

Northwest Florida Water Management District
Submittal of Transportation Mitigation Plans for
Florida Department of Environmental Protection Approval
Per §373.4137(4), Florida Statutes

February 27, 2013

Revisions to §373.4137, FS, passed during the 2012 legislative session require that mitigation plans developed by the water management districts for transportation projects are approved by FDEP prior to implementation. NFWFMD mitigation plans for 5 new transportation projects submitted by FDOT District-3 since 7/1/2012 are summarized below. These plans have been approved by the NFWFMD governing board designee and are hereby submitted to FDEP for review. Additional information is included in the attached map and tables, with detailed plans posted at www.NFWFMDwetlands.com. Under §373.4137(5), FS, the NFWFMD may deviate from the approved mitigation plan in order to comply with federal permitting requirements.

New Transportation Projects (Submitted ≥7/1/2012)

- SR 30A (from SR 30E/Cape San Blas Road north to US 98). Impact is to 2.056 acres / 0.80 UMAM functional loss. Proposed mitigation, developed in coordination with the St. Joseph Bay State Buffer Preserve, is hydrologic enhancements on Buffer Preserve lands adjacent to the impacts. State and federal permitting authorities have reviewed the proposed mitigation and concluded that it appropriately offsets the impact. This impact is not within the service area of any existing or proposed private mitigation bank. Additional information on this impact is posted at http://nwfwmdwetlands.com/Site.php?site_id=218.
- BH Stone Road at Crooked Creek. This is a county road project (Calhoun County) submitted by FDOT to the NFWFMD. Impact is to 0.52 acres / 0.40 UMAM functional loss. Proposed mitigation is from the current NFWFMD Tates Hell – Whiskey George / Sumatra Mitigation Area (UWRMP 5.5.9) credit ledger. This impact is not within the service area of any fully permitted private mitigation bank, although it is within the proposed service area of the Bear Creek Mitigation Bank. If Bear Creek were to become available as an option, Calhoun County has indicated it does not have sufficient funds to purchase mitigation credits. Additional information on this impact is posted at http://nwfwmdwetlands.com/Site.php?site_id=217.
- SR 742 / Burgess Road (from US 29 to Hillburn Drive). Estimated impact is 2.00 acres to Carpenter Creek (UMAMs not provided at this time). This impact is within the service areas of the Garcon Peninsula Mitigation Bank and the Pensacola Bay Mitigation Bank. Permitting authorities have indicated that the Pensacola Bay Mitigation Bank has available forested palustrine credits which would adequately compensate for these impacts. Proposed mitigation is purchase of offsetting credits from the Pensacola Bay

Mitigation Bank. Additional information on this impact is posted at http://nwfwmdwetlands.com/Site.php?site_id=2220.

- SR 123 (from SR 85 north to Toms Creek). Estimated impact is 2.40 acres (UMAMs not provided at this time). This impact is not within the service area of any private mitigation bank. Because the federally listed (threatened status) Okaloosa darter is likely present, permitting authorities have indicated that mitigation should occur on similar stream wetlands. Mitigation at Eglin AFB, the NFWFMD Lafayette Creek Mitigation Area, or on other proximate stream wetlands is under review. Additional information on this impact is posted at http://nwfwmdwetlands.com/Site.php?site_id=225.
- SR 123 (from Toms Creek to Turkey Creek). Estimated impact is 0.68 acres (UMAMs not provided at this time). This impact is not within the service area of any private mitigation bank. Because the federally listed (threatened status) Okaloosa darter is likely present, permitting authorities have indicated that mitigation should occur on similar stream wetlands. Mitigation at Eglin AFB, the NFWFMD Lafayette Creek Mitigation Area, or on other proximate stream wetlands is under review. Additional information on this impact is posted at http://nwfwmdwetlands.com/Site.php?site_id=226.

Associated NFWFMD Mitigation

- Tates Hell Hydrologic Restoration. Extensive hydrologic restoration activities (e.g., road and ditch removal, low-water-crossings, ditch plugs and culverts) at Tates Hell State Forest. Restoration is being guided by the “Tates Hell State Forest Hydrologic Restoration Plan” which was developed jointly by the NFWFMD and the Florida Forest Service. Detailed plans and monitoring reports posted at http://nwfwmdwetlands.com/Site.php?site_id=38.
- St. Joseph Bay State Buffer Preserve Project. Mitigation, developed in close coordination with Buffer Preserve staff, will consist of hydrologic enhancements (low-water-crossings and associated ditch plugs). Detailed plans will be posted at http://nwfwmdwetlands.com/Site.php?site_id=219.

Discussion of Consideration Given to Use of Private Mitigation Banks

Private mitigation banks are the preferred option when offsetting wetland impacts associated with transportation projects. When available, they are used when mitigation credit purchases offset the impact, provide equal benefits to the water resources compared to other mitigation options being considered, and provide the most cost-effective mitigation option.

Table 1. New Transportation Project Impacts - 2/27/2013 (Submitted to NFWFMD by FDOT Since 7/1/2012)

Transportation Impact Project	Mitigation	Impact Drainage Basin	Habitat/Community Type Impact	Impact Acres by Type	Functional UMAM Loss by Type	Total Impact Acres	Total Functional UMAM Loss	T/E species
SR 30A (from SR 30E/Cape San Blas Road north to US 98)	St. Joseph Bay State Buffer Preserve	St. Andrew Bay System	Hydric Pine Flatwoods	1.82	0.67	2.06	0.80	Unknown
			Salt Marsh	0.23	0.13			
BH Stone Road at Crooked Creek	Tates Hell Mitigation Area	Apalachicola River and Bay	Palustrine Wetlands	0.52	0.40	0.52	0.40	Unknown
SR 742 / Burgess Road (from US 29 to Hilburn Drive)	Pensacola Bay Mitigation Bank	Pensacola Bay System	Palustrine Wetlands	2.00	Unknown	2.00	Unknown	Unknown

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SR 123 (from SR 85 north to Toms Creek)	TBD	Choctawhatchee River and Bay	Hydric Pine Flatwoods	2.40	Unknown	2.40	Unknown	Unknown
SR 123 (from Toms Creek to Turkey Creek)	TBD	Choctawhatchee River and Bay	Palustrine Wetlands	0.68	Unknown	0.68	Unknown	Unknown

Table 2. Mitigation Projects for New Transportation Impacts - 2/27/2013 (Submitted to NFWFMD by FDOT Since 7/1/2012)

Mitigation Name	County	SWIM Drainage Basin	Habitat / Community Type	Mitigation Type	Mitigation Acres or Number of Credits by Type	Total Mitigation Acres or Number of Credits	Land Acquisition
Tates Hell	Franklin	Apalachicola River and Bay	Palustrine Wetlands	Wetland Enhancement	338.00	338.00	No
St. Joseph Bay State Buffer Preserve	Gulf	St. Andrew Bay System	Palustrine Wetlands	Wetland Enhancement	TBD	0.00	No
			Estuarine Wetlands	Wetland Enhancement	TBD		

**Northwest Florida Water Management District
Regional Mitigation Plan Modification
(Projects Added Since 7/1/2012)
February 27, 2013**

