

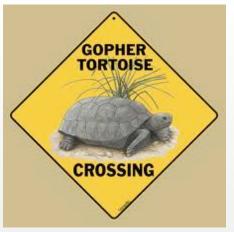
## What is the Legacy Project about? Gopher Tortoise- Gopherus plyphemus



ITS ABOUT ME!!!!!



### Why do we care?



Threatened species - were a population reduction of at least 50 percent has been projected or suspected to be met within the next

ten years or three generations whichever is longer.

DEATHS- HABITAT LOSS, ROAD KILLS, PESTICIDES, HERBICIDES, ILLEGAL POACHING AND IMPROPER LOCATION.



### Some of my habits

• Gopher Tortoises feed on herbaceous plants. They tend to avoid the heat of the day, foraging in the morning and late afternoon.





Gopher Tortoise Burrows- average 15ft long and 6 ft deep.
Each Tortoise will dig several burrows within their home range







### FAST FACTS

Length: Average of 10 inches.

Weight: 29 lbs.

Lifespan: 60 years

Male- adult



Female- adult



# KEYSTONE SPECIES- BURROWS ARE USED AS HOMES TO OVER 250 DIFFERENT SPECIES







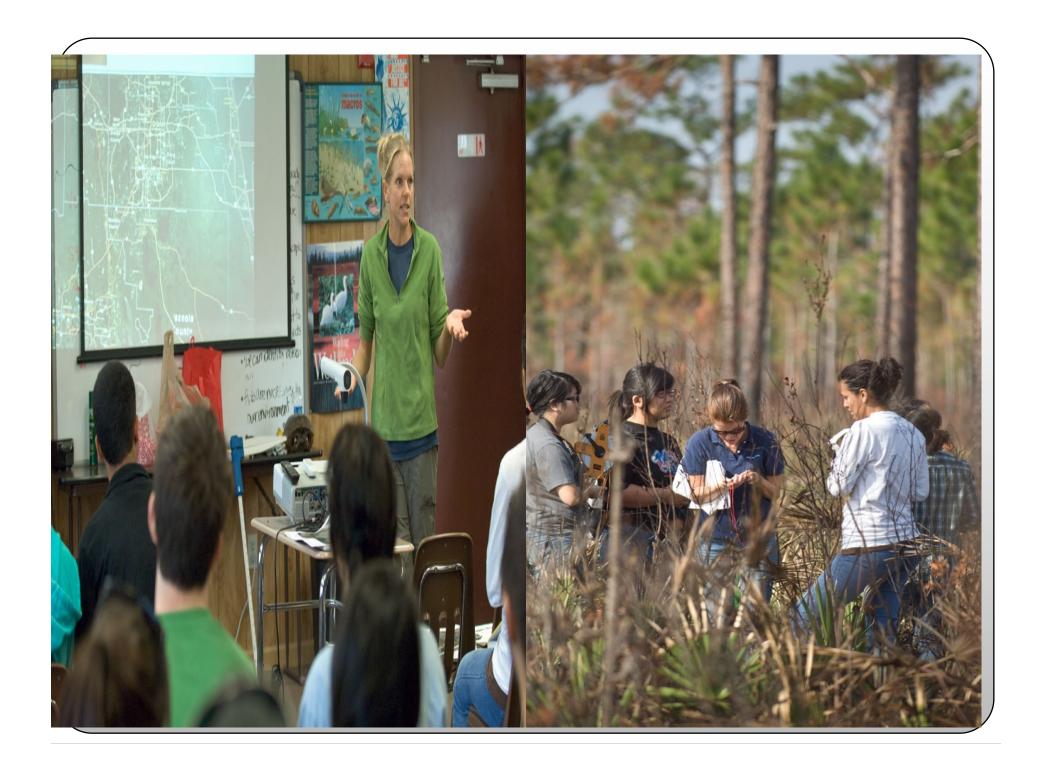






OCSA's AP Environmental Science DETAILS FROM THE FIELD







### Environmental Study Center Prep Work





### MORE PREP!



### OUT INTO THE FIELD-DIRTY JOB





## FINDING TRANSECT POINTS WITH GPS, MAPS AND COMPASS



### GOPHER TORTOISE BURROW-SUCCESS!





## MEASURING 10 METERS OUT FROM LINE TO DETERMINE BURROW AREA



### MARKING BURROWS





### MARKING METHODOLOGY





# MEASURING TO DETERMINE IF A JUVENILE OR AN ADULT TORTOISE AND ENTERING COORDINATES INTO GPS AND FIELD BOOK





### BUILDING BIRD BOXES





### INSTALLING BIRD BOXES



### INSTALLING WOOD DUCK BOXES



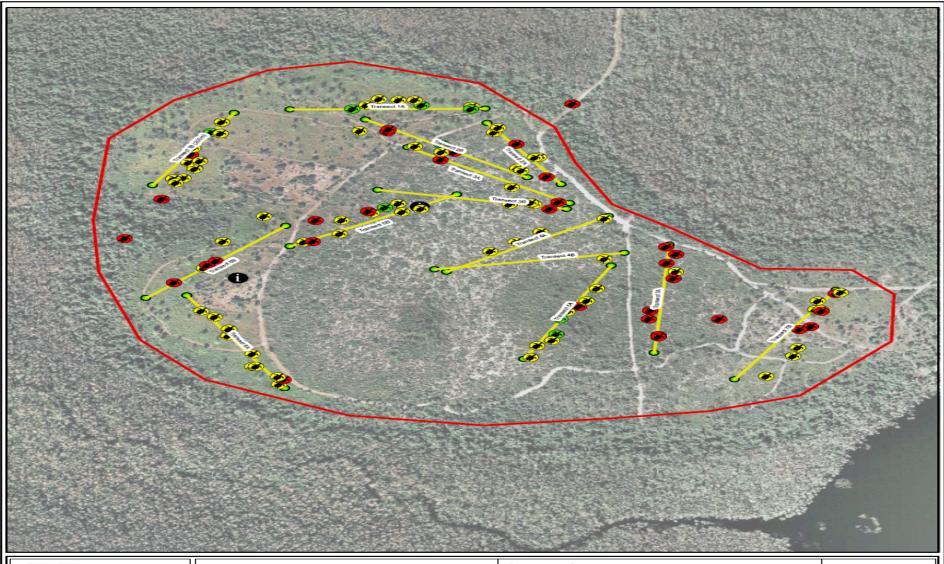


## ACROSS THE LAKE TO INSTALL MORE DUCK BOXES





#### CALCULATE DENSITY AND RESULTS





482 S. Keller Road Orlando, FL 32810 407.647.7275 email: name@pbsj.com Osceola County School for the Arts Gopher Tortoise Survey Results

> South Florida Water Management District Legacy Grant

#### Legend

- Active Gopher Tortoise Burrows (8)
- Inactive Gopher Tortoise Burrows (68)
  - Abandoned Gopher Tortoise Burrows (33)
- Unknown Gopher Tortoise Burrows (2)

Transect Line

Xeric Oak Scrub (approximately 150 acres)

1 inch = 500 feet

Exhibit Date: 03/30/2011



### **GOPHER TORTOISE RESULTS**

86 TOTAL ACTIVE AND INACTIVE BURROWS
DENSITY CALCULATION-= 43 GOPHER
TORTOISES IN TRANSECTED AREA
AVERAGES 2.52 GOPHER TORTOISE PER EACH
TRANSECT

TOTAL DENSITY OF 150 ACRES FOR SCRUB SITE THERE ARE APPROX. 378 GOPHER TORTOISES

THIS IS DEFINED AS A HEALTHY NUMBER!!!!



## BIRD BOX RESULTS OUT OF 12 INSTALLED

- 3-WERE OCCUPIED
- 4- HAD NEST ONLY
- 5 WERE EMPTY(these were installed later-maybe missed nesting season.)



### **DUCK BOXES**

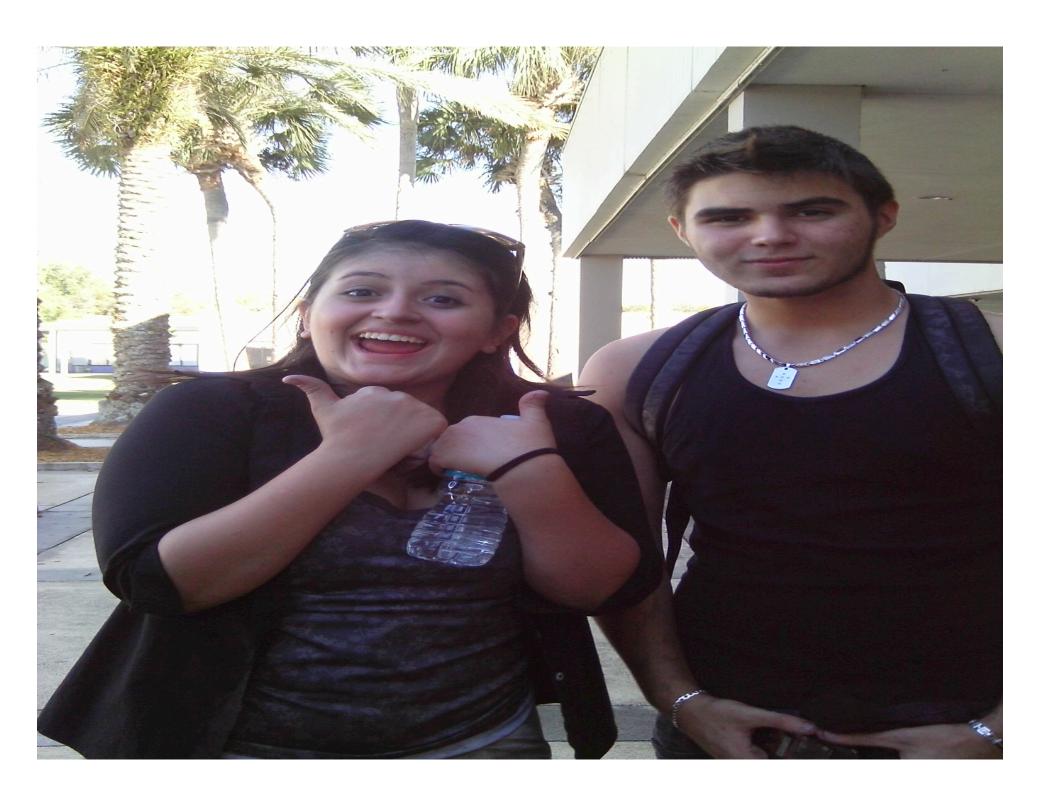
CHECKED MAY 4<sup>TH</sup> – ZERO
OCCUPIED
BUT AFTER INITIAL INSTALLATION
CAN TAKE UP TO A YEAR FOR
DUCKSTO MOVE IN.



## BACK FROM THE FIELD- TOLD YOU IT WAS DIRTY WORK.







### WHAT'S IN THE FUTURE



