

Florida Power & Light Transmission Vegetation Management

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Greg Polidora – South Area (Broward)

Aaron Neville – Central Area (Palm Beach)



History/Background

FPL has historically managed transmission rights of ways such that all vegetation is maintained below 14 feet, with an emphasis on the elimination/control of exotic vegetation. Fuel levels that can impact the safety and reliability of the transmission system are also evaluated and managed. Some of the control methods utilized are herbicide application, mowing and rolling.



Priority Plant Species

- **Priority Plants**

- Melaleuca (*Melaleuca quinquenervia*)
- Australian Pine (*Casuarina* spp.)
- Brazilian Pepper (*Schinus terebinthifolius*)
- Earleaf Acacia (*Acacia auriculiformis*)
- Bishopwood (*Bischofia javanica*)
- Lead tree (*Leucaenea leucocephala*)
- Burma Reed (*Neyraudia reynaudiana*)



Priority Animal Species

- **Priority Animals**

- The priority species that influence our management plans are:
 - Alligators (*Alligator mississippiensis*)
 - Snail Kites (*Rostrhamus sociabilis*).
- FPL strives to use best management practices to minimize the impact on all species in transmission right-of-ways.



Invasive Species Programs

Broward/Miami-Dade

Herbicide Applications (3 treatment areas)

- Description
 - Low volume foliar application of herbicide, frill & girdle and cut stump treatments
- Objective
 - Elimination/control of exotic vegetation that can impact the safety and operation of the transmission system.
- Partners
 - None
- Start/End Dates
 - June 1, 2009 – July 18, 2009
- Status
 - Assigned
- Funding (FY): 2009
- Summary
 - 790 Acres total – Melaleuca, Brazilian Pepper, Australian Pine, Burma Reed are the primary target species.



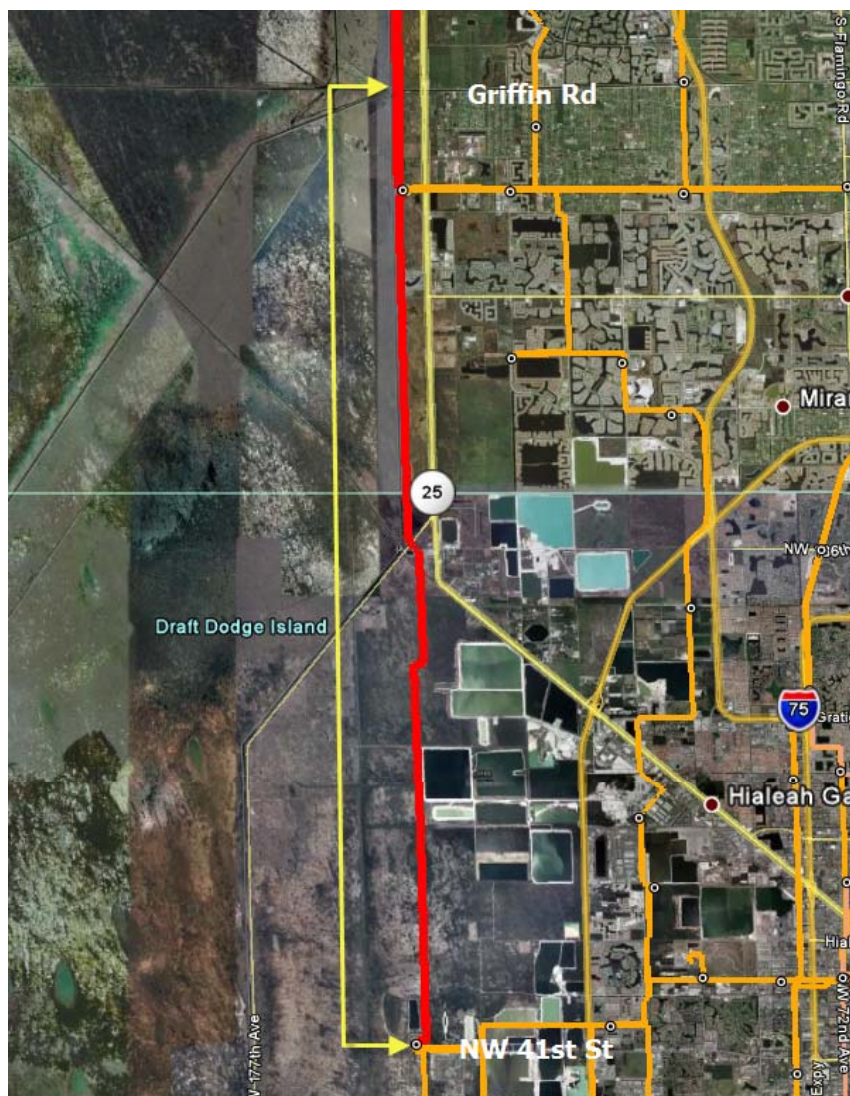
Fiscal Year Treatments: 2009



Treatment Area #1

- Control of:
 - Melaleuca
 - Burma Reed
 - Australian Pine

Fiscal Year Treatments: 2009



Treatment Area #2

- Control of:
 - Melaleuca
 - Burma Reed
 - Brazilian Pepper
 - Australian Pine

Fiscal Year Treatments: 2009



Treatment Area #3

- Control of:
 - Brazilian Pepper
 - Australian Pine
 - Lead Tree
 - Earleaf Acacia.

Invasive Species Programs

Broward County

Conservation – Corbett 500 kV Rolling Project

- Description
 - Rolling of Sawgrass and Cattail within the ROW.
- Objective
 - Reduce the threat of wildfire by reducing fuel levels and dead matter accumulation.
- Partners
 - None
- Start/End Dates
 - August 1, 2009 – August 31, 2009
- Status
 - Assigned
- Funding (FY): 2009
- Summary
 - 67 Acres – Sawgrass and Cattail are the target species.



Fiscal Year Treatments: 2009



South Area (Broward) Conservation-Corbett 500kv Rolling Project

- Reduction of biomass/fuel created by Sawgrass and Cattails.

Invasive Species Programs

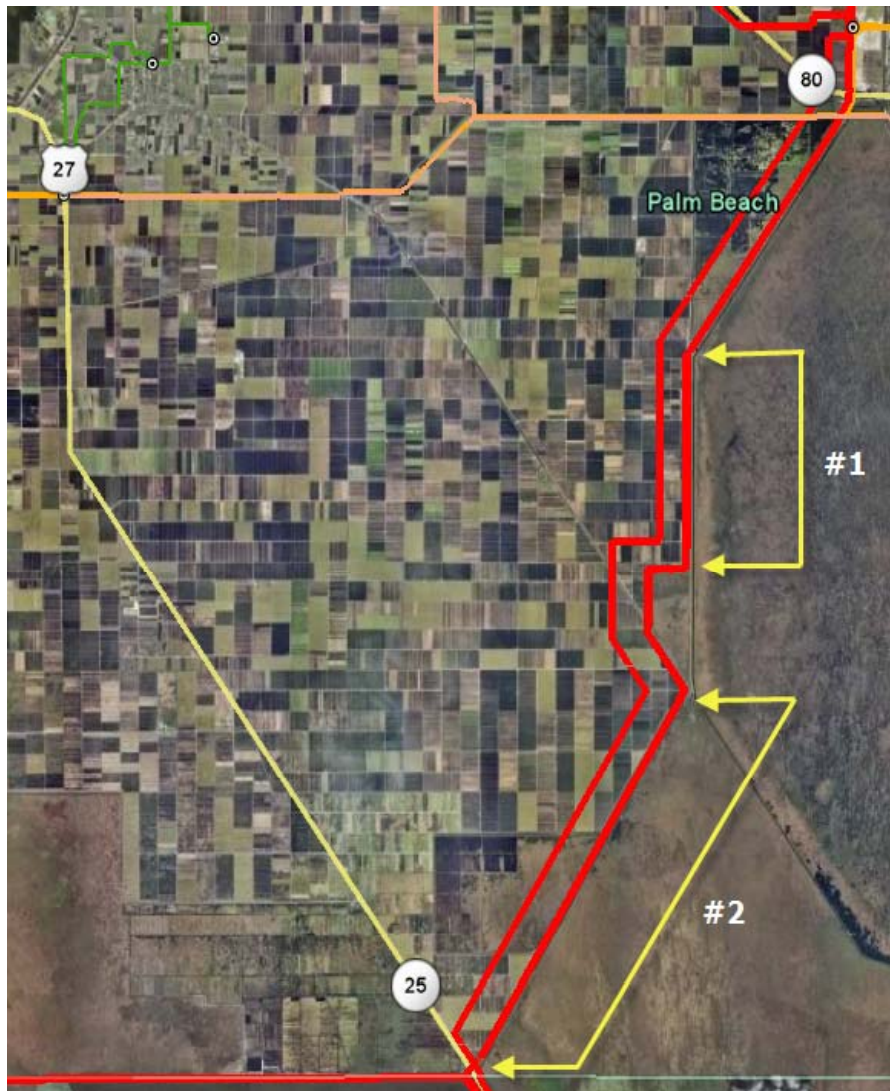
Palm Beach County

Andytown-Martin 500kv Herbicide Project

- Description
 - Low volume foliar application of herbicide, frill & girdle and cut stump treatments
- Objective
 - Elimination/control of exotic vegetation that can impact the safety and operation of the transmission system.
- Partners
 - None
- Start/End Dates
 - September 1, 2009 – September 30, 2009
- Status
 - Unassigned
- Funding (FY): 2009
- Summary
 - 112 acres – Brazilian Pepper, Earleaf Acacia, and Melaleuca are the target species.



Fiscal Year Treatments: 2009



Location #1

- Control of exotics following 2008 mowing.

Location #2

- Control of exotics along ditches, structure pads and other unmowed areas.

Invasive Species Programs

Palm Beach County

Corbett 500kv & 230kv Herbicide Project

- Description
 - Low volume foliar application of herbicide, frill & girdle and cut stump treatments
- Objective
 - Elimination/control of exotic vegetation that can impact the safety and operation of the transmission system.
- Partners
 - None
- Start/End Dates
 - February 1, 2010 – March 30, 2010
- Status
 - Unassigned
- Funding (FY): 2010
- Annual Summary
 - 40 acres – Brazilian Pepper, Melaleuca, and Willow are the target species.



Fiscal Year Treatments: 2010



Location #1

- Control of exotics and tall growing species

Location #2

- Control of exotics on structure pads and guys.

Invasive Species Programs

Palm Beach County Conservation – Corbett 500 kV and Andytown-Martin 500kV Rolling Project

- Description
 - Rolling of Sawgrass and Cattail within the ROW
- Objective
 - Reduce the threat of wildfire by reducing fuel levels and dead matter accumulation.
- Partners
 - None
- Start/End Dates
 - December 1, 2009 – March 31, 2010
- Status
 - Unassigned
- Funding (FY): 2010
- Summary
 - 459 acres – Sawgrass and Cattail are the target species.



Fiscal Year Treatments: 2010



Location #1

- Fuel and biomass reduction following herbicide treatments in 2007 and 2009.

Location #2

- Reduction of biomass/fuel generated by Sawgrass and Cattail.

Monitoring

- All transmission right-of-ways are inspected two times a year. During these inspections:
 - New threats are identified and work prescriptions and management plans are developed.
 - Previous treatments are monitored and inspected for control.



Innovations and Successes

- 2008 Rolling Project – Broward County
 - Completed with Wilco Marsh Buggies with a custom-made Marshmaster and Roller.
 - Successful in the reduction of fuel/biomass levels under critical FPL infrastructure
 - A useful tool for others in wildfire prevention and/or preventing short circuiting of water flow.



Innovations and Successes



Innovations and Successes

- Marshmaster with Roller/Chopper.
 - FPL is currently testing this set-up for use in fire prevention, small scale rolling projects, as well as a variety of uses.
 - Currently it has been successful in rolling Sawgrass during the dry season.
 - Has not been successful in deep muck or locations with water levels greater than 2'-3'.



Innovations and Successes

