

ECOLOGICAL SERVICES



The King Ecological Services Department has over 20 years experience dealing with permitting and management of gopher tortoises on development lands in Florida.

Our ecologists have conducted hundreds of gopher tortoise population surveys and have conducted relocations for numerous private and public development projects.

King is a participating member of the FWC Gopher Tortoise Technical Advisory Group (TAG) and is intimately familiar with recently adopted regulatory guidelines and permitting requirements. Other services include:

- Listed Species Assessments
- DRI-level Vegetation and Wildlife Surveys
- Species-specific Surveys
- Habitat/Environmental Management Plans
- Wetland Delineations
- Hydroperiod Determinations
- Wetland Mitigation Design
- Wetland/Lake Management Plans
- Ecosystem Restoration Design
- Seagrass Mapping
- Environmental Permitting
- Stormwater O&M Inspections
- Water Quality Monitoring
- Wetland/Mitigation Monitoring
- Wetland Functional Assessments
- Expert Witness Testimony



Scoping gopher tortoise burrow prior to excavation.



Measuring gopher tortoise after capture.



Gopher tortoise released on recipient preserve.

King
ENGINEERING ASSOCIATES, INC.

For More Information
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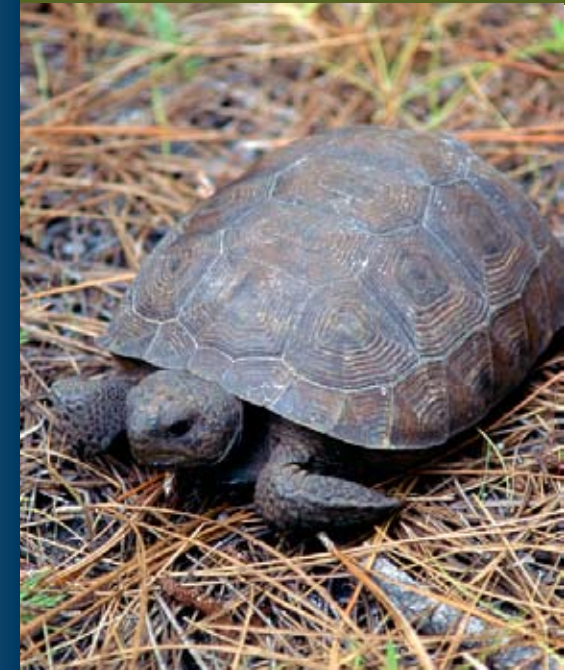


Trusted Professional Services Since 1977

ECOLOGICAL SERVICES

Gopher Tortoise Permitting and Management for Development Sites

ENGINEERS PLANNERS SCIENTISTS SURVEYORS



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Gopher Tortoise Regulations in Florida

Changes in Regulations

In 2007, the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) approved the re-listing of the gopher tortoise (*Gopherus polyphemus*) from Species of Special Concern to Threatened, affording this species a higher level of protection. As part of this process, the FWC issued new guidelines and policies, which serve to outline the available permitting options and requirements for projects that will impact gopher tortoises (GTs) and/or their burrows.

Beginning in the Spring of 2009 the FWC management plan and permitting guidelines will include:

- GTs must be relocated for ALL projects – no Incidental Take permit is available;
- 100% surveys must be completed prior to relocation of GTs for all projects;
- FWC fees (conservation donation) apply to all projects;
- Conservation donation fees vary based on the level of protection placed on the designated (on or off-site) recipient property;
- An Authorized Agent (permitted by the FWC) must conduct/supervise the survey and relocation effort;
- Permit conditions require that projects obtain local government clearing/construction approval prior to initiating GT relocation;
- Permit conditions restrict relocation activities during cold weather periods (e.g. successive nighttime temperatures of <50° F).

How can King Help?

- Decision making regarding appropriate permitting strategy to meet project goals;
- Location of recipient property/habitat bank, and contract negotiation;
- Conduct GT surveys on proposed development site and/or recipient property;
- Assist in navigating through FWC permitting process;
- Provide full service GT relocations (Authorized Agent);
- Conduct FWC post-relocation reporting.



King Ecologists supervising backhoe operator in process of excavating a gopher tortoise burrow.



The last few feet of the burrow are excavated by hand, in this case a tortoise was extracted from the end/bottom of the burrow. Gopher tortoise burrows can be over 25 feet in length and over 10 feet below the ground surface.

Since 1977, **King Engineering Associates** has applied its talents and resources to innovative engineering projects. What began as a small engineering firm has grown into a full-service, employee-owned firm with expertise in engineering, planning, ecological services, surveying and

construction management. With offices in Florida and Texas, King Engineering Associates' success is reflected in their work and their client's loyalty. King is able to provide you with a unified team that understands every aspect of your project, and delivers to your satisfaction.