



IN REPLY REFER TO:

United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

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July 22, 2005

Mr. Michael R. Barnett, P.E. Chief
Florida Department of Environmental Protection
Bureau of Beaches and Coastal Systems
3900 Commonwealth Boulevard, Mail Station 300
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-3000

Re: Emergency Response to Hurricane Dennis
Escambia, Santa Rosa, Okaloosa, Walton,
Bay, Gulf, and Franklin Counties, Florida

Dear Mr. Barnett:

This is in regard to the July 13, 2005, letter from the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission that provided best management practices (BMPs) for post Hurricane Dennis emergency response activities covered under Emergency Order (OGC 05-1700) that would minimize impacts to coastal threatened and endangered species such as marine turtles, beach mice, and shorebirds. The FWC coordinated the BMPs with the Fish and Wildlife Service. We concurred provided that the BMPs were implemented, the post storm response activities covered under the Emergency Order would not likely adversely affect federally protected species.

A correction is needed under the Road Repair section the Service provided to FWC concerning the use of hay bales and road shoulder material in beach and dune habitats. The changes are indicated in bold.

8. Road repair and reconstruction. These guidelines are intended to facilitate emergency road repair and clean-up post hurricane Ivan. They do not apply to the construction of new roads or the expansion of existing roads. Permanent road repair designs should be coordinated with both FWC and FWS.

- 8.1. All repairs should occur within or as close as possible to the footprint of the original road.
- 8.2. Staging/storage areas should be identified for construction activities and should be located outside of existing/remaining beach and dune habitat.
- 8.3. Parking areas should be identified for construction crews and should be located outside of existing/remaining beach and dune habitat.
- 8.4. No clay materials should be used in construction, unless approved by the FWS or FWC.

- 8.4. No clay materials should be used in construction, unless approved by the FWS or FWC.
- 8.5. No fill material should be deposited on or removed from existing/remaining beach and dune habitat. Fill material and hay bales must be clean of noxious weeds. **No hay bales should be used in dune habitats.** No fertilizer or lime will be applied.
- 8.6. Where practical, road shoulders should be planted only with native vegetation; turf grass and/or sod should not be used.
- 8.7. **In areas known to be occupied by beach mice, white Bahama Rock should be used for road shoulders.**
- 8.8. **Road shoulder** material should be placed no further than 3 feet from the pavement in areas known to be occupied by beach mice.

We apologize for the inconvenience and request DEP facilitate the distribution of this correction to the local governments and other affected parties. Please contact Lorna Patrick of this office at ext. 229 if you have any questions concerning this correction.

Sincerely yours,



Janet Mizzi
Deputy Project Leader

cc:

Sandy MacPherson, FWS, Jacksonville, FL
AnnMarie Maharaj, FWS, Jacksonville, FL
Kipp Frolich, FWC, Imperiled Species Mgt., Tallahassee, FL
John Himes, FWC, Panama City, FL