

**Fort Matanzas National Monument
Monthly Resource Management Update
April 30, 2012**

Natural Resource Management Fieldwork

Like most other specialties within the National Park Service, natural resource management is a year-round endeavor. However, there is a noticeable uptick in field-based activities coinciding with the warmer part of the year. In Florida this time period tends to run from April through September. (As perhaps an anecdotal indicator of climate change in action, this past winter was the first winter in fifteen winters of being in a uniformed position that I did not change into a winter uniform even once. And this includes years working in parks in southern Mississippi!) Since most NPS staff are not specifically involved in natural resource management on a day-to-day basis, what follows is a FYI run-down of the more common field-based activities that keep the small FOMA/CASA resource management staff very busy during Florida's endless summer:

Nesting seabird monitoring/Winter shorebird surveys
(34 least tern nests so far and 10 Wilson's plovers!)

Sea turtle nesting patrols/Nest evaluations/responding to strandings (Turtle patrol begins May 15.)

Seabird predator mitigation- Wildlife camera monitoring/Rake plots/Live trapping

Water quality monitoring- Datasonde calibration and data retrieval

Exotic plant monitoring and management

Photo and GPS-monitoring- Dune and marsh vegetation accretion and erosion

Roadkill monitoring

Sign and twine maintenance- Dune, seabird, and boundary signs and twine

Gopher tortoise surveys

Gypsy moth trap monitoring

Native bee monitoring

Trash pick-up and recycling

Living seawall monitoring

Beach patrol and roving interpretation

Great horned owl interpretation (Yes, they are still around!)