Appendix A: Council Member Applicant and Proposal Information Summary Sheet

Council Member: Department of the Army Designee: Jo Ellen Darcy, Assistant Secretary for the Army (Civil Works)	Point of Contact: April Patterson Phone: (904) 707-8796 Email: April.N.Patterson@usace.army.mil

Project Identification

Project Title: Egmont Key Restoration and Storm Damage Reduction — Project

State(s): Florida — County/City/Region: Hillsborough/Tampa Regional Area

General Location: *Projects must be located within the Gulf Coast Region as defined in RESTORE Act. (attach map or photos, if applicable)*

Project Description

RESTORE Goals: *Identify all RESTORE Act goals this project supports. Place a **P** for Primary Goal, and **S** for secondary goals.*

- P Restore and Conserve Habitat
- S Restore Water Quality
- S Restore and Revitalize the Gulf Economy
- S Replenish and Protect Living Coastal and Marine Resources
- S Enhance Community Resilience

RESTORE Objectives: *Identify all RESTORE Act objectives this project supports. Place a **P** for Primary Objective, and **S** for secondary objectives.*

- P Restore, Enhance, and Protect Habitats
- ___ Restore, Improve, and Protect Water Resources
- S Protect and Restore Living Coastal and Marine Resources
- S Restore and Enhance Natural Processes and Shorelines
- S Promote Community Resilience
- S Promote Natural Resource Stewardship and Environmental Education
- S Improve Science-Based Decision-Making Processes

RESTORE Priorities: *Identify all RESTORE Act priorities that this project supports.*

- X Priority 1: Projects that are projected to make the greatest contribution
- X Priority 2: Large-scale projects and programs that are projected to substantially contribute to restoring
- ___ Priority 3: Projects contained in existing Gulf Coast State comprehensive plans for the restoration ….
- X Priority 4: Projects that restore long-term resiliency of the natural resources, ecosystems, fisheries …

RESTORE Commitments: *Identify all RESTORE Comprehensive Plan commitments that this project supports.*

- X Commitment to Science-based Decision Making
- X Commitment to Regional Ecosystem-based Approach to Restoration
- X Commitment to Engagement, Inclusion, and Transparency
- X Commitment to Leverage Resources and Partnerships
- X Commitment to Delivering Results and Measuring Impacts

RESTORE Proposal Type and Phases: *Please identify which type and phase best suits this proposal.*

X Project ___ Planning ___ Technical Assistance X Implementation ___ Program

Project Cost and Duration

Project Cost Estimate: **Total** : Initial Construction Cost: $25,000,000 Periodic Nourishment (O&M) $13,550,000	$ 38,550,000

Project Timing Estimate:

Date Anticipated to Start: May / 2015

Time to Completion: 11 yrs months / years

Anticipated Project Lifespan: 18 years

2. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

This proposed habitat restoration project will nourish the beaches with approximately 676,000 cubic yards of material along the length of the western shoreline of the island and will construct a support structure on the north tip of the island. The fill would be placed to construct a berm height of elevation +6.0 feet NAVD 88. This work will beneficially use dredged material when possible to repair shoreline recession. The project will provide approximately 39 acres of coastal habitat restoration (through fill placement). After the initial nourishment and construction event, the beach will need re-nourished approximately every seven years.

Egmont Key is an island located at the mouth of Tampa Bay on the Gulf of Mexico coast of Florida near the cities of St. Petersburg and Tampa and offshore of Fort DeSoto State Park. Because the island is largely undeveloped, it is an excellent habitat for nesting birds, sea turtles, and other wildlife. The reestablished beach and sand dune system will provide new nesting opportunities for shorebirds, sea turtles, and additional wintering habitat for the endangered piping plover. As a result, the Egmont Key project's primary RESTORE Act goal is to Restore and Conserve Habitat and secondarily Replenish and Protect Living Coastal and Marine Resources.

Monitoring of the project will include profile surveys and aerial photographs, and beach sediment sampling to ensure the fill material characteristics match the native beach and to establish the profile shape and fill volume requirements of future renourishments. Nesting surveys of shorebirds and sea turtles in the years following construction will provide an indication of the successfulness of the project to these species: piping plover, red knot, and various sea turtle species.

The Egmont Key Restoration and Storm Damage Reduction project will prevent the loss of irreplaceable nationally significant cultural resources vital to the Seminole Tribe of Florida; national historic properties; and other resources important to the regional community. As a result of these resources and uses for the island, the RESTORE goals to Enhance Community Resilience and Restore and Revitalize the Gulf Economy.

The Egmont Key Restoration and Storm Damage Reduction project will meet the following RESTORE Council objectives: Restore, Enhance, and Protect Habitats; Protect and Restore Living Coastal Marine Restoration; Restore and Enhance Natural Processes and Shorelines; Promote Community Resilience, and Promote Natural Resource Stewardship and Environmental Education.

Egmont Key preservation is supported by the Seminole Tribe of Florida, the State of Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) Division of Parks and Recreation, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), the National Marine Fisheries Services (NMFS), and the Tampa Port Authority (TPA), the Tampa Bay Bar Pilots Association, the Egmont Key Alliance, as well as several Congressmen.

3. PROPOSAL: EGMONT KEY RESTORATION AND STORM DAMAGE REDUCTION PROJECT

1. Introduction and Background

This proposed habitat restoration project will nourish the beaches along the length of the western shoreline of the island and will construct a support structure on the north tip of the island. This work will beneficially use dredged material when possible to repair shoreline recession. The reestablished beach and sand dune system will provide new nesting opportunities for shorebirds, sea turtles, and additional wintering habitat for the endangered piping plover. Secondarily, the Egmont Key Restoration and Storm Damage Reduction project will prevent the loss of irreplaceable nationally significant cultural resources vital to the Seminole Tribe of Florida; national historic properties; and other resources important to the regional community.

Egmont Key is an island located at the mouth of the Tampa Bay, Hillsborough County, Florida. The Egmont Key National Wildlife Refuge is part of the U.S. National Wildlife Refuge System, and is administered as part of the Crystal River National Wildlife Refuge Complex. Currently almost completely undeveloped, Egmont Key is a unique and valuable historic, environmental, educational, and recreational treasure. The island has experienced beach erosion resulting in damage to historic structures on the island, the beach and sand dune system, the island's nesting wildlife, and the shoreline vegetation.

There are no bridges connecting Egmont Key to the mainland. The island is composed of forested and cleared uplands as well as sandy beaches on its perimeter. The general project area is comprised of sandy coastal beach. Of the 539 acres originally surveyed in 1877, approximately 280 acres of dry land remain. As a result of this dramatic decrease in acreage, various natural and historic resources are now threatened by storm induced and long-term erosion.

As one of the few undeveloped coastal areas in the Tampa Bay region, Egmont Key provides important habitat for a number of species listed as threatened and imperiled at both the state and Federal level. Several species of sea turtles that are listed under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) regularly nest at the island; however, it is often necessary to relocate nests placed in areas with extremely eroded beaches that are at risk of being inundated by high tides. The island is designated under the ESA as critical habitat for the wintering piping plover, and large groups of red knot (a candidate species under the ESA) also winter there. A thriving population of gopher tortoises makes their home at Egmont Key in the absence of many of their typical predators. Numerous species of shorebirds nest in areas where sand still remains on the beach, but they are limited to the extreme southern portion of the island and a few other spots where sand remains from previous beneficial placement of maintenance dredged materials. Although their habitat has greatly decreased in recent years, over 31,000 pairs of birds including laughing gulls, royal terns, sandwich terns, brown pelicans, white ibis, and American oystercatchers nested in the summer of 2014.

The beach will be nourished with approximately 676,000 cubic yards of material, making a total 125-foot berm width spanning the 1.82 mile length of the island. Whenever possible, the project may receive beneficial use dredged material during operation and maintenance dredging of the Tampa Harbor Federal Navigation Project. The last beneficial use placement was in 2006 and the next beneficial use placement is expected to begin in November 2014. The project may also beneficially use material from portions of Manatee and St. Petersburg Federal Navigation Projects. When beneficial use dredged material is not available, the project may use the Egmont Shoals borrow area containing approximately 20 million cubic yards of beach quality material. The project will provide approximately 39 acres of coastal habitat restoration (through fill placement). After the initial nourishment and construction event, the beach will need re-nourished approximately every seven years.

Egmont Key was listed on the National Register of Historic Places (NR) in 1978. Fort Dade has been, and is still being subjected to beach erosion. The severe erosion at the island has reduced the width of the island by almost half, causing batteries located at the southern end (Burchsted and Page) that were once located along the shoreline to now be located several hundred feet offshore. The northern batteries (Mellon, Howard, and McIntosh) are still located on land, but are threatened by the ongoing erosion. Two specific historic properties, the Egmont Key Lighthouse Reservation Cemetery and the Egmont Key Cemetery (a.k.a., Fort Dade Cemetery) are also listed on the NR. Graves in the Fort Dade Cemetery were re-interred in the Barrancas National Cemetery in Pensacola, and two unrecorded graves were moved inland due to recent erosion, which may have completely destroyed the cemetery. The Lighthouse Reservation Cemetery, located in the north eastern portion of the island, is not being threatened by erosion at this time. Five members of the Seminole tribe are interned at the Lighthouse Reservation Cemetery, as well as a number of soldiers and several family members of lighthouse keepers. The National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) of 1966, as amended, states that it is the policy of the Federal Government to provide 'leadership in the preservation of the prehistoric and historic resources of the Unites States ... " further identifying the need for restoration.

The proposed Egmont Key Restoration and Storm Damage Reduction project will provide environmental and historical education outreach opportunities associated with the Chassohowitzka National Wildlife Refuge Complex. The increase in wildlife and beach improvements may also improve local tourism opportunities. Additionally, the project enhancements may allow for easier application of beneficial use dredged material placement. The suitability for placement and the proximity to the three federal navigation harbor projects will reduce the cost of dredging and boost the local and national economy.

2. Implementation methodology

To protect the beach, the project proposes to build a support structure, such as a sheet pile wall, from State Monument R-2B on the north tip of the island 1595 feet south to monument R-3.5. The beach will be nourished with approximately 676,000 cubic yards of material; 226,000 cubic yards in 25-foot increments with advanced nourishment of

450,000 cubic yards of material making a total 125-foot berm width. The material will be placed between monuments R-2B and R-10 (see Figure 5). The fill would be placed to construct a berm height of elevation +6.0 feet NAVD 88. The material would be dredged from either the Egmont Shoal or from maintenance dredging of a Federal Harbor Navigation Project and transported to the site (see Figure 2).

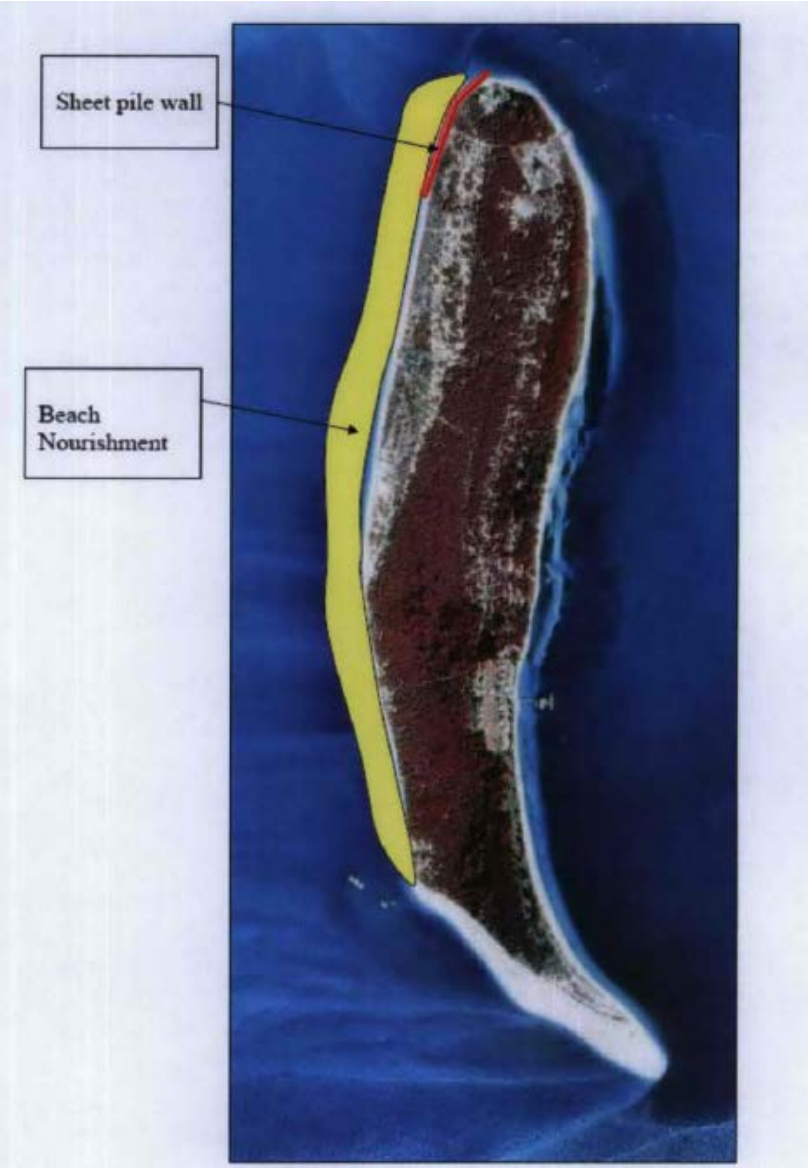

Figure 1. Proposed locations of the beach nourishment and the support structure.

The beach will need re-nourishment approximately every 7 years. If a hopper dredge is used, special conditions to protect sea turtles would be implemented. This would include a deflector attached to the draghead to ward off sea turtles on the bottom. A sea turtle observer will be employed to monitor for takes. In addition, operation data will be collected to ensure the equipment is operated properly. The beach placement will be monitored to ensure that the sand placed on the beach is not overly compacted to dissuade sea turtles from nesting. If sand is placed during sea turtle nesting season

April 1 through August 31, a nest relocation program will be instituted. If placement occurs during migratory bird nesting season, a special monitoring program will be implemented to protect active nests. Due to the sensitive nature of the historic structures, special construction techniques and cultural resources monitoring will occur while placing sand up to the top of the batteries.

The Egmont Shoal Borrow Area, located north of the entrance to Tampa Bay, is an established sand source that has been used for a number of Pinellas County beach projects (see Figure 7). The shoal has been developed in two parts composed of the western and eastern sides. The western side has been actively dredged in its northern half, leaving approximately 12 million cubic yards (mcy) remaining in the southern end. This is the area that would be used for this project. The eastern side was developed in 2000 and is to be used as a future source. This area contains approximately 20 mcy of beach quality material.

3. Monitoring and adaptive management of the project or program

a) Physical Monitoring

Physical monitoring of the recommended project is necessary to assess project performance and to ensure that project functionality is maintained. Profile surveys provide accurate assessments of beach fill volumes and basis for assessing post-construction beach fill adjustments, as well as variation in the profile shape due to seasonal changes and storms. The Florida Department of Environmental Protection issues water quality permits for beach fill projects, which generally require beach profile surveys to be conducted prior to construction, immediately post-construction, and annually thereafter. Other necessary monitoring efforts include bathymetric mapping of the borrow site and aerial photography of the beach fill project. The aerial photography is flown post-construction and annually in conjunction with the profile surveys. Beach sediment sampling is needed pre- and post-construction to provide information on native and fill material characteristics, beach profile shape, and fill volume requirements of future renourishments. Measured wind, wave, and water level information will be obtained from publicly available sources including the University of South Florida and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, who collect data in the Tampa Bay area on a routine basis.

b) Endangered Species Monitoring

To ensure the project meets the goal of restoring habitat, especially for the piping plover and sea turtles, a monitoring plan will be established. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) has issued programmatic biological opinions for both sea turtles and piping plover, which includes monitoring requirements for protecting critical habitat (USFWS 2011; USFWS 2013). Prior to construction, consultation with the USFWS will be initiated to develop an interagency monitoring team and develop a monitoring plan. Nesting surveys of sea turtles and shorebirds in the years following construction will provide an indication of the successfulness of the project to these species. In addition, surveys conducted twice a month from July through May for two years will provide

information on whether wintering species (including piping plover and red knot) are utilizing the newly constructed beach.

4. Measures of success for the proposed project or program

a) Physical Monitoring Success Criteria

Physical monitoring [described in Section 3.a)] will provide data to identify opportunities for improving the beach berm design following each nourishment event. Potential concerns include excessive scarping or ponding that may impact the protective functions of the nourished beach, decrease the recreational capacity of the beach, and reduce habitat value of the beach for nesting sea turtles.

b) Endangered Species Success Criteria

Endangered species monitoring [described in Section 3(b)] will identify any decreases in sea turtle nesting densities and in shorebird utilization of the beach that may be attributed to the nourishment project. Although lower sea turtle nesting numbers are typical the first year post-nourishment, nesting rates should return to pre-construction densities by the second year following nourishment. At Egmont Key, nesting densities along the western shoreline have declined tremendously in past years as the beach has disappeared. It is expected that nesting rates will be greater than pre-construction rates the first year post-construction with the restoration of the beach. Shorebird utilization of the beach, especially wintering shorebirds that primarily use the beach for foraging and roosting, will typically return to pre-construction numbers by the second year post-nourishment as well.

5. Risks and uncertainties of the proposed activities

The Jacksonville District has extensive experience placing sand on beaches through both shore protection projects and beneficial use of dredged material from navigation projects. The feasibility study performed in 2008 determined to use a sheet pile feature to best stabilize the beach associated with a high energy wave environment based on expert hydrologic modeling knowledge. The design will be updated to assess the most suitable support structure for this project. There is minimal risk associated with the proposed features and the sand placement.

6. Outreach and education opportunities

Egmont Key is a National Wildlife Refuge that provides habitat protecting many threatened and endangered species. The island also played a key role in American history from aiding the Civil War, to a quarantine site for the Spanish American War, and an intermittent site for Seminoles after the Third Seminole War. With such a diverse history and uniqueness of this island, various federal interests in this site (see Section 7) work together to provide educational signage for the sensitive wildlife and the numerous historical resources located at the island for visitors.

7. Leveraging of resources and partnerships

Egmont Key consists primarily of federally owned property (see Figure 8). The USFWS owns the southern two thirds of the island and established the Egmont Key National Wildlife Refuge as a sanctuary for nesting birds in 1974. There is limited public access to the National Wildlife Refuge. A portion of the USFWS land is managed by the State

of Florida as a State park. The northern end of the island belongs to the United States Coast Guard and contains a lighthouse and associated buildings. The remaining five acres in the east-central portion of the island are owned by Hillsborough County, Florida, and are utilized by the Tampa Bay Pilots Association (see Figure 8).

Several groups and agencies have been involved during the feasibility study phase and will continue to be engaged for support and partnership in order to implement the plan to restore and preserve Egmont Key. These groups include the Seminole Tribe of Florida, State of Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) Division of Parks and Recreation, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), the National Marine Fisheries Services (NMFS), and the Tampa Port Authority (TPA), Tampa Bay Bar Pilots Association, Egmont Key Alliance, as well as several Congressmen.

The State of Florida, Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) supports shore protection initiatives for critically eroding shorelines within the study area. The Division of Parks and Recreation within the DEP is a strong advocate of this project, as they operate the site and have devoted large amounts of time and effort to finding and restoring sites and facilities on Egmont Key.

Other resource agencies support beach nourishment with appropriate environmental considerations. As mentioned earlier, the USFWS issued programmatic biological opinions for sea turtles, piping plover, and piping plover critical habitat for beach placement projects. These opinions are appropriate to apply to this project. Minimal consultation with the USFWS is needed prior to construction. The USFWS strongly supports the protection on Egmont Key.

8. Proposal project/program benefits

The Egmont Key project will restore degraded beaches to provide habitat for many species as described in detailed above and also increase recreational visits. Additionally, the restoration and rehabilitation plan proposed will provide required protection for numerous historic sites at the island. The methods used to restore these beaches promote natural shoreline process to the maximum extent possible. A summary of how this project includes the goals and objectives pursuant to the Initial Comprehensive Plan of the RESTORE Council is stated below.

The Egmont Key project's primary RESTORE Act goal is to **Restore and Conserve Habitat** while the projects also meets several goals secondarily**, Replenish and Protect Living Coastal and Marine Resources, Enhance Community Resilience, and Restore and Revitalize the Gulf Economy.** Specific benefits of the project related to each of these goals are outlined below.

a) Restoring Coastal Habitat

This project will place fill material in the southern portion of the island, which does not receive maintenance dredging materials from the Tampa Harbor Federal Navigation Project. Shoaled materials in the federal channel are generally placed on the northern end of the island closest to the channel, which is the most cost-effective method of placement. The most critical erosion is occurring in the central portion of the island.

Most maintenance dredging events do not provide enough sand to fill the entire west side of the island; therefore, the northern portion receives the bulk of the maintenance materials and the center continues to erode. Large storm events already cause washovers of the center of the island, and there is a real concern that the island could be bisected by a major storm within a few years. If the island is bisected, it is likely that it will eventually disappear. Passage Key, also part of the Chassahowitzka National Wildlife Refuge complex administered by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, was a 64-acre refuge at the time of its designation in 1905. It is currently only 100 yards long at high tide, and Egmont Key may meet a similar fate if not protected.

b) Protecting Imperiled Species

There is no longer any beach habitat for nesting sea turtles, nesting shorebirds, and wintering shorebirds to utilize along the majority of Egmont Key's western shoreline. Beach nourishment using a compatible sand source will recreate this historically productive habitat for these species. In addition, maintaining the beach will stabilize the island and prevent the island from breaching in the center. This will ensure that habitat remains for the significant gopher tortoise population and for the other upland species located on the interior of the island.

Figure 2. Red knot, least tern, royal tern, and pelican utilizing the beach at Egmont Key.

c) Preserving America's Heritage

Historical resources and wildlife habitat on Egmont Key are threatened by both long-term shoreline erosion and potential storm-induced damages. Erosion and shoreline recession have rendered valuable cultural resources at Egmont Key increasingly vulnerable to damages to the point of eradication. Formulation of appropriate shore protection measures would result in preservation of national cultural resources important to the Seminole Tribe of Florida. The historic and archaeological resources

located on Egmont Key are numerous and unique. They reflect a wide range of US history, both civilian and military. Such assets are irreplaceable. There is an opportunity to implement a project to protect these unique resources for the public as well as provide environmental restoration.

d) Community Resilience and the Gulf Economy

The storm damage reduction aspects of the project will improve the stability of eco tourism companies who visit the island, benefit the Harbor Pilots who use the island to service the local major ports, and possibly provide larger regional protection from storms and wave energy.

Based on the detail noted above, the following objectives of the RESTORE Council would be met: **Restore, Enhance, and Protect Habitats; Protect and Restore Living Coastal Marine Restoration; Restore and Enhance Natural Processes and Shorelines; Promote Community Resilience, and Promote Natural Resource Stewardship and Environmental Education.**

4. LOCATION INFORMATION

Egmont Key is an island approximately 9600 feet (1.82 mi) long and 1400 feet (.27 mi) wide located at the mouth of Tampa Bay on the Gulf of Mexico coast of Florida. Egmont Key is located in Hillsborough County near the cities of St. Petersburg and Tampa and offshore of Fort DeSoto State Park.

Figure 3. Project Location Map.

5. HIGH LEVEL BUDGET NARRATIVE

Table below shows costs associated with Alternative 4, as summarized in the 2008 feasibility report. The costs noted below are based on FY08 price levels. At current price levels, initial construction of the project will be approximately $25M and periodic renourishment approximately $13.5M. Costs will be updated to current price levels prior to initiation of work.

Initial Construction Costs		Periodic Nourishment
Moblization/Demobilization	$4,000,000.00	$4,000,000.00
Site Clearing and Structure Construction	$3,000,000.00	
Beach Nourishment	$15,000,000.00	$8,000,000.00
Preconstruction Engineering & Design	$500,000.00	$450,000.00
Construction Management	$950,000.00	$550,000.00
Lands & Damages	$50,000.00	$50,000.00
Monitoring	$1,500,000.00	$500,000.00
Total Initial Cost	**$25,000,000.00**	**$13,550,000.00**

Appendix B

Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Council
Environmental Compliance Checklist

Please check all federal and state environmental compliance and permit requirements as appropriate to the proposed project/program

Environmental Compliance Type	**Yes**	**No**	**Applied For**	**N/A**
Federal				
National Marine Sanctuaries Act (NMSA)				X
Coastal Zone Management Act (CZMA)		X		
Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act	X			
Farmland Protection Policy Act (FPPA)				X
NEPA – Categorical Exclusion				X
NEPA – Environmental Assessment	X			
NEPA – Environmental Impact Statement				X
Clean Water Act – 404 – Individual Permit (USACOE)				X
Clean Water Act – 404 – General Permit(USACOE)				X
Clean Water Act – 404 – Letters of Permission(USACOE)				X
Clean Water Act – 401 – WQ certification		X		
Clean Water Act – 402 – NPDES				X
Rivers and Harbors Act – Section 10 (USACOE)				X
Endangered Species Act – Section 7 – Informal and Formal Consultation (NMFS, USFWS)		X		
Endangered Species Act – Section 7 - Biological Assessment (BOEM,USACOE)		X		
Endangered Species Act – Section 7 – Biological Opinion (NMFS, USFWS)		X		
Endangered Species Act – Section 7 – Permit for Take (NMFS, USFWS)	X			
Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) – Consultation (NMFS)		X		
Marine Mammal Protection Act – Incidental Take Permit (106) (NMFS, USFWS)				X
Migratory Bird Treaty Act (USFWS)		X		
Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act – Consultation and Planning (USFWS)				X
Marine Protection, Research and Sanctuaries Act – Section 103 permit (NMFS)				X
BOEM Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act – Section 8 OCS Lands Sand permit				X
NHPA Section 106 – Consultation and Planning ACHP, SHPO(s), and/or THPO(s)				X
NHPA Section 106 – Memorandum of Agreement/Programmatic Agreement	X			
Tribal Consultation (Government to Government)	X			
Coastal Barriers Resource Act – CBRS (Consultation)		X		
State				
As Applicable per State				X

7. DATA/INFORMATION SHARING PLAN

See Section 3., Monitoring and Adaptive Management, of the project for more information on data and results to be obtained from the project.

8. REFRENCE LIST OF LITERATURE CITED IN THE PROPOSAL

Brock,,J.C., J.A. Barras, and S.J.Williams. 2013. Introduction to the Special Issue on Understanding and Predicting Change in the Coastal Ecosystems of the Northern Gulf of Mexico. Journal of Coastal Research, SI 63, pp. 1-5.

Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Task Force (GCERTF). 2011. Gulf of Mexico Regional Ecosystem Restoration Strategy. www.epa.gov/gcertf/pdfs/GulfCoastRespor_Full_12-04_508-1.pdf.

Egmont Key, Florida, Hurricane and Storm Damage Reduction Feasibility Study with integrated Environmental Assessment. USACE (Jacksonville District). March 2008.

NOAA Fisheries. 2003. Gulf of Mexico Regional Biologic Opinion on Hopper Dredge Use for Maintenance Dredging of Channels and Sand Mining by Four USACE Gulf of Mexico Districts. November 19, 2003. Available at: http://sero.nmfs.noaa.gov/protected_resources/section_7/freq_biop/documents/dredge_bo/nov_19_2003_gom_rbo.pdf.

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Jacksonville District. 2011. Final Environmental Assessment of Tampa Harbor Federal Navigation Project, Operations and Maintenance Dredging. September 2011. Available at: http://www.saj.usace.army.mil/Portals/44/docs/Planning/EnvironmentalBranch/EnvironmentalDocs/Tampa%20Hbr%20O&M%20Final%20EA%20(508%20Compliant).pdf.

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. 2011. Shore Protection Activities along the Coast of Florida. Statewide Programmatic Biological Opinion. Service Log Number 41910-2011-F-0170. 2011 Available at:. http://www.fws.gov/northflorida/BOs/20110822_bo_USFWS_Statewide_Programmatic_BO_Beach_Nourish_signed.pdf.
2013. Available at: http://www.fws.gov/northflorida/Guidance-Docs/20130522_ltr_Service_Corps_Piping%20Plover%20Programmatic_BO_FINAL.pdf
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9. OTHER (no page limit)

1) Letter of Support: Seminole Tribe of Florida. October 6, 2014.
2) Letter of Support: Seminole Tribe of Florida. July 29, 2013.
3) Memorandum of Agreement among the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the Florida State Historic Preservation Office Regarding Use of Historic Egmont Key for Dredge Material Disposal Purposes. August 26, 2013.

4) GULFWIDE BENEFICIAL USE OF DREDGED MATERIAL

During the last three decades of the 20th century, the standard perception was that dredged material was "spoil" or waste material that had no value or needed to be handled as a pollutant. However, as we move into the beginning of the 21st century, issues such as sea level rise, subsidence, loss of habitat, development, and pervasive storm damage in coastal areas has changed that perception. Most coastal managers now recognize that dredged material is frequently uncontaminated, and should be used as a resource to compensate for coastal erosion, to nourish beaches, to build habitat, and to return areas that have subsided below sea level back to an elevation within the tidal range.

While the function or value of individual beneficial use projects may be only local in scope, for instance, a new wetland area may help protect a particular stretch of levee around a small community, restore a section of critically eroded beach, or provide habitat for a specific population of estuarine organisms, cumulatively, multiple beneficial use projects across a wide geographic area could significantly offset coastal wetland loss, provide nursery areas or other habitats for important commercial species or species of concern such as sea turtles and neotropical migrants and minimize salt water intrusion by reestablishing estuarine boundaries through construction of spits and barrier islands.

The northern coast of the Gulf of Mexico is an ideal location to augment existing beneficial use efforts that are based only on individual projects and elevate them to a programmatic effort. The need and feasibility of a programmatic beneficial use program in the northern Gulf is due to the natural and man-made stresses on the coastal environment experienced in the recent decade, resulting in considerable habitat and wetland loss with subsequent impact on marine and coastal resources, and increase in water quality issues, which may be offset by the proximity of many authorized Federal navigation channels that are dredged on a regular basis as well as local or privately maintained channels, thus providing substantial quantities of materials for use.

The coastal region of the northern Gulf of Mexico owes its current landscape structure to an array of tectonic, erosional and depositional, climatic, geochemical, hydrological, ecological, and human processes that have resulted in some of the world's most complex, dynamic, productive, and threatened ecosystems (Brock et al. 2013). These ecosystems and the resources they support are vulnerable to man-made and natural events such as development, catastrophic hurricane landfalls, ongoing subsidence and erosion exacerbated by sea-level rise, disintegration of barrier island chains, and high rates of wetland loss. Improving the resiliency of these ecosystems is a critical component of restoring the Gulf of Mexico as a whole.

The 2011 Gulf of Mexico Regional Ecosystem Restoration Strategy (GCERTF 2011) recommended 3 actions, two of which are related to dredged material:

- Maximize beneficial use of navigational dredged material, where practicable and ecologically acceptable, for effective and sustainable habitat restoration.
- Increase dedicated dredging of river and other sediment sources, such as permitted offshore sediment shoals, for use in habitat restoration projects.

Beneficial use is defined as the productive use of material produced during the authorized maintenance dredging of navigation channels. Dedicated dredging on the other hand, while having the same purpose, does not have the same required link with authorized navigation dredging.

Combined, the four Corps Districts covering the Gulf of Mexico (Galveston, New Orleans, Mobile, and Jacksonville) dredge approximately 123 million cubic yards from coastal Federal navigation projects on an annual basis[1]. Approximately 22 million cubic yards of this material is used beneficially as the least cost placement option or when a local sponsor is able to contribute funds to cover the incremental of the more costly beneficial use option. Details of the Corps dredging program are provided in the table below.

District	State	Annual Quantity	% Sand	% Fines	Current Beneficial Use
Galveston	Texas	20 – 30 mcy	2.8%	97.2%	15 – 20% (3-4.5 mcy
New Orleans	Louisiana	41 mcy*			39% (16 mcy)
Mobile	Mississippi	8.5 mcy	2.9%	97.1%	3.2%[2] (270 kcy)
Mobile	Alabama	6.5 mcy	3.8%	96.2%	19%[2] (1.25 mcy)
Mobile	Florida panhandle	700,000 cy	70%	30%	50% (350 kcy)
Jacksonville	Florida	875,000 cy	28.1%	62.9%	37%[2] (325 kcy)

[1]Louisiana dredging totals approximately 78 mcy annually, however 37mcy is determined unsuitable for coastal restoration because it is fluff or the dredging location is remote from the coast.

[2]All sandy material is beneficially used

Navigation in the Gulf Coast region will continue to require dredging, and the implementation of projects that use dredge material to restore coastal habitats will provide a cornerstone for coastal ecosystem restoration in the Gulf region. By beneficially utilizing dredge material to create coastal wetlands, the project will restore habitat.

The project described below, along with others submitted separately for inclusion in the RESTORE Funded Priority List is intended as a first step and a foundational element toward restoring the value of the Gulf of Mexico to the Nation and the World.

Egmont Figures

Figure 1. Erosion has caused palm trees along the western shoreline of Egmont Key to fall into the water. Note the complete lack of beach habitat in this location for use by sea turtles or shorebirds.

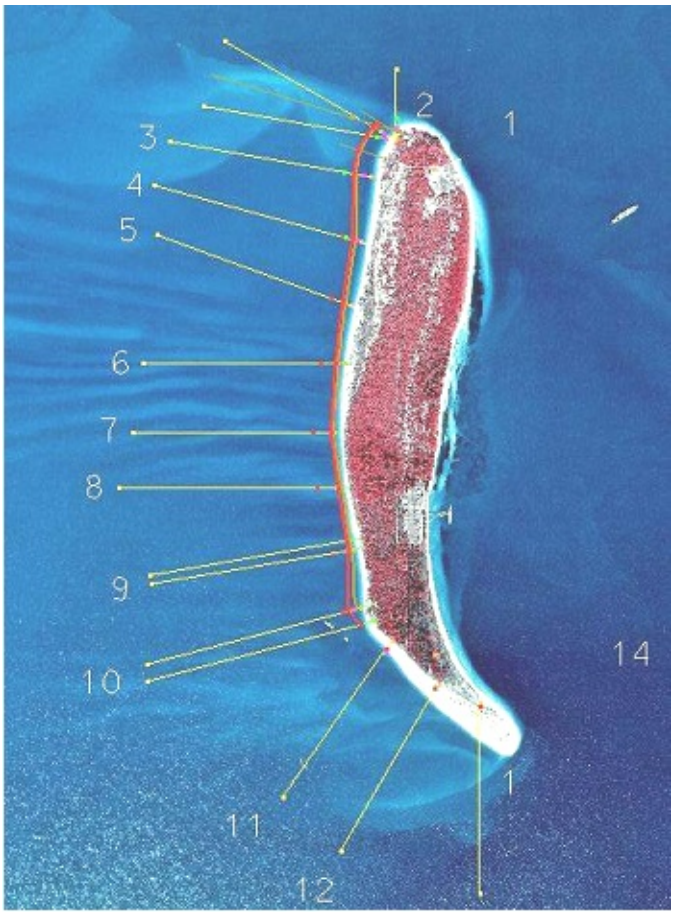


Figure 2. Digital Orthophoto Quarter Quadrangle (DOQQ) of Egmont Key with the locations of the FDEP Reference Monuments shown.

Figure 3. Structures from historic Fort Dade are eroding into the Gulf along the western shoreline of Egmont Key.

Figure 4. The roads of Fort Dade are still intact on Egmont Key for visitors to experience.

Figure 5. Gopher tortoises are found all over the island, roaming the areas where Army housing once stood.

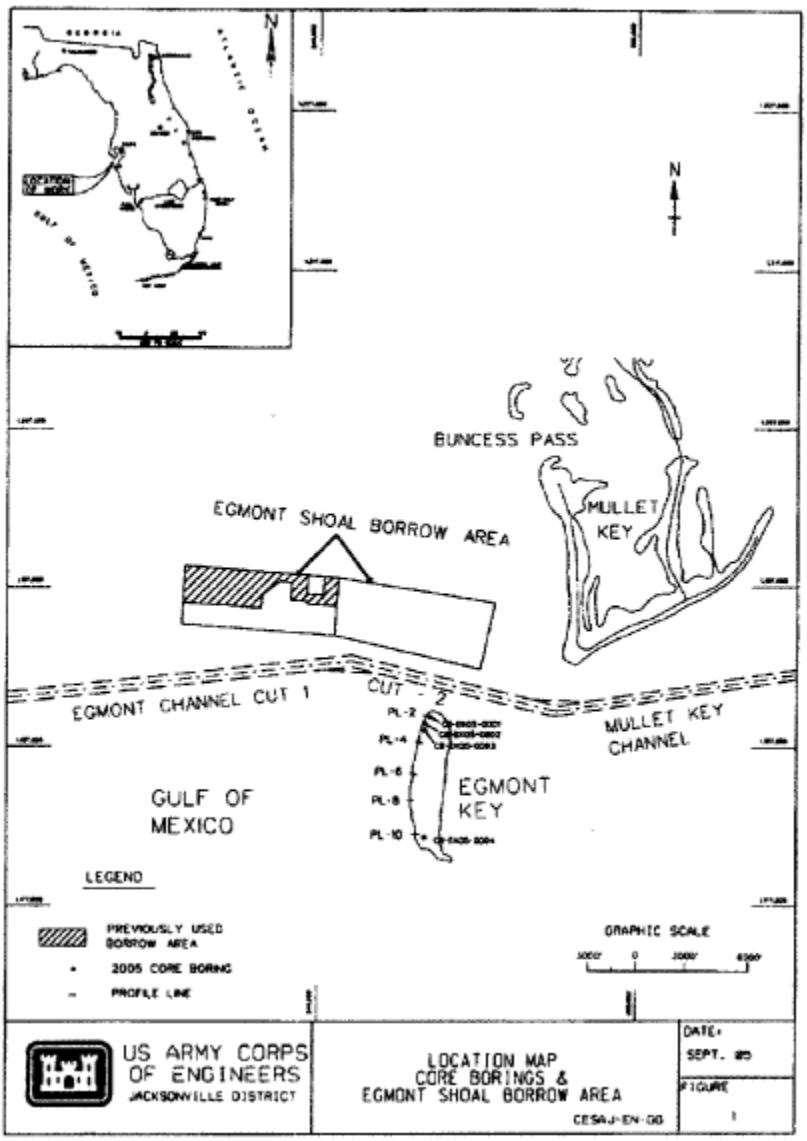


Figure 6. The location of Egmont Shoal, the proposed borrow area for the project.

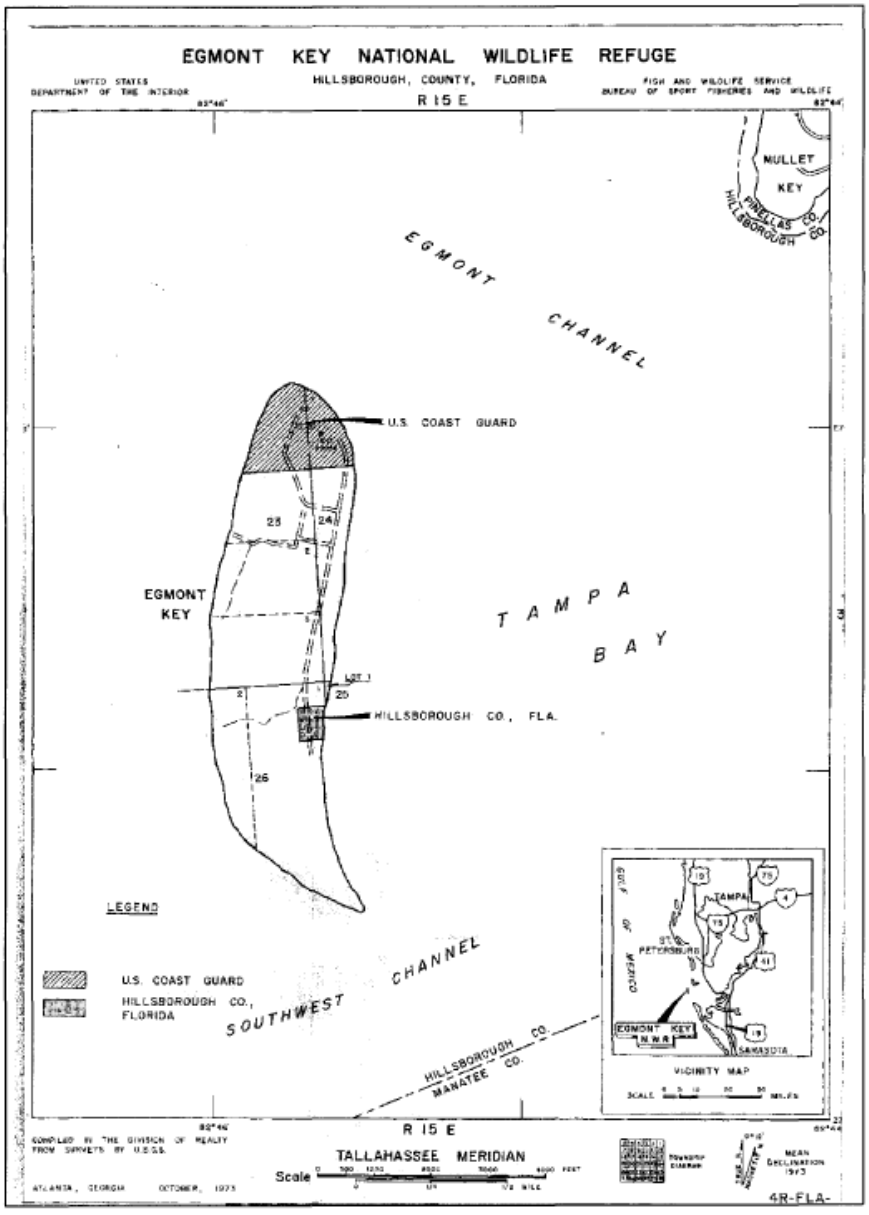


Figure 7. Map of the ownership of the island.

SEMINOLE TRIBE OF FLORIDA

JAMES E. BILLIE
Chairman
6300 Stirling Road Suite 420
Hollywood, Florida 33024
(954) 966-6300 Ext. 11390
E-MAIL:
jamesbillie@semtribe.com
WEBSITE:
http://www.seminoletribe.com

October 6, 2014

Honorable Jo-Ellen Darcy
Assistant Secretary of the Army (Civil Works)
108 Army Pentagon
Washington, DC 20310-0108

Re: Egmont Key State Park and National Wildlife Refuge

Dear Ms. Darcy,

I am writing to inform you of my support for efforts to preserve Egmont Key, which is located off of the west coast of Florida. I understand that the key is currently eroding at an alarming rate and will potentially be lost within the next ten years. This small island is of high cultural and historical importance to the indigenous people of Florida. During the Third Seminole War (1855-1858) Egmont Key was used as a concentration camp to detain Seminole Indians prior to being transported by boat to what is today Arkansas and Oklahoma. More than 100 men, women, and children, already tired and weary from years of resistance, were held at this facility. Conditions would have been extremely difficult as they were not allowed to leave the island, and during the time of their incarceration, several Tribal members died and were buried at Egmont Key. Tribal cultural advisors were able to visit the island recently and witnessed the small cemetery on the north end of the island which is said to house the remains of our ancestors. A small plaque is located there that records this important history.

The history of the island is a matter of cultural memory for our people and we wish that it be preserved if at all possible so that the youth of our tribe can visit this place and learn how far we have come together. I wanted to write personally and let you know that I fully support any current or future preservation efforts that respect the cultural integrity of this important place.

Sho Na Bish,
(Thank You)

James E. Billie,
Chairman, Seminole Tribe of Florida

"BUT I HAVE PROMISES TO KEEP & MILES TO GO BEFORE I SLEEP"

MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT
AMONG
THE U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS, THE U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE, AND THE FLORIDA STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE
REGARDING USE OF HISTORIC EGMONT KEY
FOR DREDGE MATERIAL DISPOSAL PURPOSES

WHEREAS, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Jacksonville District ("Corps"), at the request of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service ("USFWS"), proposes to place dredged material from the maintenance of Tampa Harbor, Florida, on critically eroded areas of Egmont Key (8HI117);

WHEREAS, part of Egmont Key is a National Wildlife Refuge administered by the USFWS;

WHEREAS, Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) (16 U.S.C. § 470f) ("Section 106") and its implementing regulations at 36 CFR, Part 800 require Federal agencies to "take into account" the effects of their undertakings on historic properties listed and/or eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places ("NRHP") and to consult with the State Historic Preservation Officer ("SHPO"), federally recognized Indian Tribes who attach religious and cultural significance to historic properties that may be affected by the undertaking, and others to seek ways to avoid, reduce, or mitigate adverse effects to historic properties;

WHEREAS, the island of Egmont Key was listed on the NRHP in 1978 and has been designated as Florida State Cultural Resources Site No. 8-HI-117 and is significant because of the presence of various structures and facilities associated with the historic Fort Dade complex, dating from the early 20th century;

WHEREAS, the island's historic connection to Native American detainments ties the island to significant historic events that shaped and continues to shape U.S. history;

WHERAS, the Corps and USFWS have determined that use of Egmont Key for dredged material placement constitutes an "undertaking," subject to review under Section 106 and its implementing regulations, that may adversely affect elements of Site No. 8-HI-117, including, but not limited to, munitions shelters, ammunition bunkers, the South End Mining Casement, water system structures, gun batteries and the Fort Dade cemetery;

WHEREAS, Egmont Key is subject to continual erosion due to the Key's location, and the Corps and USFWS have determined that placement of dredged material along the eroded shoreline will help reduce erosion-related impacts by creating a sacrificial sand barrier and by

burying components of the historic property that may be adversely affected by erosion of the historic Key;

WHEREAS, the Corps and USFWS plan to place the dredged material (primarily consisting of sand) on critically eroded areas of Egmont Key near the NRHP listed property, which will require the use of heavy equipment which could pose a risk to the integrity of historic property 8-HI-117;

WHEREAS, the Corps may, in its discretion, utilize other areas available for placement of dredged material that do not have associated effects to properties listed on or eligible for listing on the NRHP;

WHEREAS, the Corps and USFWS have agreed to meet their respective Section 106 responsibilities through ensuring the relevant provisions of this Memorandum of Agreement ("MOA") are carried out;

WHEREAS, the Corps has consulted with the Florida SHPO, on behalf of the USFWS, pursuant to 36 CFR, Part 800 regulations;

WHEREAS, 36 CFR § 800.6(c) provides authority for the Corps and USFWS to enter into a Memorandum of Agreement to evidence compliance with Section 106 and document how adverse effects to historic properties listed and/or eligible for listing on the NHRP will be resolved;

WHEREAS, upon reaching the determination that this undertaking may adversely affect historic properties, the Corps and USFWS invited the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation ("ACHP") to consult regarding the resolution of potential adverse effects, pursuant to 36 CFR § 800.10(b) and 36 CFR § 800.6(a)(1)(i)(B);

WHEREAS, the ACHP was invited but declined to participate in consultation leading to this MOA; and

WHEREAS, the USFWS is the Federal agency having primary management authority over Egmont Key and desires that the Corps utilize the critically eroded areas of the island for dredge disposal.

NOW, THEREFORE, the Corps, the USFWS, and the Florida SHPO agree that the implementation of the following stipulations will evidence that the Corps and USFWS have taken into account the effects of the disposal of dredged material upon historic properties.

STIPULATIONS

The Corps and USFWS shall adhere to the process and protocols set forth in this Memorandum of Agreement (MOA).

1. The Area of Potential Effect (APE) for this undertaking will be the entire island of Egmont Key, as illustrated in the map at Attachment A.

2. The Corps and USFWS shall consult with the Florida SHPO to determine whether placement will have an adverse effect on the integrity of the historic components of site 8-HI-117 and, if so, whether measures can be implemented to avoid, minimize or mitigate the adverse effects;

3. The Corps will require an archeological monitor that meets "the Secretary [of the Interior]'s (Historic Preservation) Professional Qualifications Standards," as described in 36 CFR, Part 61, to be present during placement of dredged material to ensure that measures to avoid or reduce adverse effects are adhered to. If the avoidance, minimization or mitigation measures are not being adhered to, the archeological monitor will immediately notify by telephone and electronic mail both the USFWS and the Corps of the irregularities. When impacts will result or have resulted in adverse effects to resources associated with Native American Indian Tribes, the Corps and USFWS will in turn notify the ACHP, SHPO and associated Native American Indian Tribes within three (3) days of receiving notice from the archeological monitor. Upon completion of the monitoring, the Corps will send a copy of the monitoring report to the USFWS and the Florida SHPO.

4. Dredged fill material placement near or over materials associated with the historic property will have specified procedures that will be placed within the Contractors plans and specifications. The plans and specifications will outline procedures to work near or over resources and identify areas where dredged materials can be placed. Plans and specifications related to issues with the historic property will be coordinated between the Corps and the USFWS in addition to the Corps and USFWS consultation on the undertaking. These plans and specifications will be updated prior to all maintenance disposal events to ensure best practices and current materials locations are understood. Should the monitor find that the historic property is being affected by dredge placement in a manner not covered by the plan, the monitor shall immediately contact the Corps/USFWS representative, and the placement in that area shall be halted pending a decision about how to proceed.

5. This MOA will serve as a standing Archaeological Resources Protection Act ("ARPA") Permit for all placement/disposal and monitoring activities conducted by the Corps on Egmont Key as required by Section 4 of ARPA (16 U.S.C. § 470cc). Any additional investigations or any excavation of burial resources will be subject to additional permits.

6. The Corps shall ensure that the contractor shall place fill only in those areas that have been agreed to by the Corps, USFWS, and the State of Florida. As between the Corps and USFWS, the USFWS shall be responsible for resolving or treating any adverse effects to the historic property. The Corps shall be responsible only where such effects result from contractor negligence.

7. USFWS will be responsible for any additional costs required to minimize and/or mitigate actual or potential adverse effects to the historic property that result from placement/disposal activities that are not attributable to contractor negligence. Furthermore, USFWS will be responsible for treatment or repair of any components of the historic property adversely affected by placement/disposal activities that are not attributable to contractor negligence. In the event that USFWS fails to adequately resolve adverse effects or otherwise fails to meet its responsibilities under Section 106 and its implementing regulations, as determined by the ACHP and/or the Florida SHPO, all placement/disposal activities shall cease in the affected area until the effects are adequately resolved or a plan to resolve the adverse effects is developed in consultation with and with the approval of the ACHP and the Florida SHPO.

8. No part of this MOA obligates the USFWS to expend funds that have not been appropriated. Furthermore, the stipulations in this MOA are subject to the Anti-Deficiency Act, 31 U.S.C. 1341 *et seq*. The USFWS shall make good faith efforts to secure the necessary funds to implement its obligations under this MOA.

9. No part of this MOA obligates the Corps to place sand on Egmont Key.

10. No part of this MOA obligates the Corp to place sand in critically eroded areas of Egmont Key. In all instances the Corps will utilize portions of the island that it deems most cost-effective based on the quantities of material available.

11. If so requested by USFWS, the Corps will avoid placement of materials in areas where USFWS deems such placement to be a potential risk to the historic property.

12. The Corps, in consultation with USFWS and/or the State of Florida, as appropriate, will utilize the Florida Department of Environmental Protection beach monument system, a reference system based on fixed range monument locations, to delineate areas for dredge material placement/disposal.

13. This MOA shall be null and void if disposal/placement activities are not carried out within 10 years from the date of its execution, unless the Signatories agree in writing to an extension for carrying out its terms prior to the initiation of disposal/placement activities. After the first 10 years the MOA shall be reviewed and re-affirmed by all Signatories every five years.

14. Execution of this MOA by the Corps, USFWS, and the Florida SHPO and implementation of its terms evidence that the Corps and USFWS have taken into account the effects of undertakings on historic properties and afforded the ACHP an opportunity to comment.

15. The USFWS and Corps have a federal Trust Responsibility to ensure culturally sensitive treatment of Native American burial resources. If Native American burial resources are discovered in connection with this undertaking, the Corps shall treat the burial resources in a culturally sensitive manner and consult with the associated Native American Indian Tribes. Such resources will be subject to both the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) and the USFWS's Unanticipated Site Discovery Plan (incorporated by reference into this document) The ultimate treatment of any discovered Native American burial resources will be developed in consultation with the associated Indian Tribes.

17. This MOA shall be effective on the date that it has been signed by the Corps, USFWS, and the Florida SHPO. The Corps shall ensure that the Florida SHPO, the ACHP, and the USFWS are provided a copy of the fully executed MOA.

SIGNATORIES TO MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT
BETWEEN
THE U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS, THE U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
AND THE FLORIDA STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE REGARDING
USE OF HISTORIC EGMONT KEY
FOR DREDGE MATERIAL DISPOSAL PURPOSES

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Jacksonville District

BY: _____ Date: 4 Sep 13

Alan M. Dodd

Colonel, U.S. Army

District Commander.

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

BY: _____ Date: 4/26/2013

Cynthia K. Dohner

Regional Director

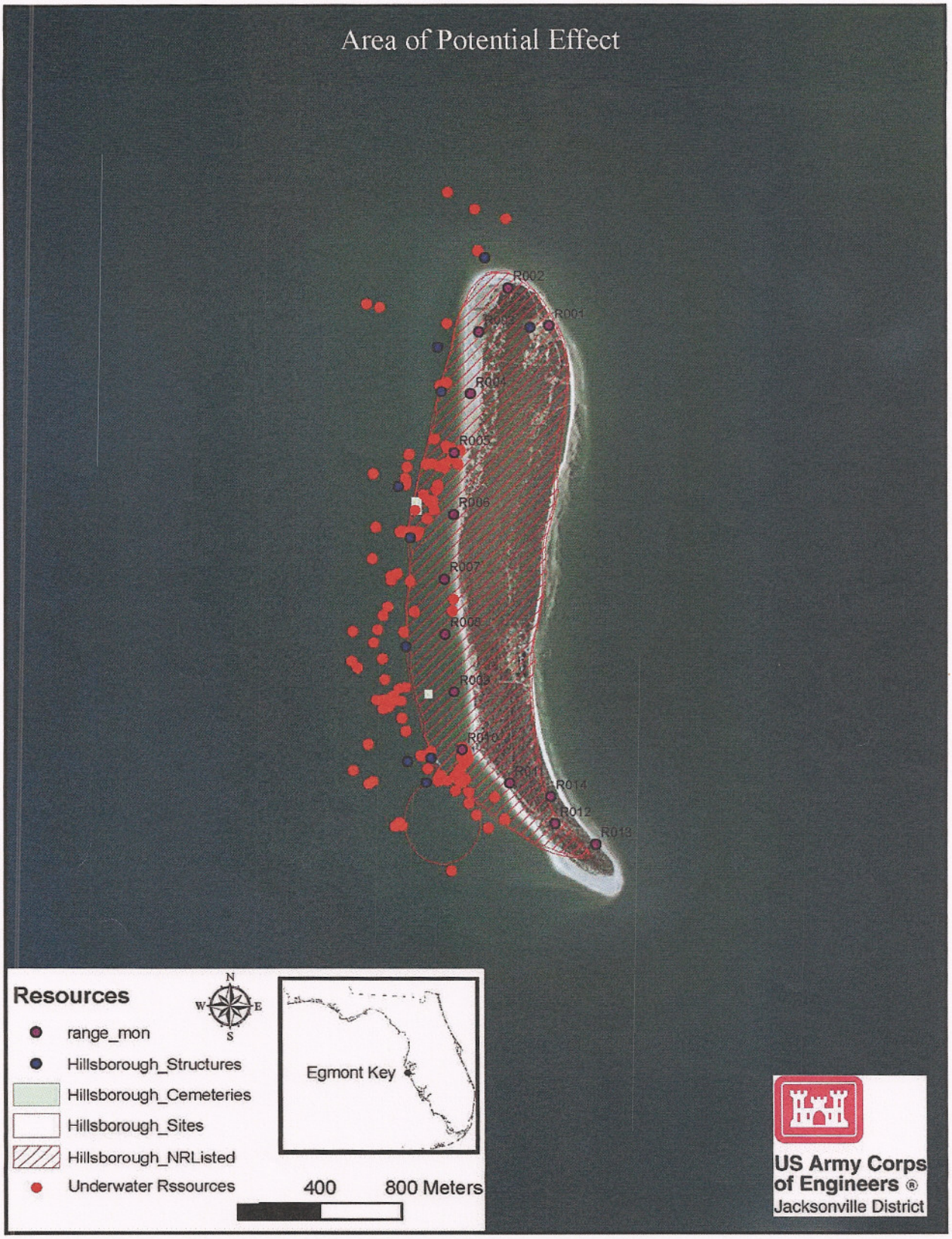
Florida Division of Historical Resources

BY: _____ Date: 8/26/13

Robert F. Bendus

State Historic Preservation Officer

Attachment A



ELIGIBILITY REVIEW

Bucket 2 – Council Selected Restoration Component

PROPOSAL TITLE

Egmont Key Restoration and Storm Damage Reduction

PROPOSAL NUMBER

ACOE-T-1

LOCATION

Hillsborough/Tampa Regional Area, Florida

SPONSOR(S)

Department of the Army

TYPE OF FUNDING REQUESTED (Planning, Technical Assistance, Implementation)

Implementation

REVIEWED BY:

Bethany Carl Kraft/ Ben Scaggs

DATE:

November 18, 2014

1. Does the project aim to restore and/or protect natural resources, ecosystems, fisheries, marine and wildlife habitat, beaches, coastal wetlands and economy of the Gulf Coast Region?

◉ YES ○ NO

Notes:

The proposal seeks funding for a habitat restoration project that will nourish the beaches with approximately 676,000 cubic yards of material along the length of the Western Shoreline of Egmont Key.

2. Is the proposal a project?

◉ YES ○ NO

If yes, is the proposed activity a discrete project or group of projects where the full scope of the restoration or protection activity has been defined?

◉ YES ○ NO

Notes:

3. Is the proposal a program?

◯ YES ◉ NO

If yes, does the proposed activity establish a program where the program manager will solicit, evaluate, select, and carry out discrete projects that best meet the program's restoration objectives and evaluation criteria?

◯ YES ◯ NO

Notes:

4. Is the project within the Gulf Coast Region of the respective Gulf States?

◉ YES ◯ NO

If no, do project benefits accrue in the Gulf Coast Region?

◯ YES ◯ NO

Notes:

Eligibility Determination

ELIGIBLE

Additional Information

Proposal Submission Requirements

1. Is the project submission overall layout complete? ***Check if included and formatted correctly.***

A. Summary sheet	☑	F. Environmental compliance checklist	☑
B. Executive summary	☑	G. Data/Information sharing plan	☑
C. Proposal narrative	☑	H. Reference list	☑
D. Location information	☑	I. Other	☑
E. High level budget narrative	☑		

If any items are NOT included - please list and provide details

2. Are all proposal components presented within the specified page limits (if applicable)?

◉ YES ○ NO

Notes: