

Amber Crooks

Education

- Master of Public Administration, Concentration in Environmental Policy and Planning
Florida Gulf Coast University (FGCU), Fort Myers, FL, 2006-2011
- Bachelor of Arts in Political Science, Minor in Applied Ethics
Stetson University, Deland, FL, 1999-2003
Recipient, Max Cleland Scholarship for Political Science
- Washington Semester, Peace and Conflict Resolution
American University, Washington, D.C., 2001

Experience

- Conservancy of Southwest Florida, Naples, FL
Senior Environmental Policy Advisor (2024-present)
Environmental Policy Advisor (2017-2024)
Senior Environmental Policy Specialist (2016-2017)
Senior Natural Resource Specialist (2012-2016)
Natural Resource Specialist (2007-2012)

Focused on listed species, oil & gas, water resource, and state/federal permitting policy issues. Drafted comment letters, technical analyses and testimony on policy issues of interest for the Conservancy of Southwest Florida. Attended governmental meetings and collaborated with agencies, partners, and decision-makers. Reviewed scientific, technical, and legal information and crafted white papers and position statements.

Analyzed a large-scale development plan that would have impacted 45,000 acres of Florida panther habitat in Collier County. Provided financial support to ranchers and livestock owners to promote human-wildlife coexistence. Wrote fertilizer ordinances for adoption by cities and counties in southwest Florida to protect water quality. Tracked state legislation related to oil drilling and testified before legislative committees. Appointed by US Fish and Wildlife Service to serve on the Panther Recovery Implementation Team Transportation Subteam to reduce panther-vehicle strikes. Served on the Florida Black Bear Technical Assistance Group and served as vice-chair of the Habitat Conservation Plan Advisory Committee for Collier County.

- Intern (2001)
Amnesty International, Human Rights and the Environment Program

Selected Technical Reports

- Crooks, A. “Mining Threatens Southwest Florida’s Wetlands and Wildlife.” National Wetlands Newsletter, Vol. 36, No. 5, 2014
- Crooks, A. “Politics Versus Science.” Capstone for FGCU MPA, 2011

Selected Programs, Memberships, and Awards

- Leadership Collier, Class of 2023
- Board of Directors, Friends of the Florida Panther Refuge, 2010-2020
- Charles Foster Conservation Fund Scholarship, 2007

Selected Conference and Invited Presentations

- “Identifying Solutions to Minimize Endangered Florida Panther Vehicle Collisions” (poster), Everglades Coalition Conference, Naples, FL, January 2026.
- “Western Everglades: Threats and Opportunities,” Everglades Coalition Conference, Bonita Springs, FL, January 2024.
- “One Permit to Rule Them All: The Florida Panther and Habitat Fragmentation in SWFL,” presented at “Conserving Biodiversity: Challenges for Florida in the Anthropocene,” March 2017.