

# Sarah M. Hovey

## *Ecological Specialist*



### **Expertise**

Wetland Ecology & Delineation

Wildlife Ecology and Permitting

Florida Native Plant Ecology

### **Education**

M.S., Aquatic Environmental Science, Florida State University, 2014

B.S., Environmental Science, Florida State University, 2013

### **Certifications**

SWFWMD Wetland Assessment Procedure (WAP), 2014

FWC Authorized Gopher Tortoise Agent GTA-15-00051

FDEP Qualified Stormwater Management Inspector 2014

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

SDI Advanced Nitrox Open Water Diver (2007)

### **Memberships & Affiliations**

Tampa Bay Association of Environmental Professionals (TBAEP) Member

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 and Georgia**

Surveyed project areas for gopher tortoise burrows in preparation for application submittal to the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission. Surveyed, excavated and relocated gopher tortoises and gopher tortoise burrow commensals to on-site and off-site recipient sites as an FWC Authorized Gopher Tortoise Agent.

### **Ecological Specialist – Gopher Tortoise Relocations, Throughout Florida**

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 transport, installation and removal of exclusionary fencing and completion of After Action Reports.

Sarah has a diverse background in environmental science, specializing in Florida's unique upland and wetland plant communities. She has experience with wetland monitoring and compliance, wetland delineation, habitat survey and mapping, environmental assessments, and listed species surveys, permitting, and relocation. Sarah 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 – Jurisdictional Wetland Determination, Hardee County, Florida**

Conducted wetland delineation consistent with the methods outlined in 62-340, Florida Administrative Code. Assisted wetland delineation teams using methodologies outlined in USACE 1987 Wetland Delineation Manual. The resultant wetland lines were submitted as part of a Formal Determination of Wetlands. In addition, the delineation was used as the basis for a federal wetland delineation consistent with the USACE.

### **Ecological Specialist – Conducted a wetland assessment using Florida's Uniform Mitigation Assessment Method (UMAM), Hardee County, Florida**

Conducted field observations and collected data to assess wetland conditions and wildlife use. Ultimately this information is used to determine the amount of mitigation necessary for unavoidable impacts.

### **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.

## **AQUATIC SYSTEM EVALUATION**

### **Ecological Specialist— Stream Mapping, Hardee County, Florida**

Developed a detailed baseline depiction of over 4,000 linear feet of stream using a combination of high-resolution aerial imagery and Global Positioning System (GPS) equipment. 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

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**Ecological Specialist – Red-Cockaded Woodpecker Conservation- Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC)**  
Assisted in the conservation of Florida’s red-cockaded woodpecker populations through land management practices and nest surveys.

**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.