

SAND HILL LAKES MITIGATION BANK
FDEP PERMIT NO. 0227351-001
SEMIANNUAL STATUS REPORT
PERIOD: JULY – DECEMBER 2025

For the period July – December 2025:

1. Efforts to limit damage to vegetation at SHLMB by feral hog are ongoing and appear successful. Under Contract 24-060 with USDA APHIS-WS (Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service – Wildlife Services), no feral hog activity was observed by USDA personnel and no feral hogs were trapped.
2. Perimeter fencing was inspected; vegetation growing on perimeter fencing was controlled through use of herbicides.
3. Mowing of nuisance shrubs adjacent to management access roads and in problematic restoration polygons was conducted.
4. Public fishing and hunting continued at the Sand Hill Lakes Mitigation Bank (SHLMB) in accordance with permit conditions. Records are maintained by FWC.
5. Security and law enforcement patrols continued in accordance with permit conditions; no known violations were reported.
6. Water level gages were read monthly in accordance with permit conditions. Data is available upon request.
7. Annual fall vegetation monitoring was conducted by the Florida Natural Areas Inventory (FNAI) of Florida State University in October.

Anticipated restoration and/or management anticipated for January – June 2026:

1. Sandhill (longleaf pine/wiregrass community) restoration polygons where oak/shrub densities exceed desired conditions will be managed with fire, herbicide, and/or mowing.
2. Water level gages will continue to be read monthly in accordance with permit conditions.
3. Security and law enforcement patrols will continue in accordance with permit conditions.
4. Public fishing and hunting, overseen by FWC, will continue in accordance with permit conditions.
5. Inspections of perimeter fencing will continue; repairs will be made as necessary. Application of herbicide to vegetation growing on perimeter fencing will be implemented as necessary.
6. Exotic vegetation, if observed by NFWFMD or FWC staff, will be treated with herbicides.
7. Management of any feral hog or beaver issues will continue under Contract 24-060 with USDA APHIS-WS (Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service – Wildlife Services).

Overall, the site is in excellent ecological condition. Management activities continue in accordance with permit conditions. Issues identified (e.g., minor occurrence of exotic and/or nuisance vegetation; feral hog populations; perimeter fencing maintenance; shrub and *Andropogon* spp. densities in selected polygons) will continue to be addressed.

Certification:

We certify, to the best of our knowledge, that this report represents a true and accurate 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.

Robert F. Lide

Robert F. Lide, Senior Environmental Scientist, QMS Team Member
23 January 2026

Philip Garrett

Philip Garrett, Senior Environmental Scientist, QMS Team Member
23 January 2026

Coakley Taylor

Coakley Taylor, Lands Manager, QMS Team Member
23 January 2026

Table 1. Recent Representative Photos



UMAM Polygon I (Sandhill Restoration)



UMAM Polygon II (Sandhill Restoration)



UMAM Polygon III (Sandhill Preservation)



UMAM Polygon III (Oak Preservation)



UMAM Polygon IV (Wetland Preservation)



UMAM Polygon V (Hydric Pine Flatwoods Restoration)