

PART 1, CHAPTER 12

ENVIRONMENTAL PERMITS

TABLE OF CONTENTS

12.1 OVERVIEW	12-1
12.1.1 District Roles and Responsibilities	12-2
12.1.2 Definitions	12-3
12.2 PERMITTING AGENCIES AND ENVIRONMENTAL REGULATIONS	12-8
12.2.1 Federal Permitting	12-10
12.2.1.1 United States Army Corps of Engineers	12-11
12.2.1.2 United States Coast Guard	12-15
12.2.2 State Permitting	12-17
12.2.2.1 Environmental Resource Permitting	12-17
12.2.2.2 State-owned Submerged Lands Authorizations	12-20
12.2.2.3 National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System	12-20
12.2.2.4 Coastal Zone Management Act Consistency	12-22
12.2.2.5 Right of Way Occupancy Permit	12-22
12.2.2.6 Coastal Construction Line	12-22
12.2.2.7 Consumptive Water Use Permits	12-22
12.2.2.8 Class V Stormwater Well Permits	12-23
12.2.3 Federal and State Protected Species Permits	12-23
12.2.3.1 American Bald Eagle	12-24
12.2.3.2 Florida Burrowing Owl	12-26

12.2.3.3 Osprey.....	12-26
12.2.3.4 Gopher Tortoise	12-27
12.3 PROCEDURE	12-29
12.3.1 Projects Not Qualifying for Screening	12-29
12.3.2 Projects Qualifying for Screening.....	12-29
12.3.2.1 Planning Screen.....	12-30
12.3.2.2 Programming Screen	12-30
12.3.2.2.1 Identification of Potential Permitting Needs	12-30
12.3.2.2.2 Opportunities for Mitigation.....	12-30
12.3.3 Project Development and Environment Phase	12-31
12.3.3.1 Preparation for Permitting during PD&E	12-31
12.3.3.1.1 Consideration of Mitigation Options	12-32
12.3.3.1.2 Environmental Commitments.....	12-34
12.3.3.1.3 Documenting Permits	12-34
12.3.4 Reevaluation.....	12-35
12.3.5 Design and Permitting	12-35
12.3.5.1 Finalize Mitigation	12-36
12.3.5.2 Permitting Process	12-37
12.3.5.2.1 Pre-application Conference	12-38
12.3.5.2.2 Application Preparation/Submittal.....	12-38
12.3.5.2.3 Application Processing/Review.....	12-40
12.3.5.2.4 Noticing Permits.....	12-43
12.3.5.2.5 Permit Distribution and Tracking.....	12-43

12.3.6 Construction.....	12-44
12.3.6.1 Permit Compliance	12-45
12.4 REFERENCES.....	12-46
12.5 HISTORY	12-52

LIST OF TABLES

Table 12-1 Legislation Related to Environmental Permitting.....	12-53
Table 12-2 Federal Permit Types	12-56
Table 12-3 State Permit Types.....	12-57
Table 12-4 Listed Wildlife Permit Types	12-58

LIST OF FIGURES

Figure 12-1 Federal Permitting Information Sources.....	12-59
Figure 12-2 State Permitting Information Sources	12-61
Figure 12-3 Protected Wildlife Permitting Information Sources	12-64
Figure 12-4 Typical Permitting Process.....	12-67
Figure 12-5 Permit Transmittal Memorandum.....	12-68

PART 1, CHAPTER 12

ENVIRONMENTAL PERMITS

12.1 OVERVIEW

This chapter details the environmental permits that may be required for transportation projects as well as coordination required with regulatory agencies and within the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) from project planning through construction and maintenance. The need to obtain an environmental permit for a transportation project is dictated by the project's impact on a protected resource.

FDOT construction and maintenance activities are regulated by numerous environmental laws and regulations administered by federal and state agencies. These agencies have established environmental programs to conserve, protect, manage, and control the air, land, water, and natural resources of the State or the United States. FDOT is required to obtain an environmental permit from the appropriate federal or state agency, unless exempted by statute or rule:

1. For any activity which is expected to be a source of air, ground, or surface water pollution, including the discharge of untreated rainfall moving over and through the ground; for dredging or filling in, on, or over waters of the State or the United States, including wetlands;
2. For activities, including bridges occurring in navigable waters of the United States;
3. For activities where protected species and/or their habitats may be impacted; and
4. For activities associated with archaeological testing and research occurring on State-owned or controlled lands, including sovereign submerged lands.

Table 12-1 identifies the major federal and state laws, and agency rules and policies associated with environmental permits. It is not meant to be all inclusive.

Permitting is generally initiated during the Design phase (i.e., typically 60% plan/design completion), but can be advanced in the Project Development and Environment (PD&E) phase if enough detailed information regarding project and resource impacts is available. In order to prepare for and efficiently navigate the permitting process, a project should be designed to include features, such as mitigation, that would assure regulatory agencies that the project would not result in unacceptable impacts to environmental resources under their purview.

For qualifying projects, FDOT's Efficient Transportation Decision Making (ETDM) process is initiated during the Planning phase. During the ETDM process, resource agencies review projects to identify potentially affected resources and permits that FDOT may need to obtain. The agencies may also suggest avoidance or minimization measures to reduce impacts to protected resources and suggest potential mitigation options for unavoidable impacts. See **Section 12.3.2** for guidance on projects that qualify for ETDM screening.

In PD&E, FDOT develops technical reports as needed, completes environmental analyses, and ultimately identifies the alternative to be designed. Resource impacts are evaluated, mitigation options are considered, and commitments may be made with regulatory/resource agencies. Information gathered during PD&E can be used in environmental permit applications. More guidance on preparing for permitting during PD&E is provided in **Section 12.3.3**.

Typically, once a project is in the Design phase, impact evaluations are finalized and permit applications are submitted to the regulatory agencies. FDOT coordinates with these agencies to address comments and finalize compensatory mitigation, if any is required. After FDOT meets the regulatory agency's permitting criteria, the permit is issued. Guidance on the permitting process in Design is provided in **Section 12.3.5**.

During Construction, FDOT ensures environmental permit compliance and confirms that permit conditions are addressed as specified in the contract documents. Environmental permit compliance is handled by the Construction Office. Guidance on environmental permitting issues during Construction is provided in **Section 12.3.6**.

12.1.1 District Roles and Responsibilities

The District ETDM Coordinator screens the projects in the Environmental Screening Tool (EST) and provides agency comments to the PD&E Project Manager and Permit Coordinator. See the [ETDM Manual, Topic No. 650-000-002](#) for details on ETDM Coordinator and Permit Coordinator responsibilities during ETDM.

The FDOT Environmental Office prepares the appropriate Environmental Document and supporting technical reports such as the **Natural Resource Evaluation** and **Cultural Resource Assessment Survey**. These reports can provide support for environmental permit applications. The Environmental Office staff must ensure that these documents are available the PD&E Project Manager and the District Permit Coordinator.

The Permit Coordinator is ultimately responsible for obtaining the necessary project permits. They are also tasked with coordinating with the Environmental Office staff during PD&E, reviewing the Environmental Document and applicable technical reports, coordinating with resource agencies during project permitting, and coordinating with Construction later in the project as necessary. The responsibilities of the Permit Coordinator may also be handled by other District staff, such as District Environmental Permitting Engineer, Environmental Permits Coordinator, Drainage Engineer. Throughout the remainder of this chapter this position will be referred to as the Permit Coordinator.

Design Project Managers in coordination with the District Drainage Engineer and Permit Coordinator ensure that permits are obtained in accordance with the project schedule and project design incorporates appropriate environmental commitments.

The Construction Project Administrator is responsible for compliance during the Construction phase. The Project Administrator shall review and be familiar with all contract documents for the project and the project site including all natural features protected by federal and state regulations. The Project Administrator shall monitor all regulated activities to assure that they are conducted in accordance with the permit(s) and all permit conditions are met. For more information on the responsibilities of the Construction Project Administrator, please see [Section 8.2, Environmental Permit Compliance](#) of the [Construction Project Administration Manual \(CPAM\), Topic No. 700-000-000](#).

12.1.2 Definitions

The definitions below are used throughout this chapter.

As-Built Drawings - Plans certified by a registered professional that accurately represent the constructed condition of a project, including identifying any substantial deviations from the permitted design. See **Rule 62-330.310(4)(a)1, F.A.C.**

Coastal Zone Management Act Consistency Determination - A finding that an activity that affects land or water uses or natural resources in a state's coastal zone is in compliance, or not in compliance, with that state's federally-approved Coastal Management Program. See **33 CFR § 330.4(d)(1)** and **33 CFR § 325.2(b)(2)**.

Compensatory Mitigation (federal definition) - The restoration, establishment, enhancement, or protection/maintenance of wetlands and/or other aquatic resources for the purpose of compensating for unavoidable adverse impacts which remain after all appropriate and practicable avoidance and minimization have been achieved via the mandatory federal mitigation sequence process. See **33 CFR § 332.2**.

Critical Habitat - For federally listed species consists of: (1) the specific areas within the geographical area occupied by the species, at the time it is listed in accordance with the provisions of **Section 4** of the **Endangered Species Act (ESA)**, on which are found those physical or biological features (constituent elements) (a) essential to the conservation of the species and (b) which may require special management considerations or protection; and (2) specific areas outside the geographical area occupied by the species at the time it is listed in accordance with the provisions of **Section 4** of the **Act**, upon a determination by the Secretary that such areas are essential for the conservation of the species [**ESA § 3 (5)(A)**]. Designated critical habitats are described in **50 CFR §§ 17 and 226**.

Design-Build (DB) - A project delivery contracting form whereby one entity performs both design and construction under one single contract.

Design-Bid-Build - A form of project delivery whereby the contracting agency either performs the design work in-house or negotiates with an engineering design firm to prepare drawings and specifications under a design services contract, and then separately contracts for at-risk construction by engaging a contractor through competitive bidding.

Direct Impact – Project impacts to environmental resources, water quality, water quantity, protected species or cultural/historical caused by the action within FDOT Right of Way (ROW).

Discharge of Dredged Material - Any addition of dredged material into, including redeposit of dredged material other than incidental fallback within, the waters of the United States. See **33 CFR § 323.2(d)**.

Discharge of Fill Material - The addition of fill material into waters of the United States. See **33 CFR § 323.2(f)** for the complete definition of this term.

Dredging - Excavation, by any means, in surface waters or wetlands. It also means the excavation, or creation, of a water body which is, or is to be, connected to surface waters or wetlands, as delineated in **Section 373.421(1), F.S.**, directly or via an excavated water body or series of water bodies. (See **Section 373.403(13), F.S.**)

Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) - Those waters and substrate necessary to fish for spawning, breeding, feeding, or growth to maturity. For the purpose of interpreting the definition of essential fish habitat: "waters" include aquatic areas and their associated physical, chemical, and biological properties that are used by fish and may include aquatic areas historically used by fish where appropriate; "substrate" includes sediment, hard bottom, structures underlying the waters, and associated biological communities; "necessary" means the habitat required to support a sustainable fishery and the managed species' contribution to a healthy ecosystem; and "spawning, breeding, feeding, or growth to maturity" covers a species' full life cycle. (See **50 CFR § 600.10**)

Fill - Material placed in waters of the United States where the material has the effect of: (i) Replacing any portion of a water of the United States with dry land; or (ii) Changing the bottom elevation of any portion of a water of the United States. Examples of such fill material include, but are not limited to: rock, sand, soil, clay, plastics, construction debris, wood chips, overburden from mining or other excavation activities, and materials used to create any structure or infrastructure in the waters of the United States. The term fill material does not include trash or garbage. [See **33 CFR § 323.2(e)**]

Filling - The deposition, by any means, of materials in wetlands or other surface waters, as delineated in **Section 373.421(1), F.S.** [See **Section 373.403(14), F.S.**]

Incidental Fallback - The redeposit of small volumes of dredged material that is incidental to excavation activity in waters of the United States when such material falls

back to substantially the same place as the initial removal. Examples of incidental fallback include soil that is disturbed when dirt is shoveled and the back-spill that comes off a bucket when such small volume of soil or dirt falls into substantially the same place from which it was initially removed. [See **33 CFR § 323.2(d)(2)(ii)**]

Incidental Take (federal definition) - Take of listed fish or wildlife species that results from, but is not the purpose of, carrying out an otherwise lawful activity conducted by a federal agency or applicant, or contractors working on behalf of the applicant. (See **50 CFR § 402.02**)

Incidental Take (state definition) - Any taking otherwise prohibited, if such taking is incidental to, and not the purpose of the carrying out of an otherwise lawful activity. (See **Chapter 68A-27, F.A.C.**)

Indirect Impact - Those impacts caused by the authorized activity that are not considered direct, and are later in time or farther removed in distance but are still reasonably foreseeable. The terms “indirect” and “secondary” are used interchangeably.

Local Agency Program (LAP) - A program where towns, cities and counties develop, design, and construct transportation facilities with federal funds with oversight conducted by FDOT on behalf of the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA).

Mitigation (state definition) - An action to off-set the adverse impacts caused by an activity typically consisting of restoration, enhancement, creation, or preservation of wetland resources, or a combination thereof.

Mitigation Sequence - A mandatory federal process by which proposed wetland impacts must be avoided to the maximum extent practicable; the remaining unavoidable impacts must then be minimized, and finally compensated for, to the extent appropriate and practicable.

Navigable Waters of the United States - Those waters of the United States that are subject to the ebb and flow of the tide shoreward to the mean high water line and/or those waters that are presently used, or have been used in the past or may be susceptible to use for interstate or foreign commerce. These are waters that are navigable in the traditional sense. Permits are required in these waters pursuant to **Section 10** of the **Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899**. (See **33 CFR § 329.4**)

Ordinary High Water Line (state definition) - For the regulatory purposes of **Chapter 62-330, F.A.C.**, means that point on the slope or bank where the surface water from the water body ceases to exert a dominant influence on the character of the surrounding vegetation and soils. The ordinary high water line frequently encompasses areas dominated by non-listed vegetation and non-hydric soils. (See **Volume 1** of the state **Applicant's Handbook**)

Ordinary High Water Mark (with respect to non-tidal waters) - The line on the shore established by the fluctuations of water and indicated by physical characteristics such as a clear, natural line impressed upon the bank, shelving, changes in the character of soil, destruction of terrestrial vegetation, the presence of litter and debris, or other appropriate means that consider the characteristics of the surrounding areas. [See **33 CFR § 328.3(e)**]

Sovereignty Submerged Lands - The State of Florida acquired title to sovereignty submerged lands on March 3, 1845, by virtue of statehood. Sovereignty submerged lands include all submerged lands, title to which is held by the Board of Trustees (Governor and Cabinet) of the Internal Improvement Trust Fund. Sovereignty submerged lands include, but are not limited to, tidal lands, islands, sandbars, shallow banks and lands waterward of the ordinary or mean high water line, beneath navigable fresh water or beneath tidally-influenced waters.

Stormwater - The flow of water that results from, and that occurs immediately following, a rainfall event.

Stormwater management system – A surface water management system that is designed and constructed or implemented to control discharges which are necessitated by rainfall events, incorporating methods to collect, convey, store, absorb, inhibit, treat, use, or reuse water to prevent or reduce flooding, over drainage, environmental degradation, and water pollution or otherwise affect the quantity and quality of discharges from the system. [**Sections 373.403(10)** and **403.031(16), F.S.**].

Surface Water (state definition) - Means water upon the surface of the earth, whether contained in bounds created naturally or artificially or diffused. Water from natural springs shall be classified as surface water when it exits from the spring onto the earth's surface [**Section 373.019(21), F.S.**]. **Rule 62-340.600, F.A.C.**, further defines surface waters as waters on the surface of the earth, contained in bounds created naturally or artificially, including, the Atlantic Ocean, the Gulf of Mexico, bays, bayous, sounds, estuaries, lagoons, lakes, ponds, impoundments, rivers, streams, springs, creeks, branches, sloughs, tributaries, and other watercourses.

Take - From the federal **ESA**: "The term 'take' means to **harass, harm**, pursue, hunt, shoot, wound, kill, trap, capture, or collect, or to attempt to engage in any such conduct."

- **Harm** - Significant habitat modification or degradation that results in death or injury to listed species by significantly impairing behavioral patterns such as breeding, feeding or sheltering.
- **Harass** - Actions that create the likelihood of injury to listed species to such an extent as to significantly disrupt normal behavior patterns which include but are not limited to breeding, feeding, or sheltering (see **50 CFR § 17.3**).

Take (state definition) - To harass, harm, pursue, hunt, shoot, wound, kill, trap, capture, or collect, or to attempt to engage in such conduct (See **Chapter 68A-27, F.A.C.**).

- The term “**harm**” in the definition of take means an act which actually kills or injures fish or wildlife. Such act may include significant habitat modification or degradation where it actually kills or injures wildlife by significantly impairing essential behavioral patterns, including breeding, feeding or sheltering.
- The term “**harass**” in the definition of take means an intentional or negligent act or omission which creates the likelihood of injury to wildlife by annoying it to such an extent as to significantly disrupt normal behavioral patterns which include, but are not limited to, breeding, feeding or sheltering.

Take as related to state and federal eagle permitting - Defines "take" to mean to "pursue, shoot, shoot at, poison, wound, kill, capture, trap, collect, molest or **disturb**" an eagle.

- **Disturb** - To "agitate or bother a bald or golden eagle to the degree that causes, or is likely to cause, based on the best scientific information available, 1) injury to an eagle, 2) a decrease in its productivity, by substantially interfering with normal breeding, feeding, or sheltering behavior, or 3) nest abandonment, by substantially interfering with normal breeding, feeding, or sheltering behavior" (**USFWS 2007b**). The **FWC Bald Eagle Management Plan** adopts the federal definition of "disturb" in **50 CFR § 22.3** and Florida's definition of "take" in **Rule 68A-1.004(79), Florida Administrative Code**.

Waters of the United States - Waters of the United States is defined in **33 CFR Part 328** and **40 CFR § 122.2** and is the jurisdictional boundary of a water that is regulated by the United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) or the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) under the **Clean Water Act (CWA)**.

Wetlands (federal definition) - Those areas that are inundated or saturated by surface or ground water at a frequency and duration sufficient to support, and that under normal circumstances do support, a prevalence of vegetation typically adapted for life in saturated soil conditions. Wetlands generally include swamps, marshes, bogs, and similar areas.

Wetlands (state definition) - Those areas that are inundated or saturated by surface water or ground water at a frequency and duration sufficient to support, and under normal circumstances do support, a prevalence of vegetation typically adapted for life in saturated soils. [See **Section 373.019(27), F.S.**]

12.2 PERMITTING AGENCIES AND ENVIRONMENTAL REGULATIONS

Environmental permits are required from one or more regulatory agencies for most land alterations, including the addition of impervious surfaces; construction, alteration, or abandonment of stormwater management facilities; impacts to wetland or surface waters (including navigable waters); and actions that could adversely affect specific protected wildlife species and/or their habitat.

Permit applications are reviewed by the regulatory agencies for their consistency with regulatory criteria and/or the effect of the project on the environmental resources (e.g., wetlands, water quality, protected species and their habitats). Through the application process the regulatory agencies may request other agencies to review transportation projects to ensure that they are not adverse to the resources (i.e. wildlife, habitat, cultural) under their purview. Also, for protected species impacts a specific species permit may be required.

Below is a list of agencies FDOT typically coordinates with throughout the permitting process. More details on the permitting agencies can be found in **Section 12.2.1**.

Federal Agencies

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) has the authority to issue permits for activities involving the discharge of dredge and fill materials into waters of the United States, including wetlands.

The U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) issues permits for bridges or causeways in or over navigable waters of the United States, and for causeway construction in all tidal waters of the United States.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) develops and interprets policy, guidance and environmental criteria used in evaluating federal permit applications. The agency also serves as the water resource commenting body during the federal permitting process and has veto authority over the issuance of a USACE permit.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) serve as the federal wildlife commenting agencies during the USCG and USACE federal permitting processes. These agencies act as lead permitting agencies for **Section 10** permitting under the **Endangered Species Act (ESA)**.

The Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (the Council) serves as a review agency on permit applications where any district, site, building, structure, or object, that is included in or eligible for inclusion in the **National Register of Historic Places** may be affected. The day-to-day responsibilities for project reviews are carried out by the State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) or the Tribal Historic Preservation Officer (THPO) of the Seminole Tribe of Florida for projects occurring on Seminole tribal lands. In the

case of projects occurring on tribal lands of the Miccosukee Tribe of Indians of Florida, the SHPO serves as the THPO but the tribe must be included in the consultations. For significant sites occurring on non-tribal lands that may have cultural or religious importance to the tribes having cultural affiliation with Florida, the tribes must be provided an opportunity to comment on the effects of the project on the site. These tribes include: the Seminole Tribe of Florida, the Miccosukee, the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, the Poarch Band of Creek Indians, the Seminole Nation of Oklahoma and, for projects west of the Apalachicola River, the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians.

State Agencies

The Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) is the State's primary environmental regulatory agency. DEP has delegated much of the permitting responsibility for Environmental Resource Permits (ERPs) to the State's five Water Management Districts (WMD) and specified local governments. DEP continues to implement the National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) and Coastal Construction Control Line (CCCL) permitting programs. The permitting responsibilities of each agency is detailed in the DEP and WMD agency operating agreements.

The five Water Management Districts (WMD) are: Northwest Florida, Suwannee River, St. Johns River, South Florida, and Southwest Florida. WMDs have been delegated permitting authority by DEP for discharges, including stormwater discharges; dredge and fill activities in, on, or over waters of the State; construction activities which discharge to waters of the State; and, state-owned submerged lands which include all tidal lands and submerged lands under navigable waters owned by the State of Florida. Right of Way (ROW) Occupancy permits may be required for projects impacting WMD property.

The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) serves as the state wildlife commenting agency on state environmental permits and issue certain protected species permits.

The Director of the Division of Historical Resources (DHR) at the Department of State serves as the State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) for the State of Florida. The DHR is a commenting agency on certain state environmental permits and the SHPO is the commenter on federal permits that may impact historical resources. The SHPO assists the regulatory agency in determining whether a proposed activity will adversely affect or will enhance significant historical and archaeological resources under the provisions of **Section 267.061, Florida Statutes**.

The Bureau of Archaeological Research (BAR) within the Department of State issues permits for archaeological testing and research occurring on state-owned or controlled lands, including sovereign submerged lands under **Chapter 1A-32, Florida Administrative Code**.

Section 335.02, F.S., provides that FDOT is not subject to county, municipal, or special district regulations for projects on the State Highway System and therefore is not required to obtain local permits. Notwithstanding, , if an FDOT project has a direct impacts on property or water control district structures, FDOT shall coordinate with the District legal counsel and may need to coordinate with that county, municipality, or special district based on counsel direction.

Both the state and federal permitting programs have established various permit types based on specific impact thresholds and/or activity types. The permit types and threshold criteria are described in detail in the federal **Source Book (USACE, 2014)** and in the state **Applicants Handbook, Volume I (DEP, 2015a)**, referenced in **Figure 12-1** and **Figure 12-2**. Additionally, both the state, via delegated authority for federal programmatic permits, and the Lead Federal Agency use certain species-specific “effect” determination keys in order to assess the degree of effect a given project may have on a federally protected species. These keys, and supplemental protected species information, can be found at web links provided in **Figure 12-3**.

Additionally, there are state and federal species–specific wildlife permitting requirements unrelated to the dredge and fill permitting process. These requirements are typically implemented shortly in advance of the commencement of construction. Refer to **Section 12.2.3** for a discussion of these permits. See [Part 2, Chapter 27, Protected Species and Habitat](#) for more information.

12.2.1 Federal Permitting

Federal permits are handled by multiple federal agencies under various regulatory authorities. They are typically required for proposed impacts to jurisdictional wetlands and other surface waters, or for bridge or causeway construction over navigable waters of the United States. For these types of impacts, the USACE and USCG are the primary federal permitting agencies for FDOT projects. **Table 12-2** provides the federal permit types that are often needed from these regulatory agencies. See **Section 12.2.3** for federal species permit information.

The USACE is the Lead Federal Agency when a given activity involves dredge and fill in Waters of the United States in accordance with **Section 404** of the **Clean Water Act (CWA)** and **Section 10** of the **Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899**. If a project involves a bridge over navigable waters of the U.S., the U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) is the Lead Federal Agency or may serve as a Cooperating Agency under the **Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899** and the **General Bridge Act of 1946**. As the Lead Federal Agency, either the USACE or USCG must prepare a **National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)** document in support of their **NEPA** action (permit). If either agency participates as a Cooperating Agency in a FHWA **NEPA** study, they may adopt the study as their own, or they may use it to develop their own **NEPA** study. It is important to coordinate early in the **NEPA** study with the USACE or USCG to confirm that the **FHWA NEPA** document, or SEIR, will meet the Cooperating Agency’s **NEPA** requirements.

The USFWS and the NMFS serve as the federal wildlife commenting agencies during the USACE's or USCG's federal permitting process. Which agency provides comment depends upon which protected species (terrestrial and/or marine) or critical habitat are potentially affected. The EPA serves as the water resource commenting body during the federal permitting process and has veto authority over the issuance of a USACE permit.

In the absence of a federal nexus (i.e., if a federal wetland permit is not required), when an action has the potential to affect a federally listed species or its habitat, the listed species will be addressed via **Section 10** of the **ESA**. In these situations, the USFWS or NMFS serves as the Lead Federal Agency and would have to prepare a **NEPA** document in support of their permit action. This process also requires the development of a **Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP)**. See [Part 2, Chapter 27, Protected Species and Habitat](#) for more information on **Section 10** of the **ESA**. For protected species permitting, see **Section 12.2.3**.

Regardless of whether the USACE and/or USCG function as lead or cooperating agencies for a given federal action, the issuance of federal permits requires coordination with resource agencies. If a given project is determined to have the potential to affect federally listed species or their habitats, the USACE or USCG will solicit comment from the NMFS and/or the USFWS following the **ESA Section 7** consultation process outlined in [Part 2, Chapter 27, Protected Species and Habitat](#). If a given project is determined to have the potential to affect essential fish habitat the USACE or USCG will solicit comment from the NMFS ([Part 2, Chapter 11, Essential Fish Habitat](#)). For projects that require public notification of the federal action, the EPA may provide comment.

Additionally, when the USACE and USCG act as the issuing agency authorizing a permit for a transportation project will be required to comply with **Section 106** of the **National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (NHPA)**. This is also the case when consultation is triggered through **Section 10 of the ESA** when an incidental take permit through the USFWS or NMFS is needed. **Section 106** of the **NHPA** requires federal agencies to take into account the effects of their undertakings on historic properties, and afford the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP) a reasonable opportunity to comment. The historic preservation review process mandated by **Section 106** is outlined in regulations issued by ACHP ([Part 2, Chapter 12, Archaeological and Historic Resources](#)).

12.2.1.1 United States Army Corps of Engineers

The USACE regulates the discharge of dredged and fill material into waters of the United States, including wetlands, under **Section 404** of the **CWA**. Additionally, **Section 10** of the **Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899** grants the USACE the permitting authority for "structures or works in or affecting a navigable water of the United States." Such structures or works include boat ramps, piers, breakwaters, jetties, docks, bridge abutments, and aids to navigation.

Activities in waters of the United States regulated under **Section 404** of the **CWA** include (but are not limited to) fill for development, water resource projects (such as dams and levees), infrastructure development (such as highways and airports), and mining projects. **Section 404** requires issuance of a permit before dredged or fill material may be discharged into waters of the United States, unless the activity is exempt from **Section 404** regulation (e.g., certain farming and forestry activities).

As described by the EPA (**EPA, 2015**), the basic premise of the **Section 404** program is that no discharge of dredged or fill material may be permitted if:

1. A practicable alternative exists that is less damaging to the aquatic environment;
or
2. The nation's waters would be significantly degraded. Therefore, a proposed activity must first show that steps have been taken to
 - a. Avoid impacts to wetlands, streams and other aquatic resources;
 - b. If impacts are unavoidable, that their adverse effects on the resource have been minimized, and
 - c. That compensation (i.e., wetland or listed wildlife mitigation) will be provided for all remaining unavoidable impacts such that there is no net loss of wetland function as a result of the proposed project

There are several federal dredge and fill permit types that are distinguished by their limits of impact. In increasing magnitude/complexity, they include Nationwide Permits, General Permits, State Programmatic General Permits, Letter of Permission, and Standard Permits. Additionally, it is possible to obtain a determination from the USACE of "no permit required" if a project is anticipated to have no impact on wetlands or surface waters under the jurisdiction of USACE. This determination by the USACE does not supersede the requirement to obtain any other federal or state permits which may be necessary for a project, nor does it constitute a federal evaluation of possible impacts to species protected under the **ESA**, or impacts to historic resources protected under **Section 106** of the **Natural Historic Preservation Act (NHPA)**.

1. **Nationwide Permits (NWP)** - There are more than 50 established NWPs. These are essentially automatic permits for qualifying activities that result in only minimal adverse environmental effect. Each NWP includes a series of impact thresholds, such that if a project's anticipated impacts fall below the specified thresholds, the project would be able to be executed without review by or approval of the USACE. However, it is recommended to submit an application package to the USACE as if applying for a higher level permit and request that the USACE concur with the determination that the project is consistent with the thresholds associated with a given NWP. With concurrence from USACE, the applicant will have a level of comfort that their project is consistent with the federal intent. Without USACE

concurrence, an applicant may run the risk of being in violation of the **CWA** during construction if there is a disagreement with a USACE representative as to whether their project is consistent with NWP intent.

There are certain NWPs that require Pre-Construction Notification (PCN) prior to project construction due to variability in the degree of potential impacts for a given type of work. In accordance with **33 CFR § 330.1** for NWPs requiring advance notification, the notification must be in writing as early as possible prior to commencing the proposed activity. The permittee may presume that the project qualifies for the NWP unless the permittee is otherwise notified by the USACE within a 45-day period. The 45-day period starts on the date of receipt of the notification in the USACE district office and ends 45 calendar days later. If the USACE notifies the prospective permittee that the notification is incomplete, a new 45-day period will commence upon receipt of the revised notification. The prospective permittee may not proceed with the proposed activity before expiration of the 45-day period unless otherwise notified by the USACE. If the USACE fails to act within the 45-day period, the USACE must use the procedures of **33 CFR § 330.5** in order to modify, suspend, or revoke the NWP authorization.

Both the NWPs, and the General Conditions required in PCN, are itemized in the **Federal Register (FR)** and on the USACE web site (**See Figure 12-1**). It is important to be aware of general conditions associated with NWP. For example general condition 18 requires consultation with the NMFS or USFWS if the project activity may affect a listed species or critical habitat protected under the **ESA**. NWPs are reviewed and renewed every five years so it is important to keep abreast of current NWP listings. Coordination with the USACE will ensure the applicant meets the requirements under NWP authorizations. NWP that are typically relevant to FDOT projects include: NWP No. 3 Maintenance, No. 14 Linear Transportation Projects and No. 15 USCG Approved Bridges.

2. **General Permit** - This refers to a USACE authorization that is issued on a nationwide or regional basis (District-wide or more limited geographic scope) for a category of activities when those activities are substantially similar in nature and cause only minimal individual and cumulative impacts (**USACE, 2014**). They are reviewed every five years and may be renewed or suspended. Regional General Permit SAJ-92 may be applicable to FDOT and Florida's Turnpike Enterprise project's with identified impact thresholds (i.e., including, but not limited to, fewer than five acres of non-tidal waters of the United States impacts for any one-mile segment, up to a maximum of 50 acres, where USFWS concurrence is received in advance of the federal approval under SAJ-92). This regional general permit is limited to projects that have been reviewed through the FDOT's ETDM and/or PD&E processes. The USACE's **Source Book**, included by reference in **Figure 12-1**, or the current approved version of **SAJ-92**, should be reviewed for an entire listing of required thresholds in order for a project to qualify under this general

permit. The remainder of the General Permits are not typically applicable to FDOT projects.

3. **State Programmatic General Permits (SPGP)** - The purpose of the SPGP is to avoid duplication of permitting between the USACE and the DEP for minor work located in waters of the United States, including navigable waters. These agencies have a coordination agreement detailing the procedures and process on how to avoid duplication of regulatory review. A link to the DEP website on the SPGP is included in **Figure 12-2**.
4. **Letter of Permission (LOP)** – **LOPs** are used when project impacts are minor or would not have significant individual or cumulative effect. The process required to obtain a **LOP** approval is more detailed than the NWP process; however, it is typically less rigorous than that for a Standard Permit. The USACE is not required to publish an individual public notice, but they must coordinate with wildlife agencies and complete a public interest evaluation as outlined in **33 CFR § 325.2 (e)(1)**. A determination as to whether a **LOP** is the appropriate instrument for a given action is at the discretion of the USACE.
5. **Standard Permit** – This permit is also referred to as an Individual Permit and is required for larger, more complex projects when a proposed project does not meet the criteria to qualify for a General Permit, Nationwide Permit, or Letter of Permission. See **33 CFR § 325.2** for more information on the Standard Permit.

Figure 12-1 provides the locations and contact information of regional USACE offices.

There are exemptions for very narrowly-defined activities that result in incidental impacts to wetlands or surface waters in accordance with **Section 404(f)(1)** of the **CWA**. For instance, one exemption for FDOT is for the maintenance of transportation structures, so long as the structures are in non-tidal waters and the character, slope, and size of the original fill design is not proposed to change. **Figure 12-1** provides links to information sources that identify these exemptions.

FDOT is required to obtain USACE authorization when an FDOT project is proposed to alter existing federal flood control projects (i.e., levees, dams, and canals). The USACE provides guidance for this process in **Engineer Circular 1165-2-216, Policy and Procedural Guidance for Processing Requests to Alter U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Civil Works Projects Pursuant to 33 USC 408 (USACE, 2015b)**. **Section 14** of the **Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899** and codified in **33 United States Code (U.S.C.) § 408** (commonly referred to as “**Section 408**”) authorizes the Secretary of the Army, on the recommendation of the Chief of Engineers of the USACE, to grant permission for the alteration or occupation or use of a USACE civil works project if the Department of the Army’s Secretary determines that the activity will not be injurious to the public interest and will not impair the usefulness of the project. The granting or denial of permission pursuant to **Section 408** is made formal through a **Section 408** Decision Letter.

A decision on a **Section 408** request is a federal action, and therefore subject to **NEPA** and other environmental requirements. While ensuring compliance is the responsibility of USACE, the requester is responsible for providing all information that the District identifies as necessary to satisfy all applicable federal laws, executive orders, regulations, policies, and ordinances. Like traditional federal **Section 10/404** permitting, insufficient supporting documentation may result in requests for additional information until the file is deemed complete by USACE. The **NEPA** process is set forth in **40 CFR §§ 1500-1508** and the USACE civil works **NEPA** implementing regulations are found in **33 CFR Part 230**. Because proposed alterations vary in size, level of complexity, and potential impacts, the procedures and required information to make such a determination are intended to be scalable. Early coordination with USACE is suggested in order to determine the appropriate level of required support to navigate the **Section 408** review process.

Typically when a ROW Occupancy Permit application is submitted to a WMD, the WMD reviews it and determines if the WMD needs to send it to USACE (**Section 12.2.2.5**). If sent to USACE, they will evaluate whether **Section 408** applies. If it is determined that **Section 408** applies, the USACE will determine whether the **Section 408** review can be conducted at the District level in Jacksonville or whether the review would need to be elevated to USACE Headquarters in Atlanta, Georgia. In general, review at the District level would be for projects that adjust features around a canal, dam, or levee that would not result in changes to authorized structural geometry or hydraulic capacity. These reviews take approximately 30 to 90 days for decisions to be rendered. For more complicated projects that may propose changes to structural geometry or hydraulic capacity of an existing facility, the review may be elevated to USACE Headquarters. These reviews can take between 18 to 24 months. As a general rule, proposed alterations that would result in substantial adverse changes in water surface profiles will not be approved. There are no statutory time limits on **Section 408** review.

In situations where USACE is also evaluating a **Section 10/404** permit application, the USACE may forward the **Section 408** decision letter with the **Section 10/404** permit decision, once it is made. Under no circumstances will **Section 10/404** actions be rendered in advance of a decision on a **Section 408** request. For cases involving a categorical permission, the written approval will be validation that the categorical permission is applicable.

12.2.1.2 United States Coast Guard

The USCG administers the permitting program for bridge and causeway construction under a variety of statutes, including **Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899** and the **General Bridge Act of 1946**. These **Acts** placed the navigable waters of the United States under the exclusive control of the USCG to prevent any interference with their navigability by bridges or other obstructions except by express permission of the United States Government.

The USCG approves the location and plans of bridges and causeways and imposes necessary conditions relating to the construction, maintenance, and operation of these bridges in the interest of public navigation. The USCG is also required by law to ensure environmental considerations are given careful attention and importance in each bridge permitting decision.

The USCG has only one permit type, a bridge permit. A bridge permit is necessary if a bridge project includes any of the following:

1. The construction of a new bridge over navigable waters;
2. The modification of an existing bridge that increases the travel capacity of the bridge (i.e., adding a travel lane); or,
3. The modification of an existing bridge that would result in changes to navigation (i.e., changes to the horizontal or vertical clearances, fender systems, etc.).

Modification of existing bridges to add bicycle paths, sidewalks, or non-capacity features, even if it causes widening of the existing bridge, results in the need for a minor deviation. Minor deviations are not permits, but they must be reviewed and approved by the USCG.

The USCG consults with and obtains comments from state and federal agencies with jurisdiction or special expertise concerning environmental or navigational impact involved. Such agencies include but are not limited to the NMFS, USFWS, FWC, WMD, SHPO, and EPA. Comments are generally obtained through direct coordination with affected agencies, responses to the public notice, and the Local Notice to Mariners.

USCG bridge permits specify that the permit becomes null and void unless construction of the bridge is commenced and completed by certain dates. This time period is usually three years and five years, respectively, from the date of the permit. Longer construction times can be requested and substantiated with good reasons.

The applicant should contact the local USCG District Bridge Office when a project includes a plan to construct a new bridge or causeway or modify an existing bridge or causeway over a canal, channel, stream, river, lake, bay, or other body of water or waterway. If the applicant is uncertain whether a waterway is susceptible to improvement for navigation, is tidal, or is considered navigable, the USCG can be contacted to obtain information regarding a navigability determination. The District should contact the appropriate USCG representative. The USCG representative determine whether the waterway is navigational and jurisdictional and provide an email confirming the determination.

There may be instances where bridges are proposed to be built across waterways which are deemed navigable in law but not traversed by any vessel larger than small motorboats (logs, log rafts, kayaks, canoes, outboard John boats etc.). In these scenarios the USCG

can issue an Advance Approval authorization in accordance with **33 CFR § 115.70**. Each potential candidate bridge/waterway crossing is evaluated by the USCG on a case by case basis to determine if an Advance Approval may be appropriate. If there is a particular potential candidate "bridge/waterway crossing" the District should contact the USCG to initiate the evaluation process.

Figure 12-1 provides links to information sources that identify details regarding the USCG permit review process, required components of permit applications, and the locations and contact information of regional USCG offices.

12.2.2 State Permitting

State permits are required for proposed impacts to jurisdictional wetlands and other surface waters as well as for flood protection and water quality, and to ensure compliance with coastal zone management criteria. The DEP and WMDs are the primary state wetland permitting agencies for FDOT projects. WMDs issue ERPs for most FDOT projects; whereas, DEP issues NPDES and CCCL permits (**Sections 12.2.2.3 and 12.2.2.6** respectively).

Table 12-3 provides the state permit types that are often needed from these regulatory agencies. For state protected species permit requirements, see **Section 12.2.3**.

The DEP and the WMDs are required to consider the effects of their agency action (issuance or denial of a permit) on historic resources. These requirements are set forth in **Chapter 267, F.S.**, or the **Florida Historical Resources Act**, specifically **Section 267.061, Florida Statutes**. The statute requires state agencies of the executive branch to consider an array of possible adverse effects of state undertakings over which they have direct or indirect jurisdiction upon historic resources. In addition, these agencies must also afford the Florida Division of Historical Resources a reasonable opportunity to comment with regard to the proposed action or actions and to initiate measures to minimize harm to the historic resources prior to the approval or initiation of such action. In these cases, the consideration, treatments, and permitted activity in relation to impacts to historic resources and archaeological sites are detailed in the **Applicant's Handbook, Volume I (DEP, 2015a)**. These requirements include consultation and findings letters from the Florida Division of Historical Resources. See [Part 2, Chapter 12, Archaeological and Historical Resources](#) for more information.

12.2.2.1 Environmental Resource Permitting

Under the authority of **Section 373.4131, F.S.**, the Florida DEP and Florida's five WMDs implemented **Chapter 62-330, F.A.C.**, Environmental Resource Permitting (ERP). The ERP program was adopted to provide more consistency throughout the state in permitting thresholds, requirements and processes. The ERP program governs the following activities: construction, alteration, operation, maintenance, repair, abandonment, and removal of stormwater management systems, dams, impoundments, reservoirs,

appurtenant works, and works (including docks, piers, structures, dredging, and filling located in, on or over wetlands or other surface waters, as defined and delineated in **Chapter 62-340, F.A.C.**

ERP permitting is performed under the guidance of **Chapter 62-330, F.A.C.** and the **ERP Applicant's Handbook-Volume I (AHI)**. The **AHI (DEP, 2015a)** is incorporated by reference as part of **Rule 62-330.010(4) F.A.C.**, and carries the same authority as the rule itself. **Chapter 62-330, F.A.C.**, and the **AHI** apply statewide.

The **AHI** provides general background information on the ERP program, including points of contact, a summary of the statutes and rules used to authorize and implement the ERP program, and the forms used to notice or apply to the agencies for an ERP authorization. This volume also provides discussion on:

1. Activities regulated under **Chapter 62-330, F.A.C.**, and **Part IV of Chapter 373, F.S.**;
2. Types of permits, permit thresholds, and exemptions;
3. Procedures used to review exemptions and permits;
4. Conditions for issuance of an ERP, including the environmental criteria used for activities located in wetlands and other surface waters;
5. Erosion and sediment control practices to prevent water quality violations; and,
6. Operation and maintenance requirements.

There are also handbooks [**Applicant's Handbook-Volume II (AHII)**] for each of the WMDs. **Volume II (SFWMD, 2014; SWFWMD, 2013; SJRWMD, 2013; SRWMD, 2012; and NFWWMD, 2013)** primarily applies to activities that require the services of a registered professional to design a stormwater management system. Links to **AHI** (identical for all WMDs) and **AHII** (unique to each of the five WMDs to address regional differences) are provided in **Figure 12-2**.

One section of the **AHII** is uniform among all of the WMDs, **Section 2.10 Flexibility for State Transportation Projects and Facilities**. This section states that the language of **Section 373.413(6), F.S.**, governs ERP regulation of state linear transportation projects and facilities. This statutory language provides FDOT with additional flexibility, such as regional treatment facilities, for providing treatment of stormwater runoff from linear projects. FDOT is also only required to treat stormwater generated by its transportation projects, not water entering its treatment systems from offsite, unless cost-effective to do so.

Depending on the size, location and nature of proposed project activities, they may be exempt from permitting, or may require either a General or Individual Permit. General Permits are required for activities which can be conducted with minimal environmental impact, provided the applicant adheres to certain conditions (specifically listed in **Chapter 62-330, F.A.C.**). An Individual Permit is required for projects which do not fall under permitting size and impact thresholds (**Rule 62-330.020, F.A.C.**) and is not covered by a General Permit. See **Table 12-3** for a list of permits that may be required by state agencies.

A Conceptual Approval Permit is also available, but not required, for activities occurring in phases or over a large land area. A conceptual approval permit does not authorize construction, alteration, maintenance, removal, or alteration (a separate individual permit is required for those activities). However, the first phase of construction can be authorized at the same time the conceptual approval permit is issued. A conceptual approval permit provides the permit holder with a rebuttable presumption that, during the duration of the conceptual approval permit, the design and environmental concepts upon which the conceptual approval permit is based (within the detail provided in the application) will meet applicable rule criteria for issuance of permits for subsequent phases of the project. This presumption is rebuttable at the time of receipt of a complete application to construct or operate future phases, dependent on the factors in subsection **Rule 62-330.056(7), F.A.C.** This type of permit is not typically applicable to FDOT projects, but may prove useful for complicated, controversial, and/or long-term projects where FDOT wants to establish their expectations in the way the ERP will be administered during future phases of a given project. It also has the potential to save time with agency reviews when applying for construction permits for individual phases especially if the elimination and reduction of impacts criteria has been addressed at the conceptual stage.

It should be noted that **exempt** activities do not require notice be given to the DEP or WMDs. However, if it is desirable to verify that the activity is exempt, an on-line self-certification can be obtained for free, or the appropriate regulatory agency can perform the certification for a fee. Although some projects may be exempted from the need to obtain an ERP, the project may still require coordination with wildlife agencies. For example, a project may have a bridge or culvert inhabited by bat species. This may require coordination with the FWC or USFWS.

A list of exempt activities is contained in **Rule 62-330.051, F.A.C.** Two exemptions of particular interest to FDOT include:

1. **Rule 62-330.051(4), F.A.C., Bridge, Driveways, and Roadways** - Exempts work in other Surface Waters (water conveyances that are not wetlands as defined by **Chapter 62-340, F.A.C.** (such as some roadside ditches) for road shoulder and turn lane improvements, or paving of dirt roads owned by county or local governments. Subsection (c) Minor roadway safety construction, alteration, or maintenance and operation can be applicable for FDOT sidewalk and milling and resurfacing projects.

2. **Rule 62-330.051(9), F.A.C., Pipes or Culverts** - Exempts up to 0.03 acres of work in wetlands as delineated under **Chapter 62-340, F.A.C.**, including Outstanding Florida Waters (OFW) for culvert outfall and headwall construction.

12.2.2.2 State-owned Submerged Lands Authorizations

Activities located on sovereignty submerged lands also referred to as “state-owned submerged lands” (as described in **Section 12.1.2**) also require a proprietary authorization from the Board of Trustees of the Internal Improvement Trust Fund (Board of Trustees) to use such lands according to **Chapter 18-21, F.A.C.** Proprietary authorization is required for essentially all FDOT activities on state-owned submerged lands. FDOT fee simple ownership of an area does not preclude the determination of state owned sovereign submerged lands by DEP.

DEP and the WMDs act as staff to the Board of Trustees and in accordance with the Operating Agreement between their agencies, will process all applications involving proposed work on state-owned submerged lands. These agencies have delegated authority from the Board to approve or deny most projects, but for some types of projects (such as submerged land leases), the final decision to approve or deny the state-owned submerged lands authorization rests with the Governor and Cabinet of the state of Florida, who serve as the Board of Trustees. Leases are typically required for revenue-generating uses and are, therefore, not required for FDOT projects. FDOT projects proposed on state-owned submerged lands typically need a letter of consent or an easement. The determination for the proprietary authorization is part of the ERP permitting process. However, the final easement or letter of consent is provided by the DEP after issuance of the ERP.

12.2.2.3 National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System

As authorized by the **CWA**, the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit program controls water pollution by regulating point sources that discharge pollutants into waters of the United States. The EPA delegated to the DEP the authority to implement the NPDES stormwater permitting program in the State of Florida (in all areas except Indian Country lands). DEP's authority to administer the NPDES program is contained in **Section 403.0885, Florida Statutes**. If a project will disturb greater than one acre of land, and if the stormwater run-off from the site will discharge to waters of the state (even if the discharge is conveyed through the municipal storm sewer system), a NPDES Construction Generic Permit (CGP) will be required prior to commencement of construction as a means of protecting down-stream water quality. A **Notice of Intent (NOI)** (application) is filed with DEP at least two days prior to the commencement of construction. Due to the proximal timing of this permit to the commencement of construction, it is the contractor's responsibility to apply for and obtain the NPDES permit. FDOT's Construction Engineering and Inspection (CEI) ensures that the Contractor has obtained the permit by verifying proof of permit coverage (e.g., DEP

coverage letter or **NOI**). More details on the NPDES permitting process can be found at the web link provided in **Figure 12-2**.

Part of the NPDES permit program is the Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4). An MS4 is a publicly-owned conveyance or system of conveyances (i.e., ditches, curbs, catch basins, underground pipes, etc.) that is designed or used for collecting or conveying stormwater and that discharges to surface waters of the State. An MS4 can be operated by entities such as municipalities, counties, drainage districts, colleges, military bases, or prisons. FDOT is a regulated MS4 operator under federal and state rules. Regulated MS4 operators must obtain an NPDES stormwater permit and implement a comprehensive **Stormwater Management Program (SWMP)** to reduce the contamination of stormwater runoff and prohibit illicit discharges to the MS4.

As implemented by **Chapter 62-624, F.A.C.**, Phase I of the MS4 program addresses discharges of stormwater runoff from "medium" and "large" MS4s (i.e., those MS4s located in areas with populations of 100,000 or greater). A Phase I MS4 is defined in **Rule 62-624.200(10), F.A.C.**, as "a municipal separate storm sewer system identified under Section 402(p)(2) of the **CWA** and subject to regulation under **Section 402(p)(3)(B)** of the **CWA** as implemented as part of the DEP's federally approved NPDES stormwater program pursuant to **Section 403.0885, F.S.**" Generally, Phase I MS4s are covered by individual permits and are effective for no more than five years. There are individual MS4 permits issued to several counties in Florida, and FDOT is a co-permittee in each of those permits.

FDOT has an approved Statewide [**Stormwater Management Program \(SSWMP\)**](#) that describes the activities to be conducted, methods to be used, and procedures to be followed by FDOT to reduce the discharge of pollutants to and from the Phase I MS4s throughout the State of Florida. This plan supports FDOT's documentation and procedures for annual reporting as a co-permittee under the MS4 Phase 1 permits. As stated in Section II of the Phase 1 permit, the SSWMP is incorporated into the permit by reference once approved by DEP and serves as the guiding document for FDOT compliance as a co-permittee under Florida's Phase 1 MS4 program. More information can be found in the [**FDOT SSWMP**](#).

Phase II of the program regulates discharges from certain MS4s not regulated under Phase I, that meet designation criteria set forth in **Chapter 62-624, FA.C.** A Phase II MS4 is defined in **Rule 62-624.20(11), F.A.C.**, as "a municipal separate storm sewer system subject to regulation under Section 402(p)(6) of the **CWA**, as implemented as part of the DEP's federally approved NPDES stormwater program pursuant to **Section 403.0885, F.S.**, **Chapter 62-244, F.A.C.**, and **Rule 62-621.300(7)(a), F.A.C.**, which incorporates by reference the DEP's Generic Permit for Discharge of Stormwater from Phase II MS4, and includes MS4 facilities owned or operated by the United States and MS4 facilities operated by the FDOT that are not covered by an existing Phase I MS4 permit." Phase II MS4s are covered by a general permit. There are numerous general permits issued to FDOT for various Phase II designated areas.

Each regulated MS4 is required to develop and implement a **SSWMP** to reduce the contamination of stormwater runoff and prohibit illicit discharges.

12.2.2.4 Coastal Zone Management Act Consistency

Per operating agreement between USACE, DEP, and the WMDs, the ERP review process includes an assessment of whether an action proposed in Florida is consistent with the **Coastal Zone Management Act (CZMA)**. Issuance of an ERP constitutes a finding of consistency with, or waiver from, the **Florida Coastal Management Program (FCMP)** that implements the **CZMA**. A determination of consistency is made by the DEP in coordination with other agencies early in the planning process for transportation projects (see [Part 2, Chapter 25, Coastal Zone Consistency](#)) and again in the ERP review process. More details on the **FCMP** can be found at the web link provided in **Figure 12-2**.

12.2.2.5 Right of Way Occupancy Permit

A ROW Occupancy Permit is issued by a WMD allowing for a compatible public or private use while protecting the District's ability to use the canal and levee rights of way of the USACE's Central and Southern Florida Flood Control Project, the related water conservation areas and certain other canals and works or lands of a WMD. A ROW Occupancy Permit is a proprietary revocable license and does not convey property rights to the permittee. The WMD coordinates with the USACE through the **Section 408** process. See **Section 12.2.1.1** for more information.

12.2.2.6 Coastal Construction Line

The DEP manages a Coastal Construction Control Line (CCCL) Program to protect the coastal system from improperly sited and designed structures which can destabilize or destroy the beach and dune system. As defined in **Rule 62B-33.002(11), F.A.C.**, the CCCL is "the line established pursuant to the provisions of **Section 161.053, F.S.**, and recorded in the official records of the county, which defines that portion of the beach-dune system subject to severe fluctuations based on a 100-year storm surge, storm waves, or other predictable weather conditions." A CCCL permit is required for construction activities seaward of the coastal construction control line and fifty-foot setback. For projects within the CCCL, FDOT should coordinate with the DEP to ensure FDOT projects adhere to the special siting and design criteria established to eliminate or reduce impacts to the beach dune system, adjacent properties, native salt resistant vegetation, and marine turtles. Rules and procedures for obtaining this permit can be found in **Chapter 62B-33, F.A.C.**

12.2.2.7 Consumptive Water Use Permits

Consumptive use of water is broadly defined as any use of water which reduces the supply from which it is withdrawn or diverted. The consumptive use of water is managed

by the WMDs as prescribed in **Part II of Chapter 373, Florida Statutes**. Each WMD regulates the use of water within its jurisdictional boundaries to ensure that permitted water uses are reasonable-beneficial, will not interfere with any presently existing legal uses of water, and are consistent with the public interest, as required by **Section 373.223, Florida Statutes**. This authority applies to public water supplies, agricultural and landscape irrigation, contamination clean-up, commercial/industrial uses, and dewatering/mining activities. The WMDs issues general and individual consumptive water use permits. FDOT should coordinate with the appropriate WMD to determine whether a water use permit will be required for a project.

12.2.2.8 Class V Stormwater Well Permits

The DEP's Aquifer Protection program protects Florida's underground sources of drinking water while maintaining the lawful option of disposal of appropriately treated fluids via underground injection wells. An underground source of drinking water is defined as an aquifer that contains a total dissolved solids concentration of less than 10,000 milligrams per liter. The program implements the Underground Injection Control regulations (**Chapter 62-528, F.A.C.**) and is dedicated to preventing degradation of the quality of other aquifers adjacent to the injection zone. Subsurface injection, the practice of emplacing fluids in a permeable underground aquifer by gravity flow or under pressure through an injection well, is one of a variety of wastewater disposal or reuse methods used in Florida.

Class V injection wells are used for storage or disposal of fluids into or above an underground source of drinking water. In locations where the available area for pond siting(s) is limited (e.g., urbanized coastal areas), FDOT directs stormwater into shallow wells. These wells are considered non-major Class V wells that are permitted through the DEP District offices. More information on the permitting process for Class V stormwater well permitting can be found in **Figure 12-2**.

12.2.3 Federal and State Protected Species Permits

Federal and state permits may be required for unavoidable impacts to or take of listed species. **Table 12-4** provides wildlife permit types that may be needed for FDOT projects. Wildlife within Florida is protected under federal regulation through USFWS and NMFS and state regulation through FWC. This section provides the most common protected species permit types required for transportation projects. See [Part 2, Chapter 27, Protected Species and Habitat](#).

Species protected by the federal **ESA** may require an Incidental Take permit from the USFWS or NMFS. The **ESA** is designed to regulate a wide range of activities affecting plants and animals designated as endangered or threatened, and the habitats upon which they depend. With some exceptions, the **ESA** prohibits activities affecting these protected species and their habitats unless authorized by a permit from the USFWS or NMFS. Permitted activities are designed to be consistent with the conservation of the species. Incidental Take permits are required when activities will result in take of threatened or

endangered species. A **HCP** must accompany an application for an incidental take permit. The **HCP** associated with the permit ensures that the effects of the authorized incidental take are adequately minimized and mitigated. More information on this process can be found at the USFWS webpage (See **Figure 12-3**).

The FWC also requires Incidental Take permits for activities that may result in take of state listed species. These species also may be federally listed. Incidental take permit applications are contingent upon a **HCP** which defines the full impact on the species, describes methods proposed to minimize take, and outlines mitigation which may be rendered to offset the take. Additional information on **HCPs** and incidental take permits is available on the FWC website (See **Figure 12-3**).

The species discussed below (American bald eagle, Florida burrowing owl, and osprey) are not subject to **ESA** review, but they receive federal protection by the **Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA)** and/or the **Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act**. Pursuant to the **MBTA**, it is unlawful to take, possess, buy, sell, purchase, or barter any migratory bird including feathers or other parts, nests, eggs, or products, except as allowed by implementing regulations. It should be noted that all non-exotic birds in the state of Florida are protected by the **MBTA**. However, except as specifically discussed below for the bald eagle, burrowing owl, and osprey, the presence of other non-exotic avian species that could be affected by proposed FDOT projects will not be addressed in regards to **MBTA** unless FDOT is specifically required to do so by USFWS on a project-by-project basis during project permitting. The gopher tortoise receives state protection under **Rule 68A-27.003, F.A.C.**

Permits may require pre-construction species-specific surveys prior to the initiation of construction activities, depending upon the species and habitats present within or near the project ROW.

12.2.3.1 American Bald Eagle

The American bald eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*) was removed from the federal endangered species list in August 2007 because their populations recovered sufficiently. However, bald eagles and their nests remain protected under the federal **MBTA** and the **Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act**, and they remain protected under state **Bald Eagle Management Plan (FWC, 2008)** requirements.

In an effort to account for the federal de-listing of the bald eagle and to minimize overlap with federal regulation, the state revised its bald eagle regulatory guidelines, resulting in the **Bald Eagle Management Plan (FWC, 2008)**.

The **Bald Eagle Management Plan** essentially addresses eagles in two ways:

1. It identifies conditions, that if followed, would result in no impact to the species and no state permit would be required; and

2. If said conditions could not be followed and the applicant wanted to avoid liability for the possible disturbance or take, the applicant could apply for a state Bald Eagle Disturbance Permit.

See **Figure 12-3** for a link to the FWC web site describing the **Bald Eagle Management Plan** and associated permitting process.

The federal **Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act** prohibits anyone from taking, possessing, or transporting a bald eagle or golden eagle (*Aquila chrysaetos*), or the parts, nests, or eggs of such birds without prior authorization. This includes inactive nests as well as active nests. Rules promulgated under the **MBTA (50 CFR Part 21)** prohibit the destruction of active (i.e., nests which contain eggs or flightless young) nests without a federal permit. The USFWS has **Bald Eagle Monitoring Guidelines (USFWS, September 2007)** that provides information for applicants proposing construction activities occurring within 1500 feet of an active bald eagle nest during the nesting season (see **Figure 12-3**).

Per the noted federal regulations, there are two permits that may be applicable to FDOT projects:

1. A permit to remove or relocate an eagle nest, called an Eagle Nest Take Permit, authorizes the removal or relocation of:
 - a. An active or inactive nest where it is necessary to alleviate a safety emergency to humans or eagles (or both);
 - b. An inactive nest to ensure public health and safety;
 - c. An inactive nest to restore operation of a man-made structure that has been rendered inoperable by the presence of the nest; or
 - d. An inactive nest in certain other instances where the removal or relocation of that nest (or the mitigation for its removal) will provide a clear and substantial benefit to eagles.

The federal definition of inactive is defined under **50 CFR § 22.3** as a bald eagle or golden eagle nest that is not currently being used by eagles as determined by the continuing absence of any adult, egg, or dependent young at the nest for at least 10 consecutive days immediately prior to, and including, at present. This differs from the state definition of inactive, which can be found in web links included in **Figure 12-3**.

2. A permit for taking eagles when the take is associated with, but not the purpose of, an activity and cannot practicably be avoided. This type of take is referred to as "non-purposeful take" and is entitled an Eagle Disturbance Permit. Authorization

is subject to conditions to minimize impacts. The regulation authorizing Eagle Disturbance Permits for bald and golden eagles can be found at **50 CFR § 22.26**. The USFWS recommends that FDOT contact the USFWS eagle biologist in their area before submitting an application. A link to the application form is included in **Figure 12-3**.

12.2.3.2 Florida Burrowing Owl

The Florida burrowing owl (*Athene cunicularia floridana*) is listed by the State of Florida, FWC as a Species of Special Concern (**Rule 68A-27.005, F.A.C.**). As a Species of Special Concern, it is illegal to take (pursue, hunt, capture, molest, or kill) burrowing owls and their nest burrows and eggs without a permit issued by FWC (**Rules 68A-9.002 and 68A-27.005, F.A.C.**). FWC's policy is to issue permits to destroy burrowing owl nest burrows only as a last resort, after all reasonable alternatives (such as realigning development to avoid the nest) have been shown to be impractical. When such permits are issued, they apply only to inactive nest burrows (i.e., burrows containing no eggs or flightless young). Burrowing owl nest burrows can generally be considered inactive from July 10th to February 15th, although some nesting occurs as early as October each year. Between February 15th and July 10th, nest burrows attended by one or more burrowing owls are considered active unless information is available to suggest otherwise (i.e., proof that young fledged from the nest prior to July 10th). State burrowing owl nest burrow removal permits are applied for online. See **Figure 12-3** for a link to the FWC webpage.

Burrowing owls and their nest burrows are also afforded protection under the federal **MBTA**. Rules promulgated under this act (**50 CFR Part 21**) prohibit the destruction of active (i.e., nests which contain eggs or flightless young) nests without a federal permit, which is issued by the USFWS Regional Office in Atlanta, Georgia. Federal permits are required only if the nest is active (i.e., has flightless young or eggs present). In practice, these permits are seldom issued by USFWS. Instead, activities that could adversely affect burrowing owl nests are typically scheduled strategically to avoid the burrowing owl nesting season when active nests may be present, so as to avoid the need for a **MBTA** permit. See **Figure 12-3** for a link to the USFWS web site describing the **MBTA** permitting process.

12.2.3.3 Osprey

The osprey (*Pandion haliaetus*) is a state listed species in **Chapter 68A, F.A.C.**, specifically **Rule 68A-4.001, F.A.C.**, which prohibits the taking or transporting of "...wildlife...or their nests, eggs, young, homes, or dens..." Additional state protection is provided in **Rule 68A-16.002, F.A.C.**, which adopts as state rules the federal **MBTA** and all rules promulgated thereunder. Ospreys and their nests in Monroe County are provided even further protection by virtue of that population being listed as a Species of Special Concern (**Rule 68A-27.005, F.A.C.**). Permits typically authorize the removal of inactive nest (i.e. nests that do not contain eggs or flightless young) and may require the permittee to build a replacement nesting platform/structure of comparable or better quality than the compromised nest support. The FWC may issue "blanket" permits for the removal of

inactive nests to account for FDOT's need to maintain structures commonly used by ospreys for nesting. Permits for removal of active nests (i.e. containing eggs and/or flightless chicks) are issued if the nest presents a safety hazard for the birds or humans. Active nest removal permits are issued with less frequency on a case-by-case basis. See **Figure 12-3** for information on how to request osprey permits from the FWC.

The osprey is federally protected by the **MBTA (16 U.S.C. 703 – 712)**. The USFWS requires federal permits for taking active nests. See **Figure 12-3** for guidance on contacting the USFWS regarding osprey nests. The FDOT Project Manager should coordinate with the District Environmental Office and if necessary, the State Environmental Management (SEMO) to discuss nest removal management plan options prior to committing FDOT to a course of action.

12.2.3.4 Gopher Tortoise

Gopher tortoises (*Gopherus polyphemus*) are protected by state law, **Rule 68A - 27.003, F.A.C.**, and are currently a candidate species for federal listing under the **ESA**. The FWC established a multi-tiered approach to permitting actions involving gopher tortoises.

These permits are divided into three main types:

1. **Authorized Agent Permits**, which authorize persons to capture, transport, and release tortoises;
2. **Site-Specific Relocation Permits**, which authorize capturing and relocation of tortoises either within the boundaries of an area being impacted (on-site) or from an area being impacted to a permitted recipient site (off-site); and
3. **Recipient Site Permits**, which authorize the use of designated sites meeting specific criteria as recipient areas for tortoises.

Site-Specific Relocation permits are primarily applicable to FDOT projects, although knowledge of the overall permitting structure may be important to effective project management. Emergency Take Permits, Disturbed Site Permits, and Burrow or Structure Protection Permits are three additional permit types, which are only issued under unusual circumstances. The FWC gopher tortoise permitting program, including online permitting, is described on the FWC web site referenced in **Figure 12-3**.

In general, a permit is required for any activity that causes a take, harassment, molestation, damage, or destruction to gopher tortoises or their burrows (See **Rule 68A-27.003, F.A.C.**). An exception that applies to roadway projects is that certain linear highway ROW vegetation maintenance activities, that may impact gopher tortoises or gopher tortoise burrows, do not require a permit. These activities include mowing and tree cutting.

Relocation permits vary depending upon the quantity of burrows and the condition of the site. The permit types include:

1. **10 or Fewer Burrows Relocation Permit** - for projects, which require the relocation of five or fewer tortoises (i.e., 10 burrows or less).
2. **Conservation Permit** - for development projects which require the relocation of gopher tortoises when more than 10 burrows are proposed to be impacted on a development site. This permit allows for relocation either to an on-site preserve or off-site to a FWC-certified Recipient Site.
3. **Disturbed Site Permit** - May be required for development projects where premature disturbance to the ground has occurred before gopher tortoise burrow surveys are complete or before gopher tortoise capture and relocation activities have been completed at the development site.
4. **Burrow or Structure Protection Permits** - Are available when the integrity or utility of an existing structure is jeopardized by one or two burrows and therefore poses a public safety concern (e.g., burrow under a propane tank, road, or other such structure), or if the safety of the resident tortoise is compromised (e.g., burrows in a grass parking lot, dirt driveway, etc.). This permit type may be applicable to FDOT projects. Application requirements and tortoise capture and handling procedures are similar to those for 10 or Fewer Burrows permits, however, tortoises relocated under a Burrow or Structure Protection permit shall only be relocated on-site.
5. **Emergency Take without Relocation Permit** - Will be issued only under limited and specific circumstances, in cases where there is an immediate danger to the public's health and/or safety or in direct response to an official declaration of a state of emergency by the Governor of Florida or a local governmental entity. This permit type is not likely to be applicable to FDOT projects. Applications submitted for this permit must include all information that is required from any other applicant seeking a conservation permit, along with a copy of the official declaration of a state of emergency, if applicable.

Due to the limited duration that gopher tortoise surveys are valid as well as the tendency for gopher tortoises to repopulate an area where relocation of the original population has occurred, FDOT typically does not conduct relocation until just prior to construction commencement. However, knowledge of the existing gopher tortoise population during the permitting process may be necessary to support the application review (i.e., with regard to indigo snake involvement). In these cases, the Project Manger may need to have at least 15% surveys of the potential gopher tortoise habitat conducted.

12.3 PROCEDURE

During the Planning phase, some projects may qualify for ETDM screening in the Environmental Screening Tool (EST). [Part 1, Chapter 2, Federal Highway Administration Class of Action Determination](#) and [Chapter 2](#) of the [ETDM Manual, Topic No.650-000-002](#) list the qualifications for ETDM screening. **Figure 12-4** provides a flow chart of the typical permitting process.

12.3.1 Projects Not Qualifying for Screening

Regardless of whether a project is screened in the EST, environmental permits may be needed. For transportation projects not qualifying for EST screening, anticipated environmental permits are documented as a part of discussion and coordination with the resource agency charged with regulating the activity. Decisions should be documented in the Environmental Document and project file, and appropriately addressed through incorporation into the final design contract documents. Documentation in the Environmental Document is as follows:

1. **Type 1 Categorical Exclusions (CEs)** - Type 1 CEs may occasionally need environmental permits. For these projects, complete a [Type 1 Categorical Exclusion Checklist, Form No. 650-050-12](#) ([Part 1, Chapter 2, Federal Highway Administration Class of Action Determination](#)). Include documentation of permitting agency coordination and mitigation for impacts (as appropriate) in the project file.
2. **Non Major State Actions (NMSAs)** - For a NMSA, list the anticipated permits in Section E. Anticipated Permits of the [Non-Major State Action Checklist \(Part 1, Chapter 10, State, Local, or Privately Funded Project Delivery\)](#). For these projects include documentation of permitting agency coordination and mitigation for impacts (as appropriate) in the project file.
3. **Type 2 Categorical Exclusions (CEs)** - Some Type 2 CEs may not require screening through the EST. For these projects, anticipated environmental permits are documented on the [Type 2 Categorical Exclusion Determination Form, Form No. 650-050-11](#) and in the project file. See [Section 12.3.3.1.2](#) for guidance on documenting Type 2 CEs.

12.3.2 Projects Qualifying for Screening

For projects qualifying for EST screening, the proposed project is entered into a Planning or Programming Screen Event according to the [ETDM Manual, Topic No. 650-000-002](#). This screening initiates the project-level coordination with the regulatory agencies and includes a Preliminary Environmental Discussion (PED) ([Part 1, Chapter 3, Preliminary Environmental Discussion and Advance Notification](#)). The District's initial assessment of the permits that may be needed for the project is included in the Anticipated Permits section of the PED.

As Environmental Technical Advisory Team (ETAT) members, the resource agency representatives review the proposed project and provide comments identifying potential permits, mitigation opportunities and technical studies. The ETAT should also provide recommendations and suggestions for minimizing potential environmental impacts to facilitate the permitting process. The EST documents and stores the ETAT review in the ***Planning or Programming Screen Summary Report***. This information supports development of the PD&E scope.

Coordination with the resource agencies should be continuous throughout the ETDM process. The ETDM Coordinator and Project Manager should also coordinate internally with FDOT Permit Coordinators, District Environmental Offices, and others who may be involved in the PD&E process that will follow the project screening.

12.3.2.1 Planning Screen

The Planning Screen may be used for the early identification of project permits. Resource agency ETAT members may identify the types of permits that may be needed for the project, or they may agree with those already listed in the PED. Permits that may be needed for the project are listed in the “Anticipated Permits” section of the ***Planning Screen Summary Report***.

12.3.2.2 Programming Screen

In accordance with [Part 1, Chapter 2, Federal Highway Administration Class of Action Determination](#), qualifying projects must complete the ETDM Programming Screen and may also have completed the Planning Screen. If a Planning Screen took place, the Programming Screen will build upon information from the Planning Screen.

12.3.2.2.1 Identification of Potential Permitting Needs

If the project went through a Planning Screen, the ETAT may reconsider potential permits that were identified. If the project did not go through a Planning Screen, the PED created during the Programming Screen is the first record of potential permits that may be needed for the project. The resource agency ETAT members may identify additional permits, or agree with the types of potential permits identified in the PED. Potential permits identified by the resource agency ETAT are recorded in the “Anticipated Permits” section of the ***Programming Screen Summary Report***.

12.3.2.2.2 Opportunities for Mitigation

Through early coordination, a resource agency may identify opportunities for mitigation to offset potential project impacts. If mitigation options are identified during the Programming Screen, they are recorded in the applicable section of the ***Programming Screen Summary Report***. Depending on the issue/resources and the resource agency providing the comments, the discussion of mitigation opportunities may be in the Wetlands, Wildlife and Habitat, or Water Quality and Quantity sections of the report.

12.3.3 Project Development and Environment Phase

If available, information from ETDM screening should be used to prepare the PD&E scope of services and to focus the analysis/impact assessment. During PD&E, FDOT should utilize resource agency comments from the ***Programming Screen Summary Report*** to get an idea of a project's permitting needs.

It is recommended that District staff hold regular meetings or teleconferences with USFWS, NMFS, USACE, FWC, or WMDs to discuss upcoming projects, current project issues, mitigation needs, the status of ongoing PD&E Studies and mitigation projects, and review project status to see if there is anything the resource agencies may require to support their ongoing reviews. Other resource agencies (e.g., SHPO/DHR) may need to be coordinated with based on project impacts to their resources which would have to be addressed in the anticipated permits. The frequency of the meetings is at the discretion of each District. Providing project priority lists may also assist regulatory agencies with prioritizing their review of FDOT projects.

The District's Project Manager is responsible for collecting and maintaining correspondence with resource agencies (e.g., letters, emails), documenting coordination, and maintaining the project file. The documentation provides information for the next project phase.

12.3.3.1 Preparation for Permitting during PD&E

Information gathered during PD&E should inform project permitting. Early in PD&E, FDOT identifies the project's anticipated permitting needs from knowledge of regulations, resource agency comments and information included in the ***Programming Screen Summary Report*** (if the project was screened in the EST). The District should review ETAT comments for the "Coastal and Marine," "Wetlands," "Water Quality and Quantity," "Navigation," "Cultural Resources," and "Wildlife and Habitat" issues in the ***Programming Screen Summary Report***. FDOT should focus on the comments from the regulatory agencies in developing and conducting analysis. The ***Programming Screen Summary Report*** may specifically identify the types of permits that may be needed in the "Anticipated Permits" section of the report.

Later in PD&E, an impact assessment is conducted for direct and indirect/secondary impacts to wetlands/surface waters and impacts to listed species and their habitats according to [Part 2, Chapter 18, Wetlands and Other Surface Waters](#) and [Part 2, Chapter 27, Protected Species and Habitat](#). During this impact assessment, the District coordinates with the regulatory agencies to determine what permit types will be needed for the project based on anticipated project impacts. This discussion should include comparing the list of anticipated permits identified during the ETDM screening to those permits necessary for the project as a result of the analysis/impact assessment. This coordination may include a field review with appropriate resource agencies.

The impact assessment typically requires the preparation of a **Natural Resources Evaluation (NRE)**. Coordination between the Permit Coordinator and the Environmental Office during development of the **NRE** will assure that the resulting report contains information sufficient to support subsequent permitting. It is recommended that the **NRE** be sent to the resource agencies for review so that they may provide input in advance of finalization of the Environmental Document. The District may also request that SEMO review the draft **NRE** prior to agency submittal. At the conclusion of the PD&E process, the **NRE** is submitted to the Lead Federal Agency along with the Environmental Document.

Some PD&E projects may follow the principles of the Statewide Acceleration Transformation (SWAT) process. The SWAT process is a project management initiative that streamlines the FDOT project preconstruction process where the PD&E Study is scoped aggressively to reduce project time and cost. SWAT projects conduct design activities concurrently with the PD&E phase, potentially resulting in advancing environmental permitting. It is important for the PD&E Project Manager, in coordination with the Permit Coordinator to determine the appropriate time to apply for environmental permits. Several factors should be discussed and may include:

- Adequacy of information obtained in PD&E to complete the permit application
- Environmental issues including agency consultation that may require additional time to obtain the environmental permit (i.e. protected species consultation)
- The anticipated date of project construction
- If the project will need a State-Owned Submerged Lands authorization requiring a decision by the Board of Trustees
- Whether project funding is available to support the permitting effort, including mitigation, during PD&E

More information on the SWAT process can be found in [Part 1, Chapter 10, State, Local or Privately Funded Project Delivery](#).

12.3.3.1.1 Consideration of Mitigation Options

During the PD&E phase, project design is developed in sufficient detail to quantify impacts to environmental resources such as wetlands and protected species. For those projects that have unavoidable wetland and species impacts, mitigation may be required. In accordance with the USACE's federal mitigation sequencing [**Compensatory Mitigation for Losses of Aquatic Resources (33 CFR §§ 325 and 332)**], wetland impacts must be addressed through mitigation sequencing: 1) avoidance, 2) minimization, and finally 3) compensatory mitigation. ERPs under state jurisdiction must follow criteria established under **Chapter 62-330, F.A.C.** and in the **ERP Applicant's Handbook Volume I** which

is to reduce or eliminate wetland or other surface water impacts prior to mitigation. Additionally, impacts to certain protected species or their habitat may result in the need to mitigate potential impacts.

To validate that the project design in PD&E is feasible (i.e., that it is reasonably anticipated to be permissible), the Environmental Document should include consideration of mitigation options to address anticipated unavoidable direct and indirect/secondary wetland impacts and impacts to listed species. Coordination is needed with the regulatory agencies when developing the mitigation option to determine if proposed mitigation for wetland impacts may also satisfy mitigation needs for wetland dependent listed species. This helps to ensure FDOT provides the appropriate mitigation to offset project impacts and that mitigation used to satisfy one agency does not conflict with the mitigation recommendations of another agency. Mitigation options should be available and/or technologically feasible such that projects do not get advanced to the Design phase that have no known viable means to adequately address unavoidable impacts.

The impact assessment may include a Uniform Mitigation Assessment Method (UMAM) in accordance with **Chapter 62-345, F.A.C.**, conducted at a broader level than is needed for permitting. If a modified UMAM is being considered during PD&E, it should be coordinated with the applicable permitting agencies. Other suitable wetland assessment methods (e.g. Wetland Rapid Assessment Procedure) may be used depending on the available mitigation options in the service area of the proposed impacts. See [Part 2, Chapter 18, Wetlands and Other Surface Waters](#) for guidance on using UMAM during PD&E.

For wetland impacts, a conceptual mitigation plan may need to be prepared according to [Part 2, Chapter 18, Wetlands and Other Surface Waters](#). The level of detail for the conceptual mitigation plan is determined through coordination with the appropriate regulatory agency(s) and is dependent upon the magnitude of mitigation required. The conceptual mitigation plan must demonstrate that mitigation is available to offset impacts to wetlands. In accordance with **Section 373.4137, F.S.**, as amended, mitigation options may include “the use of mitigation banks and any other mitigation options that satisfy state and federal requirements” (i.e., mitigation bank credit purchases, funding to WMD for mitigation services and FDOT- responsible mitigation projects). Such options must be identified in the Environmental Document. Mitigation options identified during PD&E are those available at that time; however, final mitigation is determined at the time the permit is obtained.

It is recommended that the Permit Coordinator assist with preparation, or review of the conceptual mitigation plan and mitigation discussion that is included in the Environmental Document. The Permit Coordinator may provide input on mitigation banks in the project area, mitigation services available from DEP or the WMDs, and other mitigation opportunities available for the project.

12.3.3.1.2 Environmental Commitments

FDOT may make environmental commitments to minimize potential adverse project effects. These commitments provide assurance to the reviewing agencies that the identified issues will be appropriately addressed during design and permitting – paving the way for a more efficient permit review process. Additionally, commitments provide predictability to FDOT and to designers/consultants for the level of effort (cost) that will ensue during design and permitting. Project commitments must be documented in the Environmental Document and on the [Project Commitment Record \(PCR\), Form 700-011-35](#) according to the [Project Commitment Tracking, Procedure No. 700-011-035](#). Some commitments may become permit conditions at the discretion of the regulatory agency. The *PCR* must be updated to reflect any change in status of a commitment. See [Part 2, Chapter 32, Commitments](#).

12.3.3.1.3 Documenting Permits

Permits identified during the PD&E Study, including those permits identified as no longer being applicable to the project, must be documented in the Environmental Document. Permits that were identified as anticipated during the ETDM process that are no longer applicable to the project should be identified with an explanation as to why they are no longer needed. Documentation of regulatory agency coordination must be added to the project file.

Permits are documented in the Environmental Document as described below:

1. **Type 2 Categorical Exclusion (CE) and State Environmental Impact Report (SEIR)** – For Type 2 CEs permits needed for the project are listed in Section 6. E, “Required Permits.” For SEIRs permits needed for the project are listed in the Anticipated Permits section. They are also documented in the applicable Impact Evaluation section (Wetlands, Protected Species and Habitat, Navigation) as a part of the discussion of coordination with the resource agency requiring the permit. The Navigation Section of the report should identify whether FHWA has determined that a USCG permit is required in accordance with **23 CFR Part 650, Subpart H**. See [Part 1, Chapter 5, Type 2 Categorical Exclusion](#), or [Part 1, Chapter 10, State, Local, or Privately Funded Project Delivery](#) for more detail on how to prepare these sections of the Type 2 CE or SEIR.
2. **Environmental Assessment (EA)** – Permits that are anticipated for the project are documented in the Anticipated Permits section, as well as the applicable Impacts section (Wetlands and other Surface Waters, Protected Species and Habitat, Navigation, etc.) as a part of the discussion of coordination with the resource agency requesting the permit. See [Part 2, Chapter 8, Environmental Consequences or Impacts](#) and [Part 1, Chapter 6, Environmental Assessment](#) for more detail on how to prepare these sections of the EA.

3. **Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)** – Permits that are anticipated for the project are documented in the Anticipated Permits section, as well as the applicable Environmental Consequences section (Wetlands and other Surface Waters, Protected Species and Habitat, Navigation) as a part of the discussion of coordination with the resource agency requesting the permit. See [Part 2, Chapter 8, Environmental Consequences or Impacts](#) and [Part 1, Chapter 8, Draft Environmental Impact Statement](#) for more detail on how to prepare these sections of the EIS.

Permits that will be needed for the project are also listed in the Executive Summary of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) and Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS). In the DEIS this section is titled “List of Other Government Actions Required” and in the FEIS it is titled “Other Government Actions and Anticipated Permits”. See [Part 2, Chapter 3, EIS Executive Summary/FONSI](#) for more detail on how to prepare these sections of the EIS Executive Summary.

12.3.4 Reevaluation

Any changes after approval of the Environmental Document must be documented in a Reevaluation per [Part 1, Chapter 13, Reevaluations](#). Specific to permitting, the reevaluation should address any changes in laws, rules or regulations that may impact project permitting; provide a summary and status of all permits required on the project including pending issuance dates. If a project’s design has changed, the reevaluation should also address whether the design changes impact permitting and associated mitigation. This information should be included in the “Commitment Status” and “Status of Permits” sections of the *Reevaluation Form* ([Part 1, Chapter 13, Reevaluations](#)).

12.3.5 Design and Permitting

Upon finalization of the PD&E phase, a project is advanced to the Design phase. Coordination meetings between the Environmental and Design Offices should be held when the project transitions from PD&E to Design. This provides an opportunity for the environmental staff to share information obtained during PD&E that can assist in project design or permitting. It is recommended that the Permit Coordinator attend the internal coordination meetings.

The purpose of the Design phase is to refine the project design initiated in PD&E, apply for and obtain federal and/or state environmental permits authorizing the construction of the proposed project, and generate plans and specifications consistent with permit allowances and conditions. During this phase it is important for the Permit Coordinator and Project Designer(s) to refer to information prepared during the PD&E phase such as the Environmental Document, *NRE*, and agency coordination, to appropriately incorporate agency input, design considerations, and project commitments into the project design and related permit application packages. Some project commitments made earlier in the project life-cycle may become permit conditions.

From the PD&E phase to the Design and Construction phases, projects generally follow one of two project delivery methods: Design-Bid-Build or Design-Build. The Design-Bid-Build method is where FDOT obtains separate contractors for the Design phase and the Construction phase. The first contractor handles the project Design, including permitting. Once Design is complete, FDOT solicits a bid for another contractor to construct the project based upon the approved plans and specifications of which the issued permits are a part. Alternatively, projects could proceed using the Design-Build method where the design and construction are combined in a single contract. If the environmental permits have not been obtained prior to procurement of Design-Build firm, then FDOT must work closely with the selected Design-Build firm on obtaining permits. This includes oversight/review of the contractor throughout the permitting process. Whether Design-Bid-Build or Design-Build, the District as the permittee is responsible for reviewing, approving, and signing permit applications.

For Design-Build projects that require a permit modification, the permitting process follows the steps described in **Section 12.3.5.2**, just as with Design-Bid-Build projects, and FDOT retains oversight/review responsibility during the permitting process, which is championed by the Contractor. In either case, the Construction phase follows design and permitting, as described in **Section 12.3.6**. For a Design-Build project, if the contractor prepares the permit application, FDOT is still responsible because it is an FDOT project and FDOT is the permittee.

For Local Agency Program (LAP) projects not on the State Highway System (off-system), the LAP agency is responsible for obtaining necessary permits and conducting regulatory agency coordination. This includes signature of permit applications and execution of required mitigation, as applicable. FDOT may provide oversight of the LAP agency to assure completeness. FDOT Districts have LAP Coordinators to assist the LAP agencies. See [Local Agency Program Manual, Topic No. 525-010-300](#).

12.3.5.1 Finalize Mitigation

Wetland mitigation options for unavoidable impacts will have been considered during PD&E and described in the Environmental Document. Following PD&E, as the project design is refined and permitting is initiated, the previously-identified quantities and mitigation options are refined in consultation with the appropriate regulatory agency. The intent is to identify the appropriate mitigation, how much mitigation will be required to offset net adverse wetland impacts, and which mitigation option(s) will be incorporated into the respective state and federal permits. Since the state and federal permitting processes are independent in relation to quantifying wetland impacts and mitigation, it is possible that the quantities of compensatory mitigation required may differ between the state and federal permits.

In accordance with **Section 373.4137, F.S.**, FDOT must consider any mitigation options that meet state and federal requirements. The mitigation option must be coordinated with the appropriate regulatory agency. Mitigation for wetland impacts may also provide conservation benefit for listed species. When finalizing mitigation, coordination with

regulatory agencies can help to determine whether project mitigation may serve mitigation needs of multiple permits. The final mitigation plans are then carried through the permitting process and become conditions of the environmental permits, as appropriate.

12.3.5.2 Permitting Process

Permits must be obtained before construction begins. For traditional Design-Bid-Build projects dredge and fill permits (i.e., ERP and **Section 404** permits) are typically issued during the Design phase, in advance of letting. Ideally, the District should obtain the environmental permits prior to production and no later than the project letting date. For Design-Build projects permits may be obtained during procurement (in advance of project letting) or by the Design-Build firm once the project is let.

It is important that the Permit Coordinator, Environmental staff, and the PD&E Project Manager coordinate during permitting to ensure that information gathered during the PD&E Study is utilized during permitting. The PD&E Project Manager should transmit the Environmental Document as well as relevant technical reports, such as the **NRE, Cultural Resource Assessment Survey** and resource agency correspondence to the Permit Coordinator. In some cases, the Environmental Document and **NRE** may include agency concurrence documentation, which when submitted with the permit applications, may expedite the review time and identify important commitments which need to be addressed during the Design phase. It is the responsibility of the Permit Coordinator to review the documents and ensure that applicable information is used when preparing environmental permit applications.

In the Design phase, exact project alignment and the extent of resource impacts become known. During the permitting process alignment-specific or updated environmental studies may be conducted to identify the presence or absence of state or federally listed or otherwise protected species, establish jurisdictional wetland and surface water boundaries, quantify wetland impacts and mitigation needs (using appropriate functional assessment method), determine seasonal high and average wet season water table elevations, delineate/document cultural resources, and identify other environmentally sensitive resources (such as seagrasses, mangroves, coral and associated benthic resources). Appropriate drainage requirements focusing on the development of, or improvement to the stormwater management system, and how the project meets state water quality and quantity criteria should be addressed. See [Part 2, Chapter 20, Water Quality Impact Evaluation](#) and [Part 2, Chapter 24, Drainage and Floodplains](#) for more information. This information provides the “facts on the ground” that complement or update the PD&E Study results and support pre-application communication with the regulatory agencies and permit application submittal(s). These activities should be done in coordination with the Environmental Office so that these items/updates can be recognized in Reevaluations. **Figure 12-1** and **Figure 12-2** include links to web sites that itemize typical permit types and application content for DEP, WMD, USCG, and USACE; links to digital application forms for these agencies; and descriptions of typical state and federal permit review processes.

12.3.5.2.1 Pre-application Conference

To facilitate project permitting, a pre-application conference should be scheduled to discuss the project and related requirements with the appropriate state or federal agency. These conferences are in addition to resource agency coordination during ETDM and PD&E. They are meant to:

1. Notify agency personnel of the pending application,
2. Establish agency expectations of application content, and
3. Identify project-specific issues that should be addressed in the application.

It is recommended that the Permit Coordinator or District designee attend this meeting, along with appropriate consultant staff and/or contractors. Other FDOT staff may also attend such as the Project Manager or Lead Designer. FDOT participation in these meetings help to ensure the agency coordination is in the FDOT's interest. Such coordination typically facilitates a more complete application submittal and a more efficient permit application review process.

12.3.5.2.2 Application Preparation/Submittal

Joint state and federal “dredge and fill” permit applications, in general, describe who, what, when, where, and how through forms, narrative, tables and graphics. The joint application form includes an application for a state and/or federal wetland permit, as well as a request for authorization to use state-owned submerged lands. Applicants are not required to submit a separate application for sovereign submerged lands authorization. Application packages are typically initiated when project design approaches 60% completion. At this point, the major components of the project (i.e., the project impact footprint) have been designed and environmental impacts and mitigation can be computed with low risk of further revision that would result in the need to re-quantify project impacts and mitigation.

Permit application packages are generated in house (or by District wide or general consultant staff) for in-house Design-Bid-Build projects. Consultants may prepare application packages for Design-Build and Design-Bid-Build projects. The timing of initiation of the application process is directed by the Permit Coordinator, in coordination with the Design Project Manager and the Program Management Office. This coordination ensures that design, permitting, and construction are appropriately scheduled and funded to avoid extended periods between permit issuance and construction funding. When permit application packages are prepared by consultants, they are reviewed, approved, and signed by the Permit Coordinator, or their designee, since FDOT is responsible for the project. The use of an appropriate application checklist is recommended to ensure the application packages are complete.

Permit application packages are submitted to the WMD or DEP to initiate the joint state/federal permitting process. FDOT Districts can submit the **NRE** as supporting data along with any updated information. Upon receipt of the application, or of a notice to use a general permit or a determination of an exemption, DEP or WMD staff will examine the application or notice to determine whether the activity appears to be located, in whole or in part, on state-owned submerged lands. The applicant may also indicate in the application the need for a proprietary authorization (e.g. a letter of consent, easement or lease) in addition to the regulatory authorization being requested. Where necessary, DEP or WMD staff will request a title determination from DEP's Division of State Lands as confirmation whether state lands would be affected by a proposed project. Activities located in one of the state's Aquatic Preserves must receive a separate written authorization prior to initiating any work.

Also upon receipt, the WMD or DEP copies and forwards the application to the USACE to initiate the federal permitting process. Joint application forms are available on line on WMD or DEP (**2015b**) web sites. USACE has requested FDOT use **Form ENG 4345** to increase the potential that all documentation required by the USACE for a complete review is included. The form, and instruction on how to complete the form, are available on the USACE web site (**USACE, 2015a**). After joint application submittal, the permitting process with the USACE is separate from the ERP process. The Permit Coordinator with assistance from the Environmental Administrator should coordinate with the USACE, and WMD or DEP.

Application packages for USCG permits are submitted directly to the USCG. Typical contents of a USCG application package are described in detail in the **Bridge Permit Application Guide (USCG, 2014a)** and the application review process is described in the **Bridge Permit Processing Procedure (USCG, 2014b)**. It is recommended that the Permit Coordinator work with the Design Project Manager to ensure permits are obtained at the appropriate time to avoid the need for a permit extension.

For CCCL permits, FDOT submits an **Application for a Permit for Construction Seaward of the Coastal Construction Control Line or Fifty-Foot Setback** to DEP Bureau of Beaches and Coastal Systems according to **Rule 62B-33.008, F.A.C., Permit Application Requirements and Procedures**.

Application fees are associated with state permit review. Refer to the rate schedule on either the DEP or WMD web sites for current permit-specific rates (**Figure 12-2**). The federal review process does not exact an application fee when the applicant is a government agency.

Erosion and Sediment Control Plan

FDOT develops and submits an erosion and sediment control plan as part of the ERP application. This plan provides reasonable assurance that water quality standards will not be violated during the construction phase of a project. The plan must identify the location, relative timing, and specifications for all erosion and sediment control and stabilization

measures that will be implemented as part of the project's construction. The plan must provide for compliance with the terms and schedule of implementing the proposed project, beginning with the initiation of construction activities. The plan may be submitted as a separate document, or may be contained as part of the plans and specifications of the construction documents. For more information on the development of an erosion and sediment control plan, refer to **Volume 1 of the Applicant's Handbook**.

Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) for NPDES Requirements

A **Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP)** is required to be developed and implemented for each FDOT construction project that disturbs one or more acres of total land area and discharges to waters of the United States. The objectives of an **SWPPP** are to:

1. Prevent erosion where construction activities are occurring,
2. Prevent pollutants from mixing with stormwater, and
3. Prevent pollutants from being discharged by trapping them on-site, before they can affect the receiving waters.

A complete **SWPPP** consists of several items: **SWPPP** sheets, other plan sheets and documents referenced in the **SWPPP** sheets, the contractor's approved **Section 104 Erosion Control Plan**, inspection reports, and documentation of field changes that were made to better address the objectives and is prepared in consultation with Drainage, Construction, and Environmental personnel. **Chapter 11** of the FDOT [Plans Preparation Manual, Volume 1, Topic No. 625-000-007](#) describes the purpose, objective, and signing and noticing requirements of the **SWPPP** and **Chapter 28** of the FDOT [Plans Preparation Manual, Volume 2, Topic No. 625-000-008](#) describes the required narrative and graphical components of the Plan. The **SWPPP** developed as part of the ERP application package may not be of sufficient detail for a contractor to obtain an NPDES permit. The contractor is responsible for developing a project specific **SWPPP** to meet regulatory requirements to obtain an NPDES permit prior to construction.

12.3.5.2.3 Application Processing/Review

The duration of the state permitting process depends on the complexity of the construction and the environmental sensitivity of the project area, unless the project qualifies for a general permit, which takes approximately 30 days. **Chapter 120, F.A.C.** requires an agency (DEP or the WMD) to notify an applicant of any apparent errors or omissions and request additional information needed to clarify the information on an application or in any subsequent submittal within 30 days after receipt of an application for permit or receipt of additional information. An application is considered complete by a regulatory agency when the applicant has provided sufficient information for the regulatory agency to make a final agency action. A permit is issued or denied within 60

days after the application has been deemed complete, or upon written request by an applicant for the regulatory agency to begin processing the application. The 60-day statutory deadline for permit issuance can be formally waived by the applicant, for a period of time identified by the applicant, using the ***Waiver of the 60 Day Review Time Limit Form*** available from the DEP or WMD.

The approval or denial of an ERP application is linked with the approval or denial of any required state-owned submerged lands application. Activities that require an ERP cannot become complete until all required state-owned submerged lands information has been submitted as part of the permit application. In addition, the ERP permit cannot be issued unless a determination has been made that the related state-owned submerged lands application also can be issued. If an activity meets all the requirements for issuance of an ERP, but does not meet all the requirements for issuance of the state-owned submerged lands authorization, the ERP must be denied. Conversely, if the activity meets all the state-owned submerged lands requirements, but does not meet the conditions for issuance of the ERP, the state-owned submerged lands application and the ERP permit will be denied.

Activities that qualify for a general permit, or an exemption from the state, are not linked. In such cases, even though an activity may be authorized by the general permit or exemption, construction, alteration, modification, maintenance, operation, abandonment, or removal of the project may not commence until the required state-owned submerged lands authorization also has been granted.

Unlike the state process, the federal permitting process is not bound by a statutory time-clock for permit issuance. However, like the state process, both USACE and USCG notify an applicant of any apparent errors or omissions in application materials and request any additional information needed to clarify the information on an application. Concurrence for a Nationwide Permit typically takes 3-6 months from the date of application. For more complicated Standard Permits, the USACE may need 12 to 18 months from the date of application. The USCG permitting process for a minor deviation takes approximately 3 to 4 months. A bridge permit is typically issued or denied by the USCG within 180 days after an application has been deemed complete.

Both the USACE and USCG solicit comments from the public and resource agencies (i.e., USFWS, NMFS, EPA, and others) by publishing a public notice during the permitting process. The period for the public to submit comment is finite and identified in the public notice (i.e., typically between 15 and 30 days). Once the public comment period closes, the Lead Federal Agency consolidates the public comments with merit and conveys them to the applicant. The applicant then responds to the comments in the same manner as the typical request for additional information process described previously.

The USACE and USCG are required to evaluate potential impacts of a proposed action on any federally listed threatened or endangered species or its designated critical habitat. These evaluations often require coordination with the USFWS and/or NMFS pursuant to

Section 7 of the ESA – as described in detail in [Part 2, Chapter 27, Protected Species and Habitat](#).

The USFWS and/or NMFS may request additional data, including recent species-specific field surveys, confirmation of habitat mapping and characterization, and data on any observed listed species occurrences. Issuance of federal permits from USACE and/or USCG is contingent upon approval from USFWS and/or NMFS that the project has “no effect,” or “may affect, is not likely to adversely affect” federally listed species, or that the action “may affect” one or more listed species and incidental take is authorized. A review by NMFS for listed species may take a 180 days or longer, depending on the level of impact proposed.

The WMD or DEP may solicit comment from FWC in regards to a proposed project’s potential effect on state-listed wildlife. In turn, FWC may request additional data, including recent species-specific field surveys, confirmation of habitat mapping and characterization, and data on any observed listed species occurrences to support the state permitting process. The applicant then responds to the comments in the same manner as the typical request for additional information process described previously.

Issuance of a state general, individual, or conceptual ERP from a WMD requires that the activity “will not adversely impact the value of functions provided to fish and wildlife and listed species by wetlands and other surface waters.” (e.g., **Rule 62-330.301(1)(d), F.A.C.**). Additionally, the applicant must provide reasonable assurance that the project will not be contrary to the public interest for activities located in, on, or over wetlands or other surface waters - or in the case where impacts are proposed in an Outstanding Florida Water, the applicant must provide reasonable assurance that the project is clearly in the public interest; that the project will not adversely affect navigation; and that the project will not result in harm to named listed wildlife species **Rule 62-330.302(1), F.A.C.** The Project Manager and Permit Coordinator should facilitate the communication of FWC decisions and commitments (if any) to the WMD as part of the state permit application process, and obtain documentation from the WMD that the wildlife and habitat commitments sufficiently meet the conditions for permit issuance.

Incidental take permits are issued for activities that may result in take of federal or state protected species. Applications are contingent upon a **HCP** which defines the full impact on the species, describes methods proposed to minimize take, and outlines mitigation which may be rendered to offset the take. Additional information on **HCPs** and incidental take permits is available on the USFWS **Ecological Services** site and in the online FWC **Florida Wildlife Conservation Guide**. See **Figure 12-3** for links to these resources. The NMFS website has information on permits they issue. The USFWS and NMFS have a **Habitat Conservation Planning and Incidental Take Permitting Processing Handbook** that provides guidance on this permitting process.

FWC will approve or deny a complete permit application within 90 days of receipt. A complete application includes all relevant information as attachments (e.g. scientific project proposals, educational plans and brochures, site plans, photographs, etc.).

Complete permit applications, renewals, and amendment requests should be submitted a minimum of 45 days prior to the requested effective date.

12.3.5.2.4 Noticing Permits

Noticing requirements vary between federal and state agencies. The information in this section provides an overview of permit noticing requirements. The District should coordinate with the appropriate regulatory agency to ensure proper noticing of permits.

In accordance with **33 CFR § 325.2(a)(8)**, for USACE standard permits, the USACE's District Engineer will publish monthly a list of permits issued or denied during the previous month. The list will identify each action by public notice number, name of applicant, and brief description of activity involved. This list will be distributed to all persons who may have an interest in any of the public notices listed. USACE general permits do not typically require noticing upon receipt (verification or authorization is the term used in the letter to FDOT). The USACE provides a public notice in the **FR** announcing the availability of general permits.

For USCG bridge permits, the applicant may publish a public notice to known navigation and other interested parties, news media, adjacent property owners, public officials and local government agencies. The public notice contains a description of the proposed bridge project and includes location maps and bridge drawings with navigational clearances. FDOT should coordinate with the USCG for details on the information to include in the public notice.

For ERPs, FDOT District must publish a notice of agency action in a newspaper of general circulation in the county where the proposed activity is to occur. Publication of notice informs third parties of their right to challenge the regulatory agency's action. If proper notice is provided by publication, third parties have a 21-day time limit in which to file a petition opposing the agency's action. A shorter 14-day time limit applies to an agency action regarding ERPs linked with an authorization to use Sovereign Submerged Lands. Agency actions regarding issuance or denial of a permit, petition or qualification for exemption, only become closed to future legal challenges if third parties have been properly notified and no third party objects within a specific period. Upon request DEP or WMD staff will provide the applicant (FDOT) with the information for publishing such a notice.

For FWC species permits, if the FWC receives a petition regarding its agency action, the FWC will notify the permittee. Upon such notification, the permittee shall cease all work authorized by this permit until the petition is resolved.

12.3.5.2.5 Permit Distribution and Tracking

With issuance of environmental permit(s), the Permit Coordinator utilizes a [Permit Transmittal Memorandum, Form No. 650-040-01](#) (**Figure 12-5**) to transfer the permit(s) to the District Construction Engineer and posts the permit(s) to FDOT's FTP site:

<ftp://ftp.dot.state.fl.us/permitsandorutilityworkschedules/>. Posting to the FTP site is part of the official contract package. Potential contractors use the FTP site to obtain copies of the permits when preparing their bids. The Construction office, CEI Engineering & Inspection team, winning contractor, and Maintenance Office review the environmental permits to ensure permit compliance.

Each District must implement a means to track execution of the various parameters associated with each permit issued to FDOT – including but not limited to pre-construction wildlife surveys/permitting, mitigation implementation/purchase, **ESA** consultation, resource protection during construction, permit expiration dates, monitoring and inspection schedules, post-construction notification and reporting, etc. They may be tracked using Excel spreadsheets or permit tracking databases. Tools that automatically notify the user of approaching permit expiration dates are especially helpful.

For LAP Agency projects, the LAP Agency must provide documentation to FDOT demonstrating that the appropriate environmental permits have been obtained. More information on LAP projects can be found in the [Local Agency Program Manual for Federal Aid Projects, Topic Number 525-010-300](#).

12.3.6 Construction

The Permit Coordinator should participate in the project hand-off meeting to brief Construction staff on permitting and environmental issues. The Permit Coordinator should also send a pre-construction environmental permit briefing memorandum to the Construction Project Administrator. **Section 8.2** of the [Construction Project Administration Manual, Topic No. 700-000-000](#) provides guidance on:

1. Providing a comprehensive review of all permits at the preconstruction conference
2. Monitoring regulated activities to assure they are conducted in accordance with permits
3. Special requirements of National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES)
4. Reporting and Enforcement

In addition to guidance provided in the manual, the Construction Office should coordinate with the Environmental Office and Permit Coordinator to ensure permit condition familiarity and to ensure that intent and timeline of the environmental permit conditions are being met.

During the Construction phase, a contractor may request to modify existing permits. FDOT may authorize the contractor's request to proceed with a permit modification if it is in compliance with FDOT design criteria and state and federal regulatory requirements and is not anticipated to adversely affect project schedule or cost. With FDOT approval,

the contractor may move forward with such a proposed permit modification, and FDOT will provide review and approval of the application, as described in **Section 12.3.5.2.2**.

For LAP projects, the LAP agency is also required to adhere to construction requirements outlined in **Section 8.2** of the [Construction Project Administration Manual, Topic No. 700-000-000](#).

12.3.6.1 Permit Compliance

FDOT, as the permittee, is responsible for ensuring compliance with the permit prior, during, and, after Construction. Failure to comply with issued permits may result in enforcement action by the regulatory agencies. Therefore, it is critically important for FDOT to assure that construction contractors, and/or Design-Build firms are aware of their contractual obligation to follow approved commitments, permit conditions and project design in order that FDOT remains compliant with permit requirements.

In accordance with **Section 8.2** of the [Construction Project Administration Manual, Topic No. 700-000-000](#), the Project Administrator is responsible for permit compliance during Construction. The Project Administrator should meet with the Permit Coordinator and Environmental Administrator prior to construction to be briefed on the content of project permits and design plan notes (if any) as they relate to protection of environmental resources. The Project Administrator should continue to coordinate with the Permit Coordinator and the Environmental Administrator throughout the Construction phase to assure the Project Administrator's full knowledge of the regulatory requirements included in the permits, sediment erosion plan, **SWPPP**, and design plans and to assure the continued awareness of project progress by the Environmental Office, particularly if environmental issues arise.

Once Construction is complete, the Project Administrator is responsible for addressing post-construction permit conditions. Post-construction activities may include, but are not limited to:

1. Notifying the USACE of project completion via written correspondence.
2. Notifying DEP or WMD of construction completion and requesting conversion of the project to the operation phase via submittal of the electronic form located at **Rule 62-330.310(1), Florida Administrative Code**.
3. Submitting an as-built certification form to the USACE (typically an attachment to the permit).
4. Submitting as-built drawings to both DEP/WMD and USACE showing how project construction either complied with, or deviated from, permitted project design.
5. Notifying wildlife agencies about completion of species permit activities (e.g., After Action reports for Gopher Tortoise permits).

Permit conditions from both agencies typically define the required submittal information to assist FDOT in completing the forms and compiling required information. Species permits may also include conditions requiring documentation that must be submitted to the wildlife agencies. For project continuity, the Construction Office should additionally notify the Environmental Office Engineer of construction completion.

The Construction Project Administrator is also responsible for monitoring all permit expiration dates and advising the Environmental Administrator and Permit Coordinator at least 6 months prior to a permit expiring. For projects requiring USFWS or NMFS consultation, notification of permit expiration should be up to twelve 12 months in advance of permit expiration, to allow ample time for coordination/consultation with the agencies. The Permit Coordinator is responsible for acquiring necessary permit extensions and/or renewals from the appropriate regulatory agency in the event work is not anticipated to be completed within the time authorized by the permit.

12.4 REFERENCES

- 33 Code of Federal Regulation (CFR) § 115.70. Advance Approval of Bridges.
<https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/granule/CFR-2010-title33-vol1/CFR-2010-title33-vol1-sec115-70>
- 23 CFR Part 650, Subpart H, Conditions for determining if an activity requires a USCG permit. <https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/CFR-2009-title23-vol1/pdf/CFR-2009-title23-vol1-part650-subpartH.pdf>
- 33 CFR Part 230. Procedures for Implementing NEPA can be accessed at <http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/granule/CFR-2012-title33-vol3/CFR-2012-title33-vol3-part230>
- 33 CFR § 323.2(d). The definition of discharge of dredge material can be accessed at <http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/CFR-2011-title33-vol3/pdf/CFR-2011-title33-vol3-part323.pdf>
- 33 CFR § 323.2(d)(2)(ii). The definition of incidental fallback can be accessed at <http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/CFR-2011-title33-vol3/pdf/CFR-2011-title33-vol3-part323.pdf>
- 33 CFR § 323.2(e). The definition of fill can be accessed at <http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/CFR-2011-title33-vol3/pdf/CFR-2011-title33-vol3-part323.pdf>
- 33 CFR § 323.2(f). The definition of discharge of fill material can be accessed at <http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/CFR-2011-title33-vol3/pdf/CFR-2011-title33-vol3-part323.pdf>

- 33 CFR § 325.2(b)(2). Processing applications. Standard Procedures. Coastal Zone Management consistency can be accessed at <http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/CFR-2011-title33-vol3/pdf/CFR-2011-title33-vol3-sec325-2.pdf>
- 33 CFR Part 328. Definition of waters of the United States can be accessed at <http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/CFR-2011-title33-vol3/pdf/CFR-2011-title33-vol3-part328.pdf>
- 33 CFR § 330.4(d)(1). Navigation and Navigable Waters. Conditions, limitations, and restrictions. Coastal zone management consistency determination can be accessed at <http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/CFR-2012-title33-vol3/xml/CFR-2012-title33-vol3-sec330-4.xml>
- 40 CFR § 230.10(d), Requirement for practical steps to be taken to minimize potential adverse impacts on aquatic ecosystems prior to permitting the discharge of dredged or fill material in said systems. <https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/granule/CFR-2012-title40-vol26/CFR-2012-title40-vol26-sec230-10>
- 40 CFR §§ 1500-1508. NEPA Process <http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/granule/CFR-2011-title40-vol33/CFR-2011-title40-vol33-part-id1102/content-detail.html>
- 50 CFR Part 17. Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants. <https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/granule/CFR-2010-title50-vol2/CFR-2010-title50-vol2-part17>
- 50 CFR Part 21, Migratory bird permits. <https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/granule/CFR-2000-title50-vol1/CFR-2000-title50-vol1-part21>
- 50 CFR § 22.3, Definitions supporting eagle permits. <https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/granule/CFR-2011-title50-vol8/CFR-2011-title50-vol8-sec22-3>
- 50 CFR § 22.26, Regulations authorizing eagle disturbance permit. <https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/granule/CFR-2009-title50-vol6/CFR-2009-title50-vol6-sec22-26>
- 50 CFR Part 226. Designated Critical Habitat. <https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/CFR-2011-title50-vol9/xml/CFR-2011-title50-vol9-part226.xml>
- 50 CFR § 600.10. Wildlife and Fisheries Definitions can be accessed at <http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/CFR-2011-title50-vol10/xml/CFR-2011-title50-vol10-sec600-10.xml>
- Chapter 18-21, Florida Administrative Code (F.A.C.), Sovereignty Submerged Lands Management

Chapter 62B-33, F.A.C., Rules and Procedures for Coastal Construction and Excavation (Permits for Construction Seaward of the Coastal Construction Control Line and Fifty Foot Setback)

Chapter 62-113, F.A.C., Listing of regulatory delegation agreements

Chapter 62-330, F.A.C., Implements the comprehensive statewide environmental resource permit (ERP) program

Chapter 62-340, F.A.C., Method for delineating the landward extent of wetlands and surface waters

Chapter 62-624, F.A.C., Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems

Chapter 68A, F.A.C., Establishes wildlife code of the state of Florida

Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). 2015. Section 404 Permit Program.
<http://www.epa.gov/cwa-404/section-404-permit-program>

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Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP). 2015. Reference and Design Aids for the Environmental Resource Permit Applicant's Handbook Volume I.
<https://www.dep.state.fl.us/water/wetlands/forms/62-330/DesignAidsAH-I.pdf>

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FDOT. 2011b. Agency Operating Agreement for Continuing the Efficient Transportation Decision Making Process in Florida Between Suwannee River Water Management District and the Florida Department of Transportation and the Federal Highway Administration. 10/1/2011-9/30/2016

FDOT. 2012. Agency Operating Agreement for Continuing the Efficient Transportation Decision Making Process in Florida Between Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission and the Florida Department of Transportation and the Federal Highway Administration. 1/1/2012-12/31/2016

- FDOT. 2012. Florida Department of Transportation Statewide Stormwater Management Plan. http://www.dot.state.fl.us/statemaintenanceoffice/NPDES_StormWater.shtm
- FDOT. 2013a. Efficient Transportation Decision Making Manual, Topic No. 650-000-002. <http://www.dot.state.fl.us/emo/pubs/etdm/etdmmanual.shtm>
- FDOT. 2013b. Environmental Mitigation Payment Processing Handbook. http://www.dot.state.fl.us/emo/pubs/Mitigation%20Payment%20Handbook_10%202013.pdf
- FDOT. 2014a. FDOT Plans Preparation Manual, Volume I, Topic No. 625-000-007. <http://www.dot.state.fl.us/rddesign/PPMManual/2014PPM.shtm>
- FDOT. 2014b. FDOT Plans Preparation Manual, Volume II, Topic No. 625-000-008. <http://www.dot.state.fl.us/rddesign/PPMManual/2014PPM.shtm>
- FDOT 2015a. Agency Operating Agreement for Continuing the Efficient Transportation Decision Making Process in Florida Between Southwest Florida Water Management District and the Florida Department of Transportation and the Federal Highway Administration. 6/1/2015-5/31/2020
- FDOT. 2015b. Agency Operating Agreement for Continuing the Efficient Transportation Decision Making Process in Florida Between U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the Florida Department of Transportation and the Federal Highway Administration. 6/30/2015-6/30/2020
- FDOT. 2015c. Agency Operating Agreement for Continuing the Efficient Transportation Decision Making Process in Florida Between U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Florida Department of Transportation and the Federal Highway Administration. 5/1/2015-4/30/2020
- FDOT. Current Version. Construction Project Administration Manual, Topic No. 700-000-000. <http://www.dot.state.fl.us/construction/Manuals/cpam/CPAMManual.shtm>
- FDOT. Current Version. Local Agency Program Manual, Topic No. 525010-300. http://www.dot.state.fl.us/programmanagement/LAP/LAP_TOC.shtm
- Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission. 2008. Bald Eagle Management Plan
- Northwest Florida Water Management District. 2013. Environmental Resource Permit Applicant's Handbook, Volume II
- Part IV, Florida Statutes (F.S.), Establishes the state water regulation program in Florida (i.e., the Florida Water Resources Act of 1972)

Rule 62-330.010(4), F.A.C., Ties the use of the Applicant's Handbook to the state-wide environmental resource permit (ERP) program

Rule 62-330.020, F.A.C., Defines activities that do not require state ERP permitting

Rule 62-330.051(4), F.A.C., Describes bridges, driveways, and roadways that are exempt from ERP permitting

Rule 62-330.051(9), F.A.C., Describes pipes or culvert that are exempt from ERP permitting

Rule 62-330.056(7), F.A.C., Conditions and assumptions upon which a conceptual approval permit is issued

Rule 62-330.301(1)(d), F.A.C., Conditions for Issuance of Individual and Conceptual Approval Permits

Rule 62-330.302(1), F.A.C., Additional Conditions for Issuance of Individual and Conceptual Approval Permits

Rule 68A-1.004(79), F.A.C., Establishes the state definition of "take"

Rule 68A-4.001, F.A.C., Establishes state of Florida wildlife and freshwater fish prohibitions

Rule 68A-9.002, F.A.C., Establishes permits to take wildlife or freshwater fish for justifiable purposes

Rule 68A-13.002, F.A.C., Adoption of federal Migratory Bird Treaty Act as state rule

Rule 68A-27.003, F.A.C., Designation of endangered and threatened species prohibitions

Rule 68A-27.005, F.A.C., Designation of species of special concern prohibitions and permits

Section 334.03, F.S., Definitions

Section 335.02, F.S., FDOT exemption from county, municipal, or special district regulation

Section 373.019(27), F.S., Definitions

Section 373.413(6), F.S., Describes the intent of the legislation to give FDOT flexibility in stormwater management design due to the need to balance limitations imposed by linear projects and expenditure of public funds

Section 373.4131, F.S., State-wide environmental resources permitting rules

Section 373.4137, F.S., Mitigation requirements for specified transportation projects

Section 373.441, F.S., Role of counties, municipalities, and local pollution control programs in permitting process, delegation

Section 403.0885, F.S., Establishment of federally approved state National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Program

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USACE. 2015a. Obtain a Permit. Source of Form 4345 and instructions can be accessed at

<http://www.usace.army.mil/Missions/CivilWorks/RegulatoryProgramandPermits/ObtainPermit.aspx>

USACE. 2015b. Policy and Procedural Guidance for Processing Requests to Alter U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Civil Works Projects Pursuant to 33 USC 408 can be accessed at

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United States Code, Title 16 U.S.C. Sections 703-712, Migratory Bird Treaty Act

United States Coast Guard (USCG). 2014a. Office of Bridge Programs, Bridge Permit Application Guide. http://www.uscg.mil/hq/cg5/cg551/CP_16591_3C.pdf

USCG. 2014b. Bridge Permit Processing Procedure.

<http://www.uscg.mil/hq/cg5/cg551/PROCESSING%20PROCEDURE.pdf>

United States Department of Transportation (USDOT). 2013. Memorandum of Understanding between the U.S. Coast Guard and Federal Highway Administration

and Federal Transit Administration and Federal Railroad Administration to
Coordinate and Improve Bridge Planning and Permitting

United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). 2015. Section 404 Permitting.
<http://water.epa.gov/lawsregs/guidance/cwa/dredgdis/>

12.5 HISTORY

1/12/1999

Table 12-1 Legislation Related to Environmental Permitting

Title and Citation	Relevance to Permitting	Lead Agency/ Required Commenters
Federal Legislation		
<i>Clean Water Act (Federal Water Pollution Control Act) of 1972, Section 404, (33 U.S.C. §1344) as amended; (40 CFR Part 230)</i>	The Clean Water Act (CWA) is the primary federal law related to protection of surface waters and wetlands. Section 404 regulates the discharge of dredged and fill material into waters of the United States, including wetlands. Dredge and fill activities are regulated by a permit process administered by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) and overseen by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). This process most commonly creates a "federal nexus" for wildlife consultations under the Endangered Species Act. USACE functions as the lead agency, while U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and/or National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) serve as cooperating agencies for Section 404 federal actions. Under Section 401, states are provided authority to ensure that federal permits do not violate state water quality standards.	USACE / EPA, USFWS, and/or NMFS
Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899, Section 10	Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act prohibits the unauthorized obstruction or alteration of any navigable water of the United States. The construction of any structure in or over any navigable water of the United States, the excavating from or depositing of material in such waters, or the accomplishment of any other work affecting the course, location, condition, or capacity of such waters is unlawful unless the work has been permitted by the USACE.	USACE
General Bridge Act of 1946	Under the General Bridge Act of 1946 (33 U.S.C. §§ 525-533), construction of a bridge over a navigable U.S. waterway requires the Coast Guard to grant a bridge permit	USCG
National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) (40 CFR Part 122) and Section 403.0885, F.S,	NPDES requires the development of a Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) for construction project sites greater than 1 acre in size, if stormwater from the activity has the potential to enter a surface water of the State or a municipal separate storm sewer system.	DEP (delegated from EPA)
Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, 16 U.S.C. § 470f	The Act requires the federal agency to take into account the effects that activities authorized by federal permits are likely to have on historical properties listed in, or eligible for listing in, the National Register of Historic Places.	USACE / State Historic Preservation Office/Officer (SHPO)

Table 12-1 Legislation Related to Environmental Permitting

Title and Citation	Relevance to Permitting	Lead Agency/ Required Commenters
Federal Legislation		
<i>Endangered Species Act of 1973 (ESA), as amended (16 U.S.C. §§ 1531-1541); 50 CFR Part 402</i>	Section 7 of the ESA requires federal agencies, in consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and/or the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), to ensure that effects of actions that they authorize, fund, or carry out are not likely to jeopardize the continued existence of any listed species, or result in the destruction or adverse modification of designated critical habitat of such species. This congressional policy states that "All Federal departments and agencies shall seek to conserve endangered and threatened species and shall utilize their authorities in furtherance of the purposes of the Act". In the absence of a federal nexus, Section 10 of the ESA allows for the "incidental take" of listed species when a Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) is developed and approved. 50 CFR § 402.08 allows FDOT to conduct informal ESA consultations with USFWS on behalf of FHWA.	USFWS or NMFS
Federal Migratory Bird Treaty Act (16 U.S.C. §§ 703-712), as amended	The Act states that "it shall be unlawful at any time.....to pursue, hunt, take, capture, kill, attempt to take, capture, or kill, possess.....any migratory bird, any part, nest, or egg of any such bird...". This governs avian species such as the Florida burrowing owl, osprey, and American bald eagle.	USFWS
The Federal Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act, (16 U.S.C. §§ 668-668c), as amended	The Act prohibits anyone, without a permit issued by the Secretary of the Interior, from "taking" bald eagles, including their parts, nests, or eggs. The Act provides criminal penalties for persons who "take, possess, sell, purchase, barter, offer to sell, purchase or barter, transport, export or import, at any time or any manner, any bald eagle ... [or any golden eagle], alive or dead, or any part, nest, or egg thereof." The Act defines "take" as "pursue, shoot, shoot at, poison, wound, kill, capture, trap, collect, molest or disturb."	USFWS
State Legislation		
<i>Chapter 62-330, F.A.C.</i>	Establishes the SWERP program to provide more consistency throughout Florida in state permitting thresholds, requirements and processes. The SWERP program governs the following: construction, alteration, operation, maintenance, repair, abandonment, and removal of stormwater management systems, dams, impoundments, reservoirs, appurtenant works, and works (including docks, piers, structures, dredging, and filling located in, on or over wetlands or other surface waters.	DEP or WMD / FWC and SHPO
<i>Chapter 68A-27, F.A.C.</i>	Rules Relating to Threatened or Endangered Species. This chapter provides the purpose, definitions, species designations, permitting requirements, and other rules associated with the regulation of potential impacts to state listed species in Florida.	FWC

Table 12-1 Legislation Related to Environmental Permitting

Title and Citation	Relevance to Permitting	Lead Agency/ Required Commenters
Federal Legislation		
Bald Eagle Management Plan, 2008 (adopted by FWC in 2008)	The goal of the State's Bald Eagle Management Plan is to maintain a stable or increasing population of bald eagles throughout Florida in perpetuity. To achieve this goal, bald eagles and their nests must continue to be protected through science-based management, regulation, public education, and law enforcement.	FWC typically lead agency unless federal permitting initiated for same action.
<i>Gopher Tortoise (68A - 27.003 F.A.C.)</i>	As a Threatened species, a permit is required for any activity that causes a take, harassment, molestation, damage, or destruction to gopher tortoises or their burrows.	FWC

*In accordance with Section 335.02, F.S., FDOT is not bound by county, municipal, or special district regulations for projects on the State Highway System; however, Broward and Hillsborough Counties have been delegated regulatory authority to administer the state wetland permitting program.

Table 12-2 Federal Permit Types

Lead Agency	Action/Permit Type	Permit Number/Name or Activity Description	Commenting Agency	Remarks
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers	No Permit Required	N/A	N/A	Utilize Permit Involvement Form or other checklist to ensure correct determination.
	Nationwide Permit (NWP)	52 NWPs exist as of March 2012	N/A	NWPs are reviewed every 5 years, and changes are made, as appropriate. Some NWPs subject to Pre-Construction Notice (PCN). Special conditions apply to some NWPs. Refer to USACE Source Book
	General Permit (GP)	SAJ-92, FDOT and Florida's Turnpike Enterprise	USFWS (SAJ-92, p. 4), SHPO	Capacity improvement projects. GPs are reviewed every 5 years, and changes are made, as appropriate.
	Letter of Permission	Letter of Permission	USFWS, NMFS, SHPO	Refer to USACE Source Book
	Standard Permit	Standard Permit	USFWS, NMFS, EPA, SHPO	Refer to USACE Source Book
U.S. Coast Guard	Bridge Permit	Bridge permit	NMFS, USFWS, EPA, SHPO	Refer to USCG Bridge Permit Application Guide

Table 12-3 State Permit Types

Lead Agency	Action/Permit Type	Permit Number/Name or Activity Description	Commenting Agency	Remarks
Florida Department of Environmental Protection or Water Management District	Conceptual Permit	Conceptual Permit	FWC, SHPO	Conceptual permit may also authorize the first phase of project. Refer to Rule 62-330.056, F.A.C.
	General Permit	General Permit	N/A	Refer to Rules 62-330.401 through 62-330.635, F.A.C.
	Individual Permit	Individual Permit	FWC, SHPO	Refer to Rule 62-330.054, F.A.C.
DEP	National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES)	NPDES Permit	N/A	Typically acquired by construction contractor

Table 12-4 Listed Wildlife Permit Types

Lead Agency	Species	Permit Type/Name	Remarks
Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC)	Gopher Tortoise	10 or Fewer Burrows Relocation Permit	All named permits require the involvement of and Authorized Gopher Tortoise Agent permitted by FWC – except for on-site relocation of 10 or fewer burrows IF all of the tortoises are captured via live or bucket trapping or by hand shovel excavation
		Conservation Permit	
		Disturbed Site Permit	
		Burrow or Structure Protection Permit	
		Emergency Take without Relocation Permit	
	Florida Burrowing Owl	Migratory Bird Nest Removal Permit	Only allowed during non-nesting season (July 11 through February 14)
	Osprey	Migratory Bird Nest Removal Permit	Contact FWC for differences in requirements between Monroe County and the remainder of the state
	American Bald Eagle	Bald Eagle Disturbance Permit	Permit required if applicant cannot abide by FWC Bald Eagle Management Plan guidelines, and if a federal eagle permit is not also required for the same action
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)	American Bald Eagle	Nest Take Permit	Only for inactive eagle nests, unless necessary to alleviate safety emergency to humans or eagles (then can include active nest removal)
		Disturbance Permit	The take (disturbance) must be necessary for the project purpose, despite implementation of all practicable measures to avoid and minimize the impact to eagles

Federal permitting information can be obtained from the following sources:

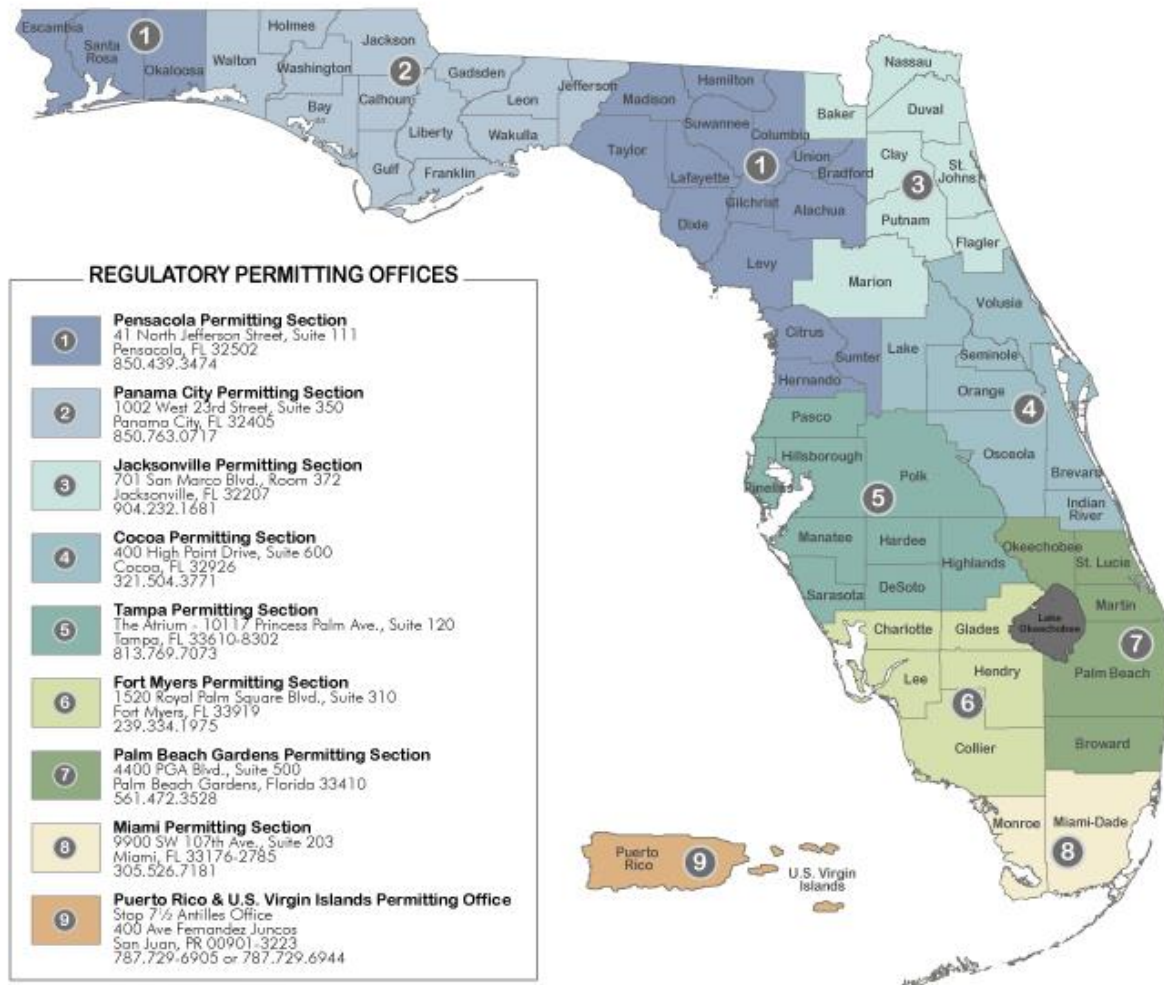
United States Coast Guard

- 1) A description of the bridge permitting process can be found at <http://www.uscg.mil/hq/cg5/cg551/PROCESSING%20PROCEDURE.pdf>
- 2) Application content for bridge permits can be found at http://www.uscg.mil/hq/cg5/cg551/CP_16591_3C.pdf
- 3) A MOA between USCG and FHWA establishing mandatory permit review timeframes can be found at http://www.environment.fhwa.dot.gov/strmlng/MOA_USCG_bridge_permits.pdf
- 4) The local Coast Guard District Bridge Office is one of the best sources of information. The applicant should direct all project-related questions, concerns, comments, and requests to the bridge program staff in the Coast Guard District Bridge Office where the project is located. A list of the mailing addresses and telephone numbers of the Coast Guard District Bridge Offices is located on the Bridge Program website: http://www.uscg.mil/hq/cg5/cg551/District_Page.asp. Note that the majority of Florida is located within USCG District 7, but the western Florida panhandle is within District 8.

United States Army Corps of Engineers

- 1) A comprehensive and detailed listing of USACE permit types, application forms, wetland data forms, wetland mitigation requirements, endangered species requirements, and an overall description of the permitting process, can be found at <http://www.saj.usace.army.mil/Missions/Regulatory/SourceBook.aspx>
- 2) Information on exemptions for very narrowly-defined activities that result in incidental impacts to wetlands or surface waters in accordance with **Section 404(f)(1)** of the **CWA** are provided at <https://www.epa.gov/cwa-404/exemptions-permit-requirements>
- 3) USACE regions of responsibility and office addresses: See next page.

Figure 12-1 Federal Permitting Information Sources



*The Corps office location map in the figure is located at:
<http://www.saj.usace.army.mil/Missions/Regulatory/OfficeLocations.aspx>

Figure 12-1 Federal Permitting Information Sources (Page 2 of 2)

State permitting information can be obtained from the following sources:

DEP's Permitting Portal is the umbrella web link that provides access to following links as well as other state water resource regulation: <http://flwaterpermits.com/>

Statewide Environmental Resource Permitting (SWERP)

1) The state (all five WMDs and DEP) has consolidated its environmental permitting process and has described it in a two-volume set of the Environmental Resource Permit Applicant's Handbook.

2) Volume I applies state-wide and includes a comprehensive and detailed listing of WMD permit types, application forms, wetland delineation process, criteria for project evaluation, and an overall description of the permitting process. It can be found at

http://www.sfwmd.gov/portal/page/portal/xrepository/sfwmd_repository_pdf/swerp_applicants_handbook_vol_i.pdf

3) Five versions of Volume II, one specifically tailored to the unique soil and water conditions of each of the five WMDs, include design and performance standards for water quality, water quantify, and flood control within the respective WMD generally, and within special basins within the respective WMD. The individual region-specific Volume II handbooks can be found at:

- Northwest Florida WMD:
<http://nfwmd.state.fl.us/permits/environmental-resource-permits/>
- St. Johns River WMD:
http://www.sjrwm.com/handbooks/pdfs/PIM_incl_voIII.pdf
- Suwannee River WMD:
<http://www.srwmd.state.fl.us/DocumentCenter/View/8654>
- Southwest Florida WMD:
http://www.swfwmd.state.fl.us/files/database/site_file_sets/2479/Applicants_Handbook_II_-_Revised.pdf
- South Florida WMD:
http://www.sfwmd.gov/portal/page/portal/xrepository/sfwmd_repository_pdf/swerp_applicants_handbook_vol_ii.pdf

4) Water Management District regions of responsibility and office addresses: See next page

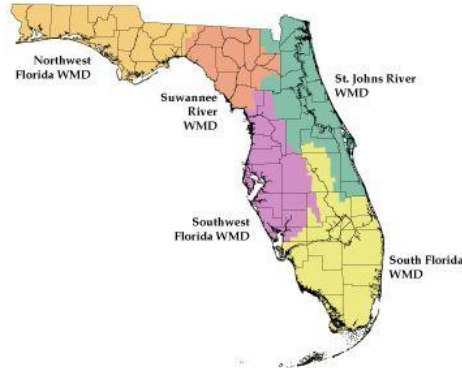
Figure 12-2 State Permitting Information Sources

Water Management Districts

The Department of Environmental Protection is involved in managing the quality and quantity of water through its relationship with the state's five water management districts: Northwest Florida Water Management District, Suwannee River Water Management District, St. Johns River Water Management District, South Florida Water Management District and Southwest Florida Water Management District.

The water management districts administer flood protection programs and perform technical investigations into water resources. The districts also develop water management plans for water shortages in times of drought and to acquire and manage lands for water management purposes under the Save Our Rivers program. Regulatory programs delegated to the districts include programs to manage the consumptive use of water, aquifer recharge, well construction and surface water management.

As part of their surface water management programs, the districts administer the Department's stormwater management program. This increases the districts' contacts with local governments by directing the districts to help with the development of the water elements in local government comprehensive plans.



WMD	JURISDICTION	OFFICE
Northwest Florida WMD	Bay, Calhoun, Escambia, Franklin, Gadsden, Gulf, Holmes, Jackson, Jefferson (western half), Leon, Liberty, Okaloosa, Santa Rosa, Wakulla, Walton, & Washington	81 Water Management Drive Havana, FL 32333 850/539-5999
Suwannee River WMD	Columbia, Dixie, Gilchrist, Hamilton, Lafayette, Madison, Suwannee, Taylor, Union and portions of Alachua, Baker, Bradford, Jefferson & Levy	9225 CR 49 Live Oak, FL 32060 386/362-1001 800/226-1066 (Florida only)
St. Johns River WMD	Brevard, Clay, Duval, Flagler, Indian River, Nassau, Seminole, St. Johns, Volusia, and portions of Alachua, Baker, Bradford, Lake, Marion, Okeechobee, Orange, Osceola & Putnam	P.O. Box 1429 Palatka, FL 32178-1429 386/329-4500 800/451-7106
Southwest Florida WMD	Citrus, DeSoto, Hardee, Hernando, Hillsborough, Manatee, Pasco, Pinellas, Sarasota, Sumter, and portions of Charlotte, Highlands, Lake, Levy, Marion & Polk	2379 Broad Street Brooksville, FL 34604-6899 352/796-7211 800/423-1476 (Florida only)
South Florida WMD	Broward, Collier, Dade, Glades, Hendry, Lee, Martin, Monroe, Palm Beach, St. Lucie, and portions of Charlotte, Highlands, Okeechobee, Orange, Osceola & Polk	3301 GunClub Road West Palm Beach, FL 33406-3089 561/686-8800 800/432-2045 (Florida only)

*The WMD district map is located at: <http://www.dep.state.fl.us/secretary/watman/>

Figure 12-2 State Permitting Information Sources (Page 2 of 3)

5) Section 373.413(6), F.S., describes FDOT's flexibility in their stormwater management design. The statute can be found within:

<http://www.flsenate.gov/Laws/Statutes/2012/373.413>

6) More information on SWERP is available on the DEP website, including links to applicable rules and application forms:

<http://www.dep.state.fl.us/water/wetlands/swerp>

National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES)

The NPDES Construction Generic Permit (CGP), administered by DEP, can be found at: <http://www.dep.state.fl.us/water/stormwater/npdes/construction1.htm>

Florida Coastal Management Program

Florida Coastal Management Program Guide at:

https://www.dep.state.fl.us/cmp/publications/FCMP_Program_Guide_2014.pdf

Class V Stormwater Well Permits

Class V Stormwater Well Permits are regulated under DEP's Aquifer Protection program. More information about Class V Stormwater permits can be found at:

<http://dep.state.fl.us/water/uic/forms.htm>

State Programmatic General Permit

<http://www.dep.state.fl.us/water/wetlands/erp/spgp.htm>

Figure 12-2 State Permitting Information Sources (Page 3 of 3)

Wildlife permitting information can be obtained from the following sources:

Animal species regulated by **Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC)**, plant species regulated by the **Florida Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services (FDACS)**, and further species specific information, expert interviews, habitat or GIS data can be found in Part 2, Chapter 27, Protected Species and Habitat, of the PD&E Manual.

Osprey Permitting:

- 1) State permits to take active and inactive osprey nests are issued for the Executive Director of the Commission by the Section Leader of the Species Conservation Planning Section
Division of Habitat and Species Conservation
620 South Meridian Street, Mail Station 2A
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-1600
- 2) Osprey nest removal policies can be found at <http://myfwc.com/media/2887096/OspreyPolicies.pdf>
- 3) Requests for nest removal permits for active or inactive nests may be applied for on-line at <http://myfwc.com/license/wildlife/protected-wildlife/>
- 4) Federal permits to remove active osprey nests are issued by the:

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Region IV
Division of Law Enforcement
Special Agent in Charge
1875 Century Boulevard
Atlanta, Georgia 30345
(404) 679-7049
- 5) No federal incidental take permits are currently available for the take of active osprey nests. USFWS should be contacted to discuss permitting potential/strategy. Refer to the appropriate link for contact information:

North Florida Ecological Services Field Office
<http://www.fws.gov/northflorida/>

Panama City Ecological Services Field Office
<http://www.fws.gov/PanamaCity/>

South Florida Ecological Services Field Office
<http://www.fws.gov/verobeach/>

Figure 12-3 Protected Wildlife Permitting Information Sources

Burrowing Owl Permitting:

- 1) State burrowing owl permits are issued only for the removal of inactive owl nests (burrows). Applications are submitted on line at a link included at the bottom of the following link: <http://myfwc.com/media/290095/buowguidelines2009.pdf>
- 2) No federal incidental take permits are currently available for the take of active burrowing owl nests (burrows). USFWS should be contacted at the appropriate link to discuss permitting potential/strategy:

North Florida Ecological Services Field Office
<http://www.fws.gov/northflorida/>

Panama City Ecological Services Field Office
<http://www.fws.gov/PanamaCity/>

South Florida Ecological Services Field Office
<http://www.fws.gov/verobeach/>

Bald Eagle Permitting:

- 1) State bald eagle permitting guidelines describing eagle nest protection zones, allowed uses within those zones, and overall state eagle permitting program are found in the following link:
<http://myfwc.com/license/wildlife/protected-wildlife/eagle-permits/>
- 2) Federal bald eagle permit application for eagle depredation permits (this includes disturbance, harassment, and/or trap-relocate) can be found at <http://www.fws.gov/forms/3-200-16.pdf>. The web site includes a list of the USFWS regional permitting offices that are available to provide assistance in the permitting process.
- 3) The application for an eagle disturbance permit, including a fact sheet of the most commonly asked questions about this permit type, can be found at <http://www.fws.gov/forms/3-200-71.pdf>. The web site includes a list of the USFWS regional permitting offices that are available to provide assistance in the permitting process.

Gopher Tortoise Permitting:

Gopher tortoises are protected by Florida state law. The Gopher Tortoise Permitting Guidelines, which include links to specific permit types, can be found at:
<http://myfwc.com/license/wildlife/gopher-tortoise-permits/>

Figure 12-3 Protected Wildlife Permitting Information Sources (Page 2 of 3)

Incidental Take Permitting:

Additional information on Habitat Conservation Plans and incidental take permits is available on the USFWS Ecological Services site:

<http://www.fws.gov/southeast/es/hcp2.htm> and in the online FWC Florida Wildlife Conservation Guide: <http://myfwc.com/conservation/value/fwcg/>

Figure 12-3 Protected Wildlife Permitting Information Sources (Page 3 of 3)

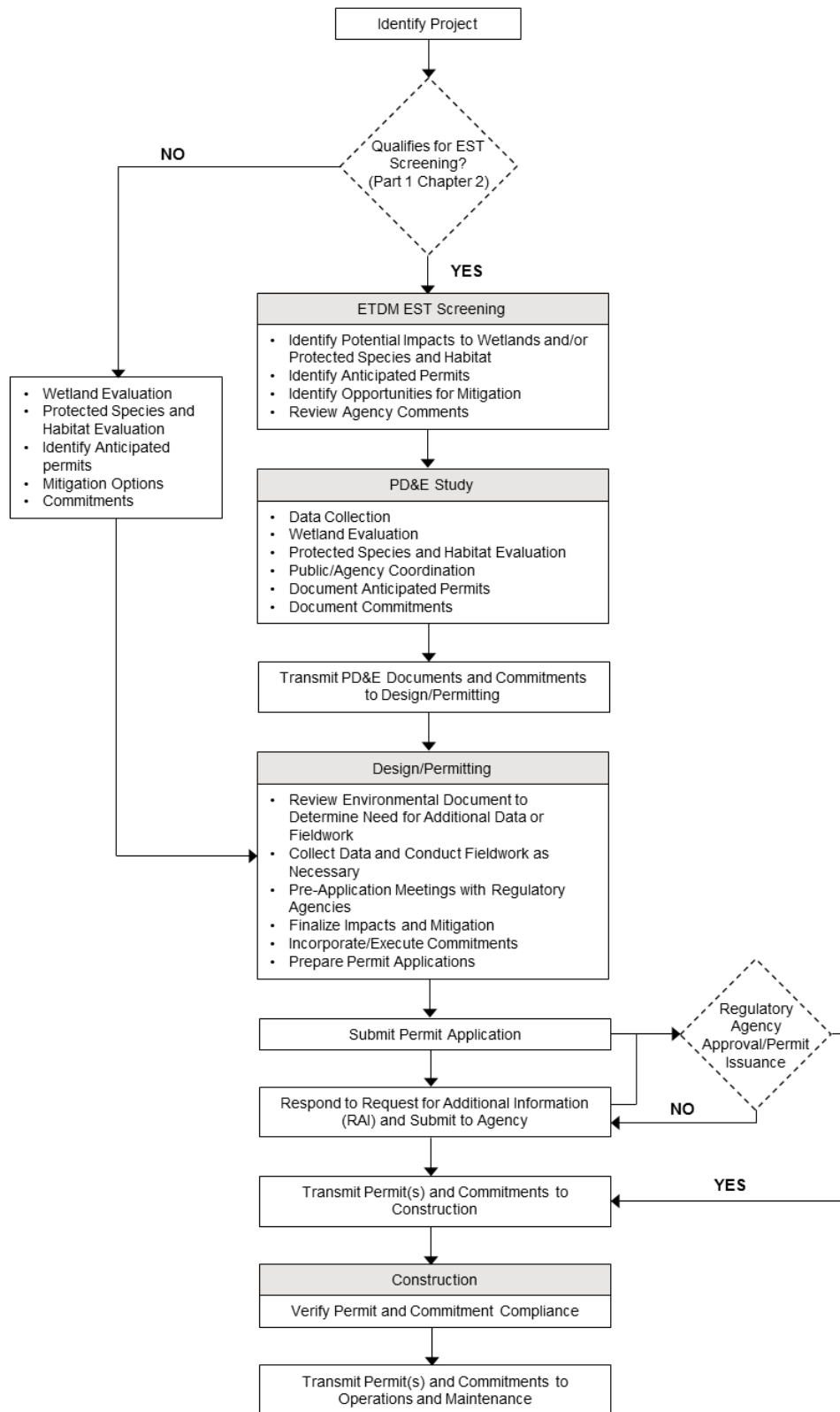


Figure 12-4 Typical Permitting Process

STATE OF FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
PERMIT TRANSMITTAL MEMORANDUM

650-040-01
CONSTRUCTION
02/12

DATE: _____

TO: DISTRICT CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER

FROM: _____
District Permit Coordinator

PERMITS ATTACHED FOR: _____ THE FOLLOWING PERMITS ARE REQUIRED FOR THIS PROJECT:
Financial Project No.: _____ FDEP ; USACE ; USCG ; WMD ;
Federal Aid No.: _____ LOCAL ; _____ ;
County: _____ ; _____ .
Description: _____

The valid permits are attached. Please note the "particular and specific conditions" and the expiration dates. Construction Engineer: Please comply with all permit conditions. Please provide me with copies of all permitted work started and permitted work completed notices you send to regulatory agencies. Please notify me six (6) months before the permit expiration date if it will occur prior to completion of the permitted work.

TOTAL STATUS OF PERMITS: CLEAR PENDING MODIFIED EXTENDED

Remarks: _____
For each permit, indicate below AGENCY and permit TYPE (NW, GP, IND, etc.):

_____ Permit No. _____ ; Type: _____ ; Expiration Date: _____
 Permit Pending Permit in hand
Remarks: _____

_____ Permit No. _____ ; Type: _____ ; Expiration Date: _____
 Permit Pending Permit in hand
Remarks: _____

_____ Permit No. _____ ; Type: _____ ; Expiration Date: _____
 Permit Pending Permit in hand
Remarks: _____

_____ Permit No. _____ ; Type: _____ ; Expiration Date: _____
 Permit Pending Permit in hand
Remarks: _____

_____ Permit No. _____ ; Type: _____ ; Expiration Date: _____
 Permit Pending Permit in hand
Remarks: _____

CC: DISTRICT OFFICE NO. _____

- District Drainage Engineer
- District Central File
- District Design Engineer
- District Project Manager
(Legible permit in contract file)
- District Maintenance Engineer
- District Production Mgmt (copy this memo only)
- District ROW - State Lands Acq.
- District Specifications Engineer
- Other _____
- Other _____

CENTRAL OFFICE

- FHWA (by separate letter)
- Other _____

<http://www2.dot.state.fl.us/proceduraldocuments/forms/informs/65004001.pdf>

Figure 12-5 Permit Transmittal Memorandum