

SAND HILL LAKES MITIGATION BANK
FDEP PERMIT NO. 0227351-001
SEMIANNUAL STATUS REPORT
PERIOD: JANUARY – JUNE 2026

For the period January – June 2026:

1. Efforts to limit damage to vegetation at Sand Hill Lakes Mitigation Bank (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. Prescribed fire was implemented on approximately 258 acres (Figure 1).
3. Wiregrass (*Aristida beyrichiana*) was planted in approximately 14 acres of longleaf pine restoration areas in February at a density of 4840 plugs per acre (Figure 2).
4. Perimeter fencing was inspected; vegetation growing on perimeter fencing was controlled through use of herbicides and manual removal.
5. Minor occurrences of cogongrass (*Imperata cylindrica*) were observed and treated with herbicide during the first half of 2026 (Figure 3). These areas continue to be monitored, and additional treatment will be conducted as needed.
6. Mulching of nuisance shrubs adjacent to management access roads was conducted.
7. Public fishing and hunting continued at the Sand Hill Lakes Mitigation Bank (SHLMB) in accordance with permit conditions. Records are maintained by FWC.
8. Security and law enforcement patrols continued in accordance with permit conditions; no known violations were reported.
9. Water level gages were read monthly in accordance with permit conditions. Data is available upon request.

Anticipated restoration and/or management anticipated for July – December 2026:

1. Sandhill (longleaf pine/wiregrass community) 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 with anticipated repairs made. Additional application of herbicide to vegetation growing on perimeter fencing is planned.
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 above (e.g., minor occurrence of exotic and/or nuisance vegetation; feral hog populations; perimeter fencing maintenance; shrub and *Andropogon* spp. densities in selected polygons) are being 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 Lide

Robert F. Lide, Senior Environmental Scientist, QMS Team Member
21 July 2026

Philip Garrett

Philip Garrett, Senior Environmental Scientist, QMS Team Member
21 July 2026

Coakley Taylor

Coakley Taylor, Lands Manager, QMS Team Member
21 July 2026



Planting Wiregrass Plugs (3/12/2025)



Sandhill Restoration (Burned June 2025)



Planting Wiregrass Plugs (3/12/2025)



Sandhill Restoration (Burned June 2025)



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Sandhill Restoration (Burned June 2025)

Figure 1. Representative Photos (JAN - JUN 2026)

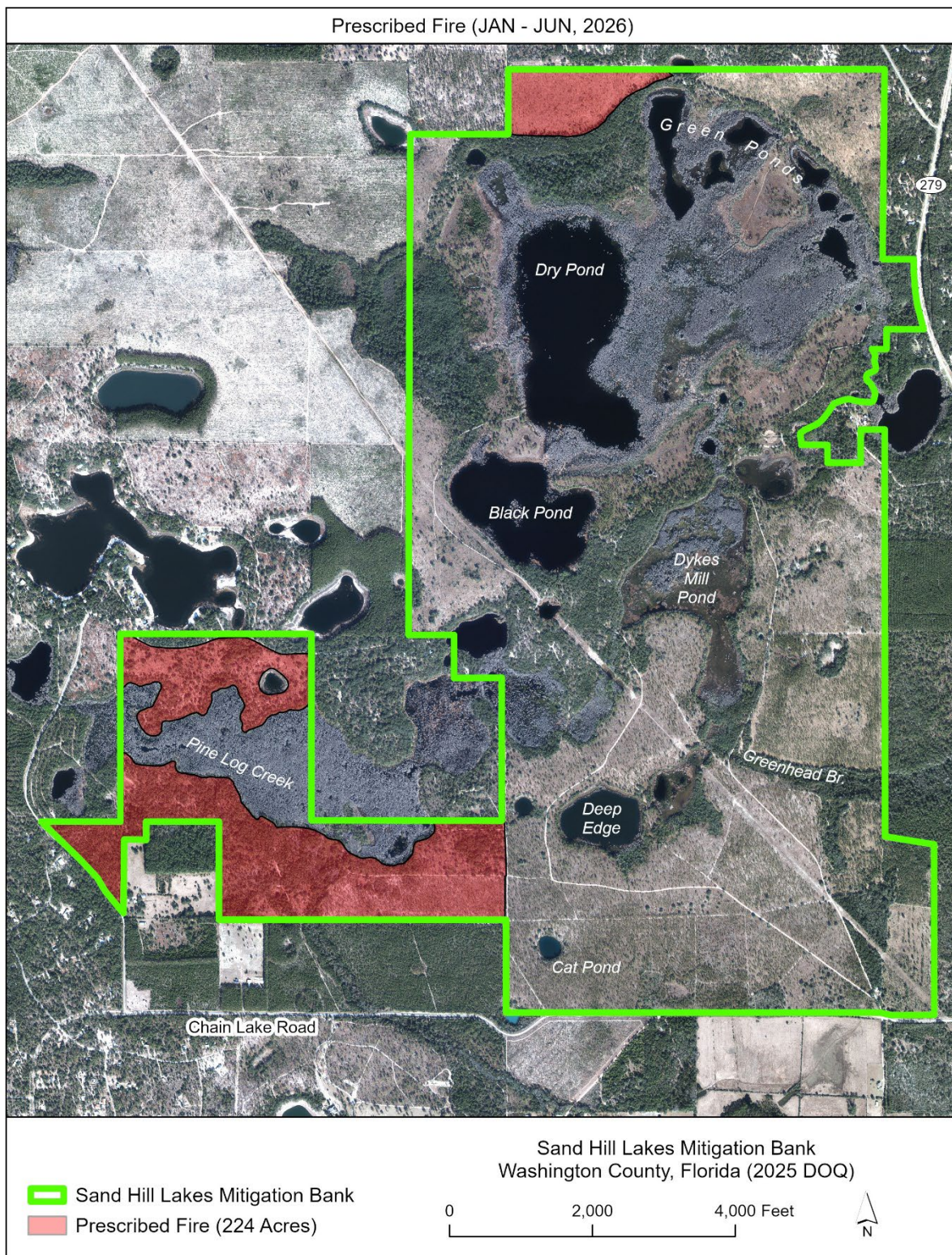


Figure 2. Burn Polygons (Burned January – June 2025)

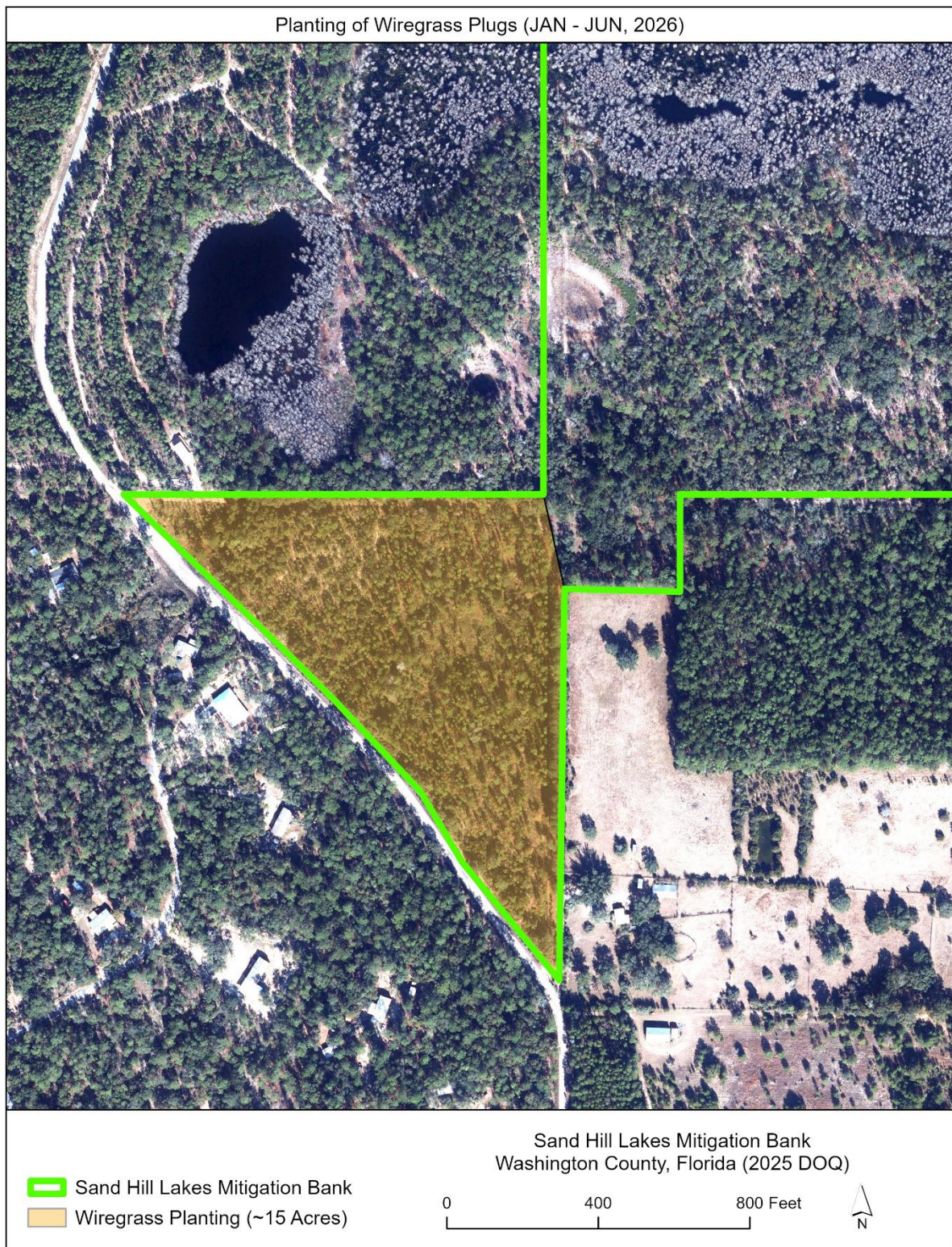


Figure 3. Wiregrass Planting Area (Febuary 2026)

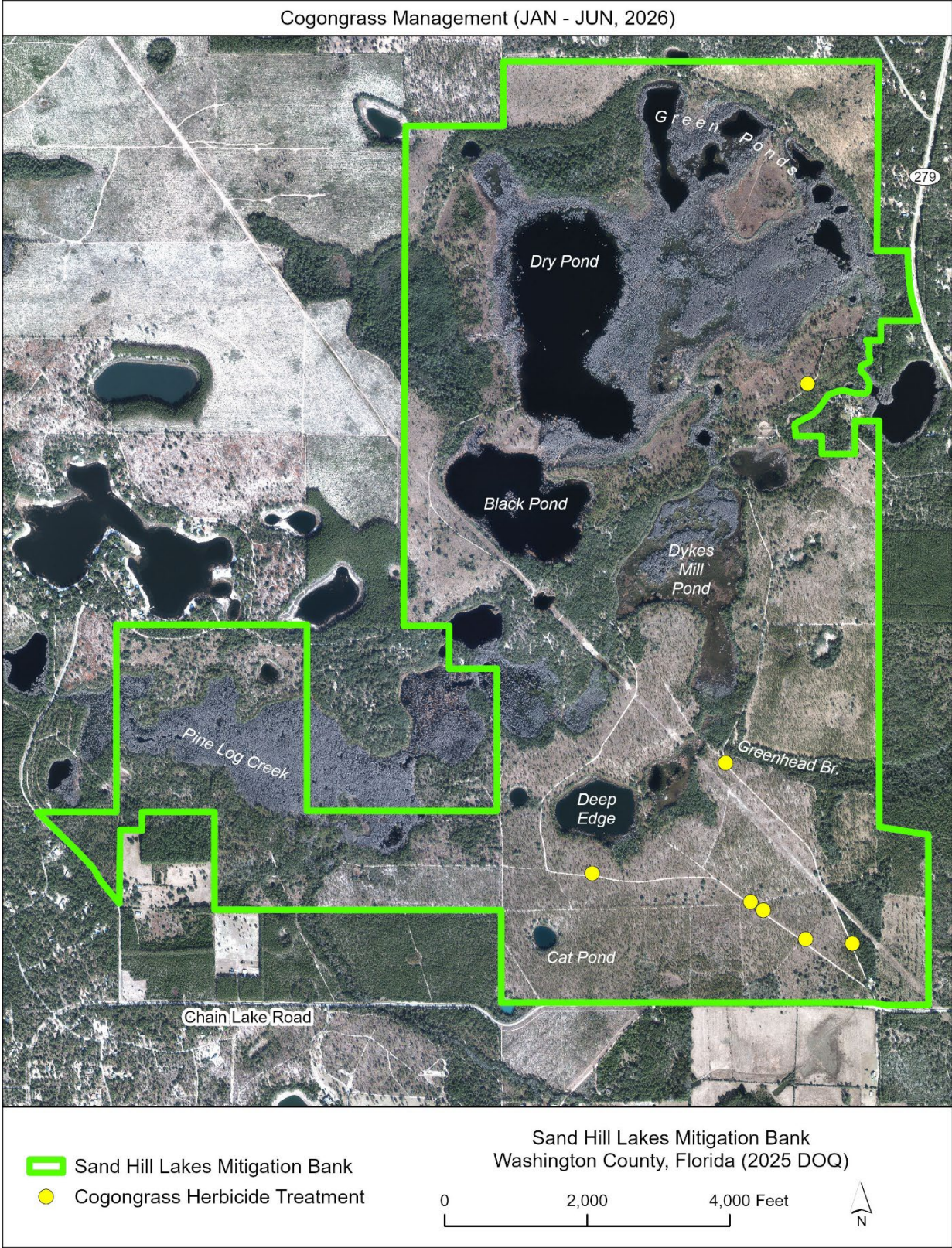


Figure 3. Cogongrass Treatment Locations (April 2026)