



HESPERIDES FEDERAL, LLC

RICHARD H. MEEKER

SENIOR ECOLOGIST

KEY QUALIFICATIONS

- ❖ Comprehensive wetlands experience in freshwater and estuarine environments
- ❖ Extensive experience in the analysis of water quality and historical data to determine ecological trends
- ❖ Strong technical writing skills for EIS-type documents, annual reports, management plans, etc.
- ❖ Managed over 44K acres of constructed wetlands operated by the SFWMD for Everglades water quality improvement
- ❖ Experienced in drafting public use guidelines for recreation on public lands

Experience Summary

Mr. Meeker has more than 15 years experience in environmental science, restoration and research. He has worked extensively in the public sector on Everglades restoration projects, estuarine and wetland research, and developing recreation opportunities on publicly-owned lands. He has been responsible for the oversight of large wetland restoration projects in south Florida that included operations, performance, maintenance, permitting and annual reporting responsibilities. Richard has performed numerous environmental assessments, wetland delineations and wildlife surveys along with technical writing work associated with environmental impact assessments (EIA/EIS), management plans, stakeholder involvement plans and monitoring reports.

Education:

BS, Biology, 1991

Training:

Wetland Delineation, (US Army Corps of Engineers)

Project Management Training (SFWMD)

Wetland Treatment Systems (SFWMD & CH2MHill)

Years of Experience:

15

Environmental Impact Assessment, offshore oil platform, Malaysia. Ecologist. Authored comprehensive document for major oil company that described their proposed development, identified coastal and offshore natural resources, and the real and potential impacts that the platform and related activities may have on the environment and the local economy. This project required extensive data synthesis from long distances, research of oil industry standards and equipment, marine and coastal habitats of the South China Sea region, Malaysian economic trends and international law related to oil and natural gas production and transportation.

Edgewater Harbor Oyster Reef Restoration, Edgewater, FL. Lead Ecologist. Responsible for extensive research on restoration projects for oyster reef habitat throughout the Eastern Seaboard. Research included analyzing site conditions and water quality criteria. Once project was identified, designed public educational materials to describe project benefits and details.

STA Site Manager, South Florida Water Management District, West Palm Beach, FL. Senior Biologist. Responsible for daily oversight of over forty-four thousand acres of constructed wetlands designed to improve the quality of agricultural runoff that reaches the Everglades. Summarized water quality data to determine



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operational changes required, coordinated extensive research activities, and developed public information documents. Responsible for conducting extensive public outreach activities including field trips, describing the District's role in Everglades restoration.

Coastal Restoration Project, Aventura, FL. Lead Ecologist. Performed restoration of natural vegetation on a private spoil island in the Atlantic Intracoastal Waterway that had been impacted by significant exotic vegetation and debris. Restored shoreline with red, black and white mangroves, cleared debris to restore tidal flushing in marginal pools, and removed exotic vegetation mechanically and with approved herbicides.

Scrub Jay Survey, Port St. Lucie, FL. Lead Ecologist. Designed and performed a survey to investigate for the presence of Florida scrub jays on a 180-acre parcel of oak and sand pine scrub adjacent to Ten Mile Creek in St. Lucie County. Monitoring transects were located in concurrence with established guidelines and to maximize coverage within the habitat so that any birds using it would be observed and recorded. Project included a full report with color photos and all monitoring data.

Taylor Creek STA Operation Plan, SFWMD, Okeechobee, FL. Lead Ecologist. Co-authored Operation, Performance and Vegetation Management Plans for a stormwater treatment area that treats agricultural runoff headed for Lake Okeechobee. The information in these three plans is now used by SFWMD staff to operate the STA in a manner that maximizes performance and protects the vegetation within the project.

Lake Okeechobee Trophic Level Study, FL. Field Biologist. Member of scientific team performing a 3-5 year study to assess the recovery rates of various habitats within Lake Okeechobee since the damage sustained by the

hurricanes of 2004 and 2005. Habitats being monitored include open lake, interior marsh and ecotones along the marsh-open lake boundary. Fish, invertebrate and plant communities are being monitored twice annually to assess the rate at which they may recover in relation to previous studies of Lake Okeechobee.

Oxbow Wetland Design, Jupiter, FL. Lead Field Biologist. Designed an oxbow wetland in the tidal section of Canal 18 as mitigation for impacts from a nearby road construction project. The wetland was designed with extensive shallow habitat to provide nursery area for fish and crustaceans and to allow natural recruitment of mangrove trees. The design also incorporated a small creek that provided periodic freshwater inputs to the oxbow. Various native vegetation was prescribed for planting in the tidal and upland portions of the project.

PAMP Acquisition, Martin County, FL. Lead Ecologist. Performed an environmental assessment of a parcel in Indiantown and drafted a preserve area management plan (PAMP) according to Martin County requirements that was quickly approved. Worked carefully with the applicant to ensure that development activities would not impact the preserve area.

Management Plans, Ten Mile Creek and Nubbin Slough, SFWMD. Lead Ecologist. Authored Vegetation Management Plans for the Ten Mile Creek Reservoir/STA project and the Nubbin Slough STA. The management plans advise SFWMD staff how to operate the water treatment and storage projects in a manner that will provide the best performance while promoting a healthy assemblage of native plants. The plans include recommendations for drought and storm conditions as well as methods for controlling nuisance vegetation.