

Lee County Shorebird Partnership

Post-season Meeting

Monday, November 13th, 2017

Time: 1-3pm

Lakes Regional Library

(15290 Bass Rd, Ft. Myers)

239-533-4000

Agenda:

- Welcome and introductions
- CWA Update – Michelle van Deventer
 - Question: There have been concerns raised by local fisherman regarding what the CWA boundaries will look like.
 - Sign pollutions will be kept at a minimum. There need to be enough signs that an officer can establish a site line post to post.
 - Casting is not allowed into the CWA. There is no take of any wildlife allowed.
- Florida Shorebird Program: Restoring Florida's Beach-nesting Birds – Shea Armstrong
- Florida Shorebird Database 2017 Data Summary – Morgan Parks
- Updates and management issues at partnership sites:
 - Charlotte County Sites – Gasparilla, Knight Island, Stump Pass and Boca Grande
 - Domestic dogs are still a major issue at Charlotte county beaches regardless of the county wide ordinance prohibiting dogs on beaches.
 - Issues with Ecotours and visitors disregarding the posting and entering into the posted section.
 - Issues with armadillos predating shorebird nests this season. Need assistance with this issue.
 - Palm Island mitigation site had nesting this season.
 - Cayo Costa
 - 22 Snowy Plover chicks documented. 11 Least tern chicks.

- Colony was active one month and abandoned the next, unsure of what caused this abandonment.
- North Captiva
 - Charlies pass was gifted to SCCP. Staff need assistance with getting rides to the pass.
 - Potential Wilson's Plover and Snowy Plover nesting on this new site.
- Sanibel and Captiva
 - Captiva had no nesting this season.
 - Sanibel had 10 Snowy Plover pairs this season with: 14 nests, 2 nests hatched, 3 chicks observed and 1 fledgling that is banded.
 - Banded fledgling is spending winter at Siesta Key.
 - Issues with 2 nests abandoned because males became sick.
 - Dredging site had 3 chicks fledge in spite of all the activity nearby.
 - Wilson's Plovers had 3 pairs with 5 nests, 2 nest washed over and 2 predated by crows.
 - Audrey is working with USFWS to help them get data into FSD for bunch beach and other sites.
 - Issues: Crows. Unleased dogs are also an issue.
 - Gul side city beach is listed incorrectly as dog friendly.
 - The city of Sanibel is working to update their 1996 Beach Management Plan with assistance from SCCP.
 - The city conducted a study to identify how many coyotes are on the island. They found there was an estimated population of 34 individuals with the range of 29-64.
 - City suspects coyote predation on shorebirds and turtles has decreased because of a boom in the local rabbit population.
- Fort Myers Beach/Little Estero CWA/Carlos Pointe
 - Little Estero CWA – had an issue with a dredge pipe washing up along a 1 miles stretch of the CWA during Irma. Pipe has been removed.

- CWA least tern colony had 16 nests with 10 fledglings produced. 5 Wilson's plover's nests were documented.
 -
- Carlos Pointe- issues with laughing gull predation at the end of the season.
 - Beach driving was also an issue. Code enforcement, FWC LE and the Sheriff office were all contacted when violations occurred. Cars were accessing the site on a lot that has been sold since the end of the season and should reduce the numbers of future occurrence.
 - Raking was cited as a reason for potent nest failure in the Black Skimmer colony. Meg advised that it was actual laughing gulls picking of nests.
 - Audubon and FWC would like to cultivate a law enforcement workshop to help facilitate law enforcement response.
- Lovers Key
 - Used least tern decoys and sound system, but it did not attract interest.
 - Park staff did not observe any raccoon tracks.
- Big Hickory Island
 - Meg Rousher made a site visit and discovered a colony. The following month the colony had abandoned.
 - A subsequent site visit by Morgan Parks noted that there were racoon tracks throughout the island.
 - Beach re-nourishment was occurring in September. Should be completed before the beginning of nesting season.
- Aquatic Areas
 - Estero Bay Aquatic Preserve
 - Program started in 2008 with 25 mangrove islands.

- 118 Brown Pelican nests this season, a 7% increase in their 9-year average.
 - A slight increase in great blue heron and black-crowned night heron nesting was also observed this season.
- BRPE nesting on 3 of the islands. They are established CWA's now.
- Having issues with entanglement. 1500ft of fishing line was removed from islands during a major island cleanup event.
- Charlotte Harbor Aquatic Preserve
 - Program also started in 2008 with 20 islands monitored.
 - 7 islands with nesting brown pelicans.
 - Uptick in nesting numbers also observed this season.
 - They are working on their 10-year report that will be submitted to the wading bird report.
- Rooftops
 - Audrey asked for assistance with identifying rooftops in the area. It is suspected that there are more rooftops than they have observed.
 - FWRI will be initiating a research study to help address this issue as well as create a more efficient monitoring program.
- Discussion of Partnership's future
 - There was a suggestion that FWC should continue to run meetings.
 - FWC is working on identifying potential sites for restoration and creation of sites that will benefit beach nesting birds.
 - FWC is also working on addressing some predation management questions.
- Close