

**David Foote**

Land Stewardship
Environmental Analyst 3

How long have you been with the District?

Five years

What is your role with the District?

Primarily land management and restoration planning. One of my main responsibilities is to write management plans for the District's conservation lands. I also develop partnerships and agreements with other agencies to help manage and restore our lands. I participate in statewide initiatives and monitor trends and legislative issues that could impact the land stewardship. I track and report on all the land stewardship activities, including preparing annual reports.

What brought you to the District?

Land conservation is a natural fit for me. I spent a lot of time growing up in a small community in the woods that had deep roots in America's conservation movement. I wrote an article (<http://www.terrain.org/essays/17/foote.htm>) on it a couple years ago for its 75th anniversary that was published in a literary journal focusing on the relationship between the built and natural environments. I have a core belief that communities that enjoy the subtle daily influence of a natural landscape tend to be stronger, happier and healthier than those that don't.

As south Florida continues to grow, the lands we are buying and restoring will be key to shaping the character and livability of the new communities that will spring up around them. It's just like the old Greek proverb "A society grows great when old men plant trees whose shade they know they shall never sit in."

I came to the District after spending a couple years helping Broward County develop their land preservation acquisition program and open space municipal grant program. Before that I was a Park Ranger for a few years with the Florida Park Service, and before that I had worked with the Environmental Protection Agency, Escambia County's parks department and with a parks department for a city in Michigan. The District appealed to me because of the challenges

presented by such a vast quantity of land spread over such a large area and the challenges of maintaining partnerships with so many other agencies.

What do you enjoy best about your job and the District?

First, the great people with whom I work. Second, watching so much land being transformed over a few years from highly degraded areas to breathtakingly beautiful and richly diverse natural habitat. Third, reading comments from visitors to our lands sharing how much they enjoyed it, telling about all the wildlife their kids saw, or saying that they had never known that such a cool place was so close by.

What do you enjoy doing in your free time?

Sailing, surfing, painting, windsurfing and road trips.

What is something others might not know about you?

I paint wildlife. A few of mine are below.

In three words, how would you describe yourself?

Strategist, optimist and father

