

Plum Creek Mitigation Site Inspection Report (September 2026)
USACE Permit No. SAJ-2006-4627 (MOD-AWP)
USACE Permit No. SAJ-2005-08619 (MOD-AWP)

On September 1, 2026, Northwest Florida Water Management District (NFWFMD) staff conducted a site inspection and photo monitoring at the Plum Creek Mitigation Area (Choctawhatchee River and Bay Watershed; Washington County) for mitigation associated with replacement of the SR 79 Holmes Creek Bridge (SAJ-2006-4627, MOD-AWP) and replacement of the SR 79 Open Creek Bridge (SAJ-2005-08619, MOD-AWP). Acquired from the Plum Creek Timber Company in 2009, this project seeks to preserve, enhance and restore approximately 130 acres of wetlands and associated upland buffers proximate to Holmes Creek. Specific goals are restoration of approximately 70 acres of Pine Flatwoods uplands (FLUCCS 411), restoration of approximately 30 acres of Wetland Forested Mixed wetlands (FLUCCS 630) situated in a former beaver pond, and preservation of another approximately 30 acres of Wetland Forested Mixed wetlands (FLUCCS 630).

During the most recent inspection, longleaf pine (*Pinus palustris*), planted in 2010 in upland areas, continues to appear to be healthy and thriving. Pond cypress (*Taxodium ascendens*), planted in 2019, also appeared healthy with the former beaver pond on track for successful restoration as a forested wetland. Preserved forested wetlands onsite continue to be of high quality.

However, in upland areas, excessive vine (especially *Vitis* spp.) and shrub (especially *Ilex vomitoria*) cover continue to suppress desirable native groundcover. Chinese tallow (*Triadica sebifera*) is also present. Drought, burn bans, and other factors have delayed timely implementation of prescribed fire (last conducted in 2022). Fire is now planned to be implemented by 2026/2027 with the goal of returning the site to a 2-year growing-season fire regime. Management of exotic or invasive vegetation and other nuisance species in upland areas may necessitate future herbicide treatments and mechanical shrub reduction. Beaver populations may require periodic reductions to ensure continued success of the forested wetland restoration site.

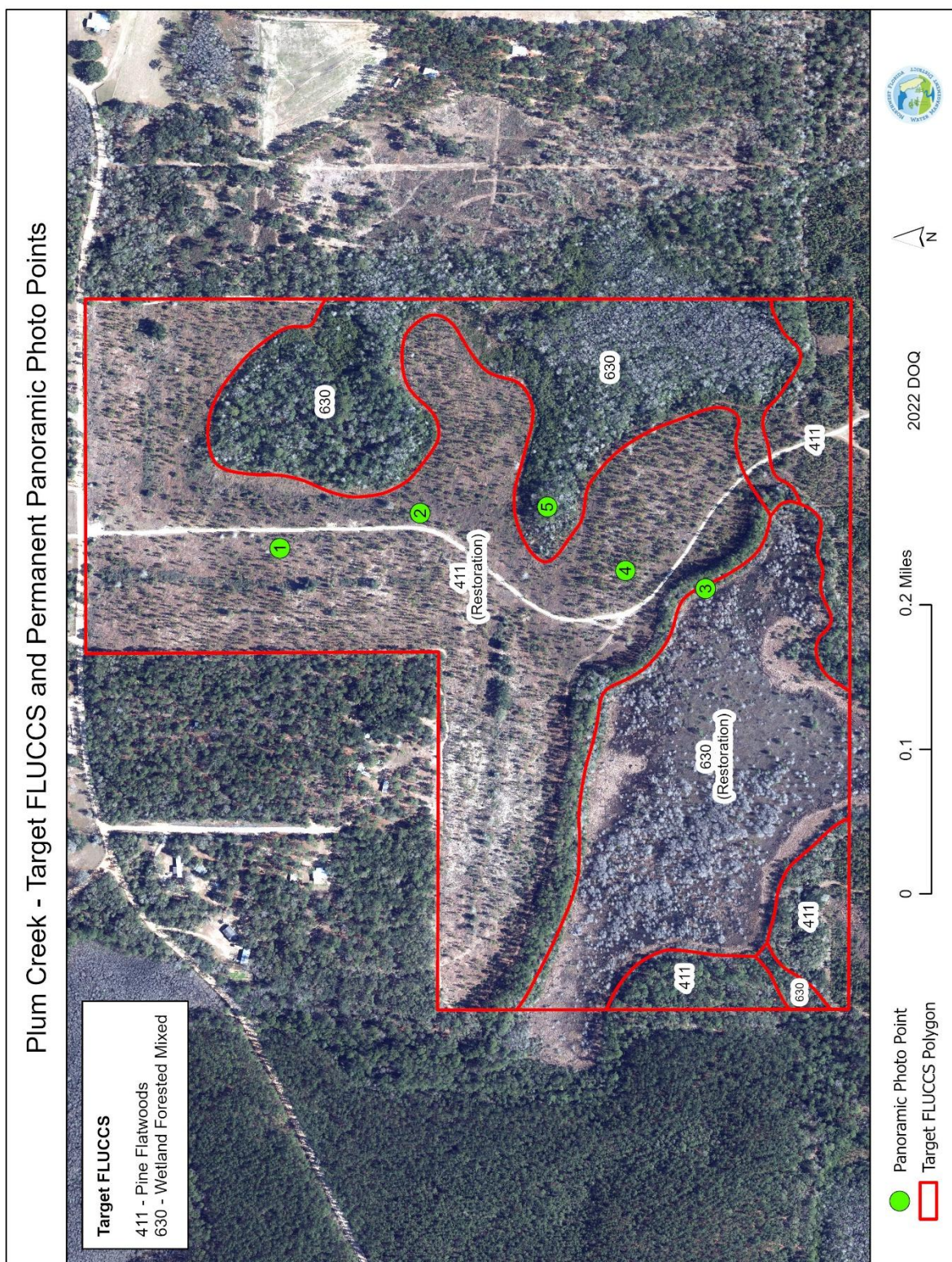


Figure 1. Target FLUCCS and Permanent Panoramic Photo Points (Established 2010)



Plum Creek Photo Point No. 1 – 9/1/2026



Plum Creek Photo Point No. 2 – 9/1/2026



Plum Creek Photo Point No. 3 – 9/1/2026



Plum Creek Photo Point No. 4 – 9/1/2026



Plum Creek Photo Point No. 5 – 9/1/2026