

# **Brenda Ward Invasives Control Project Proposal**

## **Gulf County, Florida**

**3 August 2006**

**Apalachicola Invasives Working Group (IWG)**

### **Location and Description**

The Brenda Ward Tract, a forested parcel of land lying within Section 26; Township 5 South; Range 11 West in Gulf County, is owned by Brenda Ward of Wewahitchka, Florida. The property lies about 10 miles inland from the Gulf of Mexico, between the Towns of Mexico Beach and Wewahitchka, in the Overstreet community. About 160 total acres are contained within the boundaries of the Ward Tract. Access to the tract is from woods roads that connect to County Highway 386 and Pleasant Rest Road.

Most of the Ward Tract is forested with slash pines (*Pinus elliotti*) planted around 1995 while other forest areas are covered with a mix of longleaf pines (*Pinus palustris*), slash pines, upland hardwoods, and bottomland hardwoods. The remaining area is constantly flooded by the waters of Wetappo Creek, a major stream that slices from north to south through the western one third of the property.

### **Objectives**

The objectives of this proposed invasive plant control project on this property are two fold. If funded, the IWG will work with the landowner to insure that these objectives are reached.

The first objective is to eradicate invasive plants that are currently colonizing several areas on the property. This can be achieved through an active herbicide application program. This should involve an initial application of the appropriate herbicide to all invasive, exotic plants found on the property. An intensive survey will be needed to insure that as many infestations as possible are treated. The IWG will fund these activities. Follow-up yearly surveys and, most likely, spot herbicide treatments will then be needed to insure long term eradication and/or acceptable control. The IWG may or may not fund these activities.

The second objective of this proposed project is to promote the education of local landowners, homeowners, land managers, and school groups on the deleterious effects that invasive, exotic species have on native plants and habitats. This will involve the landowner allowing the IWG to use the property as a demonstration and education area for individuals in the before mentioned groups. Meeting this objective should result in no cost to the landowner and only a time investment from the IWG.

### **Target Species**

Torpedograss (*Panicum repens*), Japanese climbing fern (*Lygodium japonicum*), Chinese tallow tree (*Sapium sebiferum*), and Chinese privet (*Ligustrum sinense*) have all be noted growing on the Ward Tract. The infestation locations noted on the attached map are only those that were visible from a recent walk through site visit to the property. A detailed survey is needed to determine all areas that need treatment. Most of the infestations appear to be in disturbed areas, such as along woods roads, and where plant materials are deposited in the Wetappo Creek floodplain during high water events.

# Brenda Ward Invasives Control Project Map

160+/- acres in Gulf County, Florida  
A portion of Section 26; Township 5 South; Range 11 West



## Legend

- Property boundary
- County Highway 386
- Pleasant Rest Road
- Woods road
- Trail

- torpedograss (*Panicum repens*)
- Japanese climbin fern (*Lygodium japonicum*)
- Chinese tallow tree (*Sapium sebiferum*)
- Chinese privet (*Ligustrum sinense*)

0 110 220 440 Feet



N



Map prepared by  
Wayne Harris  
FL FWC  
3 August 2006