

THE NORTHWEST FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT
81 Water Management Drive
Havana, Florida 32333

APPROVAL OF REGIONAL MITIGATION PLAN

Pursuant to Chapter 373, Florida Statutes (F.S.), Section 373.4137, F.S., the Northwest Florida Water Management District (District), has approved the annual regional mitigation plan for Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) impacts identified in the annual FDOT environmental impact inventory submitted pursuant to Section 373.4137, F.S.

BACKGROUND

Section 373.4137, F.S., requires the District, in consultation with the Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP), the United States Army Corps of Engineers (COE), the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) and other appropriate federal state and local governments, and other interested parties, to develop and approve an annual regional mitigation plan for the mitigation needs of the FDOT. Through this consultation the District's regional mitigation plan was designed and evaluated to meet the mitigation requirements of chapter 373, Florida Statutes, and 33 U. S. C. § 1344.

The regional mitigation plan consists of mitigation to offset impacts associated with four minor roadway projects. The District proposes preservation, enhancement and perpetual management of 30 acres in Bay County to offset 3.90 acres of wetland impact within the same watershed (Chipola River) associated with improvements to State Road (SR) 73 in Calhoun County. The District proposes mitigation for the 1.90 acres of wetland impact associated with a section of Interstate 10 widening west of Capital Circle northwest in Leon County in the Ochlockonee River watershed. The mitigation will consist of eradication and control of undesirable invasive/exotic vegetation and the restoration of native shoreline vegetation on approximately 17 acres in Meginniss Arm of Lake Jackson, also within the larger Ochlockonee River watershed and within 2 miles of the impacts. Mitigation for the SR 79 Open Creek Bridge replacement wetland impacts (1.99 acres) in Washington County proximate to Holmes Creek will consist of restoration of 6.6 acres of forested wetlands from existing improved pasture at the Glover Tract adjacent to Holmes Creek. Mitigation for the SR 79 Holmes Creek Bridge replacement wetland impacts (1.91 acres) will consist of restoration and hydrologic enhancement of 12.27 acres of forested wetlands at the Sapp Tract along Holmes Creek. The total estimated cost for the mitigation activities, including staff and administrative costs, for these four projects is \$855,385.

A copy of the regional mitigation plan may be obtained from Duncan Jay Cairns, Resource Management Division, Northwest Florida Water Management District, 81 Water Management Drive, Havana, FL 32333-4712.

The District concludes, as of the date of this approval, that the regional mitigation plan complies with the mitigation requirements of Chapter 373, F.S., and 33 U.S.C. § 1344.

In accordance with Subsection 373.4137 (7), upon approval by the governing board of the water management district or its designee, the mitigation plan shall be deemed to satisfy the mitigation requirements of Section 373.4137, F.S., for impacts specifically identified in the FDOT environmental impact inventory and any other mitigation requirements imposed by local regional, and state agencies for these same impacts. The approval of the governing board of the water management district or its designee shall authorize the activities proposed in the mitigation plan, and no other state, regional or local permit or approval shall be necessary.

In accordance with Subsection 373.4137 (8), approval of the plan and any amendment does not eliminate the need for FDOT to meet the permitting requirement to reduce or eliminate impacts of the transportation projects, nor does it change any other permitting criteria for those transportation projects. This approval only addresses mitigation requirements for the specified road projects. It does not grant or imply that the specified projects satisfy any other permitting requirements under Part IV of Chapter 373, F.S., or rules adopted there under.

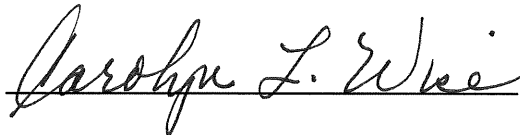
APPROVED this 14th day of March, 2006



Douglas E. Barr, Executive Director
Northwest Florida Water Management District
81 Water Management Drive
Havana, Florida 32333

STATE OF FLORIDA
COUNTY OF GADSDEN

3-14-06
Date



Carolyn L. Wise
MY COMMISSION # DD233310 EXPIRES
August 15, 2007
BONDED THRU TROY FAIR INSURANCE, INC.