

County Project Authorization (CPA) Form

Contractor's Name: EarthBalance Corporation

Contract Name: Environmental Maintenance Contract CPA Number: 12

Project Name: Wild Turkey Strand Preserve

Contract Number: 8170	Total Project Amount:	\$233,730.00
Solicitation Number: RFP180418JJB	Project Number:	0276
Lee County Project Manager: Hanna Joergens	Request Date:	9/23/21
Fiscal Staff: Diane Chilcote		

Description / Scope of Work (include location):

Scope of Work: EarthBalance® will supply the labor and materials necessary for one-time exotic treatment of approximately 882 acres of Wild Turkey Strand Preserve located in Lee County, Florida. This task will include a treatment sweep for all Category I and II species listed on the 2019 Florida Exotic Pest Plant Council's "List of Invasive Plant Species". All target species within the treatment area will be killed-in-place with an appropriate dye-laced herbicide approved for use by the State of Florida and Lee County. Please refer to the attached maps for the location of the treatment areas. All work will be directed by a qualified project manager licensed to apply pesticides by the State of Florida.

Task #1 - \$233,730.00 +

Attachments: Scope of Work / Bid Specifications

Length of time to Substantial Completion from Notice to Proceed (in calendar days): Shall be completed by 2/1/2022

Length of time to Final Completion/Acceptance from Notice to Proceed (in calendar days): Shall be completed by 02/1/2022

Liquidated Damages amount to be assessed per calendar day after Substantial Completion (if applicable): N/A

Cristina Broski, Cristina Broski

Contractor Signature (Print & Sign Name)

10-4-21

Date Accepted

nhults@earthbalance.com

Contact E-mail Address

941-426-7878

Contact Phone Number

Lee County Procurement Approval

Lee County Authorized Approval

Date Accepted

Date Accepted

Project Manager:
Hanna Joergens
Natural Areas Coordinator
Lee County Parks & Recreation
Conservation 20/20 Program
Call/Text: (239) 707-3325
E-mail: hjoergens@leegov.com

SCOPE OF WORK

» Project Location

The project area, managed by Lee County Conservation 20/20, is an 882-acre portion of the Wild Turkey Strand Preserve (WTSP) located south of Lehigh Acres. It is located east of Interstate 75, south of State Road 82, and along Rod & Gun Club Road. The project area contains a variety of plant community types and land uses such as a powerline easement, active cattle grazing, public use, and restored natural areas. The majority of the preserve does not have an address, but the designated public access can be found close to the intersection of Rod and Gun Club Road and SR82 at the following location (caution: this address may not show correctly in Apple maps):

Wild Turkey Strand Preserve
11901 Rod and Gun Club Road
Fort Myers, FL 33913

The project area has perimeter and interior fencing, mowed/disked access trails, a mowed marked public hiking trail, an abandoned oil well platform, and an elevated powerline easement with a maintenance road. Access trails for motorized vehicles and equipment for contractor use have been highlighted on the map, and all vehicles and equipment will stick to these lines. Any vehicles/equipment left outside the preserve property will not be parked/staged/driven on private property or block neighbor driveways. Vehicles/equipment staged inside the project area will not block gates. Public access to the designated entrance will stay open during the treatment. No vehicles/equipment will be operated on the designated hiking trail, boardwalks, trailhead, or flexi-pave surfaces.

The project area extends from the south side of SR82 toward the south along both sides of Rod & Gun Club Road. The southern project boundary is located along the southern boundary treeline of an east-to-west powerline easement that runs through the preserve, and the project will include the ditches and ponds within this easement. This project includes treatment of target species growing on and within one foot of fence lines, and between the roadside boundary fences and Rod & Gun Club Road.

Maps of the project area have been included at the end of this SOW. Map 2 illustrates the areas in which torpedo grass has been excluded from the target species list, as discussed in the project description section below. The project area will be accessible through locked gates identified on the map, with combination locks provided by Lee County. Access gates must be kept closed and LOCKED; some areas contain cattle leases that must be secured.

» Project Description

This project will include a single treatment sweep for all FLEPPC Category 1 and 2 plant species found throughout the 882-acre project area, including on or within one foot of perimeter fence line and with a limited exception for torpedo grass as identified below. The treatment will begin as soon as the CPA has been approved, the department of Procurement Management has issued the Notice to Proceed,

and once the site is dry enough for safe access; good communication with the project manager is essential for this treatment.

The entire project area has received initial treatments and several follow-up treatments. A portion of the northern project area received a treatment for 4 target species (melaleuca, Brazilian pepper, lygodium, and Peruvian primrose-willow) through an FWC-Uplands funded contract in autumn 2020. A Lee County contracted treatment (all FLEPPC) swept through a majority of the project area in winter 2018.

Map 2 illustrates two areas within the project area in which torpedo grass will be excluded from the target species list for both sweeps due to the abundance of the species. Torpedo grass found outside these exclusion areas but within the treatment project area will be included on the target species list.

The most common species within the project area may include, but not limited to:

- caesarweed (*Urena lobata*)
- torpedo grass (*Panicum repens*)
- cogongrass (*Imperata cylindrica*)
- Wright’s nutrush (*Scleria lacustris*)
- West Indian marshgrass (*Hymenachne amplexicaulis*)
- creeping oxeye (*Sphagneticola trilobata*)
- Brazilian pepper (*Schinus terebinthifolius*)
- melaleuca (*Melaleuca quinquenervia*)
- Peruvian primrosewillow (*Ludwigia peruviana*)
- lygodium vine (*Lygodium microphyllum*)
- rosary pea (*Abrus precatorius*)
- balsam apple (*Momordica balsamina*)

» Treatment Area Details

Vehicles and equipment used for the treatment area will stay on vehicle access trails identified on the attached maps. All motorized vehicles and equipment are considered “vehicles” within this scope and maps. **Limited vehicle/equipment access requires the majority of the treatment be done by hand crews.** Vehicles/equipment recommended for access during wet season include 4x4 vehicles, UTVs, ATVs, and raised swamp buggies. Additional equipment used for previous treatments include flat-bottom boats and air boats for potential use in ditches or easement ponds.

- Target woody vegetation in the project area must be cut-stump if higher than waist/hip height, but may be foliar sprayed and left in place if shorter than waist/hip height. Please note: this includes (but is not limited to) Brazilian pepper and Peruvian primrose-willow.

→ See work specifications for limitations on cut-stump debris

- Target herbaceous species may be foliar sprayed and left in place.
- Target vine species must be poodle cut if growing higher than waist/hip height, but may be selectively foliar sprayed and left in place if shorter than waist/hip height.

Identified on the map, the treatment area contains a long east-to-west powerline easement. The project area extends to the southern edge of the easement, identified by a treeline and ending at the east and west boundary gates; access through these gates is currently not available for pre-bid inspections, but can be made available once the project is awarded. Access from the public parking lot is not available, as this area will be blocked due to another project during the treatment timeframe.

» Work Specifications

- Conservation 20/20 staff will select a contractor from the County’s list of approved contractors to conduct the exotic plant control work, with supervision from staff.
- Contractors must use the most recent edition of the Florida Exotic Pest Plant Council Invasive Plants

List at time of herbicide application. Contractor must ensure all on-site crewmembers know how to identify the FLEPPC listed invasive exotics from the native vegetation, especially in regards to the grasses.

- Contractor shall only use herbicides approved for use by the FDEP and Lee County. Herbicides shall be applied per manufacturer's recommendations by a state certified applicator.
- Contractor shall adhere to all Federal, State, and local regulations governing the application, transportation, storage, use, and disposal of products used in performance of this contract.
- The contractor shall, upon request, supply Lee County with a copy of the Material Safety Data Sheet for each type of herbicide used.
- All herbicides shall contain a fluorescent non-toxic dye to allow for monitoring of herbicide dispersal. The contractor must apply herbicides in such a manner as to protect non-target organisms, the environment, and the public.
- Herbicides are not to be applied within **2 hours** of rainfall (previous or eminent), if the vegetation is wet, or in windy conditions exceeding safety recommendations on herbicide labels.
- Any biomass resulting from cut stump treatments must not be placed or left on fence lines, firebreaks, drainage flowways, access gates, powerline easement roads, roadsides, on top of gopher tortoise burrows, or outside of the preserve boundary.
 - Cut stump debris must not be left in the Rod & Gun Club Road right-of-way, and contractor must communicate with project manager for biomass relocation area approval.
- Damage to any existing infrastructure, including underground utility lines, private property, roads or buildings caused by contractor is the responsibility of the contractor to repair and not Lee County.
- All herbicide treatment shall be at least 95% effective in preventing re-growth of target species with minimal non-target damage. If 95% kill rate is not achieved after 45 days after the follow-up treatment, the contractor shall be responsible for re-treatment of the area at no expense to Lee County. Invoices will not be processed until coordinator signs off on effectiveness of treatment meeting 95% kill.
- Contractor shall provide a project summary detailing: dates of treatments, solution mixture (herbicide/adjuvant/surfactant) & percentage, total amount applied, species treated and acreage completed prior to invoice submittal.
- Prior to delivering equipment, all vehicles and spray gear/equipment will be washed and free of dirt, seeds or vegetation which could introduce exotics from other job sites onto the preserve. If vehicles travel off-site other than on paved roads, vehicles will need to be washed again before re-entering the preserve. Contractors drive the site at their own risk and should be prepared with a vehicle appropriate for woods driving where tree stumps, changes in terrain and wet conditions may be encountered.
- Contractor is fully responsible for the safety and security of all equipment brought onsite. Lee County will not be responsible for vandalism or other damage that may occur while equipment is onsite.
- Contractor must at all times have an appropriate spill container kit capable of containing any herbicides, hydraulic fluid or fuel leaks that occur while onsite. Containment and disposal of contaminated soil must be done in accordance with all State and Federal requirements. If herbicides or fluids are to be stored onsite, container must be leak free and meet state requirements.
- Contractors must carry a copy of this SOW with them while on-site.
- All vehicles and equipment used during pre-bid inspection and while conducting treatments will

have logos or printed paper on dashboards identifying the contracting firm and contact phone number.

- Contractor will ensure locks are closed in a loop so that all locks in the chain can be opened. If contractors/crew locks other locks out of the chain, the contractor will be contacted to return to the site to unlock and re-order the locks on the chain. Access gates are to remain closed and LOCKED at all times with combinations scrambled. Some areas contain cattle leases that must stay secured.
- Pre-bid access has been provided by county combination locks marked with BLACK tape and combination "2021". This combination will be changed when the project is awarded, and provided to the contractor upon notification of start date.

» **Project Time Frame**

The Contractor shall be solely responsible for examining the project areas identified on maps provided by the project manager to arrive at an accurate cost determination for the work involved during the time period of the year for which the work will occur. Contractor shall be responsible for determining the type and amount of equipment and labor necessary to complete the work in accordance with the specifications and contract time. Each payment shall be considered full compensation for all labor, equipment, tools, materials, disposal costs, mobilization, demobilization, and other items necessary and incidental to complete the specified work.

A portion of the project area is open to the public from dawn to dusk, and will remain open to the public for the duration of the treatments. No motorized vehicles or equipment will be operated on the designated hiking trail, and will be kept to vehicle trails identified on the attached map. Contractors should be prepared for the majority of work to be completed by hand crews, and for access to be limited due to flooded conditions.

The project area contains large wetlands that flood heavily during the wet season, and contractors will need to schedule work after the height of the wet season once safe access is possible. The treatment will be completed at the end of the 2021 rainy season and once Lee County Procurement provides official Notice to Proceed. **The entire project will be completed by February 1, 2022.**

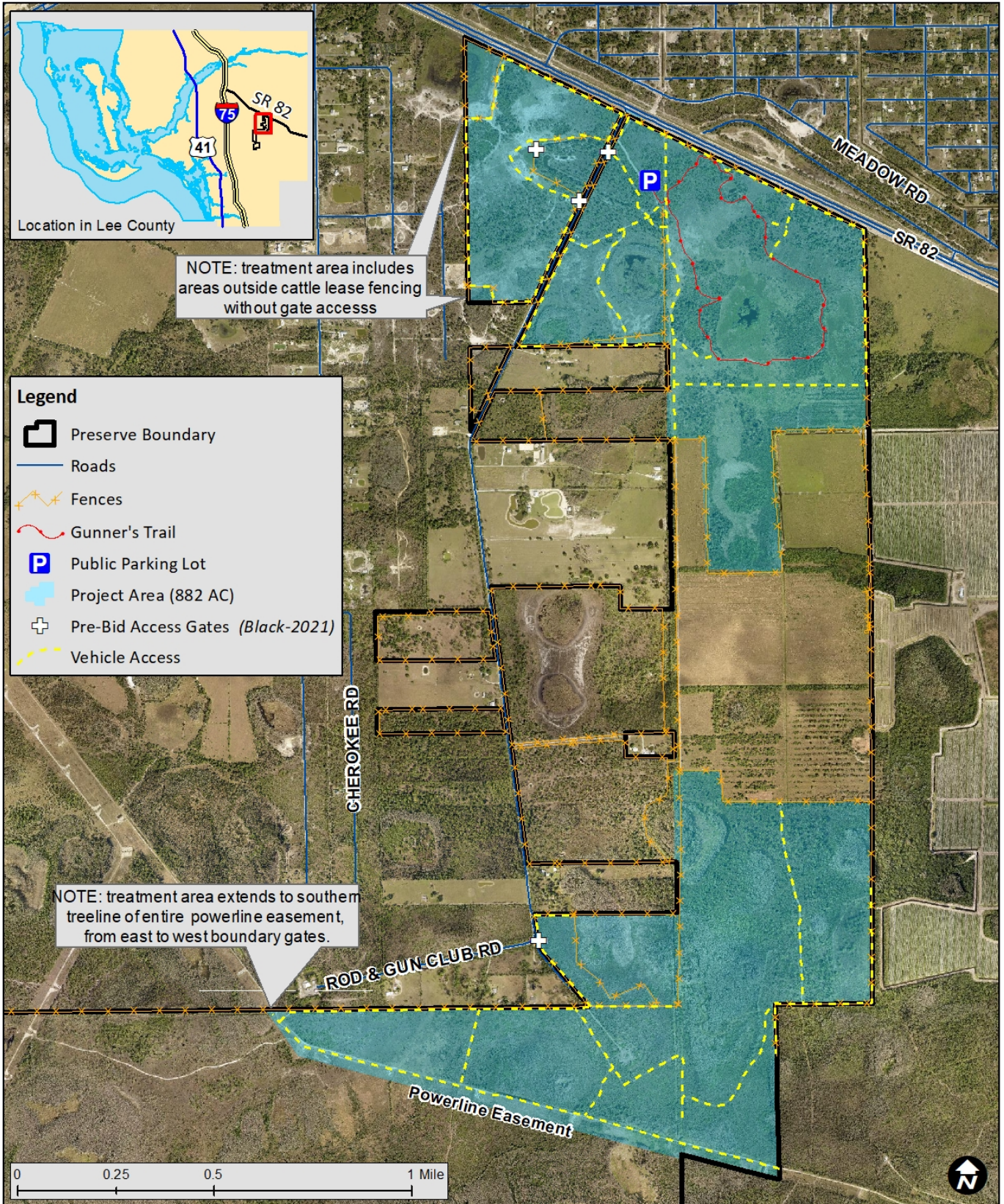
Contractors will notify the project manager no less than **24 hours** in advance of the scheduled start date. The provided combination lock will be changed after the pre-bid period, and the new combination will only be provided with adequate notice. All access gates must remain closed and LOCKED at all times; some areas contain cattle leases that must stay secure.

Bids for this project must be submitted no later than:

NOON (12PM) on Wednesday September 15, 2021 to hjoergens@leegov.com.

The bid must include treatment costs (with the contractor providing herbicide) and a completed Invasive Plant Control Prescription Form.

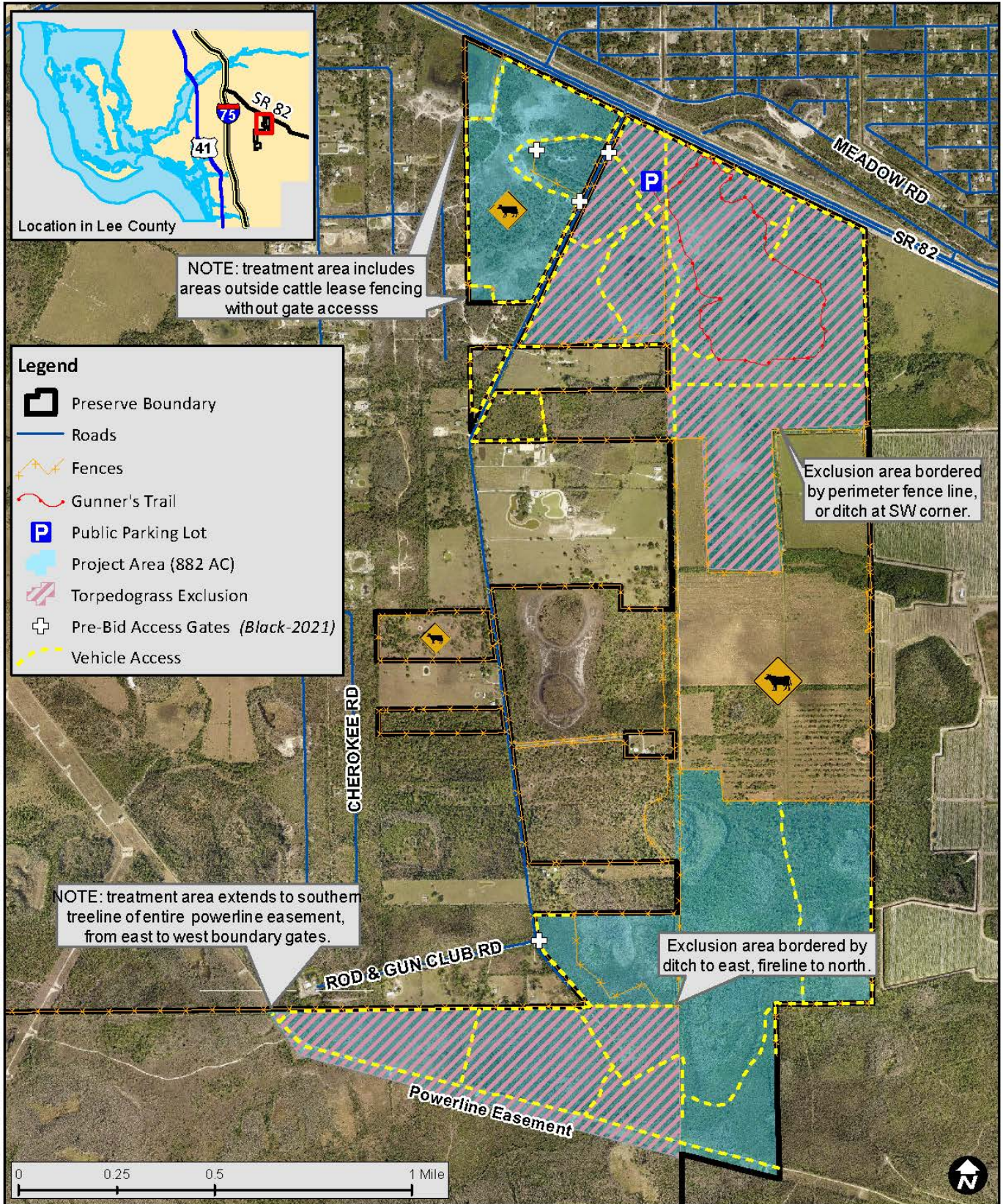
Map 1:
Wild Turkey Strand Preserve -- Exotics Treatment Project Area (882 acres)



This map is not a survey.
 It has been prepared by land management staff for planning purposes.

Project Manager: Hanna Joergens, Natural Areas Coordinator
 Lee County Parks & Recreation, Conservation 20/20 Program
 Email: hjoergens@leegov.com Call/Text: 239-707-3325

Map 2:
Wild Turkey Strand Preserve -- Exotics Treatment Project, Torpedo Grass Exclusion Areas



This map is not a survey.
 It has been prepared by land management staff for planning purposes.

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 Lee County Parks & Recreation, Conservation 20/20 Program
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Invasive Plant Control Prescription Form

TO BE FILLED OUT BY LEE COUNTY STAFF

Site Name Wild Turkey Strand Preserve
 Acres to Treat: 882

Date: 1 September 2021
 Prepared By: Hanna Joergens

GENERAL SITE CONDITIONS	
Plant Communities	Wetland, Mixed Hammock, Mesic & Hydric Flatwood, Wet & Dry Prairie, Bald Cypress Slough, Ditch/Berms, Abandoned Pasture, Utility Corridor, Cleared/Regeneration
General Soil Types	Sand <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Muck <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Clay <input type="checkbox"/> Other: <input type="checkbox"/>
Any special concerns (public use, time of year, hydrology, cattle, rare plants or wildlife, etc.)	Motorized vehicles/equipment must stay on vehicle access lines identified on map, and not block access to powerline easement or gates. All gates will be kept closed and LOCKED at all times. Portion of project area contains active cattle lease. Project area floods heavily during wet season, vehicle/equipment access limited. Treatment must be completed at end of rainy season as soon as the site is dry enough for safe access. Gopher tortoise burrows present in ditch berms, abandoned oil platform, and cultural resource berms.
Weather conditions	Herbicide application must be conducted under label specifications according to temperature and rainfall

TO BE FILLED OUT BY CONTRACTOR

Date		Name		Company	
Address					
Phone		Email		Fax	

Treatment methods

Control methods: ex: foliar spray, basal spray, cut stump etc.	Herbicide	Application rate (%)	Target plant species

County Staff will attach aerial and scope of work to this form