

Bill Hentges, M.S., CWB

Ecologist



Expertise

Avian Protection Plan

Wildlife Ecology and Permitting

Wetland Ecology

Wetland Delineation, Evaluation and Permitting

Education

M.S., Integrative Biology and Evolution, University of South Florida, 2014

B.S., Wildlife Ecology and Conservation, University of Florida, 2004

Certifications

Certified Wildlife Biologist, The Wildlife Society

FWC Authorized Gopher Tortoise Agent, GTA-09-00034

Pesticide Applicator with Natural Areas Endorsement (License No. CM22502)

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

PADI, Open Water Diver

Florida Commercial Driver's License, Class A

Affiliations

The Wildlife Society, National and Florida Chapters

Gopher Tortoise Council

Bill's education and professional experience have provided him with a broad background, enabling him to perform a wide variety of professional tasks as a wildlife ecologist. He has been involved in environmental assessments/due diligence studies, state and federally listed wildlife species surveys, permitting, relocations, jurisdictional wetland delineations, hydroperiod determinations, and construction site/environmental monitoring as both a team member and Project Manager. Bill's emphasis has focused on all aspects of permitting projects involving listed wildlife species throughout Florida. While attending graduate school at the University of South Florida, he investigated the compatibility between cattle ranching activities and relocated gopher tortoises. He also assisted with a multidisciplinary study through the University of Florida's (UF's) College of Veterinary Medicine investigating factors contributing to the onset and spread of upper respiratory tract disease (URTD) throughout North and Central Florida's gopher tortoise populations. He has worked on a statewide Florida black bear project conducted through the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC). Bill served eight years in the U.S. Army and the Florida Army National Guard, where he became proficient in the operation and maintenance of a wide variety of heavy construction equipment, tractor-trailer operations, personnel carrier vehicles, and a variety of other equipment.

AVIAN PROTECTION PLANS

Project Ecologist - Avian Protection Plan and Avian Risk Assessment, Central Florida

Conducted field surveys to identify at-risk areas and assess risk of utility poles for a large mining company in Central Florida. Assisted in preparation of an Avian Protection Plan to reduce avian interactions with electrical utilities.

WILDLIFE ECOLOGY AND PERMITTING

Project Ecologist - Transmission Lines and Substations, Throughout Florida

Conducted general and species-specific listed species surveys and obtained FWC listed species permits for many transmission line and substation projects throughout Florida. Specifically conducted surveys for Florida scrub-jay, bald eagle, southeastern American kestrel, burrowing owl, red-cockaded woodpecker, crested caracara, gopher tortoise, sand skink and listed plant species. Obtained gopher tortoise relocation permits from the FWC and conducted the gopher tortoise relocation activities.

Project Ecologist - Transmission Structures, Throughout Florida

Conducted bald eagle nest monitoring for an electric utility company in Florida. The bald eagle nest monitoring was conducted in accordance with the FWC Bald Eagle Management Plan (2008) and the FWS Bald Eagle Monitoring Guidelines. Nest monitoring was conducted to allow the utility company to maintain and replace transmission structures during the eagle nesting season within the protected buffer zones (660 and 330 feet) of a bald eagle nest.

Team Leader –Upland Wildlife Surveys, Throughout Florida

Directed numerous upland wildlife surveys on a variety of projects, including complex Developments of Regional Impact. Directed the field data collection for gopher tortoises, Southeastern American kestrels, and Florida scrub-jays in North Florida, Northwest Florida, Central Florida, and Sarasota, Manatee Charlotte, and Lee Counties. Analyzed the data and assisted in the permitting of potential impacts to these species.

Task Manager –Wildlife Aerial Surveys, Throughout Florida

Conducted numerous aerial surveys via helicopter to detect state and federally listed wildlife in a variety of habitats. Surveyed uplands for nesting bald eagles, and wetlands for wading bird nesting and roosting colonies and nesting Florida sandhill cranes. Extensively involved in analyzing and mapping the collected data and participated in its incorporation into client reports and permitting documents.

Project Manager/Lead Ecologist - Listed Species Assessments on Various Developments of Regional Impact (DRIs) and Phosphate Mine Lands, Hillsborough, Manatee, Polk, Levy, Orange, Lake, and Hardee Counties, Florida

Conducted surveys for state and federally listed wildlife, including the southeastern American kestrel, Florida scrub-jay, Crested caracara, Florida sandhill crane, eastern indigo snake, gopher tortoise, gopher frog, Florida grasshopper sparrow, Florida sand skink, and Florida mouse. Results were used in the preparation of Applications for Development Approval (ADA) and other regulatory submittals.

Project Manager/Project Ecologist - Gopher Tortoise Relocation and Education, Throughout Florida and Georgia

As an FWC Gopher Tortoise Authorized Agent (GTA), hundreds of gopher tortoises and commensal species have been relocated on-site and off-site using capture methods that include excavated, bucket trapped, live trapped, and hand-dug burrows, or utilizing a modified pulling rod to safely extract tortoise from their burrow. Other tasks included conducting and coordinating survey efforts, permit application preparation, agency field reviews, Florida One-Call utility location coordination, marking and transporting tortoises, installation and removal of exclusionary fencing, and completion of After Action Reports. Served as field supervisor for burrow surveys, the installation of 1,158 bucket traps, and the successful capture and relocation of 853 tortoises along a 515-mile interstate gas pipeline. The overall responsibility included educating field staff on proper bucket trapping techniques, scheduling, and supervising of more than 25 assistants needed to complete the fieldwork. The entire bucket trapping effort was successfully completed in less than 106 days. Conducted Gopher Tortoise Authorized Agent Certification Courses in conformity with Wildlands Conservations' approved educational program.

Project Manager/ Project Ecologist - Listed Species Permit Coordination, Florida

Completed consultations with the FWC during the regulatory approval process. Successfully obtained permits for, but not limited to, gopher tortoise, Florida mouse, Florida sandhill crane, Florida sand skink, wading birds, gopher frog, eastern indigo snake, and bald eagle.

WETLAND ECOLOGY

Project Ecologist - Baseline Vegetative/Hydrologic Assessments, Hardee County, Florida

Conducted baseline assessments in approximately forty wetlands on a 7,500-acre proposed mine. These assessments included the establishment of transects across each wetland. Stakes were driven into the ground along the transects at each change in elevation and/or vegetation and the Seasonal High Water Table (SHW) was marked using biological indicators. Vegetative data were collected and compared to surveyed elevations of ground surface and SHW. These data were used to assist in the development of a wetland reclamation plan.

Project Ecologist – Aerial Photograph Interpretation - Osceola County, Florida

Conducted an aerial interpretation for wetlands on a 45,000-acre site. The aerial interpretation was used in the preparation of a Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) delineation application.

Project Co-Manager - National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Monitoring, Sarasota & Pasco Counties, Florida

Involved with a large scale NPDES monitoring project. Worked with the various regulatory agencies to ensure compliance with the client's Generic Construction Permit (GCP) and Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP). Was part of a team of inspectors that conducted daily and post-rain event inspections to ensure compliance and resolve Best Management Practice (BMP) issues in a timely and efficient manner.

WETLAND DELINEATION, EVALUATION AND PERMITTING

Task Manager - Due Diligence Projects, Manatee, Sarasota, Charlotte, and Lee Counties, FL

Served as a task manager to collect field data and write due diligence narratives for several development projects in Manatee, Sarasota, Charlotte, and Lee Counties. Responsible for evaluating and mapping habitats, delineating wetland boundaries, and searching for listed species in order to develop the necessary client reports and agency applications. Interacted with clients and agency personnel throughout the permit review process.

Project Ecologist - Jurisdictional Wetland Delineation, Hardee County, Florida

Led teams of ecologists that established wetland lines in the field and reviewed lines with the Southwest Florida Water Management District (SWFWMD) on an 8,000-acre proposed development site. SHW and Normal Pool (NP) elevations were also established using biological indicators.

Project Manager/Project Ecologist - Jurisdictional Delineation and Permit Coordination, Highlands and Glades Counties, Florida

Conducted large scale NRCS jurisdictional wetland delineations and provided permit coordination for agricultural and land use planning on over 100,000 acres in South Florida.

PUBLICATIONS

Joshua R. Ennen, Brian R. Kreiser, Carl P. Qualls, Daniel Gaillard, Matthew Aresco, Roger Birkhead, Tracey D. Tuberville, Earl D. McCoy, Henry Mushinsky, Thomas W. "Bill" Hentges, Aaron Schrey (2012) Mitochondrial DNA Assessment of the Phylogeography of the Gopher Tortoise. *Journal of Fish and Wildlife Management*: June 2012, Vol. 3, No. 1, pp. 110-122.