2012 10:21 AM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Kelly Smith gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"I grew up playing in those springs as well as enjoying the wildlife along the runs and rivers associated with them."

10407 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Ken Coviello [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Monday, October 29, 2012 10:53 AM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Ken Coviello gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"we need to protect these beautiful gentle creatures and keep their rivers clear and safe. Dont reduce the flow."

10463 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** ken Howell [mailto:ken@change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 7:22 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

ken Howell gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Florida manatee populations need all the help they can get"

6793 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

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These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Ken Stewart [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 28, 2012 11:46 AM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Ken Stewart gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"I am a diver and have dived these springs for many years and have watched there decline, it's time to do something to restore them not harm them."

8830 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

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Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Kenneth Jaquith [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 28, 2012 9:07 AM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Kenneth Jaquith gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Swflwmd has shown that its "studies" and "best available data and assumptions" have not stood the test of time. Just look at the sad state of the Everglades flow, St. Lucie and Caloosahatchee rivers with the blooms and salt water intrusion. Yes, we have a water flow problem due to the population explosion of our great state. I fear that it is only a matter of time before the state is tapped of the things that make it Florida. What will be left? Beaches and Condominiums? Start by getting rid of the sugarcane fields! "

8403 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees, and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Kenneth Penrose [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 28, 2012 5:25 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Kenneth Penrose gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"The waters are already low enough to cause problems for boating and recreation. Salt water already comes up the Chassahowitzka River almost to the springs at high tide. Don't tamper with the natural flow."

9417 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Kerri Hite [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 3:44 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Kerri Hite gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"they are part of the history and culture of the great areas that they live in."

5157 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

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and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** kevin hurley [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 28, 2012 7:35 AM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

kevin hurley gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"I live in their habitat. They love in mine."

8222 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Kim A [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 28, 2012 10:11 AM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Kim A gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Have we not made enough species extinct by hunting and taking away their environment. The human race and the bodies that govern are the ones to blame. YOU can make a difference. NO REDUCTION IN FLOW TO THE HOMOSASSA AND CHASSAHOWITZKA RIVERS....."

8585 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Kim Berryhill [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 28, 2012 8:53 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Kim Berryhill gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"They play in our marina everyday , they are beautiful!"

9715 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

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Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Kim Carless [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 2:20 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Kim Carless gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Why is it so important to stem the flow?"

3852 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

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The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Kim Savino [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Friday, October 26, 2012 9:38 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Kim Savino gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"I'm a water loving Floridian and I have never seen a Manatee in the wild! They are scarce enough.. lets not put them at more of a risk! "

2525 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Kim Schulz [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 28, 2012 10:22 AM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Kim Schulz gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"We have polluted the Gulf of Mexico beyond belief. There has to be a push to allow her to heal. I say, "NO to reductions in flow!"

8614 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Kim Simmonds [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 28, 2012 4:21 AM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Kim Simmonds gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Manatees are MAJESTIC, AWESOME creatures!"

8106 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Kimberly Bigler [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Monday, October 29, 2012 3:11 AM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Kimberly Bigler gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Spend alot of time on these rivers...the Manatees have had enough!"

10024 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Kimberly Jarvis [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 5:12 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Kimberly Jarvis gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"I am a resident of Florida & it is extremely important to me that we do everything in our power to protect the natural environment of our state and the wildlife that depends on it. Reducing the flow of water into the springs would further endanger the manatee, a federally protected species. We need to do more, not less, to protect our rivers, streams and springs as well as the wildlife that depends on them. "

5985 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees, and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** kirk miller [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 2:16 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

kirk miller gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"we need to protect the manatees."

3762 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Kris Kelley [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Friday, October 26, 2012 8:29 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Kris Kelley gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"We need to protect these areas for the next generation and for the wildlife"

2421 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Kris Lee [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 8:06 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Kris Lee gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Manatees need refuge "

6980 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

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The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Kristen Cavallini-Soothill [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 28, 2012 11:22 AM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Kristen Cavallini-Soothill gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Balance of Nature is teetering, and these beautiful animals need somewhere to live. And...We are ALL God's creatures which certain profiteering individuals seem to forget some of whom also PREACH a good line! Greed must GO."

8775 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

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These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Kyle Pazian [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 2:48 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Kyle Pazian gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Because I care about marine life."

4404 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** L J [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 8:10 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

L J gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Please you have a moral and ethical responsibility to do the right thing.  
Stop the insanity"

7010 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Larry Goodman [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 8:16 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Larry Goodman gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"The endangered manatee has enough stressors already. Please do not allow reduction of flow in these rivers that are home to the manatees during a critical part of the year. Thanks, Larry"

7042 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

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and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Larry Hartman [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 11:17 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Larry Hartman gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"I live in Citrus County the manatees are an important part of our water ways."

7744 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

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These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** lashands grady [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Monday, October 29, 2012 12:03 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

lashands grady gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Maintaining a healthy natural resource is vital to all of our future. And it is important that we protect the wildlife that helps to maintain the proper balance in nature."

10589 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

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These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Lassie Lee [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 28, 2012 10:50 AM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Lassie Lee gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Florida requires water - pure, clean water - for life. Too many people and too many "business" demands are killing this state. We have to stop the downward trend now to have a liveable future."

8682 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

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These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** laura abrisch [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 28, 2012 9:53 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

laura abrisch gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"I love all animals and i am sick of hearing all the abuse, neglect and killings so i will do what it takes to save what animals we do have left in this now pathetic world."

9808 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

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The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Laura Barbot [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 28, 2012 2:20 AM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Laura Barbot gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"I'm unsure as to why this stance is necessary in the first place. Then, when one considers the estimated 15% loss of indigenous species, I then find this to be an unacceptable situation. Are we simply going to annihilate anything and everything, one by one, until there is nothing left?"

8049 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

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Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

---

**From:** Laura Bork [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 1:03 AM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Laura Bork gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"I have lived in Miami my whole life and am thankful that the "sea cows" are rebounding...this is a great tribute to protection laws...Thanks to everyone involved in the protection of this gentle creature..."

2660 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

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The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

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Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Laura McDonald [mailto:[mail@change.org](mailto:mail@change.org)]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 2:42 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Laura McDonald gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"How many species must we lose forever before mankind realizes his time here on earth is up as a result?"

4291 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Laura Schneider [mailto:[mail@change.org](mailto:mail@change.org)]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 8:12 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Laura Schneider gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"I love all wildlife and this species deserves to be saved."

7017 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

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The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Lauren Leitkowski [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Friday, October 26, 2012 7:03 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Lauren Leitkowski gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Every time man tried to manipulate nature, it backfires. Changing the flow of a river or its natural course will only do harm. I am familiar with these springs and rivers which are incredible, beautiful places which must NOT be tampered with. Haven't we done enough damage to our planet?!"

2286 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees, and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Laurie Humphrey [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Monday, October 29, 2012 9:49 AM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Laurie Humphrey gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Because they are an incredible critter and have a right to live as any living creature. They need that water during the winter months to survive.

Its not all about humans even though many people think it is.

"

10342 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees, and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Laurie Venable [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 2:10 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Laurie Venable gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"I believe the Manatee should be protected from the SWFWMD. They have no right to endanger the Manatee's habitat. We must protect our wildlife for future generations."

3572 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life-saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Laverne Garrett [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 28, 2012 5:29 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Laverne Garrett gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"We own property on the Chassahowitzka River our future home. We are concern about the damage to the river."

9425 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

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The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Lawrence Feldhusen [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 28, 2012 1:05 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Lawrence Feldhusen gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Our Outstanding Florida Waters are already degraded. No additional reduction in flow or habitat is acceptable. The goal should be to INCREASE flow to these waters."

9016 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

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The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Leah Bailey [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 4:26 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Leah Bailey gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"All life is important! These manatees deserve their natural habitat without human interference!"

5594 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

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Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Leata Rich [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 7:36 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Leata Rich gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"They were here first."

6843 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Lee Breyer [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 2:18 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Lee Breyer gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"The Manatee is a national symbol of Florida, the name of my county, as well as the name of the river on whose bank we built Mercy-on-the-Manatee. Tourists, including family and friends from Chicago love to come to Florida to see the manatees. We don't need to endanger them any more than they already are by human actions."

3796 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees, and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** leif dereng [mailto:leif@change.org]  
**Sent:** Monday, October 29, 2012 1:57 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

leif dereng gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"NO TO FLOW REDUCTION!!!!!!!!!!!!!! We have to add to the endangered species list: spring fed rivers!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

t  
only is the Manatee endangered, but the Rivers are indangered

"

10736 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

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Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if

possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees, and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Leila Kayser [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Monday, October 29, 2012 11:51 AM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Leila Kayser gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"they need our protection and can't protect themselves!"

10567 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Leilani Zidan [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 2:15 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Leilani Zidan gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"We love our gentle manatees in Florida!"

3726 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

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FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Leisha Eastergard [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Monday, October 29, 2012 11:03 AM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Leisha Eastergard gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Manatees are wonderful creatures that are deserving of our respect and protection."

10482 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

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The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Leitha Bowles [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 12:09 AM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Leitha Bowles gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"These are spring fed coastal rivers, which need to be protected from further salt water encroachment, they are habitat to fresh water species and the cold provides live- saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

"

2634 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

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The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Leo Souto [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 8:09 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Leo Souto gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"We must care for our manatees !"

7005 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Lesia Schulha-Bobrek [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 28, 2012 11:27 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Lesia Schulha-Bobrek gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Any further reduction of such a necessary habitat is short sighted. "

9924 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** leslie a. barth [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 2:11 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

leslie a. barth gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"My husband & I purchased our first home on a canal in Riverhaven 28 years ago. The water in in the canals was clean & clear as it was in the River. We have witnessed first hand the destruction of our River and canals. We now spend hours cleaning barnacles of our boat which we never did at all for the first 25 years! The clean water act was passed 40 years ago and yet you have trashed the Homosassa & Chassahowitzka since this was passed. Shame on you!"

3596 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees, and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Leslie Halstedt [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Monday, October 29, 2012 8:33 AM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Leslie Halstedt gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"I love all animals and the Springs"

10184 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** leslie white [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 28, 2012 11:18 AM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

leslie white gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"the gov't needs to allow nature to balance the water!"

8762 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Letitia Wszolek [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 28, 2012 3:36 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Letitia Wszolek gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"I live in the areas where manatees swim in our canals leading to the sea and can see indifference by some of boaters. Frustrating...."

9251 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

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FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Libby Glass [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 4:31 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Libby Glass gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"I've had the pleasure to swim with them in nature, unexpected, untainted... why should they be put at risk??"

5635 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

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The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Linda Bailey [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 28, 2012 12:14 AM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Linda Bailey gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"To save the manatees"

7888 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

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The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Linda Bystrak [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 28, 2012 2:30 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Linda Bystrak gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"I frequently paddle in this area and enjoy the wildlife, which is already stressed by too much water pollution. Less water means less likely to meet TMDL goals."

9146 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

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and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

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These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Linda Caruso [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Monday, October 29, 2012 9:38 AM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Linda Caruso gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"I have loved animals since I was a little girl and I will do all I can to help them"

10318 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Linda Cohan [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Monday, October 29, 2012 12:41 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Linda Cohan gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"The springs and waters and the wildlife they support are an important part of Florida. The beauty of our Outstanding Waterways attract visitors and add to the reasons for living in Florida."

10644 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Linda Culhane [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 2:12 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Linda Culhane gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"This is important because the natural resources of FL should be protected. Once we lose them they are gone, not to be recovered. "

3635 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** linda doss [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 8:11 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

linda doss gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"the manatees need to be protected"

7013 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Linda Farin [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Friday, October 26, 2012 7:32 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Linda Farin gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"The manatees are national treasures, so peaceful."

2341 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Linda Firestone [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 28, 2012 8:26 AM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Linda Firestone gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"The manatees and the Everglades are part of the natural beauty and wonder of Florida. They both need to be nurtured."

8309 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Linda Frease [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 5:15 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Linda Frease gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Perhaps we should limit water flow to superfluous golf courses and lawns so the natural habitats may be preserved"

6002 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Linda Golden [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 28, 2012 8:35 AM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Linda Golden gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"We are losing too much of our natural habitats."

8330 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Linda Heck [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 6:42 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Linda Heck gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Shouldn't we be doing all we can to protect our wild life."

6561 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Linda Kyvik [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 7:13 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Linda Kyvik gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Enough is enough! This short term governor cares NOTHING about Florida or its residents, merely lining his pockets for his wealthy retirement."

6738 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Linda Liptak [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 6:11 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Linda Liptak gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"I love manatees They are amazing gentle creatures and deserve our help"

6380 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Linda Putzel [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 8:07 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Linda Putzel gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"I am a Floridian and these beautiful, gentle creatures are endangered as it is from boating, loss of habitat, fishing, and other human hazards. We need not further compromise these animals by challenging and perhaps destroying the ecosystem that sustains them."

6988 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees, and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Linda Ritchie [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 2:28 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Linda Ritchie gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"I love manatees!"

4025 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Linda Robinson [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 28, 2012 9:29 AM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Linda Robinson gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"I love these animals. They are so awesome."

8462 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Linda Sanford [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 3:25 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Linda Sanford gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"i love manatees and our wild life, and want to keep them safe for our future. "

4913 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Linda Sobel [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 12:07 AM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Linda Sobel gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"They are beautiful creatures and deserve to be protected. Please Help!"

2630 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

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These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** LINDA STAPLETON [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 28, 2012 10:37 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

LINDA STAPLETON gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"I live here, and am tired of seeing the natural beauty of our state's flora and fauna being destroyed for no good reason. Usually it's from big business and to preserve wealthy residents lakefront property, but this degradation serves no purpose at all (unless it's one we haven't learned yet)."

9869 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

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FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees, and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Linda Sue Fowler Lloyd [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 28, 2012 1:19 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Linda Sue Fowler Lloyd gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Will Someone please tell me why mankind has to go in and change things that God created ? And why we will not be happy until we wipe out every living creature on the face of the earth? Leave the flow alone and help protect what is left of a already fading population!"

9043 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees, and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Linda Teeter [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 7:03 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Linda Teeter gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Our springs are a very important natural resource-no excessive withdrawals of more water or reduced flow. These can never recover if destroyed by humans."

6680 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Linda Terrell [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 2:04 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Linda Terrell gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Struggling in an ever hostile environment these wonderful creatures deserve our support and attention. Boaters continue to cruise full throttle in manatee zones so often injuring them don't force them out of Chassahowitzka-Homosassa. These are important issues to myself an my family and do affect my voting patterns."

3390 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees, and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Linda Whalen [mailto:[mail@change.org](mailto:mail@change.org)]  
**Sent:** Monday, October 29, 2012 1:17 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Linda Whalen gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Born and raised in MANATEE county Florida. The Manatee is dear to my heart."

10691 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

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and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Lindsay Carson [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Friday, October 26, 2012 5:45 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Lindsay Carson gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"We should protect animals, but that aside...Beautiful places and animals in Florida nature offer priceless memories for families, appreciation for nature and tourism. "

2124 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Lindsay Peeples [mailto:[mail@change.org](mailto:mail@change.org)]  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 28, 2012 10:37 AM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Lindsay Peeples gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Because I care."

8643 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

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The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Lisa Crosson [mailto:[change.org](mailto:change.org)]  
**Sent:** Monday, October 29, 2012 9:16 AM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Lisa Crosson gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Protect endangered species"

10258 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

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Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** LISA HILL [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 28, 2012 8:30 AM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

LISA HILL gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Without our unique wildlife Florida would be just any other urban sprawl anywhere in the world! Please keep this place special."

8315 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

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The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Lisa Hoffman [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 10:10 AM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Lisa Hoffman gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"As Floridians, we should be protecting our wildlife especially endangered."

2792 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Lisa Jasay [mailto:[mail@change.org](mailto:mail@change.org)]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 3:59 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Lisa Jasay gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Please protect what makes Florida such a unique and beautiful place. "

5318 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Lisa King [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Friday, October 26, 2012 9:11 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Lisa King gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Manatees are one of the Florida icons..we have to help them"

2486 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Lisa Mazzola [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 5:48 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Lisa Mazzola gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"I love Manatee, wildlife, all animals and nature. We must protect and preserve their environment."

6244 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** lisa sullivan [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 12:52 AM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

lisa sullivan gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"I live in florida and it wouldnt be florida without our wildlife!!"

2656 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** lisa tweedell [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 5:23 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

lisa tweedell gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Its very important NOT TO MESS with" mother nature""

6062 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** lisa watson [mailto:[lisa@change.org](mailto:lisa@change.org)]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 11:54 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

lisa watson gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Degradation of our Florida Waters should be a concern and outrage to all. I'd like to protect our echo system as well as the animals who live in our waterways or utilize our springs. The bottom line is that it is just "the right thing to do!"

7851 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees, and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** lisa williams [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 28, 2012 12:45 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

lisa williams gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"i live in fl and love the gentle manatees."

8970 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** lizabeth johnson [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 28, 2012 10:25 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

lizabeth johnson gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"I love animals and they need us to help protect them!!"

9853 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Lizbeth Besok [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 28, 2012 6:43 AM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Lizbeth Besok gave the following reason for signing this petition:

" Would like to help preserve the manatees for future generations to also enjoy."

8170 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Lizzy Stein [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 3:19 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Lizzy Stein gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Everything "

4841 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Lois Gillette [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 28, 2012 11:29 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Lois Gillette gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Manatees are docile and defenseless. They can't protect themselves, we must protect these wonderful beings. "

9926 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** lois kyes [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 4:05 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

lois kyes gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Leave the flow to the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka rivers alone."

5379 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Lois Wright [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Friday, October 26, 2012 5:51 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Lois Wright gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"We need to protect the manatees."

2137 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** loraine gomez [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 3:14 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

loraine gomez gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"I care about animals. We need to stop playing with this creatures life. "

4783 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

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These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Loretta E. Beacon [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 28, 2012 3:48 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Loretta E. Beacon gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"To cherish what remains of the Earth & to foster its renewal is our only legitimate hope of survival. NO REDUCTIONS IN FLOW!"

9276 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

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These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Lori Hannah [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 6:09 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Lori Hannah gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"The manatee is a beautiful, gentle, and rare creature that needs to be protected."

6368 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

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FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Lorna Hopwood [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 28, 2012 10:08 AM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Lorna Hopwood gave the following reason for signing this petition:

" We frequently visit FL and appreciate the natural areas and diverse wildlife."

8579 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Lorraine Panagos [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 8:51 AM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Lorraine Panagos gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"I love all animals and Manatees are wonderful, unique and peaceful!!"

2755 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Louis Clayton [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 28, 2012 5:07 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Louis Clayton gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"The Manatees been here before us and lets not screw up the spring waters because of stupidity.I would like my grandchildren enjoy what we have."

9395 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

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Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

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and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

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These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Louise Colegrove [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Friday, October 26, 2012 6:23 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Louise Colegrove gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"I think it goes without saying. SAVE THE MANATEES."

2209 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Louise Collins [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Friday, October 26, 2012 11:51 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Louise Collins gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"WE are over running all of natural habitats leading to endangered species and it has got to stop!"

2619 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Louise Plessala [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 12:03 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Louise Plessala gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"For GOD'S sake Governor and Board!!! What are ya'll trying to do to these ENDANGERED Manatees??? I guess NONE of you CARE about FUTURE generations because if you DO cut back the FLOW of these two fresh water rivers, you WILL WRECKEN with MOTHER NATURE!!! DON'T MESS WITH HER!!! Let these LIVE!!!"

2856 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Lourdes Bulnes [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 28, 2012 8:53 AM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Lourdes Bulnes gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Because we are responsible for those gentle creatures and they have their homes there. Why take away their livelihood if they do not harm anyone."

8374 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

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Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** luana Miller [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 28, 2012 7:22 AM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

luana Miller gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"we can't keep destroying natural habitats.."

8206 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

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Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Lucia McTague [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 4:39 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Lucia McTague gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"the homosassa and the Chassahowitzka provide refuge for our population of manatees by thir presence they keep our eco systems clear. i have brought my children here many times and its a great lesson just watching how nurturing they are . You don't find many other places where this is so apparent. My children are grown and take their own kids to this wonderful place"

5708 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosasa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees, and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Lucia Ross [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 2:04 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Lucia Ross gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"If not for the intrinsic value of the animals themselves -- which in my mind is paramount -- Florida is a tourist economy. If you don't protect the very things that draw tourists to a particular area, you will lose money. Hopefully, I've put my argument in terms that politicians understand -- economic."

3394 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees, and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Luis Otero [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 8:58 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Luis Otero gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Wildlife conservation and natural resources preservation go hand in hand in the total scheme of things. We, as human are the most important link, and I feel responsible to do my part in this collective effort. "

7246 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** luisa ramirez [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 28, 2012 6:34 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

luisa ramirez gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"nature"

9500 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

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and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Lynanne Lawhead [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Monday, October 29, 2012 11:12 AM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Lynanne Lawhead gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"SWFWM and our state government over the years has already proven mismanagement of our wetland habitats as well as our fishing grounds through over-development or re-routing change of water flow which has caused major damage to the indigenous land/resources. Seems they would have recognized they are part of the problem however, when profit is higher to protection and true management of the land and its resources - money has won so far and our state becomes mired in toxicity/waste/loss of habitat-resources for all levels. "

10503 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees, and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Lynda Alfson [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 6:48 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Lynda Alfson gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"This is what keeps happening in our state. The animals that depend on humans to care enough to protect them find themselves out of luck, as well as water. Stop letting politics dictate your every move, Governor, and try to find in your heart, if you even have one, the correct actions to be taken for our marine life which is what FL is all about. Do this to help this state, not something to destroy this state, as you have ever since you came into office. "

6593 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees, and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Lynette Van Baber [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 10:47 AM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Lynette Van Baber gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Man needs to quit destroying the earth and wildlife, especially when it is due to greed (as most things are either directly or indirectly.)"

2818 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

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These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Lynn Cantrell [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Monday, October 29, 2012 9:30 AM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Lynn Cantrell gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"They are endangered already!

"

10297 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

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These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Lynn Glorieux [mailto:[mail@change.org](mailto:mail@change.org)]  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 28, 2012 5:13 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Lynn Glorieux gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"My favorite vacation activity is paddling on Florida's beautiful rivers, and I don't want them to suffer from reduced flow from the springs that feed them."

9401 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Lynn LaMar [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 9:42 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Lynn LaMar gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"All natural resources MUST be protected for our future...and our children's future..."

7433 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

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and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

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These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Lynn Polke [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Monday, October 29, 2012 7:52 AM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Lynn Polke gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Nature nurtures and supports us all. "

10120 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

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The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

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The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Lynn Reeser [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 3:36 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Lynn Reeser gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"The Planet is in peril! With the current rate of pollution, environmental scientists say we only have until 2017! WHEN then, would be your idea of when to start paying attention? And Nestles must be stopped sucking the aquifers dry!"

5059 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

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These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Lysebeth Herry [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Monday, October 29, 2012 6:40 AM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Lysebeth Herry gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Yes for animal's to planète"

10070 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

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These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** M. Gregory [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 28, 2012 8:51 AM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

M. Gregory gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"FL must do everything in its power to preserve manatees!"

8370 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

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These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Madeline Gutierrez [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 5:29 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Madeline Gutierrez gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"here are only plus or minus about 5,000 West Indian Manatees.

The springs covered in this petition – the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs - are very important to the species survival.

Two reasons for example are:

One reason is because when water temperatures drop to unusually harsh for standard Florida winter months, manatees must seek warmer waterways to stay alive.

Manatees, though large, are not well protected by a blubber layer unlike many sea mammals. Manatees can't take waters colder than 68 degrees F. for more than a few hours. They are warm blooded animals and will freeze to death or become mortally ill from the cold just like a human being would. The Homosassa and Chassahowitzka springs are some of the few warm water areas instinctually used by the Manatees during these times.

The second issue is that these waterways are what are keeping the manatee populations at their current levels.

For animals to survive scientists and naturalists have discovered that any species needs a certain amount of their unique supporting habitats where they can live in to survive. This is called their "support level." Human beings are very adaptable and can mold areas to support them with electricity, heaters, and foods trucked in to them, etc. Manatees don't. Without spring systems the manatees will lose a drastic amount of sheltering and feeding places.

Please see this article specifically mentioning "the spring at Ellie Schiller Homosassa Springs Wildlife State Park" as being influential in attempts to stop Manatee deaths during unusually cold weather:  
<http://bit.ly/OrlSentManateesWarm>

How important is this to the manatee's population and survival?

The answer can be found in another quote from a well researched and well respected news source: "A record-topping 767 manatees died in 2010, with cold stress accounting for as many as 500 deaths, say figures released Wednesday by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Research Institute in St. Petersburg."  
<http://bit.ly/TampaBay767DeadManatee> . That means at least a 10th of the Indian Manatee population, possibly almost twice that much.

Is saving the manatees important?

If you are not concerned about the extinction of a large warm blooded species that only lives primarily in one of our states – Florida - out of all the world, you may perhaps be concerned about the welfare of humans that live

in Florida.

## Manatee Ecotourism

Do manatees really matter all that much?

“Manatees are also worth a fortune. Though there are no exact numbers on how much revenue manatee ecotourism generates for the State of Florida, in 2008 the Sierra Club reported that wildlife viewing generated more than \$3.1 billion in total economic impact for the state. With manatees being a major draw, some significant portion of that is, undoubtedly, going to counties that market their winter habitat for manatees.” This was reported in a Living Green Magazine July, 2012, article. <http://bit.ly/Y8aj31>

These springs are significantly located right alongside the same coast where so many livelihoods were destroyed by the BP oil spill. BP acknowledges they made a mistake in maintaining their oil drilling.

Mistakes like the BP oil spill happen and can that cause irreparable damage.

Please do not allow the mistake of these springs, which have already been Federally designated as "Florida Outstanding Waterways, to be decided by as small and self focused a group as the “Governing Board of the South West Florida Water Management District” (SWFWMD). These waterways and many of the animals that live there, such as the Indian Manatee, are unique and once gone – irreplaceable.

An excellent review has been conducted by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS, Service, or USFWS) staff from the Jacksonville and Caribbean Ecological Services offices and answers many questions about Florida manatees.

It can be found at: <http://1.usa.gov/S4bLzt>

I hope my writing gives you some of the information needed to understand why concerned citizens should respond to the SWFWMD's Governing Board and tell the Governor of Florida: “NO reduction in flow to the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka River.”

That can be done on this petition at:

<http://chn.ge/XBfV6H>

or tweeting Florida Governor Rick Scott at:

<https://twitter.com/FLGovScott> or @FLGovScott

"

6114 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

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Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Mahlerie Smith [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 4:43 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Mahlerie Smith gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Because the manatees are so important and are in need of this water flow."

5745 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

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Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Marc Norris [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 3:34 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Marc Norris gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"We need to save the Manatees for future generations"

5023 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Marc Urban [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Monday, October 29, 2012 9:39 AM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Marc Urban gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Governor Scott is a corporate puppet. Ask him about sinkhole coverage and being in the back pocket of insurers. He's should be ashamed of himself."

10319 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Marcia Biggs [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Friday, October 26, 2012 5:20 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Marcia Biggs gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"For the manatees"

2023 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Marcia Burch [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 28, 2012 5:38 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Marcia Burch gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"The manatees are protected and so should the springs they winter in."

9437 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Marcia Warner [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 5:30 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Marcia Warner gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"As a former resident of Florida my family and I enjoyed seeing the wildlife and boating on the river. Manatees are such a gental and very special animal that I feel strongly about there not being any reduction in flow!"

6120 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosasa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Marcy Bernstein [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 8:23 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Marcy Bernstein gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Just leave the water levels alone.  
Everytime you all screw with the water levels it messes it up."

7064 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

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These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** MARGARET ANDERSON [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 28, 2012 7:03 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

MARGARET ANDERSON gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"There are some things money can't buy!"

9544 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

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These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Margaret Keeler [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 7:03 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Margaret Keeler gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"I love the Manatees!!!"

6683 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

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The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** margaret nelson [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 8:21 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

margaret nelson gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"The wildlife are in constant peril trying to survive in their habitats. Floridas residents need to stand up as their voice to protect and preserve this natural species."

7058 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Margaret Woodruff [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 28, 2012 8:16 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Margaret Woodruff gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"I am tired of the government ruining my beautiful state "

9658 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Margarita Ruiz [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 5:13 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Margarita Ruiz gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"I love animals and I hope this cruelty stops"

5989 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** margo williams [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Friday, October 26, 2012 7:28 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

margo williams gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"As a college student I visited these springs to enjoy the manatees. I have told my children of the great memories I built there. Please do not cut the flow and endanger the safety and health of these beautiful animals. I want my children to have the opportunity to have the same wonderful experience. "

2330 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees, and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Maria Fionda [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 3:44 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Maria Fionda gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"What would we be without nature. We need it. "

5160 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Maria Gavidia [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 2:23 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Maria Gavidia gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"These are endangered species and unique to Florida. There is no monetary value on the importance of these animals. They are living beings and that is all that should matter. Not how much money will I have because of them."

3927 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees, and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Maria I. Arisso [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 28, 2012 11:50 AM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Maria I. Arisso gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"We need to maintain our eco system."

8837 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

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These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Maria Oliveira [mailto:[mail@change.org](mailto:mail@change.org)]  
**Sent:** Monday, October 29, 2012 10:15 AM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Maria Oliveira gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Manatees are gentle and beautiful creatures and we are pushing them to extinction."

10399 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Maria Savin [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 4:23 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Maria Savin gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"This is important to me because manatees are awesome!"

5555 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** maria uranga [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 28, 2012 3:38 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

maria uranga gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Part of the beauty of Florida is its natural beauty.... Manatees are part of that beauty... They are gentle  
FLORIDA SPOKE ANIMALS!"

9255 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Marian Davis [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 7:30 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Marian Davis gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"So few manatees are left and it is up to us to preserve our wildlife.

"

6822 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Marian Wood [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 28, 2012 8:54 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Marian Wood gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"I love our rivers and appreciate the pristine beauty that is not found in any other area. We need to protect our beautiful area. "

9716 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

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Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Marianne Barto [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 4:59 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Marianne Barto gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"These gentle giants need these springs to survive."

5864 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Marie Neller [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 5:12 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Marie Neller gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Marie Neller"

5980 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Marie Trone [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 8:26 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Marie Trone gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"I canoe on Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs regularly. My dogs enjoy swimming there as well. One of my all-time photographs is of a manatee in Chassahowitzka. We cannot afford to reduce the flow of this spring, as it is already incredibly low. We need to conserve this water for the future of not only the wildlife, by our children and grandchildren. Please do not let corporations, large scale ranchers, etc pressure you into giving them a larger allotment of water for the sake of "jobs". That is pure lip-service. Orlando has been listed in the top 10 cities for having demand exceed supply for fresh water by Wall Street. What businesses are going to come to Orlando knowing that the business and its workers have a water shortage???? Please think this through. I have facts, and I can give them to you. I teach Environmental Science at Valencia College in Kissimmee."

7079 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

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that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees, and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

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The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Marilyn Fuller [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 3:27 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Marilyn Fuller gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"I have visited the Manatees at the Springs in question. They need help and fresh water is the least we can assure them."

4941 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

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These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Marilyn McGriff [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 28, 2012 6:55 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Marilyn McGriff gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"I live on a river where I see manatees often. They have no enemies but man. Ruining our rivers by decreasing is flow from the springs does no one any good except put a few dollars in some companies pocket. It's not worth it."

9535 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees, and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Marina Fitoria [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 2:03 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Marina Fitoria gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"The Bible and the Judaic-Christian tradition teach and command us to treat animals with kindness and respect. The massive abuse and suffering legally inflicted on billions of animals every year is a clear violation of the teachings of our religious faith and cannot be justified by any person of faith and decency. The people for whom the Bible was written thousands of years ago were intimately familiar with wildlife and domestic animals, especially the practice of raising cattle and other animals. The Bible contains strict rules governing the treatment of farmed animals, and indeed all of God's creatures, which were designed to prevent any unnecessary pain and suffering. Modern day animal agriculture violates core Christian values. It wipes out entire populations and species of wildlife, confines huge numbers of animals in miserable conditions on factory farms, damages the environment, squanders scarce resources, and harms the health of people.

The Ten Commandments:

Do Not Overwork

Animals

T

he Mosaic Law in the Hebrew Scriptures forbids overworking animals and requires that people help stray and lost creatures. Many injunctions are clearly written for the sake of the creatures and not the owners.

The Law requires that

one help animals who  
belong to enemies to  
whom one owes no obligation, as well as those  
of friends. One may  
not "pass by" an  
animal in distress: "If you  
meet your  
enemy's ox or  
his ass going  
astray, you shall  
bring it back to him."  
"

3376 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** marina Sharts [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Friday, October 26, 2012 5:51 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

marina Sharts gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"i visited Homosassa Spings some years ago and loved seeing the manatees up close"

2136 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Mario Cres [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 6:04 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Mario Cres gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Animal have no voice. Who represents them? Someone should defend their right to live."

6329 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** mario Morales [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 6:38 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

mario Morales gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"This creatures are part of an ecosystem."

6532 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Marion Walker [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 3:45 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Marion Walker gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Manatees are important to me!!!"

5167 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

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The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Marisol Groshaeny [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 2:54 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Marisol Groshaeny gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"We need to preserve and protect these wonderful creatures."

4496 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

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The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Marissa Bill [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 2:21 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Marissa Bill gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"These gentle giants need our protection!"

3893 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

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These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Maritza Villegas Collins [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 2:51 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Maritza Villegas Collins gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Respect the Manatees' Home "

4441 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Mark Cookman [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Monday, October 29, 2012 1:14 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Mark Cookman gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Isn't deciding that it is OK that 15% of an ENDANGERED SPECIES DIE by your actions the same thing as KILLING THEM? Isn't this against the LAW? Why aren't every one of these people, including Governor Scott, worried that come OCT 30, the police will arrest them for committing a crime? "

10686 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees, and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** MARK ELLIOTT [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 3:06 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

MARK ELLIOTT gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Florida's treasured springs and manatees must be protected. It is far easier to protect and restore them today. It may be too late if we surrender them to temporary desires of those only concerned with temporary priorities. Our legacy and responsibility for the future of our state's treasures is more important. Please protect Florida's unique treasures for all current and future Floridians."

4677 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees, and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Mark England [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 3:33 AM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Mark England gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"It is just wrong."

2692 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

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and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

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These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Mark Kafka [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Friday, October 26, 2012 9:10 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Mark Kafka gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Manatees are among the gentlest creatures on earth and we -- as the supposed superior species -- should do everything we can to ensure their safety and survival."

2482 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Mark Retting [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Monday, October 29, 2012 2:30 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Mark Retting gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"My house on a canal near Chaz and there is barely enough water to get my boat out. Any less water and I will be high and dry."

10784 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** mark sauter [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 28, 2012 8:36 AM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

mark sauter gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Nature got already enough destroyed since humans rules the planet "

8334 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

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The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Marla Robb [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 2:29 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Marla Robb gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Manatees are an important part of our life in Central Florida!"

4056 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

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These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Marlen Elias [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Monday, October 29, 2012 9:01 AM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Marlen Elias gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"because they are in my back yard and they are harmless and loving animals that are needed for our ecosystem - we aer just being to stupid or ignorant to understdsand that we are all connected!"

10225 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

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Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosasa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Marlene Gentile [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 5:26 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Marlene Gentile gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"As a former teacher, I can recall how my students admired manatees as one of the oldest and gentlest creatures on earth. Several times there was a public outcry to keep speed boats from mangling these creatures, and the students felt empowered by participating in initiatives to help our earth. It always seems to come down to a toss up between humans getting their way, no matter the reason, and the natural world takes a back seat. Once the planet is decimated, humans will be the one to take the back seat because we will not survive."

6082 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees, and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** marsha holbert [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 28, 2012 12:19 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

marsha holbert gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"i have lived in south fla since 1981. the manatees have been here forever. this is their home. need i say more??"

8916 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

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and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

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These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Marsha Rubin [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 28, 2012 12:22 AM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Marsha Rubin gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Manatees are gentle giants and a Florida treasure. Enough of them are killed by inconsiderate boaters and a reduction in flow will add to their eventual demise. We should be protecting voiceless, defenseless animals - not killing them!!

"

7907 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees, and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Martyn Johnson [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 28, 2012 8:22 AM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Martyn Johnson gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"PREVENTION of further degradation NOW, is BETTER than CURE at some future date.

There are already too many examples of rivers where the cure is verging on the impossible. Those situations could have been avoided with some thoughts of prevention.

Our neighbors, some who have lived in the area all their lives, tell of the longer term deterioration. The models are questionable as they are based on many assumptions, often made by people at a computer without even having seen the rivers. Look at the real facts not those generated from a myriad of assumptions in a computer model and you will realize how little is known by those computers about these complex spring systems that are so vital to both the ecology and economy of the area.

Please vote to stop Destruction by Suction (destroying the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka by sanctioning more groundwater withdrawals, and let us not forget Crystal River)."

8298 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

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These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Mary Aker [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 28, 2012 11:47 AM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Mary Aker gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"The people of Florida love the manatees. We love to see them and touch them and preserve them so our children can get to know these wonderful creatures.  
"

8832 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Mary Anderson [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 28, 2012 11:37 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Mary Anderson gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Water use for humans is not a priority if it robs this precious resource from the animals that cannot live without it!"

9933 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

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These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** MARY ANN LAFARO [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 8:31 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

MARY ANN LAFARO gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"IT WILL HELP SAVE MANATEES AND FISH."

7110 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

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These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Mary Anne Combs [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 9:29 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Mary Anne Combs gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Humans have no right to harm the manatees who have been in their natural habitat forever."

7380 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

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Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** MARY CALVER [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 2:17 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

MARY CALVER gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"I snorkel with the lovely sea creatures and they need our protection from humans ignorance"

3783 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Mary Carrico [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 2:47 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Mary Carrico gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Anything to do with animals is important to me"

4384 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

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and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Mary Conroy [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 4:01 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Mary Conroy gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Saving Manatees"

5340 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

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The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

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Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Mary D Wells [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Monday, October 29, 2012 9:27 AM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Mary D Wells gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Love them!"

10287 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Mary Elizabeth Dunlap [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Monday, October 29, 2012 8:42 AM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Mary Elizabeth Dunlap gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"We are blessed to have these gentle creatures in our waterways. We need to make sure we do all that we can to ensure their well being for future generations.

Karen Nuland"

10197 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees, and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Mary Farr [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Monday, October 29, 2012 1:30 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Mary Farr gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Water is the source of life. To maintain a healthy vibrant Florida we need to have our water in Florida providing for Floridians Human, Flora and Fauna. "

10711 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

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These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Mary Firminger [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Monday, October 29, 2012 10:51 AM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Mary Firminger gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Wildlife constitutes "natural resources" as well and we need to stop abusing all creatures.  
"

10461 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

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The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Mary Harris [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 5:21 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Mary Harris gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"As a north Florida native I grew up watching for manatees in the water. They are beautiful and already endangered animals and I'd hate to see them disappear completely."

6044 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Mary Jacobs [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 1:46 AM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Mary Jacobs gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"To preserve the natural beauty of Florida & to save the Manatees & fish & the rest of Florida's wild life & beauty."

2671 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Mary Kemp [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 28, 2012 10:49 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Mary Kemp gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Manatees need help."

9884 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Mary Leonard [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 12:45 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Mary Leonard gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Save the animals ,land or water "

2878 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Mary McBride [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 28, 2012 1:05 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Mary McBride gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"SAVE MANATEES NOW!!!!!!!!!"

9016 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Mary Misiolak [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Friday, October 26, 2012 6:19 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Mary Misiolak gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"They need our help we are destroying our natural wonders"

2204 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Mary Mullins [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 28, 2012 2:15 AM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Mary Mullins gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"As at least a 4th-generation Floridian, I cannot stand the abuse the current administration is wreaking on our state's environment. We must put a stop to it, now! This is only one of the ways the state's resources are being decimated."

8041 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees, and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Mary Pavitt [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 2:38 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Mary Pavitt gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"The manatees are a protected species and any changes can impact their survival!"

4214 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

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These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Mary Powell [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 9:38 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Mary Powell gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Florida depends on tourism. The beaches, the sea life and the avians are what brings people here. One of the most majestic is the Manatee. To allow it's destruction is not only economically stupid it is truly disgusting for anyone who loves the beautiful creatures of Florida."

7413 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

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Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Mary Remer [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 28, 2012 5:45 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Mary Remer gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Too much of our precious water is being given away."

9445 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Mary Roy [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 8:48 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Mary Roy gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Preservation of our native animal species and the environment is highly important to us and for our future."

7196 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

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Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

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The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** mary shepherd [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 2:50 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

mary shepherd gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Manatee need every chance we humans can offer them. Survival of this animal is significant to people. It is critical to understand that we humans can ill afford the destruction of any protected animal. Please: do not reduce this water flow."

4433 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees, and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** mary sperandeo [mailto:mary@change.org]  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 28, 2012 7:00 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

mary sperandeo gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"We work on manatee tour boats. It is how we make our living as well as educate people about manatees."

9540 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

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These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Mary Sue Baker [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Monday, October 29, 2012 10:22 AM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Mary Sue Baker gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"If we don't take steps to stop the destruction of the habitats and the animals themselves, they will not die and become extinct. I think that people just don't understand or care about what extinct means."

10414 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

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The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** mary telfer [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Friday, October 26, 2012 8:14 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

mary telfer gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"we NEED TO PROTECT THESE CREATURES .....THEY ARE DEPENDENT .....WE MUST SAVE ALL CREATURES IN NATURE"

2401 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

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and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Mary Warren [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 8:50 AM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Mary Warren gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Maintaining the delicate web of life means that we are responsible Earth citizens and are playing our part to foster God's creation."

2753 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

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The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

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Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Mary Wood [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 2:01 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Mary Wood gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"I was a science teacher for forty years in Central Florida and realize first hand how important it is to value and preserve the waterways of Florida and the animals that live in them."

3314 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

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The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Maryellen Catherina [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 28, 2012 2:26 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Maryellen Catherina gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"I use the waterways all the time and have seen the deterioration and decrease in wildlife. Please leave the waterways alone"

9140 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

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Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Mary-jo Rubin [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 3:14 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Mary-jo Rubin gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"This is a issue which will affect the the tourist trade & income ciming into Florida..beyond the conservation issues!"

4776 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosasa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Mathew Johnson [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 2:47 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Mathew Johnson gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Manatees are gentle giants who need us to speak for them"

4396 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

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The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Matilde cristal [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 3:53 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Matilde cristal gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Because I believe in the right of this beautiful animals to have their place in the world too. We have no human right to take everyting away from any animal or any specie than those not harm to us, on the contrary we are always trying to find ways of mistreating them or eliminating them"

5266 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

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These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Matt Delaney [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 28, 2012 3:06 AM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Matt Delaney gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"I really don't think that it is at all fair that the Manatee's should be harmed in any way as they are living soul's just like the Human Being & deserve the right to have a life as they see fit . I love to be able to see them when I go out on a boat or even when I go to the ocean as they are a beautiful dreation ! "

8079 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

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The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Matthew Klein [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 11:52 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Matthew Klein gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Animals are on The Endangered species act."

7842 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

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The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Maureen Kearns [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 28, 2012 2:13 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Maureen Kearns gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"The Manatees must be protected!"

9123 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

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Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Max Christy [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 7:26 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Max Christy gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Save the manatees"

6805 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

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Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Megan Palmer [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 28, 2012 8:57 AM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Megan Palmer gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"I love sea cows...

"

8380 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

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and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** melanie kuffell [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 5:04 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

melanie kuffell gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"There are so few of these creatures left, we need to protect the ones we have."

5904 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

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The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Melborn Kermit Hunnicutt [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 28, 2012 10:31 AM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Melborn Kermit Hunnicutt gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Every Fla Spring is an Oasis for several special species. They are one of the geological features that makes Florida special and unique. We must VALUE AND PROTECT them because they are like the canary in the coal mine - they alert us to the conditions of our aquifer from which we get our potable water. They are also a place to go and escape the hectic lifestyle of today!"

8632 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

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Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees, and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

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These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** melinda pampallona [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 2:58 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

melinda pampallona gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Being good stewards."

4557 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

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and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

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Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Melissa Bried [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 28, 2012 9:42 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Melissa Bried gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"I have lived in this state for almost 40 yrs, alot longer than our govenor I believe. I love our manatees & want them protected. DO NOT REDUCE THE FLOW in our rivers. PROTECT OUR MANATEES."

9794 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

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Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosasa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Melissa Carroll [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Monday, October 29, 2012 3:35 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Melissa Carroll gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Harming these essential habitats is thoughtless and cruel. To reduce the flow would further infringe upon these endangered species' vital places of refuge, and this carelessness for biodiversity and the natural world will have deeper, more widespread repercussions for the place we all call home. "

10845 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees, and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Melissa Forberg [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 2:05 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Melissa Forberg gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"As a native floridian, I have always loved to see the endangered manatees in central Florida. They are a source of eco-tourism and should be a source of pride for our state."

3430 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

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The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Melissa Smith [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 28, 2012 10:25 AM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Melissa Smith gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"My father worked with The Nature Conservancy all his life. I want to make sure all the he worked so hard for, remains for future generations!"

8623 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

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## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** melynda rydbom [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 10:28 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

melynda rydbom gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Florida's environment is important to me  
"

7602 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

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Thank you.

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## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** MERCEDES DIMAIO [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 5:01 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

MERCEDES DIMAIO gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"We speak for those that cannot speak for themselves--We need to save our manatees--Please"

5888 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Mercedes Potter [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 28, 2012 9:02 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Mercedes Potter gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"They are so gracious ,kinf and such a treat to watch them swim right up to you. In the Florida Keys we love them and they are never harmed"

9737 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosasa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** meredith Bruder [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 6:33 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

meredith Bruder gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Because the manatees are gentle creatures who deserve our help!!"

6506 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Merrill Pazian [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 4:42 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Merrill Pazian gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"This my home and will be destroyed if reductions continue."

5730 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Michael Anderson [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Monday, October 29, 2012 9:00 AM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Michael Anderson gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Humans suck!"

10223 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

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and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Michael Appino [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Monday, October 29, 2012 7:58 AM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Michael Appino gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Kayaking, Fishing, protection of the ecosystem.

Chass has been going downhill for years, now SWIFTMD wants to further damage it? Get with it people!!!  
"

10123 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees, and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Michael Balanoff [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Monday, October 29, 2012 8:45 AM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Michael Balanoff gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"I like the manatees, it's the black bears I like even more"

10201 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Michael Byerly [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Friday, October 26, 2012 10:47 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Michael Byerly gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Having lived in Citrus County for more than 20 years, and seeing the natural beauty of our rivers there, I must add my name to this petition. "

2584 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

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These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Michael Edgerley [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 11:08 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Michael Edgerley gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"I have kayaked those rivers, please save them!"

7723 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

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Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** michael enns [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 28, 2012 7:58 AM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

michael enns gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"The preservation of natural Florida is at a all time low. Despite a governor's misunderstanding and apathy toward the wildness of the state. He is a zealot buffoon."

8257 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Michael Flinn [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 10:45 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Michael Flinn gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"You're going to reduce habitat. I don't see the compelling reason, and I don't think you have one other than some people want that. "

7653 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** michael kenny [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 2:38 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

michael kenny gave the following reason for signing this petition:

" the manatees are important to floridas water eco system"

4214 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

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These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Michael Love [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Monday, October 29, 2012 9:25 AM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Michael Love gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"These are wonderful animals and we need to do everything we can to protect them. This includes not jeopardizing their habitat."

10283 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Michael Lowe [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Monday, October 29, 2012 12:11 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Michael Lowe gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Water, air & land. Everything depends upon them. Especially water."

10601 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Michael Maire [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 3:48 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Michael Maire gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Manatees are such cool & friendly animals. They need safe places to live."

5210 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

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These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Michael Martinez [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 2:52 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Michael Martinez gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"As a native Floridian I love manatees and hate to see how these gentle giants are constantly abused and neglected as a part of our natural Florida ecosystem."

4453 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

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The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Michael Masters [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Monday, October 29, 2012 9:40 AM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Michael Masters gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"I grew up in Florida and have seen it degraded primarily by poor management to favor commercial interests."

10323 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

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and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Michael Philipp [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 3:34 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Michael Philipp gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Living in Florida, I am keen to preserve all wildlife and important natural environments."

5031 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Michael Sagona [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 7:28 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Michael Sagona gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Preserve wildlife from governments !"

6818 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

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Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

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These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** MICHAEL SHAFFER [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 2:21 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

MICHAEL SHAFFER gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Endangers species...docile animals that need protection from humanoids."

3894 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

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The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Michael Tracy [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Monday, October 29, 2012 7:52 AM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Michael Tracy gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Our springs are one of most important natural resources in Florida. If we do not do something to save them now they will be gone. Water is life giving."

10119 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Michele Cooper-Taylor [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Monday, October 29, 2012 8:22 AM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Michele Cooper-Taylor gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"I have swam with the majestic mammals. They are so sweet and beautiful. They need protection and care. They mind their own business and don't bother anyone. If you reduce the flow; where will they end up? There will be a reduction in vegetation and it's hard enough for them to find food. "

10164 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees, and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** MICHELE KELLEHER [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 28, 2012 1:15 AM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

MICHELE KELLEHER gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"YOU CAN NEVER REPLACE A LIVING THING...ONCE ITS GONE THERE IS NO TURNING BACK...SO SO SAD..PLEASE SAVE THESE PEACEFUL SWEET ANIMALS.."

7984 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

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The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Michele Pemberton [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 7:37 AM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Michele Pemberton gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"The Manatees are a part of fla that needs too be preserved."

2725 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

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Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** michele sanandajian [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 3:02 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

michele sanandajian gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"i love the environment"

4618 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

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Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Michelle Anthony [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Monday, October 29, 2012 2:54 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Michelle Anthony gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"I have been a wildlife rehabilitator for 20 years and have seen the devastating effects of humans on wildlife. "

10806 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** michelle bozeman [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 28, 2012 1:05 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

michelle bozeman gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Manatees depend on humans to protect them. they are also a great tourist attraction. why would you endanger them by reducing the water?"

9017 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Michelle Pacheco [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 28, 2012 7:42 AM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Michelle Pacheco gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"I love the manatees."

8235 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Miguel Pacheco Jr [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 28, 2012 11:07 AM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Miguel Pacheco Jr gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Yes safe our water..Plus we need to be aware and feel the pain of watching our rivers and our wildlife die.  
"

8733 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees, and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Mike Flatland [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 3:51 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Mike Flatland gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"We need to save are wildlife. "

5242 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

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and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

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These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Mike Loscalzo [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 28, 2012 12:05 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Mike Loscalzo gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"I dislike gov't controls"

8878 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Mil Zimmer [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 28, 2012 12:18 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Mil Zimmer gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Sufficient clean water is essential for all life, human, animal, plant."

8912 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

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The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Milli Gryca [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 1:56 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Milli Gryca gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"How is this not important to the future of Florida???"

3109 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

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The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Minnie Ogburn [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Monday, October 29, 2012 9:49 AM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Minnie Ogburn gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Manatees are close to my heart, as are all of our creatures."

10343 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

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Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Missy Patrick [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 28, 2012 1:14 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Missy Patrick gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Because I live here and kayak those springs"

9033 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Molly Yoder-Williams [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 4:15 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Molly Yoder-Williams gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Swimming with the manatees is one of my favorite things to do in this area. They are a National Treasure and their environment needs to be protected!"

5476 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Monica Woll [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 10:25 AM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Monica Woll gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Florida has more springs than anywhere else in the world. Once we lose them, they may never come back!"

2803 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Mr. Mrs Frank Cassell [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Friday, October 26, 2012 4:33 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Mr. Mrs Frank Cassell gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"We love all animals"

1921 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Ms.Michelle Buck [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 5:45 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Ms.Michelle Buck gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"We need to hang on to our Fresh Water for the Sea Animals that need it."

6224 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Mystina Swaim [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 28, 2012 11:31 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Mystina Swaim gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Manatees have been a great passion of mine from a very young age. When first learning about these amazing gentle giants, I studied about them and dreamed about getting to meet one up close. My dream came true when I swam with wild manatees in Crystal River, FL in 2004. I was able to experience this great opportunity and further extend my dream to working with them during my college internship. Manatees have and always will be an important part of my life and we need to do all we can to protect them for future generations. Manatees are not only an important part of the environment, but an important part of Florida's culture as well as a symbol of gentleness and tranquility we can all learn from. "

9929 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees, and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

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The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Nadira Ali [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 28, 2012 6:45 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Nadira Ali gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"all creatures are precious."

9520 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

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Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Nancy Beebe [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 28, 2012 3:31 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Nancy Beebe gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"I live in Florida and love it's wild places, especially it's rivers. All life here depends upon our now imperiled waters."

9239 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

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and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Nancy Blythe [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 28, 2012 4:49 AM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Nancy Blythe gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"No reductions in flow!!!!!!!!!!"

8118 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Nancy Elizabeth Markovich [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Friday, October 26, 2012 7:47 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Nancy Elizabeth Markovich gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Manatees are losing population and are unique to Florida. They also eat weeds that choke up beautiful springs"

2361 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Nancy Fecso [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 28, 2012 4:39 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Nancy Fecso gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"I live on a canal leading to the Homosassa River. The river is a unique part of this area we call home. We continue to watch the river being damaged. Finally, we can start to reverse some of this and I will urge everyone I know to say no to reductions in flow."

9356 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees, and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Nancy Frank [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 8:50 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Nancy Frank gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"These gentle creatures should not be forced from their homes. Now if we could get the boats to stop running them over."

7210 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Nancy Griffiths [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 28, 2012 9:58 AM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Nancy Griffiths gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"They are so ugly that they are beautiful, and its a shame to let our younger generation not enjoy these unusual species. The gentle giants deserve more than what man has given them, after all they were here first. Please help these creatures to survive. Its so very important."

8534 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees, and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Nancy Haman [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 3:04 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Nancy Haman gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"You are threatening an endangered species habitat."

4647 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Nancy Marshall [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Friday, October 26, 2012 5:20 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Nancy Marshall gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"I grew up on the Chaz and the thought of it not being there in its pristine condition for future generation sickens me. I have already begun to notice a difference in the salt content and the clarity of the springs/river...NO more reduction of flow!!!"

2017 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

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Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Nancy Morgan [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 4:34 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Nancy Morgan gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"we must look out for our manatees and others who can't speak for themselves "

5662 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

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These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Nancy Nolofoff [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 28, 2012 7:15 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Nancy Nolofoff gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Protecting our waterways is crucial to the survival of the manatees as well as the health of our entire Florida ecosystem."

9563 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Nancy O'Keefe [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Monday, October 29, 2012 11:33 AM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Nancy O'Keefe gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"They are beautiful animals!!"

10543 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Nancy Tobergte [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 28, 2012 2:29 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Nancy Tobergte gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Our springs and rivers are vital to the existence of all forms of life, including human forms, and they are already in danger from lack of rainfall replenishment...why on earth would we want to allow further damage!!!"

9143 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees, and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Nancy W. Fellenz [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 2:39 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Nancy W. Fellenz gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Man over nature, again. We must stop this."

4250 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Nancy Warlick [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 5:25 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Nancy Warlick gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Manatees are such wonderful creatures which we in Florida are fortunate to have. PLEASE preserve them and their habitat!!"

6078 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Nancy Wilson [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 8:50 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Nancy Wilson gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"I remember when the Homosassa was just a "hole in the ground", a spring with no buildings, just a place to swim and enjoy and and I used to go fishing with my parents on the Chassaowitzka. I would like them to stay for us AND the manatees !"

7209 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees, and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Nannette Gadomski [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 2:38 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Nannette Gadomski gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"As a resident of SW FL, this issue is very important to me. Our wildlife is constantly at risk & it's our responsibility to protect it!"

4223 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

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Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Natasha Santo [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 1:56 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Natasha Santo gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"I live in Florida."

3091 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

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Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Neal Wall [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 11:37 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Neal Wall gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Loss of habitat for the manatee"

7800 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

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Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Neil Armingeon [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 4:53 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Neil Armingeon gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Why decrease MFLs at the springs? Profit? Greed? Vote NO! Save the manatee."

5819 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Nicole Judkins [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 4:32 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Nicole Judkins gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"As a lifetime Floridian, we should safeguard what natural habits we have left. Manatees are such wonderful, gentle creatures and we should protect their habitats at all costs. Find another solution than this. It is not acceptable."

5643 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees, and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Nikki Gunderson [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 28, 2012 9:27 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Nikki Gunderson gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Manatees are endangered and we need to save them."

9769 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

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and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Nisa Birnbaum [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 28, 2012 10:23 AM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Nisa Birnbaum gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Our wildlife is important to me. Please tell woman in picture that it is illegal to touch wildlife."

8616 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** noahdm sanchez [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Friday, October 26, 2012 8:35 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

noahdm sanchez gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Be vegan. Save the manatees. Go green. All to save the planet."

2429 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** northa sanchez [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 28, 2012 5:42 AM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

northa sanchez gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Save animals"

8138 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

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The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Olivia Scott [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 28, 2012 7:31 AM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Olivia Scott gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Save the manatees!!!"

8217 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

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The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Ora Jean Henry [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 9:10 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Ora Jean Henry gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"As a native Floridian, I have long loved these big natives. Once I went swimming with the manatees on my birthday, following the required rules for THEIR safety. (We are proud supporters & members of Mote Marine in Sarasota also. "

7296 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees, and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Pal Mac Neill [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Monday, October 29, 2012 12:55 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Pal Mac Neill gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Manatees are a Fla. signature species and must be protected and nurtured at all costs."

10668 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Pam Brachmann [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 5:01 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Pam Brachmann gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"The rivers are not only a source of refuge and habitat for the manatee and many other creatures; it is a recreational place for kayakers like me. Just check out the nature around you on a paddle through these and other Florida rivers for an up close look at all the creatures that call the river home."

5889 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees, and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Pam Bucci [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 28, 2012 10:53 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Pam Bucci gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Because animals are beautiful and should be protected. They can't defend themselves."

9891 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Pam Cohen [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Monday, October 29, 2012 11:30 AM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Pam Cohen gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"I am extremely concerned that Florida officials do not care about Florida's or any state's natural wildlife and ecosystem.

Marco Rubio just wrote that he's for The Sportsmen's Act of 2012, a very dangerous act that's geared for self-absorbed recreational hunters that will lead to the destruction of animal protection agencies and conservation on public land. Please google this.

Marco Rubio also voted against stronger anti-dog fighting laws.

The people up north say this state is so backwards and I've always defended it, but now, some of the people representing us are embarrassing and I agree it's true.

Do the right thing for our unique and important manatees. At all costs do not reduce the flow to these rivers."

10538 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees, and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** pam mccann [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 6:28 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

pam mccann gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Why wouldn't this be important to me??"

6475 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** pamela alm [mailto:alm@change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 3:51 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

pamela alm gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"the enviroment is important tp me as well as mammal life"

5248 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

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The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Pamela Arn [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Monday, October 29, 2012 6:41 AM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Pamela Arn gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"I live in florida"

10071 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

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The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Pamela Bennett [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 28, 2012 9:30 AM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Pamela Bennett gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Our precious wildlife is being obliterated by "progress""

8464 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

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Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Pamela Geddis [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Monday, October 29, 2012 2:06 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Pamela Geddis gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"This is an essential habitat for the wildlife in the area, including endangered species, and cannot risk further degradation due to human causes."

10751 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Pamela Monaghan [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 2:32 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Pamela Monaghan gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"This is a no brainer . . ."

4097 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Pamela Salacka [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Friday, October 26, 2012 7:39 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Pamela Salacka gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"We need to preserve our natural wildlife and the manatees are very important to me."

2349 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Pat Bayers [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 10:02 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Pat Bayers gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Manatees are a treasure and must be protected. Flow reductions will threaten them."

7515 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Pat Bucko [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 28, 2012 1:15 AM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Pat Bucko gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Do we need to harm or kill everything to save money? Can't a politician cancel one unnecessary trip each and save money there?"

7983 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Pat Manuel [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 2:43 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Pat Manuel gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"love our beautiful precious gentle manatees"

4304 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Pat Sideravage [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 7:09 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Pat Sideravage gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Because they are a gentle and beautiful species. The younger generation needs to see them. They are endangered and we should do everything to save them."

6723 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

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These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Pat Ursomano [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 5:12 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Pat Ursomano gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"I am sick and tired of watching the things that once made Florida special disappear. Been here since '59. "

5977 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

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These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Pat Weaver [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 4:48 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Pat Weaver gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Please leave well enough alone. "

5775 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Patrice Williams [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Friday, October 26, 2012 10:03 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Patrice Williams gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"I'm all for protecting wildlife. "

2549 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Patricia Blakely [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 2:08 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Patricia Blakely gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Because I have been living here in Titusville, FL. for almost 4 years now. And the Manatees are ONE of the MOST BEAUTIFUL SITESHERE IN Titusville, FL. IF THEY BOTHER ANYONE, THEN THERE IS SOMETHING WRONG WITH THESE PEOPLE. PLEASE DO NOT DO AWAY WITH THE Manatees. I will support the Manatees until the day I die.They are better than peoplebecause they do not hurt you or anyone like people hurt other people. Patricia Ann Blakely"

3522 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosasa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees, and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Patricia Goytre [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 28, 2012 3:37 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Patricia Goytre gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Because every animal life is important for me!!!"

9252 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Patricia Junior [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 28, 2012 12:12 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Patricia Junior gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"I live on a canal off the Homosasa River, and I would like to see the quality and quantity of the river not be compromised"

8898 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** PATRICIA KELDER [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 3:12 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

PATRICIA KELDER gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Man needs to leave these habitats alone"

4753 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Patricia McDonald [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 2:15 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Patricia McDonald gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Please do not jeopardize manatees and other endangered species. I care very much about this."

3726 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** PATRICIA NELSON [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 28, 2012 8:55 AM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

PATRICIA NELSON gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"As a lifelong resident of Florida, I am concerned with preserving the natural waters of this lovely state."

8377 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

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These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Patricia Silbert [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 28, 2012 8:28 AM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Patricia Silbert gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"I'm 72-yrs. old and had never seen a Manatee in my life until I moved to Florida. I was awe-struck by the gentleness and intelligence of those awesome creatures. It would be, in my opinion, criminal to disrupt their habitat. "

8311 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees, and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Patrick Cardwell [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 28, 2012 7:20 AM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Patrick Cardwell gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"These gentle giants need our help to survive."

8203 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** patrick geraghty [mailto:patrick@change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 5:53 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

patrick geraghty gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"I am a Floridian."

6269 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Patrick O'Meara [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Friday, October 26, 2012 6:57 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Patrick O'Meara gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"The last several times I was on the Cassahowitzka it was gray water with so much sewage. Also, one time a manatee swam up to my kayak and hugged it. Manatees and the other animals don't deserve the pollution they are having to endure. "

2278 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees, and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Patrick Thurmond [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 9:23 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Patrick Thurmond gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"the reduction in our waterflow in our streams and rivers hurt Florida's natural habitat. Stop the reduction of fresh water!"

7359 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Patti Holmes [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 10:09 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Patti Holmes gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"because it is, and to nature!"

7539 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Paul Kitwood [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 28, 2012 11:06 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Paul Kitwood gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"We humans are set on this planet to look after and protect it, not destroy it. The manatees can't protect themselves we need to do it."

9906 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Paul Semenec [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 28, 2012 7:23 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Paul Semenec gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"If there is a chance to make manatee life better, let's do it!"

9578 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

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These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Paul tarins [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 2:46 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Paul tarins gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"all wildlife is important to me"

4356 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

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The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Paul Toneguzzo [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Friday, October 26, 2012 8:15 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Paul Toneguzzo gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"I am a avid defender of wildlife"

2403 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Paul Wolters [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Monday, October 29, 2012 11:22 AM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Paul Wolters gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"protect the manatees"

10519 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Paul Yingst [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 10:03 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Paul Yingst gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"It is the right thing to do!!!"

7522 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Paula Baxter [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 9:09 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Paula Baxter gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"I had the opportunity to swim with these gentle creatures and want to see them protected."

7292 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** PAULA CABRERA [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Monday, October 29, 2012 9:28 AM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

PAULA CABRERA gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Although I am not a resident of Florida, I believe in protecting and preserving the environment for "all" wildlife. Please stop any form of reductions to the springs for the Manatee's, and the beauty of the rivers!

"

10291 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees, and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** paula cellar [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 28, 2012 3:31 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

paula cellar gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"simply, this is the only planet we hve to live on. we can do better for our childre and future generations."

9240 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosasa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Paula Forteza [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Monday, October 29, 2012 12:26 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Paula Forteza gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"The Florida manatees are gentle creatures and a huge part of Floridian culture."

10622 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Pedro Lopez [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 11:58 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Pedro Lopez gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Manatees are some of the gentlest and noblest animals on the planet. We should protect them."

7862 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

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FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Peggy Balliett [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Monday, October 29, 2012 2:09 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Peggy Balliett gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"The manatee relies on these springs for survival during the winter months. It would be a shame to take the springs away from them and perhaps cause more deaths among these magnificent mammals. Their numbers have been shrinking in size due to Man over the years. Can the world afford to lose more?"

10755 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees, and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Peggy-Ann Bissell [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 28, 2012 4:14 AM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Peggy-Ann Bissell gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"I love animals and we all need to preserve what God gave us."

8103 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Peter and Jacqueline Silva [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 2:04 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Peter and Jacqueline Silva gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"We as human beings need to stop messing around with our wildlife! I do not agree with reductions in flow!!!!"

3387 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Peter Arroyo [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Monday, October 29, 2012 9:15 AM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Peter Arroyo gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"LIFE is important "

10254 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Peter Barnett [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 11:20 AM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Peter Barnett gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"I love Manatees"

2835 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** peter fernandez [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 10:39 AM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

peter fernandez gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"why isn't this important to everyone else"

2812 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Peter Hayton [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 28, 2012 7:36 AM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Peter Hayton gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"We live surrounded by the beauty of nature.; what will we be surrounded by if we don't cherish and protect that beauty?"

8223 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

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These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Peter Mercauto [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 28, 2012 12:42 AM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Peter Mercauto gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"As a lifelong Florida resident, I treasure both the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers. Some of my earliest memories are of my family making the 60 mile trip to enjoy the (then) pristine Chassahowitzka. Since then, development has abused and degraded both rivers to the point that the last time I visited both rivers, a few years ago, it brought tears to my eyes. The abuse needs to STOP and stop NOW!!"

7940 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** peter wagner [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 8:53 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

peter wagner gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"When the welfare of noble creatures such as the manatees, bears, cranes, and others are threatened by our proposals, the decisions should be made in their favor, because their survival is at stake!"

7226 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

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Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Philip Seissian [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Friday, October 26, 2012 6:56 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Philip Seissian gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Manatees are large gentle creatures that are highly endangered, they must be protected"

2275 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** phillip slimak [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 28, 2012 3:06 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

phillip slimak gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"I believe in protecting old Florida"

9205 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Phyllis Bernard [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 28, 2012 2:16 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Phyllis Bernard gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"I am a Homosassa resident. The Homosassa River and Chassahowitzka River and the springs they support are essential for the wonderful Florida wildlife species living here. Help us save the real Florida!"

9127 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Phyllis Cole [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 5:54 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Phyllis Cole gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"It is our responsibility to save our lands and its inhabitants not to destroy it. What are we thinking?"

6282 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Phyllis Eagle [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 6:34 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Phyllis Eagle gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"This gentle giant deserves the kind of environment that it needs to thrive"

6509 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Phyllis J Smith [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 28, 2012 1:06 AM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Phyllis J Smith gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"I lived in central Florida for 25 years and still love the manatee's"

7976 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Phyllis Sapienza [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 4:42 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Phyllis Sapienza gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Because the various species require the spring fed fresh water for their very existence."

5740 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

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The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Rachael McCrosky [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 9:29 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Rachael McCrosky gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"I live in Florida and have gone swimming with the manatees. These are a state resource and the lifeline of many tourist organizations. Also, they are cute."

7376 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

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and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Rachel Barnes [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 28, 2012 2:03 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Rachel Barnes gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"love manatees"

9109 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Rafael E Cumplido [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 28, 2012 12:57 AM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Rafael E Cumplido gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Protection of the environment and the animal species should be a top priority."

7964 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Ralph Mergen [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Monday, October 29, 2012 1:15 AM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Ralph Mergen gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Manatees are endangered, so you just cannot put them at further risk."

9990 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Ramona White [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Monday, October 29, 2012 12:31 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Ramona White gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Manatees are awesome and they deserve to stay in their habitat!"

10631 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Randall Patsches [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Monday, October 29, 2012 7:08 AM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Randall Patsches gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Every project the corp of engineers or swfwm have done resulted in disaster. It is appalling that we constantly feel the need to change or control nature, leave it alone."

10082 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Raymond Gibson [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 2:51 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Raymond Gibson gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"If you can't save our freshwater for sheer potability, maybe saving it for the manatees in it will keep our water drinkable."

4443 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Rebecca Gravely [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 4:16 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Rebecca Gravely gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"This is important to me because manatees are important to Florida!"

5490 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

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These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Rebecca Lambert [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 28, 2012 8:30 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Rebecca Lambert gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"This may have been a good year for rain but what happens next year and we receive no rain. This is just plain crazy."

9678 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

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These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** rebecca rabinowitz [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Monday, October 29, 2012 1:36 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

rebecca rabinowitz gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"This a no brainer! They were here first AND are part of our world!"

10717 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Rebecca Walker [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 7:17 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Rebecca Walker gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Manatees need us to protect them. They are gentle creatures and do no harm to anyone. Why should we hurt them? "

6760 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Regina Medeiros [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Monday, October 29, 2012 8:41 AM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Regina Medeiros gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"I love Manatees!"

10195 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

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Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Rene Tanner [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 12:14 AM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Rene Tanner gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"The manatees cannot require, request or otherwise communicate their need for habitat. However, we know that they need it to survive. Do the right thing for this species and allow its survival."

2635 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

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FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** RENEE BARRIER [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Monday, October 29, 2012 10:05 AM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

RENEE BARRIER gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"WE NEED TO PROTECT THE MANATEES, THEY ARE HELPLESS CREATURES."

10374 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Rev. Clyde Sanda [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Friday, October 26, 2012 9:26 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Rev. Clyde Sanda gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Because they can't help themselves. They are one of God's creatures and have the right to live. They were here first."

2509 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Rhonda Baca [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 28, 2012 12:19 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Rhonda Baca gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"There is not many left, don't cut off their sanctuary. "

8919 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

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The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Rhonda Taylor [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 28, 2012 10:29 AM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Rhonda Taylor gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Stop changing the course of the waterways. God had it all figured out, but man thought they could make things better, and the only thing you over educated idiots have done are cause more problems with our habitat. Bunch of idiots, STOP IT.

"

8629 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

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The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** richard bryant [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Monday, October 29, 2012 12:15 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

richard bryant gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"we spend alot ot time at both chassahowitzka and homosassa rivers and springs, in the six years we,ve been here we have noticed a change in the wildlife and marine life due to the changing flows of the rivers. please do not allow the purposed flow limits to be enacted."

10607 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

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Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosasa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees, and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Richard Bryant [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Monday, October 29, 2012 6:46 AM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Richard Bryant gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"As a landowner on the Chassahowitzka River and a biologist, I believe that any reduction of flow will result in Significant Harm to the system."

10075 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** richard castillo [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Monday, October 29, 2012 10:16 AM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

richard castillo gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"I love manatees, gentle giants..."

10402 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Richard Eckler [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 28, 2012 9:25 AM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Richard Eckler gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"These springs have a limited number of gallons they can provide. Bleeding them off for use that can only increase is a short term solution to a long term problem- like an addict and his drugs. By the nature of the problem,, this solution can't succeed."

8452 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

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Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees, and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Richard Flynn [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 2:15 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Richard Flynn gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Saving wildlife is essential. Period."

3701 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Richard McGarrell [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 1:12 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Richard McGarrell gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"I do not want to see any loss of natural habitat. Stop the strawberry farmers from emptying the aquifer!"

2895 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Richard Petty [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 5:00 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Richard Petty gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"The springs and the environment need to be protected for future generations."

5883 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

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These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Richard Ruman [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 9:06 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Richard Ruman gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Because Manatee are crucial for Florida eco-system."

7273 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

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The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Rita Brinkley [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 2:49 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Rita Brinkley gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"You should never endanger the lives of these beautiful "sea cows." They are an integral part of the ecosystem and to Florida tourism as well. Why would you hurt an animal that is so docile?"

4421 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

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and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Rita Chambers [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 7:31 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Rita Chambers gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"I live on the Gulf Coast of Florida, and I love seeing the manatees! I want them to be safe!"

6826 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Rob Martin [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 5:19 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Rob Martin gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"WE need to take care of our wildlife"

6030 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Robert & Virginia Svoboda [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 12:58 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Robert & Virginia Svoboda gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"We live on the head of the Halls River, which flows into the Homosassa River. In the twenty years that we have lived here, we have seen the steady decline in the fresh water springs that feed the Halls & Homosassa Rivers. There is more salt water intrusion, lack of fish and natural vegetation, which is essential to the survival of our manatees, Osprey and all wildlife. We feel that any reduction in flow of these rivers, should be stopped immediately."

2884 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees, and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Robert Allen [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 28, 2012 9:49 AM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Robert Allen gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Our state is running out of fresh water. South Florida have had to shut down wells for salt water intrusion and the Lake Wales Ridge water resources are showing signs of salt water intrusion. The EPA website shows that our states water has some very serious contaminates in the Florida aquifer. Mother nature had a great plan but "man is mans worst enemy". We the people have to step up and protect one of the most important natural resources. We can not sustain life without Clean Breathable AIR & Clean Drinkable WATER. We are all connected. Every action has a reaction."

8515 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosasa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if

possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees, and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Robert Berkley [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Monday, October 29, 2012 9:38 AM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Robert Berkley gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"I live on the Withlacoochee and hate what has happened to it as water flow has been reduced."

10316 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** ROBERT BUNTING [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 9:00 AM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

ROBERT BUNTING gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"I LIVE IN FLORIDA AND HAVE FELT THE IMPACT OF WATER FLOWS AND IT SCARES ME. "

2761 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

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These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Robert Carey [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 28, 2012 7:04 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Robert Carey gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"I spend much of my spare time on the river and have seen the damage already done. NO MORE reduction in flow."

9548 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

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The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Robert Dallas [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Monday, October 29, 2012 11:30 AM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Robert Dallas gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"These are considered 'Florida Outstanding Waterways' and ome to many endangered species. Nothing should be done to degrade these two waterways. NOTHING!"

10536 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

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These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Robert Grant [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 2:16 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Robert Grant gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"It is very important to keep these gentle giants thriving for future generations. It is also important because they exist in our world and we have an obligation to keep them safe from harm.  
"

3734 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees, and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Robert Hylan [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 28, 2012 8:53 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Robert Hylan gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"I am proud of what we have and don't want to lose it."

9712 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Robert Knight [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 28, 2012 2:13 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Robert Knight gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"All springs deserve to be protected and preserved for future generations and for us."

9124 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Robert Kubistek [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Monday, October 29, 2012 3:22 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Robert Kubistek gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"It will effect my and my family's future."

10829 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Robert Lippert [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 2:12 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Robert Lippert gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Manatees are an important part of the Florida Everglades ecological system and should be protected."

3630 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Robert McDonnold [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 28, 2012 12:07 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Robert McDonnold gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"If you choose to ignore the manatee, who or what is next? What's so wrong with caring?"

8886 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Robert McFarland [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 3:18 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Robert McFarland gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Because manatees are beautiful gifts to us all."

4833 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Robert Mills [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Monday, October 29, 2012 10:23 AM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Robert Mills gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"I am a resident of Chassahowitzka and I feel that any change to the flow of our spring will be devastating. The spring and river is already severely stressed and any reduction in flow threatens its existence. We must protect this valuable resource and the animals that depend on it. Why do we continue to mess with these springs? The obvious answer is to steal the water for someone else's use. If we continue this trend there will be no spring."  
"

10417 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

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These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Robert R Rupe Jr [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 2:35 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Robert R Rupe Jr gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"We can't keep giving water out to everyone. We have to protect our Aquifers."

4158 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** ROBERT SIEVERT [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 28, 2012 1:03 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

ROBERT SIEVERT gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"All life is important to me."

9013 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** ROBERT WEXLER [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 28, 2012 6:14 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

ROBERT WEXLER gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"CLEAN WATER AND PUBLIC LAND"

9481 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Roberta Bauer [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Friday, October 26, 2012 6:28 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Roberta Bauer gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"I am a new resident of Florida (1 year) and I am astounded at the natural beauty and wildlife. It's in our interest to save the springs for the manatees."

2218 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Roberta Gerber [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 3:47 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Roberta Gerber gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"We are fortunate to have these marvelous creatures as our friends.  
"

5199 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Roberta Obligen [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 5:52 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Roberta Obligen gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"These gentle giants need a safe heaven to swim and live out their lives."

6267 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** roberto soto [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Friday, October 26, 2012 5:33 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

roberto soto gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"I'm an animal lover and these creatures need our protection."

2078 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

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These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** robet jones [mailto:robet.jones@change.org]  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 28, 2012 5:41 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

robet jones gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"because i care"

9442 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

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The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Robin Hudpseth [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 28, 2012 4:48 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Robin Hudpseth gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Life"

9366 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Robin Peterson [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 28, 2012 8:29 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Robin Peterson gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"WILDLIFE"

9676 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Robin Potter [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Monday, October 29, 2012 8:29 AM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Robin Potter gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"The springs have been around for decades and are a great source of water for the manatees, please leave it alone."

10179 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Robin Sekerak [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 3:41 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Robin Sekerak gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"The vulnerable Florida Manatee remains at great risk and is threatened by urbanization: pollution, reduced spring access/flow, boat strikes, and being "loved to death" by well-meaning but ignorant Floridians and tourists. They are a Florida icon and remain a big tourist attraction. It is up to Florida to protect this special and unique animal and its ecosystem from human encroachment, agricultural pressures and development. In other words, from us. "

5130 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees, and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** ROBIN WITHERINGTON [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 28, 2012 6:10 AM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

ROBIN WITHERINGTON gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"they need the springs to survive the winter"

8154 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Robyn sparrow [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Friday, October 26, 2012 5:27 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Robyn sparrow gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"I love manatees with all my heart and any way I can help them I will!"

2058 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Rocco Mollica [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 28, 2012 11:22 AM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Rocco Mollica gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"With the changes in climate swinging from above average heat to below average cold, Manatees need a place where they can go to avoid hypothermia during winter."

8774 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

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These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Rolaine Smoot [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 28, 2012 7:07 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Rolaine Smoot gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"I have have dived with wild Manatees. They are such gentle beings!"

9553 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

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The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Ron Browall [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 28, 2012 3:53 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Ron Browall gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"I kayak all the rivers in Florida and have seen how low some of them got in the drought. "

9285 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

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The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Ron McCracken [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 1:58 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Ron McCracken gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"These mammals bring thousands of tourists to Florida annually. Their welfare impacts the welfare of the state. Please stop messings with water levels."

3192 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Ronald Eike [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 3:10 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Ronald Eike gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Because they can't sign for themselves!"

4731 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Ronald Leh [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Friday, October 26, 2012 5:20 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Ronald Leh gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Because we have to protect the manatees from mans destuctive policies."

2023 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosasa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Ronald Thuemler [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 3:10 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Ronald Thuemler gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Manatees and waterways require a minimum, healthy flow of clean water to exist period."

4733 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Ronda Chewning [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 28, 2012 4:19 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Ronda Chewning gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"I love Manatee's. Protect these animals. "

9326 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Ronda Lynch [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 28, 2012 10:57 AM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Ronda Lynch gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"These poor creatures are a gentle and glorious addition to the state of Florida. It is our DUTY to treat our assets in a manner that will preserve them for our future generations and theirs as well. Step up and get a backbone. Save our springs and save our manatees!!"

8705 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees, and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Rosa Fernandez [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Monday, October 29, 2012 8:43 AM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Rosa Fernandez gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Future generations need to be able to experience beautiful Florida, Manatees, and all the wonderful species of the wetlands. Homosassa springs should be preserved."

10199 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Rosanna Bell [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 3:57 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Rosanna Bell gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Manatees are an important part of Florida. Let's do what we can to protect them. "

5305 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Rosanne Adkins [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 28, 2012 10:52 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Rosanne Adkins gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"I love the manatees! "

9888 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Rosanne Ingoglia [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 28, 2012 10:35 AM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Rosanne Ingoglia gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Wildlife endangerment...please act responsibly and leave the water ways alone. "

8641 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Rosanne Marcello [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Monday, October 29, 2012 3:18 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Rosanne Marcello gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"decreasing flows will disturb natural balances that exist, disrupting the natural flora and fauna that now prevail. We have already destroyed so much of our environments, to continue this, knowingly, would be borderline criminal"

10823 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees, and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** rosemary brandon [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 5:15 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

rosemary brandon gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"how many more must become endangered before something intellegent is done"

6004 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** roy sagarin [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 2:00 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

roy sagarin gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"To save what's left of natural ecosystems."

3257 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Rufus Shepherd [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 11:48 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Rufus Shepherd gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Life is important on all levels"

7827 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Russell Watrous [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Monday, October 29, 2012 3:14 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Russell Watrous gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"I am a 60 year user of Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers I've seen the impact over the years and I don't want to loose another 10% of this Florida resource. "

10820 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Ruth Bullard [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 28, 2012 12:18 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Ruth Bullard gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Our environment and nature are critical"

8914 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

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The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Ruth Cassidy [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 2:11 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Ruth Cassidy gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Manatees are having enough nightmares to even Survive. Hands OFF their sanctuary!!!"

3607 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

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and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** S Cruz [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 28, 2012 4:16 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

S Cruz gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"if they reduce this, they will be willing to reduce other animal species. "

9318 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** S Young [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Monday, October 29, 2012 1:36 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

S Young gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"We need to get rid of all the bottling plants, encourage agriculture to employ water-wise irrigation, get golf courses to use reclaimed water, and do all we can to protect our Aquifer - for humans and all of life, not just manatees."

10716 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees, and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** s.a. thompson [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 8:33 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

s.a. thompson gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"i love animals"

7121 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

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The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Sally Ann Collins [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Monday, October 29, 2012 1:29 AM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Sally Ann Collins gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"I have lived many years in Broward county and saw what happened to waters and habitat in south Florida when construction destroyed the natural life there. "

9997 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Sally Belton [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 28, 2012 6:40 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Sally Belton gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"The Springs throughout Florida are all suffering and water flow is down at most of them. This is a serious problem not only for our wildlife but a scary problem for our drinking water in the state."

9507 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Sam Gellerstedt [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 28, 2012 4:24 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Sam Gellerstedt gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"We need the springs for the manatees and for the people who enjoy the springs."

9334 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

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These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Samantha lubben [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Friday, October 26, 2012 6:18 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Samantha lubben gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Please don't vote for reductions. We can't just let thousands of Manatees die."

2202 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

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The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Sandra Defrates [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 28, 2012 9:54 AM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Sandra Defrates gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"I lived in Crystal River, where Manatee moms and their pups literally swam in the canal in our back yard, I got to see first hand how peaceful and gentle these creatures are. We need to protect them from man made dangers. They have no way of recognizing these hazards as life threatening...until it's too late. You are entrusted by the citizens of Florida with protecting these docile creatures. We are counting on you. "

8525 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

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The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Sandra Ilardi [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 10:06 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Sandra Ilardi gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"We need to protect our wildlife. They are the reason some tourists come to Florida and it's the right thing to do."  
"

7532 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** SANDRA JOHNSON [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 28, 2012 10:13 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

SANDRA JOHNSON gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"water must be a protected resource and along with the species dependent on it not just humans"

9835 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Sandra Leaper [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 5:30 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Sandra Leaper gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Manatees are endangered, they rely on essential fresh water and warmth in winter. Gulf is too cold."

6125 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Sandra McConnell [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 28, 2012 12:59 AM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Sandra McConnell gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"These gentle animals are essential to the Florida eco-structure and they deserve a habitat that is protected."

7965 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Sandra Mondro [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 28, 2012 10:41 AM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Sandra Mondro gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Animals and People"

8654 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Sandy Cox [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 2:14 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Sandy Cox gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"We must save these wonderful creatures. Please, let's have no more ignorant decisions coming from this Government office."

3679 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Sandy Cross [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 28, 2012 1:58 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Sandy Cross gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Manatees are endangered and we need to protect this beautiful animal."

9101 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

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These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** SARA ALLENGER [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Friday, October 26, 2012 5:18 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

SARA ALLENGER gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"PRESERVE THEIR QUALITY OF LIFE"

2005 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

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These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Sara Freeborn [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Monday, October 29, 2012 11:45 AM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Sara Freeborn gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"I went swimming with the manatees last year and it was an incredible experience that I don't want future generations to lose."

10558 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Sara Howland [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 3:27 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Sara Howland gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"We continue to encroach on the natural environment. We need to preserve this one, for its own sake and for the sake of manatees and other wildlife that live there."

4942 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Sara Richarde [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 1:53 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Sara Richarde gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"I have grown up and lived here all my life and the manatees are a beautiful part of our springs, I don't want anything to disrupt their habitat any more than what already has. "

2977 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Sara Vinas [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Monday, October 29, 2012 12:50 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Sara Vinas gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Our future is important to me! This is short sighted and wrong"

10657 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Sarah Carter [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Friday, October 26, 2012 5:21 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Sarah Carter gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"No one has said -why- they are suggesting doing this, but there must be another creative solution to whatever the problem is that isn't going to hurt the environment."

2027 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Sarah Dennard [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 28, 2012 9:10 AM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Sarah Dennard gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"They can't be replaced and man would be responsible for hurting them. That is unacceptable! "

8414 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Sarah Neilly [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 6:27 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Sarah Neilly gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"These gentle creatures are defenseless and deserve our protection. "

6471 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Sarah Robinson [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 11:05 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Sarah Robinson gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Manatees are beautiful innocent creatures man invaded their territory. Reducing the flow in water makes no sense because it rains all the time so the flow should stay exactly like it is."

7714 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

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The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Scott Hackenberg [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 28, 2012 1:44 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Scott Hackenberg gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Because Rick Scott is an idiot!"

9079 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

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and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** scott reader [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 2:17 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

scott reader gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Preserving wildlife is always important."

3778 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Sean Harney [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Friday, October 26, 2012 8:40 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Sean Harney gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"For our future"

2433 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Shannon Davies [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 4:18 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Shannon Davies gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"The springs and manatees in Florida are real treasures and need to be protected for future generations!"

5503 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Shari Yudenfreund-Sujka [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 28, 2012 12:44 AM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Shari Yudenfreund-Sujka gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"A finite amount of water will only go so far so continuing to draw more water from a finite source is a recipe for disaster for everyone."

7942 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Sharon Bramlet [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 28, 2012 3:37 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Sharon Bramlet gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Our natural habitat and beauty is why people want to travel to Florida and want to live here !! Critical thinking for all Floridians !"

9253 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

---

**From:** Sharon Cohen [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Friday, October 26, 2012 8:18 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Sharon Cohen gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Manatees have no protection except intelligent and caring humans. Please save them!"

2409 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

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These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Sharon freshour [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 28, 2012 2:13 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Sharon freshour gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Water is going to become a huge issue! We need to teach people how to use it responsibly! So that every living thing has what they need. Can we say human population control?"

9125 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

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The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Sharon Higgins [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 28, 2012 3:22 AM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Sharon Higgins gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Honor for all forms of life. We cannot continue to savage our gentler co-inhabitants on this planet,"

8088 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

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These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** sharon holding [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 10:57 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

sharon holding gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"protect florida's waterways & springs from further degradation"

7693 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Sharon Janet Johnson [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 5:28 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Sharon Janet Johnson gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Janet and Dan Johnson"

6106 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Sharon Kermes [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Friday, October 26, 2012 8:37 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Sharon Kermes gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Love our MANATEES! "

2430 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Sharon Rauch [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 5:35 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Sharon Rauch gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"All animals are important to me!"

6156 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Sharon Rines [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 4:55 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Sharon Rines gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"The Manatees are precious and need protection from this..."

5837 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Sharon Stiner [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 28, 2012 1:08 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Sharon Stiner gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Because it is the right thing to do"

9024 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Sharron Buck [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 2:22 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Sharron Buck gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"The manatee needs all the help it can to survive...man has taken too much of its habitat already."

3908 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

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These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** shauna sherman [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Friday, October 26, 2012 5:15 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

shauna sherman gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"so that our future generations can see the beautiful water n animals that i grew up to love n learn from "

1987 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

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and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

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These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Shea Joy [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 3:43 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Shea Joy gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Swimming with the manatees is one of the most precious memories of my life."

5150 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

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FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Sheila Kenny [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 3:13 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Sheila Kenny gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"We must protect our natural resources from over development and short-sighted politicians."

4769 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Sheila Mandell [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 28, 2012 9:46 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Sheila Mandell gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"I live in FL and love them."

9801 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Shelley Linden [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 28, 2012 11:59 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Shelley Linden gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Manatees are a protected species and we need to preserve as many animals as possible and not add to the extinction list."

9946 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Sher Briccol [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 2:49 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Sher Briccol gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Animals have the Right to Life."

4413 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Sheri Ruderman [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 6:01 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Sheri Ruderman gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"So much of our wildlife is being destroyed because of we, the humans needs. The Manatees are a favorite, gentle species who needs our understanding and protection. . .why must we destroy EVERYTHING to make way for our power?"

6316 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees, and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Sherri Davis [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 28, 2012 9:31 AM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Sherri Davis gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Because our eco-systems are critically important to the health of the planet, animals, and humans!"

8467 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

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The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Sherri Louise [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 8:05 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Sherri Louise gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Are we trying to wipe out even more WildLife? Does anyone get it that when we lose our WildLife, we too will perish!?! Wake up SWFWMD's Governing Board and the Governor of Florida - be part of the "solution" NOT the problem!!!"

6971 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

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These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** SHERYL ERICKSON [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 7:41 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

SHERYL ERICKSON gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Our poor sea cows have a hard enough time with reckless boaters and pollution. Let's give them some help here. "

6867 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

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Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** sheryl willey [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 3:26 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

sheryl willey gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"I care about the manatees. How is it the people making these uncaring,thoughtless eco destroying decisions have gotten into these positions? They certainly are not speaking for most Floridians rather their selfish,self serving agendas."

4919 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees, and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Shimon Gottschalk [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 6:35 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Shimon Gottschalk gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"I love manatees"

6517 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Shirley Hartman [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 8:18 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Shirley Hartman gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Manatees are gentle giants. they don't bother anything or anyone..they deserve to live a longer life as we all do."

7044 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** shirley keller [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 28, 2012 8:50 AM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

shirley keller gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"I want to keep optimal environmental conditions for our marine animals.

"

8369 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** SHIRLEY MAKSYMICZ [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 1:29 AM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

SHIRLEY MAKSYMICZ gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"To save our water life and preserve our water ways as God has intended when He created them."

2666 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Shruti Lakkaniki [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 6:57 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Shruti Lakkaniki gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Manatees should be one of our top concerns as they are a humongous part of the Earth's ecosystem. "

6653 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Sid Kemp [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Monday, October 29, 2012 12:29 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Sid Kemp gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Our natural habitats have already been degraded too many times. Let us be good stewards to the remaining wilderness and life therein."

10627 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

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These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Silvia Sardinias [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 7:52 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Silvia Sardinias gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"I LOVE MANATEES!...GENTLE CREATURES!...I SAY NO TO REDUCTIONS IN FLOW!...HAVE A HEART!"

6918 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

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The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Simone Walters [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Friday, October 26, 2012 9:02 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Simone Walters gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"I love animals, since they cannot speak for themselves, we humans have to."

2469 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Sonia Fader [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 4:13 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Sonia Fader gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"These areas and the Manatees are an important part of what makes Florida special. Preserving them is critical... and financially and morally the right thing to do."

5462 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** stacy rowicki [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 3:12 AM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

stacy rowicki gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Saving the beautiful Fl manatee is of utmost importance to protect yet another unique gift of love to be tortured and killed due to humanity's ignorant selfish decisions."

2688 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

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Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Stan Shaft [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 3:47 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Stan Shaft gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"My recent visit to Florida included seeing the Manatees as a planned hi-point. I wrote about the trip and the experience on a travel blog. For the Manatees to lose their life-sustaining habitat, at the whim of an ever-growing power corporation, would be grievous sign that FL puts corporate profits before the well-being of the creatures who call that area home. Not a good message for a State which relies so heavily on happy and hopeful tourists. "

5197 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees, and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Stanley Clewett [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 28, 2012 10:22 AM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Stanley Clewett gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"save our rivers. They are already seriously degraded"

8613 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Stephanie Ford [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Friday, October 26, 2012 7:05 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Stephanie Ford gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"These awesome giants can teach us so much and it's important to stand up for these creatures since we are held responsible for all creatures of the earth. This "

2292 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

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The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Stephanie Merryman [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Monday, October 29, 2012 7:40 AM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Stephanie Merryman gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"I have visited this area to see the endangered manatees and love these gentle creatures. Please no reduction in the flow to the rivers as it would be devastating to see these endangered manatee's population be reduced"

10104 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** stephen anderson [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Friday, October 26, 2012 10:50 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

stephen anderson gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Manatees have had a rough time trying to survive as it is.S.F.W.M hasn't helped much"

2586 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

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The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Steve Lodle [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 28, 2012 10:05 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Steve Lodle gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"We need to text our rivers and water supplies. "

9825 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

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Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Steve Miller [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 28, 2012 6:41 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Steve Miller gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"I fish,kayak and drink the water "

9508 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Sue Hoffman [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 6:44 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Sue Hoffman gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"I love manatees!!!!!"

6570 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Sue Norman [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 2:07 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Sue Norman gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"These are odd looking crittters, but they enhance the world down here!@!!"

3473 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

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and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

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These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Susan Curtis [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 28, 2012 6:27 AM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Susan Curtis gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"water"

8160 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** susan de nolf [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Friday, October 26, 2012 8:41 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

susan de nolf gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Ever creature has a right to life, Please save the Manatees no reduction to the flow."

2434 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Susan Dietrich [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 8:23 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Susan Dietrich gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"This will not only interfere with only the manatees habitat, it effect hundreds of other living things in the water as well as along the coast of these rivers."

7070 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

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These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Susan Fullwood [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 6:24 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Susan Fullwood gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Save the manatees, please."

6459 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

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The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Susan LANG [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 2:05 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Susan LANG gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"We "adopted" a few manatees 40 or so years ago. Beautiful creatures!"

3430 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

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The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Susan Sonsini [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 28, 2012 10:05 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Susan Sonsini gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"The natural beauty of Florida's rivers and springs is the main reason my family and I came to North Florida. It is important to preserve this natural resource for future generations. Please do not reduce the flow of any of the rivers!"

9823 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees, and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Susan Steinhorst [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Monday, October 29, 2012 10:43 AM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Susan Steinhorst gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Fresh water from the rivers are vital to sea life reproduction"

10445 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Suzanne Fejes [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Monday, October 29, 2012 11:57 AM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Suzanne Fejes gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"It is extremely important to retain these springs and the habitat they provide--much more so than diverting the water."

10579 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Suzanne Pomeroy [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 28, 2012 11:26 AM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Suzanne Pomeroy gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species including the West Indian Manatee, the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are now at risk of further degradation and loss of essential fresh water habitat if the Southwest Water Management District's ("SWFWMD") Governing Board approves reductions in flow proposed in the Minimum Flows and Levels on October 30, 2012."

8779 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees, and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Suzanne Schnitzer [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 3:24 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Suzanne Schnitzer gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Please don't reduce the flow. It will endanger the manatees and they are a Florida treasure!"

4898 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** sydney bacchus [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 28, 2012 10:29 AM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

sydney bacchus gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"and the SWFWMD and DEP also have approved the proposed Levy nuke plant that would destroy the manatee nursery area at the Withlacoochee, which goes to a licensing hearing on Halloween Day in Bronson..."

8628 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

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The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Sylvia Anglen [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 9:08 AM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Sylvia Anglen gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"These are beautiful and gentle creatures. Leave them alone!"

2766 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

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Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Sylvia Garcia-Smith [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 2:39 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Sylvia Garcia-Smith gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"I've never seen one in the wild and would like to someday...."

4238 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

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The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Sylvia Green [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Monday, October 29, 2012 3:36 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Sylvia Green gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"When they are extinct, it will be too late.  
Save these magnificent animals!"

10846 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** tabitha messer [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 28, 2012 6:54 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

tabitha messer gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"because I live in Florida and I care about the environment"

9531 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Talya Schultz [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 28, 2012 1:16 AM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Talya Schultz gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"I'd like to see the manatees one day."

7985 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Tamela Dees [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 6:04 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Tamela Dees gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"I grew up Swimming at Manatee State Park! I love the animals! Save the Manatee!"

6328 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

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These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Tamera Bell [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 1:36 AM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Tamera Bell gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"because God gave us these waters and these animals and we have to take care of them and do the right thing this is there home and we should protect there home just like we protect our own home."

2669 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Tammy Richardson [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 9:39 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Tammy Richardson gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Because PPI always have to mess with nature and mess everything up. Leave thing alone and there won't be NO problem in the future with are water flow"

7414 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Tara Marr [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Friday, October 26, 2012 9:40 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Tara Marr gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Mess with there waters your messing with me. These awesome mammals deserve better than this sham on you!!!! "

2527 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

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The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Tara Wells [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 11:04 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Tara Wells gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"These beautiful gentle giants contribute so much to Florida's bounty."

7712 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

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The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Ted Dylewski [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Monday, October 29, 2012 11:17 AM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Ted Dylewski gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"This is the place for manatees - take care of the creatures - br human"

10511 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

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Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Teddie Aggeles [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Monday, October 29, 2012 11:39 AM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Teddie Aggeles gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"I am a Florida native and understand the importance of being good stewards of our resources in this state and country. Manatees cannot speak for themselves, so we must speak up to protect the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs. I have spent time enjoying the natural beauty of both since I was a little girl. "

10549 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees, and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Teresa Cope [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Monday, October 29, 2012 11:11 AM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Teresa Cope gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"I love the manatees!!"

10499 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Teresa Densmore [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 28, 2012 6:00 AM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Teresa Densmore gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Our manatees depend on the springs. They are their refuge."

8145 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Teresa Murphy [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 3:47 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Teresa Murphy gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"As a native Floridian, they are part of us. We must save them for future generations to enjoy on our waterways. They cannot speak for themselves, so I say please help save our manatees, we need them. Thank you!!"

5184 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Teresa Ordonez [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 28, 2012 12:57 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Teresa Ordonez gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"why change what is natural?"

8996 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Teresa Powers [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 28, 2012 3:30 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Teresa Powers gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"These are the oldest of creatures that we have, we need to do EVERYTHING in our power to help them. They are just "GENTLE CHILDREN". WE MUST HELP ALWAYS, it's our DUTY!"

9237 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Teresa Gail Stark [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 2:31 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Teresa Gail Stark gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Teresa Gail stark"

4087 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

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The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Teri Fainberg [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Friday, October 26, 2012 10:15 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Teri Fainberg gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"I own a boat in the Keys and these sweet mammals swim up to say hi all the time."

2563 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Terra N [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Monday, October 29, 2012 12:38 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Terra N gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"I love the area, lots of wildlife. We bought a second home in the area, hoping to retire there in 8 yrs. We need to protect our environment."

10640 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Terri Ackerman [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 28, 2012 7:13 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Terri Ackerman gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"This magical place on the west central coast of Florida is a wonderful family friendly area that needs to be preserved!"

9559 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

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Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

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These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Terri Nelson-Bunge [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 28, 2012 2:19 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Terri Nelson-Bunge gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"The manatees deserve to retain their already limited habitats. "

9133 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

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These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Terri Norton [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Friday, October 26, 2012 9:10 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Terri Norton gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"testing mother nature like this -- is it really necessary?? many areas like this should always be protected- leave them well enough alone. AND YES PROTECTED SHOULD BE DEFINED! the oil drilling mess, now this? whats next? Seriously!"

2481 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees, and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Terry Beckwith [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 28, 2012 12:07 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Terry Beckwith gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"The fragile ecosystem of Florida is continually being disturbed by the human population, which includes building, business "wants," governmental restrictions / grants, and I feel that this behavior will lead to devastating implications for future wildlife and natural flow."

8886 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

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FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees, and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Terry Blaes [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Friday, October 26, 2012 10:50 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Terry Blaes gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Floridians are concerned not just for manatees but for humans too. Don't make your MFLs mean "maximum" flows and levels. Our state will become unlivable without the water God gave us."

2587 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

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The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Terry Widener [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Friday, October 26, 2012 6:07 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Terry Widener gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Keep Florida NATURAL!!!!!!!!!"

2174 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

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Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Theresa Crater [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 10:29 AM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Theresa Crater gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"I have family in Florida and love to visit the manatees.  
"

2805 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

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Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Theresa Fleming [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 28, 2012 3:06 AM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Theresa Fleming gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"I love the Manatees, they are beautiful, majestic creatures. They are warm and fun loving and deserve our protection. They have had to fight off people and boats and now this. We need to preserve them for the future"

8079 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Thomas Mealor [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Friday, October 26, 2012 6:23 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Thomas Mealor gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"As a long time resident of the Hillsborough River, I have seen the problems that arise from low flow to the river. All flow should be kept at regular flows for ALL waterways of Florida and the world."

2208 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** thomas spencer [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 3:15 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

thomas spencer gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Some things are obvious."

4794 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Thomas Williams [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 5:44 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Thomas Williams gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Animals and nature should come before shareholder profit"

6219 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Tiffany Hale [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Monday, October 29, 2012 2:07 AM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Tiffany Hale gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"We must protect nature and all of it's inhabitants. Man continues to destroy the planet without acknowledging the fact that this will eventually lead to our own destruction. Protect animals. Protect people. Do what is right! These animals lives are depending on us all."

10007 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees, and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Tim Brennan [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 28, 2012 4:56 AM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Tim Brennan gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"The waters of Citrus County are for the use of its residents (consumption, recreation, fish and other marine life) not for some outside entity to use consume, despoil or degrade."

8120 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Tim Coleman [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 2:21 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Tim Coleman gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Stop the damage to our environment and the wildlife that depend on these critical resources."

3879 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

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Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Timothy Outlaw [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Monday, October 29, 2012 7:48 AM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Timothy Outlaw gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Our natural wonders and resources are more important that we realize."

10110 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

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These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Timothy Spurlin [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 28, 2012 11:19 AM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Timothy Spurlin gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"The Manatee have the same rights to live as humans do!"

8766 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

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Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Todd Kincaid [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 28, 2012 1:00 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Todd Kincaid gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"I was born and raised in Florida. I grew up swimming and scuba diving in the springs. In many ways they have defined who I am both personally and professionally. I've gone on to explore springs all over the world and know 1st hand that Florida's springs are unique to the world both in terms of magnitude and beauty. I'm now a hydrogeologist that specializes in karst aquifers and springs and my experience tells me that the models that have been used to assess spring impacts in Florida are wrong and that they underpredict those impacts. "

9005 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees, and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Tom Conroy [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 28, 2012 9:28 AM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Tom Conroy gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Because we are destroying the environment and our health"

8461 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Tracy Stevanov [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Friday, October 26, 2012 5:26 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Tracy Stevanov gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"This is like saving Florida itself. One of the true redeeming features of Florida Wildlife are these majestic docile creatures. That not only never disturb others but live side by side alligators. They are a large animal that needs are protection!"

2057 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees, and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Tracy Torres [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Friday, October 26, 2012 8:01 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Tracy Torres gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"I live in fl, I love seeing these sweet creatures! Anything I can do to help I wil!"

2382 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Trina Collins [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Monday, October 29, 2012 1:43 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Trina Collins gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"protect our springs, manatees and wildlife that depends upon the springs for survival"

10724 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** trish oconnell [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 11:06 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

trish oconnell gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"please save the manatees. !!!"

7720 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

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The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Tyler Abulencia-Wall [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 28, 2012 7:18 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Tyler Abulencia-Wall gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"I love manatees."

9569 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

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The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Tyler Deken [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 1:59 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Tyler Deken gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Whatever Sea cow!"

3209 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Valerie Gardiner [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 2:53 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Valerie Gardiner gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"We must be stewards for the creatures of our planet!"

4485 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Valerie Harwood [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 28, 2012 6:03 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Valerie Harwood gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Florida's waters should not be for sale to developers, industry, or otherwise. They should be protected, not exploited. The environment has received little attention in these times of economic uncertainty, but once we degrade water quality, it will be extraordinarily difficult to improve it."

9471 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life-saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees, and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Valerie Mahoney [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 3:32 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Valerie Mahoney gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"I live in Florida and I love the Manatee"

4990 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Varuni Roberts [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Friday, October 26, 2012 9:47 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Varuni Roberts gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Manatees are part of Florida's heritage and need to be saved for the generations still to come."

2535 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Vern Garnett [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 28, 2012 6:50 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Vern Garnett gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"It's important that we conserve our resources."

9525 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Veronica Boyd [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 11:16 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Veronica Boyd gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Manatee's are beautiful creatures that a boreder line extinct. We should be saved."

7741 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** vicki brzezinski [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 5:00 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

vicki brzezinski gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"We must save our manatees, this would be a horrible blow , this must not even be considered !!! "

5887 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

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These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Vicki Cowen [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 11:01 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Vicki Cowen gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Manatees are sweet, peaceful animals. They have enough to deal with as it is with the propellers from boats, etc. Please don't endanger their habitat."

7704 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

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FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** vicki matheny [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 4:24 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

vicki matheny gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"The manatees are such gentle creatures and deserve our protection. Humans have done them such great harm already."

5573 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Vicki Meyer [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Friday, October 26, 2012 5:26 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Vicki Meyer gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Manatees are wonderful creatures. They need our protection."

2056 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Vicki Parker-Mabe [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 12:42 AM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Vicki Parker-Mabe gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"We must save these wonderful mammals. They are so friendly and cause no harm to anyone. Gov. Scott get off your butt and save these mammals for our State."

2649 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** vicky eubanks [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Monday, October 29, 2012 10:48 AM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

vicky eubanks gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Because there is not many manatees left. "

10457 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Victor Pirie [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 3:55 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Victor Pirie gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Florida Manatees are being destroyed by boaters every day. If your Child or Friend was being Cut to Bits by Boat Props, you would think different about making some way to Stop the Slaughter. How about Prop Cages or something like that, to protect them."

5280 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees, and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Victoria Frame [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 2:16 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Victoria Frame gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Manatees don't deserve to die! Please help save the manatees and protect their habitat!"

3731 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Victoria Tillman [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Monday, October 29, 2012 11:46 AM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Victoria Tillman gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"It is so important to protect these sea creatures."

10561 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Virginia Baker [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 3:25 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Virginia Baker gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"We love our manatees on Turnbull Bay"

4904 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

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The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Virginia Beale [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 5:25 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Virginia Beale gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Manatees are a part of Florida. They hurt no one and they are gentle souls. Why hurt them?"

6080 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Virginia Wirt [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 28, 2012 9:09 AM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Virginia Wirt gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"The Manatees are amazing mammals and are one of Florida's ancient species. They are intelligent, gentle herbivores. Why would anyone even consider putting them at further risk then we already have. Wake up Governor - some things deserve special care. Do not reduce the flow! "

8408 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees, and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Vivian Barrera [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 28, 2012 7:39 AM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Vivian Barrera gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"I love animals and if God created them it is for a reason"

8230 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Vivian Griffin [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 2:15 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Vivian Griffin gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"These "gentle giants" are a Florida treasure and need our protection."

3706 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Vivienne Loveland [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 28, 2012 10:32 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Vivienne Loveland gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"I live in Florida and know the fragility of this mammal. "

9863 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Vonnie Rogers [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 28, 2012 10:45 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Vonnie Rogers gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Water supply is important to the life that is in the Springs."

9877 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** W. James Brazel [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 28, 2012 10:18 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

W. James Brazel gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Hope my future family to have some healthy environment to live in"

9842 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

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The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Walker Banning [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 28, 2012 9:32 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Walker Banning gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Springs are attractive not only to manatees, but also to residents and tourists. They are an economic development engine if we don't kill them."

9781 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

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The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Walt Stine [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 4:08 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Walt Stine gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"I love Fl. Wild Life!"

5421 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

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and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Walter Collins [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 2:02 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Walter Collins gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Leave nature alone. God meant this earth for all living creatures, not just us."

3342 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Ward Cox [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Monday, October 29, 2012 11:30 AM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Ward Cox gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Because manatees are gentle creatures that already are victims of our selfishly predatory ways."

10539 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

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and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

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These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** wei liu [mailto:wei@change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 2:40 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

wei liu gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"I like wildlife."

4266 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

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The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Wendy Blanton [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Monday, October 29, 2012 11:06 AM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Wendy Blanton gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"I have grown up enjoying these beautiful creatures, and I would love for my Grandchildren and theirs to as well. Besides that, manatees are amazing, beautiful, gentle and helpless. Is it a must that we destroy every beautiful thing around us to benefit ourselves?!! This is ridiculous. NO to reductions flow- SAVE THE MANATEES! SWFWMD's Governing Board and the Governor of Florida should be ashamed of themselves. "

10489 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees, and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** William Garvin [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Friday, October 26, 2012 10:09 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

William Garvin gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"I live in the head waters of the Homosassa River and have been here for ten years. I do Manatee watch and Lake Watch water testing as well as underwater photography. i have seen first hand the degradatin of the river to the point it seems dead. i do nt want to the the coffin nailed shut!!!"

2558 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosasa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees, and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** William George [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 2:02 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

William George gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Love the manatees and used to swim with them"

3329 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

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The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** william langley [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Friday, October 26, 2012 8:26 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

william langley gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"own property in chaz someday would like my kids and grand kids to enjoy the beauty of the manatees Be kind respect live life"

2418 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

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Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** William Livigni [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Friday, October 26, 2012 6:17 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

William Livigni gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Because the Manatees are important!"

2198 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

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Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** William Ross [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 2:18 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

William Ross gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"The manatees are our children's heritage."

3816 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

FFWCC Peer review of the proposed Minimum Flows and Levels warned that the proposed reductions of fresh water flow could lead to "extirpation" of saline intolerant species. Residents and biologists familiar with the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers have observed declines in water quality, die-off of salt intolerant fresh water plants, and a movement of saline-influenced habitats farther up stream towards the springs. It is essential that you deny further reductions in flow, and make every effort to preserve the existing fresh water flow, and if possible, restore spring quality to that which would insure continued survival of the freshwater dependent habitats and species.

Rare and imperiled species of plants and animals (from Old Growth Cypress and terrestrial orchids to southeastern fresh water mussels, Chassahowitzka Black Bears, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, Manatees,

and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** william thomas [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 28, 2012 1:35 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

william thomas gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"i grew up in chassahowitzka. the river is dear to me. we need to protect this piece of florida."

9071 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Both of these "Florida Outstanding Waters" have already experienced substantial degradation and now urgently need your help in Restoring them to to the more pristine, natural conditions present at the time of their designation as Outstanding Florida Waters.

The spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers are home to Federal and State Listed Endangered Species, including the West Indian Manatee, that rely on the fresh water habitats for their continued survival. These rare springs and the myriad of fresh water fish, birds, and wildlife that they support are also essential to the area's Eco-tour and fishing economy.

Endangered West Indian Manatees rely on the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs for life-saving thermal refuge and essential fresh water habitat. Generations of Manatees return to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa springs annually to take refuge in the life saving warm spring waters, and without these familiar winter refuges, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka's returning manatees would perish.

Any further reduction in fresh water flow to the springs could allow further encroachment by the saline waters of the Gulf, and in worse-case scenario, could stop sufficient flow of fresh water to the springs and make them too brackish to support the fresh water species (bass, sunfish, apple snail, aquatic plants, terrestrial fresh water habitats, etc.) presently living there, and too cold to provide life-saving thermal refuge to endangered Manatees during winter months.

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and others) rely on the spring runs and associated fresh water habitats of the Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Riverine Swamp Sanctuary and forested wetlands for their continued survival.

The Chassahowitzka and Homosassa spring-fed fresh water ecosystems are too precious to degrade any further, or risk "extirpating" forever by increased salt water intrusion.

These rare springs and sacred cenotes, and the sprawling fresh water forested wetlands they infuse are National Treasures, arguably World Heritage Sites that should be preserved and protected for future generations (of humans and wildlife).

The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** William Ware II [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 1:40 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

William Ware II gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"All life is precious to me."

2900 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

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Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** wilson bagwell [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Monday, October 29, 2012 11:33 AM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

wilson bagwell gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Science shows salt-water intrusion and lower fresh water flows, already significantly harming flora and wildlife....WHEN DOES THIS STOP !!!"

10542 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

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Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Wilson Patrick [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 28, 2012 12:45 AM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Wilson Patrick gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Common Sense, Peace for the Sea Cows!!!!!"

7947 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

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The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Yessenia Navarro [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Monday, October 29, 2012 11:12 AM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Yessenia Navarro gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Manatees are amazing and gentle creatures. We must preserve them."

10500 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

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The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Yvonne Townsley [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 12:05 AM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Yvonne Townsley gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"Manatees are endangered, fragile, and an important part of our ecosystem. Protect them now - they are part of us!!!"

2629 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

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The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

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## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

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**From:** Zia Faculjak [mailto:change.org]  
**Sent:** Monday, October 29, 2012 2:44 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** No Reduction in Flow to the Spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

Zia Faculjak gave the following reason for signing this petition:

"save these animals, all animals deserve to live just like we do.. "

10798 other people have also signed the following message:

Greetings,

Dear SWFWMD Governing Board,

We implore you to deny any reductions in flow to the spring-fed Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

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The undersigned implore SWFWMD's Governing Board, the State Legislature, and the Governor of Florida to deny any further reduction in flow to the spring-fed Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers.

Please say "NO" to reductions in flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers.

Thank you.

Note: this email was sent as part of a petition started on Change.org, viewable at <http://www.change.org/petitions/help-save-springs-for-florida-manatees-say-no-to-reductions-in-flow>. To respond, [click here](#)

**From:** [Gulf Restoration Network](#) on behalf of [Steven Handwerker](#)  
**To:** [Doug Leeper](#)  
**Subject:** Protect the Homosassa & Chassahowitzka Springs & Rivers now  
**Date:** Friday, October 26, 2012 6:27:56 PM

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Oct 25, 2012

Chief Environmental Scientist, SWFWMD Doug Leeper

Dear Leeper,

Florida's springs and rivers are our most unique natural asset, creating vibrant natural environments for recreation and wildlife, and supplying our drinking water. The Homosassa and Chassahowitzka spring-fed river systems provide a home for manatees and a recreational mecca for Floridians and visitors. These springs and rivers supply vital fresh water to the vital estuaries and coastal ecosystems of the Gulf of Mexico along the Nature Coast.

Decades of over-pumping and 20 years of drought have slowed or dried up these magnificent sources of crystal clear water and many are now murky with slime from nitrates fed by over-fertilized lawns, septic tanks, and farm and ranch operations that have no incentive to conserve.

Floridians won't stand for more water giveaways, pollution and decline. Please stop the destruction of our springs and rivers by rejecting the SWFWMD staff recommendation to allow a 15% decline in habitat generated by a 3% flow reduction of the Homosassa River System and call for NO ADDITIONAL WATER LOSS in the Homosassa. Likewise, the Governing Board should reject staff proposals and set a restoration and recovery strategy for the Chassahowitzka River System, which has been reduced to 91% of its natural flow since 1975.

It's time for a mandate to preserve and protect these critical resources for all Floridians. The water management policy must be adaptable to drought, climate change and overpumping. Many springs have ceased to flow or are no longer "connecting" with larger waterways, affecting the downstream systems. The goal of each water management district and the State of Florida should be to restore maximum flows and levels for our most important resource, and reverse conditions of decline and degradation within our freshwater environments.

Sincerely,

Dr. Steven Handwerker  
6465 Via Benita  
Boca Raton, FL 33433-6421  
(561) 417-2494

**From:** [Gulf Restoration Network](#) on behalf of [Lee Patrizzi](#)  
**To:** [Doug Leeper](#)  
**Subject:** Protect the Homosassa & Chassahowitzka Springs & Rivers now  
**Date:** Friday, October 26, 2012 6:36:19 PM

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Oct 25, 2012

Chief Environmental Scientist, SWFWMD Doug Leeper

Dear Leeper,

Florida's springs and rivers are our most unique natural asset, creating vibrant natural environments for recreation and wildlife, and supplying our drinking water. The Homosassa and Chassahowitzka spring-fed river systems provide a home for manatees and a recreational mecca for Floridians and visitors. These springs and rivers supply vital fresh water to the vital estuaries and coastal ecosystems of the Gulf of Mexico along the Nature Coast.

Decades of over-pumping and 20 years of drought have slowed or dried up these magnificent sources of crystal clear water and many are now murky with slime from nitrates fed by over-fertilized lawns, septic tanks, and farm and ranch operations that have no incentive to conserve.

Floridians won't stand for more water giveaways, pollution and decline. Please stop the destruction of our springs and rivers by rejecting the SWFWMD staff recommendation to allow a 15% decline in habitat generated by a 3% flow reduction of the Homosassa River System and call for NO ADDITIONAL WATER LOSS in the Homosassa. Likewise, the Governing Board should reject staff proposals and set a restoration and recovery strategy for the Chassahowitzka River System, which has been reduced to 91% of its natural flow since 1975.

It's time for a mandate to preserve and protect these critical resources for all Floridians. The water management policy must be adaptable to drought, climate change and overpumping. Many springs have ceased to flow or are no longer "connecting" with larger waterways, affecting the downstream systems. The goal of each water management district and the State of Florida should be to restore maximum flows and levels for our most important resource, and reverse conditions of decline and degradation within our freshwater environments.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Lee Patrizzi  
265 Riverwoods Trl  
Chuluota, FL 32766-9258

**From:** [Gulf Restoration Network](#) on behalf of [Keth Luke](#)  
**To:** [Doug Leeper](#)  
**Subject:** Protect the Homosassa & Chassahowitzka Springs & Rivers now  
**Date:** Friday, October 26, 2012 6:36:36 PM

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Oct 25, 2012

Chief Environmental Scientist, SWFWMD Doug Leeper

Dear Leeper,

Florida's springs and rivers are our most unique natural asset, creating vibrant natural environments for recreation and wildlife, and supplying our drinking water. The Homosassa and Chassahowitzka spring-fed river systems provide a home for manatees and a recreational mecca for Floridians and visitors. These springs and rivers supply vital fresh water to the vital estuaries and coastal ecosystems of the Gulf of Mexico along the Nature Coast.

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Sincerely,

Mr. Keth Luke  
5438 Tennessee Ave  
New Port Richey, FL 34652-2932  
(727) 842-6788

**From:** [Gulf Restoration Network](#) on behalf of [Dena Garcia](#)  
**To:** [Doug Leeper](#)  
**Subject:** Protect the Homosassa & Chassahowitzka Springs & Rivers now  
**Date:** Friday, October 26, 2012 6:36:30 PM

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Oct 25, 2012

Chief Environmental Scientist, SWFWMD Doug Leeper

Dear Leeper,

Florida's springs and rivers are our most unique natural asset, creating vibrant natural environments for recreation and wildlife, and supplying our drinking water. The Homosassa and Chassahowitzka spring-fed river systems provide a home for manatees and a recreational mecca for Floridians and visitors. These springs and rivers supply vital fresh water to the vital estuaries and coastal ecosystems of the Gulf of Mexico along the Nature Coast.

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Sincerely,

Mrs. Dena Garcia  
4805 Citrus Oak Ln  
Saint Cloud, FL 34771-8900

**From:** [Gulf Restoration Network](#) on behalf of [Maggie Davidson](#)  
**To:** [Doug Leeper](#)  
**Subject:** Protect the Homosassa & Chassahowitzka Springs & Rivers now  
**Date:** Friday, October 26, 2012 6:36:47 PM

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Oct 25, 2012

Chief Environmental Scientist, SWFWMD Doug Leeper

Dear Leeper,

Florida's springs and rivers are our most unique natural asset, creating vibrant natural environments for recreation and wildlife, and supplying our drinking water. The Homosassa and Chassahowitzka spring-fed river systems provide a home for manatees and a recreational mecca for Floridians and visitors. These springs and rivers supply vital fresh water to the vital estuaries and coastal ecosystems of the Gulf of Mexico along the Nature Coast.

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Sincerely,

Ms. Maggie Davidson  
750 Pine Dr Apt 11  
Pompano Beach, FL 33060-7281

**From:** [Gulf Restoration Network](#) on behalf of [Maggie Davidson](#)  
**To:** [Doug Leeper](#)  
**Subject:** Protect the Homosassa & Chassahowitzka Springs & Rivers now  
**Date:** Friday, October 26, 2012 6:36:41 PM

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Oct 25, 2012

Chief Environmental Scientist, SWFWMD Doug Leeper

Dear Leeper,

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Sincerely,

Ms. Maggie Davidson  
750 Pine Dr Apt 11  
Pompano Beach, FL 33060-7281

**From:** [Gulf Restoration Network](#) on behalf of [Patti Constantino-Martin](#)  
**To:** [Doug Leeper](#)  
**Subject:** Protect the Homosassa & Chassahowitzka Springs & Rivers now  
**Date:** Friday, October 26, 2012 6:36:58 PM

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Oct 25, 2012

Chief Environmental Scientist, SWFWMD Doug Leeper

Dear Leeper,

Florida's springs and rivers are our most unique natural asset, creating vibrant natural environments for recreation and wildlife, and supplying our drinking water. The Homosassa and Chassahowitzka spring-fed river systems provide a home for manatees and a recreational mecca for Floridians and visitors. These springs and rivers supply vital fresh water to the vital estuaries and coastal ecosystems of the Gulf of Mexico along the Nature Coast.

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Sincerely,

Mrs. Patti Constantino-Martin  
17249 Helen K Dr  
Spring Hill, FL 34610-7720

**From:** [Gulf Restoration Network](#) on behalf of [DK Bolen](#)  
**To:** [Doug Leeper](#)  
**Subject:** Protect the Homosassa & Chassahowitzka Springs & Rivers now  
**Date:** Friday, October 26, 2012 6:36:52 PM

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Oct 25, 2012

Chief Environmental Scientist, SWFWMD Doug Leeper

Dear Leeper,

Florida's springs and rivers are our most unique natural asset, creating vibrant natural environments for recreation and wildlife, and supplying our drinking water. The Homosassa and Chassahowitzka spring-fed river systems provide a home for manatees and a recreational mecca for Floridians and visitors. These springs and rivers supply vital fresh water to the vital estuaries and coastal ecosystems of the Gulf of Mexico along the Nature Coast.

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Sincerely,

Ms. DK Bolen  
5600 - 59 Way N  
St Petersburg, FL 33709

**From:** [Gulf Restoration Network](#) on behalf of [Stefan Taylor](#)  
**To:** [Doug Leeper](#)  
**Subject:** Protect the Homosassa & Chassahowitzka Springs & Rivers now  
**Date:** Friday, October 26, 2012 6:37:03 PM

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Oct 25, 2012

Chief Environmental Scientist, SWFWMD Doug Leeper

Dear Leeper,

Florida's springs and rivers are our most unique natural asset, creating vibrant natural environments for recreation and wildlife, and supplying our drinking water. The Homosassa and Chassahowitzka spring-fed river systems provide a home for manatees and a recreational mecca for Floridians and visitors. These springs and rivers supply vital fresh water to the vital estuaries and coastal ecosystems of the Gulf of Mexico along the Nature Coast.

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Sincerely,

Mr. Stefan Taylor  
7517 N 40th St Apt F204  
Tampa, FL 33604-4514

**From:** [Gulf Restoration Network](#) on behalf of [Steven Handwerker](#)  
**To:** [Doug Leeper](#)  
**Subject:** Protect the Homosassa & Chassahowitzka Springs & Rivers now  
**Date:** Friday, October 26, 2012 6:37:23 PM

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Oct 25, 2012

Chief Environmental Scientist, SWFWMD Doug Leeper

Dear Leeper,

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Sincerely,

Dr. Steven Handwerker  
6465 Via Benita  
Boca Raton, FL 33433-6421  
(561) 417-2494

**From:** [Gulf Restoration Network](#) on behalf of [Steven Handwerker](#)  
**To:** [Doug Leeper](#)  
**Subject:** Protect the Homosassa & Chassahowitzka Springs & Rivers now  
**Date:** Friday, October 26, 2012 6:37:14 PM

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Oct 25, 2012

Chief Environmental Scientist, SWFWMD Doug Leeper

Dear Leeper,

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Dr. Steven Handwerker  
6465 Via Benita  
Boca Raton, FL 33433-6421  
(561) 417-2494

**From:** [Gulf Restoration Network](#) on behalf of [sally harkness](#)  
**To:** [Doug Leeper](#)  
**Subject:** Protect the Homosassa & Chassahowitzka Springs & Rivers now  
**Date:** Friday, October 26, 2012 6:35:19 PM

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Oct 25, 2012

Chief Environmental Scientist, SWFWMD Doug Leeper

Dear Leeper,

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Sincerely,

Ms. sally harkness  
12400 6th St E  
Treasure Island, FL 33706-2925  
(727) 368-9113

**From:** [Gulf Restoration Network](#) on behalf of [kristina harper](#)  
**To:** [Doug Leeper](#)  
**Subject:** Protect the Homosassa & Chassahowitzka Springs & Rivers now  
**Date:** Friday, October 26, 2012 6:37:46 PM

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Oct 25, 2012

Chief Environmental Scientist, SWFWMD Doug Leeper

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Sincerely,

Ms. kristina harper  
1818 E Oakland Park Blvd  
Oakland Park, FL 33306-1146

**From:** [Gulf Restoration Network](#) on behalf of [Patricia Cooke](#)  
**To:** [Doug Leeper](#)  
**Subject:** Protect the Homosassa & Chassahowitzka Springs & Rivers now  
**Date:** Friday, October 26, 2012 6:37:29 PM

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Oct 25, 2012

Chief Environmental Scientist, SWFWMD Doug Leeper

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I remember a time when the governing board members of SWFWMD stood for maintaining and improving the water quality of those lakes and rivers within the District's boundary. More and more citizens of Florida are watching carefully how you act to protect those water bodies, and will respond at the ballot box when it is time to elect those persons who appoint governing board members.

Floridians won't stand for more water giveaways, pollution and decline. Please stop the destruction of our springs and rivers by rejecting the SWFWMD staff recommendation to allow a 15% decline in habitat generated by a 3% flow reduction of the Homosassa River System and call for NO ADDITIONAL WATER LOSS in the Homosassa. Likewise, the Governing Board should reject staff proposals and set a restoration and recovery strategy for the Chassahowitzka River System, which has been reduced to 91% of its natural flow since 1975.

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Sincerely,

Mrs. Patricia Cooke  
2263 Batten Rd  
Brooksville, FL 34602-8325

**From:** [Gulf Restoration Network](#) on behalf of [Rebekah Walters](#)  
**To:** [Doug Leeper](#)  
**Subject:** Protect the Homosassa & Chassahowitzka Springs & Rivers now  
**Date:** Friday, October 26, 2012 6:37:58 PM

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Oct 25, 2012

Chief Environmental Scientist, SWFWMD Doug Leeper

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Sincerely,

Ms. Rebekah Walters  
200 Agnes Ct Apt 25  
Orlando, FL 32801-3834

**From:** [Gulf Restoration Network](#) on behalf of [Karen Ahlers](#)  
**To:** [Doug Leeper](#)  
**Subject:** Protect the Homosassa & Chassahowitzka Springs & Rivers now  
**Date:** Friday, October 26, 2012 6:38:13 PM

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Oct 25, 2012

Chief Environmental Scientist, SWFWMD Doug Leeper

Dear Leeper,

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Sincerely,

Ms. Karen Ahlers  
124 Vause Lake Rd  
Hawthorne, FL 32640-6108

**From:** [Gulf Restoration Network](#) on behalf of [Steven Handwerker](#)  
**To:** [Doug Leeper](#)  
**Subject:** Protect the Homosassa & Chassahowitzka Springs & Rivers now  
**Date:** Friday, October 26, 2012 6:38:07 PM

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Oct 25, 2012

Chief Environmental Scientist, SWFWMD Doug Leeper

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Sincerely,

Dr. Steven Handwerker  
6465 Via Benita  
Boca Raton, FL 33433-6421  
(561) 417-2494

**From:** [Gulf Restoration Network](#) on behalf of [Barbara Fite](#)  
**To:** [Doug Leeper](#)  
**Subject:** Protect the Homosassa & Chassahowitzka Springs & Rivers now  
**Date:** Friday, October 26, 2012 6:38:41 PM

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Oct 25, 2012

Chief Environmental Scientist, SWFWMD Doug Leeper

Dear Leeper,

Florida's springs and rivers are our most unique natural asset, creating vibrant natural environments for recreation and wildlife, and supplying our drinking water. The Homosassa and Chassahowitzka spring-fed river systems provide a home for manatees and a recreational mecca for Floridians and visitors. These springs and rivers supply vital fresh water to the vital estuaries and coastal ecosystems of the Gulf of Mexico along the Nature Coast.

Decades of over-pumping and 20 years of drought have slowed or dried up these magnificent sources of crystal clear water and many are now murky with slime from nitrates fed by over-fertilized lawns, septic tanks, and farm and ranch operations that have no incentive to conserve.

Floridians won't stand for more water giveaways, pollution and decline. Please stop the destruction of our springs and rivers by rejecting the SWFWMD staff recommendation to allow a 15% decline in habitat generated by a 3% flow reduction of the Homosassa River System and call for NO ADDITIONAL WATER LOSS in the Homosassa. Likewise, the Governing Board should reject staff proposals and set a restoration and recovery strategy for the Chassahowitzka River System, which has been reduced to 91% of its natural flow since 1975.

It's time for a mandate to preserve and protect these critical resources for all Floridians. The water management policy must be adaptable to drought, climate change and overpumping. Many springs have ceased to flow or are no longer "connecting" with larger waterways, affecting the downstream systems. The goal of each water management district and the State of Florida should be to restore maximum flows and levels for our most important resource, and reverse conditions of decline and degradation within our freshwater environments.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Barbara Fite  
PO Box 1766  
Lutz, FL 33548-1766

**From:** [Gulf Restoration Network](#) on behalf of [Candace Arnold](#)  
**To:** [Doug Leeper](#)  
**Subject:** Protect the Homosassa & Chassahowitzka Springs & Rivers now  
**Date:** Friday, October 26, 2012 6:38:55 PM

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Oct 25, 2012

Chief Environmental Scientist, SWFWMD Doug Leeper

Dear Leeper,

Florida's springs and rivers are our most unique natural asset, creating vibrant natural environments for recreation and wildlife, and supplying our drinking water. The Homosassa and Chassahowitzka spring-fed river systems provide a home for manatees and a recreational mecca for Floridians and visitors. These springs and rivers supply vital fresh water to the vital estuaries and coastal ecosystems of the Gulf of Mexico along the Nature Coast.

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Sincerely,

Mrs. Candace Arnold  
5380 Alcola Way S  
St Petersburg, FL 33712-4930  
(727) 867-9149

**From:** [Gulf Restoration Network](#) on behalf of [Candace Arnold](#)  
**To:** [Doug Leeper](#)  
**Subject:** Protect the Homosassa & Chassahowitzka Springs & Rivers now  
**Date:** Friday, October 26, 2012 6:38:49 PM

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Oct 25, 2012

Chief Environmental Scientist, SWFWMD Doug Leeper

Dear Leeper,

Florida's springs and rivers are our most unique natural asset, creating vibrant natural environments for recreation and wildlife, and supplying our drinking water. The Homosassa and Chassahowitzka spring-fed river systems provide a home for manatees and a recreational mecca for Floridians and visitors. These springs and rivers supply vital fresh water to the vital estuaries and coastal ecosystems of the Gulf of Mexico along the Nature Coast.

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Sincerely,

Mrs. Candace Arnold  
5380 Alcola Way S  
St Petersburg, FL 33712-4930  
(727) 867-9149

**From:** [Gulf Restoration Network](#) on behalf of [Benjamin Joannou Jr](#)  
**To:** [Doug Leeper](#)  
**Subject:** Protect the Homosassa & Chassahowitzka Springs & Rivers now  
**Date:** Friday, October 26, 2012 6:39:07 PM

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Oct 25, 2012

Chief Environmental Scientist, SWFWMD Doug Leeper

Dear Leeper,

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Sincerely,

Mr. Benjamin Joannou Jr  
6401 SW 134th Dr  
Pinecrest, FL 33156-7046  
(305) 663-1890

**From:** [Gulf Restoration Network](#) on behalf of [Candace Arnold](#)  
**To:** [Doug Leeper](#)  
**Subject:** Protect the Homosassa & Chassahowitzka Springs & Rivers now  
**Date:** Friday, October 26, 2012 6:39:01 PM

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Oct 25, 2012

Chief Environmental Scientist, SWFWMD Doug Leeper

Dear Leeper,

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Sincerely,

Mrs. Candace Arnold  
5380 Alcola Way S  
St Petersburg, FL 33712-4930  
(727) 867-9149

**From:** [Gulf Restoration Network](#) on behalf of [Vaughan Greene](#)  
**To:** [Doug Leeper](#)  
**Subject:** Protect the Homosassa & Chassahowitzka Springs & Rivers now  
**Date:** Friday, October 26, 2012 6:35:35 PM

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Oct 25, 2012

Chief Environmental Scientist, SWFWMD Doug Leeper

Dear Leeper,

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Sincerely,

Ms. Vaughan Greene  
217 Walton Rose Ln  
Panama City Beach, FL 32413-7249  
(850) 231-0956

**From:** [Gulf Restoration Network](#) on behalf of [M S Dillon III](#)  
**To:** [Doug Leeper](#)  
**Subject:** Protect the Homosassa & Chassahowitzka Springs & Rivers now  
**Date:** Friday, October 26, 2012 6:39:24 PM

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Oct 25, 2012

Chief Environmental Scientist, SWFWMD Doug Leeper

Dear Leeper,

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Sincerely,

Mr. M S Dillon III  
4100 Malaga Ave  
Coconut Grove, FL 33133-6325

**From:** [Gulf Restoration Network](#) on behalf of [margaret silver](#)  
**To:** [Doug Leeper](#)  
**Subject:** Protect the Homosassa & Chassahowitzka Springs & Rivers now  
**Date:** Friday, October 26, 2012 6:39:18 PM

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Oct 25, 2012

Chief Environmental Scientist, SWFWMD Doug Leeper

Dear Leeper,

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Sincerely,

Mrs. margaret silver  
1829 Sea Oats Dr  
Atlantic Beach, FL 32233-4511

**From:** [Gulf Restoration Network](#) on behalf of [Candace Arnold](#)  
**To:** [Doug Leeper](#)  
**Subject:** Protect the Homosassa & Chassahowitzka Springs & Rivers now  
**Date:** Friday, October 26, 2012 6:39:13 PM

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Oct 25, 2012

Chief Environmental Scientist, SWFWMD Doug Leeper

Dear Leeper,

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Sincerely,

Mrs. Candace Arnold  
5380 Alcola Way S  
St Petersburg, FL 33712-4930  
(727) 867-9149

**From:** [Gulf Restoration Network](#) on behalf of [Ronald H. Silver, CEP](#)  
**To:** [Doug Leeper](#)  
**Subject:** Protect the Homosassa & Chassahowitzka Springs & Rivers now  
**Date:** Friday, October 26, 2012 6:39:35 PM

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Oct 25, 2012

Chief Environmental Scientist, SWFWMD Doug Leeper

Dear Leeper,

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Sincerely,

Mr. Ronald H. Silver, CEP  
1829 Sea Oats Dr  
Atlantic Beach, FL 32233-4511

**From:** [Gulf Restoration Network](#) on behalf of [Candace Arnold](#)  
**To:** [Doug Leeper](#)  
**Subject:** Protect the Homosassa & Chassahowitzka Springs & Rivers now  
**Date:** Friday, October 26, 2012 6:39:30 PM

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Oct 25, 2012

Chief Environmental Scientist, SWFWMD Doug Leeper

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Sincerely,

Mrs. Candace Arnold  
5380 Alcola Way S  
St Petersburg, FL 33712-4930  
(727) 867-9149

**From:** [Gulf Restoration Network](#) on behalf of [Genevieve Woolsey](#)  
**To:** [Doug Leeper](#)  
**Subject:** Protect the Homosassa & Chassahowitzka Springs & Rivers now  
**Date:** Friday, October 26, 2012 6:40:04 PM

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Oct 25, 2012

Chief Environmental Scientist, SWFWMD Doug Leeper

Dear Leeper,

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Sincerely,

Ms. Genevieve Woolsey  
714 Granite Rd  
Brandon, FL 33510-3543

**From:** [Gulf Restoration Network](#) on behalf of [Paula Powers](#)  
**To:** [Doug Leeper](#)  
**Subject:** Protect the Homosassa & Chassahowitzka Springs & Rivers now  
**Date:** Friday, October 26, 2012 6:39:59 PM

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Oct 25, 2012

Chief Environmental Scientist, SWFWMD Doug Leeper

Dear Leeper,

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Sincerely,

Ms. Paula Powers  
172 SE 30th Ave  
Boynton Beach, FL 33435-8235  
(561) 369-0854

**From:** [Gulf Restoration Network](#) on behalf of [Bill Harding](#)  
**To:** [Doug Leeper](#)  
**Subject:** Protect the Homosassa & Chassahowitzka Springs & Rivers now  
**Date:** Friday, October 26, 2012 6:39:42 PM

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Oct 25, 2012

Chief Environmental Scientist, SWFWMD Doug Leeper

Dear Leeper,

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Sincerely,

Mr. Bill Harding  
4125 Park St N Lot 444  
St Petersburg, FL 33709-4062  
(727) 244-2391

**From:** [Gulf Restoration Network](#) on behalf of [Lindsay Johnson](#)  
**To:** [Doug Leeper](#)  
**Subject:** Protect the Homosassa & Chassahowitzka Springs & Rivers now  
**Date:** Friday, October 26, 2012 6:40:20 PM

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Oct 25, 2012

Chief Environmental Scientist, SWFWMD Doug Leeper

Dear Leeper,

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Sincerely,

Mr. Lindsay Johnson  
941 S Forest Creek Dr  
St Augustine, FL 32092-3779

**From:** [Gulf Restoration Network](#) on behalf of [Todd Dripps](#)  
**To:** [Doug Leeper](#)  
**Subject:** Protect the Homosassa & Chassahowitzka Springs & Rivers now  
**Date:** Friday, October 26, 2012 6:40:15 PM

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Oct 25, 2012

Chief Environmental Scientist, SWFWMD Doug Leeper

Dear Leeper,

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Sincerely,

Mr. Todd Dripps  
2447 SW 13th Ter  
Palm City, FL 34990-2127

**From:** [Gulf Restoration Network](#) on behalf of [sally harkness](#)  
**To:** [Doug Leeper](#)  
**Subject:** Protect the Homosassa & Chassahowitzka Springs & Rivers now  
**Date:** Friday, October 26, 2012 6:35:28 PM

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Oct 25, 2012

Chief Environmental Scientist, SWFWMD Doug Leeper

Dear Leeper,

Florida's springs and rivers are our most unique natural asset, creating vibrant natural environments for recreation and wildlife, and supplying our drinking water. The Homosassa and Chassahowitzka spring-fed river systems provide a home for manatees and a recreational mecca for Floridians and visitors. These springs and rivers supply vital fresh water to the vital estuaries and coastal ecosystems of the Gulf of Mexico along the Nature Coast.

Decades of over-pumping and 20 years of drought have slowed or dried up these magnificent sources of crystal clear water and many are now murky with slime from nitrates fed by over-fertilized lawns, septic tanks, and farm and ranch operations that have no incentive to conserve.

Floridians won't stand for more water giveaways, pollution and decline. Please stop the destruction of our springs and rivers by rejecting the SWFWMD staff recommendation to allow a 15% decline in habitat generated by a 3% flow reduction of the Homosassa River System and call for NO ADDITIONAL WATER LOSS in the Homosassa. Likewise, the Governing Board should reject staff proposals and set a restoration and recovery strategy for the Chassahowitzka River System, which has been reduced to 91% of its natural flow since 1975.

It's time for a mandate to preserve and protect these critical resources for all Floridians. The water management policy must be adaptable to drought, climate change and overpumping. Many springs have ceased to flow or are no longer "connecting" with larger waterways, affecting the downstream systems. The goal of each water management district and the State of Florida should be to restore maximum flows and levels for our most important resource, and reverse conditions of decline and degradation within our freshwater environments.

Sincerely,

Ms. sally harkness  
12400 6th St E  
Treasure Island, FL 33706-2925  
(727) 368-9113

**From:** [Gulf Restoration Network](#) on behalf of [Faith Staggs](#)  
**To:** [Doug Leeper](#)  
**Subject:** Protect the Homosassa & Chassahowitzka Springs & Rivers now  
**Date:** Friday, October 26, 2012 6:40:09 PM

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Oct 25, 2012

Chief Environmental Scientist, SWFWMD Doug Leeper

Dear Leeper,

Florida's springs and rivers are our most unique natural asset, creating vibrant natural environments for recreation and wildlife, and supplying our drinking water. The Homosassa and Chassahowitzka spring-fed river systems provide a home for manatees and a recreational mecca for Floridians and visitors. These springs and rivers supply vital fresh water to the vital estuaries and coastal ecosystems of the Gulf of Mexico along the Nature Coast.

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Sincerely,

Ms. Faith Staggs  
140 Hunter Lake Dr  
Unit C  
Oldsmar, FL 34677-4576

**From:** [Gulf Restoration Network](#) on behalf of [WARREN HART](#)  
**To:** [Doug Leeper](#)  
**Subject:** Protect the Homosassa & Chassahowitzka Springs & Rivers now  
**Date:** Friday, October 26, 2012 6:40:37 PM

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Oct 25, 2012

Chief Environmental Scientist, SWFWMD Doug Leeper

Dear Leeper,

Florida's springs and rivers are our most unique natural asset, creating vibrant natural environments for recreation and wildlife, and supplying our drinking water. The Homosassa and Chassahowitzka spring-fed river systems provide a home for manatees and a recreational mecca for Floridians and visitors. These springs and rivers supply vital fresh water to the vital estuaries and coastal ecosystems of the Gulf of Mexico along the Nature Coast.

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Sincerely,

Mr. WARREN HART  
1121 Pepperdine Ln  
Sanford, FL 32771-6646

**From:** [Gulf Restoration Network](#) on behalf of [Rebecca R. McFee](#)  
**To:** [Doug Leeper](#)  
**Subject:** Protect the Homosassa & Chassahowitzka Springs & Rivers now  
**Date:** Friday, October 26, 2012 6:40:31 PM

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Oct 25, 2012

Chief Environmental Scientist, SWFWMD Doug Leeper

Dear Leeper,

Florida's springs and rivers are our most unique natural asset, creating vibrant natural environments for recreation and wildlife, and supplying our drinking water. The Homosassa and Chassahowitzka spring-fed river systems provide a home for manatees and a recreational mecca for Floridians and visitors. These springs and rivers supply vital fresh water to the vital estuaries and coastal ecosystems of the Gulf of Mexico along the Nature Coast.

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Sincerely,

Ms. Rebecca R. McFee  
3004 SE Salerno Rd  
Stuart, FL 34997-6644

**From:** [Gulf Restoration Network](#) on behalf of [Allie Tennant](#)  
**To:** [Doug Leeper](#)  
**Subject:** Protect the Homosassa & Chassahowitzka Springs & Rivers now  
**Date:** Friday, October 26, 2012 6:40:26 PM

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Oct 25, 2012

Chief Environmental Scientist, SWFWMD Doug Leeper

Dear Leeper,

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Sincerely,

Ms. Allie Tennant  
4763 Nottingham Dr  
Fort Myers, FL 33905-4119

**From:** [Gulf Restoration Network](#) on behalf of [Sharon Rich](#)  
**To:** [Doug Leeper](#)  
**Subject:** Protect the Homosassa & Chassahowitzka Springs & Rivers now  
**Date:** Friday, October 26, 2012 6:40:53 PM

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Oct 25, 2012

Chief Environmental Scientist, SWFWMD Doug Leeper

Dear Leeper,

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Sincerely,

Mrs. Sharon Rich  
2834 Regent Cres  
South Daytona, FL 32119-8556  
(384) 304-7824

**From:** [Gulf Restoration Network](#) on behalf of [Rebecca R. McFee](#)  
**To:** [Doug Leeper](#)  
**Subject:** Protect the Homosassa & Chassahowitzka Springs & Rivers now  
**Date:** Friday, October 26, 2012 6:40:48 PM

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Oct 25, 2012

Chief Environmental Scientist, SWFWMD Doug Leeper

Dear Leeper,

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Sincerely,

Ms. Rebecca R. McFee  
3004 SE Salerno Rd  
Stuart, FL 34997-6644

**From:** [Gulf Restoration Network](#) on behalf of [Rebecca R. McFee](#)  
**To:** [Doug Leeper](#)  
**Subject:** Protect the Homosassa & Chassahowitzka Springs & Rivers now  
**Date:** Friday, October 26, 2012 6:40:42 PM

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Oct 25, 2012

Chief Environmental Scientist, SWFWMD Doug Leeper

Dear Leeper,

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Sincerely,

Ms. Rebecca R. McFee  
3004 SE Salerno Rd  
Stuart, FL 34997-6644

**From:** [Gulf Restoration Network](#) on behalf of [Meyer Jordan](#)  
**To:** [Doug Leeper](#)  
**Subject:** Protect the Homosassa & Chassahowitzka Springs & Rivers now  
**Date:** Friday, October 26, 2012 6:41:04 PM

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Oct 25, 2012

Chief Environmental Scientist, SWFWMD Doug Leeper

Dear Leeper,

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Sincerely,

Mr. Meyer Jordan  
403 W Michigan Ave  
Pensacola, FL 32505-2503

**From:** [Gulf Restoration Network](#) on behalf of [Barbara Sallee](#)  
**To:** [Doug Leeper](#)  
**Subject:** Protect the Homosassa & Chassahowitzka Springs & Rivers now  
**Date:** Friday, October 26, 2012 6:40:58 PM

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Oct 25, 2012

Chief Environmental Scientist, SWFWMD Doug Leeper

Dear Leeper,

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Sincerely,

Ms. Barbara Sallee  
6045 39th Ct E  
Bradenton, FL 34203-7003  
(941) 739-2420

**From:** [Gulf Restoration Network](#) on behalf of [Barbara Laxon](#)  
**To:** [Doug Leeper](#)  
**Subject:** Protect the Homosassa & Chassahowitzka Springs & Rivers now  
**Date:** Friday, October 26, 2012 6:41:25 PM

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Oct 25, 2012

Chief Environmental Scientist, SWFWMD Doug Leeper

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Sincerely,

Ms. Barbara Laxon  
1778 SW 85th Ave  
Miramar, FL 33025-2190

**From:** [Gulf Restoration Network](#) on behalf of [Marcia Hoodwin](#)  
**To:** [Doug Leeper](#)  
**Subject:** Protect the Homosassa & Chassahowitzka Springs & Rivers now  
**Date:** Friday, October 26, 2012 6:35:44 PM

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Oct 25, 2012

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Sincerely,

Ms. Marcia Hoodwin  
8236 Shadow Pine Way  
Sarasota, FL 34238-5618

**From:** [Gulf Restoration Network](#) on behalf of [Cris Costello](#)  
**To:** [Doug Leeper](#)  
**Subject:** Protect the Homosassa & Chassahowitzka Springs & Rivers now  
**Date:** Friday, October 26, 2012 6:41:19 PM

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Oct 25, 2012

Chief Environmental Scientist, SWFWMD Doug Leeper

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Sincerely,

Ms. Cris Costello  
127 Van Dyck Dr  
Nokomis, FL 34275-4237  
(941) 966-4101

**From:** [Gulf Restoration Network](#) on behalf of [Judith Angley](#)  
**To:** [Doug Leeper](#)  
**Subject:** Protect the Homosassa & Chassahowitzka Springs & Rivers now  
**Date:** Friday, October 26, 2012 6:41:15 PM

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Oct 25, 2012

Chief Environmental Scientist, SWFWMD Doug Leeper

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Sincerely,

Ms. Judith Angley  
4410 NW 30th Ter  
Gainesville, FL 32605-1529

**From:** [Gulf Restoration Network](#) on behalf of [Judith Angley](#)  
**To:** [Doug Leeper](#)  
**Subject:** Protect the Homosassa & Chassahowitzka Springs & Rivers now  
**Date:** Friday, October 26, 2012 6:41:09 PM

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Oct 25, 2012

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Sincerely,

Ms. Judith Angley  
4410 NW 30th Ter  
Gainesville, FL 32605-1529

**From:** [Gulf Restoration Network](#) on behalf of [Michael Duffey](#)  
**To:** [Doug Leeper](#)  
**Subject:** Protect the Homosassa & Chassahowitzka Springs & Rivers now  
**Date:** Friday, October 26, 2012 6:41:30 PM

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Oct 25, 2012

Chief Environmental Scientist, SWFWMD Doug Leeper

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Sincerely,

Mr. Michael Duffey  
19 Chestnut Ave SE  
Apt 57  
Fort Walton Beach, FL 32548-5662

**From:** [Gulf Restoration Network](#) on behalf of [Michael Duffey](#)  
**To:** [Doug Leeper](#)  
**Subject:** Protect the Homosassa & Chassahowitzka Springs & Rivers now  
**Date:** Friday, October 26, 2012 6:41:39 PM

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Oct 25, 2012

Chief Environmental Scientist, SWFWMD Doug Leeper

Dear Leeper,

Florida's springs and rivers are our most unique natural asset, creating vibrant natural environments for recreation and wildlife, and supplying our drinking water. The Homosassa and Chassahowitzka spring-fed river systems provide a home for manatees and a recreational mecca for Floridians and visitors. These springs and rivers supply vital fresh water to the vital estuaries and coastal ecosystems of the Gulf of Mexico along the Nature Coast.

Floridians won't stand for more water giveaways, pollution and decline. Please stop the destruction of our springs and rivers by rejecting the SWFWMD staff recommendation to allow a 15% decline in habitat generated by a 3% flow reduction of the Homosassa River System and call for NO ADDITIONAL WATER LOSS in the Homosassa. Likewise, the Governing Board should reject staff proposals and set a restoration and recovery strategy for the Chassahowitzka River System, which has been reduced to 91% of its natural flow since 1975.

It's time for a mandate to preserve and protect these critical resources for all Floridians. The water management policy must be adaptable to drought, climate change and overpumping. Many springs have ceased to flow or are no longer "connecting" with larger waterways, affecting the downstream systems. The goal of each water management district and the State of Florida should be to restore maximum flows and levels for our most important resource, and reverse conditions of decline and degradation within our freshwater environments.

Sincerely,

Mr. Michael Duffey  
19 Chestnut Ave SE  
Apt 57  
Fort Walton Beach, FL 32548-5662

**From:** [Gulf Restoration Network](#) on behalf of [Michael Ott](#)  
**To:** [Doug Leeper](#)  
**Subject:** Protect the Homosassa & Chassahowitzka Springs & Rivers now  
**Date:** Friday, October 26, 2012 6:36:00 PM

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Oct 25, 2012

Chief Environmental Scientist, SWFWMD Doug Leeper

Dear Leeper,

Florida's springs and rivers are our most unique natural asset, creating vibrant natural environments for recreation and wildlife, and supplying our drinking water. The Homosassa and Chassahowitzka spring-fed river systems provide a home for manatees and a recreational mecca for Floridians and visitors. These springs and rivers supply vital fresh water to the vital estuaries and coastal ecosystems of the Gulf of Mexico along the Nature Coast.

Decades of over-pumping and 20 years of drought have slowed or dried up these magnificent sources of crystal clear water and many are now murky with slime from nitrates fed by over-fertilized lawns, septic tanks, and farm and ranch operations that have no incentive to conserve.

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Sincerely,

Mr. Michael Ott  
6105 Sheree Dr  
Milton, FL 32570-8853

**From:** [Gulf Restoration Network](#) on behalf of [Debra Mixon](#)  
**To:** [Doug Leeper](#)  
**Subject:** Protect the Homosassa & Chassahowitzka Springs & Rivers now  
**Date:** Friday, October 26, 2012 6:35:53 PM

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Oct 25, 2012

Chief Environmental Scientist, SWFWMD Doug Leeper

Dear Leeper,

I am a resident of Homosassa and my husband and I are the owners of a charter tour business. The health of the Homosassa River directly impacts our business.

Florida's springs and rivers are our most unique natural asset, creating vibrant natural environments for recreation and wildlife, and supplying our drinking water. The Homosassa and Chassahowitzka spring-fed river systems provide a home for manatees and a recreational mecca for Floridians and visitors, (impacting the economic health of businesses like mine). These springs and rivers supply vital fresh water to the vital estuaries and coastal ecosystems of the Gulf of Mexico along the Nature Coast.

Decades of over-pumping and 20 years of drought have slowed or dried up these magnificent sources of crystal clear water and many are now murky with slime from nitrates fed by over-fertilized lawns, septic tanks, and farm and ranch operations that have no incentive to conserve.

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Sincerely,

Ms. Debra Mixon  
10515 W New York St  
Homosassa, FL 34448-3826  
(352) 628-5999

**From:** [Gulf Restoration Network](#) on behalf of [Mark Hutchinson](#)  
**To:** [Doug Leeper](#)  
**Subject:** Protect the Homosassa & Chassahowitzka Springs & Rivers now  
**Date:** Friday, October 26, 2012 6:36:12 PM

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Oct 25, 2012

Chief Environmental Scientist, SWFWMD Doug Leeper

Dear Leeper,

Water is a natural resources that needs to be protected, not exploited. Before tapping into any more water supplies, double or triple charges for water until consumption and waste are significantly reduced.

It's time for a mandate to preserve and protect these critical resources for all Floridians. The water management policy must be adaptable to drought, climate change and over pumping. Many springs have ceased to flow or are no longer "connecting" with larger waterways, affecting the downstream systems. The goal of each water management district and the State of Florida should be to restore maximum flows and levels for our most important resource, and reverse conditions of decline and degradation within our freshwater environments.

Sincerely,

Mr. Mark Hutchinson  
34549 Orchid Pkwy  
Ridge Manor, FL 33523-8859

**From:** [Gulf Restoration Network](#) on behalf of [Andres Mejides](#)  
**To:** [Doug Leeper](#)  
**Subject:** Protect the Homosassa & Chassahowitzka Springs & Rivers now  
**Date:** Friday, October 26, 2012 6:36:06 PM

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Oct 25, 2012

Chief Environmental Scientist, SWFWMD Doug Leeper

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Sincerely,

Mr. Andres Mejides  
25650 SW 197th Ave  
Homestead, FL 33031-1611

**From:** [Gulf Restoration Network](#) on behalf of [Nina Tatlock](#)  
**To:** [Doug Leeper](#)  
**Subject:** Protect the Homosassa & Chassahowitzka Springs & Rivers now  
**Date:** Friday, October 26, 2012 1:02:36 PM

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Oct 25, 2012

Chief Environmental Scientist, SWFWMD Doug Leeper

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Sincerely,

Ms. Nina Tatlock  
1413 Beach Club Ln  
Apollo Beach, FL 33572-3063

**From:** [Gulf Restoration Network](#) on behalf of [Jan Novotny](#)  
**To:** [Doug Leeper](#)  
**Subject:** Protect the Homosassa & Chassahowitzka Springs & Rivers now  
**Date:** Thursday, October 25, 2012 7:29:27 PM

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Oct 25, 2012

Chief Environmental Scientist, SWFWMD Doug Leeper

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Sincerely,

Ms. Jan Novotny  
401 15th Ave N  
Jacksonville Beach, FL 32250-4710

**From:** Doug Leeper  
**To:** ["Jan Novotny"](#)  
**Cc:** [Virginia Singer](#); [Mike Heyl](#); [Ron Basso](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Protect the Homosassa & Chassahowitzka Springs & Rivers now  
**Date:** Friday, October 26, 2012 6:42:00 AM

---

Dear Ms. Novotny:

Thank you for your comments regarding the revised minimum flows and levels recommendations for the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa river systems. Your input has been reviewed by District staff and will be provided to the District Governing Board for consideration.

Douglas A. Leeper  
Chief Environmental Scientist  
Water Resources Bureau  
Southwest Florida Water Management District  
2379 Broad Street  
Brooksville, Florida 34604-6899  
1-800-423-1476, ext. 4272 (FL only)  
352-796-7211, ext. 4272  
352-754-6885 (Fax)  
[doug.leeper@watermatters.org](mailto:doug.leeper@watermatters.org)

-----Original Message-----

From: Gulf Restoration Network [<mailto:info@healthygulf.org>] On Behalf Of Jan Novotny  
Sent: Thursday, October 25, 2012 7:29 PM  
To: Doug Leeper  
Subject: Protect the Homosassa & Chassahowitzka Springs & Rivers now

Oct 25, 2012

Chief Environmental Scientist, SWFWMD Doug Leeper

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maximum flows and levels for our most important resource, and reverse conditions of decline and degradation within our freshwater environments.

Sincerely,

Ms. Jan Novotny  
401 15th Ave N  
Jacksonville Beach, FL 32250-4710

**From:** [Gulf Restoration Network](#) on behalf of [Stephen Tonjes](#)  
**To:** [Doug Leeper](#)  
**Subject:** Protect the Homosassa & Chassahowitzka Springs & Rivers now  
**Date:** Thursday, October 25, 2012 8:30:11 PM

---

Oct 25, 2012

Chief Environmental Scientist, SWFWMD Doug Leeper

Dear Leeper,

Our springs are already losing their appeal to tourists, and downstream industries that depend on their water are threatened. Their flows are already unacceptably low. It is unconscionable to plan for further reductions.

Please restore our springs; don't make plans to do more damage.

Sincerely,

Mr. Stephen Tonjes  
423 W Pennsylvania Ave  
Deland, FL 32720-3336

**From:** Doug Leeper  
**To:** ["Stephen Tonjes"](#)  
**Cc:** [Virginia Singer](#); [Mike Heyl](#); [Ron Basso](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Protect the Homosassa & Chassahowitzka Springs & Rivers now  
**Date:** Friday, October 26, 2012 6:45:00 AM

---

Dear Mr. Tonjes:

Thank you for your comments regarding the revised minimum flows and levels recommendations for the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa river systems. Your input has been reviewed by District staff and will be provided to the District Governing Board for consideration.

Douglas A. Leeper  
Chief Environmental Scientist  
Water Resources Bureau  
Southwest Florida Water Management District  
2379 Broad Street  
Brooksville, Florida 34604-6899  
1-800-423-1476, ext. 4272 (FL only)  
352-796-7211, ext. 4272  
352-754-6885 (Fax)  
[doug.leeper@watermatters.org](mailto:doug.leeper@watermatters.org)

-----Original Message-----

From: Gulf Restoration Network [<mailto:info@healthygulf.org>] On Behalf Of Stephen Tonjes  
Sent: Thursday, October 25, 2012 8:30 PM  
To: Doug Leeper  
Subject: Protect the Homosassa & Chassahowitzka Springs & Rivers now

Oct 25, 2012

Chief Environmental Scientist, SWFWMD Doug Leeper

Dear Leeper,

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Please restore our springs; don't make plans to do more damage.

Sincerely,

Mr. Stephen Tonjes  
423 W Pennsylvania Ave  
Deland, FL 32720-3336

**From:** [Alan Martyn Johnson](#)  
**To:** [Doug Leeper](#); [Ron Basso](#); [Mike Heyl](#); [Chris Zajac](#); [Mark Hammond](#); [Michael Molligan](#)  
**Subject:** Very Questionable Sentence in Chassahowitzka MFL Report  
**Date:** Friday, October 26, 2012 9:20:50 AM

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Every time I open my notated copies of these MFL reports I find another question in my notes at the side of the page. As it is Friday I thought I would share another with you, simply for coffee conversation.

Chassahowitzka Revised Report

Prologue Page xvii

*"The public expressed a consensus that environmental changes (namely tree die-off and upstream barnacle encroachment) associated with sea level change should not be exacerbated by additional freshwater withdrawals."*

I was not at all the meetings, but this statement does not reflect anything I heard.

Maybe someone can recall when this consensus was reached.

Considering the barnacles, as I recall public input was the barnacles are much further up the Homosassa than a few years ago. Barnacles are now knocking at the door of the main spring run. The only sea level change at this location is sea water ingress to the spring discharge. Tree die-off was for both the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka, but I do not recall any consensus this was due solely to sea level change.

No technical analysis needed, just where did this idea/consensus originate?

Martyn

**From:** Doug Leeper  
**To:** ["asidibe@chronicleonline.com"](mailto:asidibe@chronicleonline.com)  
**Bcc:** [Robyn O. Felix](#); [Virginia Singer](#)  
**Subject:** Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Minimum Flows  
**Date:** Friday, October 26, 2012 3:31:00 PM

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A.B.,

I just wanted to follow up with you about what we talked about this morning. We've had an extensive public input process over the last several years. As a result of that process, the revised minimum flows are more protective and based on the best data available. The revised minimum flows will protect 91% of the natural flows for the Chassahowitzka River System and 97% of the natural flows for the Homosassa River System. The revised minimum flows for each system have been reviewed by separate panels of independent scientific experts and they agreed that we've taken a reasonable approach to establishing the minimum flows. We will present the staff recommendations to the Governing Board on Tuesday and it will be up to the Board to make the final decision. Thanks again and have a great weekend.

Douglas A. Leeper  
Chief Environmental Scientist  
Water Resources Bureau  
Southwest Florida Water Management District  
2379 Broad Street  
Brooksville, Florida 34604-6899  
1-800-423-1476, ext. 4272 (FL only)  
352-796-7211, ext. 4272  
352-754-6885 (Fax)  
[doug.leeper@watermatters.org](mailto:doug.leeper@watermatters.org)

**October 26, 2012**

MEMORANDUM

TO: File

FROM: Douglas A. Leeper, Chief Environmental Scientist, Water Resources Bureau

---

Several e-mails of the form below pertaining to proposed minimum flows for the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa River systems were inadvertently deleted by Doug Leeper on October 26, 2012. In an attempt to document these submissions, a listing of e-mail addresses associated with the submitted comments is provided below.

**E-mail addresses associated with comments that were inadvertently deleted:**

[murphylarronde@gmail.com](mailto:murphylarronde@gmail.com)  
[randsscott@verizon.net](mailto:randsscott@verizon.net)  
[lisacunningham61@hotmail.com](mailto:lisacunningham61@hotmail.com)  
[marilynblackwel@wmconnect.com](mailto:marilynblackwel@wmconnect.com)  
[malkerson10@verizon.net](mailto:malkerson10@verizon.net)  
[gmorotti@gmail.com](mailto:gmorotti@gmail.com)  
[cgula@tampabay.rr.com](mailto:cgula@tampabay.rr.com)  
[jacqueline2662@cfl.rr.com](mailto:jacqueline2662@cfl.rr.com)  
[gmorotti@gmail.com](mailto:gmorotti@gmail.com)  
[tatlock@verizon.net](mailto:tatlock@verizon.net)  
[pete22roc@aol.com](mailto:pete22roc@aol.com)  
[bocacatlover@gmail.com](mailto:bocacatlover@gmail.com)  
[rst333@hotmail.com](mailto:rst333@hotmail.com)  
[jserpico@tampabay.rr.com](mailto:jserpico@tampabay.rr.com)  
[hhollon1221@aol.com](mailto:hhollon1221@aol.com)  
[hhollon1221@aol.com](mailto:hhollon1221@aol.com)  
[nnalouisefontaine@yahoo.ca](mailto:nnalouisefontaine@yahoo.ca)  
[hhollon1221@aol.com](mailto:hhollon1221@aol.com)  
[hhollon1221@aol.com](mailto:hhollon1221@aol.com)  
[hhollon1221@aol.com](mailto:hhollon1221@aol.com)  
[edene.wetherell@gmail.com](mailto:edene.wetherell@gmail.com)

**Generic e-mail comments general form language:**

Oct 25, 2012

Chief Environmental Scientist, SWFWMD Doug Leeper

Dear Leeper,

Florida's springs and rivers are our most unique natural asset, creating vibrant natural environments for recreation and wildlife, and supplying our drinking water. The Homosassa and Chassahowitzka spring-fed river systems provide a home for manatees and a recreational mecca for Floridians and visitors. These springs and rivers supply vital fresh water to the vital estuaries and coastal ecosystems of the Gulf of Mexico along the Nature Coast.

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**From:** [Gulf Restoration Network](#) on behalf of [ben dugger](#)  
**To:** [Doug Leeper](#)  
**Subject:** Protect the Homosassa & Chassahowitzka Springs & Rivers now  
**Date:** Friday, October 26, 2012 6:42:01 PM

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Oct 25, 2012

Chief Environmental Scientist, SWFWMD Doug Leeper

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Sincerely,

Mr. ben dugger  
4981porkylane  
st.jamescity, FL 33956

**From:** [Gulf Restoration Network](#) on behalf of [ben dugger](#)  
**To:** [Doug Leeper](#)  
**Subject:** Protect the Homosassa & Chassahowitzka Springs & Rivers now  
**Date:** Friday, October 26, 2012 6:42:41 PM

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Oct 25, 2012

Chief Environmental Scientist, SWFWMD Doug Leeper

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Sincerely,

Mr. ben dugger  
4981porkylane  
st.jamescity, FL 33956

**From:** [Gulf Restoration Network](#) on behalf of [Judith Angley](#)  
**To:** [Doug Leeper](#)  
**Subject:** Protect the Homosassa & Chassahowitzka Springs & Rivers now  
**Date:** Friday, October 26, 2012 6:42:36 PM

---

Oct 25, 2012

Chief Environmental Scientist, SWFWMD Doug Leeper

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Sincerely,

Ms. Judith Angley  
4410 NW 30th Ter  
Gainesville, FL 32605-1529

**From:** [Gulf Restoration Network](#) on behalf of [Barbara Sallee](#)  
**To:** [Doug Leeper](#)  
**Subject:** Protect the Homosassa & Chassahowitzka Springs & Rivers now  
**Date:** Friday, October 26, 2012 6:43:07 PM

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Oct 25, 2012

Chief Environmental Scientist, SWFWMD Doug Leeper

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Floridians won't stand for more water giveaways, pollution and decline. Please stop the destruction of our springs and rivers by rejecting the SWFWMD staff recommendation to allow a 15% decline in habitat generated by a 3% flow reduction of the Homosassa River System and call for NO ADDITIONAL WATER LOSS in the Homosassa. Likewise, the Governing Board should reject staff proposals and set a restoration and recovery strategy for the Chassahowitzka River System, which has been reduced to 91% of its natural flow since 1975.

It's time for a mandate to preserve and protect these critical resources for all Floridians. The water management policy must be adaptable to drought, climate change and overpumping. Many springs have ceased to flow or are no longer "connecting" with larger waterways, affecting the downstream systems. The goal of each water management district and the State of Florida should be to restore maximum flows and levels for our most important resource, and reverse conditions of decline and degradation within our freshwater environments.

Sincerely,

Ms. Barbara Sallee  
6045 39th Ct E  
Bradenton, FL 34203-7003  
(941) 739-2420

**From:** [Gulf Restoration Network](#) on behalf of [Colonel Meyer](#)  
**To:** [Doug Leeper](#)  
**Subject:** Protect the Homosassa & Chassahowitzka Springs & Rivers now  
**Date:** Friday, October 26, 2012 6:43:01 PM

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Oct 25, 2012

Chief Environmental Scientist, SWFWMD Doug Leeper

Dear Leeper,

Florida's springs and rivers are our most unique natural asset, creating vibrant natural environments for recreation and wildlife, and supplying our drinking water. The Homosassa and Chassahowitzka spring-fed river systems provide a home for manatees and a recreational mecca for Floridians and visitors. These springs and rivers supply vital fresh water to the vital estuaries and coastal ecosystems of the Gulf of Mexico along the Nature Coast.

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Sincerely,

Mr. Colonel Meyer  
3701 Eagle Pass St  
North Port, FL 34286-2009

**From:** [Gulf Restoration Network](#) on behalf of [Susan Pelakh](#)  
**To:** [Doug Leeper](#)  
**Subject:** Protect the Homosassa & Chassahowitzka Springs & Rivers now  
**Date:** Friday, October 26, 2012 6:42:56 PM

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Oct 25, 2012

Chief Environmental Scientist, SWFWMD Doug Leeper

Dear Leeper,

Florida's springs and rivers are our most unique natural asset, creating vibrant natural environments for recreation and wildlife, and supplying our drinking water. The Homosassa and Chassahowitzka spring-fed river systems provide a home for manatees and a recreational mecca for Floridians and visitors. These springs and rivers supply vital fresh water to the vital estuaries and coastal ecosystems of the Gulf of Mexico along the Nature Coast.

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Sincerely,

Ms. Susan Pelakh  
41 9th Ter  
Cocoa Beach, FL 32931-2476

**From:** [Gulf Restoration Network](#) on behalf of [Barbara Sallee](#)  
**To:** [Doug Leeper](#)  
**Subject:** Protect the Homosassa & Chassahowitzka Springs & Rivers now  
**Date:** Friday, October 26, 2012 6:42:52 PM

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Oct 25, 2012

Chief Environmental Scientist, SWFWMD Doug Leeper

Dear Leeper,

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Sincerely,

Ms. Barbara Sallee  
6045 39th Ct E  
Bradenton, FL 34203-7003  
(941) 739-2420

**From:** [Gulf Restoration Network](#) on behalf of [Barbara Sallee](#)  
**To:** [Doug Leeper](#)  
**Subject:** Protect the Homosassa & Chassahowitzka Springs & Rivers now  
**Date:** Friday, October 26, 2012 6:43:32 PM

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Oct 25, 2012

Chief Environmental Scientist, SWFWMD Doug Leeper

Dear Leeper,

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Sincerely,

Ms. Barbara Sallee  
6045 39th Ct E  
Bradenton, FL 34203-7003  
(941) 739-2420

**From:** [Gulf Restoration Network](#) on behalf of [S Logan](#)  
**To:** [Doug Leeper](#)  
**Subject:** Protect the Homosassa & Chassahowitzka Springs & Rivers now  
**Date:** Friday, October 26, 2012 6:43:26 PM

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Oct 25, 2012

Chief Environmental Scientist, SWFWMD Doug Leeper

Dear Leeper,

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Sincerely,

Mr. S Logan  
1001 Brickell Bay Dr  
Miami, FL 33131-4900

**From:** [Gulf Restoration Network](#) on behalf of [RE Barnes](#)  
**To:** [Doug Leeper](#)  
**Subject:** Protect the Homosassa & Chassahowitzka Springs & Rivers now  
**Date:** Friday, October 26, 2012 6:43:22 PM

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Oct 25, 2012

Chief Environmental Scientist, SWFWMD Doug Leeper

Dear Leeper,

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Sincerely,

Mr. RE Barnes  
1811 NW 51st St  
Ft Lauderdale, FL 33309-7119

**From:** [Gulf Restoration Network](#) on behalf of [Jane Schnee](#)  
**To:** [Doug Leeper](#)  
**Subject:** Protect the Homosassa & Chassahowitzka Springs & Rivers now  
**Date:** Friday, October 26, 2012 6:43:17 PM

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Oct 25, 2012

Chief Environmental Scientist, SWFWMD Doug Leeper

Dear Leeper,

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Sincerely,

Ms. Jane Schnee  
1022 Foster Rd Apt A  
Sebastian, FL 32958-8658  
(772) 589-3201

**From:** [Gulf Restoration Network](#) on behalf of [Barbara Sallee](#)  
**To:** [Doug Leeper](#)  
**Subject:** Protect the Homosassa & Chassahowitzka Springs & Rivers now  
**Date:** Friday, October 26, 2012 6:41:55 PM

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Oct 25, 2012

Chief Environmental Scientist, SWFWMD Doug Leeper

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Sincerely,

Ms. Barbara Sallee  
6045 39th Ct E  
Bradenton, FL 34203-7003  
(941) 739-2420

**From:** [Gulf Restoration Network](#) on behalf of [Thomas Bardroff](#)  
**To:** [Doug Leeper](#)  
**Subject:** Protect the Homosassa & Chassahowitzka Springs & Rivers now  
**Date:** Friday, October 26, 2012 6:43:12 PM

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Oct 25, 2012

Chief Environmental Scientist, SWFWMD Doug Leeper

Dear Leeper,

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Sincerely,

Mr. Thomas Bardroff  
8009 High Oaks Trl  
Myakka City, FL 34251-8303  
(941) 322-2205

**From:** [Gulf Restoration Network](#) on behalf of [lynn orourke](#)  
**To:** [Doug Leeper](#)  
**Subject:** Protect the Homosassa & Chassahowitzka Springs & Rivers now  
**Date:** Friday, October 26, 2012 6:44:00 PM

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Oct 25, 2012

Chief Environmental Scientist, SWFWMD Doug Leeper

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Sincerely,

Ms. Lynn Orourke  
3363 SW 173rd Ter  
Miramar, FL 33029-1641  
(954) 830-9810

**From:** [Gulf Restoration Network](#) on behalf of [Susan Preston](#)  
**To:** [Doug Leeper](#)  
**Subject:** Protect the Homosassa & Chassahowitzka Springs & Rivers now  
**Date:** Friday, October 26, 2012 6:43:55 PM

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Oct 25, 2012

Chief Environmental Scientist, SWFWMD Doug Leeper

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Sincerely,

Ms. Susan Preston  
PO Box 415  
La Crosse, FL 32658-0415

**From:** [Gulf Restoration Network](#) on behalf of [Arturo Franco](#)  
**To:** [Doug Leeper](#)  
**Subject:** Protect the Homosassa & Chassahowitzka Springs & Rivers now  
**Date:** Friday, October 26, 2012 6:43:50 PM

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Oct 25, 2012

Chief Environmental Scientist, SWFWMD Doug Leeper

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Sincerely,

Mr. Arturo Franco  
Republicas 266  
Mexico City, None 33310

**From:** [Gulf Restoration Network](#) on behalf of [Judith Angley](#)  
**To:** [Doug Leeper](#)  
**Subject:** Protect the Homosassa & Chassahowitzka Springs & Rivers now  
**Date:** Friday, October 26, 2012 6:43:38 PM

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Oct 25, 2012

Chief Environmental Scientist, SWFWMD Doug Leeper

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Sincerely,

Ms. Judith Angley  
4410 NW 30th Ter  
Gainesville, FL 32605-1529

**From:** [Gulf Restoration Network](#) on behalf of [Colonel Meyer](#)  
**To:** [Doug Leeper](#)  
**Subject:** Protect the Homosassa & Chassahowitzka Springs & Rivers now  
**Date:** Friday, October 26, 2012 6:44:16 PM

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Oct 25, 2012

Chief Environmental Scientist, SWFWMD Doug Leeper

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Sincerely,

Mr. Colonel Meyer  
3701 Eagle Pass St  
North Port, FL 34286-2009

**From:** [Gulf Restoration Network](#) on behalf of [ben dugger](#)  
**To:** [Doug Leeper](#)  
**Subject:** Protect the Homosassa & Chassahowitzka Springs & Rivers now  
**Date:** Friday, October 26, 2012 6:44:10 PM

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Oct 25, 2012

Chief Environmental Scientist, SWFWMD Doug Leeper

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Sincerely,

Mr. ben dugger  
4981porkylane  
st.jamescity, FL 33956

**From:** [Gulf Restoration Network](#) on behalf of [Michael Duffey](#)  
**To:** [Doug Leeper](#)  
**Subject:** Protect the Homosassa & Chassahowitzka Springs & Rivers now  
**Date:** Friday, October 26, 2012 6:44:05 PM

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Oct 25, 2012

Chief Environmental Scientist, SWFWMD Doug Leeper

Dear Leeper,

Florida's springs and rivers are our most unique natural asset, creating vibrant natural environments for recreation and wildlife, and supplying our drinking water. The Homosassa and Chassahowitzka spring-fed river systems provide a home for manatees and a recreational mecca for Floridians and visitors. These springs and rivers supply vital fresh water to the vital estuaries and coastal ecosystems of the Gulf of Mexico along the Nature Coast.

Floridians won't stand for more water giveaways, pollution and decline. Please stop the destruction of our springs and rivers by rejecting the SWFWMD staff recommendation to allow a 15% decline in habitat generated by a 3% flow reduction of the Homosassa River System and call for NO ADDITIONAL WATER LOSS in the Homosassa. Likewise, the Governing Board should reject staff proposals and set a restoration and recovery strategy for the Chassahowitzka River System, which has been reduced to 91% of its natural flow since 1975.

It's time for a mandate to preserve and protect these critical resources for all Floridians. The water management policy must be adaptable to drought, climate change and overpumping. Many springs have ceased to flow or are no longer "connecting" with larger waterways, affecting the downstream systems. The goal of each water management district and the State of Florida should be to restore maximum flows and levels for our most important resource, and reverse conditions of decline and degradation within our freshwater environments.

Sincerely,

Mr. Michael Duffey  
19 Chestnut Ave SE  
Apt 57  
Fort Walton Beach, FL 32548-5662

**From:** [Gulf Restoration Network](#) on behalf of [ben dugger](#)  
**To:** [Doug Leeper](#)  
**Subject:** Protect the Homosassa & Chassahowitzka Springs & Rivers now  
**Date:** Friday, October 26, 2012 6:41:50 PM

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Oct 25, 2012

Chief Environmental Scientist, SWFWMD Doug Leeper

Dear Leeper,

Florida's springs and rivers are our most unique natural asset, creating vibrant natural environments for recreation and wildlife, and supplying our drinking water. The Homosassa and Chassahowitzka spring-fed river systems provide a home for manatees and a recreational mecca for Floridians and visitors. These springs and rivers supply vital fresh water to the vital estuaries and coastal ecosystems of the Gulf of Mexico along the Nature Coast.

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Sincerely,

Mr. ben dugger  
4981porkylane  
st.jamescity, FL 33956

**From:** [Gulf Restoration Network](#) on behalf of [Judith Angley](#)  
**To:** [Doug Leeper](#)  
**Subject:** Protect the Homosassa & Chassahowitzka Springs & Rivers now  
**Date:** Friday, October 26, 2012 6:42:14 PM

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Oct 25, 2012

Chief Environmental Scientist, SWFWMD Doug Leeper

Dear Leeper,

Florida's springs and rivers are our most unique natural asset, creating vibrant natural environments for recreation and wildlife, and supplying our drinking water. The Homosassa and Chassahowitzka spring-fed river systems provide a home for manatees and a recreational mecca for Floridians and visitors. These springs and rivers supply vital fresh water to the vital estuaries and coastal ecosystems of the Gulf of Mexico along the Nature Coast.

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Sincerely,

Ms. Judith Angley  
4410 NW 30th Ter  
Gainesville, FL 32605-1529

**From:** [Gulf Restoration Network](#) on behalf of [Todd Smith](#)  
**To:** [Doug Leeper](#)  
**Subject:** Protect the Homosassa & Chassahowitzka Springs & Rivers now  
**Date:** Friday, October 26, 2012 6:42:09 PM

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Oct 25, 2012

Chief Environmental Scientist, SWFWMD Doug Leeper

Dear Leeper,

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Sincerely,

Mr. Todd Smith  
745 52nd Ave N  
Saint Petersburg, FL 33703-2831

**From:** [Gulf Restoration Network](#) on behalf of [Michael Duffey](#)  
**To:** [Doug Leeper](#)  
**Subject:** Protect the Homosassa & Chassahowitzka Springs & Rivers now  
**Date:** Friday, October 26, 2012 6:42:31 PM

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Oct 25, 2012

Chief Environmental Scientist, SWFWMD Doug Leeper

Dear Leeper,

Florida's springs and rivers are our most unique natural asset, creating vibrant natural environments for recreation and wildlife, and supplying our drinking water. The Homosassa and Chassahowitzka spring-fed river systems provide a home for manatees and a recreational mecca for Floridians and visitors. These springs and rivers supply vital fresh water to the vital estuaries and coastal ecosystems of the Gulf of Mexico along the Nature Coast.

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Sincerely,

Mr. Michael Duffey  
19 Chestnut Ave SE  
Apt 57  
Fort Walton Beach, FL 32548-5662

**From:** [Gulf Restoration Network](#) on behalf of [Sue Lang](#)  
**To:** [Doug Leeper](#)  
**Subject:** Protect the Homosassa & Chassahowitzka Springs & Rivers now  
**Date:** Friday, October 26, 2012 6:42:26 PM

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Oct 25, 2012

Chief Environmental Scientist, SWFWMD Doug Leeper

Dear Leeper,

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Sincerely,

Ms. Sue Lang  
421 Darling Dr  
Venice, FL 34285-3304

**From:** [Gulf Restoration Network](#) on behalf of [Joan Tibbetts](#)  
**To:** [Doug Leeper](#)  
**Subject:** Protect the Homosassa & Chassahowitzka Springs & Rivers now  
**Date:** Friday, October 26, 2012 6:42:20 PM

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Oct 25, 2012

Chief Environmental Scientist, SWFWMD Doug Leeper

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Sincerely,

Mrs. Joan Tibbetts  
682 Youngstown Pkwy  
Apt 331  
Altamonte Springs, FL 32714-4578

**From:** [Gulf Restoration Network](#) on behalf of [Bernard Berauer](#)  
**To:** [Doug Leeper](#)  
**Subject:** Protect the Homosassa & Chassahowitzka Springs & Rivers now  
**Date:** Friday, October 26, 2012 6:42:46 PM

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Oct 25, 2012

Chief Environmental Scientist, SWFWMD Doug Leeper

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Sincerely,

Mr. Bernard Berauer  
10332 S McClung Loop  
Homosassa, FL 34448-5553

**From:** [Gulf Restoration Network](#) on behalf of [Barbara Sallee](#)  
**To:** [Doug Leeper](#)  
**Subject:** Protect the Homosassa & Chassahowitzka Springs & Rivers now  
**Date:** Friday, October 26, 2012 6:41:45 PM

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Oct 25, 2012

Chief Environmental Scientist, SWFWMD Doug Leeper

Dear Leeper,

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Sincerely,

Ms. Barbara Sallee  
6045 39th Ct E  
Bradenton, FL 34203-7003  
(941) 739-2420



## HERNANDO-CITRUS COUNTY FARM BUREAU

617 Lamar Avenue, Brooksville, Florida 34601 ♦ Phone: (352) 796-2526/800-282-8317

October 29, 2012

Paul Senft  
Chairman District Governing Board  
2379 Broad Street  
Brooksville, FL 34604

On October 30th the Southwest Florida Water Management District's (District) Governing Board will be voting on minimum flows and levels (MFLs) for the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Riverine Systems. The Hernando-Citrus Farm Bureau Board of Directors would like to express our support for the Districts recommended MFLs for these two Riverine Systems.

There has been much discussion and debate over this issue for many months now. It's been studied for the past seven years. District scientists have had to take into account a multitude of science-based methodologies including wildlife habitat, vegetation, water withdrawals, thermal refuge habitats, and fish evaluations, just to name a few. They are following state law which requires the establishment of minimum flows and level on rivers, lakes and streams. The outcomes of the science supports the MFLs recommended and these have also been peer reviewed by an independent panel of scientists.

The determination of Minimum Flows and Levels (MFL) for these water bodies has the potential to greatly affect the future of agricultural, which ultimately impacts the local economy. If MFL's are set to high, expansion of agricultural crops, public utilities and/or growth within the community can be jeopardized. This being the case, we strongly support the research-based MFL recommendations brought forth by SWFWMD scientists and staff.

What we need to do is plan for future growth in a responsible manner. That means planning for our future water supplies responsibility, and working with our partners in the agricultural community, the environmental community, economic development, and government to ensure economic growth and sustainability for our community far into the future.

Sincerely,

John Thomas, President  
Hernando-Citrus County Farm Bureau Board of Directors

**From:** [Gulf Restoration Network](#) on behalf of [Raleigh Hoke](#)  
**To:** [Doug Leeper](#)  
**Subject:** Protect the Homosassa & Chassahowitzka Springs & Rivers now  
**Date:** Friday, October 26, 2012 6:44:21 PM

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Oct 25, 2012

Chief Environmental Scientist, SWFWMD Doug Leeper

Dear Leeper,

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Sincerely,

Mr. Raleigh Hoke  
1720 Washington Ave Apt 1  
New Orleans, LA 70113-1753

**From:** [Jerry Morton](mailto:jerrymorton@aol.com)  
**To:** [jerrymorton@aol.com](mailto:jerrymorton@aol.com)  
**Cc:** [BWR.CRRC@tampabay.rr.com](mailto:BWR.CRRC@tampabay.rr.com); [Doug Leeper](mailto:Doug.Leeper@watermatters.org)  
**Subject:** 15% loss of habitat in Florida's Outstanding Waters; SwiftMud decides Tues 9am.  
**Date:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 6:01:32 PM

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(Sorry to bother yall again but this subject is critical to Florida's Outstanding Waters. As of 6pm today (Sat Oct 27th) there were over 6,300 signatures on the petition to SwiftMud; it has gone 'viral' in the state in just 4 days. Thanks to all that have signed and those planning to sign; I encourage you to see the petition and the comments even if you do not sign)

I attended the last SwiftMud public meeting regarding reductions of water flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa rivers; the meeting was held in early October at the SwiftMud office in Lecanto, FL. I heard the SwiftMud Chief Environmental Scientist, Doug Leeper, say this paraphrased, 'a 9% reduction of water flow to the Chassahowitzka river and a 3% reduction to the Homosassa river is the percentage of water that can be diverted from these rivers without exceeding a 15% loss of habitat in those rivers'.

I was shocked by this statement; the state of Florida has declared that a 15% loss of habitat in Florida's Outstanding Waters is acceptable. This means that, with the board's approval, SwiftMud will be allowed to grant permits, for new water wells, that could result in a 15% loss of habitat in those rivers. I believe a ZERO percent reduction of flow and a ZERO percent loss of habitat should be the law for Florida's Outstanding Waters.

Next Tuesday morning, October 30th at 9am, the governing board of SwiftMud will vote to accept or deny the flow reductions for these 2 Outstanding Florida Waters. Please sign the petition link below and share it with anyone you know that wants to help preserve Florida's Outstanding Waters.

Petition link to the SwiftMud governing board.

[http://www.change.org/petitions/south-west-florida-water-management-district-governing-board-no-reduction-in-flow-to-the-spring-fed-chassahowitzka-and-homosassa-rivers?share\\_id=RfgSMuXiOz&utm\\_campaign=mailto\\_link&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_source=share\\_petition](http://www.change.org/petitions/south-west-florida-water-management-district-governing-board-no-reduction-in-flow-to-the-spring-fed-chassahowitzka-and-homosassa-rivers?share_id=RfgSMuXiOz&utm_campaign=mailto_link&utm_medium=email&utm_source=share_petition)

ps. This is just the beginning as 76 springs on the Spring Coast of Florida will be affected by SwiftMud now and in the future; these include Weeki Wachi and Crystal River. Lets stop them NOW!

jeRRy

Jerry Morton  
Lakeland, Florida  
863 279 2802  
[jerrymorton@aol.com](mailto:jerrymorton@aol.com)

Very knowledgeable people you can talk to:

Brad Rimbey  
Chassahowitzka River Restoration Committee  
[BWR.CRRC@tampabay.rr.com](mailto:BWR.CRRC@tampabay.rr.com)

Douglas A. Leeper  
Chief Environmental Scientist  
Water Resources Bureau - Southwest Florida Water Management District  
800-423-1476, ext. 4272 (FL only)  
[doug.leeper@watermatters.org](mailto:doug.leeper@watermatters.org)

BCC: Hundreds of my closest friends; anyone who loves the state of Florida and those 'Outstanding Florida Waters'.

**From:** [Jermorton@aol.com](mailto:Jermorton@aol.com)  
**To:** [jermorton@aol.com](mailto:jermorton@aol.com)  
**Cc:** [Doug Leeper; BWR.CRRC@tampabay.rr.com](mailto:Doug.Leeper@BWR.CRRC@tampabay.rr.com)  
**Subject:** 15% loss of habitat in Florida's Outstanding Waters; SwiftMud decides Tues 9am.  
**Date:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 6:42:07 PM

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(Sorry to bother yall again but this subject is critical to Florida's Outstanding Waters. As of 6:40 pm today (Sat Oct 27th) there were over 6,524 signatures on the petition to SwiftMud; it has gone 'viral' in the state in just 4 days. Thanks to all that have signed and those planning to sign; I encourage you to see the petition and the comments even if you do not sign)

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ps. This is just the beginning as 76 springs on the Spring Coast of Florida will be affected by SwiftMud now and in the future; these include Weeki Wachi and Crystal River. Lets stop them NOW!

jeRRy

Jerry Morton  
Lakeland, Florida  
863 279 2802  
[jermorton@aol.com](mailto:jermorton@aol.com)

Very knowledgeable people you can talk to:

Brad Rimbey  
Chassahowitzka River Restoration Committee  
[BWR.CRRC@tampabay.rr.com](mailto:BWR.CRRC@tampabay.rr.com)

Douglas A. Leeper  
Chief Environmental Scientist  
Water Resources Bureau - Southwest Florida Water Management District  
800-423-1476, ext. 4272 (FL only)  
[doug.leeper@watermatters.org](mailto:doug.leeper@watermatters.org)

BCC: Dozens of the members of the Withlacoochee Riders bicycle club who love the State of Florida and those 'Outstanding Florida Waters'.

**From:** [Jermorton@aol.com](mailto:Jermorton@aol.com)  
**To:** [PRISE@yahoogroups.com](mailto:PRISE@yahoogroups.com)  
**Cc:** [BWR.CRRC@tampabay.rr.com](mailto:BWR.CRRC@tampabay.rr.com); [Doug Leeper](#)  
**Subject:** 15% loss of habitat in Florida's Outstanding Waters; SwiftMud decides Tues AM  
**Date:** Saturday, October 27, 2012 11:48:42 PM

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To my friends in PRISE (Publix Retired Information Systems Employees) I am sorry to bother yall again but this subject is critical to Florida's Outstanding Waters. As of 11:30 pm today (Sat Oct 27th) there were over 7,782 signatures on the petition to SwiftMud; it has gone 'viral' in the state in just 4 days. Thanks to all that have signed and those planning to sign; I encourage you to see the petition and the comments even if you do not sign. Comments are coming from all over Florida, the USA, and the world!

I attended the last SwiftMud public meeting regarding reductions of water flow to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa rivers; the meeting was held in early October at the SwiftMud office in Lecanto, FL. I heard the SwiftMud Chief Environmental Scientist, Doug Leeper, say this paraphrased, 'a 9% reduction of water flow to the Chassahowitzka river and a 3% reduction to the Homosassa river is the percentage of water that can be diverted from these rivers without exceeding a 15% loss of habitat in those rivers'.

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ps. This is just the beginning as 76 springs on the Spring Coast of Florida will be affected by SwiftMud now and in the future; these include Weeki Wachi and Crystal River. Lets stop them NOW!

jeRRy

Jerry Morton  
Lakeland, Florida  
863 279 2802  
[jermorton@aol.com](mailto:jermorton@aol.com)

Very knowledgeable people you can talk to regarding flow reductions in OFW:

Brad Rimbey  
Chassahowitzka River Restoration Committee  
[BWR.CRRC@tampabay.rr.com](mailto:BWR.CRRC@tampabay.rr.com)

Douglas A. Leeper  
Chief Environmental Scientist

Water Resources Bureau - Southwest Florida Water Management District  
800-423-1476, ext. 4272 (FL only)  
[doug.leeper@watermatters.org](mailto:doug.leeper@watermatters.org)

**From:** [Alan Martyn Johnson](mailto:Alan.Martyn.Johnson)  
**To:** [lmotz@ce.ufl.edu](mailto:lmotz@ce.ufl.edu)  
**Cc:** [Doug Leeper](mailto:c.hackney@unf.edu); [c.hackney@unf.edu](mailto:c.hackney@unf.edu)  
**Subject:** RE: Minimum Flows Homosassa River  
**Date:** Sunday, October 28, 2012 8:57:38 AM

---

Dr. Motz,  
Thank you for your October 12 response to my October 9 e-mail.

It is hard for me to reason the delay in your looking into this matter.

On October 30 the MFL Report is being presented to the SWFWMD Governing Board.

The Governing Board may wish to know the Peer Review may not have realized almost 50% of the Homosassa River Flow (the contribution from Halls River) was not considered in the modeling, particularly the salinity modeling, and this could make the models invalid. I can not claim expert status on this matter, but with a strong background in technical management I do think this is an important point to have considered in depth.

The Peer Review did raise some very interesting and valid points about the complexities of the springs/river systems and I thank you for your input on that task. On the above point regarding the omission of the flow from Halls River in the modeling, I thought you may have an opinion formulated at the time of the review. Your comment that you will look into this leaves me with the possibility this was not recognized at the time of the review.

If you could provide a brief response I would be very grateful.

Martyn

---

**From:** [lmotz@ce.ufl.edu](mailto:lmotz@ce.ufl.edu)  
**To:** [martynellijay@hotmail.com](mailto:martynellijay@hotmail.com)  
**CC:** [doug.leeper@watermatters.org](mailto:doug.leeper@watermatters.org)  
**Subject:** RE: Minimum Flows Homosassa River  
**Date:** Fri, 12 Oct 2012 17:53:40 +0000

Mr. Johnson,  
I'll look into this and respond to your question.  
Thank you for your interest,  
Louis Motz

---

**From:** Alan Martyn Johnson [[martynellijay@hotmail.com](mailto:martynellijay@hotmail.com)]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 09, 2012 8:19 AM  
**To:** Motz,Louis H  
**Cc:** [c.hackney@unf.edu](mailto:c.hackney@unf.edu)  
**Subject:** Minimum Flows Homosassa River

Dr. Motz,  
If you have time I would appreciate your thoughts on a specific issue regarding the MFL Report for the Homosassa River; you were involved as a member of the Peer Review Panel.

I obtained your e-mail address from Doug Leeper at SWFWMD following a discussion of the modeling done by HSW Engineering, particularly the salinity modeling.

My concern is the modeling did not include flow from the Halls River (confluence is about one mile downstream from the head springs).

I think we can all agree the discharge measurement method/estimates for Halls River using the tidally adjusted flow at the USGS Gage 02310700 Homosassa R at Homosassa leaves much to be desired. However, there is an acknowledged flow which is estimated to be similar to the combined discharge from the Homosassa Springs and SE Fork.

My contention is the omission of approximately 50% of the flow (downstream of the confluence) in the regression analyses compromises the validity of the modeled results. HSW's own analyses indicates the model only predicted about 50-60% of the observed data (you commented about that in the Peer Review Report).

If you have time, I would appreciate your thought on the validity of the model when it ignores such a significant flow.

I did note comments in the report regarding adequacy of the data to model Halls River, but with a comment about the need to continue data collection. Also, I noted comments about the regression models outputs.

You will be pleased to know SWFWMD have funded velocity meters at the SE Fork gage site (installed just over a year ago) and at a newly established site on Halls River (about 6 months ago). Unfortunately USGS have not yet published any data from these velocity meters.

For completeness let me explain who I am. I represent only myself as a homeowner who has seen the river deteriorate in the 11 years we have owned a house close to the headsprings. Many other individuals and groups such as the Homosassa River Alliance are concerned about the deterioration. Some very long term residents have their observations about decreased fish abundance, vegetation changes and many comment about barnacles moving further upstream (to the point they are now observed on structures very close to the main spring run). These observations are almost dismissed as anecdotal evidence by SWFWMD who prefer the studies which they have spent very considerable sums of money on. For myself I see the evidence when observing the river, but with a technical background I have looked at the data and find many areas of concern in the accuracy of discharge measurement and the modeling.

Would appreciate any comments about my specific concern regarding the omission of Halls River flow in the modeling by HSW Engineering. If you wish to call me my telephone number is Cell 404-731-6187.

As an FYI I have copied Courtney Hackney as the Chair of the Peer Review Panel using the e-mail address from the report.

Martyn

**From:** [Executive](#)  
**To:** [Dianna Brass](#)  
**Cc:** [Lou Kavouras](#); [Ron Basso](#); [Doug Leeper](#); [Mike Heyl](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Springs Coast MFL  
**Date:** Friday, October 19, 2012 8:09:08 AM

---

Please handle accordingly or forward to the appropriate staff for handling.

Thank you.

Shellie Ferreira-Lee  
Sr. Document Specialist  
Southwest Florida Water Management District  
[shellie.ferreira@swfwmd.state.fl.us](mailto:shellie.ferreira@swfwmd.state.fl.us)  
352-796-7211, ext. 4053

---

**From:** Susan Zimmer [mailto:[drs@ymail.com](mailto:drs@ymail.com)]  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 18, 2012 4:24 PM  
**To:** info  
**Subject:** Springs Coast MFL

## SWFWMD Governing Board

I am a resident of Citrus County.  
I do not favor any further reductions in water flow.  
The springs and rivers are already low, unhealthy,  
and actually need **more** flow to provide a healthy  
environment for fish, vegetation, drinking water,  
etc.

It is sad and scary to continually see various  
Springs, which provide our only drinking water,  
become stagnant and dry up.

**Prevention** is more sensible than Restoration  
(attempts).

Desalination, as an example, is too costly, etc.,  
especially while we have the **opportunity to save** the  
precious Springs.

Thank you  
Dr Susan Zimmer

**From:** [Executive](#)  
**To:** [Dianna Brass](#)  
**Cc:** [Lou Kavouras](#); [Ron Basso](#); [Doug Leeper](#); [Mike Heyl](#); [Gwen Brown](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Proposed MFL"s for the Homosassa and Chasahowitzka Rivers  
**Date:** Friday, October 19, 2012 8:10:41 AM

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Please handle accordingly or forward to the appropriate staff for handling.

Thank you.

**Shellie Ferreira-Lee**

Sr. Document Specialist  
Southwest Florida Water Management District  
[shellie.ferreira@swfwmd.state.fl.us](mailto:shellie.ferreira@swfwmd.state.fl.us)  
352-796-7211, ext. 4053

---

**From:** JaniceHowie@aol.com [mailto:JaniceHowie@aol.com]  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 18, 2012 1:53 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** Proposed MFL's for the Homosassa and Chasahowitzka Rivers

The Federal Clean Water act does not allow for the degradation of these rivers, or any other rivers in the state. Your proposed MFL's for the Homosassa at 3% and the Chasahowitzka at 9 % would allow by your studies up to 15% degradation to the wildlife and environment of these rivers. Think about what will happen to these rivers and to the conflict that will occur with the EPA if this degradation is allowed to happen. Wouldn't it be prudent to proactively ovoid this damage to our rivers.

Jan Howie  
Conservation Chairman  
Nature Coast Native Plant Society

**From:** [Executive](#)  
**To:** [Dianna Brass](#)  
**Cc:** [Lou Kavouras](#); [Gwen Brown](#); [Ron Basso](#); [Doug Leeper](#); [Mike Heyl](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Chassahowitzka  
**Date:** Friday, October 19, 2012 8:14:48 AM

---

Please handle accordingly or forward to the appropriate staff for handling.

Thank you.

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

Sr. Document Specialist  
Southwest Florida Water Management District  
[shellie.ferreira@swfwmd.state.fl.us](mailto:shellie.ferreira@swfwmd.state.fl.us)  
352-796-7211, ext. 4053

---

**From:** cindy [<mailto:hkck5@embarqmail.com>]  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 18, 2012 12:54 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Cc:** Executive  
**Subject:** Chassahowitzka

Please don't take any more fresh water from the spring system of the Chassahowitzka or Homosassa Rivers. As you know, both are in peril. Let whoever wants our most precious resource on the nature coast to invest in a desalinization facility. There is plenty of fresh water in our gulf. May I even suggest the Florida cross barge canal system as the perfect location for such a project. Eventually it will come to this anyway, why not lead the way. You have the power. Thank You. Chassahowitzka resident for 30 years, in love with the nature coast, the State of Florida and thankful for our State Land programs and Government Organizations set up to protect our natural resources. Cindy Klein

**From:** [Mike Heyl](#)  
**To:** [Boyd\\_Blihovde@fws.gov](mailto:Boyd_Blihovde@fws.gov)  
**Cc:** [Doug Leeper](#)  
**Subject:** Chassahowitzka MFL comments  
**Date:** Monday, October 22, 2012 6:55:46 AM

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Boyd – I saw your MFL comments come through. We will definitely be in touch with regard to monitoring, but I did want to address the water level issue. Since the Chassahowitzka is below sea level for the entire extent, the change in elevation will be negligible as inflow from the Gulf will fill any voids.

We did run the hydrodynamic model to check the change in elevation with the original proposed 11% MFL. The average decrease in water level at the boat ramp will be 0.01 feet.

*MGH*

=====  
*Michael G. Heyl - Chief Environmental Scientist*  
*Mike.Heyl@SWFWMD.state.fl.us or Mike.Heyl@WaterMatters.org*  
=====  
*Natural Systems and Restoration Bureau / SWFWMD (7:00 am - 3:30 pm )*  
*7601 U.S. Highway 301 1-813-985-7481 Ext 2211*  
*Tampa, Fl. 33637-6759 1-813-987-6747 (Fax)*  
----- *Note : District Limit for Incoming Email is 5 Megabytes* -----  
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*Please Note: All e-mail sent to and from this address is automatically archived*  
*for records retention purposes in accordance with Florida's Public Records laws*  
*and is available for inspection by the public upon request.*

**From:** [Mike Heyl](#)  
**To:** [Katie Tripp \(ktripp@savethemanatee.org\)](mailto:ktripp@savethemanatee.org)  
**Cc:** [Doug Leeper](#)  
**Subject:** MFL Comments  
**Date:** Monday, October 22, 2012 7:00:08 AM

---

Katie - I saw your comments on the Chassahowitzka MFL come through the web site. While I think the footnote on page 92 is valid for acute (4-hour) thermal refuge, I agree that it would probably not be applicable to a chronic (3-day) thermal refuge and I will remove the footnote in the final version of the report.

MGH

=====  
*Michael G. Heyl - Chief Environmental Scientist*  
*Mike.Heyl@SWFWMD.state.fl.us or Mike.Heyl@WaterMatters.org*  
=====  
*Natural Systems and Restoration Bureau / SWFWMD (7:00 am - 3:30 pm )*  
*7601 U.S. Highway 301 1-813-985-7481 Ext 2211*  
*Tampa, Fl. 33637-6759 1-813-987-6747 (Fax)*  
----- *Note : District Limit for Incoming Email is 5 Megabytes* -----  
*An ftp site is available for larger attachments : http://ftp.swfwmd.state.fl.us/*  
*This email consists of 100% recycled electrons. Consider the environment before printing*  
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*for records retention purposes in accordance with Florida's Public Records laws*  
*and is available for inspection by the public upon request.*

**From:** [Katie Tripp](#)  
**To:** [Mike Heyl](#)  
**Cc:** [Doug Leeper](#); [Katie Tripp](#)  
**Subject:** RE: MFL Comments  
**Date:** Monday, October 22, 2012 8:05:17 AM

---

Thanks, Mike.

Katie Tripp, Ph.D.  
Director of Science and Conservation  
Save the Manatee Club  
500 N. Maitland Ave.  
Maitland, FL 32751  
Office: 407-539-0990  
e-mail: [ktripp@savethemanatee.org](mailto:ktripp@savethemanatee.org)

---

**From:** Mike Heyl [<mailto:Mike.Heyl@swfwmd.state.fl.us>]  
**Sent:** Monday, October 22, 2012 7:00 AM  
**To:** Katie Tripp  
**Cc:** Doug Leeper  
**Subject:** MFL Comments

Katie - I saw your comments on the Chassahowitzka MFL come through the web site. While I think the footnote on page 92 is valid for acute (4-hour) thermal refuge, I agree that it would probably not be applicable to a chronic (3-day) thermal refuge and I will remove the footnote in the final version of the report.

MGH

=====  
*Michael G. Heyl - Chief Environmental Scientist*  
[Mike.Heyl@SWFWMD.state.fl.us](mailto:Mike.Heyl@SWFWMD.state.fl.us) or [Mike.Heyl@WaterMatters.org](mailto:Mike.Heyl@WaterMatters.org)  
=====  
Natural Systems and Restoration Bureau / SWFWMD (7:00 am - 3:30 pm )  
7601 U.S. Highway 301 1-813-985-7481 Ext 2211  
Tampa, Fl. 33637-6759 1-813-987-6747 (Fax)  
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**From:** [Alan Martyn Johnson](#)  
**To:** [Doug Leeper](#)  
**Cc:** [Chris Anastasiou](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Timeframe for Velocity data from investments at SE Fork and Halls River Plus Bathymetry/Bath Tub  
**Date:** Monday, October 22, 2012 8:58:57 AM

---

Doug,

Sorry for the slow response. You did respond to my question about timeframe in the e-mail where you provided your answers within the text of my advance questions, but you did not mention Kevin by name.

USGS must already have a stage area for both the SE Fork and Halls River Velocity meters sites and they do have raw velocity data every hour for the SE Fork (for over a year) and every 15 minutes for Halls River (for over 3 months). They must have a very good idea of the flows. Maybe they are not ready to publish the discharge data as approved, but surely they have some idea of how well the data matches the calculated data for the SE Fork. In the last year discharges have covered a broad spectrum from the almost record low levels in Weeki Wachee Well thru to the 18 plus feet; levels not seen for years. Halls River has experienced the highs and lows also; surely this reveals a much better data set than the very suspect tidally adjusted approach yeilded.

It is very disappointing that these valuable investments have not borne results before presentation of the report to the Governing Board.

If the 'preliminary data' from the velocity meters confirmed the calculated data I would have expected a rush to let everyone know.

Bathymetry data.

Thanks for sending the CD as I did not get a chance to download the file from the website before it was removed. My neighbor in Homosassa forwarded the CD to me and I got a chance to look at it this weekend. It took some time to translate State Plane readings to locations on the river, but I was impressed by the detail of the survey e.g. taking five depth readings at very close proximity before moving one to two meters to the next point.

**Wang's data also shows the deep point in the river** I found while investigating the "Bath tub" idea; in the Excel spreadsheet of centerline readings the deep point is on line 4954 with a depth of 3.76 meters below NAVD 88. The point I found as the deepest point is only some 6 feet from this point. As I have commented previously, **there must be some discharge at this point otherwise why has it not filled with sediment over the years.** The depth found in Wang's survey is so close to what I measured with the Secchi Disc (crude compared to Wang's instrumentation), it appears to indicate a reasonably stable situation over the years. I would speculate there is a reasonably strong discharge in that area. And as further evidence any avid manatee watcher knows the manatee like that area.

From my observations and speculation the discharge is thru a sediment rich blanket over the vent(s), and from the very few Specific Conductance readings may at times be more saline than other springs in the Homosassa River headwaters, possibly influenced more by stage change/seawater ingress.

To me this is another example of how important it is to combine the data available with carefully observation of what can be seen in the river to develop the necessary understanding to protect an Outstanding Florida Water which unfortunately is deteriorating.

I have a number of suggestions for follow up;

- adding this deep site to the quarterly sampling with bottom middle and top sampling (Doug I did share my September samplings with Chris, but do not recall if I shared with you)
- at the time of the next Field Measurements by USGS, run a discharge at the point where the river narrows (before the confluence with Halls River) as well as the SE Fork and the main springs run to determine any additional discharge; bearing in mind speculation the discharge from the deep center area may vary with stage
- **have some keen scuba divers take a closer look possibly using some dye cakes to help view the flow**

I realize resources are limited, but understanding the complexities of the rivers is critical to their future.

Martyn

---

From: Doug.Leeper@swfwmd.state.fl.us  
To: martynellijay@hotmail.com  
Date: Mon, 15 Oct 2012 11:31:52 -0400  
Subject: RE: Timeframe for Velocity data from investments at SE Fork and Halls River

Martyn –

Hopefully I responded to your question concerning the time-frame for the United States Geological Survey's evaluation of the velocity data that has been collected over the past year in the Homosassa River system. In case I did not, I'm writing to let you know that Kevin Grimsley has told me that he anticipates the Survey will be completing an initial analyses of the data within a couple of months.

Douglas A. Leeper  
Chief Environmental Scientist  
Water Resources Bureau  
Southwest Florida Water Management District  
2379 Broad Street  
Brooksville, Florida 34604-6899  
1-800-423-1476, ext. 4272 (FL only)  
352-796-7211, ext. 4272  
352-754-6885 (Fax)  
[doug.leeper@watermatters.org](mailto:doug.leeper@watermatters.org)

---

**From:** Alan Martyn Johnson [<mailto:martynellijay@hotmail.com>]  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 30, 2012 7:34 AM  
**To:** Doug Leeper  
**Cc:** Ron Basso; Mike Heyl  
**Subject:** Timeframe for Velocity data from investments at SE Fork and Halls River

Doug,

I was pleased to receive a confirmation and Thank You e-mail, regarding comment I posted on the web site; and noted that you are copied. Good job by whoever organized this; I was concerned comments were going to accumulate both unread as well as unanswered.

This e-mail is not directly about the MFL Reports, but about funding/investments.

We are within 10 days of the anniversary of the start of operation of the velocity meter at the SE Fork station (September 9 @ 12:15 hour). The most recent Field Measurements only add to the concerns I have previously expressed. I have copied the specific data below for ease of reference, but my concern is data collected from these investments, SE Fork and Halls River Velocity Meters, is not being made available. This is troubling as USGS is going to discontinue monitoring of some wells in the area due to lack of sponsorship, yet data from these recently funded projects is 'intentionally' hidden. I am sure you are aware that velocity data from the Halls River 'new' site (installed March 2012) was on line for a few months before being 'hidden'. What is the sense in spending these scarce resources and not getting any value from them?

I would appreciate if you can share the timeframe for velocity data to be made available from these two sites in the Homosassa River. I appreciate there is more involved in converting velocity to discharge (determining stage area and how it changes with stage, plus verification by field measurements), but velocity as seen by the instrument is raw data and meaningful raw data.

FYI I have spoken to the manufacturer's technical personnel regarding location of these meters and how quickly meaning full data can be obtained, both velocity and discharge. Let's just say one year is difficult to understand and the SE Fork location is not ideal as it is at a location where flow direction changes significantly.

On a more positive note, the delay has at least given the chance to observe a range of conditions with Weeki Wachee Well starting around 15 ft. last September/October, dropping to a low of 10.86 ft. in May, and to the high of 18.84 ft. in July.

On a personal note I am pleased to see the significant increase in levels in the aquifer, due to tropical storm Debby, have resulted in improved quality of water emanating both the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs. I will be in Homosassa the next two weeks and plan on monitoring the springs as I have in the past. Really interested to see if strong flow has reestablished at some of the smaller vents.

Doug, SWFWMD and us folks that pay the taxes which make all this possible need a timeframe for data from these investments with USGS.

Martyn

Recent Field Measurements Stream flow and 'as close as possible time' Calculated flow from USGS 02310688 SE Fork.

<b>Meas. Number</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Stream flow (ft<sup>3</sup>/s)</b>	<b>Calculated flow (ft<sup>3</sup>/s)</b>
234	2012-08-16	14:49:08	74.3	37
233	2012-08-16	14:40:53	78.4	37
232	2012-08-16	14:23:38	78.7	
231	2012-08-16	14:16:06	70.7	
230	2012-08-16	14:09:03	77.8	43
229	2012-08-16	10:30:23	90.7	76

Time series observations from USGS 02310688 SE Fork

08/16/2012 10:15 EST	1.17 <sup>P</sup>	76 <sup>P</sup>	960 <sup>P</sup>	24.5 <sup>P</sup>	0.55 <sup>P</sup>
08/16/2012 10:30 EST	1.15 <sup>P</sup>	76 <sup>P</sup>	970 <sup>P</sup>	24.4 <sup>P</sup>	0.53 <sup>P</sup>
08/16/2012 10:45 EST	1.13 <sup>P</sup>	76 <sup>P</sup>	950 <sup>P</sup>	24.3 <sup>P</sup>	0.51 <sup>P</sup>
08/16/2012 11:00 EST	1.11 <sup>P</sup>	77 <sup>P</sup>	930 <sup>P</sup>	24.1 <sup>P</sup>	0.49 <sup>P</sup>
08/16/2012 11:15 EST	P	P	980 <sup>P</sup>	24.3 <sup>P</sup>	P
08/16/2012 11:30 EST	1.12 <sup>P</sup>	64 <sup>P</sup>	980 <sup>P</sup>	24.4 <sup>P</sup>	0.50 <sup>P</sup>
08/16/2012 11:45 EST	1.15 <sup>P</sup>	55 <sup>P</sup>	980 <sup>P</sup>	24.5 <sup>P</sup>	0.53 <sup>P</sup>
08/16/2012 12:00 EST	1.21 <sup>P</sup>	42 <sup>P</sup>	970 <sup>P</sup>	24.5 <sup>P</sup>	0.59 <sup>P</sup>
08/16/2012 12:15 EST	P	P	1,040 <sup>P</sup>	24.5 <sup>P</sup>	P
08/16/2012 12:30 EST	1.28 <sup>P</sup>	37 <sup>P</sup>	960 <sup>P</sup>	24.7 <sup>P</sup>	0.66 <sup>P</sup>
08/16/2012 12:45 EST	1.34 <sup>P</sup>	41 <sup>P</sup>	1,240 <sup>P</sup>	24.3 <sup>P</sup>	0.72 <sup>P</sup>
08/16/2012 13:00 EST	1.37 <sup>P</sup>	53 <sup>P</sup>	1,130 <sup>P</sup>	24.4 <sup>P</sup>	0.75 <sup>P</sup>
08/16/2012 13:15 EST	P	P	1,330 <sup>P</sup>	24.5 <sup>P</sup>	P
08/16/2012 13:30 EST	1.47 <sup>P</sup>	23 <sup>P</sup>	1,300 <sup>P</sup>	24.5 <sup>P</sup>	0.85 <sup>P</sup>
08/16/2012 13:45 EST	1.52 <sup>P</sup>	43 <sup>P</sup>	1,180 <sup>P</sup>	24.6 <sup>P</sup>	0.90 <sup>P</sup>
08/16/2012 14:00 EST	1.57 <sup>P</sup>	43 <sup>P</sup>	1,100 <sup>P</sup>	24.5 <sup>P</sup>	0.95 <sup>P</sup>
08/16/2012 14:15 EST	P	P	950 <sup>P</sup>	24.8 <sup>P</sup>	P
08/16/2012 14:30 EST	1.68 <sup>P</sup>	16 <sup>P</sup>	1,250 <sup>P</sup>	24.6 <sup>P</sup>	1.06 <sup>P</sup>
08/16/2012 14:45 EST	1.74 <sup>P</sup>	37 <sup>P</sup>	1,050 <sup>P</sup>	24.7 <sup>P</sup>	1.12 <sup>P</sup>
08/16/2012 15:00 EST	1.79 <sup>P</sup>	40 <sup>P</sup>	1,210 <sup>P</sup>	24.6 <sup>P</sup>	1.17 <sup>P</sup>

Blue colored data is using a 30 minute stage change and is not comparable.

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**From:** [Boyd\\_Blihovde@fws.gov](mailto:Boyd_Blihovde@fws.gov)  
**To:** [Mike Heyl](mailto:Mike_Heyl)  
**Cc:** [Doug Leeper](mailto:Doug_Leeper)  
**Subject:** Re: Chassahowitzka MFL comments  
**Date:** Monday, October 22, 2012 4:16:06 PM

---

Mike,

Thanks for the reply. I understand.

This may seem like a strange request, but in order for me to keep a clear record of the "email thread" I like to save messages in pdfs "as one message". Would it be possible to send your reply with the message I sent as a history? If not, don't worry about it, I can piece it together!

I will hopefully see you and Doug on the 30th, but look forward to discussing the problem of monitoring the river in the future.

Thanks,

Boyd Blihovde  
Deputy Project Leader  
Crystal River National Wildlife Refuge Complex  
1502 SE Kings Bay Drive  
Crystal River, FL 34429  
(P) 352-563-2088  
(F) 352-795-7961  
▼ Mike Heyl <Mike.Heyl@swfwmd.state.fl.us>

**Mike Heyl**  
<Mike.Heyl@swfwmd.state.fl.us>

10/22/2012 06:57 AM

To: "Boyd\_Blihovde@fws.gov"  
<Boyd\_Blihovde@fws.gov>  
cc: Doug Leeper  
<Doug.Leeper@swfwmd.state.fl.us>  
Subject: Chassahowitzka MFL comments

Boyd – I saw your MFL comments come through. We will definitely be in touch with regard to monitoring, but I did want to address the water level issue. Since the Chassahowitzka is below sea level for the entire extent, the change in elevation will be negligible as inflow from the Gulf will fill any voids.

We did run the hydrodynamic model to check the change in elevation with the original proposed 11% MFL. The average decrease in water level at the boat ramp will be 0.01 feet.

*MGH*

=====  
*Michael G. Heyl - Chief Environmental Scientist*  
*Mike.Heyl@SWFWMD.state.fl.us or Mike.Heyl@WaterMatters.org*  
=====

*Natural Systems and Restoration Bureau / SWFWMD (7:00 am - 3:30 pm )*  
*7601 U.S. Highway 301 1-813-985-7481 Ext 2211*  
*Tampa, Fl. 33637-6759 1-813-987-6747 (Fax)*

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**From:** [Mike Heyl](mailto:Mike_Heyl)  
**To:** [Boyd Blihovde@fws.gov](mailto:Boyd_Blihovde@fws.gov)  
**Cc:** [Doug Leeper](mailto:Doug_Leeper)  
**Subject:** RE: Chassahowitzka MFL comments  
**Date:** Tuesday, October 23, 2012 6:30:32 AM  
**Attachments:** [Chassahowitzka MFL comments\\_MGH\\_reponse.pdf](#)  
[image003.png](#)  
[image004.png](#)

---

Boyd – Here you go. See attached pdf

MGH

=====

*Michael G. Heyl - Chief Environmental Scientist*  
*Mike.Heyl@SWFWMD.state.fl.us or Mike.Heyl@WaterMatters.org*

=====

Natural Systems and Restoration Bureau / SWFWMD (7:00 am - 3:30 pm )  
7601 U.S. Highway 301 1-813-985-7481 Ext 2211  
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**From:** Boyd\_Blihovde@fws.gov [mailto:Boyd\_Blihovde@fws.gov]  
**Sent:** Monday, October 22, 2012 4:06 PM  
**To:** Mike Heyl  
**Cc:** Doug Leeper  
**Subject:** Re: Chassahowitzka MFL comments

Mike,

Thanks for the reply. I understand.

This may seem like a strange request, but in order for me to keep a clear record of the "email thread" I like to save messages in pdfs "as one message". Would it be possible to send your reply with the message I sent as a history? If not, don't worry about it, I can piece it together!

I will hopefully see you and Doug on the 30th, but look forward to discussing the problem of monitoring the river in the future.

Thanks,

boyd blihovde  
Deputy Project Leader  
Crystal River National Wildlife Refuge Complex  
1502 SE Kings Bay Drive  
Crystal River, FL 34429  
(P) 352-563-2088  
(F) 352-795-7961

▼ Mike Heyl <[Mike.Heyl@swfwmd.state.fl.us](mailto:Mike.Heyl@swfwmd.state.fl.us)>

Mike Heyl  
<[Mike.Heyl@swfwmd.state.fl.us](mailto:Mike.Heyl@swfwmd.state.fl.us)>

10/22/2012 06:57 AM

To "Boyd\_Blihovde@fws.gov"  
<[Boyd\\_Blihovde@fws.gov](mailto:Boyd_Blihovde@fws.gov)>  
cc Doug Leeper  
<[Doug.Leeper@swfwmd.state.fl.us](mailto:Doug.Leeper@swfwmd.state.fl.us)>  
Subject Chassahowitzka MFL comments

Boyd – I saw your MFL comments come through. We will definitely be in touch with regard to monitoring, but I did want to address the water level issue. Since the Chassahowitzka is below sea level for the entire extent, the change in elevation will be negligible as inflow from the Gulf will fill any voids.

We did run the hydrodynamic model to check the change in elevation with the original proposed 11% MFL. The average decrease in water level at the boat ramp will be 0.01 feet.

MGH

=====

*Michael G. Heyl - Chief Environmental Scientist*

*[Mike.Heyl@SWFWMD.state.fl.us](mailto:Mike.Heyl@SWFWMD.state.fl.us) or [Mike.Heyl@WaterMatters.org](mailto:Mike.Heyl@WaterMatters.org)*

=====

*Natural Systems and Restoration Bureau / SWFWMD (7:00 am - 3:30 pm )*

*7601 U.S. Highway 301 1-813-985-7481 Ext 2211*

*Tampa, Fl. 33637-6759 1-813-987-6747 (Fax)*

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**From:** Mike Heyl  
**To:** ["Boyd\\_Blihovde@fws.gov"](mailto:Boyd_Blihovde@fws.gov)  
**Cc:** [Doug Leeper](#)  
**Subject:** Chassahowitzka MFL comments  
**Date:** Monday, October 22, 2012 6:55:00 AM

---

Boyd – I saw your MFL comments come through. We will definitely be in touch with regard to monitoring, but I did want to address the water level issue. Since the Chassahowitzka is below sea level for the entire extent, the change in elevation will be negligible as inflow from the Gulf will fill any voids.

We did run the hydrodynamic model to check the change in elevation with the original proposed 11% MFL. The average decrease in water level at the boat ramp will be 0.01 feet.

*MGH*

=====  
*Michael G. Heyl - Chief Environmental Scientist*  
*Mike.Heyl@SWFWMD.state.fl.us or Mike.Heyl@WaterMatters.org*  
=====  
*Natural Systems and Restoration Bureau / SWFWMD (7:00 am - 3:30 pm )*  
*7601 U.S. Highway 301 1-813-985-7481 Ext 2211*  
*Tampa, Fl. 33637-6759 1-813-987-6747 (Fax)*  
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*for records retention purposes in accordance with Florida's Public Records laws*  
*and is available for inspection by the public upon request.*

**From:** [Executive](#)  
**To:** [Gwen Brown](#)  
**Cc:** [Jet Houser](#); [Lou Kavouras](#); [Ron Basso](#); [Mike Heyl](#); [Doug Leeper](#)  
**Subject:** FW: MFL for Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers  
**Date:** Thursday, October 18, 2012 10:45:05 AM

---

Please handle accordingly or forward to the appropriate staff for handling.

Thank you.

## Shellie Ferreira-Lee

Sr. Document Specialist  
Southwest Florida Water Management District  
[shellie.ferreira@swfwmd.state.fl.us](mailto:shellie.ferreira@swfwmd.state.fl.us)  
352-796-7211, ext. 4053

---

**From:** [Boyd\\_Blihovde@fws.gov](mailto:Boyd_Blihovde@fws.gov) [mailto:[Boyd\\_Blihovde@fws.gov](mailto:Boyd_Blihovde@fws.gov)]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 17, 2012 11:07 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** MFL for Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers

The Chassahowitzka National Wildlife Refuge is primarily bordered to the North by the Homosassa River, and contains the mouth of the Chassahowitzka River within its boundary. The freshwater inflow from both these rivers is extremely important to the wildlife that the Refuge was established to protect for the American public. We are pleased to see that the SWFWMD has increased the recommended MFL for both the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers to 91% and 97% respectively. However, we are certainly concerned that if levels on the Chassahowitzka River were actually reduced by 9% (from present conditions) there could be potentially detrimental conditions for many species of wildlife. Refuge staff have witnessed extremely low water levels during low tides on the Chassahowitzka River. These extremely low water situations have resulted in virtually impassable or unnavigable water depths. This is a concern for boaters and for the endangered manatee. Of course, these extremes are not experienced very often, but it is a condition that can be assumed would increase in frequency and intensity if a 9% reduction in flow were to occur.

Former land use practices in the area around the Chassahowitzka River cannot be reversed, but the Chassahowitzka NWR is concerned with future land use practices that may have an impact on the resources we manage for all US citizens. The US Fish and Wildlife Service takes pride in the partnership we have cooperatively developed with the water management districts in Florida. The Chassahowitzka NWR staff are located within close proximity to the river systems discussed in this MFL proposal and we conduct numerous surveys for manatees, birds, whooping cranes, and we cooperate with various agencies and universities to answer more advanced biological questions.

Although Refuge management would feel more comfortable with higher flows allowed for the Chassahowitzka River, we are open to helping establish a monitoring plan that would include a partnership between our agencies. This partnership would hopefully prevent irreparable damage to the habitat in and around the Chassahowitzka River if water flow was

to further decrease. USFWS staff currently make numerous qualitative observations on habitat conditions, and that work will certainly continue. However, through this partnership, the USFWS and SWFWMD should prepare to monitor the effects of freshwater reduction on the estuary within the Refuge and surrounding areas. It is imperative to us that we protect the natural resources that have been entrusted to us by the US citizen and monitoring any proposed management activity (on or near the Refuge boundary) is a very important part of that. We hope that whatever MFL becomes implemented will also include requirements for monitoring the effects of future permitted freshwater withdrawals. We look forward to future cooperative endeavors with the SWFWMD that will help protect Florida's natural resources.

Thanks,

boyd blihovde  
Deputy Project Leader  
Crystal River National Wildlife Refuge Complex  
1502 SE Kings Bay Drive  
Crystal River, FL 34429  
(P) 352-563-2088  
(F) 352-795-7961

**From:** Doug Leeper  
**To:** [Doug Leeper](#)  
**Cc:** [Adrienne Vining](#); [Chris Zajac](#); [Christopher Pettit](#); [Dave Dewitt](#); [Eric DeHaven](#); [Gary E. Williams](#); [Jay Yingling](#); [Jerry Mallams](#); [Karen West](#); [Kenneth R. Herd](#); [Laura Donaldson](#); [Lou Kavouras](#); [Mark Barcelo](#); [Mark Hammond](#); [Michael Molligan](#); [Mike Heyl](#); [Robyn O. Felix](#); [Ron Basso](#); [Sid Flannery](#); [Tammy Hinkle](#); [Veronica Crow](#); [Virginia Singer](#); [Xinjian Chen](#); [Yassert Gonzalez](#)  
**Bcc:** [\(janicehowie@aol.com\)](#); ["Abdon Sidibie"](#); [Alex McPherson \(aamcpherson@msn.com\)](#); [Ann - 2 Hodgson \(ahodgson@gmail.com\)](#); [Ann Hodgson \(ahodgsonphd@gmail.com\)](#); [Bernard Berauer \(bfberauer@aol.com\)](#); [Beverly Overa \(boverly@tampabay.rr.com\)](#); [Bill Garvin \(wgarvin@tampabay.rr.com\)](#); [Bob Caldwell \(Bobcaldwell51@yahoo.com\)](#); [Brack Barker \(brack154@msn.com\)](#); [Brad Rimbey \(BWR.CRRC@tampabay.rr.com\)](#); [Carl Matthai \(thebabesmimi@gmail.com\)](#); [Casey Emily \(fcnwr@atlantic.net\)](#); [Charles Dean \(dean.charles.web@flsenate.gov\)](#); [Charles Stonerock \(katcha.stonerock3@gmail.com\)](#); [Chris Safos \(chrissafos@embarqmail.com\)](#); [Czerwinski, Mike \(mcerwin@tampabay.rr.com\)](#); [Darlene Herth \(2cetechology21@gmail.com\)](#); [Darrell Snedecor \(president@citruscountyaudubon.com\)](#); [Don Hiers \(dhiers3@gmail.com\)](#); [Douglas Dame \(doug\\_dame@yahoo.com\)](#); [Elaine Luther \(barneyandcap@hotmail.com\)](#); [Emily Casey \(ecasey21@hotmail.com\)](#); [Emma Knight \(eknight@wetlandsolutionsinc.com\)](#); [George Harbin \(gharbin@tampabay.rr.com\)](#); [George McClog \(classof47@gmail.com\)](#); [Gorgon O'Connor \(gorgon\\_o@yahoo.com\)](#); [Harry Steiner \(harry109@aol.com\)](#); ["Helen Spivey"](#); [Jack Calbeck \(calbeckj@citrus.k12.fl.us\)](#); [jane Perrin \(jcsperinmd@sbcglobal.net\)](#); [Jerry Morton \(JerrMorton@aol.com\)](#); [Jessie Gourlie \(gourliej@thirdplanetwind.com\)](#); [Jim Collins \(jimmieky22@yahoo.com\)](#); [Jimmie Smith \(jimmie.smith@myfloridahouse.gov\)](#); [Joe Calamari](#); [John Lord \(jclord109@yahoo.com\)](#); [John Mayo \(freedomway1@gmail.com\)](#); [Karen Johnstone \(kjohns213@sbcglobal.net\)](#); [Kim Caldwell \(caldwell.kimberly@yahoo.com\)](#); [Kim Dinkins \(kim.dinkins@marioncountyfl.org\)](#); [Linda Pierce \(tpierce35@tampabay.rr.com\)](#); [Linda Vanderveen \(hernandoaudubon@yahoo.com\)](#); [Mary Anne Lynn \(mlynn1978@tampabay.rr.com\)](#); [Matthew Corona \(mcorona1@tampabay.rr.com\)](#); [Max Rhinesmith \(rhinesmith@webtv.net\)](#); ["Amber Breland"](#); [Andy Houston \(ahouston@crystalriverfl.org\)](#); [Art Yerian \(A.Yerian@dep.state.fl.us\)](#); ["Ben Weiss"](#); ["Beth Hovinde"](#); [Brad Thorpe \(brad.thorpe@bocc.citrus.fl.us\)](#); [Courtney Edwards \(cedwards@savethemanatee.org\)](#); [Dale Jones \(Jones@MyFWC.com\)](#); [Dana Bryan \(dana.bryan@dep.state.fl.us\)](#); ["Darrell Snedecor"](#); [David Hamilton \(countyadministrator@hernandocounty.us\)](#); [David Hankla \(david\\_hankla@fws.gov\)](#); [Don Wright \(wright@sura.org\)](#); [Dusty McDevitt \(mcdevitt@usgs.gov\)](#); [Ed Call \(marvin.call@MyFWC.com\)](#); [Eric Nagid \(eric.nagid@MyFWC.com\)](#); [FFWCC MFLs Review E-Mail Address \(fwccconservationplanningservices@myfwc.com\)](#); [J. J. Kenney \(jj.kenney@bocc.citrus.fl.us\)](#); [Jennene Norman-Vacha \(jnvacha@ci.brooksville.fl.us\)](#); [Joyce Kleen@fws.gov](#); [Kandi Harper \(kandi.harper@bocc.citrus.fl.us\)](#); [Keith Ramos \(Keith.Ramos@fws.gov\)](#); [Kent Smith \(kent.smith2@myfwc.com\)](#); [Kevin Grimsley \(kgrims@usgs.gov\)](#); [Michael Lusk \(Michael\\_Lusk@fws.gov\)](#); [Mitchell Newberger \(mnewberger@verizon.net\)](#); [Nick Robbins \(Nick.Robbins@dep.state.fl.us\)](#); [Nicole Adimey \(Nicole\\_Adimey@fws.gov\)](#); [Paul Thomas \(paulw.thomas@MyFWC.com\)](#); [Ron Mezich \(ron.mezich@MyFWC.com\)](#); [Shelly Yaun \(shelly.yaun@dep.state.fl.us\)](#); [Toby Brewer \(Toby.Brewer@dep.state.fl.us\)](#); ["Tracy Colson"](#); ["Adkins, Jim"](#); ["Bitter, Jim"](#); ["Bryant, Richard"](#); ["Cantero, Vince"](#); ["Carpenter, Paul"](#); ["Cheek, Ken"](#); ["Daniels, Chase"](#); ["Dueker, Duane"](#); ["Gordon, Lisa-Perras"](#); ["Gramling, Hugh"](#); ["Harrelson, Cathy"](#); ["Hubbell, Pete"](#); ["Johnson, Eric"](#); ["Johnson, Martyn"](#); ["Keim, Robert"](#); ["Kincaid, Todd"](#); ["Kline, Allen"](#); ["Knight, Bob"](#); ["Knudson, Ross"](#); ["Overa, Tom"](#); ["Owen, Rick"](#); ["Parrow, Liz"](#); [Rolf Auermann \(rauerman@tampabay.rr.com\)](#); ["Rusnak, Teddi"](#); ["Tarochinoe, Joseph"](#); ["Watkins, Priscilla"](#); ["Watrous, Russell"](#); ["Weber, Ken"](#); ["Wilson, Roger"](#); ["WRWSA"](#); ["aquahab@gmail.com"](#); ["bocacatlover@gmail.com"](#); ["bruceseaman@zoho.com"](#); ["btrfly21@msn.com"](#); ["casabanca@live.com"](#); ["celesteas@gmail.com"](#); ["christina.joyinmotion@gmail.com"](#); ["citizen@fsmail.net"](#); ["dancross@bellsouth.net"](#); ["dawnsdusks@bellsouth.net"](#); ["dreandvicki@bellsouth.net"](#); ["earthy\\_wolf@hotmail.com"](#); ["ecocosm@bellsouth.net"](#); ["egarvett@gmail.com"](#); ["gmorotti@gmail.com"](#); ["gregatourhouse@hotmail.com"](#); ["Gulf Restoration Network"](#); ["heylady1948@yahoo.com"](#); ["jiinabnw@att.net"](#); ["jumbys8@yahoo.com"](#); ["karensmith187@gmail.com"](#); ["licy75@aol.com"](#); ["linda@perry.net"](#); ["lbalaw@gmail.com"](#); ["mccunesfla@aol.com"](#); ["mejides@yahoo.com"](#); ["mshargel@gmail.com"](#); ["mwalker13fr@gmail.com"](#); ["pete22roc@aol.com"](#); ["prunemstr@aol.com"](#); ["rebeccaruby@msn.com"](#); ["riverguide2000@yahoo.com"](#); ["robertadever@yahoo.com"](#); ["robsand@bellsouth.net"](#); ["ronm430@aol.com"](#); ["rrriley71@att.net"](#); ["rst333@hotmail.com"](#); ["salleeba@me.com"](#); ["ssiegmenn@gmail.com"](#); ["staceydaniels@shellpoint.org"](#); ["sunpreston@gmail.com"](#); ["sunwrent@aol.com"](#); ["tonytke@yahoo.com"](#); ["warrior\\_red@hotmail.com"](#); ["zerogirl@gmail.com"](#); ["ahlers.karen@gmail.com"](#); ["apostolicboylargo@yahoo.com"](#); ["catsandcrocs@yahoo.com"](#); ["cattleya@comcast.net"](#); ["dan-lesley@att.net"](#); ["detrorachel@yahoo.com"](#); ["gunnhonican@aol.com"](#); ["jackyboy86@gmail.com"](#); ["jehallh20@aol.com"](#); ["jimbrunton@yahoo.com"](#); ["kbolomey@aol.com"](#); ["l.j.travers@gmail.com"](#); ["lazygin@bellsouth.net"](#); ["lfurgal@yahoo.com"](#); ["lrdevine@yahoo.com"](#); ["lrpm2@yahoo.com"](#); ["lrpm22@gmail.com"](#); ["meem4822@aol.com"](#); ["melissa.allen@hotmail.com"](#); ["missyno@bellsouth.net"](#); ["obyrrnen@bellsouth.net"](#); ["pjtpowers@hotmail.com"](#); ["popcomic@tampabay.rr.com"](#); ["rfay808700@aol.com"](#); ["rhinopias@comcast.net"](#); ["scott.logan@aon.com"](#); ["segnbora@gmail.com"](#); ["snorklmike@yahoo.com"](#); ["studio8@infionline.net"](#); ["tabdolphins@yahoo.com"](#); ["tno2007@aol.com"](#); ["vaughan@fireflyclay.com"](#); ["youelyoga@gmail.com"](#); ["ziffel1@bellsouth.net"](#); ["aairis@aol.com"](#); ["babij204@msn.com"](#); ["ban260zz@yahoo.com"](#); ["bv@wvmlaw.com"](#); ["Cheek, Ken"](#); ["crmclone@moose-mail.com"](#); ["dirgis3@aol.com"](#); ["dougpowless@hotmail.com"](#); ["facwetkat@hotmail.com"](#); ["faithoogs@aol.com"](#); ["firewaterair@gmail.com"](#); ["gomerlu@yahoo.com"](#); ["jacketchmson@hotmail.com"](#); ["jnovotny@comcast.net"](#); ["jrjzr@yahoo.com"](#); ["keth@awakening-healing.com"](#); ["Kramer, Gus"](#); ["lbedinger@yahoo.com"](#); ["long5892@bellsouth.net"](#); ["lori\\_mccraney@yahoo.com"](#); ["mark@bassanio.dsl.atlantic.net"](#); ["masonfamily@centurylink.net"](#); ["morgan@cc-events.org"](#); ["navistar@wildmail.com"](#); ["parneixr@cfl.rr.com"](#); ["quehoraes7@aol.com"](#); ["rantala.mervi@gmail.com"](#); ["robin@greenerpixels.com"](#); ["saralee.lem@gmail.com"](#); ["scooke1107@hotmail.com"](#); ["segoci@aol.com"](#); ["sharonbrich@yahoo.com"](#); ["skeiser@adadeschools.net"](#); ["slnofear@aol.com"](#); ["tcglover58@hotmail.com"](#); ["tcsmith57@hotmail.com"](#); ["terry@awakening-healing.com"](#); ["treehugger52768@gmail.com"](#); ["vinnymullins@live.com"](#); ["cdlaughlin@tampabay.rr.com"](#); ["chrislaughlin@tampabay.rr.com"](#);

"diann@tampabay.rr.com"; "flkrakr@yahoo.com"; "hm4v08@yahoo.com"; "jzeto1@tampabay.rr.com"; "kschulz26@tampabay.rr.com"; "lbarth4544@aol.com"; "maxineconnor@gmail.com"; "mrwjones@aol.com"; "nancyargenziano@gmail.com"; Al Grubman (grubman1@gmail.com); Bill Geiger (bgeiger@cityofbrooksville.us); Bill Poudier (bill.poudier@myfwc.com); Boyd Blihovde (Boyd\_Blihovde@fws.gov); Brent Whitley (brentwhitley@sierra-properties.com); Brockway, Alys (abrockway@co.hernando.fl.us); Dennis D. Dutcher (Dennis3ds@aol.com); Frank DiGiovanni (administration@inverness-fl.gov); Greenwood, Kathleen; Hilliard, Dan (2buntings@comcast.net); Hoehn, Ted; Hope Corona (hopecorona@tampabay.rr.com); Jim Farley (jfarley682@aol.com); Katie Tripp (ktripp@savethemanatee.org); Norman Hopkins (norman@amyhrf.org); Rebecca Bays (rebecca.bays@bocc.citrus.fl.us); Richard Kane (rkane@usgs.gov); Richard Radacky (rradacky@cityofbrooksville.us); Ron Miller (rmille76@tampabay.rr.com); Sarah Tenison (cityofweekiwachee@yahoo.com); Sullivan, Jack (jsullivan@carltonfields.com); Voyles, Carolyn (Carolyn.Voyles@dep.state.fl.us); Whitey Markle (whmarkle@gmail.com)

**Subject:** Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Minimum Flows Update  
**Date:** Tuesday, October 23, 2012 7:13:00 AM

---

Greetings:

I'm writing to provide an update on the planned discussion of proposed minimum flows for the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa River systems that is scheduled to occur at the October 30, 2012 meeting of the Southwest Florida Water Management District Governing Board.

A meeting agenda and information document for the meeting are now available on the District web site. The Chassahowitzka-Homosassa minimum flows discussion is identified in these documents as agenda item number 21.

The agenda is available at:

[http://www.swfwmd.state.fl.us/calendar/agendas/govboard\\_10-30-12\\_agenda\\_2245.pdf](http://www.swfwmd.state.fl.us/calendar/agendas/govboard_10-30-12_agenda_2245.pdf)

The meeting information document is available at:

[http://www.swfwmd.state.fl.us/calendar/notebooks/govboard\\_10-30-12\\_notebook\\_2245.pdf](http://www.swfwmd.state.fl.us/calendar/notebooks/govboard_10-30-12_notebook_2245.pdf)

Thanks again for your continued interest in the development of minimum flows for the river systems.

Douglas A. Leeper  
Chief Environmental Scientist  
Water Resources Bureau  
Southwest Florida Water Management District  
2379 Broad Street  
Brooksville, Florida 34604-6899  
1-800-423-1476, ext. 4272 (FL only)  
352-796-7211, ext. 4272  
352-754-6885 (Fax)  
doug.leeper@watermatters.org

**From:** Doug Leeper  
**To:** ["drs@ymail.com"](mailto:drs@ymail.com)  
**Cc:** [Shellie Ferreira-Lee](#); [Mike Heyl](#); [Ron Basso](#); [Lou Kavouras](#); [Dianna Brass](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Springs Coast MFL  
**Date:** Tuesday, October 23, 2012 8:43:00 AM

---

Dr. Zimmer:

Thank you for your comments regarding the revised minimum flows and levels recommendations for the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa river systems. Your input has been reviewed by District staff and will be provided to the District Governing Board for consideration.

Douglas A. Leeper  
Chief Environmental Scientist  
Water Resources Bureau  
Southwest Florida Water Management District  
2379 Broad Street  
Brooksville, Florida 34604-6899  
1-800-423-1476, ext. 4272 (FL only)  
352-796-7211, ext. 4272  
352-754-6885 (Fax)  
[doug.leeper@watermatters.org](mailto:doug.leeper@watermatters.org)

---

**From:** Executive  
**Sent:** Friday, October 19, 2012 8:09 AM  
**To:** Dianna Brass  
**Cc:** Lou Kavouras; Ron Basso; Doug Leeper; Mike Heyl  
**Subject:** FW: Springs Coast MFL

Please handle accordingly or forward to the appropriate staff for handling.

Thank you.

Shellie Ferreira-Lee  
Sr. Document Specialist  
Southwest Florida Water Management District  
[shellie.ferreira@swfwmd.state.fl.us](mailto:shellie.ferreira@swfwmd.state.fl.us)  
352-796-7211, ext. 4053

---

**From:** Susan Zimmer [<mailto:drs@ymail.com>]  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 18, 2012 4:24 PM  
**To:** info  
**Subject:** Springs Coast MFL

**SWFWMD**  
**Governing Board**

I am a resident of Citrus County.

I do not favor any further reductions in water flow. The springs and rivers are already low, unhealthy, and actually need **more** flow to provide a healthy environment for fish, vegetation, drinking water, etc.

It is sad and scary to continually see various Springs, which provide our only drinking water, become stagnant and dry up.

**Prevention** is more sensible than Restoration (attempts).

Desalination, as an example, is too costly, etc., especially while we have the **opportunity to save** the precious Springs.

Thank you

Dr Susan Zimmer

**From:** Doug Leeper  
**To:** ["JaniceHowie@aol.com"](mailto:JaniceHowie@aol.com)  
**Cc:** [Shellie Ferreira-Lee](#); [Mike Heyl](#); [Ron Basso](#); [Lou Kavouras](#); [Gwen Brown](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Proposed MFL's for the Homosassa and Chasahowitzka Rivers  
**Date:** Tuesday, October 23, 2012 8:46:00 AM

---

Ms. Howie:

Thank you for your comments regarding the revised minimum flows and levels recommendations for the Chasahowitzka and Homosassa river systems. Your input has been reviewed by District staff and will be provided to the District Governing Board for consideration.

Douglas A. Leeper  
Chief Environmental Scientist  
Water Resources Bureau  
Southwest Florida Water Management District  
2379 Broad Street  
Brooksville, Florida 34604-6899  
1-800-423-1476, ext. 4272 (FL only)  
352-796-7211, ext. 4272  
352-754-6885 (Fax)  
[doug.leeper@watermatters.org](mailto:doug.leeper@watermatters.org)

---

**From:** Executive  
**Sent:** Friday, October 19, 2012 8:11 AM  
**To:** Dianna Brass  
**Cc:** Lou Kavouras; Ron Basso; Doug Leeper; Mike Heyl; Gwen Brown  
**Subject:** FW: Proposed MFL's for the Homosassa and Chasahowitzka Rivers

Please handle accordingly or forward to the appropriate staff for handling.

Thank you.

**Shellie Ferreira-Lee**  
Sr. Document Specialist  
Southwest Florida Water Management District  
[shellie.ferreira@swfwmd.state.fl.us](mailto:shellie.ferreira@swfwmd.state.fl.us)  
352-796-7211, ext. 4053

---

**From:** [JaniceHowie@aol.com](mailto:JaniceHowie@aol.com) [<mailto:JaniceHowie@aol.com>]  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 18, 2012 1:53 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** Proposed MFL's for the Homosassa and Chasahowitzka Rivers

The Federal Clean Water act does not allow for the degradation of these rivers, or any other rivers in the state. Your proposed MFL's for the Homosassa at 3% and the Chasahowitzka at 9 % would allow by your studies up to 15% degradation to the wildlife and environment of these rivers. Think about what will happen to these rivers

and to the conflict that will occur with the EPA if this degradation is allowed to happen. Wouldn't it be prudent to proactively ovoid this damage to our rivers.

Jan Howie  
Conservation Chairman  
Nature Coast Native Plant Society

**From:** Doug Leeper  
**To:** ["hkck5@embarqmail.com"](mailto:hkck5@embarqmail.com)  
**Cc:** [Shellie Ferreira-Lee](#); [Mike Heyl](#); [Ron Basso](#); [Lou Kavouras](#); [Gwen Brown](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Chassahowitzka  
**Date:** Tuesday, October 23, 2012 8:48:00 AM

---

Ms. Klein:

Thank you for your comments regarding the revised minimum flows and levels recommendations for the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa river systems. Your input has been reviewed by District staff and will be provided to the District Governing Board for consideration.

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---

**From:** Executive  
**Sent:** Friday, October 19, 2012 8:15 AM  
**To:** Dianna Brass  
**Cc:** Lou Kavouras; Gwen Brown; Ron Basso; Doug Leeper; Mike Heyl  
**Subject:** FW: Chassahowitzka

Please handle accordingly or forward to the appropriate staff for handling.

Thank you.

Shellie Ferreira-Lee  
Sr. Document Specialist  
Southwest Florida Water Management District  
[shellie.ferreira@swfwmd.state.fl.us](mailto:shellie.ferreira@swfwmd.state.fl.us)  
352-796-7211, ext. 4053

---

**From:** cindy [<mailto:hkck5@embarqmail.com>]  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 18, 2012 12:54 PM  
**To:** Executive  
**Cc:** Executive  
**Subject:** Chassahowitzka

Please don't take any more fresh water from the spring system of the Chassahowitzka or Homosassa Rivers. As you know, both are in peril. Let whoever wants our most precious resource on the nature coast to invest in a desalinization facility. There is plenty of fresh water in our gulf. May I even suggest the Florida cross barge canal system as the perfect location for such a project. Eventually it will come

to this anyway, why not lead the way. You have the power. Thank You. Chassahowitzka resident for 30 years, in love with the nature coast, the State of Florida and thankful for our State Land programs and Government Organizations set up to protect our natural resources. Cindy Klein

**From:** [Dan](#)  
**To:** [Doug Leeper](#)  
**Subject:** Re: Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Minimum Flows Update  
**Date:** Tuesday, October 23, 2012 12:26:01 PM

---

On 10/23/2012 7:13 AM, Doug Leeper wrote:

Greetings:

I'm writing to provide an update on the planned discussion of proposed minimum flows for the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa River systems that is scheduled to occur at the October 30, 2012 meeting of the Southwest Florida Water Management District Governing Board.

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Thanks Doug, do appreciate that. Can you give me an idea how long it might take the GB to work thru the consent agenda?

Dan

The meeting information document is available at:

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Thanks again for your continued interest in the development of minimum flows for the river systems.

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**From:** Doug Leeper  
**To:** "Dan"  
**Subject:** RE: Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Minimum Flows Update  
**Date:** Tuesday, October 23, 2012 1:33:00 PM

---

Dan – should be pretty quick. Fifteen minutes to half an hour tops, I would think.

Douglas A. Leeper  
Chief Environmental Scientist  
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Southwest Florida Water Management District  
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352-754-6885 (Fax)  
doug.leeper@watermatters.org

---

**From:** Dan [mailto:2buntings@comcast.net]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 23, 2012 12:28 PM  
**To:** Doug Leeper  
**Subject:** Re: Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Minimum Flows Update

On 10/23/2012 7:13 AM, Doug Leeper wrote:

Greetings:

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**From:** [Dan](#)  
**To:** [Doug Leeper](#)  
**Subject:** Re: Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Minimum Flows Update  
**Date:** Tuesday, October 23, 2012 1:59:36 PM

---

Thanks.

D

On 10/23/2012 1:33 PM, Doug Leeper wrote:

Dan – should be pretty quick. Fifteen minutes to half an hour tops, I would think.

Douglas A. Leeper  
Chief Environmental Scientist  
Water Resources Bureau  
Southwest Florida Water Management District  
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[doug.leeper@watermatters.org](mailto:doug.leeper@watermatters.org)

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**From:** Dan [<mailto:2buntings@comcast.net>]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 23, 2012 12:28 PM  
**To:** Doug Leeper  
**Subject:** Re: Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Minimum Flows Update

On 10/23/2012 7:13 AM, Doug Leeper wrote:

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**From:** [cathyharrelson@gmail.com](mailto:cathyharrelson@gmail.com) on behalf of [Cathy Harrelson](#)  
**To:** [Doug Leeper](#)  
**Subject:** Re: Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Minimum Flows Update  
**Date:** Wednesday, October 24, 2012 3:35:51 PM

---

Thanks Doug.

Question - If folks can't attend, can they email? I see a mailing address in there but the reality for most people is that email is the way they communicate. I'm currently showing email addresses of [executive@watermatters.org](mailto:executive@watermatters.org) for the Governing Board and [info@watermatters.org](mailto:info@watermatters.org) for the ombudsman, in addition to your email address.

These are the addresses we'll be using, so I'm sure you can expect some comments.

Sincerely,

*Cathy Harrelson*

**Florida Organizer**

**Gulf Restoration Network**

[cathy@healthygulf.org](mailto:cathy@healthygulf.org)

727-415-8805

<http://healthygulf.org/>

On Tue, Oct 23, 2012 at 7:13 AM, Doug Leeper <[Doug.Leeper@swfwmd.state.fl.us](mailto:Doug.Leeper@swfwmd.state.fl.us)> wrote:

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Douglas A. Leeper

Chief Environmental Scientist

Water Resources Bureau

Southwest Florida Water Management District

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Brooksville, Florida 34604-6899

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--

**From:** Doug Leeper  
**To:** ["cathyharrelson@gmail.com"](mailto:cathyharrelson@gmail.com)  
**Subject:** RE: Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Minimum Flows Update  
**Date:** Thursday, October 25, 2012 5:14:00 PM

---

Hi Kathy:

We certainly accept and read e-mails. The addresses listed in your e-mail will work, but I would suggest that using the executive address will be sufficient. You can copy me if you like, but all e-mails to "executive" pertaining to the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa minimum flow recommendations will be forwarded to me and other staff.

Douglas A. Leeper  
Chief Environmental Scientist  
Water Resources Bureau  
Southwest Florida Water Management District  
2379 Broad Street  
Brooksville, Florida 34604-6899  
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[doug.leeper@watermatters.org](mailto:doug.leeper@watermatters.org)

---

**From:** [cathyharrelson@gmail.com](mailto:cathyharrelson@gmail.com) [mailto:[cathyharrelson@gmail.com](mailto:cathyharrelson@gmail.com)] **On Behalf Of** Cathy Harrelson  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 24, 2012 3:36 PM  
**To:** Doug Leeper  
**Subject:** Re: Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Minimum Flows Update

Thanks Doug.

Question - If folks can't attend, can they email? I see a mailing address in there but the reality for most people is that email is the way they communicate. I'm currently showing email addresses of [executive@watermatters.org](mailto:executive@watermatters.org) for the Governing Board and [info@watermatters.org](mailto:info@watermatters.org) for the ombudsman, in addition to your email address. These are the addresses we'll be using, so I'm sure you can expect some comments.

Sincerely,

*Cathy Harrelson*

**Florida Organizer**  
**Gulf Restoration Network**  
[cathy@healthygulf.org](mailto:cathy@healthygulf.org)  
727-415-8805

<http://healthygulf.org/>

On Tue, Oct 23, 2012 at 7:13 AM, Doug Leeper <[Doug.Leeper@swfwmd.state.fl.us](mailto:Doug.Leeper@swfwmd.state.fl.us)> wrote:  
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--

**From:** [Alan Martyn Johnson](#)  
**Cc:** [Adrienne Vining](#); [Chris Zajac](#); [Christopher Pettit](#); [Dave Dewitt](#); [Karen West](#); [Mark Hammond](#); [Michael Molligan](#); [Mike Heyl](#); [Robyn O. Felix](#); [Ron Basso](#); [Sid Flannery](#); [Veronica Crow](#); [Xinjian Chen](#); [Doug Leeper](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Minimum Flows Rule 40D Amendments  
**Date:** Thursday, October 25, 2012 8:38:15 AM

---

I trust you have (or will) read and are able to fully explain the proposed **Amendments to RULE 40D-8.041, F.A.C.** included in the Notebook for the October 30 2012 Governing Board Meeting. These Amendments were not included in the revised reports.

My concerns are with quantifying withdrawals to define natural flow and the use of the previous days natural flow in the wording.

Quote

*"Natural flow is defined for the purpose of this rule as the flow that would exist in the absence of water withdrawal impacts. The Minimum Flow at any point downstream from these Gages is measured as the previous day's natural flow at that point minus 3%" .*  
End Quote

Similar wording for Chassahowitzka.

Everyone in SWFWMD who has been involved in drafting these rule amendments needs to be able to explain exactly what this wording means in practical terms.

**We all need to hear from SWFWMD's legal personel their rationale for basing Minimum Flows on the previous day's natural flow and how pumpage will be determined.**

Additionally, recognized flow downstream of these gages are in short distance increased to by Halls River and Crab Creek, thus the downstream wording appears to require explanation.

As I carefully read these amendments it is difficult to see how they are of any practical value to define when the minimum flow has been reached. The flows as reported at the specified USGS Gage Sites do not include any measure of groundwater withdrawals. Withdrawals are not measured and are not presented in the reports, other than as approximations and comments: (focusing on the Homosassa Report);

- *"..reduced spring discharge to the river system by approximately 1 percent."* Page 20
- *"..in 2005, groundwater withdrawals within five miles of the Homosassa Main Springs averaged 1.3 mgd , and averaged 8.2 mgd within ten miles of the spring complex"* Page 64 Note:1.3 mgd (2 cfs) 8.2 mgd (12 cfs)
- *"Given the relatively minor (1.1 percent) potential impact of withdrawals on spring discharge"* Page 66
- In Table 2-4 page 66 the 2005 withdrawals are 2.31 cfs Table 2-5 page 67 the withdrawals for 2030 are shown as 5.13 cfs as predicted by the Northern District Model
- *"This natural flow may be calculated based on withdrawal-impact corrected combined flows measured at...02310678...02310688, or based on modeled flows developed through application of numerical or statistical models."* Page 201/2
- Synthetic natural flow record is discussed in connection with the 5 and 10 year moving average statistics page 202, but synthetic natural flows are not used in any of the modeling e.g. calibration and validation periods. Baseline flows are used.

In the above there is lack of clarity:

- The 2005 figures for withdrawals within five/ten miles fails to mention Crystal River and Chassahowitzka Springs are six miles from Homosassa.
- The NDM covers a large area (10,000 sq mls) and it is difficult to accept, despite staffs assertion otherwise, this model can accurately predict changes of 0.05 cfs over a 25 year period for individual springs. 10 miles radius from Homosassa is 0.15% of this models area.
- Lists of permitted water withdrawals in Citrus County furnished by SWFWMD identify 42 mgd or about 65 cfs. (It did not include the wells not requiring a WUP).

**For practical understanding consider some reported flows at the Homosassa gage sites (02310678 and 02310688).**

The reported flow at both the gage sites was about 30% less in early June 2012 than at present. This results from the difference in the level in the aquifer Weeki Wachee Well.

In round numbers the combined flow was 100cfs early June and is now 150cfs. Both of these are 'natural flow less withdrawals'. Where are the groundwater withdrawals quantified? Are the withdrawals a constant percentage of discharge, or a constant volume per day? Could withdrawals 20 miles away have an influence?

Appears the best we have is withdrawals as presented in Table 2-4 where the NDM presents 2005 combined pumpage of 0.97 cfs for the six springs; Halls River and Hidden River are not monitored at the above gage sites. 2005 NDM data is seven years old, where are todays withdrawals reported, preferably without being based on a myriad of assumptions used in the model.

EXTRACTS FROM THE NOTEBOOK FOR THE OCTOBER 30 MEETING

EXHIBIT D

(b) The Minimum Flow for the Homosassa River System is 97% of the combined natural flow as measured at the United States Geological Survey (USGS) Homosassa Springs at Homosassa Springs, FL Gage (No. 02310678), and the USGS SE Fork Homosassa Spring at Homosassa Springs, FL Gage (No. 02310688). Natural flow is defined for the purpose of this rule as the flow that would exist in the absence of water withdrawal impacts. The Minimum Flow at **any point downstream** from these Gages are measured as the **previous day's natural flow** at that point minus 3%.

EXHIBIT B

(b) The Minimum Flow for the Chassahowitzka River System is 91% of the natural flow as measured at the United States Geological Survey (USGS) Gage Chassahowitzka River near Homosassa (Gage No. 02310650). Natural flow is defined for the purpose of this rule as the flow that would exist in the absence of water withdrawal impacts. The Minimum Flow at any **point downstream** from this Gage is measured as the **previous day's natural flow** at that point minus 9%.

Martyn

Numbers to support my point. Daily change each gage site as well as combined is shown.

Before someone points out the USGS Data for these dates still shows as provisional (June was last years Water Year and would normally have been approved by now). USGS daily data is based on a 24 hour day not a 24.84 hour tidal cycle.

Discharge cfs and Percent Change from Previous Day

June 2012

2012	SE Fork		H Springs		Combined	
1	51		54		105	
2	52	102%	53	98%	105	100%
3	56	108%	61	115%	117	111%
4	48	86%	58	95%	106	91%
5	38	79%	52	90%	90	85%
6	35	92%	46	88%	81	90%
7	42	120%	51	111%	93	115%
8	45	107%	57	112%	102	110%
9	44	98%	64	112%	108	106%
10	46	105%	64	100%	110	102%
11	47	102%	67	105%	114	104%
12	45	96%	68	101%	113	99%
13	40	89%	64	94%	104	92%
14	43	108%	67	105%	110	106%
15	42	98%	72	107%	114	104%

October 2012

2012	SE Fork		H Springs		Combined	
1	62		82		144	
2	61	98%	76	93%	137	95%
3	66	108%	83	109%	149	109%
4	73	111%	89	107%	162	109%
5	73	100%	97	109%	170	105%
6	70	96%	94	97%	164	96%
7	69	99%	93	99%	162	99%
8	68	99%	90	97%	158	98%
9	76	112%	97	108%	173	109%
10	73	96%	99	102%	172	99%
11	76	104%	101	102%	177	103%
12	74	97%	103	102%	177	100%
13	75	101%	102	99%	177	100%
14	70	93%	99	97%	169	95%
15	66	94%	90	91%	156	92%

---

From: Doug.Leeper@swfwmd.state.fl.us  
 Date: Tue, 23 Oct 2012 07:13:15 -0400  
 Subject: Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Minimum Flows Update

Greetings:

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[http://www.swfwmd.state.fl.us/calendar/agendas/govboard\\_10-30-12\\_agenda\\_2245.pdf](http://www.swfwmd.state.fl.us/calendar/agendas/govboard_10-30-12_agenda_2245.pdf)

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[http://www.swfwmd.state.fl.us/calendar/notebooks/govboard\\_10-30-12\\_notebook\\_2245.pdf](http://www.swfwmd.state.fl.us/calendar/notebooks/govboard_10-30-12_notebook_2245.pdf)

Thanks again for your continued interest in the development of minimum flows for the river systems.

Douglas A. Leeper  
Chief Environmental Scientist  
Water Resources Bureau  
Southwest Florida Water Management District  
2379 Broad Street  
Brooksville, Florida 34604-6899  
1-800-423-1476, ext. 4272 (FL only)  
352-796-7211, ext. 4272  
352-754-6885 (Fax)  
doug.leeper@watermatters.org

IMPORTANT NOTICE: All E-mail sent to or from this address are public record and archived. The Southwest Florida Water Management District does not allow use of District equipment and E-mail facilities for non-District business purposes.

**From:** [Gulf Restoration Network](#) on behalf of [Louis Kovach](#)  
**To:** [Doug Leeper](#)  
**Subject:** Protect the Homosassa & Chassahowitzka Springs & Rivers now  
**Date:** Thursday, October 25, 2012 1:27:02 PM

---

Oct 25, 2012

Chief Environmental Scientist, SWFWMD Doug Leeper

Dear Leeper,

Florida's springs and rivers are our most unique natural asset, creating vibrant natural environments for recreation and wildlife, and supplying our drinking water. The Homosassa and Chassahowitzka spring-fed river systems provide a home for manatees and a recreational mecca for Floridians and visitors. These springs and rivers supply vital fresh water to the vital estuaries and coastal ecosystems of the Gulf of Mexico along the Nature Coast.

Decades of over-pumping and 20 years of drought have slowed or dried up these magnificent sources of crystal clear water and many are now murky with slime from nitrates fed by over-fertilized lawns, septic tanks, and farm and ranch operations that have no incentive to conserve.

Floridians won't stand for more water giveaways, pollution and decline. Please stop the destruction of our springs and rivers by rejecting the SWFWMD staff recommendation to allow a 15% decline in habitat generated by a 3% flow reduction of the Homosassa River System and call for NO ADDITIONAL WATER LOSS in the Homosassa. Likewise, the Governing Board should reject staff proposals and set a restoration and recovery strategy for the Chassahowitzka River System, which has been reduced to 91% of its natural flow since 1975.

It's time for a mandate to preserve and protect these critical resources for all Floridians. The water management policy must be adaptable to drought, climate change and overpumping. Many springs have ceased to flow or are no longer "connecting" with larger waterways, affecting the downstream systems. The goal of each water management district and the State of Florida should be to restore maximum flows and levels for our most important resource, and reverse conditions of decline and degradation within our freshwater environments.

Sincerely,

Mr. Louis Kovach  
122 Bella Vista Ter Unit D  
North Venice, FL 34275-6729  
(941) 484-7683

**From:** Doug Leeper  
**To:** "[Louis Kovach](#)"  
**Subject:** RE: Protect the Homosassa & Chassahowitzka Springs & Rivers now  
**Date:** Thursday, October 25, 2012 5:31:00 PM

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Dear Mr. Kovach:

Thank you for your comments regarding the revised minimum flows and levels recommendations for the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa river systems. Your input has been reviewed by District staff and will be provided to the District Governing Board for consideration.

Douglas A. Leeper  
Chief Environmental Scientist  
Water Resources Bureau  
Southwest Florida Water Management District  
2379 Broad Street  
Brooksville, Florida 34604-6899  
1-800-423-1476, ext. 4272 (FL only)  
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[doug.leeper@watermatters.org](mailto:doug.leeper@watermatters.org)

-----Original Message-----

From: Gulf Restoration Network [<mailto:info@healthygulf.org>] On Behalf Of Louis Kovach  
Sent: Thursday, October 25, 2012 1:26 PM  
To: Doug Leeper  
Subject: Protect the Homosassa & Chassahowitzka Springs & Rivers now

Oct 25, 2012

Chief Environmental Scientist, SWFWMD Doug Leeper

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**From:** [Executive](#)  
**To:** [Dianna Brass](#)  
**Cc:** [Lou Kavouras](#); [Mike Heyl](#); [Doug Leeper](#); [Ron Basso](#); [Virginia Singer](#); [Gwen Brown](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Homosassa Minimum Flows and Levels  
**Date:** Thursday, October 25, 2012 9:40:16 AM  
**Attachments:** [10-23-2012 Letter to SWFWMD Board.doc](#)

---

Please handle accordingly or forward to the appropriate staff for handling.

Thank you.

**Shellie Ferreira-Lee**

Sr. Document Specialist  
Southwest Florida Water Management District  
[shellie.ferreira@swfwmd.state.fl.us](mailto:shellie.ferreira@swfwmd.state.fl.us)  
352-796-7211, ext. 4053

---

**From:** Ron Miller [mailto:[rmille76@tampabay.rr.com](mailto:rmille76@tampabay.rr.com)]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 24, 2012 11:58 AM  
**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** Homosassa Minimum Flows and Levels

October 24, 2012

Governing Board  
Southwest Florida Water Management District  
2379 Broad Street  
Brooksville, FL 34604-6899

Subject: Staff Recommended Springs Coast MFL Rules

***“..... The Water Management District is setting the stage for groundwater withdrawals that will permanently lower the river’s flow to the MFL level.....”***  
**Sonny Vergara, Executive Director, SWFWMD 1997-2003.**

Dear Governing Board Members,

The SWFWMD Minimum Flow Levels (MFL) program has set reduced river flow levels to be used in the water permitting process. This effectively sets

consumptive objectives: 9% for the Chassahowitzka River, 3% for the Homosassa River. Planners and engineers have already defined where the well fields will be for “regional distribution” of the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka water. Just this summer a permit was issued for pumping and shipping nearly a hundred thousand gallons a day from Crystal River to Ocala.

Initially the flow reduction targets of the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers were set at 5 and 11 percent respectively. After two years of re-evaluation these numbers were reduced by 2 percent. That is an important recognition of the sensitivity of these estuaries but it does not go far enough. SWFWMD has not recognized the stressed state of these coastal rivers and the profound changes that are taking place right now with our current level of water withdrawals. They have not recognized that these have both been designated as Outstanding Florida Waterways to provide legal protection against degradation.

An estuary is a transition area where fresh and salt waters are constantly shifting and mixing due to a tidal influence. A very sensitive, low salinity zone that is fundamental to the aquatic web of life exists near the springs. Reducing spring flow destroys this zone and the many fish, crabs and other critters that depend on it. The Homosassa and Chassahowitzka are a highly productive estuaries... and are highly sensitive to reduced spring flow.

A disturbing University of Florida study showed a steady decline in fish in the Homosassa from 2007 to 2010. In fact UF eventually stopped counting fish in the area near Otter Creek because of the total lack of fish and vegetation. We started calling this a “dead zone” and invited Gov. Scott to come see it. He put us in touch with the DEP folks responsible for our State Coastal Waterways. A team of DEP and SWFWMD scientists came to investigate. What they found was not just a dead zone, but a dead river!

SWFWMD Spokesperson Robyn Felix said:

**“We have looked at the plant life in the Homosassa River and it is correct that they are dying, but we don’t know why.”**

Aquatic vegetation has rapidly disappeared and is dead in most of the river. There is no good explanation of this except it appears to be related to a change in salinity at the springs. The proposed MFL flow reductions will further diminish the spring flows and greatly aggravate this situation.

You often hear of environmental tipping points where the delicate balance of nature and man falls out of line and something (usually nature) crashes. The Homosassa is at a tipping point.

There are choices to be made. Clearly you can choose to protect these unique, fragile, already impacted, coastal springs and rivers. Or you can choose to authorize their destruction.

The highly stressed condition of the Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Rivers must be recognized and the MFL flow reductions set to zero.

Sincerely,

Ron Miller  
Vice President, Homosassa River Alliance  
352-628-6066  
[Rmille76@tampabay.rr.com](mailto:Rmille76@tampabay.rr.com)

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**To:** [Dianna Brass](#)  
**Cc:** [Lou Kavouras](#); [Mike Heyl](#); [Doug Leeper](#); [Ron Basso](#); [Virginia Singer](#); [Gwen Brown](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Homosassa Minimum Flows and Levels  
**Date:** Thursday, October 25, 2012 9:40:16 AM  
**Attachments:** [10-23-2012 Letter to SWFWMD Board.doc](#)

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Southwest Florida Water Management District  
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**To:** Executive  
**Subject:** Homosassa Minimum Flows and Levels

October 24, 2012

Governing Board  
Southwest Florida Water Management District  
2379 Broad Street  
Brooksville, FL 34604-6899

Subject: Staff Recommended Springs Coast MFL Rules

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Ron Miller  
Vice President, Homosassa River Alliance  
352-628-6066  
[Rmille76@tampabay.rr.com](mailto:Rmille76@tampabay.rr.com)

**From:** [Luanne Stout](#)  
**To:** [Alba Mas](#); [Blake Guillory](#); [David Rathke](#); [Kurt Fritsch](#); [Laura Donaldson](#); [Mark Hammond](#); [Mike Holtkamp](#); [Robert Beltran](#)  
**Cc:** [Gwen Brown](#); [Doug Leeper](#); [Virginia Singer](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Log Entry # 1.11.147613 10-25-2012 Larry A. Barnes  
**Date:** Thursday, October 25, 2012 11:13:07 AM  
**Attachments:** [10-22-2012 Larry A. Barnes.pdf](#)

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FYI...

LuAnne Stout  
Administrative Coordinator, x4605  
Board & Executive Services Bureau

-----Original Message-----

From: CollabAdmin [<mailto:collabadmin@swfwmd.state.fl.us>]  
Sent: Thursday, October 25, 2012 11:11 AM  
To: Luanne Stout; Kenneth R. Herd  
Subject: Log Entry # 1.11.147613 10-25-2012 Larry A. Barnes

Please click on the following link to open the document(s) (from a computer connected to District Network only)

<http://ecmvmprod01.ad.swfwmd.net/gm/folder-1.11.147613>

Subject: Larry A. Barnes sent a letter re: Gov Bd Mtg 10-30-2012 on MFLs for Homosassa River supporting revitalization not further degradation

Following is the tracking information for the above information:

Log#: 1.11.147613  
Assigned To: Kenneth Herd  
Assigned By: Carolyn Stout  
Date Assigned: 10-25-2012  
Date Completed: 10-25-2012  
Date Required:

Source: Larry A. Barnes, resident of Homosassa, FL  
Instructions: For your information and appropriate disposition.  
Action Taken: Copied to Exec Leadership Team

Information Routed To: [lou.kavouras@swfwmd.state.fl.us](mailto:lou.kavouras@swfwmd.state.fl.us)



Southwest Florida Water Management District  
2379 Broad St  
Brooksville, Florida 34604-6899

Oct 22, 2012

Re: Governing Board Meeting, Resource Management Committee, Oct 30, 2012, Minimum Flows and Levels, Homosassa River

Request this statement be included into the record for this meeting.

My name is Larry A. Barnes and I live at 5601 S. Island Dr., Homosassa, FL 34448. Our home is on the Homosassa River. We have lived here since August 1993. Since that time we have witnessed a significant change in the river. We used to be able to catch largemouth bass and other freshwater fish right in back of our home; that ended several years later. Since then no freshwater fish are caught in our location on the river. I am not a biologist but I must conclude that the environmental conditions must have changed. I also operated tour boats for a local company on the Homosassa River and Mason Creek area for several years. I witnessed a change in the areas that alligators frequent.. I am told that they do not tolerate areas where there is a high saline content. This must be the reason that they have moved further upstream in the river. I have also seen trees die further and further upstream. The locals say this is caused by salt water intrusion.

The river badly needs to be revitalized at this time unless your goal is to merely use it as a fresh water source and move the water to some other location. Decreasing the flow by small incremental amounts just means you will kill the ecosystem over a longer period of time and that is UNACCEPTABLE to me.

Do the RIGHT THING NOW and think in terms of revitalization not further degradation.

Sincerely,

Larry A. Barnes  
5601 S. Island Dr  
Homosassa, FL 34448

L. Barnes  
Box 275  
Homo Sassa, FL  
34487

CERTIFIED MAIL™



7009 3410 0000 7824 5741

EXE

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Southwest Florida Water Mgt District  
2379 Board St.  
Brooksville, FL

34604-6899

3460436899