



American alligator by Andy Wraithmell/FWC

404 FLORIDA ASSUMPTION FACTSHEET

EPA recently announced its approval of Florida's request for authorization to assume jurisdiction over permitting under Section 404(a) of the Clean Water Act. 404 permits are required to dredge or fill waters, including wetlands, of the United States.

WHAT IS 404 ASSUMPTION?

The Clean Water Act Section 404 federal wetlands permitting program regulates the discharge of dredged or fill materials into waters of the United States and is a vital tool to restore and maintain "the chemical, physical, and biological integrity" of our nation's waters.

A state that demonstrates its own dredge and fill program is at least as stringent as the federal program can review 404 permit applications and issue corresponding permits.

WHY IS ASSUMPTION A BAD DEAL FOR FLORIDA?

The 404 permitting program regulates dredging and filling of waters and wetlands which are essential to water quality, storm and climate resiliency, threatened and endangered species, and the economy.

Allowing Florida to assume control over this federal program would open the floodgates to development of these resources and further threaten Florida's imperiled species.

When Florida last considered taking on the federal program, it abandoned the effort because of the many conflicts between state and federal requirements, high cost of administering the program, and permittees' concerns regarding protection against liability from harming imperiled species.

WHAT CAN I DO?

EPA fast-tracked the approval, ignored Tribal and public input, and violated several federal laws. **Contact EPA leadership and let them know that 404 assumption is bad for Florida.**

Email EPA Administrator Andrew Wheeler at: wheeler.andrew@epa.gov

Email the EPA's forthcoming Acting Regional Administrator John Blevins at: blevins.john@epa.gov

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