

Joseph J. Brooker

Ecological Specialist



Expertise

Wetland Ecology & Delineation

Wildlife Ecology and Permitting

Florida Native Plant Ecology

Education

B.S., Environmental Science and Policy, University of South Florida, 2014

Certifications

US Department of Labor MSHA 30 CFR Part 46 and Part 48 Certifications

NAUI Open Water Diver (2012)

CPR and First Aid (2015)

Memberships & Affiliations

Tampa Bay Association of Environmental Professionals (TBAEP) Member

Florida Society of Environmental Professionals (FSEA)

Aquatic Animal Life Support Operators (AALSO)

Joseph has a diverse background in environmental science, specializing in Florida's unique upland and wetland plant communities. He has experience with wetland monitoring and compliance, wetland delineation, habitat survey and mapping, environmental assessments, and listed species surveys, permitting, and relocation. Joe has also completed the US Department of Labor Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA) training.

WETLAND DELINEATION, EVALUATION & PERMITTING

Ecological Specialist – Wetland Monitoring & Compliance, Central Florida

Assisted in the determination of; wetland delineations, vegetation monitoring, soil sample collection, planting oversight, and site visits to determine permit compliance of wetland mitigation areas throughout Central Florida.

Ecological Specialist – Substation and Transmission Line, Throughout Florida

Provided site assessments, wetland delineations, general and species-specific listed species surveys, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) and FWC listed species permitting, listed species relocations, and permit compliance monitoring for several substations and transmission lines in Florida.

Ecological Specialist— Stream Mapping, Hardee County, Florida

For conveyances in areas of primarily native upland or wetland land cover, and for conveyances in agricultural areas exhibiting more-or-less natural stream sinuosity, a Trimble sub-meter GPS unit was used to record a track along center of the channel. Nested GPS points and photographs were collected to demarcate and illustrate changes in channel dimensions, substrate or overbank area characteristics. Each stream segment was also observed for barriers to fish passage, such as hanging culverts.

WILDLIFE ECOLOGY

Ecological Specialist – Gopher Tortoise Surveys and Relocations, Throughout Florida, Georgia, and Alabama

Surveyed, excavated, and relocated gopher tortoises and gopher tortoise burrow commensals to on-site and off-site recipient sites as an assistant to a FWC Authorized Gopher Tortoise Agent in preparation for GTA permit. Tasks involved survey effort, permit application preparation, agency field review participation, Florida One-Call utility location coordination, excavation or trapping, tortoise marking and transport, installation and removal of exclusionary fencing, and completion of After Action Reports. Coordinated with a large team of ecologist and biologists conducting an expansive survey for a natural gas pipeline which begins in Alabama and ends in central Florida.

Ecological Specialist – Osprey Monitoring, Throughout Florida

Monitoring and photo documentation of osprey nests on a cell towers and transmission line structures throughout Florida to determine nest occupancy before maintenance could be undertaken.

Ecological Specialist – Florida Scrub Jay Survey and Monitoring, Central Florida

Surveyed Florida Scrub Jay habitat and monitored active sites in Volusia County and Citrus County according to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service protocol.

Ecological Specialist – Osprey Monitoring, Throughout Florida

Monitoring and photo documentation of osprey nests on a cell towers and transmission line structures throughout Florida to determine nest occupancy before maintenance could be undertaken.

Project Ecologist – Benthic Habitat Survey, Seagrass Mapping , Pinellas County, Florida

Conducted formal seagrass survey per FWC Recommended Survey Protocols for Estuarine and Marine Submerged Aquatic Vegetation (SAV) along a 1600 ft., sea bottom transect, utilizing SCUBA. Tasks included mapping and photographing presence of Seagrasses and corals along unconsolidated sandy ocean bottom in preparation of infaunal cable removal. SAV density was mapped where applicable and assigned appropriate cover class (Braun Blanquet method).