

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
Division of Recreation and Parks

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RESEARCH/COLLECTION PERMITS

1. **Research**, for the purpose of this policy, means any investigation which involves the use of Division-managed land for a study site. Research includes capture-and-release of organisms for scientific purposes.
2. **Collection** means (a) the permanent purposeful removal of a natural object from Division-managed lands, and (b) causing the death of a living organism (with or without removal). Collecting, for the purposes of this policy, does not include authorized fishing, shellfishing, or collecting empty shells or non-living marine jetsam (except as specified in 4. n, o, p). In addition, collecting is not meant to include the killing of biting arthropod pests. Section 258.083, F.S. further restricts collecting in John Pennekamp Coral Reef State Park.
3. **Natural objects** include a) living or dead plant or animal materials or products, and b) mineral objects including fossils, soils, and stone.
4. **Listed species** include those appearing in the Florida Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission's most recent publication of Official Lists of Endangered and Potentially Endangered Fauna and Flora in Florida, which includes State and Federal designations. In addition, listed species include those appearing on the three lists published by the Florida Natural Areas Inventory entitled List of Special Plants and Lichens, Special Vertebrates, and Special Invertebrates.
5. The Division encourages scientific research and inventories which contribute to scientific knowledge and/or understanding of Division-managed resources.
6. All persons who conduct research or collections on Division-managed lands must be permitted in writing by the Division and must carry that permit when engaged in such activities. The permitting authority may waive this requirement for Department staff at his/her discretion.
7. The applicant is responsible for identifying and securing other necessary permits (e.g., for ground-disturbing

- activity or for collecting listed species) from the Department of Environmental Protection, Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, or other applicable regulatory agencies.
8. The eventual disposition or repository for collected natural objects shall be addressed in the permit. Objects that will be destroyed shall be so described in the permit application.
 9. Collected objects shall be dedicated to public benefit, and may not be sold, bartered, or traded.
 10. Permit dates will include the anticipated project duration with a minimum time for unexpected overrun. Permits normally shall not exceed 1 year in duration without renewal.
 11. Permits are non-transferable. Unspecified assistants must be accompanied by specified permitted personnel.
 12. This permit is revocable if any conditions of the permit or regulations of any agency are not followed.
 13. The collecting of incidental objects (e.g., food plants, soil, etc.) must be requested in the application. Collecting any parts of listed species as incidental objects is not allowed.
 14. Shell collecting may be prohibited at certain units by authority of the Division Director.
 15. Coral, horse, and queen conchs, and Liguus tree snails may not be permitted for collection.
 16. Parts or remains of marine mammals may not be collected unless specifically permitted by the Division and by the U.S. Department of the Interior. Parts or remains of sea turtles may not be collected unless specifically permitted by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission.
 17. Permits for research or collecting should require return benefits to the Division such as species lists, research reports, or voucher specimens.

18. Collecting should occur outside of parks unless good reason for in-park collecting is provided.
19. The permitting authority should prohibit collection of listed, endemic, locally depleted, or otherwise distinctive species, morphs, or populations, unless adequate justification is given.
20. Collected natural objects should be donated to academic or museum collections, although exceptions may be made by the permitting authority. Preference should be given to Florida collections. If specimens are to be deposited out-of-state, consideration should be given to requiring the collection of additional specimens to be accessioned into a Florida collection.
21. A maximum number of specimens or quantity of materials to be collected should be specified on the permit.
22. When possible, research and collecting activities should be directed to areas where they will not contribute to erosion, trampling, or other disturbances to flora, fauna, or geologic or cultural resources. Areas out of the public view are also preferable.
23. Permitting will be done by the district office when a single district is involved. When more than one district is involved, a single permit will be coordinated and issued by the Bureau of Natural and Cultural Resources. The Bureau will circulate a draft permit which will be modified according to the desires of each of the districts. One district office will be chosen to supervise the terms of the permit.
24. The permittee must provide prior notification to the District Office and individual Park Managers of intended field visits, with one-week minimum notice, whenever possible.
25. Permittees must announce their research/collecting visits at the ranger station at the time of arrival. Managers of parks without ranger stations shall make alternative arrangements with the permittee for special access plans.

26. The permittee shall not be required to pay regular entrance fees because their work benefits science and knowledge of the park's resources.