

Waste Management Vulture Study

Pompano Beach, FL



Blue Wing Environmental (BWE) developed a study protocol to document turkey and black vulture presence and movements on and near the Monarch Hill Landfill in Pompano Beach, FL. The study included avian technicians collecting observation data over a three-day period during dawn, midday, and dusk time periods. Avian techs were positioned at the landfill facility, at a known nearby roost site and an intercept point between these two locations. Observation data collection included species, plumage (age) spatial location, activity, number, resource location/resource used (if applicable) and time.

Both turkey and black vultures have resident populations year round in Florida. However, vulture numbers increase due to migration periods in spring and fall and from vultures that over-wintering in south Florida. These influxes increase populations for both species. Landfills can be a food attractant to vultures. In south Florida where the surrounding areas are relatively flat, a large landfill mound can provide topographic relief creating wind lift which vultures can use to gain altitude for soaring. Due to the current bird abatement program and the best management practices at the Monarch Hill Landfill facility, vulture foraging is relatively minimal.

The report provided recommendations to decrease the attractiveness of the known roost site and to continue the current bird abatement program to lessen the attractiveness of the landfill to vultures.



Client

Waste Management Inc.
of Florida

Location

Pompano Beach, Florida

Project Date

March - May 2019

Expertise Provided

Avian Observations

Wildlife-Human Conflict
Mitigation

