

Desoto East, Desoto West and Big Slough – Mining and North Port's Water Supply

Desoto East Mine –

- Mosaic hopes to open this mine in 2021. Permits from USACE and Desoto County are needed. FDEP granted an operation permit for the mine in December, 2016.
- Its western boundary includes the drainage basin boundary between the Peace River and Big Slough, a tributary of the Myakka River.
- Desoto East Mine could decrease the flow in Big Slough if THE GROUNDWATER DIVIDE DOES NOT COINCIDE WITH THE BASIN BOUNDARY. Mining activities such as dewatering and pumpage could be a factor.
- USGS gaging stations on Big Slough will provide an early warning if this happens.

Desoto West Mine

- Mosaic, in its Areawide Environmental Impact Statement submitted to the USACE, presents the Desoto West Mine as an alternative to the Desoto East Mine. Additionally, they state they intend to open the Desoto West Mine approximately 15 years after opening the Desoto East Mine. Mosaic owns the property for the Desoto West mine.
- No permit applications have been submitted for the Desoto West Mine (to my knowledge).
- The Desoto West Mine is located almost entirely within the headwaters of the Big Slough basin.
- The Desoto West Mine is located entirely within Manatee County.
- The area of the Big Slough Basin is approximately 69,500 acres.
- The area of the Desoto West Mine is approximately 23,500 acres; approximately 1/3 of the Big Slough basin would be mined.
- Phosphate mining at the Desoto West mine WILL reduce the discharge of Big Slough.
- This reduction will significantly reduce the reliability of Big Slough as a dependable water supply source.
- The water quality of Big Slough could also be affected.

Etc.

- Mosaic received a permit in February from Manatee County for the Wingate East Mine. Manatee County would not allow any of the Wingate East mine in the Manatee River basin because of concerns about impacts of mining on the water quality and quantity to the Manatee River, a water supply source for the county.
- Mosaic gave 3 Upper Floridan Aquifer public supply wells and a 1.9 million gallons per day allocation to Manatee County to make up for reduced flows in the Manatee River from mining at their Four Corners Mine.
- Mosaic will need permits from Manatee County, FDEP and USACE for the Desoto West Mine.