

## **WATERBORNE DEBRIS, WHO IS RESPONSIBLE?**

The answer is not always clear, or as clear as you think it should be.

Waterborne debris is the responsibility of the entity that has legal responsibility for or owns the property that the debris lands on.

Sometimes that can be Florida Department of Environmental Protection's Bureau of State Lands.

Other times it could be National Resources Conservation Service, a Federal Program.

Then again, it could be the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers, if the debris is in or blocking a navigable channel.

Best way to be sure is to make contact with the departments listed here and ask them if they are responsible for the area, you are concerned about.

Have latitude and longitude coordinates for the specific debris, or the name of the watershed you are inquiring about.

Regardless of who owns a derelict vessel, WFC must be called so they can take charge of the removal and follow up.

If someone owns the vessel in question, the owners insurance should reimburse for expenses related to removal.

If there is no owner or no insurance there are programs to reimburse for the removal of the vessel, those programs have guidelines that FWC are very familiar with.