

Myakka River Management Coordinating Council Meeting, April 23, 2010

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Biologist's Report

River Inspection Highlights

January 25, 26 - USGS Park gauge read 4.3 feet.

- Many peninsula cooters were observed from Downs' Dam to Snook Haven
- Constant dead fish smell was encountered throughout the trip due to the large fish kill from the recent cold snap
- Two white-tailed deer were observed far in the marsh before Lower Lake
- Two eagles were seen near Deep Hole and Downs' Dam.
- 379 vultures were observed during the trip. Many were seen eating dead fish.
- A dead hog was observed under Border Rd. Bridge
- Four cedar waxwings were observed near the park pavilion
- Three barred owls were heard from Deep Hole to Downs' Dam
- Thirty-seven Great Egrets and 73 Wood Storks were seen at the rookery
- One Hundred Twenty American Robins were seen between Snook Haven and Ramblers Rest
- One Lesser Scaup was seen between the Rookery and Charlotte County

February 18, 19 - USGS Park gauge read 5.2 feet.

- Ninety-three Black Vultures were observed from Deep Hole to Downs' Dam
- Approximately 500 Tree Swallows were observed from Lower Lake to Downs' Dam
- Two Bald Eagles were seen from Deep Hole to Downs' Dam.
- Ninety-seven alligators were seen from Deep Hole to Downs' Dam and several very large gators were observed from the island to Border Road. Usually not many gators are seen south of Downs' Dam. Additionally, a dead 5' gator was seen south of Deep Hole.
- A Barred Owl was heard between Deep Hole to Downs' Dam.
- A dead hog was seen under the Border Road Bridge, and 7 live hogs were seen between Downs' Dam to Snook Haven.
- Small patches of *Lygodium japonicum* were noted from north of the powerlines to Border Road. The climbing fern was later sprayed on February 23rd.
- Forty-seven Great Egrets and 71 Wood Storks were seen at the rookery south of US-41.
- Two Bald Eagles were seen south of the Rookery
- Two manatees were seen near the Charlotte County line. A fisherman reported there were nearly 20 manatees gathered near the sandbar earlier.
- A Northern Harrier was seen north of the US 41 Bridge.
- Three Hooded Mergansers were seen near the Myakka State Forest
- A total of 138 crab traps were counted on this trip from Snook Haven to the Sarasota/Charlotte County line. This was an increase from the 43 traps spotted last month.

March 19, 22 - USGS Park gauge read 6.1 feet

- Many Cattle Egrets were observed wading in the marsh between Deep Hole and Downs' Dam
- Two Limpkins were observed between Deep Hole and Downs' Dam
- One Swallow-tailed Kite was observed near the Pavillion
- Two turkeys were heard gobbling near the Pavillion

- Two immature Brown Pelicans were observed north of Lower Lake
- Twenty-five Blue-winged Teal and 2 Wood Ducks were seen between Deep Hole and Downs' Dam
- A Great Horned Owl and 2 Barred Owls were heard from near Lower Lake to Downs' Dam
- Fifty-four Great Egrets and 110 Wood Storks were seen at the rookery south of US-41.
- One Bald Eagle was seen north of the Rookery
- One bobcat was seen along the shoreline south of Ramblers Rest
- Two Swallow-tailed Kites were seen north of the US 41 Bridge.

Permit Program (62D-15, F.A.C.)

None to report

Incidents (62D-15, F.A.C.)

None to report

Future Projects

- Unit Management Plan Revision
- Invasive/Exotic Plant Mapping
- Retreat Lygodium north of Snook Haven