

Revised: August 17, 2023

Mr. Erik van de Boogaard
Construction Projects Coordinator, Hernando County BoCC
1525 E. Jefferson Street
Brooksville, Florida 34601
EvandeBoogaard@co.hernando.fl.us

RE: Additional Services Request #1 for
Census, Permitting, and Relocation of Gopher Tortoises from the project site of the
New West Tax Collector Building for Hernando County Board of County Commissioners
Purchase Order No. 23000470

Dear Erik:

Thank you and Hernando County for the opportunity to continue to work with you, the Tax Collector's Office, and all stakeholders on the above referenced project. Together with our consulting ecological and civil engineering partners, WSP USA Environment and Infrastructure, we are pleased to present to you this additional services request to perform an updated gopher tortoises census, permitting through the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC). Please see the attached detailed scope of services from WSP for additional information.

Current Approved Total for Professional Services\$1,457,621.00

	Amount Billed to Architect	Architect's Coordination Fee (%)– per Contract Sec. 4.2(E)	Architect's Coordination Fee (\$) – per Contract Sec. 4.2(E)	Total Amount Billed to Hernando County
Add. Ecological Serv. GT Final Burrow Survey	\$3,740.00	15%	\$561.00	\$4,301.00
Add. Ecological Serv. GT Conserv. Permit Application	\$10,000.00	15%	\$1,500.00	\$11,500.00
GT Conservation Permit Fee	\$23,283.00	(Direct Reimbursable)		\$23,283.00
Add. Ecological Serv. GT Relocation A.A. Report	\$68,550.00	15%	\$10,282.50	\$78,832.50
Recipient Site Fee	\$399,000.00	5%*	\$19,950.00	\$418,950.00

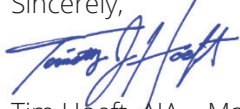
Total \$536,866.50

* Reduction Offered by Architect in good faith as a committed partner

New Total for Professional Services\$1,994,487.50

All other terms of our agreement remain as stated in our initial proposal and associated contract with the County. Again, we appreciate the opportunity to work with you and can make ours team available to further discuss upon request.

Sincerely,



Tim Hoeft, AIA, - Managing Principal
STRAUGHN TROUT ARCHITECTS, LLC
tim@straughntrout.com

cc: candice@straughntrout.com, jerry@straughntrout.com

Attachment A: Additional Services Request from WSP dated 7/20/2023



ADDITIONAL SERVICES REQUEST

Date:	July 20, 2023	Additional Services #:	01
Client:	Straughn Trout Architects, LLC.	WSP Project No.:	600867
Contact:	Timothy J. Hoeft, AIA	Original Contract Date:	11/07/2022
Project Name:	Hernando County Tax Collector		
WSP Representative:	David Butcher		

The following additional/changed service(s) were requested for your project:

ADDITIONAL SERVICES FOR TASK 103

This Additional Services Request #01 is to provide additional funding to complete the activities required for the census, permitting, and relocation of gopher tortoises (*Gopherus polyphemus*) from the project site in accordance with the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) Gopher Tortoise Permitting Guidelines (FWC 2020). The following provides the general scope of work, key assumptions, and cost estimate for assisting the County with this project. The results of the survey are valid for 90 days from the last day of the survey.

ECOLOGICAL SERVICES

WSP USA Environment & Infrastructure Inc. (WSP) conducted an initial 100% site census survey under the previous budget on January 24, 2023, and located 143 gopher tortoise burrows. Of the 143 burrows, 136 were identified as potentially occupied, and seven were identified as abandoned. The results of the survey are valid for 90 days from the last day of the survey. The following provides the general scope of work, key assumptions, and cost estimate for assisting the County with this project. The fee for this initial survey was covered by the original proposal.

100% GOPHER TORTOISE BURROW SURVEY

Prior to initiating the gopher tortoise relocation, FWC will require a 100% census of the area subject to the relocation activities. WSP will conduct a final 100% pedestrian gopher tortoise burrow census within the suitable gopher tortoise habitat. All burrows will be mapped using a sub-meter GPS unit. The survey results will be provided to the FWC for review. The results of the survey are valid for 90 days from the last day of the survey.

Note: The initial 100% survey is no longer valid (within 90 days) so an updated census will need to be completed prior to permitting and relocation.

The second 100% census task will cost **\$3,740.00**.

Deliverable: Electronic copy of the revised burrow map.

GOPHER TORTOISE CONSERVATION PERMIT APPLICATION

WSP will prepare and submit a gopher tortoise Conservation Permit application and supporting documentation to the FWC for the project based on the updated survey information. Application documentation includes site and ownership information, vegetation, land use, and soils maps, survey results from Task 103A, and gopher tortoise recipient site information. An application fee is due to FWC based on the expected number of gopher tortoises to be relocated. The FWC application fee associated with the permit is based on the calculated gopher tortoise population. Conservation Permits issued for gopher tortoises relocated to a long-term protected recipient site require a \$234 mitigation contribution to FWC for up to five tortoises and a \$351 mitigation contribution to FWC per tortoise thereafter. These fees will be the responsibility of the County to



ADDITIONAL SERVICES REQUEST

reimburse WSP for the fee which is based on the initial census a population estimate of 68 gopher tortoises was determined. If additional gopher tortoises are found during the second review WSP will develop an additional services request to match the fees associated with the new survey.

The FWC application fee based on the current population estimate comes to \$23,283.00. Mitigation contributions in excess of the final number of tortoises relocated will be refunded less a 3% administrative fee charged by the State. If WSP receives a refund from the State, we will credit the County for the refunded amount.

The FWC typically requests a site review following the permit application to verify survey information. WSP staff will accompany FWC on-site to respond to any questions that may arise.

The application process requires a letter of reservation from the gopher tortoise recipient site (property receiving the gopher tortoises). WSP will draft and submit a letter of reservation with the gopher tortoise recipient site.

The design fee to complete the Gopher Tortoise Conservation Permit Application task is **\$10,000.00**.

The permit fee associated with the task is **\$23,283.00**.

Deliverable: Electronic copy of the submitted application; receipt of payment for FWC permit fee.

GOPHER TORTOISE RELOCATION

Once the Conservation Permit is approved and 100% of survey results are submitted to FWC, WSP will contract with an experienced backhoe operator for the gopher tortoise burrow excavation. Excavation is typically the most cost and time-effective method for gopher tortoise extraction. In accordance with the guidelines, all potentially occupied gopher tortoise burrows must be excavated. Gopher tortoises typically have multiple burrows, averaging two burrows per gopher tortoise. An average of ten gopher tortoise burrows are expected to be excavated per day.

The scheduling and execution of the gopher tortoise relocation effort are dependent on the availability of suitable weather. Permit conditions limit relocation efforts to those days when overnight temperatures at the recipient site are predicted to be greater than 50 degrees Fahrenheit for a period of three consecutive days following relocation. In addition to suitable weather, the permit will require the submittal of proof of local government approval (development plan approval, clearing, and grading permit, etc.) and an updated gopher tortoise survey if the 100% survey is more than 90 days old prior to initiating the relocation activities.

This task includes notification to Sunshine 811 of the proposed excavations. This service will request utility companies with facilities within the site to mark them prior to work. WSP staff conducting the excavations will include at least one person trained as a competent person for trench excavation and will oversee the safety of the dig operations.

WSP contacted multiple permitted recipient site banks to determine which site has space for the reservation and to minimize the recipient site fee. Recipient site fees are variable based on current demand and availability. Currently, multiple recipient sites have space available to meet the needs of this project's reservation. WSP will contract directly with the recipient sites and be responsible for their fees at the time of relocation. The recipient site charges \$6,000 per adult and \$3,000 per juvenile tortoise relocated. During the initial survey 136 potentially occupied gopher tortoise burrows were identified, of this total 131 were identified as adult, and five were identified as juvenile gopher tortoise burrows. Using the FWC population estimates of 65 adults and three juvenile gopher tortoises the recipient site fee will total **\$399,000.00**. This proposal includes continued recipient site coordination services. For the recipient sites with available space, no security deposit is required. The final invoice is based on the actual number of gopher tortoises relocated to the recipient site so this fee may change due to the number of tortoises relocated. WSP will invoice the County upon receiving invoices from the recipient site.

The recipient site will record the statistical data from the relocated gopher tortoises (i.e., weight, sex, and carapace length) necessary for the After-Action Report that will be provided to the FWC as required by the permit. WSP will use the collected data to submit the After-Action Report to the FWC.



ADDITIONAL SERVICES REQUEST

Based on the initial survey completed on January 24, 2023, it is expected to take 14 days of effort for the relocation and excavations.

The design fee to complete the Gopher Tortoise Relocation task is **\$68,550.00**.

The recipient site fee associated with the task is **\$399,000.00**.

Deliverable: Electronic copy of After-Action Report and all receipts associated with the recipient site.

GOPHER RELOCATION ASSUMPTIONS

- The availability of recipient sites is currently limited. WSP is not responsible for delays due to unavailable recipient site spaces.
- Based on previous site work, utility locate services beyond Sunshine 811 should not be necessary prior to excavation and are not included in this proposal.
- It is assumed that the building contractor will install exclusion fencing around the entire project site prior to the excavation of tortoises. Properly installed and maintained silt fencing will suffice for this requirement.
- The timely completion of this project is dependent upon the weather. Fieldwork and project schedule may be impacted due to severe weather at the subject property.

TASK	DESCRIPTION	FEE DESCRIPTION	ADDITIONAL FEE
103	Ecological Services GT Final Burrow Survey	Design	\$3,740.00
	Ecological Services GT Conservation Permit Application	Design Permit FEE	\$10,000.00 \$23,283.00
	Ecological Services GT Relocation	Design Recipient Site FEE	\$68,550.00 \$399,000.00

COUNTY REQUIREMENTS:

1. **Provide the Contractor with a contract to install a silt fence around the site prior to the relocation of Gopher Tortoises.**

Escape Ranch Unit I

ATTACHMENT A

Long -Term site in Osceola County



Now Taking Reservations....

- 2,521 Reservations Available.
- Adult Tortoises - \$6,000.00 Each.
- Juvenile Tortoises - \$3,000.00 Each.
- We do all pick-ups, Marking & Measuring.
- We do not require deposits to timely paying customers.
- No charge for hatchlings.

For more information or reservations, please call or email us at.

Phone: 386-847-0295 & 386-478-9566

Email: info@apesgroup.com