

Questions and Answers

Lake Okeechobee Works of the District

When do I need a Lake Okeechobee Works of the District (WOD) Permit?

A Lake Okeechobee WOD permit is required if you own a parcel of land 1/2 acre or greater within a Lake Okeechobee Drainage Basin that connects to or makes use of the Works of the District within the Lake Okeechobee Drainage Basin. The land areas and land uses subject to these permits are described in rules 40E-61.041 and 40E-61.042, F.A.C.

Lake Okeechobee WOD Permit Types

The Lake Okeechobee WOD regulatory program provides four different types of permits: No Notice and Noticed General (based on land use and location), Individual, and Management Plan Master (for specified basins within or discharging to the Everglades Agricultural Area discharging into Lake Okeechobee) permits.

No Notice and Noticed General permits are required for parcels with the following land uses in basins listed in 40E-61.042, F.A.C.:

- Urban storm water
- Golf courses
- Sugar cane
- Horse farms
- Nurseries
- Land spreading of sludge
- Sod farms

Individual permits are required for parcels within the Lake Okeechobee Drainage Basin specified in 40E-61.041(2)(a)2., F.A.C. with the following land uses:

- Improved pasture, including heifer farms and areas of dairies not covered by Rule 62-670.500 [PDF], F.A.C. (FDEP Dairy Rule)
- Vegetable farms, including row crops
- Hog, poultry or goat farms

A Management Plan Master Permit is a permit for collective landowners utilizing works of the District directly or indirectly as part of their water management plans. The lands must be within the Everglades Agricultural Area served by water management systems that are within or discharge to basins defined in 40E-61.041(4) and (5), F.A.C.

What is the application procedure?

The typical application steps are:

1. (Optional) Schedule a pre-application meeting with District staff at the [Okeechobee Service Center](#) (800-250-4200). During the meeting, staff can advise you about information requirements and identify potential complications.
2. After the pre-application meeting, submit your completed permit application. (See "What information will I need to provide?" below.) District staff will have 30 days to request any additional information needed.
3. During the first 20 days after you submit your application, District staff will contact you in order to conduct an on-site verification of your property.

What information will I need to provide?

- A warranty deed or other instrument establishing ownership of the land to be permitted. A helpful tool is your local property appraiser's office. Many offices now provide information online. Check www.propertyappraiser.com for your county's web page (if available).
- A recent aerial photograph with property boundaries clearly outlined, along with all drainage features onto and off of your property.
- A written Phosphorus Management Plan indicating how phosphorus will be controlled for each land use you intend to have on your property. This includes all present and future land uses. The District can help you find Best Management Practices manuals (available links below) to help you develop your plan.

Many manuals can now be found on the Internet, including the:

- [Cow/Calf Operations BMPs – IFAS Website](#)
- [Citrus BMPs – IFAS Website](#)
- [Urban Stormwater BMP Manual \[PDF\]](#)
- A signed and dated Lake Okeechobee WOD Permit application Form RC-1 (0050A). This form must be signed by the applicant or the duly authorized agent. If an agent is signing, then written proof of authorization must be submitted.
- The appropriate permit application processing fee. For Noticed General permits the fee is \$100, for Individual and Management Plan Master permits the fee is \$150.

How long is my permit valid?

Lake Okeechobee WOD Noticed General or Individual permits are for three years from the date of issuance and are automatically extended unless the District advises the permittee otherwise in writing within at least 90 days prior to the expiration date. Management Plan Master Permits are for 5 years, and then automatically

expire, unless the permittees file for a renewal or a modification before the expiration date (40E-61.321(3), F.A.C.)

If an entire property is sold, the permittee must notify the District within 30 days of the sale and provide a certification that all conditions of the permit have been satisfied. The District will transfer the permit, without fee, to the new landowner provided that the land use remains the same.

A modification to the permit must be applied for if there is a significant land use change or if any part of the property is sold.