

Land Management Activity Summary

February 2006

Carolina Anole: *Anolis carolinensis*



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Prescribed Fire

- 1,935 acres burned in February at DuPuis, Kissimmee River, Loxahatchee Mitigation Bank, Taylor Creek, CREW, and the Corkscrew Regional Mitigation Bank



Post burn: Corkscrew RMB



Post burn: Taylor Creek



Hickory Hammock



Aerial ignition at the Loxahatchee Mitigation Bank



The National Prescribed Fire Training Council self-contained fire education team aided the District's burning program



Exotic treatment

- 6,941 acres treated
 - Lake Marion Creek
 - Shingle Creek
 - Kissimmee River
 - Southern Glades
 - Kissimmee Chain of Lake
 - Tibet Butler Preserve
 - Model Lands
 - North Fork St. Lucie River
 - Reedy Creek
 - DuPuis
 - CREW
- The population of hogs is diminishing in Cypress Creek with 4 hogs trapped, which follows 46 trapped in December and 6 in January



Lygodium treatment at the Kissimmee River

Interim lands

- Allapattah
 - Martin County storm debris storage site cleared
- East Coast Buffer
 - Transfer ceremony to Palm Beach County Parks at Palm Beach Downs
 - Old FAA Vortac building inspected for closure and demolition
 - 120 cubic yards of debris removed from the former Weekley Asphalt Plant
 - Site One (Palm Beach County) mowed for survey crew access
- C-44 Reservoir
 - Land Management has begun on this new 12,000 acre acquisition in Martin County



Storm debris being removed



Storm debris site after removal

Interim lands (continued)



FAA VORTAC building inspected for demolition



Future site of a Palm Beach County Park at Palm Beach Downs

Recreation Program

- Boardwalk nearing completion at Bird Rookery Swamp
- Ocean to Lake equestrian and hiking event held that went through DuPuis in northern Palm Beach County
- Hendry County Audubon chapter and District staff lead birding trips to STA 5, resulting in positive press coverage in the News-Press
- A recreation planning trip was completed to the Kissimmee River area for the development of the five-year recreation development plan.



Boardwalk nearing completion at CREW



Boardwalk at the tram roads at CREW



Ocean to Lake equestrian and hiking event



Identifying locations for educational signs: Bluff Hammock

Recreation Program (continued)



Birdwatchers "flocking" to STA5



Roseate spoonbills in flight



Flock of White Pelicans



Swamphen (exotic)

From the News-Press
Bird's the word at Hendry site (STA5)
Water treatment area turns into birder's paradise

"It's a fantastic place," said Vincent Lucas, president of the Calusa Bird Club. "I don't know any other place — Ding Darling refuge or Corkscrew Swamp or some other more touted birding locations — where you see such large concentrations of birds at one time."

"You see things you just don't see anywhere else — black-bellied and Fulvous whistling ducks, Caspian terns, 300 American white pelicans at one time, choice birds that people want to see."

"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 primary purpose of constructed wetlands is to absorb nutrients," district recreation planner Bijaya "BJ" Kattel said. "As a byproduct, hydrilla and other vegetation attract so many migratory and resident birds. This is a big chunk of open water with good vegetation. It's remote, out in the middle of nowhere, and relatively undisturbed, though we created it."

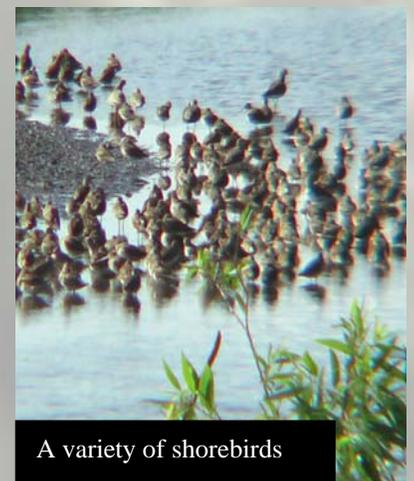
Under a water district policy adopted in 2004, district lands should be as accessible to the public as possible without interfering with their primary purpose.

Even before the policy was adopted, the district opened STA 5 to duck hunting.

"The duck hunters claim this is the best place in the nation," Kattel said.



Roseate spoonbills resting



A variety of shorebirds



Planning

- Vegetation monitoring conducted with Dade County and FFWCC at Frog Pond
- A habitat restoration grant for Frog Pond has passed the first round in its selection process
- A new Annual Report was completed http://www.sfwmd.gov/org/clm/lcd/lcd_lamp.html
- A Management Plan update for CREW was completed and forwarded to the legislatively mandated management review team
- 360 degree photopoint installed at Cypress Creek



1 year post-burn monitoring at Frog Pond with District, FWC, and County staff



Monitoring progress of groundcover restoration at Starvation Slough



360 degree photopoint installed at Cypress Creek