

FISH & WILDLIFE Services



BIRKITT
ENVIRONMENTAL
SERVICES, INC.



Birkitt Environmental Services, Inc. (Birkitt) staff members have extensive experience in conducting Environmental Impact Studies, Environmental Assessments, ecological analyses, biological field studies, and habitat assessments. Photo-interpretation, remote sensing, and GIS are some of the tools Birkitt uses in conjunction with field investigations to perform the detailed analysis required to develop recommendations for a specific site. Birkitt applies the latest resources to conduct research, such as the FWC Wildlife Conservation Planning Tool. Our staff wildlife experience includes: Section 7 Consultation (Endangered Species Act), Essential Fish Habitat assessments, take and relocation permits, and wildlife surveys for gopher tortoises and commensal species, red-cockaded woodpeckers, scrub jays, wood storks, wading birds, other avian species, small mammals, reptiles, and marine mammals. Birkitt staff have also developed a variety of habitat management plans tailored to individual projects. Birkitt staff include an Authorized Agent for gopher tortoise surveys and relocations.

Key Wildlife Services Include:

Wildlife Surveys

- Quantitative and qualitative surveys
- Avifauna surveys
- Gopher tortoise surveys and relocations
- Small mammal and herptile surveys
- Manatee and other marine mammals observations
- Ichthyfaunal surveys
- Sea turtle observations

Habitat Assessment/Restoration

- Uplands and wetlands habitat characterization
- Protected species habitat
- Essential Fish Habitat (EFH)
- Red cockaded woodpecker foraging habitat assessments
- Habitat management plans

Regulatory Coordination/Permitting

- Section 7 Consultation, ESA
- Migratory Bird Treaty Act
- Gopher tortoise relocation permits
- Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission coordination
- Developments of Regional Impact (DRI)
- Environmental Resource Permits
- Expert Witness Testimony
- Sea turtle and manatee construction monitoring plans

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Project Experience

Van Fleet Airport

Extensive seasonal surveys were conducted to meet Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission requirements for a Development of Regional Impact (DRI) for a proposed airport and mixed use development in Hardee County, Florida. Detailed survey methodologies were approved by both FWC and USFWS and used for all data collection and evaluations. Foraging and nesting surveys were conducted for wood storks, wading birds, least terns, kestrels, burrowing owls, and bald eagles, as well as gopher tortoises and commensal species. Helicopter and pedestrian surveys were conducted on this 22,000 acre parcel of land.

Tampa International Airport

Birkitt has provided Threatened and Endangered species (specifically Gopher tortoise) surveying, permitting, and relocations for two (2) projects at the airport. Efforts relating to gopher tortoises include conducting preliminary site surveys, obtaining relocation permits, and successfully relocating tortoises. As part of these projects, negotiation with a Hillsborough County park was completed to obtain a recipient site for the tortoises and provide the park with land management services including roller chopping approximately eleven (11) acres of park land. Birkitt is currently providing assistance for the relocation of approximately twenty (20) gopher tortoises at the proposed North Terminal site.

Calypso Natural Gas Pipeline

Detailed sea turtle and manatee construction monitoring plans were developed by Birkitt for proposed construction of this natural gas pipeline from the Bahamas into Port Everglades, Florida. Sea turtle protection plans address potential lighting impacts to nesting from shoreline construction. Specialized lighting and practicable construction practices were developed to allow construction during nesting periods.

Hillsborough County Development Site (Confidential)

An approximate 54-acre parcel located in southern Hillsborough County was assessed for resale and development. The property was surveyed specifically for scrub-jay, gopher tortoises, Eastern Indigo Snake, and Florida golden aster in accordance with state and federal survey requirements. All other threatened and endangered species were identified if observed, as well as any other environmental concerns that might limit the development of the site.

The Reserve at Sweetwater Estuary

Birkitt provided project management, environmental consulting services, and permitting services, including the assessment of wetlands, seagrasses, threatened and endangered species, Essential Fish Habitat, and biotic communities for completion of a residential and commercial development project on a 1250 acre parcel in Taylor County. An 18 hole golf course and passive recreation feature were included. Bald eagle and manatee protection was addressed to obtain the Environmental Resource Permit for this development.

Harborview Marina

Birkitt Environmental Services, Inc. is providing marina design services, Essential Fish Habitat assessment, and permitting for a proposed marina along the shoreline of the Peace River in Charlotte County, Florida. Birkitt is addressing potential impacts to wood storks, wading birds, and manatees. Surveys and assessments have been conducted in accordance with state and federal requirements. Birkitt is coordinating with state and federal resource agencies to obtain the necessary permits and approvals.

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