



GHS Environmental
PO Box 55802
St. Petersburg, FL 33732-5802
727-667-6786

Jessie Griffith
Senior Ecologist/Environmental Lead

EDUCATION

- ✔ B.S. Bachelor Science - Double Major: Botany and Environmental Policy and Law, 2003.

PROFESSIONAL CERTIFICATIONS

- ✔ Archeological Resource Certified Monitor
- ✔ Florida Association of Environmental Professionals
- ✔ FDEP Stormwater Erosion & Sedimentation Control Inspector
- ✔ Applied Geospatial Solutions in Natural Resources
- ✔ Establishment of Wetland Normal Pool and Seasonal High-Water Elevations
- ✔ Hydric Soils: Training for Wetland Scientists/Identification of Hydric Soils

FIELDS OF SPECIALIZATION

- ✔ Environmental Assessments, Alternative and Cumulative Impact Analysis
- ✔ USACE Section 404/10 Permitting
- ✔ Environmental Resource Permitting (SWERP), and Compliance
- ✔ State & Federal Wetland Jurisdictional Delineations and WOUS Determination
- ✔ Protected Species Habitat Evaluations, Surveys, Permitting, and Monitoring
- ✔ Wetland Impact Assessment, Compensatory Mitigation, and Monitoring
- ✔ GIS and GPS Specialist

EXPERIENCE SUMMARY

Ms. Griffith has over 18 years' experience as a wetland scientist and wildlife ecologist in Florida. She has worked for the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC), Southwest Florida Water Management District (SWFWMD) and various environmental consulting firms throughout Florida. As a consultant to public and private sector clients, she has extensive experience in assessing and permitting land development, route and corridor studies, and various utility projects. Her depth of experience includes wetland impact assessment and delineation, mitigation planning and monitoring, state and federal permitting, habitat evaluation and wildlife surveys for all of Florida's ecosystems.

- ✔ Preparation and acquisition of environmental resource permits for small general to complex individual permits.
- ✔ Conducted wetland delineations using the USACE 1987 Wetland Delineation Manual (Section 404) and Chapter 62-340 F.A.C.; established seasonal high waters (SHW) and ordinary high-water mark (OHWM) determinations for regulatory approval.
- ✔ Prepared Wetland Evaluation Reports, ACOE data forms, Approved Jurisdictional determinations (AJD/PJD), and coordinated with regulatory agencies (WMD, ACOE, and County) to obtain wetland boundary verification.
- ✔ Development and implementation of large scale monitoring projects for saltwater/freshwater herbaceous and forested wetlands.
- ✔ Conducted protected species surveys for the Florida sandhill crane, scrub-jay, grasshopper sparrow, red cockaded woodpecker, southeastern American kestrel, and listed wading birds on various projects. Conducted caracara and bald eagle nest surveys and monitoring per USFWS and FWC guidelines. Conducted gopher tortoise surveys, relocation application preparation, and excavation via bucket trapping and backhoe.
- ✔ Prepared wildlife reports and ESBA's for FWC, FPL, USFWS, and FDOT submittals.



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SELECTED PROJECT EXPERIENCE

Ms. Griffith served as a Senior Biological Scientist for the Aquatic Habitat Restoration Section of FWC. She developed and constructed (>20) wetland restoration (i.e., hydrological, chemical, and mechanical) projects utilizing an airboat, helicopter, ATV, and 20-ft powerboat. She served as the Monitoring Coordinator for all FWC aquatic habitat restoration projects, she selected and coordinated restoration monitoring projects (>15 annually) with state and federal agencies.

- Responsibilities included ecological assessments, biological data collection, and technical reporting for development of wetland restoration projects.
- Submitted and secured state, federal, and county permits.
- Conducted extensive field experience including habitat and vegetation mapping, photo monitoring, listed species surveys, and pre/post construction data collection.
- Prepared and oversaw internal grants, invoicing documents, and contract administration.

Environmental Assessments – Representative Projects

Preliminary investigations included GIS desktop research of County, State (FWC), and Federal (USFWS) databases regarding protected habitat and wildlife species. Field data collection was conducted to evaluate known and potential environmental constraints including wetlands, surface waters, protected species, or other environmental features, followed by reporting.

Charlotte County: *Coast Myakka Transmission 18648, Bobwhite - Charlotte Ph 1 and 2 Transmission 20424 and 20425, Port Charlotte - Bayshore Road Distribution*

Collier County: *Bobcat Substation Wildlife Impact Assessment, Panther Substation Wildlife Impact Assessment*

Hendry County: *Athens - Montura Transmission 20480, LaBelle - LaBelle Distribution*

Lee County: *Fort Myers - Orange River Transmission 204430, Corkscrew - Fort Myers Distribution, Gateway - Fort Myers Distribution*

Manatee County: *Ellenton - Castle Distribution*

Sarasota County: *Nokomis - Sorrento Distribution, Bobwhite - Laurelwood Transmission T20427, and Laurelwood - Peachland Transmission T21195*

North Florida: *Raven-Sinai (North Florida Resiliency Connection) 16kV Transmission*

Wildlife Assessment, Permitting, Mitigation, and Monitoring – Representative Projects

Sarasota County: *Sarasota Bay Crossing Sub-Aqueous Cable Installation, and Longboat Key - Payne Crossing Utility Cable Removal*

Determined the required compensation for unavoidable wetland impacts (i.e., temporary and secondary) to seagrasses due to the cable installation and removal project. Coordinated with the ACOE and NOAA to identify appropriate measures for SAV impacts. A Habitat Equivalency Analysis for seagrass impacts was conducted per the request from NOAA, a UMAM assessment, mitigation and monitoring plan were prepared and approved for a Section 10 waterbody. Prepared a seagrass monitoring plan and conducted a preliminary seagrass survey to determine seagrass impacts.



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Lee County: *Lee County Electric Cooperative, 5.7-mile Sub-Aqueous Cable Installation - Captive Island to North Captive Island*

Coordinated with FDEP and ACOE to determine the required compensation for unavoidable wetland impacts to seagrasses. Conducted preliminary meetings with FWC to identify and minimize impacts on protected species (Manatee, Small-tooth sawfish, and turtles). Conducted a UMAM assessment and GIS analysis to assess and identify SAV restoration sites. Prepared the SAV Mitigation and Monitoring plan, and coordinated with FFWCC and FDEP to approve sampling techniques for blow hole restoration sites and signage locations within an Outstanding Florida Waterbody (OFW).

Charlotte and Desoto County: *Regional Integrated Loop Phase I Interconnect 6-mile Sub-Aqueous Water Pipeline Installation, and Integrated Loop Phase 3A Interconnect Myakka River Crossing Pipeline Installation*

Conducted a preliminary environmental assessment of the preferred route associated with the pipeline. Environmental features targeted during the assessment included wetlands, protected upland habitats, critical water crossings, and protected wildlife species. Prepared the Environmental Report for the Basis of Design. Prepared a Joint SWFWMD/ACOE application, and a letter request for FDEP state-owned lands title determination. Conducted preliminary data search using GIS, and completed the field work using GPS. Coordinated with FDEP and ACOE to determine the required compensation for unavoidable wetland impacts to seagrasses. Conducted preliminary meetings with ACOE and FWC to identify and minimize impacts on protected species (Manatee, and Small-tooth sawfish). Conducted a preliminary seagrass survey to identify impacts and provided a UMAM assessment for approval by SWFWMD/ACOE. A 'Rapanos' determination and wetland delineation for ACOE jurisdiction was completed and approved. Preliminary wildlife surveys for gopher tortoise and scrub jay were conducted, along with USFWS and FWC coordination.