

January 6, 2006

Lisa Abernathy  
US Army Corps of Engineers  
Regulatory Division - Enforcement Branch  
P.O. Box 4970,  
Jacksonville, FL  
32232-0019

RE: SR 77 Permit No. 199160607 (IP-GAH) Modification #1  
Lynn Haven Salt Marsh Restoration

Dear Ms. Abernathy:

As part of the requirements of the permit referenced above, the Northwest Florida Water Management District (NFWFMD) is submitting to the Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) a progress report on the Lynn Haven Salt Marsh Restoration project. This represents the first monitoring report for this project. Bi-annual monitoring and photographic monitoring will be conducted to ensure mitigation success for five (5) years commencing with the date of complete installation of all breakwaters and all plantings. To date the breakwaters have been constructed, and at least 1.24 acres of salt marsh has been restored and planted. The herbaceous planting was completed on June 14, 2005 and shrub planting was completed on November 2, 2005. In accordance with the success criteria, the installation of the breakwaters, and herbaceous and shrub plantings was completed prior to November 30, 2005. The following success criteria have been met:

- 1) At least 1.24 acres of created and enhanced wetland restoration have been completed and planted;
- 2) The conservation easement for the marsh restoration has been recorded, (Copies were sent to the ACOE on June 7, 2005);
- 3) All exotic species were removed prior to planting; and
- 6) Less than 5% nuisance and 1% exotics

Currently there is very little nuisance or exotic species cover throughout the project, well below the 5% nuisance and 1% exotic species cover required in the permit. Plants are growing well in most areas though some minor dieback has occurred. If these areas do not recover additional planting will take place in the spring of 2006 to supplement the original planting. Wildlife has thrived throughout the restored wetlands. Thousands of fiddler crabs have migrated into the newly planted smooth cordgrass areas. Herons and wading birds are regularly observed fishing from the breakwater and in the smooth cordgrass marsh. In addition, the breakwater has provided habitat for many species of fish that use the breakwater as protection. Attached are a series of photographs taken from the salt marsh restoration site. As you can see, the salt marsh has started to thrive and the planted material appears healthy and vigorous.

Please feel free to contact me at (850-539-5999 ext. 149) if you have any questions or comments.

Sincerely,

David Clayton  
Environmental Scientist

Southern restoration area looking north, showing planted smooth cordgrass  
(Photo taken November 2, 2005)



Southern restoration area with salt meadow cordgrass and black needle rush  
(Photo taken November 2, 2005)





Southern restoration site showing planted salt meadow cordgrass  
(Photo taken November 2, 2005)



Southern restoration area showing growth of smooth cordgrass  
(Photo taken November 2, 2005)

