

US Fish and Wildlife Service Land Acquisition Grant

Project:

Recovery Land Acquisition (RLA) Grant for the 55-acre Lake Grassy Scrub Tract on the Lake Wales Ridge in Highlands County, Florida

Client:

Heartland National Bank

Principal Ecologist:

Dr. Jay Exum conducted field assessments of the scrub habitat, wrote the long-term management plan and prepared the RLA grant application.

Challenges:

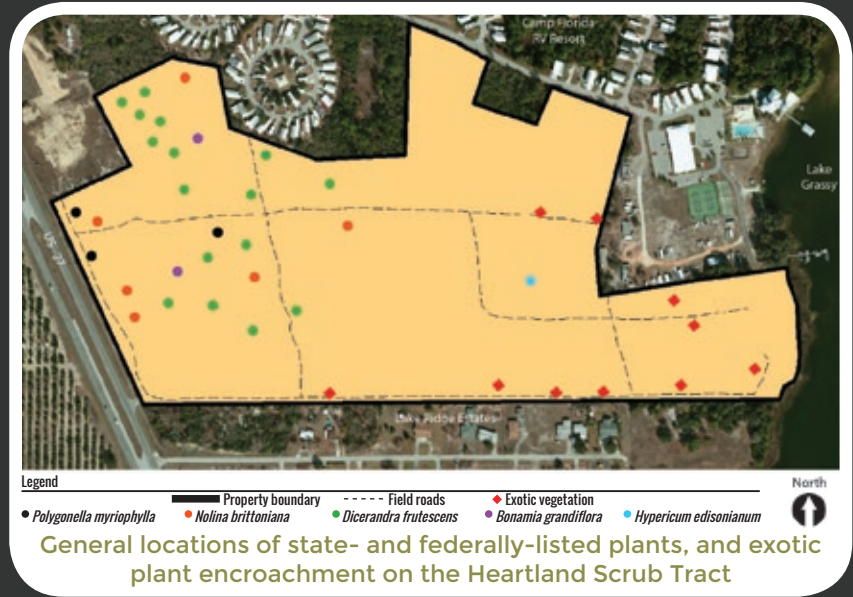
- Meeting the criteria of the RLA grant is somewhat difficult, but finding matching funds can be the biggest hurdle. Heartland National Bank was willing to provide the requisite 25% match by funding the long-term management plan.

Primary Accomplishments:

- Completion of the management plan for long-term protection of Florida scrub habitat, the federally-threatened sand skink and five federally-listed plants.
- Successful coordination of the application with local, state and federal regulatory agencies.
- Success! We were awarded the \$600,000 RLA grant.

Footnote:

Highlands County was engaged during the RLA grant application process, and before the funding was transferred, the county purchased the property from Heartland National Bank through their Natural Resource Acquisition Committee. This assures protection of this unique tract of Florida scrub habitat in perpetuity.



Scrub Habitat



Sand Skink



Garberia: a threatened plant on Lake Grassy

Highlands County FL

Assignment

Prepare the necessary documents to obtain a recovery land acquisition (RLA) grant for the Lake Grassy Scrub Tract



EXUM ASSOCIATES, INC.