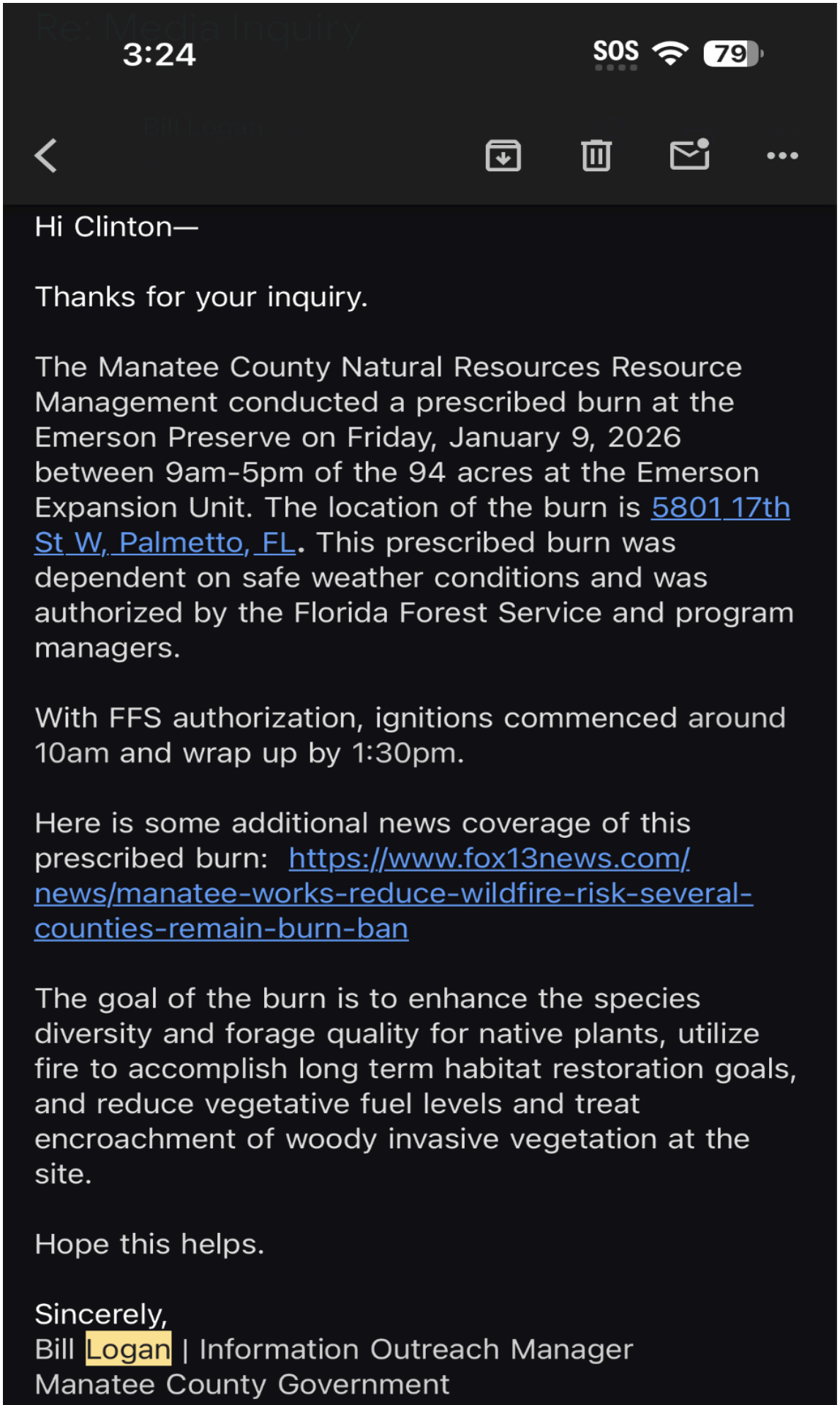


Hi Clinton—

Thanks for your inquiry.

The Manatee County Natural Resources Resource Management conducted a prescribed burn at the Emerson Preserve on Friday, January 9, 2026 between 9am-5pm of the 94 acres at the Emerson Expansion Unit. The location of the burn is 5801 17th St W, Palmetto, FL. This prescribed burn was dependent on safe weather conditions and was authorized by the Florida Forest Service and program managers.

With FFS authorization, ignitions commenced around 10am and wrap up by 1:30pm.

Here is some additional news coverage of this prescribed burn: https://www.fox13news.com/news/manatee-works-reduce-wildfire-risk-several-counties-remain-burn-ban

The goal of the burn is to enhance the species diversity and forage quality for native plants, utilize fire to accomplish long term habitat restoration goals, and reduce vegetative fuel levels and treat encroachment of woody invasive vegetation at the site.

Hope this helps.

Sincerely,
Bill Logan | Information Outreach Manager
Manatee County Government