

Division of Recreation and Parks  
Florida Park Service

**Standard Conditions for All Scientific Research/Collecting**

1. The Permittee (principal researcher) is responsible for ensuring that all persons working in a state park under this permit understand and adhere to the permit conditions and applicable state park rules and procedures.
2. Research projects should be non-invasive, with no long-term impacts on natural communities or populations. All projects should be compatible with planned management activities.
3. Negative impacts associated with conducting research on state parks shall be minimized by proper use of vehicles and equipment and careful selection of study areas, schedules, and personnel. Impacts to the habitats such as uprooting plants, dismantling woody debris, thrashing of vegetation, and overturning logs or stones should be minimized and the affected area returned to its original state as to the greatest extent possible. If park staff identify negative impacts or wasteful practices that could affect the park, researchers will cooperate to avoid or minimize the impacts.
4. Anyone entering or exiting a freshwater environment must check all gear for the presence of invasive plants, animals, or debris from such plants or animals. Any material found must be removed and properly disposed of in a trash receptacle.
5. Park staff may assist researchers conducting permitted studies as time and resources permit. However, researchers should not expect or depend on park staff for assistance.
6. Significant additions to or deletions from the approved research project (including permit extensions) will require the written permit to be amended in advance by the Permitting Authority. The Park Manager is the primary contact for any issues specific to his or her park and will resolve any minor operational or logistical issues.
7. The Permittee will contact the Park Manager a minimum of one (1) week (or at pre-agreed intervals) prior to each visit to discuss operational and logistical issues (parking, vehicle use, closed areas, etc.). Upon arrival at the park to conduct permitted activities, Permittee will check in with the Park Manager or his/her designee to confirm/discuss any access or logistical issues.
8. A final project report containing a summary of research findings (e.g., species lists, voucher numbers of museum donations, and latitude-longitude coordinates or map locations of research plots/study areas, rare species occurrences, or special natural features) must be appended to any renewal

request, or submitted to the issuing office within 60 days of permit expiration. Copies of subsequent publications, reports, etc., relating to the research shall be forwarded by the Permittee to the Permitting Authority within one (1) month of publication.

9. Permittee is expected to provide a reasonable amount of consultation at their convenience to park staff on the implications of their work within the park. It is suggested that the Permittee meet with park staff at least once per field season depending on the length and scope of the research project.
10. The Park Manager may require Permittee to either minimize the effects of, or integrate, the research with other park programs (visitation, education, staff meetings, special events, etc.). If requested by the Park Manager, Permittee will provide an interpretive sign in public use areas to inform the public about the research in progress. Such decisions will be made on a specific project and park basis.
11. During the application review, park staff will have reviewed the need and permanency of study plots, transects, marking, materials, or equipment. All equipment and materials not designated as permanent will be removed from the field by the researcher in accordance with the scheduled project timetable.
12. Permittee is expected to abide by the park rules and regulations while conducting their activities on the premises and conduct their projects in accordance with the approved permit. All gates must be left as found.
13. The Park Manager may halt an ongoing research project for any reason pending evaluation, discussion, and resolution of any issues in conjunction with the park or district biologist or District Bureau Chief.
14. This permit may be modified, terminated, or suspended by the Permitting Authority for any reason.
15. Nothing in the permit shall be construed as granting any exclusive privileges or automatic right to continue, extend or renew research. The permit is revocable, non-transferable, and has no monetary value.
16. The Florida Park Service (FPS) and/or Division of Recreation and Parks (DRP) shall be given credit in all published papers relating to research or studies conducted in Florida State Parks. Park staff should be given recognition and acknowledgement when appropriate, and should be considered for co-authorship in publications if applicable. The Florida Park Service logo may not be used in any published or disseminated materials without prior written permission.
17. DRP expects the Permittee to obtain any necessary county, state or federal permits prior to research or collection on state parks in addition to the DRP permit. Examples include but are not limited to, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC), U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), and/or Florida Department of Agricultural and Consumer Services (FDACS)

for collection of listed species; or Florida Museum of Natural History for the collection of vertebrate fossils.

18. If this activity involves any ground disturbance such as digging, taking core samples or similar work, Permittees are required by law to consult with the Department of State, Division of Historical Resources prior to conducting any work on state park lands. Contact Compliance and Review Section, Bureau of Historic Preservation, Division of Historical Resources, R.A.Gray Building, 500 South Bronough Street, Tallahassee, FL 32399-0250, (850) 245-6367.
19. The Permittee and accompanying research associates, while not considered to be park volunteers, will not be subject to park day-fees while conducting research or collecting under a Scientific Research / Collecting Permit.
20. Expenses associated with additional permits, required archaeological or other monitoring, or any and all other costs that may be incurred as a result of this permit will be the responsibility of the Permittee.
21. Only research associates needed to accomplish project objectives should accompany the Permittee. At least one person named on the permit must be present during all activities.
22. Permittee shall use professional judgment in keeping the specific locations of sensitive park resources confidential and share specific locations with DRP staff only. Sensitive resources include listed or imperiled species, archeological sites, caves, fossil sites, or other potentially commercially valuable resources.
23. The Florida Department of Environmental Protection and the Board of Trustees of the Internal Improvement Trust Fund of the State of Florida and their employees shall be held harmless from any and all liability or claims that may result in loss of life, injuries to persons or damage to property resulting from activities associated with this permit.
24. Permittee hereby grants the Florida Department of Environmental Protection at no cost the royalty-free and non-exclusive right to distribute, publish and use any photographs; films; video recordings; electronic scan data including but not limited to magnetic, sonar, laser, radio imaging, electronic geolocation data such as GPS coordinates and any related or similar electronic imaging data ("Work") collected during the activities permitted herein to promote the Florida Department of Environmental Protection. Uses may include, but are not limited to promotion of the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, its publications, employees, volunteers, and properties in any way, including on the Internet, in print publications, as distributed to the media, and in commercial products. The Florida Department of Environmental Protection reserves the right to use/not use any Work as deemed appropriate by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection. No Work will be returned once submitted. The Permittee acknowledges that the Florida Department of Environmental Protection shall bear no responsibility whatsoever for protecting the Work against third party infringement of any copyright interest or other intellectual property rights or

other rights Permittee may hold in such Work, and in no way shall be responsible for any losses Permittee may suffer as a result of any such infringement; and Permittee hereby represents and warrants that the Work does not infringe the rights of any other individual or entity. The Florida Department of Environmental Protection agrees to credit Permittee as the source for all content used.

25. If any of the permitted research results in audio, video or photographic deliverables, the Permittees will secure a signed Model Release Form: Photo/Audio/Video from any individual depicted in the deliverable and provide it to the Permitting Authority upon submission of the deliverable.
26. Permittee must keep all permits with them when conducting research or collecting. Permittee should be prepared to educate others as to what, how, and why the collecting is taking place, with emphasis on conservation issues.

**Additional Standard Conditions for Collecting of Natural Objects:**

27. All collecting of plants, animals, rocks, minerals, or parts thereof (living or dead) must be authorized in writing by the DRP, using the standard Scientific Research / Collecting Permit. The collections shall be used for scientific or educational purposes only, and shall not be sold, bartered, traded or used for commercial profit.
28. Collection of listed or imperiled taxa within a more general inventory is not allowed unless specific approval is authorized in the permit. DRP expects Permittee to assume rarity when encountering an unfamiliar plant or animal.
29. Photographing specimens is preferred over collecting. If species are readily identifiable and voucher specimens are not an integral part of the research or if the state park population is small (fewer than 50 individuals), Permittee should photograph rather than collect the organism for field documentation. Permittee shall not collect one of the last known 50 (or less) individuals of a park population.
30. Permittee is expected to collect discriminately, taking only the amount necessary to complete the project including minimizing by-catch. Where a voucher is appropriate, researchers should collect only 1 or 2 individuals unless otherwise permitted. When a number of individuals must be collected and is permitted, neither the survival nor reproductive potential of the population should be threatened.
31. Permittee is expected to collect in a discreet manner (i.e., away from roads, trails, and developed areas) unless otherwise specified in the permit. The permit may designate the kind, number, sizes, and places of scarce or important specimens that are not to be collected as necessary for the preservation of the area.
32. DRP expects Permittee to properly care for collected specimens. Unless otherwise agreed to, the Permittee shall: use standard collecting techniques to ensure usability, preservability, or survivability if they plan to maintain live

plants or animals; follow standard specimen preservation and labeling methodologies; deposit the specimen in a permanent public museum or in the exhibit, study, or type collections of scientific or educational institutions (with preference given to Florida institutions). DRP reserves the right, in the interest of science, to designate the depository of all specimens and examine the assembled collection.

33. When collecting for research requiring live plants, researcher should use techniques least likely to damage the population or occurrence. The collection preference is for seed (only if abundant), then cuttings or plant parts, then whole plants. Permittee should always leave reproductive or regenerative parts: roots, fruits, or rhizomes.
34. The DRP permit must authorize in writing the collection of multiple specimens for exchange or population studies. The collection of multiples will be permitted only if the population or occurrence can support such numbers and if a scientifically designed sampling plan is used. The general maximum allowance is 5% of the known population.
35. Florida law prohibits the release of non-native animal species once captured. If Permittee captures species known to be non-native or exotic, Permittee shall immediately contact the Park Manager (or available staff) to determine appropriate action.

*The Division of Recreation and Parks does not promote nor encourage spring, cavern or cave diving because of the inherent danger involved in this activity. Therefore, upon granting permission to conduct research diving within any unit of the state park system, Permittee shall strictly adhere to the following conditions.*

#### **Additional Standard Conditions For Research SCUBA Diving**

##### General:

1. The Permittee understands and agrees that participants working under this permit may not be charged for the privilege of diving under this permit. Permittee may not require that individual research divers purchase any specific brand of dive equipment from any specific business, and will not require training courses be purchased from any specific business.
2. If manatees are present at the dive site, a minimum distance of 50 feet between divers and manatees must be maintained at all times.
3. A master dive roster shall be appended to every permit at time of issuance. As team members are added or deleted the permit must be amended by the Permitting Authority to include the updated roster.

##### Prior To Conducting Any Dives Under the Permit:

4. The Permittee shall submit a pre-dive plan prior to **each dive** session that will outline the specific date of the dive, goals, research objectives, anticipated

outcome, and a list of all divers who will participate in that dive on that specific day. The list shall state each individual's name and role as a research or support diver and shall explain the reason each diver is needed for the dive. Only research and support divers who are necessary for the success of the dive are allowed to participate in the dive.

5. Pre-dive plans for **each dive** must be submitted to the Park Manager in writing a minimum of one week in advance of each dive and must be approved by the Park Manager before the dive can proceed.
6. The Permittee is responsible for all diver certification and training standards. A Florida Park Service Diver Release Form For Research SCUBA Diving Permits must be read and signed by each research and support diver and returned to the Park Manager or be on file at the park a minimum of one (1) week in advance of a dive. A copy of each diver's certifications must be submitted with the form.
7. The Permittee shall develop and submit to the Park Manager an Emergency Action Plan covering in-water emergencies as well as surface incidents. The Plan shall address injuries, non-returning divers and diver recovery procedures, emergency contact information and an incident report form. Permittee will ensure that each participant in the dive has read and understand the content of this document prior to any diving or support activities.
8. If the dive has the potential to exceed standard recreational dive limits, Permittee shall notify the nearest hyperbaric chamber facility or be a member of the Diver's Alert Network (DAN).

#### Day-Of-Dive

9. A surface support person must be present at all times during the dive to respond to park employee or guest inquiries, or to assist in-water divers if needed. Surface support staff should be easily identifiable as part of the research team.
10. If required by law, a dive flag must be properly displayed at all times when there are divers in the water.

#### Post-Dive

11. Permittee will submit a written post-dive report for each dive conducted under this permit. Post-dive reports must be submitted to the Park Manager within one week of **each dive** conducted under this permit, and shall contain a brief description of preliminary findings, complications encountered, or general observations.