

## **APPENDIX H**

### **Eastern Indigo Snake Standard Protection Measures**

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

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

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

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

**POSTER INFORMATION**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**IF YOU SEE A LIVE EASTERN INDIGO SNAKE ON THE SITE:**

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

**IF YOU SEE A DEAD EASTERN INDIGO SNAKE ON THE SITE:**

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

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

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

## **PRE-CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITIES**

1. The applicant or designated agent will post educational posters in the construction office and throughout the construction site, including any access roads. The posters must be clearly visible to all construction staff. A sample poster is attached.
2. Prior to the onset of construction activities, the applicant/designated agent will conduct a meeting with all construction staff (annually for multi-year projects) to discuss identification of the snake, its protected status, what to do if a snake is observed within the project area, and applicable penalties that may be imposed if state and/or federal regulations are violated. An educational brochure including color photographs of the snake will be given to each staff member in attendance and additional copies will be provided to the construction superintendent to make available in the onsite construction office (a final brochure for Plan compliance, to be printed double-sided on 8.5" x 11" paper and then properly folded, is attached). Photos of eastern indigo snakes may be accessed on USFWS and/or FWC websites.
3. Construction staff will be informed that in the event that an eastern indigo snake (live or dead) is observed on the project site during construction activities, all such activities are to cease until the established procedures are implemented according to the Plan, which includes notification of the appropriate USFWS Field Office. The contact information for the USFWS is provided on the referenced posters and brochures.

## **DURING CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITIES**

1. During initial site clearing activities, an onsite observer may be utilized to determine whether habitat conditions suggest a reasonable probability of an eastern indigo snake sighting (example: discovery of snake sheds, tracks, lots of refugia and cavities present in the area of clearing activities, and presence of gopher tortoises and burrows).
2. If an eastern indigo snake is discovered during gopher tortoise relocation activities (i.e. burrow excavation), the USFWS shall be contacted within one business day to obtain further guidance which may result in further project consultation.
3. Periodically during construction activities, the applicant's designated agent should visit the project area to observe the condition of the posters and Plan materials, and replace them as needed. Construction personnel should be reminded of the instructions (above) as to what is expected if any eastern indigo snakes are seen.

## **POST CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITIES**

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

**APPENDIX H1**  
**SWPPP Template**

## **CONSTRUCTION STORMWATER POLLUTION PREVENTION PLAN TEMPLATE**

The following template may be used as a general guide for development of a Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) for construction activities. This template may not contain all applicable requirements for all construction sites. Please refer to the Department's Generic Permit for Stormwater Discharge from Large and Small Construction Activities, DEP Document 62-621.300(4)(a) to verify that you are meeting all permit requirements. Part V of the above referenced generic permit specifically lists requirements of the Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan.

- The SWPPP shall be completed prior to the submittal of the Notice of Intent (NOI) to be covered under the Department's Generic Permit for Stormwater Discharge from Large and Small Construction Activities.
  
- The SWPPP shall be amended whenever there is a change in design, construction, operation, or maintenance, which has a significant effect on the potential for discharge of pollutants to surface waters of the state or a Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4). The SWPPP also shall be amended if it proves to be ineffective in significantly reducing pollutants from sources identified in Part V.D.1. of the permit. The SWPPP also shall be amended to indicate any new contractor and/or subcontractor that will implement any measure of the SWPPP. All amendments shall be signed, dated, and kept as attachments to the original SWPPP.

## Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan

"I certify under penalty of law that this document and all attachments were prepared under my direction or supervision in accordance with a system designed to assure that qualified personnel properly gathered and evaluated the information submitted. Based on my inquiry of the person or persons who manage the system, or those persons directly responsible for gathering the information, the information submitted is, to the best of my knowledge and belief, true, accurate, and complete. I am aware that there are significant penalties for submitting false information, including the possibility of fine and imprisonment for knowing violations."

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name (Operator and/or Responsible Authority)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

<b>Project Name and location information:</b>	
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**A site map must be developed and must contain, at a minimum, the following information:**

1. Drainage patterns,
2. Approximate slopes after major grading activities,
3. Areas of soil disturbance,
4. Outline all areas that are not to be disturbed,
5. Location of all major structural and non-structural controls,
6. The location of expected stabilization practices,
7. Wetlands and surface waters, and
8. Locations where stormwater may discharge to a surface water or MS4.

**Site Description**

Describe the nature of the construction activity:	
Describe the intended sequence of major soil disturbing activities:	
Total area of the site:	Acres
Total area of the site to be disturbed:	Acres
Existing data describing the soil or quality of any stormwater discharge from the site:	
Estimate the drainage area size for each discharge point:	
Latitude and longitude of each discharge point and identify the receiving water or MS4 for each discharge point:	

Give a detailed description of all controls, Best Management Practices (BMPs) and measures that will be implemented at the construction site for each activity identified in the intended sequence of major soil disturbing activities section. Provide time frames in which the controls will be implemented. NOTE: All controls shall be consistent with performance standards for erosion and sediment control and stormwater treatment set forth in s. 62-40.432, F.A.C., the applicable Stormwater or Environmental Resource Permitting requirements of the Department or a Water Management District, and the guidelines contained in the Florida Development Manual: A Guide to Sound Land and Water Management (DEP, 1988) and any subsequent amendments.

Describe all temporary and permanent stabilization practices. Stabilization practices include temporary seeding, mulching, permanent seeding, geotextiles, sod stabilization, vegetative buffer strips, protection of trees, vegetative preservations, etc.

Describe all structural controls to be implemented to divert stormwater flow from exposed soils and structural practices to store flows, retain sediment on-site or in any other way limit stormwater runoff. These controls include silt fences, earth dikes, diversions, swales, sediment traps, check dams, subsurface drains, pipe slope drains, level spreaders, storm drain inlet protection, rock outlet protection, reinforced soil retaining systems, gabions, coagulating agents and temporary or permanent sediment basins.

Describe all sediment basins to be implemented for areas that will disturb 10 or more acres at one time. The sediment basins (or an equivalent alternative) should be able to provide 3,600 cubic feet of storage for each acre drained. Temporary sediment basins (or an equivalent alternative) are recommended for drainage areas under 10 acres.

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Describe all permanent stormwater management controls such as, but not limited to, detention or retention systems or vegetated swales that will be installed during the construction process.

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**Describe in detail controls for the following potential pollutants**

Waste disposal, this may include construction debris, chemicals, litter, and sanitary wastes:	
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Offsite vehicle tracking from construction entrances/exits:	
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The proper application rates of all fertilizers, herbicides and pesticides used at the construction site:	
The storage, application, generation and migration of all toxic substances:	
Other:	

Provide a detailed description of the maintenance plan for all structural and non-structural controls to assure that they remain in good and effective operating condition.

Inspections: Describe the inspection and inspection documentation procedures, as required by Part V.D.4. of the permit. Inspections must occur at least once a week and within 24 hours of the end of a storm event that is 0.50 inches or greater (see attached form).

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Identify and describe all sources of non-stormwater discharges as allowed in Part IV.A.3. of the permit. Flows from fire fighting activities do not have to be listed or described.

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**This SWPPP must clearly identify, for each measure identified within the SWPPP, the contractor(s) or subcontractor(s) that will implement each measure. All contractor(s) and subcontractor(s) identified in the SWPPP must sign the following certification:**

“I certify under penalty of law that I understand, and shall comply with, the terms and conditions of the State of Florida Generic Permit for Stormwater Discharge from Large and Small Construction Activities and this Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan prepared thereunder.”

Name	Title	Company Name, Address and Phone Number	Date

## Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan Inspection Report Form

**Inspections must occur at least once a week and within 24 hours of the end of a storm event that is 0.50 inches or greater.**

Project Name: \_\_\_\_\_

FDEP NPDES Stormwater Identification Number: FLR10 \_\_\_\_\_

Location	Rain data	Type of control (see below)	Date installed / modified	Current Condition (see below)	Corrective Action / Other Remarks

Condition Code:

G = Good

M = Marginal, needs maintenance or replacement soon

P = Poor, needs immediate maintenance or replacement

C = Needs to be cleaned    O = Other

Control Type Codes

1. Silt Fence	10. Storm drain inlet protection	19. Reinforced soil retaining system	28. Tree protection
2. Earth dikes	11. Vegetative buffer strip	20. Gabion	29. Detention pond
3. Structural diversion	12. Vegetative preservation area	21. Sediment Basin	30. Retention pond
4. Swale	13. Retention Pond	22. Temporary seed / sod	31. Waste disposal / housekeeping
5. Sediment Trap	14. Construction entrance stabilization	23. Permanent seed / sod	32. Dam
6. Check dam	15. Perimeter ditch	24. Mulch	33. Sand Bag
7. Subsurface drain	16. Curb and gutter	25. Hay Bales	34. Other
8. Pipe slope drain	17. Paved road surface	26. Geotextile	
9. Level spreaders	18. Rock outlet protection	27. Rip-rap	

Inspector Information:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Qualification

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

The above signature also shall certify that this facility is in compliance with the Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan and the State of Florida Generic Permit for Stormwater Discharge from Large and Small Construction Activities if there are not any incidents of non-compliance identified above.

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"I certify under penalty of law that this document and all attachments were prepared under my direction or supervision in accordance with a system designed to assure that qualified personnel properly gathered and evaluated the information submitted. Based on my inquiry of the person or persons who manage the system, or those persons directly responsible for gathering the information, the information submitted is, to the best of my knowledge and belief, true, accurate, and complete. I am aware that there are significant penalties for submitting false information, including the possibility of fine and imprisonment for knowing violations."

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name (Responsible Authority)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date