



U. S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Highway Administration
Florida Division
227 N. Bronough Street, Suite 2015
Tallahassee, Florida 32301
(850) 942-9650



March 3, 2003

IN REPLY

REFER TO: HPR-FL

Mr. Sam D. Hamilton
Regional Director, SE Region
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
1875 Century Blvd NE, Suite 400
Atlanta, GA 30345

RECEIVED

MAR 03 2003

Dear Mr. Hamilton:

ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT OFFICE

Subject: Designation of a Non-Federal Representative to Conduct Informal Consultation Under Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act

Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended, requires Federal agencies to ensure that their actions are not likely to jeopardize the continued existence of endangered or threatened species, or result in the destruction or adverse modification of a critical habitat of such species.

In implementing Section 7, 50 CFR 402.08 provides an opportunity for a Federal agency to designate a non-Federal representative to conduct informal consultation or prepare a biological assessment. Based on these provisions, we hereby designate the Florida Department of Transportation to conduct informal endangered species consultation on behalf of our office.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Mr. George Hadley at (850) 942-9650, extension 3011.

Sincerely,

/s/George B. Hadley
For: James E. St. John
Division Administrator

cc: Mr. Leroy Irwin, FDOT (MS-37)
Ms. Gail Carmody, USFWS, Project Leader, NW Florida
Mr. Dave Hankla, USFWS, Field Supervisor, N. Florida
Mr. Jay Slack, USFWS, Field Supervisor, S. Florida