



COASTAL RESOURCES DIVISION  
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MARK WILLIAMS  
COMMISSIONER

DOUG HAYMANS  
DIRECTOR

November 22, 2022

Cliff Gawron  
Jekyll Island Authority  
100 James Road  
Jekyll Island, GA 31527

**Re: Letter of Permission (LOP), Jekyll Island Airport Vegetation Trimming, Jekyll Creek Marshes, Jekyll Island, Glynn County, Georgia (GPS 31.075817°N/-81.427158°W)**

Dear Mr. Gawron:

This Letter of Permission (LOP) is in response to your request, received October 28, 2022, for vegetation trimming at the Jekyll Island Airport. According to your request, the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) has indicated that the height of the vegetation in the runway approaches is considered an obstruction. According to FAA guidelines, vegetation more than 1ft. above the elevation of the runway needs to be trimmed. The areas considered to be obstructed are approximately 350ft. in length and 15ft. wide at either end of the runway approaches. The project will start no sooner than fifteen (15) days from the date of the letter and must be completed within six (6) months.

The project includes using a small skid steer with rubberized tracks and a forestry mulching head, staged in the upland, to trim woody vegetation that is at a height greater than 1ft. above the runway elevation flush to the ground. Stumps and roots will be left in place and no stump grinding will occur. Any vegetation that cannot be reached by the skid steer will be trimmed by hand within 1ft. of ground level. The majority of vegetation is comprised of wax myrtle and cabbage palms. Jurisdictional vegetation which is considered an obstruction includes mostly *Baccharis angustifolia* and *Baccharis halimifolia* and will be pruned to no lower than 1ft. below the elevation of the runway.

Trimming of jurisdictional grasses is not authorized and should be avoided by using hand tools on any woody vegetation in the vicinity of marsh grasses. Any unauthorized damage to marsh vegetation that has not recovered naturally during the next growing season will be repaired by a method acceptable to the Department. Any deviations from the submitted project scope and description may require further review. This LOP is for a one-time maintenance trimming event that will occur upon issuance.

The Department authorizes the trimming as depicted in the attached drawing and description. Any deviations from the proposed areas to be trimmed may require further review. **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 project. Any change in the use, location, dimensions, or configuration of the approved project, without prior notification and approval from this office could result in the revocation of this LOP.

This LOP does not relieve you from obtaining any other federal, state, or local permits. If you have any further questions or concerns regarding this or any other projects, please feel free to contact Beth Byrnes at (912) 266-0277.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jill Andrews".

Jill Andrews  
Chief, Coastal Management Section

Enclosures: Project Description and Drawings

Cc: Cliff Gawron, via email

File #: LOP20220096

October 28, 2022

Josh Noble  
Marsh & Shore Management Program Manager  
Coastal Resource Division, GA Department of Natural Resources  
One Conservation Way, Suite 300  
Brunswick, GA 31520

Dear Josh,

The Jekyll Island Authority requests permission to trim vegetation at the approach areas of the Jekyll Island Airport runway that lies directly adjacent to the DNR jurisdiction area of high marsh.

Per FAA guidelines, any vegetation that is more than 1' above the runway elevation is considered an obstruction. Although there is a significant amount of established vegetation that falls into this category, the vegetation which is growing directly within the path of the runway approaches both north and south is of the greatest concern. The area collectively comprises approximately 350 lineal feet in length by 15 feet in width of vegetation that is considered an obstruction (See figures #1 & #2). We last performed this work in 2019 and the vegetation has now grown back dramatically that it is no longer in compliance with FAA guidelines.

The majority of this vegetation is comprised of wax myrtle and immature cabbage palms, but there are also several Baccharis plants that are located in this area as well. Therefore, we are requesting verification of the jurisdiction line and limit of permitted clearing activity. Some of the flags still remain from the last time this site was marked, but I would like to mark the CMPA line with pvc pipes and metal tags immediately after you mark this line so the flagging will be valid for the next five years.

All vegetation will be removed using a small skid steer with rubberized tracks and a forestry mulching head. Staff will cut the shrub vegetation flush- within 1' of ground level. Every effort will be taken by the staff not to disturb the soil during any part of this activity. All stumps and roots will be left in place and no stump grinding will occur.

Upon receiving approval, we anticipate full completion of this project January 15, 2023.

If you have any further questions or need to send staff to review the site, please feel free to contact me. Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Cliff Gawron  
Director of Landscape and Planning  
912-506-2403 cgawron@jekyllisland.com



FIGURE #1: NORTH END OF RUNWAY

 = LOCATIONS OF VEGETATION TO BE TRIMMED

FIGURE #2: SOUTH END OF RUNWAY

