

Reedy Creek Mitigation Bank

The Reedy Creek Mitigation Bank (RCMB) is located in Polk and Osceola Counties, Florida, approximately ten (10) miles south of Kissimmee. The 3,520 acre bank has a service area that encompasses portions of Orange, Osceola, and Polk Counties (see service area map on back). In addition to successful wetland restoration completed on the bank site, it also serves as a documented panther habitat. The bank is permitted by both the South Florida Water Management District and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and offers freshwater wetland credits for both herbaceous and forested impacts.

PROJECT FEATURES

The RCMB property consists of ± 3,520 acres, 80% of which is accounted for as wetland habitat. The goal of the RCMB is to emphasize restoration and enhancement of areas where habitat and/or system functions have been degraded or impacted, and to preserve in perpetuity the entire property as an intact, high equality ecosystem.

Hydrologic modifications such as ditching and berming within the uplands and constructing logging roads within the wetlands resulted in detrimental environmental impacts to a majority of the wetland areas. These included severe soil subsidence within the southwestern portion of the property and the invasion of exotics and nuisance species scattered throughout the project area.

RESTORATION AND ENHANCEMENT PLAN

Hydrological enhancement of the wetlands was accomplished in Huckleberry Islands Swamp through the removal of the “Southern Logging Road”, and the installation of low water crossings along what has come to be known as the “Dog Leg Road.” These restoration efforts occurred in conjunction with the cessation of logging activities on the property. Additional hydrologic enhancement was accomplished through the installation of eleven culverts and three low water crossings along the existing railroad grade.

Also, restoration and enhancement of existing upland, wetland and transitional areas in the southern portion of the property included a large-scale restoration effort for the uplands in the form of the Flatwoods Restoration Plan. The re-establishment of the transitional areas that were previously non-existent is also a major aspect of the entire restoration effort on the property, enhancing both uplands that were historically wet and wetland community types.