

**Northwest Florida Water Management District
81 Water Management Drive
Havana, Florida 32333-4712**

Approval of Regional Mitigation Plan Modifications

February 26, 2013

Pursuant to §373.4137, Florida Statutes (FS), the Northwest Florida Water Management District (District) hereby approves modifications to the Northwest Florida Umbrella, Watershed-based, Regional Mitigation Plan (Umbrella Plan) for Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) impacts identified in the FDOT District-3 Environmental Impact Inventory (Inventory) and submitted to the District since October, 2011.

§373.4137, FS, requires the District, in consultation with the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP), the United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), FDOT, other appropriate federal, state, and local governments, and other interested parties, to develop and approve an annual regional mitigation plan prior to March 1st of each year for the mitigation needs of FDOT that are submitted to the District (FDOT is not required to participate in the §373.4137, FS process and may opt to implement mitigation for any or all of its projects independent of the District). The District-approved regional mitigation plan may not be implemented before approval by FDEP. Through consultation with the aforementioned entities, the District's Umbrella Plan was designed and evaluated to meet state and federal mitigation requirements (373.4137 FS and 33 United State Code §1344). The District is committed to using private mitigation banks when possible, dependent upon approval by state and federal permitting authorities, as offsetting mitigation for FDOT impacts.

Since the last District approval of modifications to the Umbrella Plan, FDOT has added seven impacts to the Inventory for a total estimated wetland impact of 22.66 acres (the actual wetland acreage impact may be modified as permitting proceeds). These impacts and proposed mitigation are summarized below. Additional information is posted at www.NFWFMDwetlands.com.

FDOT Transportation Projects Submitted Since October, 2011

- SR 30A (from SR 30E/Cape San Blas Road north to US 98). Impact is to 2.056 acres / 0.80 UMAM functional loss. Proposed mitigation, developed in coordination with the St. Joseph Bay State Buffer Preserve, is hydrologic enhancements on Buffer Preserve lands adjacent to the impacts. State and federal permitting authorities have reviewed the proposed mitigation and concluded that it appropriately offsets the impact. This impact is not within the service area of any existing or proposed private mitigation bank. Additional information on this impact is posted at http://nwfwmdwetlands.com/Site.php?site_id=218.

- BH Stone Road at Crooked Creek. This is a county road project (Calhoun County) submitted by FDOT to the NFWFMD. Impact is to 0.52 acres / 0.40 UMAM functional loss. Proposed mitigation is from the current NFWFMD Tates Hell – Whiskey George / Sumatra Mitigation Area (UWRMP 5.5.9) credit ledger. This impact is not within the service area of any fully permitted private mitigation bank, although it is within the proposed service area of the Bear Creek Mitigation Bank. If Bear Creek were to become available as an option, Calhoun County has indicated it does not have sufficient funds to purchase mitigation credits. Additional information on this impact is posted at http://nwfwmdwetlands.com/Site.php?site_id=217.
- SR 742 / Burgess Road (from US 29 to Hillburn Drive). Estimated impact is 2.00 acres to stream wetlands at Carpenter Creek (UMAMs not provided at this time). This impact is within the service area of the Garcon Peninsula Mitigation Bank and the Pensacola Bay Mitigation Bank. Permitting authorities have indicated that the Pensacola Bay Mitigation Bank has appropriate forested palustrine credits available to adequately compensate for these impacts. Proposed mitigation is purchase of offsetting credits from the Pensacola Bay Mitigation Bank. Additional information on this impact is posted at http://nwfwmdwetlands.com/Site.php?site_id=2220.
- SR 123 (from SR 85 north to Toms Creek). Estimated impact is 2.40 acres (UMAMs not provided at this time). This impact is not within the service area of any private mitigation bank. Because the federally listed (threatened status) Okaloosa darter is likely present, permitting authorities have indicated that mitigation should occur on similar stream wetlands. Mitigation on Eglin AFB, the NFWFMD Lafayette Creek Mitigation Area, or on other proximate stream wetlands is under review. Additional information on this impact is posted at http://nwfwmdwetlands.com/Site.php?site_id=225.
- SR 123 (from Toms Creek to Turkey Creek). Estimated impact is 0.68 acres (UMAMs not provided at this time). This impact is not within the service area of any private mitigation bank. Because the federally listed (threatened status) Okaloosa darter is likely present, permitting authorities have indicated that mitigation should occur on similar stream wetlands. Mitigation on Eglin AFB, the NFWFMD Lafayette Creek Mitigation Area, or on other proximate stream wetlands is under review. Additional information on this impact is posted at http://nwfwmdwetlands.com/Site.php?site_id=226.
- SR 87 Yellow River Bridge and Approaches. Estimated impact is 13.00 acres (UMAMs not provided at this time). This impact is not within the service area of any private mitigation bank. Proposed mitigation is debiting credits from the NFWFMD Yellow River Ranch Mitigation Area (UWRMP 5.2.1) ledger. Additional information on this impact is posted at http://nwfwmdwetlands.com/Site.php?site_id=211.
- US 29 (from I-10 to US 90A). Estimated impact is 2.00 acres (UMAMs not provided at this time). This impact is within the service areas of the Garcon Peninsula Mitigation Bank and the Pensacola Bay Mitigation Bank. Mitigation is expected to consist of purchase of credits from the aforementioned private mitigation banks. Additional

information on this impact is posted at
http://nwfwmdwetlands.com/Site.php?site_id=213.

A copy of the Umbrella Plan may be accessed online at <http://nwfwmdwetlands.com> or may be obtained from the 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 Umbrella Plan complies with the mitigation requirements of §373.4137, FS, and 33 USC §344, subject to approval by FDEP.

In accordance with §373.4137 (7), upon approval by the governing board of the water management district or its designee and FDEP, the mitigation plan shall be deemed to satisfy the mitigation requirements of §373.4137, FS, 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. Per §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, FS, or rules adopted there under.

APPROVED this 27th day of February, 2013



Jonathan P. Steverson, Executive Director
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STATE OF FLORIDA
COUNTY OF GADSDEN

Date