



Land Management Activity Summary

March 2007



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Prescribed Fire

- 1,580 acres were burned in March, which is usually the busiest burning month of the year but the drought made burning in many areas impossible because of localized burn bans.
- Burns were conducted at CREW, the Frog Pond, Kissimmee River, and the Kissimmee Chain of Lakes



A 600 acre burn at the Frog Pond. The burn was a coordinated effort between the District, the National Park Service, the Division of Forestry, Miami-Dade County, and a helicopter contractor. Embers from the fire ignited a spot fire on the other side of the canal inside of Everglades National Park. Contingency plans were in place and staff from the Nation Park as well as a bucket for the helicopter contractor were standing by in anticipation of this possibility. The helicopter contractor was able to scoop water from the canal to help extinguish the spot fire.



Prescribed Fire (Continued)

- 100 acres were burned in March at the Nubbin Slough Stormwater Treatment Area



100 acre test burn near the old barn at the Nubbin Slough Stormwater Treatment Area



Before

After

The overgrown marsh at Packingham Slough at KICCO (left) and significantly opened up and responding well to February's burn (right)



Exotic Control

- 6,329 acres treated
 - o Lake Marion Creek
 - o Dupuis
 - o Southern Glades
 - o Indian River Lagoon
 - o Kissimmee Chain of Lake
 - o Reedy Creek
 - o CREW Mgt. Area
 - o Loxahatchee Mitigation Bank
 - o Tibet-Butler
 - o Allapattah
 - o Frog Pond



To successfully treat old world climbing fern (lygodium) without damaging the trees it is growing on, it is important to conduct aerial spraying in December or January when the Cypress trees go dormant. The lygodium pictured here (the dead brown vine-like material on the trees in the background) at Nine Gems was successfully treated in January without damaging the cypress trees.



Vegetation Management: 177 acres

- Loxahatchee Mitigation Bank: Windrowed 90 acres of dead Brazilian pepper
- Kissimmee River: 60 acres of overgrown understory were shredded at the KICCO Management Area south of Ice Cream Slough



Other Land Management

- Environmental cleanup began on one of the tracts within the future C-23/C-24 CERP project
- A half-mile of fence was constructed at the Putnam Grove access site
- Major earthwork began as part of the restoration efforts at Packingham and Buttermilk sloughs
- Posting signs to aid law enforcement officers occurred at KICCO and at Chandler Slough
- 5 miles of firelines were disked at Hickory Hammock by a Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission biologist



Earthwork underway as part of the Buttermilk Slough restoration work



The newly acquired land at Chandler Slough was posted to aid law enforcement efforts



Wildlife Management

- Allapattah: Crested Caracara monitoring continued. Turkey surveys began using motion sensing cameras to establish minimum population counts
- CREW Management Area: wildlife monitoring efforts included a three day trap to look at the mice population.
- KICCO: Burrowing owl surveys were conducted by a Commission biologist
- 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



Commission biologist putting feed out in front of a motion sensing trail camera



A little more than an hour later turkeys arrive to be counted



More wild turkeys seen at Allapattah



Burrowing Owl seen during a recent owl survey at KICCO



Eastern Diamondback Rattlesnake at the Frog Pond



Recreation

- Expedition Headwaters, a well publicized multi-agency canoeing and hiking tour that went from Orlando to Lake Okeechobee. The tour passed mostly through District managed lands and District staff provided much of the logistic support for the expedition. The tour included nightly broadcast updates on local television news programs, and a video crew traveled with the team to make a documentary of it.
- Everglades Bicycle Club hosted a large event that drew 675 cyclists that pedaled through a portion of Southern Glades that served as a rest stop
- District and Commission staff participated in “Environmental Immersion Day” with students from Felix Varela High School’s Environmental Club that was held at Southern Glades
- The new Recreation Management and Partnership Plan was presented to the Water Resources Advisory Committee.



Team members of Expedition Headwaters pass under the Hunters Creek Middle School bridge



Students from Felix Varela High School visit a remnant pine rockland and a restoration site at Southern Glades



Planning

- Inter-district Land Managers meeting was held at Lake Pierce, where a broad range of topics were discussed and a tour of restoration activities at Catfish Creek State Park was given by the Florida Park Service
- District staff worked with the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission on updating hunting rules at Hickory Hammock, the Kissimmee River Public Use Area, and KICCO
- A planning meeting was held with Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission staff regarding the development of the Fiscal Year 2007-2008 annual work plan



A tour of restoration efforts at Catfish Creek State Park was given to land managers from the five Water Management Districts