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December 11, 2007

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 3

To Whom It May Concern:

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) the third annual report for the Lynn Haven Salt Marsh Restoration project. Monitoring has been conducted annually since 2005 to aid in the evaluation of mitigation success. Monitoring will occur 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. To eliminate trespass a PVC fence was placed at the edge of the conservation easement. The fence effectively eliminated trespass and disturbance of the planted material. In September of 2006, an irrigation system was installed at the northern restoration adjacent to the ball field and a supplemental planting was installed on September 22, 2006.

The restoration areas appear well established and vigorous with excellent vegetative cover. Many additional salt marsh species have volunteered throughout the restoration greatly adding to the site diversity. During 2007, the salt marsh vegetation continued to thrive and flower. Dense salt marsh vegetation at well over 80% cover was observed throughout the northern and southern restoration areas. The vegetation cover of the upper dune area has greatly expanded from approximately 50% last year to well over 85% cover this year. The dune area is dominated by blanket flower and salt meadow cordgrass. This is the first year that all restoration areas have exceeded the success criteria of at least 80% vegetative cover. The blanket flower flowering in March and has continued to flower throughout the summer and into the fall. In addition salt meadow cordgrass cover has greatly increased providing cover for small mammals and insects. Several small patches of torpedo grass (*Panicum repens*) were observed in the restoration areas during the June site visit. These areas were treated on July 28th and August 2, 2007 with Habitat. No torpedo grass was observed during the site visit in November. Wildlife usage within the restored wetland continues to be high. This year, mourning doves, a great blue heron, and green heron were observed within the restoration site as well as thousands of fiddler crabs, stone crabs and several species of fish such as fingerling mullet, killifish and pinfish.

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To date all the success criteria have been met:

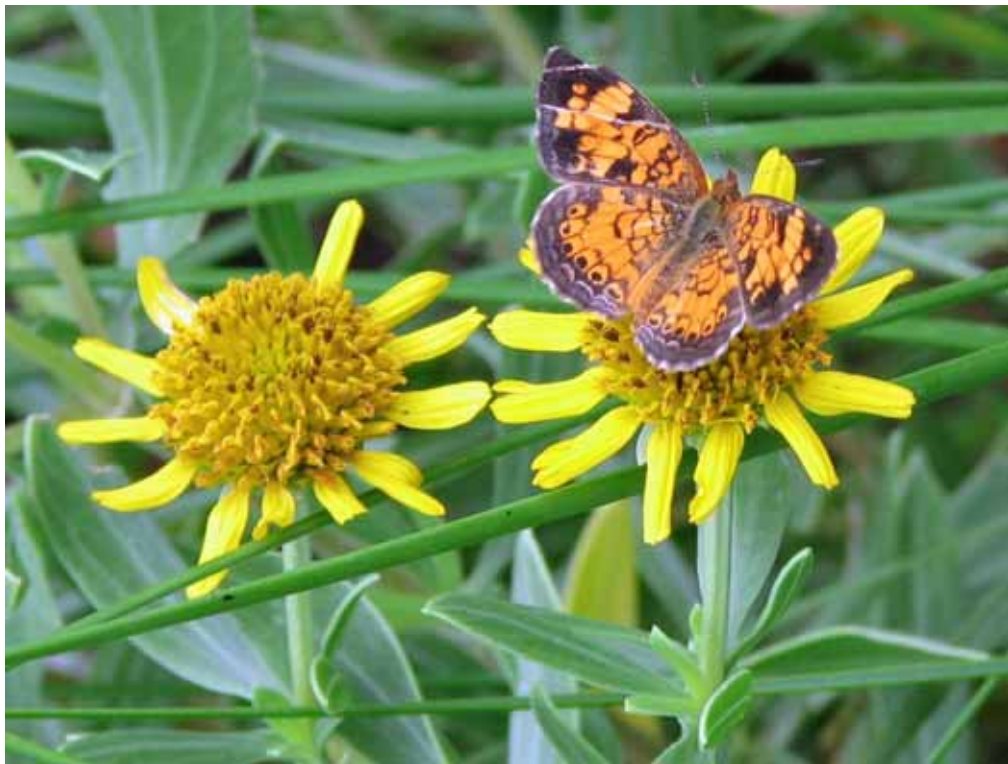
- 1) At least 1.24 acres of created and enhanced wetland restoration have been planted;
- 2) Evidence has been provided that the City of Lynn Haven has clear title to the property;
- 3) The conservation easement for the marsh restoration has been recorded, (Copies were sent to the ACOE on June 7, 2005);
- 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; and
- 7) Greater than 80% cover of saltmarsh vegetation

Attached are a series of photographs taken from the salt marsh restoration site. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at (850-539-5999 ext. 256) if you have any questions or comments.

Sincerely,

David Clayton
Environmental Scientist

Northern restoration area looking south, blanket flower and salt meadow cordgrass
(Photo taken September 2007)



Butterfly on Sea Oxeye Daisy (June, 2007)

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



Northern Restoration looking north
(Photo taken September, 2007)



Northern restoration (Queen butterfly on blanket flower)
(Photo taken September, 7 2007)





Southern restoration (Sea oxeye daisy)

(June, 2007)



Northern restoration looking South

(September 7, 2007)