

**Nia Wellendorf** is the administrator of the Aquatic Ecology and Quality Assurance Section within the Division of Environmental Restoration at the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP). Her section maintains DEP's quality assurance requirements for sample collection and analysis and its freshwater bioassessment program. Since she started with DEP in 2001, she has also worked on development of numeric nutrient criteria and site specific water quality standards, and biological evaluations to support those standards. Nia holds a Bachelor of Science Degree in Natural Resources from Cornell University and a Master of Science Degree in Aquatic Ecology from the University of Alabama. She especially loves aquatic plants, and enjoys exploring the natural areas and waterways of Florida with her family.