

**North Golden Gate Estates  
Regional Offsite Mitigation Area:  
NGGE ROMA**

**2011 SPRING PROGRESS REPORT**



*prepared by:*

**Collier Soil and Water Conservation District**

*prepared for:*

**Florida Department of Environmental Protection  
*and*  
Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer  
Services, Division of Forestry**

31 July 2011

# **North Golden Gate Estates Regional Offsite Mitigation Area: NGGE ROMA**

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**Date: 31 July 2011**

**Submitted by: Collier Soil and Water Conservation District**

### **INTRODUCTION**

Collier Soil and Water Conservation District (CSWCD) entered into a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) and the Florida Division of Forestry (DOF) in September 2005 to create the North Golden Gate Estates – Regional Offsite Mitigation Area (NGGE ROMA), as shown in Figures 1 and 2. This is the 7<sup>th</sup> report on the progress of the NGGE ROMA.

### **SITE DESCRIPTION**

Picayune Strand State Forest (PSSF) is approximately a 70,000 acre property located in central Collier County (Figure 1) comprised of two large tracts known as Southern Golden Gate Estates (SGGE) and South Belle Meade (SBM). NGGE ROMA is a 212.4 acre site located within the SBM tract of the PSSF in Section 16, Township 50, Range 27 (Figure 2). The site was described in NGGE ROMA creation documents using a Uniform Mitigation Assessment Method (UMAM) evaluation as 192.8 acres of hydric-pine and cypress flatwoods and 19.6 acres of mesic pine/cypress/palmetto flatwoods.

### **HISTORY**

2005 09/29: NGGE ROMA was created and evaluated by DEP to have 36.8 Freshwater Forested Credits available for sale at an initial price of \$30,640 per credit. The UMAM was done in 2004.

2005 09/29-12/31: Organization and creation of bank accounts.

2006 01/01-06/30: A total of 2.93 credits were sold, leaving a credit balance of 33.87. Credit sales for this period generated a cumulative sales balance of \$89,775.20 sales. For this time period the Implementation account remained below \$200,000, therefore, no monitoring or enhancement activities were undertaken. Cost of a mitigation credit equals \$30,640.

2006 07/01-12/31: A total of 2.50 credits had been sold for this period for a cumulative total of 5.43 credits sold and a credit balance of 31.37. Credit sales for this period totaled \$76,600.00 and generated a cumulative sales balance of \$166,375.20. Cost of a mitigation credit equals \$30,640.

Previously the totals for this time period was incorrectly reported (... a total of 3.03 credits had been sold this period for a grand total of 5.96 credits, leaving a credit balance of 30.84, and there was \$182,614.40 in the Implementation Bank Account) due to a spreadsheet formula error. For this time period the Implementation account was below \$200,000, therefore, no monitoring or enhancement activities were undertaken.

2007 01/01-06/30: A total of 2.19 credits had been sold this period for a cumulative total of 7.62 credits sold and a credit balance of 29.18. Credit sales for this period totaled \$67,101.60 and generated a cumulative sales balance of \$233,476.80. Initial enhancement activities were started due to meeting the collection threshold of \$200,000.00 in sales. The next threshold to meet is the collection in sales of \$466,340.00, or a cumulative sales total of \$666,340. Collection of this money is for management and monitoring. Cost of a mitigation credit equals \$30,640.

Initial enhancement activities were begun by acquiring a contractor to develop a site Monitoring Plan for DEP approval. May 2007 wildfires occur on the ROMA significantly changing vegetative conditions. Year 2 of severe drought conditions in south Florida (SFWMD Situation Report #8, 04.15.08).

2007 07/01-12/31: A total of 0.21 credits had been sold this period for a cumulative total of 7.83 credits sold and a credit balance of 28.97. Credit sales for this period totaled \$6,434.40 and generated a cumulative sales balance of \$239,911.20. Management expenses for 2007 totaled \$20,765. Cost of a mitigation credit equals \$30,640.

Credit Sales show 1<sup>st</sup> effects of "housing slump." Monitoring plan approved by DEP and a "new" Time 0 monitoring report prepared of NGGE ROMA baseline conditions after May 2007 wildfire. Nearly 70-80% of canopy destroyed, area reseeded in Melaleuca seedlings and epicormic sprouting. CSWCD began discussions to study an area in NGGE (north of I-75) to determine if feasible for development as a mitigation bank and become the target of future NGGE ROMA acquisition funds; project name is HSCA – Horsepen Strand Conservation Area.

2008 01/01-06/30: A total of 0.53 credits had been sold this period for a cumulative total of 8.36 credits sold and a credit balance of 28.44. Credit sales for this period totaled \$16,239.20 and generated a cumulative sales balance of \$256,150.40. Cost of a mitigation credit equals \$30,640 and increased to \$34,560.

CSWCD increases the price of NGGE ROMA mitigation credit to \$34,560.00 to offset increasing management costs in May 2008. (Note: this was incorrectly reported in prior reports as \$34,640). Test treatment plots were implemented on NGGE ROMA to evaluate costs, chemicals, treatment methodologies for initial enhancement activities based on new conditions created by May 2007 wildfire. CSWCD begins selection process for a contractor to begin study of the feasibility of the Horsepen Strand Conservation Area (HSCA). Year 3 of severe drought conditions in south Florida (SFWMD Situation Report #8, 04.15.08). The housing slump continues to worsen, new construction slowing and foreclosures increasing.

2008 07/01-12/31: A total of 0.11 credits had been sold this period for a cumulative total of 8.47 credits sold and a credit balance of 28.33. Credit sales for this period totaled \$3,644.80 and generated a cumulative sales balance of \$259,795.20. Expenses for 2008 totaled \$51,238 for management activities. Cost of a mitigation credit equals \$34,560.00.

CSWCD begins process to find a contractor to begin initial enhancement activities in the ROMA. Drought conditions eased up during the rainy season, but November 2008-April 2009 was the driest dry season on record for SFWMD. Melaleuca still increasing in ground cover. The housing slump in Collier County and foreclosures continue. Horsepen Strand Conservation Area (HSCA) was selected as potential mitigation bank site in Golden Gate Estates per ROMA agreement.

2009 01/01-06/30: CORRECTION: A total of 0.40 credits had been sold this period for a cumulative total of 8.87 credits sold and a credit balance of 27.93. Credit sales for this period totaled \$13,824.00 and generated a cumulative sales balance of \$273,619.20. Cost of a mitigation credit equals \$34,560.00.

CSWCD completes initial treatment of 160 acres March 2009. "Time 0 and Time 1" monitoring of 160 acres, and 2<sup>nd</sup> annual monitoring of entire area completed. Detailed Florida Land Use, Cover and Forms Classification System (FLUCFCS) mapping of 2009 vegetative conditions and soils of the ROMA area completed. Drought conditions not apparent during this growing season. CSWCD making preparations for 1<sup>st</sup> follow up treatment on 162 acre area. DEP compliance review of ROMA operations.

For the period 2009 07/01-12/31: A total of 0.44 credits had been sold this period for a cumulative total of 9.31 credits sold and a credit balance of 27.49. Credit sales for this period totaled \$13,481.60 and generated a cumulative sales balance of \$287,100.80. Management expenses for 2009 totaled \$113,697.44. The cost of a mitigation credit acre equals \$34,560.00 each for this period.

For the period 2010 01/01-06/30: A total of 0.28 credits had been sold this period for a cumulative total of 9.59 credits sold and a credit balance of 27.21. Credit sales for this period totaled \$9,676.00 and generated a cumulative sales balance of \$296,777.60. Cost of a mitigation credit equals \$34,560.00. CSWCD completes 1<sup>st</sup> Follow up retreatment of 162 acre area A, and initial treatment of 10 acre area C.

For the period 2010 07/01-12/31: A total of 0.12 credits had been sold this period for a cumulative total of 9.71 credits sold and a credit balance of 27.09. Credit sales for this period totaled \$4,147.20 and generated a cumulative sales balance of \$300,924.80. Management expenses for 2010 totaled \$114,554.28. Cost of a mitigation credit equals \$34,560.00.

CSWCD: scheduled no activity on the 162 acre block (A block), the 1<sup>st</sup> follow up treatment of the 10 acre block (C block) was completed on 16 December 2010; and initial treatment of the 11.7 acre block was started 17 December 2010 (B block) (Figure 3). In November 2010 annual monitoring of all areas were completed

## RESULTS / DISCUSSION

Financial. For the period 2011 01/01-06/30: A total of 0 (zero) credits were sold this period for a cumulative total of 9.71 credits sold and a credit balance of 27.09. Credit sales for this period totaled \$0.00 (zero) and generated a cumulative sales balance of \$300,924.80. Management expenses for 2011 January 01- June 30 totaled \$10,123.37. Cost of a mitigation credit equals \$34,560.00. Please refer to Appendix A-NGGE ROMA Credit Ledger.

As of 30 June 2011, \$99,075.20 had been collected toward the next financial threshold of \$666,340.00. The NGGE ROMA documents indicate there are 4 financial thresholds to meet from the sales of mitigation credits:

1. When \$200,000 has been deposited - enhancement activities will begin.
2. The next \$466,340 to be deposited from credit sales is for management activities. This would be a total sales activity of \$666,340.
3. The next \$63,720 deposited will be earmarked for the Management Transfer Account. This would be a total sales activity of \$730,060.
4. The next \$10,000 will be earmarked to begin land acquisition in the NGGE. This would be a total sales activity of \$740,060.

The “housing slump” continues again this period. The number of foreclosures began to decrease. Additionally, there is large number of existing houses on the market causing a decrease in demand for new building. Demand for mitigation credits has been zero for this period.

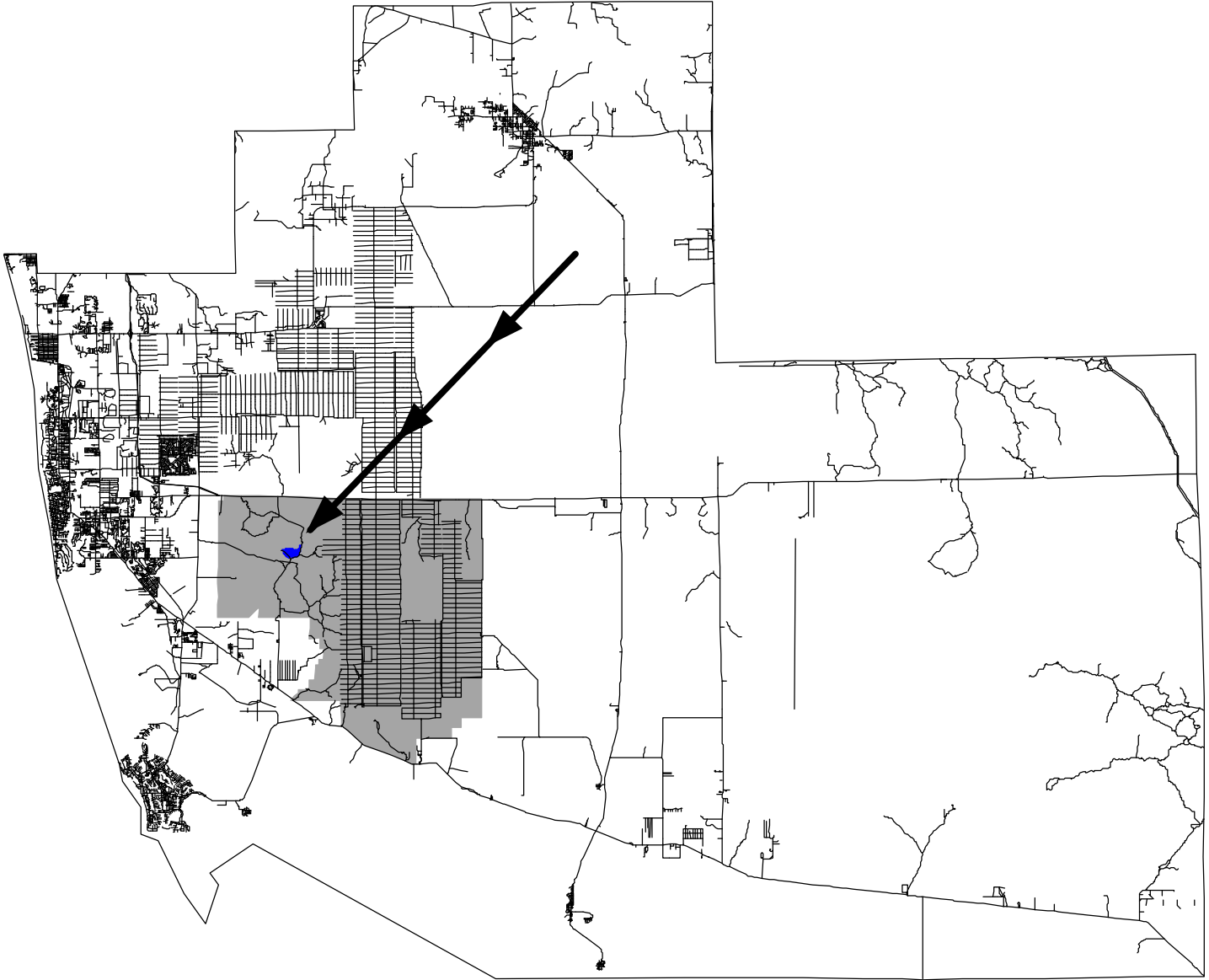
Administration. CSWCD continues to follow up with the DEP South District Branch office as to the information pertaining to applicants that had made a reservation for a mitigation credit, constructed a house, but had never followed through on the purchase of the credit. CSWCD began application to obtain US Army Corps of Engineers ROMA certification as an “in lieu fee” mitigation area.

Management. CSWCD was able to begin exotic treatment activities early this year because of dry conditions in December 2010. CSWCD tried to schedule prescribed burning of the 162 acre block (A block) this period, but drought conditions prevented burning. Completed initial treatment of the 11.7 acre block 14 January 2011 (B block) (Figure 3). Overall, all areas appear to be responding favorably to the initial and follow up treatments. Areas A and C appear to remain at the <5% level of exotic areal coverage. Wildlife has been observed to be coming back into the area, especially wading bird activity in the northern cypress area after the wetter season, and white tail deer in the southern areas.

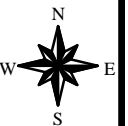
Other. CSWCD is continuing to coordinate with the Big Cypress Basin, South Florida Water Management District and Collier County Government to proceed with the Horsepen Strand Conservation Area (HSCA) Phase 2 engineering feasibility for a Master Surface Water Management Plan based on Phase 1 findings.

# PROJECT LOCATION MAP

-  Roads
-  NGGE ROMA
-  Picayne Strand State Forest Proposed Boundary



COLLIER COUNTY, FL



PROJECT: NGGE ROMA

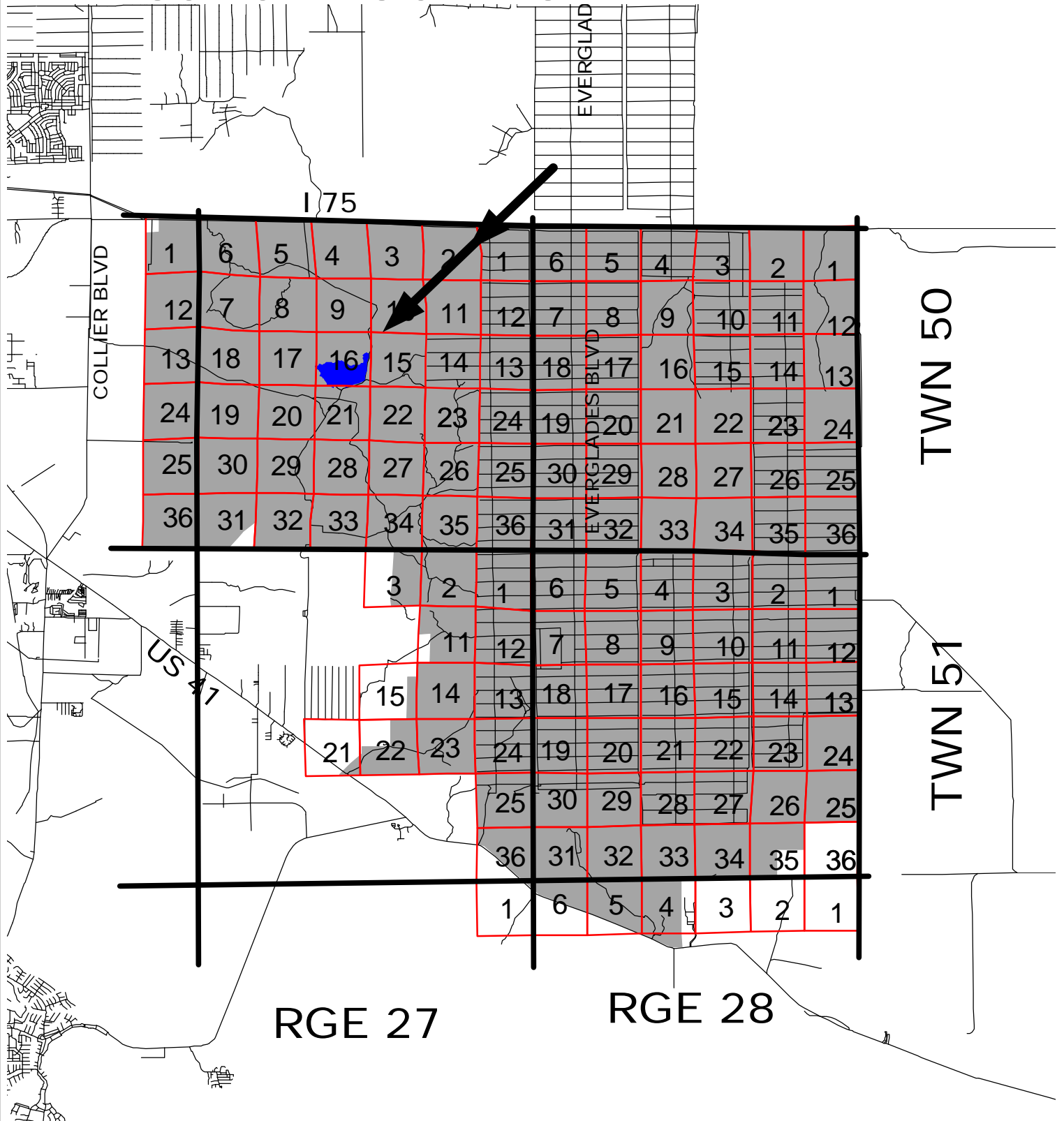
Figure 1. Project Location Map;

NGGE ROMA; Sections Sec 16, Twn 50, Rge 27;  
totaling approx. 212 acres.

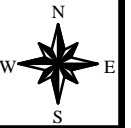
**CSWCD**  
Collier Soil & Water  
Conservation District  
14700 Immokalee Road  
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# PROJECT LOCATION - DETAIL MAP



2 0 2 4 Miles



## PROJECT: NGGE ROMA

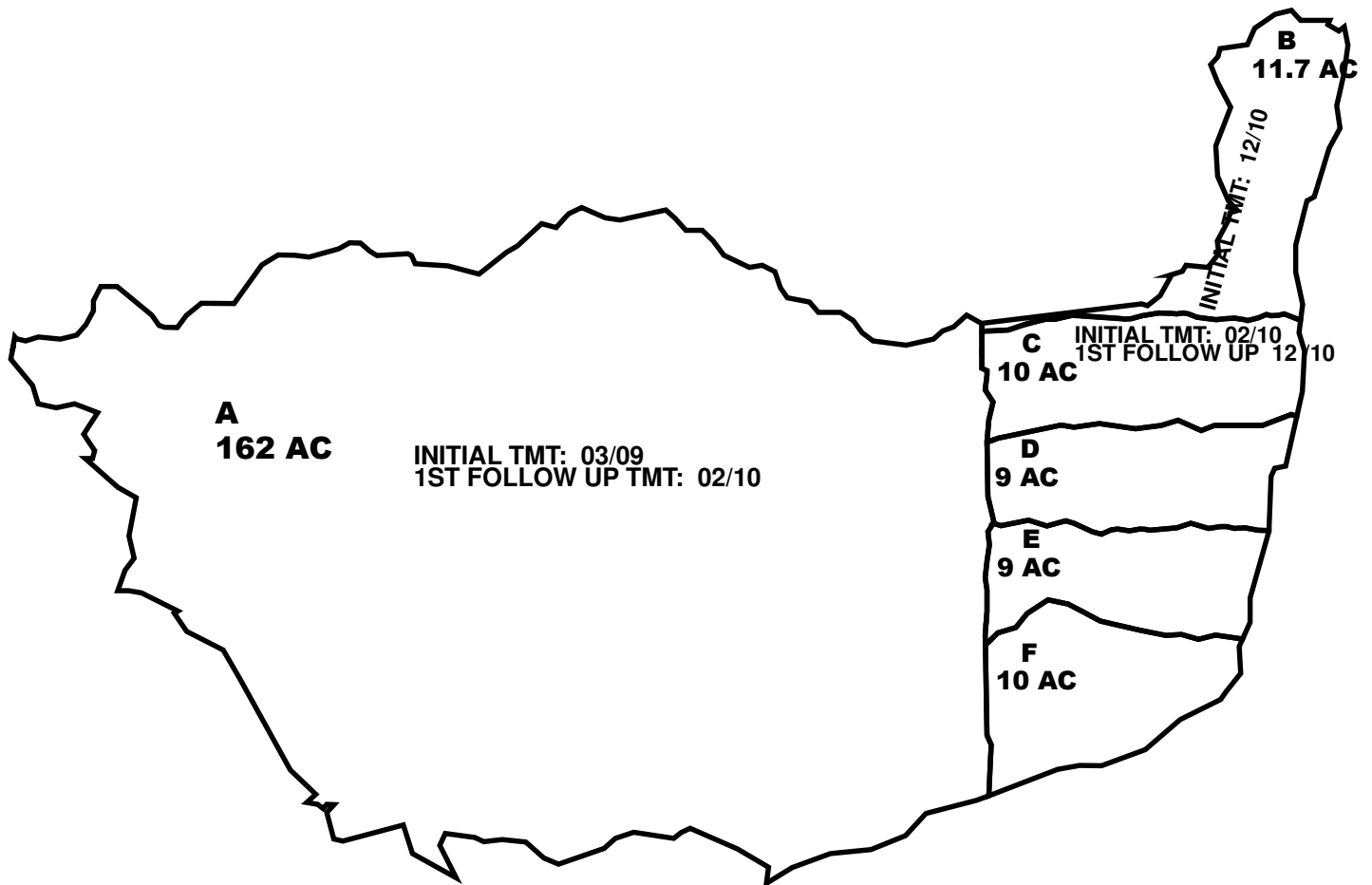
Figure 2. Project Location Detail Map;

NGGE ROMA; Sections Sec 16, Twn 50, Rge 27; totaling approx. 212 acres.

**CSWCD**

Collier Soil & Water  
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# PROJECT: NGGE ROMA 2010 MONITORING REPORT



Figure 3. 2010 Treatment Areas map.

NGGE ROMA; Sections Sec 16, Twn 50, Rge 27; totaling approx. 212 acres.

**CSWCD**

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NGGE ROMA  
Mitigation Credit Ledger

Freshwater Forested Wetlands: Total Potential Credits = 36.8																
DEP Permit/Case#	Army Corps of Engineers Permit/ Case #	Permit/ Case# Issue Date	NGGE Agreement #	Mitigation Purchase Date	Applicant	CREDIT TO BE PURCHASED	Credits Used	COST PER MITIGATION CREDIT ACRE	Purchase Amount	Amount Paid	GRAND TOTAL CASH RECEIVED	CREDITS SOLD FOR PERIOD	TOTAL CREDITS SOLD	CREDIT BALANCE	MANAGEMENT COST	PERIOD END DATE
OPENING BAL				09/29/05				\$ 30,640.00		\$0.00	\$0.00	0	0	36.80		12.31.05
PERIOD TOTALS																
DEP # 11-0243565-002		02/01/06	2006-0003	02/13/06	Lisette Toruno		0.06	\$ 30,640.00	\$ 1,838.40	\$1,838.40						
OGC #05-2827-11-DF		01/11/06	2006-0001	02/14/06	Lisette Andreu, Edwardo Montero, Yohana Iriza		0.20	\$ 30,640.00	\$ 6,128.00	\$6,128.00						
DEP # 11-0218236-002		01/25/06	2006-0002	02/14/06	John Weaver		0.19	\$ 30,640.00	\$ 5,821.60	\$5,821.60						
DEP # 11-0250593-001		01/11/06	2006-0005	03/13/06	Abraham Smith		0.55	\$ 30,640.00	\$ 16,852.00	\$16,852.00						
DEP # 11-0258786-001		03/08/06	2006-0006	03/20/06	Mr. & Mrs. Bill Rosa		0.22	\$ 30,640.00	\$ 6,740.80	\$6,740.80						
DEP #11-0243174-002	SAJ-2005-1309 (NW-RMT)	DEP 1/20/06 CORP 3/9/06	2006-0007	03/29/06	Ronald Davis		0.26	\$ 30,640.00	\$ 7,966.40	\$7,966.40						
OGC #05-2142-11-DF		02/14/06	2006-0008	03/30/06	Gerard & Heather Dawn Irwin		0.04	\$ 30,640.00	\$ 1,225.60	\$1,225.60						
DEP #11-0188326-004		03/15/06	2006-0009	04/13/06	Teddy Alvarez		0.20	\$ 30,640.00	\$ 6,128.00	\$6,128.00						
OGC #05-1826-11-DF		04/04/06	2006-0011	04/14/06	Dennis & Karen Bockrath		0.10	\$ 30,640.00	\$ 3,064.00	\$3,064.00						
DEP #11-0256076-001	SAJ-2005-9269 (NW-CDO)	DEP 3/30/06 CORP 4/7/06	2006-0012	04/24/06	Yohana Iriza		0.23	\$ 30,640.00	\$ 7,047.20	\$7,047.20						
OGC #06-0693-11-DF		05/05/06	2006-0014	05/08/06	Jeff & Teresa Wortman		0.24	\$ 30,640.00	\$ 7,353.60	\$7,353.60						
DEP #11-0245518-002		12/30/05	2006-0010	05/16/06	Graciela Fossarilli		0.20	\$ 30,640.00	\$ 6,128.00	\$6,128.00						
DEP #11-0216077	SAJ-2005-77(NW-CDO)	CORP 6/16/05	2006-0016	05/31/06	Jorge Lemes		0.30	\$ 30,640.00	\$ 9,192.00	\$9,192.00						
DEP #11-0256842-001	SAJ-2005-9699 (NW-CDO)	CORP 3/21/06	2006-0017	6/9/2006	Glenn & Shelly Knapp		0.14	\$ 30,640.00	\$ 4,289.60	\$4,289.60						
PERIOD TOTALS										\$89,775.20	\$89,775.20	2.93	2.93	33.87		06.30.06
DEP #11-0256841-001	SAJ-2005-9708	DEP 05/25/2006 CORP 05/30/2006	2006-0018	07/06/06	Frank Madden		0.20	\$ 30,640.00	\$ 6,128.00	\$6,128.00						
OGC #06-0455-11-DF		07/27/06	2006-0024	07/27/06	Chris & Luz Maria Andreoullakis		0.21	\$ 30,640.00	\$ 6,434.40	\$6,434.40						
DEP # 11-0262291-001		07/06/06	2006-0020	08/01/06	Marco Viteri		0.30	\$ 30,640.00	\$ 9,192.00	\$9,192.00						
DEP #11-0262289-001		07/06/06	2006-0021	08/01/06	Alberto Abad		0.07	\$ 30,640.00	\$ 2,144.80	\$2,144.80						
OGC #05-2629-11-DF		02/07/06	2006-0025	08/14/06	Orlando & Luisa Cala		0.26	\$ 30,640.00	\$ 7,966.40	\$7,966.40						
DEP#11-0254229-001		07/28/06	2006-0026	08/21/06	Ernesto Rubio		0.12	\$ 30,640.00	\$ 3,676.80	\$3,676.80						
OGC #05-2809-11-DF		09/12/06	2006-0030	10/04/06	Richard & Johanna Costic		0.50	\$ 30,640.00	\$15,320.00	\$15,320.00						
OGC #05-2631-11-DF		09/26/06	2006-0034	11/22/06	Carlos Roubicek, The Roubicek Family Limited Partnership		0.05	\$ 30,640.00	\$1,532.00	\$1,532.00						
DEP 11-0252034-001	2005-7029	01/27/06	2006-0037	12/01/06	Orlando Gonzalez, Tropical Environmental Consultants		0.22	\$ 30,640.00	\$6,740.80	\$6,740.80						
DEP #11-0263013-002		08/15/06	2006-0033	12/04/06	Thomas Peek, Peek-Bender Inc.		0.04	\$ 30,640.00	\$1,225.60	\$1,225.60						
DEP #11-0263014-002		07/31/06	2006-0033-1	12/04/06	Thomas Peek, Peek-Bender Inc.		0.14	\$ 30,640.00	\$4,289.60	\$4,289.60						
OGC 052763-11-DF		11/30/06	2006-0038	12/04/06	ROLANDO DELA ROSA C/O WATERWAYS HOMES		0.05	\$ 30,640.00	\$1,532.00	\$1,532.00						
OGC 052764-11-DF		11/30/06	2006-0039	12/04/06	GAMAL REYES C/O WATERWAYS HOMES		0.01	\$ 30,640.00	\$306.40	\$306.40						
DEP #11-0196254-003	2005-7026	01/25/06	2006-0036	12/08/06	Donald Ernst, Miami Truck Parts, Inc.		0.10	\$ 30,640.00	\$3,064.00	\$3,064.00						

