

## **Jamie Richardson – Bio**

Jamie Richardson is a freshwater biologist from Osceola County, Florida who has worked for the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) for the last 10 years. She attended the University of Florida in Gainesville where she earned a B.S. in Wildlife Ecology and Conservation with a minor in Fisheries and Aquatic Sciences. She began working for FWC in 2015, starting as an OPS Fish and Wildlife Technician for the agency's Habitat and Species Conservation Section (HSC), conducting roving creel surveys and other freshwater assessments on the Kissimmee Chain of Lakes. In 2017, she joined the Freshwater Plants Research project of the FWC's Fish and Wildlife Research Institute (FWRI) in Lakeland, Florida as an OPS Biological Scientist II to serve as crew lead for the Florida portion of the EPA's National Aquatic Resource Surveys. She helped conduct the 2017 and 2022 National Lakes Assessments and the 2018-2019 National Rivers and Streams Assessments. In 2020, she took over as Co-Principal Investigator on the Peace River Streambank Restoration Project and the Myakka River Threats Assessment and Fish Assemblage Project. Starting in 2023, she joined the FWC's Division of Freshwater Fisheries Management as a Biological Scientist III on the Southwest Regional Fisheries Management Team in Lakeland. Currently, she is the Principal Investigator on many of the public freshwater resources in Polk County and assists with sampling and management efforts on other lakes and rivers in the Southwest Region's 12 county area. Her main management goals are habitat restoration and improving fishing opportunities and access to the public. She currently represents the FWC on the Myakka River Management Coordinating Council and participates in SWFWMD's Minimum Flows and Levels (MFL) Coordination meetings. Jamie is active in the outdoors and has a deep-rooted passion for Florida's freshwater ecosystems. She would be honored to serve on the Polk County Lakes Access Advisory Committee.

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