# Endangered Species Biological Assessment Addendum



# I-75 (SR 93) at SR 780 (Fruitville Road)

## Interchange Improvements

## **ESBA Addendum**

## Sarasota County, Florida

Financial Project ID No.: 420613-2-52-01 Federal Aid Project No.: N/A ETDM Number: 4791

> Prepared For: Florida Department of Transportation District One Bartow, Florida

> > Prepared By: ESA SCHEDA

> > > May 2018

The environmental review, consultation, and other actions required by applicable federal environmental laws for this project are being, or have been, carried out by Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) pursuant to 23 U.S.C. §327 and a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) dated December 14, 2016 and executed by Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and FDOT.

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## 1.0 INTRODUCTION AND PURPOSE

## 1.1 Project Background

The Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) conducted a Project Development and Environment (PD&E) Study in 2008 along I-75 in Sarasota County to determine the ultimate needs for the interstate and interchanges. The preferred alternative for the I-75 and Fruitville Road (SR 780) interchange was identified to be Arterial Separation along with adding turn lanes to the on and off-ramp approaches at Fruitville Road, as well as the widening of Fruitville Road from west of Cattlemen Road to west of Coburn Road to accommodate additional lanes along Fruitville Road. A Type 2 Categorical Exclusion (CE) was prepared and approved in December 2011.

This 2008 PD&E Study was updated in 2012 as part of a Systems Interchange Modification Report (SIMR). This report also concluded that the preferred alternative for the I-75 and Fruitville Road (SR 780) interchange to be Arterial Separation along with adding turn lanes to the on and off-ramp approaches at Fruitville Road.

A new Interchange Modification Report (IMR) was prepared in 2016 to reevaluate the future traffic operations at the I-75 and Fruitville Road interchange, based on revised population/traffic growth projections, and reevaluated the need for the improvements recommended by the 2008 PD&E Study and the 2012 SIMR.

The 2016 IMR evaluated two design alternatives:

- The 2008 PD&E Study and 2012 SIMR-recommended preferred alternative Arterial Traffic Separation, and
- A Diverging Diamond Interchange (DDI) alternative.

Based on the results from the evaluation of these alternatives, the 2016 IMR recommended the DDI as the preferred alternative. The two distinguishing features between the approved PD&E Concept and the DDI alternative are:

- 1. The increased lane utilization along Fruitville Road approaching I-75 with the DDI configuration.
- 2. The overall safety improvements for all modes of travel at the interchange intersections with the DDI configuration.

Similar to the PD&E preferred alternative, the DDI alternative requires reconstruction of I-75 and the interchange and provides similar impacts within the existing right-of-way.



Along Fruitville Road, the DDI alternative requires widening of Fruitville Road from east of Honore Avenue to the easternmost Coburn Road intersection. Additionally, the project includes widening east of the easternmost Coburn Road intersection to provide for three westbound through lanes and a westbound right turn lane providing access to the future Lakewood Ranch Boulevard Extension.

Both alternatives fall within nearly the same footprint with a minor difference at the intersection of Fruitville Road with Cattlemen Road. Both alternatives require the acquisition of right-of-way along the south side of Fruitville Road west of Cattlemen Road to account for the widening of Fruitville Road needed to accommodate the additional lanes, however, the PD&E alternative required the acquisition of right-of-way along the east side of Cattlemen Road and at the southeast quadrant of the intersection with Fruitville Road to accommodate the additional widening previously required along Cattlemen Road south of Fruitville Road. The DDI alternative eliminates the need for this widening and the additional right-of-way east of Cattlemen Road.

## **1.2 Description of Alternatives**

## Approved PD&E Concept – Arterial Traffic Separation

As provided in the PD&E Study, this alternative adds arterial separation on Fruitville Road at the ramp terminal intersections and maintains the existing Partial Cloverleaf Interchange. This allows southbound and northbound left turn traffic along Fruitville Road to turn while eastbound and westbound through traffic continues to flow uninterrupted. Additional lanes will be added to the eastbound to northbound loop-ramp and eastbound to southbound on-ramp. Along eastbound Fruitville Road, an additional through lane will be added beginning east of Cattlemen Road to create five total through lanes approaching the I-75 interchange. Eastbound Fruitville Road east of the interchange contains four through lanes approaching the Coburn Road signalized intersection where the rightmost and leftmost lanes drop as the right and left turn lanes, respectively. Along westbound Fruitville Road, two lanes will be added beginning west of the stop-controlled Coburn Road approach to lead to the north and southbound on-ramps at the I-75 interchange, although only 2 through lanes exist at the northbound ramp terminal intersection. Westbound Fruitville Road west of the interchange contains five through lanes (two more than existing) approaching Cattlemen Road. The fifth through lane merges to create four through lanes west of Cattlemen Road and the fourth through lane is dropped as the westbound right turn lane at the Honore Avenue intersection. Figure 1 illustrates the arterial separation alternative.

2016 IMR Proposed Alternative – Diverging Diamond Interchange



This alternative will reconstruct the existing I-75 at Fruitville Road (SR 780) Interchange facility from the existing six, 12-foot travel lanes (three in each direction) to provide for a diverging diamond configuration interchange that provides for the ultimate typical section along I-75. The design of the ultimate typical section for I-75 provides a ten-lane facility with two express lanes and three general use lanes in each direction from MP 38.769 to MP 39.452, a distance of 0.683 mile. The general use lanes will be designed to transition to the existing lanes on I-75; the transition south of SR 780 is from MP 38.333 to MP 38.769, a distance of 0.436 mile; the transition north of SR 780 is from MP 39.452 to MP 40.283, a distance of 0.831 mile (the overall length of work on I-75 is 1.950 miles). The Interchange improvements will also require the replacement of the existing I-75 at Fruitville Road (SR 780) bridges, Bridge Nos. 170083 and 170084; the replacement of the existing I-75/SR 780 entrance and exit ramps; and the widening of Fruitville Road (SR 780) from Honore Avenue (MP 4.203) to Coburn Road (MP 5.844), a distance of 1.641 miles, to accommodate the transition of the proposed lanes to tie to existing lanes. Additionally, Cattlemen Road, north of SR 780, will be widened to provide triple southbound left turn lanes and Fruitville Road will be widened in the westbound direction east of Coburn Road to provide for a northbound right turn lane onto the future Lakewood Ranch Boulevard Extension and for an additional westbound lane through the intersection with Coburn Road. Figure 2 illustrates the DDI alternative.

# 1.3 Differences Between the Diverging Diamond Interchange Alternative and the Arterial Traffic Separation Alternative that Require Re-evaluation

## Construction Footprint

**Figure 3** illustrates the differences in construction footprints between the Diverging Diamond Interchange Alternative and the PD&E Arterial Traffic Separation Alternative. As can be seen in Figure 3 both alternatives fall within nearly the same footprint. The areas highlighted in yellow are areas of additional footprint required for the Diverging Diamond Interchange alternative that have not been evaluated for environmental impacts.

The construction footprint identifies the additional widening required for the DDI alternative along Fruitville Road from east of Honore Avenue to west of Cattlemen Road that was not included in the PD&E alternative, although it would have been required for construction. The widening is required to transition from the existing lanes to meet the widened typical section. The construction footprint also identifies additional construction required for the DDI alternative east of I-75 for the widening of Fruitville Road to the easternmost intersection of Fruitville Road with Coburn Road plus additional widening for westbound Fruitville Road east of the signalized Coburn Road intersection to



accommodate three through lanes in the westbound direction and a westbound right turn lane to the proposed Lakewood Ranch Boulevard Extension.

The PD&E alternative identified the need for right-of-way acquisition along the south side of Fruitville Road at the southwest and southeast corners of the intersection with Cattlemen Road, as well as requiring right-of-way along the east side of Cattlemen Road. The proposed right-of-way delineated with the PD&E alternative acquires right-of-way from three parcels (two west of Cattlemen Road and one east of Cattlemen Road) for a total of approximately 0.152 acre to allow for widening of Cattlemen Road south of Fruitville Road. The proposed right-of-way necessary for the DDI alternative requires right-of-way from two of the three parcels identified for the PD&E alternative; however, less right-of-way is needed from these two parcels. Approximately 0.04 acre of right-of-way is necessary for the DDI alternative. **Figure 4** illustrates the right-of-way needed for both the PD&E Study alternative and the DDI alternative.

### Construction Activities and Duration

The Diverging Diamond Interchange alternative would require the same construction activities and construction duration as the Arterial Traffic Separation alternative.

#### Operation

Once constructed, there are no substantial differences in the traffic operations of the two alternatives that would cause the Diverging Diamond Interchange alternative to have greater impacts (e.g., traffic, noise, air quality).



## 2.0 ADDENDUM

An Endangered Species Biological Assessment (ESBA) was completed as part of the September 2008 PD&E study. The purpose of the ESBA was to document the environmental conditions of the current project segment; evaluate the project area's potential to support species listed as endangered, threatened, or species of special concern as determined by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC); document potential impacts to wildlife, habitat, or listed species that may be associated with project development; identify permitting and coordination requirements for the project; request comments from regulatory agencies with jurisdiction over the study area; and serve as an additional tool to enable the FDOT to make decisions for the future development of the study corridor. The ESBA was completed in September 2008, and submitted to the permitting agencies for review and comment. This addendum was completed to address and document any updated information as it pertains to the project design.

In the ESBA, it was determined that the project <u>may affect</u> the following species:

- Wood stork (*Mycteria americana*) Federally Endangered
- Bald eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*) Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act (BGEPA) and the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA)

In the ESBA, it was determined that the project <u>may affect</u>, but is not likely to adversely <u>affect</u> the following species:

- eastern indigo snake (Drymarchon corais couperi) Federally Threatened and
- American alligator (*Alligator mississippiensis*) Federally Threatened due to similarity of appearance to the American crocodile (*Crocodylus acutus*).

The ESBA also determined that the project <u>will not affect</u> other federally listed threatened and endangered species:

- Florida scrub-jay (Aphelocoma coerulescens) Federally Threatened,
- Crested caracara (*Caracara cheriway*) Federally Threatened,
- Florida grasshopper sparrow (*Ammodramus savannarum floridanus*) Federally Endangered,
- Red-cockaded woodpecker (*Picoides borealis*) Federally Endangered,
- Everglade snail kite (*Rostrhamus sociabilis*) Federally Endangered, or
- Florida panther (*Puma concolor coryi*) Federally Endangered



Finally, the ESBA determined the project <u>may affect the following state listed endangered</u> and threatened species:

- Gopher tortoise (Gopherus polyphemus) State-threatened,
- Florida sandhill crane (Antigone canadensis pratensis) State-threatened,
- roseate spoonbill (Patalea ajaja) State-threatened,
- little blue heron (*Egretta caerulea*) State-threatened, and
- tri-colored heron (*Egretta tricolor*) State-threatened.



## 3.0 DESIGN PHASE ADDENDUM METHODOLOGY

The project corridor along the proposed I-75 at Fruitville Road interchange was reviewed by ESA Scheda Corporation (ESA Scheda) scientists on February 27, July 23, 2015, December 16, 2016, and November 10 and 16, 2017 to identify changes in protected species and habitat impacts per the latest interchange modification in comparison to impacts in the September 2008 ESBA report.

Existing land use and cover reflecting current conditions was mapped based on the Florida Land Use, Cover and Forms Classification System (FDOT, 1999) classifications (see **Figure 5**). Existing land use mapping changed from the PD&E land use mapping based on updated field assessments, approval of formal wetland and surface water delineations, and the recent construction of the I-75 interchange at University Parkway.

The majority (72%) of land use within the project limits is classified as transportation (FLUCCS 810). One additional upland land cover class, Hardwood – Coniferous Mixed (FLUCCS 434), covers approximately 4% of the project limits. Wetland and other surface water systems within the project limits consist of streams and waterways (FLUCCS 510), a wetland hardwood forest (FLUCCS 610), cypress (FLUCCS 621), wetland forested mixed (FLUCCS 630), and freshwater marsh (FLUCCS 641).

During the field reconnaissance effort, habitats within the I-75 at Fruitville Road interchange were spot-checked and either confirmed or updated. Additionally, notable changes in Florida Land Use, Cover and Forms Classification System (FLUCFCS) due to recent developments within uplands were recorded. **Figure 4** depicts the updated field-verified FLUCFCS within the proposed interchange and **Table 1** provides a summary of the current field-verified FLUCFCS types.

During the surveys listed above, ESA Scheda scientists located one potentially occupied gopher tortoise (*Gopherus Polyphemus*) burrow, one abandoned gopher tortoise burrow, two road-killed white-tailed deer (*Odocoileus virginianus*), and one black racer snake (*Coluber constrictor*) during the listed species survey. **Figure 5** depicts the locations of the listed species observed during the survey and/or from database records, including Florida Natural Areas Inventory (FNAI) and FWC documented species sightings and nest locations. **Table 2** summarizes listed wildlife species that were observed and/or potentially occur within the I-75 at Fruitville Road interchange.



## 4.0 PROJECT HABITAT AND LAND USE CHANGES

The Wetland Evaluation Report (WER) Addendum describes the modifications made to the wetland FLUCFCS classifications. These changes were related to FLUCFCS code changes and the wetland and surface water linework was refined and updated pursuant to jurisdictional determinations that were formally approved by the Southwest Florida Water Management District (SWFWMD). Modifications of the wetland and surface water limits are depicted on **Figure 4** and further discussed in the separate WER Addendum.

Since the PD&E study the I-75 interchange at University Parkway was constructed. The limits of construction for the I-75 interchange at University Parkway project extended to just north of the I-75 interchange at Fruitville Road at the southbound off ramp to Fruitville Road. As a result, much of the right-of-way on the west side of I-75 and median was cleared and is now designated as Transportation (FLUCFCS 810). Throughout the project area habitat previously designated as Mixed Hardwood Forest (FLUCFCS 436) was reclassified to Hardwood-Coniferous Mixed Forest (FLUCFCS 434). Other land use changes are related to refining the original linework and are inconsequential to the project.



## 5.0 LISTED SPECIES STATUS CHANGES

Several federal and state listed species have been removed or added to the protection lists since the ESBA was prepared. Species changes that pertain to this project are described below. **Table 2** provides an update to the potential protected faunal species list for the project.

- The ESBA documented the American alligator (*Alligator mississippiensis*) as a federally threatened species based upon "similarity of appearance" to the endangered American crocodile (*Crocodylus acutus*). However, since the alligator is only federally protected in areas where it overlaps with the range of the crocodile, and since the crocodile is currently known to occupy coastal wetlands of Miami-Dade, Monroe, Collier, and Lee counties, the American alligator is no longer deemed to be a federally listed species of potential concern for this project.
- The ESBA listed the wood stork (*Mycteria americana*) as endangered by the USFWS and FWC. Effective July 30, 2014, the USFWS reclassified the U.S. breeding population of wood storks from endangered to threatened under the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended. At the time of preparation of the ESBA document, a "<u>may affect</u>" determination for the wood stork was concluded and confirmed with the USFWS. Subsequent habitat impact analysis was proposed to be provided during future design and permitting project phases. Section 7 Consultation with the USFWS was proposed to be re-initiated following that additional effort. No wood storks are known to have nested within the project area and all of the wading bird censuses conducted to date have demonstrated that the area is only periodically used by wood storks and other wading birds for foraging.

The project will result in approximately 1.45 acres of permanent impacts to wetlands and 0.76 acres of permanent impacts to surface waters considered wood stork suitable foraging habitat which is less than 5 acres, so no prey foraging analysis is required. It is anticipated the project will more than compensate for the suitable foraging habitat loss through wetland compensation, to satisfy all mitigation requirements of Part IV, Chapter 373.4137 F.S., and U.S.C. 1344. Specifically, since the project is not located in the service area of any mitigation banks compensation will be provided through permittee-responsible mitigation, purchase of credits from Fox Creek (Sarasota County's Regional Offsite Mitigation



Bank) or a combination of both. Therefore, it is concluded that this project is "<u>may</u> <u>affect</u>, not likely to adversely <u>affect</u>" the wood stork. The wood stork will be addressed in detail throughout the design and permitting process in consultation with USFWS.

- After the ESBA was completed a bald eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*) nest (SA054) was documented in this segment. This species is not federally listed as endangered or threatened, but receives federal protection under the MBTA and the BGEPA. The project is located in the 660-foot protection zone of nest SA054 (last known active 2008). However, the nest has been inactive since 2008 (over 5 years) and on December 16, 2016 and November 10 and 16, 2017, ESA Scheda scientists confirmed eagles were not using the nest and no new nests had been constructed in the vicinity of the project. Additionally, the FWC has determined that this nest is lost as it has not been active within the past 5 years and no alternative/replacement nests have been found nearby.
- In the 2008 ESBA, the roseate spoonbill, little blue heron, and tri-colored heron were listed as species of special concern but as of January 2017 were re-classified as threatened. The limpkin (*Aramus guarana*), white ibis (*Eudocimus albus*), and snowy egret (*Egretta thula*) were listed as species of special concern in the 2008 ESBA, but as of January 2017, they were removed as listed species, although they are a part of FWC's Imperiled Species Management Plan.



## 6.0 COMMITMENTS AND CONCLUSIONS

The following list of commitments is from the ESBA completed in 2008 that apply to this segment of I-75, and revised commitments related to the wood stork are in **bold** text:

- Gopher tortoise (*Gopherus polyphemus*): Due to the presence of suboptimal gopher tortoise habitat and observation of the gopher tortoises near the existing ROW, a gopher tortoise survey in appropriate habitat within construction limits (including roadway footprint, construction staging areas, and stormwater management ponds) will be performed prior to construction per FWC guidelines. The FDOT will secure any relocation permits needed for this species during the project design and construction phase of the project.
- 2. The "Standard FDOT Construction Precautions for the Eastern Indigo Snake: were superseded by the USFWS August 12, 2013 update of the "Standard Protection Measures for the Eastern Indigo Snake." The most current version of these protection measures will be included as a condition of US Army Corps of Engineers' (USACE) SECTION 404 Wetland Dredge and Fill Permit issued for the project. The USACE permit is provided within the construction contract documents for contractor adherence.
- 3. Wood stork: The FDOT is committed to providing mitigation for the wood stork that is acceptable to the USFWS and FDOT. The details of this mitigation will be finalized during the Design and Permitting phase of the project.



### 7.0 References

- Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission. Florida's Endangered and Threatened Species. Version May 2017.
- Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission. Gopher Tortoise Permitting Guidelines. Tallahassee. Version January 2017.
- Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission. Imperiled Species Management Plan. Tallahassee. Version October 2016.
- Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission. Sandhill Crane Species Guidelines. Version October 2016.
- Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission. Sherman's Fox Squirrel Species Guidelines. Version October 2016.
- United States Army Corp of Engineers and US Fish and Wildlife Service. Effect Determination Key for the Wood Stork in Central and North Peninsular Florida. Jacksonville. Version September 2008.
- United States Fish and Wildlife Service. Florida Panther Effect Determination Key. Vero Beach. Version February 2007.

## Table 1. Existing Landuse and Land Cover Within the Project Limits

FLU	FLUCFCS Code FLUCCS Description Acreage		Comments		
400: Upland Forest	434	Hardwood - Confierous Mixed	9.45	Previously classified as Mixed Hardwood Forest (FLUCFCS 436).	
500: Water	510	Streams and Waterways	12.19	Linework refined and updated pursuant jurisdictional	
600: Wetlands	630	Wetland Forested Mixed		determinations that were formally	
etla	610	Wetland Hardwood Forest	0.47	approved by SWFWMD.	
): W	621	Cypress 2.57			
600	641	Freshwater Marsh	1.32		
800: Transoportation, Communication and Utilities	810	Transportation	165.37	Areas north of the interchange were previously classified as wetlands and upland forest. Areas were reclassified due to the completed construction that overlapped the project area.	

Common Name	Scientific Name	USFWS Status	FWC Status	Probablility of Occurence	Changes Since 2008 ESBA
		Amphi	bians		
gopher frog	Lithobates capito	Ν	Ν	High	Delisted
	•	Rept	iles	•	•
American alligator	Alligator mississipiensis	T (S/A)	T (S/A)	High	Listed where American crocodiles occur only.
Eastern Indigo Snake	Drymarchon couperi	Т	Т	Moderate	N/A
Gopher Tortoise	Gopherus polyphemus	Ν	Т	High	N/A
		Bird	ds		
Bald Eagle	Haliaeetus leucocephalus	*	*	Moderate	N/A
Florida Burrowing Owl	Athene cunicularia floridana	Ν	Т	Low	Uplisted to state-threatene species
Florida Sandhill Crane	Antigone canadensis pratensis	Ν	Т	Moderate	N/A
Florida Scrub-jay	Aphelocoma coerulescens	Т	Т	Low	N/A
Limpkin	Aramus guarauna	Ν	Ν	Moderate	Delisted
Little Blue Heron	Egretta caerulea	Ν	Т	Moderate	Uplisted to state-threatene species
Reddish Egret	Egretta rufescens	Ν	Т	Moderate	Uplisted to state-threatene species
Roseate Spoonbill	Platalea ajaja	Ν	Т	Moderate	Uplisted to state-threatene species
Snowy egret	Egretta thula	Ν	Ν	Moderate	Delisted
Southeastern American Kestrel	Falco sparverius paulus	Ν	Т	Low	N/A
Tricolored Heron	Egretta tricolor	Ν	Т	Moderate	Uplisted to state-threatene species
White ibis	Eudocimus albus	Ν	Ν	Moderate	Delisted
Wood Stork	Mycteria americana	Т	Т	Moderate	Downlisted to federally
		Mamr	mals		threatened species
Florda black bear	Ursus americanus floridanus	Ν	Ν	Low	Delisted
Florida mouse	Podomys floridanus	Ν	Ν	Mmoderate	Delisted
Sherman's Fox Squirrel	Sciurus niger shermani	Ν	SSC	Moderate	N/A
		Plan	nts		
Aboriginal Prickly-apple	Harrisia aboriginum	E	E	Low	N/A
Florida Bonamia	Bonamia grandiflora	Т	Т	Low	N/A
Pygmy Fringe-tree	Chionanthus pygmaeus	E	E	Low	N/A
				1	

#### Table 2. Listed Faunal and Floral Species With Potential Occurrence Within the Project Limits

\*Protected under the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act (BGEPA) (16 U.S.C. 668-668d)

N: Not currently listed

T: Threatened

E: Endangered

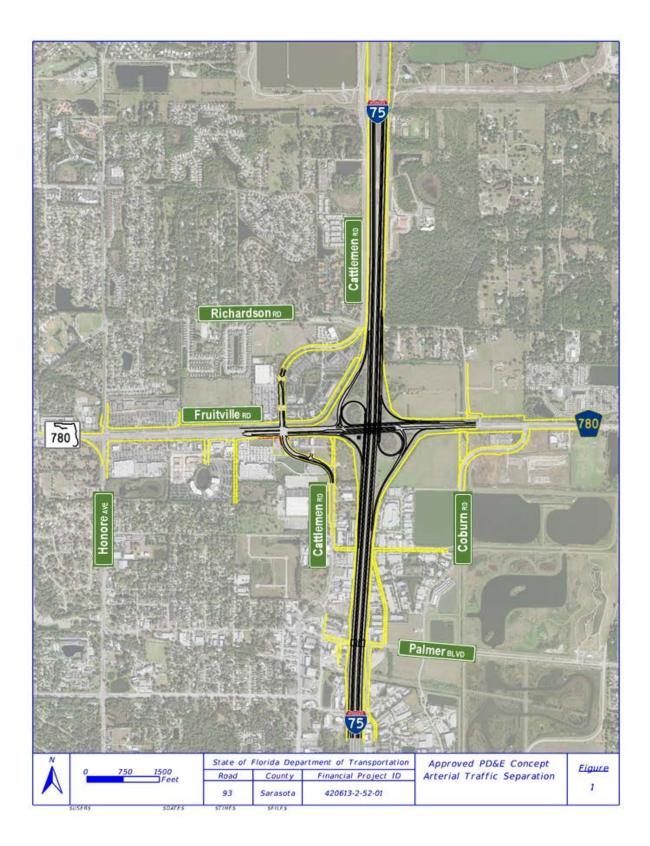
SSC: Species of Special Concern

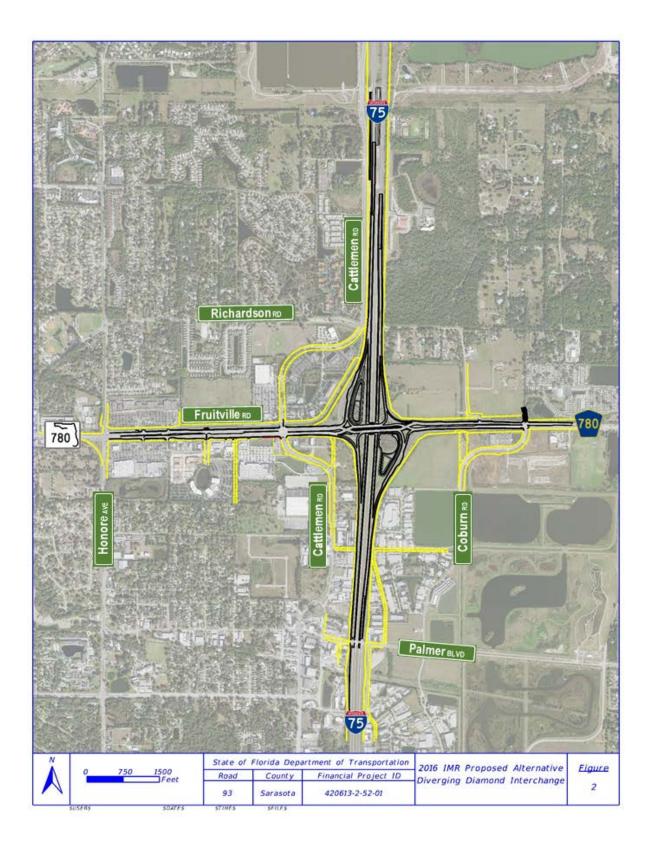
Source: USFWS, FWC

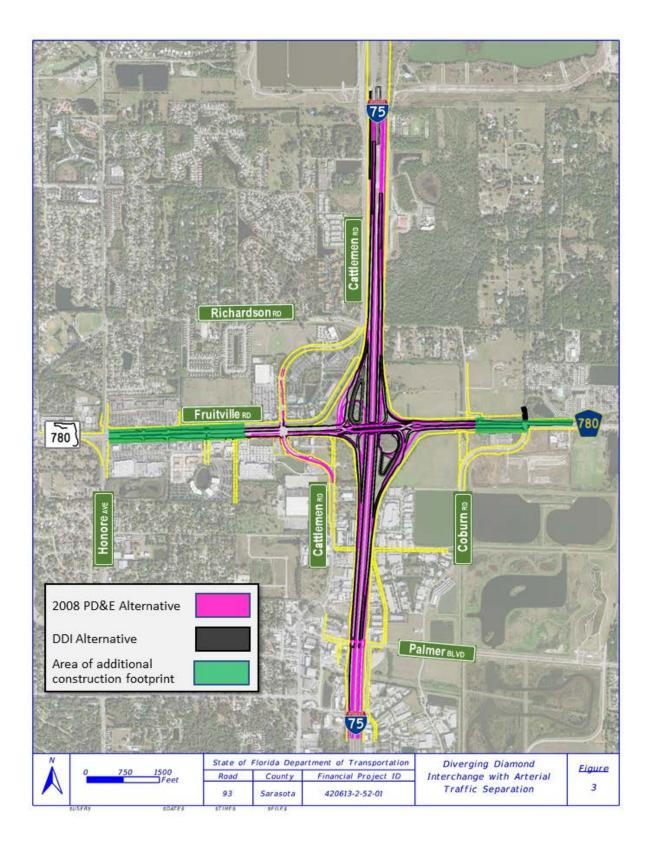
<u>Low</u> – Species with a low likelihood of occurrence within the project limits are defined as those species that are known to occur in Sarasota County, but preferred habitat is limited on the project corridor, or the species is rare.

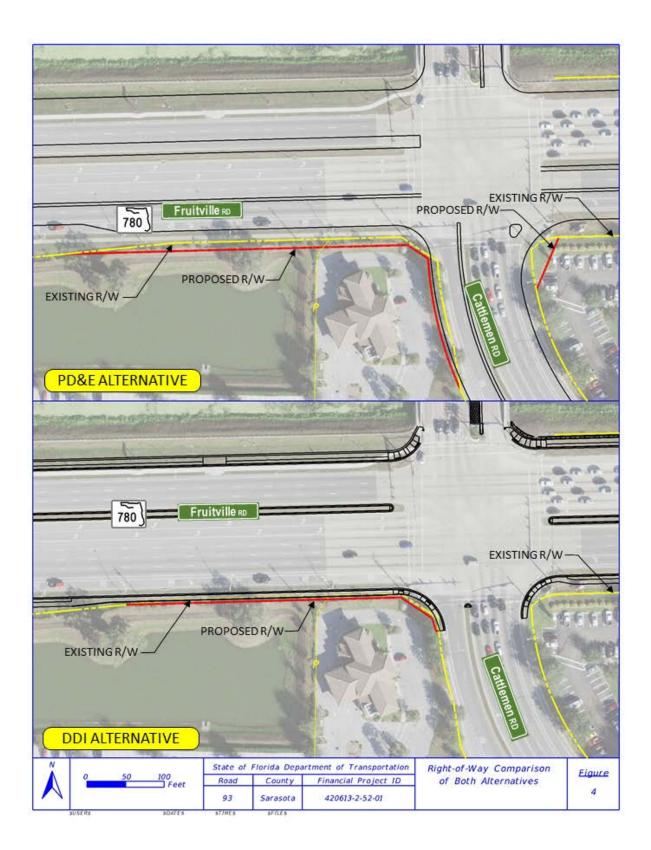
<u>Moderate</u> - Species with a moderate likelihood for occurrence are those species known to occur in Sarasota County, and for which suitable habitat is well represented on the project limits, but no observations or positive indications exist to verify presence.

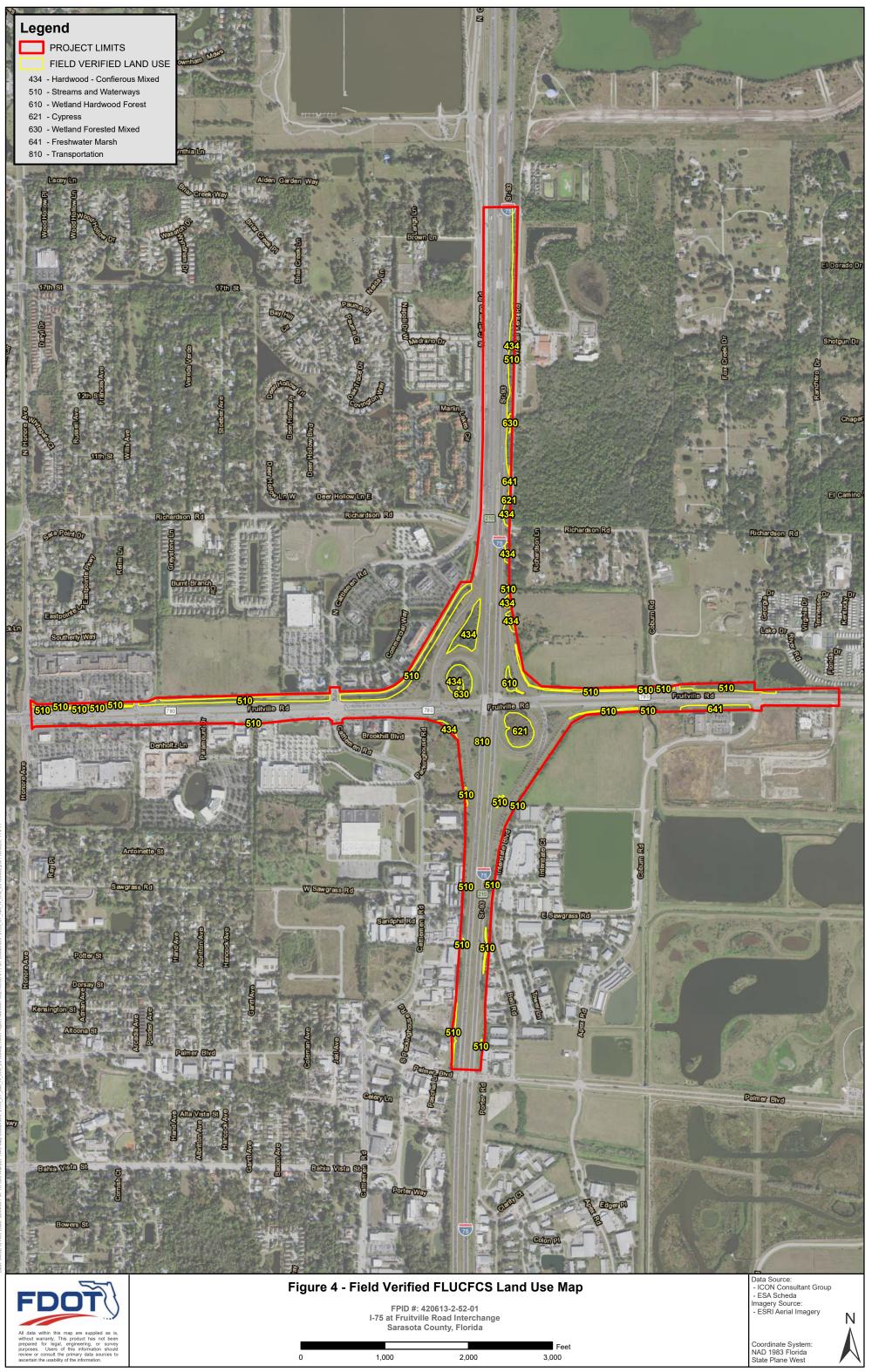
<u>High</u> - Species with a high likelihood for occurrence are suspected within the project limits based on known ranges and existence of sufficient preferred habitat on the corridor; are known to occur adjacent to the project limits; or have been previously observed or documented in the vicinity.

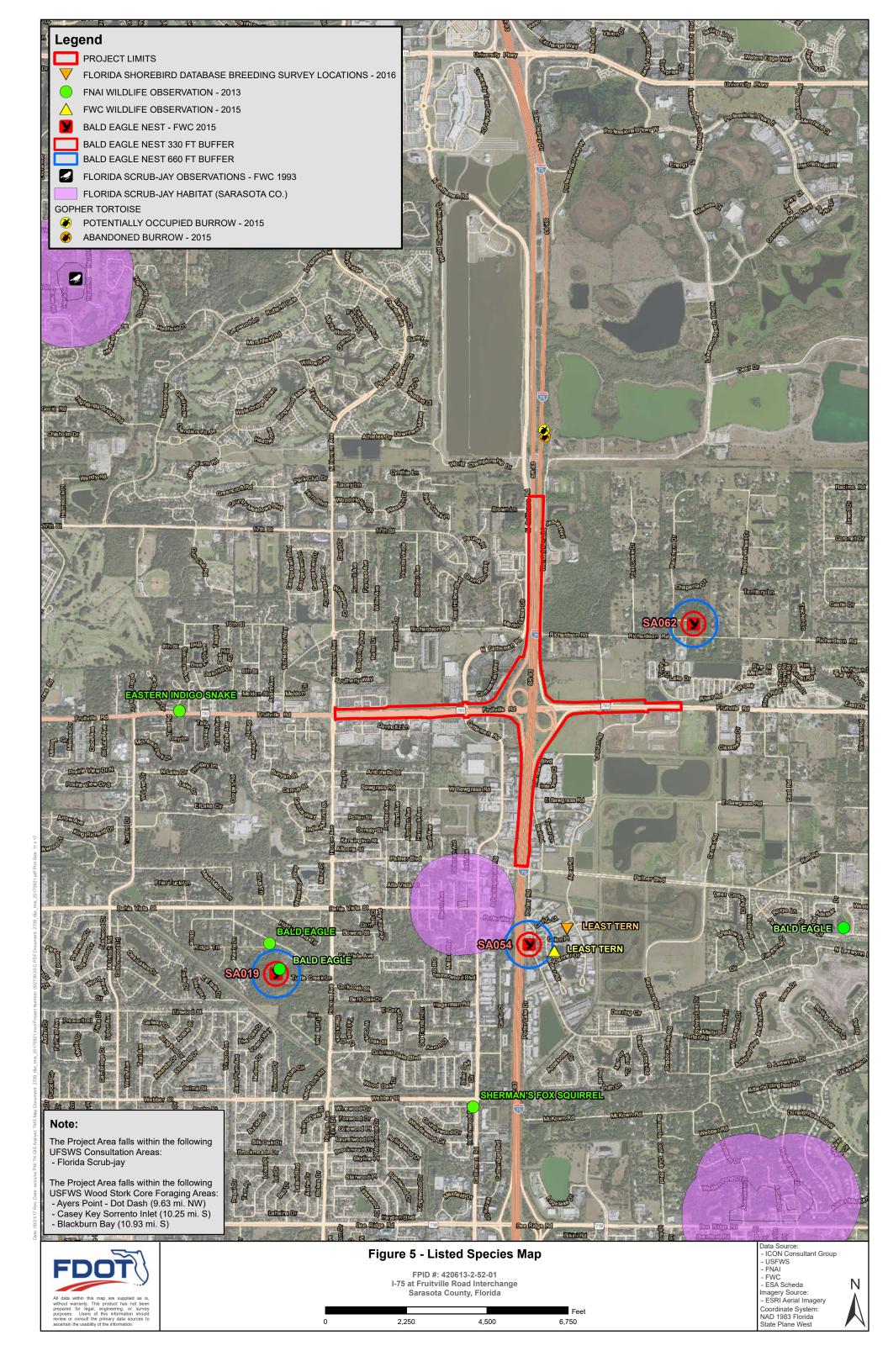












Appendix A Agency Correspondence

## EIVED



ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT OFFICE April 19, 2006

SARASOTA COUNTY



"Dedicated to Quality Service"

Mark A. Schulz Environmental Administrator Florida Department of Transportation Post Office Box 1249 Bartow Florida 33830-1249

#### Subject: Comments on FDOT Advance Notification, Interstate 75 Widening from State Road 681 to North of University Parkway

Dear Mr. Schulz,

Sarasota County Natural Resources Department has received the Advance Notification Package dated February 14<sup>th</sup>, 2006 for the subject project. We have reviewed the contents and would like to submit the following comments:

#### 1. Wildlife Movement and Corridors

We request that the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) approach the Interstate 75 (I-75) widening project from a landscape perspective, consistent with the County's initiative to maintain an ecological balance within our community. This project crosses several water features including (but not limited to): Cooper Creek, Phillippi Creek Main A, Phillippi Canal 6-227, Canal 11,13-206, South Creek, and Canal 16, 18-267. The County proposes minor enhancement of these structures in a manner that serves to improve permeability for wildlife movement.

Wildlife utilization data has been collected through this area by County staff and outside consultants to establish wildlife trends and assess the feasibility of habitat connectivity restoration through infrastructure modifications. Wildlife has been commonly documented utilizing the waterway corridors throughout this area, although barriers encountered at the highway interface were common. Sarasota County realizes that current plans for I-75 may not include improvements to enhance passageways for wildlife movement; however, such retrofits to incorporate more permeable features should be a consideration during the I-75 widening effort. Ideally, modifications should include (depending on the location) removal of fencing restrictions and weir barriers (Cooper Creek), replacement of small culverts and drainage pipes with enlarged box culverts, installation of small mammal shelves, and addition of dry culverts for wildlife utilization.

#### 2. Wildlife Protection

A complete Biological Assessment Report will be conducted for this project to assess impacts to listed species within the immediate area such as the wood stork, bald eagle, etc. We recommend and support all efforts to complete such a report and to coordinate with the state and federal wildlife agencies to protect listed species.

#### 3. Waterway Crossings

This project crosses several water features including (but not limited to): Cooper Creek, Phillippi Creek Main A, Phillippi Canal 6-227, Canal 11,13-206, South Creek, and Canal 16, 18-267. If the proposed expansion of I-75 will require the crossings to be expanded, impacts to these waterways and the associated wetlands will occur. Therefore, we request that the FDOT work with the County to evaluate and attempt to avoid and minimize all impacts to these waterways and the associated wetlands.

#### 4. Habitat Protection

If the proposed expansion of I-75 will require FDOT to conduct activities (e.g. widening of lanes, access ramp work, floodplain compensation, stormwater management, etc.) outside of the existing Right-of-Way, the County is concerned about impacts to existing public and private preservation and mitigation areas along the corridor. In addition, we request that the FDOT design the project consistent with all County habitat protection rules (both upland and wetland) contained within the County's Comprehensive Plan.

According to the Advance Notification fact Sheet, more specific comments will be solicited during the actual permit coordination process. Please continue to include Sarasota County in the development review and permitting of this project so that we may work together to address the above-listed environmental concerns and any other issues that arise during the permit coordination process.

Thank you for providing us with the opportunity to submit comments. Please contact me at (941) 861-6342 if you have any questions.

Sincere

Amy H. Meese Interim General Manager Natural Resources

cc: Matt Osterhoudt, Project Scientist, Resource Protection Sherri Swanson, Project Scientist, Natural Systems Management Jim Dierolf, Environmental Specialist III, Resource Protection Kelly Pluta, Environmental Specialist III, Resource Protection



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE Southeast Regional Office 263 13<sup>th</sup> Avenue South St. Petersburg, Florida 33701

April 10, 2006

F/SER46:DR/mt

Mr. Mark A. Schulz Environmental Administrator Florida Department of Transportation, District One Post Office Box 1249 Bartow, Florida 33830-1249

SUBJECT: Advance Notification Financial Management Number: 201277-1 Federal Aid Project Number: Pending Interstate 75 Project (SR 681 to North of University Parkway) Sarasota County, Florida

Dear Mr. Schulz:

NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) has reviewed the information contained in the above referenced Advance Notification, dated February 14, 2006. The Florida Department of Transportation proposes widening I-75 from SR 681 to north of University Parkway in Sarasota County, Florida. The project would widen I-75 from the existing six lanes to eight lanes.

NMFS staff conducted a site inspection of the project area on March 14, 2006, to assess potential concerns to aquatic resources within Phillippe Creek, South Creek, Little Sarasota Bay, and Sarasota Bay. The lands adjacent to the proposed project are principally palustrine wetlands, with commercial and residential properties further back from the highway. It does not appear that the project will directly impact any NMFS trust resources. However, the project will cross Phillippe Creek, South Creek and several smaller unnamed streams, which drain to Sarasota Bay and Little Sarasota Bay. Increased traffic on the highway will result in an increase in the amount of sediment, oil and grease, and other pollutants reaching estuarine habitats utilized by marine fishery resources. Therefore, NMFS recommends that stormwater treatment systems be upgraded to prevent degraded water from entering estuarine habitats within Sarasota Bay and Little Sarasota Bay. In addition, best management practices should be employed during road construction to prevent siltation of Phillippe Creek, South Creek, and downstream aquatic resources.

If you have questions regarding our views on this project, please contact Dr. Dave Rydene in our St. Petersburg, Florida office. Dr. Rydene may be reached at the letterhead address or by calling (727) 824-5379.

Sincerely,

Assistant Regional Administrator Habitat Conservation Division



cc: F/SER4 F/SER46 - Rydene

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cc: email EPA (Victoria Foster) FL DEP (Lauren Milligan) FL FWCC (Jim Beever) FWS (Ann Marie Maharaj) SWFWMD (Ed Craig)



Florida

Department of Environmental Protection



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'More Protection, Less Process'

<b>Project Inform</b>	nation					
Project:	FL200602201930C					
Comments Due: 03/22/2006						
Letter Due: 04/21/2006						
Description: DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION - ADVANCE NOTIFICATION - I-75 PD&E STUDY, FROM SR 681 TO UNIVERSITY PARKWAY, FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT NO. 201277-1 - SARASOTA COUNTY, FLORIDA.						
Keywords:	DOT - I-75 FROM SR 681 TO UNIVERSITY PARKWAY - SARASOTA CO.					
CFDA #:	20.205					
Agency Comm	ents:					
SW FLORIDA RPC - S	OUTHWEST FLORIDA REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL					
The proposed project h of the Strategic Region	has been found Regionally Significant and Consistent with the adopted goals, objectives, and policies al Policy Plan.					
SARASOTA - SARAS	OTA COUNTY					
No Comment						
COMMUNITY AFFAIR	S - FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY AFFAIRS					
r = · ·	COMMISSION - FLORIDA FISH AND WILDLIFE CONSERVATION COMMISSION					
No Comments Received	PARTMENT OF STATE					
No Comment/Consister						
· · ·	ROTECTION - FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION					
No Comment by C. Sta						
SOUTHWEST FLORIDA WMD - SOUTHWEST FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT						
The Southwest Florida Water Management District (SWFWMD) has provided a number of comments regarding the need to: apply for an Environmental Resource Permit from the SWFWMD; prepare a Contamination Screening Evaluation report for the DEP; provide compensation for fill placed in freshwater floodplain areas; minimize impacts to wetlands and submerged lands within Philippe Creek, South Creek, and other stream systems; etc. Please see the enclosed letter and comments from the SWFMWD for further details.						

For more information please contact the Clearinghouse Office at:

3900 COMMONWEALTH BOULEVARD MS-47 TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA 32399-3000 TELEPHONE: (850) 245-2161 FAX: (850) 245-2190

Visit the Clearinghouse Home Page to query other projects.

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April 5, 2006

Lecanto Service Office Suite 226 3600 West Sovereign Path Lecanto, Florida 34461-8070 (352) 527-8131 SUNCOM 667-3271

#### 2379 Broad Street, Brooksville, Florida 34604-6899

(352) 796-7211 or 1-800-423-1476 (FL only)

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Tampa Service Office 7601 Highway 301 North Tampa, Florida 33637-6759 (813) 985-7481 or 1-800-836-0797 (FL only) SUNCOM 578-2070

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David L. Moore **Executive Director** Gene A. Heath Assistant Executive Director

> William S. Bilenky General Counsel

Maritza Rovira-Forino

Hillsborough

Mr. Mark A. Schulz Environmental Administrator Florida Department of Transportation

Post Office Box 1249 Bartow, Florida 33830-1249

Subject:

Pinellas

Advance Notification Financial Management Number: 201277-1 Federal Aid Project Number:-Pending -Interstate 75 from State Road 681 to North of University

Parkway

Sarasota County, Florida Agency Comments

Dear Mr. Schulz:

As mentioned in our reply to the Florida State Clearinghouse, we have completed our review of the subject advance notification. Our comments are enclosed with this letter. In effect, we have reviewed this project in a manner similar to how we review projects reviewed under the Environmental Screening Tool of the FDOT's Efficient Transportation Decision Making program.

If you have any questions about our comments, please get in touch with me.

Sincerely,

ulmil.

Paul W. O'Neil, Jr., P.E. Director of Technical Services Department **Resource Regulation Division** 

Ms. Lauren Milligan, State Clearinghouse Coordinator CC: Florida Department of Environmental Protection 3900 Commonwealth Boulevard, Mail Station 47 Tallahassee, Florida 32399-3000



**ETDM Review Screen** 

Programming

X Project Development

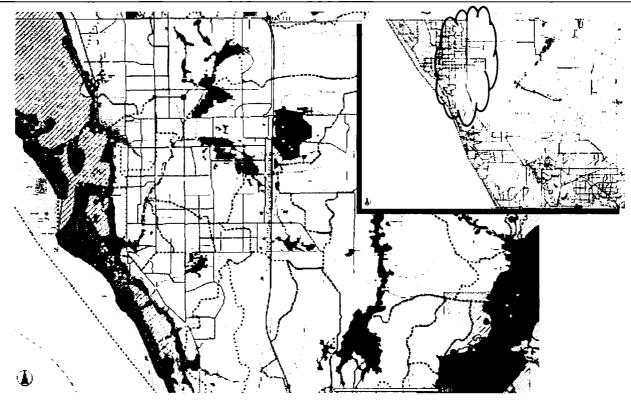
to

Planning

**Review Period** 

2/20/2006

#### **Location Map**



#### Summary

Project	Name /	Number
---------	--------	--------

I-75 Additional Lanes (EST #4791)

#### Location

I-75 from CR-681 to University Blvd.

#### County

#### Sarasota

#### **Description:**

This project proposes to add 1 lane in each direction to I-75 between SR 681 (Venice Connector) and north of University Parkway. This section of I-75 is currently six lanes. The project also includes potential interchange improvements.

#### Purpose and Need

This project proposes to add 1 lane in each direction to I-75 between SR 681 (Venice Connector) and north of University Parkway. This section of I-75 is currently six lanes. The project also includes potential interchange improvements. Widening may occur to the inside or outside for the portions of the four segments of this project.

4/8/2006



This widening to 8 lanes is a capacity improvement project. The improvement will enhance system mobility and accommodate travel demand generated by approved development in the project area.

Traffic in the corridor is expected to increase given the population growth projected to occur within the county and the region. The proposed capacity improvement will relieve stress on the facility by accommodating the expected traffic growth.

Without the proposed improvement, operating conditions along the I-75 corridor between SR 681 (Venice Connector) and the north of University Parkway will deteriorate to an unacceptable LOS F (LOS F is the poorest level of service).

The planned widening between SR 681 (Venice Connector) and north of University Parkway is part of an overall plan to improve corridor access and relieve traffic congestion on such parallel facilities as US 41 and US 301. Safety, emergency access, and truck access will all be enhanced through this corridor improvement.

I-75 is a critical evacuation route for residents in Southwest Florida's low-lying Gulf Coast communities. It is shown on the Florida Division of Emergency Management's evacuation route network.

#### Alternatives Under Consideration

Only one alternative is presented. The total length of the project is 13.09 miles.

#### **Summary of Public Comments**

No previous public or agency comments are available. This project has been through the EST as a Programming Screen.

#### Consistency

The proposed project is consistent with Local Government Comp Plan, MPO Goals and Objectives, and Air Quality Conformity.

#### **Required District Responses Under ETDM**

#### Purpose and Need Statement

Understood (without comments)

#### Coastal and Marine

Degree of Effect:		Enhanced	х	Minimal to None	Moderate	Substantial
Agency Involvement:	х	Continue		No Further Action		

#### Identify Resources and level of importance:

Approximately 16 linear feet of Environmentally Sensitive Shoreline (ESS) (riverine) occurs within 100 feet of the project area, and approximately 300 linear feet of ESS (riverine) occurs within 500 feet of the project area; no Aquatic Preserves are located within one mile of the project. Project shall not restrict existing drainage flow to the Gulf of Mexico through the stream tributary crossing the project alignment.

#### Comment on effects to resources:

No adverse effects are anticipated.



Additional Comments:

None.

#### Contaminated Sites

Degree of Effect:	Enhanced	Minimal to None	Moderate	X Substantial
Agency Involvement:	X Continue	No Further Action		

#### Identify Resources and level of importance:

One Brownfield (Fruitville Brownfield) is located within 100 feet of the project site. There is an additional Brownfield located within 500 feet of the project corridor. At least nine petroleum tank stations are located within 500 feet of the project limits. Seven hazardous waste sites are located within a one-mile radius of the project limits, and four Toxic Release Inventory sites are also located within a one-mile radius.

#### Comment on effects to resources:

While roadway footprint may not directly impact these sites, pond sites should be located outside of these areas as well.

#### Additional Comments:

An Environmental Resource Permit will be required for this project. However, the final determination of the type of permit will depend upon the final design configuration. The FDOT may want to consider applying for an Incidental Site Activities Permit (F.A.C. 40D.302(6)), if the project is a "design-build" or "fast-tracked" project.

The SWFWMD recommends coordination with FDEP and EPA and preparing a Contamination Screening Environmental Report. It will also be necessary to check for existing wells and sources of contamination within the path of construction, or in proximity of the proposed surface water management systems.

FDOT must provide reasonable assurance that project activities will not adversely affect the quality of receiving waters such that State water quality standards, including any anti-degradation provisions and any special standards for Outstanding Florida Waters and Outstanding National Resource Waters, will be violated [40D-4.301(1)(e), F.A.C.]. If discovered during any project phase, existing fuel storage tanks, fuel pumps, and septic tanks shall be removed or abandoned properly[40D-4.301(1)(i), F.A.C.].

#### Floodplains

Degree of Effect:	Enhanced	Minimal to None	Moderate	X Substantial
Agency Involvement:	X Continue	No Further Action		

#### Identify Resources and level of importance:

The I-75 corridor from SR 72 (Clark Road), southward, traverses through basins that drain to South Creek. No flood plain designations are provided by FEMA in this area, however, wetlands and flood plains are likely present. It should also be noted that a wetland area is present in the median at the south end of the project area and any widening activities to the median side or the outside lanes could impact flood plains in this area.

The project traverses the 100-year floodplain in several areas: the Phillipe Creek crossings at and north of Bee Ridge Rd; between Proctor and Clark Roads, the 100-year floodplain is located < 0.01 mi from the project on the east side. Between Bee Ridge and Fruitville Roads, the 100-year



floodplain is located immediately adjacent to the project on the east side for a distance of >1.0 mile. Selection of project alignment to the west of the existing roadway will assist in reducing storage losses. The design for the project must accommodate flows in all streams and compensate for lost floodplain storage.

#### Comment on effects to resources:

Flood plain encroachments could occur due to any widening and ramp reconfiguration at the interchange with SR 780 (Fruitville Road). A flood plain at undetermined elevation (Zone A) is located within the infield areas and adjacent to ramps on the east side of this intersection. This flood plain area is connected via canal to Phillippe Creek. Due to proximity to the I-75 interchange as well as the canal crossing under I-75, it is recommended that this flood plain area and associated drainage works be investigated. Indications are that this area is experiencing development and recent study data may be available concerning flood elevations and drainage improvements. Similarly, a flood plain at the headwaters of Phillippe Creek at undetermined elevation (Zone A) exists to the northeast of the interchange with SR 72 (Clark Road). Due to the close proximity of this interchange to this approximate flood plain boundary, this area should also be investigated for recent study data to confirm flood plain limits.

#### Additional Comments:

The SWFWMD will require floodplain compensation for fill placed in the freshwater floodplain up to the 100-year event. There appears to be a freshwater floodplain associated with several conveyance systems. These include Long Swamp, Phillippe Creek and South Creek.

In addition to the FIRM Maps the following studies may be helpful in establishing the 25-year tailwater elevation and 100-year floodplain.

- (a) Long Swamp- George F. Young 1998
- (b Phillippe Creek- Sarasota County
- (c) South Creek- Sarasota County

Development of a Bridge Hydraulics report and an analysis to show no adverse impact to the FEMA flood plain (No-Rise Evaluation) will be needed at each structure over existing flood plains.

There are several locations that have potential for flood plain impact. These areas will require evaluation and analysis for adverse impacts. The SWFWMD recommends that the FDOT quantify and verify floodplain impacts resulting from the project. The FDOT may want to consider refining a floodplain designation by submitting one of the following documents to FEMA or the local floodplain manager: No Rise Certification, Physical Map revision, Letter of Map Revision, Conditional Letter of Map Revision Based on Fill, or Letter of Map Amendment.

#### **Recreation Areas**

Degree of Effect:	Enhanced	Minimal to None	X Moderate	Substantial
Agency Involvement:	X Continue	No Further Action		

#### Identify Resources and level of importance:

Approximately 125 linear feet of impacts are anticipated to the FDEP Office of Greenways and Trails - Vision Biking and Equestrian Trail within a 200-foot buffer of the proposed alignment. Approximately 650 linear feet of impacts are anticipated to the FDEP Office of Greenways and Trails multi-use trails within a 200-foot buffer of the proposed alignment. Oscar Scherer State Park is within one mile of proposed project.

#### Comment on effects to resources:



As final project configurations, including stormwater management pond siting, are not known at this time, the possibility exists for direct or indirect impacts to these adjacent recreational features.

#### Additional Comments:

Design accommodations should be included to reduce potential impacts to recreational areas. Determination of Applicability should be conducted to assess potential 4(f) impacts.

For a project to meet permit criteria, it must be "not contrary to the public interest." Chapter 3.2.3 of the SWFWMD Basis of Review describes the items to be reviewed when determining what is and is not contrary to public interest, and 3.2.3 specifically details impact to the conservation of fish and wildlife habitat, including endangered or threatened species, or their habitats, as well as impacts to public recreation. Such impacts could potentially be deemed "contrary to the public interest."

#### Secondary and Cumulative Effects

Degree of Effect:	Enhanced	Minimal to None	X Moderate	Substantial
Agency Involvement:	X Continue	No Further Action		

#### Identify Resources and level of importance:

This project crosses two waterbodies, the Phillippe and South Creek, as well as several unnamed small streams. In 2005, approximately 120 acres (~19% of project corridor) of wetlands were reported to occur within 200 feet of the project corridor, and 280 acres of wetlands were estimated to occur within a 500-foot buffer. Approximately 10 acres of FFWCC Priority Wetlands (7-9 focal species) lie within a 200-foot buffer of the proposed alignment. During recent field visits, biologists observed that some of these 120 acres of wetlands and surface waters reported to exist in the 200 foot buffer of the project limits have been lost to recent development.

High quality wetland and upland habitat is located within the project area. There are over 65 acres of Biodiversity Hotspots supporting seven or more Focal Species within 500 feet of the project limits. Additionally, there are 21 acres of FWCC Strategic Habitat Conservation Areas within a 500-foot buffer of the project limits, specifically for wading bird habitat. Within the 200' buffer, there are 24 acres of FFWCC Biodiversity Hotspots for seven or more focal species. Additionally, there are over 108 acres of priority ecological resource conservation area managed by the Nature Conservancy within the 500-foot buffer.

In the southern segment, there were 3 bald eagle (T) nest sightings within 1.0 miles of the project; one of which was 0.12 miles from the project (location 2.4 miles north of southern terminus). It has also been determined that this project lies within the Core Foraging Area of the endangered wood stork. An active wood stork nesting colony is documented to occur approximately 1.7 miles from the project corridor. Additionally, the Sherman's fox squirrel (SSC) has been documented to occur within a one-mile radius of the project limits. It is likely that habitat for the Florida scrub jay (T) and eastern indigo snake (T) occurs within the project's regional area.

#### Comment on effects to resources:

Wetland edges will be lost or disturbed as a result of the increased paved cross section and associated surface water management system facilities. The actual acreage of this type of wetland loss and disturbance cannot be calculated at this time. It is likely that the total acreage is a small number project-wide, but such disturbance is very important on a wetland-by-wetland basis. Such physical disturbance results in wetland edges that become invaded by undesirable plant species that can negatively alter the species composition of a wetland, reducing its habitat value for wildlife.

The proposed project may cause additional isolation of animal populations on either side of the roadway, as the roadway widening will lower the ability of wildlife to successfully migrate to the remaining habitats on either side of the highway. This project is a widening of an existing roadway



that has already generated impacts to wildlife resources in the past; therefore, this project will increase the potential for such impacts. Species diversity and abundance, including that of Listed Species, will be adversely affected as a result of the pressure brought about by the elimination of habitat and the increased traffic.

#### Additional Comments:

An Environmental Resource Permit will be required for this project. However, the final determination of the type of permit will depend upon the final design configuration. The FDOT may want to consider applying for an Incidental Site Activities (ISA) Permit [Rule 40D-40.302(6), F.A.C.] if the project is a "design-build" or "fast-tracked" project.

Special attention should be directed to erosion control measures for wetland systems surrounding Phillippe and South Creek, and any other small creeks, lakes, or waterways that may lie within the project area, as pollutants have the potential to travel up and downstream to offsite wetland systems.

FDOT must discuss the relationship, both geographical and temporal, of the I-75 widening project with the Florida Intercity Passenger Rail Service Vision Plan, Phase 3: Tampa to Naples project. An assessment of the cumulative effects of the I-75 project in conjunction with the rail project should be performed because the rail system parallels or is co-located with the I-75 corridor and could involve a duplication of the impacts associated with the I-75 widening. In addition, construction of stations at the locations proposed would magnify wetlands impacts and stormwater treatment volumes.

#### **Special Designations**

Degree of Effect:	Enhanced	Minimal to None	X Moderate	Substantial
Agency Involvement:	X Continue	No Further Action		

#### Identify Resources and level of importance:

There are several crossings that will require research to determine if appropriate easements or agreements exist: South Creek (two crossings) and Phillippe Creek. While there are no Florida Wild & Scenic Rivers, OFWs, or State Aquatic Preserves in the immediate vicinity of the project crossings, the Sarasota Bay Estuarine System Aquatic preserve is the final outfall for two streams, South Creek and Phillipe Creek that are crossed by the project.

#### Comment on effects to resources:

The possibility exists that there may be special designations in the project area.

#### Additional Comments:

The FDOT should investigate to determine if special designations exist in the project area. There may be proprietary authorizations in, on, or over sovereign submerged lands that may additionally be required as well, depending upon any title determinations received back from FDEP.

#### Water Quality and Quantity

Degree of Effect:	Enhanced	Minimal to None	Moderate	X Substantial
Agency involvement:	X Continue	No Further Action		

#### Identify Resources and level of importance:

Water quality data are available for Phillipe Creek at three stations located at a point <0.25 mi from the project; there is no data for South Creek. Available data should be evaluated, and a limited survey for constituents relevant to permit criteria should be conducted. A report should be prepared



demonstrating that the project, both during and after construction, will not degrade the water quality of the streams below the Class III designation.

Waters in the immediate vicinity of the project are designated as Class III. No FDEP special designations affecting permit criteria are present in the immediate vicinity of the project; however, Sarasota County may impose higher pollutant removal rates. The project must not degrade the water quality below the use criteria that applies at and downstream of the project area.

The proposed project has the potential to impact one waterbody included on FDEP's adopted Verified List of Impaired Waters (June 20, 2005). Philippe Creek, (WBIDS 1937 and 1947) is crossed by the project. WBID 1937 includes the freshwater reach of Philippe Creek. It was listed on the 1998 303(d) List of Impaired Waters for nutrients, total coliform and fecal coliform. It has been proposed for delisting for nutrients in FDEP's June 20, 2005 adopted List of Impaired Waters (June 20, 2005) for total and fecal coliform. WBID 1947 includes the estuarine reach of Philippe Creek. It was listed on the 1998 303(d) List of Impaired Waters for nutrients. It has been proposed for delisting in FDEP's June 20, 2005 adopted List of Philippe Creek. It was listed on the 1998 303(d) List of Impaired Waters for nutrients. It has been proposed for delisting in FDEP's June 20, 2005 adopted List of Delisting from the 1998 303(d) List of Impaired Waters for nutrients. It has been proposed for delisting in FDEP's June 20, 2005 adopted List of Delisting from the 1998 303(d) List.

The existing pits/ponds northwest of the I-75/SR 681 interchange are not good candidates for treatment and attenuation of the proposed improvements. During major rainfall events these ponds have been observed to interconnect with South Creek and provide "regional" storage benefits within the watershed.

For projects in the Braden River Watershed, Manatee County has imposed an additional treatment volume of 50% above the District's water quality treatment requirements to protect their water supply sources. The northern two miles of the proposed project improvements are in the Braden River Watershed upstream of Evers Reservoir. The project should be designed, constructed and operated to not impair the City's existing legal use of that facility, either from water quality or quality standpoints. Like Manatee County, Sarasota County has been imposing higher water quality treatment standards for all new activities to protect the drinking water supply of the City of Bradenton. Depending on final design configurations, other stricter water quality criteria may be required for specific portions of the project.

Several of the existing bridges on this project currently discharge untreated stormwater runoff directly to receiving waters by deck scuppers. Stormwater quality treatment will be required for runoff from the new pavement proposed to facilitate the additional traffic lanes for both bridges and roadways, plus the runoff from all other directly connected impervious areas contributing to the treatment systems, both on and off-site. If equivalent treatment is to be considered, the applicant must reasonably demonstrate that the alternate contributing areas are equivalent to the new and existing directly connected impervious areas that contribute to the treatment system(s), the pollution abatement is equivalent, and the treatment benefits occur in the same receiving waters and in the same locality as the existing point(s) of discharge from the new project area. It is recommended that the FDOT carefully consider stormwater quality treatment together with water quality impacts to wetlands and other surface waters when designing the water management, bridge and roadway widening components of this project.

#### Comment on effects to resources:

Specific considerations for this project will be addressed by the selection of whether to widen the facility to the outside or the inside of the existing roadway. This decision will govern how the runoff from the existing facility can be accommodated and determine the areas that will require treatment for the proposed improvements. The SWFWMD anticipates that if the existing and proposed stormwater runoff is not separated then water quality for the entire roadway will have to be addressed. If the runoff can be separated by design, then stormwater treatment of the new improvements can be isolated from the existing roadway.

#### Additional Comments:



An Environmental Resource Permit will be required for this project. However, the final determination of the type of permit will depend upon the final design configuration. The FDOT may want to consider applying for an Incidental Site Activities (ISA) Permit [Rule 40D-40.302(6), F.A.C.] if the project is a "design-build" or "fast-tracked" project. An ISA permits "jump-starting," on a limited basis, the initial construction activities of a larger project for which an individual ERP application has already been submitted and recommended by staff for approval.

The project must not cause backwatering or dewatering effects of streams crossed. The modification or replacement of existing flow-accommodation facilities at stream crossings must not result in a lowering of the controlling elevation of the stream at that point.

SWFWMD's agency mission and its SWUCA program goals include maintaining the hydrologic and environmental integrity of groundwater and surface water resources. These goals will be attained by the implementation of SWFWMD's permitting program.

The names and addresses of individuals or entities, whose property will be taken for the roadway improvements, will need to be submitted. Since the FDOT has powers of eminent domain, this information will be needed to facilitate noticing such individuals, pursuant to Rule 40D-1.607(7), F.A.C.

The SWFWMD has had several pre-app meetings with Palmer Ranch regarding a new interchange at the Central Sarasota Parkway extension. Coordination with Palmer Ranch is suggested to reduce construction conflicts.

The following projects adjacent to I-75 have been permitted by the SWFWMD and the file of record may contain helpful information for the design of the I-75 improvements:

SIPOC	ERP 49025469.000-002
Sarasota County North Metro Park	ERP 43013039.000-003
Sarasota County Celery Fields	ERP 43013672.000-007

A specific analysis or pond siting report should be performed by the FDOT to determine the impacts of the specific design considerations of each alternative based on the water quality/quantity/flood plain issues relevant to the appropriate alternative. Included within this study should be analysis of existing seasonal high water tables and tailwater impacts for specific basins where alternative treatment/attenuation facilities are proposed.

In-stream water quality protection and treatment of stormwater discharge will be needed for the project in accordance with Chapters 3 and 5 of the ERP Basis of Review. Treatment of stormwater runoff will be required, as additional traffic lanes are proposed. Stormwater quality treatment will be required for runoff from the new pavement proposed to facilitate the additional traffic lanes for both bridges and roadways, plus the runoff from all other directly connected impervious areas contributing to the treatment systems, both on and off-site.

If equivalent stormwater quality treatment is to be considered, the FDOT must reasonably demonstrate the following:

1. Alternate, contributing areas need to be hydrologically equivalent to the new and existing, watershed areas that would otherwise contribute to the treatment system and existing point of discharge;

2. Alternate pollution sources and loading characteristics need to be equivalent to those being substituted; and

3. Treatment benefits being substituted need to occur in the same receiving waters and in the same locality as the existing point of discharge from the new project area.

Existing stormwater treatment capacity that is being displaced by any roadway project will require additional compensating treatment volume for replacement. For example, existing treatment capacity



in roadside linear ponds/swales that is displaced by road widening will need to be replaced in a pond with suitable treatment volume from the existing contributing area and the road widening. Equivalent stormwater quality treatment, as described previously, should be avoided if possible.

Water quantity concerns must be addressed for the project in accordance with Chapter 4 of the SWFWMD's Environmental Resource Permit (ERP) Basis of Review (BOR) This includes the following issues:

(a) Pre- and post-development peak discharge rate match for each sub-basin along the I-75 corridor at each location runoff discharges from the right-of-way. Hydraulic routing through surface water storage areas and using appropriate tailwater information will also be necessary.

(b) Making provisions to allow runoff from up-gradient areas to be conveyed to down-gradient areas without adversely affecting the stage point or manner of discharge and without degrading water quality. Refer to Section 4.8 of the ERP BOR.

Because these TMDLs for water bodies in the project area will require reductions in coliform bacteria, a pollutant associated with stormwater runoff, implementation of these TMDLs will affect this project. The FDOT must be prepared to implement appropriate TMDL remediation measures.

The District has assigned pre-application file number PA3304 for the purpose of tracking their participation in the ETDM review of this project. File PA3304 is maintained at the Sarasota Service Office of the SWFWMD. Please refer to PA3304 whenever contacting District regulatory staff regarding this project.

#### Wetlands

Degree of Effect:	Enhanced	Minimal to None	Moderate	X Substantial
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Agency Involvement: X Continue No Further Action

#### Identify Resources and level of importance:

This project crosses two waterbodies, the Phillippe and South Creek, as well as several unnamed small streams. In 2005, approximately 120 acres (~19% of project corridor) of wetlands were reported to occur within 200 feet of the project corridor, and 280 acres of wetlands were estimated to occur within a 500-foot buffer. Approximately 10 acres of FFWCC Priority Wetlands (7-9 focal species) lie within a 200-foot buffer of the proposed alignment. During recent field visits, biologists observed that some of these 120 acres of wetlands and surface waters reported to exist in the 200 foot buffer of the project limits have been lost to recent development. The major wetland systems remain fragmented. Invasion of exotic species, principally by Brazilian pepper, has likely increased within remaining wetland systems.

During field visits during the ETDM review in March 2005, undisturbed forested wetland systems consisted primarily of red maple, cabbage palm, cypress, laurel oak, swamp bay, pop ash, and slash pine. Wax myrtle was observed as the dominant mid-canopy species. White beakrush, blue-joint panicum, and broomsedge were representative of the ground cover. The wetland species listed in the March 2005 field report continue to comprise the dominant canopy, subcanopy and ground cover vegetation in the wetland areas. One species, Carolina willow, should be added to the list of typical species. It was abundant in portions of the roadside and median swales and along the edges of some of the drainage canals.

The wetlands within the study area are found in the swales of the median and the east and west shoulders of the roadway. Most of these weilands are hydrologically contiguous with drainage canals



and other waterways that pass beneath the roadway. Some of these drainage swales appear to be part of natural wetland areas, many of which are depressional wetlands.

The project traverses numerous, contiguous, non-contiguous wetlands and areas of hydric soils. Wetlands consist chiefly of forested and shrubby systems, and they are more prevalent in the northern and southern segments of the project. The central segment of the project has fewer wetlands as that area is dominated by urban/suburban development. Wetland development is extensive within the project right-of-way. Many of the wetlands have habitat that is of good quality, and wetland-dependent species are known to utilize these wetland systems for foraging, breeding, and protection.

The project traverses two named and several unnamed streams with associated wetlands. The named streams are: Phillipe Creek, which outfalls to Roberts Bay and Little Sarasota Bay, and two branches of South Cr, which flows through Oscar Scherer State Park near the southern terminus of the project, and outfalls to a small embayment connecting to Little Sarasota Bay. Phillipe Creek travels approximately 7.4 river miles from the project crossing and its final outfall. Little Sarasota Bay and Roberts Bay are part of the Sarasota Bay Estuarine System, which is designated as OFW. The northern branch of South Creek and the southern branch of South Creek travel approximately 3.5 river miles and 2.0 river miles, respectively, from the project crossing to the State Park. Waters in Oscar Scherer State Park and are designated as OFW.

#### Comment on effects to resources:

The decision to widen the roadway to the inside or to the outside of existing lanes will affect the degree of wetland impact and the mitigation requirements associated with the project. Wetland impact avoidance, both along existing lanes and at interchanges, may be possible by electing to widen to the inside of the existing roadway wherever feasible. Data from the technical studies on habitat, wildlife, and wetlands should be input to the selection of the final alignment of the project. The regional wetland and wildlife impacts of the project can be reduced further by means of appropriate precautions during construction combined with adequate and appropriate mitigation within the watershed on a like-for-like basis.

#### Additional Comments:

Since this project is proposed as a capacity improvement along an existing roadway alignment, depending on the final design selection, there could be significant impacts to native habitats including wetlands and surface waters. It is recommended that the FDOT prepare a specific land cover map of the project corridor. For planning purposes, general wetland and surface water delineations should be conducted on aerial maps; depicting the location and potential impacts (e.g. acreage, habitat types, quality) of the wetlands and surface waters; and a summary of the impact type (e.g. filling, dredging, shading, permanent, temporary). As the roadway design proceeds and wetland and surface water impact conditions are further qualified and quantified, an assessment of the anticipated wetland habitat impacts should be conducted utilizing the state's Uniform Mitigation Assessment Method (UMAM). This assessment is required for the ERP.

For ERP purposes of mitigating any adverse wetland impacts within the same drainage basin [Basis of Review, par. 3.1.1(g) and subsection 3.2.8], the northern portion of the project in the Braden River watershed will be considered as being in the Manatee River drainage basin (BOR, Appendix 6); and the southern portion of the project will be considered by SWFWMD as being in the South Coastal Drainage basin (BOR, Appendix 6).

The majority of the proposed project segment crosses the South Coastal basin with the northern two miles crossing the Manatee River basin. Due to the dense urban conditions and very limited land acquisition opportunities, locating FDOT mitigation options within the South Coastal basin has been a difficult process. In 2004, the southern connecting segment of this I-75 project (North River Road to SR 681) was included within the FDOT mitigation program; with proposed wetland impacts designated for mitigation within Sarasota County's "Fox Creek Regional Mitigation Project." It may be possible the anticipated South Coastal wetland impacts associated with this additional I-75 segment

may also be adequately and appropriately mitigated at Fox Creek. Even though no specific FDOT mitigation projects within the Manatee River basin have available mitigation credit, the District is coordinating with Manatee County on potential future opportunities; which will also be necessary to compensate for the wetland impacts associated with the northern connecting segment of I-75 (University Parkway to Moccasin Wallow Road). In order to determine the anticipated mitigation credits necessary for potentially designating within Fox Creek and to evaluate conceptual mitigation needs within the Manatee basin, the District respectfully requests that FDOT list anticipated wetland impacts (habitat type, acreage, basin) of this I-75 project on the District One annual wetland impact inventory update. The District recognizes this wetland impact information is just preliminary, but will be a helpful and necessary planning tool to evaluate mitigation options.

Additionally, in accordance with 50 CFR 600.905-930, and assessment of potential impacts to Essential Fish Habitat is required. This analysis will be included in the Wetlands Evaluation Report, and will be coordinated with the National Marine Fisheries Service. An Environmental Resource Permit will be required for this project. However, the final determination of the type of permit will depend upon the final design configuration. If wetland impacts exceed threshold limits, the FDOT may want to consider applying for an Incidental Site Activities Permit (F.A.C. 40D.302(6)); particularly if the project is a "design-build" or "fast-tracked" project.

FDOT must provide reasonable assurance that the project's design will not adversely impact the value of functions provided to fish, wildlife, and listed species, including aquatic and wetland-dependent species, by wetlands and other surface waters. Wetlands within and adjacent to the ROW do not provide high quality habitat; however, there is evidence of use by species listed as Species of Special Concern (SSC). A formal wetland delineation and Unified Mitigation Assessment Methodology (UMAM) analysis will be required for the lands involved in the roadway work and surface water management facilities.

The District has assigned pre-application file number PA3304 for the purpose of tracking their participation in the ETDM review of this project. File PA3304 is maintained at the Sarasota Service Office of the SWFWMD. Please refer to PA3304 whenever contacting District regulatory staff regarding this project.

#### Historic and Archaeological Sites

	Degree of Effect:	Enhanced	X	Minimal to None	Moderate	Substantial
	Agency Involvement:	Continue	х	No Further Action		
	Identify Resources and leve	l of importance	e:			
	Comment on effects to reso	urces:				
	Additional Comments:					
Infrast	tructure					
	Degree of Effect:	Enhanced	х	Minimal to None	Moderate	Substantial
	Agency Involvement:	Continue	х	No Further Action		
	Identify Resources and level	of importance	:			



Comment on effects to resources	Comment	on	effects	to	resources
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Additional Comments:

Navig	jation						
	Degree of Effect:	Enhanced	x	Minimal to None		Moderate	Substantial
	Agency Involvement:	Continue	х	No Further Action			
	Identify Resources and lev	el of importan	ce:				
	Comment on effects to res	ources:					
	Additional Comments:						
Sectio	on 4(f) Potential						
	Degree of Effect:	Enhanced	х	Minimal to None		Moderate	Substantial
	Agency Involvement:	Continue	х	No Further Action			
	Identify Resources and lev	el of importan	ce:				
	Comment on effects to res	ources:					
	Additional Comments:						
Wildli	fe and Habitat						
	Degree of Effect:	Enhanced		Minimal to None	x	Moderate	Substantial
	Agency Involvement:	Continue		No Further Action			

Identify Resources and level of importance:

The project site traverses numerous forested and shrubby wetlands, pine flatwoods, and upland hardwood forests along much of its length that support native wildlife species. The northern 2.5 miles of the project occupies the Tampa Bay Ecosystem Management Area, while the remainder of the project occupies the Sarasota Bay Ecosystem Management Area. A land cover map and a habitat quality assessment should be generated by means of an on-site survey. That information will assist in project design.

High quality wetland and upland habitat is located within the project area. There are over 65 acres of Biodiversity Hotspots supporting seven or more Focal Species within 500 feet of the project limits.



Additionally, there are 21 acres of FWCC Strategic Habitat Conservation Areas within a 500-foot buffer of the project limits, specifically for wading bird habitat. Within the 200' buffer, there are 24 acres of FFWCC Biodiversity Hotspots for seven or more focal species. Additionally, there are over 108 acres of priority ecological resource conservation area managed by the Nature Conservancy within the 500-foot buffer.

Surveys for state and federally protected species were performed during this review. No listed species were observed, however foraging habitat does exist for the endangered wood stork other state-listed wading bird species in the wetlands of the roadway ROW. It has also been determined that this project lies within the Core Foraging Area of the endangered wood stork. There is an active wood stork nesting colony located approximately 1.7 miles from the project corridor. It is likely that habitat for the Florida scrub jay (T) and eastern indigo snake (T) occurs within the project's regional area. In the southern segment, there were 3 bald eagle (T) nest sightings within 1.0 miles of the project; one of which was 0.12 miles from the project (location 2.4 miles north of southern terminus). Additionally, the Sherman's fox squirrel (SSC) has been documented to occur within a one-mile radius of the project limits.

Wildlife habitat along much of the length of the existing roadway has been recognized as important for sustaining populations of both listed and non-listed species. In the northern segment, there were no eagle's nest sightings within 1.0 mile of the project, but 6 eagle's nest sightings have been made within 5.0 miles of the project. In the southern segment, there were 3 eagle's nest sightings within 1.0 miles of the project; one of which was 0.12 miles from the project (location 2.4 miles north of southern terminus). There were FWCC Biodiversity Hotspots and Species Occurrences in the project area believed to support 5-6 focal species. Hot spots were located throughout the project area, indicating the need for specific wildlife surveys on the project.

#### Comment on effects to resources:

The project may result in adverse impacts to wildlife and habitat. Impacts include additional disturbance to already-degraded aquatic habitat, loss of upland habitat that is potentially utilized by listed species, and water quality impacts to aquatic habitat. While the highly urbanized areas surrounding the project corridor provides low levels of high quality native habitats, the proposed project may cause additional isolation of floral and faunal species populations on either side of the roadway. The roadway widening will lower the ability of wildlife to successfully migrate to the remaining habitats on either side of the highway.

The project has the potential for both temporary and permanent impacts to wetland-dependent wildlife and habitat. Temporary impacts during construction include: noise, dust, habitat damage outside of ROW, and turbidity in the ditches crossing the project area. Turbidity will be addressed in the ERP and can be eliminated by the use and maintenance of effective control measures that are appropriate to the terrain involved.

#### Additional Comments:

The project site traverses numerous forested wetlands, pine flatwoods, and upland hardwood forests along much of its length that support native wildlife species. A land cover map and a habitat quality assessment should be generated by means of an on-site survey. That information will assist in project design.

Wildlife habitat along much of the length of the existing roadway has been recognized as important for sustaining populations of both listed and non-listed species. Hot spots were located throughout the project area, indicating the need for specific wildlife surveys on the project.

For a project to meet permit criteria, it must be "not contrary to the public interest." Chapter 3.2.3 of the SWFWMD Basis of Review describes the items to be reviewed when determining what is and is not contrary to public interest, and 3.2.3 specifically details impact to the conservation of fish and wildlife habitat, including endangered or threatened species, or their habitats, as well as impacts to public recreation. Such impacts could potentially be deemed "contrary to the public interest."



Specific surveys should be conducted to detect the occurrence and abundance of wildlife, both listed and non-listed, in order to assess the impact of the project on animals and plants and to determine the need for wildlife accommodations at particularly important locations along the project. Species of particular interest include: woodstork, Southern bald eagle, eastern indigo snake, Florida scrub jay, Sherman's fox squirrel, gopher tortoise, Florida sandhill crane, and gopher frog. The FWCC data on the site should be updated to the present time and applied to this project. The information generated during this work should be used in project design to reduce wildlife impacts.

FDOT must provide reasonable assurance that the design, construction and operation of the project will not impact the values of wetland, other surface waters and other water-related resources of the District so as to cause adverse impacts to the (a) abundance of fish, wildlife, and listed species and (b) habitat of fish, wildlife, and listed species (ERP Basis of Review 3.2.2).

The additional lanes increase the likelihood of animal fatalities on the roadway, particularly in the segment traversing the wetlands. A survey to determine the actual amount of animal traffic across the roadway itself and through the cross culverts should be conducted. The data collected should be analyzed for the purpose of determining the value of wildlife crossings. Coordination with FFWCC, USFWS and Bureau of Imperiled Species Management will be required for wetland-dependent listed species. It is recommended that the FDOT prepare a Wetland Evaluation Report (WER) and an Endangered Species Biological Assessment (ESBA) for further analysis.

#### **COUNTY: SARASOTA**

#### 2006-01504 2/20/2006 DATE: **COMMENTS DUE DATE:** 3/22/2006 4/21/2006 **CLEARANCE DUE DATE:** SAI#: FL200602201930C **REFER TO: FL200602201929C**

SARASOTA

### **MESSAGE:** SOUTH OF SAI # FL200602201929C

STATE AGENCIES	WATER MNGMNT. DISTRICTS	OPB POLICY UNIT	RPCS & LOC GOVS
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION FISH and WILDLIFE	SOUTHWEST FLORIDA WMD	]	
COMMISSION			
	Coastal Zone Management Act/Florida	Project Description:	

Coastal Management Program consistency evaluation and is categorized as one of the following:

X Federal Assistance to State or Local Government (15 CFR 930, Subpart F). Agencies are required to evaluate the consistency of the activity.

\_ Direct Federal Activity (15 CFR 930, Subpart C). Federal Agencies are required to furnish a consistency determination for the State's concurrence or objection.

- \_ Outer Continental Shelf Exploration, Development or Production Activities (15 CFR 930, Subpart E). Operators are required to provide a consistency certification for state concurrence/objection.
- \_ Federal Licensing or Permitting Activity (15 CFR 930, Subpart D). Such projects will only be evaluated for consistency when there is not an analogous state license or permit.

#### To: Florida State Clearinghouse

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION -ADVANCE NOTIFICATION - I-75 PD&E STUDY, FROM SR 681 TO UNIVERSITY PARKWAY, FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT NO. 201277-1 -SARASOTA COUNTY, FLORIDA.

To: Florida State Clearinghouse	EO. 12372/NEPA	Federal Consistency
AGENCY CONTACT AND COORDINATOR (SCH) 3900 COMMONWEALTH BOULEVARD MS-47 TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA 32399-3000 TELEPHONE: (850) 245-2161 FAX: (850) 245-2190	No Comment Comment Attached	No Comment/Consistent Consistent/Comments Attached Inconsistent/Comments Attached Not Applicable
From:		
Division/Bureau: HISTORICAL RESO	URCES HISTON	RIC PRESERVATION
Reviewer: <u>DUANE</u> DENFER Date: <u>02 34 2006</u>	-D Lame Depu 2.27.200	L. Kanmera F ty SHPO b
	RECEIVE	D + 4
	FEB 282	006
	OIP / OLG	A

Mark Schulz/D1/FDOT

To Jeffrey W James/D1/FDOT@FDOT

02/24/2006 07:53 AM

cc bcc

Subject Fw: Interstate 75, from SR 681 to North of University Parkway

Please be aware of the attached AN response.

Thanks

Mark A. Schulz Environmental Administrator Planning and Environmental Management Office FDOT District 1 801 N. Broadway P.O. Box 1249 Bartow, FL 33831-1249 Phone (863) 519-2357 Suncom 557-2357 ----- Forwarded by Mark Schulz/D1/FDOT on 02/24/2006 07:49 AM -----



John\_Wrublik@fws.gov 02/23/2006 04:47 PM

To MARK.SCHULZ@DOT.STATE.FL.US

сс

Subject Interstate 75, from SR 681 to North of University Parkway

February 23. 2006

Mark Schulz Florida Department of Transportation Post Office Box 1249 Bartow, Florida 33931-1249 Service Log No.: 41420-2006-FA-0238 Date Received: February 17, 2006 Project: Interstate 75, from SR 681 to North of University Parkway

County: Sarasota

Dear Mr. Schulz:

Thank you for the Advance Notification dated February 14, 2006, requesting the Fish and Wildlife Service=s (Service) technical assistance for the project site referenced above.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The Florida Department of Transportation proposes to widen Interstate 75 from State Road (SR) 681 to just north of University Parkway. The existing six-lane roadway will be enlarged to eight lanes. The project site is located in Sarasota County, Florida.

### THREATENED AND ENDANGERED SPECIES

The Service has reviewed its Geographic Information System (GIS) database for recorded locations of federally listed threatened and endangered species on or adjacent to your project. The GIS database is a compilation of data received from several sources.

### Wood stork

The project site is located within the core foraging area (CFA) (within 18.6 miles) of two active breeding colonies of the endangered wood stork (Mycteria americana ). The Service believes the loss of wetlands within a CFA may reduce foraging opportunities for wood storks. To minimize adverse effects to the wood stork, the Service's Draft Supplemental Habitat Management Guidelines for the Wood Stork in the South Florida Ecological Services Consultation Area (Service 2002) (Guidelines) recommends the applicant replace wetlands lost due to the action. The compensation plan should include a temporal lag factor, if necessary, to ensure wetlands provided as compensation adequately replace the wetland functions lost due to the project. Moreover, wetlands offered as compensation should be of the same hydroperiod, and located within the CFA of the affected wood stork colony. The Service does not consider the preservation of wetlands, by itself, as adequate compensation for impacts to wood stork foraging habitat, because the habitat lost is not replaced. Accordingly, any wetland mitigation plan that includes the preservation of wetlands should include a restoration, enhancement, or creation component. In some cases, the Service accepts wetlands compensation located outside the CFA of the affected wood stork nesting colony. Specifically, wetland credits purchased from a "Service Approved" mitigation bank located outside the CFA would be acceptable to the Service, provided the impacted wetlands occur within the permitted service area of the bank.

### Bald eagle

The proposed project is located within the geographic range of the threatened bald eagle ( *Haliaeetus leucocephalus*). Our database indicates that two nests of the bald eagle are located near the project site. Florida Fish and Wildlife Commission (FWC) nest number SA-013 is located in Section 25, Township 37 South, Range 18 East, and FWC nest number SA-014 is located in Section 14, Township 38 South, Range 19 East. If the project corridor is located within 1,500 feet of either nest site, we recommend that the FDOT follow the Service's *Habitat Management Guidelines for the Bald Eagle in the Southeast Region*. This document can be found at: http://www.fws.gov/northflorida/BaldEagles/Documents/eagle-habitat.pdf.

No other federally listed species were identified on your project site. The Service has not conducted a site inspection to verify species occurrence or validate the GIS results. However, we assume listed species occur in suitable ecological communities and recommend site surveys to determine the presence or absence of listed species. Ecological communities suitable for listed species can be found in the species accounts in the *South Florida Multi-Species Recovery Plan*. This document is available on the internet at <u>http://verobeach.fws.gov/Programs/ Recovery/esvb-recovery.html</u>.

We have also provided for your consideration two computer links: (1) <u>http://verobeach.fws.gov/\_Programs/Permits/Section7.html</u> and (2) <u>http://migratorybirds.fws.gov/</u>. The first link is a table of species by county in south Florida that are protected as either threatened or endangered under the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (87 Stat. 884; 16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*). The table does not include State-listed species. Please contact the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission at 772-778-5094 to identify potential State-listed species occurring in the vicinity of your project. The second link provides information on species the Service is required to protect and conserve under other authorities, such as the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act of 1958, as amended (48 Stat. 401; 16 U.S.C. 661 *et seq.*) and the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (40 Stat. 755; 16 U.S.C. 701 *et seq.*). A variety of habitats in south Florida occasionally provide resting, feeding, and nesting sites for a variety of migratory bird species. As a public trust resource, migratory birds must be taken into consideration during project planning and design.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment. If you have any questions, please contact me at 772-562-3909, extension 282.

Sincerely yours,

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John M. Wrublik U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Vero Beach Ecological Services Office 1339 20th Street Vero Beach, Florida 32960 Phone: 772-562-3909, x-282 Fax: 772-562-4288

### LITERATURE CITED

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service). 2002. Draft Sand and Bluetail Mole Skink Survey Protocol. Fish and Wildlife Service, South Florida Ecological Services Office; Vero



# Florida Department of Transportation

JEB BUSH GOVERNOR February 14, 2006

DENVER J. STUTLER, JR. SECRETARY

Ms. Lauren Milligan, State Clearinghouse Coordinator Florida Department of Environmental Protection 3900 Commonwealth Boulevard, Mail Station 47 Tallahassee, Florida 32399-3000

### SUBJECT: Advance Notification Financial Management Number: 201277-1 Federal Aid Project Number: Pending Interstate 75 from State Road 681 to North of University Parkway Sarasota County, Florida

Dear Ms. Milligan:

The attached Advance Notification Package and ten (10) copies are forwarded to your office for processing through appropriate State agencies in accordance with Executive Order 95-359. Distribution to local and federal agencies is being made as noted.

Although more specific comments will be solicited during the permit coordination process, we request that permitting and permit reviewing agencies review the attached information and furnish us with whatever general comments they consider pertinent at this time.

This is a Federal-aid action and the Florida Department of Transportation, in consultation with the Federal Highway Administration, will determine what degree of environmental documentation will be necessary. The determination will be based upon in-house environmental evaluations and comments received through coordination with other agencies. Please provide a consistency review for this project in accordance with the State's Coastal Zone Management Program.

In addition, please review this improvement's consistency, to the maximum extent feasible, with the approved Comprehensive Plan of the local government jurisdiction(s) pursuant to Chapter 163, Florida Statutes.

District One Planning and Environmental Management 801 North Broadway \* Post Office Box 1249 \* Bartow, FL 33831-1249 (863) 519-2300 \* (863) 534-7039 (Fax) \* MS 1-40

www.dot.state.fl.us



We are looking forward to receiving your comments on the project within 60 days. Should additional review time be required, a written request for an extension of time must be submitted to our office within the 60 day comment period.

Your comments should be addressed to:

Mr. Mark A. Schulz Environmental Administrator Florida Department of Transportation Post Office Box 1249 Bartow, Florida 33830-1249

Your expeditious handling of this notice will be appreciated.

Sincerely,

Mad a. Shal

Mark A. Schulz Environmental Administrator

Attachments Advance Notification Fact Sheet Advance Notification Mailing List Application for Federal Assistance Project Location Map

## MAILING LIST

Florida State Clearinghouse, Department of Environmental Protection Federal Highway Administration, Division Administrator Federal Emergency Management Agency - Mitigation Division. Chief Federal Railroad Administration Federal Aviation Administration - Airports District Office US Department of the Interior - Bureau of Land Management, Eastern States Office US Department of Housing and Urban Development - Regional Environmental Officer US Department of Interior - US Geological Survey Chief US Environmental Protection Agency - Region IV. Regional Administrator US Department of the Interior - US Fish and Wildlife Service US Army Corps of Engineers - Regulatory Branch, District Engineer US Department of Commerce - National Marine Fisheries Service - Habitat Conservation Division US Department of Agriculture - Southern Region, Regional Forester US Department of the Interior - National Park Service - Southeast Regional Office US Department of Commerce - National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration US Department of Health and Human Services - National Center for Environmental Health US Department of Interior - Bureau of Indian Affairs US Coast Guard – Commander (oan) – Seventh District Miccosukee Tribe of Indians of Florida Muscogee (Creek) Nation of Oklahoma Poarch Band of Creek Indians of Alabama Seminole Nation of Oklahoma Seminole Tribe of Florida US Senator Mel Martinez US Senator Bill Nelson US Congresswoman Katherine Harris Florida State Senator Lisa Carlton Florida State Senator Michael S. Bennett Florida State Representative Nancy C. Detert Florida State Representative Ron Reagan Florida State Representative Donna Clarke Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services - Division of Plant Industry Florida Department of Environmental Protection - Division of State Lands. Bureau of Submerged Lands and Preserves Florida Department of Environmental Protection - Southwest District Florida Department of State - Division of Historical Resources Florida Department of Transportation - Federal Aid Programs Coordinator Florida Department of Transportation - Environmental Management Office Florida Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission - Office of Environmental Services Manatee County Administrator Manatee County Board of Commissioners Manatee County Environmental Management Department Manatee County Planning Department Manatee County Transportation Department Sarasota County Administrator Sarasota County Board of County Commissioners Sarasota County Environmental Services Sarasota County Planning and Development Services Southwest Florida Water Management District Southwest Florida Regional Planning Council

### 1. NEED FOR PROJECT

I-75 is a six lane major north-south interstate highway providing travel from Manatee County to the north and Charlotte County to the south, as well as regional travel within Sarasota County. This project will add one lane in each direction to improve roadway capacity, enhance mobility and accommodate travel demand generated by approved development in the area.

This project is part of the Sarasota-Manatee Metropolitan Planning Organization's Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP), and the Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP).

### 2. DESCRIPTION OF THE PROJECT

This project involves the addition of one lane in each direction of I-75 between SR 681 in Sarasota County to north of University Parkway in Manatee County. This project also includes potential interchange improvements.

## 3. ENVIRONMENTAL INFORMATION

### a. <u>LAND USE</u>

The land uses in the project corridor consist of natural areas, residential, commercial, agricultural and recreational.

### b. <u>WETLANDS</u>

The project crosses Phillippe and South Creek, as well as several unnamed streams, all with associated wetlands. There are approximately 119 acres of wetlands within the project's 200 foot buffer and approximately 284 acres of wetlands within the project's 500 foot buffer. A comprehensive wetlands evaluation, including coordination with all jurisdictional regulatory agencies, will be conducted for this project. The U.S. Army Corp of Engineers, Florida Department of Environmental Protection and the Southwest Florida Water Management District have regulatory jurisdiction over affected wetlands within this project's limits.

In accordance with 50 CFR 600.905-930, an assessment of potential impacts to Essential Fish Habitat is required. This analysis will be included in the Wetlands Evaluation report, and will be coordinated with the National Marine Fisheries Service.

### c. <u>FLOODPLAIN</u>

The Federal Highway Administration noted that the project would impact floodplain areas,

environmentally sensitive shorelines, FEMA flood zones and special flood hazard areas. The project crosses Phillippe and South Creek, as well as several unnamed streams.

### d. <u>WILDLIFE AND HABITAT</u>

This project is within the Core Forging Area of the endanger wood stork. There is an active nesting colony of the endangered wood stork located approximately 1.7 miles from the project corridor and a bald eagle nest within 1,500 feet. The West Indian manatee, Florida scrub jay and eastern indigo snake may occur near this project. A complete Biological Assessment Report, including agency coordination, will be made for this Project Development and Environment Study.

### e. OUTSTANDING FLORIDA WATERS

This project is not located within any Outstanding Florida Waters.

### f. AQUATIC PRESERVES

There are no Aquatic Preserves within the project corridor.

### g. <u>COASTAL ZONE CONSISTENCY DETERMINATION</u> \_X\_Yes \_\_\_\_ No

Currently, all counties in Florida are subject to Coastal Zone Consistency. This project is located within a coastal area.

### h. <u>CULTURAL RESOURCES</u>

There are no known sites listed or eligible for listing on The National Register of Historic Places. The Federal Highway Administration notes that there appears to be some historic structures / District and a 4(f) resource in the project corridor. The FDEP Office of Greenways and Trails – Vision Biking and Equestrian Trail and multi- use trails are within a 200 foot buffer of the proposed alignment. Oscar Scherer State Park is located within one mile of the project. A comprehensive Cultural Resource Survey, including coordination with the State Historic Preservation Officer, will be completed for this Project Development and Environment Study.

### i. COASTAL BARRIER RESOURCES N/A

This project does not have any involvement with Coastal Barrier Resources, as defined in the Federal Coastal Barrier Act (CBRA) and Governor's Executive Order 81-405.

### j. <u>CONTAMINATION</u>

The Federal Highway Administration notes that it appears that a number of contaminated sites are located near the project corridor. A comprehensive contamination screening will be conducted for this project.

### k. <u>SOLE SOURCE AQUIFER</u>

The project is located outside of the boundaries of any designated sole source aquifer, including the streamflow and recharge source zones.

### I. <u>NOISE</u>

A detailed noise study will be prepared for this project. The purposes of the noise study are to evaluate traffic noise levels associated with the proposed action and to determine if and where noise mitigation measures are reasonable and feasible.

### m. ESSENTIAL FISH HABITAT

In accordance with 50 CFR 600.905-930, an assessment of potential impacts to Essential Fish Habitat is required. This analysis will be included in the Wetlands Evaluation Report, and will be coordinated with the National Marine Fisheries Service.

### m. OTHER TOPICS OR COMMENTS

- Air Quality: The project is in an area which has been designated as attainment for all the air quality standards under the criteria provided in the Clean Air Act Amendments of 1990.
- Water Quality: Historical water quality data will be collected and analyzed, and current water quality data will be gathered throughout the life of the project.

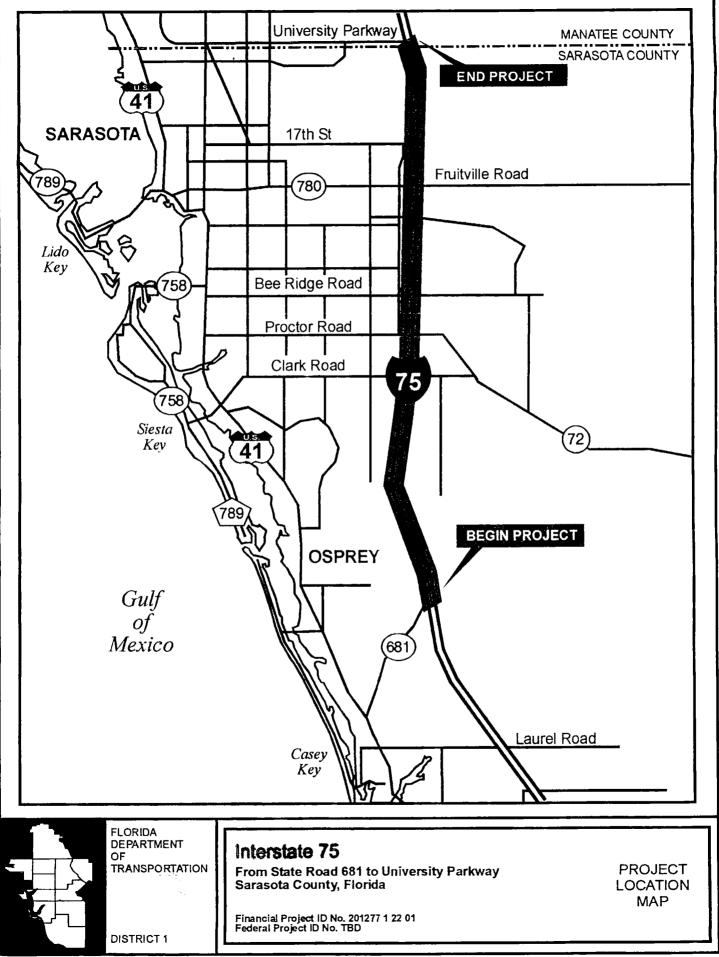
### 4. NAVIGABLE WATERWAYS: \_\_\_\_\_Yes \_\_\_X\_\_\_No

This project does not impact navigable waterways.

### 5. <u>PERMITS AND EASEMENTS REQUIRED:</u>

The list of potential agencies requiring permits includes, but may not be limited to the following:

- a. U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
- b. U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
- c. Department of Environmental Protection
- d. Southwest Florida Water Management



OMB Approval No. 0348-0043

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APPLICATION		2. DATE SUBMITTED		Applicant Identifier	
FEDERAL ASS	SISTANCE	February 14, 20	06	FPID Number: 201277-1-2	2-01
1. TYPE OF SUBMISSIO	N:	3. DATE RECEIVED BY S	TATE	State Application Identifier	
Application	Preapplication				
Construction	Construction	4. DATE RECEIVED BY F	EDERAL AGENCY	Federal Identifier	
Non-Constructi	on Non-Construction	] L			
5. APPLICANT INFORMATI	ON		-		
Legal Name:	Department of Transportation		Organizational Uni	t: Environmental Managemer	at Office
Fionda					
Address (give city, count	y state, and zip code):		Name and telepho this application (gi	ne number of the person to be contactive area code)	cted on matters involving
605 Suwannee	Street		Mark A. Sch		
Leon County				519-2357 fax: (863) 534-70	39
Tallahassee, Flo	orida 32399-0450		email: mark.	schulz@dot.state.fl.us	
6. EMPLOYER IDENTIFIC	CATION NUMBER (EIN):		7. TYPE OF APPL	ICANT: (enter appropriate letter in box)	A
5 9		8 7 4	A. State	H. Independent Scho	ol Dist.
			B. County		titution of Higher Learning
8. TYPE OF APPLICATIO	N:		C. Municipal	J. Private University	
	New 🗌 Continuat	ion Revision	D. Township E. Interstate	K. Indian Tribe L. Individual	
			F. Intermunicip		L
If Revision, enter approp	riate letter(s) in box(es):		G. Special Dis		
A. Increase Award		. Increase Duration	L		
D. Decrease Durati			9. NAME OF FEDE		
			U.S. Dep	artment of Transportation	
10. CATALOG OF FEDER ASSISTANCE NUMB	ER: 2 0	2 0 5		TITLE OF APPLICANT'S PROJECT:	
TITLE: Highwa	y Planning & Construction			evelopment Environment (PE	
	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·		nom Stat	e Road 681 to north of Unive	TSRY FAIRway
12. AREAS AFFECTED E	Y PROJECT (cities, countins, states,	etc.):			
Sarasota and I	Manatee County, Florida	1			
13. PROPOSED PROJEC	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	NONAL DISTRICTS OF			
Start Date	Ending Date a. Applicant			b. Project	
12/06	12/08 12	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·		13	
15. ESTIMATED FUNDIN	¢			/IEW BY STATE EXECUTIVE ORDER	12372 PROCESS?
a. Federal				APPLICATION WAS MADE AVAILA	
			TE EXECUTIVE OR	DER 12372 PROCESS FOR REVIEW	V ON:
b. Applicant	s <u>TBD</u> .	DAT DAT	E February 14,	2006	
c. State	\$ [TBD].0	0			
ļ	<b>_</b>	Ь NO.	PROGRAM IS NOT	COVERED BY E.O. 12372	
d. Local	\$ .0		OR PROGRAM HA	S NOT BEEN SELECTED BY STATE	FOR REVIEW
e. Other	s <u>TBD</u> .o				
f. Program Income				ON ANY FEDERAL DEBT?	
	\$ <u>TBD</u> .0				
g. TOTAL	\$ .0	0 Yes	If "Yes," attach an ex	prandtion,	No No
18. TO THE BEST OF MY	KNOWLEDGE AND BELIEF, ALL DATA	IN THIS APPLICATION/PR	EAPPLICATION ARE	TRUE AND CORRECT, THE DOCUMENT	THAS BEEN DULY
AUTHORIZED BY THE GO	VERNING BODY OF THE APPLICANT	AND THE APPLICANT WIL	L COMPLY WITH THE	ATTACHED ASSURANCES IF THE ASS	ISTANCE IS AWARDED
a. Typed Name of Autho Mark A. Schulz	rized Representative		b. Title Environmental	Administrator	c. Telephone number 863-519-2357
d. Signature of Authorize	ed Representative			J	e. Date Signed
n1 1	1 1/1				
11un	1. hele A		·····		2/14/06
Previous Editions Not Us					Standard Form 424 (REV 4-88) rescribed by OMB Circular A-102

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# Agency Comments - Project Effects

4791 - I-75 Add Lanes (Sara	asota County) ** Most Recent	Data	
Review Start Date:	2/14/2005	Phase:	Programming Screen
From:	SR 681	То:	North of University Pkwy,"Location not available."
District:	District 1	County:	Sarasota County
Contact Name / Phone:	Tony Sherrard (863) 519-2304	Contact Email:	antone.sherrard@dot.state.fl .us
	Project Publis	shed 1/09/2006	

### Alternative #1

Project Effects Overv	view		
Issue	Degree of Effect	Organization	Date Reviewed
Natural			
Air Quality	2 Minimal to None	Southwest Florida Water Management District	3/30/2005
Air Quality	2 Minimal to None	Federal Highway Administration	4/14/2005
Air Quality	2 Minimal to None	US Environmental Protection Agency	3/29/2005
Coastal and Marine	2 Minimal to None	Federal Highway Administration	4/14/2005
Coastal and Marine	2 Minimal to None	National Marine Fisheries Service	3/29/2005
Coastal and Marine	2 Minimal to None	Southwest Florida Water Management District	3/30/2005
Contaminated Sites	2 Minimal to None	US Environmental Protection Agency	3/29/2005
Contaminated Sites	3 Moderate	Federal Highway Administration	4/14/2005
Contaminated Sites	2 Minimal to None	Southwest Florida Water Management District	3/30/2005
Floodplains	3 Moderate	Federal Highway Administration	4/14/2005
Floodplains	4 Substantial	Southwest Florida Water Management District	3/30/2005
Infrastructure	3 Moderate	Southwest Florida Water Management District	3/30/2005
Navigation	2 Minimal to None	US Coast Guard	3/08/2005
Special Designations	3 Moderate	Southwest Florida Water Management District	3/30/2005
Water Quality and Quantity	4 Substantial	Southwest Florida Water Management District	3/30/2005
Water Quality and Quantity	3 Moderate	FL Department of Environmental Protection	4/15/2005
Water Quality and Quantity	2 Minimal to None	US Environmental Protection Agency	3/30/2005
Wetlands	4 Substantial	Southwest Florida Water Management District	3/30/2005

Wetlands	3	Moderate	FL Department of Environmental Protection	4/15/2005
Wetlands	3	Moderate	US Fish and Wildlife Service	3/04/2005
Wetlands	3	Moderate	US Environmental Protection Agency	3/30/2005
Wetlands	3	Moderate	US Army Corps of Engineers	3/24/2005
Wetlands	2	Minimal to None	National Marine Fisheries Service	3/29/2005
Wildlife and Habitat	2	Minimal to None	US Fish and Wildlife Service	3/04/2005
Wildlife and Habitat	3	Moderate	Southwest Florida Water Management District	3/30/2005
Cultural			District	
Historic and Archaeological Sites	2	Minimal to None	FL Department of State	4/15/2005
Historic and Archaeological Sites	3	Moderate	Federal Highway Administration	4/14/2005
Recreation Areas	3	Moderate	Federal Highway Administration	4/14/2005
Recreation Areas	3	Moderate	Southwest Florida Water Management District	3/30/2005
Recreation Areas	2	Minimal to None	FL Department of Environmental Protection	4/15/2005
Section 4(f) Potential	3	Moderate	Southwest Florida Water Management District	3/30/2005
Section 4(f) Potential	3	Moderate	Federal Highway Administration	4/14/2005
Community				
Aesthetics	2	Minimal to None	FDOT District 1	4/01/2005
Economic	3	Moderate	Federal Highway Administration	4/14/2005
Economic	1	Enhanced	FDOT District 1	4/01/2005
Land Use	2	Minimal to None	Federal Highway Administration	4/14/2005
Land Use	2	Minimal to None	FDOT District 1	4/01/2005
Land Use	2	Minimal to None	FL Department of Community Affairs	2/25/2005
Mobility	1	Enhanced	FDOT District 1	4/01/2005
Mobility	1	Enhanced	Federal Highway Administration	4/14/2005
Relocation	2	Minimal to None	Federal Highway Administration	4/14/2005
Relocation	2	Minimal to None	FDOT District 1	4/01/2005
Social	2	Minimal to None	FDOT District 1	4/01/2005
Secondary and Cumu	lative	)		
Secondary and Cumulative Effects	3	Moderate	US Environmental Protection Agency	3/30/2005

Summary Degree of Effect
vigation Summary Degree of Effect: Minimal to None
viewed By:
OT District 1 (6/30/2005)
mments:
proposed project does not cross any navigable waterways. For this reason, we concur with the
CGs recommended navigation DOE of minimal to none for this project. Additionally, the USCG note no
her action on their part.
T Reviews for Navigation
2 ETAT Review by Randy Overton, US Coast Guard (03/08/2005)
Navigation Effect: Minimal to None
<b>Coordination Document:</b> The "Coordination Document" option was not available at the time of the
review.
Dispute Information:N/A
Identified Resources and Level of Importance:
maritime navigation - low to medium
Comments on Effects to Resources:
Initial review indicates that there are no navigable waterways within the study area. no Coast Guard involvement is needed.
involvement is needed.
Coordinator Feedback:None
No review submitted from the Federal Highway Administration
No review submitted from the Federal Highway Administration No review submitted from the US Army Corps of Engineers
No review submitted from the Federal Highway Administration No review submitted from the US Army Corps of Engineers
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No review submitted from the US Army Corps of Engineers
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No review submitted from the US Army Corps of Engineers  al Designations  ordinator Summary  Summary Degree of Effect  cial Designations Summary Degree of Effect: Minimal to None  viewed By:  OT District 1 (6/30/2005)  mments:  SWFWMD noted that while there are no OFWs in the immediate vicinity of the project, the Sarasota  SWFWMD noted that while there are no OFWs in the immediate vicinity of the project. The
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No review submitted from the US Army Corps of Engineers  al Designations  ordinator Summary  Summary Degree of Effect  acial Designations Summary Degree of Effect: Minimal to None  viewed By:  DT District 1 (6/30/2005)  mments:  SWFWMD noted that while there are no OFWs in the immediate vicinity of the project, the Sarasota  SWFWMD noted that while there are no OFWs in the immediate vicinity of the project, the Sarasota  SWFWMD noted that while there are no OFWs in the immediate vicinity of the project, the Sarasota  SWFWMD also stated the project may be located over Sovereign Submerged Lands. The ETDM GIS  Hysis report identified Special Flood Hazard Area (1.2 acres of FIRM Flood Zones A/AE) as the only
No review submitted from the US Army Corps of Engineers  al Designations  ordinator Summary  Summary Degree of Effect  scial Designations Summary Degree of Effect: Minimal to None  viewed By:  DT District 1 (6/30/2005)  mments:  SWFWMD noted that while there are no OFWs in the immediate vicinity of the project, the Sarasota  SWFWMD noted that while there are no OFWs in the immediate vicinity of the project, the Sarasota  SWFWMD noted that while there are no OFWs in the immediate vicinity of the project. The  FWMD also stated the project may be located over Sovereign Submerged Lands. The ETDM GIS

	3 ETAT Review by C. Lynn Miller, Southwest Florida Water Management District (03/30/2005)
_	Special Designations Effect: Moderate
	<b>Coordination Document:</b> The "Coordination Document" option was not available at the time of the review.
I	Dispute Information:N/A
۱ i	dentified Resources and Level of Importance: While there are no Florida Wild & Scenic Rivers, OFWs, or State Aquatic Preserves in the mmediate vicinity of the project crossings, the Sarasota Bay Estuarine System Aquatic preserve is he final outfall for two streams, South Creek and Phillipe Creek that are crossed by the project.
	<b>Comments on Effects to Resources:</b> There are several crossings that will require research to determine if appropriate easements or agreements exist: South Creek (two crossings) and Phillippe Creek.
	Additional Comments (optional): A Sovereign and Submerged Lands permit will be required for this project.
	Coordinator Feedback:None
Ν	lo review submitted from the FL Department of Environmental Protection lo review submitted from the Federal Highway Administration
Ν	
١	lo review submitted from the Federal Highway Administration
Ν	lo review submitted from the Federal Highway Administration
	lo review submitted from the Federal Highway Administration
n N er	Io review submitted from the Federal Highway Administration Io review submitted from the US Environmental Protection Agency
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P P P P P P P P P P P P P P P P P P P	lo review submitted from the Federal Highway Administration lo review submitted from the US Environmental Protection Agency Quality and Quantity rdinator Summary Summary Degree of Effect <i>er Quality and Quantity Summary Degree of Effect: Minimal to None</i> iewed By: DT District 1 (6/30/2005) Imments: SWFWMD stated that the proposed project will be required to meet the TMDLs established for ppe Creek, Elligraw Bayou, and Catfish Creek in addition to the state requirements for treatment of tional impervious surface area. The FDEP stated that the proposed project should avoid or minimize and impacts to the greatest extent practicable. The USEPA noted that impacts to water quality may be
N N N N N N N N N N N N N N N N N N N	lo review submitted from the Federal Highway Administration lo review submitted from the US Environmental Protection Agency Quality and Quantity rdinator Summary Summary Degree of Effect er Quality and Quantity Summary Degree of Effect: Minimal to None iewed By: DT District 1 (6/30/2005) ments: SWFWMD stated that the proposed project will be required to meet the TMDLs established for ppe Creek, Elligraw Bayou, and Catfish Creek in addition to the state requirements for treatment of tional impervious surface area. The FDEP stated that the proposed project should avoid or minimize and impacts to the greatest extent practicable. The USEPA noted that impacts to water quality may be essed by appropriate design and mitigation. The proposed project is not located within or over an standing Florida Water and will be constructed to meet state stormwater treatment and storage irrements, therefore we would recommend a water quality and quantity DOE of minimal to none for thi
P er 00 2 /at P 00 he hili ddi etl ddi etl ddi etl ddi etl	lo review submitted from the Federal Highway Administration lo review submitted from the US Environmental Protection Agency Quality and Quantity rdinator Summary Summary Degree of Effect er Quality and Quantity Summary Degree of Effect: Minimal to None iewed By: DT District 1 (6/30/2005) ments: SWFWDD stated that the proposed project will be required to meet the TMDLs established for ppe Creek, Elligraw Bayou, and Catfish Creek in addition to the state requirements for treatment of tional impervious surface area. The FDEP stated that the proposed project should avoid or minimize and impacts to the greatest extent practicable. The USEPA noted that impacts to water quality may be ressed by appropriate design and mitigation. The proposed project is not located within or over an standing Florida Water and will be constructed to meet state stormwater treatment and storage

**4** ETAT Review by C. Lynn Miller, Southwest Florida Water Management District (03/30/2005) *Water Quality and Quantity Effect: Substantial* 

**Coordination Document:** The "Coordination Document" option was not available at the time of the review.

#### **Dispute Information:**N/A

#### Identified Resources and Level of Importance:

The project passes through the following watersheds. Most are included in local watershed models developed by Sarasota County and under review by the SWFWMD: Cooper Creek Philippe Creek Unnamed Ditch Unnamed Creek South Creek

The proposed project has the potential to impact three of Florida's impaired waterbodies. One waterbody Philippe Creek is directly in the path of the I-75 expansion while the other two are within the 1-mile project buffer Elligraw Bayou and Catfish Creek. The TMDLs for these three impaired water segments are described below:

1. Concern for the health of Philippe Creek began with its considerable expansion of urban development. Although Philippe Creek was delisted for dissolved oxygen and nutrients a TMDL to address fecal coliform is a high priority for development in 2005. Septic tanks are believed to be a significant contributor to this impairment but reductions associated with stormwater runoff affecting this project are anticipated.

2. Concern for the health of Elligraw Bayou also began with the expansion of urban development. A TMDL for nutrients dissolved oxygen and coliforms is a high priority for development in 2005. Reductions associated with these parameters are expected for nonpoint sources affecting this project.

3. An increase in development in the area surrounding Catfish Creek had an adverse impact on the water quality of this waterbody. As a result a TMDL for nutrients was is anticipated for development in 2005. Nonpoint source reductions are expected to be a part of this TMDL.

Waters in the immediate vicinity of the project are designated as Class III. No FDEP special designations affecting permit criteria are present in the immediate vicinity of the project. however Sarasota County may impose higher pollutant removal rates.. The project must not degrade the water quality below the use criteria that applies at and downstream of the project area.

#### **Comments on Effects to Resources:**

Water quantity concerns must be addressed for the project in accordance with Chapter 4 of the SWFWMD's Environmental Resource Permit (ERP) Basis of Review (BOR) This includes the following issues:

(a) Pre- and post-development peak discharge rate match for each sub-basin along the I-75 corridor at each location runoff discharges from the right-of-way. Hydraulic routing through surface water storage areas and using appropriate tailwater information will also be necessary.

(b) Making provisions to allow runoff from up-gradient areas to be conveyed to down-gradient areas

without adversely affecting the stage point or manner of discharge and without degrading water quality. Refer to Section 4.8 of the ERP BOR.

The existing pits/ponds northwest of the I-75/SR 681 interchange are not good candidates for treatment and attenuation of the proposed improvements. During major rainfall events these pond were observed to interconnect with South Creek and have "regional" storage benefits within the watershed.

Several of the existing bridges on this project currently discharge untreated stormwater runoff directly to receiving waters by deck scuppers. Stormwater quality treatment will be required for runoff from the new pavement proposed to facilitate the additional traffic lanes for both bridges and roadways, plus the runoff from all other directly connected impervious areas contributing to the treatment systems, both on and off-site. If equivalent treatment is to be considered, the applicant must reasonably demonstrate that the alternate contributing areas are equivalent to the new and existing directly connected impervious areas that contribute to the treatment system(s), the pollution abatement is equivalent, and the treatment benefits occur in the same receiving waters and in the same locality as the existing point(s) of discharge from the new project area.

Because these TMDLs will require reductions in pollutants usually associated with stormwater runoff (phosphorus, nitrogen, and coliforms), implementation of these TMDLs will affect this project. The FDOT must be prepared to implement appropriate TMDL remediation measures.

#### Additional Comments (optional):

An Environmental Resource Permit will be required for this project.

Specific considerations for this project will be addressed by the selection of whether to widen the facility to the outside or the inside of the existing roadway. This decision will govern how the runoff from the existing facility can be accommodated and determine the areas that will require treatment for the proposed improvements. The SWFWMD anticipates that if the existing and proposed stormwater runoff is not separated then water quality for the entire roadway will have to be addressed. If the runoff can be separated by design then treatment of the new improvements can be isolated from the existing roadway.

In-stream water quality protection and treatment of stormwater discharge will be needed for the project in accordance with Chapters 3 and 5 of the ERP Basis of Review. Treatment of stormwater runoff will be required as additional traffic lanes are proposed. Stormwater quality treatment will be required for runoff from the new pavement proposed to facilitate the additional traffic lanes for both bridges and roadways plus the runoff from all other directly connected impervious areas contributing to the treatment systems both on and off-site.

For projects in the Braden River Watershed Manatee County has imposed an additional treatment volume of 50% above the Districts water quality treatment requirements to protect their water supply sources. The northern two miles of the proposed project improvements are in the Braden River Watershed upstream of Evers Reservoir. The project should be designed constructed and operated to not impair the City's existing legal use of that facility either from water quality or quality standpoints. Like Manatee County Sarasota County has been imposing higher water quality treatment standards for all new activities to protect the drinking water supply of the City of Bradenton. Depending on final design configurations other stricter water quality criteria may be required for specific portions of the project.

It is recommended that the FDOT carefully consider stormwater quality treatment together with water quality impacts to wetlands and other surface waters when designing the water management bridge and roadway widening components of this project.

A specific analysis or pond siting report should be performed by the FDOT to determine the impacts of the specific design considerations of each alternative based on the water quality/quantity/flood plain issues relevant to the appropriate alternative. Included within this study should be analysis of existing seasonal high water tables and tailwater impacts for specific basins where alternative treatment/attenuation facilities are proposed.

Water quality data are available for Phillipe Creek at three stations located at a point %3C0.25 mi from the project. there is no data for South Creek. Available data should be evaluated and a limited survey for constituents relevant to permit criteria should be conducted. A report should be prepared demonstrating that the project both during and after construction will not degrade the water quality of the streams below the Class III designation.

The project must not cause backwatering or dewatering effects of streams crossed. The modification or replacement of existing flow-accommodation facilities at stream crossings must not result in a lowering of the controlling elevation of the stream at that point.

SWFWMD's agency mission and its SWUCA program goals include maintaining the hydrologic and environmental integrity of groundwater and surface water resources. These goals will be attained by the implementation of SWFWMD's permitting program.

The names and addresses of individuals or entities whose property will be taken for the roadway improvements will need to be submitted. Since the FDOT has powers of eminent domain this information will be needed to facilitate noticing such individuals pursuant to Rule 40D-1.607 7 F.A.C.

The SWFWMD has had several pre-app meetings with Palmer Ranch regarding a new interchange at the Central Sarasota Parkway extension. Coordination with Palmer Ranch is suggested to reduce construction conflicts.

The following projects adjacent to I-75 have been permitted by the SWFWMD and the file of record may contain helpful information for the design of the I-75 improvements: SIPOC ERP 49025469.000-002 Sarasota County North Metro Park ERP 43013039.000-003 Sarasota County Celery Fields ERP 43013672.000-007

The District has assigned pre-application file number PA3304 for the purpose of tracking their participation in the ETDM review of this project. File PA3304 is maintained at the Sarasota Service Office of the SWFWMD. Please refer to PA3304 whenever contacting District regulatory staff regarding this project.

Coordinator Feedback:None

**3** ETAT Review by Lindy McDowell, FL Department of Environmental Protection (04/15/2005) *Water Quality and Quantity Effect: Moderate* 

**Coordination Document:** The "Coordination Document" option was not available at the time of the review.

**Dispute Information:**N/A

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	Identified Resources and Level of Importance:			
	Please see "Wetland" comments.			
	Comments on Effects to Resources: None found.			
	FDOT District 1 Feedback to FL Department of Environmental Protection's Review Comments:FDOT will perform a Water Quality Impact Evaluation. Date Feedback Submitted:6/30/2005			
	2 ETAT Poviow by Mohor Pudoir, US Environmental Protection Agency (02/20/2005)			
	<b>2</b> ETAT Review by Maher Budeir, US Environmental Protection Agency (03/30/2005) <i>Water Quality and Quantity Effect: Minimal to None</i>			
	<b>Coordination Document:</b> The "Coordination Document" option was not available at the time of the review. Dispute Information:N/A			
	Identified Resources and Level of Importance: None found.			
	<b>Comments on Effects to Resources:</b> Based on available data, impact on water quality may be addressed by appropriate design, and mitigation process. An analysis is needed to determine the impact on water flow through the effected areas.			
	Coordinator Feedback:None			
-	No review submitted from the Federal Highway Administration			
Vetl	ands			
С	oordinator Summary			
	Summary Degree of Effect			
и	/etlands Summary Degree of Effect: Substantial			
	eviewed By: DOT District 1 (6/30/2005)			
	omments: etlands DOE Guidelines			
th	ne ETDM EST allows a quantitative approach to evaluating DOEs for potential wetland impacts. Two of ese datasets, the National Wetlands Inventory shape file and the 1995 Wetlands shape file, were used to evelop the following guidelines for assigning DOEs:			

Largest Acreage Reported by NWI Shape Recommended file or 1995 Wetlands file Degree of Effect within 100-foot buffer

0 - 10 Minimal to None 10 - 50 Moderate >50 Substantial

The 100-foot buffer (200-foot project corridor) was selected since the majority of project impacts would occur within this area. The recommended DOE was based on the premise that most projects will affect only a portion of the wetlands reported within the 100-foot buffer (i.e, the constructed project will not occupy the full 100-foot buffer). It is important to note that this methodology is only a guideline and the FDOT recommended DOE may differ based on other information within the screening tool or provided by an agency.

#### Agency Comments

The FDEP stated that the proposed project traverses several wetland habitats and the project design should avoid or minimize wetland impacts. The SWFWMD noted that several wetland habitats occur adjacent to the project and that the proposed project crosses numerous named and unnamed streams. The SWFWMD mentioned the difficulties of identifying FDOT mitigation options within the Lower Coastal Basin. The NMFS reported that the proposed project would not directly impact any NMFS trust resources. The ACOE, USEPA, and USFWS all noted that the proposed project traverses wetland areas and encouraged avoidance and minimization of wetland impacts. The ETDM EST reports approximately 1,300 linear feet of riverine systems, 62 acres of palustrine wetlands, and 149 acres of hydric soils within the projects 100-foot buffer. For these reasons, we would recommend a wetlands DOE of substantial for this project.

#### **ETAT Reviews for Wetlands**

**4** ETAT Review by C. Lynn Miller, Southwest Florida Water Management District (03/30/2005) *Wetlands Effect: Substantial* 

**Coordination Document:** The "Coordination Document" option was not available at the time of the review.

### **Dispute Information:**N/A

#### Identified Resources and Level of Importance:

Approximately 120 acres of wetlands and surface waters lie within a 200-foot buffer of the proposed alignment (~19% of project corridor). Approximately 10 acres of FFWCC Priority Wetlands (7-9 focal species) lie within a 200-foot buffer of the proposed alignment.

The project traverses numerous, non-contiguous wetlands and areas of hydric soils. Wetlands consist chiefly of forested systems, and they are more prevalent in the northern and southern segments of the project. The central segment of the project has fewer wetlands as that area is dominated by urban/suburban development.

The project traverses two named and several unnamed streams with associated wetlands. The named streams are: Phillipe Creek, which outfalls to Roberts Bay and Little Sarasota Bay, and two branches of South Cr, which flows through Oscar Scherer State Park near the southern terminus of

the project, and outfalls to a small embayment connecting to Little Sarasota Bay. Phillipe Creek travels approximately 7.4 river miles from the project crossing and its final outfall. Little Sarasota Bay and Roberts Bay are part of the Sarasota Bay Estuarine System, which is designated as OFW. The northern branch of South Creek and the southern branch of South Creek travel approximately 3.5 river miles and 2.0 river miles, respectively, from the project crossing to the State Park. Waters in Oscar Scherer State Park and are designated as OFW.

The project traverses numerous, non-contiguous wetlands and areas of hydric soils. Wetlands consist chiefly of forested systems, and they are more prevalent in the northern and southern segments of the project. The central segment of the project has fewer wetlands as that area is dominated by urban/suburban development. A formal wetland delineation of the project area will be needed together with a UMAM analysis.

#### **Comments on Effects to Resources:**

Since this project is proposed as a capacity improvement along an existing roadway alignment, depending on the final design selection, there could be significant impacts to native habitats including wetlands and surface waters.

#### Additional Comments (optional):

An Environemental Resource Permit will be required for this project.

The decision to widen the roadway to the inside or to the outside of existing lanes will affect the degree of wetland impact and the mitigation requirements associated with the project. Wetland impact avoidance, both along existing lanes and at interchanges, may be possible by electing to widen to the inside of the existing roadway wherever feasible. Data from the technical studies on habitat, wildlife, and wetlands should be input to the selection of the final alignment of the project. The regional wetland and wildlife impacts of the project can be reduced further by means of appropriate precautions during construction combined with adequate and appropriate mitigation within the watershed on a like-for-like basis.

It is recommended that the FDOT prepare a specific land cover map of the project corridor. For planning purposes, general wetland and surface water delineations should be conducted on aerial maps; depicting the location and potential impacts (e.g. acreage, habitat types, quality) of the wetlands and surface waters; and a summary of the impact type (e.g. filling, dredging, shading, permanent, temporary). As the roadway design proceeds and wetland and surface water impact conditions are further qualified and quantified, an assessment of the anticipated wetland habitat impacts should be conducted utilizing the state's Uniform Mitigation Assessment Method (UMAM).

The majority of the proposed project segment crosses the Lower Coastal basin with the northern two miles crossing the Manatee River basin. Due to the dense urban conditions and very limited land acquisition opportunities, locating FDOT mitigation options within the Lower Coastal basin has been a difficult process. In 2004, the southern connecting segment of this I-75 project (North River Road to SR 681) was included within the FDOT mitigation program; with proposed wetland impacts designated for mitigation within Sarasota County's "Fox Creek Regional Mitigation Project." It may be possible the anticipated Lower Coastal wetland impacts associated with this additional I-75 segment may also be adequately and appropriately mitigated at Fox Creek. Even though no specific FDOT mitigation projects within the Manatee River basin have available mitigation credit, the District is coordinating with Manatee County on potential future opportunities; which will also be necessary to compensate for the wetland impacts associated with the northern connecting segment of I-75 (University Parkway to Moccasin Wallow Road). In order to determine the anticipated mitigation credits necessary for potentially designating within Fox Creek and to evaluate conceptual mitigation needs within the Manatee basin, the District respectfully requests that FDOT list anticipated wetland impacts (habitat type, acreage, basin) of this I-75 project on the District One

annual wetland impact inventory update due in May, 2005. The District recognizes this wetland impact information is just preliminary, but will be a helpful and necessary planning tool to evaluate mitigation options.

The District has assigned pre-application file number PA3304 for the purpose of tracking their participation in the ETDM review of this project. File PA3304 is maintained at the Sarasota Service Office of the SWFWMD. Please refer to PA3304 whenever contacting District regulatory staff regarding this project.

**FDOT District 1 Feedback to Southwest Florida Water Management District's Review** *Comments:*FDOT will complete a Wetlands Evaluation Report. *Date Feedback Submitted:*6/30/2005

**3** ETAT Review by Lindy McDowell, FL Department of Environmental Protection (04/15/2005) *Wetlands Effect: Moderate* 

**Coordination Document:** The "Coordination Document" option was not available at the time of the review.

#### **Dispute Information:**N/A

#### Identified Resources and Level of Importance:

The National Wetland Index GIS report indicates that there are 119.2 acres of palustrine wetlands within 200 feet of the project area and 284.1 acres of palustrine wetlands within 500 feet for the project area. The Wetlands 2000 GIS report indicates that within the 500 foot buffer the wetland land use classification includes freshwater marshes (42.4 ac.) stream and lake swamps (bottomland) (49.1 ac.), wet prairies, (52.9 ac), and wetland forested mix (24.8 ac).

#### **Comments on Effects to Resources:**

The project will require an environmental resource permit (ERP). The environmental resource permit applicant will be required to eliminate or reduce proposed wetland resource impacts of the I-75 widening to the greatest extent practicable. Minimization efforts should include avoidance-oriented corridor alignments, wetland fill reductions via pile bridging and steep/vertically retained side slopes, and median width reductions within safety limits. The cumulative impacts of concurrent and future road improvement projects in the vicinity of the subject project should also be addressed. Wetlands should not be displaced by the installation of stormwater conveyance and treatment swales; compensatory treatment in adjacent uplands is the preferred alternative. After avoidance and minimization have been exhausted, mitigation must be proposed to offset the adverse impacts of the project to existing wetland functions and values.

**FDOT District 1 Feedback to FL Department of Environmental Protection's Review** *Comments:*FDOT will complete a Wetlands Evaluation Report. *Date Feedback Submitted:*6/30/2005

3 ETAT Review by John Wrublik, US Fish and Wildlife Service (03/04/2005)

#### Wetlands Effect: Moderate

**Coordination Document:** The "Coordination Document" option was not available at the time of the review.

**Dispute Information:**N/A

Identified Resources and Level of Importance: wetlands

#### **Comments on Effects to Resources:**

The Environmental Screening Tool's database indicates that the site may contain wetlands and other lands that provide habitat for fish and wildlife. Therefore we recommend that the project be designed to reduce impacts to these resources to the greatest extent practicable. If impacts to wetlands occur we recommend that the FDOT provides mitigation that fully compensates for the loss of wetland resources. Where necessary the FDOT should also investigate the need for the installation of wildlife under passes large box culverts or other such structures along the corridor to maintain or improve wildlife movement and hydrological flow in the area.

#### FDOT District 1 Feedback to US Fish and Wildlife Service's Review

*Comments*:FDOT will complete a Wetlands Evaluation Report. *Date Feedback Submitted*:6/30/2005

3 ETAT Review by Maher Budeir, US Environmental Protection Agency (03/30/2005) *Wetlands Effect: Moderate* 

**Coordination Document:** The "Coordination Document" option was not available at the time of the review.

**Dispute Information:**N/A

Identified Resources and Level of Importance: Wetlands

**Comments on Effects to Resources:** Impact to wetlands must be minimized. Unavoidable impact must be addressed through mitigation.

**FDOT District 1 Feedback to US Environmental Protection Agency's Review** *Comments:*FDOT will complete a Wetlands Evaluation Report. *Date Feedback Submitted:*6/30/2005

**3** ETAT Review by Harry Bergmann, US Army Corps of Engineers (03/24/2005) *Wetlands Effect: Moderate* 

**Coordination Document:** The "Coordination Document" option was not available at the time of the review.

#### **Dispute Information:**N/A

#### Identified Resources and Level of Importance:

The proposed project would likely impact wetlands and other waters of the United States (U.S.). A delineation of the proposed project site should be conducted to determine the amount and type of water of the U.S. that would be impacted.

#### **Comments on Effects to Resources:**

Direct effects from the placement of fill and secondary effects the project may have on adjacent wetlands should be considered.

Hydrologic connectivity of the wetlands on and near the project site may be limited if design measures do not take into account current flow patterns.

#### Additional Comments (optional):

Adhere to the Section 404 (b) 1 Guidelines (40 CFR Part 230) and the public interest review (33 CFR Part 320.4). A compensatory mitigation plan must be developed to replace any lost functions associated with unavoidable impacts to waters of the United States that may occur as a result of the proposed project.

#### FDOT District 1 Feedback to US Army Corps of Engineers's Review

*Comments:*FDOT will complete a Wetlands Evaluation Report. *Date Feedback Submitted:*6/30/2005

**2** ETAT Review by David A. Rydene, National Marine Fisheries Service (03/29/2005) *Wetlands Effect: Minimal to None* 

**Coordination Document:** The "Coordination Document" option was not available at the time of the review.

**Dispute Information:**N/A

### Identified Resources and Level of Importance:

Palustrine wetlands which drain to estuaries used by managed fish species and their prey.

#### **Comments on Effects to Resources:**

NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service NMFS has reviewed the information contained in the Environmental Screening Tool for ETDM Project # 4791. The Florida Department of Transportation proposes widening I-75 from SR 681 to north of University Parkway in Sarasota County Florida. The project would widen I-75 from the existing six lanes to eight lanes.

NMFS staff conducted a site inspection of the project area on March 24 2005 to assess potential concerns to living marine resources. The lands adjacent to the proposed road-widening project are principally commercial residential and forested palustrine wetlands. It does not appear that the project will directly impact any NMFS trust resources. However the project lies within 3.1 miles of Sarasota Bay. Therefore stormwater treatment systems should be upgraded so that increased traffic and the associated runoff does not cause degraded water to estuarine habitats within Sarasota Bay.

**FDOT District 1 Feedback to National Marine Fisheries Service's Review** *Comments:*FDOT will complete a Wetlands Evaluation Report. *Date Feedback Submitted:*6/30/2005

No review submitted from the Federal Highway Administration

#### Wildlife and Habitat

#### **Coordinator Summary**

3 Summary Degree of Effect

Wildlife and Habitat Summary Degree of Effect: Moderate

#### **Reviewed By:**

FDOT District 1 (6/30/2005)

#### **Comments:**

The SWFWMD noted that the proposed project occurs within forested wetlands, pine flatwoods, and upland hardwood forests along much of its length and that a bald eagle nest is reported within 0.12 mile (634 feet) of the project alignment. The USFWS reports that the proposed project is within the Core Foraging Area (CFA) of three active nesting colonies of the endangered wood stork and recommends that any lost foraging habitat (wetlands) be replaced within the CFA of the affected colonies or that wetland credits be purchased from a Service Approved mitigation bank outside of the CFA provided the impacted wetlands are within the banks permitted service area. Currently, the proposed project is not within the permitted service area of any Service Approved mitigation bank. In addition to the bald eagle and wood stork, the USFWS believes the Florida scrub jay and eastern indigo have the potential to occur in or near the project site and recommends that the FDOT prepare a Biological Assessment for the project during the Project Development and Environment process. Due to the reported presence of the bald eagle nest within 750 feet of the proposed project, we would recommend a wildlife and habitat DOE of moderate for this project.

#### **ETAT Reviews for Wildlife and Habitat**

**2** ETAT Review by John Wrublik, US Fish and Wildlife Service (03/04/2005) *Wildlife and Habitat Effect: Minimal to None* 

**Coordination Document:** The "Coordination Document" option was not available at the time of the review.

**Dispute Information:**N/A

**Identified Resources and Level of Importance:** federally listed species and fish and wildlife resources

#### **Comments on Effects to Resources:**

The Service has reviewed our Geographic Information Systems GIS database for recorded

locations of federally listed threatened and endangered species on or adjacent to the project study area. The GIS database is a compilation of data received from several sources. Active nesting colonies of the endangered wood stork Mycteria americana are located approximately 8.8 miles north 3.8 miles southwest and 15.2 miles southeast of the project corridor. Consequently the project falls within the Core Foraging Area CFA i.e. within 18.6 miles of these nesting colonies.

The Service believes that the loss of wetlands within a CFA due to an action could result in the loss of foraging habitat for the wood stork. To minimize adverse effects to the wood stork we recommend that any lost foraging habitat resulting from the project be replaced within the CFA of the affected nesting colony. Moreover wetlands provided as mitigation should adequately replace the wetland functions lost as a result of the action. In some cases the Service accepts wetlands compensation located outside the CFA of the affected wood stork nesting colony. Specifically wetland credits purchased from a Service Approved mitigation bank located outside of the CFA would be acceptable to the Service provided that the impacted wetlands occur within the permitted service area of the bank.

A nest of the threatened bald eagle Haliaeetus leucocephalus Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission number SA-14 is located near the project site in Section 7 Township 38 South and Range 19 East. If the project corridor occurs within 1 500 feet of a bald eagle nest than the FDOT should follow our Bald Eagle Habitat Management Guidelines listed at http://northflorida.fws.gov/BaldEagles /Documents/eagle-habitat.pdf

No other federally listed species were identified on your project site. The Service has not conducted a site inspection to verify species occurrence or validate the GIS results. However we assume that listed species occur in suitable ecological communities and recommend site surveys to determine the presence or absence of listed species. Ecological communities suitable for listed species can be found in the species accounts in the South Florida Multi-Species Recovery Plan 1999. This document is available on the internet at http://verobeach.fws.gov /Programs/ Recovery/esvb recovery.html.

The Service believes that the following federally listed species have the potential to occur in or near the project site: Bald eagle Haliaeetus leucocephalus Florida scrub-jay Aphelocoma coerulescens Wood stork Mycteria americana and Eastern indigo snake Drymarchon corais couperi. Accordingly the Service recommends that the Florida Department of Transportation FDOT prepare a Biological Assessment for the project as required by 50 CFR 402.12 during the FDOT's Project Development and Environment process.

The Environmental Screening Tool's database indicates that the site may contain wetlands and other lands that provide habitat for fish and wildlife. Therefore we recommend that the project be designed to reduce impacts to these resources to the greatest extent practicable. If impacts to wetlands occur we recommend that the FDOT provides mitigation that fully compensates for the loss of wetland resources. Where necessary the FDOT should also investigate the need for the installation of wildlife under passes large box culverts or other such structures along the corridor to maintain or improve wildlife movement and hydrological flow in the area.

**FDOT District 1 Feedback to US Fish and Wildlife Service's Review** *Comments:*FDOT will complete an Endangered Species Technical Memorandum. *Date Feedback Submitted:*7/1/2005

3 ETAT Review by C. Lynn Miller, Southwest Florida Water Management District (03/30/2005)

Wildlife and	Habitat Effect	ct: Moderate
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**Coordination Document:** The "Coordination Document" option was not available at the time of the review.

#### **Dispute Information:**N/A

#### Identified Resources and Level of Importance:

The project site traverses numerous forested wetlands, pine flatwoods, and upland hardwood forests along much of its length that support native wildlife species.

#### **Comments on Effects to Resources:**

Wildlife habitat along much of the length of the existing roadway has been recognized as important for sustaining populations of both listed and non-listed species. In the northern segment there were no eagle's nest sightings within 1.0 miles of the project but 6 eagle's nest sightings have been made within 5.0 miles of the project. In the southern segment there were 3 eagle's nest sightings within 1.0 miles of the project. In the southern segment there were 3 eagle's nest sightings within 1.0 miles of the project. One of which was 0.12 miles from the project location 2.4 miles north of southern terminus. There were FWCC Biodiversity Hotspots and Species Occurrences in the project area believed to support 5-6 focal species. Hot spots were located throughout the project area indicating the need for specific wildlife surveys on the project.

#### Additional Comments (optional):

A land cover map and a habitat quality assessment should be generated by means of an on-site survey. That information will assist in project design.

Specific surveys should be conducted to detect the occurrence and abundance of wildlife, both listed and non-listed, in order to assess the impact of the project on animals and plants and to determine the need for wildlife accommodations at particularly important locations along the project. Species of particular interest include: woodstork, Southern bald eagle, eastern indigo snake, gopher tortoise, Florida sandhill crane, and gopher frog. The FWCC data on the site should be updated to the present time and applied to this project. The information generated during this work should be used in project design to reduce wildlife impacts.

**FDOT District 1 Feedback to Southwest Florida Water Management District's Review** *Comments:*FDOT will complete an Endangered Species Technical Memorandum. *Date Feedback Submitted:*7/1/2005

- No review submitted from the FL Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services
- No review submitted from the FL Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission
- No review submitted from the Federal Highway Administration
- No review submitted from the US Forest Service

#### **ETAT Reviews: Cultural**

Historic and Archaeological Sites

**Coordinator Summary** 

- No review submitted from the Federal Highway Administration
- No review submitted from the Sarasota/Manatee MPO
- No review submitted from the US Environmental Protection Agency

#### **ETAT Reviews: Secondary and Cumulative**

#### Secondary and Cumulative Effects

#### **Coordinator Summary**

2 Summary Degree of Effect

Secondary and Cumulative Effects Summary Degree of Effect: Minimal to None

#### **Reviewed By:**

FDOT District 1 (6/30/2005)

#### **Comments:**

The USEPA stated that due to the size of the project there is a need to assess the overall impact of the wetland loss and cumulative effect on water flow and water quality in the watershed. However, the proposed project is a level of service improvement of an existing roadway. The purpose of the project is not to provide access to existing undeveloped areas but to improve traffic flow. All wetland impacts and mitigation associated with construction of the project will meet state and federal permitting requirements. We do not feel the constructed project will have a cumulative effect on water flow and water quality since it will be constructed in accordance with agency requirements for maintaining water quality and quantity. For these reasons, we would recommend a secondary and cumulative effects DOE of minimal to none for this project.

**ETAT Reviews for Secondary and Cumulative Effects** 

**3** ETAT Review by Maher Budeir, US Environmental Protection Agency (03/30/2005) *Secondary and Cumulative Effects Effect: Moderate* 

**Coordination Document:** The "Coordination Document" option was not available at the time of the review.

**Dispute Information:**N/A

At-Risk Resource:Wetlands

#### **Comments on Effects:**

Due to the size of the project. There is a need to assess the overall impact of the wetland loss, and cumulative effect on water flow and water quality in the watershed.

**Recommended Avoidance, Minimization, and Mitigation Measures:** None found.

**Recommended Actions to Improve At-Risk Resources:** None found.

Coordinator Feedback:None



1018 Thomasville Road Suite 200-C Tallahassee, FL 32303 850-224-8207 fax 850-681-9364 www.fnai.org August 23, 2006

Kristin A. Caruso Scheda Ecological Associates, Inc. 5892 East Fowler Avenue Tampa, FL 33617

Dear Ms. Caruso:

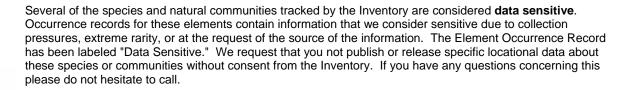
Thank you for your request for information from the Florida Natural Areas Inventory (FNAI). We have compiled the following information for your project area.

Project:	I-75 PD&E Study from SR681 to CR610
Date Received:	August 17, 2006
Location:	Township 35 S, Range 18 E, Sections 35 & 36 Township 35 S, Range 19 E, Sections 31 & 32 Township 36 S, Range 18 E, Sections 1, 2, 12, 13, 24-26, 35, & 36 Township 36 S, Range 19 E, Sections 5-8, 17-20, & 29-32 Township 37 S, Range 18 E, Sections 1, 2, 11-14, 21-26, 35, & 36 Township 37 S, Range 19 E, Sections 5-8, 17-20, & 29-32 Township 38 S, Range 18 E, Sections 1, 12, & 13 Township 38 S, Range 19 E, Sections 5-8, 17, & 18 Manatee/Sarasota Counties

#### **Element Occurrences**

A search of our maps and database indicates that currently we have several Element Occurrences mapped within the vicinity of the study area (see enclosed map and element occurrence table). Please be advised that a lack of element occurrences in the FNAI database is not a sufficient indication of the absence of rare or endangered species on a site.

The Element Occurrences data layer includes occurrences of rare species and natural communities. The map legend indicates that some element occurrences occur in the general vicinity of the label point. This may be due to lack of precision of the source data, or an element that occurs over an extended area (such as a wide ranging species or large natural community). For animals and plants, Element Occurrences generally refer to more than a casual sighting; they usually indicate a viable population of the species. Note that some element occurrences represent historically documented observations which may no longer be extant.



Florida Resources and Environmental Analysis Center

Institute of Science and Public Affairs

The Florida State University

Tracking Florida's Biodiversity

#### Likely and Potential Rare Species

In addition to documented occurrences, other rare species and natural communities may be identified on or near the site based on habitat models and species range models (see enclosed Biodiversity Matrix Report). These species should be taken into consideration in field surveys, land management, and impact avoidance and mitigation.

FNAI habitat models indicate areas, which based on landcover type, offer suitable habitat for one or more rare species that is known to occur in the vicinity. Habitat models have been developed for approximately 300 of the most rare species tracked by the Inventory, including all federally listed species.

FNAI species range models indicate areas that are within the known or predicted range of a species, based on climate variables, soils, vegetation, and/or slope. Species range models have been developed for approximately 340 species, including all federally listed species.

The FNAI Biodiversity Matrix Geodatabase compiles Documented, Likely, and Potential species and natural communities for each square mile Matrix Unit statewide.

#### **Managed Areas**

Portions of the site appear to be located within the Oscar Scherer Buffer, managed by Sarasota County. Portions of the site also appear to be located within the Oscar Scherer State Park, managed by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, Division of Recreation and Parks. Portions of the site also appear to be located near the Pinelands Reserve, managed by Sarasota County.

The Managed Areas data layer shows public and privately managed conservation lands throughout the state. Federal, state, local, and privately managed conservation lands are included.

Some Element Occurrences have been omitted from the map. These occurrences are located on managed areas (conservation lands) that are not in the direct vicinity of the project area. For those lands, we have included managed area summary reports, which list all elements with documented occurrences on the managed area.

The Inventory always recommends that professionals familiar with Florida's flora and fauna should conduct a site-specific survey to determine the current presence or absence of rare, threatened, or endangered species.

Please visit www.fnai.org/trackinglist.cfm for county or statewide element occurrence distributions and links to more element information.

The database maintained by the Florida Natural Areas Inventory is the single most comprehensive source of information available on the locations of rare species and other significant ecological resources. However, the data are not always based on comprehensive or site-specific field surveys. Therefore, this information should not be regarded as a final statement on the biological resources of the site being considered, nor should it be substituted for on-site surveys. Inventory data are designed for the purposes of conservation planning and scientific research, and are not intended for use as the primary criteria for regulatory decisions.

Information provided by this database may not be published without prior written notification to the Florida Natural Areas Inventory, and the Inventory must be credited as an information source in these publications. FNAI data may not be resold for profit.

Tracking Florida's Biodiversity

Thank you for your use of FNAI services. If I can be of further assistance, please give me a call at (850) 224-8207.

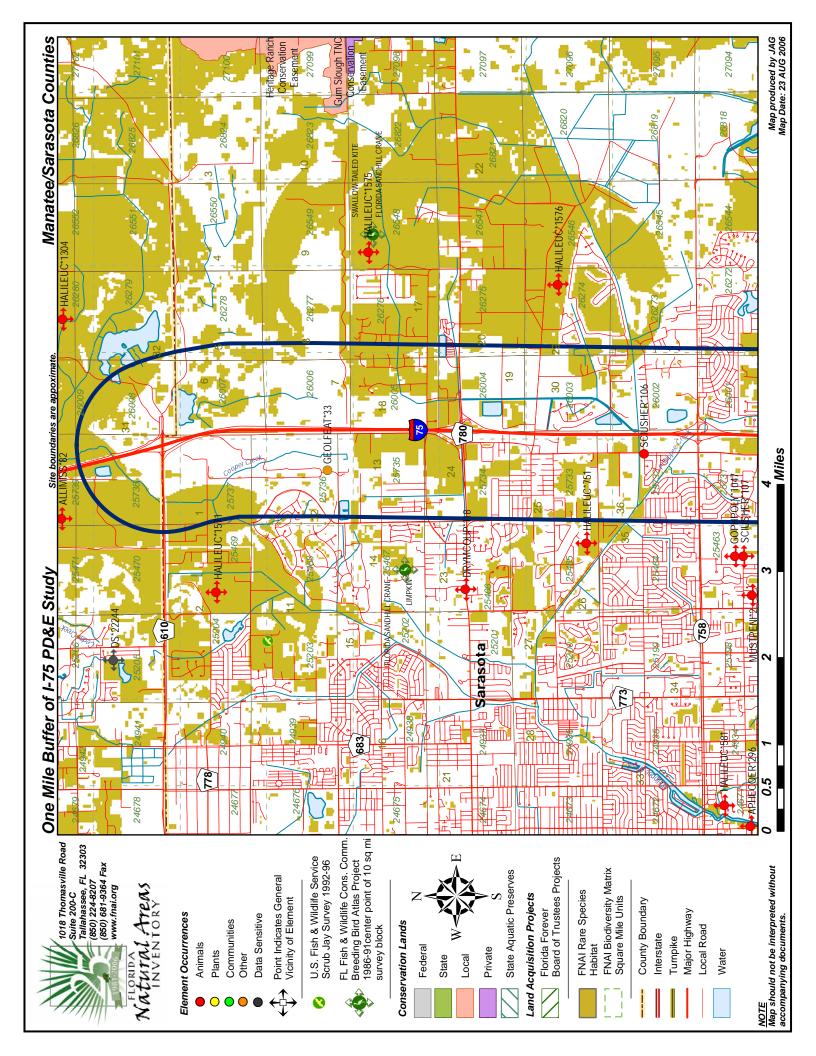
Sincerely,

Jason A. Griffin

Jason A. Griffin Data Services Coordinator

encl

Tracking Florida's Biodiversity



THERSTON ISSN	EO Comments	1999-05-07: Individual dead on road (PNDELI01FLUS). On 1993-04-28, Ronald Van Fleet wrote a memorandum stating that fox squirrels had been sighted regularly on property owned by Clyde and Pauline Wilson and that during one visit,	as many as ten tox squir 1981-09-05: 1 SCRUB JAY. CRUTCHFIELD OBSERVED INDIGO SNAKE NEAR HERE, POST- 1970 (P.	MOLER INTERVIEW OF 3 NOV 1981). VIABLE POPULATION, SEVERAL INDIVIDUALS > 10 FT., MANY <5 FT., OBSERVED IN 1958 STUDY (U85WSW01FL); SMALLER ONES MORE ABUNDANT IN VEGETATED	STRETCHES OF RIVER. [On 1993-04-28, Ronald Van Fleet wrote a memorandum stating that he had sighted Gopherus polyphemus on property owned by Clyde and Pauline Wilson (PNDCR001FLUS).]	1996-04-12: This squirrel was found dead along Cattlemen Road at the northwest corner of the intersection with Webber Street; basis for identification: larger than grey squirrel with black head (U96ROW01FLUS).	PIT IS PRESENTLY 40 FEET DEEP EXPOSING MIO-PLIOCENE TAMIAMI FORMATION AT THE BOTTOM OVERLAIN BY YOUNG CALOOSAHATCHEE AND/OR PINECREST FORMATIONS. BOTTOM AND BRANCHING CORALS MIDDLE MOLLUSK-DOMINATED. TOP VARIER OPEN MARINE TO NEARSHORE LAGOONAL FACIES.
rida Natural Areas Inventory occurrences pocumented on or near project site	Description	N/A [<20 acre remnant of suitable 1 habitat; nearby habitats consist of ( mesic hammock/pine flatwoods F and improved pasture and developed areas (PNDCR001FLUS).]	as many as ten tox squir SCHOOL IN RESIDENTIAL AREA, 1981-09-05: 1 SCRUB JAY. NO NEARBY SCRUB. No general description given CRUTCHFIELD OBSERVEI SNAKE NEAR HERE, POS	BRADEN RIVER.	nt of suitable tts consist of flatwoods e and	LUS).] /A; nearby habitats iic hammock/pine iimproved pasture d areas; mesic areas; neak falia) laurel oak folia) and cabbage almetto); pine	flatwoods con QUARRY, SANDPIT. E F F F F F F F F F F F F F F F F F F F
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子 の 子 の 子	Global Rank	G5T3	G2 G3 G3	G2 G5	<b>G</b> 3	G5T3	GNR
EL	Common Name	Sherman's Fox Squirrel	Florida Scrub-jay Eastern Indigo Snake	DATA SENSITIVE American Alligator	Gopher Tortoise	Sherman's Fox Squirrel	
1018 Thomasville Road Suite 200-C Tallahassee, FL 32303 (850) 224-8207 (850) 681-9364 Fax www.fnai.org	rory Scientific Name	Sciurus niger shermani	Aphelocoma coerulescens Drymarchon couperi	DATA SENSITIVE Alligator mississippiensis	Gopherus polyphemus	Sciurus niger shermani	Geological feature
ELORIDA MATHANA	Map Label Scient	SCIUSHER*107	APHECOER*296 DRYMCOUP*118	DS*22244 ALLIMISS*82	GOPHPOLY*1047	SCIUSHER*106	GEOLFEAT*33

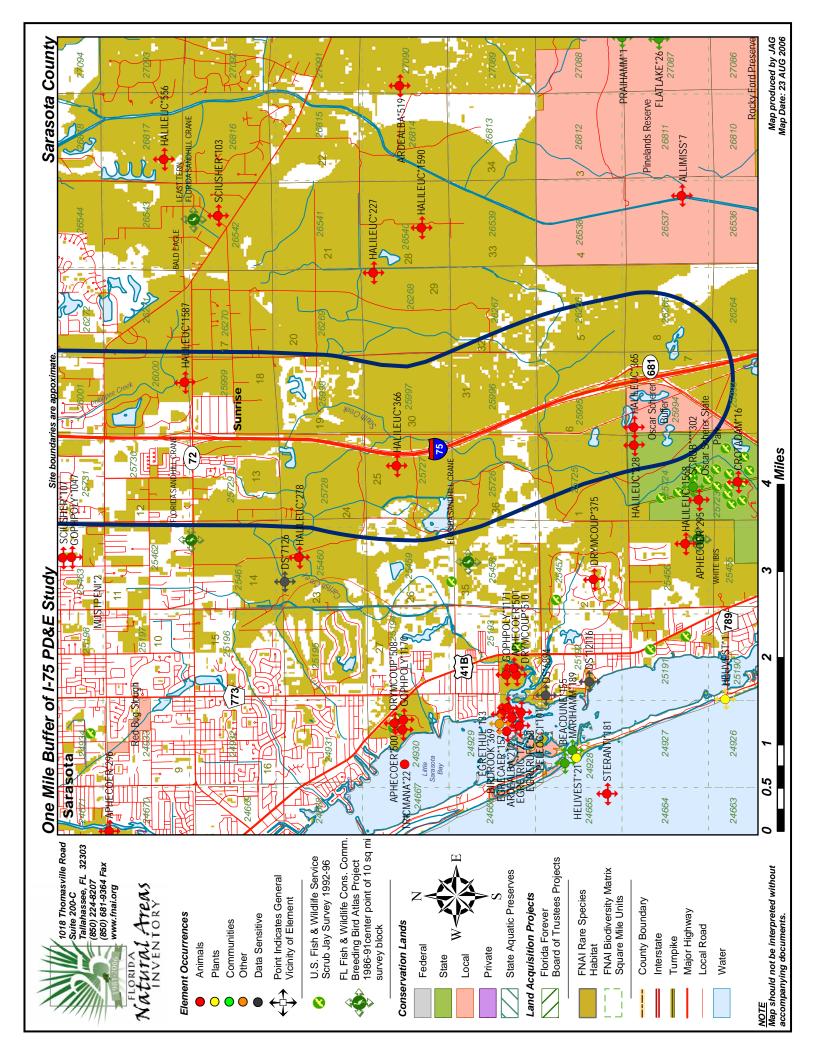
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1018 Thomasville Road Suite 200-C Tallahassee, FL 32303 (850) 681-9364 Fax www.fnai.org
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ELEMENT OCCURRENCES DOCUMENTED ON OR NEAR PROJECT SITE



Map LabelScientific NameCommon NameRankRankStatuMUSTPENIr2Mustela frenata peninsulaeFlorida Long-tailedG5T3S3NHALLEUC*1304Haliaeetus leucocephalusBald EagleG4S3LT,PDIHALLEUC*1575Haliaeetus leucocephalusBald EagleG4S3LT,PDIHALLEUC*1576Haliaeetus leucocephalusBald EagleG4S3LT,PDIHALLEUC*1576Haliaeetus leucocephalusBald EagleG4S3LT,PDIHALLEUC*1576Haliaeetus leucocephalusBald EagleG4S3LT,PDIHALLEUC*1576Haliaeetus leucocephalusBald EagleG4S3LT,PDIHALLEUC*1576Haliaeetus leucocephalusBald EagleG4S3LT,PDIHALLEUC*1571Haliaeetus leucocephalusBald EagleG4S3LT,PDIHALLEUC*1571Haliaeetus leucocephalusBald EagleG4S3LT,PDIHALLEUC*1571Haliaeetus leucocephalusBald EagleG4S3LT,PDI	Global Sta	State I	-ederal Sta	te Federal State Observation	on	
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6 Haliaeetus leucocephalus Bald Eagle G4 S3 Haliaeetus leucocephalus Bald Eagle G4 S3 Haliaeetus leucocephalus Bald Eagle G4 S3	Bald Eagle	S3	LT,PDL LT	2000	2005-07-12: Source does not provide a description.	Nest status: Active, 2000; Not active, 2003, 2002, 2001; Unknown status or not assessed 1909://I/JBSNC01FLUS)
Haliaeetus leucocephalus       Bald Eagle       G4       S3         Haliaeetus leucocephalus       Bald Eagle       G4       S3	Bald Eagle	S3	LT,PDL LT	2003	2005-07-12: Source does not provide a description.	Nest status: Active 2003, 2007, 2001; Unknown status or not assessed, 2000, 1990-/1103EWC01ELIIS)
Haliaeetus leucocephalus Bald Eagle G4 S3	Bald Eagle	S	гт, Роц. цт	2003	No general description given	Next Action 1995-2003: Continuously active. (U03FWC01FLUS). Previous data (note different format) NEST: 1978, 1988 ACTIVE, 1979-1981 INACTIVE, 1982-1987 1087-1086, GONE
	Bald Eagle		LT,PDL LT	2003	No general description given	Nest Status 1999-2003: Active - 2003, Nest status 1999-2003: Active - 2003, 2001, 2000; Inactive - 2002, 1999;Status 1995-98: Continuously active. (U03FWC01FLUS). Previous data (note different format) NEST; 1991: ACTIVE BUT PRODUCED 0 YOUNG; 1990; PRODUCED 1 YOUNG.



ALL	8 1581 · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	EO Commonte		OCCUR AS SCATTERED PONDS 1999: Update to last obs date was based THROUGHOUT PALMETTO on interpretation of aerial photography PRAIRIE AND SLASH (previous value was 1983) PINE/PALMETTO FLATWOOD (U05FNA02FLUS). SPECIES	COMPOSITION UNSPECIFIED. 1999: Update to last obs date was based on interpretation of aerial photography (previous value was 1983) (UO5FNA02FLUS). LIVE OAKS & CABBAGE PALMS DOMINATE.	1999-05-07: Individual dead on road (PNDELI01FLUS). On 1993-04-28, Ronald Van Fleet wrote a memorandum stating that fox squirrels had been sighted regularly on property owned by Clyde and Pauline Wilson and that during one visit,	as many as ten fox squir 1981-09-05: 1 SCRUB JAY.	INFREQUENT BUT CONSPICUOUS	1995-04-11: 2 adult fox squirrels crossing Coash Road; roaming within trees on ranchette (5-10 acre) lots	Willow strand surrounded by mixed 1988/04/18: B.CO. Develuence	[On 1993-04-28, Ronald Van Fleet wrote a memorandum stating that he had sighted Gopherus polyphemus on property owned by Clyde and Pauline Wilson (PNDCRO01FLUS).]	SCATTERED PLANTS OF HELIANTHUS IN FLOWER. ONLY 15% TOTAL VEGETATIVE COVER. ASSOCIATED SPECIES: SCAEVOLA PLUMIERI, PANICUM AMARAULUM, UNIOLA	PANICULATA.
ntory	ELEMENT OCCURRENCES DOCUMENTED ON OR NEAR PROJECT SITE	Docariation		OCCUR AS SCATTERED PONDS 1 THROUGHOUT PALMETTO 0 PRAIRIE AND SLASH (( PINE/PALMETTO FLATWOOD ()	KK. S PATCHES SIMILAR SIMILAR XTENSIVE IN OF MYAKKA RING LAKES & E PRIMARY	FLOODPLAIN). N/A [<20 acre remnant of suitable 1 habitat; nearby habitats consist of (f mesic hammock/pine flatwoods R and improved pasture and s developed areas fPNDCRO01FLUS).]	SCHOOL IN RESIDENTIAL AREA, 1981-09-05: 1 SCRUB JAY	ING EDGE	astures; general vicinity s pine flatwoods.	Willow strand surrounded by mixed 1	ble of	OPEN SANDY AREA WHERE S MIDNIGHT PASS CLOSED IN 11 1985.	1
Florida Natural Areas Inventory	MENTED ( TE	Observation	Date	1999	1999	1999-05-07	1981-09-05	1962-11-28	1995-04-11	1988-04-18	1993-?	1991-03-29	ZZ
ral Are	ENCES DOCUME PROJECT SITE	State	Billion	z	z	LS	LT	z	LS	z	LS	z	Ë
Natu	JRRENC PR	State Federal	Orarius	z	z	z	LT	z	z	z	z	z	z
nrida	оссг	-		S3	S	ß	S2	S2	S3	S4	S3	S2	S2
子(6	EMENT	Global Dank	VIIIIV	G4	G	G5T3	G2	G5T2	G5T3	G5	8	G5T2	G2
	EL	Common Mamo				Sherman's Fox Squirrel	Florida Scrub-jay	Hairy Beach Sunflower	Sherman's Fox Squirrel	Great Egret	Gopher Tortoise	Hairy Beach Sunflower	DATA SENSITIVE
1018 Thomasville Road Suite 200-C Tallahassee, FL 32303	(850) 581-9364 Fax www.finai.org	FORY Scientific Name		Flatwoods/prairie lake	Prairie hammock	Sciurus niger shermani	Aphelocoma coerulescens	Helianthus debilis ssp. vestitus	Sciurus niger shermani	Ardea alba	Gopherus polyphemus	Helianthus debilis ssp. vestitus	DATA SENSITIVE
S S S S S S S S S S S S S S S S S S S	FLORIDA WWW. fnai.org	INVENT		FLATLAKE*26	PRAIHAMM*1	SCIUSHER*107	APHECOER*296	HELIVEST*1	SCIUSHER*103	ARDEALBA*519	GOPHPOLY*1047	HELIVEST*21	DS*7126

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THERSTON STREET	EO Comments	arby habitats 1996-04-12: This squirrel was found dead mock/pine along Cattlemen Road at the northwest ded pasture corner of the intersection with Webber corner of the intersection with Webber Street; basis for identification: larger than ve oak grey squirrel with black head laurel oak (U96ROW01FLUS).	PIT IS PRESENTLY 40 FEET DEEP EXPOSING MIO-PLIOCENE TAMIAMI FORMATION AT THE BOTTOM OVERLAIN BY YOUNG CALOOSAHATCHEE AND/OR PINECREST FORMATIONS. BOTTOM AND BRANCHING CORALS MIDDLE MOLLUSK-DOMINATED. TOP VARIER OPEN MARINE TO NEARSHORE		·.·	IN given MUSEUM SPECIMEN #1240 COLLECTED BY H.B. SHERMAN NO DATE.	vater	n-barrier Species present 1988-04-27. Not spoil) observed 1976-04, 1976-06, 1977-04, i nesting 1978-04, 1978-07, 1987-04-26, es over water 1988-04-18, and 1989-04-26.	
rida Natural Areas Inventory occurrences documented on or near Project site	Description	1996-04-12: N/A; nearby habitats consist of mesic hammock/pine flatwoods and improved pasture and developed areas; mesic hammock contains live oak (Quercus laurifolia) and cabbage palm (Sabal palmetto); pine flatwords con	QUARRY, SANDPIT	BRACKISH TO SALINE WATERS PARALLELING GULF COAST SHORLINE; SUBMERGED SPERMATOPHYTES PLENTIFUL BUT FRESHWATER IS LIMITED.	<ul> <li><d><b>1992</b></d></li> <li>habitat for alligators</li> <li>(U96DEN01FLUS)</li> <li><d><d><d><d><d><d><d><d><d><d><d><d><d><d><d><d><d><d><d><d><d><d><d><d><d><d><d><d><d><d><d><d><d><d><d><d><d><d><d><d><d><d><d><d><d><d><d><d><d><d><d><d><d><d><d><d><d><d><d><d><d><d><d><d><d><d><d><d><d><d><d><d><d><d><d><d><d><d><d><d><d><d><d><d><d><d><d><d><d><d><d><d><d><d><d><d><d><d><d><d><d><d><d><d><d><d><d><d><d><d><d><d><d><d><d><d><d><d><d><d><d><d><dp><d< td=""><td>No general description given</td><td>Colony site is two non-barrier coastal islands (one spoil) surrounded by water; nesting substrate is mangroves over water (U82NES01).</td><td>Colony site is two non-barrier coastal islands (one spoil) surrounded by water; nesting substrate is mangroves over water</td><td>(002145301).</td></d<></dp></d></d></d></d></d></d></d></d></d></d></d></d></d></d></d></d></d></d></d></d></d></d></d></d></d></d></d></d></d></d></d></d></d></d></d></d></d></d></d></d></d></d></d></d></d></d></d></d></d></d></d></d></d></d></d></d></d></d></d></d></d></d></d></d></d></d></d></d></d></d></d></d></d></d></d></d></d></d></d></d></d></d></d></d></d></d></d></d></d></d></d></d></d></d></d></d></d></d></d></d></d></d></d></d></d></d></d></d></d></d></d></d></d></d></d></d></d></d></d></d></d></d></li></ul>	No general description given	Colony site is two non-barrier coastal islands (one spoil) surrounded by water; nesting substrate is mangroves over water (U82NES01).	Colony site is two non-barrier coastal islands (one spoil) surrounded by water; nesting substrate is mangroves over water	(002145301).
Florida Natural Areas Inventory ENT OCCURRENCES DOCUMENTED ON OR PROJECT SITE	Observation Date	1996-04-12	1980	1988	1992	72	1988-04-27	1988-04-27	1978
ttural Areas inces pocumi project site		LS LS	z	Щ	LS	z	LS	LS	L I
Natun RRENCI	State Federal State Rank Status Listing	z	z	Щ	SAT	z	z	z	Ľ
		Š	SNR	S2	S4	S3	S2	S4	S2
$\mathcal{F}_{0}$	Global Rank	G5T3	GNR	62	G5	G5T3	G4	G5	G5
EL	Common Name	Sherman's Fox Squirrel		Manatee	American Alligator	<ul> <li>Florida Long-tailed</li> <li>Weasel</li> </ul>	Reddish Egret	Little Blue Heron	DATA SENSITIVE
1018 Thomasville Road Suite 200-C Tallahassee, FL 32303 (850) 681-9364 Fax www.fnai.org	TORY Scientific Name	Sciurus niger shermani	Geological feature	Trichechus manatus	Alligator mississippiensis	Mustela frenata peninsulae	Egretta rufescens	Egretta caerulea	DATA SENSITIVE
1018 Thome Suite 200-C Suite 200-C Tallahassee (850) 851-3; (850) 681-3; www.fnai.or	INVENT Map Label	SCIUSHER*106	GEOLFEAT*33	TRICMANA*22	ALLIMISS*7	MUSTPENI*2	EGRERUFE*68	EGRECAER*157	DS*6894

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FLORIDA	(850) 681-9364 Fax www.fnai.org	E	EMENT	occuF	RENCE	ENCES DOCUMI PROJECT SITE	MENTED C TE	ELEMENT OCCURRENCES DOCUMENTED ON OR NEAR PROJECT SITE	
INVEN INVEN	TORY		Global			State O	Observation		)
Map Label	Scientific Name	Common Name	Rank	Rank	Rank Status Listing		Date	Description	EO Comments
ARDEALBA*212	Ardea alba	Great Egret	G5	S4	z	z	1988-04-27	Colony site is two non-barrier	Species present 1976-04, 1976-06,
								ing er water	1977-04, 1970-04, 1970-07 (30-19) nesting pairs 1976-1978U82NES01), 1988-04-18, and 1988-04-27. (Unidentified large white waders also present 1988-04-18.) Not observed 1987-04-26 and 1989-04-26.
EGRETHUL*133	Egretta thula	Snowy Egret	G5	S3	z	rs	1988-04-27	Colony site is two non-barrier coastal islands (one spoil) surrounded by water; nesting substrate is mangroves over water (U82NES01).	Species present 1977-04 ("++" in U82NES01), 1978-07 (100+ nesting pairs- -U82NES01), and 1988-04-27. Not observed 1976-04, 1976-06, 1978-04, 1987-04-26, 1988-04-18. and 1989-04-26.
STERANTI*181	Sterna antillarum	Least Tern	G4	S3	z	5	1992	No general description given	1992: B.Perry, data (reproductive site) from FY 1992-93 Coastal Wildlife Questionnaire; Delorme page 97, site # 2; 1 pair LETE; all obs. nesting 1992 season between May-Aug; nest areas marked and nesting mostly on gulf side, feeding & restind on bav side
PELEOCCI*101	Pelecanus occidentalis	Brown Pelican	G4	S3	z	LS	1989-04-26	Colony site is two non-barrier coastal islands (one spoil) surrounded by water; nesting substrate is mangroves over water (U82NES01).	Species present 1976-04, 1976-06, 1977-04, 1978-04 (50-100 nesting pairs 1976-1978U82NES01), 1987-04-26, 1988-04-18, 1988-04-27, and 1989-04-26. Not observed 1978-07.
DS*12116	DATA SENSITIVE	DATA SENSITIVE	<u>9</u>	S1	z	Щ	1981-07		
BIRDROOK*369	Bird Rookery		GNR	SNR	z	z	1989-04-26	vater	Multi-species rookery, 10 species. 101-250 birds 1976-04, 11-100 birds 1976-06, colony active 1977-04 but no estimate of abundance, 251-500 birds 1978-04, 101-250 birds 1978-07, Brown Pelican present 1987-04-26 but no estimate of abundance, 751-1,000 bir
EGRETRIC*127	Egretta tricolor	Tricolored Heron	G5	S4	z	LS	1988-04-27	Colony site is two non-barrier coastal islands (one spoil) surrounded by water; nesting substrate is mangroves over water (U82NES01).	Species present 1988-04-27. Not observed 1976-04, 1976-06, 1977-04, 1978-04, 1978-07, 1987-04-26, 1988-04-18, and 1989-04-26.
DRYMCOUP*375	Drymarchon couperi	Eastern Indigo Snake	G3	S3	Ц	LT	1982-pre	No general description given	MUSEUM SPECIMEN: PHILADELPHIA ACAD. N.S. 26566, NO FURTHER DATA.
SCRUB****302	Scrub		G2	S2	z	z	2004	2-3M OAK SCRUB.	2004: Update to last obs date was based on interpretation of aerial photography (previous value was 1981-09-04) (InterNA07FT LIS) 2-3M SCRUB OAKS
APHECOER*295	Aphelocoma coerulescens	Florida Scrub-jay	G2	S2	5	5	1981-09-04	2-3M OAK SCRUB.	1981-09-04: 5 SCRUB JAYS.
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ELEMENT OCCURRENCES DOCUMENTED ON OR NEAR PROJECT SITE

Description Global State Federal State Observation Rank Rank Status Listing Date I

Map Label	Scientific Name	Common Name	Rank	Rank	Status Listing	-	Date	Description	EO Comments
CROTADAM*16	Crotalus adamanteus	Eastern Diamondback Rattlesnake	G4	S3	z	z	1992-12-31	No general description given	7 snakes observed from May 16, 1973 to Dec. 31, 1992. See attached for specific
HALILEUC*1587	Haliaeetus leucocephalus	Bald Eagle	G4	S3	LT,PDL	Ц	2002	2005-07-12: Source does not provide a description.	data. Nest status: Active, 2002; Not active, 2003; Unknown status or not assessed,
HALILEUC*1590	Haliaeetus leucocephalus	Bald Eagle	G4	S3	LT,PDL	Ц	2003	2005-07-12: Source does not provide a description.	2001, 2000, 1999,(005FWC01FL05) Nest status: Active, 2003; Unknown status or not assessed, 2002, 2001, 2000, 1005/1107EN/C01E1116\
HALILEUC*1568	Haliaeetus leucocephalus	Bald Eagle	G4	S3	LT,PDL	L	2003	2005-07-12: Source does not	1999,(003r WOUT LOO) Nest status: Active, 2003, 2002, 2001, 2000, 1909.(1103EM/C01ELLIS)
MARIHAMM*189	Maritime hammock		3	S2	z	z	2004	PALMOAK HAMMOCK WITH HOUSES THROUGHOUT.	2004; 1999,1000; 1990,1000; 1990,1000; 1990,1000; 2004; Update to last obs date was based on interpretation of aerial photography (previous value was 1991-03-29) (U05FNA02FLUS). SABAL (U05FNA02FLUS). SABAL ININIDE DI IS SULOCOLA AO, ULERCUS VIGNIANA-A,
BEACDUNE*155	Beach dune		G3	S2	z	z	2004	CLIFFED BEACH WITH NEW DEPOSIT IN AREA OF FORMER MIDNIGHT PASS.	UNDERSTORY NOT CEAP.O. [UNDERSTORY NOT SEEN.] 2004. Update to last obs date was based on interpretation of aerial photography (previous value was 1991-03-30) (U05FNA02FLUS). 85% BARE SAND
HALILEUC*227	Haliaeetus leucocephalus	Bald Eagle	G4	S	LT,PDL	L	2003	No general description given	WITH WIDELY SCATTERED PLANTS OF SCAEVOLA PLUMIERI, UNIOLA PANICULATA, IVA IMBRICATA, PANICUM AMARULUM AND A STAN Nest status 1999-2003: Active - 2003, 2001, 2000, 1999; Inactive - 2002; Status 1995-98: Continuously active. (U03FWC01FLUS). Previous data (note different forcet functive ACTIVE
HALILEUC*228	Haliaeetus leucocephalus	Bald Eagle	64	ß	LT,PDL	5	2003	No general description given	BUT PRIODUCED 0 YOUNG; 1990: BUT PRODUCED 0 YOUNG; 1990: ACTIVE BUT PRODUCED 0 YOUNG; 1989: ACTIVE BU Nest status 1999-2003; Active - 2003, 2001; Inactive - 2002, 2000, 1999;Status 1995-98: Continuously active. (U03FWC01FLUS): Previous data (note different format) NEST: 1979-1988 ACTIVE. FLEDGED YOUNG 1981-1986.



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ELEMENT OCCURRENCES DOCUMENTED ON OR NEAR PROJECT SITE



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NATUTAL ATEAS	TORY		Global	State	Stata Fadaral	State O	Ohservation		)
Map Label	Scientific Name	Common Name	Rank	Rank	Status		Date	Description	EO Comments
HALILEUC*556	Haliaeetus leucocephalus	Bald Eagle	G4	S3	LT,PDL	L	1995	No general description given	Nest status 1999-2003: Inactive - 2003, 2002: Unknown/not assessed - 2001, 2000: 1000: 544445 4055 08-1, Advisor
									2000, 1233, Jacus 1333-30, Adve - 1995; Inactive - 1998, 1997, 1996, (U03FWC01FLUS). Previous data (note different format) NEST: 1991: ACTIVE
HALILEUC*278	Haliaeetus leucocephalus	Bald Eagle	G4	S3	LT,PDL	Ц	2003	No general description given	BUT PRODUCED 0 YOUNG; 1990: PRODUC Nest status 1995-2003: Continuously active. (U03FWC01FLUS). Previous data
									(note different format) NEST: 1991: ACTIVE BUT PRODUCED 0 YOUNG; 1990: PRODUCED 1 YOUNG; 1989:
									PRODUCED 2 YOUNG; 1979-1988 ACTIVE. FLEDGED YOUNG 1980-1981, 1983, 1986-1988, 1982 AN
HALILEUC*366	Haliaeetus leucocephalus	Bald Eagle	G4	S3	LT,PDL	Ц	2003	No general description given	Nest status 1999-2003: Active - 2003, 2001, 2000, 1999; Inactive - 2002; Status
									1995-98: Continuously active. (U03FWC01FLUS). Previous data (note
									amerent format) NES I: 1982, 1985-1988 ACTIVE. FLEDGED YOUNG 1982, 1985-1988. NO DATA 1983-1984.
HALILEUC*365	Haliaeetus leucocephalus	Bald Eagle	G4	S3	LT,PDL	L	2003	No general description given	Nest status 1995-2003: Continuously active. (U03FWC01FLUS). Previous data
									(note different format) 1985-1991: STATUS UNKNOWN; 1984: INACTIVE; ACTIVE NEST, 2 YOUNG IN 1983.
APHECOER*501	Aphelocoma coerulescens Florida Scrub-jay	Florida Scrub-jay	G2	S2	Ľ	LT	1993-07-02	1993-06-21: Overgrown	1993-06-21: At least one scrub jay family
								CINDTHA01FLUS, U96DEN01FLUS,	(PNDTHA01FLUS, U96DEN01FLUS).
DRYMCOUP*510	Drymarchon couperi	Eastern Indigo Snake	ß	S3	5	5	1993-07-02	1993-06-21: Overgrown scrub that's now xeric hammock in	1993-06-21: Indigo snakes were recorded on this parcel (U96DEN01FLUS,
								addition to mesic hammock and coastal hammock (196DFN01FLUS)	PNDTHA01FLUS).
GOPHPOLY*1171	Gopherus polyphemus	Gopher Tortoise	ß	S3	z	LS	1993-07-02	1993-06-21: Overgrown scrub that's now veric hammock in	1993-06-21: Gopher tortoises reported at this site No further data movided
								addition to mesic hammock and coastal hammock	(U96DEN01FLUS, PNDTHA01FLUS).
APHECOER*500	Aphelocoma coerulescens Florida Scrub-jay	Florida Scrub-jay	62	S2	Ц	LT	1992	(U96DEN01FLUS). 1992: High, dry scrub with minimal 1992: At least 2 scrub jay families disturbance (PNDTHA01FLUS, reported (PNDTHA01FLUS, U96DEN01FLUS). U96DEN01FLUS).	1992: At least 2 scrub jay families reported (PNDTHA01FLUS, U96DEN01FLUS).

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Natural Areas	Areas		Global	State	Federal	Global State Federal State Observation	- servatio	F	.1881.
Map Label	Scientific Name	Common Name	Rank	Rank	Rank Rank Status Listing	.isting	Date	Description	EO Comments
DRYMCOUP*508	Drymarchon couperi	Eastern Indigo Snake	G3	S3	Ľ	5	1992	1992: Scrub that's somewhat overgrown but has only minimal human disturbance	1992: Indigos reported at this site, no further data. (PNDTHA01FLUS, U96DEN01FLUS).
								(PNDTHA01FLUS, U96DEN01FLUS).	
GOPHPOLY*1170	Gopherus polyphemus	Gopher Tortoise	G3	S3	z	LS	1992	1992: Scrub that's somewhat overgrown but has only minimal	1992: Gopher tortoises reported to exist in the scrub on this parcel
								(PDTHA01FLUS, U96DEN01FLUS).	

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Managed Area Summary Oscar Scherer Buffer



SCIENTIFIC NAME	COMMON NAME	Global Rank	State Rank	Federal Status	State Listing	
<b>REPTILES</b> Crotalus adamanteus	Eastern Diamondback Rattlesnake	G4	S3	Ν	Ν	
<b>BIRDS</b> Haliaeetus leucocephalus	Bald Eagle	G5	S3	Ν	LT	
NATURAL COMMUNITIES Scrub		G2	S2	N	Ν	

Note: Summary includes all occurrence records currently in the FNAI database.



Managed Area Summary

## **Oscar Scherer State Park**



SCIENTIFIC NAME	COMMON NAME	Global Rank	State Rank	Federal Status	State Listing
AMPHIBIANS					
Rana capito	Gopher Frog	G3	S3	Ν	LS
REPTILES					
Alligator mississippiensis	American Alligator	G5	S4		LS
Crotalus adamanteus	Eastern Diamondback Rattlesnake	G4	S3	N	Ν
Drymarchon couperi	Eastern Indigo Snake	G3	S3	LT	LT
Gopherus polyphemus	Gopher Tortoise	G3	S3	Ν	LS
BIRDS					
Aphelocoma coerulescens	Florida Scrub-jay	G2	S2	LT	LT
Haliaeetus leucocephalus	Bald Eagle	G5	S3	N	LT
Picoides villosus	Hairy Woodpecker	G5	S3	Ν	Ν
MAMMALS					
Sciurus niger shermani	Sherman's Fox Squirrel	G5T3	S3	Ν	LS
PLANTS					
Glandularia tampensis	Tampa Vervain	G2	S2	Ν	LE
Pteroglossaspis ecristata	Giant Orchid	G2G3	S2	Ν	LT
NATURAL COMMUNITIES					
Mesic flatwoods		G4	S4	Ν	Ν
Scrub		G2	S2	Ν	Ν

Note: Summary includes all occurrence records currently in the FNAI database.



Managed Area Summary

### **Pinelands Reserve**



SCIENTIFIC NAME	COMMON NAME	Global Rank	State Rank	Federal Status	State Listing
REPTILES					
Alligator mississippiensis	American Alligator	G5	S4		LS
Drymarchon couperi	Eastern Indigo Snake	G3	S3	LT	LT
Gopherus polyphemus	Gopher Tortoise	G3	S3	Ν	LS
BIRDS					
Ardea alba	Great Egret	G5	S4	Ν	Ν
Egretta caerulea	Little Blue Heron	G5	S4	Ν	LS
Egretta thula	Snowy Egret	G5	S3	Ν	LS
Eudocimus albus	White Ibis	G5	S4	N	LS
Grus canadensis pratensis	Florida Sandhill Crane	G5T2T3	S2S3	Ν	LT
Haliaeetus leucocephalus	Bald Eagle	G5	S3	Ν	LT
Mycteria americana	Wood Stork	G4	S2	N	LE
Nyctanassa violacea	Yellow-crowned Night-heron	G5	S3	Ν	Ν
MAMMALS					
Sciurus niger shermani	Sherman's Fox Squirrel	G5T3	S3	Ν	LS
NATURAL COMMUNITIES					
Flatwoods/prairie lake		G4	S3	Ν	Ν
Marsh lake		G4	S4	Ν	Ν
Mesic flatwoods		G4	S4	Ν	Ν
Prairie hammock		G3	S3	Ν	Ν

Note: Summary includes all occurrence records currently in the FNAI database.



#### **Biodiversity Matrix Report**



Natural Areas					031
INVENTORY Scientific Name	Common Name	Global Rank	State Rank	Federal Status	State
	Common Name	Rdiik	Rallik	Sidius	Listing
Matrix Unit ID: 25458					
Likely			•••		
Drymarchon couperi Grus canadensis pratensis	Eastern Indigo Snake Florida Sandhill Crane	G3 G5T2T3	S3 S2S3	LT N	LT LT
Haliaeetus leucocephalus	Bald Eagle	G4	S3	LT,PDL	LT
Mycteria americana	Wood Stork	G4	S2	LE	LE
Matrix Unit ID: 25459					
Likely					
Drymarchon couperi	Eastern Indigo Snake	G3	S3	LT	LT
Grus canadensis pratensis	Florida Sandhill Crane	G5T2T3	S2S3		LT
Haliaeetus leucocephalus Mycteria americana	Bald Eagle Wood Stork	G4 G4	S3 S2	LT,PDL LE	LT LE
Matrix Unit ID: 25460					
Documented					
Haliaeetus leucocephalus	Bald Eagle	G4	S3	LT,PDL	LT
Documented - Historic					
Data Sensitive Element	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Likely					
Drymarchon couperi	Eastern Indigo Snake	G3	S3	LT	LT
Glandularia tampensis	Tampa Vervain	G2 G5T2T3	S2 S2S3	N	LE
Grus canadensis pratensis Mycteria americana	Florida Sandhill Crane Wood Stork	G51213 G4	5255 S2	N LE	LT LE
Matrix Unit ID: 25469					
Documented					
Haliaeetus leucocephalus	Bald Eagle	G4	S3	LT,PDL	LT
Likely	c .				
Drymarchon couperi	Eastern Indigo Snake	G3	S3	LT	LT
Glandularia tampensis	Tampa Vervain	G2	S2	N	LE
Mycteria americana	Wood Stork	G4	S2	LE	LE
Matrix Unit ID: 25470					
Likely					
Drymarchon couperi	Eastern Indigo Snake	G3	S3	LT	LT
Glandularia tampensis Haliaeetus leucocephalus	Tampa Vervain Bald Eagle	G2 G4	S2 S3	N LT,PDL	LE LT
Mycteria americana	Wood Stork	G4 G4	S2	LT,PDL LE	LE
Matrix Unit ID: 25724					

Definitions: Documented - Rare species and natural communities documented on or near this site.



#### **Biodiversity Matrix Report**



Natural Areas					031
INVENTORY Scientific Name	Common Name	Global Rank	State Rank	Federal Status	State Listing
Likely					
Aphelocoma coerulescens Crotalus adamanteus Drymarchon couperi Glandularia tampensis Gopherus polyphemus Haliaeetus leucocephalus Mesic flatwoods Mycteria americana Rana capito Scrub	Florida Scrub-jay Eastern Diamondback Rattlesnake Eastern Indigo Snake Tampa Vervain Gopher Tortoise Bald Eagle Wood Stork Gopher Frog	G2 G4 G3 G2 G3 G4 G4 G4 G3 G2	S2 S3 S2 S3 S3 S3 S4 S2 S3 S2	LT N LT N LT,PDL N LE N N	LT N LE LS LT N LS N
Matrix Unit ID: 25725					
Likely					
Drymarchon couperi Grus canadensis pratensis Haliaeetus leucocephalus Mycteria americana	Eastern Indigo Snake Florida Sandhill Crane Bald Eagle Wood Stork	G3 G5T2T3 G4 G4	S3 S2S3 S3 S2	LT N LT,PDL LE	LT LT LT LE
Matrix Unit ID: 25726					
Likely					
Drymarchon couperi Grus canadensis pratensis Haliaeetus leucocephalus Mycteria americana	Eastern Indigo Snake Florida Sandhill Crane Bald Eagle Wood Stork	G3 G5T2T3 G4 G4	S3 S2S3 S3 S2	LT N LT,PDL LE	LT LT LE
Matrix Unit ID: 25727					
Documented					
Haliaeetus leucocephalus	Bald Eagle	G4	S3	LT,PDL	LT
Likely					
Drymarchon couperi Grus canadensis pratensis Mycteria americana	Eastern Indigo Snake Florida Sandhill Crane Wood Stork	G3 G5T2T3 G4	S3 S2S3 S2	LT N LE	LT LT LE
Matrix Unit ID: 25728					
Likely					
Drymarchon couperi Grus canadensis pratensis Haliaeetus leucocephalus Mycteria americana	Eastern Indigo Snake Florida Sandhill Crane Bald Eagle Wood Stork	G3 G5T2T3 G4 G4	S3 S2S3 S3 S2	LT N LT,PDL LE	LT LT LT LE
Matrix Unit ID: 25729					
Likely					
Drymarchon couperi	Eastern Indigo Snake	G3	S3	LT	LT

Definitions: Documented - Rare species and natural communities documented on or near this site.



#### **Biodiversity Matrix Report**



Natural Areas					
INVENTORY Scientific Name	Common Name	Global Rank	State Rank	Federal Status	State Listing
Grus canadensis pratensis	Florida Sandhill Crane	G5T2T3	S2S3	N	LT
Haliaeetus leucocephalus	Bald Eagle	G4	S3	LT,PDL	LT
Mycteria americana	Wood Stork	G4	S2	LE	LE
Matrix Unit ID: 25730					
Likely					
Drymarchon couperi	Eastern Indigo Snake	G3	S3	LT	LT
Gopherus polyphemus	Gopher Tortoise	G3	S3	N	LS
Grus canadensis pratensis	Florida Sandhill Crane	G5T2T3	S2S3	N	LT
Haliaeetus leucocephalus	Bald Eagle	G4	S3	LT,PDL	LT
Mycteria americana Sciurus niger shermani	Wood Stork Sherman's Fox Squirrel	G4 G5T3	S2 S3	LE N	LE LS
Matrix Unit ID: 25731					
Likely					
Gopherus polyphemus	Gopher Tortoise	G3	S3	Ν	LS
Grus canadensis pratensis	Florida Sandhill Crane	G5T2T3	S2S3	N	LT
Mycteria americana	Wood Stork	G4	S2	LE	LE
Sciurus niger shermani	Sherman's Fox Squirrel	G5T3	S3	Ν	LS
Matrix Unit ID: 25732					
Documented					
Sciurus niger shermani	Sherman's Fox Squirrel	G5T3	S3	Ν	LS
Likely					
Gopherus polyphemus	Gopher Tortoise	G3	S3	Ν	LS
Haliaeetus leucocephalus	Bald Eagle	G4	S3	LT,PDL	LT
Mycteria americana	Wood Stork	G4	S2	LE	LE
Trichechus manatus	Manatee	G2	S2	LE	LE
Matrix Unit ID: 25733					
Likely					
Haliaeetus leucocephalus	Bald Eagle	G4	S3	LT,PDL	LT
Mycteria americana	Wood Stork	G4	S2	LE	LE
Matrix Unit ID: 25734					
Likely					
Grus canadensis pratensis	Florida Sandhill Crane	G5T2T3	S2S3	N	LT
Haliaeetus leucocephalus	Bald Eagle	G4	S3	LT,PDL	LT
Mycteria americana	Wood Stork	G4	S2	LE	LE
Matrix Unit ID: 25735					
Likely					
Grus canadensis pratensis	Florida Sandhill Crane	G5T2T3	S2S3	Ν	LT
Mycteria americana	Wood Stork	G4	S2	LE	LE

**Definitions:** Documented - Rare species and natural communities documented on or near this site. Documented-Historic - Rare species and natural communities documented, but not observed/reported within the last twenty years. Likely - Rare species and natural communities likely to occur on this site based on suitable habitat and/or known occurrences in the vicinity. Potential - This site lies within the known or predicted range of the species listed.



#### **Biodiversity Matrix Report**



Natural Areas					851 ®
INVENTORY Scientific Name	Common Name	Global Rank	State Rank	Federal Status	State Listing
Matrix Unit ID: 25736					
Documented - Historic					
Geological feature		GNR	SNR	Ν	Ν
Likely					
Grus canadensis pratensis Haliaeetus leucocephalus Mycteria americana	Florida Sandhill Crane Bald Eagle Wood Stork	G5T2T3 G4 G4	S2S3 S3 S2	N LT,PDL LE	LT LT LE
Matrix Unit ID: 25737					
Likely					
Haliaeetus leucocephalus Mycteria americana	Bald Eagle Wood Stork	G4 G4	S3 S2	LT,PDL LE	LT LE
Matrix Unit ID: 25738					
Likely					
Drymarchon couperi Haliaeetus leucocephalus Mycteria americana	Eastern Indigo Snake Bald Eagle Wood Stork	G3 G4 G4	S3 S3 S2	LT LT,PDL LE	LT LT LE
Matrix Unit ID: 25739					
Likely					
Alligator mississippiensis Drymarchon couperi Grus canadensis pratensis Mycteria americana	American Alligator Eastern Indigo Snake Florida Sandhill Crane Wood Stork	G5 G3 G5T2T3 G4	S4 S3 S2S3 S2	SAT LT N LE	LS LT LT LE
Matrix Unit ID: 25993					
Documented					
Haliaeetus leucocephalus	Bald Eagle	G4	S3	LT,PDL	LT
Likely					
Aphelocoma coerulescens Crotalus adamanteus Drymarchon couperi Grus canadensis pratensis Mycteria americana Scrub	Florida Scrub-jay Eastern Diamondback Rattlesnake Eastern Indigo Snake Florida Sandhill Crane Wood Stork	G2 G4 G3 G5T2T3 G4 G2	S2 S3 S2S3 S2 S2 S2 S2	LT N LT N LE N	LT N LT LE N
Matrix Unit ID: 25994					
Documented					
Haliaeetus leucocephalus	Bald Eagle	G4	S3	LT,PDL	LT

Definitions: Documented - Rare species and natural communities documented on or near this site.



#### **Biodiversity Matrix Report**



Natural Areas					031 0
INVENTORY Scientific Name	Common Name	Global Rank	State Rank	Federal Status	State Listing
Likely	Common Name		, currit	Clutuo	
Aphelocoma coerulescens Crotalus adamanteus Drymarchon couperi Grus canadensis pratensis Mycteria americana Scrub	Florida Scrub-jay Eastern Diamondback Rattlesnake Eastern Indigo Snake Florida Sandhill Crane Wood Stork	G2 G4 G3 G5T2T3 G4 G2	S2 S3 S2S3 S2 S2 S2 S2	LT N LT N LE N	LT N LT LE N
Matrix Unit ID: 25995					
Likely					
Drymarchon couperi Grus canadensis pratensis Haliaeetus leucocephalus Mycteria americana	Eastern Indigo Snake Florida Sandhill Crane Bald Eagle Wood Stork	G3 G5T2T3 G4 G4	S3 S2S3 S3 S2	LT N LT,PDL LE	LT LT LE
Matrix Unit ID: 25996					
Likely					
Drymarchon couperi Grus canadensis pratensis Haliaeetus leucocephalus Mycteria americana	Eastern Indigo Snake Florida Sandhill Crane Bald Eagle Wood Stork	G3 G5T2T3 G4 G4	S3 S2S3 S3 S2	LT N LT,PDL LE	LT LT LT LE
Matrix Unit ID: 25997					
Likely					
Drymarchon couperi Grus canadensis pratensis Haliaeetus leucocephalus Mycteria americana	Eastern Indigo Snake Florida Sandhill Crane Bald Eagle Wood Stork	G3 G5T2T3 G4 G4	S3 S2S3 S3 S2	LT N LT,PDL LE	LT LT LE
Matrix Unit ID: 25998					
Likely					
Drymarchon couperi Grus canadensis pratensis Haliaeetus leucocephalus Mycteria americana	Eastern Indigo Snake Florida Sandhill Crane Bald Eagle Wood Stork	G3 G5T2T3 G4 G4	S3 S2S3 S3 S2	LT N LT,PDL LE	LT LT LT LE
Matrix Unit ID: 25999					
Likely					
Drymarchon couperi Grus canadensis pratensis Haliaeetus leucocephalus Mycteria americana	Eastern Indigo Snake Florida Sandhill Crane Bald Eagle Wood Stork	G3 G5T2T3 G4 G4	S3 S2S3 S3 S2	LT N LT,PDL LE	LT LT LT LE
Matrix Unit ID: 26000					

Matrix Unit ID: 26000

Definitions: Documented - Rare species and natural communities documented on or near this site.



#### **Biodiversity Matrix Report**



Natural Areas		•			851 ®
INVENTORY Scientific Name	Common Name	Global Rank	State Rank	Federal Status	State Listing
Likely					
Drymarchon couperi Grus canadensis pratensis Haliaeetus leucocephalus Mycteria americana	Eastern Indigo Snake Florida Sandhill Crane Bald Eagle Wood Stork	G3 G5T2T3 G4 G4	S3 S2S3 S3 S2	LT N LT,PDL LE	LT LT LE
Matrix Unit ID: 26001					
Likely					
Grus canadensis pratensis Mycteria americana	Florida Sandhill Crane Wood Stork	G5T2T3 G4	S2S3 S2	N LE	LT LE
Matrix Unit ID: 26002					
Likely					
Mycteria americana Trichechus manatus	Wood Stork Manatee	G4 G2	S2 S2	LE LE	LE LE
Matrix Unit ID: 26003					
Likely					
Grus canadensis pratensis Mycteria americana	Florida Sandhill Crane Wood Stork	G5T2T3 G4	S2S3 S2	N LE	LT LE
Matrix Unit ID: 26004					
Likely					
Grus canadensis pratensis Mycteria americana	Florida Sandhill Crane Wood Stork	G5T2T3 G4	S2S3 S2	N LE	LT LE
Matrix Unit ID: 26005					
Likely					
Grus canadensis pratensis Mycteria americana	Florida Sandhill Crane Wood Stork	G5T2T3 G4	S2S3 S2	N LE	LT LE
Matrix Unit ID: 26006					
Likely					
Grus canadensis pratensis Mycteria americana	Florida Sandhill Crane Wood Stork	G5T2T3 G4	S2S3 S2	N LE	LT LE
Matrix Unit ID: 26007					
Likely					
Grus canadensis pratensis Mycteria americana	Florida Sandhill Crane Wood Stork	G5T2T3 G4	S2S3 S2	N LE	LT LE
Matrix Unit ID: 26008					

#### Matrix Unit ID: 26008

Definitions: Documented - Rare species and natural communities documented on or near this site.



#### **Biodiversity Matrix Report**



Natural Areas					001
INVENTORY Scientific Name	Common Name	Global Rank	State Rank	Federal Status	State Listing
Likely					-
Drymarchon couperi Mycteria americana	Eastern Indigo Snake Wood Stork	G3 G4	S3 S2	LT LE	LT LE
Matrix Unit ID: 26009					
Likely					
Drymarchon couperi Grus canadensis pratensis Mycteria americana	Eastern Indigo Snake Florida Sandhill Crane Wood Stork	G3 G5T2T3 G4	S3 S2S3 S2	LT N LE	LT LT LE
Matrix Unit ID: 26264					
Likely					
Drymarchon couperi Grus canadensis pratensis Haliaeetus leucocephalus Mycteria americana	Eastern Indigo Snake Florida Sandhill Crane Bald Eagle Wood Stork	G3 G5T2T3 G4 G4	S3 S2S3 S3 S2	LT N LT,PDL LE	LT LT LE
Matrix Unit ID: 26265					
Likely					
Drymarchon couperi Grus canadensis pratensis Haliaeetus leucocephalus Mycteria americana	Eastern Indigo Snake Florida Sandhill Crane Bald Eagle Wood Stork	G3 G5T2T3 G4 G4	S3 S2S3 S3 S2	LT N LT,PDL LE	LT LT LE
Matrix Unit ID: 26266					
Likely					
Drymarchon couperi Grus canadensis pratensis Haliaeetus leucocephalus Mycteria americana	Eastern Indigo Snake Florida Sandhill Crane Bald Eagle Wood Stork	G3 G5T2T3 G4 G4	S3 S2S3 S3 S2	LT N LT,PDL LE	LT LT LE
Matrix Unit ID: 26267					
Likely					
Drymarchon couperi Grus canadensis pratensis Haliaeetus leucocephalus Mycteria americana	Eastern Indigo Snake Florida Sandhill Crane Bald Eagle Wood Stork	G3 G5T2T3 G4 G4	S3 S2S3 S3 S2	LT N LT,PDL LE	LT LT LE
Matrix Unit ID: 26268					
Likely					
Drymarchon couperi Grus canadensis pratensis Haliaeetus leucocephalus Mycteria americana	Eastern Indigo Snake Florida Sandhill Crane Bald Eagle Wood Stork	G3 G5T2T3 G4 G4	S3 S2S3 S3 S2	LT N LT,PDL LE	LT LT LT LE

Definitions: Documented - Rare species and natural communities documented on or near this site.



#### **Biodiversity Matrix Report**



Natural Areas					851 · ®
Scientific Name	Common Name	Global Rank	State Rank	Federal Status	State Listing
Matrix Unit ID: 26269					
Likely					
Drymarchon couperi Grus canadensis pratensis Haliaeetus leucocephalus Mycteria americana	Eastern Indigo Snake Florida Sandhill Crane Bald Eagle Wood Stork	G3 G5T2T3 G4 G4	S3 S2S3 S3 S2	LT N LT,PDL LE	LT LT LT LE
Matrix Unit ID: 26270					
Likely					
Drymarchon couperi Grus canadensis pratensis Haliaeetus leucocephalus Mycteria americana Sciurus niger shermani	Eastern Indigo Snake Florida Sandhill Crane Bald Eagle Wood Stork Sherman's Fox Squirrel	G3 G5T2T3 G4 G4 G5T3	S3 S2S3 S3 S2 S3	LT N LT,PDL LE N	LT LT LT LE LS
Matrix Unit ID: 26271					
Likely					
Grus canadensis pratensis Mycteria americana Sciurus niger shermani	Florida Sandhill Crane Wood Stork Sherman's Fox Squirrel	G5T2T3 G4 G5T3	S2S3 S2 S3	N LE N	LT LE LS
Matrix Unit ID: 26272					
Likely					
Grus canadensis pratensis Mycteria americana	Florida Sandhill Crane Wood Stork	G5T2T3 G4	S2S3 S2	N LE	LT LE
Matrix Unit ID: 26273					
Likely					
Mycteria americana	Wood Stork	G4	S2	LE	LE
Matrix Unit ID: 26274					
Documented					
Haliaeetus leucocephalus	Bald Eagle	G4	S3	LT,PDL	LT
Likely					
Grus canadensis pratensis Mycteria americana	Florida Sandhill Crane Wood Stork	G5T2T3 G4	S2S3 S2	N LE	LT LE
Matrix Unit ID: 26275					
Likely					
Grus canadensis pratensis Mycteria americana	Florida Sandhill Crane Wood Stork	G5T2T3 G4	S2S3 S2	N LE	LT LE

Definitions: Documented - Rare species and natural communities documented on or near this site.



#### **Biodiversity Matrix Report**



Natural Areas					031 0
INVENTORY		Global	State	Federal	State
Scientific Name	Common Name	Rank	Rank	Status	Listing
Matrix Unit ID: 26276					
Likely					
Grus canadensis pratensis Mycteria americana	Florida Sandhill Crane Wood Stork	G5T2T3 G4	S2S3 S2	N LE	LT LE
Matrix Unit ID: 26277					
Likely					
Grus canadensis pratensis Mycteria americana	Florida Sandhill Crane Wood Stork	G5T2T3 G4	S2S3 S2	N LE	LT LE
Matrix Unit ID: 26278					
Likely					
Grus canadensis pratensis Mycteria americana	Florida Sandhill Crane Wood Stork	G5T2T3 G4	S2S3 S2	N LE	LT LE
Matrix Unit ID: 26279					
Likely					
Drymarchon couperi Grus canadensis pratensis Mycteria americana	Eastern Indigo Snake Florida Sandhill Crane Wood Stork	G3 G5T2T3 G4	S3 S2S3 S2	LT N LE	LT LT LE
Potential from any/all selected unit	S				
Acipenser oxyrinchus desotoi Aphelocoma coerulescens Athene cunicularia floridana Bigelowia nuttallii Calopogon multiflorus Centrosema arenicola Chamaesyce cumulicola Chrysopsis floridana Corynorhinus rafinesquii Dendroica discolor paludicola Drymarchon couperi Eragrostis pectinacea var. tracyi Eumops floridanus Glandularia tampensis Gopherus polyphemus Grus canadensis pratensis Harrisia aboriginum Lechea cernua Lechea divaricata Linum carteri var. smallii	Gulf Sturgeon Florida Scrub-jay Florida Burrowing Owl Nuttall's Rayless Goldenrod Many-flowered Grass-pink Sand Butterfly Pea Sand-dune Spurge Florida Golden Aster Rafinesque's Big-eared Bat Florida Prairie Warbler Eastern Indigo Snake Sanibel Lovegrass Florida bonneted bat Tampa Vervain Gopher Tortoise Florida Sandhill Crane Aboriginal Prickly Apple Nodding Pinweed Pine Pinweed	G3T2 G2 G4T3 G3G4 G2G3 G2Q G2 G1 G3G4 G5T3 G3 G5T1 G1 G2 G3 G5T2T3 G1 G3 G2 G2 G2T2	S2 S3 S1 S2S3 S2 S2 S1 S2 S3 S1 S2 S3 S1 S2 S3 S1 S2 S3 S1 S2 S3 S1 S2 S3 S2 S3 S1 S2 S3 S2 S3 S2 S3 S1 S2 S3 S1 S2 S3 S3 S2 S3 S3 S2 S3 S3 S2 S3 S3 S2 S3 S3 S2 S3 S3 S2 S3 S3 S2 S3 S2 S3 S3 S2 S3 S3 S2 S3 S3 S2 S3 S3 S2 S3 S3 S2 S3 S3 S2 S3 S3 S2 S3 S3 S2 S3 S3 S3 S3 S2 S3 S3 S2 S3 S3 S2 S3 S3 S3 S3 S2 S3 S3 S3 S2 S3 S3 S3 S3 S3 S2 S3 S3 S2 S3 S3 S3 S3 S3 S2 S3 S3 S3 S3 S2 S3 S3 S2 S3 S3 S3 S3 S3 S2 S3 S3 S3 S2 S3 S3 S3 S2 S3 S3 S3 S2 S3 S3 S2 S3 S3 S2 S3 S3 S2 S3 S3 S2 S3 S3 S2 S3 S3 S2 S3 S3 S2 S3 S3 S2 S3 S3 S2 S3 S3 S2 S3 S3 S2 S3 S3 S2 S3 S3 S2 S3 S3 S2 S3 S3 S3 S2 S3 S3 S2 S3 S3 S2 S3 S3 S3 S3 S2 S3 S3 S3 S3 S3 S3 S3 S3 S3 S3 S3 S3 S3	ĹŢĸĸĸĸĸĨĸĸĸĸĸĸĸĸ	LS L L L L L L N N L L L L S L L L L L L
<i>Lythrum flagellare Matelea floridana</i> Mesic flatwoods	Carter's Large-flowered Flax Lowland Loosestrife Florida Spiny-pod	G2 G2 G4	S2 S2 S4	N N N	LE LE N
Mustela frenata peninsulae	Florida Long-tailed Weasel	G5T3	S3	N	N

Definitions: Documented - Rare species and natural communities documented on or near this site.



#### **Biodiversity Matrix Report**



INVENTORY		Global	State	Federal	State
Scientific Name	Common Name	Rank	Rank	Status	Listing
Nemastylis floridana	Celestial Lily	G2	S2	N	LE
Nolina atopocarpa	Florida Beargrass	G3	S3	N	LT
Panicum abscissum	Cutthroat Grass	G3	S3	N	LE
Podomys floridanus	Florida Mouse	G3	S3	N	LS
Pteroglossaspis ecristata	Giant Orchid	G2G3	S2	N	LT
Rana capito	Gopher Frog	G3	S3	N	LS
Rhynchospora megaplumosa	Large-plumed Beakrush	G2	S2	N	N
Schizachyrium niveum	Scrub Bluestem	G1	S1	N	LE
Sciurus niger shermani	Sherman's Fox Squirrel	G5T3	S3	N	LS
Ursus americanus floridanus	Florida Black Bear	G5T2	S2	N	LT*
Zephyranthes simpsonii	Rain Lily	G2G3	S2S3	Ν	LT

Definitions: Documented - Rare species and natural communities documented on or near this site. Documented-Historic - Rare species and natural communities documented, but not observed/reported within the last twenty years. Likely - Rare species and natural communities likely to occur on this site based on suitable habitat and/or known occurrences in the vicinity. Potential - This site lies within the known or predicted range of the species listed.

#### **GLOBAL AND STATE RANKS**

Florida Natural Areas Inventory (FNAI) defines an **element** as any rare or exemplary component of the natural environment, such as a species, natural community, bird rookery, spring, sinkhole, cave, or other ecological feature. FNAI assigns two ranks to each element found in Florida: the **global rank**, which is based on an element's worldwide status, and the **state rank**, which is based on the status of the element within Florida. Element ranks are based on many factors, including estimated number of occurrences, estimated abundance (for species and populations) or area (for natural communities), estimated number of adequately protected occurrences, range, threats, and ecological fragility.

#### **GLOBAL RANK DEFINITIONS**

- *GI* Critically imperiled globally because of extreme rarity (5 or fewer occurrences or less than 1000 individuals) or because of extreme vulnerability to extinction due to some natural or man-made factor.
- **G2** Imperiled globally because of rarity (6 to 20 occurrences or less than 3000 individuals) or because of vulnerability to extinction due to some natural or man-made factor.
- *G3* Either very rare and local throughout its range (21-100 occurrences or less than 10,0000 individuals) or found locally in a restricted range or vulnerable to extinction from other factors.
- *G4* Apparently secure globally (may be rare in parts of range).
- *G5* Demonstrably secure globally.
- *G#?* Tentative rank (e.g., G2?)
- *G#G#* Range of rank; insufficient data to assign specific global rank (e.g., G2G3)
- *G#T#* Rank of a taxonomic subgroup such as a subspecies or variety; the G portion of the rank refers to the entire species and the T portion refers to the specific subgroup; numbers have same definition as above (e.g., G3T1)
- *G#Q* Rank of questionable species ranked as species but questionable whether it is species or subspecies; numbers have same definition as above (e.g., G2Q)
- *G#T#Q* Same as above, but validity as subspecies or variety is questioned.
- *GH* Of historical occurrence throughout its range, may be rediscovered (e.g., ivory-billed woodpecker)
- GNA Ranking is not applicable because element is not a suitable target for conservation (e.g. as for hybrid species)
- *GNR* Not yet ranked (temporary)
- **GNRTNR** Neither the full species nor the taxonomic subgroup has yet been ranked (temporary)
- *GX* Believed to be extinct throughout range
- *GXC* Extirpated from the wild but still known from captivity/cultivation
- GU Unrankable. Due to lack of information, no rank or range can be assigned (e.g., GUT2).

#### STATE RANK DEFINITIONS

Definition parallels global element rank: substitute "S" for "G" in above global ranks, and "in Florida" for "globally" in above global rank definitions.

Tracking Florida's Biodiversity

#### FEDERAL AND STATE LEGAL STATUSES PROVIDED BY FNAI FOR INFORMATION ONLY.

For official definitions and lists of protected species, consult the relevant state or federal agency.

#### FEDERAL LEGAL STATUS

Definitions derived from U.S. Endangered Species Act of 1973, Sec. 3. Note that the federal status given by FNAI refers only to Florida populations and that federal status may differ elsewhere.

- *LE* Listed as Endangered Species in the List of Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants under the provisions of the Endangered Species Act. Defined as any species which is in danger of extinction throughout all or a significant portion of its range.
- *LE,XN* An experimental population of a species otherwise Listed as an Endangered Species in the List of Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants.
- **PE** Proposed for addition to the List of Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants as Endangered Species.
- *LT* Listed as Threatened Species. Defined as any species which is likely to become an endangered species within the foreseeable future throughout all or a significant portion of its range.
- *LT,PDL* Species currently listed threatened but has been proposed for delisting.
- *PT* Proposed for listing as Threatened Species.
- *C* Candidate Species for addition to the list of Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants, Category 1. Taxa for which the USFWS currently has substantial information on hand or in possession to support the biological appropriateness of proposing to list the species as endangered or threatened.
- **PS** Partial listing status (species is listed for only a portion of its geographic range).
- *SAT* Threatened due to similarity of appearance to a threatened species.
- *SC* Species of concern. Species is not currently listed but is of management concern to USFWS.
- *N* Not currently listed, nor currently being considered for addition to the List of endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants.

#### FLORIDA LEGAL STATUSES

**Animals:** Definitions derived from "Florida's Endangered Species and Species of Special Concern, Official Lists" published by Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, 1 August 1997, and subsequent updates.

Animals (Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission- FFWCC)

- *LE* Listed as Endangered Species by the FGFWFC. Defined as a species, subspecies, or isolated population which is so rare or depleted in number or so restricted in range of habitat due to any man-made or natural factors that it is in immediate danger of extinction or extirpation from the state, or which may attain such a status within the immediate future.
- *LT* Listed as Threatened Species by the FGFWFC. Defined as a species, subspecies, or isolated population which is acutely vulnerable to environmental alteration, declining in number at a rapid rate, or whose range or habitat is decreasing in area at a rapid rate and as a consequence is destined or very likely to become an endangered species within the foreseeable future. LT\* (for Florida black bear) indicates that LT status does not apply in Baker and Columbia counties and in the Apalachicola National Forest.
- LS Listed as Species of Special Concern by the FGFWFC. Defined as a population which warrants special protection, recognition, or consideration because it has an inherent significant vulnerability to habitat modification, environmental alteration, human disturbance, or substantial human exploitation which, in the foreseeable future, may result in its becoming a threatened species. LS\* indicates that a species has LS status only in selected portions of its range in Florida.
- *N* Not currently listed, nor currently being considered for listing.

Tracking Florida's Biodiversity

Plants: Definitions derived from Sections 581.011 and 581.185(2), Florida Statutes, and the Preservation of Native Flora of Florida Act, 5B-40.001. FNAI does not track all state-regulated plant species; for a complete list of state-regulated plant species, call Florida Division of Plant Industry, 352-372-3505.

- LE Listed as Endangered Plants in the Preservation of Native Flora of Florida Act. Defined as species of plants native to the state that are in imminent danger of extinction within the state, the survival of which is unlikely if the causes of a decline in the number of plants continue, and includes all species determined to be endangered or threatened pursuant to the Federal Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended.
- PE Proposed by the FDACS for listing as Endangered Plants.
- LT Listed as Threatened Plants in the Preservation of Native Flora of Florida Act. Defined as species native to the state that are in rapid decline in the number of plants within the state, but which have not so decreased in such number as to cause them to be endangered. LT\* indicates that a species has LT status only in selected portions of its range in Florida.
- PT Proposed by the FDACS for listing as Threatened Plants.
- CE Listed as a Commercially Exploited Plant in the Preservation of Native Flora of Florida Act. Defined as species native to state which are subject to being removed in significant numbers from native habitats in the state and sold or transported for sale.
- РС Proposed by the FDACS for listing as Commercially Exploited Plants.
- (LT)Listed threatened as a member of a larger group but not specifically listed by species name.
- Ν Not currently listed, nor currently being considered for listing.



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INVFNTOR

## FLORIDA SCRUB-JAY Aphelocoma coerulescens

Order:PasseriformesFamily:CorvidaeFNAI Ranks:G3/S3U.S. Status:ThreatenedFL Status:ThreatenedU.S. MigratoryBird Treaty Act and state WildlifeCode prohibit take of birds, nests, or eggs.



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**Description:** Similar in size and shape to the familiar blue jay (*Cyanocitta cristata*). Crestless head, nape, wings, and tail are pale blue, and the back and belly pale gray. Juveniles have fluffy brown heads.

Similar Species: The scrub-jay lacks the crest and white spotting on wings and tail that are characteristic of the blue jay.

Habitat: Inhabits firedominated, low-growing, oak scrub habitat found on well-drained sandy soils. May persist in areas with sparser oaks or scrub areas that are overgrown, but at much lower densities and with reduced survivorship.

Seasonal Occurrence: Extremely sedentary.

**Florida Distribution:** Restricted to peninsular Florida, with largest populations occurring in Brevard, Highlands, Polk, and Marion counties.

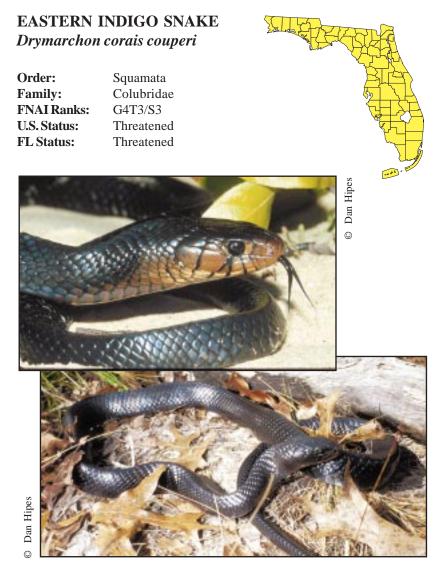
#### FLORIDA SCRUB-JAY

Range-wide Distribution: Same as Florida distribution.

**Conservation Status:** Recognized in 1995 as a distinct species from the scrub-jays in the western U.S., making it the only bird species whose entire range is restricted to Florida. Continuing loss, fragmentation, and degradation of scrub habitat has resulted in a decline of greater than 90 percent of the original pre-settlement population of Florida scrub-jays. Precipitous decline since the 1980s. A 1992 range-wide estimate gives an overall population of approximately 10,000 birds. Largest populations are found on federal lands (Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge and Ocala National Forest), but are declining. Land management practices on these lands are of concern. Smaller populations are found scattered along Lake Wales Ridge in Polk and Highlands counties, with a major protected population at Archbold Biological Station. Cars and cats take toll on scrub-jays in developed areas. Scrub-jays are susceptible to population crashes because of catastrophic fires or disease, so protection of additional secure populations is essential.

**Protection and Management:** Acquire suitable xeric habitat in strategic locations among existing scrub-jay preserves to help mitigate the extensive fragmentation of this habitat. Continued existence of this species will depend on preservation and long-term management of suitable scrub habitat. Prescribed fire every 8 - 15 years that burns patchily, where few territories are burned completely, is optimal. Mechanical treatments, at least initially, may be required where fire cannot be used, although the long-term effects of this management practice are unknown.

**Selected References:** Fitzpatrick et al. 1991, Poole and Gill (eds.) 1996, Robertson and Woolfenden 1992, Rodgers et al. (eds.) 1996, Stevenson and Anderson 1994, Thaxton and Hingtgen 1996.



**Description:** A very large, stout-bodied, shiny black snake reaching lengths as great as 8 ft. (244 cm). Black ventrally, but chin, throat, and sides of head may be reddish or (rarely) white. Scales typically smooth (no ridges), though adult males have keel on front half of some scales along back; anal scale undivided. Young similar to adults though often more reddish anteriorly, 17 - 24 in. (430 - 610 mm) at hatching. When encountered, often hisses, flattens neck vertically (from side to side), and vibrates tail, but rarely bites.

### EASTERN INDIGO SNAKE Drymarchon corais couperi

**Similar Species:** Black racer (*Coluber constrictor*), which rarely exceeds 5 ft. (152 cm), is more slender, a duller sooty black usually with a white chin and throat, and has a divided anal scale. The mostly aquatic mud snake (*Farancia abacura*) is glossy black above and can grow to 6 ft. (183 cm), but has a reddish, rarely white, belly, with the coloration encroaching the sides, and a sharp-pointed tail tip.

**Habitat:** Broad range of habitats, from scrub and sandhill to wet prairies and mangrove swamps. In northern part of range, often winters in gopher tortoise burrows in sandy uplands but forages in more hydric habitats. Requires very large tracts to survive.

**Seasonal Occurrence:** Active nearly year-round in southern Florida but winters underground farther north. Lays eggs in May and June.

**Florida Distribution:** Statewide, including Upper and Lower Keys, but rare in panhandle.

**Range-wide Distribution:** Florida and southern Georgia; formerly extended from southern South Carolina to southeastern Mississippi.

**Conservation Status:** Rare in most areas, though species has been recorded from many public lands statewide; however, whether most of these support viable populations is uncertain. Major threats are habitat loss, degradation, and fragmentation, with associated highway mortality. Other threats include gassing of tortoise burrows for rattlesnakes, collection for pets, and deliberate persecution, all of which are illegal.

**Protection and Management:** Protect very large tracts (> 5000 acres = 2025 ha) of appropriate natural habitat unfragmented by roads; use prescribed fire as needed. Maintain gopher tortoise populations and dead stumps to provide natural subterranean refugia. Enforce bans on tortoise burrow gassing and on collection or molestation of snake. Avoid construction of roads through unfragmented habitat. Educate public to avoid wanton destruction of large snakes.

**Selected References:** Ashton and Ashton 1988b, Conant and Collins 1991, Ernst and Barbour 1989, Georgia DNR 1999, Lazell 1989, Moler (ed.) 1992, Mount 1975, Tenant 1997.

#### BALD EAGLE Haliaeetus leucocephalus

Order:	Falconiformes
Family:	Accipitridae
FNAI Ranks:	G4/S3
U.S. Status:	Threatened
	(proposed for delisting in 1999)
FL Status:	Threatened
U.S. Migratory B	Fird Treaty Act and state Wildlife Code
prohibit take of b	irds, nests, or eggs.



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immature © Barry Mansell

**Description:** Adult has white head, white tail, and large, bright yellow bill; other plumage is dark. Immatures dark with variable amounts of light splotching on body, wings, and tail; head and bill are dark. In flight wings are broad and wide and held horizontally, presenting a flat profile when soaring and gliding. Flies with slow, powerful wing-beats.

**Similar Species:** At a distance, in flight, eagle's size and lack of white in wings should help differentiate it from the crested caracara (*Caracara cheriway*; see species account), which also has a white head. Flattened aspect of the eagle's wings is unlike the teetering, V-shaped flight of the turkey vulture (*Cathartes aura*).

**Habitat:** Most commonly includes areas close to coastal areas, bays, rivers, lakes, or other bodies of water that provide concentrations of food sources, including fish, waterfowl, and wading birds. Usually nests in tall trees (mostly live pines) that provide clear views of surrounding area. In Florida Bay, where there are few predators and few tall emergent trees, eagles nest in crowns of mangroves and even on the ground.

#### **BALD EAGLE**

**Seasonal Occurrence:** In extreme southern Florida, most adults are resident, but most birds in northern and central Florida migrate north out of state after breeding season (late May - July). Juveniles and younger birds mostly migrate north in summer and may range as far as Canada. Also, in winter, some birds from northern populations migrate to northern Florida.

**Florida Distribution:** Florida has largest breeding population of any state outside Alaska. Breeds throughout most of peninsular Florida and Keys, mainly along coast in eastern panhandle, and is rare in western panhandle. Greatest concentrations of nesting eagles occur around Lake Kissimmee in Polk and Osceola counties, around Lake George in Putnam, Volusia, and Lake counties, lakes Jessup, Monroe, and Harney in Seminole and Volusia counties, along Gulf coast north of Tampa, and Florida Bay and southwest peninsula area.

**Range-wide Distribution:** North America. Breeding range extends from Alaska, across Canada, south to Baja California, the Gulf coast and Florida Keys, although very local in the Great Basin and prairie and plains regions in interior U.S., where range has expanded to include Nebraska and Kansas. Non-breeding range is generally throughout breeding range except in far north, most commonly from southern Alaska and southern Canada southward.

**Conservation Status:** Original population in Florida could be found throughout state and likely numbered well over 1,000 pairs. Population declined sharply after late 1940s, reaching a low of 120 active nests in 1973, and by 1978 was considered rare as a breeder. Use of pesticide DDT and related compounds and development of coastal habitat are probably chief causes of decline. Numbers have steadily increased, especially since 1989. In 1993, 667 active territories were reported, and in 1999, 996 active nests were recorded. Major threats include habitat loss because of development and commercial timber harvest; pollutants and decreasing food supply are also of concern.

**Protection and Management:** Monitored annually by Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FFWCC). Continue acquisition of breeding territories and protection of foraging and roosting sites. Incorporate information known about buffer zones around nesting areas into state and local development regulations to help mitigate losses as Florida's human population continues to expand. Monitor pesticides and other environmental contaminants that affect reproduction and food supply.

**Selected References:** FFWCC 2001, Kale (ed.) 1978, Poole and Gill (eds.) 2000, Robertson and Woolfenden 1992, Rodgers et. al. (eds.) 1996, Stevenson and Anderson 1994.

## SHERMAN'S FOX SQUIRREL Sciurus niger shermani

Order:	
Family:	
FNAI Ranks:	
U.S. Status:	
FL Status:	

Rodentia Sciuridae G5T3/S3 None Species of Special Concern

Spilato



© Jerry Lee Gingerich, DVM

**Description:** A large (23 - 28 in. = 600 - 700 mm) tree squirrel with highly variable dorsal fur color ranging from nearly all black (uncommon) to silver, with variations of black over silver and silver over black. Underside is tan. Head is generally black; ears and muzzle are often white. Tail is long, nearly the length of the head and torso. Nests are usually in oak trees and are constructed of oak leaves and Spanish moss.

**Similar Species:** Gray squirrel (*Sciurus carolinensis*) is smaller (less than 19 in. = 500 mm).

**Habitat:** Sandhills (high pine), pine flatwoods, and pastures and other open, ruderal habitats with scattered pines and oaks. Depends on a variety of oak trees for seasonal food and nest material. Longleaf pine cones and seeds are important foods.

#### SHERMAN'S FOX SQUIRREL

Seasonal Occurrence: Active year-round.

**Florida Distribution:** Subspecies range was originally defined as running from the Aucilla River east to Nassau County and south to the Caloosahatchee River in southwestern Florida and to Miami-Dade County along the east coast. Some researchers extend the range westward to the Apalachicola River. Southern fox squirrel (*S. n. niger*) occurs throughout most of the panhandle; mangrove fox squirrel (*S. n. avicennia*) occurs southwest of Lake Okeechobee.

**Range-wide Distribution:** Peninsular Florida (excluding southwestern portion) north to central Georgia.

**Conservation Status:** Although present in several conservation areas, Sherman's fox squirrel has been eliminated from much of its former habitat as a result of conversion to pine plantation, row crops, or development.

**Protection and Management:** Preserve longleaf pine/wiregrass communities, particularly sandhills. Burn habitat every two to five years (April - July if possible) to control shrubby vegetation and maintain park-like conditions.

Selected References: Brown 1997, Hall 1981, Humphrey (ed.) 1992, Whitaker 1996.



SCHEDA **ECOLOGICAL** ASSOCIATES

INCORPORATED

August 17, 2006

Jason Griffin Florida Natural Areas Inventory 1018 Thomasville Road, Suite 200-C Tallahassee, Florida 32303

### **Re: Request for Environmental Resource Information**

I-75 PD&E Study From SR 681 to CR 610 Manatee and Sarasota Counties, Florida

Dear Mr. Griffin:

The Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) is currently conducting a Project Development and Environment (PD&E) Study to evaluate options for the proposed widening of I-75 from SR 681 to North of CR 610 (University Parkway). The intent of the study is to provide detailed information necessary for the FDOT to reach a decision on the type, design, and location of the improvements, and to develop preliminary engineering surveys and conceptual plans.

The study area includes the following sections:

Manatee County Section 36	Township 35S	Range 18E
Section 31	Township 35S	Range 19E
Sarasota County		
Sections 1, 12-13, 24-25, 36	Township 36S	Range 18E
Sections 1, 12-13, 24-25, 36	Township 37S	Range 18E
Section 1	Township 38S	Range 18E
Sections 6-7, 18-19, 30-31	Township 36S	Range 19E
Sections 6-7, 18-19, 30-31	Township 37S	Range 19E
Sections 5-8	Township 38S	Range 19E

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Please find enclosed a project location map depicting the beginning and end of the proposed project (Figure 1).

To aid in our data collection efforts, we request locations of all relevant environmental features available from your agency that may occur within one (1) mile of the project area. This information should include rare or protected plants, animals, and habitats.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact me at (813) 989-9600.

Sincerely,

Reportion A. Cours

Kristin A. Caruso Senior Environmental Scientist

Enclosure: Figure 1. Location Map

Cc: Jeffrey James, FDOT Jennifer Nelson, Carter & Burgess, Inc.

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