

SR 80 PD&E STUDY
FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION, DISTRICT 1
Hendry County, Florida



DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT

This PD&E study analyzed various alternatives and documented the recommended alternative for providing four lanes on SR 80 from east of Labelle to US 27, a distance of approximately 19 miles. In addition to widening the existing alignment, new corridors were evaluated for the eastern five miles of the project area including a relocated intersection with US 27. Within this 31,000-acre area, there were several drainage and irrigation canals that both paralleled and crossed the project corridor. This corridor evaluation included estimating right-of-way requirements, identifying potential contamination sites and

potential impacts to protected species and wetlands, as well as estimating overall construction costs, including relocating the major canals. The result of this analysis was to recommend a new alignment alternative for the easternmost portion of the corridor.

Scheda was responsible for assessing the impacts to wildlife and habitat, including protected species. The data collection and analysis concluded with the preparation of the *Endangered Species Biological Assessment* and completion of related coordination with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission.

In preparation for the protected species surveys, the lands adjacent to the roadway were mapped using the Florida Land Use, Cover, and Forms Classifications System and field verified. Subsequently, a GIS-based data collection effort was completed. General pedestrian surveys were completed throughout the corridor and proposed pond sites.

Protected species of particular concern included the Florida panther, Audubon's crested caracara, bald eagle, Florida scrub jay, Florida sandhill crane, woodstork, Florida burrowing owl, red-cockaded woodpecker and gopher tortoise. Species-specific surveys were conducted for the caracara, bald eagle, Florida scrub jay, and Florida burrowing owl.

