

## **COTTON CREEK MITIGATION SITE**

### 2019 Annual Monitoring Report

USACE Permit No.: SAJ-2013-00295 (NW-AWP), issued 5/31/2013

Permittee: Florida Department of Transportation, District Three  
C/o Colby Cleveland  
1074 Highway 90  
Chipley, FL 32428

Responsible Party for Monitoring: Northwest Florida Water Management District  
81 Water Management Drive  
Havana, FL 32333

Date of Inspection: 9/17/2019

#### **Summary:**

The purpose of this project (Cotton Creek Mitigation Site) is to provide offsetting mitigation for 0.50 acres of wetland impacts caused by FDOT replacement of a minor bridge on Brickyard Road in Molino, Florida. At the impact site, Brickyard Road crosses an unnamed, 1<sup>st</sup> order intermittent stream that discharges to the Escambia River floodplain. Although the USACE permit authorizing the impact does not state the type of wetlands being impacted, the mitigation wetlands authorized by the permit are palustrine forested. Mitigation was implemented at Cotton Creek on the Escambia River floodplain on lands owned and managed by the NFWFMD for ecological integrity. Mitigation consisted of hydrologic enhancement of an estimated 6.49 acres of palustrine forested wetlands (FLUCCS 615 – Bottomland) via installation of one low-water-crossing on Cotton Creek Road.

Cotton Creek Road (30.78162° North, 87.31990° West) is used by the NFWFMD for land management access. From US 29 (6.7 miles north of a Tom Thumb convenience store located at the intersection of US 29 and SR 97), turn east onto Cotton Lake Road and drive 1.2 miles. Cotton Creek Road is to the right; the low-water-crossing is 0.20 miles from the Cotton Lake Road / Cotton Creek Road intersection. Although Cotton Creek Road is gated, pedestrian access is allowed by the NFWFMD at any time without notification (exercise caution during hunting season). Vehicular access, if desired, may be arranged by contacting NFWFMD Headquarters (850-539-5999).

Raised above natural grade, Cotton Creek Road bisected a palustrine forested slough and disrupted natural hydrologic flows and moisture regimes. The low-water-crossing designed to enhance the hydrology of adjacent wetlands was installed in July 2015. An inspection by NFWFMD staff on 9/17/2019 concluded that the low-water-crossing was functioning as designed, and that natural hydrologic flows had been reestablished. During the inspection, water in the slough was observed gently flowing east to west and was approximately one foot deep at the crossing low point. There

has been no erosion or downstream movement of rock used in construction of the low-water-crossing. The forested slough appears ecologically healthy; no exotic or nuisance vegetation was noted. Annuals monitoring inspections will continue through 2020 or as directed by the USACE. In the event of failure of the low-water-crossing, remedial action will be taken.

**Performance Standards (per USACE Permit):**

- Low-water-crossing installed at appropriate elevation [Met]
- Non-failure of low-water-crossing [Met]

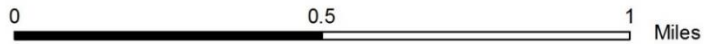
**Monitoring Requirements:**

- Annual inspection and photo-documentation of low-water-crossing for five years after installation of low-water-crossing (2015 – 2020).
- Annual reports submitted to the USACE for duration of monitoring and posted at the NFWFMD wetlands website.

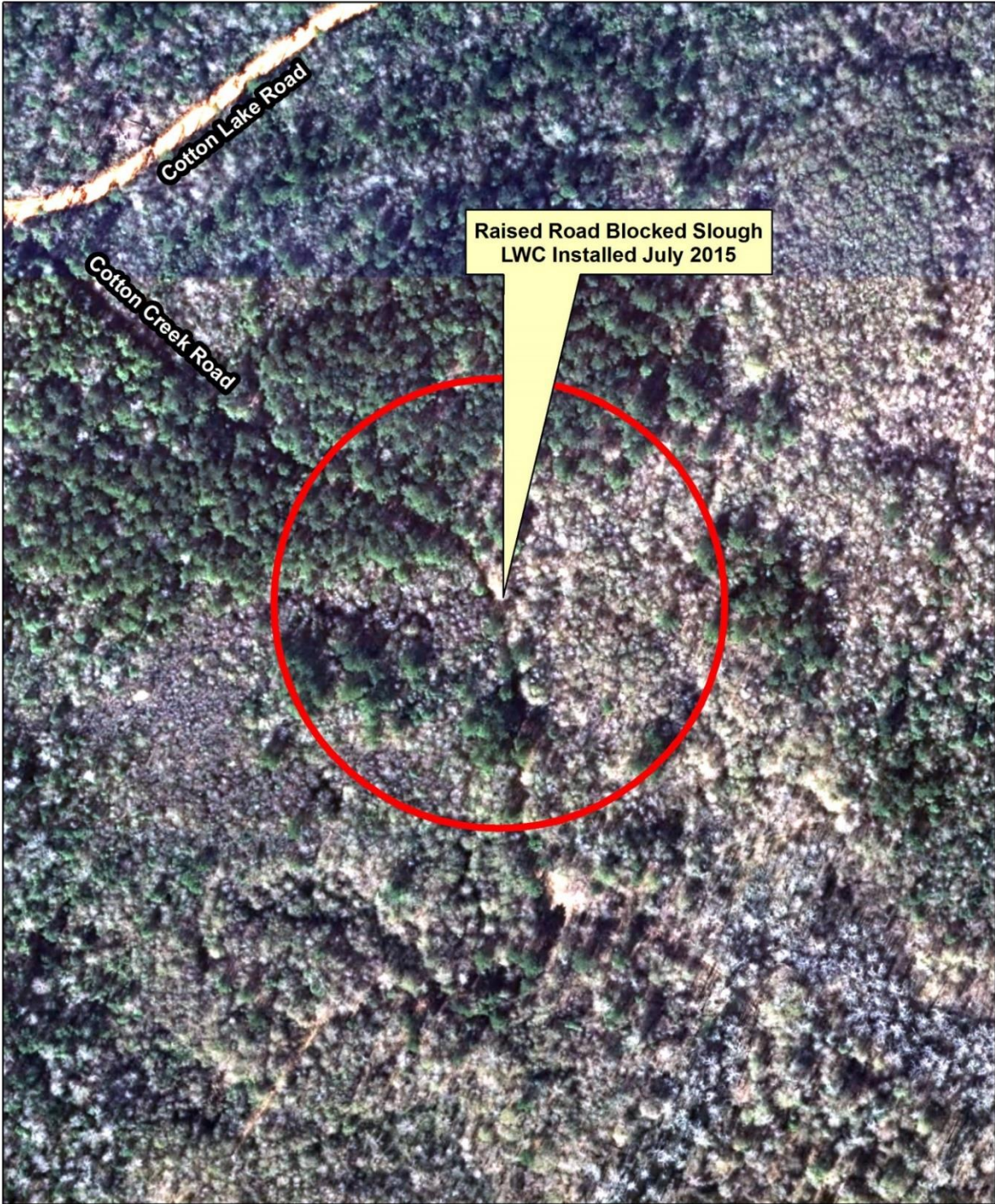
### Cotton Creek Road - Low-Water-Crossing



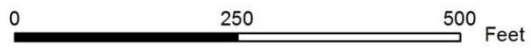
2013 DOQ



### Cotton Creek Road - Low-Water-Crossing Site



2013 DOQ





Cotton Creek Road LWC (9/17/2019)



Cotton Creek Road LWC (9/17/2019)