

Project: Conservation Banking - Wetland Mitigation Area

Project overview:

The Gopher Slough Mitigation Site is a 500 acre parcel of pristine forested and herbaceous wetlands located east of Lake Harney in Volusia County, Florida. The parcel functions as a major wildlife corridor by providing a connection between the Farmton Mitigation Bank to the north and the Colbert-Cameron Mitigation Bank to the south.

The Gopher Slough Mitigation Site is comprised of a regionally significant habitat within the St. Johns River floodplain that is used by a variety of wildlife species, including several listed species. This mitigation parcel provides unique habitat as it includes one of the largest stands of old-growth cypress in Central Florida. This stand is one of the largest remaining stands of old-growth cypress in the state according to a forester that evaluated the community. Another unique feature of this parcel is the large herbaceous wetland that is completely surrounded by the old-growth cypress stand. A variety of protected wildlife species were observed or had a documented presence within the Gopher Slough Mitigation Site; those include the Florida Black Bear, Florida Panther, Limpkin, Wood Stork, White Ibis, Bald Eagle and numerous other listed wading birds indigenous to Florida.

The Gopher Slough Mitigation Area was used to provide mitigation for several development projects within the St. Johns River Drainage Basin. Preservation of this mitigation area was critical for the long-term protection of this wildlife corridor associated with the St. Johns River floodplain and the regionally significant resources provided therein.

Field Work & Surveys

- Wetland Delineation
- Listed Plant Survey
- Wildlife Surveys
- Tree Survey to establish Old-Growth Forest

GIS/Mapping Services

- Vegetation & Soils Mapping
- Regional Significance Mapping
- Historical Aerial Research & Mapping

Permits/Applications

- Jurisdictional Determination—USACOE, SJRWMD
- Multiple ERP and Dredge and Fill permits with local government, ACOE and SJRWMD using the Gopher Slough as the mitigation.

