

Example Environmental write-up for Ranch One Cooperative 060228-13 (Source: WilsonMiller)

The on-site wetland selected by the District for review is a highly functional, predominantly forested, cypress, wetland, protected within a reservoir and is in good condition. A site visit to examine and photograph the onsite wetland was conducted on June 1, 2007. Conditions on that date were cloudy, cool (70°F) and rainy.

The perimeter of the northern portion of the reservoir was traveled and five locations within the reservoir were closely examined and photographed. These locations are illustrated on the attached Figure 1. The wetland is a forested wetland, classified as Florida Land Use Cover and Classification System (FLUCCS) category 621, cypress. The interior of the wetland is dominated by cypress (*Taxodium distichum*). The perimeter portion of the wetland which borders the constructed reservoir dike is non-forested and abundant with para grass (*Brachiaria mutica*). Although an invasive exotic, para grass is a facultative wet species and is indicative of wetland hydrology. Very minimal presence of other nuisance/invasive species was observed, excepting for the infrequent occurrence of Brazilian pepperbush (*Schinus terebinthifolius*). Plant species composition and relative abundance in the wetland designated by the District for evaluation are as follows:

<i>Taxodium distichum</i>	dominant
<i>Brachiaria mutica</i>	abundant
<i>Bacopa monnieri</i>	frequent
<i>Blechnum serrulatum</i>	frequent
<i>Phyla nodiflora</i>	frequent
<i>Polygonum punctatum</i>	frequent
<i>Tillandsia balbisiana</i>	frequent
<i>Woodwardia areolata</i>	frequent
<i>Coreopsis floridana</i>	occasional
<i>Sabal palmetto</i>	occasional
<i>Salix caroliniana</i>	occasional
<i>Panicum hemitomom</i>	rare
<i>Schinus terebinthifolius</i>	rare

Hydrologic indicators in the form of adventitious roots on para grass, stain lines on cypress, and algal mats were observed in abundance throughout the wetland and are illustrated on the attached photographs taken at the various inspection points.

Qualitative wildlife observations were also noted during the site inspection. Wildlife utilization of the wetland was abundant and included numerous wetland dependent species. Species observed include:

<i>Agelaius phoeniceus</i>	Red-winged blackbird
<i>Alligator mississippiensis</i>	American alligator
<i>Ardea herodias</i>	Great blue heron
<i>Buteo lineatus</i>	Red shouldered hawk
<i>Cardinalis cardinalis</i>	Cardinal
<i>Casmerodius albus</i>	Great Egret
<i>Egretta thula</i>	Snowy egret
<i>Elanoides forficatus</i>	Swallow-tailed kite
<i>Eudocimus albus</i>	White ibis
<i>Grus canadensis</i>	Sandhill cranes

The abundance and health of hydrophytic plant species, the presence and strength of hydrologic indicators, and the utilization of the wetland by wetland dependant species all indicate that the wetland contained within the Ranch One Grove reservoir is providing wetland functions and values. As such it is evident that, historic water use has not caused harm to the wetland, nor will the renewal of this water use permit.

We trust the foregoing information adequately addresses your question. Should you require any further information or have any questions regarding the submitted materials, please do not hesitate to contact us.