



Northwest Florida Water Management District

81 Water Management Drive, Havana, Florida 32333-4712

(U.S. Highway 90, 10 miles west of Tallahassee)

(850) 539-5999 • (Suncom) 793-5999 • (Fax) 539-2777

Douglas E. Barr
Executive Director

January 27, 2007

Rick Holden
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 Monitoring Report 2

Dear Mr. Holden:

As part of the requirements of the permit referenced above, the Northwest Florida Water Management District (NFWMD) is submitting to the Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) the second annual report for the Lynn Haven Salt Marsh Restoration project. Bi-annual 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. In March of 2005 the breakwaters were constructed (March of 2005), and over 1.24 acres of salt marsh was planted. The herbaceous planting was completed on June 14, 2005 and shrub planting was completed on November 2, 2005 in accordance with permit requirements. The salt marsh vegetation flourished adjacent to the breakwater and throughout the southern restoration area and the majority of the northern restoration. However, a sandy area located in the northern restoration adjacent to the ball field had poor survival. In addition, torpedo grass (*Panicum repens*), cover was greater than 1%. This area also experienced problems with trespass and disturbance of the planted vegetation. To eliminate trespass a fence was placed at the edge of the conservation easement. The fence effectively eliminated trespass and disturbance of the planted material. It was determined that the area with poor survival required irrigation for survival of the planted material. An irrigation system was installed at the edge of the ball field adjacent to the northern restoration. The torpedo grass was treated with appropriate herbicide by EarthBalance on September 8th and September 22, 2006. Re-planting of the sandy area occurred on September 22, 2006. A site visit on October 10, 2006 and January 19th, 2007 confirmed good survival of the newly planted material and virtually no cover of nuisance or exotic species.

In The following success criteria have been met:

- 1) At least 1.24 acres of created and enhanced wetland restoration have been planted;
- 2) Evidence has been provided that the City of Lynn Haven has clear title to the property;
- 3) The conservation easement for the marsh restoration has been recorded, (Copies were sent to the ACOE on June 7, 2005);

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- 4) All exotic species were removed prior to planting and minor occurrences have subsequently been treated;
- 5) Less than 10% bare ground after one year;
- 6) Less than 5% nuisance and 1% exotics

Plants coverage is excellent throughout the restoration and the newly planted area is expected to thrive and spread in coming years. Wildlife use within the restored wetland is high. Thousands of Fiddler Crabs continue to occupy the smooth cordgrass areas. Mourning Doves, Fish Crows and a Red-shouldered Hawk are regular visitors to the southern restoration area. Great Blue Herons, Great Egrets, Snowy Egrets, Green Herons have been observed fishing adjacent to the breakwater. Blue Crabs, Stone Crabs and a wide variety of fish use the breakwater as shelter. In August during a particularly high tide small Gag Grouper were seen in the smooth cordgrass. Attached are a series of photographs taken from the salt marsh restoration site. As you can see, the salt marsh is thriving 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,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David Clayton". The signature is written in a cursive style and extends to the right with a long horizontal line.

David Clayton
Environmental Scientist

Southern restoration area looking south, planted smooth cordgrass and salt meadow cordgrass
(Photo taken June 27, 2006)



Lower part of Southern restoration looking south
(Photo taken January 19th, 2007)



Northern restoration area, looking north
(Photo taken June 27, 2006)



Northern Restoration looking north
(Photo taken January 19, 2007)



Northern restoration looking south

(Photo taken October 10, 2006)



Northern restoration looking south
(Photo taken January 19th, 2007)



Southern portion of Northern restoration looking north, note fence
(January 19, 2007)



Northern restoration looking north
(June 27, 2006)



EarthBalance 2nd treatment of torpedo grass and replanting area adjacent to fence in northern restoration

(September 22, 2006)



Newly re-planted area adjacent to fence in the Northern restoration
(September 22, 2006)



Replanted material adjacent to fence in northern restoration area

(October 10, 2006)

