

Application for Professional Mangrove Trimmer Status

The following is designed to provide information for persons to become a Professional Mangrove Trimmer (PMT) under the 1996 Mangrove Trimming and Preservation Act [Sections 403.9321-403.9334 of the Florida Statutes (F.S.)].

The 1996 Mangrove Trimming and Preservation Act provides the regulations for trimming and altering mangroves on private and public property. Many trimming activities can be performed under an exemption from permitting requirements, provided the trimming is supervised or conducted by a professional mangrove trimmer. Subsection 403.9329(2), lists the qualifications for becoming a professional mangrove trimmer (PMT).

The following persons are automatically considered as PMTs, in accordance with paragraphs 403.9329(1)(a-e) of the 1996 Mangrove Act:

- Certified arborists, certified by the International Society of Arboriculture;
- Professional wetland scientists, certified by the Society of Wetland Scientists;
- Certified environmental professionals, certified by the Academy of Board Certified Environmental Professionals;
- Certified ecologists certified by the Ecological Society of America;
- Landscape Architects currently licensed in Florida under part II of Chapter 481, Florida Statutes.

If you qualify as one of the above, no further action on your part is required to become a PMT, and you qualify under the Act to perform all actions requiring the services of a PMT.

If you do not qualify as one of the professionals listed above, you may seek to be qualified as a PMT in accordance with paragraph 403.9329(1)(f), F.S. This will require that you submit certain information to the Department or a delegated local government (see below) in accordance with paragraph 403.9329(2)(a) of the Florida Statutes. Three requirements must be met:

- Submittal of **at least 10 separate projects authorized (permitted) by the department or a local government program**, for which the applicant was at least one of the persons responsible for conducting the first set of trimming to shape the mangroves to the height and configuration allowed by the permit. **Each project must be separately identified by a project name and permit number.**
Note: Exempt trimming activities, such as those performed under paragraphs 403.9326(1)(a), (b), (c), or (d) of the Florida Statutes, do not qualify as trimming experience towards recognition of PMT status.

Documentation for permitted projects, must contain:

- The name, address and phone number of the supervising PMT (403.9237(1)(c)2, F.S.); and
- A copy of the permit, if available, or the permit number; and
- A receipt or letter from the supervising PMT or the property owner of the site trimmed, or other documentation showing that you were the person who conducted the trimming.

A finding that mangrove trimming or alteration projects of the applicant are not in violation of the 1995 or 1996 Mangrove Trimming & Preservation Acts or previous rules during the period of review of the application for PMT status.

- A demonstration that the applicant possesses the knowledge and ability to correctly identify mangrove species occurring in Florida.

Applications for qualification of PMT status outside of a delegated local government should be submitted to:

*Katherine Gilbert, Mangrove Coordinator
Beaches & Wetland Resources Office, MS 2500
Department of Environmental Protection
2600 Blair Stone Rd., Tallahassee, FL 32399-2400
Phone number: (850) 245-8482; FAX (850) 245-8499
E-mail katherine.gilbert@dep.state.fl.us.*

The Department will have 60 days from the receipt of your application for PMT certification to review and approve or deny PMT status. You may contact Mr. Gilbert for questions concerning PMT application or to check on the status of your application file.

Certain local governments have been delegated the authority from the Department to implement the 1996 Mangrove Trimming and Preservation Act. Contact the offices of the local governments to register as a person trimming mangroves in these areas:

- Pinellas Co. - 727-464-4761
- Broward Co. - 954-519-1230
- Miami-Dade Co. -305-372-6575
- City of Sanibel - 941-472-3700
- Town of Jupiter Island - 561-546-5578
- Town of Indian River Shores - 561-231-4453

Additional information on trimming and altering mangroves may be found in the Department's *Mangrove Trimming Guidelines for Homeowner's* at <http://www.dep.state.fl.us/water/wetlands/mangroves/mangrove.htm>. Additional copies of that booklet are available at our local DEP district offices.

If you have any questions regarding PMT qualification, applications, or mangrove procedures in general, please contact Ms. Gilbert.