



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

February 16, 2017

REPLY TO  
ATTENTION OF

Regulatory Division  
North Permits Branch  
Panama City Permits Section  
SAJ-2016-03019(NW-MAO)

Florida Department of Transportation, District 3  
Attn: Colby Cleveland  
1074 Highway 90  
Chipley, FL 32428

Dear Mr. Cleveland:

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) assigned your application for a Department of the Army permit, which the Corps received on October 4, 2016, the file number SAJ-2016-03019. A review of the information and drawings provided indicates that the proposed work would result in the replacement of the existing, structurally deficient, box culvert bridge with a new, pile supported bridge and bridge abutments. The work will result in permanent impacts to 0.4323 acres of wetlands surrounding Juniper Creek. The project is located along County Road 65A at the Juniper Creek Bridge, in Section 33, Township 2 North, Range 5 West, Greensboro, Gadsden County, Florida.

Your project, as depicted on the enclosed drawings, is authorized by Nationwide Permit (NWP) Number 14. In addition, project specific conditions have been enclosed. This verification is valid until **March 18, 2017**. Furthermore, if you commence or are under contract to commence this activity before the date that the relevant nationwide permit is modified or revoked, you will have 12 months from the date of the modification or revocation of the NWP to complete the activity under the present terms and conditions of this nationwide permit. Please access the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' (Corps) Jacksonville District's Regulatory Internet page to access Internet links to view the Final Nationwide Permits, Federal Register Vol. 77, dated February 21, 2012, specifically pages 10270 – 10290, the Corrections to the Final Nationwide Permits, Federal Register 77, March 19, 2012, and the List of Regional Conditions. The Internet page address is:

<http://www.saj.usace.army.mil/Missions/Regulatory.aspx>

Please be aware this Internet address is case sensitive and should be entered as it appears above. Once there you will need to click on "Source Book"; and, then click on "Nationwide Permits." These files contain the description of the Nationwide Permit

authorization, the Nationwide Permit general conditions, and the regional conditions, which apply specifically to this verification for NWP 14. Enclosed is a list of the six General Conditions, which apply to all Department of the Army authorizations. You must comply with all of the special and general conditions and any project specific condition of this authorization or you may be subject to enforcement action. In the event you have not completed construction of your project within the specified time limit, a separate application or re-verification may be required.

The following special conditions are included with this verification:

1. Within 60 days of completion of the work authorized, the attached *Self-Certification Statement of Compliance* must be completed and submitted to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Mail the completed form to the Regulatory Division, Special Projects and Enforcement Branch, 41 North Jefferson Street, Suite 301, Pensacola, FL 32502. Completed documents can also be submitted to [CESAJ-ComplyDocs@usace.army.mil](mailto:CESAJ-ComplyDocs@usace.army.mil).
2. Cultural Resources/Historic Properties:
  - a. No structure or work shall adversely affect impact or disturb properties listed in the *National Register of Historic Places* (NRHP) or those eligible for inclusion in the NRHP.
  - b. If during the ground disturbing activities and construction work within the permit area, there are archaeological/cultural materials encountered which were not the subject of a previous cultural resources assessment survey (and which shall include, but not be limited to: pottery, modified shell, flora, fauna, human remains, ceramics, stone tools or metal implements, dugout canoes, evidence of structures or any other physical remains that could be associated with Native American cultures or early colonial or American settlement), the permittee shall immediately stop all work and ground-disturbing activities within a 100-meter diameter of the discovery and notify the Corps within the same business day (8 hours). The Corps shall then notify the Florida State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) and the appropriate Tribal Historic Preservation Officer(s) (THPO(s)) to assess the significance of the discovery and devise appropriate actions.
  - c. Additional cultural resources assessments may be required of the permit area in the case of unanticipated discoveries as referenced in accordance with the above Special Condition; and if deemed necessary by the SHPO, THPO(s), or Corps, in accordance with 36 CFR 800 or 33 CFR 325, Appendix C (5). Based, on the circumstances of the discovery, equity to all parties, and considerations of the public interest, the Corps may modify, suspend or revoke the permit in accordance with 33

CFR Part 325.7. Such activity shall not resume on non-federal lands without written authorization from the SHPO for finds under his or her jurisdiction, and from the Corps.

d. In the unlikely event that unmarked human remains are identified on non-federal lands, they will be treated in accordance with Section 872.05 Florida Statutes. All work and ground disturbing activities within a 100-meter diameter of the unmarked human remains shall immediately cease and the permittee shall immediately notify the medical examiner, Corps, and State Archeologist within the same business day (8-hours). The Corps shall then notify the appropriate SHPO and THPO(s). Based, on the circumstances of the discovery, equity to all parties, and considerations of the public interest, the Corps may modify, suspend or revoke the permit in accordance with 33 CFR Part 325.7. Such activity shall not resume without written authorization from the State Archeologist and from the Corps.

3. Prior to the initiation of any of the work authorized by this permit, the permittee shall install floating turbidity barriers with weighted skirts that extend to the bottom around all work areas that are in, or adjacent to, surface waters. The turbidity barriers shall remain in place and be maintained until the authorized work has been completed and all suspended and erodible materials have been stabilized. Turbidity barriers shall be removed upon stabilization of the work area.

4. Prior to the initiation of any work authorized by this permit, the permittee shall install erosion control measures along the perimeter of all work areas to prevent the displacement of fill material outside the work area into waters of the United States. Immediately after completion of the final grading of the land surface, all slopes, land surfaces, and filled areas shall be stabilized using sod, degradable mats, barriers, or a combination of similar stabilizing materials to prevent erosion. The erosion control measures shall remain in place and be maintained until all authorized work is completed and the work areas are stabilized.

5. The permittee shall use only clean fill material for this project. The fill material shall be free from items such as trash, debris, automotive parts, asphalt, construction materials, concrete block with exposed reinforcement bars, and soils contaminated with any toxic substance, in toxic amounts in accordance with Section 307 of the Clean Water Act.

6. Permittee shall comply with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's "Standard Protection Measures for the Eastern Indigo Snake" dated August 12, 2013, as provided in Attachment 5 of this permit. All gopher tortoise burrows, active or inactive, shall be evacuated prior to site manipulation in the vicinity of the burrow. If excavating potentially occupied burrows, active or inactive, individuals must first obtain state

authorization via a Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) Authorized Gopher Tortoise Agent permit. The excavation method selected shall minimize the potential for injury of an indigo snake. The permittee shall follow the excavation guidance provided in the most current FWC Gopher Tortoise Permitting Guidelines found at <http://myfwc.com/gophertortoise>. If an indigo snake is encountered, the snake must be allowed to vacate the area prior to additional site manipulation in the vicinity. Holes, cavities, and snake refugia other than gopher tortoise burrows shall be inspected each morning before planned site manipulation of a particular area, and if occupied by an indigo snake, no work shall commence until the snake has vacated the vicinity of the proposed work.

7. Within 30 days from the date of initiating the work authorized by this permit, the permittee shall provide verification to the Corps that 0.159 of palustrine, forested federal mitigation bank credits have been purchased from the Shuler In-Lieu Fee site under the Northwest Florida Water Management District In-Lieu Fee Program (SAJ-2011-00287). The required verification shall reference this project's permit number (SAJ-2016-03019).

This letter of authorization does not give absolute Federal authority to perform the work as specified on your application. The proposed work may be subject to local building restrictions mandated by the National Flood Insurance Program. You should contact your local office that issues building permits to determine if your site is located in a flood-prone area, and if you must comply with the local building requirements mandated by the National Flood Insurance Program.

If you are unable to access the internet or require a hardcopy of any of the conditions, limitations, or expiration date for the above referenced NWP, please contact Michael Ornella by telephone at 904-232-1498 or electronic mail at [Michael.Ornella@usace.army.mil](mailto:Michael.Ornella@usace.army.mil).

Thank you for your cooperation with our permit program. The Corps Jacksonville District Regulatory Division is committed to improving service to our customers. We strive to perform our duty in a friendly and timely manner while working to preserve our environment. We invite you to complete our automated Customer Service Survey at [http://corpsmapu.usace.army.mil/cm\\_apex/f?p=regulatory\\_survey](http://corpsmapu.usace.army.mil/cm_apex/f?p=regulatory_survey). Please be aware this Internet address is case sensitive; and, you will need to enter it exactly as it appears above. Your input is appreciated – favorable or otherwise.

Sincerely,

Andrew A. Kizlauskas  
Chief, Panama City Permits Section

Enclosures

General Conditions  
Permit Drawings (3)  
Department of the Army Permit Transfer Request  
Self-Certification Statement of Compliance  
Standard Protection Measures for the Eastern Indigo Snake

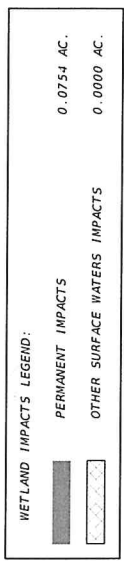
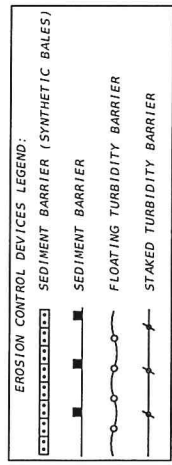
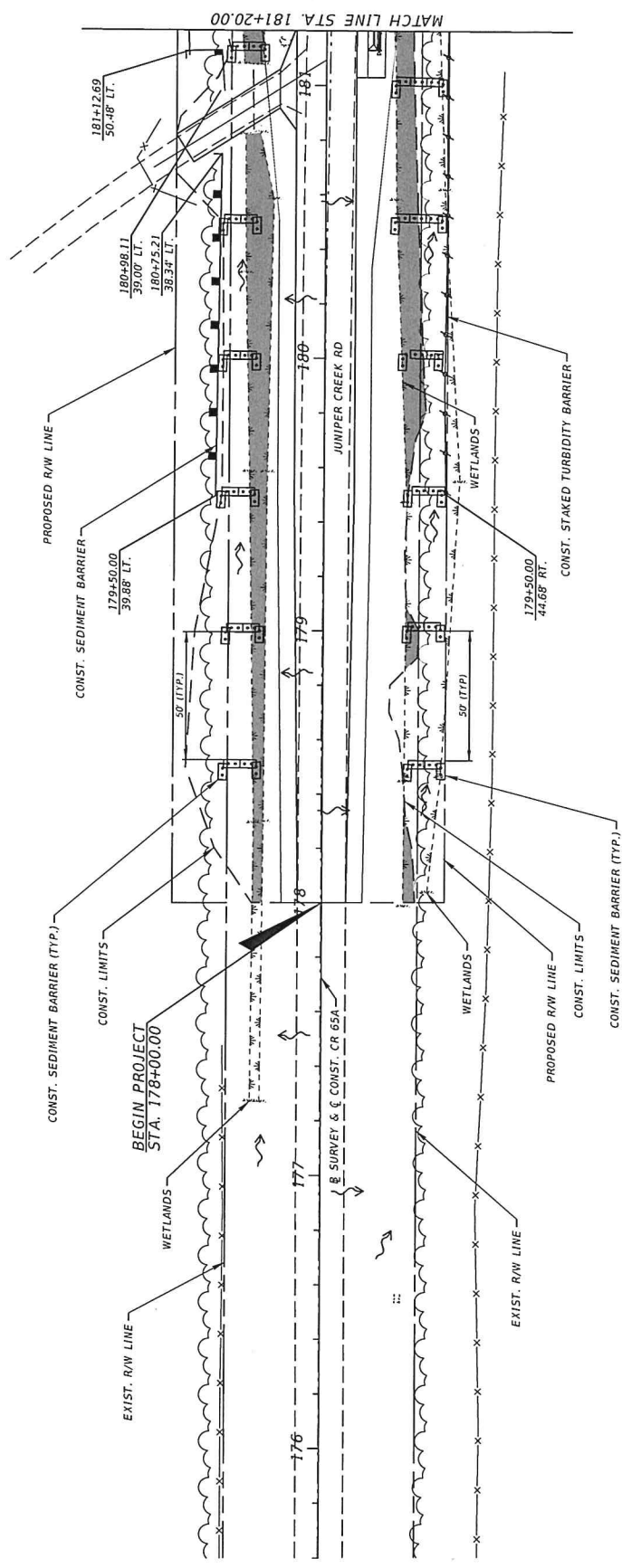
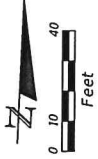
Copies Furnished:

Tracey Ludyjan-Ybarra, Ecological Resource Consultants, Inc.

GENERAL CONDITIONS  
33 CFR PART 320-330

1. The time limit for completing the work authorized ends on **March 18, 2017**.
2. You must maintain the activity authorized by this permit in good condition and in conformance with the terms and conditions of this permit. You are not relieved of this requirement if you abandon the permitted activity, although you may make a good faith transfer to a third party in compliance with General Condition 4 below. Should you wish to cease to maintain the authorized activity or should you desire to abandon it without a good faith transfer, you must obtain a modification of this permit from this office, which may require restoration of the area.
3. If you discover any previously unknown historic or archeological remains while accomplishing the activity authorized by this permit, you must immediately notify this office of what you have found. We will initiate the Federal and state coordination required to determine if the remains warrant a recovery effort or if the site is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.
4. If you sell the property associated with this permit you must obtain the signature of the new owner in the space provided and forward a copy of the permit to this office to validate the transfer of this authorization.
5. If a conditioned water quality certification has been issued for your project, you must comply with the conditions specified in the certification as special conditions to this permit. For your convenience, a copy of the certification is attached if it contains such conditions.
6. You must allow a representative from this office to inspect the authorized activity at any time deemed necessary to ensure that it is being or has been accomplished in accordance with the terms and conditions of your permit.

TOTAL WETLAND IMPACTS:  
 PERMANENT IMPACTS 0.4323 AC.  
 OTHER SURFACE WATERS IMPACTS 0.0598 AC.



DATE	DESCRIPTION	REVISIONS	DATE	DESCRIPTION

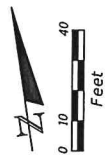
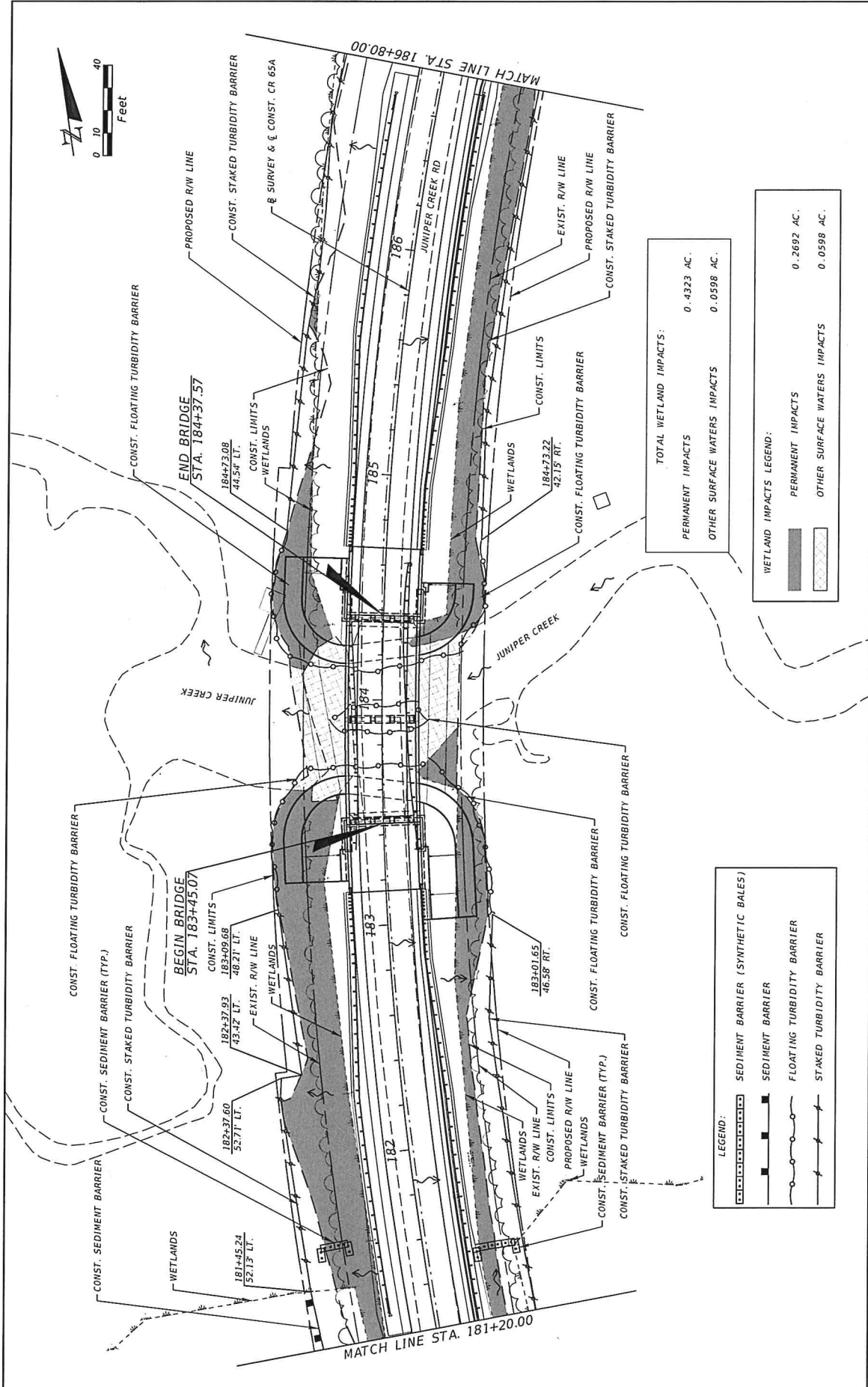
Wentman Group Inc.  
 2260 Wednesday Street, Suite 100  
 Tallahassee, FL 32308  
 Phone: (850) 210-0101  
 Certificate of Authorization: 6091  
 Greg K. Bowyer, P.E. License No. 59559

STATE OF FLORIDA  
 DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION  
 ROAD NO. CR 65A  
 COUNTY GADSDEN  
 FINANCIAL PROJECT ID 435802-152-01

EROSION CONTROL PLAN (1)

SHEET NO. 31

9/17/2016 10:48:57 AM C:\pwworking\pww\jtr\proj\cr65a\025802\EROSION PLAN (1).dgn USER: jtr@lee



TOTAL WETLAND IMPACTS:

PERMANENT IMPACTS	0.4323 AC.
OTHER SURFACE WATERS IMPACTS	0.0598 AC.

WETLAND IMPACTS LEGEND:

	PERMANENT IMPACTS	0.2692 AC.
	OTHER SURFACE WATERS IMPACTS	0.0598 AC.

LEGEND:

	SEDIMENT BARRIER (SYNTHETIC BALES)
	SEDIMENT BARRIER
	FLOATING TURBIDITY BARRIER
	STAKED TURBIDITY BARRIER

DATE		DESCRIPTION		REVISIONS		DATE		DESCRIPTION	
Waitman Group Inc. 2260 Wednesday Street, Suite 100 Tallahassee, FL 32308 Phone: (850) 210-0101 Certificate of Authorization: 6091 Greg K. Bowyer, P.E. License No. 58559									
ROAD NO.		COUNTY		FINANCIAL PROJECT ID		STATE OF FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION CR 65A GADSDEN 435802-152-01			
EROSION CONTROL PLAN (2)									
SHEET NO. 32								9/7/2016 10:46:29 AM C:\working\wgn\j\proj\rev\03\0305\04\EROC2.dgn	





**DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY PERMIT TRANSFER REQUEST**

**PERMIT NUMBER: SAJ-2016-03019(NW-MAO)**

When the structures or work authorized by this permit are still in existence at the time the property is transferred, the terms and conditions of this permit will continue to be binding on the new owner(s) of the property. Although the construction period for works authorized by Department of the Army permits is finite, the permit itself, with its limitations, does not expire.

To validate the transfer of this permit and the associated responsibilities associated with compliance with its terms and conditions, have the transferee sign and date below and mail to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Enforcement Section, Post Office Box 4970, Jacksonville, FL 32232-0019.

\_\_\_\_\_  
**(TRANSFEREE-SIGNATURE)**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**(SUBDIVISION)**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**(DATE)**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**(LOT)**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**(BLOCK)**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**(NAME-PRINTED)**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**(STREET ADDRESS)**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**(MAILING ADDRESS)**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**(CITY, STATE, ZIP CODE)**

**SELF-CERTIFICATION STATEMENT OF COMPLIANCE**

**Permit Number: SAJ-2016-03019**

Permittee's Name & Address (please print or type): \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Telephone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Location of the Work: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date Work Started: \_\_\_\_\_ Date Work Completed: \_\_\_\_\_

**PROPERTY IS INACCESSIBLE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTIFICATION: YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_\_**

**TO SCHEDULE AN INSPECTION PLEASE CONTACT \_\_\_\_\_**  
**AT \_\_\_\_\_**

Description of the Work (e.g. bank stabilization, residential or commercial filling, docks,  
dredging,  
etc.): \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Acreage or Square Feet of Impacts to Waters of the United States: \_\_\_\_\_

Describe Mitigation completed (if applicable): \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Describe any Deviations from Permit (attach drawing(s) depicting the deviations):

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

\*\*\*\*\*

I certify that all work, and mitigation (if applicable) was done in accordance with the limitations and conditions as described in the permit. Any deviations as described above are depicted on the attached drawing(s).

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Permittee

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

**STANDARD PROTECTION MEASURES FOR THE EASTERN INDIGO SNAKE**  
**U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service**  
**August 12, 2013**

The eastern indigo snake protection/education plan (Plan) below has been developed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) in Florida for use by applicants and their construction personnel. At least **30 days prior** to any clearing/land alteration activities, the applicant shall notify the appropriate USFWS Field Office via e-mail that the Plan will be implemented as described below (North Florida Field Office: [jaxregs@fws.gov](mailto:jaxregs@fws.gov); South Florida Field Office: [verobeach@fws.gov](mailto:verobeach@fws.gov); Panama City Field Office: [panamacity@fws.gov](mailto:panamacity@fws.gov)). As long as the signatory of the e-mail certifies compliance with the below Plan (including use of the attached poster and brochure), no further written confirmation or “approval” from the USFWS is needed and the applicant may move forward with the project.

If the applicant decides to use an eastern indigo snake protection/education plan other than the approved Plan below, written confirmation or “approval” from the USFWS that the plan is adequate must be obtained. At least 30 days prior to any clearing/land alteration activities, the applicant shall submit their unique plan for review and approval. The USFWS will respond via e-mail, typically within 30 days of receiving the plan, either concurring that the plan is adequate or requesting additional information. A concurrence e-mail from the appropriate USFWS Field Office will fulfill approval requirements.

The Plan materials should consist of: 1) a combination of posters and pamphlets (see **Poster Information** section below); and 2) verbal educational instructions to construction personnel by supervisory or management personnel before any clearing/land alteration activities are initiated (see **Pre-Construction Activities** and **During Construction Activities** sections below).

**POSTER INFORMATION**

Posters with the following information shall be placed at strategic locations on the construction site and along any proposed access roads (a final poster for Plan compliance, to be printed on 11” x 17” or larger paper and laminated, is attached):

**DESCRIPTION:** The eastern indigo snake is one of the largest non-venomous snakes in North America, with individuals often reaching up to 8 feet in length. They derive their name from the glossy, blue-black color of their scales above and uniformly slate blue below. Frequently, they have orange to coral reddish coloration in the throat area, yet some specimens have been reported to only have cream coloration on the throat. These snakes are not typically aggressive and will attempt to crawl away when disturbed. Though indigo snakes rarely bite, they should NOT be handled.

**SIMILAR SNAKES:** The black racer is the only other solid black snake resembling the eastern indigo snake. However, black racers have a white or cream chin, thinner bodies, and WILL BITE if handled.

**LIFE HISTORY:** The eastern indigo snake occurs in a wide variety of terrestrial habitat types throughout Florida. Although they have a preference for uplands, they also utilize some wetlands

and agricultural areas. Eastern indigo snakes will often seek shelter inside gopher tortoise burrows and other below- and above-ground refugia, such as other animal burrows, stumps, roots, and debris piles. Females may lay from 4 - 12 white eggs as early as April through June, with young hatching in late July through October.

**PROTECTION UNDER FEDERAL AND STATE LAW:** The eastern indigo snake is classified as a Threatened species by both the USFWS and the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission. “Taking” of eastern indigo snakes is prohibited by the Endangered Species Act without a permit. “Take” is defined by the USFWS as an attempt to kill, harm, harass, pursue, hunt, shoot, wound, trap, capture, collect, or engage in any such conduct. Penalties include a maximum fine of \$25,000 for civil violations and up to \$50,000 and/or imprisonment for criminal offenses, if convicted.

Only individuals currently authorized through an issued Incidental Take Statement in association with a USFWS Biological Opinion, or by a Section 10(a)(1)(A) permit issued by the USFWS, to handle an eastern indigo snake are allowed to do so.

**IF YOU SEE A LIVE EASTERN INDIGO SNAKE ON THE SITE:**

- Cease clearing activities and allow the live eastern indigo snake sufficient time to move away from the site without interference;
- Personnel must NOT attempt to touch or handle snake due to protected status.
- Take photographs of the snake, if possible, for identification and documentation purposes.
- Immediately notify supervisor or the applicant’s designated agent, **and** the appropriate USFWS office, with the location information and condition of the snake.
- If the snake is located in a vicinity where continuation of the clearing or construction activities will cause harm to the snake, the activities must halt until such time that a representative of the USFWS returns the call (within one day) with further guidance as to when activities may resume.

**IF YOU SEE A DEAD EASTERN INDIGO SNAKE ON THE SITE:**

- Cease clearing activities and immediately notify supervisor or the applicant’s designated agent, **and** the appropriate USFWS office, with the location information and condition of the snake.
- Take photographs of the snake, if possible, for identification and documentation purposes.
- Thoroughly soak the dead snake in water and then freeze the specimen. The appropriate wildlife agency will retrieve the dead snake.

**Telephone numbers of USFWS Florida Field Offices to be contacted if a live or dead eastern indigo snake is encountered:**

**North Florida Field Office – (904) 731-3336**  
**Panama City Field Office – (850) 769-0552**  
**South Florida Field Office – (772) 562-3909**

## **PRE-CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITIES**

1. The applicant or designated agent will post educational posters in the construction office and throughout the construction site, including any access roads. The posters must be clearly visible to all construction staff. A sample poster is attached.
2. Prior to the onset of construction activities, the applicant/designated agent will conduct a meeting with all construction staff (annually for multi-year projects) to discuss identification of the snake, its protected status, what to do if a snake is observed within the project area, and applicable penalties that may be imposed if state and/or federal regulations are violated. An educational brochure including color photographs of the snake will be given to each staff member in attendance and additional copies will be provided to the construction superintendent to make available in the onsite construction office (a final brochure for Plan compliance, to be printed double-sided on 8.5" x 11" paper and then properly folded, is attached). Photos of eastern indigo snakes may be accessed on USFWS and/or FWC websites.
3. Construction staff will be informed that in the event that an eastern indigo snake (live or dead) is observed on the project site during construction activities, all such activities are to cease until the established procedures are implemented according to the Plan, which includes notification of the appropriate USFWS Field Office. The contact information for the USFWS is provided on the referenced posters and brochures.

## **DURING CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITIES**

1. During initial site clearing activities, an onsite observer may be utilized to determine whether habitat conditions suggest a reasonable probability of an eastern indigo snake sighting (example: discovery of snake sheds, tracks, lots of refugia and cavities present in the area of clearing activities, and presence of gopher tortoises and burrows).
2. If an eastern indigo snake is discovered during gopher tortoise relocation activities (i.e. burrow excavation), the USFWS shall be contacted within one business day to obtain further guidance which may result in further project consultation.
3. Periodically during construction activities, the applicant's designated agent should visit the project area to observe the condition of the posters and Plan materials, and replace them as needed. Construction personnel should be reminded of the instructions (above) as to what is expected if any eastern indigo snakes are seen.

## **POST CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITIES**

Whether or not eastern indigo snakes are observed during construction activities, a monitoring report should be submitted to the appropriate USFWS Field Office within 60 days of project completion. The report can be sent electronically to the appropriate USFWS e-mail address listed on page one of this Plan.