

Scleria lacustris: 2021 Management Plan



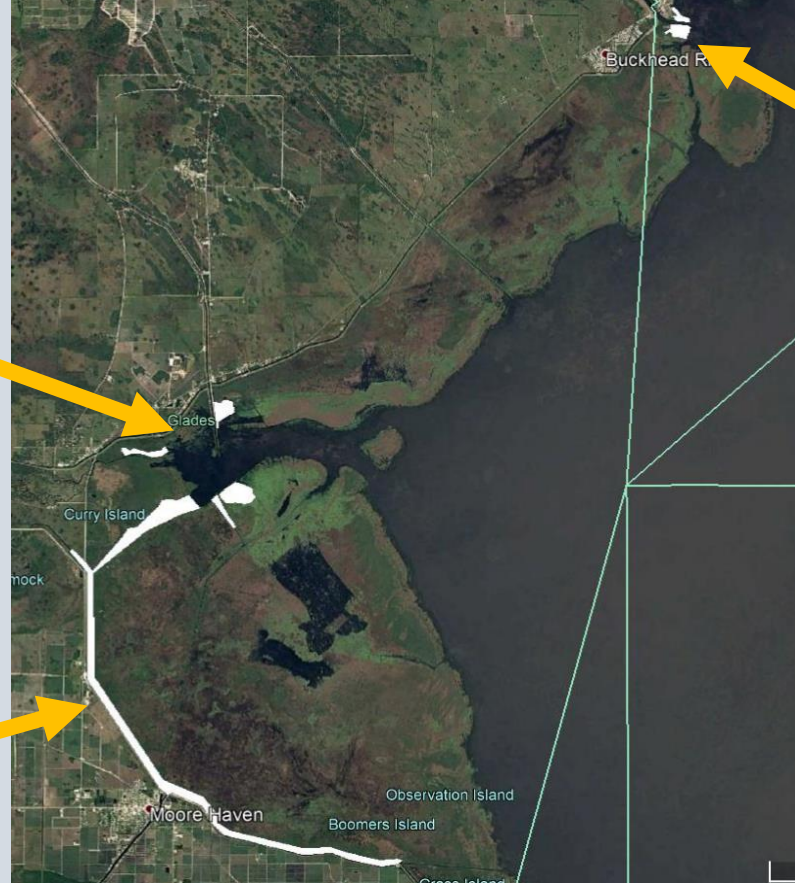
Scleria lacustris (Wright's nutrush) is an invasive annual sedge native to Central and South America and the Caribbean. *Scleria lacustris* is a Florida Exotic Pest Plant Council category I species. Lake Okeechobee is particularly vulnerable to this species expansion due to the lakes wet/dry fluctuations. The treatment window will begin in March when seedlings should begin to germinate and will last through the fall when the species develops seeds. Herbicide application of seeding *Scleria* will kill the parent plant but keep the seeds viable and if present will need hand pulling.



Luziola subintegra

The photos and maps below illustrate the current locations of untreated *Luziola subintegra* hot spots within Lake Okeechobee. *Luziola subintegra* is a FLEPPC category 1 invasive as well as a EDRR species. Google Earth imagery is used solely to show the GPS location of where photos were taken on the lake, the imagery is not used for plant management decisions. This treatment is necessary to limit ecological damage to the diverse native plant communities. Mechanical harvesting would not be ideal for this treatment due to potential of spreading fragments of the invasive grass. The potential of this grass to continue to grow on dry ground at upland disposal site after being harvested as well makes it a bad candidate.





The maps shows polygons where *Luziola subintegra* is located within Lake Okeechobee.





Satellite imagery of Luziola on the north side of McTush Cut



Satellite imagery of Luziola in the northern section of the Monkey Box



Photo shows Luziola growing in the Northern section of the Monkey Box. There is an estimated 80-100 acres located here.



01.07.2021

Photo shows Luziola growing down the Monkey Box trail. There is an estimated 15-20 acres of Luziola lining the trail.



01.07.2021

Photo shows
the west side of
Fisheating Bay.
This area has
received
treatment but
will likely need
a follow up.



01.07.2021

Photo shows the north west side of Fisheating Bay. There is still an estimated 100+ acres left to treat in this area.



01.07.2021



Photo shows the east side of the Harney Pond boat ramp where there is an estimated 30-50 acres of Luziola.

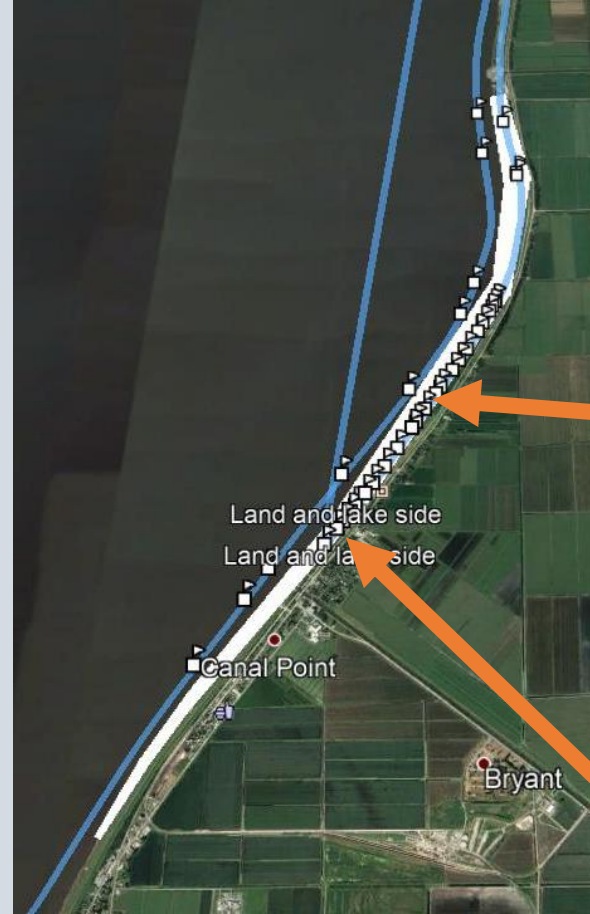


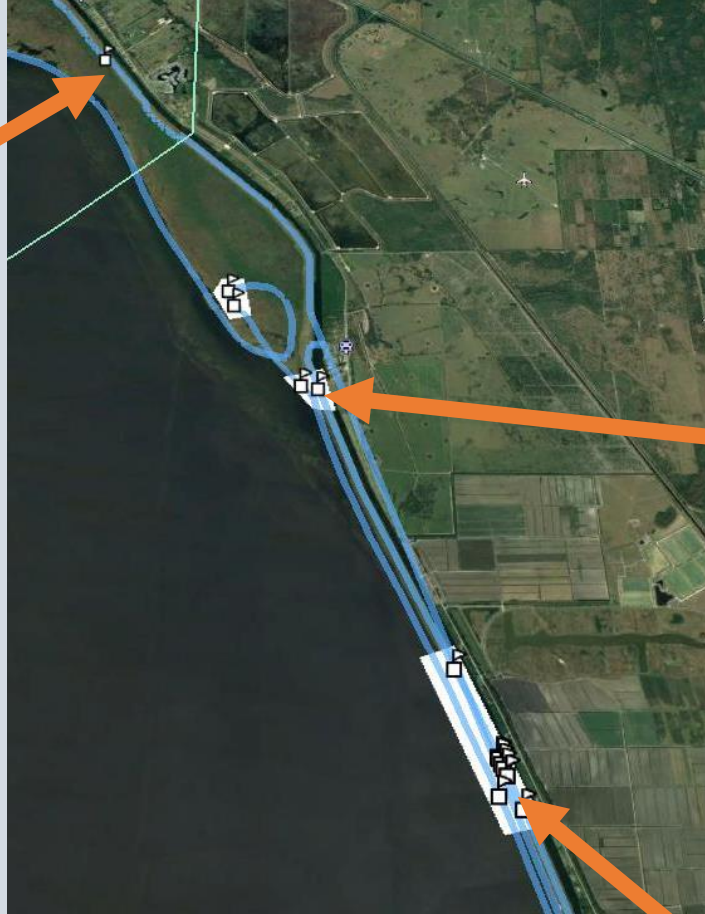
Saccharum spontaneum: Wild Sugarcane

There is an estimated 1.5 acres of Wild Sugarcane along the eastern edge of Lake Okeechobee. Wild Sugarcane has the potential to spread further throughout the lake as well as interfere with nearby agricultural lands just over the Herbert Hoover Dike. Prohibited from use in Florida according to the Federal Noxious Weed List, the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (FDACS) 5B-64.011 Prohibited Aquatic Plants, or FDACS 5B-57.007 Noxious Weed List. *Saccharum spontaneum* is native to southeast Asia. This treatment is aimed at keeping the Wild Sugarcane at the lowest feasible levels on Lake Okeechobee.



Saccharum Spontaneum has expanded on the eastern side of Lake Okeechobee in mostly small patches along the Herbert Hoover Dike (top photo). In a few locations the wild sugarcane has even spread to the land side of the dike (bottom photo).





12.08.2020

Top left photo shows a pioneer patch of wild sugarcane growing near the dike behind the Chancy Bay marsh. There are several other patches located around the J&S boat lock both along the dike and in the marsh.



12.08.2020

