

PROTECTED SPECIES ASSESSMENT

For

HOVNANIAN 60 ACRES

(FKA)

PINE RIDGE AT FORT MYERS

PHASE II

Section 3, Township 44 South, Range 25 East

Lee County, Florida

February 2002

Prepared by:

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INTRODUCTION

The 54± acre site is located at the northeast intersection of Tice Street and Interstate 75. It is bordered to the north by the Phase I development of Pine Ridge at Fort Myers and to the east by open land. The site consists primarily of Brazilian pepper infested disturbed land with Brazilian pepper infested cypress wetlands on the north and east sides of the property. There is a borrow pit lake in the center of the property as well. A Protected Species Survey was conducted on June 21 and 23, 2000 and an updated Protected Species Assessment was conducted on February 7, 2002 to review the site for the presence of State, Local or Federally listed species of plants or wildlife.

SITE CONDITIONS

The weather during the survey events was warm with temperatures in the 70's during the course of the survey. With the exception of the borrow pit area, there was no standing water present during the survey. Field work was conducted during the morning and early afternoon hours.

VEGETATION CLASSIFICATION

The table below displays the eight distinct vegetation associations found on the subject parcel. These vegetation associations were identified using the Florida Land Use Cover Classification System (FLUCCS) and are shown on the table below. A description of each FLUCCS association is also included.

FLUCCS		ACREAGE	% SURVEYED
411 D	Pine Flatwoods-Disturbed	0.9	+80
422 D	Brazilian Pepper-Disturbed	21.9	+50
422 H	Brazilian Pepper-Hydric	2.5	+50
422/427 D	Brazilian Pepper/Oak-Disturbed	8.2	+80
424 H	Melaleuca-Hydric	0.4	+50
524	Lake (Borrow Pit)	2.0	+50
621 BP 2	Cypress Invaded by Brazilian Pepper 25-50%	11.4	+80
740	Disturbed Area	6.3	+50

This upland community consists of a small pine flatwoods area located in the southwest corner of the site. It consists of a slash pine overstory with a saw palmetto understory. Other common species include wiregrass (*Aristida stricta*), Brazilian pepper (*Schinus terebinthifolius*) scattered wax myrtle (*Myrica cerifera*) and cabbage palm (*Sabal palmetto*).

FLUCCS 411 D - Pine Flatwoods -Disturbed (0.9 acres)

This upland community consists of the majority of the south half of the site where many years ago native vegetation was removed as a result of land clearing. The dominant vegetation now consists of a dense coverage of Brazilian pepper with scattered wax myrtle and cabbage palm also present in the midstory. Ground cover is sparse and consists of various upland grasses.

422 H- Brazilian Pepper -Hydric (2.5 acres)

This wetland community consists of those portions of the site which had been cleared many years ago and are now dominated by a near monoculture of Brazilian pepper. As a result, ground cover vegetation is sparse to non-existent consisting of scattered swamp fern and pine/land three-awn grass. Scattered cabbage palm are also present.

422/427 D -Brazilian Pepper / Oak -Disturbed (8.2 acres)

This upland community consists of an overstory of Brazilian pepper, laurel oak (*Quercus laurifolia*), scattered slash pine and cabbage palm. Midstory species consist of Brazilian pepper, wax myrtle and saltbush (*Baccharis halimifolia*). Ground cover in most areas is sparse due to the Brazilian pepper infestation. Ground cover consists of big carpet grass (*Axonopus furcatus*), broomsedge (*Andropogon virginicus*) and various other upland grasses.

424 H - Melaleuca -Hydric (0.4 acres)

This wetland community consists of a melaleuca (*Melaleuca quinquenervia*) monoculture adjacent to the cypress wetlands in the southeast corner of the site.

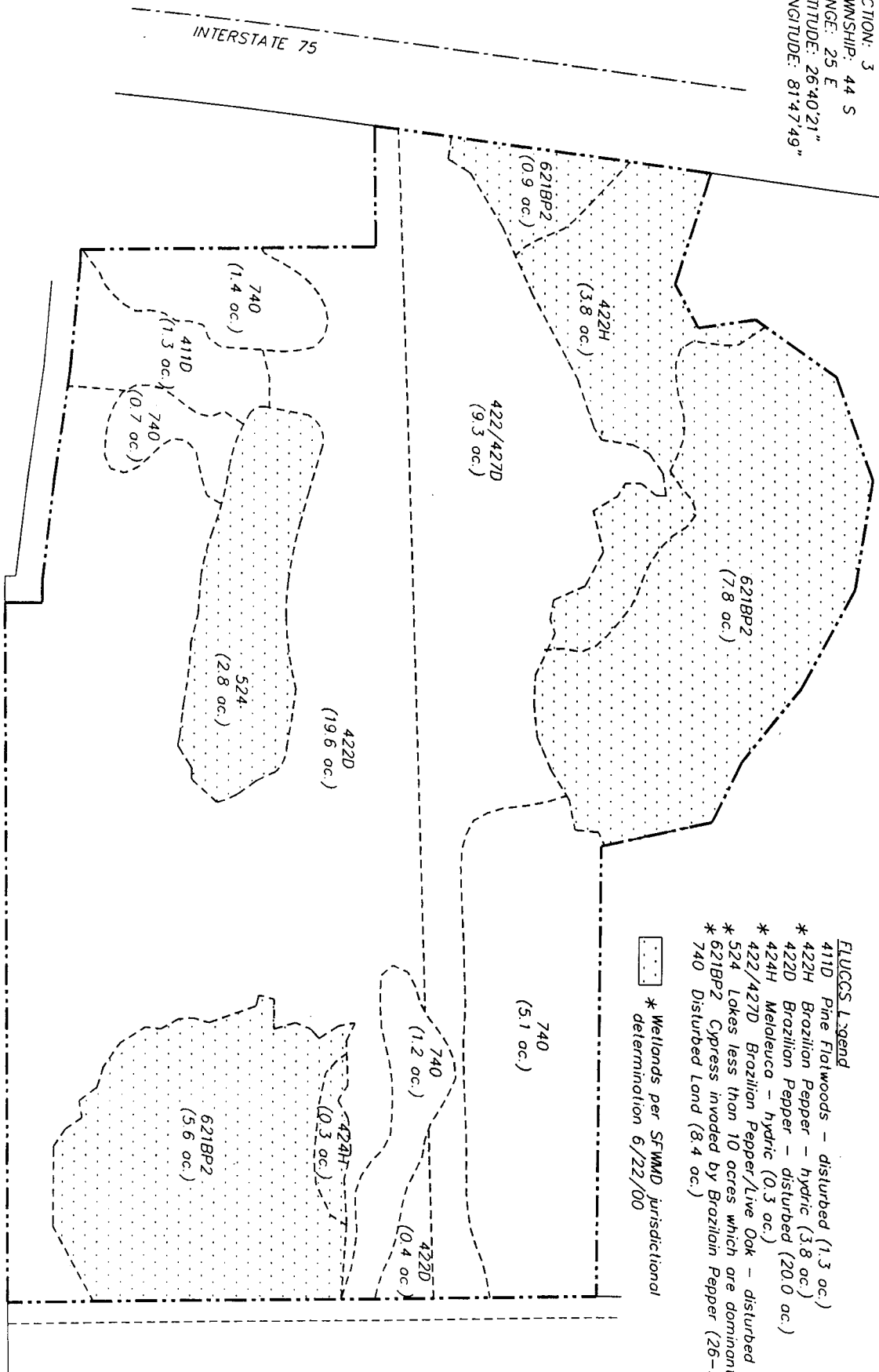
524 - Lake (Borrow Pit) (2.0 acres)

The lake is located in the south central portion of the site. It consists of a steep banked, deep borrow pit with bordered by cattail (*Typha spp.*), willow (*Salix caroliniana*) and Brazilian pepper.


FLUCCS 621BP2 - Cypress Invaded by Brazilian Pepper (26-50%) (11.4 acres)

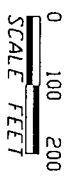
This wetland community consists of the 5.0 acre wetland at the southeast corner of the site and 6.4 acres of wetlands along the north boundary. Dominant vegetation consists of cypress (*Taxodium distichum*) and Brazilian pepper. Other common species include dahoon holly (*Ilex cassine*), wax myrtle, sawgrass (*Cladium jamaicense*) and swamp fern (*Blechnum serrulatum*) as well as scattered slash pine.

SECTION: 3
 TOWNSHIP: 44 S
 RANGE: 25 E
 LATITUDE: 26°40'21"
 LONGITUDE: 81°47'49"



- FLUGGS Legend**
- 411D Pine Flatwoods - disturbed (1.3 ac.)
 - * 422H Brazilian Pepper - hydric (3.8 ac.)
 - * 422D Brazilian Pepper - disturbed (20.0 ac.)
 - * 424H Melaleuca - hydric (0.3 ac.)
 - * 422/427D Brazilian Pepper/Live Oak - disturbed (9.3 ac.)
 - * 524 Lakes less than 10 acres which are dominant features (2.8 ac.)
 - * 621BP2 Cypress invaded by Brazilian Pepper (26-50%) (14.3 ac.)
 - * 740 Disturbed Land (8.4 ac.)

 * Wetlands per SFWMD jurisdictional determination 6/22/00



TICE STREET
 PERMIT USE ONLY. NOT FOR CONSTRUCTION

SHEET

HOWMANIAN 60 ACRES

Vegetation Map

REVISED

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