

## 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) F.S., lists the qualifications for becoming a professional mangrove trimmer (PMT).

The following persons are automatically considered as PMT's, in accordance with paragraphs 403.9329(1)(a-e) F.S., 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, F.S.

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. Persons applying for professional mangrove trimmer status must provide to the department a notarized sworn statement attesting:

- (a) That the applicant has successfully completed a minimum of 10 mangrove-trimming projects authorized by the department or a local government program. Each project must be separately identified by project name and permit number;
- (b) That a mangrove-trimming or alteration project of the applicant is not in violation of ss. [403.9321-403.9333](#) or any lawful rules adopted thereunder; and
- (c) That the applicant possesses the knowledge and ability to correctly identify mangrove species occurring in this state.

In addition, applications should include the following;

- 1.) 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.**

Each of the 10 submitted projects must contain:

- (a) The name, address and phone number of the supervising PMT (403.9237(1)(c)2, F.S.); and
- (b) A copy of the permit, if available, or the permit number; and
- (c) 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.

**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.

- 2.) 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.
- 3.) 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:

SLERC  
Submerged Lands and Environmental Resource Coordination Program  
Florida Department of Environmental Protection  
2600 Blair Stone Road, M.S. 2500  
Tallahassee, FL 32399-2400  
[SLERC@FloridaDEP.gov](mailto:SLERC@FloridaDEP.gov)  
Office: (850)245-8336

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 [SLERC@floridadep.gov](mailto:SLERC@floridadep.gov) for questions concerning the status of your PMT application.

The below local governments have been delegated the authority from the Department to implement the 1996 Mangrove Trimming and Preservation Act. If you would like to qualify or register as a PMT please contact the appropriate office below:

- 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

If you have any questions regarding PMT qualification, applications, or mangrove procedures in general, please contact [SLERC@floridadep.gov](mailto:SLERC@floridadep.gov).