

**Program Name:** Infrastructure  
**Project Name:** A.R.M. Loxahatchee NWR Prescribed Fire Program  
**Project ID:** 2304  
**Lead Agency:** USFWS Arthur R. Marshall Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge

**Strategic Plan Goal(s) Addressed:** 2.A.3

**Measurable Output(s):**

Acres of habitat improved including contribution to the reduction of hazardous fuels, with a secondary benefit of invasive exotic plant reduction.

During Fiscal Year 2015 the Arthur R. Marshall Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge conducted prescribed fire on 11,141 acres of the Refuge.

**Project Synopsis:**

Fire is a natural part of the Everglades ecosystem. The prescribed fire program at the Arthur R. Marshall Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge tries to closely replicate the natural fire occurrence pattern at the refuge. The natural fire season at the refuge is typically from late May through early September, as the rainy season brings lightning to the refuge. Prescribed fire helps to improve habitats by reducing fuel loads and mimicking natural fire frequencies and intensities where appropriate. The overall result will be an improvement in wildlife habitat on the refuge.

**Project Status:**

Water levels on the Refuge have been too high for the majority of the year to successfully implement prescribed fire. As of June 28, 2016 we have burned 0 acres of FY15's goal of 30,000 acres.

**Expected Accomplishments:**

We anticipate reaching our goal of 30,000 acres by September 30, 2016.

**Project Schedule:**

Start Date 2002  
Finish Date: recurring

**Detailed Project Budget Information (1000s)**

|              | 2009       | 2010       | 2011       | 2012       | 2013      | 2014      | 2015      | 2016      | Total        |
|--------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|--------------|
| Federal      | 176        | 175        | 170        | 225        | 90        | 90        | 90        | 90        | 1,106        |
| <b>Total</b> | <b>176</b> | <b>175</b> | <b>170</b> | <b>225</b> | <b>90</b> | <b>90</b> | <b>90</b> | <b>90</b> | <b>1,106</b> |

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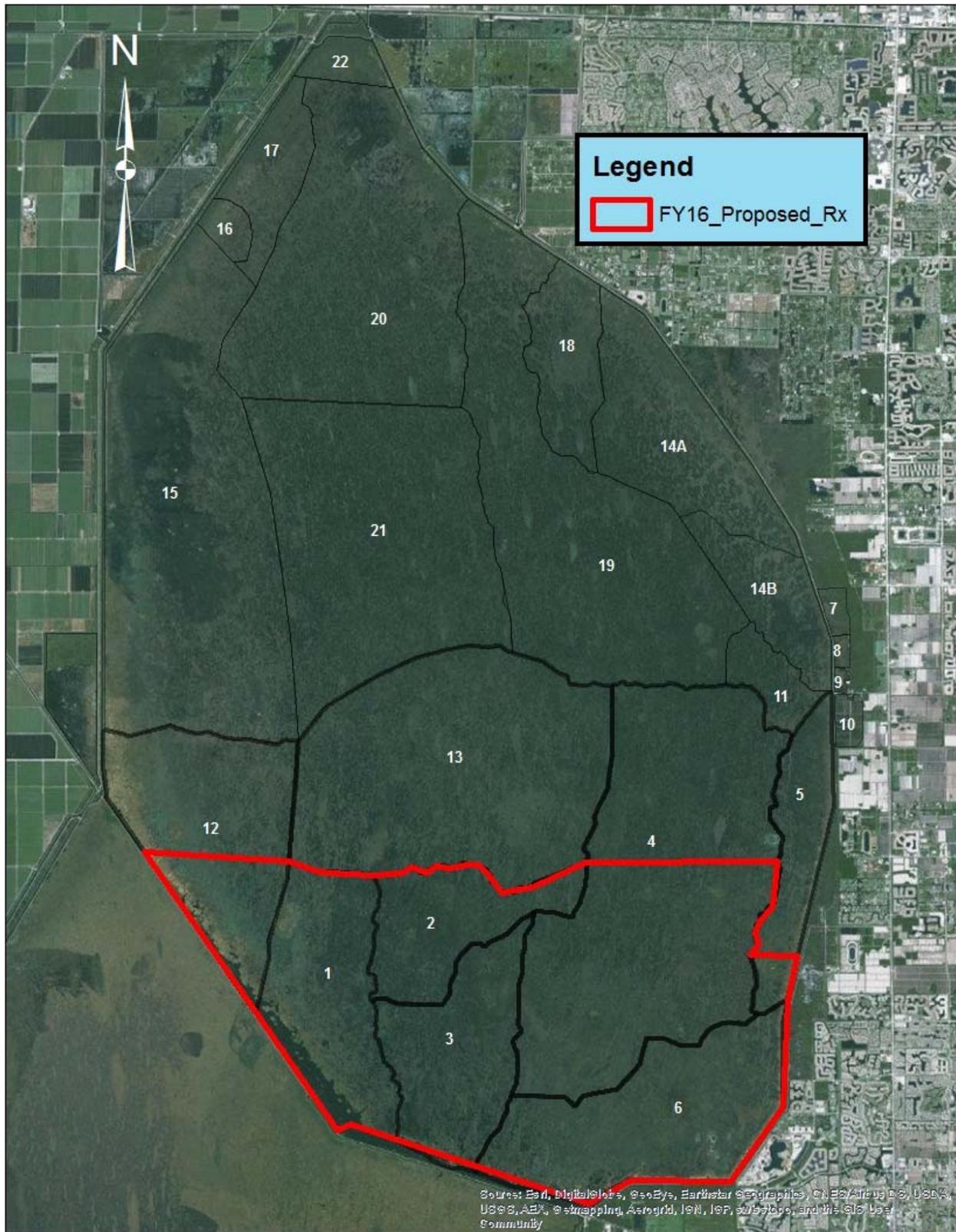


Figure 6. Area Proposed for Prescribed Fire in 2016.  
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Figure 7. Prescribed fire at Arthur R. Marshall Loxahatchee NWR. Photo by Jon Wallace, FWS.