



Brett J. Cyphers
Executive Director

Northwest Florida Water Management District

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(U.S. Highway 90, 10 miles west of Tallahassee)

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June 29, 2017

Mr. Larry Olney
DEP-OSLER-MS 2500
2600 Blair Stone Rd
Tallahassee, FL 32399-2400

Re: Semi-Annual Progress Report 26

Dear Mr. Olney,

Please accept this submittal as the 26th semi-annual progress report for the Sand Hill Lakes Mitigation Bank (SHLMB). This report was written in accordance with Specific Condition 27.

Please provide a brief description of permit requirements met and extent of work completed since the previous report:

1. All interim permit requirements have been met. The site continues to develop in accordance with the mitigation banking permit.
2. Fishing and hunting continued at the SHLMB throughout the spring without incident in accordance with Specific Condition 8 and Attachment A of the permit.
3. In accordance with Specific Condition 8, security and law enforcement continued at the bank without any violations.
4. Exotic species surveys were conducted in accordance with Specific Condition 22 (Table 1). The herbicide treatments last year were successful in reducing centipede grass (*Eremochloa ophiuriodes*) in the sandhill restoration area near Greenhead Branch to less than one percent cover. Similarly, and as reflected in the 2016 fall monitoring, the herbicide treatment of Bahia grass (*Paspalum notatum*) within the 37-acre sandhill restoration near the check station was successful in reducing cover to less than one percent. Sites were visited June 15, 2017 and cover in both areas of exotic grasses was incidental.

Feral hog rooting had been evident within the hydric pine flatwoods for the last several years. All hogs are taken in accordance with the District's FWC feral hog removal permit. To aide in hog control, breaches in the fences were patched to keep additional hogs from entering the property and Jager Pro remote deployment traps were utilized. Three hogs were taken by hunting in January and 26 hogs have been trapped since the end of hunting season using the remote deployed traps for a total of 29 hogs removed to date in 2017. Hog trapping will continue until hunting season starts in September.

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5. With the successful treatment of the Bahia grass within the 37-acre sandhill restoration area east of the check station, the area was planted with wiregrass on 3' centers (179,080 plants) in January 2017 (UMAM polygon II) (Figure 1). In addition, Dr. Ann Blount of the UF Research Station in Quincy was contracted to grow 30,000 plants from seed collected from sandhill species at the Bank. A total of 3,000 plants were installed in June, 2017. Grass species planted include switch grass (*Panicum virgatum*) and lovegrass (*Eragrostis elliottii*). Other sandhill species planted include partridge pea (*Chamaecrista fasciculata*), summer farewell (*Dalea pinnata*), shortleaf shooting star (*Liatris tenuifolia*) and gopher apple (*Geobalanus oblongifolius*).
6. Site inspections were conducted during spring monitoring on June 15, 2017 to determine if any additional shrub reduction is needed at the SHLMB. Currently the shrub levels are well below permit requirements.

Restoration activities anticipated within the next 6 months:

1. Surveys for nuisance and exotic species will continue in the fall of 2017 in accordance with specific condition 22.
2. Water Level gauges will continue to be measured in 2017 in accordance with Specific Condition 12.
3. Approximately 400 acres of sandhill and hydric pine flatwoods will be burned during the growing season.
4. Feral hog control will trapping will continue until hunting season opens in the fall of 2017.
5. Surveys for shrub reduction needs and nuisance species control will continue in 2017.

Please provide a brief description of problems encountered and solutions undertaken:

No problems occurred at the SHLMB within the last six months. The site continues to develop and site management is in compliance with permit conditions.

If you have any questions, or comments, please feel free to contact me at 850-539-5999.

Certification

I certify that this report represents true accurate and representative description of the activities and site conditions at the time of this report. This semi-annual report was written in accordance with Specific Condition 27, of the permit.

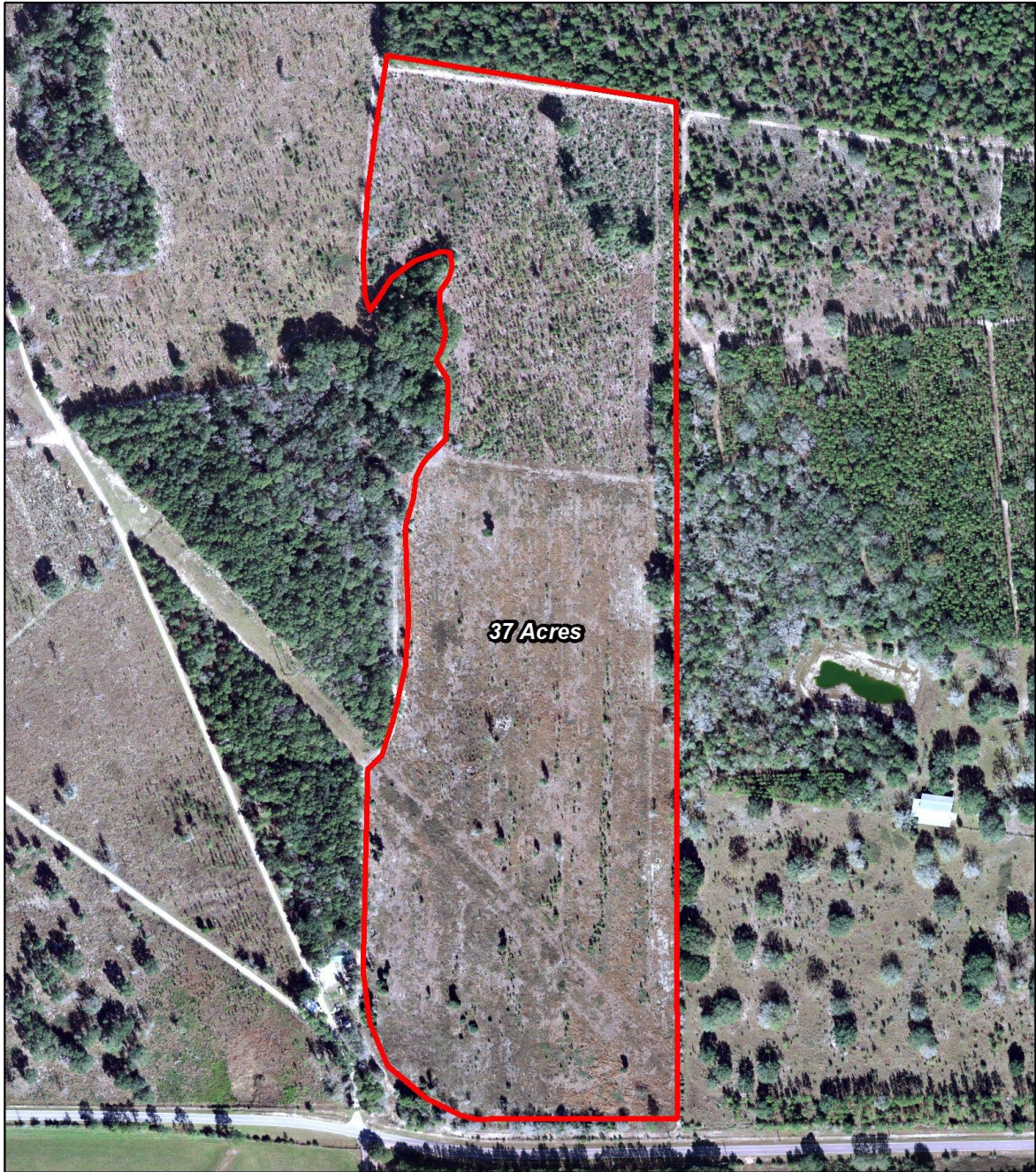
David C. Clayton
Environmental Scientist
Qualified Mitigation Supervisor

Enclosures: Table 1. Hog eradication conducted at the SHLMB from January to June of 2017.
Figure 1. Sandhill restoration, wiregrass and native forbes and grasses plantings (37 acres)
Figure 2-6. Site photos

Table 1. Hog eradication conducted at the SHLMB from January to June of 2017.

Date	Method of Removal	Hog(s)		
		M	F	total
1/24/17	Public Hunter		1	1
1/24/17	Public Hunter		1	1
1/24/17	Public Hunter		1	1
4/13/17	Circular Trap		1	1
4/27/17	Circular Trap	6	12	18
5/2/17	Circular Trap	2	3	5
5/6/17	Contractor Shot	1		1
5/12/17	Contractor Shot	1		1
	Total			29

Sandhill Restoration Planting (37 Acres)



Northwest Florida Water Management District
Sand Hill Lakes Mitigation Bank (SHLMB)
Section 6, Township 1 North, Range 14 West
Washington Co., Florida

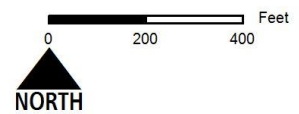


Figure 1. Sandhill restoration, wiregrass and native forbs and grasses plantings (37 acres)



Figure 2. 16/15/2017. Facing South. Sandhill restoration, wiregrass and native forbs and grasses plantings (37 acres)



Figure 3. 06/15/17. Hydric pine flatwoods restoration. Savannah meadow beauty



Figure 4. 6/15/17. Facing Northwest. Hydric pineflatwoods restoration near Joiner Stream



Figure 5. 6/15/17. Facing Southeast. Garret Pond



Figure 6. Facing East. Sandhill restored from slash pine plantation. Management Unit 10.