



REPLY TO  
ATTENTION OF

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
JACKSONVILLE DISTRICT CORPS OF ENGINEERS  
POST OFFICE BOX 4970  
JACKSONVILLE, FLORIDA 32232-0019

June 1, 2018

Regulatory Division  
North Permits Branch  
Mitigation Bank Team  
SAJ-2002-05061-TSM

3<sup>RD</sup> INTERIM CREDIT RELEASE

Mr. David Clayton  
Northwest Florida Water Management District  
81 Water Management Drive  
Havana, Florida 32333-4712

Dear Mr. Clayton:

Reference is made to your letter dated March 9, 2018, requesting the release of compensatory mitigation credits (credits) generated at the Sand Hill Lakes Mitigation Bank (SHLMB). The Mitigation Banking Instrument (MBI) for the SHLMB was approved by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) on May 16, 2006. The SHLMB was approved to provide compensatory mitigation for impacts to waters of the United States for those activities located within the SHLMB service area which have been authorized by Department of the Army (DA) permits. The 2,155-acre SHLMB is located in Washington County, Florida west of the intersection of State Road (SR) 77 and SR 279 within Sections 1, 11, and 12 of Township 1 north, Range 15 west; Sections 5-8, and 17 of Township 1 north, Range 14 west; Section 36 of Township 2 north, Range 15 west; and Section 31 of Township 2 north, Range 14 west, north of Panama City, Florida. The SHLMB project has been assigned file number SAJ-2002-05061. Please reference this number in any future correspondence.

Credits generated at SHLMB were determined through the application of the Wetland Rapid Assessment Procedure (WRAP). Credits currently listed as palustrine forested credits were originally identified in the MBI as either hydric flatwoods wetlands or mixed hardwood wetlands; credits currently identified as palustrine emergent were originally identified in the MBI as herbaceous wetland credits. As established, SHLMB has the potential to generate a maximum of 284.03 federal credits, classified as 256.23 Palustrine Forested (hydric flatwoods, mixed hardwood) and 27.80 Palustrine Emergent (herbaceous) WRAP credits. Interim credits are eligible to be released for successfully meeting specific performance or success criteria in accordance with the success criteria found in the MBI and detailed in your 2017 monitoring report and credit release request.

The Corps, in consultation with other members of the federal Interagency Review Team (IRT), has evaluated your request for the third interim release of credits as described in the Credit Release Schedule. The release of these credits is associated

with the achievement of interim success criteria specified for each of the 14 management units within the Management Plan of the MBI.

After receipt of the 2017 monitoring report and request for credit release, IRT agencies visited the SHLMB site on March 28, 2018 to evaluate the condition of the site following recent winter fire management. In addition to reviewing the 2017 monitoring report and current site conditions, the IRT reviewed previous baseline and annual monitoring reports. While reviewing the site, stewardship staff from the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission discussed the need for additional structures within the already-developed storage and administration area near the entrance and for additional portable restroom facilities at a remote lake parking area. The additional structures would be used for equipment storage by regional law enforcement staff and would have a side benefit of increasing enforcement presence on and near the bank site. The additional portable restrooms would curb potential overflow from the remote lake parking areas. The IRT concurred that both requests were desirable, and would be improvements to long-term stewardship as well as promoting the ecological success of the site.

In summary, based on the March 28, 2018 IRT site inspection and review of baseline and annual monitoring reports submitted, the Corps has determined that all relevant success criteria for the third interim credit release have been attained in accordance with the provisions noted in the MBI. Therefore, **25.62 Palustrine Forested** and **2.78 Palustrine Emergent credits** are now released and available for sale by the SHLMB to provide compensatory mitigation for impacts to waters of the United States authorized by DA permits.

This is the seventh overall credit release the Corps has approved for SHLMB and the third based on performance of the site. To date, including this action, the Corps has released a total of **195.63 Palustrine Forested and 17.48 Palustrine Emergent credits** to SHLMB. While you will be maintaining a ledger for the SHLMB as required by the regulations at 33 CFR 332.8(p)(1), the Corps will be utilizing the Regulatory In-Lieu Fee and Bank Information Tracking System (RIBITS) to track credit accounting for the SHLMB. A summary of credits released and transferred for all federally approved mitigation banks can be viewed at the following web site: <https://ribits.usace.army.mil>. As the Sponsor for the SHLMB, you are required to provide the Corps with notification of all approved credit transactions. We request that the appropriate documentation be forwarded to [CreditSalesNotification@usace.army.mil](mailto:CreditSalesNotification@usace.army.mil) but you may send hard copies to the letterhead address.

If you have any questions with regards to this matter or if you do not concur with the accuracy of the ledger maintained in RIBITS, please contact Mr. Tom Mings at the

letterhead address, by telephone at 904-232-3094, or by electronic mail at Thomas.S.Mings@usace.army.mil.

Sincerely,

for Tori K. White  
Acting Chief, Regulatory Division

cc:

Ms. Cynthia Van Der Wiele, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
(vanderwiele.cynthia@epa.gov)

Mr. Jeffrey Ackley, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (jeffrey\_ackley@fws.gov)

Mr. David Rydene (david.rydene@noaa.gov)

Mr. Larry Olney, Florida Department of Environmental Protection  
(Larry.Olney@dep.state.fl.us)

Ms. Donna Kendall, Florida Department of Environmental Protection  
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Mr. Bryan Phillips, Florida Fish & Wildlife Commission (bryan.phillips@myfwc.com)

Mr. Terry Gilbert, Florida Fish & Wildlife Commission (terry.gilbert@myfwc.com)