

STORMWATER TREATMENT AREA 2, CELL 4 EXPANSION

PROTECTED WILDLIFE SPECIES SITE ASSESSMENT &
EDUCATION/CONSTRUCTION PROTECTION PLAN

Palm Beach County, Florida

DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT

The purpose of the South Florida Water Management District's Stormwater Treatment Area (STA) 2, Cell 4 Expansion Project was to expand STA 2 to provide additional treatment capacity and, as a result, to improve water quality in the Everglades Protection Area (EPA). STAs are large constructed wetlands and are located at key sites along the northern boundary of the EPA. The STAs improve the quality of waters flowing into the EPA by accumulating phosphorus in their sediments through biological and chemical wetland processes. Cell 4 is located to the east of US 27, between Okeelanta and the Broward County line. The project area encompasses approximately 2,015 acres and consists of abandoned sod and sugarcane fields crisscrossed by irrigation canals and elevated berm roads.



Scheda scientists conducted a protected wildlife species assessment to gather in-house biological data, and performed field reviews to determine whether there were potential threatened or endangered species and/or their habitat on-site. Scheda provided a guide regarding protected species likely to occur in the project vicinity during construction, based on the most current standard construction guidelines and species management plans produced by the US Fish and Wildlife Service and Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission. Scheda gave a presentation to the construction team to educate them about the various listed species.

The probability of the occurrence of the eight species in this plan was based on information provided by the Florida Natural Areas Inventory regarding species habitat preferences. Protected species observed by Scheda scientists during the field reviews included species of special concern such as the snowy egret (*Egretta thula*) and yellow-crowned night heron (*Nyctanassa violacea*).

