

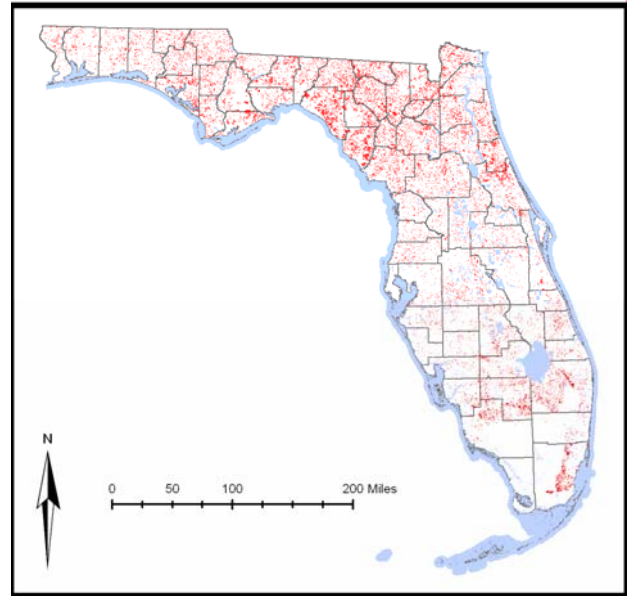
Disturbed/Transitional



Status

Current condition: Unknown.

According to the best available GIS information at this time (see Appendix D. GIS Data Tables), approximately 2,807,185 acres (1,136,027 ha) of Disturbed/Transitional habitat exist. However, this is a very dynamic cover class. Areas are rapidly added to and lost from this category, due to both natural processes (e.g., succession, wildfire) and human enterprise (e.g., agriculture).



Some habitat distributions or locations may be misrepresented on this map due to size, resolution and insufficient data sources.

Habitat Description

FNAI type: None

This habitat category includes two principal types of Disturbed/Transitional habitat. The first type is comprised of a variety of situations where a natural upland community type has recently experienced an extensive disturbance resulting in the loss of nearly all of the vegetative cover (e.g., clear-cutting, land clearing, or severe fire) and is recovering through natural successional processes. This includes areas that range from bare soil to recently denuded areas where vegetative growth has resulted in a dense, mixed cover of herbaceous vegetation, shrubs, and vines. Species composition may approximate that of the pre-existing stand. These areas could be characterized as early-successional habitats.

The second type of Disturbed/Transitional habitat is comprised of upland or wetland site dominated by non-native invasive plants, most commonly trees. These invasives may have been

planted, or may have escaped cultivation and invaded native plant communities. These exotics include *Melaleuca*, Australian pine, Brazilian pepper, and *Eucalyptus*.

Associated Species of Greatest Conservation Need

Mammals

- | | |
|--|-------------------------------|
| • <i>Blarina carolinensis shermani</i> | Sherman's Short-tailed Shrew |
| • <i>Sorex longirostris</i> | Southeastern Shrew |
| • <i>Condylura cristata</i> | Star-nosed Mole |
| • <i>Eumops floridanus</i> | Florida Bonneted Bat |
| • <i>Molossus molossus</i> | Pallas' Mastiff Bat |
| • <i>Myotis austroriparius</i> | Southeastern Bat |
| • <i>Myotis grisescens</i> | Gray Bat |
| • <i>Lasiurus borealis</i> | Eastern Red Bat |
| • <i>Lasiurus seminolus</i> | Seminole Bat |
| • <i>Lasiurus intermedius</i> | Northern Yellow Bat |
| • <i>Lasiurus cinereus</i> | Hoary Bat |
| • <i>Corynorhinus rafinesquii</i> | Rafinesque's Big-eared Bat |
| • <i>Eptesicus fuscus</i> | Big Brown Bat |
| • <i>Pipistrellus subflavus</i> | Eastern Pipistrelle |
| • <i>Sylvilagus palustris hefneri</i> | Lower Keys Marsh Rabbit |
| • <i>Sylvilagus floridanus</i> | Eastern Cottontail Rabbit |
| • <i>Sciurus niger avicennia</i> | Big Cypress Fox Squirrel |
| • <i>Sciurus niger niger</i> | Southeastern Fox Squirrel |
| • <i>Sciurus niger shermani</i> | Sherman's Fox Squirrel |
| • <i>Tamias striatus</i> | Eastern Chipmunk |
| • <i>Geomys pinetis pinetis</i> | Southeastern Pocket Gopher |
| • <i>Neofiber alleni</i> | Round-tailed Muskrat |
| • <i>Oryzomys palustris planirostris</i> | Pine Island Marsh Rice Rat |
| • <i>Oryzomys palustris sanibeli</i> | Sanibel Island Marsh Rice Rat |
| • <i>Oryzomys argentatus</i> | Silver Rice Rat |
| • <i>Sigmodon hispidus exsputus</i> | Lower Keys Cotton Rat |
| • <i>Sigmodon hispidus insulicola</i> | Insular Cotton Rat |
| • <i>Neotoma floridana smalli</i> | Key Largo Woodrat |
| • <i>Peromyscus gossypinus allapaticola</i> | Key Largo Cotton Mouse |
| • <i>Peromyscus polionotus allophrys</i> | Choctawhatchee Beach Mouse |
| • <i>Peromyscus polionotus leucocephalus</i> | Santa Rosa Beach Mouse |
| • <i>Peromyscus polionotus niveiventris</i> | Southeastern Beach Mouse |
| • <i>Peromyscus polionotus peninsularis</i> | St. Andrews Beach Mouse |
| • <i>Peromyscus polionotus phasma</i> | Anastasia Beach Mouse |
| • <i>Peromyscus polionotus trissyllepsis</i> | Perdido Key Beach Mouse |
| • <i>Podomys floridanus</i> | Florida Mouse |
| • <i>Ursus americanus floridanus</i> | Florida Black Bear |
| • <i>Procyon lotor auspicatus</i> | Key Vaca Raccoon |
| • <i>Procyon lotor incautus</i> | Key West Raccoon |
| • <i>Mustela frenata olivacea</i> | Southeastern Weasel |
| • <i>Mustela frenata peninsulae</i> | Florida Long-tailed Weasel |
| • <i>Spilogale putorius</i> | Spotted Skunk |
| • <i>Mephitis mephitis</i> | Striped Skunk |

- *Puma concolor coryi*
- *Odocoileus virginianus clavium*

Florida Panther
Key Deer

Birds

- *Colinus virginianus*
 - *Mycteria Americana*
 - *Elanoides forficatus*
 - *Elanus leucurus*
 - *Ictinia mississippiensis*
 - *Buteo platypterus platypterus*
 - *Buteo brachyurus*
 - *Caracara cheriway*
 - *Falco sparverius paulus*
 - *Falco columbarius*
 - *Falco peregrinus*
 - *Grus canadensis pratensis*
 - *Grus americana*
 - *Charadrius alexandrinus tenuirostris*
 - *Charadrius wilsonia*
 - *Charadrius melodus*
 - *Sterna antillarum*
 - *Columbina passerine*
 - *Athene cunicularia floridana*
 - *Chordeiles gundlachi*
 - *Tyrannus dominicensis*
 - *Lanius ludovicianus*
 - *Vireo altiloquus*
 - *Aphelocoma coerulescens*
 - *Dendroica dominica stoddardi*
 - *Dendroica petechia gundlachi*
 - *Dendroica discolor paludicola*
 - *Dendroica cerulea*
 - *Protonotaria citrea*
 - *Helmitheros vermivorum*
 - *Limnothlypis swainsonii*
 - *Seiurus montacilla*
 - *Oporornis formosus*
 - *Wilsonia citrina*
 - *Aimophila aestivalis*
 - *Ammodramus savannarum*
 - *Ammodramus savannarum floridanus*
 - *Ammodramus henslowii*
 - *Ammodramus maritimus fisheri*
 - *Ammodramus maritimus junicolus*
 - *Ammodramus maritimus macgillivraii*
 - *Ammodramus maritimus mirabilis*
 - *Ammodramus maritimus peninsulae*
 - *Passerina ciris*
 - *Sturnella magna*
- Northern Bobwhite
Wood Stork
Swallow-tailed Kite
White-tailed Kite
Mississippi Kite
Broad-winged Hawk
Short-tailed Hawk
Crested Caracara
Southeastern American Kestrel
Merlin
Peregrine Falcon
Florida Sandhill Crane
Whooping Crane
Cuban Snowy Plover
Wilson's Plover
Piping Plover
Least Tern
Common Ground-Dove
Florida Burrowing Owl
Antillean Nighthawk
Gray Kingbird
Loggerhead Shrike
Black-whiskered Vireo
Florida Scrub-Jay
Stoddard's Yellow-throated Warbler
Cuban Yellow Warbler
Florida Prairie Warbler
Cerulean Warbler
Prothonotary Warbler
Worm-eating Warbler
Swainson's Warbler
Louisiana Waterthrush
Kentucky Warbler
Hooded Warbler
Bachman's Sparrow
Grasshopper Sparrow (migrant)
Florida Grasshopper Sparrow
Henslow's Sparrow
Louisiana Seaside Sparrow
Wakulla Seaside Sparrow
Macgillivray's Seaside Sparrow
Cape Sable Seaside Sparrow
Scott's Seaside Sparrow
Painted Bunting
Eastern Meadowlark

Amphibians

- *Ambystoma cingulatum*
- Flatwoods Salamander

- *Ambystoma tigrinum* Tiger Salamander
- *Notophthalmus perstriatus* Striped Newt
- *Pseudacris ornata* Ornate Chorus Frog
- *Rana virgatipes* Carpenter Frog
- *Rana okaloosae* Florida Bog Frog
- *Rana capito* Gopher Frog

Reptiles

- *Terrapene carolina major* Gulf Coast Box Turtle
- *Terrapene carolina bauri* Florida Box Turtle
- *Gopherus polyphemus* Gopher Tortoise
- *Sceloporus woodi* Florida Scrub Lizard
- *Eumeces anthracinus* Coal Skink
- *Eumeces egregius egregius* Florida Keys Mole Skink
- *Eumeces egregius insularis* Cedar Key Mole Skink
- *Eumeces egregius lividus* Bluetail Mole Skink
- *Neoseps reynoldsi* Sand Skink
- *Storeria dekayi wrightorum* Midland Brown Snake
- *Storeria dekayi* Lower Keys Brown Snake
- *Thamnophis sauritus* Lower Keys Ribbon Snake
- *Virginia valeriae* Smooth Earth Snake (Highlands Co population only)
- *Heterodon platirhinos* Eastern Hognose Snake
- *Heterodon simus* Southern Hognose Snake
- *Diadophis punctatus acricus* Key Ringneck Snake
- *Farancia erythrogramma* Rainbow Snake
- *Drymarchon couperi* Eastern Indigo Snake
- *Pituophis melanoleucus mugitus* Florida Pine Snake
- *Lampropeltis calligaster* Mole Kingsnake
- *Lampropeltis getula* Common Kingsnake
- *Stilosoma extenuatum* Short-tailed Snake
- *Tantilla relicta pamlica* Coastal Dunes Crowned Snake
- *Tantilla oolitica* Rim Rock Crowned Snake
- *Agkistrodon contortrix* Copperhead
- *Crotalus adamanteus* Eastern Diamondback Rattlesnake
- *Crotalus horridus* Timber Rattlesnake

Invertebrates

- *Chelyoxenus xerobatis* Gopher Tortoise Hister Beetle
- *Aphodius troglodytes* Gopher Tortoise Aphodius Commensal Scarab Beetle
- *Copris gopheri* Gopher Tortoise Copris Commensal Scarab Beetle
- *Onthophagus polyphemi polyphemi* Gopher Tortoise Onthophagus Commensal Scarab Beetle
- *Callophrys gryneus sweadneri* Sweadner's Juniper Hairstreak
- *Hemiargus thomasi bethunebakeri* Miami Blue
- *Anthanassa frisia* Cuban Crescent
- *Junonia genoveva* Tropical Buckeye

Conservation Threats

While threats to its conservation as well as remedial actions were identified during Strategy Science Workshops I and II, the Disturbed/Transitional habitat category was not addressed in TNC

workshops that generated tables of ranked threats and actions, as seen in most other habitat categories. The decision to not rank threats and actions for this habitat was made (1) to maximize discussion time for higher-priority habitats and (2) because of some disagreement over recognition of this habitat type as important to wildlife conservation. Therefore, threats and actions are presented as simple bulleted lists, arranged in alphabetical order, with no prioritization.

The following stresses threaten this habitat:

- Absent or insufficient biological legacies
- Altered community structure
- Altered fire regime—timing, frequency, intensity, extent
- Altered hydrologic regime—timing, duration, frequency, extent
- Altered landscape pattern or mosaic
- Altered soil structure and chemistry
- Altered species composition/dominance
- Altered successional dynamics
- Altered water and/or soil temperature
- Altered water quality of surface water or aquifer: contaminants
- Altered water quality of surface water or aquifer: nutrients
- Erosion/sedimentation
- Excessive depredation and/or parasitism
- Fragmentation of habitats, communities, ecosystems
- Habitat degradation/ disturbance
- Insufficient size/extent of characteristic communities/ ecosystems
- Keystone species missing or lacking in abundance
- Missing key communities, functional guilds, or seral stages

The following sources of stress, or threats, were used to generate conservation actions.

- Chemicals and toxins
- Conversion to agriculture
- Conversion to commercial and industrial development
- Conversion to housing and urban development
- Conversion to recreation areas
- Incompatible fire
- Incompatible forestry operations
- Incompatible recreational activities
- Incompatible resource extraction—mining
- Incompatible wildlife and fisheries management strategies
- Invasive animals
- Invasive plants
- Lack of knowledge/ appreciation of early-successional habitat
- Nuisance animals
- Nutrient loads—agriculture
- Roads, bridges, and causeways

Conservation Actions

Actions to abate threats to Disturbed/Transitional were designed to reduce the impacts of on-site and adjacent management activities, and to increase the habitat's suitability to wildlife. Most of the threats to this habitat (see list above) were also identified for multiple other habitats, and are addressed in the Chapter Multiple Habitat Threats and Conservation Actions. Exceptions

are Conversion to commercial and industrial development, Lack of knowledge/appreciation of early-successional habitat, and Nuisance animals.

The actions to abate threats that were identified for Disturbed/Transitional habitat are below, though none were prioritized for implementation.

Land/Water/Species Management

- Convert invasives-dominated sites into early-successional habitat, and maintain

Law and Policy

- Develop a plan to fund long-term post-reclamation management programs—include control of invasive flora and fauna
- Promote the use of mitigation banking

Research, Education and Awareness

- Increase development of biocontrol options for invasive plants to reduce need for herbicides
- Increase public and private training on the conservation value of these lands (e.g., via extension education)
- Target education for landowners and policy makers to benefit wildlife in their day-to-day activities
- Encourage wildlife-friendly land management (e.g., maintaining early-successional habitat, etc.)

Economic and Other Incentives

- Provide incentives to improve land for wildlife
- Provide economic incentives for “green” developments (e.g., give density breaks for developments that cluster housing)
- Provide awards to municipalities, organizations, and individuals that implement wildlife-friendly design and management practices
- Provide funds and materials for landowners to remove invasive exotics