

# Land Management Activity Summary

May 2006

American Avocet: *Recurvirostra americana*



[sfwmd.gov](http://sfwmd.gov)

## Land Management Activity Summary May 2006

### Prescribed Fire

- Dry conditions prevented any prescribed burning in May; however the extremely dry weather and an active wildfire season burned 15 acres at Lakeside Ranch in Martin County, 90 acres at Rocky Glades in Miami-Dade County, and 2 acres on the North Fork St. Lucie River.
- Land Stewardship staff aided Kissimmee Prairie Preserve State Park contain and suppress a wildfire over a three day period, and aided the local fire district and the Division of Forestry on two arson fires in the CREW area.



Wildfire smoldering at Lakeside Ranch



Wildfire at Rocky Glades

### Vegetation Management

- Kissimmee Chain of Lakes: 100 acres of understory thinning around firelines
- Kissimmee River: 150 acres of overgrown understory was roller chopped by FWC to improve wildlife habitat
- Loxahatchee Mitigation Bank: 168 acres of dead Brazilian pepper were cleared and windrowed



Clearing and windrowing dead Brazilian Pepper at the Loxahatchee Mitigation Bank

**Exotic treatment**

- 2,375 acres treated
  - o Lake Marion Creek
  - o Tibet-Butler Preserve
  - o North Fork St. Lucie
  - o Kissimmee Chain of Lake
  - o Kissimmee River
  - o Southern Glades
  - o Cypress Creek
  - o DuPuis
  - o L-31 / Rocky Glades

**Habitat Restoration**

- Loxahatchee Mitigation Bank
  - o The District received a check from their partner Tetra Tech for \$410,000 as revenue from the Loxahatchee Mitigation Bank. This revenue will reimburse the SFWMD for prior land acquisition and management expenditures on the project
- CREW
  - o Dry conditions provided an opportunity to breach an old road grade between Flint Pen Strand and Bird Rookery Swamp restore a more natural sheet flow through the system



Receiving a \$410,000 check for the Lox. Bank



Native wetland plants flourishing in some areas of the Lox. Bank following a prescribed fire in February



Breaching a road grade at CREW



**Wildlife Management**

- Upper Lakes
  - Bald Eagle Nest monitoring in the Kissimmee Chain of Lakes, Audubon Bird Survey conducted in Shingle Creek, Scrub Jay monitoring at Lake Marion Creek
- Kissimmee River
  - Meeting held with Glades Electric regarding using old poles for nest platforms, 3 no-cost hog removal contracts were renewed, FWC biologist assisted Archbold Biologic Station in banding Red-Cockaded Woodpeckers, FWC biologist identified and flagged three burrowing owl nests, 157 acres roller chopped for wildlife habitat.
- CREW
  - FWC biologist and the CREW trust conducted semi-annual photo plot monitoring



A feral hog in a contractor's truck



Bald Eagle nest monitoring in the upper Chain of Lakes



Osprey using a nesting platform built on an old electric pole



Red Cockaded Woodpecker banding



Burrowing owl near its burrow

**Other Land Management**

- Upper Lakes: access road repairs, completed construction of a new bridge
- Kissimmee River: improvements made to 0.5 mi. of road at Starvation Slough, replaced storm damaged roof on Hickory Hammock's equestrian barn, an old Mobile Home was removed from Riverwoods
- East Coast Buffer: repairs made to Officer Housing roof, new illegal dump sites discovered and marked for cleanup, stolen vehicles continued to be removed from Cell 28 of the East Coast Buffer.



Roof repair on Officer Housing at the East Coast Buffer



New access bridge over London Creek completed in the upper lakes



Replacement of storm damaged roof at the popular Hickory Hammock Equestrian Camp Barn



Illegally dumped construction debris in Miami-Dade County



Removal of dumped vehicles continues in the East Coast Buffer

### Recreation Program

- The new Public Use rules adopted by the Governing Board
- Participated in a statewide Offroad Vehicle workshop and a Paddling Trail conference
- Met with Highlands County to discuss taking over the management of the Pearce-Lockett Estate
- Redesigned public use area completed at the fishing pier in DuPuis
- The path of a boardwalk, scheduled for construction over the next year, was mapped at Shingle Creek
- The District's Recreational Guide received The Communicator's Award of Excellence
- Two new parking areas built at Lake Marion Creek



Redesigned public use area at DuPuis



Chickee hut and walkway at DuPuis



Plotting the path of a new boardwalk:  
Shingle Creek



The District's Recreational Guide received the Communicator's Award of Excellence



## Planning

- Participated in FWC's Wildlife Legacy Strategy implementation workshop
- A trip was taken to Okaloacoochee Slough to learn about FWC's groundcover restoration efforts
- Met with Department of Transportation staff to plan control efforts on West Indian Marsh Grass at Chandler Slough
- Met with FWC staff to discuss restructuring and consolidating our land management agreements
- Submitted a \$50,000 grant to Palm Beach County DERM for removing Australian pines from the C-18 canal right-of-way adjacent to Riverbend Park



Groundcover restoration trip to Okaloacoochee Slough



Mallard ducks near the C-18 canal near Riverbend park