



COASTAL RESOURCES DIVISION
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MARK WILLIAMS
COMMISSIONER

DOUG HAYMANS
DIRECTOR

SEP 13 2019

Evan Pitman
Jekyll Island Banding Station
251 Holcomb Bridge Road
Norcross, GA 30071

Re: Letter of Permission (LOP), Temporary Activities within the State's Shore Protection Act Jurisdiction, Jekyll Island Banding Station (JIBS), Jekyll Island, Glynn County, Georgia

Dear Mr. Pitman:

This letter is in response to your request to maintain a temporary bird banding station on the south end of Jekyll Island in the general vicinity of latitude 31.0150 and longitude -81.4333. The temporary project will begin no sooner than 15 days after the date of this letter and be completed by October 27, 2019.

As proposed, the temporary project scope includes the placement of as many as seventeen (17) mist nets to capture birds for banding on site. Information pertaining to the location of JIBS is based on the Global Positioning Systems data provided in your correspondence received August 13, 2019. Attachment #1 Net and Station Layout, identifies the approximately twenty-two (22) possible net locations based on this GPS data. Your 2019 request is consistent with previous requests authorized by the Department for banding at this location since 2003.

In order to maintain the professional standards required by the Georgia Department of Natural Resources, the JIBS Review Committee, the North American Banding Council, and the Bird Banding Laboratory, the following vegetation requirements for each mist net are as follows:

1. Vegetation clearance of 28 inches on each side;
2. Vegetation clearance of 8 inches above;
3. Vegetation not to exceed 2 inches underneath;
4. Access to each net by a foot path not to exceed 30 inches in width;
5. Vegetation clearance of 24 inches on each side of tarps temporarily used as banding station.

The Department recognizes the dedication of the bird enthusiasts that operate JIBS and requests that JIBS stress the importance of preserving the integrity of the South Beach Scrub-Shrub Habitat. Volunteers are authorized to hand prune vegetation to meet the operational standards. Branches should be pruned at a 45-degree angle to the nearest stem or branch to promote a clean heal at the pruning site. All trimmings over ¾ inch in diameter must be removed from the site and properly disposed of on the right of way on Macy Drive and St. Andrew Road.

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JIBS SPA LOP

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The Jekyll Island Authority (JIA) will be responsible for removing all vegetation trimmings in the right of way. JIBS staff and its visitors must be instructed to stay on the designated paths. JIA will also have to either pre-approve Attachment #1 Net and Station Layout or have a representative on site during set-up September 28, 2019. The last day of operation is October 27, 2019. All supplies, tarps, nets, poles, and refuse associated with JIBS must be removed from the station site on the last day of operation.

Since a portion of the activities may occur during the period of May 1st to October 31st, all areas must be surveyed daily by a person in possession of a DNR Sea Turtle Cooperators Permit prior to commencement of any activities. If a nesting site is located, nests must be marked and avoided as no activity may occur within 20 feet of a sea turtle nest.

The Department authorizes the temporary activities associated with the events as depicted in the attached project description and location map. This LOP is not meant to exempt the above referenced activities from future environmental laws. **No unauthorized equipment, materials or debris may be placed, disposed of, or stored in jurisdictional areas.** Any incidental impacts associated with this project must be rectified by fully restoring areas to their pre-construction topographic and vegetative states. This LOP is valid for the above referenced projects.

If you have any further questions or concerns in regard to this or any other projects, please feel free to contact Deb Barreiro at (912) 266-3695.

Sincerely,



Jill Andrews
Chief, Coastal Management Section

Enclosures: Project Description, Location Map and Attachment Identifying Net & Station Layout

cc: Ben Carswell
Jekyll Island Authority
381 Riverview Dr.
Jekyll Island, GA 31527

Tim Keyes GADNR WRD Nongame

File: LOP20190125

Jekyll Island Banding Station
c/o Evan Pitman
251 Holcomb Bridge Road
Norcross, GA 30071
(770) 639-5452
westernpalm@gmail.com

Jekyll Island Banding Station (JIBS) is a non-profit volunteer organization that has banded neo-tropical passerines on Jekyll Island since 1978. Dedicated experienced bird enthusiasts operate JIBS and believe it is imperative to operate JIBS to professional standards in bird safety and scientific study while preserving the integrity of the habitat of the South Beach site on which the station currently operates. JIBS is operated by Master Bander Evan Pitman.

JIBS' mission has equal imperative priorities of:

- Scientific Study
- Public Education and Awareness
- Habitat Preservation

All of JIBS current daily operational policies are well within guidelines stated by Georgia DNR, the JIBS Review Committee (monitored by the Georgia DNR), and the North American Banding Council, and the US Dept of Interior's Bird Banding Laboratory (BBL). BBL licensed staff constantly monitors weather, net conditions, and bird quantities and evaluating these combination of factors to match the capabilities of the trained volunteers working at the station.

JIBS uses mist nets to capture the birds before banding and safely releasing the birds back into the wild. To maintain the scientific bias for the long term data studied at JIBS, the station site and net placement shifts from year to year as the vegetation naturally recedes and expands. The 17 mist nets are of 6, 9 or 12 meters in length. Net size and location is determined by fitting the net closely to the vegetation, ground clearance, and other factors. Nets are placed near vegetation for camouflage but must be kept clear of grass, branches, and other vegetation to assure the birds safe removal and prevent injury to the birds. Mist net width varies according to wind conditions and other factors but for the purpose of this proposal the width is less than one inch. Mist nets are approximately 8 feet high. To maintain the professional standards required by Georgia DNR, the JIBS Review Committee, and the North American Banding Council, and the Bird Banding Laboratory, to which JIBS adheres, the following vegetation requirements for each net are:

- 1) Vegetation clearance of 28 inches on each side
- 2) Vegetation clearance of 8 inches above
- 3) Vegetation not to exceed 2 inches underneath
- 4) Access to each net by a foot path (not to exceed 30 inches)
- 5) Vegetation clearance of 24 inches on each side of the temporary tarps used as the banding station.

In order to achieve these standards JIBS will prune only the vegetation to meet the above standards. As well as adhere to the following:

- 6) The only vegetation that will be pruned is to meet the operational standards.
- 7) Branches will be pruned at a 45-degree angle to nearest stem or branch to promote a "clean heal".
- 8) All trimmings over 3/4 of an inch in diameter will be removed from the banding station site to the right of way on Macy Lane and St Andrew Drive.
- 9) The Jekyll Island Authority will dispose of the trimmings removed from the site.

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- 10) Staff and all official visitors to JIBS will be instructed to stay on the designated pathways.
- 11) All supplies, tarps, nets, poles, and refuse will be removed from the station site on the last day of the session.
- 12) The vegetation will be cleared and the nets will be set up no sooner than September 28th, 2019. The nets will be taken down and all of our equipment removed from the site no later than October 27, 2019.

The Global Positioning Coordinates* for the Jekyll Island Banding Station and nets are as follows:

	Latitude	Longitude
1	31. 015096307	81. 43 21500901
2	31. 014913917	81. 43 20106152
3	31. 014854908	81. 43 22412852
4	31. 015048627	81. 43 24826852
5	31. 015160680	81. 43 24987773
6	31. 015080214	81. 43 26007012
7	31. 015085578	81. 43 27616338
8	31. 015074849	81. 43 30244903
9	31. 015080214	81. 43 31532363
10	31. 015096307	81. 43 32766179
11	31. 015182054	81. 43 30995921
12	31. 015246511	81. 43 30405835
13	31. 015225053	81. 43 29279307
14	31. 015225053	81. 43 31854228
15	31. 015241146	81. 43 33088044
16	31. 015230417	81. 43 33463553
17	31. 015155315	81. 43 34053639
18	31. 015166044	81. 43 34107284
19	31. 015208960	81. 43 34321860
20	31. 0015219688	81. 43 34268216
21	31. 015251875	81. 43 35019235
22	31. 015037298	81. 43 33034400

Please note while we have very similar net placement each year, we do modify the net placement slightly each season to correspond with changes in vegetation.

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Deb Barreiro
Georgia DNR
One Conservation Way
Brunswick, GA 31523

Dear Deb,

Jekyll Island Banding Station (JIBS) is applying for our site permit to operate this fall. Our application is nearly identical to the last several years. The operation dates for the fall 2019 season are September 28th through October 27th. We would welcome representatives from the DNR to observe our operations at any time.

Thank you,

Evan Pitman
Master Bander
Jekyll Island Banding Station