

HATCHINEHA RANCH Conservation Bank & Gopher Tortoise Recipient Area

Polk County, Florida



ENVIRONMENTAL
PLANNING
DESIGN &
PERMITTING

Project: Conservation Banking

Project overview:

The Hatchineha Ranch Conservation Bank is part of a 5,100± acre ranch located along the southwest shoreline of Lake Hatchineha in Polk County, Florida. Modica & Associates performed a wide variety of ecological services on the entire ranch to identify the natural resources within the property.

The owners of Hatchineha Ranch have entered into a strategic alliance with The Nature Conservancy to use this unique property as a wetland mitigation bank and a Wildlife Conservation Bank. Our team is currently working with the owners to permit a 350± acre Wildlife Conservation Bank through both the USFWS and FWC, and as a Long-Term Protected Gopher Tortoise Recipient Area. This Bank/Recipient Area will be available to provide mitigation for impacts to sand skink and Florida scrub-jay habitat, and will also serve as a regional gopher tortoise recipient site.

Field Work & Surveys

- Delineated 25± miles of wetlands
- Florida Scrub-jay Survey
- Sand Skink Coverboard Survey
- Southeastern American Kestrel Survey
- Audubon's Crested Caracara Survey
- Gopher Tortoise Survey
- Sandhill Crane Survey
- Listed Plant Survey
- Baseline Water Quality Monitoring
- Florida Panther & Black Bear coordination



GIS/Mapping Services

- Vegetation & Soils Mapping—GIS
- Wildlife Mapping—GPS/GIS
- Historical Aerial Research & Mapping—GIS

Permits/Applications

- Formal Wetland Determination—SFWMD
- Jurisdictional Determination—USACOE
- Application for Development Approval—CFRPC
- Conservation Bank Application—USFWS, FWC
- Gopher Tortoise Recipient Site Application—FWC (*Pending submittal*)

