

# Land Management Activity Summary

March 2006



Sandhill Crane: *Grus canadensis pratensis*



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Prescribed Fire

- 10,098 acres burned in March, (the busiest month for fire) at DuPuis, Kissimmee Chain of Lakes, Kissimmee River, and CREW



Aerial ignition at DuPuis



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Fireline construction at KICCO



4000 acre prescribed fire at DuPuis



**Exotic treatment**

- 2,387 acres treated
  - Lake Marion Creek
  - Shingle Creek
  - Kissimmee River
  - L-31
  - Kissimmee Chain of Lake
  - East Coast Buffer
  - Biscayne Coastal Wetlands
  - Southern Glades
  - Pennsuco
  - DuPuis
  - CREW



Lygodium treatment at the Kissimmee River with contractors (left) and FWC biologists (right)

**Interim lands**

- Critical CREW
  - Illegal dumping cleaned up
- East Coast Buffer
  - Old FAA Vortac building demolition begins
- C-44 Reservoir
  - Coordination of clean-up on the newly acquired property



Trash and debris in Critical Crew

Debris after removal



**Interim lands (continued)**

- STA 6 Compartment C
  - Prehistoric giant ground sloth bones found and makes the national news

**From the AP  
Prehistoric Bones Unearthed in Everglades**

CLEWISTON, Fla. - Prehistoric bones believed to belong to ancient sloths have been discovered by construction crews working on the massive Everglades restoration project.

The bones were found by workers with the South Florida Water Management District constructing a 2,000-acre storm water treatment area about 50 miles northwest of Miami, district spokesman Roberto Fabricio said Monday.

The plant-eating animals the size of elephants became extinct at least 4,000 years ago.

Scientists from the Florida Museum of Natural History in Gainesville planned to begin excavating the site and collecting the bones on Tuesday.

"It's always possible that something new or a better representation of something rare will show up in these sites," said Russell McCarty, a senior museum paleontologist. "We're always interested to see."

Just one piece of a jaw bone measures 2 feet long, Fabricio said.

"We take extreme care to protect Indian artifacts and archaeological finds," he said, noting that the discovery "adds a little more mystique to the Everglades."

The Everglades project is attempting to restore natural water flows to the environmentally sensitive wetlands.



**Recreation Program**

- Recreation planning trips were completed for Lake Kissimmee and CREW for the development of the five-year recreation development plan.
  - A site was identified on Lake Kissimmee as a potential area for a new boat ramp
  - 4 new floodplain compensation lakes being constructed at CREW may be a good area for a day-use recreation area for bird-watching, boating, or fishing
- The Everglades Bicycle Club's Snowbird Century Race brought 650 cyclists to the Model Lands with a refreshment stop at the old Aerojet complex
- SFWMD staff assisted the Smithsonian Institute's Monitoring and Assessment of Biodiversity Program's restoration projects field trip
- Seventy volunteers from the Greater Miami Adventist Academy helped District and FWC staff hand pull vines from the Frog Pond and Southern Glades



Bicycle race through the model lands



Planning for recreation amenities at the new lake at CREW (L), a potential site for a boat ramp (R).



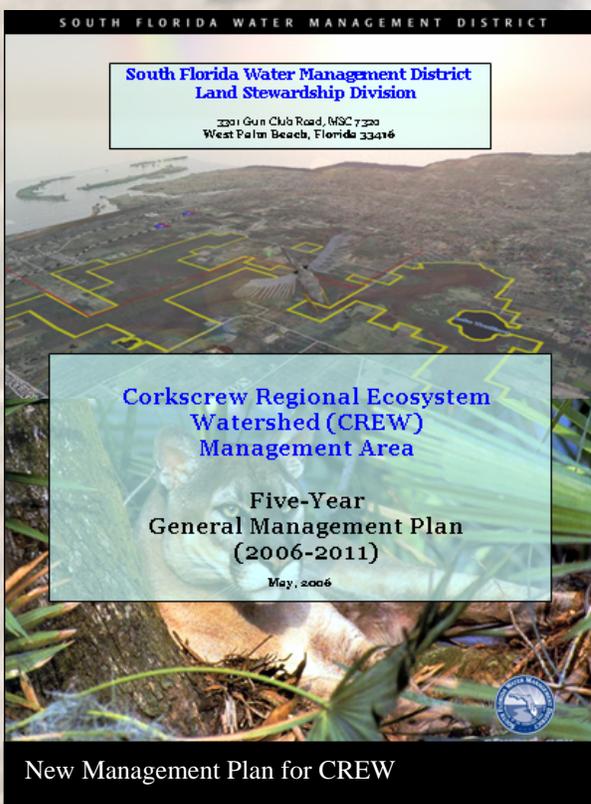
Smithsonian Institute field trip



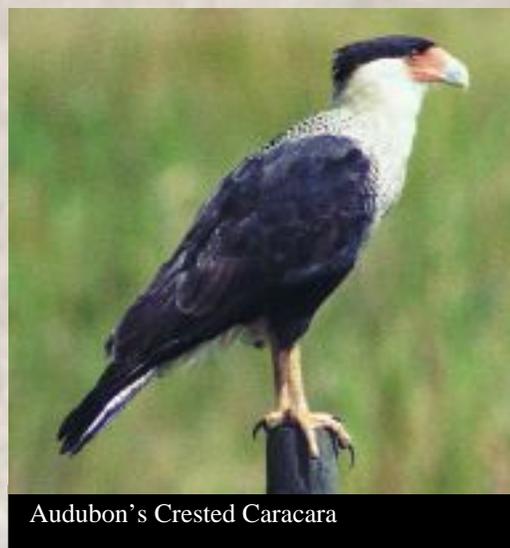
Volunteers in the Model Lands

**Planning**

- Management review team convened at CREW
- A management meeting was held with the Nature Conservancy in the Upper Lakes
- Audubon's Crested Caracara management meeting in the Okeechobee / Kissimmee River region
- WRAC field trip to the Frog Pond and L-31
- Meeting held with FWC and Martin County to resolve outstanding management issues and to finalize the management plan for Pal-Mar East



New Management Plan for CREW



Audubon's Crested Caracara