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

Prepared for:

United States Fish and Wildlife Service

1339 20th Street

Vero Beach, FI 32960

Prepared by:

Charlotte County Parks & Natural Resources Division

1120 Centennial Blvd

Port Charlotte, FI 33953

December 2024

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. For calendar year 2024 Charlotte County received and issued two hundred sixty-seven (267) development applications and has approved development activities on ±83 acres. Two spreadsheets, as well as point maps have been provided for reference (Appendix 1). The first lists all parcels where development permits have been issued and HCP fees have been paid. The second lists all parcels that have not had their development permits issued. These spreadsheets are provided as a way to track funding projections and to prioritize acquisition timing to be concurrent with available funding.

The following tables list the number of parcels by the development fee acreage tier that have elected to participate in the county-wide HCP (the application has been submitted and the fees have been paid).

| 2015 | | |
|------------------------------|--------------|--|
| HCP Development Fees | # of parcels | |
| Tier 1 (0.00 - 0.22 acres) | 12 | |
| Tier 2 (0.23 - 0.49 acres) | 66 | |
| Tier 3 (0.50 - 1.00 acres) | 2 | |
| Tier 4 (1.01 - 3.00 acres) | 1 | |
| Tier 5 (3.01 - 5.00 acres) | 0 | |
| Tier 6 (5.01 - 20.00 acres) | 1 | |
| Tier 7 (20.01 - 99.99 acres) | 0 | |
| TOTAL | 82 | |

| 2016 | | |
|------------------------------|--------------|--|
| HCP Development Fees | # of parcels | |
| Tier 1 (0.00 - 0.22 acres) | 27 | |
| Tier 2 (0.23 - 0.49 acres) | 101 | |
| Tier 3 (0.50 - 1.00 acres) | 1 | |
| Tier 4 (1.01 - 3.00 acres) | 3 | |
| Tier 5 (3.01 - 5.00 acres) | 0 | |
| Tier 6 (5.01 - 20.00 acres) | 0 | |
| Tier 7 (20.01 - 99.99 acres) | 0 | |
| TOTAL | 132 | |

| 2017 | | |
|------------------------------|--------------|--|
| HCP Development Fees | # of parcels | |
| Tier 1 (0.00 - 0.22 acres) | 31 | |
| Tier 2 (0.23 - 0.49 acres) | 128 | |
| Tier 3 (0.50 - 1.00 acres) | 15 | |
| Tier 4 (1.01 - 3.00 acres) | 3 | |
| Tier 5 (3.01 - 5.00 acres) | 1 | |
| Tier 6 (5.01 - 20.00 acres) | 0 | |
| Tier 7 (20.01 - 99.99 acres) | 0 | |
| TOTAL | 178 | |

| 2018 | | |
|------------------------------|--------------|--|
| HCP Development Fees | # of parcels | |
| Tier 1 (0.00 - 0.22 acres) | 45 | |
| Tier 2 (0.23 - 0.49 acres) | 155 | |
| Tier 3 (0.50 - 1.00 acres) | 16 | |
| Tier 4 (1.01 - 3.00 acres) | 2 | |
| Tier 5 (3.01 - 5.00 acres) | 0 | |
| Tier 6 (5.01 - 20.00 acres) | 1 | |
| Tier 7 (20.01 - 99.99 acres) | 0 | |
| TOTAL | 219 | |

| 2019 | | |
|------------------------------|--------------|--|
| HCP Development Fees | # of parcels | |
| Tier 1 (0.00 - 0.22 acres) | 59 | |
| Tier 2 (0.23 - 0.49 acres) | 205 | |
| Tier 3 (0.50 - 1.00 acres) | 29 | |
| Tier 4 (1.01 - 3.00 acres) | 4 | |
| Tier 5 (3.01 - 5.00 acres) | 1 | |
| Tier 6 (5.01 - 20.00 acres) | 0 | |
| Tier 7 (20.01 - 99.99 acres) | 0 | |
| TOTAL | 278 | |

| 2020 | |
|------------------------------|--------------|
| HCP Development Fees | # of parcels |
| Tier 1 (0.00 - 0.22 acres) | 93 |
| Tier 2 (0.23 - 0.49 acres) | 194 |
| Tier 3 (0.50 - 1.00 acres) | 3 |
| Tier 4 (1.01 - 3.00 acres) | 4 |
| Tier 5 (3.01 - 5.00 acres) | 0 |
| Tier 6 (5.01 - 20.00 acres) | 0 |
| Tier 7 (20.01 - 99.99 acres) | 0 |
| TOTAL | 294 |

| 2021 | | |
|------------------------------|--------------|--|
| HCP Development Fees | # of parcels | |
| Tier 1 (0.00 - 0.22 acres) | 137 | |
| Tier 2 (0.23 - 0.49 acres) | 317 | |
| Tier 3 (0.50 - 1.00 acres) | 12 | |
| Tier 4 (1.01 - 3.00 acres) | 8 | |
| Tier 5 (3.01 - 5.00 acres) | 1 | |
| Tier 6 (5.01 - 20.00 acres) | 0 | |
| Tier 7 (20.01 - 99.99 acres) | 0 | |
| TOTAL | 475 | |

| 2022 | | |
|------------------------------|--------------|--|
| HCP Development Fees | # of parcels | |
| Tier 1 (0.00 - 0.22 acres) | 103 | |
| Tier 2 (0.23 - 0.49 acres) | 225 | |
| Tier 3 (0.50 - 1.00 acres) | 1 | |
| Tier 4 (1.01 - 3.00 acres) | 12 | |
| Tier 5 (3.01 - 5.00 acres) | 2 | |
| Tier 6 (5.01 - 20.00 acres) | 3 | |
| Tier 7 (20.01 - 99.99 acres) | 0 | |
| TOTAL | 346 | |

| 2023 | | |
|------------------------------|--------------|--|
| HCP Development Fees | # of parcels | |
| Tier 1 (0.00 - 0.22 acres) | 71 | |
| Tier 2 (0.23 - 0.49 acres) | 196 | |
| Tier 3 (0.50 - 1.00 acres) | 0 | |
| Tier 4 (1.01 - 3.00 acres) | 12 | |
| Tier 5 (3.01 - 5.00 acres) | 2 | |
| Tier 6 (5.01 - 20.00 acres) | 1 | |
| Tier 7 (20.01 - 99.99 acres) | 0 | |
| TOTAL | 282 | |

| 2024 | |
|------------------------------|--------------|
| HCP Development Fees | # of parcels |
| Tier 1 (0.00 - 0.22 acres) | 90 |
| Tier 2 (0.23 - 0.49 acres) | 154 |
| Tier 3 (0.50 - 1.00 acres) | 5 |
| Tier 4 (1.01 - 3.00 acres) | 17 |
| Tier 5 (3.01 - 5.00 acres) | 0 |
| Tier 6 (5.01 - 20.00 acres) | 0 |
| Tier 7 (20.01 - 99.99 acres) | 0 |
| TOTAL | 266 |

*Note that the figures shown above may vary due to development permits that were canceled due to unforeseen circumstances. The applicant reserves the right to request a refund of their HCP fee pending the ability for staff to confirm that no disturbance has taken place on site. If any disturbance has taken place the fee is non-refundable.

Funding

In 2024 a total of \$1,055,355 was received through issued development permit applications with an additional \$43,851 received through the settlement agreement process associated with code violations. We are on the third year of fee increases per the plans periodic audit and assessment of development fees, which was adopted by the board as a 3-year phased

approach. The third fee increase became effective January 1st, 2025; see **Appendix 2** for copy of memo.

Avoidance, Minimization & Mitigation Measures

To be certain that each property is receiving a Scrub jay review, the Charlotte County GIS department created and maintains a scrub jay layer within our permitting database which ensures that every permit submitted on a parcel located within the designated Scrub jay area will be flagged for a review. Parks & Natural Resources staff also updates the Scrub-jay Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) Application as needed. This application not only allows staff to track all permits that receive a Scrub Jay HCP review, but it also ensures that the applicant has acknowledged all of the habitat conservation plan conditions including no clearing during nesting season as well as acknowledging the Eastern Indigo Snake precautions and guidelines. In addition, all parcels that apply for development permits in Charlotte County receive either a site inspection by Charlotte County environmental staff or a protected species assessment is requested from a qualified environmental consultant. If Gopher tortoise burrows are identified on site, the development permit is rejected until proper avoidance or relocation activities have taken place following FWC protocol.

Biological Objectives

Objective #1 Maintain and manage existing County owned scrub

Charlotte County actively manages numerous properties which are now components of the Scrub jay reserve area design. As a component of environmental land management, staff has monitored and surveyed the habitats within Tippecanoe Environmental Park, Tippecanoe II, Shell Creek Preserve, Prairie Creek Preserve, Charlotte Flatwoods and Washington Loop Parcels (formerly Biscayne Trust acquisition parcels). As of this year a total of three (3) parcels located within the reserve design have been acquired and two (2) had conservation easements dedicated to the county.

All land management plans have been updated. The updated plans now define clear goals and objectives for the appropriate management of each environmental park and can be found on our website under their respective park page.

As contracted, Quest Ecology completed management plans for all newly acquired parcels; see **Appendix 3** for management recommendations.

Staff completed their annual vegetation surveys at Tippecanoe Environmental Park, Tippecanoe II, Shell Creek Preserve, Charlotte Flatwoods, Biscayne Trust and Washington Loop Parcels (formerly Biscayne Trust acquisition parcels) in 2024; see **Appendix 4**. The vegetation surveys consist of 10 x 10 metered plots representative of each habitat type and 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 designated habitat.

In addition to the vegetation surveys described above, the following management activities took place on existing County public conservation lands in 2024.

| Preserve Name | Management Type | ±Acres Managed |
|---|---|--|
| Amberjack Environmental Park | Exotic treatment | 4.05 acres |
| Ann and Chuck Dever Regional Park | Exotic treatment Wildfire | 13.30 acres 17.94 acres |
| Bill Coy Preserve | Exotic treatment Mulching | 7.34 acres 1.98 acres |
| Charlotte Flatwoods | Exotic treatment Mulch/Canopy reduction | 42 acres 18.6 acres |
| Tippecanoe Environmental Park | Exotic treatment | 125.5 acres |
| Tippecanoe II | Exotic treatment | 6.8 acres |
| Peace River Addition (formerly Burcher's) | Exotic treatment | 35.6 acres |
| Oyster Creek Regional Park | Exotic treatment Wildfire | 35.55 acres 0.61 acres |
| Prairie Creek Preserve | Prescribed Fire Mulch/Canopy reduction Exotic treatment | 477.7 acres 18.09 acres 9.69 acres |
| Shell Creek Preserve | Exotic treatment Canopy reduction | 0.60 acres 7 acres |
| Peace River Preserve | Exotic treatment | 0.34 acres |
| Prairie Creek Addition (North & South) | Canopy reduction | 7.06 acres |

Objective #2: Acquire a minimum of 1300 acres as identified in the Reserve

The parcel addresses, total acreage and acquisitions costs are as follows by year:

| Parcel Address | Acreage | Acquisition Cost | Year Acquired |
|----------------------------|---------|------------------|---------------|
| 27474 Harbour Zephyr Court | 0.223 | \$2,827.98 | 2015 |

| Parcel Address | Acreage | Acquisition Cost | Year Acquired |
|-----------------------|---------|------------------|---------------|
| 31861 Creek Trail | 5.536 | \$52,508.51 | 2016 |
| 32161 Creek Trail | 2.403 | \$20,594.32 | 2016 |
| 2251 Boxwood Road | 1.977 | \$18,140.07 | 2016 |
| 31172 Turkey Oak Road | 2.67 | \$18,136.07 | 2016 |
| TOTAL | 12.586 | \$109,378.97 | |

| Parcel Address | Acreage | Acquisition Cost | Year Acquired |
|----------------------------|---------|------------------|---------------|
| 31931 Washington Loop Road | 3.572 | \$29,510.45 | 2017 |
| 31031 Washington Loop Road | 2.145 | \$22,487.20 | 2017 |
| 27391 Harbour Dawn Court | 0.459 | \$2,193.70 | 2017 |
| 30942 Turkey Oak Road | 3.077 | \$24,976.70 | 2017 |
| TOTAL | 9.253 | \$79,168.05 | |

| Parcel Address | Acreage | Acquisition Cost | Year Acquired |
|----------------------------|---------|--------------------|---------------|
| 31761 Creek Trail | 2.296 | \$22,625.20 | 2018 |
| 31911 Creek Trail | 2.8 | \$25,647.45 | 2018 |
| 32071 Creek Trail | 2.38 | \$25,742.45 | 2018 |
| 31961 Washington Loop Road | 2.5 | \$21,346.92 | 2018 |
| 31951 Creek Trail | 2.5 | \$20,346.92 | 2018 |
| 31941 Creek Trail | 2.5 | \$20,346.92 | 2018 |
| 32041 Creek Trail | 2.5 | \$20,346.92 | 2018 |
| 18251 Prairie Creek Trail | 2.83 | \$0 - Dedicated CE | 2018 |
| TOTAL | 20.306 | \$156,402.78 | |

| Parcel Address | Acreage | Acquisition Cost | Year Acquired |
|---------------------------|---------|------------------------|------------------|
| 31521 Creek Trail | 2.588 | \$22,735.20 | 2019 |
| 31052 Turkey Oak Road | 2.57 | \$21,126.00 | 2019 |
| 5101 Cypress Grove Circle | 3.64 | \$95.70 - Dedicated CE | 2019 |
| 16051 Prairie Creek Blvd | 5.215 | \$31,590.53 | 2019 |
| 6950 Cypress Grove Circle | 5.058 | \$30,651.17 | 2019 |
| 17600 White Water Court | 5.415 | \$31,655.28 | 2019 |
| 17251 River Ranch Court | 4.985 | \$30,239.01 | 2019 |
| 17301 River Ranch Court | 5.093 | \$30,339.59 | 2019 |
| 6201 Cypress Grove Circle | 6.33 | \$38,162.39 | 2019 |
| 3250 Hidden Valley Circle | 5.03 | \$30,436.87 | 2019 |
| 6151 Cypress Grove Circle | 5.77 | \$34,931.52 | 2019 |
| 17700 Prairie Creek Blvd | 5.044 | \$30,395.67 | 2019 |
| 17600 Prairie Creek Blvd | 5.101 | \$30,697.39 | 2019 |
| 4751 Green Woods Court | 5.244 | \$30,772.39 | 2019 |
| 4700 Cypress Grove Circle | 5.093 | \$30,772.39 | 2019 |
| 17700 Wild Pepper Court | 5.001 | \$30,128.53 | 2019 |

| 17800 Wild Pepper Court | 5 | \$30,003.53 | 2019 |
|-------------------------------|---------|--------------|------|
| 17850 Wild Pepper Court | 5.001 | \$30,003.53 | 2019 |
| 17101 River Ranch Court | 5.041 | \$34,487.78 | 2019 |
| 3974 Ridgeland Court | 7.773 | \$52,591.28 | 2019 |
| 17851 Prairie Creek Blvd | 5.021 | \$34,328.98 | 2019 |
| 6450 Cypress Grove Court | 5.635 | \$39,236.17 | 2019 |
| 6500 Cypress Grove Court | 5.517 | \$37,526.40 | 2019 |
| 16081 Ridgewood Court | 6.153 | \$41,834.68 | 2019 |
| 17601 Prairie Creek Blvd | 5.021 | \$34,324.05 | 2019 |
| 17550 Wild Pepper Court | 5.002 | \$34,202.49 | 2019 |
| 16800 Prairie Creek Boulevard | 5.011 | \$29,962.41 | 2019 |
| 17351 River Ranch Court | 5.811 | \$39,926.99 | 2019 |
| 17201 White Water Court | 5.073 | \$30,221.80 | 2019 |
| 6801 Cypress Grove Boulevard | 5.046 | \$34,372.36 | 2019 |
| TOTAL | 153.282 | \$957,752.08 | |

| Parcel Address | Acreage | Acquisition Cost | Year Acquired |
|----------------------------|---------|------------------|------------------|
| 17551 Wood Path Court | 5.068 | \$36,436.84 | 2020 |
| 5800 Cypress Grove Circle | 5.282 | \$36,436.48 | 2020 |
| 17801 Bending Willow Court | 5.149 | \$35,836.82 | 2020 |
| 3561 Hidden Valley Circle | 5.214 | \$37,563.46 | 2020 |
| 31461 Creek Trail | 3.05 | \$16,024.70 | 2020 |
| 3936 Ridgeland Court | 5.014 | \$35,428.12 | 2020 |
| 16755 Ridgewood Court | 2.8 | \$90.00 | 2020 |
| 27445 Harbour Bend Court | 0.23 | Donated | 2020 |
| TOTAL | 31.807 | \$197,816.42 | |

| Parcel Address | Acreage | Acquisition Cost | Year Acquired |
|-------------------------------|---------|---------------------|------------------|
| 16031 Ridgewood Court | 2.8 | \$90 - Dedicated CE | 2021 |
| 28285 Palm Shores Blvd | 103.73 | \$343,863.70 | 2021 |
| PID# 402426200011, 13-15 | 40.99 | \$318,346.20 | 2021 |
| 31701 Creek Trail | 2.55 | | |
| Biscayne Trust - Existing CE | 132.19 | \$153,694.50 | 2021 |
| PID# 402420201011, 13-16, 22- | | \$3,697.20 | 2021 |
| 28 – Existing CE | 4.1 | | |
| 5501 Cypress Grove Circle | 6.047 | \$79,676.99 | 2021 |
| TOTAL | 292.407 | \$899,368.59 | |

| Parcel Address | Acreage | Acquisition Cost | Year Acquired |
|---------------------------------|---------|------------------|------------------|
| 17701 Wood Path Court | 5.940 | \$96,745.45 | 2022 |
| 17751 Wood Path Court | 6.007 | \$87,693.70 | 2022 |
| PID# 402420201041 - Existing CE | 0.230 | \$1,487.70 | 2022 |
| PID# 402420201006 - Existing CE | 0.230 | \$1,247.70 | 2022 |
| PID# 402420201020 - Existing CE | 0.34 | \$1,272.70 | 2022 |
| PID# 402420201035 - Existing CE | 0.32 | \$1,272.70 | 2022 |
| PID# 402420201003 - Existing CE | 0.23 | \$1,041.20 | 2022 |

| TOTAL | 30.552 | \$197,040.65 | · |
|---------------------------------|--------|-------------------------|------|
| 6501 Cypress Grove Court | 2.690 | Dedicated CE | 2022 |
| 18050 Bending Willow Court | 2.735 | Dedicated CE | 2022 |
| 3610 Hidden Valley Circle | 2.590 | Dedicated CE | 2022 |
| 3601 Hidden Valley Circle | 5.060 | Dedicated CE | 2022 |
| 16200 Ridgewood Court | 2.61 | Dedicated CE | 2022 |
| PID# 402420201021 - Existing CE | 0.23 | \$1,022.70 | 2022 |
| PID# 402420201009 - Existing CE | 0.310 | \$1,274.70 | 2022 |
| PID# 402420201057 - Existing CE | 0.23 | \$1,071.20 | 2022 |
| PID# 402420201008 - Existing CE | 0.34 | \$1,309.70 | 2022 |
| PID# 402420201045 - Existing CE | 0.23 | Included with fee above | 2022 |
| PID# 402420201050 - Existing CE | 0.23 | \$1,601.20 | 2022 |

| Parcel Address | Acreage | Acquisition Cost | Year Acquired |
|---------------------------------------|---------|------------------|------------------|
| | | | |
| 17650 Wood Path Ct | 7.026 | \$100,796.45 | 2023 |
| 6901 Cypress Grove Cir | 5.011 | \$94,069.91 | 2023 |
| 17800 Prairie Creek Blvd | 5.010 | \$106,541.03 | 2023 |
| 16101 Forest Glen Ct | 5.124 | \$116,810.24 | 2023 |
| 16120 Forest Glen Ct | 2.62 | Dedicated CE | 2023 |
| 16151 Forest Glen Ct | 2.53 | Dedicated CE | 2023 |
| 5101 Cypress Grove Circle - 2 parcels | 7.09 | Dedicated CE | 2023 |
| TOTAL | 34.41 | \$418,217.63 | |

| Parcel Address | Acreage | Acquisition Cost | Year |
|----------------------------------|---------|------------------|----------|
| | | | Acquired |
| 6650 Cypress Grove Cir | 5 | \$106,598.92 | 2024 |
| 6250 Cypress Grove Cir | 6.05 | \$138,629.32 | 2024 |
| 17625 Wild Pepper Ct. | 5.14 | \$131,587.87 | 2024 |
| PID # 402420201040 - Existing CE | 0.23 | | 2024 |
| PID # 402420201030 - Existing CE | 0.23 | | 2024 |
| PID # 402420201032 - Existing CE | 0.38 | \$2,087.20 | 2024 |
| PID # 402420201019 - Existing CE | 0.38 | | 2024 |
| 3450 Hidden Valley Cir | 2.75 | Dedicated CE | 2024 |
| TOTAL | 20.16 | \$378,903.31 | |

See **Appendix 5** for the parcel's geographical locations as well as the warranty deeds and conservation easement documents for all parcels acquired through the HCP program. Note that 5900 Cypress Grove Circle was identified within the reserve design but should not have been included as it had a FWS Scrub jay conservation easement filed in 2008. See **Appendix 6** for a copy of the conservation easement.

In addition to the parcel acquisition costs, any parcels acquired within the Prairie Creek Park Community is required to pay an annual Property Owners Association (POA) fee. For calendar year 2024, a total of \$24,780 in association fees were paid for 42 parcels (\$590/parcel) located within Prairie Creek Park.

Objective #3: Coordinate with other public lands

County staff maintains a strong working relationship with various public conservation entities including but not limited to the Florida Forest Service (FFS), Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP), Southwest Florida Water Management District (SWFWMD) and the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC). One of our most recent large land acquisitions is surrounded by existing SWFWMD conservation lands. Staff has already established contact with the land manager for that region and is working with them on collaborative land management opportunities in the near future.

When controlled burns are scheduled on county conservation lands, the FFS is sent notice and a copy of the burn prescription is made available. FFS staff may also be present on site during the burn as well. Staff partners with Jay Watch, a birding group under Florida's Audubon Society for annual Scrub jay surveys on county owned lands. Staff continues to work on expanding communication with public lands coordinators at various environmental workshops offered throughout the state.

Objective #4: Increase the baseline population of scrub-jays within the reserve

Annual Scrub jay surveys take place on existing county conservation lands to establish baseline populations within the reserve area. Scrub jay surveys are also conducted on all newly acquired parcels as outlined in the plan. For more information on family group numbers for year 2024 see *Jay Status Reporting* chart on page 11 of this report.

Objective #5: Conduct scrub-jay translocations as appropriate

Not enough long-term population information available to justify translocations at this time.

Objective #6: Conduct scrub-jay population monitoring

The remainder of the funds allotted through the contract with Quest Ecology were exhausted therefore staff went back out to bid for a new monitoring contract. Pritchett Steinbeck Group, Inc (PSG) was awarded the new contract. All prior duties allotted to Quest including acclimation and banding at Tippecanoe Environmental Park will be continued by PSG. All of the parcels that were acquired since the inception of the plan were included; see **Appendix 7** for survey results.

Environmental staff conducted Scrub jay surveys on the acquisition parcels which have been grouped by location and titled as follows; Washington Loop Parcels (formerly Biscayne Trust Acquisition Parcels), Peace River Addition (formerly Burcher's Parcel), Prairie Creek Addition (formerly Park) South and Prairie Creek Addition (formerly Park) North. To consistently relay survey data as well as management plan information, staff renamed the acquisition parcels based on their geographic location to existing conservation lands. The existing conservation lands surveyed include Amberjack Environmental Park, Biscayne Trust, Peace River Preserve, Prairie Creek Preserve (East and West), Rotonda Mitigation Area, Shell Creek Preserve, Tippecanoe Environmental Park and Tippecanoe II. See **Appendix 8** for survey results.

The results of the Scrub jay surveys are as follows:

| Preserve Name | Survey Results |
|--|---------------------------------------|
| Amberjack Environmental Park | No jays observed out of 4 survey days |
| Biscayne Trust | No jays observed out of 5 survey days |
| Peace River Addition (formerly Burcher's parcel) | Jays observed 5 out of 5 survey days |
| Peace River Preserve | Jays observed 2 out of 5 survey days |
| Prairie Creek Addition North | Jays observed 6 out of 6 survey days |
| Prairie Creek Addition South | Jays observed 6 out of 6 survey days |
| Prairie Creek Preserve East | Jays observed 5 out of 5 survey days |
| Prairie Creek Preserve West | Jays observed 5 out of 5 survey days |
| Rotonda Mitigation Area | No jays observed out of 4 survey days |
| Shell Creek Preserve | No jays observed out of 6 survey days |
| Tippecanoe | Jays observed 4 out of 5 survey days |
| Tippecanoe II | No jays observed out of 5 survey days |
| Washington Loop Parcels | Jays observed 5 out of 5 survey days |

Jay Status report on following page.

Jay Status Reporting

| Site | # of Families | Max # of Adults | Max # of Juveniles | Comments |
|---|------------------|-----------------------|--------------------------|--|
| Washington Loop Parcels | 1 | 2 | 0 | Parcels formerly titled "Biscayne Trust Acquisition Parcels" on 2020 report. No change from last year. |
| Peace River Addition | 2 | 12 | 7 | Increase in adults and juveniles. |
| Prairie Creek Addition North & South | 9 | 33 | 10 | Increase in juveniles, increase in family groups. |
| Prairie Creek Preserve East & West | 16 | 96 | 38 | Increase in adults, substantial increase in juveniles, increase in family. |
| Tippecanoe | 3 | 12 | 6 | Increase in adults and juveniles, family # decreased. |
| Peace River Preserve | 1 | 2 | 0 | Decrease in adults and juveniles. |
| Total | 32 | 157 | 61 | Large increase in juveniles from last year |

Non-Compliance

When unpermitted development activities (i.e. clearing, filling, mulching, tree removal, construction, etc.) are documented on a parcel that is located in Scrub jay a stop work order is placed on site and a code case is opened by the county's certified environmental code officer. A certified letter is then sent to the owner notifying them that they are in violation of the Charlotte County Code and the Endangered Species Act. The owners are provided two options to comply; (1) They can allow their case to continue as non-compliance and they will be seen by the special magistrate who will make a determination based on the applicable county codes and ordinances. A fine is recommended by staff based on the HCP minimization requirements. These fines are in addition to the base Scrub jay HCP development fee. (2) Alternatively, the owners can opt for a settlement agreement in which they are offered a 50% reduction of the fines should they pay their standard HCP development fee and apply for any other outstanding permits that would be required by County Code.

In 2024, twenty (20) Scrub jay code cases have complied and signed settlement agreements. Thirteen (13) received a 50% reduction in their violation fees and the remaining seven (7) paid the full violation fees. No reduction in violation fees is offered when an individual signs the HCP application acknowledging the HCP conditions yet doesn't follow them or for anyone who has been to the Special Magistrate (SM). There are currently a total of seventeen (17) open code cases in various stages (i.e., liens assessed, SM continuance, preparing for SM). This includes all prior cases that are still open since the inception of the plan.

Agreements continue to be recorded by the Charlotte County Clerk of the Circuit Court in addition to being saved in the county online permitting database.

In addition to the above referenced process for private property owners, staff continues to update the internal spreadsheet for parcels that are inadvertently released when mitigation fees should have been collected prior to permit issuance. The same fee structure is applied but instead of collecting monetary fees from the building department, the outstanding fees are used towards internal processing fees such as re-zoning applications for acquired parcels, fence permit applications for acquired parcels, etc. In calendar year 2024 zero (0) permits were released without collecting HCP fees.

| Statement of Compliance per FWS take permit #TE09117B-0 condition K. |
|--|
|--|

Under penalty of law, I certify that, to the best of my knowledge, after appropriate inquiries of all relevant persons in involved in the preparation of this report, the information submitted is true, accurate, and complete.

| 1. Iwell | PNR Manager | 02/01/2025 |
|------------------|-------------|------------|
| 0 6 | | |
| Name / Job Title | | Date |

Appendices

Appendix 1 – Permits Issued Spreadsheet w/ Maps & Pending Permit Issuance Spreadsheet

Appendix 2 – Fee Increase Memo

Appendix 3 – Quest Mgmt. Recommendations

Appendix 4 – Annual Vegetation Surveys

Appendix 5 – Acquired Parcels with Deeds

Appendix 6 – FWS Conservation Easement

Appendix 7 – Quest Scrub Jay Surveys

Appendix 8 – Staff Scrub Jay Surveys