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Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission Response



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and Wildlife
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Commission**

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(727) 896-8626
(727) 823-0186 FAX

FWRI
**Information Sciences
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(850) 488-0588
(850) 410-5269 (FAX)

*Managing fish and wildlife
resources for their long-term
well-being and the benefit
of people.*

**Fish and Wildlife
Research Institute**
620 South Meridian Street
Tallahassee, Florida
32399-1600
Voice: (850) 410-0656

Hearing/speech-impaired:
(800) 955-8771 (T)
(800) 955-8770 (V)

MyFWC.com/Research

June 12, 2014

Ms. Jennifer Reed
Florida Forest Service
The Conner Building
3125 Conner Boulevard
Room 237
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1650

Dear Ms. Reed:

This letter is in response to your request for listed species occurrence records and critical habitats for your project (Babcock Ranch Preserve) located in Charlotte and Lee Counties, Florida. Records from The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission's database indicate that listed species occurrence data are located within project area. Enclosed are 8.5 x 11 maps showing listed species, SHCA's for Coopers hawk, Grasshopper sparrow, short-tailed hawk, and swallow-tailed kite, prioritized SHCA's, species richness, priority wetlands, and land cover for the project site and the surrounding area.

This letter and attachments should not be considered as a review or an assessment of the impact upon threatened or endangered species of the project site. It provides FWC's most current data regarding the location of listed species and their associated habitats.

Our SHCA recommendations are intended to be used as a guide. Land development and ownership in Florida is ever-changing and priority areas identified as SHCA might already have been significantly altered due to development or acquired into public ownership. Onsite surveys, literature reviews, and coordination with FWC biologists remain essential steps in documenting the presence or absence of rare and imperiled species and habitats within the project area.

Our fish and wildlife location data represents only those occurrences recorded by FWC staff and other affiliated researchers. It is important to understand that our database does not necessarily contain records of all listed species that may occur in a given area. Also, data on certain species, such as gopher tortoises, are not entered into our database on a site-specific basis.

Therefore, one should not assume that an absence of occurrences in our database indicates that species of significance do not occur in the area.

The Florida Natural Areas Inventory (FNAI) maintains a separate database of listed plant and wildlife species, please contact FNAI directly for specific information on the location of element occurrences within the project area. Because FNAI is funded to provide information to public agencies only, you

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may be required to pay a fee for this information. County-wide listed species information can be located at their website (<http://www.fnai.org>).

Please credit the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission in any publication or presentation of these data. If you have any questions or further requests, please contact me at (850) 488-0588 or gisrequests@myfwc.com.

Sincerely,

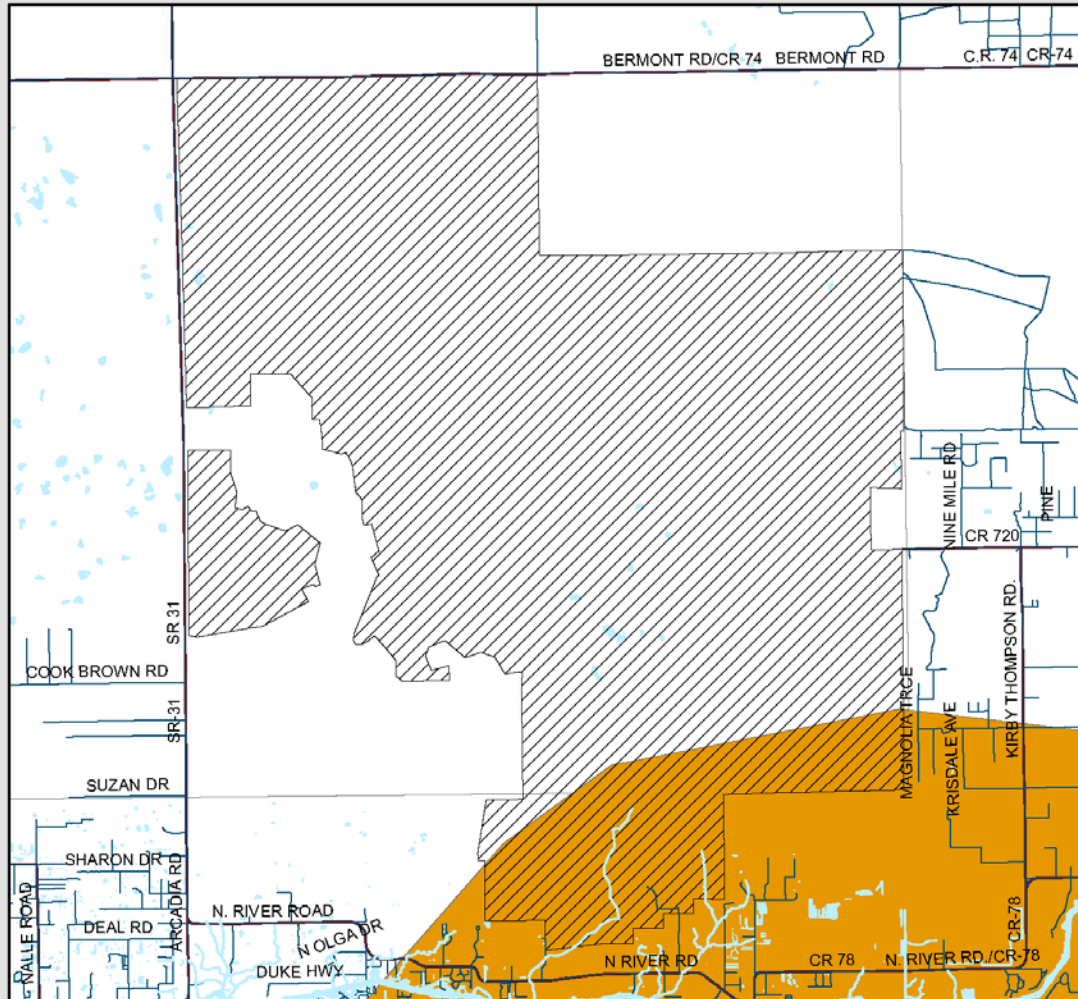


Jan Stearns
Staff Assistant

js
2014_6010
Enclosures

Black Bear Range

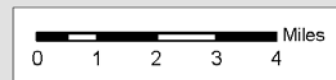
Babcock Ranch Preserve



Bear Range 2008

RangeType

- Primary
- Secondary
- Babcock Ranch
- County Boundary

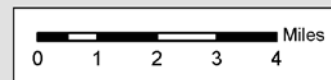
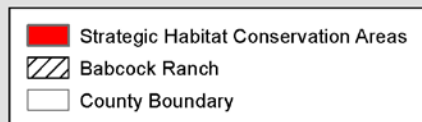
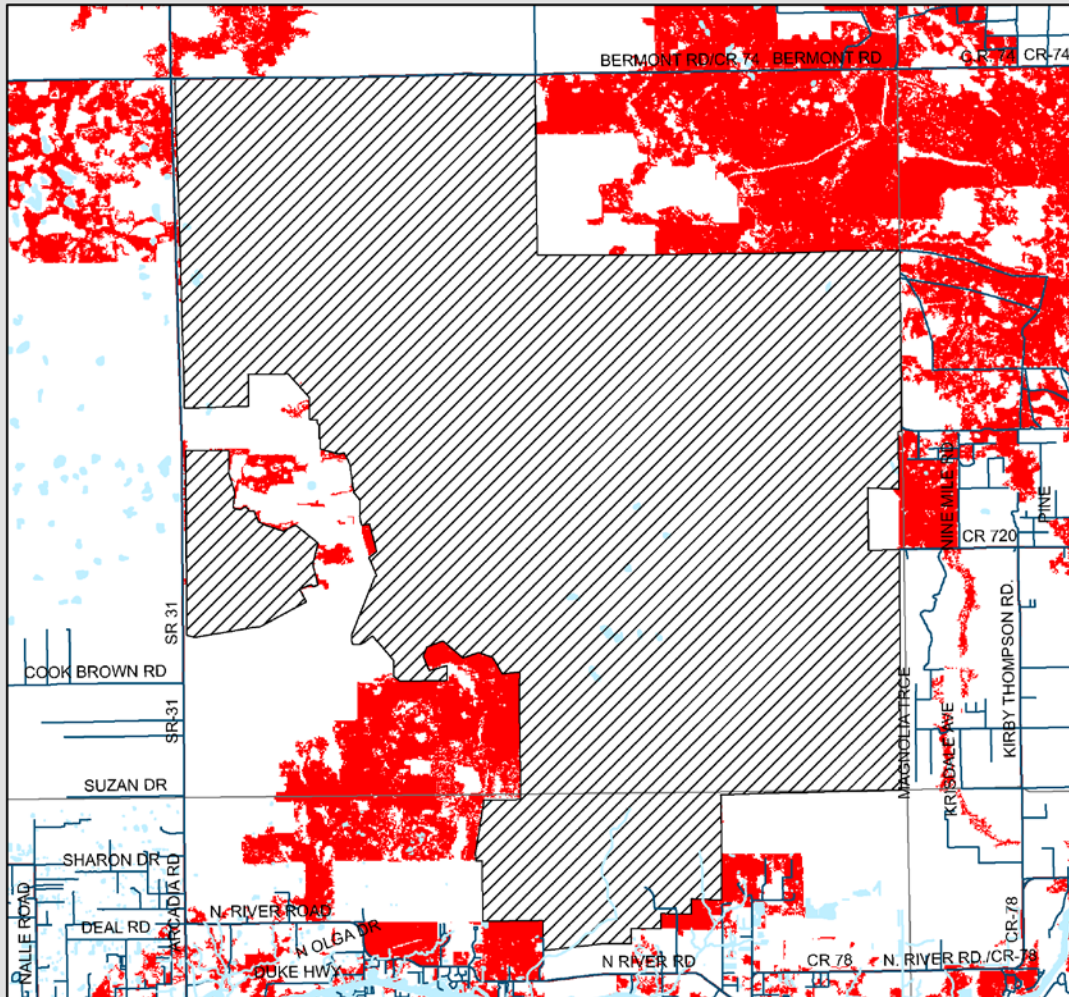


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Strategic Habitat Conservation Areas

Babcock Ranch Preserve

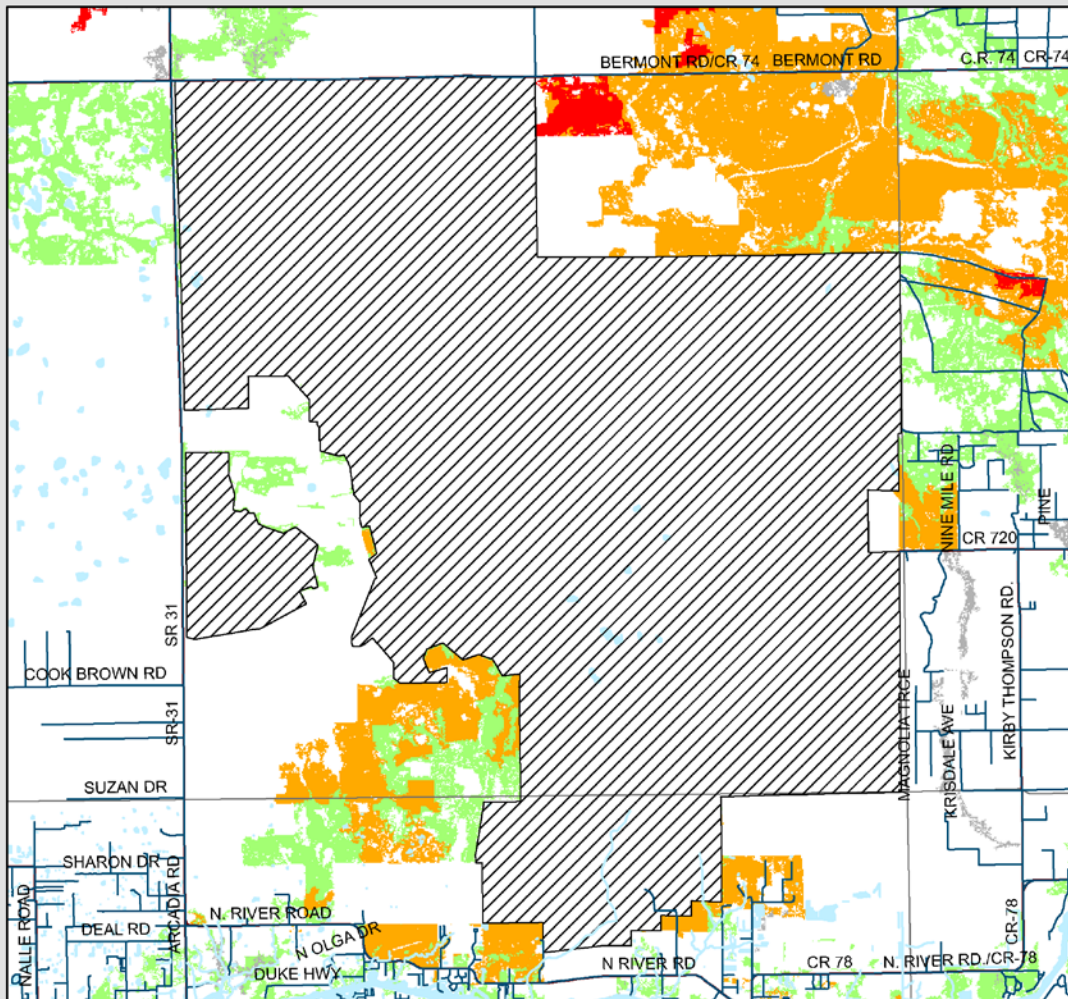


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Prioritized SHCA's

Babcock Ranch Preserve



Prioritized SHCA's

- Priority 1
- Priority 2
- Priority 3
- Priority 4
- Priority 5

County Boundary

Project Site



0 1 2 3 4 Miles

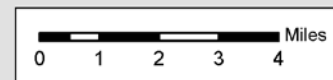
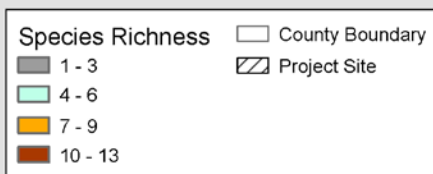
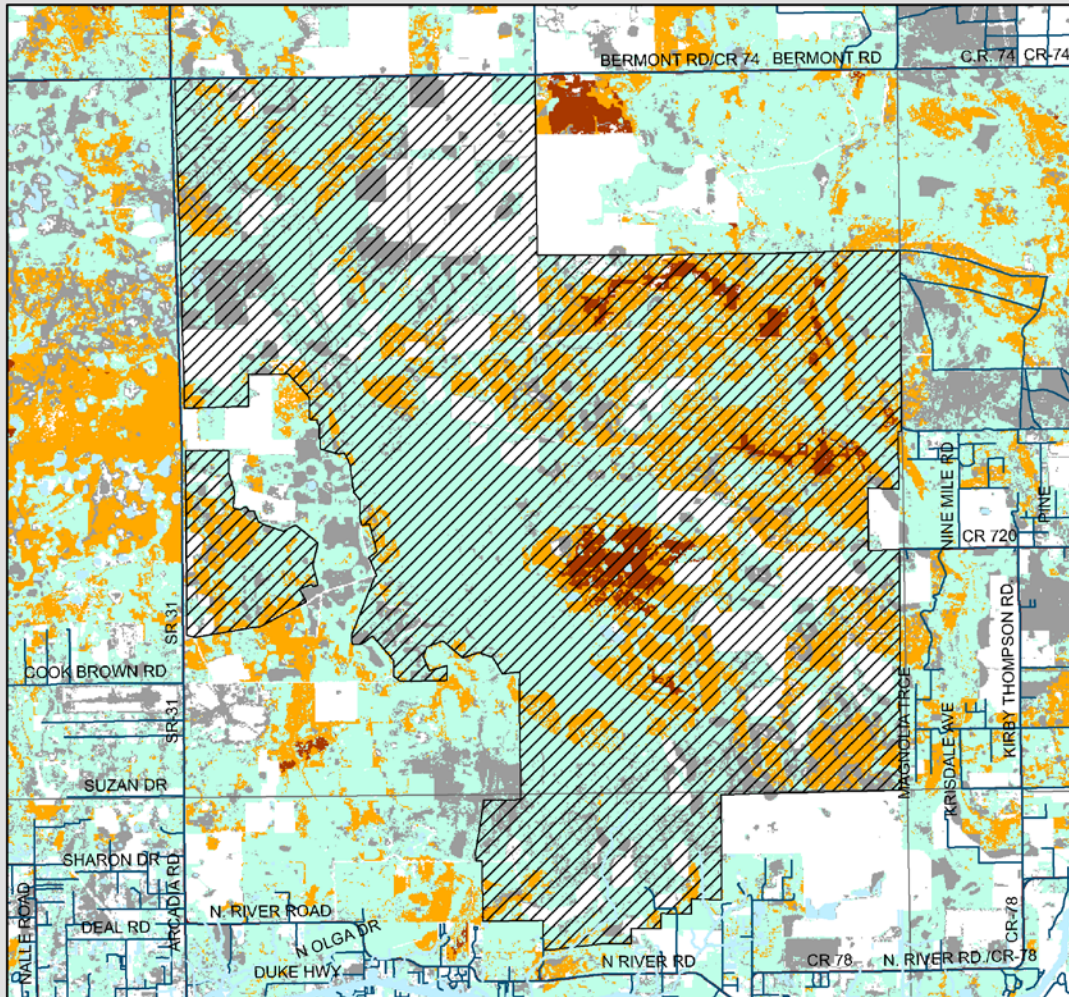
The prioritized SHCA map identifies 5 classes of SHCA based upon Heritage ranking criteria developed by The Nature Conservancy, the Natural Heritage Program Network, and the Florida Natural Areas Inventory. There are 2 possible ranks used to prioritize a species' SHCA: 1) the global rank based on a species worldwide status, and 2) the state rank based upon the species status in Florida. The state and global ranks are based upon many factors such as known occurrence locations, estimated abundance, range, amount of habitat currently protected, perceived levels of threats towards the species, and ecological fragility.

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Species Richness

Babcock Ranch Preserve

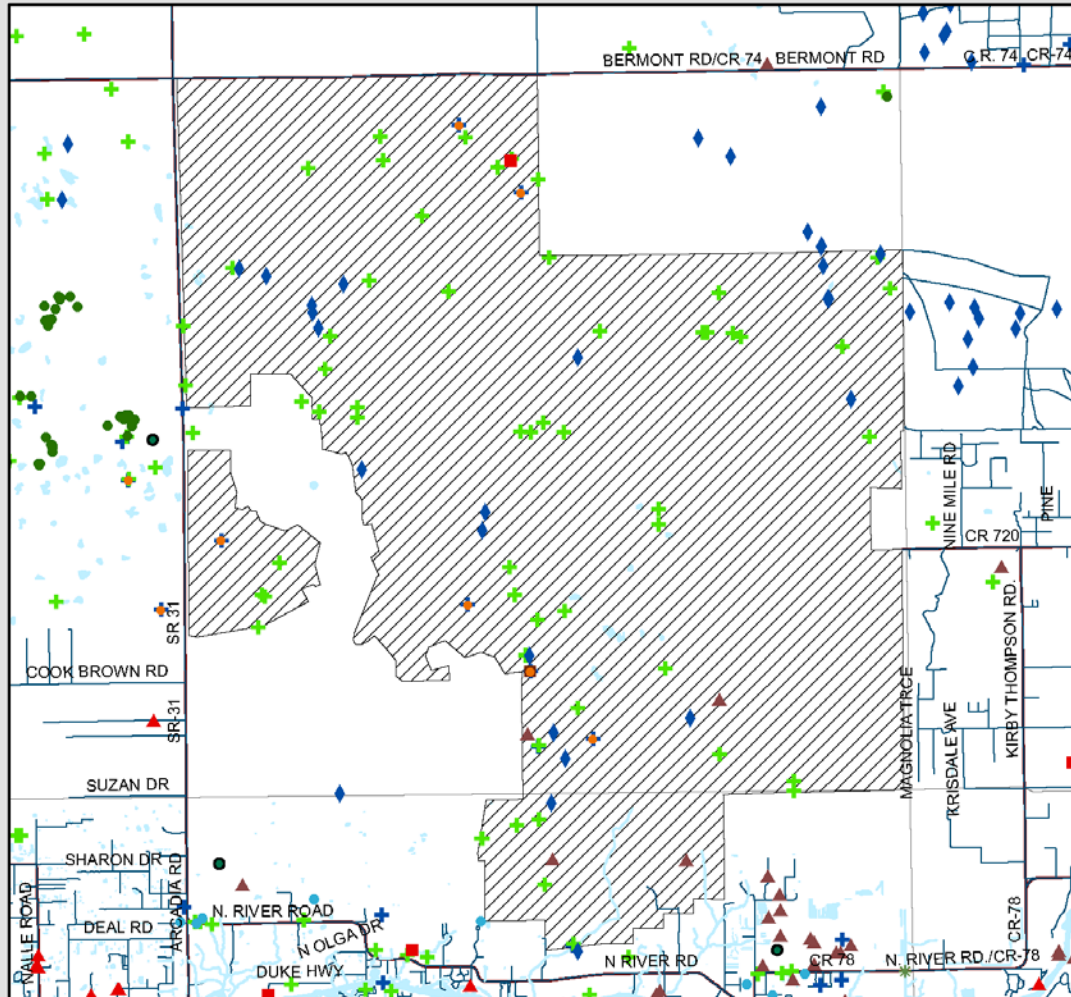


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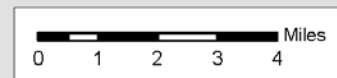
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Species Location

Babcock Ranch Preserve



- | | |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| * Rare and Imperiled Fish | ▲ Bear Calls |
| ● Indigo Snake_2010 | ▲ Black Bear Telemetry |
| ● Red Cockaded Woodpecker | ◆ Panther Locations |
| ● Scrub-jay | ◆ Florida Natural Inventory Areas |
| ● Wading Bird Rookeries 1999 | ◆ Wildlife Observations |
| ■ Eagles Nests | ▨ Babcock Ranch |
| ■ Florida Wood Stork Nests | □ County Boundary |

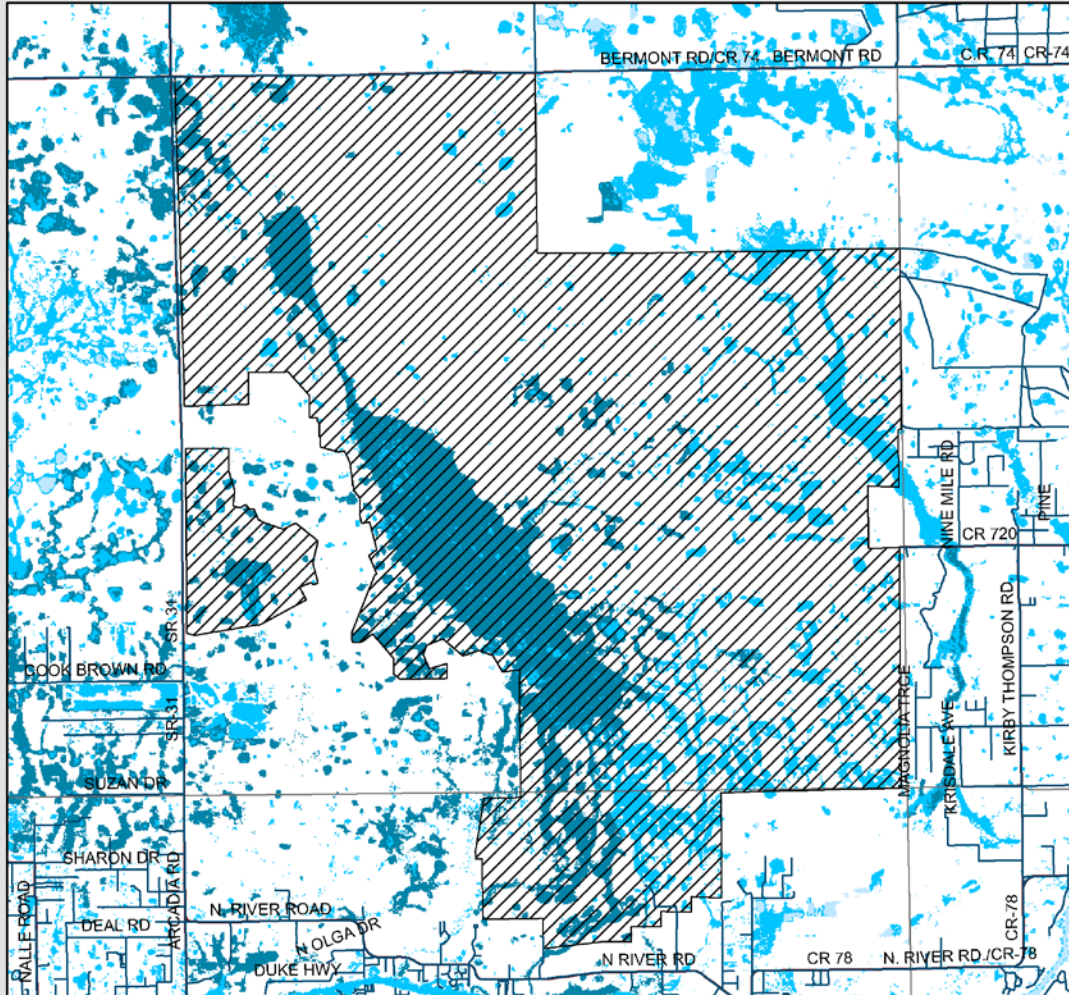


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Priority Wetlands

Babcock Ranch Preserve



Priority Wetlands

- 1-3 Species, Wetlands habitat
- 4-6 Species, Wetlands habitat
- 7-9 Species, Wetlands habitat
- 10-11 Species, Wetlands habitat

County Boundary

Project Site

0 1 2 3 4 Miles

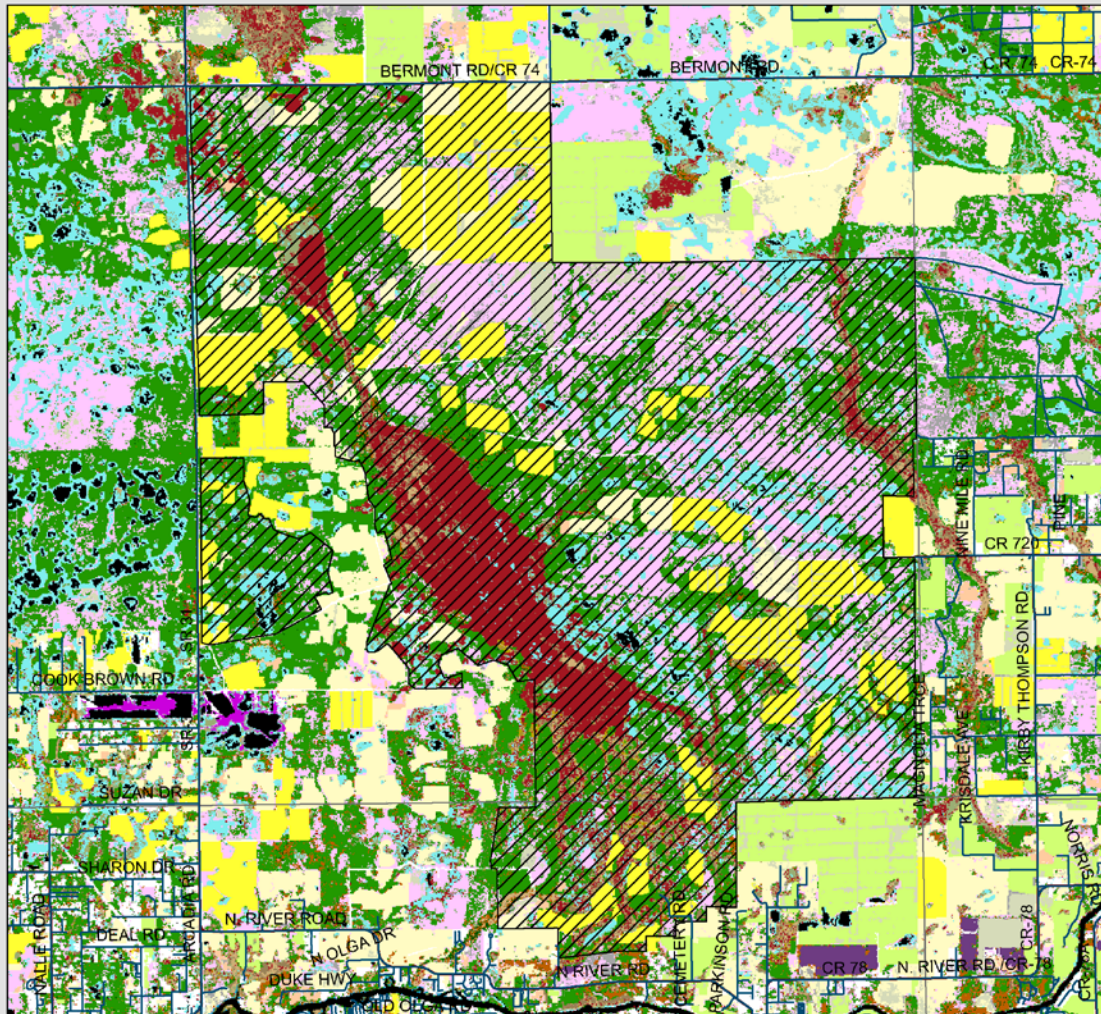


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Florida Land Cover - 2003

Babcock Ranch Preserve



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