

Section 22**Funding and Financial Commitment****Purpose**

The HCP must be adequately funded to ensure that required programs are implemented and performed in a manner consistent with the intent of the HCP.

Relevant ITP Condition–N.

Funding and Financial Commitment. “The Permittee shall commit funds necessary to implement the terms and conditions of this Permit and provisions of the HCP. By March 31 of each year this Permit is in effect, the Permittee shall submit an HCP Operational Budget to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for review and approval. The HCP Operational Budget shall provide an itemized financial commitment sufficient to fund all terms and conditions of this Permit and provisions of the HCP.”

HCP Performance During 2008

Implementation: Each year all County departments must request funding from the St. Johns County Board of County Commissioners. As of 2008, no department had included as a dedicated line item in an Operational Budget funding specifically earmarked to implement and perform the HCP. However, all expenses including salaries and operational expenditures that were HCP related throughout the 2008 fiscal year have been funded through the Growth Management Department, Environmental Division or the Recreation and Parks Department, Beach Services.

Assessment: Funding for all County operations and programs is expected to be very challenging for several years to come but it is understood that adherence to the provisions of the ITP is mandatory. As described above all funds expended to implement the conditions of the HCP/ITP have been included in current Operational Budgets of two separate departments within the County. This method of funding, shared by two departments, is expected to continue. Even in this fiscally challenging environment, the County will look to development a separate line item in the Beach Services budget which will be identified to implement portions of the HCP.

Table 12.

Direct HCP Support

Position	Duties	Department	Revenue Source	Salary
HCP Coordinator Full Time	Implements HCP/ITP	Growth Management Environmental Division	General Fund	\$67,484.59*
Beach Lighting Officer Part Time	Implements BLMP	Recreation & Parks/Beach Services	Toll Revenue/ General Fund	\$2,246.43
HCP Field Assistants Paid Internship	Rut removal	Recreation & Parks/Recreation	General Fund	\$9,610.00
2 Toll Operators 10 hours/week	Gate Closures M-Th	Recreation & Parks/Beach Services	Toll Revenue	\$604.55
HCP Operating Expenses	Operating Supplies	Recreation & Parks/Beach Services	Toll Revenue/ General Fund	\$6,668.84
Total				\$86,614.41

* Includes benefits

Table 13.

Accessory HCP Support

Position	Duties	Department	Revenue Source	Salary	% Actual Funds
Beach Manager	Manages Beaches/ Special Projects	Recreation & Parks/Beach Services	General Fund	\$91,433.04*	(50%) 45,716.52*
Beach Maintenance	1 full time/2 part time	Recreation & Parks/Maintenance	General Fund	\$26,997.65	(25%) 6,749.00
City Police Beach Patrol	City Beach Patrol	Recreation & Parks/Beach Services	Toll Revenue	\$75,000.00	(29%) 22,009.00
SJC Beach Patrol	County Beach Patrol Beach Gates	Recreation & Parks/Beach Services	Toll Revenue	\$140,000.00	(50%) 70,000.00
Total				\$144,474.52	

* Includes benefits

Direct support of the HCP is evident in the salaries provided to the HCP Coordinator, Beach Lighting Officer, HCP Field Assistants and toll operators assisting with gate

closures during the sea turtle nesting season. Accessory support for HCP implementation is demonstrated through the percentage of time actually spent on implementation. A total of \$231,088.93 is paid to either directly or indirectly support the HCP/ITP.

Although \$70,000 and \$22,009 was to be paid to the Sheriff's Department and City Police, respectively, the money does not solely reflect full time and year round implementation of the HCP/ITP. As mentioned in Section 5 Implementation Staff and Section 20 Enforcement, personnel tasked with enforcing the Beach Code are not primarily focused on enforcing the HCP as they are overtime deputies seeking extra hours. Furthermore, as demonstrated in Table 8 St. Johns County Beach Patrol Stats, the City of St. Augustine Beach issued no HCP warnings during the 2008 season.

Program Improvements: St. Johns County is currently investigating how to obtain additional funding.