FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Post-Hurricane Matthew wildfire mitigation complete

October 10, 2017 – The Florida Forest Service recently completed the post-Hurricane Matthew wildfire mitigation project in the Hammock area.

The agency mowed 21.7 acres at a cost of $10,893 to reduce the fuel load – dead vegetation – caused by the hurricane that hit last year.

“This work was programmed to be completed this past Spring, and then resources were deployed elsewhere because of the wildfires the state was experiencing then,” said Tim Telfer, Flagler County Public Lands and Natural Resources Manager. “This work had to be rolled into our second hurricane season, and Hurricane Irma.”

Flagler County staff from both Land Management and Fire Rescue, as well as representatives from the Florida Forest Service, met with Hammock residents in February 2017 to explain the importance of a 30-foot buffer of “fire-defensible” space between vegetation and their homes.

The project completed with the assistance of the Florida Forest Service was designed to create that 30-foot buffer for the residential areas that are directly adjacent to Flagler County-owned...
natural areas. Fire-wise principles were used – the hazardous fuels were reduced or eliminated by mowing and mulching them.

“We have to continue to maintain best practices even though we’ve been hit with a new hurricane and the set of issues that come with it,” County Administrator Craig Coffey said. “Wildfire might be the last thing on anyone’s mind right now, but we have to ensure this doesn’t get ahead of us.”

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