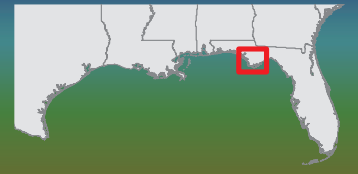




Gulf Coast  
Ecosystem  
Restoration  
Council

# Apalachicola Bay Watershed

Money Bayou Wetlands Restoration  
(DOC\_RESTORE\_001\_009\_Cat1/Cat2)



**Project Name:** Money Bayou Wetlands Restoration

**Costs:** Category 1: \$387,726 | Category 2: \$852,653

**Responsible Council Member:** Department of Commerce/National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)

**Partnering Council Member:** State of Florida

**Project Details:** This project is part of the Connecting Coastal Waters (CCW) initiative NOAA would lead with partners to implement projects that restore the extent, functionality, and resiliency of Gulf Coast wetlands and provide a science-based inventory of wetland hydrology restoration projects. The Money Bayou basin includes over 1,800 acres of marsh interspersed with forested wetlands, and is now protected within the St. Joseph Bay State Buffer Preserve. However, extensive ditching, road construction and fire plow lines were previously constructed and these alterations have disrupted the area's natural hydrology, resulting in degraded wetlands, loss of aquatic communities and invasive plant species.

**Activities:** The project includes activities in two FPL categories. Category 1 activities will complete the planning and design to restore a natural hydrology to approximately 1,000 acres of wetlands on the St. Joseph Bay State Buffer Preserve (Preserve). A restoration plan, engineering and design, regulatory compliance, monitoring and evaluation plan, and outreach and education plan will be completed to implement hydrological restoration within the Money Bayou basin. Category 2 activities are proposed for potential future funding, and if funded would allow NOAA to work with partners to implement restoration activities, monitor restoration outcomes and conduct outreach activities to share restoration practices and engage stakeholders. Category 2 restoration activities would include restoring the natural sheet-flow and hydrologic connectivity of wetlands by filling over 2.5 miles of ditches; filling, grading and replanting over four miles of elevated, unpaved roads; restoring and replanting more than one mile of former fire plow lines; installing or repairing 18 to 20 low-water road crossings; and installing or replacing culverts.

**Environmental Benefits:** The Preserve protects ecologically significant lands that support threatened coastal habitats and species, including three globally imperiled plant species and 18 other confirmed rare, endangered, or threatened plant species. If funded in the future, the project would help restore historic drainage patterns and hydrologic connectivity, along with helping restore ground cover, which would conserve soil and decrease turbidity in these water bodies during significant rainfall. If funded in the future, this project would benefit nearshore Gulf waters adjacent to Money Bayou, which are critical winter habitat for the Gulf Sturgeon. Enhancing wetland hydrology and function would restore a mix of natural ecological communities that have been impacted across the Preserve including wet prairie, seepage slope, floodplain marsh, strand swamp, basin swamp, and dome swamp.

**Duration:** Category 1 activities will take two years to complete, and Category 2 activities, if funded, would take three years to complete.

**More information on these activities can be found in Appendix H. Apalachicola Bay; Unique Identifier: DOC\_RESTORE\_001\_009\_Cat1 and DOC\_RESTORE\_001\_009\_Cat2.**



# Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Council

## Apalachicola Bay Watershed

### Money Bayou Wetlands Restoration

Hydrologic Restoration

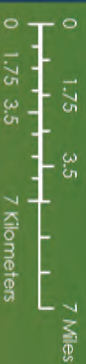
**Cost:** Category 1: \$387,726 | Category 2: \$852,653

**Sponsor:** Department of Commerce

**Project Status:** Planning/Implementation

**Purpose:** The Money Bayou basin has been impacted by extensive ditching, road construction, and fire plow lines that disrupt the area's natural hydrology, resulting in degraded wetlands, the loss of aquatic communities, and invasive plant species. **Planning-** The project will complete the planning and design with local partners to restore a natural hydrology to approximately 1,000 acres of wetlands on the St. Joseph Bay State Buffer Preserve.

**Implementation-** If funded in the future, this project would implement restoration activities to restore natural hydrology to approximately 1,000 acres of wetlands on the St. Joseph Bay State Buffer Preserve in Florida.



Map Date: October 14, 2015



Gulf of Mexico

St Joseph Bay

Apalachicola Bay