SW-217 (FY2020)

BABCOCK RANCH PRESERVE-CUR UNIT

INVASIVE PLANT MANAGEMENT

COMPLIANCE INSPECTION REPORT

Final Report to the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission

Contract No.: 10109

Task Assignment No.: FN-018

07 May 2020

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FLORIDA
Natural Areas
INVENTORY

INVASIVE PLANT TREATMENT COMPLIANCE INSPECTION REPORT

TA#: FN-018 FY 20 Contractor Walker Exotics

PCL Name Babcock Ranch Preserve Managing Agency/County FFS/Charlotte

Site Location Punta Gorda, FL Inspected By D Sowell

ACTIVE PHASE Inspection Date Photographs Taken? Y/N

Personnel on site: # Supervisor(s) FDACS Lic(s) # Laborers

Equipment on site (# & list)

Herbicide(s) in use per TA? Y/N PPE per label? Y/N

Method(s) Per TA? Y/N
(Aerial, Basal, Broadcast, CS, Foliar, Hand Pull, Hack, Mech., Lacing)

Target Species Per TA? Y/N

POST-TREATMENT PHASE Inspection Date 03/31/20 Photos Taken? Y/N Y Acres Inspected 32

Days since project completion 56 Estimated % control of target species in inspection 99.6%

Vegetation disposal per TA? Y/N Y Can project be rotated, skipped Y/N Y Entire TA project area treated? Y/N Y

% Inspection area not treated:

Describe non-target species damage (if any) None, excellent discernment

Describe regrowth of native/exotic species (if any) almost none, see comment below

Is re-treatment needed? Y/N N Has re-treatment been scheduled? Y/N Has re-treatment been conducted? Y/N

MAINTENANCE PHASE Inspection Date Photographs Taken? Y/N

Initial treatment completion date # Days since treatment/re-treatment completed

Describe maintenance activity by manager since project completion (if any)

Describe regrowth of native/exotic species (if any)

If Herbicide Bank project, has manager submitted Herbicide Use Report? Y/N

COMMENTS

Inspection confined to the central portion of Cur unit. Melaleuca, Brazilian pepper, old world climbing fern treatment is excellent. Observed sprouting is much less than 1% of cut stumps/hack-n-squirt treatments. Site manager placing fire lines around unit. Rx burning will compliment plant treatment tremendously.

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

OVERALL FINDINGS

We surveyed known infestations searching for 10 species which were targeted for treatment within the 2,438-acre Cur management unit treatment area. Four species were observed during the compliance inspection (summarized below). The overall average control according to our observations was **99.6%**.

The central portion of the Cur management unit is mesic flatwoods with scattered dome swamps and wet flatwoods. Most of these wet flatwoods were infested with melaleuca (*Melaleuca quinquenervia*), many in dominant monoculture.

Melaleuca (*Melaleuca quinquenervia*)

- Melaleuca was the most frequently encountered target with 29 occurrences.
- All 29 occurrences were treated, with occurrences spanning from 0.25 acre dense monocultures to small patches less than 0.01 acres.
- Overall control (% cover reduction) for the species 99.7%.

Old World climbing fern (*Lygodium microphyllum*)

- Old World climbing fern was the second most frequently encountered target with 19 occurrences.
- Out of 19 occurrences, only 1 small occurrence, 0.0005 acre, did not appear to receive treatment.
- Overall control (% cover reduction) for the species was 97.9%.

Brazilian pepper (*Schinus terebinthifolia*)

- Brazilian pepper was the most third most frequently encountered target with 7 occurrences.
- Of 7 occurrences, 6 were treated.
- Overall control (% cover reduction) for the species 97.7%.

Cogon grass (*Imperata cylindrica*)

- Three occurrences of cogon grass were encountered with near complete control.
- Overall control (% cover reduction) for the species was 99.4%.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- **FNAI does not recommend retreatment in the central portion of the Cur management unit.** Overall control was estimated to be 99.6%.
- FNAI does recommend rotating this project. Fire lines are being placed by the site manager for a prescribed burn in the near future. The prescribed burn will provide more ecological benefit, relative to another invasive plant treatment in the area of this inspection.

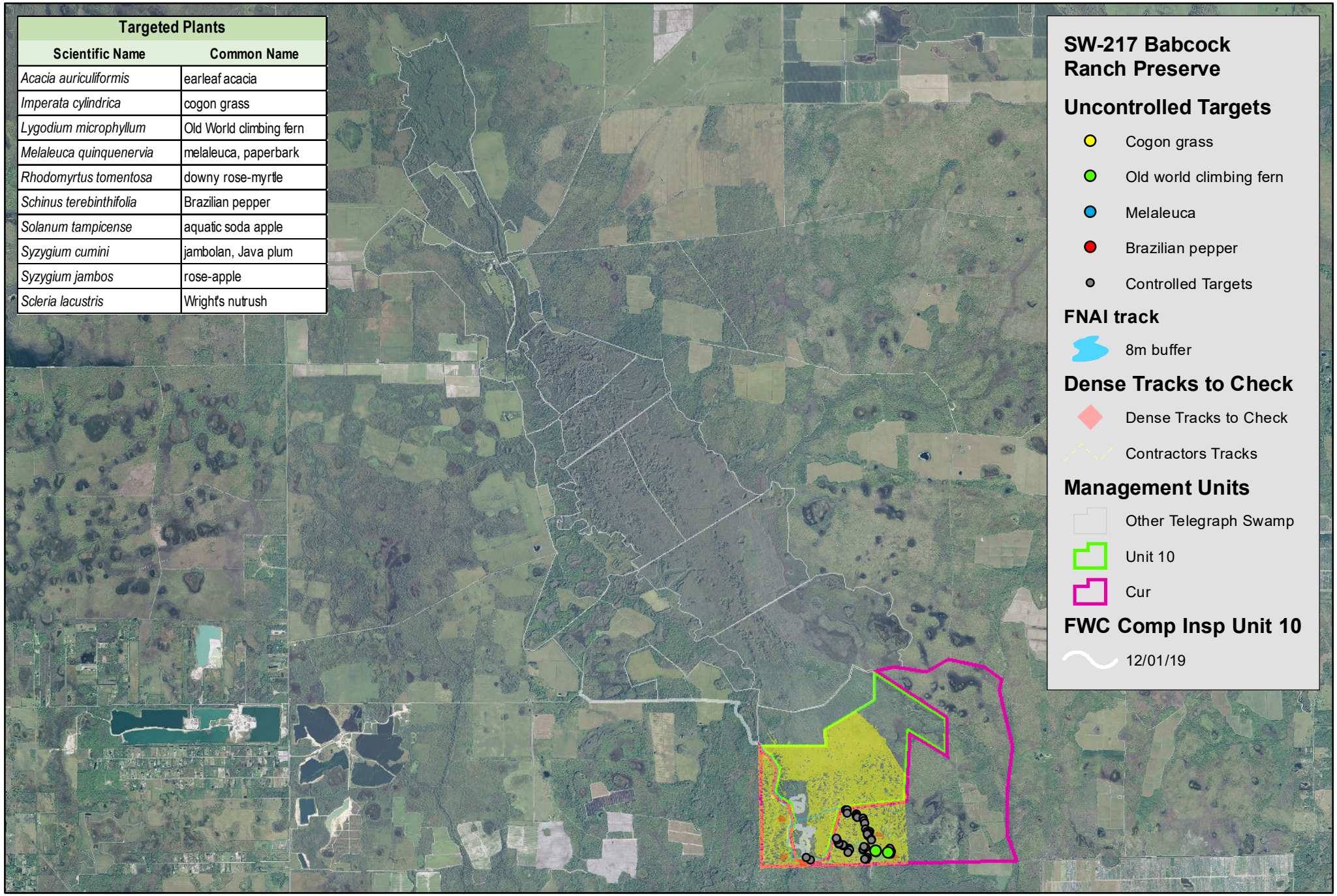
PHOTOS REPRESENTATIVE OF THE SITE

Melaleuca (*Melaleuca quinquenervia*)

All photos: Typical conditions seen in melaleuca patches, from dense monocultures to sparsely scattered individuals in pine flatwoods. Treatment was excellent, with minimal sprouting from cut stumps or below hacks in trunk.

Old World climbing fern (*Lygodium microphyllum*)

Left top, middle, bottom: Thick patches completely controlled. *Top Right*: Small plant missed rooted in a punky pine snag in former wet flatwoods. *Bottom right*: Plant recently emerged above ground, but likely not present at time of treatment.



SW-217 Compliance Inspection FY20
Babcock Ranch Preserve: Cur Unit
31 MAR 2020

Telegraph Swamp
Overview

0 0.5 1 2 3 4 Miles

1 in = 7,920 feet 1 in = 1.5 miles

N

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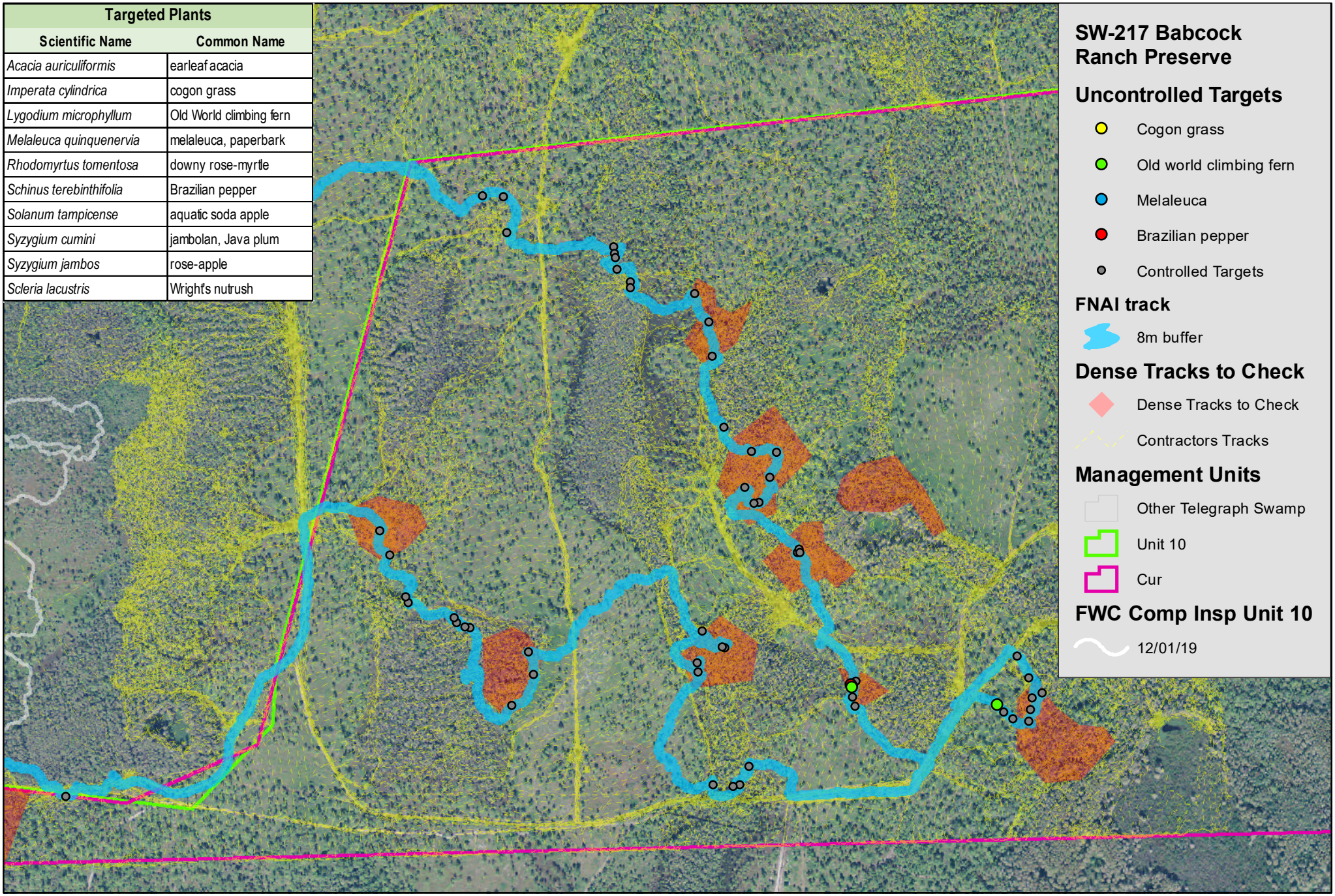
Targeted Plants	
Scientific Name	**Common Name**
Acacia auriculiformis	earleaf acacia
Imperata cylindrica	cogon grass
Lygodium microphyllum	Old World climbing fern
Melaleuca quinquenervia	melaleuca, paperbark
Rhodomyrtus tomentosa	downy rose-myrtle
Schinus terebinthifolia	Brazilian pepper
Solanum tampicense	aquatic soda apple
Syzygium cumini	jambolan, Java plum
Syzygium jambos	rose-apple
Scleria lacustris	Wright's nutrush



SW-217 Compliance Inspection FY20
Babcock Ranch Preserve: Cur Unit
31 MAR 2020

Central Cur Unit

0 0.05 0.1 0.2 0.3 0.4 Miles

1 in = 660 feet 1 in = 0.125 miles

N

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