



# Land Management Activity Summary

February 2007

Little Blue Heron: *Egretta Caerulea*



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## Land Management Activity Summary February 2007

### Prescribed Fire

- 36,500 acres were burned in February, nearly three times as much as has ever been burned in a single month. This large total included a massive 35,000 acre burnout that was conducted inside the Herbert Hoover Dike in Glades County.
- Unfortunately Land Stewardship was shut out of burning at the CREW Management Area and the Martin County properties because conditions became too dry to receive a permit



35,000 acre burnout at Lake Okeechobee

**Prescribed Fire (Continued)**

- 840 acres were burned in February in the Packingham / Buttermilk Slough restoration site in Pool A of the Kissimmee River (KICCO Management Area) , and 10 acres at Nubbin Slough.



10 acre test burn at the Nubbin Slough Stormwater Treatment Area



840 acre aerial burn at the KICCO Management Area

**Prescribed Fire**

- The National Prescribed Fire Training Center's burn crew helped Land Stewardship's burning program in the Upper Lakes region where the additional personnel allowed 650 acres to be burned.



Burning with the National Prescribed Fire Training Center's team in the Upper Lakes

**Exotic Control**

- 6850 acres treated
  - Lake Marion Creek
  - Shingle Creek
  - Southern Glades
  - Indian River Lagoon
  - Kissimmee Chain of Lake
  - Reedy Creek
  - CREW Mgt. Area
  - Loxahatchee Mitigation Bank
  - Tibet-Butler
  - Allapattah
  - Frog Pond



400 acres of heavy old world climbing fern (*lygodium*) infestation were treated at nine gems



**Before**

**After**

Significant improvements at Cypress Creek were made by eradicating downy rose myrtle

**Vegetation Management: 795 acres**

- DuPuis (765 acres): Palm thinning on 365 acres, shredded 50 acres of overgrown understory, timber thinning on 350 acres
- Kissimmee River: 30 acres of overgrown understory were shredded at the KICCO Management Area

**Other Land Management**

- Construction of the east fence began at Trail Ridge in St. Lucie County
- 10 miles of firelines were disked at Sandhill Crane
- A dilapidated structure was demolished at DuPuis as part of a recreation enhancement project
- The fence at River Ranch in the KICCO Management Area was replaced and the fence at the hunter's campground was repaired
- Old trailers were demolished at Cypress Creek, and a new well pump was installed for officer housing



Demolition of an old structure at DuPuis



New well pump for wildlife officer housing at Cypress Creek



Demolition of old trailers at Cypress Creek



## Wildlife Management

- Allapattah: Crested Caracara monitoring began
- CREW Management Area: wildlife monitoring efforts included a three day trap to look at the mice population.
- Africanized honey bees found at Hickory Hammock, they are rapidly replacing the European honey bees and becoming a concern for land managers throughout the state
- Land Stewardship staff has been working closely with neighbors of Cypress Creek to intensify trapping efforts to prevent hogs leaving the Management Area and damaging their yards



FWC biologist examining a Gopher Tortoise at the CREW Management Area



A mouse captured by the FWC biologist and a grad student at the CREW Management Area



Africanized honey bees found at Hickory Hammock



Land Stewardship staff has been working closely with neighbors of Cypress Creek to intensify trapping efforts to prevent hogs leaving the Management Area and damaging their yards

**Recreation**

- Florida Cracker Trail Association conducted a reenactment ride through Hickory Hammock and a few other sites in the Kissimmee River Region
- Recreation access is nearing completion at the Taylor Creek Stormwater Treatment Area
- Recreation development continues at Palm Beach Downs including the construction of roadways, a new entrance, and the Radio Control Airfield.



New recreation facilities under construction at the Taylor Creek Stormwater Treatment Area



New recreation facilities under construction at Palm Beach Downs



A Florida Cracker Trail Association event held at Hickory Hammock and the Pearce Estate



**Planning**

- A facilitated stakeholder meeting was held on management and recreation issues in the Kissimmee Chain of Lakes
- The Loxahatchee River Management Coordinating Council took a tour of the Cypress Creek management area to look at exotic control efforts and other restoration related issues



A Kissimmee Chain of Lakes facilitated stakeholder meeting



The Loxahatchee River Coordinating Council taking a tour of Cypress Creek