

REVIEW TEAM MEETING MINUTES

NWFWMD UMBRELLA PLAN

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 2013

[FDOT District-3 Midway Maintenance Office – Midway, FL]

Attendees	
Andy Phillips – USACE (Cocoa Beach)	Duncan Cairns – NWFWMD (Tallahassee)
Mary Mittiga – USFWS (Panama City)	David Clayton – NWFWMD (Tallahassee)
David Rydene – NMFS (St. Petersburg)	Kim Branciforte – NWFWMD (Tallahassee)
Ted Hoehn – FWC (Tallahassee)	Robert Lide – NWFWMD (Tallahassee)
Terry Gilbert – FWC (Tallahassee)	Janet Strutzel – NWFWMD (Tallahassee)
Tracey Ludyjan-Ybarra – FDOT (Chipley)	Phoebe Branciforte – NWFWMD (Tallahassee)

The Review Team (RT) meeting was held Wednesday, February 13, 2013 at the FDOT District-3 Midway Maintenance Office (17 Commerce Blvd. at the US 90 / I-10 interchange west of Tallahassee).

SR 30A (from SR 30E/Cape San Blas Road north to US 98)

This 2.056-acre impact is not within the service area of any mitigation bank. USACE and Review Team consensus is for mitigation to consist of hydrologic enhancements (six low-water-crossings and associated ditch plugs) to forested palustrine wetlands at the adjacent St. Joseph Bay State Buffer Preserve (Buffer Preserve). The USACE permit authorizing this impact should be issued by the end of February, 2013. NWFWMD will move forward with mitigation planning and coordination with Buffer Preserve personnel.

SR 742 (Burgess Road from US 29 to Hilburn Drive)

This 2.00-acre impact is within the service areas of Garcon Peninsula Mitigation Bank and Pensacola Mitigation Bank. After consulting with the USACE, Pensacola Regulatory Office, it was determined that Pensacola Bay Mitigation Bank has the appropriate type and kind of credits to offset the proposed impacts. FDOT is also investigating possible onsite mitigation.

SR 123 (from SR 85 north to Toms Creek)

This 2.40-acre impact is not within the service area of any mitigation banks. Because the federally listed (threatened status) Okaloosa darter is likely present, USFWS has indicated that mitigation should occur in stream systems which support the species. Mitigation on Eglin ABF, at the NFWFMD Lafayette Creek Mitigation Area, or on other proximate stream wetlands is under consideration. The NFWFMD is working with USFWS to identify additional mitigation opportunities.

SR 123 (from Toms Creek to Turkey Bayou)

This 0.68-acre impact is not within the service area of any mitigation banks. Because the federally listed (threatened status) Okaloosa darter is likely present, USFWS has indicated that mitigation should occur in stream systems which support the species. Mitigation on Eglin ABF, at the NFWFMD Lafayette Creek Mitigation Area, or on other proximate stream wetlands is under consideration. The NFWFMD is working with USFWS to identify additional mitigation opportunities.

US 331 (from Nokuse Plantation to Edgewood Circle)

Per USACE permit, this 3.54-acre impact will be mitigated via purchase of 3.14 credits from the Nokuse Plantation Mitigation Bank. NFWFMD will move forward with the purchase.

US 331 (from Edgewood Circle to I-10)

This 3.00-acre impact is within the service area of the Nokuse Plantation Mitigation Bank. However, the USACE and Review Team preliminarily favor implementing mitigation at the closer NFWFMD Lafayette Creek Mitigation Area (UWRMP 5.3.6). Mitigation TBD.

SR 79, Segment 7 (from Pate Road / CR 279 north to Cypress Creek Bridge)

This 3.50-acre impact is within the service area of the private Nokuse Plantation Mitigation Bank and the NFWFMD-owned Sand Hill Lakes Mitigation Bank. However, the USACE and Review Team reiterated an earlier (3/24/2011) favoring of Sand Hill Lakes Mitigation Bank over Nokuse Plantation Mitigation Bank as mitigation. The impact and Sand Hill Lakes Mitigation Bank are proximate and both on the eastern side of the Choctawhatchee River, whereas Nokuse is further distant and on the western side of the Choctawhatchee River. Mitigation TBD.

Status of In-Lieu Fee Plan Program Approvals

Draft In-Lieu Fee instrument currently under review by NFWFMD Executive Director.

Potential Changes to Florida Statutes 373.4137

Discussed. Mitigation funding, currently based on impact acreage, is likely to be modified.

Gulf to Bay, Segment 2

Discussed. This impact is within the FDEP-approved service area for Bear Creek Mitigation Bank. However, federal permits have not been issued for Bear Creek. Several other private mitigation banks (Sweetwater Mitigation Bank and Breakfast Point Mitigation Bank) may also be seeking expansion of their respective service areas to include this impact. Mitigation TBD.

Yellow River Ranch (UWRMP 5.5.1)

USACE raised concerns that the post-restoration hydrology for several UMAM-scored polygons (~19 acres) targeted as “Flooded/Emergent – FLUCCS 640” may not be appropriate for this community type. NFWFMD restoration staff will investigate further and report back at the next Review Team meeting.

NFWFMD Mitigation Updates

Summaries of restoration activity presented for:

- Dutex Tract Mitigation Area
- Lafayette Creek Mitigation Area
- Live Oak Peninsula Mitigation Area
- Perdido II Mitigation Area
- Plum Creek Mitigation Area
- Yellow River Ranch Mitigation Area
- Ward Creek West Mitigation Area

(Detailed reports available at www.NFWFMDwetlands.com)