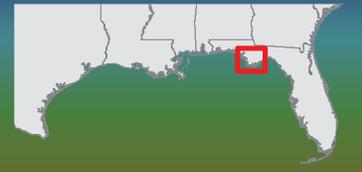




Gulf Coast
Ecosystem
Restoration
Council

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: The proposed project includes activities to implement a program in which the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (FDACS) conducts oversight and 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 would reduce pollutant loadings by 20 percent to 30 percent per application.

Activities: The proposed project would 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 would primarily be located in Jackson and Calhoun counties and would 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 would include more efficient agricultural operations, reduced nutrient loadings to the Apalachicola watershed, and increased water conservation. It would 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 would also result. Project metrics would 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 would result in 15 years of benefits.

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



Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Council

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 would 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.



Map Date: August 08, 2015

Apalachicola Bay

Gulf of Mexico