

## **Myakka River Management Coordinating Council Meeting, January 22, 2010**

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### **Biologist's Report**

#### **River Inspection Highlights**

**September 28, 29** - USGS Park gauge read 6.3 feet.

- Hatchling alligators were observed at Downs' Dam
- High numbers of wading birds were observed between the pavilion and the Lower Lake.
- A white-tailed deer and five turkeys were spotted at the pavilion where we begin our inspection.
- Two barred owls were heard during the inspection. One north and one south of Downs' Dam.
- A rope swing and platform were observed on the bank of the Carlton Reserve just north of where the houses begin.
- A total of 15 Great Egrets, 8 Black-crowned Night Herons, 3 Anhingas, 1 Little Blue Heron, and 1 Tricolored Heron were observed at the rookery.
- Two porpoises were spotted near the Myakka State Forest.

**October 26, 28** - USGS Park gauge read 2.9 feet.

- Hatchling alligators were observed south of Downs' Dam
- Black-necked Stilts and Sandpipers were observed for the first time since last winter in Lower Myakka Lake.
- Several Eastern Phoebe were heard during this inspection for the first time since last winter.
- Two white-tailed deer were observed in Lower Lake and 4 more deer were spotted on the Carlton Reserve south of Downs' Dam.

**November 18, 19** - USGS Park gauge read 1.65 feet

- Hatchling alligators were heard north of Downs' Dam
- Shorebirds and white pelicans were observed in Lower Myakka Lake and Deep Hole.
- Four white-tailed deer were spotted at Lower Lake and a large buck was observed south of Downs' Dam on the Pinelands.
- One bald eagle was observed near Deep Hole, while 2 more were spotted near Downs' Dam. An additional bald eagle was seen south of the dam.
- Banded roseate spoonbills were seen south of Deep Hole
- An American bittern was seen along the shoreline between Deep Hole and the Dam.
- Several groups of shorebirds were seen on the mudflats near the Charlotte County line

**December 21, 22** – USGS Park gauge read 4.4 feet

- A Peregrine Falcon was observed near the Park Pavilion
- Two white-tailed deer were spotted before Lower Lake.
- Five Bald Eagles were seen from the Park Pavilion to Downs' Dam
- Large groups of Palm Warblers were seen after Downs' Dam
- 75 Cedar Waxwings were observed at Lower lake
- A flock of 30 Cedar Waxwings were sighted near Ramblers Rest.
- Several large groups of American Robins were seen
- An otter was seen north of US 41 on the return trip
- Six Black-bellied plovers were seen on the mud flats near the State Forest

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

None to report

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

Mangrove trimming south of U.S. 41

Dock modification without a permit

Tree trimming in upland buffer

Shoreline excavation for boat launch without a permit

**Future Projects**

- Exotic Plant Removal Days at Venice Campground and Ramblers Rest
- Invasive/Exotic Plant Presentation at Ramblers Rest

**Other Activities**

- Updating Management Plan and drafting a restoration section.
- Mapping invasive exotics along designated portion of river
- Retreated Lygodium in north of Snook Haven

Task Force

Completed Myakka Wild and Scenic River Brochure