

Juniper Creek Headwaters Preserve (UWRMP 5.5.7)

The 27.66-acre± Anders parcel (Juniper Creek Headwaters Preserve) was acquired in 2006 by the Bay Co. Conservancy with NFWMD mitigation funding to offset wetland impacts associated with road work on SR 73 in Calhoun Co. A recorded conservation easement provides legal guarantees that the site will be preserved in a natural state in perpetuity. This acquisition added to 10 acres along Juniper Creek already protected by the Bay Co. Conservancy.

A site visit was conducted on November 12th, 2010 to monitor the condition of the site.

Quality of Flatwoods

Based on structure and composition, the flatwoods are overall in moderate condition. There is a high level of herbaceous species diversity; however the entire area needs to be burned soon in order to maintain groundcover composition (Photo 1). It appears neighboring properties also conduct controlled burns, and therefore there may be opportunities for coordinated prescribed fire across several parcels.

Density of Vegetation

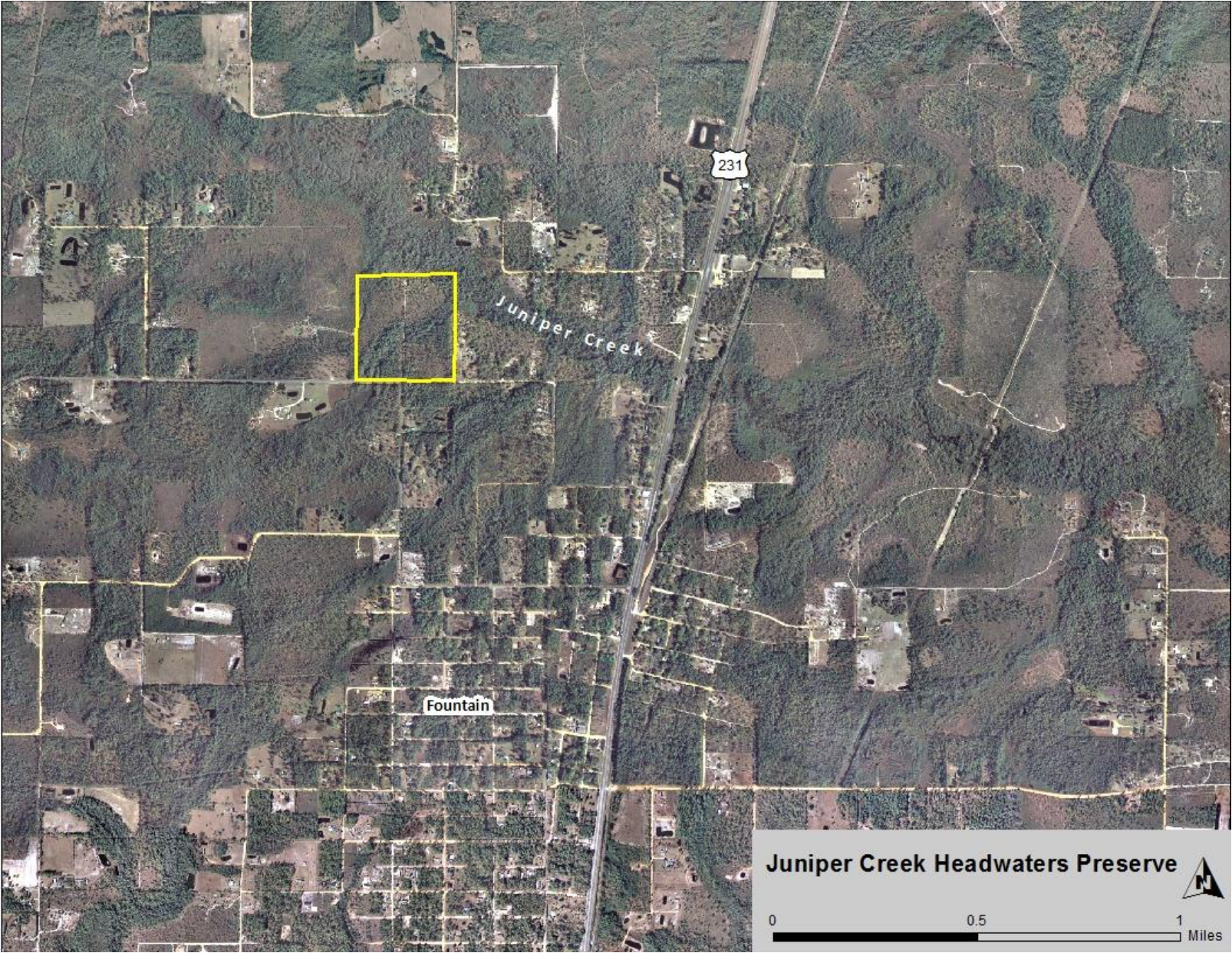
Across the property, vegetation is moderately dense. Along the natural drains that run through the center of the property, as well as along the outer boundary of the property, the vegetation is much denser (Photo 2, 3). Titi is approximately 6-9 feet tall along the main road (Photo 4) and much taller in other areas. In the forested and shrub wetlands along the northwestern and northeastern boundary, woody species are very dense and encroaching into the flatwoods area. In most of the flatwoods areas, woody species are becoming more prevalent where pines are established (Photo 5). Prescribed fire is essential in managing these habitats.

Exotic Species Problems

As stated in the mitigation plan, there are few exotic species on site; however Chinese tallow is still present along the southern property boundary near the main entrance (Photo 6).

Erosion Problems

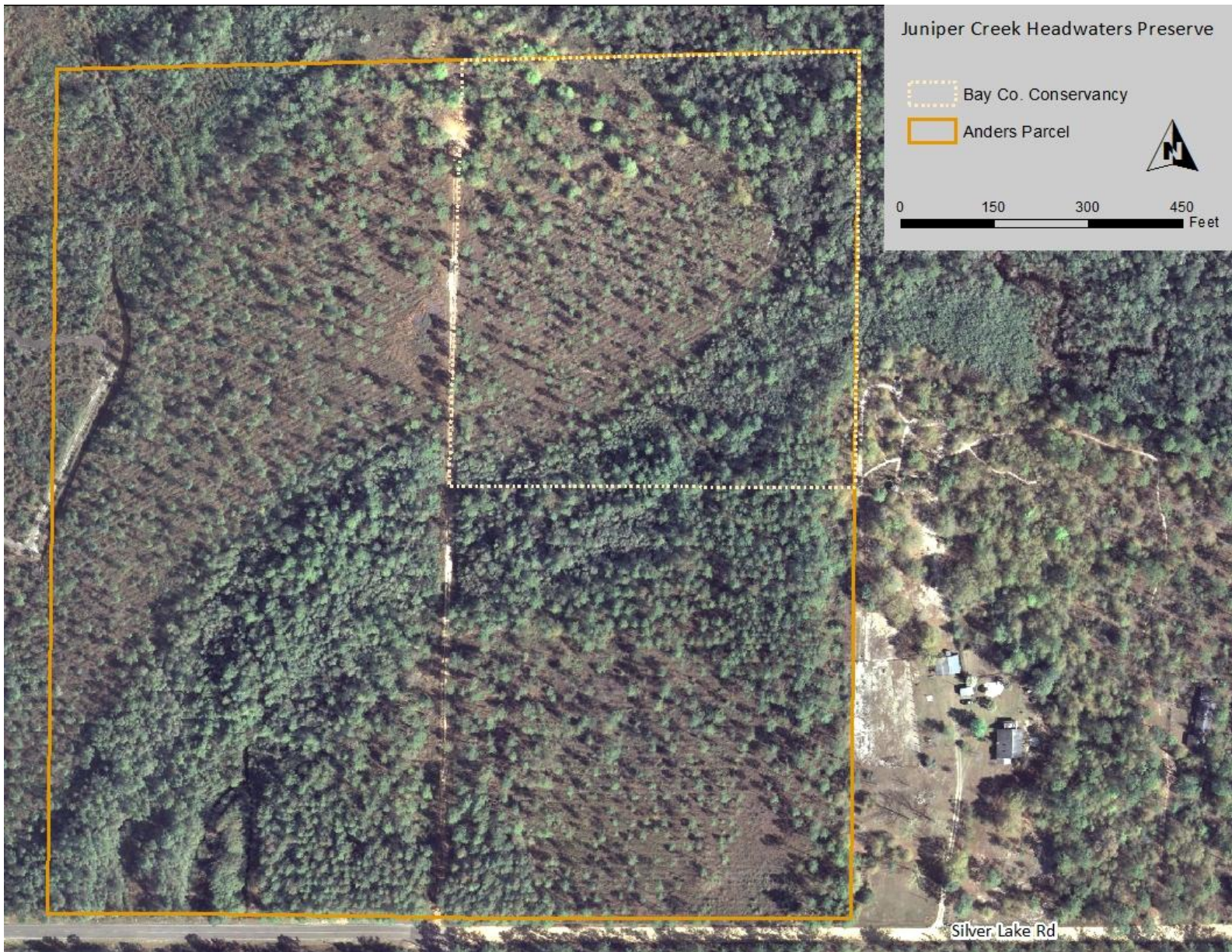
The main road that runs N-S through the property has been closed and there is minor evidence of erosion (Photo 7). However there was not water in main creek channel at the time of the site visit (Photo 2). The ditch on the western edge of the property had standing water on the northern end (Photo 8).




Juniper Creek Headwaters Preserve



0 0.5 1 Miles



Juniper Creek Headwaters Preserve

 Bay Co. Conservancy

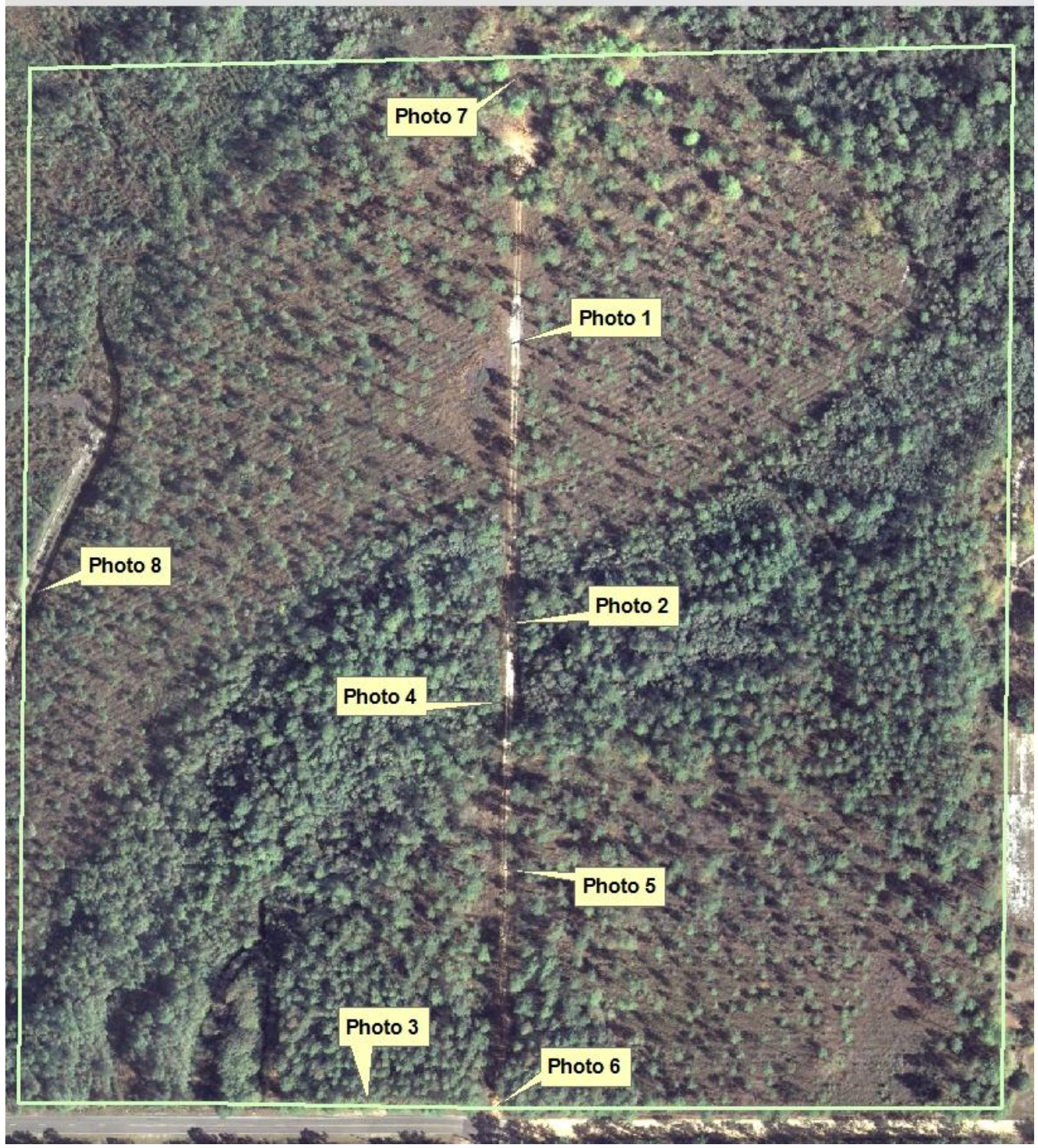
 Anders Parcel



0 150 300 450 Feet

Silver Lake Rd

Juniper Creek Headwaters Photo Locations





Herbaceous groundcover in flatwoods. Photo taken along main road, facing west.



Photo 2

Vegetation is much denser along the natural drains. Note: Creek is dry. Photo taken along main road, facing west.

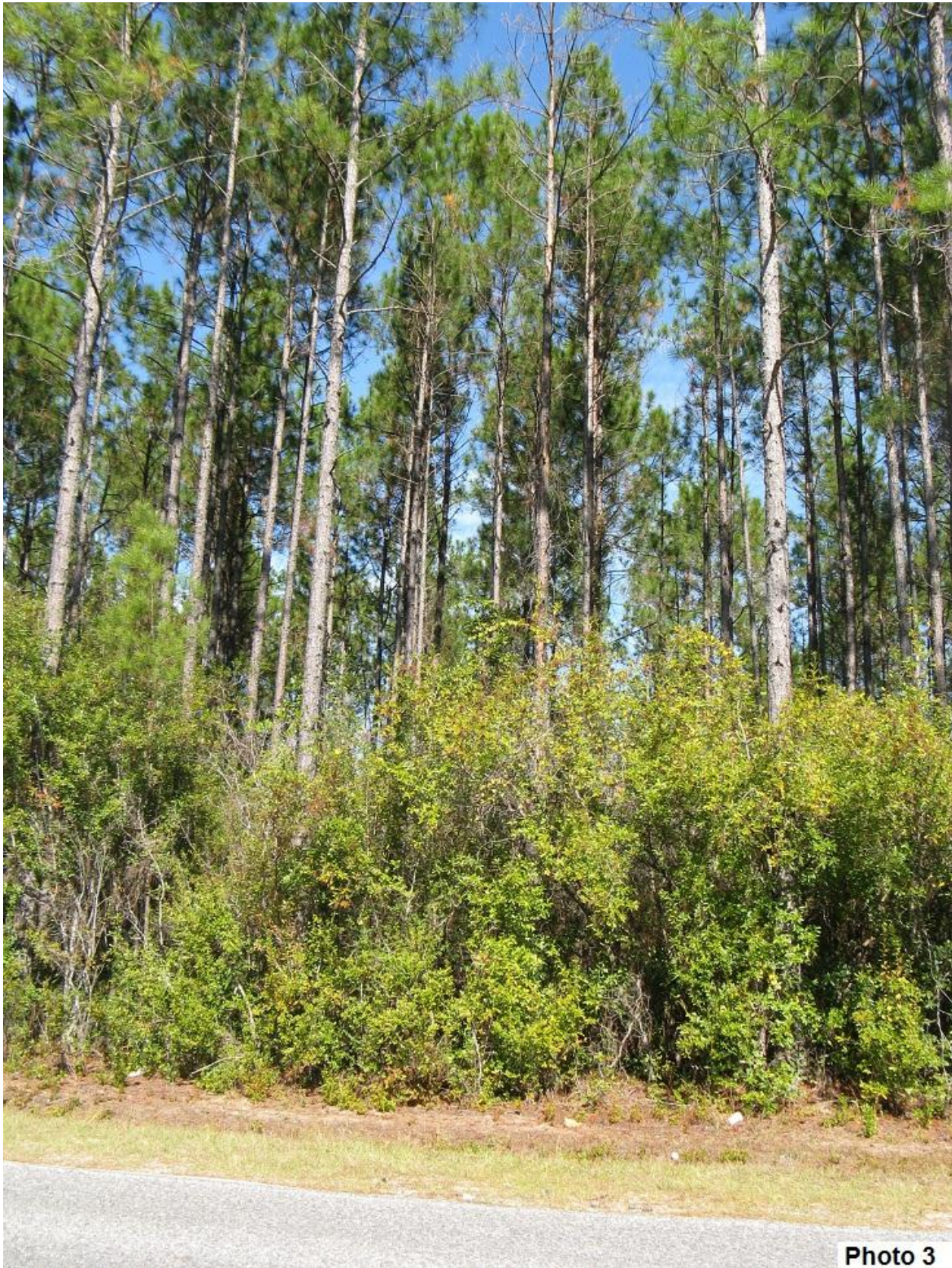


Photo 3

Vegetation is also much denser along property boundaries. Photo taken along Silver Lake Rd, facing north.



Photo 4

Titi along natural drains is 6-9 feet tall near the main road. Photo taken along main road, facing north.



Photo 5

Hardwood encroachment into flatwoods areas. Photo taken along main road, facing west.



Photo 6

Preserve entrance- note the Chinese Tallow on the left. Photo taken at main entrance, facing north.



Photo 7

Herbaceous vegetation grows along the closed road. Photo taken along main road, facing south.



Photo 8

Ditch along the western boundary of the property. Photo taken near western property line, facing northeast.