

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

**Approval of Regional Mitigation Plan Modifications**

**March 16, 2015**

Section 373.4137(4), F.S., requires the Northwest Florida Water Management District (District), in consultation with the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP); the United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE); the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT); other appropriate federal, state, and local governments; and other interested parties, to develop and approve an annual regional mitigation plan each year for the mitigation needs of FDOT that are submitted to the District.<sup>1</sup>

Since the February 28, 2014 District approval of modifications to the Regional Mitigation Plan (a.k.a. Umbrella Plan), approved by FDEP in March 2014, FDOT has added eight projects with impacts not occurring within the service area of any private mitigation bank to the FDOT District-Three Environmental Impact Inventory (Inventory). The total wetland impact associated with these projects is estimated by FDOT as greater than 3.7 acres. Actual wetland acreage impact may be modified as permitting proceeds. These impacts and possible mitigation are summarized below. Additional information is posted at [www.NFWWMDwetlands.com](http://www.NFWWMDwetlands.com).

Pursuant to sections 373.4137(4) and (6), Florida Statutes (F.S.), the District hereby approves modifications to the Umbrella Plan for FDOT impacts identified in the FDOT District-Three Inventory and submitted to the District since February 2014. The Umbrella Plan includes the Sand Hill Lakes Mitigation Bank (owned and operated by the District), the District's In-Lieu Fee (ILF) Program, and other mitigation projects implemented by 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 has been designed and evaluated to meet state and federal mitigation requirements (section 373.4137, F.S., and 33 United State Code section 1344); however, it is the responsibility of FDOT to propose offsetting mitigation to state and federal permittees.

**FDOT Transportation Projects Submitted to NFWWMD since February 2014**

- **SR 372 / Surf Road, Ochlockonee Bay Bike Trail, Phase 2.** Impact is to an estimated 0.50 acres of wetlands. An estimated Unified Mitigation Assessment Method (UMAM) functional loss has not been provided at this time. This impact is not within the service area of any private mitigation bank. Potential mitigation is use of credits from the NFWWMD Shuler ILF Mitigation Area. A total of 33.95 credits were released by the

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<sup>1</sup> FDOT is not required to participate in this mitigation program (section 373.4137(2)(a), F.S.) and may opt to implement mitigation for any or all of its projects independent of the District.

USACE at the Shuler site, of which 27.90 remain available for use.<sup>2</sup> At this time, District and federal permitting authorities have not reviewed potential mitigation options. Additional information on this impact and potential mitigation is posted at [http://nfwfmdwetlands.com/Site.php?site\\_id=237](http://nfwfmdwetlands.com/Site.php?site_id=237).

- **SR 372 / Surf Road, Ochlockonee Bay Bike Trail, Phase 3.** Impact is to an estimated 0.046 acres of wetlands. An estimated UMAM functional loss has not been provided at this time. This impact is not within the service area of any private mitigation bank. Potential mitigation is use of credits from the NFWFMD Shuler ILF Mitigation Area. A total of 33.95 credits were released by the USACE at the Shuler site, of which 27.90 remain available for use. At this time, District and federal permitting authorities have not reviewed potential mitigation options. Additional information on this impact and potential mitigation is posted at [http://nfwfmdwetlands.com/Site.php?site\\_id=237](http://nfwfmdwetlands.com/Site.php?site_id=237).
- **US 90A (from SR 297 / Pine Forest Road to US 29).** Impact is to an estimated 0.50 acres of wetlands. Estimated UMAM functional loss has not been provided at this time. This impact is not within the service area of any private mitigation bank. Potential mitigation is use of credits from the NFWFMD Dutex ILF Mitigation Area. To date, 63.30 credits have been released by the USACE at the Dutex site, of which 43.29 are available for use. At this time, District and federal permitting authorities have not reviewed potential mitigation options. Additional information on this impact and potential mitigation is posted at [http://nfwfmdwetlands.com/Site.php?site\\_id=239](http://nfwfmdwetlands.com/Site.php?site_id=239).
- **US 90A (from CR 99 / Beulah Road to I-10).** Impact is to an estimated 1.00 acre of wetlands. Estimated UMAM functional loss has not been provided at this time. This impact is not within the service area of any private mitigation bank. Potential mitigation is use of credits from the NFWFMD Dutex ILF Mitigation Area. To date, 63.30 credits have been released by the USACE at the Dutex site, of which 43.29 are available for use. At this time, District and federal permitting authorities have not reviewed potential mitigation options. Additional information on this impact and potential mitigation is posted at [http://nfwfmdwetlands.com/Site.php?site\\_id=232](http://nfwfmdwetlands.com/Site.php?site_id=232).
- **P.J. Adams Parkway (from Ashley Drive to Key Lime Place<sup>3</sup>).** Included in the FDOT Inventory, neither impact acreage nor estimated UMAM functional loss has been provided. This impact is not within the service area of any private mitigation bank. Potential mitigation is use of credits from the NFWFMD Yellow River Ranch ILF Mitigation Area. To date, 29.29 credits have been released by the USACE at the Yellow River Ranch site, of which 10.14 are available for use. At this time, District and federal permitting authorities have not reviewed potential mitigation options. Additional

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<sup>2</sup> One UMAM credit is designed to functionally offset the elimination of one acre of pristine wetland. The functional quality of the impacted wetland, and whether secondary impacts are considered by permitting authorities, may cause the ratio of UMAM credits to impact acreage required by permits to be greater than or less than 1:1.

<sup>3</sup> This impact extends approximately 1/3 mile along the existing P.J. Adams Parkway from Ashley Drive to Key Lime Place, with impacts concentrated along a 400' stretch that crosses an unnamed, first order tributary to Juniper Creek. A review of aerial photography suggests the impacts may be in the one-acre range.

information on this impact and potential mitigation is posted at [http://nfwfmdwetlands.com/Site.php?site\\_id=242](http://nfwfmdwetlands.com/Site.php?site_id=242).

- **SR 71 (from SR 69 / Pear Street to Jackson County line)**. Impact is to an estimated 0.29 acres of wetlands. FDOT has proposed to District and federal permittees use of the NFWFMD Bates Hell ILF Mitigation Area as offsetting mitigation. The District permit (ERP No. 1615, issued 8/22/2014) requires FDOT to purchase 0.09 UMAM credits from Bates Hell, whereas the federal permit (USACE permit SAJ-2014-01305 NW-JML, issued 1/27/2015) requires 0.14 credits from Bates Hell. A total of 38.52 credits were released by the USACE at the Bates Hell ILF site, of which 35.41 remain available for use. This impact is not within the service area of any private mitigation bank. Additional information on this impact and potential mitigation is posted at [http://nfwfmdwetlands.com/Site.php?site\\_id=236](http://nfwfmdwetlands.com/Site.php?site_id=236).
- **SR 30E / Cape San Blas Road (from SR 30A west to the Troy Deal Unit, St. Joseph Bay State Buffer Preserve)**. Per the USACE, impact is to 0.48 acres of wetlands, with a functional loss 0.08 UMAM. The USACE is requiring mitigation for this impact (state permittees are allowing FDOT credit for past mitigation work associated with another road project, whereas federal permittees opted not to do so). This impact is not within the service area of any private mitigation bank. Mitigation, per USACE permit, will consist of hydrologic enhancement of freshwater marsh wetlands at the St. Joseph Bay State Buffer Preserve via installation of one low-water-crossing on a management road identified as Island Road. District staff estimate that this mitigation project will result in a functional gain of 0.45 UMAM. Additional information on this impact and potential mitigation is posted at [http://nfwfmdwetlands.com/Site.php?site\\_id=243](http://nfwfmdwetlands.com/Site.php?site_id=243).
- **Carrabelle-Thompson Airport**. Included in the FDOT Inventory, neither impact acreage nor estimated UMAM functional loss has been provided. This impact is not within the service area of any private mitigation bank. Potential mitigation is use of credits from the NFWFMD Bates Hell ILF Mitigation Area. A total of 38.52 credits were released by the USACE at the Bates Hell ILF site, of which 35.41 remain available for use. This impact is not within the service area of any private mitigation bank. Additional information on this impact and potential mitigation is posted at [http://nfwfmdwetlands.com/Site.php?site\\_id=245](http://nfwfmdwetlands.com/Site.php?site_id=245).

A copy of all Umbrella Plan documents may be accessed online at <http://nfwfmdwetlands.com> (or any successor website), 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 section 373.4137, F.S., and 33 USC section 344, subject to approval by FDEP.

In accordance with section 373.4137(7), F.S., 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 section 373.4137, F.S., for impacts specifically in the FDOT


Inventory and any other mitigation requirements imposed by local, regional, and state agencies for these same impacts. 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 section 373.4137(5), the District, upon notice and coordination with FDOT, may deviate from the approved mitigation plan to comply with federal permitting requirements.

### **Discussion of Consideration Given to Use of Private Mitigation Banks**

Per section 373.4137(2)(c), F.S., FDOT must investigate use of a mitigation bank before including a project on the Inventory submitted to the District. If the District identifies use of a mitigation bank to offset an FDOT impact included on the Inventory, the District shall exclude that project from the mitigation plan and FDOT shall be responsible for purchase of bank credits (section 373.4137(3)(d), F.S.). The District does not compete with private mitigation banks. Use of a mitigation bank as offsetting mitigation for an FDOT impact, however, is dependent upon approval by state and federal permitting authorities.

None of the abovementioned FDOT projects occur within areas served by private mitigation banks.

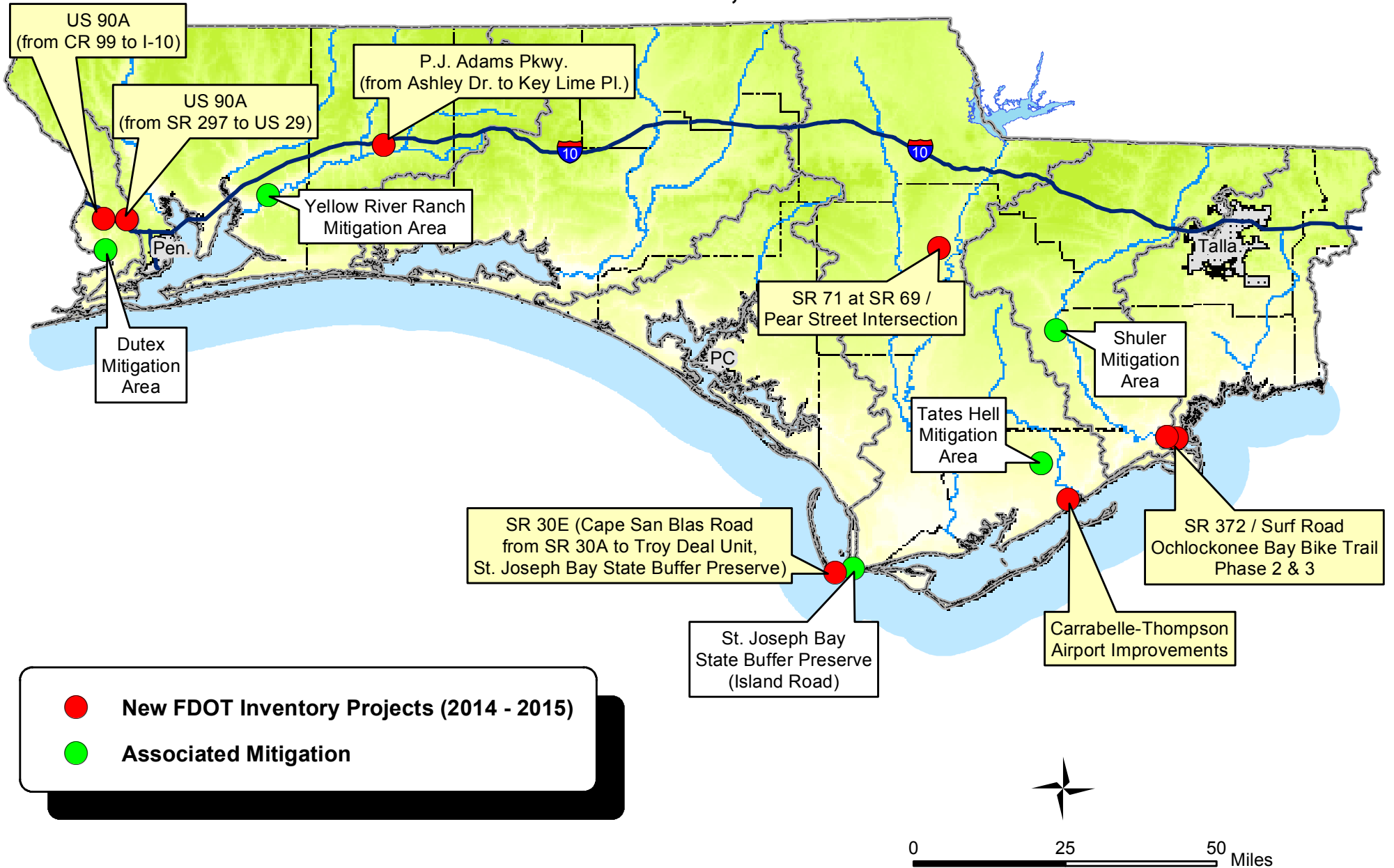
**APPROVED** this 16<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2015



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Brett J. Cyphers, Executive Director  
Northwest Florida Water Management District  
81 Water Management Drive  
Havana, Florida 32333-4712

# Northwest Florida Water Management District Regional Mitigation Plan Modification (FDOT Projects Added to Inventory Since 2/28/2014) March 16, 2015



**Table 1. New Transportation Project Impacts - 3/16/2015 (Submitted to NFWFMD by FDOT Since 2/28/2014)**

<b>Transportation Impact Project</b>	<b>Mitigation</b>	<b>Impact Drainage Basin</b>	<b>Habitat / Community Type Impact</b>	<b>Impact Acres by Type</b>	<b>Functional UMAM Loss by Type</b>	<b>Total Impact Acres</b>	<b>Total Functional UMAM Loss</b>	<b>T/E species</b>
SR 372 / Surf Road, Ochlockonee Bay Bike Trail, Phase 2	Shuler In-Lieu Fee Mitigation Area	Ochlockonee Watershed	Palustrine Wetlands	0.50	Unknown	0.50	Unknown	Unknown
SR 372 / Surf Road, Ochlockonee Bay Bike Trail, Phase 3	Shuler In-Lieu Fee Mitigation Area	Ochlockonee Watershed	Palustrine Wetlands	0.05	Unknown	0.05	Unknown	Unknown
US 90A (from SR 297 / Pine Forest Road to US 29)	Dutex In-Lieu Fee Mitigation Area	Perdido Watershed	Palustrine Wetlands	0.50	Unknown	0.50	Unknown	Unknown
US 90A (from CR 99 / Beulah Road to I-10)	Dutex In-Lieu Fee Mitigation Area	Perdido Watershed	Palustrine Wetlands	1.00	Unknown	1.00	Unknown	Unknown
P.J. Adams Pkwy. (from Ashley Drive to Key Lime Place)	Yellow River Ranch In-Lieu Fee Mitigation Area	Yellow River Watershed	Palustrine Wetlands	UNK (Est. 0.90)	Unknown	UNK (Est. 0.90)	Unknown	Unknown
SR 71 (from SR 69 / Pear Street to Jackson / Calhoun County line)	Tates Hell In-Lieu Fee Mitigation Area	Apalachicola Watershed	Palustrine Wetlands	0.29	0.14	0.29	0.14	Unknown
SR 30E (Cape San Blas Road from SR 30A west to the Troy Deal Unit, St. Joseph Bay State Buffer Preserve)	St. Joseph Bay State Buffer Preserve (Island Road)	St. Andrew Bay System Watershed	Palustrine Wetlands	0.48	0.08	0.48	0.08	Unknown
Carrabelle-Thompson Airport Improvements	Tates Hell In-Lieu Fee Mitigation Area	Apalachicola Watershed	Palustrine Wetlands	UNK	Unknown	UNK	Unknown	Unknown

**Table 2. Mitigation Projects for New Transportation Impacts - 3/16/2015 ( Submitted to NFWFMD by FDOT Since 2/28/2014)**

<b>Mitigation Name</b>	<b>County</b>	<b>SWIM Drainage Basin</b>	<b>Habitat / Community Type</b>	<b>Mitigation Type</b>	<b>Mitigation Acres by Type</b>	<b>Total Mitigation Acres</b>	<b>Land Acquisition</b>
Tates Hell In-Lieu Fee Mitigation Area	Franklin	Apalachicola River and Bay	Palustrine Wetlands	Wetland Enhancement	225	225	No
Dutex In-Lieu Fee Mitigation Area	Escambia	Perdido River and Bay	Estuarine and Palustrine Wetlands	Wetland Enhancement	810	810	Previously Acquired
Yellow River Ranch In-Lieu Fee Mitigation Area	Santa Rosa	Pensacola Bay System	Palustrine Wetlands	Wetland Enhancement	275	275	Previously Acquired
Shuler In-Lieu Fee Mitigation Area	Liberty	Ochlockonee River and Bay	Palustrine Wetlands	Preservation	485	485	Previously Acquired
St. Joseph Bay State Buffer Preserve (Island Road)	Gulf	St. Andrew Bay System	Palustrine Wetlands	Wetland Enhancement	6	6	No

**Table 3. Estimated Mitigation Costs (NFWFMD - 3/16/2015)**

<b>Transportation Project</b>	<b>Impact Acres</b>	<b>Mitigation</b>	<b>Planning / Design Cost</b>	<b>Construction Cost</b>	<b>Acquisition or Credit Purchase Cost</b>	<b>Management Cost</b>	<b>Total Cost</b>	<b>Mitigation Cost per Acre of Impact</b>
SR 372 / Surf Road, Ochlockonee Bay Bike Trail, Phase 2	0.50	Shuler In-Lieu Fee Mitigation Area	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$54,800	\$54,800	\$109,600
SR 372 / Surf Road, Ochlockonee Bay Bike Trail, Phase 3	0.05	Shuler In-Lieu Fee Mitigation Area	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$5,042	\$5,042	\$109,600
US 90A (from SR 297 / Pine Forest Road to US 29)	0.50	Dutex In-Lieu Fee Mitigation Area	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$56,405	\$56,405	\$112,810
US 90A (from CR 99 / Beulah Road to I-10)	1.00	Dutex In-Lieu Fee Mitigation Area	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$111,426	\$111,426	\$111,426
P.J. Adams Pkwy. (from Ashley Drive to Key Lime Place)	UKN	Yellow River Ranch In-Lieu Fee Mitigation Area	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$100,000	\$100,000	Unknown (Est. \$111,432)
SR 71 (from SR 69 / Pear Street to Jackson / Calhoun County line)	0.29	Tates Hell In-Lieu Fee Mitigation Area	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$15,600	\$15,600	\$53,795
SR 30E (Cape San Blas Road from SR 30A west to the Troy Deal Unit, St. Joseph Bay State Buffer Preserve)	0.48	St. Joseph Bay State Buffer Preserve (Island Road)	\$8,000	\$12,000	\$0	\$33,487	\$53,487	\$111,432
Carrabelle-Thompson Airport Improvements	UKN	Tates Hell In-Lieu Fee Mitigation Area	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	Unknown	Unknown