

Easton Municipal Airport Obstruction Removal Project Easton, Maryland



Description

FHI carried out a variety of environmental studies and coordination for this airport-wide obstruction removal project. In the initial project phase, FHI managed and supervised a comprehensive delineation and jurisdictional determination of wetlands, per federal and state requirements, on airport property. Simultaneously, FHI carried out a wetland functional analysis based on the 13 functions/values recognized by the Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE) and coordinated with the ACOE and the Maryland Department of the Environment to begin shepherding the obstruction removal project through the joint federal/state application for alteration of waterways and wetlands. Once the need for a federal Environmental Assessment (EA) was recognized, FHI documented the affected environment and analyzed impacts for wetlands, ecological resources, and threatened and endangered species pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and FAA guidelines, in compliance with Section 404 of the Clean Water Act and the Endangered Species Act (ESA). Since the Airport contained prime habitat for the state and federally endangered Delmarva fox squirrel, FHI initiated Section 7 (ESA) informal consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. FHI's role expanded to include the management of a trapping survey of the fox squirrel, habitat mitigation planning efforts, and further coordination with agencies and landowners. FHI contributed narratives for the Affected Environment and Environmental Consequences chapters of the Draft EA, including discussions for secondary impacts, cumulative impacts, and construction impacts, as well as analyses showing attempts to avoid, minimize, and mitigate adverse impacts.

Client

Easton Municipal Airport

