



Gulf Coast
Ecosystem
Restoration
Council

Suwannee Watershed

Suwannee River Partnership Irrigation
Water Enhancement Program
(FL_RESTORE_003_003_Cat1)



Project Name: Suwannee River Partnership Irrigation Water Enhancement Program - Implementation

Cost: Category 1: \$ 2,884,000

Responsible Council Member: State of Florida

Partnering Council Member: U.S. Department of Agriculture

Project Details: The proposed project includes activities that would allow the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (FDACS) to oversee and work with the Suwannee River Partnership to build on a successful pilot program to improve irrigation system efficiency similar to the Agricultural Water Enhancement Program of the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), an agency of the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Activities: The proposed project would consist of FDACS contracting with local soil and water conservation district boards to administer cost-share funding to participating farmers to implement state-adopted Best Management Practices (BMPs) that are consistent with NRCS conservation standards. FDACS field staff and others would work with landowners to select the applicable BMPs and provide other technical assistance.

Activities would primarily be located in Suwannee and Lafayette Counties and would include BMPs and other activities such as converting irrigation systems from high-pressure to low-pressure systems; retrofitting center-pivot irrigation systems with new, more efficient spray nozzles; repairing leaks and end guns; installing end-gun shutoffs; and converting older diesel power units and pumps to newer, more efficient diesel or electric power units for reduced air emissions and fuel savings.

Environmental Benefits: Ecological benefits and outcomes would include more efficient agricultural operations, reduced nutrient loadings to the Suwannee River 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. Metrics would include number of participating farmers, acres enrolled, BMP tools adopted, irrigation systems retrofitted.

Duration: The project is anticipated to take up to five years to complete and would result in fifteen years of benefits.

More information on these activities can be found in Appendix I. Suwannee Watershed; Unique Identifier: FL_RESTORE_003_003_Cat1.



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 Water Quality Improvement

Cost: Category 1: \$2,884,000

Sponsor: State of Florida

Project Status: Implementation

Purpose: The project is an agricultural cost-share program administered by the FL Dept. of Agriculture and Consumer Services (FDACS) in cooperation with the Suwannee River Partnership to improve irrigation system efficiency. The objective is to complete all planning, participating farm enrollment, and applicable permitting. The project would conserve water and energy, as well as reduce nutrient loading to water resources within the Suwannee River Watershed. Up to 200 landowners within Suwannee and Lafayette Counties are anticipated to participate in this program.



Map Date: August 08, 2015

Gulf of Mexico