# **DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY PERMIT**

Permittee: FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION, DISTRICT 3 Attn: Colby Cleveland 1074 Highway 90 East Chipley, FL 32428

Permit No: SAJ-2015-03537(SP-MAO)

## Issuing Office: U.S. Army Engineer District, Jacksonville

NOTE: The term "you" and its derivatives, as used in this permit, means the permittee or any future transferee. The term "this office" refers to the appropriate district or division office of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) having jurisdiction over the permitted activity or the appropriate official of that office acting under the authority of the commanding officer.

You are authorized to perform work in accordance with the terms and conditions specified below.

**Project Description:** The project is for approaches associated with the replacement of an existing bridge. The new bridge alignment will result in 1.21 acres of permanent fill impact for the bridge approaches. The construction will also require 0.36 acres of temporary impacts and 0.67 acres of secondary impacts. The work described above is to be completed in accordance with the 6 pages of drawings 5 attachments affixed at the end of this permit instrument.

**<u>Project Location</u>**: The project is located along County Road 99, in Section 28, Township 5 North, Range 32 West, Century, Escambia County, Florida.

**Directions to site:** From the intersection of Highway 29 and CR 4, travel west on CR 4 for approximately 10 miles. Turn left (south) on CR 99 and travel approximately 3 miles. Project site is the bridge over Pine Barren Creek.

Approximate Central Coordinates: Latitude: 30.924383° North Longitude: 87.441506° West

## Permit Conditions

## **General Conditions:**

1. The time limit for completing the work authorized ends on **June 30, 2021.** If you find that you need more time to complete the authorized activity, submit your

## PERMIT NUMBER: SAJ-2015-03537 PERMITTEE: Florida Department of Transportation, District 3 PAGE 2 of 11

request for a time extension to this office for consideration at least one month before the above date is reached.

2. You must maintain the activity authorized by this permit in good condition and in conformance with the terms and conditions of this permit. You are not relieved of this requirement if you abandon the permitted activity, although you may make a good faith transfer to a third party in compliance with General Condition 4 below. Should you wish to cease to maintain the authorized activity or should you desire to abandon it without a good faith transfer, you must obtain a modification of this permit from this office, which may require restoration of the area.

3. If you discover any previously unknown historic or archeological remains while accomplishing the activity authorized by this permit, you must immediately notify this office of what you have found. We will initiate the Federal and State coordination required to determine if the remains warrant a recovery effort or if the site is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.

4. If you sell the property associated with this permit, you must obtain the signature and the mailing address of the new owner in the space provided and forward a copy of the permit to this office to validate the transfer of this authorization.

5. If a conditioned water quality certification has been issued for your project, you must comply with the conditions specified in the certification as special conditions to this permit. For your convenience, a copy of the certification is attached if it contains such conditions.

6. You must allow representatives from this office to inspect the authorized activity at any time deemed necessary to ensure that it is being or has been accomplished in accordance with the terms and conditions of your permit.

## **Special Conditions:**

 All reports, documentation and correspondence required by the conditions of this permit shall be submitted to the following address: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Regulatory Division, Enforcement Section, 41 North Jefferson Street, Suite 301, Pensacola, FL 32502. The permittee shall reference this permit number, SAJ-2015-03537(SP-MAO), on all submittals. Electronic compliance documents may be submitted to CESAJ-ComplyDocs@usace.army.mil.

## PERMIT NUMBER: SAJ-2015-03537 PERMITTEE: Florida Department of Transportation, District 3 PAGE 3 of 11

- 2. Within 10 days from the date of initiating the work authorized by this permit, the permittee shall provide a written notification of the date of commencement of authorized work to the Corps.
- 3. Prior to the initiation of any of the work authorized by this permit, the permittee shall install floating turbidity barriers with weighted skirts that extend to the bottom around all work areas that are in, or adjacent to, surface waters. The turbidity barriers shall remain in place and be maintained until the authorized work has been completed and all suspended and erodible materials have been stabilized. Turbidity barriers shall be removed upon stabilization of the work area.
- 4. Cultural Resources/Historic Properties:

a. No structure or work shall adversely affect impact or disturb properties listed in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) or those eligible for inclusion in the NRHP.

b. If during the ground disturbing activities and construction work within the permit area, there are archaeological/cultural materials encountered which were not the subject of a previous cultural resources assessment survey (and which shall include, but not be limited to: pottery, modified shell, flora, fauna, human remains, ceramics, stone tools or metal implements, dugout canoes, evidence of structures or any other physical remains that could be associated with Native American cultures or early colonial or American settlement), the permittee shall immediately stop all work and ground-disturbing activities within a 100-meter diameter of the discovery and notify the Corps within the same business day (8 hours). The Corps shall then notify the Florida State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) and the appropriate Tribal Historic Preservation Officer(s) (THPO(s)) to assess the significance of the discovery and devise appropriate actions.

c. Additional cultural resources assessments may be required of the permit area in the case of unanticipated discoveries as referenced in accordance with the above Special Condition ; and if deemed necessary by the SHPO, THPO(s), or Corps, in accordance with 36 CFR 800 or 33 CFR 325, Appendix C (5). Based, on the circumstances of the discovery, equity to all parties, and considerations of the public interest, the Corps may modify, suspend or revoke the permit in accordance with 33 CFR Part 325.7. Such activity shall not resume on non-federal lands without written authorization from the SHPO for finds under his or her jurisdiction, and from the Corps.

## PERMIT NUMBER: SAJ-2015-03537 PERMITTEE: Florida Department of Transportation, District 3 PAGE 4 of 11

d. In the unlikely event that unmarked human remains are identified on nonfederal lands, they will be treated in accordance with Section 872.05 Florida Statutes. All work and ground disturbing activities within a 100-meter diameter of the unmarked human remains shall immediately cease and the permittee shall immediately notify the medical examiner, Corps, and State Archeologist within the same business day (8-hours). The Corps shall then notify the appropriate SHPO and THPO(s). Based, on the circumstances of the discovery, equity to all parties, and considerations of the public interest, the Corps may modify, suspend or revoke the permit in accordance with 33 CFR Part 325.7. Such activity shall not resume without written authorization from the State Archeologist and from the Corps.

5. Within 60 days of completion of the work authorized by this permit, the permittee shall submit as-built drawings of the authorized work and a completed "As-Built Certification By Professional Engineer" form (Attachment 5) to the Corps. The as-built drawings shall be signed and sealed by a registered professional engineer and include the following:

a. A plan view drawing of the location of the authorized work footprint, as shown on the permit drawings, with transparent overlay of the work as constructed in the same scale as the permit drawings on 8½-inch by 11-inch sheets. The plan view drawing should show all "earth disturbance," including wetland impacts and water management structures.

b. A list of any deviations between the work authorized by this permit and the work as constructed. In the event that the completed work deviates, in any manner, from the authorized work, describe on the attached "As-Built Certification By Professional Engineer" form the deviations between the work authorized by this permit and the work as constructed. Clearly indicate on the as-built drawings any deviations that have been listed. Please note that the depiction and/or description of any deviations on the drawings and/or "As-Built Certification By Professional Engineer" form does not constitute approval of any deviations by the Corps.

- c. Include the Department of the Army permit number on all sheets submitted.
- 6. Permittee shall comply with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's "Standard Protection Measures for the Eastern Indigo Snake" dated August 12, 2013, as provided in Attachment 3 of this permit. All gopher tortoise burrows, active or inactive, shall be evacuated prior to site manipulation in the vicinity of the burrow. If excavating potentially occupied burrows, active or inactive, individuals must first obtain state

PERMIT NUMBER: SAJ-2015-03537 PERMITTEE: Florida Department of Transportation, District 3 PAGE 5 of 11

> authorization via a Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) Authorized Gopher Tortoise Agent permit. The excavation method selected shall minimize the potential for injury of an indigo snake. The permittee shall follow the excavation guidance provided in the most current FWC Gopher Tortoise Permitting Guidelines found at http://myfwc.com/gophertortoise. If an indigo snake is encountered, the snake must be allowed to vacate the area prior to additional site manipulation in the vicinity. Holes, cavities, and snake refugia other than gopher tortoise burrows shall be inspected each morning before planned site manipulation of a particular area, and if occupied by an indigo snake, no work shall commence until the snake has vacated the vicinity of the proposed work.

- 7. Within 30 days from the date of completing the work authorized by this permit, the permittee shall restore 0.36 acres of temporary wetland impacts to preexisting contours, elevations, vegetation, habitat type, and hydrology.
- 8. Within 12 months from the date of initiating the work authorized by this permit, the permittee shall complete all construction and implementation mitigation activities in accordance with the approved final compensatory mitigation plan included as Attachment 4.
- 9. The permittee shall complete monitoring and reporting requirements to ensure the performance standards have been met. The monitoring requirements include time-zero, and 5 years of annual monitoring reports from the start of the mitigation activities as required by the Corps. Monitoring will be performed by NWFWMD staff or qualified consulting firms. The permittee must meet the following requirements:

a. Perform a time-zero monitoring event of the wetland mitigation area within 60 days of completion of the compensatory mitigation construction and implementation activities identified in the attached mitigation plan.

b. Submit the time-zero report to the Corps within 60 days of completion of the monitoring event. The report will include at least one paragraph depicting baseline conditions of the mitigation site prior to initiation of the compensatory mitigation objectives and a detailed plan view drawing of all created, enhanced and/or restored mitigation areas.

c. Subsequent to completion of the compensatory mitigation objectives, perform semi-annual monitoring of the wetland mitigation areas for the first 2

## PERMIT NUMBER: SAJ-2015-03537 PERMITTEE: Florida Department of Transportation, District 3 PAGE 6 of 11

years and annual monitoring thereafter for a total of no less than 5 years of monitoring.

d. Submit annual monitoring reports to the Corps within 60 days of completion of the monitoring event. Semi-annual monitoring will be combined into one annual monitoring report.

e. Monitor the mitigation area and submit annual monitoring reports to the Corps until released in accordance with the Mitigation Release Special Condition of this permit.

- 10. If the compensatory mitigation fails to meet the performance standards 5 years after initiation of the compensatory mitigation objectives, the compensatory mitigation will be deemed unsuccessful. Within 60 days of notification by the Corps that the compensatory mitigation is unsuccessful, the permittee shall submit to the Corps an alternate compensatory mitigation proposal sufficient to create the functional lift required under this permit. The alternate compensatory mitigation proposal may be required to include additional mitigation to compensate for the temporal loss of wetland functions associated with the unsuccessful compensatory mitigation activities. The Corps reserves the right to fully evaluate, amend, and approve or reject the alternate compensatory mitigation proposal. Within 120 days of Corps approval, the permittee will complete the alternate compensatory mitigation proposal.
- 11. The permittee's responsibility to complete the required compensatory mitigation, as set forth in the Compensatory Mitigation Special Condition of this permit will not be considered fulfilled until mitigation success has been demonstrated and written verification has been provided by the Corps. A mitigation area which has been released will require no further monitoring or reporting by the permittee; however the permittee, successors and subsequent transferees remain perpetually responsible to ensure that the mitigation area remains in a condition appropriate to offset the authorized impacts in accordance with General Condition 2 of this permit.
- 12. The permittee shall maintain the mitigation areas in their natural state in perpetuity. The permittee agrees that the only future utilization of these areas will not be in conflict with the intended ecological function of the site and the following uses and/or activities will be prohibited except as required or authorized by this permit:

## PERMIT NUMBER: SAJ-2015-03537 PERMITTEE: Florida Department of Transportation, District 3 PAGE 7 of 11

a. Construction or placing buildings, roads, signs, billboards or other advertising, utilities or other structures on or above the ground. Elevated boardwalks, hiking trails and camping areas will be permitted as long as they do not involve any of the other prohibited uses listed below:

b. Dumping or placing soil or other substance or material as landfill or dumping or placing of trash, waste or unsightly or offensive material.

c. Removal or destruction of trees, shrubs, or other vegetation.

d. Excavation, dredging or removal of loam, peat, gravel, soil, rock, or other material substance in such a manner as to affect the surface.

e. Surface use, except for purposes that permit the land or water area to remain predominantly in its natural condition.

f. Activities detrimental to drainage, flood control, water conservation, erosion control, soil conservation, or fish and wildlife habitat preservation.

g. Acts or uses detrimental to such retention of land or water areas.

h. Acts or uses detrimental to the preservation of the structural integrity or the physical appearance of sites or properties of historical, architectural, or cultural significance.

## **Further Information:**

1. Congressional Authorities: You have been authorized to undertake the activity described above pursuant to:

() Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899 (33 U.S.C. 403)

(x) Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. 1344)

() Section 103 of the Marine Protection, Research and Sanctuaries Act of 1972 (33 U.S.C. 1413)

2. Limits of this authorization.

a. This permit does not obviate the need to obtain other Federal, State, or local authorizations required by law.

## PERMIT NUMBER: SAJ-2015-03537 PERMITTEE: Florida Department of Transportation, District 3 PAGE 8 of 11

b. This permit does not grant any property rights or exclusive privileges.

c. This permit does not authorize any injury to the property or rights of others.

d. This permit does not authorize interference with any existing or proposed Federal projects.

3. Limits of Federal Liability. In issuing this permit, the Federal Government does not assume any liability for the following:

a. Damages to the permitted project or uses thereof as a result of other permitted or unpermitted activities or from natural causes.

b. Damages to the permitted project or uses thereof as a result of current or future activities undertaken by or on behalf of the United States in the public interest.

c. Damages to persons, property, or to other permitted or unpermitted activities or structures caused by the activity authorized by this permit.

d. Design or construction deficiencies associated with the permitted work.

e. Damage claims associated with any future modification, suspension, or revocation of this permit.

4. Reliance on Applicant's Data: The determination of this office that issuance of this permit is not contrary to the public interest was made in reliance on the information you provided.

5. Reevaluation of Permit Decision: This office may reevaluate its decision on this permit at any time the circumstances warrant. Circumstances that could require a reevaluation include, but are not limited to, the following:

a. You fail to comply with the terms and conditions of this permit.

b. The information provided by you in support of your permit application proves to have been false, incomplete, or inaccurate (see 4 above).

c. Significant new information surfaces which this office did not consider in reaching the original public interest decision.

PERMIT NUMBER: SAJ-2015-03537 PERMITTEE: Florida Department of Transportation. District 3 PAGE 9 of 11

Such a reevaluation may result in a determination that it is appropriate to use the suspension, modification, and revocation procedures contained in 33 CFR 325.7 or enforcement procedures such as those contained in 33 CFR 326.4 and 326.5. The referenced enforcement procedures provide for the issuance of an administrative order requiring you comply with the terms and conditions of your permit and for the initiation of legal action where appropriate. You will be required to pay for any corrective measures ordered by this office, and if you fail to comply with such directive, this office may in certain situations (such as those specified in 33 CFR 209.170) accomplish the corrective measures by contract or otherwise and bill you for the cost.

6. Extensions: General Condition 1 establishes a time limit for the completion of the activity authorized by this permit. Unless there are circumstances requiring either a prompt completion of the authorized activity or a reevaluation of the public interest decision, the Corps will normally give favorable consideration to a request for an extension of this time limit.

Your signature below, as permittee, indicates that you accept and agree to comply with the terms and conditions of this permit.

TEE (PERMIT

LENTICAND

(PERMITTEE NAME-PRINTED)

This permit becomes effective when the Federal official, designated to act for the Secretary of the Army, has signed below.

WEGMANN.DEBOR Digitally signed by WEGMANN.DEBORAH.L.1229738735 AH.L.1229738735

DN: c=US, o=U.S. Government, ou=DoD, ou=PKI, ou=USA, cn=WEGMANN.DEBORAH.L.1229738735 Date: 2016.06.30 17:14:46 -04'00'

(DISTRICT ENGINEER) Jason A. Kirk, P.E. Colonel, U.S. Army **District Commander** 

(DATE)

## PERMIT NUMBER: SAJ-2015-03537 PERMITTEE: Florida Department of Transportation, District 3 PAGE 10 of 11

When the structures or work authorized by this permit are still in existence at the time the property is transferred, the terms and conditions of this permit will continue to be binding on the new owner(s) of the property. To validate the transfer of this permit and the associated liabilities associated with compliance with its terms and conditions, have the transferee sign and date below.

(TRANSFEREE-SIGNATURE)

(DATE)

(NAME-PRINTED)

(ADDRESS)

(CITY, STATE, AND ZIP CODE)

PERMIT NUMBER: SAJ-2015-03537 PERMITTEE: Florida Department of Transportation, District 3 PAGE 11 of 11

## Attachments to Department of the Army Permit Number SAJ-2015-03537

1. PERMIT DRAWINGS: 6 pages, dated 9 November 2015

2. WATER QUALITY CERTIFICATION: Specific Conditions of the water quality permit/certification in accordance with General Condition number 5 on page 2 of this DA permit. 3 pages.

- 3. EASTERN INDIGO SNAKE CONDITIONS: 3 pages
- 4. MITIGATION PROCEDURES: 15 pages
- 5. AS-BUILT CERTIFICATION FORM: 2 pages











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## PERMIT / SOVEREIGNTY SUBMERGED LANDS CONDITIONS

The activities described must be conducted in accordance with:

- The Specific Conditions
- The General Conditions
- The General Conditions for Sovereignty Submerged Lands Authorization
- The limits, conditions and locations of work shown in the attached drawings
- The term limits of this authorization

You are advised to read and understand these conditions and drawings prior to beginning the authorized activities, and to ensure the work is conducted in conformance with all the terms, conditions, and drawings herein. If you are using a contractor, the contractor also should read and understand these conditions and drawings prior to beginning any activity. Failure to comply with these conditions, including any mitigation requirements, shall be grounds for the Department to revoke the permit and authorization and to take appropriate enforcement action. Operation of the facility is not authorized except when determined to be in conformance with all applicable rules and this permit and sovereignty submerged lands authorization, as described.

## SPECIFIC CONDITIONS - PRIOR TO ANY CONSTRUCTION

1. If the approved permit drawings conflict with the specific conditions, then the specific conditions shall prevail.

2. Prior to construction, the limits of the proposed fill areas shall be clearly flagged and staked by the agent and/or the contractor. All construction personnel shall be shown the location(s) of all wetland areas outside of the construction area to prevent encroachment from heavy equipment into these areas.

## SPECIFIC CONDITIONS – CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITIES

3. For emergencies involving a serious threat to the public health, safety, welfare, or environment, the emergency telephone contact number is 800-320-0519 (State Watch Point). The Department telephone number for reporting nonthreatening problems or system malfunctions is (850) 595-0663, day or night.

4. The construction phase expires at 11:59 p.m. on the date indicated on the cover page of this permit. If construction of the stormwater management system authorized by this ERP has not been completed and continued use of the system formally transferred to the operating phase, or an authorized extension, before the expiration date of this permit, then at least 60 days before such expiration date, the permittee shall apply for another individual stormwater permit

5. The permittee shall be responsible for ensuring that erosion and turbidity control devices and procedures are inspected and maintained daily during all phases of construction authorized by this permit until all areas that were disturbed during construction are sufficiently stabilized to prevent erosion, siltation, and turbid discharges.

6. All wetland areas or waterbodies which are adjacent to the specific limits of construction authorized by this permit shall be protected from erosion, sedimentation, siltation, scouring, excess turbidity or dewatering.

7. If any construction de-watering is required, which results in an off-site discharge of ground water, the permittee and/or the contractor shall ensure that the requirements of pertinent portions of Chapter 62-621, F.A.C. are met. Please contact Bill Armstrong, P.E., at 850-595-0554, for more information.

8. There shall be no storage or stockpiling of tools or materials (i.e., lumber, pilings, equipment) within wetlands, along the shoreline within the littoral zone or elsewhere within waters of the state unless specifically approved in the permit.

9. Any damage to wetlands outside the permitted area shall be restored to pre-construction elevations and conditions within 30 days of completion of the project and the Department shall be notified in writing of said incident.

10. Riprap shall consist of unconsolidated boulders, rocks, or clean concrete rubble with no exposed reinforcing rods or similar protrusions. The riprap shall be free of sediment, debris and any toxic or otherwise deleterious substance.

#### SPECIFIC CONDITIONS - MITIGATION

11. Mitigation will be developed in accordance with 373.4137, F.S.

### SPECIFIC CONDITIONS - OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE ACTIVITIES

12. The authorized stormwater management system shall be completed prior to or simultaneously with associated upland development.

13. The permittee shall adhere to the Maintenance and Operation Plan prescribed by the registered professional, which attached as a part of this permit.

14. Inspections by the Permittee:

a. The stormwater system shall be inspected periodically for accumulation of debris and trash. Accumulations of debris and trash that negatively affect the function of the system shall be removed upon discovery.

b. The stormwater system bottom shall be periodically inspected for silt accumulation. Significant accumulations of silt that negatively affect the function of the system shall be removed.

c. The permittee shall perform annual field inspections of each filtration basin.

15. The permittee shall be responsible for keeping records documenting that relevant permit conditions are met. This documentation shall include, at a minimum, the date of each inspection, the name and qualifications of the inspector, any maintenance actions taken, and a determination by the inspector as to whether the system is operating as intended. Inspection documentation must be readily available and shall be provided at the Department's request.

16. The stormwater management system shall be inspected by a registered professional to evaluate whether the system is functioning as designed and permitted. The registered professional may record his inspection on Form No 62-330.311(1), Operation and Maintenance Inspection Certification or may provide his evaluation in any other format; however any report must be signed and sealed by the registered professional. Submittal of the inspection report to the Department is not required; but the report shall be made available to the Department upon request. Inspections shall be made by the registered professional in accordance with this schedule:

d. On the first anniversary of the date of conversion to Operation and Maintenance Phase.

e. Every second year on the anniversary of conversion to Operation and Maintenance phase, after the first year of successful operation.

17. Within 30 days of any failure of a stormwater management system or deviation from the permit, a report shall be submitted to the Department on Form 62-330.311(1), Operation and Maintenance Inspection Certification, describing the remedial actions taken to resolve the failure or deviation. This report shall be signed and sealed by a registered professional.

18. The mailing address for submittal of forms for the "Construction Commencement Notice", "As-Built Certification ...", "Request for Conversion of Stormwater Management Permit Construction Phase to Operation and Maintenance Phase", or other correspondence is FDEP, SLERP, 160 Governmental Center, Pensacola, Florida, 32502.

#### GENERAL CONDITIONS FOR INDIVIDUAL PERMITS

The following general conditions are binding on all individual permits issued under Chapter 62-330, F.A.C., except where the conditions are not applicable to the authorized activity, or where the conditions must be modified to accommodate project-specific conditions.

1. All activities shall be implemented following the plans, specifications and performance criteria approved by this permit. Any deviations must be authorized in a permit modification in accordance with Rule 62-330.315, F.A.C. Any deviations that are not so authorized may subject the permittee to enforcement action and revocation of the permit under Chapter 373, F.S.

2. A complete copy of this permit shall be kept at the work site of the permitted activity during the construction phase, and shall be available for review at the work site upon request by the Agency staff. The permittee shall require the contractor to review the complete permit prior to beginning construction.

3. Activities shall be conducted in a manner that does not cause or contribute to violations of state water quality standards. Performance-based erosion and sediment control best management practices shall be installed immediately prior to, and be maintained during and after construction as needed, to prevent adverse impacts to the water resources and adjacent lands. Such practices shall be in accordance with the *State of Florida Erosion and Sediment Control Designer and Reviewer Manual* (Florida Department of Environmental Protection and Florida Department of Transportation, June 2007), and the *Florida Stormwater Erosion and Sedimentation Control Inspector's Manual* (Florida Department of Environmental Protection, Nonpoint Source

Permit Expiration: February 22, 2021

#### STANDARD PROTECTION MEASURES FOR THE EASTERN INDIGO SNAKE U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service August 12, 2013

The eastern indigo snake protection/education plan (Plan) below has been developed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) in Florida for use by applicants and their construction personnel. At least **30 days prior** to any clearing/land alteration activities, the applicant shall notify the appropriate USFWS Field Office via e-mail that the Plan will be implemented as described below (North Florida Field Office: jaxregs@fws.gov; South Florida Field Office: verobeach@fws.gov; Panama City Field Office: panamacity@fws.gov). As long as the signatory of the e-mail certifies compliance with the below Plan (including use of the attached poster and brochure), no further written confirmation or "approval" from the USFWS is needed and the applicant may move forward with the project.

If the applicant decides to use an eastern indigo snake protection/education plan other than the approved Plan below, written confirmation or "approval" from the USFWS that the plan is adequate must be obtained. At least 30 days prior to any clearing/land alteration activities, the applicant shall submit their unique plan for review and approval. The USFWS will respond via email, typically within 30 days of receiving the plan, either concurring that the plan is adequate or requesting additional information. A concurrence e-mail from the appropriate USFWS Field Office will fulfill approval requirements.

The Plan materials should consist of: 1) a combination of posters and pamphlets (see **Poster Information** section below); and 2) verbal educational instructions to construction personnel by supervisory or management personnel before any clearing/land alteration activities are initiated (see **Pre-Construction Activities** and **During Construction Activities** sections below).

## **POSTER INFORMATION**

Posters with the following information shall be placed at strategic locations on the construction site and along any proposed access roads (a final poster for Plan compliance, to be printed on 11" x 17" or larger paper and laminated, is attached):

**DESCRIPTION**: The eastern indigo snake is one of the largest non-venomous snakes in North America, with individuals often reaching up to 8 feet in length. They derive their name from the glossy, blue-black color of their scales above and uniformly slate blue below. Frequently, they have orange to coral reddish coloration in the throat area, yet some specimens have been reported to only have cream coloration on the throat. These snakes are not typically aggressive and will attempt to crawl away when disturbed. Though indigo snakes rarely bite, they should NOT be handled.

**SIMILAR SNAKES:** The black racer is the only other solid black snake resembling the eastern indigo snake. However, black racers have a white or cream chin, thinner bodies, and WILL BITE if handled.

**LIFE HISTORY:** The eastern indigo snake occurs in a wide variety of terrestrial habitat types throughout Florida. Although they have a preference for uplands, they also utilize some wetlands

and agricultural areas. Eastern indigo snakes will often seek shelter inside gopher tortoise burrows and other below- and above-ground refugia, such as other animal burrows, stumps, roots, and debris piles. Females may lay from 4 - 12 white eggs as early as April through June, with young hatching in late July through October.

**PROTECTION UNDER FEDERAL AND STATE LAW:** The eastern indigo snake is classified as a Threatened species by both the USFWS and the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission. "Taking" of eastern indigo snakes is prohibited by the Endangered Species Act without a permit. "Take" is defined by the USFWS as an attempt to kill, harm, harass, pursue, hunt, shoot, wound, trap, capture, collect, or engage in any such conduct. Penalties include a maximum fine of \$25,000 for civil violations and up to \$50,000 and/or imprisonment for criminal offenses, if convicted.

Only individuals currently authorized through an issued Incidental Take Statement in association with a USFWS Biological Opinion, or by a Section 10(a)(1)(A) permit issued by the USFWS, to handle an eastern indigo snake are allowed to do so.

## IF YOU SEE A <u>LIVE</u> EASTERN INDIGO SNAKE ON THE SITE:

- Cease clearing activities and allow the live eastern indigo snake sufficient time to move away from the site without interference;
- Personnel must NOT attempt to touch or handle snake due to protected status.
- Take photographs of the snake, if possible, for identification and documentation purposes.
- Immediately notify supervisor or the applicant's designated agent, **and** the appropriate USFWS office, with the location information and condition of the snake.
- If the snake is located in a vicinity where continuation of the clearing or construction activities will cause harm to the snake, the activities must halt until such time that a representative of the USFWS returns the call (within one day) with further guidance as to when activities may resume.

## IF YOU SEE A <u>DEAD</u> EASTERN INDIGO SNAKE ON THE SITE:

- Cease clearing activities and immediately notify supervisor or the applicant's designated agent, **and** the appropriate USFWS office, with the location information and condition of the snake.
- Take photographs of the snake, if possible, for identification and documentation purposes.
- Thoroughly soak the dead snake in water and then freeze the specimen. The appropriate wildlife agency will retrieve the dead snake.

# Telephone numbers of USFWS Florida Field Offices to be contacted if a live or dead eastern indigo snake is encountered:

North Florida Field Office – (904) 731-3336 Panama City Field Office – (850) 769-0552 South Florida Field Office – (772) 562-3909

## PRE-CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITIES

1. The applicant or designated agent will post educational posters in the construction office and throughout the construction site, including any access roads. The posters must be clearly visible to all construction staff. A sample poster is attached.

2. Prior to the onset of construction activities, the applicant/designated agent will conduct a meeting with all construction staff (annually for multi-year projects) to discuss identification of the snake, its protected status, what to do if a snake is observed within the project area, and applicable penalties that may be imposed if state and/or federal regulations are violated. An educational brochure including color photographs of the snake will be given to each staff member in attendance and additional copies will be provided to the construction superintendent to make available in the onsite construction office (a final brochure for Plan compliance, to be printed double-sided on 8.5" x 11" paper and then properly folded, is attached). Photos of eastern indigo snakes may be accessed on USFWS and/or FWC websites.

3. Construction staff will be informed that in the event that an eastern indigo snake (live or dead) is observed on the project site during construction activities, all such activities are to cease until the established procedures are implemented according to the Plan, which includes notification of the appropriate USFWS Field Office. The contact information for the USFWS is provided on the referenced posters and brochures.

## **DURING CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITIES**

1. During initial site clearing activities, an onsite observer may be utilized to determine whether habitat conditions suggest a reasonable probability of an eastern indigo snake sighting (example: discovery of snake sheds, tracks, lots of refugia and cavities present in the area of clearing activities, and presence of gopher tortoises and burrows).

2. If an eastern indigo snake is discovered during gopher tortoise relocation activities (i.e. burrow excavation), the USFWS shall be contacted within one business day to obtain further guidance which may result in further project consultation.

3. Periodically during construction activities, the applicant's designated agent should visit the project area to observe the condition of the posters and Plan materials, and replace them as needed. Construction personnel should be reminded of the instructions (above) as to what is expected if any eastern indigo snakes are seen.

## POST CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITIES

Whether or not eastern indigo snakes are observed during construction activities, a monitoring report should be submitted to the appropriate USFWS Field Office within 60 days of project completion. The report can be sent electronically to the appropriate USFWS e-mail address listed on page one of this Plan.

#### **Mitigation Attachment**

#### **County Road 99 Pine Barren Creek Bridge**

#### FDOT 430466-1

#### June 9, 2016

#### **Estimated Wetland Impact**

1.23 acres of palustrine forested wetlands / 0.82 UMAM functional loss

#### **Proposed Mitigation**

Establishment of approximately 5.52 acres of Freshwater Forested Wetlands within abandoned sand pit wetlands connected to the floodplain of the Escambia River. The project will be known as Mystic Springs Restoration Area (Lat/Long: 30.8563° N, -87.3129° W).

USACE Permit SAJ-2015-035347 SP-MAO (Public Notice)

#### Scope

Proposed mitigation for replacement of the CR 99 Bridge on Pine Barren Creek (a tributary to the Escambia River) consists of planting forested wetland species on approximately 5.52 acres within old sand pit wetlands adjacent to the Escambia River floodplain. The Mystic Springs Restoration Area was created by removing sand from upland bluffs adjacent to the Escambia River floodplain during the 1940s or early 1950s, contouring the site to create wetland terraces and connecting it to the floodplain prior to abandonment. The site has surface elevations similar to the nearby forested floodplain wetlands. This site is periodically flooded by the Escambia River during high flow conditions. Water levels within the restoration area range from two feet during periods of flooding to ground level during periods of drought. Soils consist of deep coarse sandy clay. Mitigation would focus on successful establishment of appropriate wetland tree species (e.g., cypress (*Taxodium distichum*), red maple (*Acer rubrum*), river birch (*Betula nigra*), and Carolina ash (*Fraxinus caroliniana*), and control of exotic vegetation.

Development of this plan is guided by compliance with the 12 components of a compensatory mitigation plan as outlined in 33 CFR \$332.4(c)(2)-(14) of the 2008 EPA Final Rule (Compensatory Mitigation for Losses of Aquatic Resources).

## 1—Objectives [§332.4(c)(2)]

The objective of this project is to establish approximately 5.52 acres of forested wetland species within old abandoned sand pit wetlands connected to the adjacent Escambia River.

<u>Pre-Restoration Habitat Cover</u>—the site has been terraced with shallow herbaceous wetlands that are seasonally inundated with four to six inches of water and dominated by scattered rushes, sedges and substantial Bahia grass coverage; lower terraced wetlands appear to be permanently inundated ranging from six inches to two feet and are dominated by buttonbush (*Cephalanthus occidentalis*), willow (*Salix caroliniana*) and the occasional red maple, cypress or river birch; lesser creeping rush (*Juncus repens*), early St. John's Wort (*Hypericum apocynifolium*) and (*Eleocharis spp.*). Soils are coarse sand and clay. The lake formed within the sand pit is steep edged and greater than six foot in depth and not considered in this restoration plan. Current site was evaluated as low quality FLUCCS 640—Vegetated Non-Forested Wetlands.

<u>Post-Restoration Habitat Cover</u>—floodplain forest (Freshwater Forested Wetlands). Approximately FLUCCS 615—Stream and Lake Swamps (Bottomland) (high-quality).

## 2—Site Selection Criteria [§332.4(c)(3)]

This site was selected as offsetting mitigation for the CR 99 Pine Barren Creek Bridge impacts for the following reasons:

- The impacts are not within the service area of any existing or planned private mitigation bank, or within the service area of any in-lieu fee program.
- The mitigation is within the same watershed as the impacts (Escambia River; HUC 03140305).
- The mitigation addresses ecological needs of the Escambia River floodplain and larger Pensacola Bay System watershed.
- The hydrology of the mitigation site will be maintained naturally without human manipulations.
- The mitigation enables creation of forested floodplain wetlands that would otherwise be unfunded.

When complete, the mitigation will be self-sustaining and managed for ecological integrity by the NWFWMD.

## 3—Site Protection Instrument [§332.4(c)(4)]

In accordance with the site protection clauses of the USACE/EPA compensatory mitigation Final Rule of 2008, title to this site (fee-simple) will be held in perpetuity by the NWFWMD. The mitigation site will be managed in a natural condition as conservation lands as part of the Escambia River Water Management Area. The NWFWMD, a governmental entity created by the

Florida Water Resources Act of 1972, given taxing authority by a Florida constitutional amendment in 1973, with jurisdictional boundaries covering 16 counties established in Florida Statutes 373.069, manages over 200,000 acres in the Florida Panhandle for water resources protection and ecosystem integrity. Florida Statutes 373.1391 mandates ecological management of NWFWMD lands, although allowing for multiple uses such as hunting and passive recreation when such uses do not conflict with ecological management goals. It is the policy of the NWFWMD Governing Board to prioritize the conservation, protection and restoration of water resources and natural ecosystems over other uses such as public access.

#### 4—Baseline Information [§332.4(c)(5)]

The Mystic Springs Restoration Area is currently an abandoned sand pit dug in the 1940s or early 1950s. The restoration site has terraced herbaceous wetlands that are seasonally inundated with four to six inches of water and dominated by scattered rushes, sedges and substantial Bahia grass coverage; lower areas with permanent inundation ranging from six inches to two feet are dominated by buttonbush (*Cephalanthus occidentalis*), willow (*Salix caroliniana*) lesser creeping rush (*Juncus repens*), early St. John's Wort (*Hypericum apocynifolium*) and (*Eleocharis spp*.) in wettest portions of site. Soils (probed down to three feet) are coarse sand and clay. Very minor recruitment of floodplain tree species has occurred (i.e., several river birch, one river cypress and one red maple). The remaining pit lakes were not considered in this restoration plan.

The site is subject to periodic flooding from the Escambia River via an excavated cut. During non-flood conditions, water levels in the upper wetland terraces are generally in the <6-inch range and may dry completely. Within the lower wetland terraces, when flooded, water levels may stage up to two feet deep for extended periods and appear to remain at or near six inches during the rest of the year. At high flood stages, the site is inundated by the Escambia River.

Maps and Figures (see attached)

- Location of proposed mitigation in relation to the CR 99 Pine Barren Creek Bridge impact site.
- 1940 B&W Aerial.
- 1955 B&W Aerial.
- 2013 DOQ.
- LiDAR.
- Soils (NRCS).
- Photograph (6/2/2016) of site.
- UMAM Scoring Sheets.

## 5—Determination of Credits [§332.4(c)(6)]

Estimated lift to wetland function generated by this project is derived using the Uniform Mitigation Assessment Method (UMAM). UMAM estimates are based on establishment of high-

quality Freshwater Forested Wetlands in an abandoned sand pit, and include time lag and risk factors. Assessments by NWFWMD staff suggest that this project will yield 0.88 UMAM credits of functional lift.

### 6—Detailed Work Plan [§332.4(c)(7)]

Freshwater Forested Wetlands will be established via planting a mix of hydrophytic trees (river birch, red maple, Carolina ash, river cypress). Planted trees will be three gallon-sized saplings at least six to eight feet in height, and will be planted using an auger (smaller, bare-root seedlings are not appropriate for this site because of soil conditions and the potential for extended flooding after planting). Tree will be planted at a density of 600 trees per acre, with the goal of at least 400 mature trees per acre.

#### 7—Maintenance Plan [§332.4(c)(8)]

After establishment of Freshwater Forested Wetlands, this site will be maintained in perpetuity by the NWFWMD. Exotic vegetation will be treated with herbicides when necessary, and additional trees may be planted if necessary to maintain success criteria densities. Hydrology will be maintained by natural processes and determined by the periodic flooding of the Escambia River, groundwater, precipitation, and evapotranspiration.

#### 8—Performance Standard [§332.4(c)(9)]

- 400 hydrophytic trees per acre in a healthy and thriving condition.
- Nuisance vegetation  $\leq 5\%$  cover per acre.
- Exotic vegetation  $\leq 1\%$  cover per acre.

#### 9—Monitoring [§332.4(c)(10)]

Monitoring protocols to ensure mitigation success will be conducted annually for a minimum of five years from the start of mitigation activities or as required by USACE and/or ERP permit conditions. Monitoring will be performed by NWFWMD staff or qualified consulting firms. All monitoring reports will be posted at <u>www.NWFWMDwetlands.com</u>. Corrective measures will be taken if necessary.

#### 10—Long-term Management [§332.4(c)(11)]

The Freshwater Forested Wetlands established by this project will be managed in perpetuity by the NWFWMD. Exotic vegetation will be treated as necessary to meet ecological success

criteria. Additional plantings of hydrophytic trees will be undertaken if necessary to ensure appropriate tree densities.

## 11—Adaptive Management Plan [§332.4(c)(12)]

If changes in the implementation of this mitigation plan become necessary due to the stochastic nature of ecological processes, the NWFWMD will first obtain approvals from the USACE.

## 12—Financial Assurances [§332.4(c)(13)]

The NWFWMD is a governmental entity created by the Florida Water Resources Act of 1972 with the mission of protecting water resources protection and ecosystem integrity. Funds from FDOT are specifically earmarked to implement and maintain mitigation.

As of 5/31/2016, the NWFWMD had \$16,229,460.91 in a dedicated mitigation fund. This fund was established to receive payment from sales of mitigation credits and to ensure adequate funding for the implementation and long-term management of mitigation sites, in accordance with 62-342.850 FAC.

## Other Information [§332.4(c)(14)]

<u>Uncertainty and Risk</u>. The uncertainty and risk associated with implementation of this type of mitigation is considered moderate. Hydrologic regime will be controlled by natural processes with no human intervention. The use of larger saplings (3 gallon-size) and auger holes (as opposed to bare-root trees and planting with dibble bars) will increase the likelihood of survival of planted trees during flood events as they become established.

<u>Size and ecological value of parcel / watershed approach</u>. When established, the Freshwater Forested Wetlands (4.47 acres) will be a contiguous part of the Escambia River floodplain.

<u>Temporal loss</u>. There will be a temporal lag between the time of planting of hydrophytic trees and establishment of mature Freshwater Forested Wetlands (estimated at 16 - 20 years for UMAM calculation purposes).

<u>Scientific/technical analysis, planning, and implementation</u>. Over the past twenty years, the NWFWMD has gained extensive experience implementing a variety of large and small-scale wetland restoration projects (see <u>www.NWFWMDwetlands.com</u> for a listing and details on all mitigation projects implemented by the NWFWMD) Professional staff includes licensed professional engineers, biologists, geographers, planners, and GIS specialists. Contracts are also in place for outside consultants as needed.

<u>Long-term viability of the mitigation site</u>. The Mystic Springs Restoration Area will be preserved and managed for ecological integrity in perpetuity by the NWFWMD. Mitigation funds will be available for future monitoring and maintenance as needed.

Any additional information requested by the USACE to determine the appropriateness, feasibility, and practicability of this compensatory mitigation project will be provided.

Mystic Springs Restoration Site UMAM Estimate - 6/9/2016															
Polygon	UMAM Acres	L1	L2	W1	W1	C1	C2	W/Out	With	Raw Delta	Time Lag	P Factor	Risk	Adjusted Delta	UMAM Credits
Mystic Springs	5.52	4	9	7	7	2	9	0.43	0.83	0.40	1.68	1	1.5	0.16	0.883

5.52 (Wetland Acreage Total)

(Total UMAM Credit) 0.88

Explanation of Column Headings:

Polygon = Name of assessment polygon

UMAM Acres = Acres of assessment polygon

L1 = Location and Landscape Support score (pre-mitigation)

L2 = Location and Landscape Support score (post-mitigation)

W1 = Water Environment score (pre-mitigation)

W2 = Water Environment score (post-mitigation)

C1 = Community Structure score (pre-mitigation)

C2 = Community Structure score (post-mitigation)

W/Out = UMAM functional value (pre-mitigation; 0 = no value; 1 = 100% value)

With = UMAM functional value (post-mitigation; 0 = no value; 1 = 100% value)

Raw Delta = "With" minus "W/Out" (i.e., the raw functional lift from implementation of project)

Time Lag = Lag between implementation and full achievement of success criteria

P Factor = Preservation Factor (used only for preservation-only mitigation projects)

Risk = Risk the mitigation project will fail

Adjusted Delta = Functional lift of project adjusted for Time Lag, Risk, and Preservation Factor

UMAM Credit = Functional UMAM credits generated from mitigation project

# PART I – Qualitative Description (See Section 62-345.400, F.A.C.)

Site/Project Name	Application Number			Assessment Area Name or Number					
Mystic Spring	js	Not Applicable			Mystic Springs				
FLUCCS code	Further classification	ation (optional)		Impact	t or Mitigation Site?	Assessment Area Size			
640 (pre-restoration) 615 (post-restoration)	640 (pre-restoration) 615 (post-restoration)				5.52 Acres				
Basin/Watershed Name/Number Escambia River (HUC 03140305)	sin/Watershed Name/Number Affected Waterbody (Class) Escambia River III (HUC 03140305)			Special Classification (i.e.OFW, AP, other local/state/federal designation of importance)					
Geographic relationship to and hyd	drologic connection wit	h wetlands, other	surface water, up	olands					
Abandoned sand pit contiguous	to Escambia River fl	oodplain.							
Assessment area description									
Abandoned sand pit; extensive	Bahai grass  coverag	e; buttonbush.							
Significant nearby features		Uniqueness (considering the relative rarity in relation to the regional landscape.)							
Escambia River.		Not unique.							
Functions			Mitigation for pre	vious p	permit/other historic us	se			
Water storage; water quality; flo	ral and faunal habita	t.	None						
Anticipated Wildlife Utilization Bas species that are representative of expected to be found )	ed on Literature Revie the assessment area a	w (List of and reasonably	Anticipated Utiliz classification (E, assessment area	ation b T, SS( a)	by Listed Species (List C), type of use, and in	species, their legal tensity of use of the			
Observed Evidence of Wildlife Utilization (List species directly observed, or other signs such as tracks, droppings, casings, nests, etc.)									
Additional relevant factors									
Assessment conducted by			Assessment date	e(s)					
NWF	WMD Staff				6/9/2016				

PAI	RT II – Quantification ( (See Section)	of Assessment Area (ir s 62-345.500 and .600,	npact o F.A.C.)	r mitigation)					
Site/Project Name		Application Number	Assessment Area Name or Number						
Mystic Spi	rings	Not Applicable	Mystic Springs						
Impact or Mitigation		Assessment conducted by:	Assessment date:						
Mitigatio	on	NWFWMD Staff		6/9/2016					
Scoring Guidance The scoring of each indicator is based on what would be suitable for the type of wetland or surface water assessed	Optimal (10) Condition is optimal and fully supports wetland/surface water functions	OptimizeInduction (if)Induction (if)Not Present (if)ondition is optimal and fully supports vetland/surface water functionsCondition is less than optimal, but sufficient to maintain most wetland/surface waterfunctionsMinimal (4)Not Present (0)Condition is less than optimal, but sufficient to wetland/surface waterfunctionsMinimal level of support of wetland/surface water functionsCondition is insufficient provide wetland/surface water functions							
.500(6)(a) Location and Landscape Support w/out mit w/mit 4 9	<u>Without Mitigation</u> - Aband high-quality forested floodpl	doned sand pit with very low-o ain wetlands.	quality we	etlands. <u>With Mitig</u>	<u>ation</u> - Esta	ablishment of			
.500(6)(b)Water Environment (N/A for Uplands) w/out mit w/mit 7 7 7	<u>Without Mitigation</u> - Site p Escambia River.	eriodically flooded by Escaml	oia River.	<u>With Mitigation</u> -	Site periodi	cally flooded by			
.500(6)(c)Community structure Vegetation and/or Benthic Community	<u>Without Mitigation</u> - Low-q Establishment of high-qualit	quality non-forested wetland; or y forested wetlands.	exotic veç	getation coverage.	With Mitiga	ation -			
w/out mit w/mit 2 9									
Score = sum of above scores/30 (if uplands, divide by 20) w/out mit w/mit	Preservation Ad	justment Factor 1 (PF) = 1		UMAM Funct	tional Asses	ssment			
0.43 0.83	(10-20 1K3) 11				•				
	•	Risk Factor = 1.5		Polygon	Acreage =	5.52			
Raw Delta = [w/mit - w/out mit] 0.40	Adjusted Delta [(Ray	w Delta * PF) / (T * R)] = 0.16	F	unctional Gain w/M (Adjusted Delta * A	Mitigation Acres) =	0.88			

## CR 99 Pine Barren Creek Bridge and Mystic Springs Restoration Area - 2013 DOQ



## Mystic Springs Restoration Area - 1940 B&W Aerial



## Mystic Springs Restoration Area - 1955 B&W Aerial



0

250



## Mystic Springs Restoration Area - 2013 DOQ



**Mystic Springs Restoration Area - LiDAR** 



0

## **Mystic Springs Restoration Area - NRCS Soils Data**



250



## AS-BUILT CERTIFICATION BY PROFESSIONAL ENGINEER

Submit this form and one set of as Engineers, Enforcement Section, 41 you have questions regarding this red 232-3131.	-built engineering drawings to the U.S North Jefferson Street, Suite 301, Pel quirement, please contact the Enforce	S. Army Corps of nsacola, FL, 32502. If ement Branch at 904-
1. Department of the Army Permit Nu	umber: SAJ-2015-03537(SP-MAO)	
2. Permittee Information:		
Name:		
Address:		
3. Project Site Identification (physica	l location/address):	
4. As-Built Certification: I hereby cer by Special Conditions to the permit, h the Army permit with any deviations r observation, scheduled, and conducto supervision. I have enclosed one set	rtify that the authorized work, including has been accomplished in accordance noted below. This determination is ba ed by me or by a project representation t of as-built engineering drawings.	g any mitigation required e with the Department of used upon on-site ve under my direct
Signature of Engineer	Name ( <i>Please type</i> )	
(FL, PR, or VI) Reg. Number	Company Name	
City	State	ZIP
(Affix Seal)		
· ·		

Identify any deviations from the approved permit drawings and/or special conditions (attach additional pages if necessary):