

Monthly Report: December 2014

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22 December 2014

By:

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Bill and Mary:

Please see the bulleted list below for the major actions and accomplishments associated with Cooperative Agreement Number W912HZ-14-2-0002 for the month of December, 2014. Please let me know if you would like me to elaborate on the details of any items I've listed below, or if there are any status updates you'd like on unlisted topics.

Best Regards,

Jamie

Vegetation

- All vegetation data have been compiled into Excel spreadsheets. The following data are included for each sample location (9 per area, 12 marsh areas = 108 sample locations):
 - Number of stems of each species.
 - Total biomass of each species.
- Importance values were calculated for each of the four sample periods (April, June, Aug, Oct).
 - These are available upon request.

Water Data

- Data were last downloaded on December 16th and 17th.
- Water levels need to be post-processed.
- We will provide monthly and annual summaries of salinity for each area.

Forest monitoring

- Baldcypress trees in the Swamp 1 area were equipped with dendrometer bands (Figure 1) so we can compare growth rates between the three areas. Swamps 2 and 3 were banded earlier in the year.
 - 10 trees per plot; 2 plots per area
- Leaf litter traps (Figure 2) were installed in all swamp monitoring areas. These will provide an additional measure of productivity for the areas.
 - 5 traps per plot.
- Monitoring wells were installed in the swamp monitoring areas. These will be used to collect discrete salinity measurements (i.e., "grab samples" with a handheld YSI meter) as convenient.
 - Data will be used to confirm salinity levels measured with the In-Situ Aquatrols (hourly auto-loggers) at each of the 3 swamp areas.

Miscellaneous

- The two barometric pressure sensors were downloaded (December 16th and 17th) and data were compared. The sensor that was faulty and repaired appears to be working properly now.
- The proposal modification has gone through and everything is in order for the 2015 monitoring. Thank you for your continued funding and cooperation.



Figure 1. Installing a dendrometer band used to measure baldcypress tree growth.



Figure 2. An example of a litter trap used to collect falling leaves, twigs, etc. The site depicted is not one being monitored as part of the SHEP.