FINAL

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT
OF THE PROPOSED
VA SPRING HILL RESIDENTIAL TREATMENT CENTER
PASCO COUNTY, FLORIDA
(Appendices)

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
425 I STREET NW
WASHINGTON, DC 20001

Prepared By:

ENVIRONMENTAL RESEARCH GROUP, LLC

August 12, 2024

APPENDIX A – AGENCY CORRESPONDENCE

From: VACO Environment
To: Alicia Booher
Subject: [EXTERNAL]FW: Spring Hill Acquisition EA Scoping Notification
Date: Tuesday, January 30, 2024 12:55:33 PM

FYI

From: State_Clearinghouse <State.Clearinghouse@dep.state.fl.us>
Sent: Monday, January 29, 2024 12:42 PM
To: VACO Environment <VACOEnvironment@va.gov>
Cc: State_Clearinghouse <State.Clearinghouse@dep.state.fl.us>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] RE: Spring Hill Acquisition EA Scoping Notification

While it is covered by EO 12372, the Florida State Clearinghouse does not select any of the projects for review. You may proceed with your projects.

Please continue to send future electronic requests directly to the State of Florida Clearinghouse email address, state.clearinghouse@floridadep.gov.

Good Luck.

Chris Stahl

Chris Stahl, Coordinator Florida State
Clearinghouse
Florida Department of Environmental Protection 3900
Commonwealth Blvd., M.S. 47
Tallahassee, FL 32399-2400
ph. (850) 717-9076
State.Clearinghouse@floridadep.gov

From: VACO Environment <VACOEnvironment@va.gov>
Sent: Friday, January 26, 2024 3:00 PM
To: kimberly.L.Wintrich@usace.army.mil; Chelsie.Miller@usda.gov; militscher.chris@epa.gov; fw4flesregs@fws.gov; alissa.lotane@dos.myflorida.com; Boatwright, Kelley M. <Kelley.M.Boatwright@FloridaDEP.gov>; Public Services <Public.Services@FloridaDEP.gov>; State_Clearinghouse <State.Clearinghouse@dep.state.fl.us>; Coates, John <John.Coates@FloridaDEP.gov>; Koerner, Jeff <Jeff.Koerner@FloridaDEP.gov>; jeff.gregg@Florida.DEP.GOV; jared.perdue@dot.state.fl.us; FFSsupport@FDACS.gov; Paul, David <David.Paul@FloridaDEP.gov>; KBrinegar@fnai.fsu.edu; mmellinger@mypasco.net; planning@mypasco.net; marlap@miccosukeetribe.com; jasond@miccosukeetribe.com; thunt@muscogeenation.com; dhill@mcn-nsn.gov

Subject: Spring Hill Acquisition EA Scoping Notification

Dear Valued Stakeholder:

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is proposing to acquire a former residential treatment center, located at 14191 Turner Loop in Spring Hill, FL to be operated as a residential treatment center by the James A. Haley Veterans Hospital (JAHVH). The acquisition includes the 40-acre parcel of land where the facility is located. As part of the decision-making process, VA will undertake activities to comply with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) by preparing an Environmental Assessment (EA). VA is seeking input on issues to be addressed during the NEPA process, including environmental concerns.

VA invites your input to the NEPA process. Please see the attached scoping notice for information on the proposed project and how to submit any comments or input on alternatives and issues VA should analyze in the EA.

Respectfully, Jason Sturm
Environmental Engineer

PASCO COUNTY FLORIDA
OPEN SPACES. VIBRANT PLACES.

February 5, 2024

Kathryn Domm
Director, Environmental Program Office
Office of Construction and Facilities Management
U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
Washington DC 20420
Jason Sturm
Environmental Engineer
Office of Construction and Facilities Management
U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
Washington DC 20420

RE: "Spring Hill Residential Treatment Center EA"
14191 Turner Loop in Spring Hill, FL Longitude: -82.590, Latitude: 28.413, Parcel: 10-24-17-0000-00100-0000

Dear Ms. Domm and Mr. Sturm:

Pasco County has received the EA (Environmental Assessment) review request dated January 25, 2024 regarding the above-referenced site location. Based on the review of Pasco Mapper, there are four listed historic sites located within Pasco County in proximity of a mile of the subject site.

The County would like to confirm its participation as a consulting party. Currently, we have been able to identify four archaeological sites within a mile from the site. PA01434 – 17135 Akins Drive, PA 01435 – Hungry Duck, PA01436 – Long Road, PA 01437 – Triangle Dock, PA01438 – Old Kid, PA01439 – Monkey See, which are ineligible for the National Register.

The County requests copies of all documents and submissions made to the SHPO and to be notified of developments in historic review process. We would also like to provide additional comment on the identification of historic properties in the designated area of potential effects ("APE") if more are found in the near future, as well as, provide input on any potential effects to historic properties, and the resolution of any adverse effects.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any further questions.

Best regards,

Jenny De Granda

Jenny De Granda, Planner II
Planning and Development Department Long Range Planning
P 727-847-8140, Ext. 7547

Attachments: 2

PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT – LONG RANGE PLANNING DIVISION

727.847.8140 l West Pasco Government Center l 8731 Citizens Drive, Suite 360 l New Port Richey, FL 34654

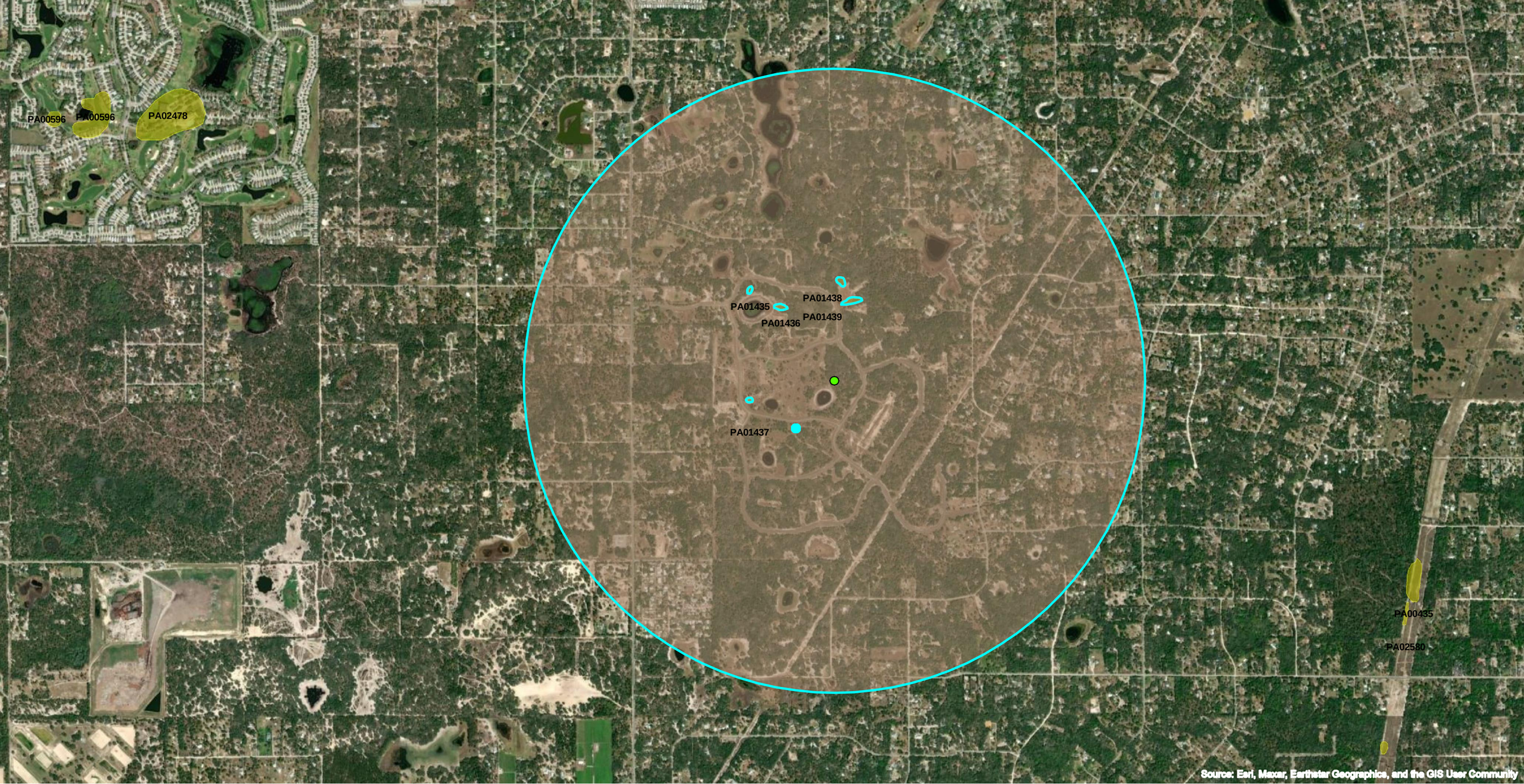
Florida Master Site File

AR=5
SS=1
CM=0
RG=0
BR=0
Total=6

Created: 2/1/2024

Cultural Resource Roster

SiteID	Type	Site Name	Address	Additional Info	SHPO Eval	NR Status
PA01434	SS	17135 Akins Drive	17135 Akins DR, Spring Hill	1952 Masonry Vernacular	Not Eligible	
PA01435	AR	Hungry Duck	Spring Hill		Not Eligible	
PA01436	AR	Long Road	Spring Hill		Not Eligible	
PA01437	AR	Triangle Dock	Spring Hill		Not Eligible	
PA01438	AR	Old Kid	Spring Hill		Not Eligible	
PA01439	AR	Monkey See	Spring Hill		Not Eligible	


PA00596
PA00596
PA02478
PA01438
PA01435
PA01439
PA01436
PA01437
PA00435
PA02580
Source: Esri, Maxar, Earthstar Geographics, and the GIS User Community

PA00436

Source: Esri, Maxar, Earthstar Geographics, and the GIS User Community

From: Alicia Booher
To: Alicia Booher
Subject: FW: [EXTERNAL]FW: Spring Hill Acquisition Scoping Comments
Date: Wednesday, May 15, 2024 10:49:07 AM

From: Kajumba, Ntale <Kajumba.Ntale@epa.gov>
Sent: Friday, February 23, 2024 11:23 AM
To: Domm, Kathryn <Kathryn.Domm@va.gov>
Cc: Washington-Newton, Jamilha <WashingtonNewton.Jamilha@epa.gov>; Buskey, Traci P. <Buskey.Traci@epa.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] FW: Spring Hill Acquisition Scoping Comments

Kathryn Domm
Environmental Program Office (003C2)
Office of Construction & Facilities Management Department of
Veterans Affairs
810 Vermont Avenue, NW Washington, DC
20420

Re: EPA Comments on the Notice of Scoping for the Proposed Acquisition of a Residential Treatment Center in Spring Hill, Florida

Dear Ms. Domm:

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has reviewed the above-referenced document pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and Section 309 of The Department of Veteran's Affairs is preparing an Environmental Assessment (EA) for the proposed acquisition of a residential treatment center located in Spring Hill, Florida.

The proposed development site is located at 14191 Turner Loop in Spring Hill, Florida. The acquisition includes a 40-acre parcel of land that includes a residential treatment center, an 11,047 square-foot building constructed in 2010, that will be owned and operated by James
A. Haley Veterans Hospital. It is unclear from the notice whether the current residential treatment is actively operational. The purpose of this EA is to evaluate the potential environmental impacts of the proposed action.

Summary:
Upon review of the scoping documents, the EPA does not have substantive comments on the proposed action.. The EPA understands that the VA has no plans to conduct any construction or demolition projects and intends to use the building as a hospital treatment facility, which was its original purpose. However, it is unclear from the notice whether the current residential treatment is actively operational. It would helpful to include this information in future documents.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide scoping comments on the Spring Hill Acquisition EA. For effective coordination, please provide this office with an electronic version of the Draft EA for review. If you have questions regarding this email, please contact Ms. Jamilha Washington- Newton, NEPA Section, at Washington-Newton.Jamilha@epa.gov.

Ntale Kajumba, Manager
National Environmental Policy Act Section Strategic
Programs Office
U.S. EPA Region 4 Office: (404)
562-9620
Email: Kajumba.ntale@epa.gov

U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

Date: 4/29/2024

From: Jason Sturm, Environmental Engineer
U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
Office of Construction & Facilities Management, Environmental Programs Office

To: CFM-Environmental project review file

Subject: Acquisition of former Operation PAR residential treatment center
Spring Hill, FL

Endangered Species Act Section 7: Determination of No Effect

1. We have determined the proposed project would have no effect on species named in the Official Species List for this site, obtained from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service on 4/29/2024.

2. Species-specific information is summarized as follows:

Species	**Habitat Requirements and Effects Analysis**	**Finding**
Tricolored Bat (Perimyotis subflavus) No designated critical habitat	See attached biological survey report.	
Eastern black rail (*Laterallus jamaicensis* ssp. *jamaicensis*) No designated critical habitat		No effect
Everglade Snail Kite (*Rostrhamus plumbeus*) Outside designated critical habitat		No effect
Whooping Crance (*Grus americana*) No designated critical habitat		No effect
Wood Stork (*Mycteria americana*) No designated critical habitat		No effect
Eastern Indigo Snake (*Drymarchon couperi*) No designated critical habitat		No effect
Loggerhead Sea Turtle (*Caretta caretta*) Outside designated critical habitat		No effect
Monarch Butterfly (*Danaus Plexippus*) No designated critical habitat		No effect

Attachments:
FWS Official Species List April 29, 2024
Biological Survey Report

United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

Florida Ecological Services Field Office 777 37th St
Suite D-101
Vero Beach, FL 32960-3559
Phone: (352) 448-9151 Fax: (772) 562-4288
Email Address: fw4flesregs@fws.gov https://www.fws.gov/office/florida-ecological-services

In Reply Refer To: 04/29/2024 17:33:54 UTC
Project Code: 2024-0083205
Project Name: Residential Treatment Center Acquisition

Subject: List of threatened and endangered species that may occur in your proposed project location or may be affected by your proposed project

To Whom It May Concern:

The enclosed species list identifies threatened, endangered, proposed and candidate species, as well as proposed and final designated critical habitat, that may occur within the boundary of your proposed project and/or may be affected by your proposed project. The species list fulfills the requirements of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) under section 7(c) of the Endangered Species Act (Act) of 1973, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*).

New information based on updated surveys, changes in the abundance and distribution of species, changed habitat conditions, or other factors could change this list. Feel free to contact us if you need more current information or assistance regarding the potential impacts to federally proposed, listed, and candidate species and federally designated and proposed critical habitat.
Please include your Project Code, listed at the top of this letter, in all subsequent correspondence regarding this project. Please note that under 50 CFR 402.12(e) of the regulations implementing section 7 of the Act, the accuracy of this species list should be verified after 90 days. This verification can be completed formally or informally as desired. The Service recommends that verification be completed by visiting the IPaC website at regular intervals during project planning and implementation for updates to species lists and information. An updated list may be requested through the IPaC system by completing the same process used to receive the enclosed list.

The purpose of the Act is to provide a means whereby threatened and endangered species and the ecosystems upon which they depend may be conserved. Under sections 7(a)(1) and 7(a)(2) of the Act and its implementing regulations (50 CFR 402 *et seq.*), Federal agencies are required to utilize their authorities to carry out programs for the conservation of threatened and endangered

species and to determine whether projects may affect threatened and endangered species and/or designated critical habitat.

A Biological Assessment is required for construction projects (or other undertakings having similar physical impacts) that are major Federal actions significantly affecting the quality of the human environment as defined in the National Environmental Policy Act (42 U.S.C. 4332(2) (c)). For projects other than major construction activities, the Service suggests that a biological evaluation similar to a Biological Assessment be prepared to determine whether the project may affect listed or proposed species and/or designated or proposed critical habitat. Recommended contents of a Biological Assessment are described at 50 CFR 402.12.

If a Federal agency determines, based on the Biological Assessment or biological evaluation, that listed species and/or designated critical habitat may be affected by the proposed project, the agency is required to consult with the Service pursuant to 50 CFR 402. In addition, the Service recommends that candidate species, proposed species and proposed critical habitat be addressed within the consultation. More information on the regulations and procedures for section 7 consultation, including the role of permit or license applicants, can be found in the "Endangered Species Consultation Handbook" at:

https://www.fws.gov/sites/default/files/documents/endangered-species-consultation- handbook.pdf

Migratory Birds: In addition to responsibilities to protect threatened and endangered species under the Endangered Species Act (ESA), there are additional responsibilities under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) and the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act (BGEPA) to protect native birds from project-related impacts. Any activity, intentional or unintentional, resulting in take of migratory birds, including eagles, is prohibited unless otherwise permitted by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (50 C.F.R. Sec. 10.12 and 16 U.S.C. Sec. 668(a)). For more information regarding these Acts see https://www.fws.gov/program/migratory-bird-permit/what- we-do.

The MBTA has no provision for allowing take of migratory birds that may be unintentionally killed or injured by otherwise lawful activities. It is the responsibility of the project proponent to comply with these Acts by identifying potential impacts to migratory birds and eagles within applicable NEPA documents (when there is a federal nexus) or a Bird/Eagle Conservation Plan (when there is no federal nexus). Proponents should implement conservation measures to avoid or minimize the production of project-related stressors or minimize the exposure of birds and their resources to the project-related stressors. For more information on avian stressors and recommended conservation measures see https://www.fws.gov/library/collections/threats-birds.

In addition to MBTA and BGEPA, Executive Order 13186: *Responsibilities of Federal Agencies to Protect Migratory Birds*, obligates all Federal agencies that engage in or authorize activities that might affect migratory birds, to minimize those effects and encourage conservation measures that will improve bird populations. Executive Order 13186 provides for the protection of both migratory birds and migratory bird habitat. For information regarding the implementation of Executive Order 13186, please visit https://www.fws.gov/partner/council-conservation- migratory-birds.

We appreciate your concern for threatened and endangered species. The Service encourages Federal agencies to include conservation of threatened and endangered species into their project planning to further the purposes of the Act. Please include the Consultation Code in the header of this letter with any request for consultation or correspondence about your project that you submit to our office.

Attachment(s):

- Official Species List
- USFWS National Wildlife Refuges and Fish Hatcheries
- Bald & Golden Eagles
- Migratory Birds
- Wetlands

OFFICIAL SPECIES LIST

This list is provided pursuant to Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act, and fulfills the requirement for Federal agencies to "request of the Secretary of the Interior information whether any species which is listed or proposed to be listed may be present in the area of a proposed action".

This species list is provided by:
Florida Ecological Services Field Office

777 37th St Suite D-
101
Vero Beach, FL 32960-3559
(352) 448-9151

PROJECT SUMMARY

Project Code: 2024-0083205
Project Name: Residential Treatment Center Acquisition
Project Type: Acquisition of Lands
Project Description: Acquisition an operation of an existing residential treatment center on a 40-acre parcel in Spring Hill, FL. No additional ground disturbing activities are planned on the parcel.
Project Location:
The approximate location of the project can be viewed in Google Maps: https://www.google.com/maps/@28.4173435,-82.58609111015869,14z

Counties: Pasco County, Florida

ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT SPECIES

There is a total of 8 threatened, endangered, or candidate species on this species list.

Species on this list should be considered in an effects analysis for your project and could include species that exist in another geographic area. For example, certain fish may appear on the species list because a project could affect downstream species.

IPaC does not display listed species or critical habitats under the sole jurisdiction of NOAA Fisheries[1], as USFWS does not have the authority to speak on behalf of NOAA and the Department of Commerce.

See the "Critical habitats" section below for those critical habitats that lie wholly or partially within your project area under this office's jurisdiction. Please contact the designated FWS office if you have questions.

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1. NOAA Fisheries, also known as the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), is an office of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration within the Department of Commerce.

MAMMALS

NAME	STATUS
Tricolored Bat *Perimyotis subflavus* No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/10515	Proposed Endangered

BIRDS

NAME	STATUS
Eastern Black Rail *Laterallus jamaicensis ssp. jamaicensis* No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/10477	Threatened
Everglade Snail Kite *Rostrhamus sociabilis plumbeus* There is **final** critical habitat for this species. Your location does not overlap the critical habitat. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/7713	Endangered
Whooping Crane *Grus americana* Population: U.S.A. (AL, AR, CO, FL, GA, ID, IL, IN, IA, KY, LA, MI, MN, MS, MO, NC, NM, OH, SC, TN, UT, VA, WI, WV, western half of WY) No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/758	Experimental Population, Non- Essential
Wood Stork *Mycteria americana* Population: AL, FL, GA, MS, NC, SC No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/8477 General project design guidelines: https://ipac.ecosphere.fws.gov/project/4XRCBWNVERE7JKRFRL44HOMAZ4/documents/generated/6954.pdf	Threatened

REPTILES

NAME	STATUS
Eastern Indigo Snake *Drymarchon couperi* No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/646	Threatened
Loggerhead Sea Turtle *Caretta caretta* Population: Northwest Atlantic Ocean DPS There is **final** critical habitat for this species. Your location does not overlap the critical habitat. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/1110	Threatened

INSECTS

NAME	STATUS
Monarch Butterfly *Danaus plexippus* No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9743	Candidate

CRITICAL HABITATS

THERE ARE NO CRITICAL HABITATS WITHIN YOUR PROJECT AREA UNDER THIS OFFICE'S JURISDICTION.

YOU ARE STILL REQUIRED TO DETERMINE IF YOUR PROJECT(S) MAY HAVE EFFECTS ON ALL ABOVE LISTED SPECIES.

USFWS NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE LANDS AND FISH HATCHERIES

Any activity proposed on lands managed by the National Wildlife Refuge system must undergo a 'Compatibility Determination' conducted by the Refuge. Please contact the individual Refuges to discuss any questions or concerns.

THERE ARE NO REFUGE LANDS OR FISH HATCHERIES WITHIN YOUR PROJECT AREA.

BALD & GOLDEN EAGLES

Bald and golden eagles are protected under the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act[1] and the Migratory Bird Treaty Act[2].

Any person or organization who plans or conducts activities that may result in impacts to bald or golden eagles, or their habitats[3], should follow appropriate regulations and consider implementing appropriate conservation measures, as described in the links below. Specifically, please review the "Supplemental Information on Migratory Birds and Eagles".

1. The Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act of 1940.
2. The Migratory Birds Treaty Act of 1918.
3. 50 C.F.R. Sec. 10.12 and 16 U.S.C. Sec. 668(a)

There are likely bald eagles present in your project area. For additional information on bald eagles, refer to Bald Eagle Nesting and Sensitivity to Human Activity

For guidance on when to schedule activities or implement avoidance and minimization measures to reduce impacts to migratory birds on your list, see the PROBABILITY OF PRESENCE SUMMARY below to see when these birds are most likely to be present and breeding in your project area.

NAME	BREEDING SEASON
Bald Eagle *Haliaeetus leucocephalus* This is not a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) in this area, but warrants attention because of the Eagle Act or for potential susceptibilities in offshore areas from certain types of development or activities. https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/1626	Breeds Sep 1 to Jul 31

PROBABILITY OF PRESENCE SUMMARY

The graphs below provide our best understanding of when birds of concern are most likely to be present in your project area. This information can be used to tailor and schedule your project activities to avoid or minimize impacts to birds. Please make sure you read "Supplemental Information on Migratory Birds and Eagles", specifically the FAQ section titled "Proper Interpretation and Use of Your Migratory Bird Report" before using or attempting to interpret this report.

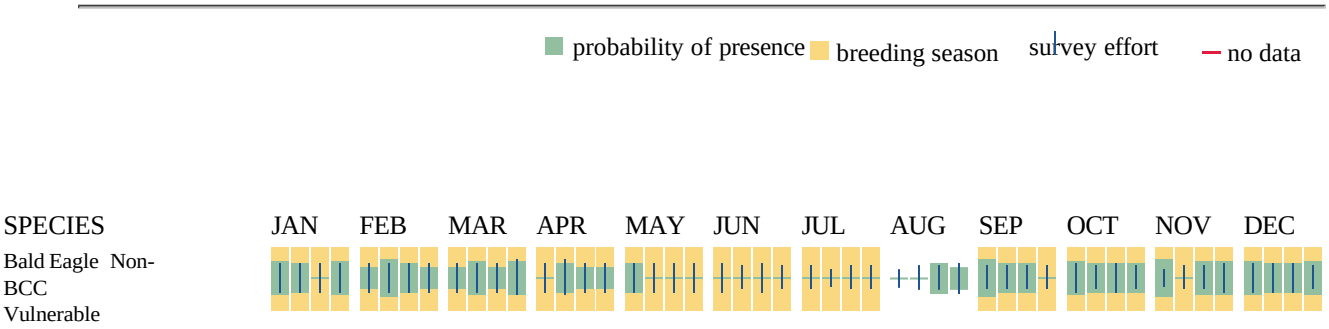
Probability of Presence (■)

Green bars; the bird's relative probability of presence in the 10km grid cell(s) your project overlaps during that week of the year.

Breeding Season (■)
Yellow bars; liberal estimate of the timeframe inside which the bird breeds across its entire range.

Survey Effort ( )
Vertical black lines; the number of surveys performed for that species in the 10km grid cell(s) your project area overlaps.

No Data (–)
A week is marked as having no data if there were no survey events for that week.



Additional information can be found using the following links:

- Eagle Management https://www.fws.gov/program/eagle-management
- Measures for avoiding and minimizing impacts to birds https://www.fws.gov/library/collections/avoiding-and-minimizing-incidental-take-migratory-birds
- Nationwide conservation measures for birds https://www.fws.gov/sites/default/files/documents/nationwide-standard-conservation-measures.pdf
- Supplemental Information for Migratory Birds and Eagles in IPaC https://www.fws.gov/media/supplemental-information-migratory-birds-and-bald-and-golden-eagles-may-occur-project-action

MIGRATORY BIRDS

Certain birds are protected under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act[1] and the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act[2].

Any person or organization who plans or conducts activities that may result in impacts to migratory birds, eagles, and their habitats[3] should follow appropriate regulations and consider implementing appropriate conservation measures, as described in the links below. Specifically, please review the "Supplemental Information on Migratory Birds and Eagles".

1. The Migratory Birds Treaty Act of 1918.
2. The Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act of 1940.
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NAME	BREEDING SEASON
Bald Eagle *Haliaeetus leucocephalus* This is not a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) in this area, but warrants attention because of the Eagle Act or for potential susceptibilities in offshore areas from certain types of development or activities. https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/1626	Breeds Sep 1 to Jul 31
Chimney Swift *Chaetura pelagica* This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska. https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9406	Breeds Mar 15 to Aug 25
Great Blue Heron *Ardea herodias occidentalis* This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) only in particular Bird Conservation Regions (BCRs) in the continental USA https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/10590	Breeds Jan 1 to Dec 31
Least Tern *Sternula antillarum antillarum* This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska. https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/11919	Breeds Apr 25 to Sep 5
Lesser Yellowlegs *Tringa flavipes* This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska. https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9679	Breeds elsewhere

NAME	BREEDING SEASON
Prairie Warbler *Setophaga discolor* This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska. https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9513	Breeds May 1 to Jul 31
Red-headed Woodpecker *Melanerpes erythrocephalus* This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska. https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9398	Breeds May 10 to Sep 10
Semipalmated Sandpiper *Calidris pusilla* This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) only in particular Bird Conservation Regions (BCRs) in the continental USA https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9603	Breeds elsewhere
Southeastern American Kestrel *Falco sparverius paulus* This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) only in particular Bird Conservation Regions (BCRs) in the continental USA https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/4076	Breeds Apr 1 to Aug 31
Swallow-tailed Kite *Elanoides forficatus* This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska. https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/8938	Breeds Mar 10 to Jun 30
Worthington's Marsh Wren *Cistothorus palustris griseus* This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) only in particular Bird Conservation Regions (BCRs) in the continental USA https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9560	Breeds Apr 10 to Aug 31

PROBABILITY OF PRESENCE SUMMARY

The graphs below provide our best understanding of when birds of concern are most likely to be present in your project area. This information can be used to tailor and schedule your project activities to avoid or minimize impacts to birds. Please make sure you read "Supplemental Information on Migratory Birds and Eagles", specifically the FAQ section titled "Proper Interpretation and Use of Your Migratory Bird Report" before using or attempting to interpret this report.

Probability of Presence ( )

Green bars; the bird's relative probability of presence in the 10km grid cell(s) your project overlaps during that week of the year.

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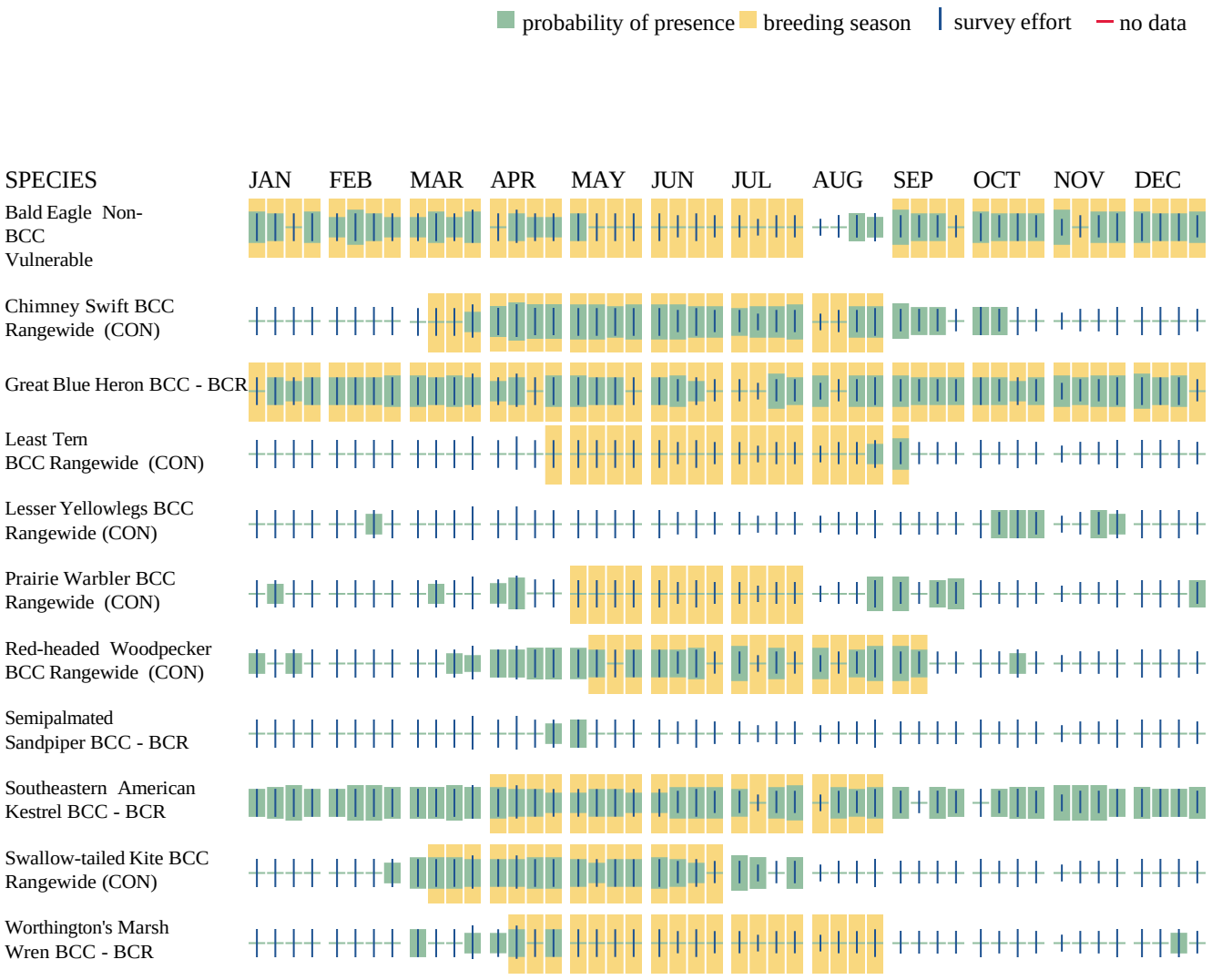

Additional information can be found using the following links:

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- Nationwide conservation measures for birds https://www.fws.gov/sites/default/files/documents/nationwide-standard-conservation-measures.pdf
- Supplemental Information for Migratory Birds and Eagles in IPaC https://www.fws.gov/media/supplemental-information-migratory-birds-and-bald-and-golden-eagles-may-occur-project-action

WETLANDS

Impacts to NWI wetlands and other aquatic habitats may be subject to regulation under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act, or other State/Federal statutes.

For more information please contact the Regulatory Program of the local U.S. Army Corps of Engineers District.

Please note that the NWI data being shown may be out of date. We are currently working to update our NWI data set. We recommend you verify these results with a site visit to determine the actual extent of wetlands on site.

FRESHWATER EMERGENT WETLAND

- PEM1F

FRESHWATER POND

- PUBH

IPAC USER CONTACT INFORMATION

Agency: Department of Veterans Affairs
Name: Jason Sturm
Address: 425 I St. NW City: Washington
State: DC
Zip: 20001
Email jason.sturm@va.gov
Phone: 2246281946

Endangered Species Act Biological Survey

Spring Hill, Florida

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Task 005: Endangered Species Act Biological Survey

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Executive Summary

Environmental Research Group, LLC (ERG) performed background research and conducted a survey to determine if species listed under the Endangered Species Act (16 United States Code 1531 et seq.) and Florida State Code, Rules, and Regulations (Chapter 68A-27 Rules Relating to Endangered or Threatened Species) could occur at one parcel of land under consideration by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). The intended acquisition includes approximately 40 acres of land along with approximately 6 acres of existing development at 14191 Turner Loop, Spring Hill, Florida.

The Site is located within a wooded and residential area with multiple small water bodies in Spring Hill, Florida. The Site is west of Turner Road, and north of Oldenburg Drive on one 40-acre parcel. The Site features an 11,000 square foot building, trees, driveway, parking lot, pole-mounted transformers, and a pond. The Site is adjacent to the residential properties in the north, east, and wooded areas to the south and west. The Site is anticipated to consist of a residential treatment center and utilize the existing 11,000 square foot building (built in 2010) that resides on the property.

The United States Fish and Wildlife Service's (USFWS) Information for Planning and Consultation website was used to generate a list of federally listed species in the area (USFWS 2023). Florida Natural Areas Inventory was used to generate a list of state-listed species within Pasco County where the Site is located (Florida Natural Areas Inventory 2023). The county list identified 35 state-listed species that could occur in Pasco County, seven of which are also federally listed species. A survey was performed to assess whether the appropriate habitat exists on site for these species and to record observations of these species, if present.

It is our conclusion that the parcel at 14191 Turner Loop includes potential habitat for four of the seven federally listed species and 17 of the 35 state-listed species. These habitats—woodland, forested wetland, and wetlands—mostly occur in the southern portion of the subject property. Three state-listed species were observed during biological surveys. For two of these, there are not visible differences between state- listed resident subspecies and migratory subspecies that are not listed, but guidance from the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission dictates that any individuals observed when both populations could be present must be assumed to belong to populations of state-listed subspecies. As no development will occur, a no effect determination for listed species is made. If construction on site becomes necessary in the future, additional analysis and consultation may be necessary. The table below summarizes our conclusions.

Common Name	Scientific Name	Federal Status	State Status	Determination of Effect
Scott's seaside sparrow	*Ammospiza maritima peninsulae*	Not listed	Threatened	No effect
Florida sandhill crane	*Antigone canadensis pratensis*	Not listed	Threatened	No effect
Florida burrowing owl	*Athene cunicularia floridana*	Not listed	Threatened	No effect
Marian's marsh wren	*Cistothorus palustris marianae*	Not listed	Threatened	No effect

Common Name	Scientific Name	Federal Status	State Status	Determination of Effect
Little blue heron	*Egretta caerulea*	Not listed	Threatened	No effect
Tricolored heron	*Egretta tricolor*	Not listed	Threatened	No effect
Southeastern American kestrel	*Falco sparverius paulus*	Not listed	Threatened	No effect
Whooping crane	*Grus americana*	Experimental population, non-essential	Experimental population, non-essential	No effect
American oystercatcher	*Haematopus palliatus*	Not listed	Threatened	No effect
Eastern black rail	*Laterallus jamaicensis jamaicensis*	Threatened	Not listed	No effect
Wood stork	*Mycteria americana*	Threatened	Threatened	No effect
Everglade snail kite	*Rostrhamus sociabilis plumbeus*	Endangered	Endangered	No effect
Least tern	*Sternula antillarum*	Not listed	Threatened	No effect
Loggerhead sea turtle	*Caretta caretta*	Threatened	Threatened	No effect
Eastern indigo snake	*Drymarchon couperi*	Threatened	Threatened	No effect
Gopher tortoise	*Gopherus polyphemus*	Not listed	Threatened	No effect
Short-tailed snake	*Lampropeltis extenuata*	Proposed Threatened	Threatened	No effect
Florida pine snake	*Pituophis melanoleucus mugitus*	Not listed	Threatened	No effect
Monarch butterfly	*Danaus plexippus*	Candidate	Not listed	No effect
Auricled spleenwort	*Asplenium erosum*	Not listed	Endangered	No effect
Hammock fern	*Blechnum occidentale var. minor*	Not listed	Endangered	No effect
Many-flowered grass-pink	*Calopogon multiflorus*	Not listed	Threatened	No effect
Chapman's sedge	*Carex chapmannii*	Not listed	Threatened	No effect
Sand butterfly pea	*Centrosema arenicola*	Not listed	Endangered	No effect
Hand fern	*Cheiroglossa palmata*	Not listed	Endangered	No effect

Common Name	Scientific Name	Federal Status	State Status	Determination of Effect
Piedmont jointgrass	*Coelorachis tuberculosa*	Not listed	Threatened	No effect
Tampa vervain	*Glandularia tampensis*	Not listed	Endangered	No effect
Pondspice	*Litsea aestivalis*	Not listed	Endangered	No effect
Pygmy pipes	*Monotropsis reynoldsiae*	Not listed	Endangered	No effect
Narrowleaf naiad	*Najas filifolia*	Under review	Threatened	No effect
Celestial lily	*Nemastylis floridana*	Not listed	Endangered	No effect
Britton's beargrass	*Nolina brittoniana*	Endangered	Endangered	No effect
Widespread polypody	*Pecluma dispersa*	Not listed	Endangered	No effect
Plume polypody	*Pecluma plumula*	Not listed	Endangered	No effect
Comb polypody	*Pecluma ptilota var. bourgeauana*	Not listed	Endangered	No effect

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1 Introduction

Environmental Research Group, LLC (ERG) is providing natural resources technical support to the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) through ISI Professional Services, subcontract VA101F16D0030-ERG, Task Number 005. ERG has been contracted to determine if species listed under the Endangered Species Act (16 United States Code 1531 et seq.) and Florida State Code, Rules, and Regulations (Chapter 68A-27 Rules Relating to Endangered or Threatened Species) could occur at the Site.

1.1 Project Description

The Site is anticipated to consist of a residential treatment center and utilize the existing 11,000 square foot building (built in 2010) that resides on the property. No additional development is analyzed within this report. The Site is located at 14191 Turner Loop, Spring Hill, Florida.

2 Existing Conditions

The Site is located within a wooded and residential area with multiple small water bodies in Spring Hill, Florida (Figure 1). The Site is west of Turner Road and north of Oldenburg Drive on one 40-acre parcel. The Site features a 11,000 square foot building, trees, driveway, parking lot, pole-mounted transformers, and a pond. The Site is adjacent to residential properties in the north and east, and wooded areas to the south and west.

This 40-acre parcel includes approximately 6 acres that have been developed and 34 acres that are undeveloped with some natural slopes and a freshwater pond in the northeast corner, approximately half of which falls within the property boundary. Topography varies from low wetlands around the pond to wooded uplands on the remainder of the Site, with a small grassy depression at the western edge of the south property boundary. Over half of the site is dominated by a few types of upland pine-oak scrubby flatwoods and sandhill communities. Sand live oak (*Quercus geminata*), sand pine (*Pinus clausa*), longleaf pine (*Pinus palustris*), and American turkey oak (*Quercus laevis*) are present throughout and vary in dominance. Saw palmetto (*Serenoa repens*) is present throughout the upland communities, but not dominant. Most of the wooded communities had open understory, composed primarily of saplings. The southeast corner along the southern property boundary is xeric hammock (approx. 3 acres), primarily made up of sand pine and sand live oak with some longleaf pine. Moving north through the western half of the site, longleaf pine increases in dominance, with sand live oak present and sometimes abundant but often shorter than in the xeric oak habitat. Turkey oak saplings are common throughout this area, with some larger trees. Southern magnolia (*Magnolia grandiflora*) saplings are present but not abundant, with no mature trees observed. Spanish moss (*Tillandsia usneoides*) is present throughout uplands.

Both native and non-native, invasive plant species were observed at the parcel. Herbaceous species observed in open areas included climbing hempweed (*Mikania scandens*), little bluestem (*Schizachyrium scoparium*), dogfennel (*Eupatorium capillifolium*), reed canary grass (*Phalaris arundinacea*), southern wax myrtle (*Morella cerifera*), torpedo grass (*Panicum repens*), black sedge (*Schoenus nigricans*), and pricklypear (*Opuntia humifusa*). Dominant shrubs included American beautyberry (*Callicarpa americana*).

Wildlife observed at the site included many species commonly found in upland wooded areas, and around freshwater ponds. Southern fox squirrels (*Sciurus niger niger*) were present throughout the Site. Wild turkey and several species of woodpecker were observed frequently in wooded areas. In total, 37 bird

species were recorded, all of which are native and protected under the MBTA. A complete list of wildlife species observed at the site is included in Appendix B.

An area of the Site was designated as a gopher tortoise sanctuary as communicated by the property owner but is not an authorized recipient site by FWC and there are no active gopher tortoise permits for the Site.

3 Methodology

ERG used the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's (USFWS) Information for Planning and Consultation (IPaC) website to help determine if any listed species or critical habitat might be present in the Site. Likewise, using the Florida Natural Areas Inventory, a state-listed species report was generated for Pasco County. Based on the information in the IPaC and County reports, ERG biologists performed background research on the potential listed species. A site survey was conducted 07 – 09 November 2023 to determine the site conditions and whether habitat was present that could support the listed species.

Surveys began at or before 0830 when faunal species are most active. The weather at the time of surveys was clear, and temperatures at the start were 66.2^{o}F. The site was divided into four 10-acre quadrants where biologists spent a minimum of 20 minutes per quadrant observing and recording species within each quadrant. Binoculars were used for observations.

4 Results

Based on the IPaC Report generated 03 October 2023, there are seven Federally listed species with potential to occur, no critical habitats, and no USFWS National Wildlife Refuge lands or fish hatcheries at the Site. Mapping from the National Wetlands Inventory (NWI) indicates that there are two wetland types within the Site. One Freshwater Pond (PUBH) and one Freshwater Emergent Wetland (PEM1F) have been identified at the Site. A wetlands technical report has been generated under a separate task.

Based on the Florida Natural Areas Inventory for Pasco County, there are 35 state-listed species with a potential to occur. Seven of the 35 state-listed species are also federally listed. ERG determined that due to the habitats present, marine species could be eliminated from consideration.

Three state-listed species were observed during biological surveys. For two of these, there are not visible differences between state-listed resident subspecies and migratory subspecies that are not listed, and guidance from the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) dictates that any individuals observed when both populations could be present must be assumed to belong to populations of state- listed subspecies. Additionally, potential habitat for some species was observed and is described below for each species. No effect determinations summarized in the following table are based on use of the existing site structures in a manner similar to their current and historical use, without additional development or disturbance of undeveloped areas within the Site. Recommendations regarding surrounding land use are included for observed species and those for whom suitable habitat was observed. The following gives a summary for the listed species that may possibly occur within the Site.

A determination of potential effects of the proposed action (use of the existing structure as a residential treatment facility) on each of the protected species identified is provided based on the following criteria:

- No effect: There will be no effects, positive or negative, to listed or proposed resources as a result of the action. Generally, this means no listed resources will be exposed to action and its environmental consequences.
- May affect, but not likely to adversely affect: All effects are beneficial, insignificant, or discountable. Beneficial effects have contemporaneous positive effects without any adverse effects on the species or habitat. Insignificant effects relate to the size of the effect and include those effects that are undetectable, not measurable, or cannot be evaluated. Discountable effects are those extremely unlikely to occur.
- May affect and is likely to adversely affect: Listed resources are likely to be exposed to the action or its environmental consequences and will respond in a negative manner to the exposure. The ESA requires the federal action agency request initiation of formal consultation with the USFWS when this determination is made.

Table 1. Federally listed species with the potential to occur at the Site and state-listed species with the potential to occur in Pasco County, FL.

Common Name	Scientific Name	Federal Status	State Status	Habitat Presence	Observed	Determination of Effect
Birds						
Scott's seaside sparrow	*Ammospiza maritima peninsulae*	Not listed	Threatened	No	No	No effect
Florida sandhill crane	*Antigone canadensis pratensis*	Not listed	Threatened	Yes	Yes	No effect
Florida burrowing owl	*Athene cunicularia floridana*	Not listed	Threatened	Yes	No	No effect
Marian's marsh wren	*Cistothorus palustris marianae*	Not listed	Threatened	No	No	No effect
Little blue heron	*Egretta caerulea*	Not listed	Threatened	Yes	Yes	No effect
Tricolored heron	*Egretta tricolor*	Not listed	Threatened	Yes	No	No effect
Southeastern American kestrel	*Falco sparverius paulus*	Not listed	Threatened	Yes	Yes	No effect
Whooping crane	*Grus americana*	Experimental population, non-essential	Experimental population, non-essential	No	No	No effect
American oystercatcher	*Haematopus palliatus*	Not listed	Threatened	No	No	No effect
Eastern black rail	*Laterallus jamaicensis jamaicensis*	Threatened	Not listed	No	No	No effect
Wood stork	*Mycteria americana*	Threatened	Threatened	Yes	No	No effect

Common Name	Scientific Name	Federal Status	State Status	Habitat Presence	Observed	Determination of Effect
Everglade snail kite	*Rostrhamus sociabilis plumbeus*	Endangered	Endangered	Yes	No	No effect
Least tern	*Sternula antillarum*	Not listed	Threatened	No	No	No effect
Reptiles						
Loggerhead sea turtle	*Caretta caretta*	Threatened	Threatened	No	N/A	No effect
Eastern indigo snake	*Drymarchon couperi*	Threatened	Threatened	Yes	No	No effect
Gopher tortoise	*Gopherus polyphemus*	Not listed	Threatened	Yes	No	No effect
Short-tailed snake	*Lampropeltis extenuata*	Proposed Threatened	Threatened	Yes	No	No effect
Florida pine snake	*Pituophis melanoleucus mugitus*	Not listed	Threatened	Yes	No	No effect
Insects						
Monarch butterfly	*Danaus plexippus*	Candidate	Not listed	Yes	No	No effect
Plants and Lichen						
Auricled spleenwort	*Asplenium erosum*	Not listed	Endangered	No	No	No effect
Hammock fern	*Blechnum occidentale var. minor*	Not listed	Endangered	No	No	No effect
Many-flowered grass-pink	*Calopogon multiflorus*	Not listed	Threatened	No	No	No effect
Chapman's sedge	*Carex chapmannii*	Not listed	Threatened	No	No	No effect
Sand butterfly pea	*Centrosema arenicola*	Not listed	Endangered	Yes	No	No effect
Hand fern	*Cheiroglossa palmata*	Not listed	Endangered	No	No	No effect
Piedmont jointgrass	*Coelorachis tuberculosa*	Not listed	Threatened	Yes	No	No effect
Tampa vervain	*Glandularia tampensis*	Not listed	Endangered	Yes	No	No effect
Pondspice	*Litsea aestivalis*	Not listed	Endangered	Yes	No	No effect
Pygmy pipes	*Monotropsis reynoldsiae*	Not listed	Endangered	Yes	No	No effect
Narrowleaf naiad	*Najas filifolia*	Under review	Threatened	Yes	No	No effect

Common Name	Scientific Name	Federal Status	State Status	Habitat Presence	Observed	Determination of Effect
Celestial lily	*Nemastylis floridana*	Not listed	Endangered	No	No	No effect
Britton's beargrass	*Nolina brittoniana*	Endangered	Endangered	No	No	No effect
Widespread polypody	*Pecluma dispersa*	Not listed	Endangered	No	No	No effect
Plume polypody	*Pecluma plumula*	Not listed	Endangered	No	No	No effect
Comb polypody	*Pecluma ptilota var. bourgeauana*	Not listed	Endangered	No	No	No effect

The following gives a summary of the listed species that may possibly occur within the parcel.

4.1 Scott's seaside sparrow (*Ammospiza maritima peninsulae*)

The Scott's seaside sparrow is state listed as threatened. This species is found primarily in tidal marshes from Pasco County to Dixie County. Suitable nesting habitat for this species includes marshes with fallencordgrass and black needlerush. As this site is located inland, suitable habitat for this species is not present and a no effect conclusion is made.

4.2 Florida sandhill crane (*Antigone canadensis pratensis*)

The Florida sandhill crane is state listed as threatened. This species is found throughout most of peninsular Florida where there is suitable habitat. This species inhabits prairies, freshwater marshes, and pasture lands. Human-made areas such as crop fields, golf courses, and open lawns are also commonly used by this species. Florida sandhill cranes were observed at the site during the survey. While the site is known to be utilized by this species, development will not occur and a no effect conclusion is made.

4.3 Florida burrowing owl (*Athene cunicularia floridana*)

The Florida burrowing owl is state listed as threatened. The habitat of this species includes open prairies that have very little understory vegetation. Golf courses, airports, pastures, agriculture fields, and vacant lots are all potential habitat for this species. Florida burrowing owls will sometimes use gopher tortoise burrows. There is limited suitable habitat within the site for this species. As development will not occur, a no effect conclusion is made.

4.4 Marian's marsh wren (*Cistothorus palustris marianae*)

The Marian's marsh wren is state listed as threatened. This species is found and breeds in marshes in Pasco County. Suitable habitat for this species includes tidal marshes dominated by black needlerush along the Gulf Coast. As this site is located inland, suitable habitat for this species is not present and a no effect conclusion is made.

4.5 Little blue heron (*Egreta caerulea*)

The little blue heron is state listed as threatened. This species utilizes a variety of aquatic habitats throughout Florida. They form rookeries, which are threatened by habitat degradation of marshes and swamps. Little blue herons have a variable diet that includes crabs, fish, lizards, turtles, and spiders

(Audubon 2019). The little blue heron was observed at the site during the survey. While the site is known to be utilized by this species, development will not occur and a no effect conclusion is made.

4.6 Tricolored heron (*Egretta tricolor*)

The tricolored heron is state listed as threatened. This coastal heron prefers shallow marshes, shorelines, and coastal lagoons. These herons primarily eat killifish (*Fundulus* sp.), as well as frogs, shrimp, snails, and insects (FWC 2019c). As pond and wetland features occur at the site, suitable habitat for this species is present. As development will not occur, a no effect conclusion is made.

4.7 Southeastern American kestrel (*Falco sparverius paulus*)

The American kestrel is migratory and can be found throughout Florida in winter, but the state-threatened Southeastern American kestrel (a subspecies) is non-migratory and is most commonly found in peninsular Florida. Suitable habitat for this species includes open pine habitat, woodland edges, prairies, and pastures. Nesting sites include tall dead trees or utility poles. Surveys conducted from April to August (when migratory American kestrels are not present) should restrict observations to the Southeastern American kestrel. Surveys conducted outside of this window assume any observed kestrels are the Southeastern subspecies. One individual was observed hunting in the northeast portion of the property. While the site is known to be utilized by this species, development will not occur and a no effect conclusion is made.

4.8 Whooping crane (*Grus americana*)

Whooping cranes in Pasco County, Florida are classified as a non-essential experimental population. The only natural nesting population is located in Wood Buffalo National Park in Canada, however, migratory whooping cranes winter in Florida. The population that inhabits Florida year-round is non-migratory and was introduces by FWC in 1993. Suitable habitat for this species is limited to shallow marshes and open grasslands. While there is aquatic habitat at the site, there is no marsh present with limited open grasslands. As such, suitable habitat for this species is not present and a no effect conclusion is made.

4.9 American oystercatcher (*Haematopus palliatus*)

The American oystercatcher is state listed as threatened. This species is found only in coastal areas most commonly along the Gulf Coast of Florida. Suitable habitat for this species includes large areas of beach, sandbar, mud flats, and shellfish beds. Nesting requires large expanses sparsely vegetated, sandy areas. As such, suitable habitat for this species is not present and a no effect conclusion is made.

4.10 Eastern black rail (*Laterallus jamaicensis jamaicensis*)

The Eastern black rail is federally listed as threatened by the USFWS. This species is found in salt, brackish, and freshwater marsh habitats that can be tidally or non-tidally influenced. They require dense vegetation that provides cover and room for movement beneath the canopy. Vegetation height is a very important habitat characteristic (USFWS 2023). No marsh habitat is present at the site. As such, suitable habitat for this species is not present and a no effect conclusion is made.

4.11 Wood stork (*Mycteria americana*)

The wood stork is federally listed as threatened by the USFWS. This species inhabits freshwater and marine-estuarine ecosystems and is increasingly known to nest in human-impacted areas such as artificially impounded waters (FWC 2019a). Suitable habitat for this species is present at the site. As development will not occur, a no effect conclusion is made.

4.12 Everglade snail kite (*Rostrhamus sociablilis plumbeus*)

The Everglade snail kite is federally listed as endangered by the USFWS. The habitat of this species includes shallow freshwater marshes and shallow grassy shorelines of lakes. Their main source of food are apple snails. USFWS lists Pasco County as an area where the Everglade snail kite is known to or is believed to occur, though it is not included in FWC's distribution map for the species. However, confirmed observations of the species from eBird do include this part of Pasco County. Suitable habitat for this species is present at the site. As development will not occur, a no effect conclusion is made.

4.13 Least tern (*Sternula antillarum*)

The least tern is state listed as threatened. This species found throughout coastal Florida, the Keys, and some inland locations. They inhabit beaches, lagoons, bays, and estuaries. Artificial nesting areas such as gravel rooftops, dredged material deposits, and construction areas are also becoming commonly used by this species. As this site is inland, suitable habitat for this species is not present and a no effect conclusion is made.

4.14 Eastern indigo snake (*Drymarchon couperi*)

The Eastern indigo snake is federally listed as threatened by the USFWS. The habitat of this species includes pine flatwoods, hardwood forests, moist hammocks, and areas around cypress swamps. They can be found throughout Florida. The site includes suitable habitat, such as xeric hammock and pine flatwoods, and in central Florida the species in known to use gopher tortoise burrows when available, which were present at the site. As development will not occur, a no effect conclusion is made.

4.15 Gopher tortoise (*Gopherus polyphemus*)

The gopher tortoise is state listed as threatened. Their preferred habitat is well-drained sandy soils in longleaf pine sandhills, xeric oak hammocks, scrub, pine flatwoods, dry prairies, and coastal dunes. They spend much of their lives in their burrows, which require well-drained sandy soils. They can also be found in areas with human disturbance like urban areas and pastures. Their diet consists of low-growing plants. No individuals of the species were observed, however fourteen burrows were observed throughout the property. As development will not occur, a no effect conclusion is made.

4.16 Short-tailed snake (*Lampropeltis extenuata*)

The short-tailed snake has been proposed as threatened by the USFWS and is state listed as threatened by FWC. This species is found in north-central peninsular Florida. The ideal habitat for this species is dry upland habitats within sandhill areas, xeric hammocks, and sand pine scrub. It lives primarily underground and is rarely seen above ground. Little is known of the behavior and ecology of this species. The site includes suitable habitat, such as xeric hammock and longleaf pine-turkey oak in well-drained, sandy soils. As development will not occur, a no effect conclusion is made.

4.17 Florida Pine snake (*Pituophis melanoleucus mugitus*)

The Florida pine snake is state listed as threatened. The species lives in areas that have well-drained sandy soils and a moderate to open tree canopy. Their diet includes small mammals, lizards, and other snakes and their eggs. The site includes suitable habitat, such as xeric hammock and longleaf pine-turkey oak in well-drained, sandy soils. As development will not occur, a no effect conclusion is made.

4.18 Monarch butterfly (*Danaus plexippus*)

The monarch butterfly is federally listed as a candidate species by the USFWS. Monarchs depend on their obligate host plant, milkweed, to lay their eggs. Monarchs primarily occur in a variety of habitats that provide flowering plants, such as prairies, meadows, grasslands, and along roadsides. While no milkweed was observed at the site, suitable habitat exists for feeding. As development will not occur, a no effect conclusion is made.

4.19 Auricled spleenwort (*Asplenium erosum*)

The auricled spleenwort is state listed as endangered. This species is an epiphyte that grows on tree trunks and logs in swamps and hammocks. No swamps or moist hammocks were present, and thus this species would not likely occur at the site. As such, a no effect conclusion is made.

4.20 Hammock fern (*Blechnum occidentale var. minor*)

Hammock fern is state listed as endangered. This species requires rocky, moist hammocks and is commonly found around sinkholes. No moist hammocks or sinkholes are present, and thus this species would not likely occur at the site. As such, a no effect conclusion is made.

4.21 Many-flowered grass-pink (*Calopogon multiflorus*)

The many-flowered grass-pink is state listed as threatened. This species in endemic to the southeastern coastal plain in Florida where it occupies dry to moist flatwoods with longleaf pine, wiregrass, and saw palmetto. Fire is required by this species to maintain open habitat and stimulate flowering. As currently managed, no suitable habitat exists at the site for this species. As such, a no effect conclusion is made.

4.22 Chapman's sedge (*Carex chapmanii*)

Chapman's sedge is state listed as threatened. Through much of its range, this species is associated with well-drained hammock woodlands and sandy hammocks within beech-magnolia and oak-pine forest. In Florida, Chapman's sedge is found in hydric hammocks and bottomland forests, usually on wooded stream banks and in river floodplains. As such, suitable habitat for this species is not present and a no effect conclusion is made.

4.23 Sand butterfly pea (*Centrosema arenicola*)

The sand butterfly pea is state listed as endangered. This species inhabits open areas in slash pine-turkey oak sandhill, scrubby flatwoods, and dry upland woods and has been documented in Pasco County. Suitable habitat is present in parts of the site. As development will not occur, a no effect conclusion is made.

4.24 Hand fern (*Cheiroglossa palmata*)

Hand fern is state listed as endangered. This is an epiphytic species that grow on leaf bases of cabbage palm (*Sabal palmetto*) in moist hommocks. As such, suitable habitat for this species is not present and a no effect conclusion is made.

4.25 Piedmont jointgrass (*Coelorachis tuberculosa*)

Piedmont jointgrass is state listed as threatened. This species inhabits ephemeral ponds and margins of sandhill upland lakes. It grows in soils that are sandy peat or sandy peat-muck. This species is locally abundant in parts of Florida, including Pasco County. As development will not occur, a no effect conclusion is made.

4.26 Tampa vervain (*Glandularia tampensis*)

Tampa vervain is state listed as endangered. This species inhabits sandy coastal hammocks and dunes, clearings, well-drained live oak-slash or longleaf pine-saw palmetto flats, and disturbed areas. Very few of these plants have been observed, and records exist across only nine counties in Florida, including Pasco. As development will not occur, a no effect conclusion is made.

4.27 Pondspice (*Litsea aestivalis*)

Pondspice is state listed as endangered. This species inhabits margins of swamps, limesink ponds, bay heads, small ponds, pitcher plant savannas, natural doline ponds and in low wet woodlands that receive frequent fire such as sandhill and flatwoods. It grows in wet, sandy, or peaty, and acidic soils. As development will not occur, a no effect determination is made.

4.28 Pygmy pipes (*Monotropsis reynoldsiae*)

Pygmy pipes are state listed as endangered. This species inhabits upland hardwood forests, hammocks, sand pine, and oak scrub. While only ten populations are known in Florida, and most are on managed conservation lands, suitable habitat exists at the site for this species. As development will not occur, a no effect determination is made.

4.29 Narrowleaf naiad (*Najas filifolia*)

Narrowleaf naiad is state listed as threatened. This species is a submerged, vascular plant that prefers freshwater with depths less than 2 meters. Ponds are present at the property. As development will not occur, a no effect determination is made.

4.30 Celestial lily (Nemastylis floridana)

Celestial lily is state listed as endangered. This species inhabits wet flatwoods, prairies, marshes, and cabbage palm hammock edges. It requires frequent burning and is only found in 15 managed areas in Florida. Suitable habitat for this species is not present and a no effect conclusion is made.

4.31 Britton's bear-grass (*Nolina brittonina*)

Britton's bear grass is state listed as endangered. This species inhabits sandhill habitats and is dependent on fire for habitat maintenance. It grows in deep, fine-textured, well-drained sands of sand pine- evergreen oak scrub or longleaf pine-turkey oak sandhill. As the site is currently managed, suitable habitat for this species is not currently present and a no effect conclusion is made.

4.32 Widespread polypody (*Pecluma dispersa*)

Widespread polypody is state listed as endangered. It is typically found on limestone outcrops and occasionally as an epiphyte in moist hammocks. As such, suitable habitat for this species is not present and a no effect conclusion is made.

4.33 Plume polypody (*Pecluma plumula*)

Plume polypody is state listed as endangered. It is typically found on rocks or as an epiphyte in wet woods, riverbanks, hammocks, and limesinks. As such, suitable habitat for this species is not present and a no effect conclusion is made.

4.34 Comb polypody (*Pecluma ptilota var. bourgeauana*)

Comb polypody is state listed as endangered. It is typically found growing terrestrially in moist hammocks, swamps, and floodplain forests. Occasionally, this species will grow epiphytically on tree bases or rocks. As such, suitable habitat for this species is not present and a no effect conclusion is made.

5 Results

There is a total of 35 species listed by the USFWS and/or the State of Florida which were analyzed in this report. Three state-listed species were observed during the site survey, Florida sandhill crane, little blue heron, and American kestrel (possibly the Southeastern). It is our conclusion that out of the 35 species, habitat is not present or conditions not maintained that would support 17 of the species. It is our conclusion that habitat does occur which could support the remaining 18 species, including four federal species. As no development will occur, a no effect determination for listed species is made. If construction on site becomes necessary in the future, additional analysis and consultation may be necessary.

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Appendix A: Photograph Log

Photographs at 14191 Turner Loop, Spring Hill, Florida	
Habitat	
Xeric oak habitat Southeast portion of Site	
Stand of sand live oak *Quercus geminata* Central-west portion of site	

Longleaf pine *Pinus palustris* Central-west portion of site	
Sand live oak and myrtle oak *Quercus myrtifolia*	

Longleaf pine and sand live oak	
Looking east from west side of pond at northeast corner of the Site, observing pond and surrounding open area	

Species photographs	
Sand live oak *Quercus geminata* twigs and leaves	

Sand pine *Pinus clausa* needles and twigs	
American beautyberry	

Little blue heron	
American bittern	

Lesser yellowlegs pond edge	
American kestrel	

Southern fox squirrel *Sciurus niger niger*	
Gopher tortoise burrow *Gopherus polyphemus*	

Appendix B: Species Lists

IPaC Information for Planning and Consultation **U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service**

IPaC resource list

This report is an automatically generated list of species and other resources such as critical habitat (collectively referred to as *trust resources*) under the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's (USFWS) jurisdiction that are known or expected to be on or near the project area referenced below. The list may also include trust resources that occur outside of the project area, but that could potentially be directly or indirectly affected by activities in the project area. However, determining the likelihood and extent of effects a project may have on trust resources typically requires gathering additional site-specific (e.g., vegetation/species surveys) and project-specific (e.g., magnitude and timing of proposed activities) information.

Below is a summary of the project information you provided and contact information for the USFWS office(s) with jurisdiction in the defined project area. Please read the introduction to each section that follows (Endangered Species, Migratory Birds, USFWS Facilities, and NWI Wetlands) for additional information applicable to the trust resources addressed in that section.

Location

Pasco County, Florida

Local office

Florida Ecological Services Field Office

(772) 562-3909
(772) 562-4288
fw4flesregs@fws.gov

1339 20th Street
Vero Beach, FL 32960-3559

https://www.fws.gov/office/florida-ecological-services

Endangered species

This resource list is for informational purposes only and does not constitute an analysis of project level impacts.

The primary information used to generate this list is the known or expected range of each species. Additional areas of influence (AOI) for species are also considered. An AOI includes areas outside of the species range if the species could be indirectly affected by activities in that area (e.g., placing a dam upstream of a fish population even if that fish does not occur at the dam site, may indirectly impact the species by reducing or eliminating water flow downstream). Because species can move, and site conditions can change, the species on this list are not guaranteed to be found on or near the project area. To fully determine any potential effects to species, additional site-specific and project-specific information is often required.

Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act **requires** Federal agencies to "request of the Secretary information whether any species which is listed or proposed to be listed may be present in the area of such proposed action" for any project that is conducted, permitted, funded, or licensed by any Federal agency. A letter from the local office and a species list which fulfills this requirement can **only** be obtained by requesting an official species list from either the Regulatory Review section in IPaC (see directions below) or from the local field office directly.

For project evaluations that require USFWS concurrence/review, please return to the IPaC website and request an official species list by doing the following:

1. Draw the project location and click CONTINUE.
2. Click DEFINE PROJECT.
3. Log in (if directed to do so).
4. Provide a name and description for your project.
5. Click REQUEST SPECIES LIST.

Listed species[1] and their critical habitats are managed by the Ecological Services Program of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and the fisheries division of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA Fisheries[2]).

Species and critical habitats under the sole responsibility of NOAA Fisheries are **not** shown on this list. Please contact NOAA Fisheries for species under their jurisdiction.

1. Species listed under the Endangered Species Act are threatened or endangered; IPaC also shows species that are candidates, or proposed, for listing. See the listing status page for more information. IPaC only shows species that are regulated by USFWS (see FAQ).
2. NOAA Fisheries, also known as the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), is an office of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration within the Department of Commerce.

The following species are potentially affected by activities in this location:

Birds

NAME	STATUS
Eastern Black Rail *Laterallus jamaicensis ssp. jamaicensis* Wherever found No critical habitat has been designated for this species. https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/10477	Threatened
Everglade Snail Kite *Rostrhamus sociabilis plumbeus* Wherever found There is **final** critical habitat for this species. Your location does not overlap the critical habitat. https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/7713	Endangered
Whooping Crane *Grus americana* No critical habitat has been designated for this species. https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/758	EXPN

Wood Stork Mycteria americana — Threatened
No critical habitat has been designated for this species.
https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/8477

Reptiles

NAME	STATUS
Eastern Indigo Snake Drymarchon couperi Wherever found No critical habitat has been designated for this species. https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/646	Threatened
Loggerhead Sea Turtle Caretta caretta There is **final** critical habitat for this species. Your location does not overlap the critical habitat. https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/1110	Threatened

Insects

NAME	STATUS
Monarch Butterfly Danaus plexippus Wherever found No critical habitat has been designated for this species. https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9743	Candidate

Critical habitats

Potential effects to critical habitat(s) in this location must be analyzed along with the endangered species themselves.

There are no critical habitats at this location.

You are still required to determine if your project(s) may have effects on all above listed species.

Bald & Golden Eagles

Bald and golden eagles are protected under the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act[1] and the Migratory Bird Treaty Act[2].

Any person or organization who plans or conducts activities that may result in impacts to bald or golden eagles, or their habitats[3], should follow appropriate regulations and consider implementing appropriate conservation measures, as described below.

Additional information can be found using the following links:

- Eagle Managment https://www.fws.gov/program/eagle-management
- Measures for avoiding and minimizing impacts to birds https://www.fws.gov/library/collections/avoiding-and-minimizing-incidental-take-migratory-birds
- Nationwide conservation measures for birds https://www.fws.gov/sites/default/files/documents/nationwide-standard-conservation-measures.pdf

- Supplemental Information for Migratory Birds and Eagles in IPaC https://www.fws.gov/media/supplemental-information-migratory-birds-and-bald-and-golden-eagles-may-occur-project-action

There are bald and/or golden eagles in your project area.

For guidance on when to schedule activities or implement avoidance and minimization measures to reduce impacts to migratory birds on your list, click on the PROBABILITY OF PRESENCE SUMMARY at the top of your list to see when these birds are most likely to be present and breeding in your project area.

NAME	BREEDING SEASON
Bald Eagle Haliaeetus leucocephalus This is not a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) in this area, but warrants attention because of the Eagle Act or for potential susceptibilities in offshore areas from certain types of development or activities.	Breeds Sep 1 to Jul 31

Probability of Presence Summary

The graphs below provide our best understanding of when birds of concern are most likely to be present in your project area. This information can be used to tailor and schedule your project activities to avoid or minimize impacts to birds. Please make sure you read and understand the FAQ "Proper Interpretation and Use of Your Migratory Bird Report" before using or attempting to interpret this report.

Probability of Presence (■)

Each green bar represents the bird's relative probability of presence in the 10km grid cell(s) your project overlaps during a particular week of the year. (A year is represented as 12 4-week months.) A taller bar indicates a higher probability of species presence. The survey effort (see below) can be used to establish a level of confidence in the presence score. One can have higher confidence in the presence score if the corresponding survey effort is also high.

How is the probability of presence score calculated? The calculation is done in three steps:

1. The probability of presence for each week is calculated as the number of survey events in the week where the species was detected divided by the total number of survey events for that week. For example, if in week 12 there were 20 survey events and the Spotted Towhee was found in 5 of them, the probability of presence of the Spotted Towhee in week 12 is 0.25.
2. To properly present the pattern of presence across the year, the relative probability of presence is calculated. This is the probability of presence divided by the maximum probability of presence across all weeks. For example, imagine the probability of presence in week 20 for the Spotted Towhee is 0.05, and that the probability of presence at week 12 (0.25) is the maximum of any week of the year. The relative probability of presence on week 12 is 0.25/0.25 = 1; at week 20 it is 0.05/0.25 = 0.2.
3. The relative probability of presence calculated in the previous step undergoes a statistical conversion so that all possible values fall between 0 and 10, inclusive. This is the probability of presence score.

To see a bar's probability of presence score, simply hover your mouse cursor over the bar.

Breeding Season (■)
Yellow bars denote a very liberal estimate of the time-frame inside which the bird breeds across its entire range. If there are no yellow bars shown for a bird, it does not breed in your project area.

Survey Effort (|)
Vertical black lines superimposed on probability of presence bars indicate the number of surveys performed for that species in the 10km grid cell(s) your project area overlaps. The number of surveys is expressed as a range, for example, 33 to 64 surveys.

To see a bar's survey effort range, simply hover your mouse cursor over the bar.

No Data (–)
A week is marked as having no data if there were no survey events for that week.

Survey Timeframe
Surveys from only the last 10 years are used in order to ensure delivery of currently relevant information. The exception to this is areas off the Atlantic coast, where bird returns are based on all years of available data, since data in these areas is currently much more sparse.

■ probability of presence ■ breeding season | survey effort – no data

What does IPaC use to generate the potential presence of bald and golden eagles in my specified location?

The potential for eagle presence is derived from data provided by the Avian Knowledge Network (AKN). The AKN data is based on a growing collection of survey, banding, and citizen science datasets and is queried and filtered to return a list of those birds reported as occurring in the 10km grid cell(s) which your project intersects, and that have been identified as warranting special attention because they are a BCC species in that area, an eagle (Eagle Act requirements may apply). To see a list of all birds potentially present in your project area, please visit the Rapid Avian Information Locator (RAIL) Tool.

What does IPaC use to generate the probability of presence graphs of bald and golden eagles in my specified location?

The Migratory Bird Resource List is comprised of USFWS Birds of Conservation Concern (BCC) and other species that may warrant special attention in your project location.

The migratory bird list generated for your project is derived from data provided by the Avian Knowledge Network (AKN). The AKN data is based on a growing collection of survey, banding, and citizen science datasets and is queried and filtered to return a list of those birds reported as occurring in the 10km grid cell(s) which your project intersects, and that have been identified as warranting special attention because they are a BCC species in that area, an eagle (Eagle Act requirements may apply), or a species that has a particular vulnerability to offshore activities or development.

Again, the Migratory Bird Resource list includes only a subset of birds that may occur in your project area. It is not representative of all birds that may occur in your project area. To get a list of all birds potentially present in your project area, please visit the Rapid Avian Information Locator (RAIL) Tool.

What if I have eagles on my list?

If your project has the potential to disturb or kill eagles, you may need to obtain a permit to avoid violating the Eagle Act should such impacts occur. Please contact your local Fish and Wildlife Service Field Office if you have questions.

Migratory birds

Certain birds are protected under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act[1] and the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act[2].

Any person or organization who plans or conducts activities that may result in impacts to migratory birds, eagles, and their habitats[3] should follow appropriate regulations and consider implementing appropriate conservation measures, as described below.

1. The Migratory Birds Treaty Act of 1918.
2. The Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act of 1940.

Additional information can be found using the following links:

- Eagle Management https://www.fws.gov/program/eagle-management
- Measures for avoiding and minimizing impacts to birds https://www.fws.gov/library/collections/avoiding-and-minimizing-incidental-take-migratory-birds
- Nationwide conservation measures for birds https://www.fws.gov/sites/default/files/ documents/nationwide-standard-conservation-measures.pdf
- Supplemental Information for Migratory Birds and Eagles in IPaC https://www.fws.gov/media/supplemental-information-migratory-birds-and-bald-and-golden-eagles-may-occur-project-action

The birds listed below are birds of particular concern either because they occur on the USFWS Birds of Conservation Concern (BCC) list or warrant special attention in your project location. To learn more about the levels of concern for birds on your list and how this list is generated, see the FAQ below. This is not a list of every bird you may find in this location, nor a guarantee that every bird on this list will be found in your project area. To see exact locations of where birders and the general public have sighted birds in and around your project area, visit the E-bird data mapping tool (Tip: enter your location, desired date range and a species on your list). For projects that occur off the Atlantic Coast, additional maps and models detailing the relative occurrence and abundance of bird species on your list are available. Links to additional information about Atlantic Coast birds, and other important information about your migratory bird list, including how to properly interpret and use your migratory bird report, can be found below.

For guidance on when to schedule activities or implement avoidance and minimization measures to reduce impacts to migratory birds on your list, click on the PROBABILITY OF PRESENCE SUMMARY at the top of your list to see when these birds are most likely to be present and breeding in your project area.

NAME	BREEDING SEASON
American Kestrel Falco sparverius paulus This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) only in particular Bird Conservation Regions (BCRs) in the continental USA https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9587	Breeds Apr 1 to Aug 31
Bald Eagle Haliaeetus leucocephalus This is not a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) in this area, but warrants attention because of the Eagle Act or for potential susceptibilities in offshore areas from certain types of development or activities.	Breeds Sep 1 to Jul 31
Chimney Swift Chaetura pelagica This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska.	Breeds Mar 15 to Aug 25
Great Blue Heron Ardea herodias occidentalis This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) only in particular Bird Conservation Regions (BCRs) in the continental USA	Breeds Jan 1 to Dec 31
Lesser Yellowlegs Tringa flavipes This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska. https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9679	Breeds elsewhere
Prairie Warbler Dendroica discolor This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska.	Breeds May 1 to Jul 31
Red-headed Woodpecker Melanerpes erythrocephalus This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska.	Breeds May 10 to Sep 10
Swallow-tailed Kite Elanoides forficatus This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska. https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/8938	Breeds Mar 10 to Jun 30

Probability of Presence Summary

The graphs below provide our best understanding of when birds of concern are most likely to be present in your project area. This information can be used to tailor and schedule your project activities to avoid or minimize impacts to birds. Please make sure you read and understand the FAQ "Proper Interpretation and Use of Your Migratory Bird Report" before using or attempting to interpret this report.

Probability of Presence (■)

Each green bar represents the bird's relative probability of presence in the 10km grid cell(s) your project overlaps during a particular week of the year. (A year is represented as 12 4-week months.) A taller bar indicates a higher probability of species presence. The survey effort (see below) can be used to establish a level of confidence in the presence score. One can have higher confidence in the presence score if the corresponding survey effort is also high.

How is the probability of presence score calculated? The calculation is done in three steps:

1. The probability of presence for each week is calculated as the number of survey events in the week where the species was detected divided by the total number of survey events for that week. For example, if in week 12 there were 20 survey events and the Spotted Towhee was found in 5 of them, the probability of presence of the Spotted Towhee in week 12 is 0.25.
2. To properly present the pattern of presence across the year, the relative probability of presence is calculated. This is the probability of presence divided by the maximum probability of presence across all weeks. For example, imagine the probability of presence in week 20 for the Spotted Towhee is 0.05, and that the probability of presence at week 12 (0.25) is the

maximum of any week of the year. The relative probability of presence on week 12 is 0.25/0.25 = 1; at week 20 it is 0.05/0.25 = 0.2.

3. The relative probability of presence calculated in the previous step undergoes a statistical conversion so that all possible values fall between 0 and 10, inclusive. This is the probability of presence score.

To see a bar's probability of presence score, simply hover your mouse cursor over the bar.

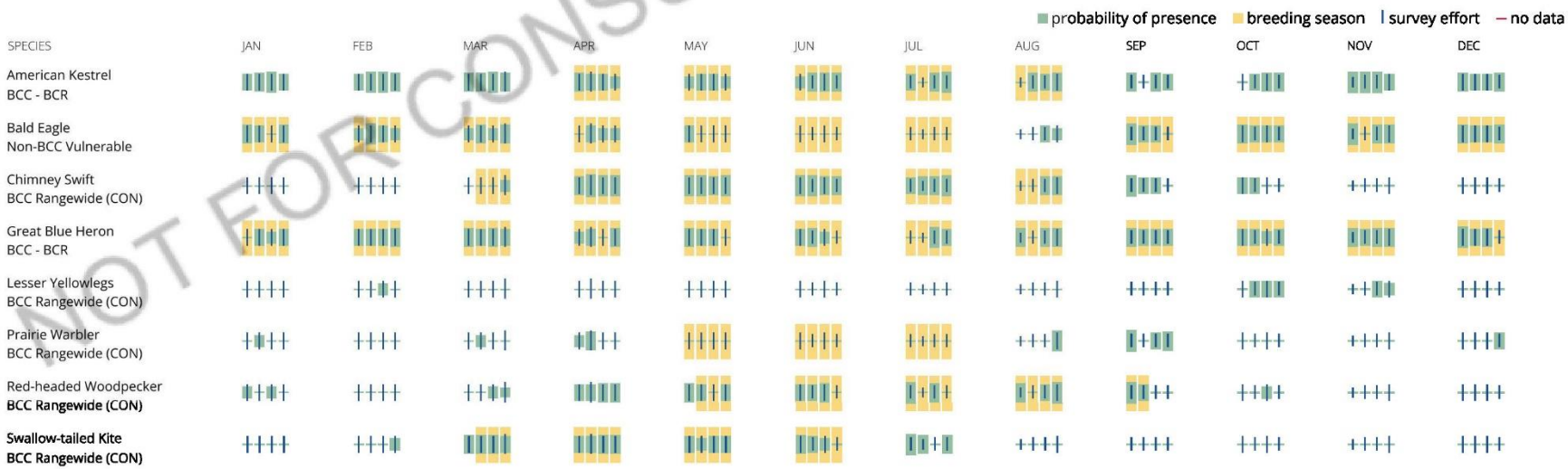
Breeding Season (■)
Yellow bars denote a very liberal estimate of the time-frame inside which the bird breeds across its entire range. If there are no yellow bars shown for a bird, it does not breed in your project area.

Survey Effort (|)
Vertical black lines superimposed on probability of presence bars indicate the number of surveys performed for that species in the 10km grid cell(s) your project area overlaps. The number of surveys is expressed as a range, for example, 33 to 64 surveys.

To see a bar's survey effort range, simply hover your mouse cursor over the bar.

No Data (–)
A week is marked as having no data if there were no survey events for that week.

Survey Timeframe
Surveys from only the last 10 years are used in order to ensure delivery of currently relevant information. The exception to this is areas off the Atlantic coast, where bird returns are based on all years of available data, since data in these areas is currently much more sparse.



Tell me more about conservation measures I can implement to avoid or minimize impacts to migratory birds.

Nationwide Conservation Measures describes measures that can help avoid and minimize impacts to all birds at any location year round. Implementation of these measures is particularly important when birds are most likely to occur in the project area. When birds may be breeding in the area, identifying the locations of any active nests and avoiding their destruction is a very helpful impact minimization measure. To see when birds are most likely to occur and be breeding in your project area, view the Probability of Presence Summary. Additional measures or permits may be advisable depending on the type of activity you are conducting and the type of infrastructure or bird species present on your project site.

What does IPaC use to generate the list of migratory birds that potentially occur in my specified location?

The Migratory Bird Resource List is comprised of USFWS Birds of Conservation Concern (BCC) and other species that may warrant special attention in your project location.

The migratory bird list generated for your project is derived from data provided by the Avian Knowledge Network (AKN). The AKN data is based on a growing collection of survey, banding, and citizen science datasets and is queried and filtered to return a list of those birds reported as occurring in the 10km grid cell(s) which your project intersects, and that have been identified as warranting special attention because they are a BCC species in that area, an eagle (Eagle Act requirements may apply), or a species that has a particular vulnerability to offshore activities or development.

Again, the Migratory Bird Resource list includes only a subset of birds that may occur in your project area. It is not representative of all birds that may occur in your project area. To get a list of all birds potentially present in your project area, please visit the Rapid Avian Information Locator (RAIL) Tool.

What does IPaC use to generate the probability of presence graphs for the migratory birds potentially occurring in my specified location?

The probability of presence graphs associated with your migratory bird list are based on data provided by the Avian Knowledge Network (AKN). This data is derived from a growing collection of survey, banding, and citizen science datasets.

Probability of presence data is continuously being updated as new and better information becomes available. To learn more about how the probability of presence graphs are produced and how to interpret them, go the Probability of Presence Summary and then click on the "Tell me about these graphs" link.

How do I know if a bird is breeding, wintering or migrating in my area?

To see what part of a particular bird's range your project area falls within (i.e. breeding, wintering, migrating or year-round), you may query your location using the RAIL Tool and look at the range maps provided for birds in your area at the bottom of the profiles provided for each bird in your results. If a bird on your migratory bird species list has a breeding season associated with it, if that bird does occur in your project area, there may be nests present at some point within the timeframe specified. If "Breeds elsewhere" is indicated, then the bird likely does not breed in your project area.

What are the levels of concern for migratory birds?

Migratory birds delivered through IPaC fall into the following distinct categories of concern:

1. "BCC Rangewide" birds are Birds of Conservation Concern (BCC) that are of concern throughout their range anywhere within the USA (including Hawaii, the Pacific Islands, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands);
2. "BCC - BCR" birds are BCCs that are of concern only in particular Bird Conservation Regions (BCRs) in the continental USA; and
3. "Non-BCC - Vulnerable" birds are not BCC species in your project area, but appear on your list either because of the Eagle Act requirements (for eagles) or (for non-eagles) potential susceptibilities in offshore areas from certain types of development or activities (e.g. offshore energy development or longline fishing).

Although it is important to try to avoid and minimize impacts to all birds, efforts should be made, in particular, to avoid and minimize impacts to the birds on this list, especially eagles and BCC species of rangewide concern. For more information on conservation measures you can implement to help avoid and minimize migratory bird impacts and requirements for eagles, please see the FAQs for these topics.

Details about birds that are potentially affected by offshore projects

For additional details about the relative occurrence and abundance of both individual bird species and groups of bird species within your project area off the Atlantic Coast, please visit the Northeast Ocean Data Portal. The Portal also offers data and information about other taxa besides birds that may be helpful to you in your project review. Alternately, you may download the bird model results files underlying the portal maps through the NOAA NCCOS Integrative Statistical Modeling and Predictive Mapping of Marine Bird Distributions and Abundance on the Atlantic Outer Continental Shelf project webpage.

Bird tracking data can also provide additional details about occurrence and habitat use throughout the year, including migration. Models relying on survey data may not include this information. For additional information on marine bird tracking data, see the Diving Bird Study and the nanotag studies or contact Caleb Spiegel or Pam Loring.

What if I have eagles on my list?

If your project has the potential to disturb or kill eagles, you may need to obtain a permit to avoid violating the Eagle Act should such impacts occur.

Proper Interpretation and Use of Your Migratory Bird Report

The migratory bird list generated is not a list of all birds in your project area, only a subset of birds of priority concern. To learn more about how your list is generated, and see options for identifying what other birds may be in your project area, please see the FAQ "What does IPaC use to generate the migratory birds potentially occurring in my specified location". Please be aware this report provides the "probability of presence" of birds within the 10 km grid cell(s) that overlap your project; not your exact project footprint. On the graphs provided, please also look carefully at the survey effort (indicated by the black vertical bar) and for the existence of the "no data" indicator (a red horizontal bar). A high survey effort is the key component. If the survey effort is high, then the probability of presence score can be viewed as more dependable. In contrast, a low survey effort bar or no data bar means a lack of data and, therefore, a lack of certainty about presence of the species. This list is not perfect; it is simply a starting point for identifying what birds of concern have the potential to be in your project area, when they might be there, and if they might be breeding (which means nests might be present). The list helps you know what to look for to confirm presence, and helps guide you in knowing when to implement conservation measures to avoid or minimize potential impacts from your project activities, should presence be confirmed. To learn more about conservation measures, visit the FAQ "Tell me about conservation measures I can implement to avoid or minimize impacts to migratory birds" at the bottom of your migratory bird trust resources page.

Facilities

National Wildlife Refuge lands

Any activity proposed on lands managed by the National Wildlife Refuge system must undergo a 'Compatibility Determination' conducted by the Refuge. Please contact the individual Refuges to discuss any questions or concerns.

There are no refuge lands at this location.

Fish hatcheries

There are no fish hatcheries at this location.

Wetlands in the National Wetlands Inventory (NWI)

Impacts to NWI wetlands and other aquatic habitats may be subject to regulation under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act, or other State/Federal statutes.

For more information please contact the Regulatory Program of the local U.S. Army Corps of Engineers District.

Please note that the NWI data being shown may be out of date. We are currently working to update our NWI data set. We recommend you verify these results with a site visit to determine the actual extent of wetlands on site.

This location overlaps the following wetlands:

FRESHWATER EMERGENT WETLAND
PEM1F

FRESHWATER POND
PUBH

A full description for each wetland code can be found at the National Wetlands Inventory website

NOTE: This initial screening does not replace an on-site delineation to determine whether wetlands occur. Additional information on the NWI data is provided below.

Data limitations

The Service's objective of mapping wetlands and deepwater habitats is to produce reconnaissance level information on the location, type and size of these resources. The maps are prepared from the analysis of high altitude imagery. Wetlands are identified based on vegetation, visible hydrology and geography. A margin of error is inherent in the use of imagery; thus, detailed on-the-ground inspection of any particular site may result in revision of the wetland boundaries or classification established through image analysis.

The accuracy of image interpretation depends on the quality of the imagery, the experience of the image analysts, the amount and quality of the collateral data and the amount of ground truth verification work conducted. Metadata should be consulted to determine the date of the source imagery used and any mapping problems.

Wetlands or other mapped features may have changed since the date of the imagery or field work. There may be occasional differences in polygon boundaries or classifications between the information depicted on the map and the actual conditions on site.

Data exclusions

Certain wetland habitats are excluded from the National mapping program because of the limitations of aerial imagery as the primary data source used to detect wetlands. These habitats include seagrasses or submerged aquatic vegetation that are found in the intertidal and subtidal zones of estuaries and nearshore coastal waters. Some deepwater reef communities (coral or tuberficid worm reefs) have also been excluded from the inventory. These habitats, because of their depth, go undetected by aerial imagery.

Data precautions

Federal, state, and local regulatory agencies with jurisdiction over wetlands may define and describe wetlands in a different manner than that used in this inventory. There is no attempt, in either the design or products of this inventory, to define the limits of proprietary jurisdiction of any Federal, state, or local government or to establish the geographical scope of the regulatory programs of government agencies. Persons intending to engage in activities involving modifications within or adjacent to wetland areas should seek the advice of appropriate Federal, state, or local agencies concerning specified agency regulatory programs and proprietary jurisdictions that may affect such activities.

Vertebrates

Group	Scientific Name	Common Name	Global Rank	State Rank	Federal Status	State Status	Tracked?
Fishes	*Enneacanthus chaetodon* ,,	Blackbanded Sunfish	G3G4	S1S3		**N**	y
Amphibians	*Lithobates capita* ti	Gopher Frog	G2G3	S3	UR	N	y
Reptiles	*Alligator mississippiensis* ,,	American Alligator	GS	S4	SAT	FT(S/A)	y
Reptiles	*Coretta caretta* ,	Loggerhead Sea Turtle	G3	S3	T	FT	y
Reptiles	*Chelonia mydas* ,,	Green Sea Turtle	G3	S2S3	T	FT	y
Reptiles	*Crotalus adamanteus*	Eastern Diamondback Rattlesnake	G3	S3	UR	**N**	y
Reptiles	*Dermochelys coriacea* ,,	Leatherback Sea Turtle	G2	S2	E	FE	y
Reptiles	*Drymarchon couperi* .,	Eastern Indigo Snake	G3	S2?	T	FT	y
Reptiles	*Gopherus polyphemus* e	Gopher Tortoise	G3	S3		ST	y
Reptiles	*Heterodon simus* "	Southern Hognose Snake	G2	S2S3		**N**	y
Reptiles	*Lampropeltis extenuata* ti	Short-tailed Snake	G3	S3	UR	ST	y
Reptiles	*Lampropeltis floridana*,,	Florida Kingsnake	G2	S2		**N**	y
Reptiles	*Pituophis melanoleucus* ,,	Pine Snake	G4	S3	UR	ST	y
Reptiles	*Pseudemys concinna suwanniensis* ,	Suwannee Cooter	G5T3	S3		**N**	y

Birds	*Aramus guarauna* "	Limpkin	GS	S3		N	y
Birds	*Athene cunicularia floridana"*	Florida Burrowing Owl	G4T3	S3		ST	y
Birds	*Charadrius melodus* ·,	Piping Plover	G3	S2	T	FT	y
Birds	*Cistothorus palustris marianae"*	Marian's Marsh Wren	GST3	S3		ST	y
Birds	*Egretta caerulea* •'	Little Blue Heron	GS	S4		ST	y
Birds	*Egretta thula* •'	Snowy Egret	GS	S3		**N**	y
Birds	*Egretta tricolo,r* ,	Tricolored Heron	GS	S4		ST	y
Birds	*Elanoides forficatus* •'	Swallow-tailed Kite	GS	S2		**N**	y
Birds	*Eudocimus a/bus* "	White Ibis	GS	S4		**N**	y
Birds	*Falco sparverius paulus* ,,	Southeastern American Kestrel	GST4	S3		ST	y
Birds	*Haematopus palliatus"*	American Oystercatcher	GS	S2		ST	y
Birds	*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*,,	Bald Eagle	GS	S3		N	y
Birds	*Lateral/us jamaicensis* .,	Black Rail	G3	S2	T	N	y
Birds	*Mycteria americana* ••	Wood Stork	G4	S2	DL	FT	y
Birds	*Nycticorax nycticorax* ''	Black-crowned Night-heron	GS	S3		**N**	y
Birds	*Pandion haliaetus* "	Osprey	GS	S3S4		**N**	y
Birds	*Peucaea aestivalis* "	Bachman's Sparrow	G3	S3		**N**	y

Mammals	*Neofiber alleni*	Round-tailed Muskrat	G2	S2		N	Y
Mammals	*Sciurus niger niger*	Southeastern Fox Squirrel	G5T5	S3		N	Y
Mammals	*Trichechus manatus latirostris*	Florida Manatee	G2G3T2	S2S3	T	N	Y
Mammals	*Ursus americanus floridanus*	Florida Black Bear	G5T4	S4		N	Y

Download Complete Tracking List

Printable Complete Tracking List - Current Explanations and Definitions of Rank and Status

Tracking List Archives

A collection of previous Tracking List Element Change Reports and Complete Tracking Lists by year. Select a report year with the boxes and click the "Show Report" button to view the report.

2022 Tracking List Element Change Report

2023 Complete Tracking List

Florida Natural Areas Inventory

Florida State University

Plants & Lichens

Group	Scientific Name	Common Name	Global Rank	State Rank	Federal Status	State Status	Tracked?
Plants and Lichens	*Asplenium erosum* •	auricled spleenwort	GS	S2		E	y
Plants and Lichens	*Astragalus obcordatus* •	Florida mil kvetch	G3G4	S2S3		N	y
Plants and Lichens	*Blechnum occidentale var. minor*•'	hammock fern	GSTNR	S1		E	y
Plants and Lichens	*Calopogon multiflorus* •	many-flowered grass-pink	G2G3	S2S3		T	y
Plants and Lichens	*Carex chapmannii* •	Chapman's sedge	G3	S3		T	y
Plants and Lichens	*Centrosema arenicola* •	sand butterfly pea	G2Q	S2		E	y
Plants and Lichens	*Cheirog/ossa palmata* •'	hand fern	G4	S3		E	y
Plants and Lichens	*Coelorachis tuberculosa* ('	Piedmont jointgrass	G3	S3		T	y
Plants and Lichens	*Glandularia tampensis* ('	Tampa vervain	G2	S2		E	y
Plants and Lichens	*Gymnopogon chapmanianus* l.il	Chapman's skeletongrass	G3	S3		N	y
Plants and Lichens	*Litsea aestivalis* l.il	pondspice	G3?	S2		E	y

Plants and Lichens	*Najas filifolia*	Narrowleaf Naiad	G3	S2	UR	T	Y
Plants and Lichens	*Nemastylis floridana*	celestial lily	G3	S3		E	Y
Plants and Lichens	*Nolina brittoniana*	Britton's beargrass	G3	S3	E	E	Y
Plants and Lichens	*Pecluma dispersa*	widespread polypody	G5	S2		E	Y
Plants and Lichens	*Pecluma plumula*	plume polypody	G5	S2		E	Y
Plants and Lichens	*Pecluma ptilota var. bourgeauana*	comb polypody	G5?TNR	S2		E	Y
Plants and Lichens	*Spiranthes floridana*	Florida ladies'-tresses	G1	S1		N	Y
Plants and Lichens	*Trichomanes petersii*	Peters' bristle fern	G4	S1S2		N	Y

Download Complete Tracking List

Printable Complete Tracking List - Current Explanations and Definitions of Rank and Status

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2022 Tracking List Element Change Report

APPENDIX B – NATIVE AMERICAN TRIBE CORRESPONDENCE

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
James A. Haley Veterans' Hospital
13000 Bruce B. Downs Boulevard
Tampa, FL 33612

JUL 10 2024

In Reply ReferTo: 673/138
Daniel, Jason

Jason Daniel
Historical preservation Officer
Miccosukee Tribe of Indians of Florida
P.O. Box 440021
Miami, FL 33144

RE: Initiation of Section 106 Consultation
Proposed Acquisition of a Residential Treatment Center in Spring Hill, FL

Dear Mr Daniel:

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), pursuant to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act and its implementing regulations (36 CFR Part 800), is initiating Section 106 consultation for the above-referenced project at 14191 Turner Loop in Spring Hill, Pasco County, Florida.

The undertaking is defined as the acquisition and operation of the residential treatment center and road upgrades on Turner Loop and the access road to the facility. The proposed project would increase the residential care services at the James A. Haley VA Medical Center in Tampa and provide a higher quality of care through a VA-operated residential treatment center to better serve Veterans throughout the area.

For additional information on the undertaking, please see the Supplemental Cultural Resources Impact Prediction (SCRIP). This report is compliant with Chapter 267, Florida Statutes, and the investigation was conducted in accordance with methods outlined in *Module 3* by the Florida Division of Historical Resources (FDHR 2003) and prepared in accordance with Rule 1A-46, Florida Administrative Code. The SCRIP includes a defined Area of Potential Effect; please see Attachment 1.

Pursuant to 36 CFR 800.4(d)(1), VA finds that the proposed undertaking would result in no historic properties affected.

Should you have questions about this project, please feel free to contact Mr. Alec Bennett, Senior Historic Preservation Specialist at alec.bennett@va.gov or 202-855-0727.

Sincerely,

David K. Dunning, MPA
Director

Attachment 1 – SCRIP Report

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
James A. Haley Veterans' Hospital
13000 Bruce B. Downs Boulevard
Tampa, FL 33612

In Reply ReferTo: 673/138
Hunt, Turner

JUL 10 2024

Turner Hunt
Muscogee (Creek) Nation
THPO
P.O. Box 580
Okmulgee, OK 74447

RE: Initiation of Section 106 Consultation
Proposed Acquisition of a Residential Treatment Center in Spring Hill, FL

Dear Mr Hunt:

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), pursuant to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act and its implementing regulations (36 CFR Part 800), is initiating Section 106 consultation for the above-referenced project at 14191 Turner Loop in Spring Hill, Pasco County, Florida.

The undertaking is defined as the acquisition and operation of the residential treatment center and road upgrades on Turner Loop and the access road to the facility. The proposed project would increase the residential care services at the James A. Haley VA Medical Center in Tampa and provide a higher quality of care through a VA-operated residential treatment center to better serve Veterans throughout the area.

For additional information on the undertaking, please see the Supplemental Cultural Resources Impact Prediction (SCRIP). This report is compliant with Chapter 267, Florida Statutes, and the investigation was conducted in accordance with methods outlined in *Module 3* by the Florida Division of Historical Resources (FDHR 2003) and prepared in accordance with Rule 1A-46, Florida Administrative Code. The SCRIP includes a defined Area of Potential Effect; please see Attachment 1.

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Should you have questions about this project, please feel free to contact Mr. Alec Bennett, Senior Historic Preservation Specialist at alec.bennett@va.gov or 202-855-0727.

Sincerely,

David K. Dunning, MPA
Director

Attachment 1 – SCRIP Report

APPENDIX C – SUPPLEMENTAL CULTURAL RESOURCES IMPACT PREDICTION (SCRIP)

SUPPLEMENTAL CULTURAL RESOURCES IMPACT PREDICTION PROPOSED JAMES A. HALEY VETERANS HOSPITAL RESIDENTIAL TREATMENT CENTER SPRING HILL, PASCO COUNTY, FLORIDA

PREPARED FOR

ISI Professional Services

PREPARED BY

ENVIRONMENTAL RESEARCH GROUP, LLC
6049 Falls Road | Baltimore, MD 21209
www.envrg.com
410.366.5170

June 2024

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SUPPLEMENTAL CULTURAL RESOURCES IMPACT PREDICTION PROPOSED JAMES A. HALEY VETERANS HOSPITAL RESIDENTIAL TREATMENT CENTER
SPRING HILL, PASCO COUNTY, FLORIDA

PREPARED FOR

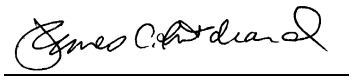
ISI Professional Services

PREPARED BY

Shira Hayes, MA
Todd McCurdy, RPA

and

Jim Pritchard, RPA



ENVIRONMENTAL RESEARCH GROUP, LLC
6049 Falls Road | Baltimore, MD 21209
www.envrg.com
410.366.5170

June 2024

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LIST OF ACRONYMS

ACHP	Advisory Council on Historic Preservation
APE	Area of Potential Effects
CFR	Code of Federal Regulations
ERG	Environmental Research Group, LLC
GIS	Geographic Information Systems
NHPA	National Historic Preservation Act
NRCS	Natural Resources Conservation Service
NRHP	National Register of Historic Places
SHPO	State Historic Preservation Office
U.S.	United States
VA	U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

CHAPTER 1.0 INTRODUCTION

Environmental Research Group, LLC (ERG) of Baltimore, Maryland has prepared this Supplemental Cultural Resources Impact Prediction (SCRIP) on behalf of the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), acting as lead agency, through ISI Professional Services of Sterling, Virginia. This SCRIP is designed to complement the Initial Cultural Resources Impact Prediction (ICRIP) (Hayes et al. 2024), which included three primary tasks: background research, a site visit, and reporting.

ERG's supplementary background research included examination of readily available data pertinent to the history, prehistory, ethnography, and environment of the study area, including but not necessarily limited to the SHPO, local public library, historical society, or local university to develop a general understanding of the site area and how it may have changed through time, to identify previously recorded archeological and historic properties, and to generate the information and perspectives needed to predict the presence or absence of cultural resources and the character of impacts, if any.

As part of the ICRIP, ERG was granted landowner permission to fully inspect the project area (without conducting excavations or other modifications of the land, landscaping, buildings, or structures) to document the general character of the area and its buildings, structures, and other cultural features. During the SCRIP site visit, ERG's cultural resources specialist confined her activities to public rights of way.

Ultimately, based on the information gathered above, this report serves to:

- Refine/expand the Area of Potential Effects (APE).
- Assess the likelihood that any district, site, building, structure, object, landscape, or landform wholly or partly within the study area may be eligible for the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP).
- Assess the likelihood that other kinds of cultural resources (e.g., significant local sociocultural groups or activities, religious practices, cultural institutions, documents, artifacts, etc.) exist or occur in the study area.
- Assess if such eligible properties or other cultural resources are likely to exist in the study area, what effect would construction of the project have on them (e.g., adverse, or not).
- Identify interested parties VA should plan to consult about cultural resource issues with respect to this project.
- Make recommendations for further study or other actions, if any, including minimizing or mitigating any potentially negative impacts.

1.1 Background

Originally, the project scope was limited to the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) intent to acquire approximately 40.13 acres of land along with improvements located at 14191 Turner Loop in Spring Hill, Florida as a part of the James A. Haley Veterans Hospital (JAHVH) for the purpose of a residential treatment center (Figure 1 and Figure 2). The 40.13-acre

parcel includes approximately six acres of developed property which includes an 11,047 square foot building constructed in 2010. The project will utilize the building for residential medical care. During the accomplishment of environmental due diligence for the property acquisition, VA determined that the entire 0.76-mile-long Turner Loop, which provides vehicular access to the medical facility, requires resurfacing. Accordingly, VA modified/augmented the due diligence scope of work and, accordingly, ERG has completed this SCRIP to support the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process for the now fully understood undertaking.

The undertaking includes the following actions:

- Entering into an agreement with Pasco County to resurface Turner Loop (0.76 mile).
- Renovating existing 11,047 square-foot building.
- Adding additional parking spaces contiguous to the 20 current parking spaces for a total of approximately 36 parking spaces (existing parking would be repainted if necessary and new parking areas with meet all VA parking and site development.
- Construction of approximately 4,100 square foot new addition east of the current 11,047 square foot building to provide a continuation with the existing 11,047 square foot building structurally and functionally.
- All construction and development would be in the southeast ¼ (10 acres) of the 40.13-acre parcel.

In prior separate deliverables, ERG has developed independent detailed environmental resource reports for the 40.13-acre parcel. These reports, including but not limited to wetlands, biological, and Phase I environmental, support data and analysis requirements for development of NEPA and National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) documentation and assist decision-making on site selection. This SCRIP summarizes the ICRIP, provides supplementary information regarding the resurfacing effort and its potential impacts to cultural resources, presents photographs and map keys of the project (**Appendices A - C**) and reiterates the recommendation that no further environmental due diligence is warranted for the undertaking, as presently understood.

1.2 Address and Legal Description

The project area is in Pasco County approximately 5.5 miles southwest of Spring Hill, Florida and one mile south of the County Line Road dividing Hernando County from Pasco County. The project area is approximately 0.2 miles west of Turner Loop Road and 0.15 miles north of Oldenburg Drive. Additionally, Turner Loop Road is a 0.76-mile road intersecting Akins Road in two places. It also intersects the approximately .09-mile access road that leads directly to the entrance of the facility on the project area. Turner Loop contains unpaved sections and the entirety of the 0.76-mile loop requires resurfacing as part of VA's undertaking (Figure 3).

The current land use of the project area is wooded with the surrounding areas being suburban residential. There are scattered openings in the wooded parcel and a two-track wends through the property. Tree species include oak and pine with a moderate amount of deadfall.

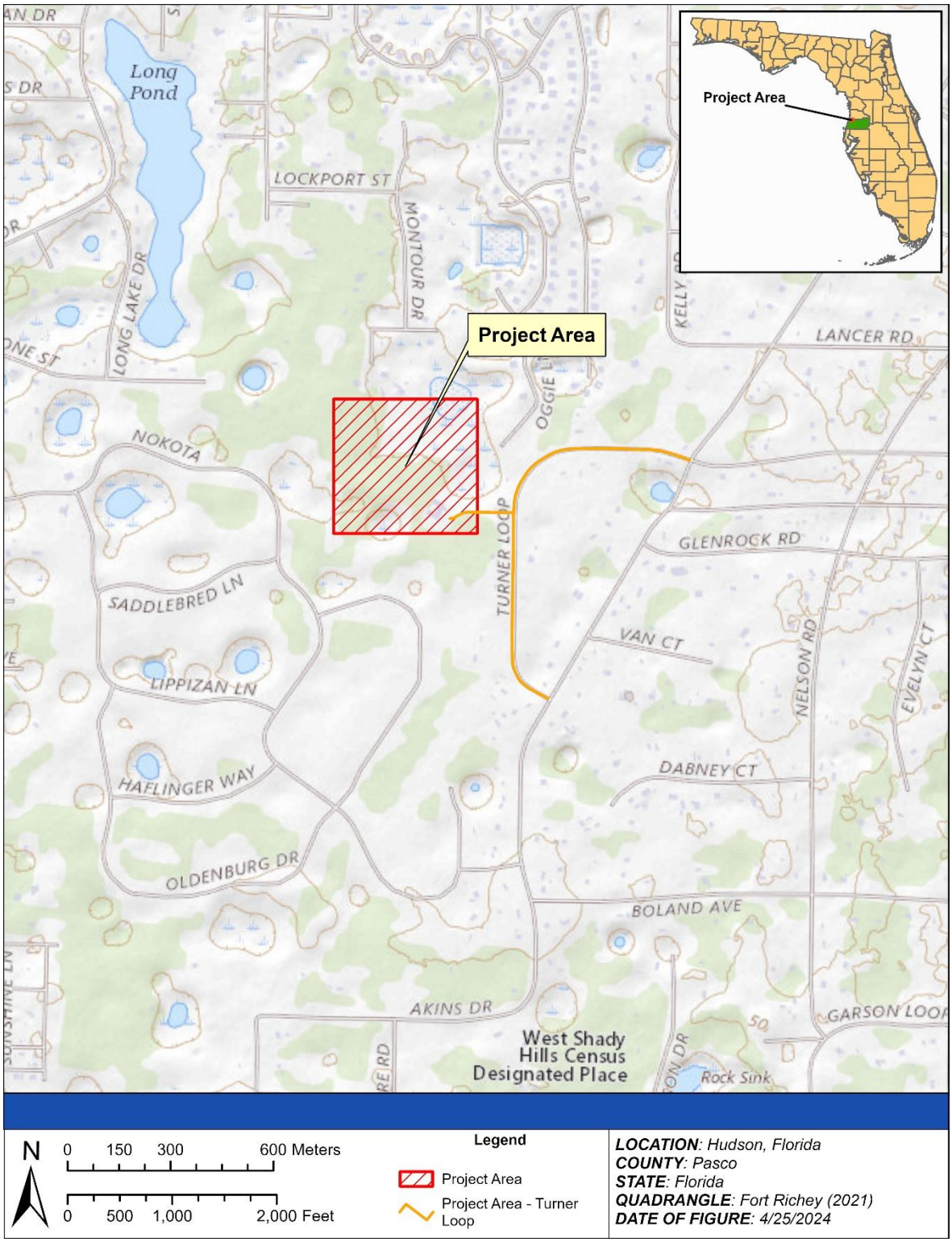


Figure 1. Topographic map showing the location of the 40.13-acre project area and Turner Loop resurfacing extents.

Figure 2. Aerial imagery of the 40.13-acre project area showing the modern building in the southeast quadrant.

Figure 3. Aerial imagery of Turner Loop addition to the APE.

1.3 Compliance with Federal Laws and Procedures

The NHPA requires Federal agencies to consider the potential effects of undertakings on historic properties and provide the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP) the opportunity to comment. A historic property is defined as "any district, site, building, structure, or object included in, or eligible for, the NRHP, and hence entitled to consideration under NHPA." The proposed 40.13-acre VA residential medical care facility and associated roadway resurfacing qualifies as an undertaking under the NHPA. VA Handbook 7545: *Cultural Resource Management Procedures* defines cultural resources as "all aspects of the human environment that have historical, architectural, archaeological, or cultural significance, including, but not limited to, historic properties, archaeological resources and data, Native American ancestral remains and cultural items, religious places and practices, historical objects and artifacts, historical documents, and community identity."[1] The National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, 54 U.S.C. 300101 et seq.

[1] VA, VA Handbook 7545: *Cultural Resource Management Procedures*, 2011.

CHAPTER 2.0 DEFINITION OF THE UNDERTAKING

The undertaking is defined as two actions: the development of a 40.13-acre VA residential medical facility and the resurfacing of Turner Loop, which provides access to the facility (Figure 4). VA intends to acquire 40.13 acres of property located at 14191 Turner Loop in Spring Hill, Florida. Specific development plans are not presently available and, thusly, are not presented. VA is giving the local government funding for the road work, which is understood to be limited to resurfacing. No other roadway improvements are anticipated.

If the proposed acquisition results in VA ownership of 14191 Turner Loop Road, the Veterans Health Administration intends to enter into an agreement with Pasco County to improve the road to comply with local road standards for providing service of relative low average traffic volume and minimal through-traffic movements for access to abutting residential and commercial properties.

2.1 Definition of the Area of Potential Effects (APE)

The recommended APE is defined as the 40.13-acre acquisition area and the surrounding .85-mile of road leading to the medical facility, including the entirety of 0.76-mile Turner Loop, which provides access to the facility.

2.1.1 Buildings, Structures, and Landscapes in the APE

ERG's review of Google Earth aerial photography dating back to 1985 and data retrieved from the SHPO indicate that no historic buildings occur within the APE; however, there is a medical facility owned by Par Inc. that is not currently in use located in the southeast corner of the project area. ERG's site visit completed by Shira Hayes on 17 October 2023 confirmed the level of development across the APE. Additionally, a second site visit completed by ERG's cultural resources specialist on 20 March 2024 confirmed the current condition of the roads leading to the medical facility.

2.2 Identification of Historic Properties

ERG's review of the Florida Master Site file confirms that there are no previously recorded historical resources, archeological sites nor Traditional Cultural Properties (TCPs) listed in local, state, or national registers or zoning overlays within the APE (Table 1, Figure 5 and Figure 6).

There is, however, one built resource that is ineligible according to the SHPO within a 1-mile radius of the APE consisting of a Masonry Vernacular house from 1952 (8PA01434).

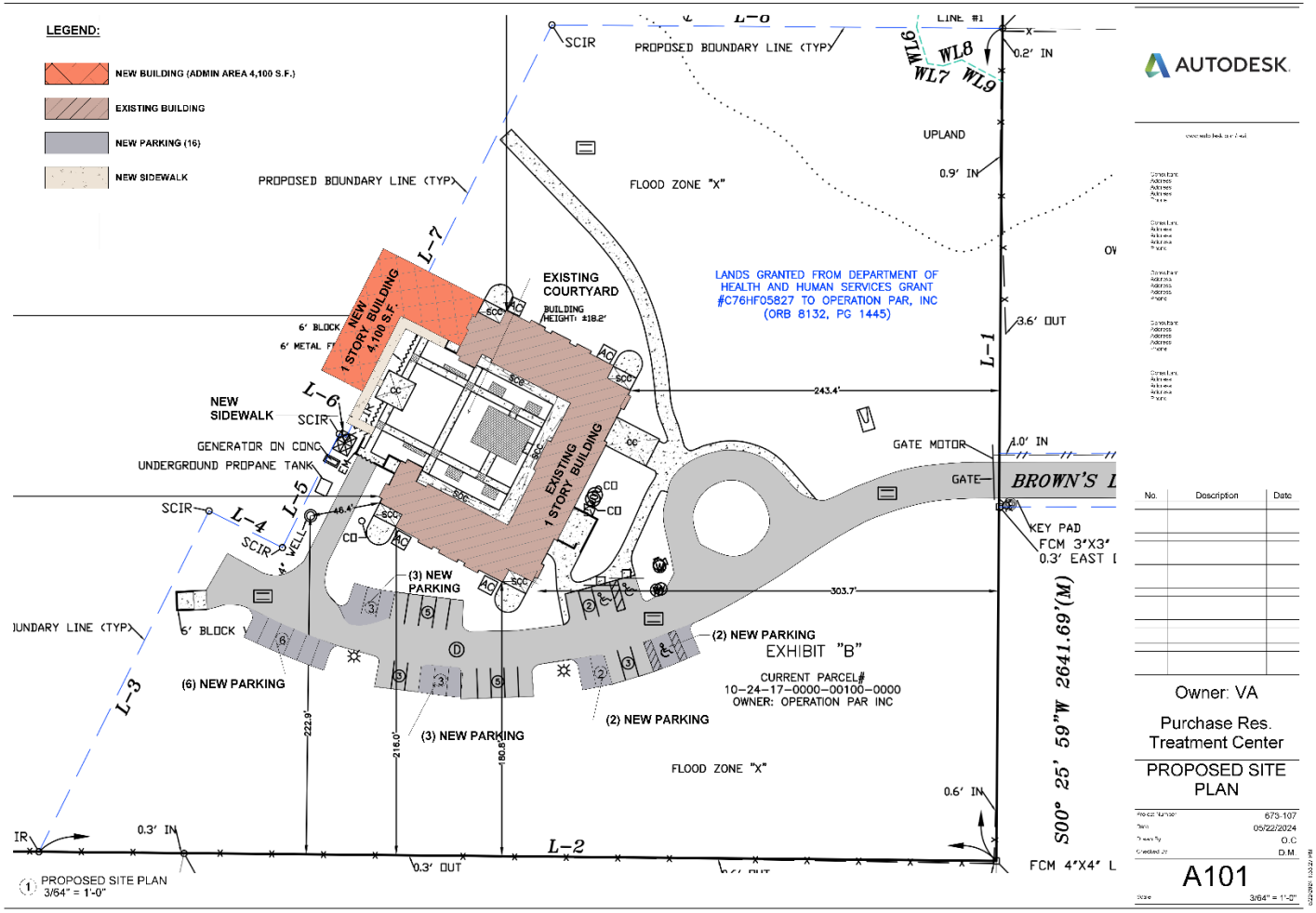


Figure 4. Site development plan showing proposed additional parking and building expansion locations.

Table 1. Known Cultural Resources Sites within One Mile of the APE.

Site ID	Name	Type	Discovery Date	NRHP Status	SHPO Eval
8PA01434	17135 Akins Drive	SS. 1952 Masonry Vernacular	N/A	Not Eligible	Not Eligible
8PA01435	Hungry Duck	AR	N/A	Not Eligible	Not Eligible
8PA01436	Long Road	AR	N/A	Not Eligible	Not Eligible
8PA01437	Triangle Dock	AR	N/A	Not Eligible	Not Eligible
8PA01438	Old Kid	AR	N/A	Not Eligible	Not Eligible
8PA01439	Monkey See	AR	N/A	Not Eligible	Not Eligible

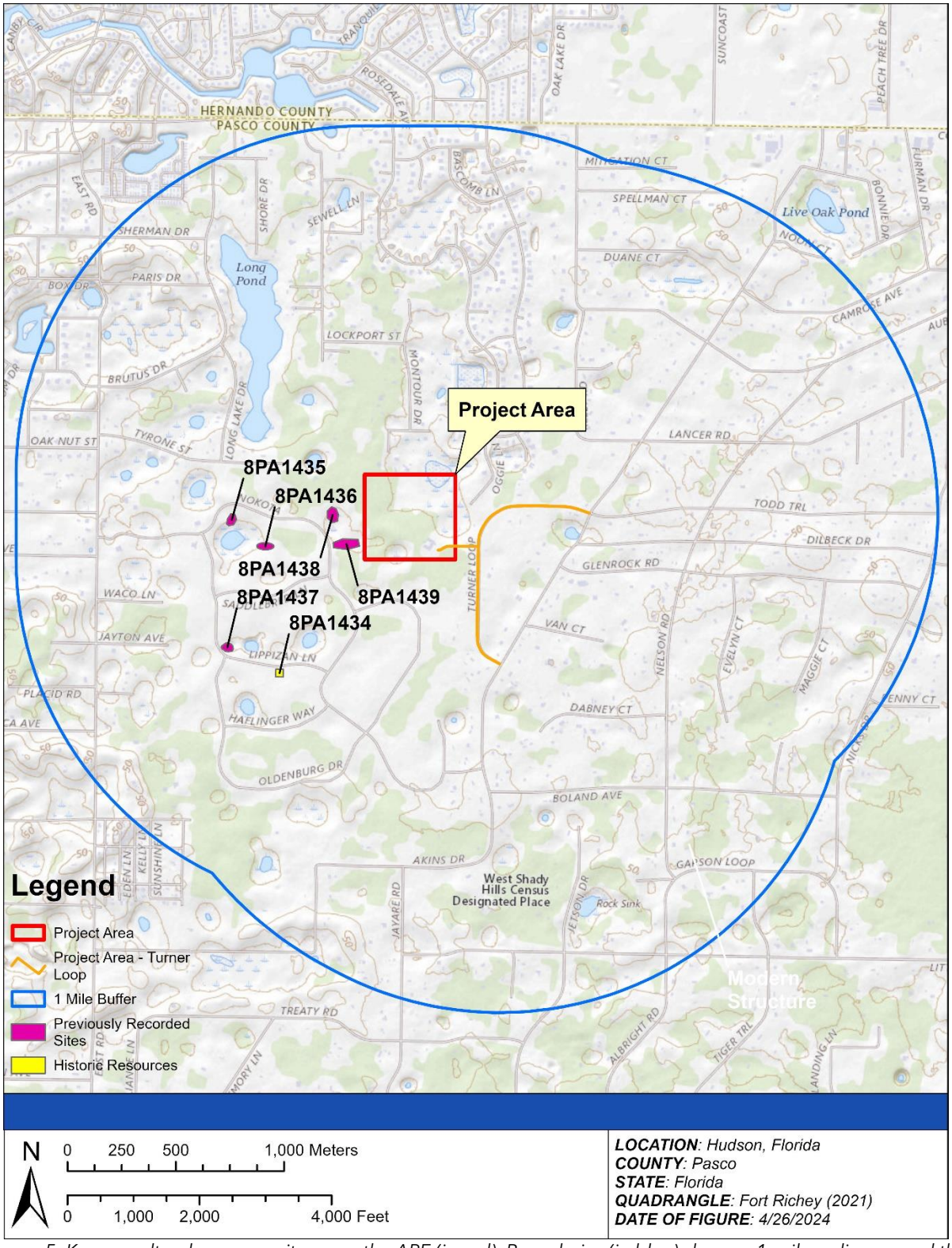


Figure 5. Known cultural resource sites near the APE (in red). Boundaries (in blue) shows a 1-mile radius around the APE.

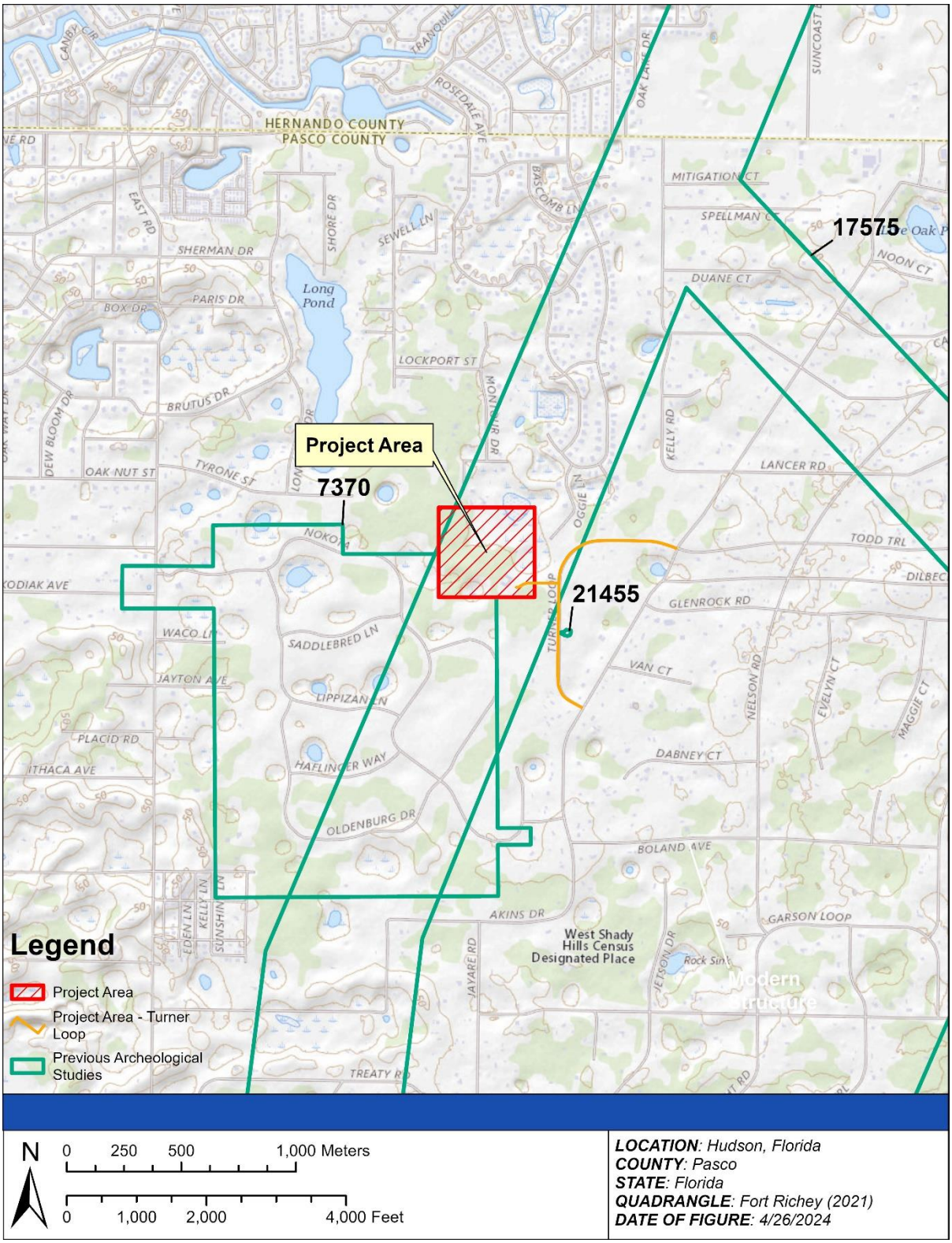


Figure 6. Previous cultural resources surveys boundaries (in yellow) Shown in proximity to the APE (in red).

2.2.1 Built Resources – National Register of Historic Places

The APE contains one built resource located in the southeast corner of the project area (see Figure 2). This is a modern building constructed in 2010 that was formerly used as a rehabilitation facility owned by Par, Inc. The building appears in good condition with both indoor and outdoor components. Accessed via a driveway off Turner Loop, the building is currently not in use.

2.2.2 Archeological Resources

ERG's review of the Florida Master Site File data confirms that there are five ineligible archaeological sites consisting of low-density prehistoric lithic scatter with little to no evidence of research potential within a 1-mile radius of the APE (8PA01435, 8PA01436, 8PA01437, 8PA01438, and 8PA01439). All nearby sites were surveyed in the winter of 2002 by Panamerican Consultants, Inc. All five sites are located to the west of the APE, with 8PA01437 located to the southwest. In addition, one mid-twentieth-century building located at 17135 Akins Drive also falls within one mile of the APE.

2.2.3.1. Project Area Soils

Soil characteristics, along with the elevation, distance to water, access to natural resources and transportation routes, and proximity to known archeological sites form the basis of a multivariate analysis that can indicate the likelihood that currently unknown archeological sites would be identified within the APE. ERG's analysis of the soils data identifies that the soils were a mix sands as noted in Table 2. These soils are considered moderate and/or low probability for hosting archaeological sites.

Table 2. USDA NRCS Soil Types Found within the APE (approximate).

Map Unit Symbol	Map Unit Name	Acres in Subject Property	Percentage of Subject Property
6	Tavares sand, 0 to 5 percent slopes	23.6	58.7%
13	Candler fine sand, 0 to 5 percent slopes	.1	.3%
23	Basinger fine sand, depressional, 0 to 1 percent slopes	15.1	37.6%
99	Water	1.4	3.4%

The soils were determined based on USDA NRCS web soil survey. ERG calculated the acreage of each soil type and percentage of total acreage using the USDA NRCS web soil survey (Figure 6).

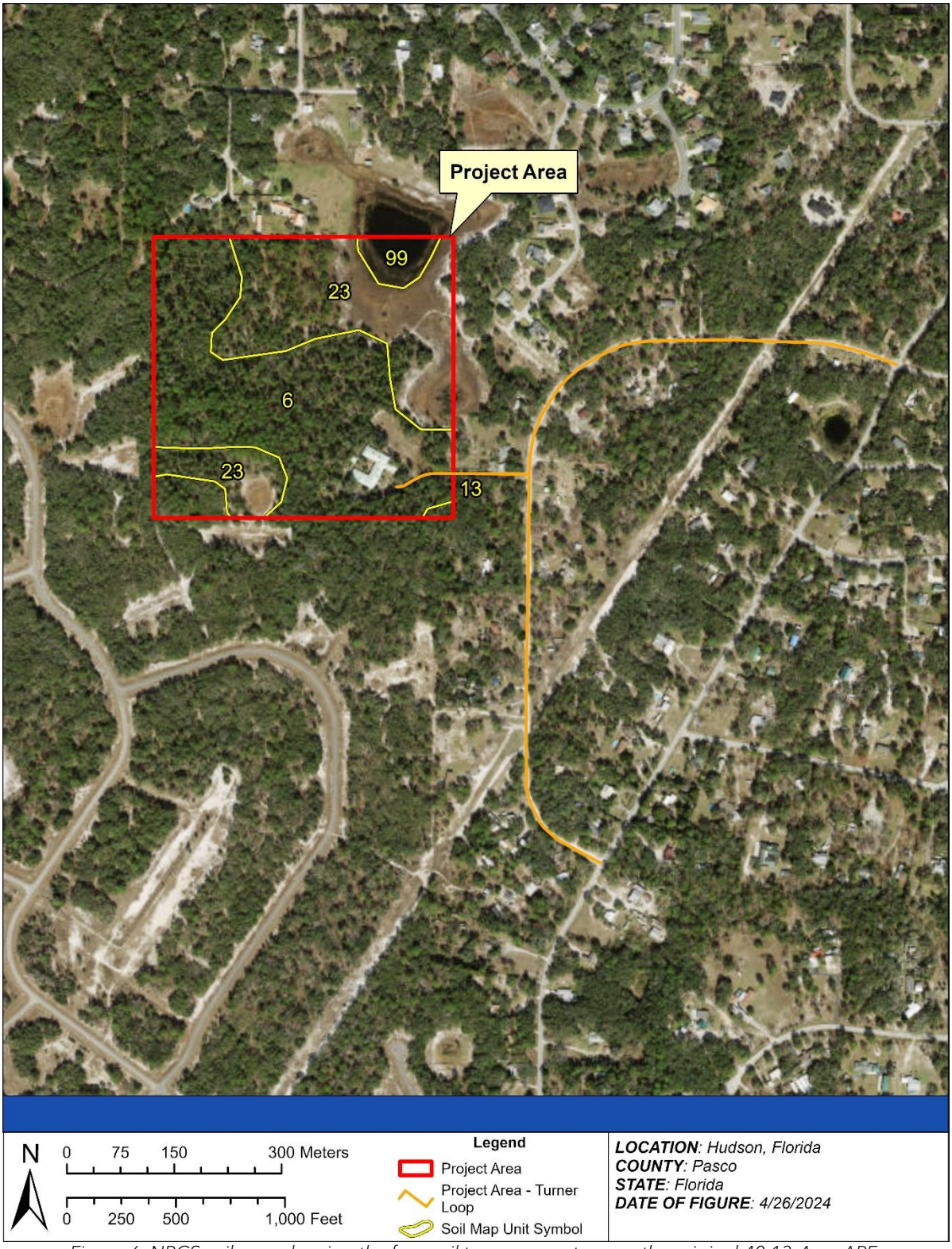


Figure 6. NRCS soil map showing the four soil types present across the original 40.13-Acre APE.

CHAPTER 3.0 CONSULTATION

Consultation is a process and is defined as "seeking, discussing, and considering the view of other participants, and, where feasible, seeking agreement with them regarding matters arising in the section 106 [former designation of the NHPA, now 54 U.S.C. § 306108] process."[2] Through consultation, federal agencies seek the opinions and advice of experts in the specific historic property affected by the undertaking or agencies participating in the undertaking (collectively, "consulting parties"). VA may participate in consultation through formal letters, meetings (including webinars and conference calls), or other means.

Both NHPA and NEPA inform federal decision making and planning. Although related, the two processes have unique requirements and processes. VA is gathering information to inform both its NHPA and NEPA decision-making process as regards this undertaking.

3.1 Consulting Parties

The following list includes required and recommended consulting parties for this undertaking (Table 3). This list was compiled from the U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development's Tribal Directory Assistance Tool (TDAT). As neither Pasco County nor the City of Hudson area designated as a Certified Local Governments, the Pasco County Planning and Development Office is recommended as a consulting party. Specific contact information is included in Appendix D; this information should be reviewed and frequently updated.

Table 3. Required and recommended consulting parties.

Agency/Organization	Website
Florida SHPO	https://dos.fl.gov/historical/
Miccosukee Tribe of Indians	http://www.miccosukee.com
Muscogee (Creek) Nation	http://www.muscogeenation-nsn.gov/
Pasco County Planning and Development Office	https://www.pascocountyfl.net/312/Pasco-County-Development

3.2 Recommended Process

SHPO has previously determined that no historic properties are present and that none will be affected by the project. SHPO's letter providing this determination is provided in Appendix E. While new construction on site may result in ground disturbance, ERG recommends that no further cultural resources investigations are warranted, and that VA should be able to move forward with the project without further encumbrance from the Section 106 process.

[2] 36 CFR § 800.16(f).

CHAPTER 4.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

ERG's review of all pertinent cultural resources data indicates that no known historic properties fall within or adjacent to the APE. Additionally, in 2005 Florida SHPO determined that no historic properties are present. A copy of the SHPO determination letter is provided in **Appendix E**. While new construction on site may result in ground disturbance, ERG recommends that no further cultural resources investigations are warranted. Pursuant to 36 CFR Part 800.4(d)(1), the proposed undertaking will result in no historic properties affected.

REFERENCES

Soil Survey Staff, Natural Resources Conservation Service, United States Department of Agriculture. Web Soil Survey. Available online at https://websoilsurvey.nrcs.usda.gov/. Accessed 10/06/2022.

APPENDIX A: MAP KEYS FOR APPENDICES A AND B


Project Area
13
10
7
11
14
20
16
15
12
18
19
9
6
8
17
Modern Building
N
0 25 50 100 Meters
0 75 150 300 Feet
Project Area
Project Area - Turner Loop
Photo
LOCATION: Hudson, Florida
COUNTY: Pasco
STATE: Florida
DATE OF FIGURE: 5/7/2024


Project Area
Modern Building
N
0 75 150 300 Meters
0 250 500 1,000 Feet
Project Area
Project Area - Turner Loop
Photos
LOCATION: Hudson, Florida
COUNTY: Pasco
STATE: Florida
DATE OF FIGURE: 5/6/2024

APPENDIX B: GENERAL OVERVIEW PHOTOS OF PROJECT AREA

Figure 7. Building entrance, facing west.

Figure 8. North side of building, facing south.

Figure 9. View facing north in front of the building.

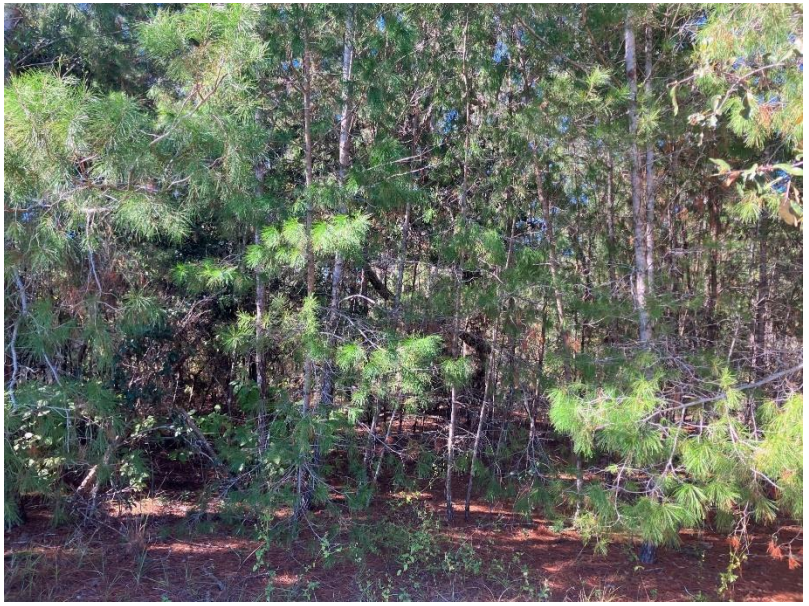


Figure 10. Wooded area immediate the building, facing south.

Figure 11. Wooded area north of building facing northwest.

Figure 12. Example of deadfall in the wooded area, facing southwest.

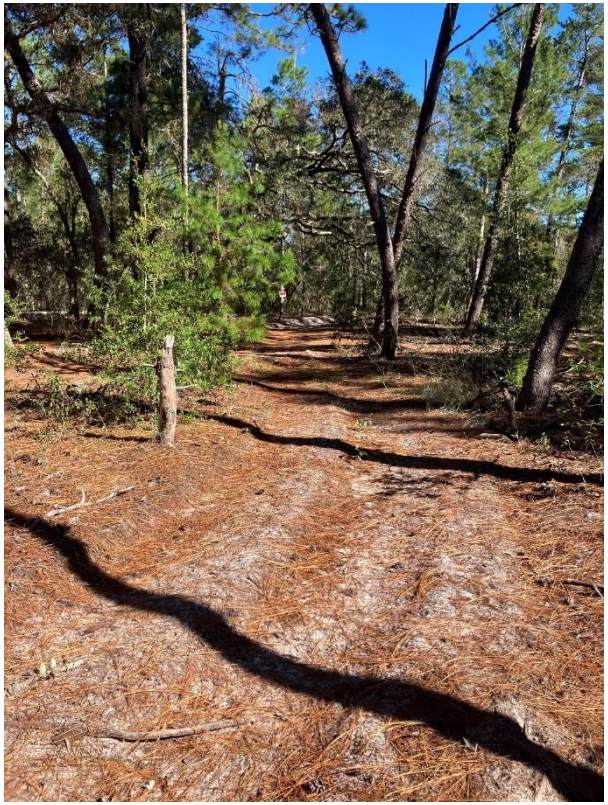


Figure 13. Two-track located in APE, facing north.

Figure 14. Dead fall over two-track, facing southwest.

Figure 15. Rear of building, facing southeast.

Figure 16. View northwest from behind the building.

Figure 17. Outdoor area within building, facing east.

Figure 18. South side of building, facing north.

Figure 19. Field in APE facing north.

Figure 20. Field in APE facing southwest.

Figure 21. Field in APE facing northwest.

APPENDIX C: GENERAL OVERVIEW OF SURROUNDING ROADS

Figure 22. Turner Loop and Akins southern intersection facing north.

Figure 23. Turner Loop and Akins southern intersection facing south.

Figure 24. Turner Loop and Akins southern intersection facing east.

Figure 25. Turner Loop and Akins southern intersection facing west.

Figure 26. Turner Loop and Akins southern intersection close up facing south.

Figure 27. Turner Loop 330 feet from southern intersection facing north.

Figure 28. Turner Loop 330 feet from southern intersection facing south.

Figure 29. Turner Loop 330 feet from southern intersection facing east.

Figure 30. Turner Loop 330 feet from southern intersection facing west.

Figure 31. Turner Loop 330 feet from southern intersection. Close up of road condition facing south.

Figure 32. Turner Loop 660 feet from southern intersection facing north.

Figure 33. Turner Loop 660 feet from southern intersection facing south.

Figure 34. Turner Loop 660 feet from southern intersection facing east.

Figure 35. Turner Loop 660 feet from southern intersection facing west.

Figure 36. Turner Loop 990 feet from southern intersection facing north.

Figure 37. Turner Loop 990 feet from southern intersection facing south.

Figure 38. Turner Loop 990 feet from southern intersection facing east.

Figure 39. Turner Loop 990 feet from southern intersection facing west.

Figure 40. Turner Loop 1320 feet from southern intersection facing north.

Figure 41. Turner Loop 1320 feet from southern intersection facing south.

Figure 42. Turner Loop 1320 feet from southern intersection facing east.

Figure 43. Turner Loop 1320 feet from southern intersection facing west.

Figure 44. Turner Loop 1650 feet from southern intersection facing north.

Figure 45. Turner Loop 1650 feet from southern intersection facing south.

Figure 46. Turner Loop 1650 feet from southern intersection facing east.

Figure 47. Turner Loop 1650 feet from southern intersection facing west.

Figure 48. Turner Loop and access road intersection facing west. Approx 1820 feet from southern intersection with Akins Road.

Figure 49. Turner Loop and access road intersection facing north. Approx 1820 feet from southern intersection with Akins Road.

Figure 50. Turner Loop and access road intersection facing south. Approx 1820 feet from southern intersection with Akins Road.

Figure 51. Access road near facility gate, facing east.

Figure 52. Access road near facility gate, facing south.

Figure 53. Access road near facility gate, facing north.

Figure 54. Turner Loop 1980 feet from southern intersection facing north.

Figure 55. Turner Loop 1980 feet from southern intersection facing south.

Figure 56. Turner Loop 1980 feet from southern intersection facing east.

Figure 57. Turner Loop 1980 feet from southern intersection facing west.

Figure 58. Turner Loop 2310 feet from southern intersection facing north.

Figure 59. Turner Loop 2310 feet from southern intersection facing south.

Figure 60. Turner Loop 2310 feet from southern intersection facing east.

Figure 61. Turner Loop 2310 feet from southern intersection facing west.

Figure 62. Turner Loop 2640 feet from southern intersection facing north.

Figure 63. Turner Loop 2640 feet from southern intersection facing south.

Figure 64. Turner Loop 2640 feet from southern intersection facing west.

Figure 65. Turner Loop 2640 feet from southern intersection facing east.

Figure 66. Turner Loop 2970 feet from southern intersection facing north.

Figure 67. Turner Loop 2970 feet from southern intersection facing south.

Figure 68. Turner Loop 2970 feet from southern intersection facing east.

Figure 69. Turner Loop 2970 feet from southern intersection facing west.

Figure 70. Turner Loop 3300 feet from southern intersection facing north.

Figure 71. Turner Loop 3300 feet from southern intersection facing south.

Figure 72. Turner Loop 3300 feet from southern intersection facing east.

Figure 73. Turner Loop 3300 feet from southern intersection facing west.

Figure 74. Turner Loop northern intersection with Akins Road facing north.

Figure 75. Turner Loop northern intersection with Akins Road facing south.

Figure 76. Turner Loop northern intersection with Akins Road facing east.

Figure 77. Turner Loop northern intersection with Akins Road facing west.

APPENDIX D: CONSULTING PARTY LIST

Organization/Tribe /Agency	Point of Contact	Address	City	State	Zip	Phone	Fax	Email	Method of Contact
Miccosukee Tribe of Indians	Chairperson Talbert Cypress	U.S 41 Mile Marker 70 Tamiami Trail	Miami	FL	33194	(305) 223-8380	(305) 233-1011	marlap@miccosukeetribe.com	email
Miccosukee Tribe of Indians	Historical Preservation Officer Jason Daniel	P.O. Box 440021	Miami	FL	33144	(305)-223-8380	NA	jasond@miccosukeetribe.com	email
Muscogee (Creek) Nation	THPO Turner Hunt	P.O. Box 580	Okmulgee	OK	74447	(918)-732-7759	918-758-0649	thunt@muscogeenation.com	email
Muscogee (Creek) Nation	Principle Chief David Hill	1007 East Eufaula Street	Okmulgee	OK	74447	(800)-482-1979	918-756-2911	dhill@mcn-nsn.gov	email
Pasco County Commissioners	District 5 Chair Jack Mariano	8731 Citizens Dr	New Port Richey	FL	33654	(727)-847-2411 ext. 7164	N/A	jmariano@mypasco.net	email
Pasco County Planning and Development Office	Nectarios Pittos	8731 Citizens Dr	New Port Richey	FL	34654	(787)-847-8140	N/A	planning@mypasco.net	email

APPENDIX E: SHPO DETERMINATION LETTER

FLORIDA DEPARTMENT of STATE

RON DESANTIS
Governor

CORD BYRD
Secretary of State

David K. Dunning
Director
Department of Veterans Affairs
James A. Haley Veterans' Hospital
13000 Bruce B. Downs Boulevard
Tampa, Florida 33612

July 26, 2024

DHR Project File No.: 2024-4043, Received by DHR: July 11, 2024
Project: *James A Haley Veterans Hospital Residential Treatment Center*
County: Pasco

Dear Mr. Dunning:

The Florida State Historic Preservation Officer reviewed the referenced project for possible effects on historic properties listed, or eligible for listing, on the *National Register of Historic Places*. The review was conducted in accordance with Section 106 of the *National Historic Preservation Act of 1966*, as amended, and its implementing regulations in *36 CFR Part 800: Protection of Historic Properties*.

The United States Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) proposes the acquisition and operation of the residential treatment center and road upgrades on Turner Loop and the access road to the facility. VA finds that the proposed undertaking would result in no historic properties affected.

Our office concurs with the VA's determination of no effect for the above referenced project. However, the permit, if issued, should include the following special condition regarding unexpected discoveries:

- If prehistoric or historic artifacts, such as pottery or ceramics, projectile points, dugout canoes, metal implements, historic building materials, or any other physical remains that could be associated with Native American, early European, or American settlement are encountered at any time within the project site area, the permitted project shall cease all activities involving subsurface disturbance in the vicinity of the discovery. The applicant shall contact the Florida Department of State, Division of Historical Resources, Compliance and Review Section at (850)-245-6333. Project activities shall not resume without verbal and/or written authorization.
- In the event that unmarked human remains are encountered during permitted activities, all work shall stop immediately and the proper authorities notified in accordance with Section 872.05, *Florida Statutes*.

If you have any questions, please contact Michael DuBose, Historic Preservationist, by email at *Michael.DuBose@dos.fl.gov* or by telephone at 850.245.6342.

Sincerely,

Alissa Slade Lotane, SHPO

Alissa Slade Lotane
Director, Division of Historical Resources
& State Historic Preservation Officer

APPENDIX D – IPaC REPORT

IPaC Information for Planning and Consultation **U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service**

IPaC resource list

This report is an automatically generated list of species and other resources such as critical habitat (collectively referred to as *trust resources*) under the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's (USFWS) jurisdiction that are known or expected to be on or near the project area referenced below. The list may also include trust resources that occur outside of the project area, but that could potentially be directly or indirectly affected by activities in the project area. However, determining the likelihood and extent of effects a project may have on trust resources typically requires gathering additional site-specific (e.g., vegetation/species surveys) and project-specific (e.g., magnitude and timing of proposed activities) information.

Below is a summary of the project information you provided and contact information for the USFWS office(s) with jurisdiction in the defined project area. Please read the introduction to each section that follows (Endangered Species, Migratory Birds, USFWS Facilities, and NWI Wetlands) for additional information applicable to the trust resources addressed in that section.

Location

Pasco County, Florida

Local office

Florida Ecological Services Field Office

(772) 562-3909
(772) 562-4288
fw4flesregs@fws.gov

1339 20th Street
Vero Beach, FL 32960-3559

https://www.fws.gov/office/florida-ecological-services

Endangered species

This resource list is for informational purposes only and does not constitute an analysis of project level impacts.

The primary information used to generate this list is the known or expected range of each species. Additional areas of influence (AOI) for species are also considered. An AOI includes areas outside of the species range if the species could be indirectly affected by activities in that area (e.g., placing a dam upstream of a fish population even if that fish does not occur at the dam site, may indirectly impact the species by reducing or eliminating water flow downstream). Because species can move, and site conditions can change, the species on this list are not guaranteed to be found on or near the project area. To fully determine any potential effects to species, additional site-specific and project-specific information is often required.

Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act **requires** Federal agencies to "request of the Secretary information whether any species which is listed or proposed to be listed may be present in the area of such proposed action" for any project that is conducted, permitted, funded, or licensed by any Federal agency. A letter from the local office and a species list which fulfills this requirement can **only** be obtained by requesting an official species list from either the Regulatory Review section in IPaC (see directions below) or from the local field office directly.

For project evaluations that require USFWS concurrence/review, please return to the IPaC website and request an official species list by doing the following:

1. Draw the project location and click CONTINUE.
2. Click DEFINE PROJECT.
3. Log in (if directed to do so).
4. Provide a name and description for your project.
5. Click REQUEST SPECIES LIST.

Listed species[1] and their critical habitats are managed by the Ecological Services Program of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and the fisheries division of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA Fisheries[2]).

Species and critical habitats under the sole responsibility of NOAA Fisheries are **not** shown on this list. Please contact NOAA Fisheries for species under their jurisdiction.

1. Species listed under the Endangered Species Act are threatened or endangered; IPaC also shows species that are candidates, or proposed, for listing. See the listing status page for more information. IPaC only shows species that are regulated by USFWS (see FAQ).
2. NOAA Fisheries, also known as the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), is an office of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration within the Department of Commerce.

The following species are potentially affected by activities in this location:

Birds

NAME	STATUS
Eastern Black Rail Laterallus jamaicensis ssp. jamaicensis Wherever found No critical habitat has been designated for this species. https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/10477	Threatened
Everglade Snail Kite Rostrhamus sociabilis plumbeus Wherever found There is final critical habitat for this species. Your location does not overlap the critical habitat. https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/7713	Endangered
Whooping Crane Grus americana No critical habitat has been designated for this species. https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/758	EXPN

Wood Stork Mycteria americana — Threatened
No critical habitat has been designated for this species.
https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/8477

Reptiles

NAME	STATUS
Eastern Indigo Snake Drymarchon couperi Wherever found No critical habitat has been designated for this species. https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/646	Threatened
Loggerhead Sea Turtle Caretta caretta There is **final** critical habitat for this species. Your location does not overlap the critical habitat. https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/1110	Threatened

Insects

NAME	STATUS
Monarch Butterfly Danaus plexippus Wherever found No critical habitat has been designated for this species. https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9743	Candidate

Critical habitats

Potential effects to critical habitat(s) in this location must be analyzed along with the endangered species themselves.

There are no critical habitats at this location.

You are still required to determine if your project(s) may have effects on all above listed species.

Bald & Golden Eagles

Bald and golden eagles are protected under the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act[1] and the Migratory Bird Treaty Act[2].

Any person or organization who plans or conducts activities that may result in impacts to bald or golden eagles, or their habitats[3], should follow appropriate regulations and consider implementing appropriate conservation measures, as described below.

Additional information can be found using the following links:

- Eagle Managment https://www.fws.gov/program/eagle-management
- Measures for avoiding and minimizing impacts to birds https://www.fws.gov/library/collections/avoiding-and-minimizing-incidental-take-migratory-birds
- Nationwide conservation measures for birds https://www.fws.gov/sites/default/files/documents/nationwide-standard-conservation-measures.pdf

- Supplemental Information for Migratory Birds and Eagles in IPaC https://www.fws.gov/media/supplemental-information-migratory-birds-and-bald-and-golden-eagles-may-occur-project-action

There are bald and/or golden eagles in your project area.

For guidance on when to schedule activities or implement avoidance and minimization measures to reduce impacts to migratory birds on your list, click on the PROBABILITY OF PRESENCE SUMMARY at the top of your list to see when these birds are most likely to be present and breeding in your project area.

NAME	BREEDING SEASON
Bald Eagle Haliaeetus leucocephalus This is not a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) in this area, but warrants attention because of the Eagle Act or for potential susceptibilities in offshore areas from certain types of development or activities.	Breeds Sep 1 to Jul 31

Probability of Presence Summary

The graphs below provide our best understanding of when birds of concern are most likely to be present in your project area. This information can be used to tailor and schedule your project activities to avoid or minimize impacts to birds. Please make sure you read and understand the FAQ "Proper Interpretation and Use of Your Migratory Bird Report" before using or attempting to interpret this report.

Probability of Presence (■)

Each green bar represents the bird's relative probability of presence in the 10km grid cell(s) your project overlaps during a particular week of the year. (A year is represented as 12 4-week months.) A taller bar indicates a higher probability of species presence. The survey effort (see below) can be used to establish a level of confidence in the presence score. One can have higher confidence in the presence score if the corresponding survey effort is also high.

How is the probability of presence score calculated? The calculation is done in three steps:

1. The probability of presence for each week is calculated as the number of survey events in the week where the species was detected divided by the total number of survey events for that week. For example, if in week 12 there were 20 survey events and the Spotted Towhee was found in 5 of them, the probability of presence of the Spotted Towhee in week 12 is 0.25.
2. To properly present the pattern of presence across the year, the relative probability of presence is calculated. This is the probability of presence divided by the maximum probability of presence across all weeks. For example, imagine the probability of presence in week 20 for the Spotted Towhee is 0.05, and that the probability of presence at week 12 (0.25) is the maximum of any week of the year. The relative probability of presence on week 12 is 0.25/0.25 = 1; at week 20 it is 0.05/0.25 = 0.2.
3. The relative probability of presence calculated in the previous step undergoes a statistical conversion so that all possible values fall between 0 and 10, inclusive. This is the probability of presence score.

To see a bar's probability of presence score, simply hover your mouse cursor over the bar.

Breeding Season (■)
Yellow bars denote a very liberal estimate of the time-frame inside which the bird breeds across its entire range. If there are no yellow bars shown for a bird, it does not breed in your project area.

Survey Effort (|)
Vertical black lines superimposed on probability of presence bars indicate the number of surveys performed for that species in the 10km grid cell(s) your project area overlaps. The number of surveys is expressed as a range, for example, 33 to 64 surveys.

To see a bar's survey effort range, simply hover your mouse cursor over the bar.

No Data (–)
A week is marked as having no data if there were no survey events for that week.

Survey Timeframe
Surveys from only the last 10 years are used in order to ensure delivery of currently relevant information. The exception to this is areas off the Atlantic coast, where bird returns are based on all years of available data, since data in these areas is currently much more sparse.

■ probability of presence ■ breeding season | survey effort – no data

What does IPaC use to generate the potential presence of bald and golden eagles in my specified location?

The potential for eagle presence is derived from data provided by the Avian Knowledge Network (AKN). The AKN data is based on a growing collection of survey, banding, and citizen science datasets and is queried and filtered to return a list of those birds reported as occurring in the 10km grid cell(s) which your project intersects, and that have been identified as warranting special attention because they are a BCC species in that area, an eagle (Eagle Act requirements may apply). To see a list of all birds potentially present in your project area, please visit the Rapid Avian Information Locator (RAIL) Tool.

What does IPaC use to generate the probability of presence graphs of bald and golden eagles in my specified location?

The Migratory Bird Resource List is comprised of USFWS Birds of Conservation Concern (BCC) and other species that may warrant special attention in your project location.

The migratory bird list generated for your project is derived from data provided by the Avian Knowledge Network (AKN). The AKN data is based on a growing collection of survey, banding, and citizen science datasets and is queried and filtered to return a list of those birds reported as occurring in the 10km grid cell(s) which your project intersects, and that have been identified as warranting special attention because they are a BCC species in that area, an eagle (Eagle Act requirements may apply), or a species that has a particular vulnerability to offshore activities or development.

Again, the Migratory Bird Resource list includes only a subset of birds that may occur in your project area. It is not representative of all birds that may occur in your project area. To get a list of all birds potentially present in your project area, please visit the Rapid Avian Information Locator (RAIL) Tool.

What if I have eagles on my list?

If your project has the potential to disturb or kill eagles, you may need to obtain a permit to avoid violating the Eagle Act should such impacts occur. Please contact your local Fish and Wildlife Service Field Office if you have questions.

Migratory birds

Certain birds are protected under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act[1] and the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act[2].

Any person or organization who plans or conducts activities that may result in impacts to migratory birds, eagles, and their habitats[3] should follow appropriate regulations and consider implementing appropriate conservation measures, as described below.

1. The Migratory Birds Treaty Act of 1918.
2. The Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act of 1940.

Additional information can be found using the following links:

- Eagle Management https://www.fws.gov/program/eagle-management
- Measures for avoiding and minimizing impacts to birds https://www.fws.gov/library/collections/avoiding-and-minimizing-incidental-take-migratory-birds
- Nationwide conservation measures for birds https://www.fws.gov/sites/default/files/ documents/nationwide-standard-conservation-measures.pdf
- Supplemental Information for Migratory Birds and Eagles in IPaC https://www.fws.gov/media/supplemental-information-migratory-birds-and-bald-and-golden-eagles-may-occur-project-action

The birds listed below are birds of particular concern either because they occur on the USFWS Birds of Conservation Concern (BCC) list or warrant special attention in your project location. To learn more about the levels of concern for birds on your list and how this list is generated, see the FAQ below. This is not a list of every bird you may find in this location, nor a guarantee that every bird on this list will be found in your project area. To see exact locations of where birders and the general public have sighted birds in and around your project area, visit the E-bird data mapping tool (Tip: enter your location, desired date range and a species on your list). For projects that occur off the Atlantic Coast, additional maps and models detailing the relative occurrence and abundance of bird species on your list are available. Links to additional information about Atlantic Coast birds, and other important information about your migratory bird list, including how to properly interpret and use your migratory bird report, can be found below.

For guidance on when to schedule activities or implement avoidance and minimization measures to reduce impacts to migratory birds on your list, click on the PROBABILITY OF PRESENCE SUMMARY at the top of your list to see when these birds are most likely to be present and breeding in your project area.

NAME	BREEDING SEASON
American Kestrel Falco sparverius paulus This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) only in particular Bird Conservation Regions (BCRs) in the continental USA https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9587	Breeds Apr 1 to Aug 31
Bald Eagle Haliaeetus leucocephalus This is not a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) in this area, but warrants attention because of the Eagle Act or for potential susceptibilities in offshore areas from certain types of development or activities.	Breeds Sep 1 to Jul 31
Chimney Swift Chaetura pelagica This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska.	Breeds Mar 15 to Aug 25
Great Blue Heron Ardea herodias occidentalis This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) only in particular Bird Conservation Regions (BCRs) in the continental USA	Breeds Jan 1 to Dec 31
Lesser Yellowlegs Tringa flavipes This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska. https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9679	Breeds elsewhere
Prairie Warbler Dendroica discolor This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska.	Breeds May 1 to Jul 31
Red-headed Woodpecker Melanerpes erythrocephalus This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska.	Breeds May 10 to Sep 10
Swallow-tailed Kite Elanoides forficatus This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska. https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/8938	Breeds Mar 10 to Jun 30

Probability of Presence Summary

The graphs below provide our best understanding of when birds of concern are most likely to be present in your project area. This information can be used to tailor and schedule your project activities to avoid or minimize impacts to birds. Please make sure you read and understand the FAQ "Proper Interpretation and Use of Your Migratory Bird Report" before using or attempting to interpret this report.

Probability of Presence (■)

Each green bar represents the bird's relative probability of presence in the 10km grid cell(s) your project overlaps during a particular week of the year. (A year is represented as 12 4-week months.) A taller bar indicates a higher probability of species presence. The survey effort (see below) can be used to establish a level of confidence in the presence score. One can have higher confidence in the presence score if the corresponding survey effort is also high.

How is the probability of presence score calculated? The calculation is done in three steps:

1. The probability of presence for each week is calculated as the number of survey events in the week where the species was detected divided by the total number of survey events for that week. For example, if in week 12 there were 20 survey events and the Spotted Towhee was found in 5 of them, the probability of presence of the Spotted Towhee in week 12 is 0.25.
2. To properly present the pattern of presence across the year, the relative probability of presence is calculated. This is the probability of presence divided by the maximum probability of presence across all weeks. For example, imagine the probability of presence in week 20 for the Spotted Towhee is 0.05, and that the probability of presence at week 12 (0.25) is the

maximum of any week of the year. The relative probability of presence on week 12 is 0.25/0.25 = 1; at week 20 it is 0.05/0.25 = 0.2.

3. The relative probability of presence calculated in the previous step undergoes a statistical conversion so that all possible values fall between 0 and 10, inclusive. This is the probability of presence score.

To see a bar's probability of presence score, simply hover your mouse cursor over the bar.

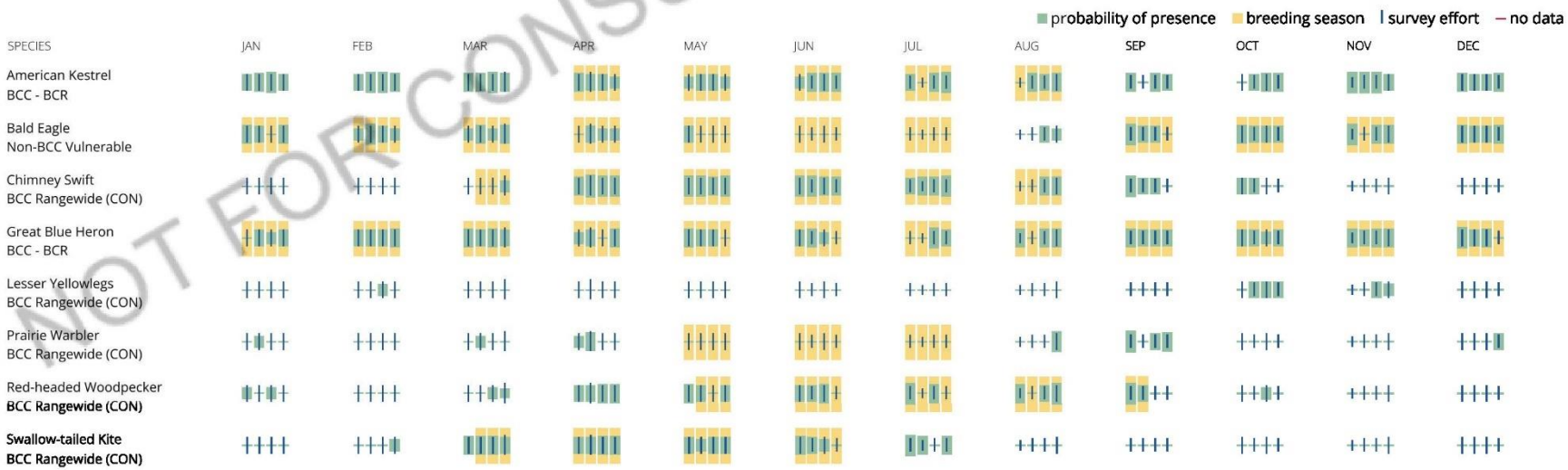
Breeding Season (■)
Yellow bars denote a very liberal estimate of the time-frame inside which the bird breeds across its entire range. If there are no yellow bars shown for a bird, it does not breed in your project area.

Survey Effort (|)
Vertical black lines superimposed on probability of presence bars indicate the number of surveys performed for that species in the 10km grid cell(s) your project area overlaps. The number of surveys is expressed as a range, for example, 33 to 64 surveys.

To see a bar's survey effort range, simply hover your mouse cursor over the bar.

No Data (–)
A week is marked as having no data if there were no survey events for that week.

Survey Timeframe
Surveys from only the last 10 years are used in order to ensure delivery of currently relevant information. The exception to this is areas off the Atlantic coast, where bird returns are based on all years of available data, since data in these areas is currently much more sparse.



Tell me more about conservation measures I can implement to avoid or minimize impacts to migratory birds.

Nationwide Conservation Measures describes measures that can help avoid and minimize impacts to all birds at any location year round. Implementation of these measures is particularly important when birds are most likely to occur in the project area. When birds may be breeding in the area, identifying the locations of any active nests and avoiding their destruction is a very helpful impact minimization measure. To see when birds are most likely to occur and be breeding in your project area, view the Probability of Presence Summary. Additional measures or permits may be advisable depending on the type of activity you are conducting and the type of infrastructure or bird species present on your project site.

What does IPaC use to generate the list of migratory birds that potentially occur in my specified location?

The Migratory Bird Resource List is comprised of USFWS Birds of Conservation Concern (BCC) and other species that may warrant special attention in your project location.

The migratory bird list generated for your project is derived from data provided by the Avian Knowledge Network (AKN). The AKN data is based on a growing collection of survey, banding, and citizen science datasets and is queried and filtered to return a list of those birds reported as occurring in the 10km grid cell(s) which your project intersects, and that have been identified as warranting special attention because they are a BCC species in that area, an eagle (Eagle Act requirements may apply), or a species that has a particular vulnerability to offshore activities or development.

Again, the Migratory Bird Resource list includes only a subset of birds that may occur in your project area. It is not representative of all birds that may occur in your project area. To get a list of all birds potentially present in your project area, please visit the Rapid Avian Information Locator (RAIL) Tool.

What does IPaC use to generate the probability of presence graphs for the migratory birds potentially occurring in my specified location?

The probability of presence graphs associated with your migratory bird list are based on data provided by the Avian Knowledge Network (AKN). This data is derived from a growing collection of survey, banding, and citizen science datasets.

Probability of presence data is continuously being updated as new and better information becomes available. To learn more about how the probability of presence graphs are produced and how to interpret them, go the Probability of Presence Summary and then click on the "Tell me about these graphs" link.

How do I know if a bird is breeding, wintering or migrating in my area?

To see what part of a particular bird's range your project area falls within (i.e. breeding, wintering, migrating or year-round), you may query your location using the RAIL Tool and look at the range maps provided for birds in your area at the bottom of the profiles provided for each bird in your results. If a bird on your migratory bird species list has a breeding season associated with it, if that bird does occur in your project area, there may be nests present at some point within the timeframe specified. If "Breeds elsewhere" is indicated, then the bird likely does not breed in your project area.

What are the levels of concern for migratory birds?

Migratory birds delivered through IPaC fall into the following distinct categories of concern:

1. "BCC Rangewide" birds are Birds of Conservation Concern (BCC) that are of concern throughout their range anywhere within the USA (including Hawaii, the Pacific Islands, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands);
2. "BCC - BCR" birds are BCCs that are of concern only in particular Bird Conservation Regions (BCRs) in the continental USA; and
3. "Non-BCC - Vulnerable" birds are not BCC species in your project area, but appear on your list either because of the Eagle Act requirements (for eagles) or (for non-eagles) potential susceptibilities in offshore areas from certain types of development or activities (e.g. offshore energy development or longline fishing).

Although it is important to try to avoid and minimize impacts to all birds, efforts should be made, in particular, to avoid and minimize impacts to the birds on this list, especially eagles and BCC species of rangewide concern. For more information on conservation measures you can implement to help avoid and minimize migratory bird impacts and requirements for eagles, please see the FAQs for these topics.

Details about birds that are potentially affected by offshore projects

For additional details about the relative occurrence and abundance of both individual bird species and groups of bird species within your project area off the Atlantic Coast, please visit the Northeast Ocean Data Portal. The Portal also offers data and information about other taxa besides birds that may be helpful to you in your project review. Alternately, you may download the bird model results files underlying the portal maps through the NOAA NCCOS Integrative Statistical Modeling and Predictive Mapping of Marine Bird Distributions and Abundance on the Atlantic Outer Continental Shelf project webpage.

Bird tracking data can also provide additional details about occurrence and habitat use throughout the year, including migration. Models relying on survey data may not include this information. For additional information on marine bird tracking data, see the Diving Bird Study and the nanotag studies or contact Caleb Spiegel or Pam Loring.

What if I have eagles on my list?

If your project has the potential to disturb or kill eagles, you may need to obtain a permit to avoid violating the Eagle Act should such impacts occur.

Proper Interpretation and Use of Your Migratory Bird Report

The migratory bird list generated is not a list of all birds in your project area, only a subset of birds of priority concern. To learn more about how your list is generated, and see options for identifying what other birds may be in your project area, please see the FAQ "What does IPaC use to generate the migratory birds potentially occurring in my specified location". Please be aware this report provides the "probability of presence" of birds within the 10 km grid cell(s) that overlap your project; not your exact project footprint. On the graphs provided, please also look carefully at the survey effort (indicated by the black vertical bar) and for the existence of the "no data" indicator (a red horizontal bar). A high survey effort is the key component. If the survey effort is high, then the probability of presence score can be viewed as more dependable. In contrast, a low survey effort bar or no data bar means a lack of data and, therefore, a lack of certainty about presence of the species. This list is not perfect; it is simply a starting point for identifying what birds of concern have the potential to be in your project area, when they might be there, and if they might be breeding (which means nests might be present). The list helps you know what to look for to confirm presence, and helps guide you in knowing when to implement conservation measures to avoid or minimize potential impacts from your project activities, should presence be confirmed. To learn more about conservation measures, visit the FAQ "Tell me about conservation measures I can implement to avoid or minimize impacts to migratory birds" at the bottom of your migratory bird trust resources page.

Facilities

National Wildlife Refuge lands

Any activity proposed on lands managed by the National Wildlife Refuge system must undergo a 'Compatibility Determination' conducted by the Refuge. Please contact the individual Refuges to discuss any questions or concerns.

There are no refuge lands at this location.

Fish hatcheries

There are no fish hatcheries at this location.

Wetlands in the National Wetlands Inventory (NWI)

Impacts to NWI wetlands and other aquatic habitats may be subject to regulation under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act, or other State/Federal statutes.

For more information please contact the Regulatory Program of the local U.S. Army Corps of Engineers District.

Please note that the NWI data being shown may be out of date. We are currently working to update our NWI data set. We recommend you verify these results with a site visit to determine the actual extent of wetlands on site.

This location overlaps the following wetlands:

FRESHWATER EMERGENT WETLAND
PEM1F

FRESHWATER POND
PUBH

A full description for each wetland code can be found at the National Wetlands Inventory website

NOTE: This initial screening does **not** replace an on-site delineation to determine whether wetlands occur. Additional information on the NWI data is provided below.

Data limitations

The Service's objective of mapping wetlands and deepwater habitats is to produce reconnaissance level information on the location, type and size of these resources. The maps are prepared from the analysis of high altitude imagery. Wetlands are identified based on vegetation, visible hydrology and geography. A margin of error is inherent in the use of imagery; thus, detailed on-the-ground inspection of any particular site may result in revision of the wetland boundaries or classification established through image analysis.

The accuracy of image interpretation depends on the quality of the imagery, the experience of the image analysts, the amount and quality of the collateral data and the amount of ground truth verification work conducted. Metadata should be consulted to determine the date of the source imagery used and any mapping problems.

Wetlands or other mapped features may have changed since the date of the imagery or field work. There may be occasional differences in polygon boundaries or classifications between the information depicted on the map and the actual conditions on site.

Data exclusions

Certain wetland habitats are excluded from the National mapping program because of the limitations of aerial imagery as the primary data source used to detect wetlands. These habitats include seagrasses or submerged aquatic vegetation that are found in the intertidal and subtidal zones of estuaries and nearshore coastal waters. Some deepwater reef communities (coral or tuberficid worm reefs) have also been excluded from the inventory. These habitats, because of their depth, go undetected by aerial imagery.

Data precautions

Federal, state, and local regulatory agencies with jurisdiction over wetlands may define and describe wetlands in a different manner than that used in this inventory. There is no attempt, in either the design or products of this inventory, to define the limits of proprietary jurisdiction of any Federal, state, or local government or to establish the geographical scope of the regulatory programs of government agencies. Persons intending to engage in activities involving modifications within or adjacent to wetland areas should seek the advice of appropriate Federal, state, or local agencies concerning specified agency regulatory programs and proprietary jurisdictions that may affect such activities.

APPENDIX E – PUBLIC NOTICES AND COMMENTS

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
Office of Construction & Facilities Management
Washington DC 20420

January 25, 2024

SUBJECT: **Notice of Scoping for the Proposed Acquisition of a Residential Treatment Center in Spring Hill, FL**

Dear Valued Stakeholder:

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), proposes to acquire a former residential treatment center, located at 14191 Turner Loop in Spring Hill, FL to be operated as a residential treatment center by the James A. Haley Veterans Hospital (JAHVH). The acquisition includes the 40-acre parcel of land where the facility is located. (Figures 1 and 2). The residential treatment center is a 34-bed, 11,047 square-foot building constructed in 2010.

This scoping notice is also being published in the Tampa Bay Times to inform and solicit input from the public and will be made available on the VA website at https://www.cfm.va.gov/environmental.

As part of the decision-making process, VA is preparing an environmental assessment (EA) in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) to evaluate the potential environmental impacts of the proposed action. VA will prepare this EA according to the regulations Implementing the Procedural Provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S. Code 4321-4370h), as implemented by the Council on Environmental Quality regulations (40 Code of Federal Regulations [CFR] 1500-1508), and VA implementing Regulations (38 CFR Part 26).

If you have comments on the scope of issues for analysis, input on potential alternatives, or information/analyses relevant to the Proposed Action, please submit your comments via email to vacoenvironment@va.gov with the subject line "Spring Hill Residential Treatment Center EA" within 30 days of receipt of this notice.

VA will address and incorporate relevant scoping comments in the Draft EA. Once VA completes the Draft EA, it will be published and made available for a 30-day public review and comment period. VA will notify stakeholders via email/mail and publish a notice of availability (NOA) of the Draft EA in the Tampa Bay Times.

For additional information or questions, please contact Jason Sturm at jason.sturm@va.gov with the subject line "Spring Hill Residential Treatment Center EA".

Respectfully,

Kathryn Domm
Director, Environmental Program Office
Office of Construction and Facilities Management

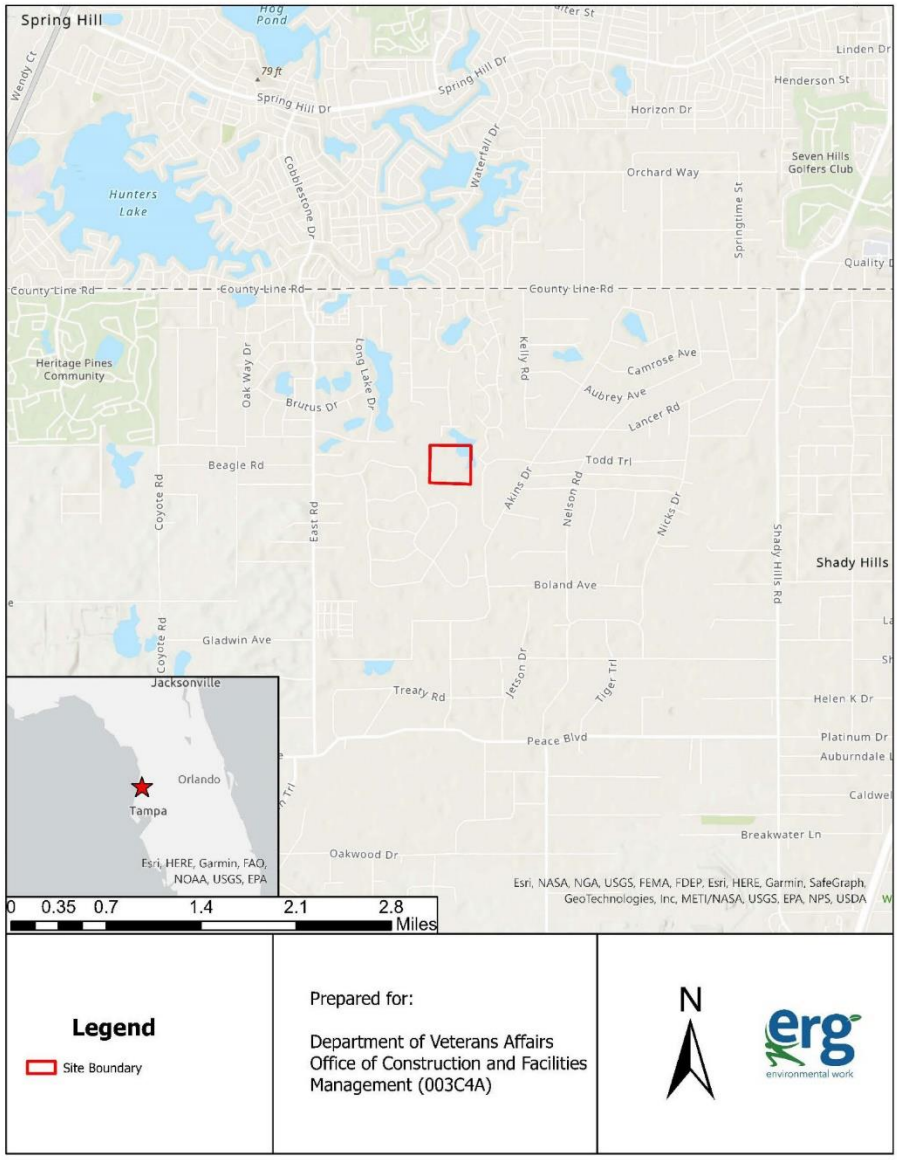


Figure 1. Map showing the proposed project area

Figure 2. Aerial imagery of the proposed project area showing the modern structure

Tampa Bay Times
tampabay.com

- Ad Proof -

01/31/2024

Order Confirmation

Ad Order Number
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PO Number

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Tear Sheets	Proofs	Affidavits	Blind Box	Promo Type	Materials
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Invoice Text
Notice of Intent to Prepare an Environmental Assessment

Ad Order Notes

Net Amount	Tax Amount	Total Amount	Payment Method	Payment Amount	Amount Due
$255.00	$0.00	$255.00	Credit Card	$0.00	$255.00

Tampa Bay Times
tampabay.com

- Ad Proof -

Ad Number	Ad Type	Production Method	Production Notes
0000328887-01	CLS Legal Liner	AdBooker	

External Ad Number	Ad Attributes	Ad Released	Pick Up
		No	

Ad Size	Color
2 X 23 li	

WYSIWYG Content

Notice of Intent to Prepare an Environmental Assessment

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is preparing an environmental assessment (EA) in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) to evaluate the potential environmental impacts associated with the proposed acquisition of a former residential treatment center, located at 14191 Turner Loop in Spring Hill, FL to be operated as a residential treatment center by the James A. Haley Veterans Hospital (JAHVH). The acquisition includes the 40-acre parcel of land where the facility is located. The proposed JAHVH residential treatment center would provide residential care that is currently limited in the Veterans Integrated Services Networks and add improvements for a much higher quality of care.

VA requests input on the scope of issues for analysis, input on potential alternatives, or information/analyses relevant to the Proposed Action. Scoping comments will be accepted through March 1, 2024. Comments may be submitted via email to **vacoenvironment@va.gov** with the subject line "Spring Hill Residential Treatment Center EA".

For additional information or questions, please contact Jason Sturm at **jason.sturm@va.gov.**

02/04/2024 0000328887

Run Date	Product	Placement	Position	Zone
02/04/2024	Tampa Bay Times	Legals - CLS	Legal	BL-Hillsborough

Tampa Bay Times
tampabay.com

06/20/2024

Order Confirmation and Receipt

Ad Order Number
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Order Taker
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Order Source

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Customer Account
332689

Customer Address
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Customer Phone
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Special Pricing

Tear Sheets	Proofs	Affidavits	Blind Box	Promo Type	Materials
0	0	1			

Invoice Text
NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY Spring Hill Residential Treatment Center

Ad Order Notes

Net Amount	Tax Amount	Total Amount	Payment Method	Payment Amount	Amount Due
$167.20	$0.00	$167.20	Credit Card	$167.20	$0.00

Tampa Bay Times
tampabay.com

Ad Number	Ad Type	Production Method	Production Notes
0000349477-01	CLS Legal Liner	AdBooker	

External Ad Number	Ad Attributes	Ad Released	Pick Up
		No	0000328887

Ad Size	Color
2 X 29 li	

WYSIWYG Content

NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY
DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
Spring Hill Residential Treatment Center
Pasco County, FL

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) announces the availability of the Draft Environmental Assessment (EA) for the proposed acquisition, operation, and construction of a former residential treatment center, located at 14191 Turner Loop in Spring Hill, FL. The EA evaluates the operation of the facility as a residential treatment center by the James A. Haley Veterans Hospital (JAHVH), renovation of the existing 11,047 square-foot building, construction of an approximately 4,100 square foot new administration building as part of the 11,047 square foot building, and the addition of sixteen parking spaces.

The Draft EA is available for public review on the VA website at **https://www.cfm.va.gov/environmental**. The public review and comment period ends on Sunday, July 23, 2024. Comments on the draft EA should be sent to **vacoenvironment@va.gov** with the subject line "Spring Hill Residential Treatment Center EA" no later than 11:59 p.m. Sunday, July 23, 2024.

VA will prepare and publish the Final EA following the comment period. The final EA will summarize and address comments on the Draft EA.

06/23/2024, 06/26/2024 0000349477

Run Date	Product	Placement	Position	Zone
06/23/2024	Tampa Bay Times	Legals - CLS	Legal	BL-Pasco
06/26/2024	Tampa Bay Times	Legals - CLS	Legal	BL-Pasco

From: VACO Environment
To: Alicia Booher
Cc: Williams, Margaret (Patrice) (CFM); Bennett, Alec (CFM)
Subject: [EXTERNAL]FW: Spring Hill Residential Treatment Center EA - EPA Comments
Date: Wednesday, July 24, 2024 3:45:19 PM

Lisa,

This is the only comment that I received for Spring Hill.

Jason

From: Washington-Newton, Jamilha <WashingtonNewton.Jamilha@epa.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, July 23, 2024 1:52 PM
To: VACO Environment <VACOEnvironment@va.gov>
Cc: Dean, Kenneth <Dean.William-Kenneth@epa.gov>; Buskey, Traci P. <Buskey.Traci@epa.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Spring Hill Residential Treatment Center EA - EPA Comments

Glenn Elliott
Director, Project Development Services Division
Office of Construction & Facilities Management
Department of Veterans Affairs
Washington, DC 20420

Re: EPA Comments on the Draft Environmental Assessment of the VA Spring Hill Residential Treatment Center in Spring Hill, Pasco County, Florida

Dear Mr. Elliott:

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency reviewed the above-referenced draft environmental assessment, dated June 21, 2024. The draft EA was reviewed in accordance with the Section 102(2)(C) of the National Environmental Policy Act and Section 309 of the Clean Air Act. The draft EA was prepared to identify, analyze, and document the potential physical, environmental, cultural, and socioeconomic impacts associated with The Department of Veterans Affairs proposed acquisition of a former residential treatment center (RTC) to operate as an RTC by the James A. Haley Veterans Hospital (JAHVH), located in Spring Hill, Pasco County, Florida.

The VA proposes to purchase a 40-acre parcel of land that includes the former RTC, construct an additional facility (approximately 4,100 square feet), renovate and expand the parking area by 16 additional parking spaces, and resurface Turner Loop (0.76 miles). The former RTC is an 11,047 square-foot building constructed in 2010. The purpose of the proposed action is to increase JAHVH's services and provide a much higher quality of care through a VA-operated

RTC in the Tampa, Florida area. The need for the proposed action is to address the VA residential mental health space gaps and the shortage of veteran residential care in the Tampa, Florida area.

The draft EA examines one action alternative and the "no action" alternative. The alternatives are described as follows:

- Alternative 1, the "No Action" Alternative – The proposed action would not be implemented. The VA would continue to provide limited care at JAHVH and through community recovery centers in the area. The former RTC would remain vacant and may be developed by others for other commercial or residential use, which would continue to limit the VA's ability to provide a higher quality of care for the veterans in the Tampa, Florida area, for specific in-patient services.
- Alternative 2, the Proposed Action – The preferred alternative, involves the acquisition, operation, construction, and minor upgrades of a former RTC which is currently vacant and not in use.

Based on the EPA's review of the draft EA, the following comments are provided for your consideration.

(1) Air Quality: Pasco County, Florida is in attainment status for all EPA air quality criteria. However, localized impacts to air quality could occur during construction due to equipment exhaust emissions and fugitive dust.

Recommendation: The EPA recommends the use of diesel controls, cleaner fuel, and cleaner construction practices for on-road and off-road equipment used for transportation, soil movement, and other project activities. The EPA further recommends the city implement strategies and technologies that reduce unnecessary idling, including auxiliary power units, the use of electric equipment, and strict enforcement of idling limits. The EPA suggests the VA consider the use of clean diesel through add-on control technologies such as diesel particulate filters and diesel oxidation catalysts, repowers, or newer, cleaner equipment.

(2) Noise: Section 3.8.4 states that construction activities are expected to generate noise at levels that will be variable depending on the type, number, and duration of the construction activity. According to Section 3.8.3, sensitive noise receptors in the vicinity of the site include residential properties on the North and East and wooded to the South and west, and an elementary school, The Hope Ranch Learning Academy Hudson Campus.

Recommendation: The EPA recommends that the VA provide early information and

schedules on demolition and construction activities and expected noise levels and duration to personnel of the nearby facilities. A mechanism for reporting construction related noise concerns should be established if the noise levels are determined to approach/exceed the noise abatement criteria. The final EA should estimate the total project construction time (months, years) in order to assess the general magnitude and/or duration of the potential construction noise impact.

(3) Biological Resources: Section 3.7.4 indicates that there are six federally registered species with the potential to be present at the proposed project site in addition to three state registered species, as identified by the US Fish and Wildlife Service. The federally-listed species are *Mycteria americana* (Wood Stork), *Laterallus jamaicensis* (Eastern black rail), *Rostrhamus sociabilis plumbeus* (Everglade Snail Kite), *Caretta caretta* (Loggerhead Sea Turtle), *Drymarchon couperi* (Eastern Indigo Snake) and the *Nolina brittoniana (*Britton's Beargrass). The state-listed species are *Grus canadensis* (Florida Sandhill Crane), *Egretta caerulea* (Little Blue Heron) and the *Falco sparverius paulus* (Southeastern American Kestrel).

Recommendation: The EPA principally defers to the USFWS Service regarding compliance with the Endangered Species Act. The EPA recommends that the VA implement species and habitat conservation measures along with project and species-specific construction conditions to prevent or reduce future conflicts with sensitive species. The EPA recommends that any additional conservation measures identified by USFWS during consultation be implemented and ongoing to ensure the health and safety of the listed threatened or endangered species that could potentially be found within the proposed project area.

(4) Hazardous Materials and Containment: According to Section 3.13.1, construction and demolition solid waste (including hazardous materials) may be generated during construction and renovation activities. The EPA acknowledges the VA's statements to follow Pasco County ordinance regarding the accumulation, storage, permitting, and disposal of this waste, and the state of Florida regulations regarding permitting requirements. The EPA also acknowledges the VA's references to State and EPA regulations regarding the use of secondary containment for mobile refuelers.

(5) Stormwater Construction Permit: Excessive sediment loads from construction activities can enter waterbodies and alter the specific water quality and habitat characteristics fish populations and other biological communities need for survival. Soil disturbance in support of the project may necessitate issuance of a construction stormwater permit before construction can begin. Pursuant to the Clean Water Act, coverage under a statewide National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System construction stormwater general permit will be needed if the project disturbs one acre or more of contiguous land.

Recommendation: The EPA recommends that erosion control and sediment control measures be implemented in accordance with the State's NPDES construction general permit requirements, and that the measures be addressed during the design and construction phases of the project. The VA should contact the Florida Department of Environmental Protection about the applicable NPDES permit(s) for this facility and project. Construction projects would also need to comply with any local ordinances (including requirements for any MS4 construction program), in addition to the state's construction program. The EPA encourages implementing best management practices during and after construction to minimize stormwater impacts on the streams.

(6) Environmental Justice and Community Engagement: Based on a review of the EPA's EJScreen tool (https://www.epa.gov/ejscreen), the project area for the proposed activity does not include communities with environmental justice concerns. However, community engagement activities with the affected communities should be conducted to inform, seek input, and address any concerns associated with the construction.

-

Recommendation: The EPA recommends the VA implement community engagement activities prior to construction with the affected communities about construction times, the potential for temporary disruptions of service, potential road closures, delays, and other inconveniences. We further recommend the meetings be held at locations and times that are convenient for the residents of the affected communities.

The EPA appreciates the opportunity to review and provide comments on the draft EA. Please send a copy of the final EA to the EPA once it becomes available. If you have any questions regarding the EPA's comments, please contact Ms. Jamilha Washington-Newton of the NEPA Section at (404) 562-8693, or by e-mail at WashingtonNewton.Jamilha@epa.gov

Kind regards,

Jamilha Washington Newton, M.S.

Jamilha Washington-Newton
Physical Scientist | NEPA Division

Environmental Justice, Community Health
and Environmental Review Division
U.S. EPA Region 4
61 Forsyth Street, SW
Atlanta, Georgia 30303
Email: washingtonnewton.jamilha@epa.gov
Phone: 404-562-8693