FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION, DISTRICT 1
ENVIRONMENTAL PERMIT DESIGN SUPPORT

Project Description

Scheda Ecological Associates, Inc. (Scheda) was selected to provide general, as-needed environmental consulting support services for the FDOT D1. Tasks could range from general ecological assessments, protected species surveys, and water quality/NPDES/TMDL-related tasks, to permitting support for various roadway/bridge projects. Work orders have been issued for the following assignments:

As-Needed Wetland Delineations and Permitting Support – These tasks are undertaken to support in-house design and permitting projects.

Panther Habitat Analysis – Scheda biologists are researching and analyzing the data and methodology used to calculate panther habitat mitigation requirements and habitat restoration credits. The purpose of this work is to outline the methods used by U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) to calculate panther habitat mitigation requirements and determine if there are components of the USFWS Panther Tool that are not based on proper scientific research and results.

Review Appendix E in FDEP Applicant's Handbook – Scheda scientists are currently researching the basis for the coefficient tables located in Appendix E in the Florida Department of Environmental Protection's (FDEP) "Stormwater Quality Applicant's Handbook", dated March 2010. Appendix E consists of a group of tables which are to be utilized in estimating the annual runoff volume and in calculating the annual mass loading of total phosphorus and total nitrogen. The purpose of this work is to research the sources and methods used in the development of these tables and to determine if the basis for the coefficients are reasonable or worthy of revision.

GIS Permit Database Search Tool – We are creating a search tool using the existing FDOT D1 web-based GIS platform. As a result, all relevant permit-related data will be able to be queried by FPID using a hyperlink which will search the appropriate folders containing PDF formatted copies of permits.

Wood Stork Foraging Analysis Assessment – Scheda scientists are researching wood stork foraging preferences and requirements. This task includes conducting a field study in D1 boundaries to compare hydrological conditions, vegetative characteristics, and fish presence and densities within linear surface water ditches, littoral zones of stormwater management facilities, and floodplain compensation areas with that of controls (natural wetlands). The purpose of this work is to collect biological data that can be utilized to address USFWS/ U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) concerns and requirements relating to wood stork core foraging habitat impact and mitigation.