



May 5, 2021

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*Managing fish and wildlife resources for their long-term well-being and the benefit of people.*

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Jason Watts  
Director, Office of Environmental Management  
Florida Department of Transportation  
605 Suwannee Street, MS 37  
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0450  
[Jason.Watts@dot.state.fl.us](mailto:Jason.Watts@dot.state.fl.us)

Re: The Florida Department of Transportation's (FDOT) Programmatic Approach for Minor Transportation Activities and Programmatic Approach for Transportation Work Activities with the Panama City Crayfish Range, Bay County, Florida

Dear Mr. Watts,

The Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) provided the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) a *Programmatic Approach for Minor Transportation Activities* and a *Programmatic Approach for Transportation Work Activities with the Panama City Crayfish Range, Bay County, Florida*. These documents address routine maintenance and modernization activities carried out by FDOT within existing transportation rights-of-way where no significant effects are anticipated for specified federally or state-listed species protected under Chapter 68A-27, Florida Administrative Code. Species and activities that do not fall under this programmatic approach will continue to be reviewed by Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) staff as part of the standard review processes for applications under the Environmental Resource Permit and the State 404 Permit Programs.

FWC staff worked closely with FDOT during development of these documents regarding state listed species potentially affected by these project activities and reviewed the concurrence provided by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service on April 13, 2021. These programmatic approaches should streamline and expedite consultation for minor activities and allow for better allocation of staff resources towards complex projects. The conditions outlined in these documents are fully protective of state imperiled species potentially affected by the minor activities covered by this approach. This process also aligns with language included in the Memorandum of Understanding for the State of Florida's assumption of the Clean Water Act, Section 404 Program between the FWC, the USFWS, and the FDEP and is expected to create much needed efficiencies in State 404 Permit review process.

FWC appreciates opportunity to continue working with FDOT, FDEP, and the USFWS on programmatic approaches for efficient permitting while protecting imperiled species. FWC staff will continue working with the FDOT to protect federally and state-listed throughout the state. If you have any questions, please contact me at (850) 413-6966 or by email at [Jason.Hight@MyFWC.com](mailto:Jason.Hight@MyFWC.com).

Sincerely,

Jason Hight  
Land Use Planning Program Administrator  
Office of Conservation Planning Services

cc: Mary Duncan, FDEP, [Mary.J.Duncan@FloridaDEP.gov](mailto:Mary.J.Duncan@FloridaDEP.gov)

Name of Addressee

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Date

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