

This app. 475 acre property known as the Lake Proctor Wilderness Area was purchased through the Seminole County Natural Lands Program established via a voter approved referendum in 1990. This program was put in place to preserve environmentally significant lands throughout the county for preservation, passive recreation and environmental education.

The property is further protected by Chapter 190 Part 4 of the Seminole County Code and the Conservation Element, Issue Con 10, of the Seminole County Comprehensive Plan.

The Seminole County Natural Lands Program (SCNLP) received assistance through this grant process in 2013 for the east side of the property. This is phase V of a multi-phase restoration project for the east side of the property. Over the past 25 years, 97 gopher tortoises have been marked on this property and burrow surveys have been conducted every 5-7 years or immediately following a prescribed burn. Portions of the property have been roller chopped and burned in the early 2000's (Phase I of a multi-phase project).

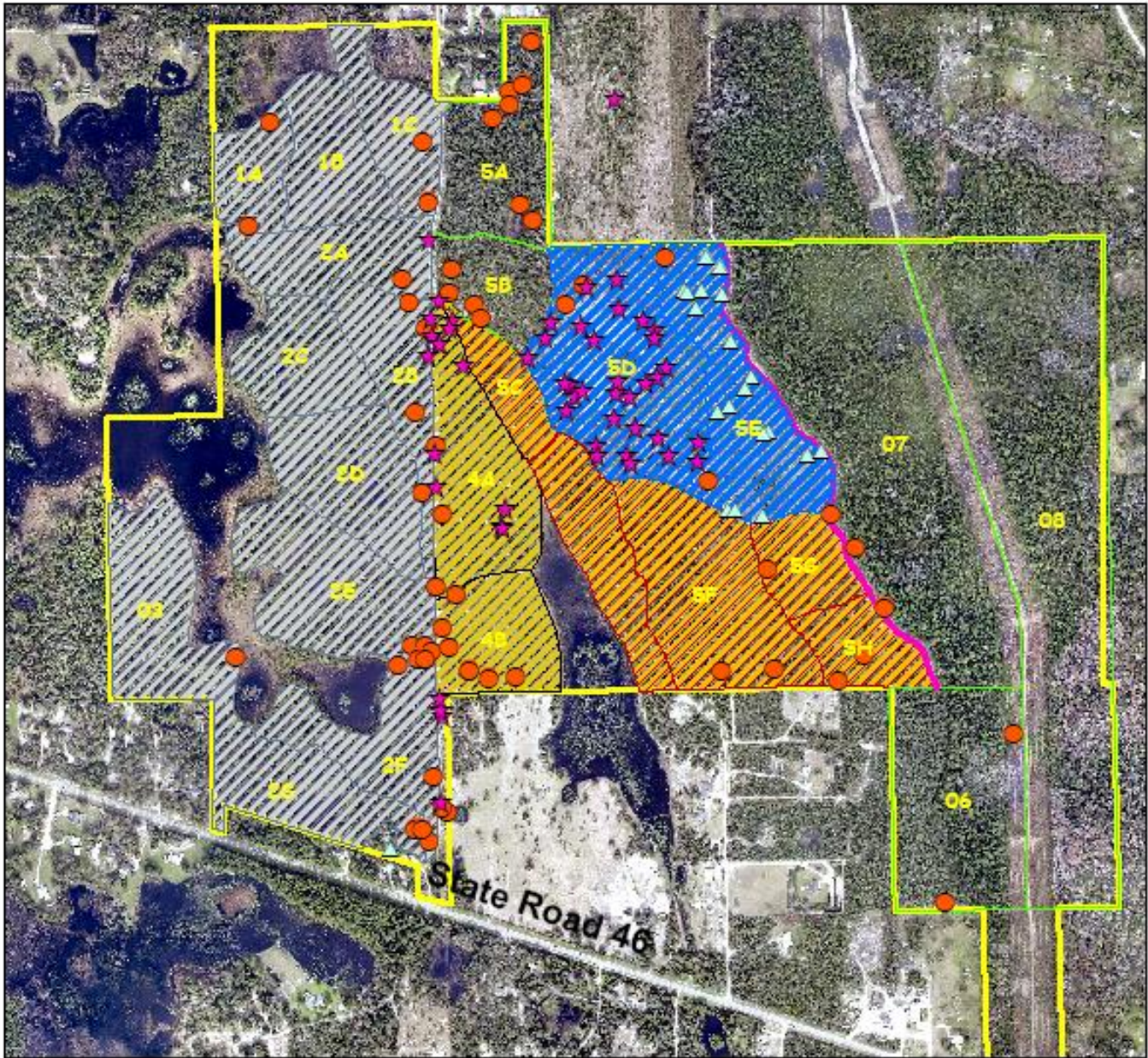
Currently SCNLP is working on a multi-phase restoration project that includes the entire property. There are four intact upland plant communities being targeted; sandhill, scrub and scrubby/mesic flatwoods. While the west side of the property has some burn and mechanical treatment history, the east side, other than installing firelines, has had no restoration activities (Figure 5, 2010 Phase II Project). The restoration will benefit all species including gopher tortoises by opening up areas of dense sand pines and scrub oaks in the overgrown plant communities mentioned above.

In 2010, SCNLP received assistance from the Gopher Tortoise Habitat Management Assistance Program for the east side of Lake Proctor Wilderness Area (Phase II) to install firelines and widen existing firelines (Figure 5). This area is a mix of overgrown mesic flatwoods and sandhill. Even with the installation of the firelines, fuel loads and duff in this area have made it very difficult to safely burn (this property is just north of State Road 46 – Figure 5). In order to reduce fuel loads in this area (and throughout the property) SCNLP is planning a fuel wood harvest and a crooked wood harvest for the entire property in 2017. We also plan to herbicide selected oak clusters throughout the property. Once these activities are completed, we hope to be able to safely burn; especially the units on the east side.

Again, in 2013 (work was completed in 2014), SCNLP received assistance from the Gopher Tortoise Habitat Management Assistance Program for mowing two burn units at Lake Proctor Wilderness Area (Phase III) on the west side of the property and widening of firelines (Figure 5). One unit was burned in late 2014 and the other was burned in early 2015. The SCNLP received \$15,000 through the assistance program and added \$8,865.25 of SCNLP funds for a total project cost of \$23,865.25 and increasing the acres mowed from 30 acres (as requested in the grant) to 47 acres. The contractor bid \$507/acre and took over 2 months to finish the project (we ended up agreeing to leave approximately 2 acres of standing sand pines). They stated that they underbid the project.






On August 26, Phase IV of this restoration project at Lake Proctor Wilderness Area (Figure 5) began using SCNLP funds only. Two units are being mowed (total of 25 acres @ \$800/acre = \$20,000) and work should be completed by September 9, 2016. We only had one company interested in bidding on this project and they agreed to do it for \$800/acre (see Appendix A).

For this application, Phase V of the project is being proposed (Figures 1-5). Due to the small size of each project, the number of contractors willing to mobilize equipment has decreased, and, therefore, the cost of mowing has been going up (please see attached invoices, Appendix A). For this particular project area of 35 acres (estimating the cost to be approximately \$800 per acre), the SCNLP plans to contribute \$13,000 (cash) towards the total project cost. We are requesting the full \$15,000 from FWC for this project. Total cost at \$800/acre is \$28,000.



Lake Proctor Wilderness Area  
 Figure 5: All Restoration Projects  
 2015 Aerial

**Legend**

-  Property Boundary
-  2010 Phase II Project
-  2013 Phase III Project
-  2016 Phase IV Project
-  2016 Phase V Proposed Project Area

- Burrow Surveys
-  2014
  -  2015
  -  2016



0 0.25 0.5  
 Miles

1:10,000

