

GULF COUNTY, FLORIDA  
BUILDING DEPARTMENT

1000 CECIL G. COSTIN, SR., BLVD., ROOM 305 \* PORT ST. JOE, FLORIDA 32456 \* PHONE (850) 229-8944 \* FAX (850) 229-7873

## LAND CLEARING PERMIT APPLICATION

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS OF CONSTRUCTION: \_\_\_\_\_

PARCEL ID NUMBER: \_\_\_\_\_

PROPERTY OWNER: \_\_\_\_\_

OWNERS ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

OWNERS PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_ CELL: \_\_\_\_\_

CONTRACTOR : \_\_\_\_\_

CONTRACTOR PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_ CELL: \_\_\_\_\_

ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTANT: \_\_\_\_\_

**\*\* ATTACH ALL DOCUMENTATION FOR SITE DEVELOPMENT SCREENING SHOWN ON  
ATTACHED CHECKLIST #1 \*\***

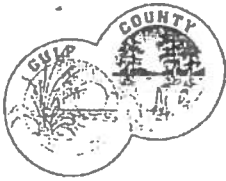
By signing below, I as the owner of the property listed above do hereby acknowledge receipt of and acceptance of the Gulf County's Land Clearing Ordinance requirements and regulations as well as accept and acknowledge the Federal requirements for any and all protected critical habitats and all potential take from this affected area. I accept and shall strictly adhere to the attached application checklist and affirm compliance with all local, state and federal regulations for the proposed clearing of this identified property .

OWNERS SIGNATURE: \_\_\_\_\_ DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

Application Fee \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Paid Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Received by: \_\_\_\_\_

BUILDING DEPARTMENT DAYS AND TIMES OF OPERATION

MONDAY THRU THURSDAY 7:00 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. EASTERN TIME



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### LAND CLEARING PERMIT APPLICATION CHECKLIST

Applicant within affected areas as defined by the Land Clearing Ordinance (2017- ) shall submit a pre clearing application to Gulf County Planning and Building Departments. Thereafter, the county officials will advise the applicant of its determination of whether the proposed property and clearing are within a defined critical habitat area. Upon notification of the applicant's property falling within a protected area, the following steps and procedure shall be strictly followed by the applicant to seek pre-authorization for clearing and any and all potential take from the property.

#### SITE DEVELOPMENT SCREENING

1. If habitat may be present, permittee must include an Environmental Consultant evaluation of the parcel and include the following on the site plan and survey:
  - a. Site Plan
  - b. Include all parcel boundaries, acreage of overall lot/parcel, pre and post survey of development acreages, amount of acreage affected by building, amount of habitat on parcel of beach, dune and/or scrub (listed individually).
  - c. Location(s) and dimensions of proposed structure(s), driveways and parking areas.
  - d. Location and details of the proposed septic or sewer systems.
  - e. Locations and dimension of the proposed or anticipated accessory structures, outbuildings, or impervious structures (such as swimming pools and garages) that would result in additional impacts to covered species habitats.
  - f. Delineation of the amount of impact on each parcel, including pervious, anticipated current impact and future anticipated structures, each indicated separately (beach, dune, and scrub).
  - g. Locations of dune walkovers and similar structures and plans for those structures.
  - h. Locations of areas that will temporarily disturbed and require restoration (such as construction storage areas, septic fields, and supply lines) and a plan for restoring those areas. (See Appendix I in the HCP for additional detail).
  - i. Locations of any areas to be retained as native vegetation. If any impact to native vegetation is anticipated in the habitat area, a plan must accompany this site plan that will indicate how restoration of the habitat will occur after completion of the project. (See Appendix I-1 and I-2 for native vegetation).
  - j. A lighting plan to demonstrate measures to be taken to comply with the Wildlife Lighting requirements must be included.
2. In order to comply with the land clearing ordinance and proposed county habitat conservation plan (HCP), avoidance and minimization of impacts to habitat are to be considered in the site design. They are:
  - a. Receive educational material(s) on the HCP by going to either the planning department, building department, online at [www.gulfcounty-fl.gov](http://www.gulfcounty-fl.gov) or <http://www.gulfcountyhcp.info/>.

- b. Avoid or minimize the development footprint in beach, dune, and scrub habitats. Strategies include:
  - i. No more than 30% impervious surface will be permitted (according to existing Land Development Regulation (LDR).
  - ii. Place development area on lot/parcel to avoid topographic alterations of beach, dunes and scrub, and to maximize the preservation of naturally vegetated dunes and scrub to the maximum extent practicable. This may include buildings and parking areas in locations that are already cleared and converted to non-native vegetation or siting proposed development in pine flatwoods areas.
  - iii. Prioritizing the protection of beach, dune and when applicable, scrub to maintain habitat connectivity along the length of the beach and to provide connections from the beach to inland scrub habitats on adjacent parcels by the use of setback requirements already being enforced.
  - iv. Preservation of native vegetation will be required within the rear and side setbacks required pursuant to the LDR's on all parcels to maintain habitat connectivity. Impacts to required native habitat buffers will be allowed for parcel access. Any areas of native habitat buffer disturbed by construction activities will be required to be re-vegetated following the guidelines provided in Appendix I of the HCP.
  - v. Minimizing the area of parking and driveways and using pervious materials as opposed to paved surfaces that may restrict St. Andrews Beach Mouse (SABM) movement.
  - vi. Connecting to public sewer system or using an aerobic waste water treatment system. Where septic must be installed, locate the drain field to limit its impact on the natural habitat to the extent feasible. Restore native dune and scrub vegetation on areas temporarily impacted for drain field construction.
  - vii. Design the landscaping to minimize the conversion of dunes and scrub to lawn and non-native plantings, except as warranted to provide for structure maintenance and protection from fire.
  - viii. Avoid the use of solid privacy fencing. Alternative fencing may be used which has an open area at the bottom of the fence, allowing for the movement of the beach mouse.

#### **PRE-CLEARING REVIEW**

As part of its review of clearing and proposed construction, Gulf County will institute a pre-clearing review process. All requests for clearing will be required to:

1. Submit a plan illustrating the limits of proposed clearing, consistent with avoidance and minimization measures required for all proposed developments subject to review under this HCP.
2. Conduct a pre-clearing field review with County officials to:
  - a. Review permitted clearing limits;
  - b. Photo-document existing pre-clearing conditions on the site; and
  - c. Require the applicant to execute an affidavit acknowledging the requirements of the HCP and Incidental Take Permit (ITP) and penalties for non-compliance.
3. Contact the County at the completion of clearing for a post-clearing field review to confirm compliance.

#### **CONSTRUCTION PHASE MANAGEMENT**

The approach to avoiding and minimizing impacts during construction includes:

1. Ensure you have received the educational instructions from the County providing specific directions on remaining in the construction footprint, parking and storing equipment within the construction footprint, and trash management. Signature of receipt of this information (given at permitting) will be a requirement.
2. Implementing measures to avoid and minimize construction impacts:
  - a. Permanent and temporary construction impacts are to be limited to the footprint of the permitted construction project plus the minimum additional area required for safe construction and protection of the structures being constructed.

- b. Flag or construct a temporary barricade around native vegetation that is to be retained in order to prevent unauthorized impacts. Methods used to construct the temporary barricade should not impact native vegetation outside of the permitting clearing limits.
  - c. To the extent practical, use previously disturbed areas or areas other than beach, dune, and scrub for construction storage and staging.
  - d. Maintain the construction site free of construction debris, trash, and store food waste that might attract scavenging animals in appropriate closed containers or remove from the site at the end of each work day.
  - e. Limit construction lighting to that needed for safety and security.
  - f. Manage liquids (such as gasoline, diesel fuel, paints and solvents to avoid spill and immediately clean up any spills).
  - g. Restrict the use of pesticides and herbicides, except as required for termite treatment.
  - h. All invasive nuisance plants (both non-native and native) are to be eradicated from areas of native habitat that are to be protected and preserved. These plants are to be included in the site plan. Appendix L of the HCP provides a list of invasive nuisance plants that should be targeted for eradication.
  - i. If fill is needed for restoration of temporary impacts, use beach-compatible sand that is certified weed-free.
  - j. The County encourages restoration of previously degraded areas using native vegetation. Appendix I provides suggestions for appropriate vegetation and planting procedures.
  - k. The County encourages the use of temporary above-ground or hand-held irrigation during plant establishment. See Appendix I.
3. At the completion of construction and prior to issuance of a Certificate of Occupancy (C.O.) for the project, County Officials will conduct a review of the project to ensure that the project has been completed in accordance with the County-issued permit, including requirements of any future proposed HCP and ITP if adopted and prior to proper clearing and construction per County guidelines. A C.O. will not be issued to projects not in compliance. Non-compliant projects may be fined or required to come into compliance by County Officials with all requirements contained herein, Land Clearing Ordinance and all Florida Building Code Requirements as regulated by Gulf County Building Official.

**AFFIDAVIT**

PERSONALLY came and appeared before me, the undersigned Notary, duly authorized to take acknowledgments and administer oaths, personally appeared \_\_\_\_\_, being a resident of \_\_\_\_\_ County, State of \_\_\_\_\_ and the property owner, or authorized agent, ("Affiant"), who depose(s) and say(s) under penalties of perjury that:

I hereby affirm that I have personal knowledge of the parcel identified with the number of \_\_\_\_\_ was cleared prior to the enactment of Gulf County's Land Clearing Ordinance No. 2017 - 03. The date of this Ordinance being 12 April 2017.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Affiant

STATE OF FLORIDA  
COUNTY OF GULF

Sworn to, affirmed, and acknowledged and subscribed before me this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2019, ( ) who is personally known to me or ( ) who has produced a valid driver's license as identification.

\_\_\_\_\_  
NOTARY PUBLIC

(NOTARIAL SEAL)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Printed Name of Notary  
MY COMMISSION EXPIRES: