



ENVIRONMENT

Habitat Restoration

Department of Environmental Protection staff negotiated \$42,000 worth of restoration work on 5.6 acres of the Charlotte Harbor Preserve in Southwest Florida at no cost to the state. In exchange, a developer was allowed to mitigate two acres of wetland impacts on a site near the Preserve to be developed for residential housing. Other agencies with habitat restoration needs may be able to utilize similar agreements to restore natural communities that they manage. For more information, please contact John Aspiolea at (941) 575-5861 or email john.aspiolea@dep.state.fl.us. 2006-DEP-019

Roadside Prescribed Burning

A first-in-the-state prescribed burn on the median of U.S. Highway 319 north of Tallahassee provides a model for future use. Implemented by three state agencies and assisted by the Georgia Highway Patrol and Tall Timbers Research Station (a charitable wildlife conservation organization), the burn helped to manage native fire dependent vegetation and reduce the likelihood of hazardous wildfires during dry periods. For more information, please contact Larry Morse, Florida Division of Forestry, at (850) 488-1871 or email morsec@doacs.state.fl.us. 2006-DACS-010

Florida Inspection Reporting for Storage Tanks (FIRST)

The Department of Environmental Protection's FIRST program replaces paper-based inspections, film photography and manual data entry with a first-in-the-nation system. Using laptops, inspectors enter data in the field and leave a signed paper copy of their report with facility operators. Digital photography, laboratory reports and other documents are attached as part of the electronic file. This information is available to the public, tank owners, DEP petroleum cleanup site managers and DEP managers the next day via the Internet. This system is adaptable to other agencies and similar programs in other states. For additional information, please contact Marshall Mott-Smith at (850) 245-8842 or email marshall.mott-smith@dep.state.fl.us. 2006-DEP-029

Controlling Evaporative Losses from Underground Storage Tanks

Department of Environmental Protection and Department of Health staff identified a control system, which uses a membrane filter to recover gasoline vapors in underground storage tanks that normally are lost to the air. A West Palm Beach gas station that volunteered to install and test the system recovered more than 1,000 gallons of gasoline per month for annual savings of approximately \$24,000 (at \$2.00 per gallon). Upon seeing the test results, the owner decided to place membrane controls on its other gas stations in Florida. This demonstration also showed significant reduction in emissions, and therefore air quality improvements, compared to fuel storage tanks without controls for evaporation. For more information, please contact Selva Selvendran at (561) 355-3136 ext.1171 or email selva_selvendran@doh.state.fl.us. 2006-DEP-032

Streamlined Application and Inspection Processes

The St. Johns County Health Department created a system to insure timely processing of applications and inspections of septic tanks, pools, mobile home/rv parks, tanning studios and food establishments. This initiative generated \$100,000 additional revenue and saved the citizens of St. Johns County approximately \$1 million. For more information, please contact Scott Bryan at (904) 823-2514 ext. 104 or email Scott_Bryan@doh.state.fl.us. 2006-DOH-017

Regulatory Review of Applications

Having a regulated company be part of the regulatory review process of its own application makes it easier for both sides to do their jobs correctly. The main process time for review of 120 oil wells in the Florida Panhandle was reduced from 17 to 5 months for estimated state savings of 85% (1,020 man-hours) and industry time savings of 55%. Most wells passed on the first inspection. For more information, please contact Ed Garrett at the Department of Environmental Protection (850) 488-8217 or email ed.garrett@dep.state.fl.us. 2006-DEP-024

ENVIRONMENT (cont.)

Self-Certification

An online system enables the general public and contractors to self-certify that construction of a single-family dock meets the statutory exemption and sovereignty submerged lands requirements may serve as a model for other regulation and compliance programs. For more information, please contact Geof Mansfield at (850) 245-8356 or email geof.mansfield@dep.state.fl.us. 2006-DEP-001

Environmental Forensics Protocols

The goal of a statewide environmental forensics program is to ensure defensibility, at trial, of forensics evidence collected in support of environmental crimes investigations. A CD available from the Department of Environmental Protection includes quality assurance procedures, standard operating procedures and technical guidance for use by field sampling personnel. This program's success is demonstrated by the fact that no evidence collected at crime scenes has been successfully challenged in court. For more information, please contact Timyn Rice at (813) 744-6462 or email timyn.rice@dep.state.fl.us. 2006-DEP-025

Lightning Protection of Monitoring Equipment

A lightning protection system identified, improved and installed by Department of Environmental Protection staff can be replicated for air or meteorological monitoring programs in any lightning prone area. The team has already trained Manatee County air monitoring staff to replicate this protection. A hardware investment of \$1,500 is returned nearly ten fold if even one analyzer is spared a lightning strike. For more information, please contact Meteorologist Tammy Eagan at (850) 921-9566 or email tammy.eagan@dep.state.fl.us. 2006-DEP-031

Mutual Aid Agreement

A mutual aid agreement between the Okaloosa County Health Department and 12 municipal, county and private systems promotes development of common ordinances throughout the county and money saving purchasing, and expands inter-utility connection for emergency service provisions for water. It is expected to save in excess of \$100,000 and provide improved service and protection for the community. For more information, please contact Doug Sims at (850) 689-7859 or email Doug_Sims@doh.state.fl.us. 2006-DOH-018

For a list of adaptable achievements in the field of Environment from the 2003-2005 awards competitions, please click [here](#).