

Southwest Region

Quarterly Report –December 2021 Sara Ayers-Rigsby, MA, RPA, Director

HIGHLIGHTS

Address impact of Climate Change on Archaeological Resources: Monitoring at Calusa Island

FPAN staff continued the monitoring program at Calusa Island. Initially begun by Jennifer Haney and University of Florida staff including Karen Walker, the program relies on volunteers from Pineland at the University of Florida's Randell Research Center to document ongoing erosion on this Archaic coastal site. In 2020, FPAN staff assisted UF staff led by Michelle LeFebvre in limited excavations at the site to attempt to ascertain the size and timeframe the midden was occupied.



Photo I: View of Erosion at Calusa Island

Viability of Network: Ayers-Rigsby conducts virtual HMS Training

In November, Ayers-Rigsby led a virtual Heritage Monitoring Scouts (HMS) training. This workshop was attended by people all over the state who are interested in assisting FPAN document the impacts of climate change to archaeological sites.

Progress on Strategic Plan Objectives

- Goal 2: Increase Protection of Archaeological Resources By Working at the Local Level
 - FPAN SW staff including Sara Ayers-Rigsby continues to work on triaging archaeological sites impacted by climate change with Rachael Kangas of FPAN WC and Mike Savarese from Florida Gulf Coast University
- Viability: Following Kangas departure in August of 2021, FPAN SW began an open hiring process for a new Public Archaeology Coordinator for the Southwest Office.