



Douglas E. Barr
Executive Director

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 • (Fax) 539-2777

October 21, 2008

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 4

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 fourth 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 are 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 2008, the salt marsh vegetation continued to thrive and flower. Dense salt marsh vegetation cover is nearly 100 percent throughout the northern and southern restoration areas. The vegetation cover of the upper dune area has greatly expanded from approximately 85% cover in 2007 to nearly 100% in 2008. The dune area is dominated by blanket flower, *Panicum amaratum* (Bitter panic grass) and salt meadow cordgrass. This is the second year that all restoration areas have exceeded all success criteria. 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. No torpedo grass was observed during 2008. Wildlife usage within the restored wetland continues to be high. This year, mourning doves, green heron, little blue heron, a fish crow, great egret, and an anhinga 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.

GEORGE ROBERTS
Chair
Panama City

PHILIP K. McMILLAN
Vice Chair
Blountstown

SHARON PINKERTON
Secretary/Treasurer
Pensacola

PETER ANTONACCI
Tallahassee

STEPHANIE BLOYD
Panama City Beach

SHARON T. GASKIN
Wewahatchka

STEVE GHAZVINI
Tallahassee

TIM NORRIS
Santa Rosa Beach

JERRY PATE
Pensacola

All success criteria have been met for the last two years:

- 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



Northern restoration area (September, 2008)



Northern restoration area (September, 2008)



Northern Restoration: Black needlerush
(Photo taken September, 2008)



Southern restoration: dune area
(September, 7 2008)



Southern restoration (Dune area)
(September, 2008)



Southern restoration looking South
(September 7, 2008)



Southern restoration looking north (September, 2008)



Southern restoration looking north (September 2008)