

## **FDOT DISTRICT-3 MITIGATION REVIEW TEAM MEETING MINUTES<sup>1</sup>**

**THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 2019**

**[FDOT District-3 Maintenance Office – Midway, FL]**

<b>Attendees</b>	
Erica Brookman – FDOT (Chipley)	Janet Strutzel – NFWFMD (Midway)
Shannon Foor – FDOT (Chipley)	Cynthia Ovdenk – USACE (Panama City)
Carloss Herd – NFWFMD (Midway)	David Rydene – NMFS (St. Petersburg)
Paul Thorpe – NFWFMD (Midway)	Bryan Phillips – FWC (Panama City)
David Clayton – NFWFMD (Midway)	Kristal Walsh – FWC (Milton)
Robert Lide – NFWFMD (Midway)	Terry Gilbert – FWC (Tallahassee)
Andy Joslyn – NFWFMD (Crestview)	Ted Hoehn – FWC (Tallahassee)

The mitigation Review Team (RT) meeting was held Thursday, February 7, 2019, (10:00 AM – 12:00 PM EST) at the FDOT District-3 Midway Operations Office (17 Commerce Blvd. at the US 90 / I-10 interchange west of Tallahassee).

### **Agenda**

- Effects of Hurricane Michael on mitigation program
- Renewal of FDOT / NFWFMD mitigation agreement
- 2019 Regional Mitigation Plan Update
- Near-term mitigation needs
  - US 98 multiuse path from CR 372 to Tower Road (FPID 439926-2)
  - SR 292 at Choctaw Ave. (FPID 220876-9)
  - US 98 Brooks Bridge (FPID 415474-2)
- Mitigation implemented since JAN 2018 Review Team meeting
- Other FDOT projects
  - Quincy Bypass from SR 12 to SR 267 (FPID 218946-6)
  - SR 87 (from CR 178 to SR 4; FPID 416748-6).
  - SR 87 (from end of 4-lane to Coldwater Creek; FPID 416748-2).
  - Gulf to Bay, Segment 2 (FPID 410911-2).
  - SR 173 (Blue Angel Pkwy from SR 292 to US 98; FPID 421012-1)
  - I-10 at SR 4 (New Interchange; FPID 407918-5)
  - Other projects raised by Review Team members

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<sup>1</sup> Meeting minutes compiled by NFWFMD staff.

- Management status of NFWFMD mitigation sites

### **Effects of Hurricane Michael on Mitigation Program**

Although Hurricane Michael caused widespread destruction in the Florida Panhandle, the NFWFMD mitigation sites generally sustained minor to no damage. Substantial post-hurricane remediation, beyond ongoing management activities, is not anticipated, excepting one site (St. Joseph Bay State Buffer Preserve – Southgate).

- Storm surge at the St. Joseph Bay State Buffer Preserve – Southgate Mitigation Project (mitigation for SR 300 Multiuse Path; FPID 433568-1) washed out one low-water-crossing (installed October 2016) that had been constructed on a management access road to enhance hydrologic flows in adjacent marsh wetlands. The NFWFMD will rehabilitate this low-water-crossing, with completion targeted for Spring 2019.
- Implementation of the Salters Lake Mitigation Project (a low-water-crossing to be used as mitigation for Hanks Road Bridge; FPID 432286-1) was delayed. Quotes from contractors have been obtained; anticipated construction in Spring 2019. Despite the delay, installation of this low-water-crossing by Spring 2019 will meet the timeframe for implementation as specified in existing permit conditions (see SAJ-2015-00440 NW-RLT).
- Although most of the ±719.30-acre Ward Creek West ILF site experienced little damage, moderate to substantial tree damage did occur in portions of the hydric pine flatwoods restoration area in the northwest of the site. However, tree densities in areas that were damaged remain appropriate for hydric pine flatwoods. No change in implementation of the USACE-approved mitigation plan for this site is anticipated. Management access roads blocked by fallen trees will be cleared.

### **Renewal of FDOT / NFWFMD Mitigation Agreement**

The current FDOT / NFWFMD mitigation funding agreement expires June 30, 2019. A renewal agreement will be prepared and reviewed by pertinent FDOT / NFWFMD staff and legal counsel. NFWFMD Governing Board approval will be required (ideally, a renewal agreement will be ready for presentation to the NFWFMD Governing Board by mid to late-Spring).

### **2019 Regional Mitigation Plan Update**

As required by section 373.4137, Florida Statutes, an annual Regional Mitigation Plan Update for FDOT mitigation has been prepared. The 2019 Regional Mitigation Plan Update addresses the mitigation needs of four projects; a draft document is currently posted at [www.nfwfwater.com/Water-Resources/Regional-Wetland-Mitigation-Program/Umbrella-Plan/DRAFT-2019-FDOT-Regional-Mitigation-Plan](http://www.nfwfwater.com/Water-Resources/Regional-Wetland-Mitigation-Program/Umbrella-Plan/DRAFT-2019-FDOT-Regional-Mitigation-Plan) and is being advertised in the Florida Administrative Register (FAR) for public comment (comments due February 22, 2019). A finalized plan will be posted at [www.nfwfwater.com](http://www.nfwfwater.com) after approval by the NFWFMD Executive

Director and the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (anticipated March / April 2019).

The NFWFMD provides mitigation options to FDOT only where use of a private mitigation bank is deemed not feasible by State and Federal permitting agencies. Private entities are strongly encouraged to develop mitigation banks in areas not currently served by private banks.

#### **US 98 Multiuse Path from CR 372 to Tower Road (FPID 439926-2)**

This FDOT project consists of construction of a multiuse path adjacent to US 98 in Wakulla County. Total wetland impacts are estimated at 3.048 acres (2.156 acres of palustrine wetlands; 0.892 acres of estuarine wetlands). FDOT contract letting is scheduled for July 31, 2019. Mitigation for palustrine impacts is anticipated to consist of FDOT purchase of credits from a private mitigation bank.

Given the ecological importance of estuarine wetlands and the size of the impact (0.892 acres), permittees have indicated that type-for-type mitigation will be required for the estuarine impacts (estimated 0.65 UMAM functional loss). A conceptual plan to enhance and restore estuarine wetlands at the Mashles Sands County Park in Wakulla County (located on state-owned lands) was presented (contacted Wakulla County officials have expressed support for implementation of mitigation at Mashles Sands). The Review Team was generally supportive of potential mitigation at Mashles Sands, although concerns about protection in perpetuity of the proposed mitigation will need to be addressed.

NFWFMD will develop a detailed mitigation plan that meets the requirements described in the EPA 2008 Final Mitigation Rule and will continue discussions with Wakulla County officials to devise suitable agreements that will guarantee perpetual protection of any implemented mitigation. Federal and state permittees will decide if mitigation at Mashles Sands appropriately offsets impacts to estuarine wetlands associated with this road project; implementation would be dependent on permit conditions, receipt of funds from FDOT, approvals by the NFWFMD Executive Director and FDEP, and agreement with Wakulla County. Alternative mitigation options (e.g., out-of-basin estuarine projects) may also be developed or considered.

#### **SR 292 at Choctaw Ave. (FPID 220876-9)**

This FDOT project consists of road improvements in Escambia County west of Pensacola. An estimated 0.35 acres of palustrine wetlands will be impacted (0.10 UMAM functional loss). This impact is not within the service area of any private mitigation bank, and no contract letting date has been scheduled. Proposed mitigation is use of mitigation credits from the Dutex Unit of the NFWFMD In-Lieu Fee mitigation program (39.13 UMAM credits currently available). The Review Team was supportive of use of Dutex as mitigation for this impact.

## **US 98 Brooks Bridge (FPID 415474-2)**

This FDOT project consists of replacement of the US 98 Brooks Bridge in Okaloosa County. Anticipated impacts are to 1.20 acres, including saltmarsh, freshwater emergent marsh, and SAV (submerged aquatic vegetation). This impact is not within the service area of any private mitigation bank; contract letting is scheduled for July 2, 2021.

Proposed mitigation at Live Oak Point was presented to the Review Team at the January 18, 2018 meeting (see Review Team Meeting Minutes at [https://www.nfwfwater.com/content/download/15949/110597/RT\\_JAN\\_2018\\_Minutesb.pdf](https://www.nfwfwater.com/content/download/15949/110597/RT_JAN_2018_Minutesb.pdf)).

The Review Team continues to support the Live Oak Point project as offsetting mitigation for this impact. FDOT will provide a letter stating its concurrence with using existing mitigation funds already provided to the NFWFMD to begin implementation. NFWFMD will proceed with planning, inclusion of all or part of the project within the NFWFMD In-Lieu Fee Program, and implementation. When mitigation funds are specifically programed by FDOT for this project (timing TBD), based on impact acreage and in accordance with section 373.4137, Florida Statutes, NFWFMD will be requested to invoice for these funds.

## **Mitigation Implemented Since JAN 2018 Review Team Meeting**

- CR 65A Juniper Creek Bridge (FPID 435802-1). 0.16 federal / state credits debited from Shuler ILF credit ledger per SAJ-2016-03019 NW-MAO and NFWMD GEN ERP GEN-039-17618-1.
- SR 65 Graham Creek Bridge (FPID 218764-2). 0.40 federal / state credits debited from Tates Hell—Whiskey George Unit ILF credit ledger per SAJ-2010-02204 NW-RPR and FDEP 0360977-001-EI.
- CR 159 Attapulugus Creek Bridge (FPID 428624-1). 1.04 federal / 2.34 state credits debited from Shuler ILF credit ledger per USACE SAJ-2016-02453 SP-RLT and FDEP 0346308-002-EI.
- SR 4 Blackwater River Bridge (FPID 432828-1). 1.09 federal / 1.10 state credits debited from Yellow River Ranch ILF credit ledger per SAJ-2012-01676 NW-RLT and FDEP 46-0312347-002-EI.

## **Other FDOT Projects**

- Quincy Bypass from SR 12 to SR 267 (FPID 218946-6) in Gadsden County. Estimated 1.90-acre impact. No letting date scheduled; no private mitigation bank option; located within Shuler ILF service area. Mitigation TBD.
- SR 87 from CR 178 to SR 4 (FPID 416748-6) in Santa Rosa County. Estimated 2.71-acre impact. No letting date scheduled; no private mitigation option currently available; no NFWFMD ILF Program option available. Mitigation TBD.
- SR 87 from end of 4-lane to Coldwater Creek (FPID 416748-2) in Santa Rosa County. Estimated 10.89-acre impact; partially within a private mitigation bank service area; no NFWFMD ILF Program option available. Mitigation TBD.

- Gulf to Bay, Segment 2 (FPID 410911-2) in Gulf County. Project is currently not funded. Consultants for FDOT estimated in 2016 that this project would directly impact 118.04 acres of jurisdictional wetlands. Although not currently within a private mitigation bank service area, it is hoped that private banks under development will be online when project proceeds. Mitigation TBD.
- SR 173 / Blue Angel Pkwy from SR 292 to US 98 (FPID 421012-1) in Escambia County. Estimated 40.902-acre impact. No letting date scheduled; partially within a private mitigation bank service; partially within the Dutex ILF service area. Mitigation TBD.
- I-10 at SR 4 New Interchange (FPID 407918-5) in Okaloosa County. Currently no private mitigation bank available, although a private bank under development may be able to provide mitigation when project proceeds. This project is located within the Yellow River Ranch ILF service area, however, available credits at Yellow River Ranch have been depleted. Future potential credits releases have not been scheduled. Mitigation for this impact TBD.
- US 331 Choctawhatchee Bay Bridge in Walton County (FPID 220664-2). Mitigation for this impact consisted of debiting 0.07 estuarine credits from the NFWFMD Live Oak Point ILF credit ledger and onsite mitigation (living shoreline / saltmarsh restoration) managed by FDOT and its consultants. The onsite mitigation was impacted by Hurricane Michael landfall on October 10, 2018. FDOT is investigating remediation of the onsite mitigation. The NFWFMD will provide any requested technical assistance.

### **NFWFMD Mitigation Site Updates**

Management status updates for several NFWFMD mitigation sites (Lafayette Creek, Perdido Phase II, Plum Creek, and the Sand Hill Lakes Mitigation Bank) were presented. Project details and all monitoring reports for NFWFMD mitigation sites are posted at <https://www.nfwwater.com/Water-Resources/Regional-Wetland-Mitigation-Program/Umbrella-Plan/NFWFMD-Mitigation-Sites>.

**Meeting PowerPoint Attached**

**Additional Information Available at**  
[www.nfwwater.com/Water-Resources/Regional-Wetland-Mitigation-Program](https://www.nfwwater.com/Water-Resources/Regional-Wetland-Mitigation-Program)

# **FDOT District-3 Mitigation Review Team Meeting**

**7 February 2019**

**(FDOT Midway Operations Center)**



**US Army Corps  
of Engineers®**



# Items

- Impact of Hurricane Michael on mitigation program
- Renewal of FDOT / NFWFMD Mitigation Agreement
- Near-term FDOT mitigation needs
  - US 98 Multiuse Path from CR 372 to Tower Road (FPID 439926-2)
  - SR 292 at Choctaw Ave. (FPID 220876-9)
  - US 98 Brooks Bridge (FPID 415474-2)
- Mitigation implemented since JAN 2018 Review Team Meeting
- Other FDOT mitigation needs
  - Quincy Bypass from SR 12 to SR 267 (FPID 218946-6)
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  - SR 87 from CR 178 to SR 4 (FPID 416748-6)
  - SR 87 from end of 4-lane section to Coldwater Creek (FPID 416748-2)
  - Gulf to Bay, Segment 2 (FPID 410911-2)
  - I-10 at SR 4, New Interchange (FPID 407918-5)
  - Other impacts as raised by Team members
- 2019 Regional Mitigation Plan Update / FAR Notice
- Management status of NFWFMD mitigation sites (time permitting)
- Open discussion / other business

# **Impact of Hurricane Michael on Mitigation Program**

- Despite widespread destruction associated with Hurricane Michael, the NFWFMD mitigation sites generally held up well. Most sustained little (minor tree fall) to no damage.
- One mitigation project will require post-hurricane rehabilitation: The St. Joseph Bay State Buffer Preserve – Southgate Mitigation Project (Low-Water-Crossing) washed out from storm surge (mitigation for SR 300 Multiuse Path; FPID 433568-1); Low-Water-Crossing will be rehabbed Spring 2019.
- Implementation of another mitigation project was delayed: Salters Lake Mitigation Project (Low-Water-Crossing; mitigation for Hanks Road Bridge; FPID 432286-1); will now be implemented Spring 2019.



# Ward Creek West ILF Site (Post-Hurricane Michael)



(Site located within Panama City Beach city limits)



# Southgate Low-Water-Crossing (Post-Hurricane Michael)



(St. Joseph Bay State Buffer Preserve)

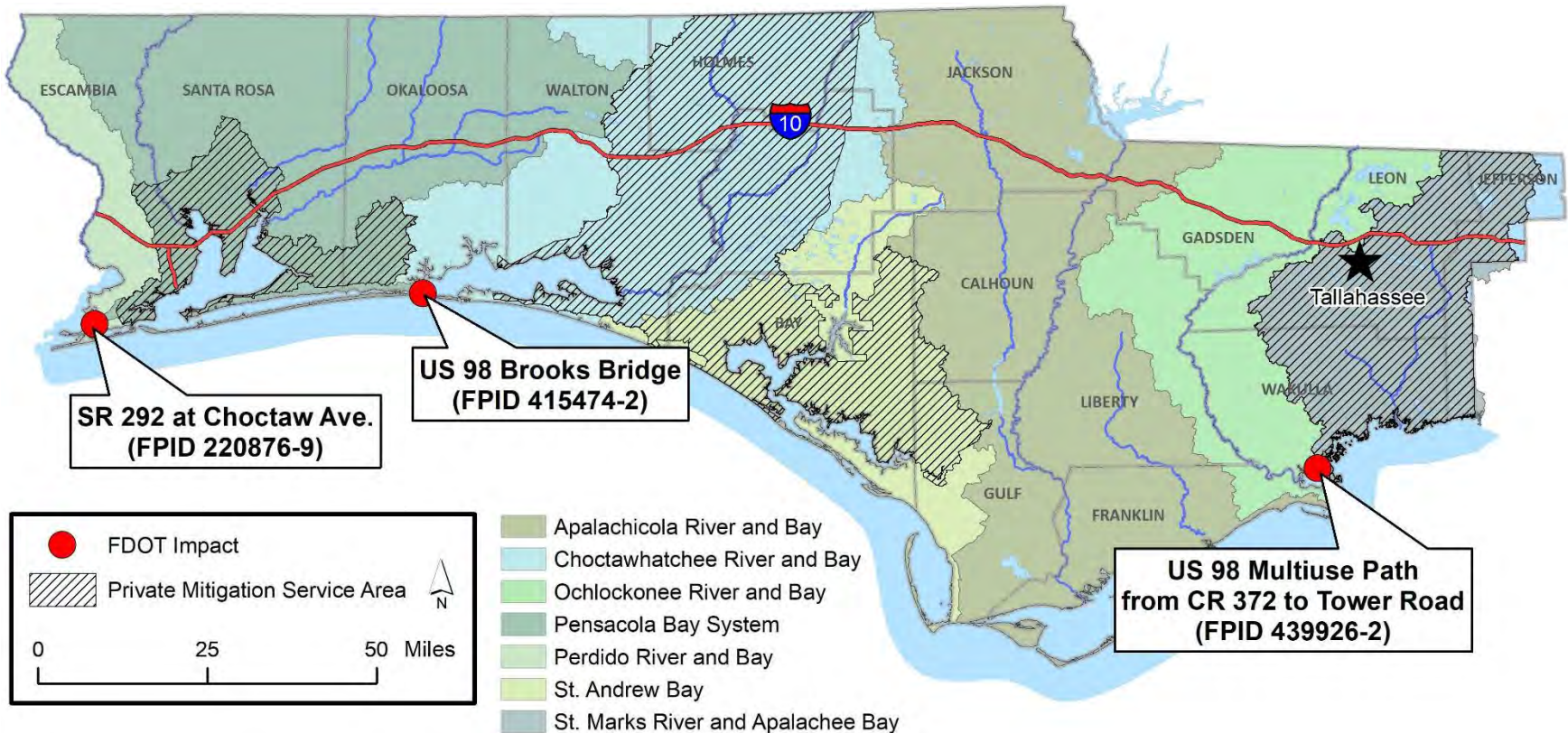
## **Renewal of FDOT / NFWFMD Mitigation Agreement**

- Current agreement (Contract No. 09-012) expires June 30, 2019.
- Renewal may require legal review, NFWFMD Governing Board approval, and signature by FDOT District Secretary and NFWFMD Executive Director.



# Near-term FDOT Mitigation Needs

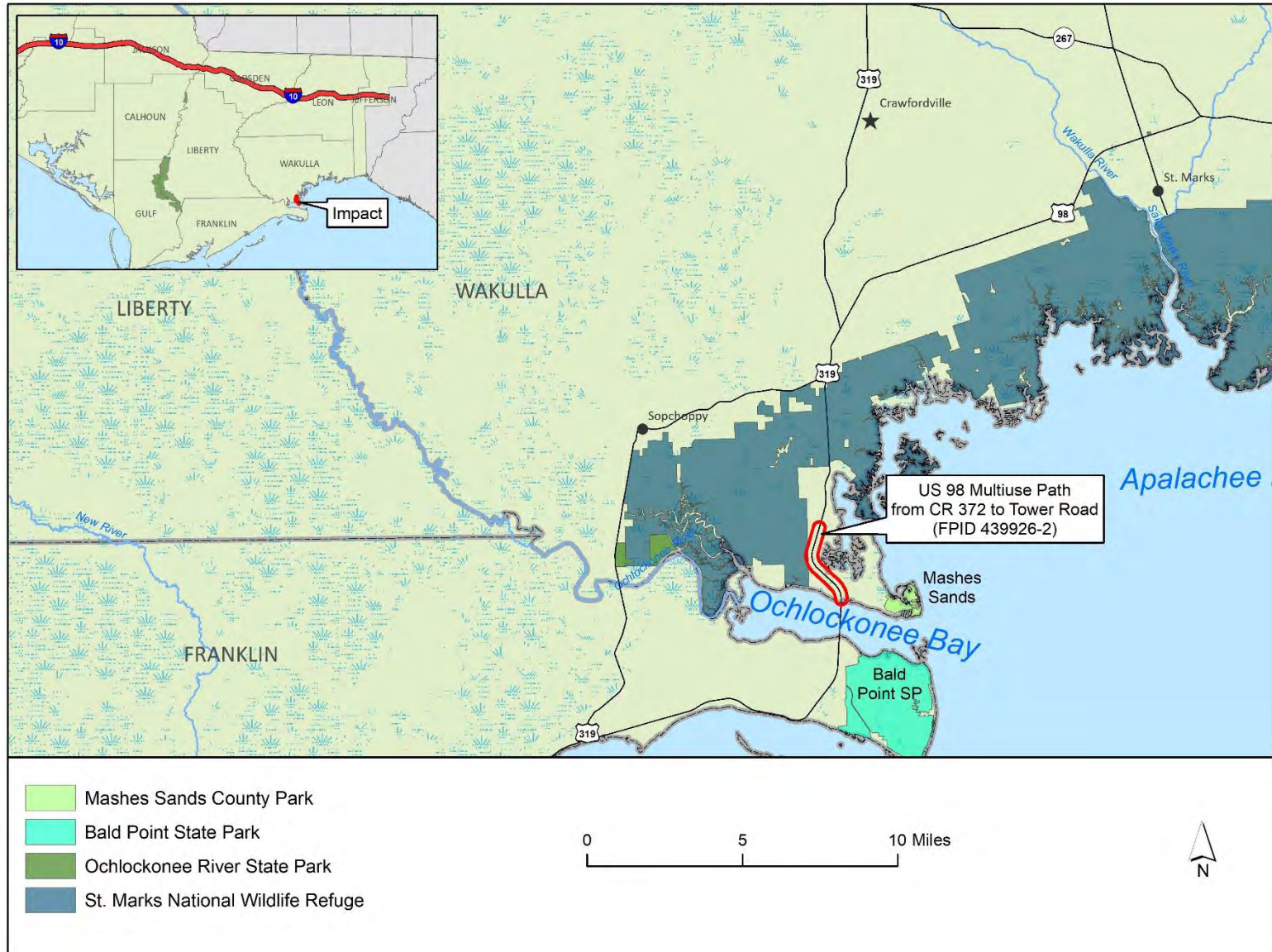
- US 98 Multiuse Path from CR 372 to Tower Road (FPID 439926-2)
- SR 292 at Choctaw Ave. (FPID 220876-9)
- US 98 Brooks Bridge (FPID 415474-2)



## **US 98 Multiuse path from CR 372 to Tower Road (FPID 439926-2)**

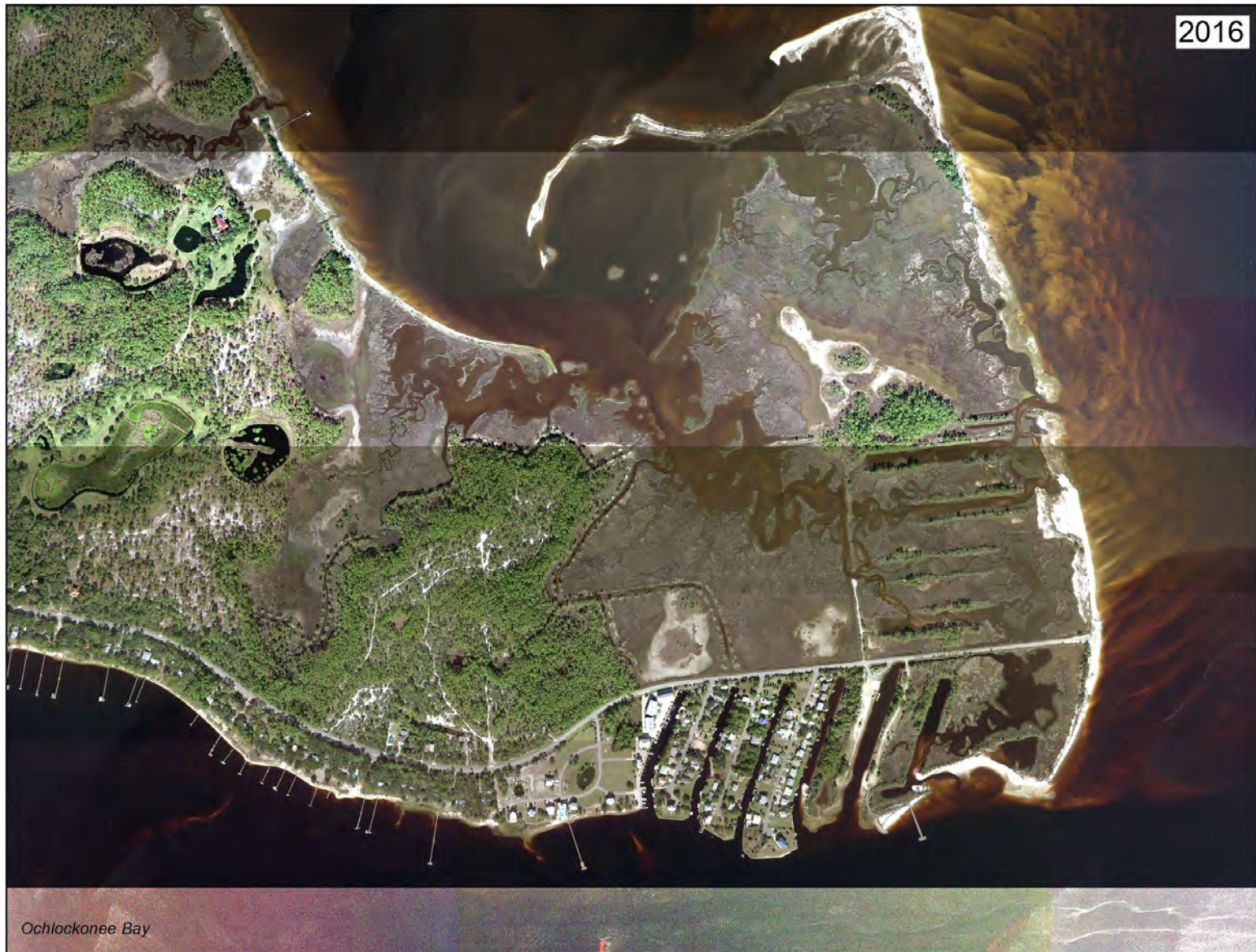
- Palustrine impacts (2.156 acres) anticipated to be mitigated by FDOT through a private mitigation bank.
- Estuarine impacts (0.892 acres / 0.65 UMAM functional loss) may require mitigation through NFWFMD (no private estuarine credits are available).
- Potential estuarine mitigation sites are being investigated. “Out-of-basin” or “out-of-kind” mitigation may need to be considered. Sites being investigated that may or may not have the potential for appropriate, off-setting, estuarine mitigation include:
  - Mashes Sands County Park (Wakulla County)
  - St. Marks National Wildlife Refuge
  - Bald Point State Park
  - Ochlockonee River State Park
  - Other Locations in Wakulla County

# US 98 Multiuse path from CR 372 to Tower Road (FPID 439926-2)





# Mashes Sands





## Mashes Sands Estuarine Mitigation Area (Proposed)





## Mashes Sands – Potential Mitigation Area





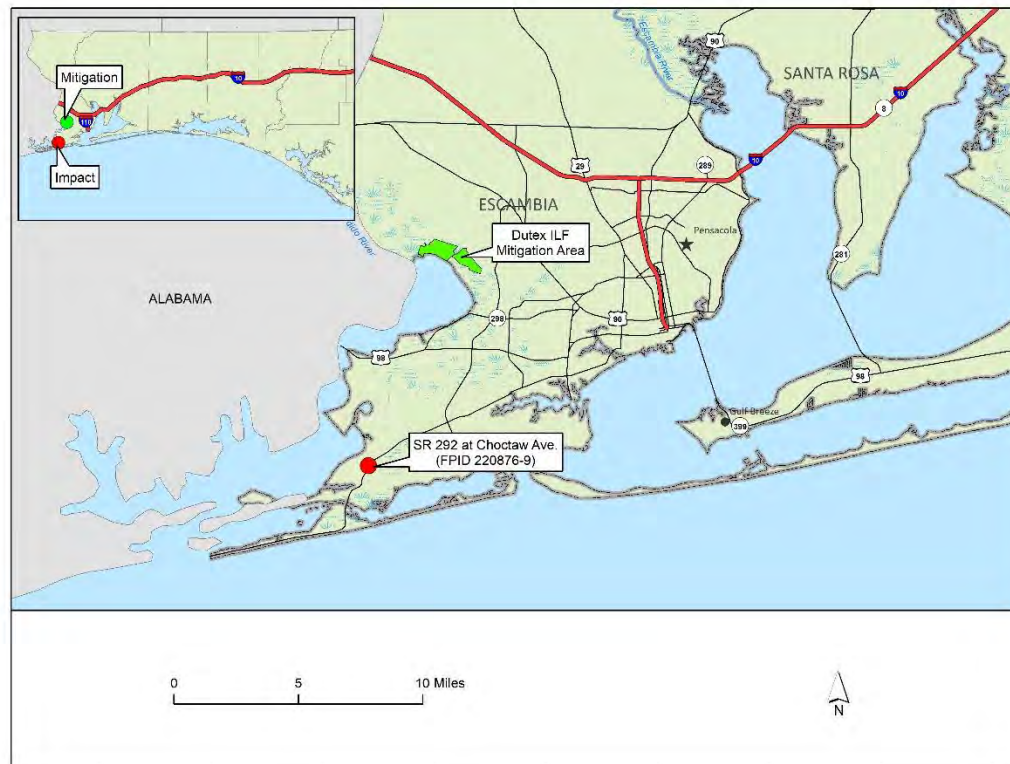
## Mashes Sands – Potential Mitigation Area





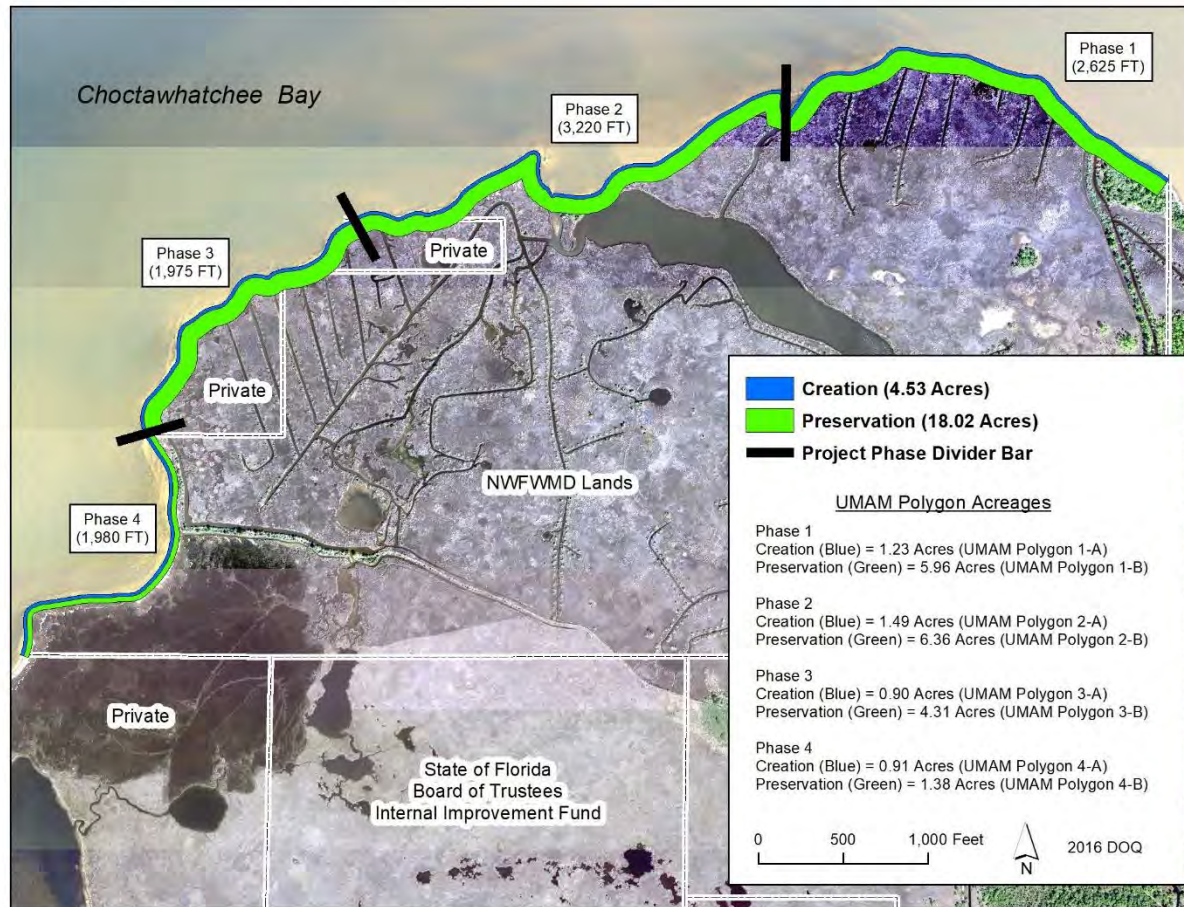
## SR 292 at Choctaw Ave. (FPID 220876-9)

- Perdido River and Bay Watershed (no private mitigation bank available)
- 0.35-acre Impact / 0.10 UMAM functional loss
- Proposed use of Dutex ILF (39.13 UMAM credits currently available)



# US 98 Brooks Bridge (FPID 415474-2)

- Estuarine credits needed (not available from private mitigation banks)
- Mitigation at Live Oak Point conceptually approved by Review Team, NFWFMD, and FDEP in 2018



## **Mitigation Implemented Since Last (JAN 2018) Review Team Meeting**

- CR 65A Juniper Creek Bridge (FPID 435802-1; 0.16 federal/state credits debited 12/7/2018 from Shuler ILF)
- SR 65 Graham Creek Bridge (FPID 218764-2; 0.40 federal/state credits debited 6/14/2018 from Tates Hell—Whiskey George Unit ILF)
- CR 159 Attapulgus Creek Bridge (FPID 428624-1; 1.04 federal / 2.34 state credits debited 7/9/2018 from Shuler ILF)
- SR 4 Blackwater River Bridge (FPID 432828-1; 1.09 federal/state credits debited 7/9/2018 from Yellow River Ranch ILF)

## Other FDOT Projects

- Quincy Bypass from SR 12 to SR 267 (FPID 218946-6; Proposed use of Shuler ILF)
- SR 87 (from CR 178 to SR 4; FPID 416748-6; Mitigation TBD).
- SR 87 (from end of 4-lane to Coldwater Creek; FPID 416748-2; Mitigation TBD).
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- SR 173 (Blue Angel Pkwy from SR 292 to US 98; FPID 421012-1; Mitigation TBD).
- I-10 at SR 4, New Interchange (FPID 407918-5; Mitigation TBD)
- Other impacts raised by Team members.

# **FDOT Regional Mitigation Plan Update**

February 2019



Northwest Florida Water Management District  
81 Water Management Drive  
Havana, FL 32333-4712

## **Management Status of NFWMD Mitigation Sites**



**Open Discussion / Other Business**



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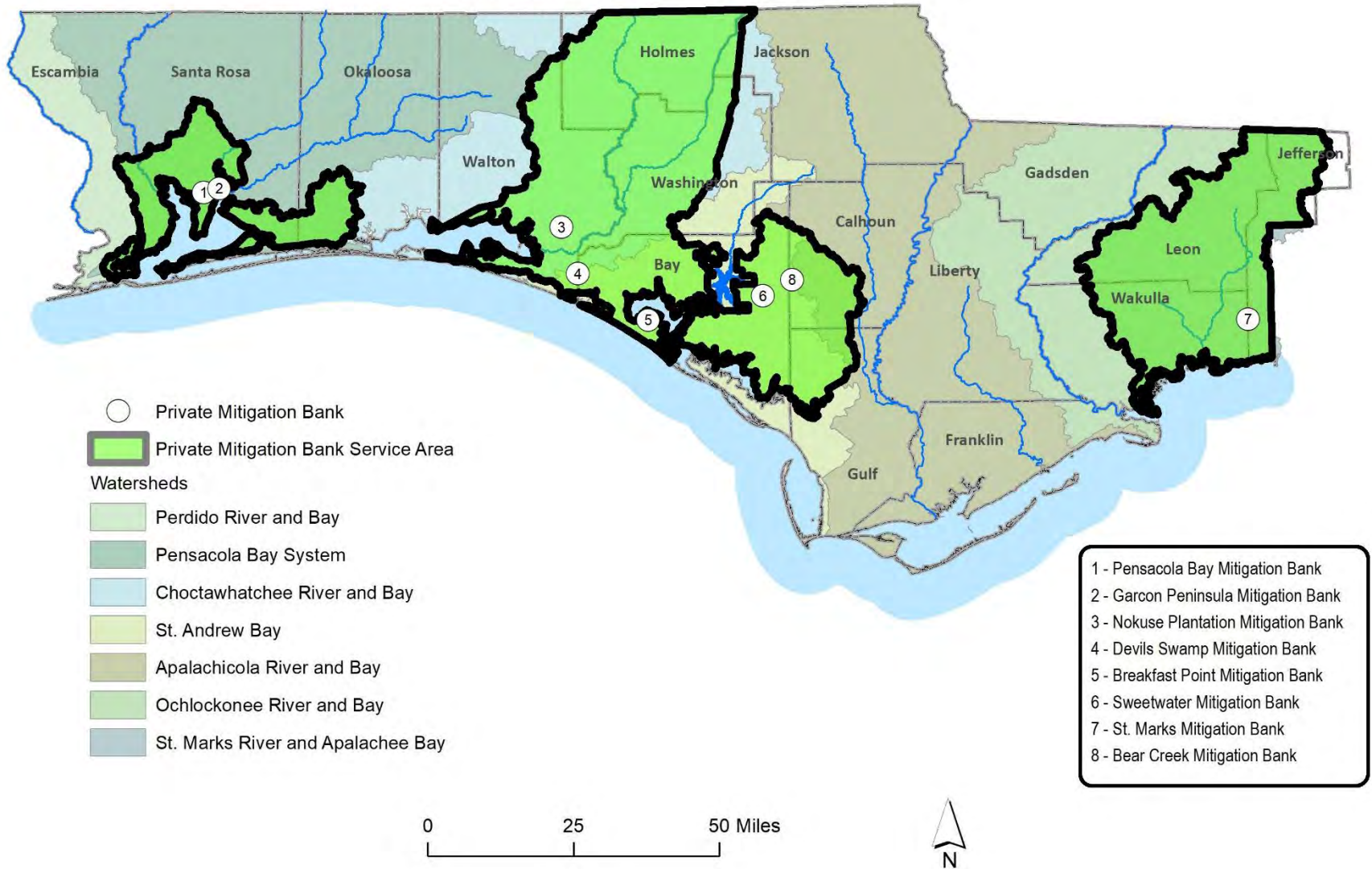


# Wrap Up

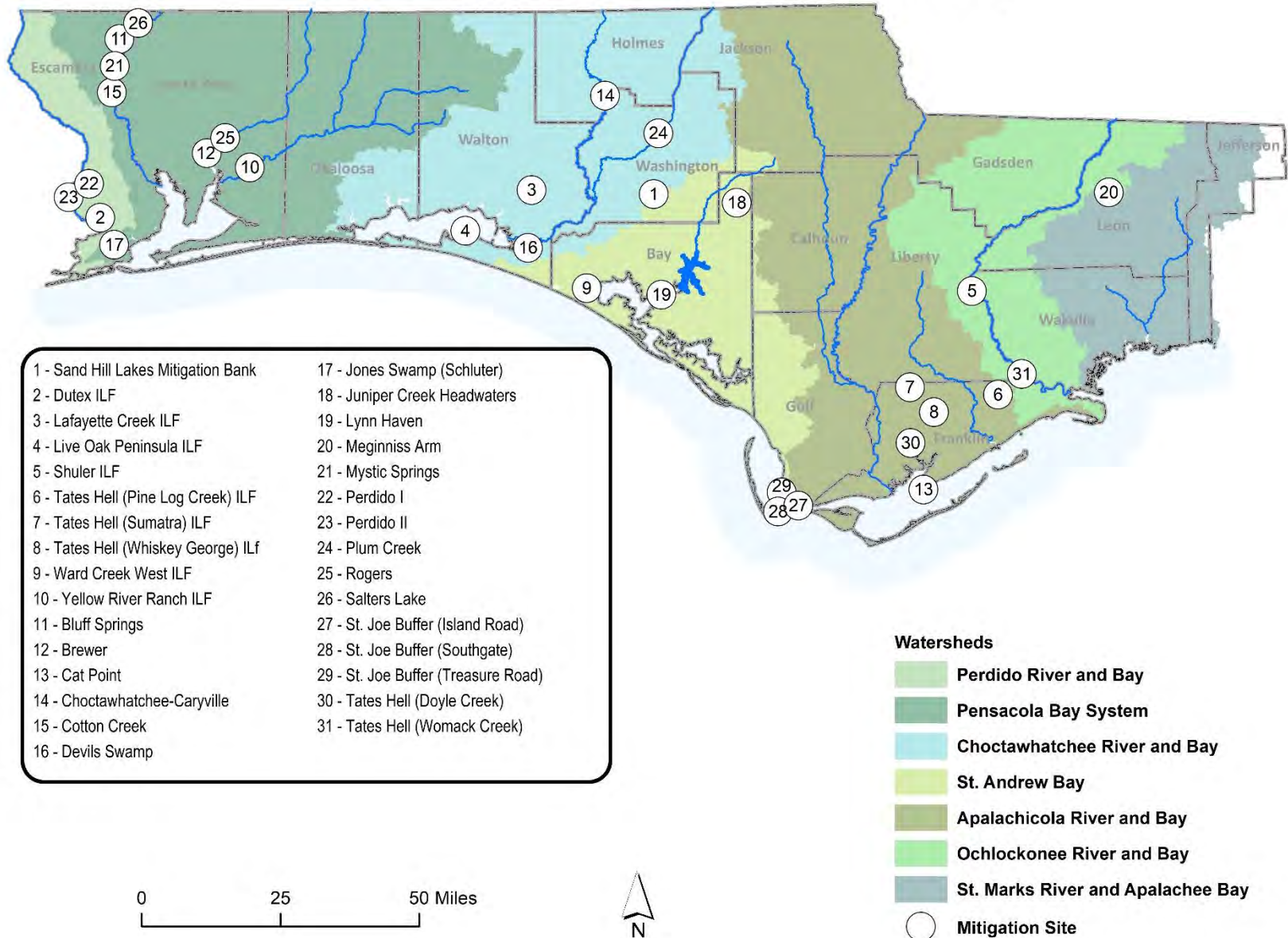


# **Appendix Maps**

## Private Mitigation Bank Service Areas



## NFWFMD Mitigation Program for FDOT Impacts (1997 - 2018)







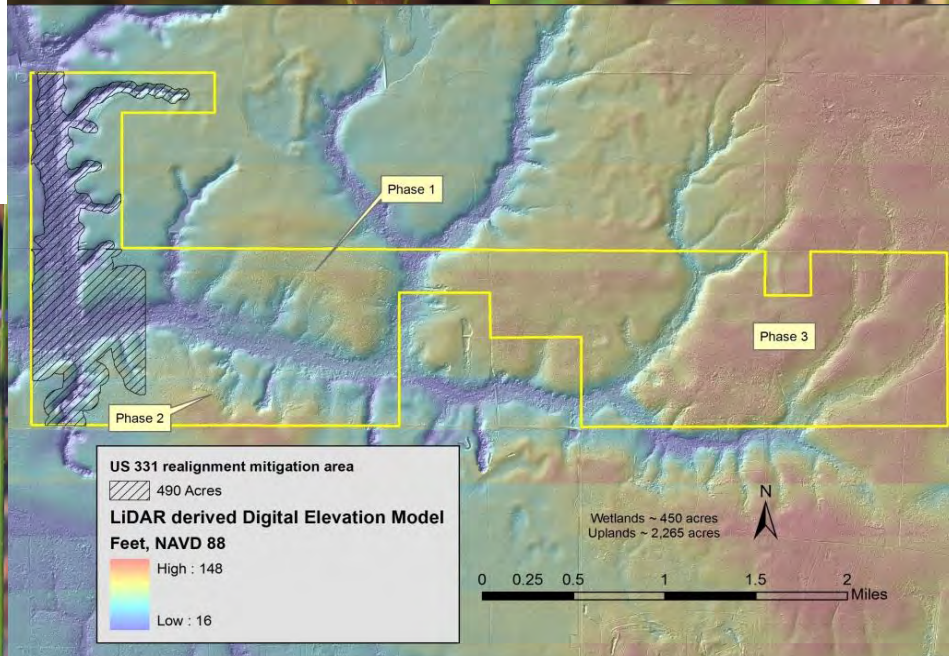
# **Regional Wetland Mitigation Program Update**

***February 7, 2019***

**David Clayton, Environmental Scientist IV**

# Lafayette Creek Restoration (3,160 acres) Walton County

Location of Lafayette Creek Mitigation Area





# Lafayette Creek Restoration Site

- Planted toothache grass on 3'centers (80,000 plants) within the hydric pine savanna (January 2019)
- Herbicide 25 acres of hydric pine savanna
- Burn 800 acres (Phase 1 and Phase II)
- 104 herbaceous species were observed within the hydric pine savanna during 2018 fall monitoring





# Perdido Phase II Mitigation Area (130 acres) Escambia County

Plum Creek Property Restoration



~130 Acres Total  
(~70 Acres Uplands and ~60 Acres Wetlands)  
2004 DOQ





## Perdido Phase II Restoration

- Planted 18.5 acres of wiregrass within sandhill on 3' centers (90,000 plants)
- Burn 50 acres within the sandhill
- Herbicide 50
- Plant 6-8' forested wetland trees at a rate of 300 trees per acre
- 69 species were observed within the hydric pine flatwoods during the 2018 fall monitoring





# Plum Creek Mitigation Area (130 acres) Washington County

Plum Creek Property Restoration



~130 Acres Total  
(~70 Acres Uplands and ~60 Acres Wetlands)  
2004 DOQ





# Plum Creek Restoration

- Planted 18.5 acres of wiregrass within sandhill on 3' centers (90,000 plants)
- Burn 50 acres within the sandhill
- Herbicide 50
- Plant 6-8' forested wetland trees at a rate of 300 trees per acre
- 53 species were observed within the mixed forested wetland during the 2018 fall monitoring



# Sand Hill Lakes Mitigation Bank



- Burn 40 acres of hydric pine flatwoods restoration



- Burn 200 acres of restored sandhill.



- Herbicide 40 acres of hydric pine flatwoods
- 109 herbaceous species were observed within the hydric pine flatwoods during the 2018 fall monitoring