

# ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCE PERMITTING WETLANDS

## Permitting Construction Within Floodways

Works of the District (WOD) refers to rules that are established by the Suwannee River Water Management District (District) for construction within the floodways of five rivers: Alapaha, Aucilla, Santa Fe, Suwannee, and Withlacoochee. These rules are in place to best protect our environment through permitting and management of assets that could affect our natural resources.

Find your base flood elevation (BFE) for your property:

[srwmdfloodreport.com](http://srwmdfloodreport.com)

## How to apply for a permit with Wetland or Other Surface Waters (OSW) impacts:

Schedule a free pre-application meeting with District staff to discuss proposed activities and determine whether an environmental consultant should be hired for the project.

### Application fee:

\$100.00: Exemption (62-330.051, F.A.C.)

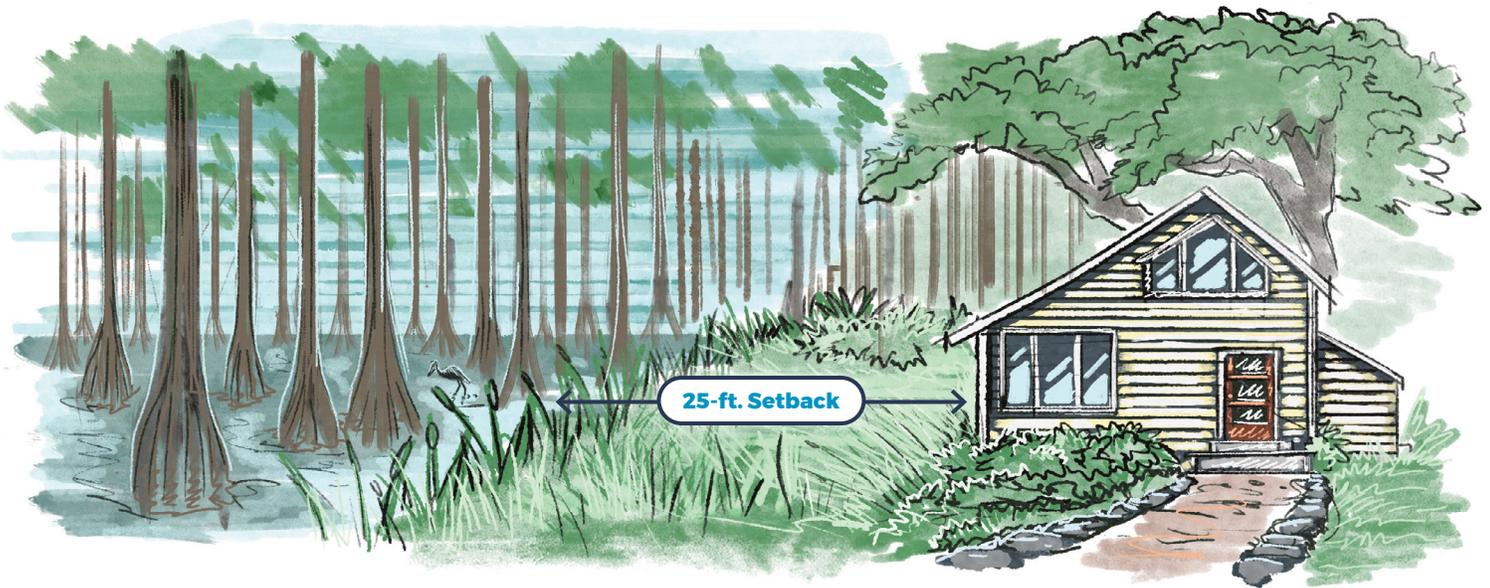
\$250.00: General Permit (62-330.052, F.A.C.)

\$1,190.00+ (minimum): Individual Permit

### Supporting documentation required:

- Wetland and OSW boundaries determined by an environmental consultant and verified by District staff.
- Wetland and OSW boundaries and buffers added to site plans.
- A wetland impact mitigation plan, if required.
- Section B or Section C supplemental application forms, if applicable.

Refer to ERP Applicant's Handbook Vol. 1 Section 10 and Application Form Sections B & C for more information on what is required for an individual permit with wetland or OSW impacts.



**SUWANNEE RIVER**  
WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

Learn More:



Ask Us Questions:

[ResourceManagement@srwmd.org](mailto:ResourceManagement@srwmd.org)

*This document is intended as a guide. Please refer to 40B-4, F.A.C. and 62-330, F.A.C. for complete information. A District permit does not eliminate the necessity to obtain any required federal, state, local and special district authorizations prior to the start of any construction, alteration, operation, maintenance, removal, or abandonment authorized by a District permit. Please contact your federal, state, and local agencies for further guidance.*

## Common Questions:

### How do I know if I have wetlands or OSWs on my property?

- Online resources can provide estimated wetland and OSW locations. These tools provide approximate locations and cannot be used for official wetland and OSW boundaries in permit applications:
  - National Wetlands Inventory (NWI)
  - Suwannee River Water Management District (SRWMD) Flood Report
- Wetlands and OSW boundaries can only be confirmed through on-site evaluations by hiring an environmental consultant properly trained in wetland evaluations.

SRWMD maintains a list of consultants who have submitted applications to the District:

[www.mysuwanneeriver.com/553/Engineers-Surveyors-Environmental-Consul](http://www.mysuwanneeriver.com/553/Engineers-Surveyors-Environmental-Consul)

### What do I need to do if I have wetlands or OSWs on my property?

- Avoid construction/land clearing in wetlands and OSWs on your property and within the 25-ft. setback from the wetland or OSW boundary. If wetland or OSW impacts are unavoidable, minimize construction impacts.
- Apply for a permit to develop your property for any dredge or fill impacts in wetlands and OSWs.
  - Dredge: digging, ditching, stump removal, channel dredging, excavation, etc.
  - Fill: any material deposited in wetlands or OSWs (buildings, soil/fill material, concrete, debris, seawalls, pilings, etc.)

## Help Protect the Environment:

All areas of the floodways should remain in a natural state to the greatest extent possible. Only clear what is necessary. Disturbance to natural vegetation should be minimized or avoided.

## Terms:

- **Wetlands:** Wetlands are lands that are saturated long enough to support plants adapted for life in wet soils. Florida wetlands generally include swamps, marshes, bayheads, bogs, cypress domes, sloughs, wet prairies, riverine swamps and marshes, hydric seepage slopes, and similar areas. Wetlands often have fluctuating water levels above and below land surface, which means sometimes they can be dry. Wetlands generally have at least two of the following characteristics:
  - Wetland vegetation
  - Indicators of saturation or high water levels, such as water stains
  - Soils that are saturated for significant periods of time
- **Other Surface Waters (OSWs):** Other Surface Waters (OSWs) are waters (other than wetlands) contained within artificial or natural boundaries. Examples of Florida OSWs include the Gulf of Mexico, bays, bayous, rivers, springs, estuaries, lagoons, lakes, ponds, impoundments, ditches and canals.
- **Wetland Mitigation:** Wetland mitigation is an action taken to offset permanent or temporary adverse impacts to wetlands and OSWs. Mitigation can include purchasing mitigation credits from a mitigation bank; creating, restoring, enhancing, or preserving wetlands and OSWs; or a combination of these actions.

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