

Summary of Other Ongoing Gulf Restoration Projects and Planning Activities in Florida

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Natural Resource Damage Assessment



Phase I- 2 projects
totaling \$5.7M



Phase II- 2 projects
totaling \$6.3M



Phase III – 28 projects
totaling \$88M

National Fish and Wildlife Foundation



2013 Funding Cycle- 6 projects totaling \$15.7 million



2014 Funding Cycle- 9 projects totaling \$34.3 million



2015 Funding Cycle- Florida GEBF Restoration Strategy and select projects

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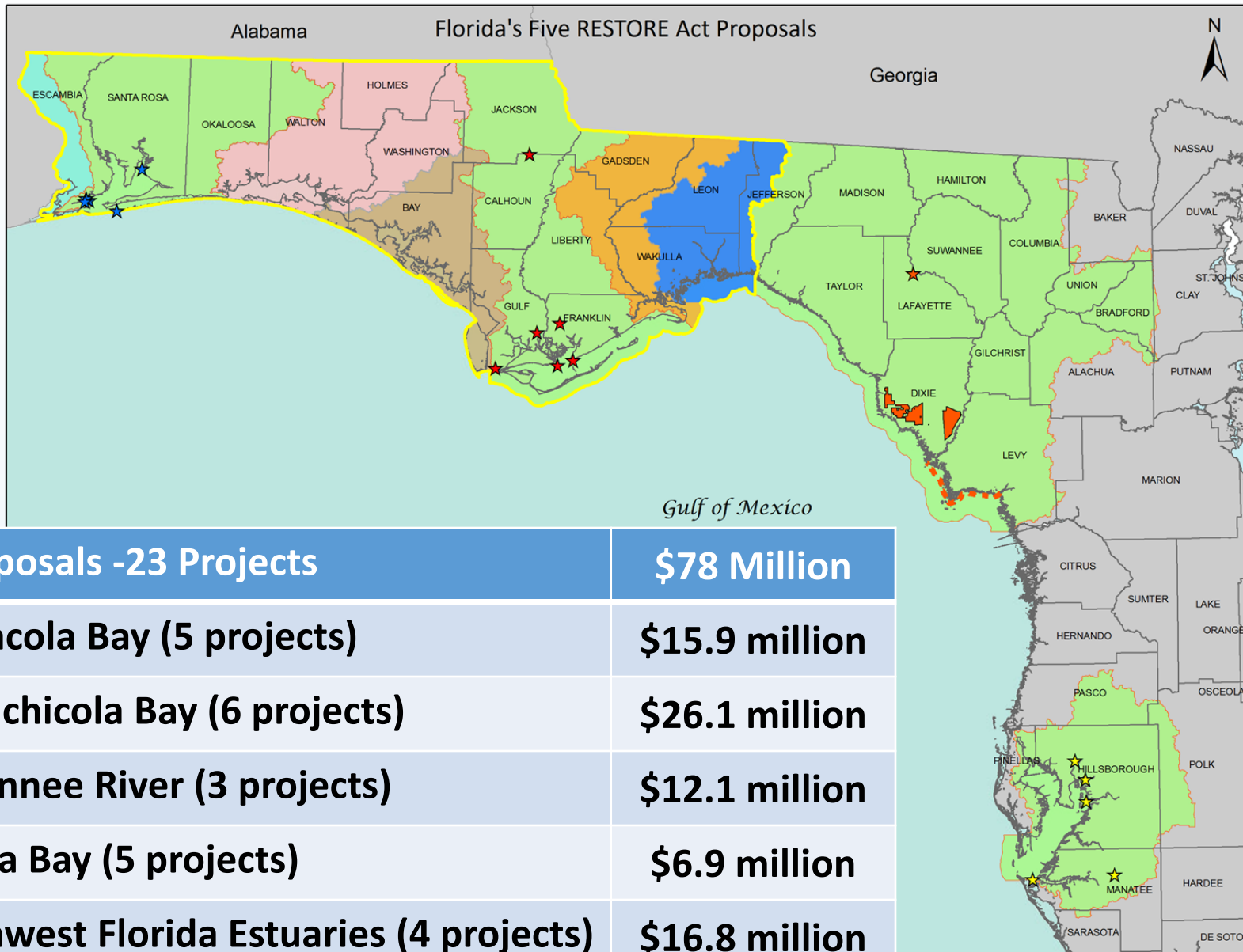


\$5 million to acquire
Panhandle parcels: Escribano
Point and Seven Runs Creek



\$5 million on 6 Panhandle
Stormwater retrofit projects

Florida's November 2014 Submissions to RESTORE Council – Pot 2



Draft Funded Priorities List: Two Categories

Category 1 - \$140M

- 45 projects
- Proposed for funding in final FPL
- Includes planning & on-the-ground restoration
- Applicable environmental laws addressed (e.g. NEPA)

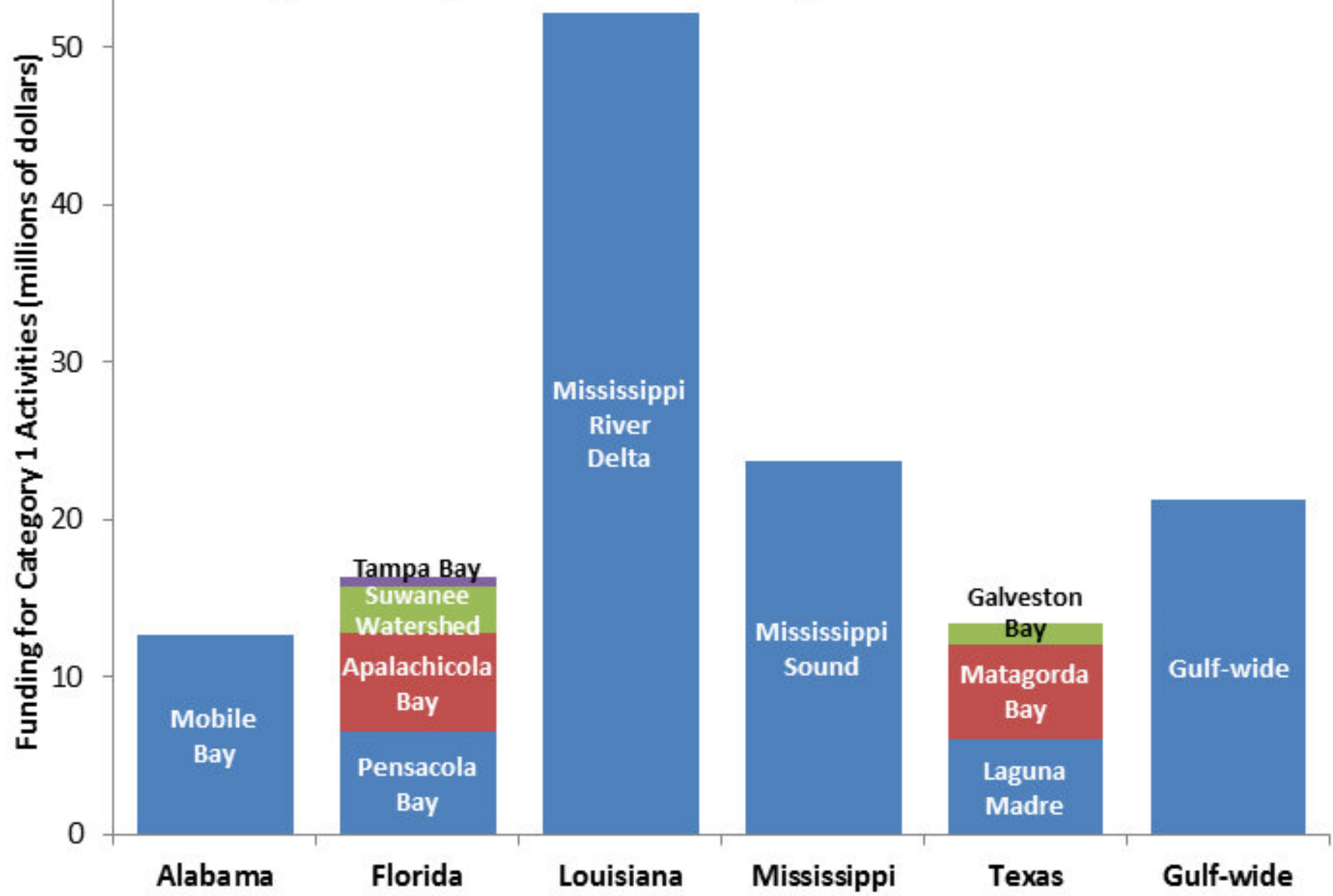
Category 2 - \$43M

- Reserved for possible future funding
- 16 projects
- Priorities for further review & potential future funding
- Additional analysis needed, including environmental compliance
- Have planning components in Category 1

Draft Funded Priorities List: Florida

- **Florida Sponsored - \$18.5M**
 - Category 1 - \$12.5M
 - Category 2 - \$6M
- **Other Council Member Sponsored - \$12M**
 - Category 1- \$4M
 - Category 2 - \$8M
- **Gulf-wide projects, estimated FL Benefits - \$7M**
 - Category 1 - \$5.7M
 - Category 2 - \$1.6M

Funding for Proposed Activities by State & Watershed



Courtesy Environmental Law Institute

Pensacola Bay Watershed

Beach Haven Joint Stormwater & Wastewater Improvement Project - Phase II:

- 6.4 miles of sewer main, & removal of 760 septic tanks
- Category 1: \$5,967,000
- Pollutant load reduction of 60,000lb. annually
- Leveraging \$6M from Local Governments

Bayou Chico Contaminated Sediment Removal- Planning, Design, and Permitting

- Dredging sediments from Bayou Chico.
- Category 1: \$356,850
- Benefits: restored benthic habitat, increased biological diversity & productivity, & improved water quality
- Leveraging over \$11M in NFWF funding & \$25M from Bayou Chico stakeholders

Pensacola Bay Living Shoreline - Phase I

- *Design* of 24,800 l.f. of oyster reef & 205 ac marsh/SAV;
- *Creation* of 2,000 l.f. of oyster reef & 25 ac. of marsh/SAV
- Category 1: \$231,314
- Category 2: \$1,564,636
- Leveraging \$11M in NRDA funding

Apalachicola Bay Watershed

Apalachicola Watershed Agriculture Water Quality Improvement

- FDACS Ag BMPs cost-share program to improve water quality on private land
- Category 1: \$2,219,856
- Eliminate 8,000lb of fertilizer/year
- Leveraging approx. \$700k in cost-share

Apalachicola Bay Oyster Restoration

- 43,858 cubic yards of cultch material over 219 ac. of existing oyster reefs
- Category 1: \$702,000
- Category 2: \$3,978,000
- Leveraging \$4M NFWF, \$2.1M NRDA Early Restoration Phase III project, & \$6M Federal Disaster Assistance funding

Apalachicola Bay Watershed

USDA Tate's Hell Strategy 1

- Tate's Hell State Forest
- Hydrologic restoration & development of landscape scale hydrologic assessment
- Category 1: \$2,950,000
- Category 2: \$4,050,000
- Leveraging \$1.6M in FFS & NFWFMD funding

DOC-NOAA Money Bayou Wetlands Restoration

- St. Joseph Bay State Buffer Preserve
- Hydrologic restoration to approx. 1,000 ac. of wetlands
- Category 1: \$387,726
- Category 2: \$852,653
- Leverage in-kind partnerships

Suwannee River Watershed

Suwannee River Partnership Irrigation Water Enhancement Program

- FDACS Ag BMPs cost-share program to improve water quality on private land
- Category 1: \$2,884,000
- Eliminate approx. 8,000lb of fertilizer annually
- Leveraging approx. \$900k in cost-share

Tampa Bay Watershed

Palm River Restoration Project Phase II, East McKay Bay

- Restore 8 ac. of salt marsh & 32 ac. of coastal uplands, & construction of 3 stormwater ponds
- Category 1: \$87,750
- Category 2: \$497,250
- Remove an estimated 517 lb. of nitrogen annually from 436 acres of residential, commercial, and industrial lands
- Leveraging \$900k in SWFWMD & FDOT funding

DOC-NOAA Robinson Preserve Wetlands Restoration

- Restore 85 ac. of upland habitats & 55 ac. of created wetland & sub-tidal habitats from fallow land in Robinson Preserve
- Category 1: \$470,910
- Category 2: \$1,319,636
- Leveraging \$40M in Manatee County & partner funding

EPA - Tampa Bay National Estuary Program

- Implement elements of the Tampa Bay Estuary Program
- Category 1: \$100,000
- Category 2: \$2,000,000
- Reduce 16.5 tons of nitrogen per year; restore 250 ac. of coastal habitat & create 200 ac. of seagrass
- Leveraging \$3.4M in local government & partner funding

Next Steps

- Council Public Meetings in Florida
 - St. Petersburg - FWC Fish & Wildlife Research Institute: Aug. 26 @ 6p.m. EST
 - Panama City - Gulf Coast State College: Aug. 27 @ 6p.m. CST
- Comments Due By: Sept. 28th
- Final FPL expected by end of 2015

Council website: restorethegulf.gov

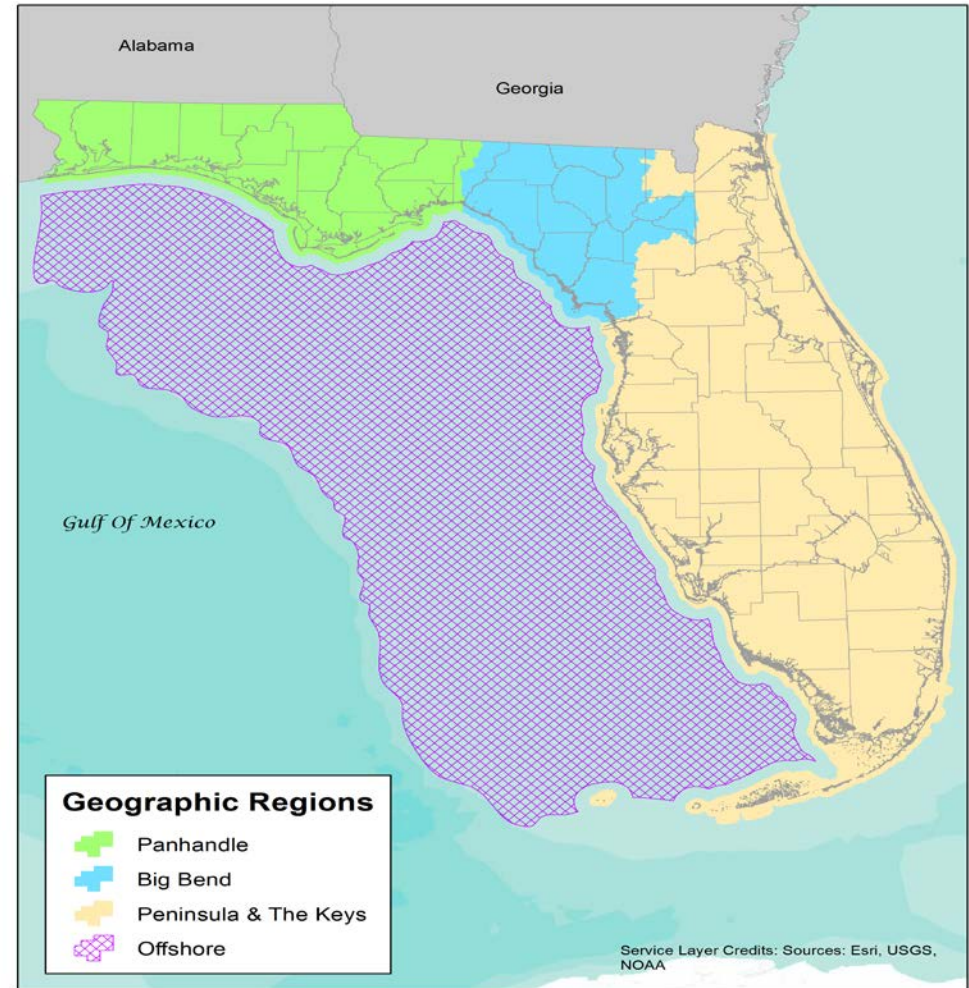




GEBF Restoration Strategy

Two-year effort to plan remaining GEBF investments in Florida

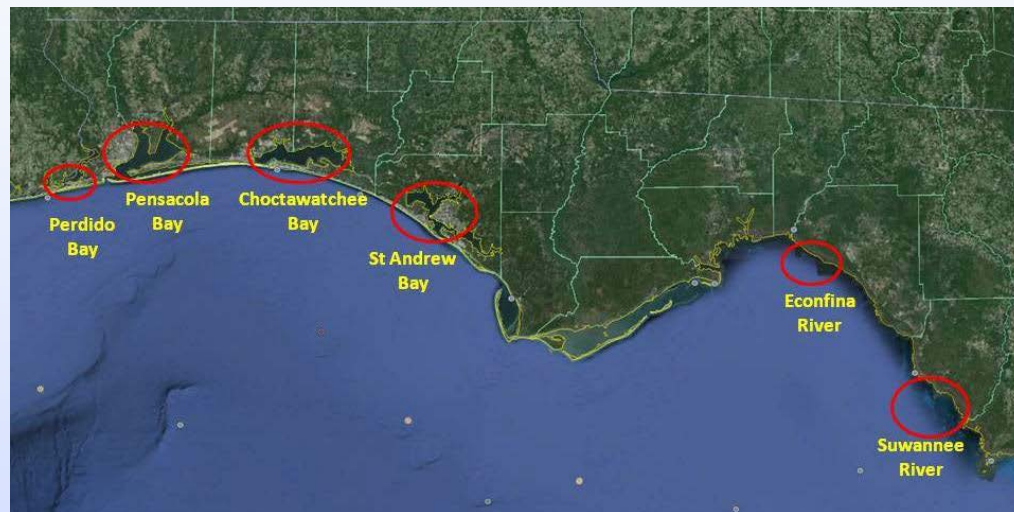
- Includes submerged habitat assessment and SWIM plan updates for SRWMD and NFWFMD
- Based on the three NFWF GEBF funding priorities
 - Restore and maintain the ecological functions of landscape-scale coastal habitats
 - Restore and maintain the ecological integrity of priority coastal bays and estuaries
 - Replenish and protect living resources



GEBF Restoration Strategy

Submerged Habitat Assessment

- Assess, map, and model natural and human stressors and roadblocks to submerged aquatic vegetation (SAV) in Perdido, Pensacola, Choctawhatchee, St. Andrew, Econfina, and Suwannee estuaries
- Collate all available SAV imagery, mapping, and monitoring data (and where gaps exist, gather new information) and combine with water quality and sediment data to evaluate roadblocks to recovery
- Develop Submerged Aquatic Vegetation Recovery Potential (SRP) model to identify areas where natural recovery is occurring and where losses are continuing



GEBF Restoration Strategy

Restoration Planning for the Florida Panhandle

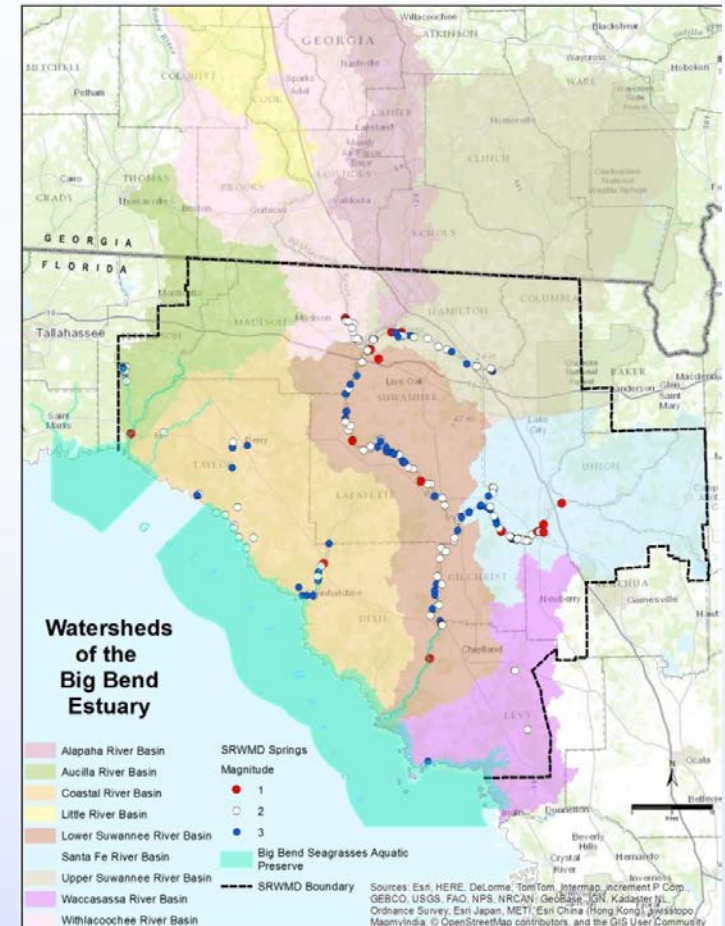
- Update watershed plans for seven major estuarine watersheds of Northwest Florida: Perdido River and Bay; Pensacola Bay System; Choctawhatchee River and Bay; St. Andrew Bay; Apalachicola River and Bay; Ochlockonee River and Bay; and St. Marks River and Bay
- Engage technical advisory committees to identify watershed issues, goals and objectives, and prioritize strategies and projects
- Conduct public workshops in each watershed



GEBF Restoration Strategy

Big Bend Watersheds Planning

- Update watershed plans for six major watersheds-- Suwannee River, Aucilla River, Econfina River, Fenholloway River, Steinhatchee River, and Waccasassa River—and consolidate into two SWIM plans (Suwannee River and Coastal Rivers)
- Engage a steering group of agencies and NGOs to identify watershed issues, goals and objectives, and prioritize strategies and projects
- Conduct public workshops



GEBF Restoration Strategy: Potential Actions

Coastal Habitats:

- Utilize living shorelines and other non-structural or structural approaches to protect vulnerable shoreline
- Conserve key marsh or beach habitats that expand the network of state, federal, local and private conservation areas through fee or less-than-fee acquisitions
- Control and eradicate, when possible, non-native and invasive plant species and nuisance herbivores
- Enhance the habitat value for wildlife by taking actions to reduce human disturbance, such as utilizing fencing or educational signage, and controlling or eradicating, when possible, non-native and invasive species
- Restore dune habitat through native vegetation planting and sand-trapping fencing
- Protect and conserve strategic transitional and upland habitats necessary in the life cycles of many coastal species

GEBF Restoration Strategy: Potential Actions

Coastal Bays and Estuaries:

- Measurably improve water quality by reducing significant non-point sources of degradation (e.g., storm water management, agricultural runoff) to enhance or maintain the functioning of priority bays and estuaries
- Improve freshwater inflows to priority bays to enhance or maintain the functioning of priority bays and estuaries
- Utilize living shorelines and other non-structural or structural approaches to protect vulnerable shoreline
- Restore and conserve (e.g., through land or easement acquisition) coastal and near-shore habitats, in particular marshes, oyster reefs, seagrasses, and coastal buffers
- Control and eradicate, when possible, non-native and invasive species to enhance native wildlife and fish habitat

GEBF Restoration Strategy: Potential Actions

Living Resources:

- Gulf Coast birds: Reduce nest predation and human disturbance to increase reproductive success; enhance food resources and habitat availability to increase overwintering success; protect and restore critical colonial waterbird nesting islands
- Sea turtles: Reduce light pollution, nest predation, and other disturbances; reduce by-catch; protect strategic nesting beaches and inshore foraging areas; enhance and/or expand stranding networks
- Reef fish: Improve data collection to inform sustainable fishing practices; reduce by-catch
- Oysters: Restore or replenish oyster reefs; promote sustainable harvest strategies
- Marine mammals: Enhance and/or expand stranding networks

GEBF Restoration Strategy

Current activities

- Evaluating existing natural resource plans
<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/Gulf-Restoration>
- Categorization of projects in portal
- Coordination with WMD and FWRI teams
- RFP for consultant under development

Expectations for 2016 cycle . . . and beyond . . .