

SAND HILL LAKES MITIGATION BANK
FDEP PERMIT NO. 0227351-001
SEMIANNUAL STATUS REPORT
PERIOD: JANUARY – JUNE 2023

For the period January – June 2023:

1. Prescribed fire was implemented on approximately 1,250 acres (~585 acres of dormant-season burns conducted December 2022; ~665 acres of growing-season burns conducted March – May 2023; Figure 1).
2. Minor exotic and/or nuisance vegetation was observed at several locations and treated with herbicides (Figure 2).
3. Feral hog damage to vegetation continues to be observed in multiple areas (Figure 3). A feral hog management contract is being developed between the Northwest Florida Water Management District and the US Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (USDA—APHIS).
4. Breaches to perimeter fencing (i.e., holes in fencing; tree fall damage; animal burrows under fencing; rusted-out fence sections) were identified (Figure 4). Repairs are ongoing.
5. Public fishing and hunting continued at the Sand Hill Lakes Mitigation Bank (SHLMB) in accordance with permit conditions.
6. Security and law enforcement patrols continued in with permit conditions; no known violations were reported.
7. Water level gages were read at least monthly in accordance with permit conditions. Data is available upon request.

Anticipated restoration and/or management anticipated for July – December 2023:

1. Water level gages will continue to be read monthly in accordance with permit conditions.
2. Security and law enforcement patrols will continue in accordance with permit conditions.
3. Public fishing and hunting, overseen by FWC, will continue in accordance with permit conditions.
4. Fall 2023 vegetation monitoring will be conducted.
5. Nuisance shrubs will be treated with herbicide on approximately 99 acres of hydric pine flatwoods.
6. Repairs of perimeter fencing will continue.
7. Feral hog management activities will be implemented.
8. Exotic vegetation, if observed by NFWFMD or FWC staff, will be treated with herbicides.
9. New Qualified Mitigation Supervisors (QMS) shall be proposed to FDEP to replace David Clayton (prior QMS who has separated from the NFWFMD).

Overall, the site is in excellent ecological condition. All prescribed burns planned for 2023 have been implemented. Restoration and management activities continue in accordance with permit conditions. Issues identified above (minor occurrence of exotic and/or nuisance vegetation; feral hog populations; perimeter fencing) are being addressed.

Certification:

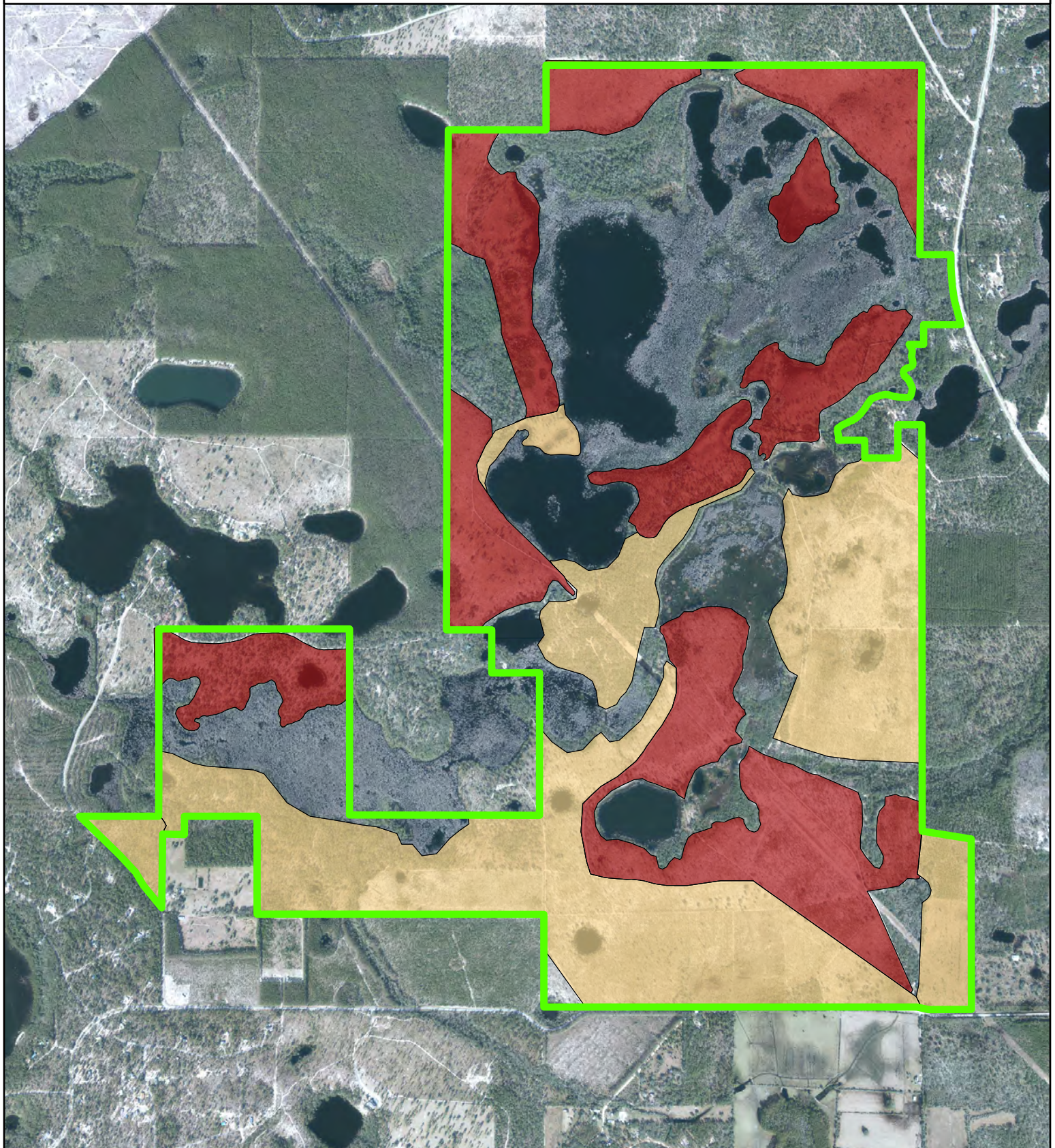
I certify, to the best of my knowledge, that this report represents a true and accurate description of the activities and site conditions at the time of this report. This semi-annual report was written in accordance with Specific Condition 27 of the permit.

Robert F. Lide

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Senior Environmental Scientist (acting QMS, pending FDEP approval)

Figure 1: Prescribed Fire (DEC 2022 - JUN 2023)



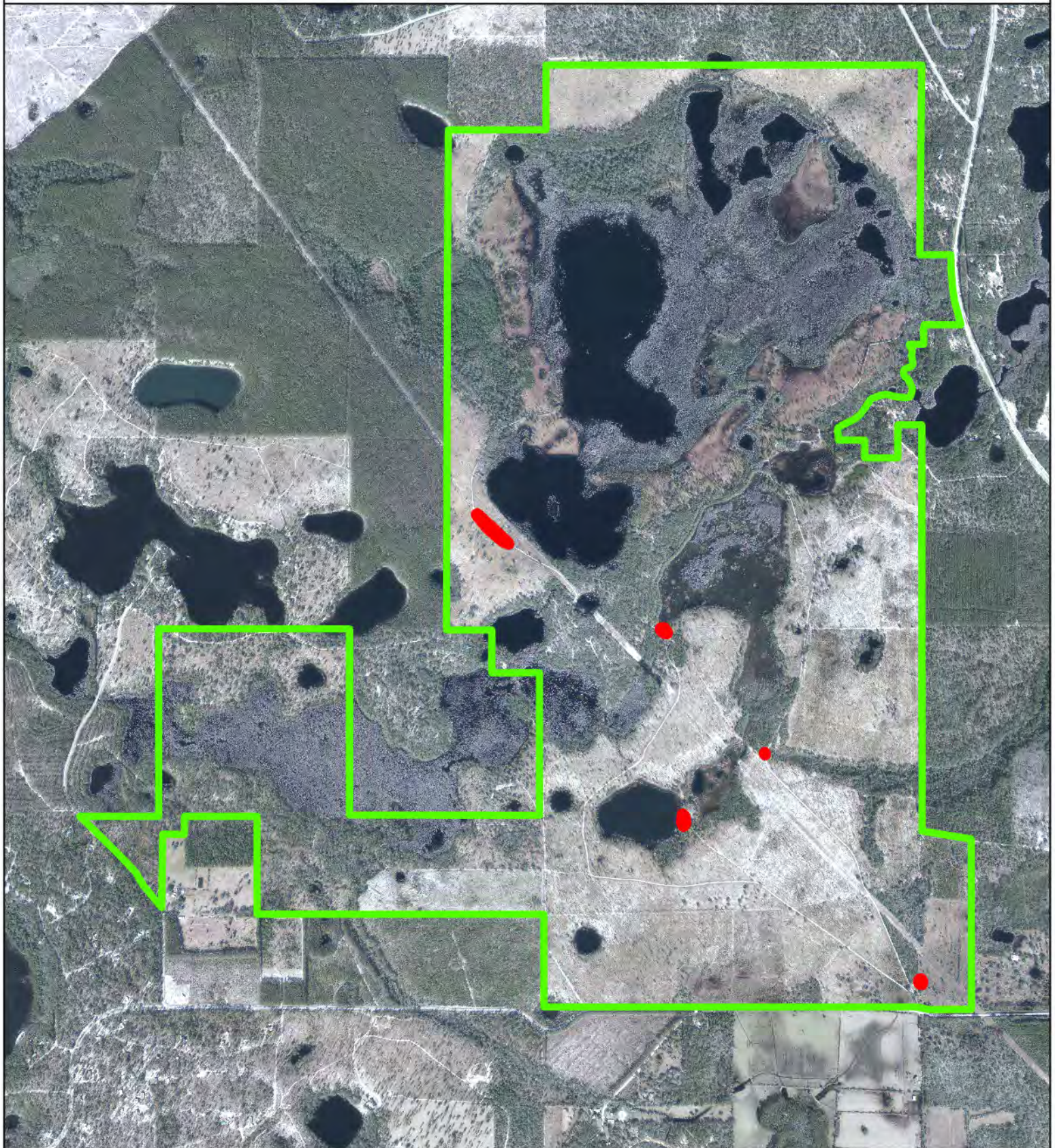
-  Sand Hill Lakes Mitigation Bank
-  Dormant Season Burn (585 Acres)
-  Growing Season Burn (665 Acres)

Sand Hill Lakes Mitigation Bank - Econfinia Creek WMA
Washington County, Florida (2019 DOQ)

0 0.5 1 Miles



Figure 2: Exotic Vegetation Treatment Areas (JAN 2023 - JUN 2023)



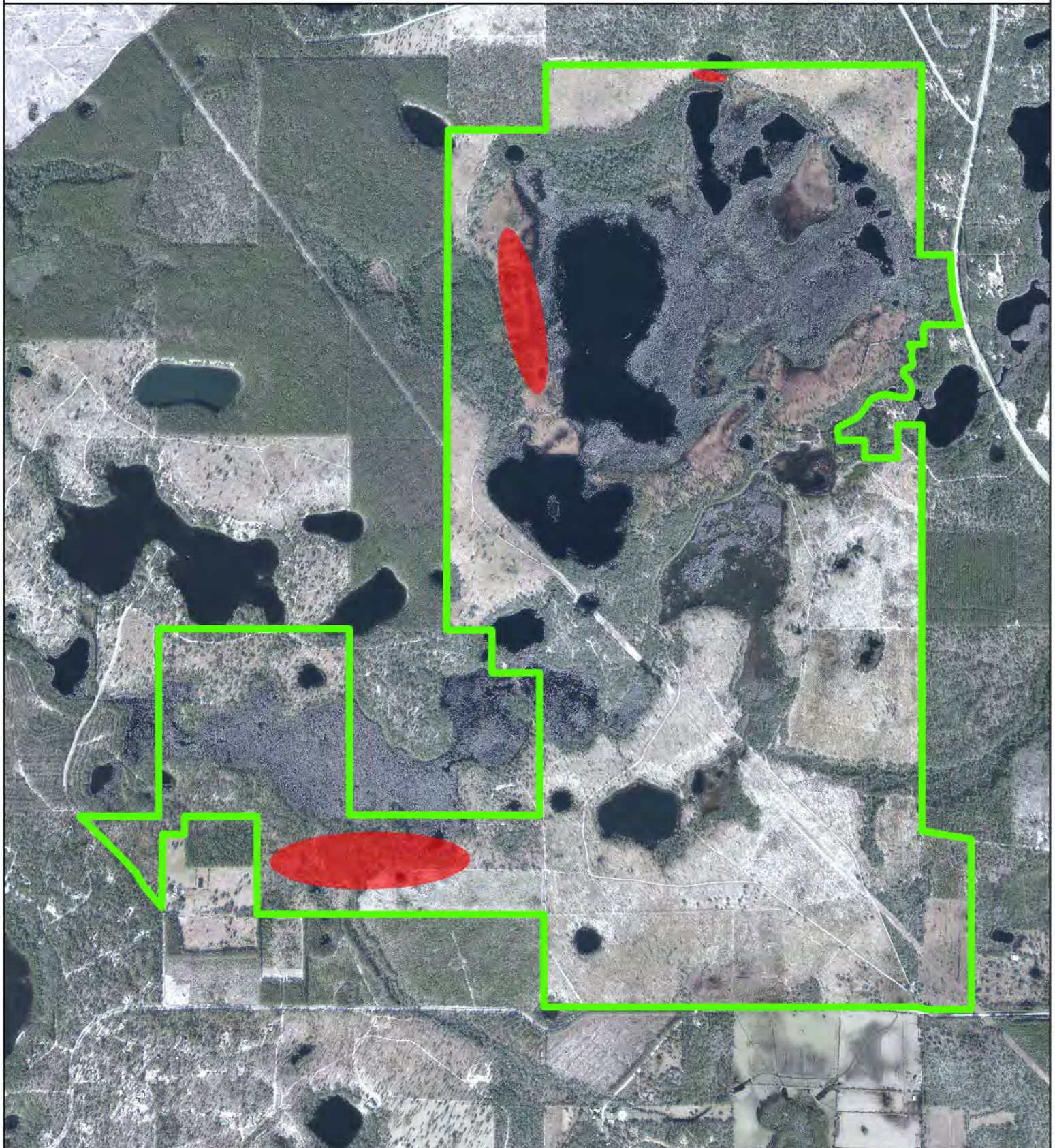
-  Sand Hill Lakes Mitigation Bank
-  Approximate Exotic Treatment Area

Sand Hill Lakes Mitigation Bank - Econfina Creek WMA
Washington County, Florida (2019 DOQ)

0 0.5 1 Miles



Figure 3: Feral Hog Activity (JAN 2023 - JUN 2023)



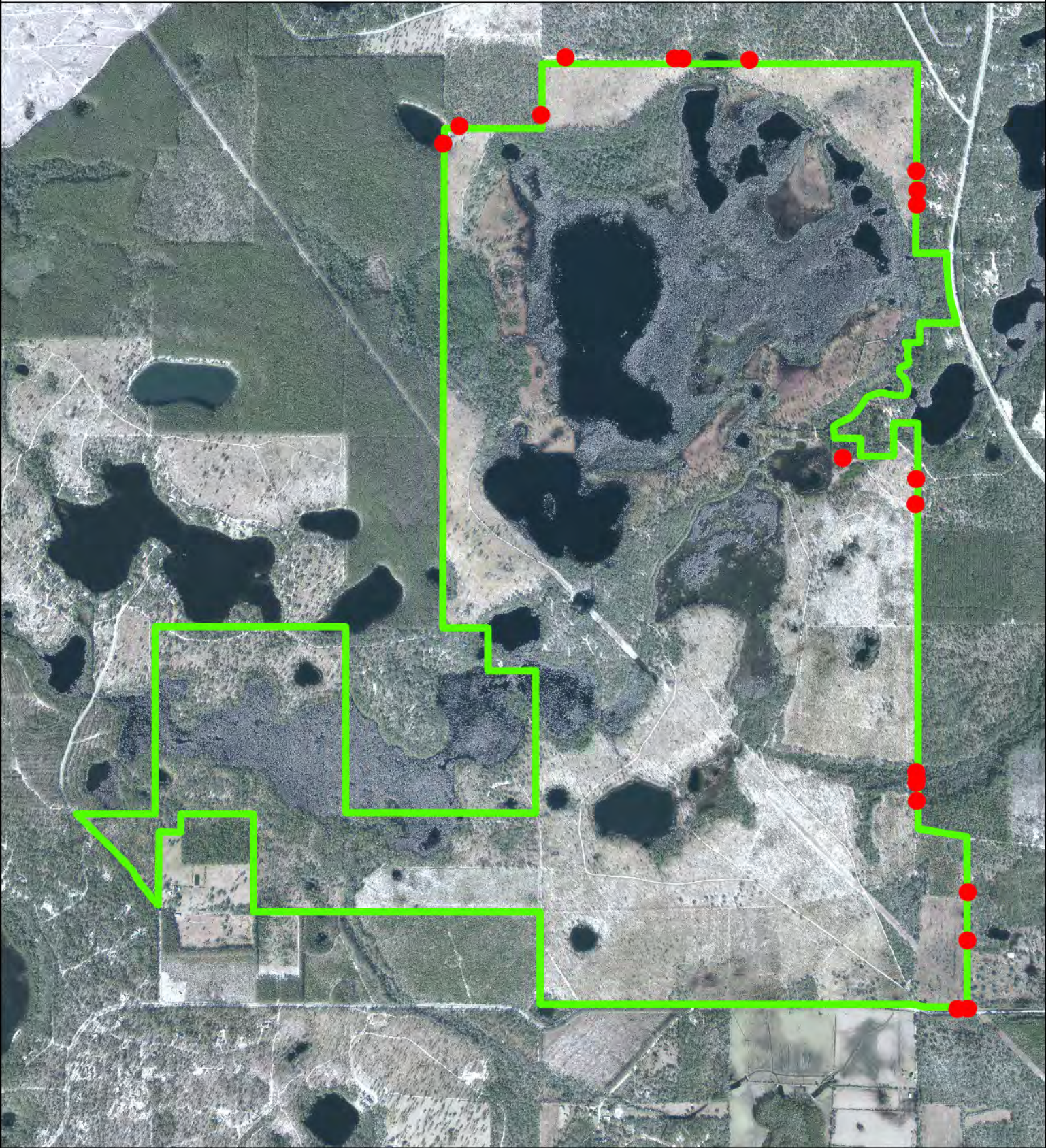
-  Sand Hills Lakes Mitigation Bank
-  Approximate Observed Hog Damage Area

Sand Hill Lakes Mitigation Bank - Econfinia Creek WMA
Washington County, Florida (2019 DOQ)

0 0.5 1 Miles



Figure 4: Identified Fence Breaches (JAN 2023 - JUN 2023)



 Sand Hills Lakes Mitigation Bank
 Fence Breach

Sand Hill Lakes Mitigation Bank - Econfinia Creek WMA
Washington County, Florida (2019 DOQ)

0 0.5 1 Miles

