

Hydrological Restoration on Sanibel

Jordon Filter Marsh- Construction of a wetland treatment marsh to treat impaired water on Sanibel.

Reintroduction of tidal flow to restore mangroves at Tarpon Bay

Prescribed fire activities to restore native grass-dominated wetlands

Exotic species removal and maintenance on SCCF land

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Cost: \$1M

Sanibel Island has a unique partnership with a federal agency (USFWS), local government (City of Sanibel) and non-profit (Sanibel-Captiva Conservation Foundation) able to complete numerous projects during the last 2 decades to restore barrier island habitats. Our commitment to science-based management and post-project monitoring has led to a series of successes. This partnership has identified projects to reduce pollutant loading (Jordan Filter Marsh), improve hydrology for mangroves (Tarpon Bay) and restore degraded habitats (exotic species removal, prescribed burns). The partnership has a long-standing MOU for efficient sharing of personnel, equipment and funds. This project has completed concept and design phases already agreed upon. Post-construction monitoring plans are designed to adaptively manage for unforeseen issues. Permits for aspects of the project are either not required or have been obtained for similar projects successfully in the recent past, which will streamline the permitting process. Permits for construction of the Jordan Filter Marsh are anticipated to be secured within the next 6 months. Pre-application discussions have occurred to solicit feedback from FL DEP and USACOE. Construction of the Jordan Filter marsh will result in treatment of more than 68 acres of stormwater runoff from Sanibel's commercial district. The project will also provide offline treatment of water from the Sanibel River, which is considered "impaired" by the Florida Impaired Waters Rule. Increased tidal flushing within the impounded mangrove system of Tarpon Bay (>150 ac) through installation of culverts, plus exotic removal and prescribed burns at other sites will provide additional ecosystem services through treatment of stormwater prior to discharge into the Sanibel River.

The Sanibel rice rats, wading birds, gopher tortoises, alligators, and their associated habitats have been identified as Priority Resources of Concern in the Refuge Habitat Management Plan and the SCCF Land Management Plan. The estuarine habitat around Sanibel has also been identified as a Priority Resource of Concern, although currently the Refuge does not have management authority to affect water quality at the source of impairment. This project addresses local habitat management practices that can minimize additional water quality impairments found on the

island.



Sanibel Island Restoration Project Areas



J. Conrad/T. Wertz
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Imagery: Lee County Aerials 2011
Spatial Ref: NAD83 (Florida West US)

Map Notes
Restore 523 acres of interior wetlands
Create a 5 acre filter marsh (Jordan Marsh) to improve water quality
Improve dune habitat on 399 acres of coastal conservation lands
Restore 21 acres of the Bailey Homestead