

JUNIPER HEADWATERS PRESERVE
PROGRESS REPORT JANUARY 7, 2008

Date of acquisition: Parcel 1 10 acres 9-22-2005
 Parcel 2 30 acres 3-07-2006

MAINTENANCE

In June, 2006, BCC volunteers treated and killed all visible popcorn trees.

In March, 2007, BCC volunteers painted the signpost and erected the permanent sign stating "Juniper Headwaters Preserve: a project of the Bay County Conservancy in cooperation with the Northwest Florida Water Management District".

Also at that time, white goods that had been dumped on the road leading into the preserve were picked up and hauled away, along with several buckets of trash.

Contact was made with neighboring property owners, who complained that unwelcome persons were using the access road into the property as a "party place" at night. Therefore, King's Bay Concrete Company donated a couple of pilings and placed them in the road to block access. It is not BCC's policy to allow hunting on preserves, but there are no "posted" signs, so it is possible that hunters may park on the road and walk into the property.

NEEDS

Recruitment of a "Team Leader" to regularly monitor the preserve.

Erosion control on the access road. Possible placement of a culvert in the stream crossing section of the access road.

EXPANSION OF THE PRESERVE

The BCC would like to expand the preserve to include surrounding wetlands and associated uplands. Inquiries have been made to all nearby landowners. There were some offers to sell, but none of those was an adjacent property. The parcel immediately north of the existing preserve is the most important to acquire, in our view, but that owner has been adamant about not wanting to sell. A conservation-minded family owns the three parcels south of the preserve and across Silver Lake Road. They are not interested in selling their property, but we have suggested the possibility of a conservation easement given to the BCC. We will follow up with them in the future.

