



Douglas E. Barr  
Executive Director

## Northwest Florida Water Management District

81 Water Management Drive, Havana, Florida 32333-4712  
(U.S. Highway 90, 10 miles west of Tallahassee)

(850) 539-5999 • (Fax) 539-2777

June 16, 2009

Ms. Victoria Tauxe  
DEP-OSLER-MS 2500  
2600 Blair Stone Rd  
Tallahassee, FL 32399-2400

RECEIVED

JUN 16 2009

OFFICE OF SUBMERGED LANDS  
AND ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES

Re: Progress Report 10

Dear Ms. Tauxe,

Please accept this submittal as the **semi-annual progress report** for the SHLMB.

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

1. Spring gobbler season was a success at the bank with 4 large gobblers taken. Fishing has continued without incident. Numbers of fishermen has significantly declined from last year.
2. In accordance with Specific Condition 8, security and law enforcement continued at the bank throughout the spring. No violations have been observed.
3. Due to inappropriate mulch used by the contractor, Bahia grass was introduced into the erosion stabilization areas #1, #2, #3 and #10 in 2007. These areas were treated with herbicide by BRA twice in 2008. These areas were inspected in October of 2008 and a few small patches still remained. Back Forty Solutions treated the Bahia grass in March 2009, and will continue as needed (Figure 4).
4. Surveys for feral hogs continued during the spring of 2009. No recent hog damage has been observed.
5. In accordance with Specific Condition 10c, the road fill removal areas between Greenhead branch and Little Deep Edge, and between Deep Edge and Little Deep Edge were planted with native fetterbush (*Lyonia lucida*), swamp dog hobble (*Leucothoe racemosa*), and high bush blueberry (*Vaccinium corymbosum*). In addition, 40, 1 gallon wax myrtles (*Myrica cerifera*) were planted adjacent to Boggy branch to help stabilize the hydrologic restoration and to provide a corridor for wildlife.
6. In accordance with Specific Condition 10c, the area adjacent to Management Unit 5, Dykes Mill Pond was planted with 1 gallon Black Gum seedlings in March of 2009. The area had

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Santa Rosa Beach

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Pensacola

been planted in 11/09 with cypress and additional cypress will be planted in 11/09 as needed.

7. In accordance with Specific Condition 10b, one hundred forty eight acres of historic wet flatwoods that had dense titi cover reduced with a Gyro-Trac, and burning in Management Units 2 and 3 (Figure 10). However, the black titi and other shrubs re-sprouted forming a low dense shrub cover. In order to reduce shrub cover to an appropriate density, in 2008 three test plots (18 acres) were treated with selective herbicides to remove shrubs without impacting the native species. The shrub reduction in these areas was very successful and did not impact the native species cover. With the success of the initial herbicide treatments, the methodology was expanded to the remaining **130 acres** of wet flatwood restoration in March of 2009.
8. In Management Unit 11, bahia and centipede grass were observed with 10-50% cover in 100 acres of sandhill restoration that had had offsite pine removed in 2008. These areas were treated in March, 2009 with herbicides that will remove the Bahia and centipede grasses without impacting the native species. Additional treatments will occur until the exotic grasses have been removed.
9. Approximately three hundred and one acres of oak reduction have occurred at the SHLMB in Management Units 10, 11, and 12 in 2006 and 2007. Oak reduction occurred in accordance with Specific Condition 10b. Oak densities were reduced to no more than 150 oaks per acre by felling the excessive oaks and treating the stump with Garlon. However, excessive sprouting has occurred over the last 2-3 years and successive burns have failed to significantly reduce the oak densities. To further reduce oak cover, the oaks were treated in June 2009 with a selective herbicide.

**Restoration activities anticipated within the next 6 months:**

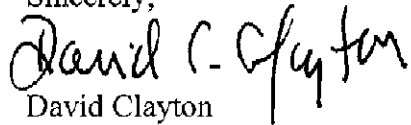
1. Surveys for nuisance species will continue in summer and fall of 2009.
2. Erosion areas identified with Bahia grass cover (Figure 4) will continue to be spot treated as needed.
3. Water Level gauges will continue to be measured in 2009 (Figure 9).
4. Herbicide treatments to reduce shrub levels in the wet pine flatwood areas (Figure 10) will continue in the fall of 2009.
5. Bahia grass and centipede grass will continue to be eradicated from Management Unit 11 in September of 2009.
6. Approximately 450 acres of wet flatwoods and sandhill uplands will be burned in the fall/winter of 2009/2010. Burns will be conducted in Management Units 2, 3, 10, 11, and 12.
7. A total of 300,000 wire grass tublings will be planted in the wet flatwood and sandhill restoration sites at the SHLMB in the fall/winter 2009/2010.

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

The greatest challenge continues to be shrub and oak reduction. Burn rotations alone have not reduced shrub or tree cover to required levels. In an effort to further control the shrubs and oaks in the uplands, selective herbicides that target the woody species without impacting the understory have been utilized. Results from last year were promising and have been expanded.

Thank you for your consideration of this submittal. If you have any question or comments please feel free to contact me at 850-539-5999.

Sincerely,

  
David Clayton  
QMS

Enclosures:

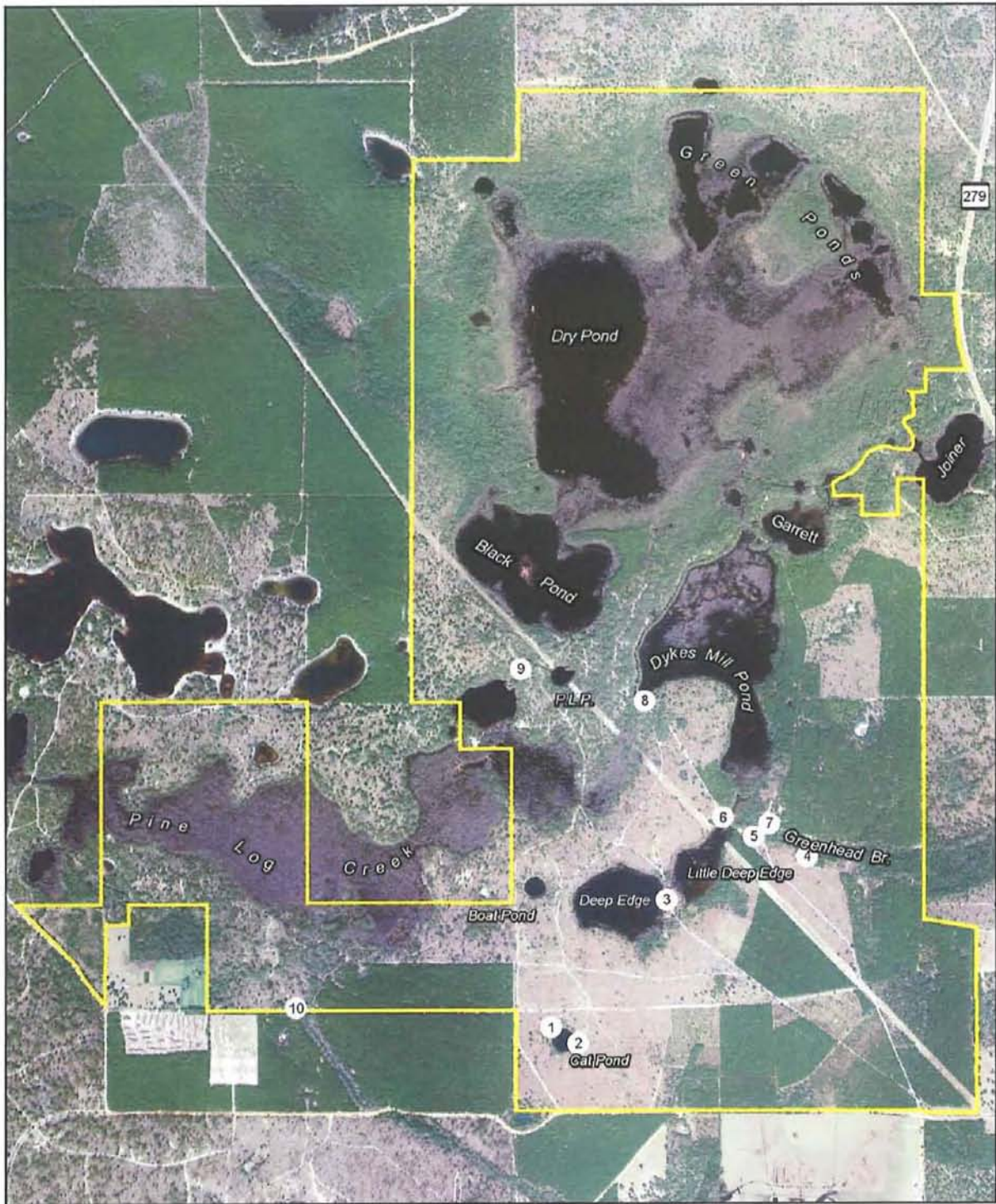
Figure 4 – Erosion Stabilization Sites (1-6 with Bahia Grass Cover)

Figure 9 – Water Level and Staff Gauge Locations

Figure 10 – Pine Flatwood Restoration – Brush Reduction



Figure 4 - Erosion Stabilization Sites

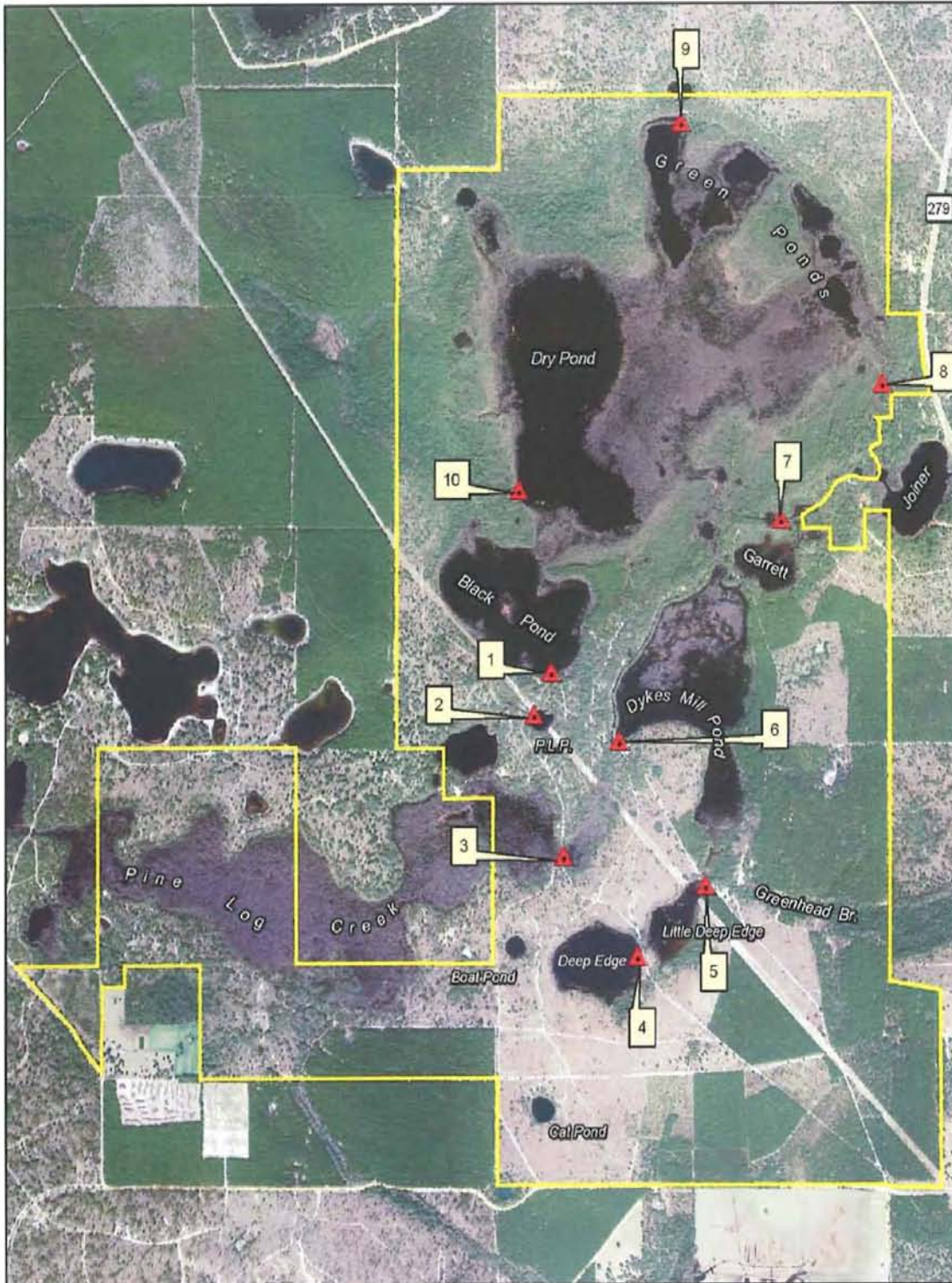


0 0.5 1 Miles





Figure 9 - Water Level Staff Gage Locations



▲ = Staff Gage (Installed 2005)

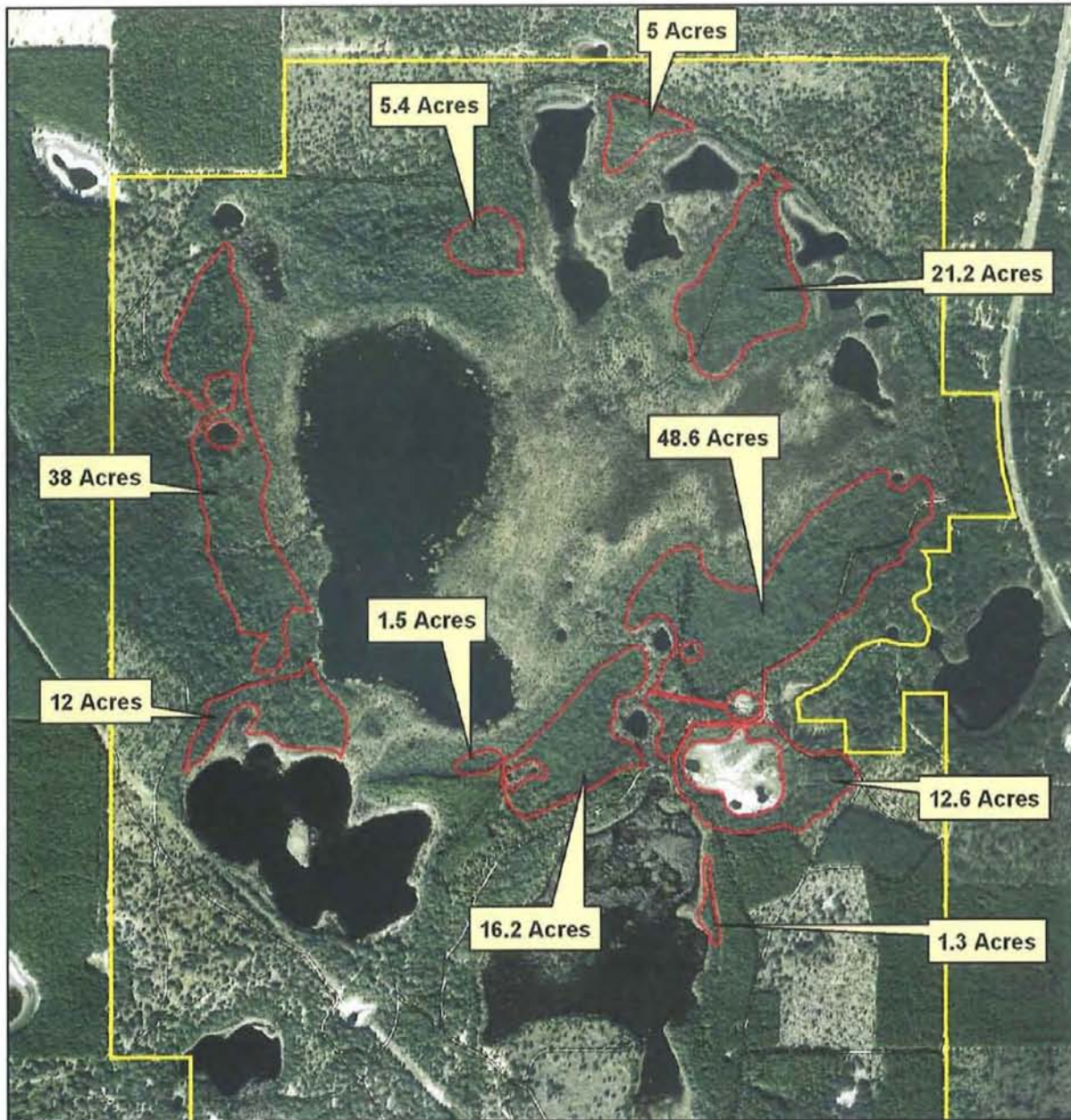
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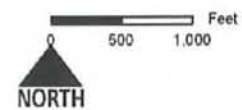


Figure 10 – Pine Flatwood Restoration – Brush Reduction

### Brush Reduction



Northwest Florida Water Management District  
Sand Hill Lakes Mitigation Bank (SHLMB)  
Brush Reduction (Gyro-Track Mulching) - ~165 Acres  
Section 6, Township 1 North, Range 14 West  
Washington Co., Florida



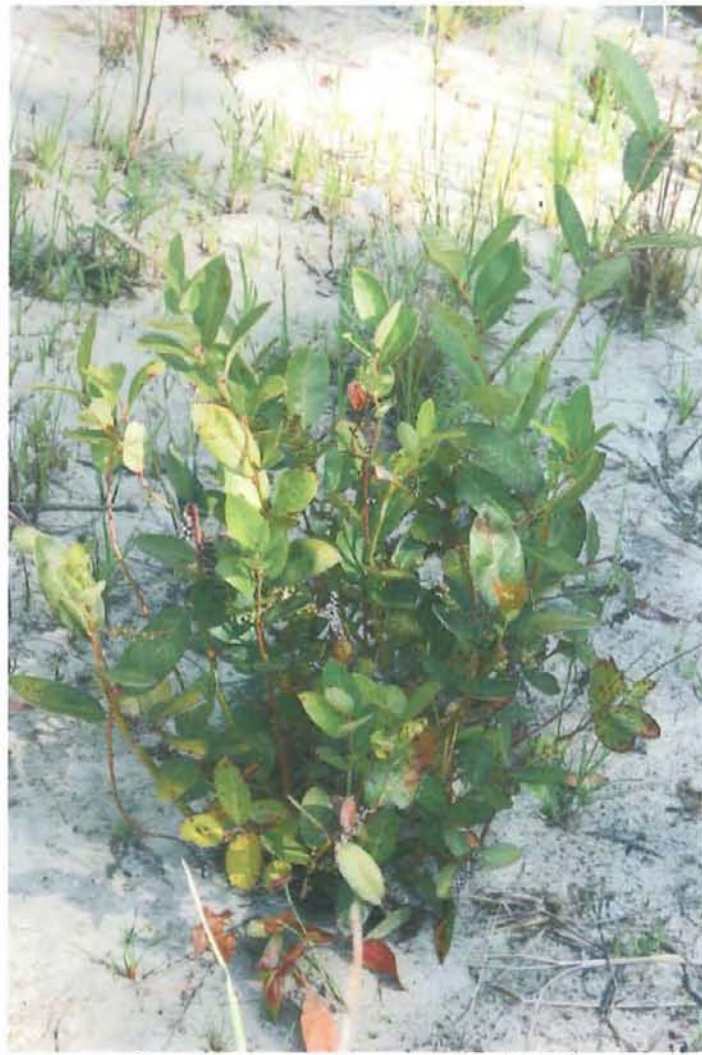


Roadfill Removal: Little Deep Edge and Greenhead Branch



*Lyonia lucida* (planted 3/09)





*Leucothoe racemosa* (planted 3/09)



Wet Flatwoods restoration: planted wiregrass (07) (Pine Log and Dry Pond)