Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Council

Apalachicola Bay Watershed

Apalachicola Watershed Agriculture Water Quality Improvements
(FL_RESTORE_002_005_Cat1)

Project Name: Apalachicola Watershed Agriculture Water Quality Improvements - Implementation
Cost: Category 1: $2,219,856
Responsible Council Member: State of Florida
Partnering Council Member: U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA)

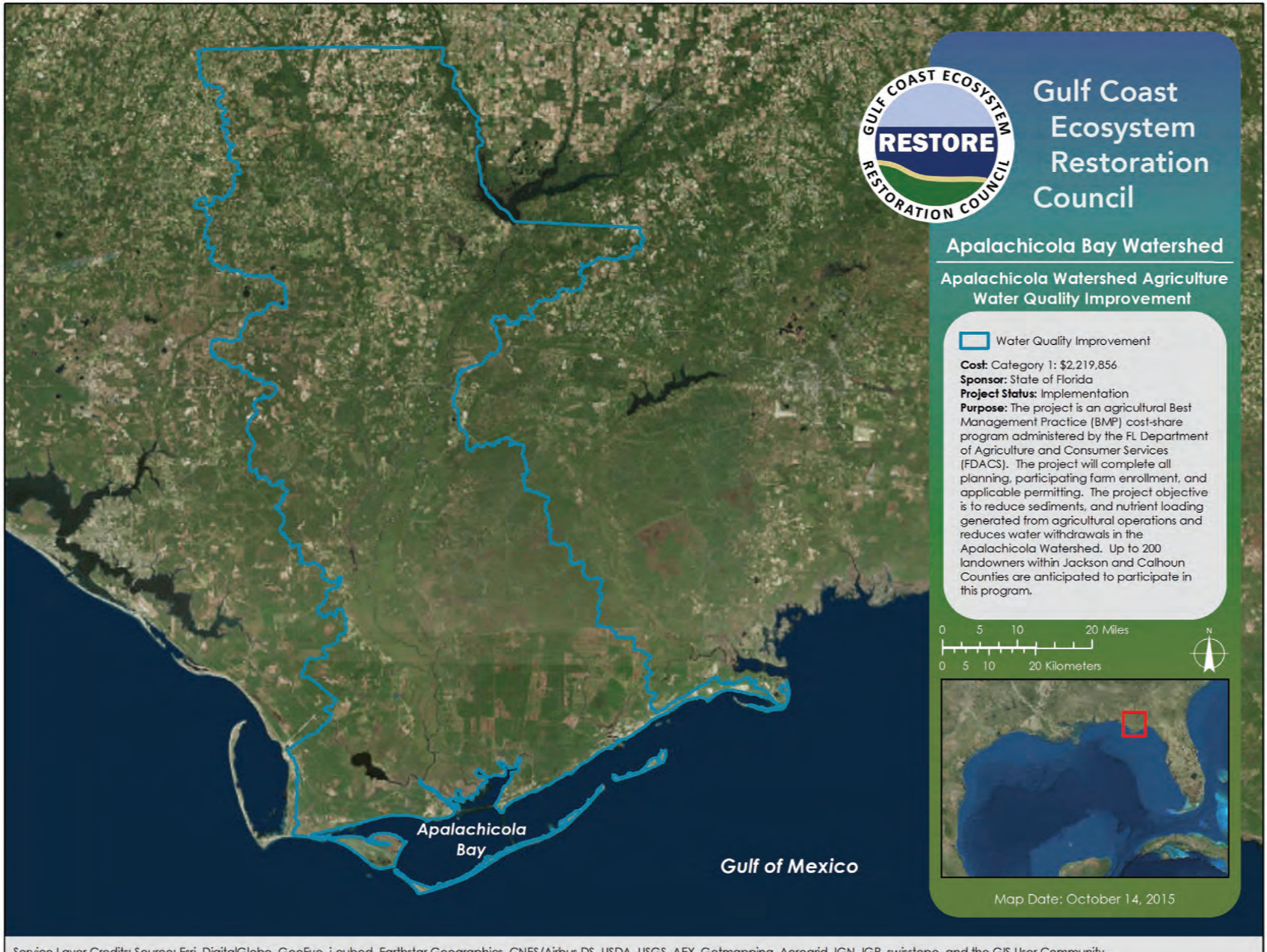
Project Details: This project includes activities to implement a program in which the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (FDACS) conducts oversight and enters into cost share agreements with landowners in implementing FDACS and USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) water quality and quantity-focused Best Management Practices (BMPs). This program will reduce pollutant loadings by 20-30% per application.

Activities: The project will consist of FDACS contracting with local soil and water conservation district boards to administer cost-share funding in order to assist participating farmers with implementation of state-adopted BMPs that are consistent with NRCS conservation standards. The cost share program will primarily be located in Jackson and Calhoun counties and will include items such as guidance systems, precision soil sampling, remote-sensing techniques, variable-rate and section-control technology, and irrigation system retrofits.

Environmental Benefits: The program's ecological benefits will include more efficient agricultural operations, reduced nutrient loadings to the Apalachicola watershed, and increased water conservation. It will strengthen the economic viability and environmental compatibility of agriculture within the focus area. Documentation shows that improving irrigation system efficiency can conserve more than 56,000 gallons of water per pivot on a daily basis and result in more than 8,000 pounds less fertilizer being applied annually to the enrolled agricultural lands. Significant energy savings will also result. Project metrics will include number of participating farmers, acres enrolled, BMP tools adopted, and irrigation systems retrofitted.

Duration: The project is anticipated to take up to five years to complete and should result in approximately 15 years of benefits.

More information on this activity can be found in Appendix H. Apalachicola Bay; Unique Identifier: FL_RESTORE_002_005_Cat1.



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Apalachicola Bay Watershed

Apalachicola Watershed Agriculture Water Quality Improvement

Water Quality Improvement

Cost: Category 1: $2,219,856
Sponsor: State of Florida
Project Status: Implementation
Purpose: The project is an agricultural Best Management Practice (BMP) cost-share program administered by the FL Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (FDACS). The project will complete all planning, participating farm enrollment, and applicable permitting. The project objective is to reduce sediments, and nutrient loading generated from agricultural operations and reduces water withdrawals in the Apalachicola Watershed. Up to 200 landowners within Jackson and Calhoun Counties are anticipated to participate in this program.

0 5 10 20 Miles
0 5 10 20 Kilometers

N

Map Date: October 14, 2015

Service Layer Credits: Source: Esri, DigitalGlobe, GeoEye, i-cubed, Earthstar Geographics, CNES/Airbus DS, USDA, USGS, AEX, Getmapping, Aerogrid, IGN, IGP, swisstopo, and the GIS User Community