

LISTED WILDLIFE SPECIES SURVEY

CAREY FARMS - HWY 60 PARCEL
SEC. 20, TWP. 29, RGE. 20
FOLIO: 068100-0000 & 068101-0000
HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY, FLORIDA

Prepared For:

Mr. Peter Schiffer, Vice-President
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Prepared By:

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February 19, 2007

1.0 INTRODUCTION

Meryman Environmental, Inc. (MEI) was requested on February 1, 2007 to assess the status of Listed Species of Wildlife on **CAREY FARMS - HWY 60 PARCEL** Parcel Folio # 068100-0000 & 068101-0000 (5.05 ± Acres) located to the east of I-75, south of State Road 60 and west of Brandon Town Center Drive in Hillsborough County, Florida (Figure 1). The purpose of this survey was to determine the likely occurrence and relative abundance of species considered **Endangered**, **Threatened**, or of **Special Concern** by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FFWCC) (Figure 2) under Chapter 68A-27.002-004 F.A.C. or as **Endangered** or **Threatened** by the United States Fish and Wildlife Services (USFWS) under 50 CFR 17.

The **CAREY FARMS - HWY 60 PARCEL** is located within Section 20, Township 29, Range 20 (Figure 3). According to the *Hillsborough County Soil Survey* (US Department of Agricultural Soil Conservation Service, 1979) there are two (2) SCS soil types in this parcel, # 5 Bassinger-Holopaw-Samsula and # 29 Myakka Fine Sand. Soil Type # 5 is considered a Hydric Soil (Figure 4). Each habitat type on-site (Figure 5) has been classified with a land use code based on the Florida Land Use Cover and Forms Classification System (FLUCCS: Florida Department of Transportation, 1985) as, # 191 Undeveloped land within urban areas, # 212 Unimproved pastures, # 231 Cattle feeding operations and # 6172 Mixed Shrubs.

2.0 METHODS

2.1 Listed Species Surveys

On the basis of the habitat types found on the **CAREY FARMS - HWY 60 PARCEL**, MEI prepared a Table of Listed Animal Species (Table 1) that potentially could occur on the **CAREY FARMS - HWY 60 PARCEL**, under ideal conditions. The surveys were conducted in general accordance with the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission's (FFWCC 1988) *Wildlife Survey Methodology Guidelines*, with the exception that the surveys were conducted for a shorter duration due to Agency and monetary constraints.

Pedestrian surveys for Listed Wildlife were conducted by MEI staff on February 14, 15 and 16, 2007. During this period, all habitats within the **CAREY FARMS - HWY 60 PARCEL** were canvassed for Listed Species. The survey methodology consisted of pedestrian transects (at least 1,500 feet of transect per 100 acres) which meandered through the areas of suitable habitat. The locations of the transects were changed after each survey day to maximize site coverage. Observations of all Listed Species as well as physical features that may indicate the presence of such species; such as tracks, scat, nests, burrows and cavity trees were mapped on an aerial print of the site (Figure 6). Results of the morning and afternoon February surveys are summarized in Table 1 and 2.

3.0 RESULTS

Typical wildlife surveys are **conducted for species considered Endangered, Threatened, or Species of Special Concern** by the FFWCC. In this instance MEI focused on Listed Species and paid additional attention to species deemed pertinent from the Hillsborough County Species List and the County's Comprehensive Plan and Land Development Code. Representative habitat photographs of the site are included in Figure 7.

Gopher Tortoise

No Gopher Tortoise Burrows were observed on the subject site. This site has areas of suitable dry sandy soil, suitable habitat for Gopher Tortoises (*Gopherus polyphemus*), therefore; site development will not likely result in the loss of Gopher Tortoise habitat as no tortoises utilize the site. This **presence or absence review** does not constitute a complete Gopher Tortoise Survey.

Eastern Indigo Snake:

The Eastern Indigo Snake (*Drymarchon corais couperi*) is a large, wide ranging predator that occupies most native Upland and Wetland habitats in Florida. Indigo Snakes are often associated with Gopher Tortoise Burrows which they use as refuge from extreme temperatures (Moler 1992). Despite three (3) days of surveys of Uplands on the **CAREY FARMS - HWY 60 PARCEL**, no Indigo Snakes were observed.

Gopher Frog:

Gopher Frogs (*Rana capito*) are a commensal of the Gopher Tortoise occurring exclusively where Gopher Tortoises are found. In addition to using Gopher Tortoise Burrows for shelter, this frog requires seasonally flooded grass ponds which do not contain fish for breeding. These conditions probably do not occur regularly on the **CAREY FARMS - HWY 60 PARCEL**.

American Alligator:

The American Alligator (*Alligator mississippiensis*) inhabits marshes, lakes, rivers, and swamps in Florida. No American Alligators were observed on-site during the three (3) days survey. The Subject Site would not normally contain quality Alligator habitat.

Sherman's Fox Squirrel:

No Sherman's Fox Squirrels (*Sciurus niger shermani*) were observed on the **CAREY FARMS - HWY 60 PARCEL**. Fox Squirrels usually forage in the open pasture woodlands and nest in the Pines along the edges of the forested wetlands. The subject site does contain potential Fox Squirrel habitat.

Florida Panther:

Florida Panthers (*Felis concolor*) occur in a variety of large wilderness habitats avoiding areas occupied by humans (Maehr 1992). There is no observed panther habitat on the **CAREY FARMS - HWY 60 PARCEL** and, hence no panthers were seen. Even though Panthers are free ranging animals and therefore there is a potential they could pass through any property while traveling between wilderness areas, it is very unlikely.

Florida Sandhill Crane:

One Sandhill Crane (*Grus canadensis*) was seen foraging on-site during the three (3) days of the survey. The Florida Sandhill Crane subspecies (*Grus canadensis pratensis*) is listed as Threatened and is non-migratory in peninsular Florida (Nesbitt 1996). Migratory Greater Sandhill Cranes (*Grus canadensis tabida*) can be observed wintering in Florida (Nesbitt 1996). While migratory Cranes are in the state, it is possible to distinguish between those and Florida sub-species. One (1) Florida Greater Sandhill Crane was observed foraging on the **CAREY FARMS - HWY 60 PARCEL** with a permanent pair utilizing the mall site, 2,599' to the southeast. This site is not a permanent use site.

Florida Scrub Jay:

No Scrub Jays were observed on-site. Florida Scrub Jays (*Aphelocoma coerulescens*) are restricted to Xeric Oak Scrub in peninsular Florida. No Scrub Jay habitat appears to exist on the **CAREY FARMS - HWY 60 PARCEL** which precludes Florida Scrub Jays from utilizing this tract for nesting, resting, breeding or feeding.

Burrowing Owl:

Burrowing Owls (*Speotyto cunicularia*) typically occur in open, well drained treeless areas where herbaceous ground cover is short. Florida Burrowing Owls usually construct their own burrow where they lay their eggs and brood their young. They use burrows in the spring for nesting and in the winter for cover (Milsap 1996). MEI conducted pedestrian surveys throughout the site with particular focus given to the snag (dead) trees and oak trees which is the most likely location of Burrowing Owls. While suitable habitat does exist on-site, no Burrowing Owls or burrows were observed during the three (3) days survey of the **CAREY FARMS - HWY 60 PARCEL**.

Bald Eagle:

No Bald Eagles (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*) were observed feeding, resting or nesting on the property. Five Bald Eagle nests were found within 5 miles of the **CAREY FARMS - HWY 60 PARCEL**. The nearest **documented** eagle nest (USFWS Eagle Nest ID HL 032) is 1.7 miles to the north northwest of the **CAREY FARMS - HWY 60 PARCEL** (Figure 8). The mixed stands of trees on the subject site, as well as off-site within the adjacent boundaries, were searched for eagle nests, and **none** were observed nor documented.

Southeastern American Kestrel:

No Southeastern American Kestrels (*Falco sparverius paulus*) were observed nesting, resting, or foraging on the **CAREY FARMS - HWY 60 PARCEL**. Open pastures are typical hunting habitats for Kestrels. The pine, oak and snag trees adjacent to the open pasture were searched for Kestrels and nest cavities, but **no** Kestrels or nest cavities were seen.

Wading Birds:

No Wood Storks, Little Blue Herons, or Roseate Spoonbills were observed on site. Tri-colored Herons or Limpkins were not visually observed on-site. Although, the CAREY FARMS - HWY 60 PARCEL contains potential habitat on site; no evidence of nesting was observed during the surveys.

4.0 CONCLUSIONS

No Gopher Tortoise (*Gopherus polyphemus*) Burrows were observed during the three (3) days of the survey. Eastern Indigo Snakes or Gopher Frogs were not observed on-site. No American Alligators were observed on-site. No Shermans' Fox Squirrels were observed on-site. No Florida Panthers were observed, and the subject site is not an appropriate habitat for Florida Panthers. One Florida Sandhill Crane was observed foraging on the subject tract, but no Sandhill Crane nests were observed on-site. The subject site provides no appropriate habitat for Florida Scrub Jays and none were observed on-site. No Burrowing Owls or Southeastern American Kestrels were observed, and none are likely to exist on-site. No eagle nests were observed on the subject site or adjacent properties, and no bald eagles were observed. No Wood Stork, Little Blue Herons and Roseate Spoonbill were observed foraging. No Tri-colored Herons or Limpkins, were observed on site. No wading bird nesting or roosting sites were observed.


Non-listed species were documented during the three (3) days of observation and include: American Robin, Black Birds, Blue Jay, Black Vulture, Brown Anole, Brown Fence Lizard, Cattle, Northern Mockingbird, Northern Water thrush, Pine Warbler, Road Killed Armadillo.

5.0 LITERATURE CITED

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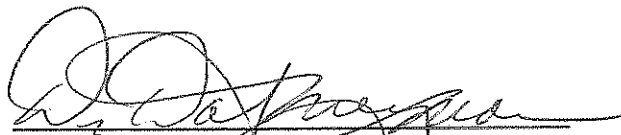
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This report was prepared by Teresa Albarracin, Wildlife Biologist of Meryman Environmental, Inc., under supervision of Dr. Dale Meryman.



Teresa Albarracin, Wildlife Biologist

Date: 2/19/07



Dr. Dale Meryman, GB # 000349
WV-98356

Date: Feb 19, 2007

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FIGURES

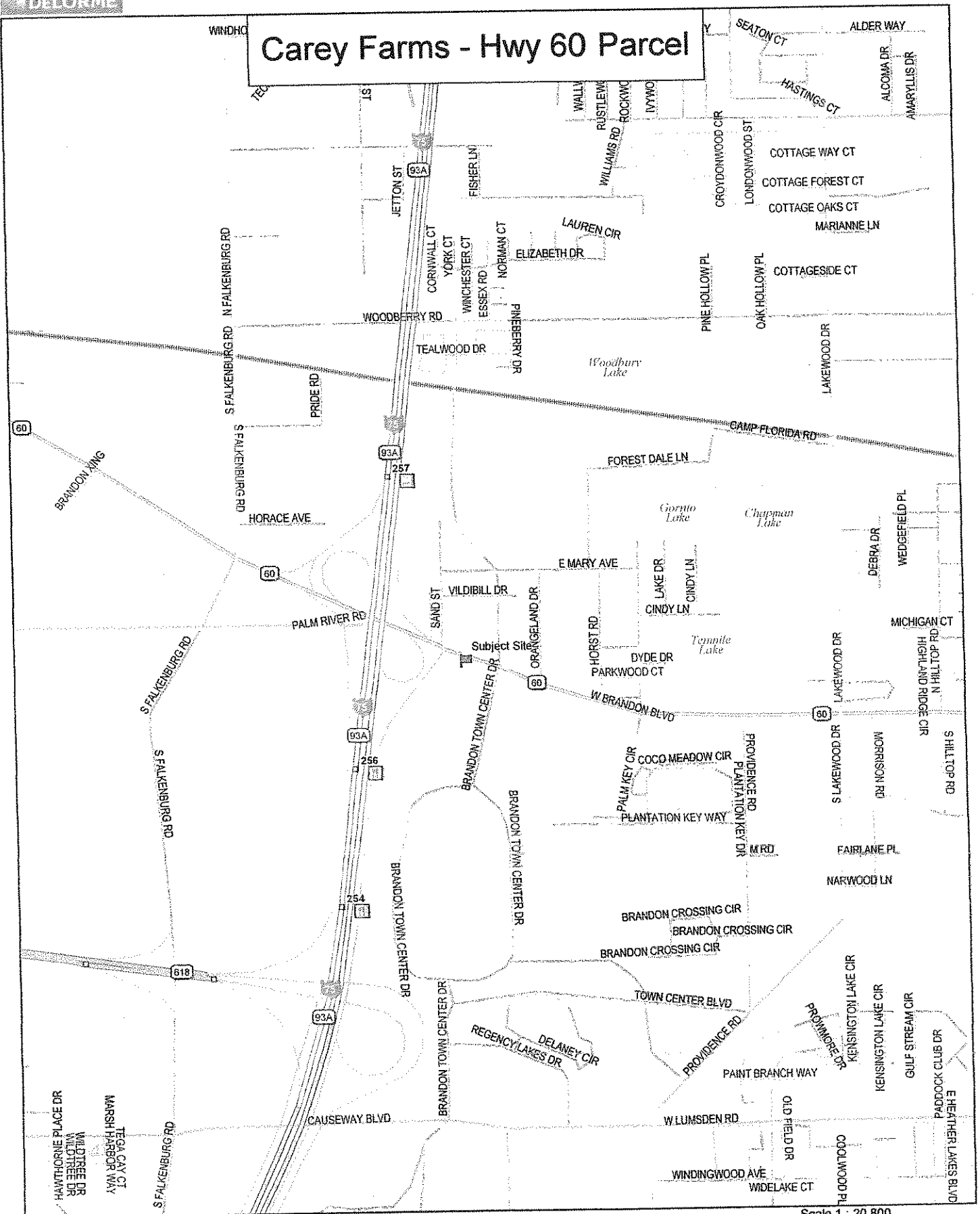
- Figure 1. Location Map of the Subject Site
- Figure 2. Hillsborough County Board of County Commissioners Approved Significant Wildlife Habitat Areas Map
- Figure 3. Legal Description with Folio Datum
- Figure 4. U. S. Department of Agricultural Soil Conservation Service Soil Survey of Hillsborough County, Florida
- Figure 5. Florida Department of Transportation's Florida Land Use Cover and Forms Classification System Data Set
- Figure 6. Wildlife Survey Observations Mapped on an Aerial Map
- Figure 7. Photographic Representation of the Habitats On-Site
- Figure 8. Wildlife Technology Services (FFWCC) Eagles Nest Location System

TABLES

- Table 1. Listed Animal Species that Potentially May Occur on the Subject Site
- Table 2. Non-Listed Species Occurring on the Subject Site

Figure 1.
Location Map of the Subject Site

Carey Farms - Hwy 60 Parcel



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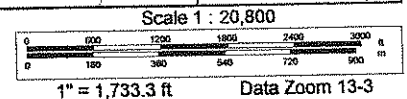
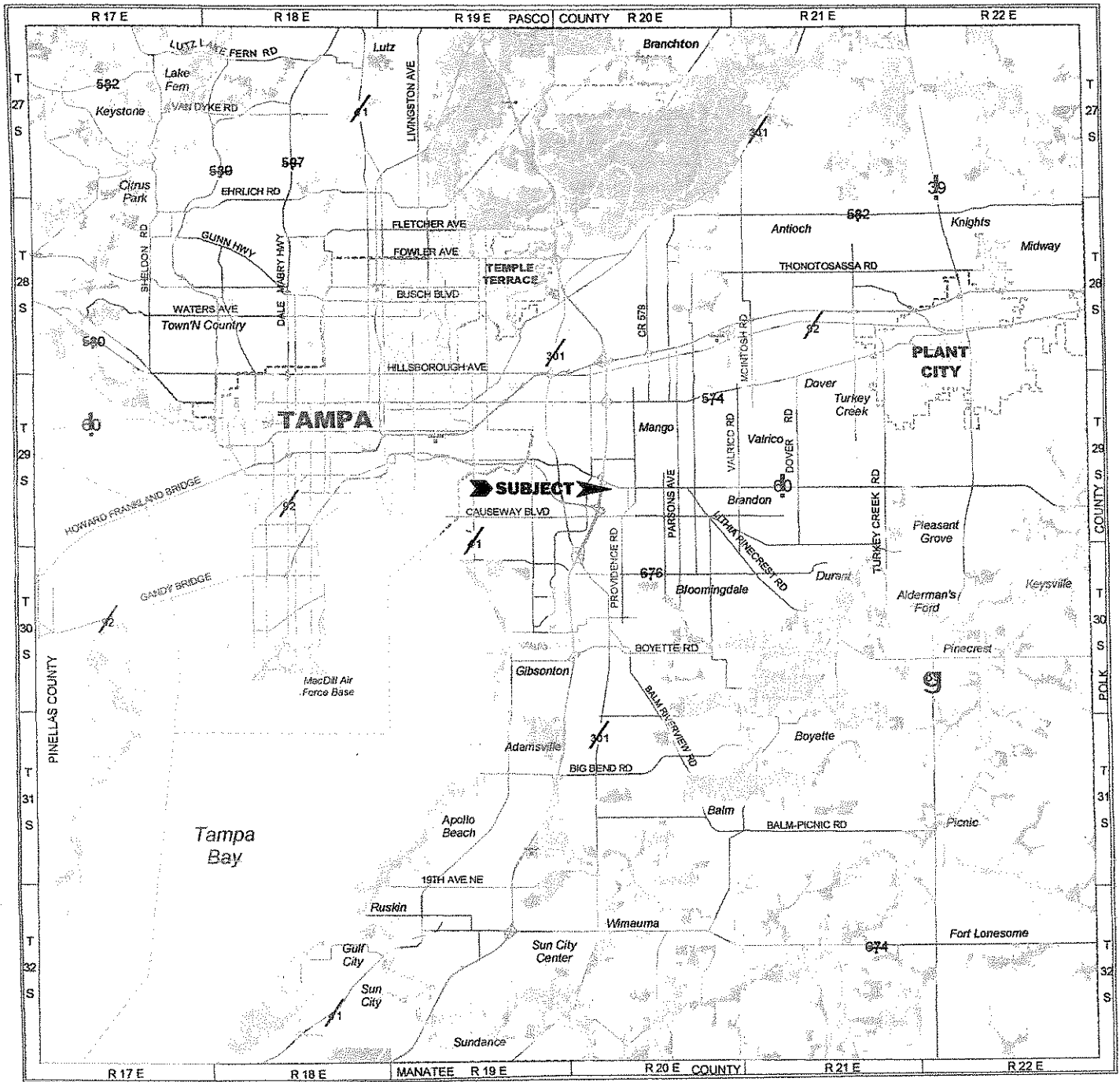


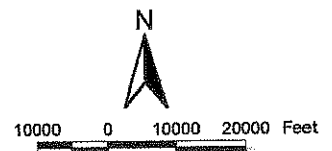
Figure 2.
Hillsborough County Board of County Commissioners
Approved Significant Wildlife Habitat Areas Map

Hillsborough County Board of County Commissioners December 2, 1999 Adopted Significant Wildlife Habitat Map



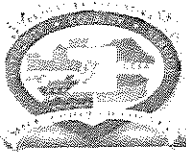
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- Jurisdictional Boundary
- Roads

- Unincorporated Hillsborough County
- Incorporated Areas
- Water

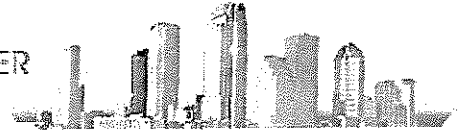


June 3, 2002

Figure 3.
Legal Description with Folio Datum



ROB TURNER, C.F.A.
HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY PROPERTY APPRAISER



[VIEW PROPERTY RECORD INFORMATION]

FOLIO: 0681010000
PIN
NUMBER: U-20-29-20-ZZZ-000002-52830.0
OWNER 1: CAREY FARMS

ADDRESS: 332 BRANDON TOWN CENTER
DR
UNINCORPORATED

LEGAL
DESC: E 110.53 FT THEREOF

DOR CODE: 6000

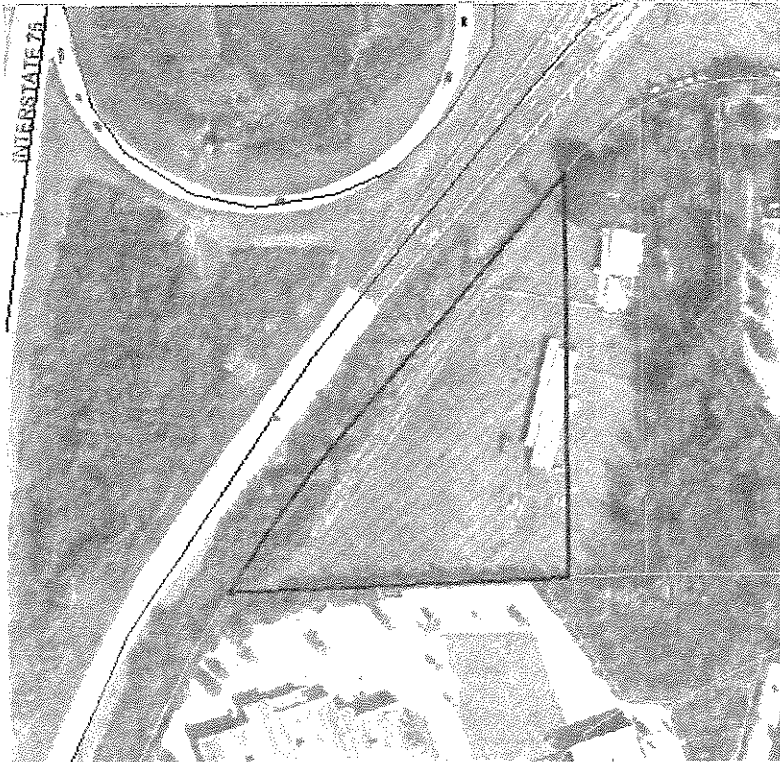
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EXTRA FEATURE VALUE:	\$4,619
LAND VALUE (MARKET):	\$168,081
LAND VALUE (AGRI.):	\$782
JUST (MARKET) VALUE:	\$172,700
ASSESSED VALUE (A10):	\$5,401
EXEMPT VALUE:	\$0
TAXABLE VALUE:	\$5,401

SALES INFORMATION

NEW!

4/1/1993	\$13,300.00
4/1/1993	\$100.00



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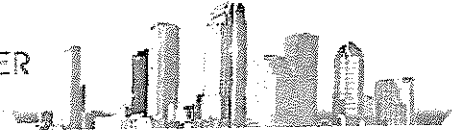
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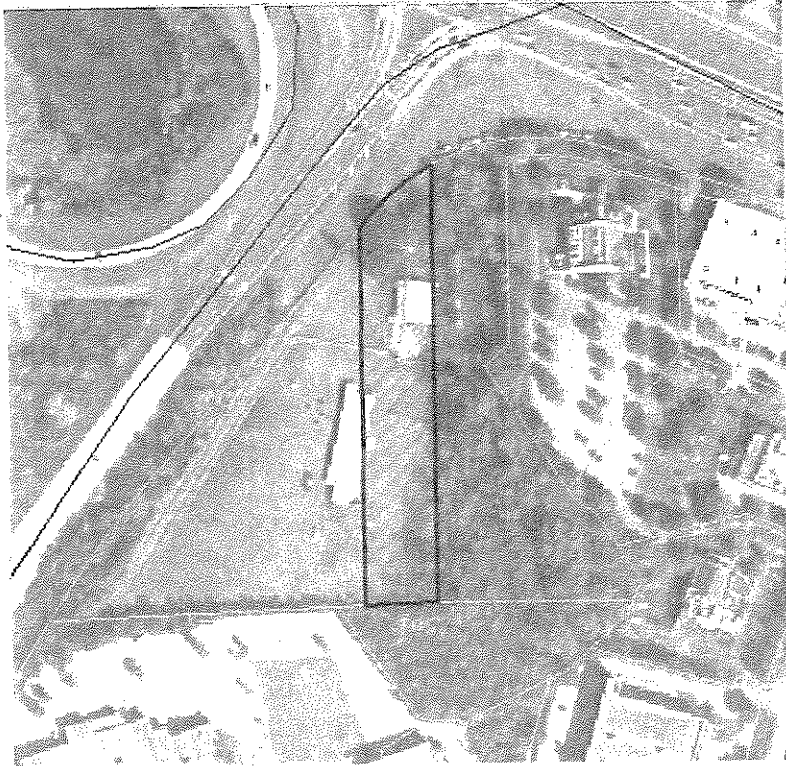
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[VIEW PROPERTY RECORD INFORMATION]



FOLIO: 0681000000
PIN NUMBER: U-20-29-20-ZZZ-000002-52820.0
OWNER 1: CAREY FARMS

ADDRESS: 0
UNINCORPORATED

LEGAL DESC: S OF I-75 R/W
DOR CODE: 6000

VALUE SUMMARY:
BUILDING VALUE: \$0
EXTRA FEATURE VALUE: \$14,346
LAND VALUE (MARKET): \$126,021
LAND VALUE (AGRI.): \$390
JUST (MARKET) VALUE: \$140,367
ASSESSED VALUE (A10): \$14,736
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1/1/1969 \$18,000.00

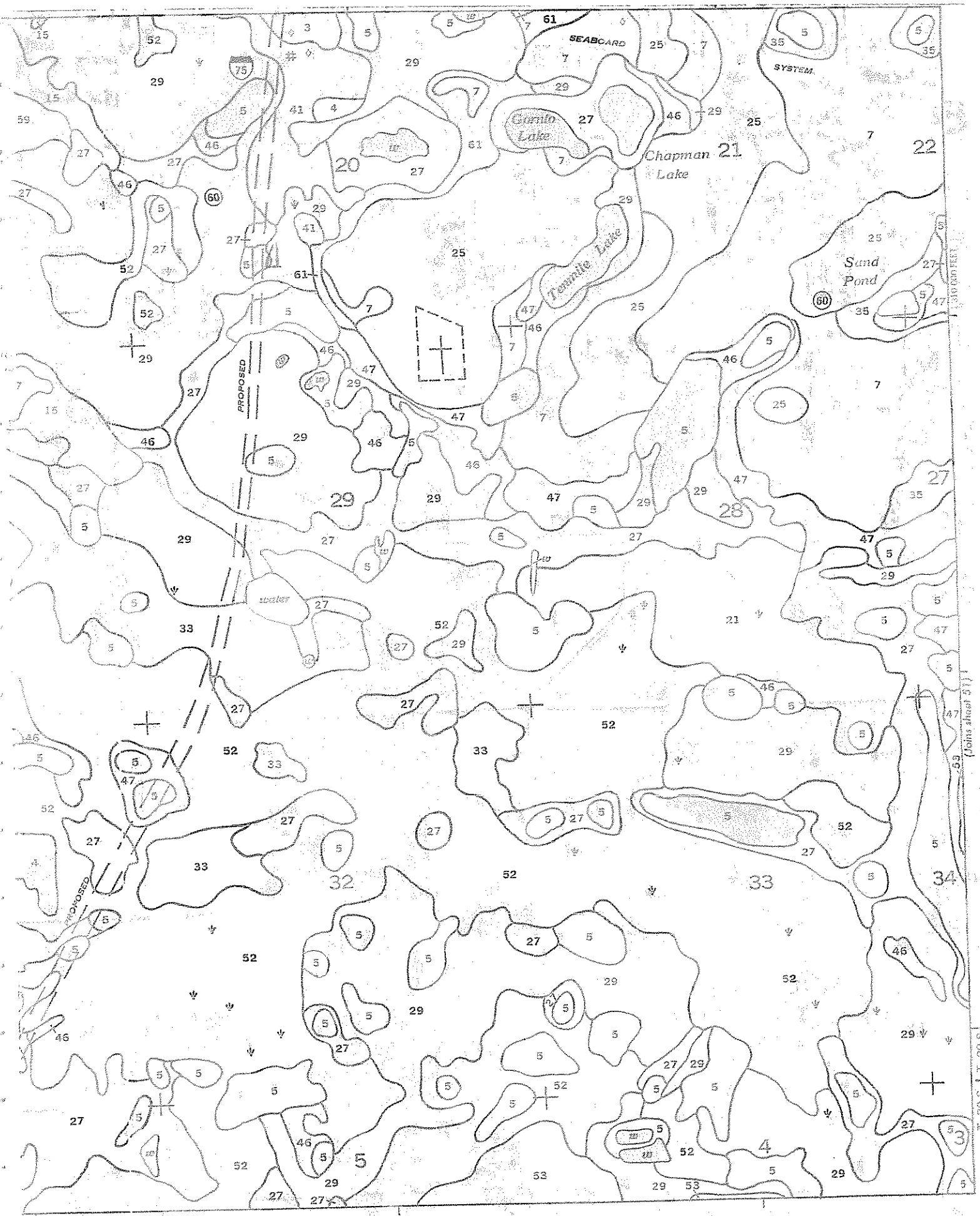
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Figure 4.
U. S. Department of Agricultural Soil Conservation Service Soil
Survey of Hillsborough County, Florida



3100 FEET
(John sheet 51)

T. 30 S. T. 29 S.

HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY

HYDRIC MAP UNITS

<u>NEW SYMBOLS</u>	<u>1958 SURVEY MAP SYMBOLS</u>	<u>MAP UNIT NAME</u>
#5	Fe2, Fe3, Rc, Re, Bh, Bk, Ic, Id, PaSc	Bassinger-Holopaw-Samsula (depressional)
#10	Mc, Md	Chobee loamy fine sand
#11	Ta	Chobee muck
#12	Pc	Chobee, frequently flooded
#13	Ra	Eaton fine sand
#14	Pk, Pl	Eaton fine sand (depressional)
#15	Bf, Db, Fa, Pe, Ph	Felda fine sand
#16	Mf	Felda fine sand (occasionally flooded)
#17	Da	Floridian fine sand
#24	Tc	Kesson muck (frequently flooded)
#27	Aa, Ca, Pb, Pd, Pg	Malabar fine sand
#30	Tb	Myakka fine sand (frequently flooded)
#37	Mb, Rd	Paisley fine sand (depressional)
#46	Rc	St. Johns fine sand
#50		Slickens
#51		Haplaquents
#60	Ac	Winder fine sand (frequently flooded)

Figure 5.
Florida Department of Transportation's Florida Land Use
Cover and Forms Classification System Data Set

HWY 60

CAREY FARMS - HWY 60 PARCEL
FLUCCS CODES



I-75

FLUCCS CODES

- # 191 Undeveloped Land within Urban Areas
- # 212 Unimproved Pastures
- # 231 Cattle Feeding Operations
- # 6172 Mixed Shrubs

212

231

191

6172

Figure 6.
Wildlife Survey Observations Mapped on an Aerial Map

CAREY FARMS - HWY 60 PARCEL
LISTED SPECIES SURVEY
FEBRUARY 14, 15 and 16, 2007



- 1 American Robin
- 2 Black Bird
- 3 Blue Jay
- 4 Black Vulture
- 5 Brown Anole
- 6 Brown Fence Lizard
- 7 Cattle
- 8 Northern Mockingbird
- 9 Northern Waterbrush
- 10 Pine Warbler
- 11 Road Killed Armadillo
- 12 Sand Hill Crane

Figure 7.
Photographic Representation of the Habitats On-Site

CAREY FARMS – HWY 60 PARCEL
PHOTOGRAPHIC REPRESENTATION OF HABITATS ON-SITE

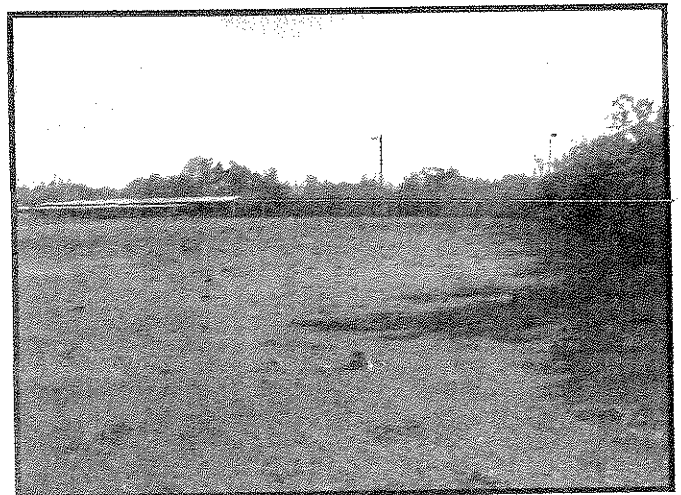
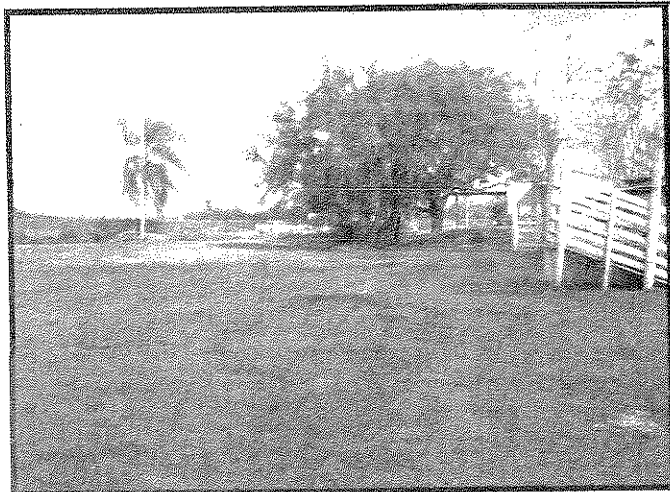
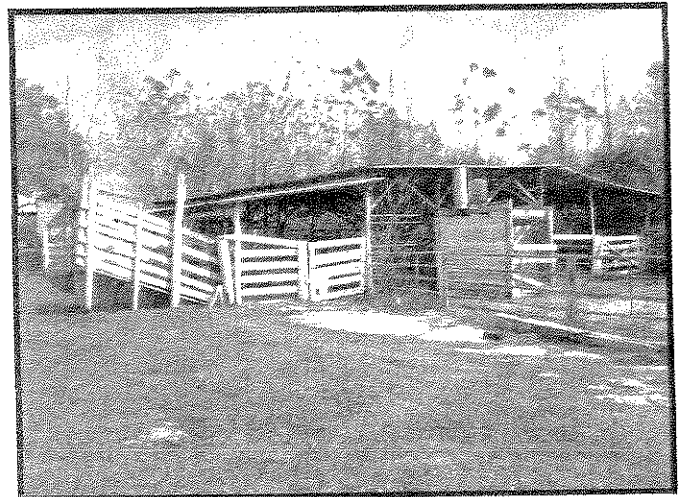
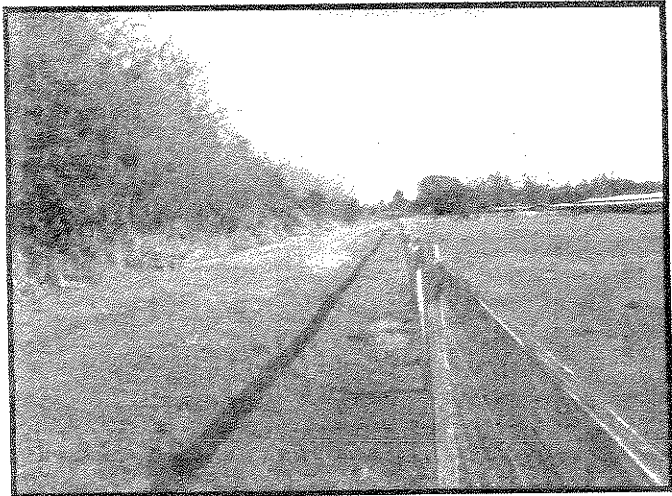
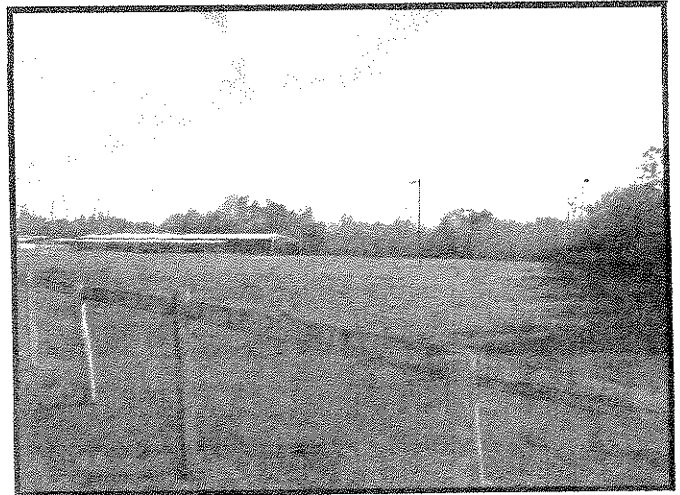


Figure 8.
Wildlife Technology Services (FFWCC) Eagles Nest Location System

Instructions for use of the "Map" and "Topo" buttons:

Clicking on the [MAP](#) button near the end of a nest row links to a website that displays the nest location on an interactive road map. You can zoom and shift the view area of the map and control the level of detail displayed. You can return to the list of found nests by using the "Back" browser button.

Clicking on the [TOPO](#) button at the end of a nest row links to a website that displays the nest location on a printable portion of a USGS 1:100,000 scale topographic map. The name of the USGS 1:24,000 scale quad map on which the nest is located is displayed above the map, and additional USGS quad map information can be accessed by clicking on the "Quad Info" link. When the "printer dialog" box displays, you can choose to print the map immediately or cancel the printer dialog in order to view the map first. You can return to the list of found nests by using the "Back" button on your browser.

Please Note: The nest location map accessed by the [TOPO](#) or [MAP](#) buttons is not an adequate substitute for careful plotting of FWC eagle nest location coordinates on an accurate small-scale topographic paper map or Geographic Information System (GIS) electronic map. This feature is provided only to allow the user to view the general location of a nest and to confirm that an appropriate area of interest was targeted by the user's search. Careful plotting of a nest location on an accurate map is not an adequate substitute for a specific on-the-ground survey of the nest site.

The Gazetteer column refers to the page number in the Florida Atlas & Gazetteer published by DeLorme.
County = 'Hillsborough' AND Township = '29' AND Range = '20' AND Section = '20'

0 record(s) were found.

Goto Page: [ALL](#)

												Active Territory?		Maps	
County	NestID	Longitude	Latitude	Township	Range	Section	02	03	04	05	06	Last	Gazetteer	Road	Topo

Goto Page: [ALL](#)

[Search again](#)

Instructions for use of the "Map" and "Topo" buttons:

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The Gazetteer column refers to the page number in the Florida Atlas & Gazetteer published by DeLorme.

Eagle nests within 5 miles of latitude 27° 56', longitude 82° 19'.

County	NestID	Longitude	Latitude	Township	Range	Section	Active Territory?						Relative location			Maps		
							02	03	04	05	06	Last	Distance	Bearing	Direction	Gazetteer	Road	Topo
Hillsborough	HL006	82 21.40	27 52.40	30S	19E	13	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	2006	4.8	211	SSW	91	MAP	TOPO
Hillsborough	HL020	82 22.30	27 59.00	29S	19E	02	Y	Y	Y	-	-	2004	4.8	316	NW	91	MAP	TOPO
Hillsborough	HL032	82 19.70	27 57.33	29S	20E	17	-	Y	-	-	-	2003	1.7	335	NNW	91	MAP	TOPO
Hillsborough	HL035	82 20.30	27 53.04	30S	20E	07	-	-	Y	N	-	2004	3.7	201	SSW	91	MAP	TOPO
Hillsborough	HL036	82 19.30	27 53.91	30S	20E	05	-	-	-	Y	N	2005	2.4	187	S	91	MAP	TOPO

5 nests found.

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Table 1.
Listed Animal Species that Potentially May Occur on the Subject Site

TABLE 1.

Listed Animal Species that potentially may occur on the Carey Farms - Hwy 60 Parcel

Common Name	Scientific Name	Legal Status		Preferred Habitat	Comments
		USFWS	FFWCC		
Gopher Tortoise	<i>Gopherus polyphemus</i>	----	SSC	Sandhills, xeric oak scrub, sand pine scrub, scrubby flatwoods	No Gopher Tortoise Burrows were observed in the dryer portions of the open areas and in the edges of the wetlands
Eastern Indigo Snake	<i>Drymarchon corais couperi</i>	T	T	Gopher Tortoise habitat	None were observed
American Alligator	<i>Alligator mississippiensis</i>	T (S/A)	SSC	Inhabits marshes, rivers, lakes and ponds	None were Observed and no habitat exists On-Site
Gopher Frog	<i>Rana capito</i>	----	SSC	Xeric oak scrub, sand pine scrub, breed in shallow grassy ponds or ditches and use tortoise burrows	None were observed
Sherman's Fox Squirrel	<i>Sciurus niger shermani</i>	----	SSC	Sandhills w/some pine, mesic flatwoods w/low ground cover	No Sherman's Fox Squirrels were observed.
Florida Panther	<i>Felis concolor coryi</i>	E	E	Large wilderness areas	None were observed and no appropriate habitat exists on-site
Florida Sandhill Crane	<i>Grus canadensis pratensis</i>	----	T	Breed in emergent palustrine wetlands; forage in pastures	One (1) Sandhill Crane was observed foraging, no nests found
Florida Scrub Jay	<i>Aphelocoma coerulescens</i>	T	T	Low, open xeric oak scrub in peninsular Florida	None were observed and no scrub habitat exists on-site
Burrowing Owl	<i>Speotyto cunicularia</i>	----	SSC	Sandhills, ruderal communities, dry prairies	None were observed and it's unlikely they occur on-site
Bald Eagle	<i>Haliaeetus leucocephalus</i>	T	T	Nest in tall trees along coasts, rivers and lakes	None were observed
Southeastern American Kestrel	<i>Falco sparverius paulus</i>	----	T	Sandhill, nest in natural cavities of dead trees and abandoned woodpecker nests	None were observed
Limpkin	<i>Aramus guarana</i>	----	SSC	Nest in a variety of ground and tree locations, uses streams, swamps, and marshes with apple snails	None were observed

TABLE 1.
Listed Animal Species that potentially may occur on the Carey Farms - Hwy 60 Parcel

Wood Stork	<i>Mycteria americana</i>	E	E	Estuarine or freshwater wetlands; nest in tops of trees in cypress or mangrove swamps	None were observed foraging on-site
Little Blue Heron	<i>Egretta caerulea</i>	-----	SSC	Breeding: marshes, swamps, ponds, estuaries, rivers; nest in shrubs and small trees	None were observed foraging on-site
Snowy Egret	<i>Egretta thula</i>	---	SSC	Breeding: marshes, swamps, ponds, estuaries, rivers; nest in shrubs and small trees	None were observed foraging on-site, or utilize the site to forage and is unlikely to nest on-site
Tri-colored Heron	<i>Egretta tricolor</i>	-----	SSC	Breeding: marshes, swamps, ponds, estuaries, rivers; nest in shrubs and small trees	None were observed foraging on-site, or utilize the site to forage and is unlikely to nest on-site
White Ibis	<i>Eudocimus albus</i>	-----	SSC	Breeding: marshes, swamps, ponds, estuaries, rivers; nest in shrubs and small trees	None were observed on-site.

USFWS = United States Fish and Wildlife Service
FFWCC = Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission
E = Endangered
T = Threatened
T(S/A) = Threatened/Similarity of Appearance
SSC = Species of Special Concern

Table 2.
Non-Listed Species Occurring on the Subject Site

Table 2.

CAREY FARMS - HWY 60 PARCEL

NON-LISTED SPECIES OBSERVED ON-SITE

MAMMALS	INDICATORS/VISUAL ENCOUNTERS
Armadillo	Visually observed (Road Killed)
Cattle	Visually observed
REPTILES AND AMPHIBIANS	INDICATOR
Brown Anole	Visually Observed
Brown Fence Lizard	Visually Observed
BIRDS	
American Robin	Visually Observed
Black Bird	Visually Observed
Black Vulture	Visually Observed
Blue Jay	Visually Observed
Northern Mockingbird	Visually Observed
Northern Water thrush	Visually Observed
Pine Warbler	Visually Observed