

Land Management Activity Summary

September 2006

Seminole Bat: *Lasiurus seminolus*



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Prescribed Fire

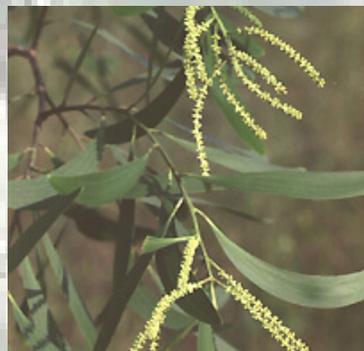
- Unusually dry September weather prevented burning throughout the District.



Vegetation along the Kissimmee River responding well to a fire conducted earlier in the year.

Exotic Control

- 5,707 acres treated
 - o Lake Marion Creek
 - o Shingle Creek
 - o Frog Pond
 - o Southern Glades
 - o Kissimmee Chain of Lake
 - o Reedy Creek
 - o Loxahatchee Mit. Bank
 - o N. Fork St. Lucie
 - o Tibet-Butler
 - o Allapattah
 - o Pennsuco
 - o CREW



A common invasive exotic tree in south Florida: Earleaf acacia

Vegetation Management

- DuPuis (50 acres): Palm thinning continued
- Upper Lakes (3200 acres): primarily mowing at Rough Island and Gardner-Cobb Marsh
- Everglades Region: 100 pine tublings and 270 other shrubs and trees were planted in the Frog Pond
- Frog Pond: Planted 100 slash pine seedlings
- Kissimmee River: 9 miles of road shoulders to maintain wildlife openings
- Loxahatchee Mitigation Bank continues to be inundated to eradicate exotics and encourage recruitment of natives
- Nubbin Slough: Vegetation removal along the nubbin slough channel



Shrubby and exotic Vegetation removal along Nubbin Slough



Nubbin Slough post following removal project



KICCO shredding of overgrown pasture

Wildlife Management

- Lake Marion Creek
 - 2 archery hunts brought in four does, FWC biologist took samples to examine for chronic wasting disease
- Kissimmee River
 - 3 days of archery at KICCO
 - 10 hogs taken during 2 hog hunts at Hickory Hammock
 - Turkey surveys were conducted
- DuPuis
 - Archery season brought in 24 deer and 16 hogs
- CREW
 - Archery season brought in 2 deer and 1 hog



Turkey survey conducted at KICCO



Archery season in September: hogs in KICCO, the first deer of the season at Lake Marion Creek

Employee Spotlight

Jason Smith, the Land Stewardship regional land manager for the Everglades Region, was named the District Employee of the Month at the September Governing Board Meeting. Great Job, Jason!



Other Land Management

- Roof door was at the old ranch office of Allapattah, (currently used by FWC)
- Mobile home demolished at Pearce Lockett
- Boundary mowed at Reedy Creek
- Campground and parking area mowed at KICCO
- Picnic tables and signs installed in the Kissimmee Chain of Lakes
- Seasonal cleaning of the parking area at Lake Marian Creek for the start of the fall hunting season
- 15 miles of boundary signs were reposted in the Model Lands



Mobile home removed from the Pearce Lockett Estate



New door and roof installed on the Allapattah field office

Recreation

- 4 foot bridges were installed along the shingle creek trail
- Public Lands Day brought out 170 visitors and volunteers to DuPuis for a day of voluntary service projects
- Public opening ceremony held at MICCO Landing



The Okeechobee News
Micco Landing is Open to Public
SFWMD welcomes the public

“Another pearl in the string of pearls that the restored Kissimmee River will give the public,” said Fred Davis, Land Stewardship director for SFWMD.

The “pearls Mr. Davis refers to is a string of recreation areas along the Kissimmee river that are being restored and opened to the public for hiking, hunting, fishing, horseback riding and various kinds of boating.

“This 1,550 acre parcel is available to the public thanks to a 50/50 cost sharing by the State of Florida and the Federal government to restore the Kissimmee River to its original meandering course,” said Mr. Davis. “The cost of the land and its acquisition is allowed to be part of the State’s 50 percent,” he continued.

“We’re probably just touching the tip of the iceberg as to what birds are there. It’s just such a neat place to go to.”

The SFWMD governing Board wants every acre that the District owns to be used for some kind of recreation, according to Mr. Davis.



National Public Lands Day volunteer service projects at DuPuis

Recreation (Continued)



4 new foot bridges constructed along the Shingle Creek trail

Planning

- An Inter-district land managers meeting was hosted by the NFWFMD
- An inter-agency review team was convened for KICCO and Blanket Bay Management Areas along the Kissimmee River, these are held every 5 years for District conservation lands
- Additional photo points were installed at Southern Glades



Participants at the inter-district land managers meeting



Installing 360° photo point