

FLORIDA BEACHES HABITAT CONSERVATION PLAN

Client: Florida Department of Environmental Protection - Bureau of Beaches & Coastal Systems



Coastal Tech joined the Florida Beaches Habitat Conservation Plan (FBHCP) Project as lead consultant at the start of the project's third year (2010) and is now embarking on work for Year 5 of the Project. Development of the FBHCP was initiated for the Coastal

Construction Control Line (CCCL) Program which permits activities on the state's sandy beaches.

The development of the FBHCP is guided by a Steering Committee. During Year 3 and as staff to the Steering Committee, Coastal Tech analyzed and presented two Critical Issues including the *Term of the HCP* and *Inclusion of 161.052, F.S. Beaches*. We also developed species accounts for two shorebirds (the piping plover and red knot) and five subspecies of beach mice (Perdido Key, Choctawhatchee, St. Andrew, Anastasia Island and Southeastern). Coastal Tech also drafted *Chapter 1 – Introduction* of the FBHCP. The third major effort by Coastal Tech was to initiate studies of activities permitted by the CCCL program, including armoring, dune walkovers, beach cleaning and upland development. All studies are focused on characterizing and quantifying the existing or baseline conditions throughout the state within CCCL jurisdiction (25 counties). The studies' methodologies include reviewing permitting data from the CCCL Program, researching local government documentation of the activities and reviewing the most recently available aerial photography. The resulting products of these studies are geographic information system (GIS) files and summary reports to be used for the development of minimization and mitigation measures for the FBHCP. For the armoring study, Coastal Tech conducted cross-shore transport modeling to predict the location of potential future armoring requests. This information will be used to estimate future "take" of the endangered species covered by the FBHCP.

During Year 4, Coastal Tech advanced the FBHCP through analysis of critical issues for the FBHCP Steering Committee, development of chapters (Biological Goals & Objections, Covered Activities, Species Accounts, Plan Area, Threats to Covered Species and Alternatives Analysis) and development of four studies designed to characterize the primary activities permitted under the CCCL Program (as described above). During Year 5, Coastal Tech will continue drafting chapters that comprise the most complex portions of an HCP, including Assessment of Anticipated Take, Minimization Measures and Mitigation Measures.



Key Elements

- Endangered Species Protection
- Beach Habitat Protection and Enhancement
- State and Federal agencies Coordination
- Statewide Inventory
- Statewide Modeling effort
- Public Outreach

Dates: 2010-2012

Fees: \$1,553,665

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