

Land Conservation Board

Applicant Package - Natural Resource Professional

Land Conservation Board - Natural Resource Professional

Term: 12 Dec 2023 - 30 Sep 2027

Positions Available: 2

Number of applicants in this package: 1

- Surdick, Jim

Name: Surdick, Jim

Address: 5649 SE 8th Ave, Gainesville, FL, 32641

Email: jsurdick@waterandair.com

Board Name: Land Conservation Board

Primary Phone:

8505108865

Please list any civic and professional accomplishments/honors, training or experience related to this appointment::

PhD in Systems Ecology, MS in Wildlife Ecology, BS in Wildlife Ecology and Conservation, Member of the Florida Native Plant Society

Please list any current/previous Advisory Board appointments:

None

What Contributions do you feel you could make if you were selected to this board?:

I have many years of experience working throughout Florida on conservation properties assessing the natural communities, flora, and fauna. While employed with the Florida Natural Areas Inventory I also assessed properties recommended for inclusion in the Florida Forever land acquisition program. My statewide perspective and many years of experience may help in assessing potential acquisitions within Alachua County.

Please Agree with the following statements:

I understand this application is the property of Alachua County and subject to public records laws. I hereby certify that the statements made on this application are true and correct. I understand that Appointees to advisory board/committees are required to attend scheduled meetings as specified in the "Guidelines for Citizen Advisory Boards and Committees". I understand that some boards and committees require Financial Disclosure (Chapter 112, Florida Statutes) and I am willing to file if required. I affirm that my personal and business (if applicable) affairs within Alachua County are in substantial compliance with all county regulatory and taxing authorities rules and regulations?:

Yes

Note: This question is for the Gainesville-Alachua County Airport Authority Board

Do you currently hold any publicly elected office in the State of Florida?:

No

Employer :

Water and Air Research, Inc.

Occupation:

Senior Ecologist

Are you currently serving, or have you ever served, on an Alachua County advisory board? :

No

Time of Submission: 11/21/23 7:46:41 PM

Attachments:

- Jim Surdick CV 2023.pdf

Jim Surdick, Ph.D.

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Gainesville, FL 32641

850.510.8865

jsurdick@waterandair.com

Education

University of Florida Ph.D. in Systems Ecology, Dept. Environmental Engineering, August 2005

Dissertation: Amphibian and Avian Species Composition of Forested Depressional Wetlands and Circumjacent Habitat: The influence of Land Use Type and Intensity

Committee: Mark Brown, Dick Franz, Clay Montague, and Graeme Cumming

University of Florida MS in Wildlife Ecology and Conservation, December 1998

Thesis: Biotic and Abiotic Indicators of Foraging Site Selection and Foraging Success of Four Ciconiiform Species in the Freshwater Everglades of Florida

Committee: Peter Frederick, Kathryn Sieving, and Douglas Levey

University of Wisconsin-Madison BS in Wildlife Ecology, May 1993

Advisor: Stan Temple

Work Experience

Senior Ecologist: Conducted surveys for Threatened and Endangered plant and animal species throughout Florida including black rail, crested caracara, Florida scrub jay, snail kite, southeastern kestrel, and indigo snake, gopher tortoise surveys and relocation, general wildlife surveys, wetland delineation, UMAM utilization, wetland assessment protocol (WAP), wellfield wetland hydrology investigations, natural community mapping, herbarium specimen identification and preparation, submerged aquatic vegetation (SAV) sampling, invasive exotic plant surveys and treatment inspections, Geographic Information System (GIS) analysis and mapping, conservation easement baseline documentation reports, conservation land management plans, proposal creation, project management, and report writing. Puerto Rico flora and fauna surveys and wetland delineation. Participated on the Land Management Review panel for Chassahowitzka WMA, Etoniah Creek State Forest, Paynes Prairie State Preserve State Park, and Salt Springs State Park. Water and Air Research, Inc. (11/18 to present)

Research Ecologist: Conducted surveys for Threatened and Endangered plant and animal species throughout Florida, including project management, proposal and report writing, avian point count surveys, drift fence sampling, tortoise burrow scoping, small mammal trapping, endangered species status reviews, proposed conservation land assessments, natural community GIS mapping, groundcover restoration monitoring, and invasive exotic species surveys. Evaluated Florida Forever proposed acquisitions. Utilized Trimble units, Pathfinder Office, ArcMap, ArcCatalog, and Biotics 5. Florida State University, Florida Natural Areas Inventory (5/04 to 8/18)

Environmental Consultant (on-call, part time): Surveyed for Threatened and Endangered plant and animal species, general flora and fauna surveys, avian point count surveys, vegetation monitoring sample plots, SAV surveys, wetland delineation, drift fence sampling, and fish sampling. Kestrel Ecological Services, Johnson Engineering, Jones Edmunds, Bio-Tech Consulting Inc., and an independent ecological consultant (5/02 to 11/18)

Wetland Biologist/PhD Student: Sampled vegetation, macroinvertebrates, fish, amphibians (including tadpoles), birds, algae, and water, in depressional wetlands throughout Florida. Conducted statistical analyses and GIS analyses and mapping. Utilized Acoustic Automated Recording Units to sample wildlife, and performed WRAP, HGM and UMAM wetland assessment techniques. Supervised technicians. Conducted an EPA funded literature review on indicators of wetland health. Study site reconnaissance, selection, and permit requests. Florida Department of Environmental Protection and University of Florida, Center for Wetlands (7/99 to 5/05)

Wildlife Biologist: Conducted aerial surveys for nine large mammal species in the Okavango Delta of Botswana, Africa. Conservation International (3/1/00 to 4/1/00)

Wildlife Biologist: Surveyed, monitored, and managed listed species (primarily red-cockaded woodpeckers), conducted silt fence herptile surveys, oversaw, and evaluated forest-wide resource management projects, banded birds, and prepared reports. Goethe State Forest, Florida Forest Service (3/98 to 7/99)

Teaching Assistant: Instructed 60 students during labs, field trips and lectures. Department of Wildlife Ecology and Conservation, University of Florida (Wetland Wildlife 4443) (1/98 to 5/98)

Research Assistant: Conducted research on ecology of wetland birds in the Everglades (aerial and airboat surveys, behavioral observation, etc.), sampled vegetation, fish, and macroinvertebrates, statistical analysis, supervised technicians, and prepared reports. University of Florida, Department of Wildlife Ecology and Conservation (1/96 to 1/98)

Naturalist: Instructed first through ninth graders at a local natural area. Madison Metropolitan School District (Madison, WI) (9/95 to 11/95)

Environmental Laboratory Technician: Conducted analyses (phosphorus, fluoride, nitrates, oil, BOD, and metals). Montgomery Watson Environmental Services, Madison, WI (3/95 to 8/95)

Threatened Species Impact Assessor: Contracted to survey three "rare" Neotropical migrants (LOWA, ACFL and CERW). Described territory characteristics, habitat use, nesting success, prey selection, local distribution, and response to disturbance. Summarized data and compiled a habitat manipulation feasibility report. DNR Division of Parks and Recreation, Rochester, MN (4/95 to 8/95)

Riparian Forest Research Assistant: Trapped, identified, and marked small mammals. Used microcomputers to record data, sampled woody vegetation, and maintained equipment and vehicles. Department of Conservation Research Division, Columbia, MO (10/1/94 to 11/23/94)

Wetland Research Assistant: Conducted bird surveys, performed time-budget analysis on herons, collected and identified invertebrates from activity, emergent, and artificial substrate traps, monitored permanent vegetation study plots, and entered data. Department of Conservation Research Division, Columbia, MO (7/94 to 10/94)

Wildlife Research Specialist: Conducted breeding bird surveys (belt transect method), anuran call surveys, yellow rail surveys, waterfowl surveys, wetland nest searches, monitored nests of wetland birds and raptors, captured herptiles and small mammals (drift fences), and surveyed bats with an echolocation detector. DNR Nongame Program, Camp Ripley, Brainerd, MN (5/94 to 7/94)

Wildlife Technician: Oak savanna and prairie restoration, collected native seeds, prepared planting site, participated in controlled burns, and removed woody species. DNR Bureaus of Endangered Resources and Wildlife Management, Madison, WI (9/93 to 4/94)

Avian Research Technician: Conducted breeding bird surveys (point count) in the Baraboo Hills of Wisconsin, vegetation sampling, orienteering with topographic maps and aerial photos, and contacted landowners. UW-Madison and U.S. Forest Service (5/93 to 9/93)

Internships

- Wrote restoration recommendations, supervised Conservation Corp crews during habitat restoration projects. DNR Bureau of Endangered Resources, Madison, WI (5/92 to 9/92)
- Monitored behavior, diet and young of nesting peregrine falcons; also involved with public awareness and relations. DNR Bureau of Endangered Resources, Madison, WI (5/92 to 9/92)
- Controlled exotics on State Natural Areas and conducted breeding bird surveys. DNR Bureau of Endangered Resources, Madison, WI (5/91 to 9/91)

Presentations

- Goethe State Forest Liaison Committee Meeting: "Status of the Red-cockaded Woodpecker on Goethe State Forest" 6/98
- Colonial Waterbird Society: "Determinants of wading bird foraging success in the Everglades" 10/97
- The Walt Dineen Society: "Environmental variables affecting wading bird foraging success in the Everglades" 5/97

Publications

Surdick, J.A. 2013. An amphibian and reptile drift fence survey of Big Bend Wildlife Management Area, Gulf Coast of Florida. *Florida Scientist* 76(3-4): 436-452

Cohen, M.J, C.R. Lane, K.C. Reiss, J.A. Surdick, E. Bardi, and M.T. Brown. 2005. Vegetation based Classification Trees for Rapid Inference of Isolated Wetland Condition. *Ecological Indicators* 5(3):189-206

Surdick, J.A. 1995. The Louisiana Waterthrush in Southeast Minnesota. *The Loon* 67(4): 201-204

Work Skills

Avian and amphibian acoustic surveys, tortoise burrow scoping, natural community mapping, bird capturing and banding, climbing trees with Swedish climbing ladders, installing Red-cockaded Woodpecker nest boxes, radio telemetry, prescribed burning, and navigating with compass, aerial photographs, and GPS. Operation and general maintenance of airboats, all-terrain vehicles (ATV), 4-wheel drive pickup trucks, and chainsaws.

Other Experience, Honors and Workshops

Used radio telemetry to capture bobwhite quail (MO Department of Conservation), Mist-netted cloud forest birds in Ecuador (3 weeks, 8/1997), Captured and banded Snail Kites, Wood Storks, and Red-cockaded Woodpeckers (FL), Captured and relocated Gopher Tortoises (FL), Used radio telemetry to monitor African Wild Dogs in Botswana, Africa (1 month, 4/2000). University of Florida Lakewatch volunteer (2006-2010). University of WI Dean's Honor List (six semesters)

Attended ATV, airboat, chainsaw, wetland plant identification, riparian HGM, and bird mist-netting workshops. PADI open water diver certification (1999). Certified Archeological Monitor (2008), Florida Bureau of Archeological Research. FWC boating course and airboat operator's safety and operation certification (2014). FWC Gopher Tortoise Line Transect Distance Sampling Workshop (2014). Introduced Reptile Early Detection and Documentation Certificate (2015). Wetland Assessment Procedure (WAP) workshop (2019). Authorized Gopher Tortoise Agent Certificate (GTA-19-00032) (2019). American Red Cross Adult First Aid/CPR/AED (2021). FWC Florida Shorebird Database training (2021).

Authored Reports

Surdick, J. A., B. Grezik, E. Nelson, P. NeSmith, and D. G. Strom. 2022. Big Cypress Seminole Indian Reservation Native Area: Wetland System Monitoring and Sentinel Species Diversity Study. Prepared for the Seminole Tribe of Florida (Hollywood, Florida) by Water & Air Research, Inc., Gainesville, Florida. 201 pgs.

Surdick, J.A. 2022. Wildlife Monitoring and Surveys Conducted During the Initial Fill of the C-44 Reservoir, Martin County, Florida. Prepared for the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers (Jacksonville, Florida) by Water & Air Research, Inc., Gainesville, Florida.

Surdick, J.A. 2018. Amphibian and Reptile Survey of Triple N Ranch and Bull Creek Wildlife Management Areas, Osceola County. Florida Natural Areas Inventory report to the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, Tallahassee, FL.

Surdick, J.A. and P. Russo. 2018. Rare and Listed Plant Species Survey of the Everglades Water Conservation Areas 2A, 2B, and 3A-South, and Holey Land and Rotenberger Wildlife Management Areas (year 4). Florida Natural Areas Inventory report to the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, Tallahassee, FL

Surdick, J.A, and G.E. Schultz. 2017. Invasive Exotic Plants Potentially Threatening Rare Southeast Florida Coastal Plant Species. Florida Natural Areas Inventory report to the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, Tallahassee, Florida

Surdick, J.A. and P. Russo. 2017. Rare and Listed Plant Species Survey of the Everglades Wildlife Management Area, Water Conservation Areas 3A North, 3A South, and 3B (year 3). Florida Natural Areas Inventory report to the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, Tallahassee, Florida

Surdick, J.A. 2017. Drift Fence Animal Survey of Box-R Wildlife Management Area, Franklin County. Florida Natural Areas Inventory report to the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, Tallahassee, Florida

Surdick, J.A. and P. Russo. 2016. Rare and Listed Plant Species Survey of the Everglades Wildlife Management Area, Water Conservation Area 3A South (year 2). Florida Natural Areas Inventory report to the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, Tallahassee, Florida

Surdick, J.A. 2016. Rare and Invasive Plant Species Survey of Escribano Point Wildlife Management Area, Santa Rosa County. Florida Natural Areas Inventory report to the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, Tallahassee, Florida

Surdick, J.A. 2016. Drift Fence Animal Survey of Escribano Point Wildlife Management Area, Santa Rosa County. Florida Natural Areas Inventory report to the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, Tallahassee, Florida

Reports continued

Surdick, J.A., P. Russo, and K. Gulledge. 2015. Rare and Listed Plant Species Survey of the Everglades Wildlife Management Area, Water Conservation Area 3A South (year 1). Florida Natural Areas Inventory, Tallahassee, Florida

Surdick, J.A. 2013. Historic and Current Natural Communities on Belmore State Forest, Satsuma Tract. Florida Natural Areas Inventory, Tallahassee, Florida

Surdick, J.A. 2012. Amphibian and Reptile Survey of Watermelon Pond Wildlife and Environmental Area, Alachua County. Florida Natural Areas Inventory, Tallahassee, Florida

Surdick, J.A. 2012. Rare and Listed Plant Species Survey of Watermelon Pond Wildlife and Environmental Area, Alachua County. Florida Natural Areas Inventory, Tallahassee, Florida

Surdick, J.A. and G.E. Schultz. 2011. Rare Species Inventory and Natural Community Mapping of Selected Suwannee River Water Management District Lands. Florida Natural Areas Inventory, Tallahassee, Florida

Surdick, J.A. and G.E. Schultz. 2010. Rare Species Inventory and Natural Community Mapping of Selected Suwannee River Water Management District Lands. Florida Natural Areas Inventory, Tallahassee, Florida

Surdick, J.A. and P. Russo. 2010. Rare Plant and Animal Inventory of Naval Air Station Whiting Field and Associated Properties. Florida Natural Areas Inventory, Tallahassee, Florida

Surdick, J.A. and P. Russo. 2010. Rare Plant and Animal Inventory of Naval Air Station Pensacola, Bronson Field, Saufley Field, and Corry Station. Florida Natural Areas Inventory, Tallahassee, Florida

Surdick, J.A. and A.M. Jenkins. 2010. Population Surveys of Rare Lauraceae Species to Assess the Effect of Laurel Wilt Disease in Florida. Florida Natural Areas Inventory, Tallahassee, Florida

Surdick, J.A., A. Davis, and P. Russo. 2010. Drift Fence Animal Survey of Big Bend Wildlife Management Area. Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission contract no. 01196. Florida Natural Areas Inventory, Tallahassee, Florida

Surdick, J.A., G.E. Schultz, and A. Davis. 2009. Rare Species Inventory and Natural Community Mapping of Selected Suwannee River Water Management District Lands. Florida Natural Areas Inventory, Tallahassee, Florida

Surdick, J.A. and A.M. Jenkins. 2009. Pondspice (*Litsea aestivalis*) Population Status and Response to Laurel Wilt Disease in Northeast Florida. Florida Natural Areas Inventory, Tallahassee, Florida

Surdick, J.A. 2009. Rare Plant and Animal Inventory of Air Force Special Operations Command, Hurlburt Field. Florida Natural Areas Inventory, Tallahassee, Florida

Reports continued

Surdick, J.A., G.E. Schultz, A. Davis, and P. Russo. 2008. Rare Species Inventory and Natural Community Mapping of Selected Suwannee River Water Management District Lands. Florida Natural Areas Inventory, Tallahassee, Florida

Surdick, J.A., G.E. Schultz, P. Russo, and D. Hipes. 2007. Rare Species Inventory and Natural Community Mapping of Selected Suwannee River Water Management District Lands. Florida Natural Areas Inventory, Tallahassee, Florida

Surdick, J.A., G.E. Schultz, and D. Hipes. 2006. Rare Plant and Animal Inventory of Selected Suwannee River Water Management District Lands. Florida Natural Areas Inventory, Tallahassee, Florida

Surdick, J.A., G.E. Schultz, and D. Hipes. 2005. Rare Plant and Animal Inventory of Selected Suwannee River Water Management District Lands. Florida Natural Areas Inventory, Tallahassee, Florida

Hipes, D., G.E. Schultz, and J.A. Surdick. 2004. Rare Plant and Animal Inventory of Selected Suwannee River Water Management District Lands. Florida Natural Areas Inventory, Tallahassee, Florida

Doherty, S., M. Cohen, C. Lane, L. Line, and J. Surdick. 2000. Biological Criteria for Inland Freshwater Wetlands in Florida: A Review of Technical and Scientific Literature (1990-1999). United States Environmental Protection Agency

Frederick, P. C., J. Salatas and J. Surdick. 1997. Monitoring and research on wading birds in the Water Conservation Areas of the Everglades. Annual Report for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Jacksonville, Florida

Frederick, P. C., J. Salatas and J. Surdick. 1996. Monitoring and research on wading birds in the Water Conservation Areas of the Everglades. Annual Report for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Jacksonville, Florida