



REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
JACKSONVILLE DISTRICT CORPS OF ENGINEERS
P. O. BOX 4970
JACKSONVILLE, FLORIDA 32232-0019

August 19, 2013

Regulatory Division
Special Projects and Enforcement Branch
SAJ-2002-05061-VG

Northwest Florida Water Management District
c/o Mr. Jonathan Steverson
81 Water Management Drive
Havana, Florida 32333-4712

Dear Mr. Steverson:

Reference is made to your request for credit release submitted in connection with Sand Hill Lakes Mitigation Bank (SHLMB). The Mitigation Banking Instrument (MBI) for SHLMB was executed on May 12, 2006. This credit release is associated with the attainment of second interim success criteria for SHLMB. Although credit generation at the SHLMB was determined through the application of both Wetland Rapid Assessment Procedure (WRAP) and Uniform Mitigation Assessment Method (UMAM), the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) will be using WRAP for credit accounting purposes.

The Corps has received the 2012 Annual Status Report, which provides a detailed discussion of all activities conducted during year 2012. The report also provides a discussion of ecological trends, supporting the attainment of success criteria established for SHLMB. The Corps, partnering with members of the Interagency Review Team (IRT) conducted a site visit on July 30, 2013, to ground-truth the findings of the report.

Based upon a review of said report and current site conditions, it has been determined that the following credits may be released in accordance with the established credit release schedule:

- a) Attainment of Second Interim Success Criteria: 5% of total credits, which totals 14.21 credits (12.82 palustrine forested and 1.39 palustrine emergent). The site visit served to confirm the presence of appropriate plant communities, with species-appropriate vegetative cover, and diversity.

In our efforts to implement the Jacksonville District Credit Classification System (notification sent by email dated March 30, 2012), the Corps has determined that credit generation for SHLMB falls into three categories identified on the MBI as "hydric pine flatwoods", "other forested wetlands" and "herbaceous" (see Section 4.6, page 26 of the MBI). The total potential credit generation for SHLMB is 284.03 WRAP (298.40 UMAM). The MBI provided that the credits would be broken down as 41.25% hydric pine flatwoods, 48.96% other forested wetlands, and 9.79% herbaceous. These values were based on the UMAM credit totals rather than the

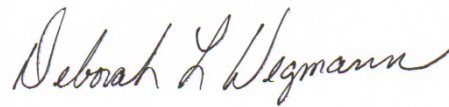
WRAP totals so they needed to be recalculated. Additionally, within our new system, the current "Hydric pine flatwood" and "other forested wetlands" classification became Palustrine Forested and "herbaceous" became Palustrine Emergent (two categories instead of three). A Mitigation Bank Suitability Index factor was also incorporated into the overall 284.03 WRAP credit determination. In consideration of the above, we have determined that under the new classification system, the SHLMB has the potential to generate 261.96 (or 92.23%) Palustrine Forested and 22.07 (or 7.77%) Palustrine Emergent WRAP credits. These values are different than what is shown on the WRAP Mitigation Credit Ledger included in the MBI but it provides a more accurate representation of what is being generated.

Prior to the date of this letter, a total of 170.42 credits (60%) had been released. **Therefore, this authorization will bring the total number of credits released by the Corps for SHLMB to 184.63.**

In accordance with a national initiative, all Corps Districts are utilizing the Regulatory In-lieu Fee and Bank Information Tracking System (RIBITS) to provide the public with better access to up-to-date information on all approved mitigation banks across the country. Your ledger information can be accessed through the following web address: <https://ribits.usace.army.mil>. If you are unable to access the web site or would like to receive a hard copy of your credit ledger, please contact the person identified in the last paragraph of this letter.

Once again, we thank for your commitment and continued efforts to make TMEOMB a viable mitigation bank. Should you have any questions concerning this matter, you may contact Mrs. Vivian Gerena in writing to the letterhead address, by electronic mail at vivian.gerena@usace.army.mil, or by telephone at 904-232-2209.

Sincerely,



for
Donald Kinard
Chief, Regulatory Division

Electronic Copies Furnished:

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