

Memorandum

Date: April 19, 2019 To: File From: Bruce Layman

Re: Update Listed Species Survey for SRAA Addition and Reduction Parcels at Ave Maria

To determine whether the scoring of the Natural Resource Index *Listed Species Habitat* factor should be amended for parcels proposed to be added to or removed from the Ave Maria SRA (the Project), an update to the original 2003/2004 Ave Maria University (AMU) listed species survey was conducted within a proposed ±12.19-acre SRA reduction area, and in \pm 12.74-acres of adjacent sod farm that was not originally included in the 2003/2004 surveys that is being proposed as an addition to the Ave Maria SRA. A proposed 0.55-acre SRAA reduction area was not included in the listed species survey because it currently represents one of the two Ave Maria entrances (roadway and landscaped entry) with no potential to support listed species. The current survey was conducted by Peninsula Engineering Ecologist, Bruce Layman, utilizing meandering pedestrian transects on 04/17/2019 from 7:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. The weather was calm, clear, and 60° Fahrenheit at 7:00 a.m. There was no rain and little wind.

During the original listed species survey, the land uses within the project limit included sod farm, shrubs and brush, palmetto, construction road, a canal associated with regional agricultural water management, and improved pasture. Since that time, the vast majority of the land uses remained unchanged, with the exception being 0.55 acres of improved pasture that were converted to one of the two primary Ave Maria entry features (road and landscape) and 0.4 acres of improved pasture that have been converted to a linear water feature. Refer to the attached existing conditions exhibit for a map of FLUCCS limits, labels, and acreages.

The 12.74 acres of sod farm which are being added to the Ave Maria SRA are composed of predominantly propagated sod with a water management rim ditch, a remnant agricultural perimeter berm, and a remnant agricultural water management canal that served regional agricultural uses within Ave Maria. The 12.19 acres which are being removed from the Ave Maria SRA are composed of shrubs and brush (cabbage palms [*Sabal palmetto*], laurel oaks [*Quercus laurifolia*], and palmetto [*Serenoa repens*] with up to 75% coverage of Brazilian pepper (*Schinus terebinthifolius*); palmetto with up to 75% Brazilian pepper; improved pasture composed of typical pasture grasses; and a linear water feature parallel with Camp Keais Road.

During the 2019 update survey, transects and listed species observations were recorded on a full-color aerial photograph, binoculars were used in long distance species identification, and field notes were recorded in a

field notebook. Having participated in the original 2003/2004 AMU listed species survey, Mr. Layman was familiar with the suite of state and federal listed species that could inhabit the region.

Transects were spaced, as shown on the attached FLUCCS and transect map. Additionally, a single observation station was used in the 12.74-ac addition parcel due to the open and easily-viewed nature of the sod farm and adjacent water features.

No state or federally-listed plants or wildlife were observed within the project limits during the 2019 survey update.

Due to the presence of the agricultural ditches along the northern edge of the sod farm and the linear water feature adjacent to Camp Keais Road, there is potential for alligators (*Alligator mississippiensis*) and assorted listed wading birds to opportunistically forage in the water management features. Similarly, the Florida bonneted bat (*Eumops floridanus*) could opportunistically forage or travel over the parcels. All of these species could continue to opportunistically use the water management features that are proposed in the community entry included in the SRAA development design. As such, no net adverse effect is anticipated.

The project is located within the Florida panther consultation area and the core foraging area of a wood stork colony. All panther and wood stork mitigation was addressed through the state and federal permitting processes.

Non-listed species observed during the update survey include various species commonly associated with pasture lands such as the mourning dove (*Zenaida macroura*), ground dove (*Columbina passerina*), catbird (*Dumetella carolinensis*), mockingbird (*Mimus polyglottos*), red-bellied woodpecker (*Melanerpes carolinus*), rabbit (*Sylvilagus* spp.), and raccoon (*Procyon lotor*); and those associated with water features/ditches including the anhinga (*Anhinga anhinga*), common gallinule (*Gallinula chloropus*), and Florida cooter (*Pseudemys concinna floridana*).





