

Charlotte County
Annual County-wide Scrub Jay
Habitat Conservation Plan Report

Prepared for:

United States Fish and Wildlife Service

1339 20th Street

Vero Beach, FL 32960

Prepared by:

Charlotte County Parks & Natural Resources Division

514 East Grace Street

Punta Gorda, FL 33950

October 2015

Overview

The Charlotte County County-wide Florida Scrub-Jay (*Aphelocoma coerulescens*) Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) was approved by the U.S Fish and Wildlife Service through Incidental Take Permit # TE09117B-0 on December 12, 2014 and was subsequently approved by the Charlotte County Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) through Ordinance number 2015-003 on February 10, 2015 (Appendix 1). Since the inception of the HCP Charlotte County has obtained a total of \$207,600 through three (3) pre-payment applications, eleven (11) mulching/clearing permit applications and forty seven (47) single family permit applications (Appendix 2). To date one property over 3 acres has elected to participate in the HCP.

Habitat Monitoring

Charlotte County has managed several properties which are now components of the Scrub jay reserve area design. As a component of this management, staff has monitored and surveyed the habitats within Tippecanoe II and Amberjack Environmental Park. At this time no additional lands within the reserve area have been acquired therefore please see the attached annual vegetative surveys completed by staff (Appendix 3). The vegetative surveys consist of 10 x 10 metered plots representative of each habitat type. The data recorded includes percent canopy cover, canopy height, dominant tree species, oak scrub height and percent open space. This data will be used to guide management needs in order to meet Scrub-jay requirements within the habitat.

Scrub-jay Monitoring

Currently environmental staff has conducted Scrub jay surveys on 6 existing Charlotte County conservation properties. These properties include Tippecanoe, Tippecanoe II, Peace River Preserve, Biscayne Trust, Prairie Creek Preserves and Shell Creek Preserves. The results are as follows:

Tippecanoe	Jays observed 4 out of 4 survey days
Tippecanoe II	Jays observed 7 out of 9 survey days
Peace River Preserve	Jays observed 1 out of 3 survey days
Biscayne Trust	No jays observed out of 3 survey days
Prairie Creek Preserve	Jays observed 5 out of 5 survey days
Shell Creek Preserve	No jays observed out of 3 survey days

See complete survey data results including aerials identifying the locations of each call station.

Parcel Acquisition

Currently no new properties have been purchased with the funds acquired although the Charlotte County Real Estate Services department is currently in the process of evaluating multiple parcels for potential acquisition.

Building Permit Tracking

To ensure that properties are receiving the necessary Scrub jay review the Charlotte County GIS department has created a scrub jay layer within our permitting database which ensures that any permit submitted on a parcel located within a Scrub jay area will be flagged for a separate Scrub jay review. Since the implementation of the HCP county staff has also created a Scrub-jay Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) Application (Appendix 4) along with an individual permit type for citizens who opt to pre-pay their Scrub Jay fees (Appendix 5). The HCP application not only allows staff to track all permits that receive a Scrub Jay review but it also ensures that the applicant has acknowledged all of the habitat conservation plan conditions. There is an additional condition within the application which provides staff the authorization to access the development site for management purposes. We have also modified the Fish and Wildlife Service Scrub-jay review application for citizens who choose not to utilize Charlotte County's HCP program (Appendix 6).



To review the appendices referenced in this report
please contact Parks & Natural Resources at
941.613.3220 or e-mail at
NaturalResources@charlottecountyfl.gov