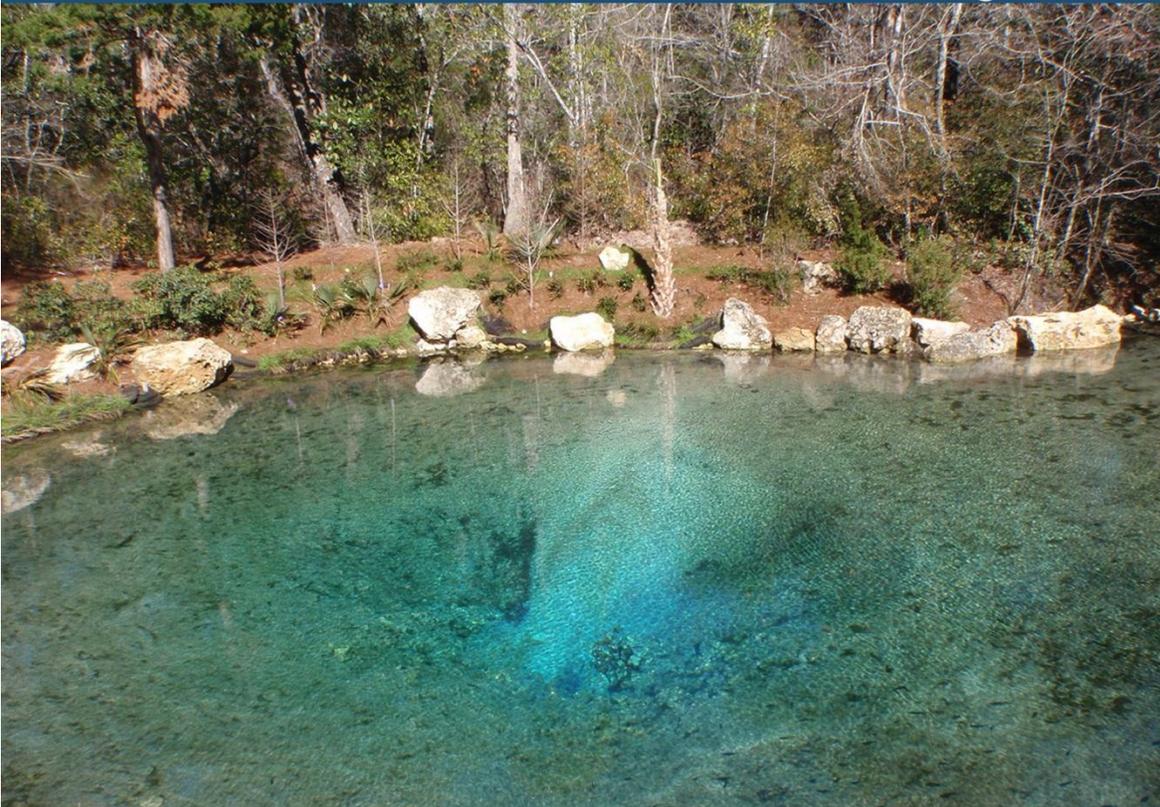


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2011

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Save Our Rivers



Northwest Florida Water Management District

Five-Year Work Plan

Program Development Series 2011-01

**NORTHWEST FLORIDA WATER
MANAGEMENT DISTRICT
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February, 2011

For additional information, write, call or visit our web site:

Northwest Florida Water Management District
81 Water Management Drive
Havana, Florida 32333-4712
(850) 539-5999
www.nwfwmd.state.fl.us

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Introduction

Section 373.199(7), F.S. requires the Northwest Florida Water Management District (District) to update annually the Florida Forever Work Plan. To date, this is the ninth annual update of the 2001 Florida Forever Work Plan and since 2006 this plan has been presented as a separate chapter in the Consolidated Annual Report as required by Section 373.036(7), F.S. This plan contains information on projects eligible to receive funding under the Florida Forever Act and also reports on land management activities, lands surplused and the progress of funding, staffing and resource management of projects for which the District is responsible.

Florida Forever Program

In 1999, the Florida Legislature passed the Florida Forever Act (Section 259.105, F.S.) which continues the state's long-term commitment to environmental land acquisition, restoration of degraded natural areas, and high-quality outdoor recreation opportunities. The Florida Forever Program authorizes issuance of up to \$300 million annually in bonds over a ten-year period to several state agencies and the five water management districts (WMDs). In 2008, the Florida Legislature reauthorized the Florida Forever Act for an additional ten years, to 2018. As part of the reauthorization, the water management districts allocation was reduced from \$105 million annually to \$90 million annually (see table below). In 2010, Florida Forever was not fully funded as outlined in the table below. However, the Legislature authorized \$15 million for Florida Forever and the District's portion of that was \$337,500.

Annual WMD Funding Distribution of Florida Forever Funds

Water Management District	Percent to Each WMD	Allocation
South Florida	35.0%	\$31,500,000
Southwest Florida	25.0%	\$22,500,000
St. Johns River	25.0%	\$22,500,000
Suwannee River	7.5%	\$6,750,000
Northwest Florida	7.5%	\$6,750,000

While previous programs focused almost exclusively on the acquisition of environmentally sensitive lands, the Florida Forever program is somewhat different in that it authorizes the use of up to half of the program funding for certain types of capital improvement projects. Eligible uses of the "discretionary" funds include water resource development, stormwater management projects, water body restoration, recreation facilities, public access improvements, and removing invasive plants, among others. The remaining fifty percent must be spent on land acquisition.

Since the inception of the District's land acquisition program, the goal has been to bring as much floodplain as possible of our major rivers and creeks under public ownership and protection. The Florida Forever Land Acquisition Program continues to increase the acres of wetland, floodplain and aquifer recharge areas acquired by the District. To date, over 222,000 acres have been protected for water resource purposes through the land acquisition efforts of the District either in fee simple or through conservation easements. A summary of the acquisitions and surplusings completed by the District in 2010 is provided below.

Summary of Acquisitions and Surplusings Completed in 2010

Property	Date Purchased	Acres	Cost	Funding Source(s)	Water Management Area
Fee Simple Acquisitions					
Swift	04/22/10	494.30	\$999,000	Florida Forever	Escambia River
Pridgen	10/28/10	0.34	\$20,000	DOT Mitigation	Perdido River
SUB-TOTAL		494.64	\$1,019,000		
Less-Than-Fee Acquisitions					
Jackson	09/24/10	109.2	Donation	N/A	Ochlockonee River
SUB-TOTAL		109.2			
Surplused Lands					
FDOT	06/28/10	0.024	\$500.00	FDOT paid \$500	Yellow River
SUB-TOTAL		(0.024)	\$500.00		
GRAND TOTAL		603.81	\$1,019,000		

Acquisition Planning

The District employs a watershed approach to select and prioritize the important water resource and natural systems within the major river basins of northwest Florida. Primary among the considerations in this process are how specific floodplain or buffer areas help satisfy the District's water resources and natural system protection objectives, the availability of funds, the seller's willingness, how different areas fit into the District's land management scheme, as well as the size, accessibility and overall condition of each property. Recommendations from interest groups, landowners, local governments, agency representatives and other interested parties are always welcome and are given full consideration in the acquisition process.

Subject to receiving funding for Florida Forever, the District's acquisition efforts this year will focus on the purchase of inholdings and additions to the existing water management areas (WMAs) as well as Conservation Easements in each of the existing WMA's. Existing WMAs include the Perdido River, Escambia River, Blackwater River, Yellow River, Garcon Point, Choctawhatchee River/Holmes Creek, Econfina Creek, Chipola River, and Apalachicola River. All of these WMAs will be high priority areas for the acquisition of additions and inholdings. Acquisition efforts will be directed toward acquiring those properties which the District adjoins on one, two or three sides (additions) or those parcels which the District surrounds on all sides (inholdings).

In developing the annual update to the District's Florida Forever Five Year Land Acquisition Work Plan, District staff shall review Florida Forever projects proposed by DEP, Division of State Lands, to minimize redundancy and to facilitate an efficient and mutually supportive joint land acquisition effort. District staff shall continue to coordinate the Land Acquisition Five Year Plan with the District's FDOT regional mitigation plan developed under section 373.4137 F.S. to ensure the greatest possible cumulative benefit for water resources, wetland functions, and public benefits.

Approved Acquisition Areas

The approved acquisition areas listed below are not presented on a priority basis. For each of these waterbodies, it is desirable to acquire both the floodplain and a natural buffer zone to provide further water resource protection.

Rivers & Creeks Originating In Florida	Rivers and Creeks Originating Outside Florida	Springs	Lakes & Ponds	Other Ecosystems, Basins and Buffers
Wakulla River	Apalachicola River	St. Marks River near Natural Bridge	Lake Jackson	Southwest Escambia County Ecosystem
St. Marks River	Lower Apalachicola River Wetland	Spring Lake/ Spring Group Area	Sand Hill Lakes	Garcon Point Ecosystem
Econfina Creek and others flowing into Deer Point Lake	Chipola River	Waddell Springs		West Bay Buffer
Lafayette Creek	Choctawhatchee River including Holmes Creek	Bosel Springs		Sandy Creek Basin
	Escambia River	Hays Springs		Apalachicola Bay/ St. Vincent Sound Buffer
	Blackwater River including Juniper, Big Coldwater & Coldwater creeks	Gainer Springs		
	Ochlockonee River & its major tributaries			
	Yellow & Shoal Rivers			
	Perdido River and Bay			

Groundwater Recharge Areas	Donated Lands
Such lands may be designated by the District as Recharge Areas for the Floridan, Sand-and-Gravel and other important aquifers.	The District will accept donations of lands within its major acquisition areas if those lands are necessary for water management, water supply and the conservation and protection of land and water resources.

Exchange Lands
The District may exchange lands it has acquired under the Florida Forever program for other lands that qualify for acquisition under the program. In an exchange, the District's Governing Board establishes the terms and conditions it considers necessary to equalize values of the exchange properties. In all such exchanges, the District's goal will be to ensure that is no net loss of wetland protection and that there is a net positive environmental benefit.

Mitigation Acquisitions
Under Florida law, unavoidable losses of natural wetlands or wetland functions require "mitigation" either through the acquisition or the restoration of other nearby wetlands. The District is often the recipient of such lands in the form of donations, and also serves as the mitigation agent for the Florida Department of Transportation. Whenever possible, the District attempts to acquire mitigation lands contiguous to its existing ownership, but since proximity to the original wetland impact is paramount, the District at times must acquire or manage isolated tracts.

Note to Landowners

It is important to note that the District's land acquisition process only involves willing sellers and is usually opportunity driven in that landowners initiate the process by offering parcels for sale.

This plan includes a number of areas the District has identified for purchase, subject to available funding and especially the presence of willing sellers. If your property is included in any of our acquisition areas or maps and you do not desire to sell your land to the District, Florida Statutes require the District to remove your property from the acquisition plan at the earliest opportunity. Please contact the Division of Land Management and Acquisition at (850) 539-5999 at any time if you wish to remove your property from possible purchase consideration. The District will maintain a list of such requests and annually adjust its acquisition plan accordingly.

Note on Less-Than-Fee Methods of Land Protection

Florida's commitment to acquire the lands needed to permanently protect local water and environmental resources has resulted in the most successful program in the United States. However, there is not, and probably never will be, sufficient public funding available to acquire outright all the important water resource lands that need protection. Accordingly, the Florida Legislature has directed the state's water management districts to expend part of their land acquisition funding to purchase eligible properties using alternatives to "fee simple" acquisition. Under this scenario, the District buys a significant portion of the property rights the seller owns. In "less-than-fee" purchases, the District would attempt to acquire only those rights in property, i.e. development and land use conversion rights, that are needed to accomplish specific water resource and environmental protection goals.

Such less-than-fee methods can clearly provide a number of public benefits. One is that acquisition funding can be conserved, thereby enabling the protection of more land with limited funds. The property also continues in private ownership and thus remains on local property tax rolls. Moreover, the District does not incur the long-term costs of land management since the property's management and maintenance remains the landowner's responsibility. Not all properties are suitable nor are all landowners agreeable to less-than-fee acquisition, but the benefits make these kinds of transactions an attractive supplement to the District's usual fee simple land purchases.

DEP Florida Forever Priority List

The DEP Florida Forever Priority List is contained in the Appendix. This list was approved by the Acquisition and Restoration Council in December 2010.

Florida Forever Goals and Numeric Performance Measures

As outlined in Chapter 18-24, F.A.C., the District is required to report on the goals and measures for lands to be acquired under the Florida Forever program. The following page summarizes the goals and measures applicable to Northwest Florida Water Management District.

Florida Forever Goals and Numeric Performance Measures

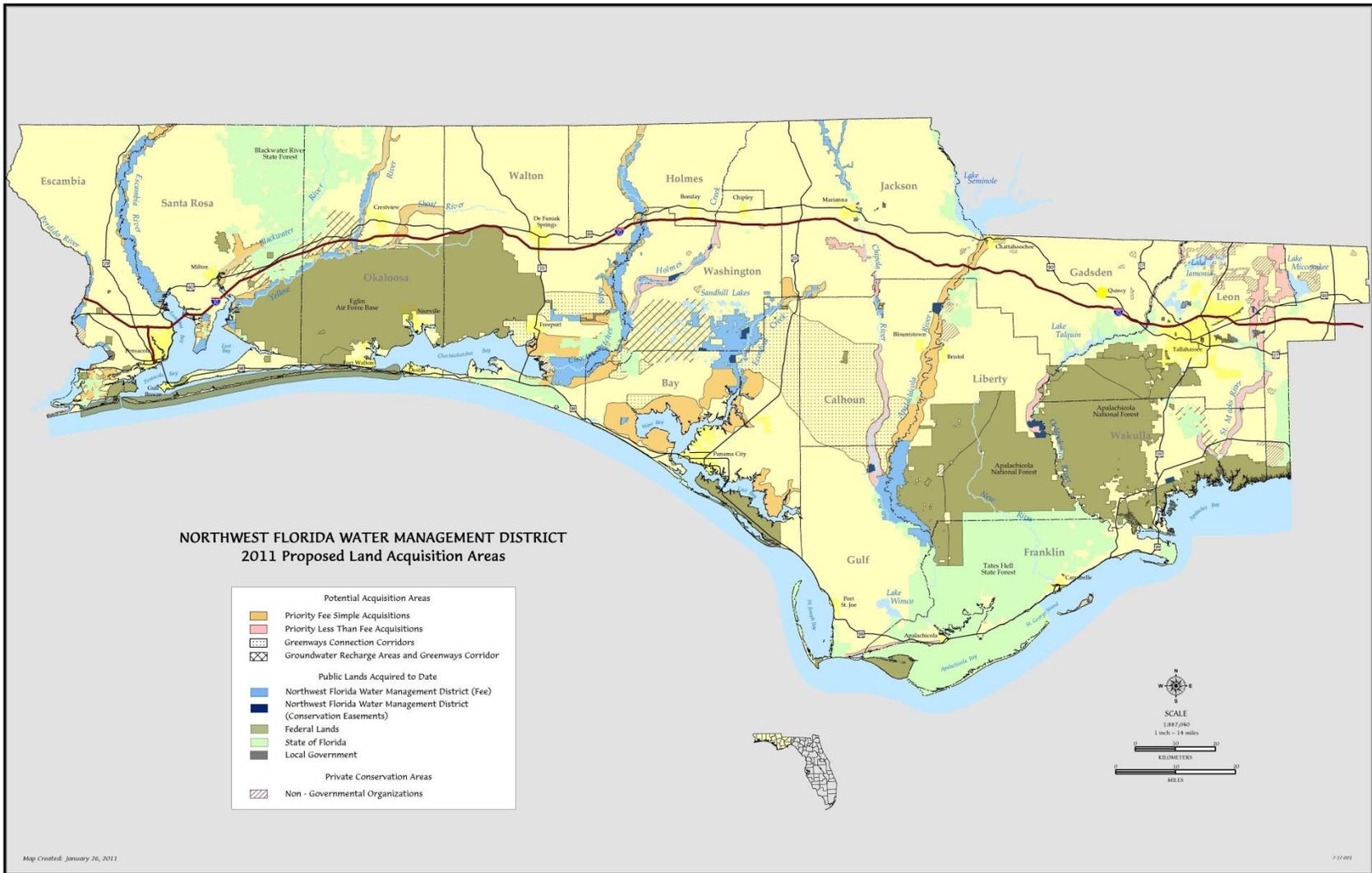
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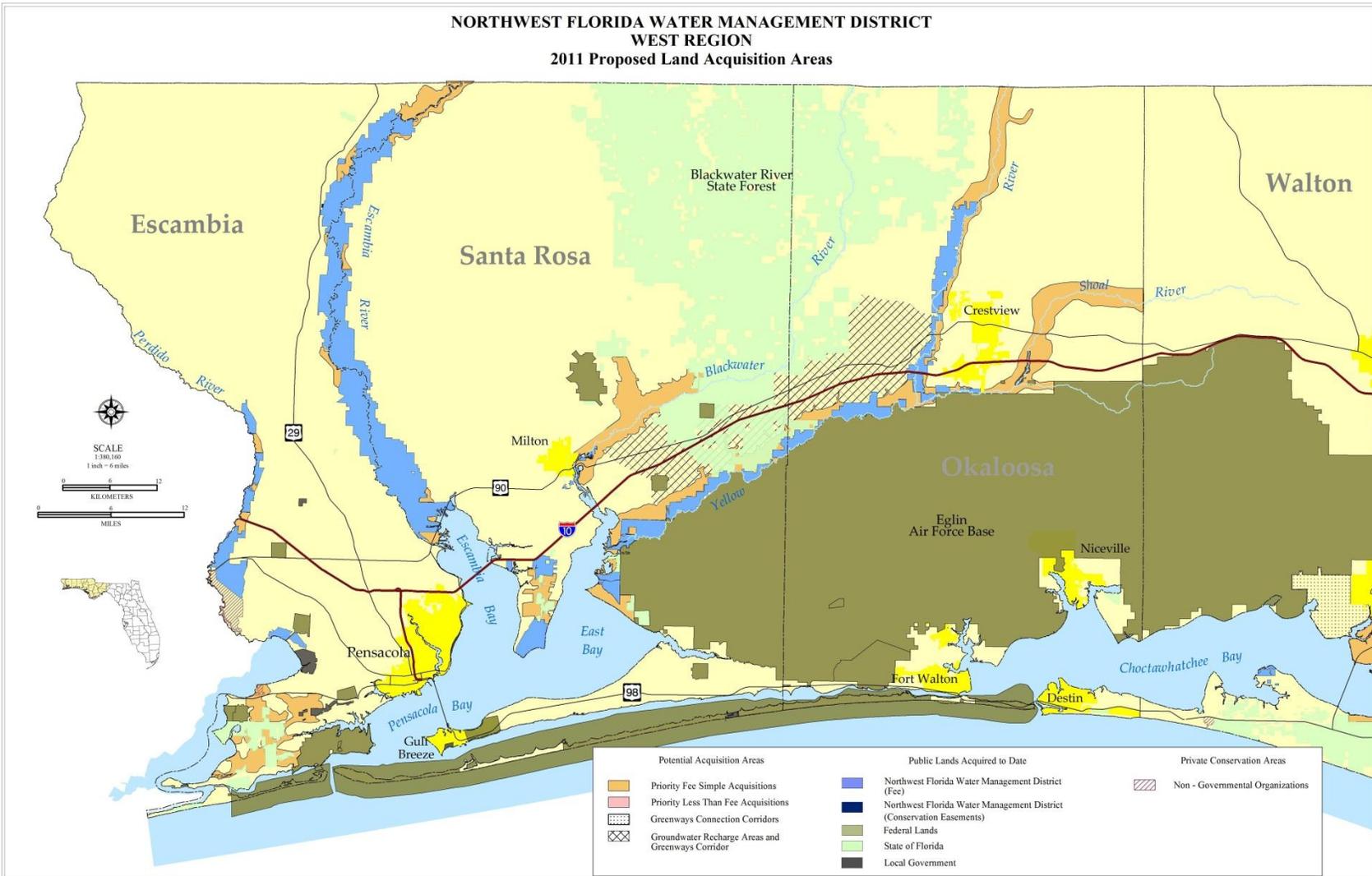
- (2)(d)1. For proposed acquisitions, see Section 5.1, (Florida Forever) Land Acquisition Five-Year Work Plan in the Consolidated Annual Report.
- | | | |
|---|---------|-----------------------------|
| Acquisitions of lakes, wetlands, and floodplain areas to date = | 185,988 | Total acres |
| | 14,519 | Florida Forever acres |
| | 340 | Acres acquired FY 2009/2010 |
- (2)(d)2. Acquisitions for water resource development to date = 41,545 Total acres (incl. fee and l-t-f)
3,663 Florida Forever acres (incl. fee and l-t-f)
- (3)(a)2. Refer to Section 5.2, (Florida Forever) Capital Improvement Work Plan of the Consolidated Annual Report for funded capital improvements identified in SWIM, stormwater, or restoration plans.
- (3)(a)3. NFWFMD lands to be treated for upland invasive, exotic plants = <100 acres
Due to funding limitations, the District has not conducted surveys to identify the spatial distribution of invasive exotic plant infestation on District lands. It is known that invasive plant problems exist at varying levels on some District lands, and staff treat with herbicide as needed.
- (3)(b) New water to be made available through Florida Forever funding for water resource development - Major water resource development accomplishment provided by additions to Econfina Creek Water Management Area. Additionally, Florida Forever funding contributed to the construction of a 750,000 gallon reuse storage facility for the city of Freeport to serve a 0.6 MGD reuse water service area. Funding for water supply development, including construction of water reuse facilities, is primarily provided through the Water Protection and Sustainability Program Trust Fund, NFWFMD General Fund, and local funding. See the NFWFMD Water Resource Development Work Program report and Chapter 4, Water Supply, of the Consolidated Annual Report.
- (4)(a)1. All NFWFMD lands are in need of and are undergoing management by the District.
- | | | |
|---------------------------|--------|-------|
| In need of restoration = | 20,000 | acres |
| Undergoing restoration = | 2,245 | acres |
| Restoration completed = | 15,203 | acres |
| Restoration maintenance = | 15,203 | acres |
- (4)(a)3. Refer to Section 5.6, (Florida Forever) Capital Improvement Work Plan of the Consolidated Annual Report for capital improvements identified in SWIM, stormwater, or restoration plans.
- (4)(a)6. NFWFMD lands under upland invasive, exotic plant maintenance control = <1,000 acres
- (4)(b) Refer to Section 4.1, Five-Year Water Resource Development Work Program: FY 2010-2011 of the Consolidated Annual Report for quantity of new water made available through regional water supply plans.
- (4)(c) See Section 5.1, (Florida Forever) Land Acquisition Work Plan (Table 2) of the Consolidated Annual Report for resource-based recreation facilities by type.

Land Acquisition Projects

The Florida Forever Act, in particular Section 373.199(s) F.S., identifies information that must be included for each Florida Forever Project. Some of the required information is relatively general and applicable to all projects. To reduce the redundancies of this plan, general information is provided separately as part of the District's Five Year Plan for the Florida Forever Program. Specific land acquisition projects are individually identified and detailed information specific to the project is provided in the following pages.



**NORTHWEST FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT
WEST REGION
2011 Proposed Land Acquisition Areas**



2011 Proposed Land Acquisition Areas (West Region)

FLORIDA FOREVER LAND ACQUISITION PROJECT

Perdido River and Bay Basin

The Perdido River serves as the state line, separating Florida from Alabama. The Perdido has been designated an Outstanding Florida Water and Special Water system, a canoe trail, and a recreation area. The upper part of the river is a shifting sand river system, which are unique to portions of Northwest Florida, south Alabama, southern Mississippi and extreme eastern Louisiana, while the lower end of the river is characteristic of a black water stream. Currently the District owns 6,257 acres in fee and 4 acres in less-than-fee between the Perdido River and Bay.

The project area is mostly undeveloped and contains a diverse list of species. Acquisition of any floodplain area along the Perdido River, whether in fee or less than fee, will significantly protect the water resources of the area as well as enhance water quality protection efforts for the Perdido Bay system.

Priority purchases will be concentrated on parcels adjacent to existing District lands along the river, around the river mouth and designated tributaries.

The Perdido Bay is an estuarine system which receives fresh water from the Perdido River. Other bays in the immediate area include Tarkiln Bay, Arnica Bay, Bay La Launch and Bayou St. John. Perdido Key separates Perdido, Tarkiln, and Arnica bays, Bay La Launch and Bayou St. John from the Gulf of Mexico. Two barrier islands, Perdido Key and Santa Rosa Island, surround Perdido Bay. Currently, the District owns 810.19 acres along Perdido Bay.

Priority purchases will be concentrated on parcels adjacent to the bay which can enhance water quality protection of the bay and mitigate for wetland impacts associated with DOT highway construction in southern Escambia County.

Public Access

All District conservation lands are available for public use. Such uses include fishing, hunting, camping, hiking, boating, swimming, and other recreational and educational activities. Access issues are addressed on a parcel-by-parcel basis prior to acceptance.

Land Acquisition

Approximately 1,447 acres have been identified for possible acquisition. Sufficient lands have been identified to allow for a flexible implementation strategy over at least the next five years. The timing of any given acquisition will depend upon such considerations as: (1) Governing Board policy, (2) Threats to the resource, (3) Availability of willing sellers, (4) Tract size, (5) General market conditions, (6) Available staff resources and (7) Availability of funds.

FLORIDA FOREVER LAND ACQUISITION PROJECT

Southwest Escambia County Ecosystem

Several major estuarine drainages, including Jones Swamp, Bayou Grande, Big Lagoon, and Tarkiln Bay, intersect in southwest Escambia County. These, in turn, comprise portions of Pensacola and Perdido bays. The proposed acquisition borders a major urban area and is under rapid encroachment from residential and commercial development. The project area is characterized by an undulating topography where remnants of ancient dune lines alternate with lower intervening swales that drain east or west, parallel to the Gulf coast. The wet prairies in the area are some of the last examples of what may be one of the most diverse plant communities in the southeast, supporting large stands of white-topped pitcher plants and almost 100 other plant species.

Protecting the ecological integrity of this area is very important to the quality of water resources in the Pensacola and Perdido bay systems. Acquisition will preclude new nonpoint pollution sources and will limit stormwater runoff by preventing channelization and placement of new impervious surfaces. Wetlands and upland buffers will be preserved, and riparian buffer zones will be maintained. Additionally, public uses will be maintained and fish, wildlife and estuarine productivity will be protected.

This acquisition is consistent with a number of major initiatives designed to protect environmental and other public resources in the region. These include water quality treatment systems, acquisition programs for the Jones Swamp Buffer Preserve and the Perdido Pitcher Plant Prairie, and efforts to prevent encroachment on NAS Pensacola. Together with nearby state parks, these acquisitions will provide for a major environmental reserve and greenway system within a rapidly urbanizing area.

Public Access

All District conservation lands are available for public use. Such uses include fishing, hunting, camping, hiking, boating, swimming, and other recreational and educational activities. Access issues are addressed on a parcel-by-parcel basis.

Land Acquisition

Approximately 11,000 acres have been identified for possible acquisition. Sufficient lands have been identified to allow for a flexible implementation strategy over at least the next five years. The timing of any given acquisition will be dependent on such considerations as: (1) Governing Board policy, (2) Threats to the resource, (3) Availability of willing sellers, (4) Tract size, (5) General market conditions, (6) Available staff resources and (7) Availability of funds.

Groundwater Recharge Area

Designated area has groundwater recharge potential.

FLORIDA FOREVER LAND ACQUISITION PROJECT

Escambia River Basin

Beginning at the confluence of the Conecuh River and Escambia Creek above the Florida-Alabama border and emptying into Escambia Bay, the Escambia River corridor contains a rich diversity of plant and animal species, as well as many rare fish and waterfowl. The Escambia River basin is broad and well drained in the upper reaches, and swampy below Molino, Florida. While the overall water quality is considered good, many point and non-point pollution sources empty into the river. Currently the District owns 35,413 acres along the river.

Priority purchases will be concentrated on parcels adjacent to existing District lands around the river mouth and designated tributaries.

Public Access

All District conservation lands are available for public use. Such uses include fishing, hunting, camping, hiking, boating, swimming, and other recreational and educational activities. Access issues are addressed on a parcel-by-parcel basis prior to acceptance.

Land Acquisition

Approximately 6,644 acres have been identified for possible acquisition. Sufficient lands have been identified to allow for a flexible implementation strategy over at least the next five years. The timing of any given acquisition will be dependent on such considerations as: (1) Governing Board policy, (2) Threats to the resource, (3) Availability of willing sellers, (4) Tract size, (5) General market conditions, (6) Available staff resources and (7) Availability of funds.

FLORIDA FOREVER LAND ACQUISITION PROJECT

Garcon Point Ecosystem

This proposed land acquisition project contains most of the Garcon Point Peninsula in Pensacola Bay. The project area is largely undeveloped and includes a variety of natural communities that are in good to excellent condition. The entire tract provides considerable protection to the water quality of Pensacola Bay, as well as harboring a number of rare and endangered species. Priority purchases will be concentrated on parcels adjacent to existing District lands. Currently the District owns 3,245 acres.

The emergent estuarine marsh that borders several miles of shoreline within the project is an important source of organic detritus and nutrients, and serves as a nursery for many of the species found in Pensacola Bay. These wetlands function as both stormwater filtration and a storm buffer area, as well as providing erosion controls to the neighboring uplands. A minimum of 13 endangered or threatened species are known to live in the region including the recently listed federally endangered reticulated flatwoods salamander. The northern wet prairie portion is known to be an outstanding pitcher plant habitat.

Public Access

All District conservation lands are available for public use. Such uses include fishing, hunting, camping, hiking, boating, swimming, and other recreational and educational activities. Access issues are addressed on a parcel-by-parcel basis prior to acceptance.

Land Acquisition

Approximately 3,200 acres have been identified for possible acquisition. Sufficient lands have been identified to allow for a flexible implementation strategy over at least the next five years. The timing of any given acquisition will be dependent on such considerations as: (1) Governing Board policy, (2) Threats to the resource, (3) Availability of willing sellers, (4) Tract size, (5) General market conditions, (6) Available staff resources and (7) Availability of funds.

FLORIDA FOREVER LAND ACQUISITION PROJECT

Blackwater River Basin

Originating in the Conecuh National Forest in Alabama, the Blackwater River has a large portion of its Florida watershed further protected by the Blackwater River State Forest. In all, nearly 50 miles of the river corridor is remote and undeveloped. As a result, the Blackwater is considered one of Florida's best preserved waterways. Acquisition by the Florida Division of Forestry will bring into public ownership much of the lower, least protected portion of river floodplain and estuary. The District will assist in these acquisitions as needed. Currently the District owns 382 acres along the river.

The acquisition area includes a large area of mature longleaf pine forest, considerable bottomland forest and marsh acreage, upland mixed forest, blackwater stream and seepage slope communities. Priority purchases will be concentrated on parcels adjacent to existing District lands. Some 380 acres have been acquired along the Blackwater immediately south of Milton.

Public Access

All District conservation lands are available for public use. Such uses include fishing, hunting, camping, hiking, boating, swimming, and other recreational and educational activities. Access issues are addressed on a parcel-by-parcel basis prior to acceptance.

Land Acquisition

Approximately 11,449 acres have been identified for possible acquisition. Sufficient lands have been identified to allow for a flexible implementation strategy over at least the next five years. The timing of any given acquisition will be dependent on such considerations as: (1) Governing Board policy, (2) Threats to the resource, (3) Availability of willing sellers, (4) Tract size, (5) General market conditions, (6) Available staff resources and (7) Availability of funds.

FLORIDA FOREVER LAND ACQUISITION PROJECT

Yellow/Shoal River Basin

The Yellow River has its headwaters in Conecuh National Forest in Alabama and forms the northern border of Eglin Air Force Base (AFB) across much of eastern Santa Rosa and western Okaloosa counties. The proposed acquisitions would bring much of the remainder of the Yellow River floodplain in Florida under public ownership. Included in the project is a segment of the lower Shoal, the largest tributary to the Yellow. Large private landowners own a majority of the floodplain in this project, but considerable areas of the bordering and buffer lands must also be acquired to ensure effective management and the protection of water resources. To accomplish these objectives, acquisition of the bordering land within the 100-year floodplain, along with an additional buffer of at least 50-feet, will be required. Highest priority will be given to tracts in the western portion of the project. Priority purchases will be concentrated on parcels adjacent to existing District lands. Currently the District owns 17,742 acres along the river.

Although the Yellow and Shoal rivers exhibit good overall water quality, both are fed largely by rainwater runoff and thus are highly susceptible to pollution from land use activities. The proposed purchase area would provide water quality protection from the Alabama border and encompass roughly 39,000 acres. Purchase of lands northwest of Eglin AFB, along the I-10 corridor, would provide approximately 52,000 acres of land that has excellent potential for future water resource development to supplement the strained potable water sources in southern Santa Rosa and Okaloosa counties. Acquisitions in this area are recommended by the District Regional Water Supply Plan for Okaloosa, Santa Rosa and Walton counties to protect future supply sources.

Public Access

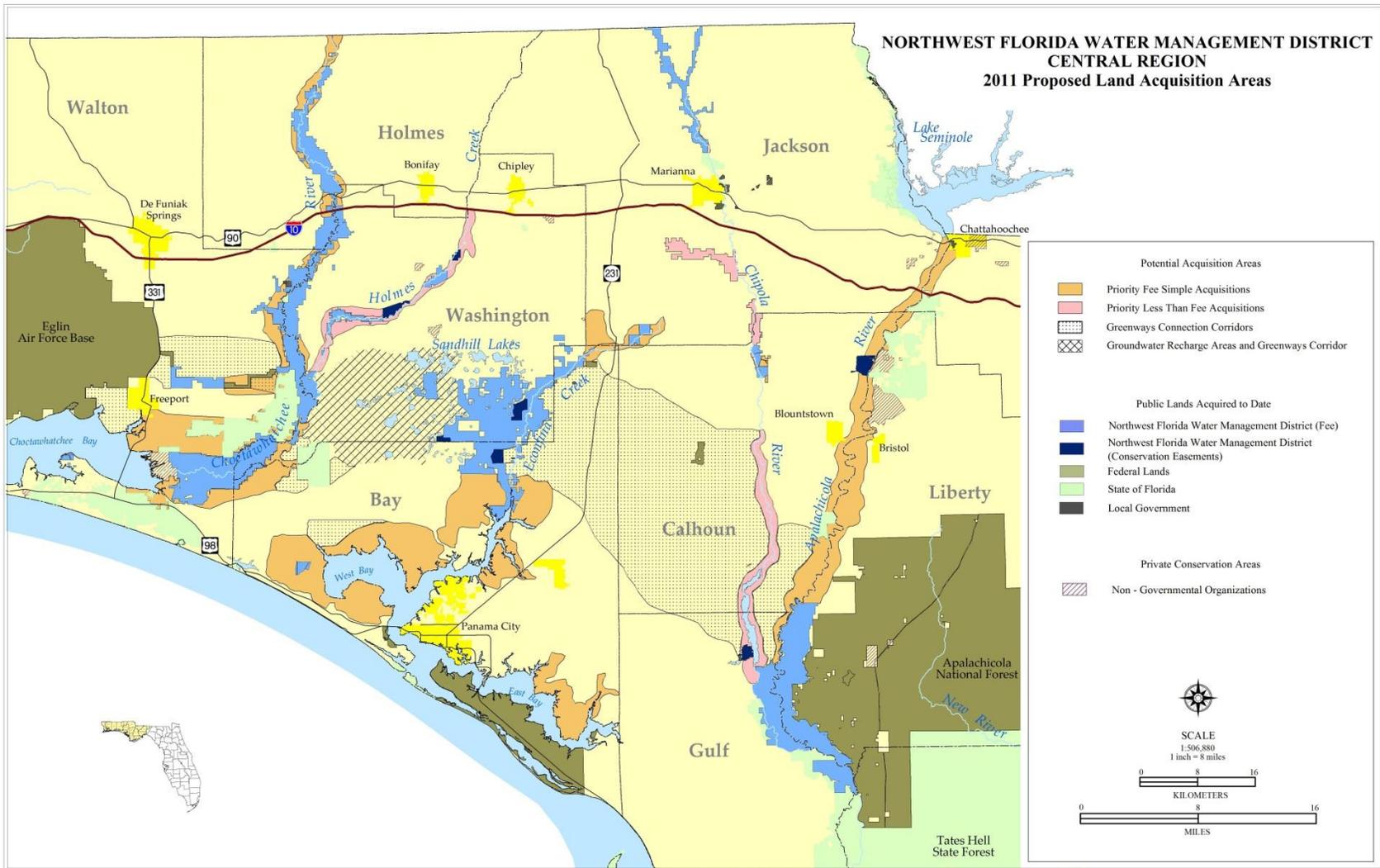
All District conservation lands are available for public use. Such uses include fishing, hunting, camping, hiking, boating, swimming, and other recreational and educational activities. Access issues are addressed on a parcel-by-parcel basis prior to acceptance.

Land Acquisition

Approximately 39,982 acres have been identified for possible acquisition. Sufficient lands have been identified to allow for a flexible implementation strategy over at least the next five years. The timing of any given acquisition will be dependent on such considerations as: (1) Governing Board policy, (2) Threats to the resource, (3) Availability of willing sellers, (4) Tract size, (5) General market conditions, (6) Available staff resources and (7) Availability of funds.

Groundwater Recharge Areas

In Escambia and Santa Rosa counties, the Sand-and-Gravel Aquifer is the principal source of potable water for public supply. The Sand-and-Gravel Aquifer is unconfined or poorly confined, making it particularly susceptible to contamination by land uses. Land acquisition along the I-10 corridor between the Yellow and Blackwater rivers in Santa Rosa County would protect recharge areas that are particularly important for future water supply sources.



2011 Proposed Land Acquisition Areas (Central Region)

FLORIDA FOREVER LAND ACQUISITION PROJECT

Lafayette Creek

Originating in south central Walton County, the Lafayette Creek drainage basin is located due east and north of Freeport, Florida. The main stem of the creek begins about seven miles east of Freeport and runs due west for about six miles before it turns south and empties into LaGrange Bayou/Choctawhatchee Bay. Additional purchases along the creek will protect many diverse natural communities and habitat types. In addition, any proposed acquisitions will also protect a portion of the water resources of Magnolia and Wolf creeks, both of which are significant tributaries to Lafayette Creek. Currently, the District owns 3,160 acres along the creek, including 420 acres for DOT mitigation purposes.

The area between the Choctawhatchee River and Eglin Air Force Base is part of the Northwest Florida Greenway Connection Corridor which serves to protect open space stretching from the Apalachicola National Forest to Eglin Air Force Base. It is intended to preserve environmentally sensitive areas, sustain existing military lands and airspace, maintain the economic viability of forest lands and provide recreation. The District, in cooperation with Eglin Air Force Base, is endeavoring to buy a Conservation Easement from Nokuse Plantation on approximately 1,095 acres utilizing Department of Defense Readiness and Environment Initiative (REPI) funds. Acquisition of this Conservation Easement will ensure the protection of seepage streams within the Magnolia and Lafayette Creeks and buffer Eglin Air Force Base lands to the west.

Public Access

All District conservation lands are available for public use. Such uses include fishing, hunting, camping, hiking, boating, swimming, and other recreational and educational activities. Access issues are addressed on a parcel-by-parcel basis prior to acceptance.

Land Acquisition

Approximately 5,800 acres have been identified for possible acquisition. Sufficient lands have been identified to allow for a flexible implementation strategy over at least the next five years. The timing of any given acquisition will be dependent on such considerations as: (1) Governing Board policy, (2) Threats to the resource, (3) Availability of willing sellers, (4) Tract size, (5) General market conditions, (6) Available staff resources and (7) Availability of funds.

FLORIDA FOREVER LAND ACQUISITION PROJECT

Choctawhatchee River/Holmes Creek Basin

Originating in Alabama and flowing into Choctawhatchee Bay, the Choctawhatchee River/Holmes Creek basin drains roughly 3,300 square miles of northwest Florida, the second largest floodplain in the state. Although the river basin exhibits more localized water quality problems than most in northwest Florida, the overall water quality is considered good. The river basin encompasses several springs and a variety of habitats including bottomland hardwood forests, marshes and Tupelo-Cypress swamps.

Due to the river corridor's undeveloped nature, the basin provides habitat for a variety of native wildlife, including several endangered plant and animal species. The river also serves as a breeding and migratory area for both the Alligator Gar and the Gulf Sturgeon. The District currently owns 62,290 acres along the river and/or creek in fee and less-than-fee. Priority purchases will be concentrated on parcels adjacent to existing District lands, around the river's mouth and designated tributaries such as Holmes Creek and such other projects that can mitigate for wetland impacts associated with DOT highway construction.

Public Access

All District conservation lands are available for public use. Such uses include fishing, hunting, camping, hiking, boating, swimming, and other recreational and educational activities. Access issues are addressed on a parcel-by-parcel basis prior to acceptance.

Land Acquisition

Approximately 56,159 acres have been identified for fee simple acquisition on the Choctawhatchee River and Holmes Creek, and 7,000 acres have been identified for possible less-than-fee acquisition on Holmes Creek. Sufficient lands have been identified to allow for a flexible implementation strategy over at least the next five years. The timing of any given acquisition will be dependent on such considerations as: (1) Governing Board policy, (2) Threats to the resource, (3) Availability of willing sellers, (4) Tract size, (5) General market conditions, (6) Available staff resources and (7) Availability of funds.

FLORIDA FOREVER LAND ACQUISITION PROJECT

West Bay Buffer

West Bay is the westernmost embayment of the St. Andrew Bay estuary. The bay supports notable shellfish and seagrass communities, important fisheries, and other environmental and economic resources. The West Bay watershed is characterized by extensive pine flatwoods, as well as hardwood forests, cypress wetlands, mixed-forested wetlands, freshwater marshes, wet prairie and other wetlands. Salt marshes, inland forested wetlands, and associated upland communities are especially prominent in several areas, including the Breakfast Point peninsula and adjacent to the Burnt Mill and Crooked Creek tributaries.

Like other estuaries, the bay is vulnerable to impacts associated with intensive residential and commercial development. Such potential impacts include the long-term effects of nonpoint source pollution and habitat loss and fragmentation. The proposed acquisition would help prevent such degradation by preserving intact an extensive ecosystem of forests, scrub, salt marshes, and freshwater wetlands. The acquisition would preclude new sources of pollution, prevent habitat loss and fragmentation, and protect the stability and integrity of littoral vegetation. Preserving intact the associated wetland and upland communities in the vicinity of the bay would also protect water quality by providing a substantial riparian buffer and maintaining the natural hydrology in the vicinity of the bay. The District currently owns 719 acres in the West Bay Buffer.

In addition to providing for water resource protection and public use, this acquisition will be consistent with several ongoing initiatives, including the West Bay Sector Plan. These include efforts to restore seagrass communities in the bay and to improve the treatment and management of domestic wastewater.

Public Access

All District conservation lands are available for public use. Such uses include fishing, hunting, camping, hiking, boating, swimming, and other recreational and educational activities. Access issues are addressed on a parcel-by-parcel basis prior to acceptance.

Land Acquisition

Approximately 47,281 acres have been identified for possible acquisition. Sufficient lands have been identified to allow for a flexible implementation strategy over at least the next five years. The timing of any given acquisition will be dependent on such considerations as: (1) Governing Board policy, (2) Threats to the resource, (3) Availability of willing sellers, (4) Tract size, (5) General market conditions, (6) Available staff resources and (7) Availability of funds.

FLORIDA FOREVER LAND ACQUISITION PROJECT

Econfina Creek

Econfina Creek is the major contributor to Deer Point Lake, which serves as the public water supply for Bay County, including Panama City, Panama City Beach and neighboring communities. The proposed purchases along the creek contain several spring-run streams, which are imperiled biological communities. The slope forest communities that border considerable lengths of the creek contain some of the highest species diversities encountered in Florida. The sand hills portion of the project features high rolling pinelands, steephead ravines and numerous sandhill upland lakes. Much of the sand hills area is of excellent quality, with nearly intact ground cover of wiregrass and dropseed. At least 18 species of rare or endangered plants inhabit the sand hills area. Because of the upland nature of the sand hills sites, the region is being developed with little regulatory restriction. The District currently owns over 43,700 acres in fee and less-than-fee, including the 2,155-acre Sand Hill Lakes Mitigation Bank. Priority purchases will be concentrated on parcels adjacent to existing District lands and parcels with significant recharge.

Public Access

All District conservation lands are available for public use. Such uses include fishing, hunting, camping, hiking, boating, swimming, and other recreational and educational activities. Access issues are addressed on a parcel-by-parcel basis prior to acceptance.

Land Acquisition

Approximately 39,740 acres have been identified for possible acquisition. Sufficient lands have been identified to allow for a flexible implementation strategy over at least the next five years. The timing of any given acquisition will be dependent on such considerations as: (1) Governing Board policy, (2) Threats to the resource, (3) Availability of willing sellers, (4) Tract size, (5) General market conditions, (6) Available staff resources and (7) Availability of funds.

Groundwater Recharge Areas

The upper portion of the acquisition project is a significant recharge area of the Floridan Aquifer. The majority of the acreage purchased by the District and targeted for future purchase is one of the most important recharge areas for the Floridan Aquifer in northwest Florida. Recharge rates in the area have been estimated at 25 to 40 inches per year, and this recharge drives the spring flows along Econfina Creek, the largest tributary of the Deer Point Lake Reservoir. The reservoir currently provides approximately 50 million gallons per day for public supply and industrial water uses in Bay County.

FLORIDA FOREVER LAND ACQUISITION PROJECT

Sandy Creek Basin

Sandy Creek is a major tributary of East Bay, the easternmost embayment of the St. Andrew Bay estuary. The creek's basin is characterized by extensive pine flatwoods, as well as hardwood forests, saltmarshes, cypress wetlands, mixed forested wetlands, freshwater marshes, wet prairie and other wetlands. Salt and freshwater marshes, inland forested wetlands, and associated upland communities are especially prominent along the creek and its tributaries.

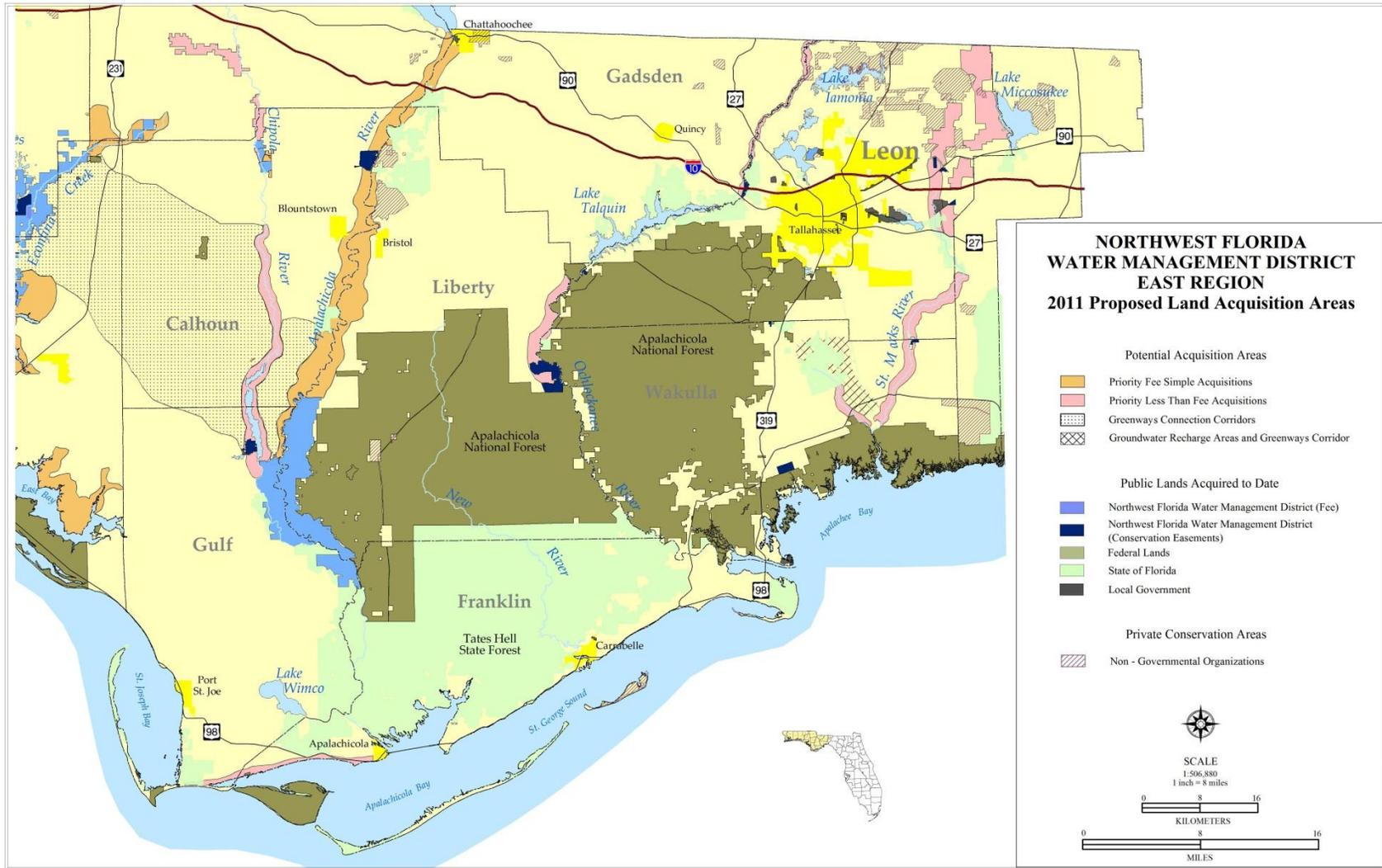
Preservation of the Sandy Creek basin will protect a major tributary basin of East Bay. In so doing, it would preserve water quality and a mosaic of interconnected upland, wetland, stream, and estuarine habitats. The acquisition would also protect water quality by providing a substantial riparian buffer and maintaining natural hydrology.

Public Access

All District conservation lands are available for public use. Such uses include fishing, hunting, camping, hiking, boating, swimming, and other recreational and educational activities. Access issues are addressed on a parcel-by-parcel basis prior to acceptance.

Land Acquisition

Approximately 15,000 acres have been identified for acquisition. Sufficient lands have been identified to allow for a flexible implementation strategy over at least the next five years. The timing of any given acquisition will be dependent on such considerations as: (1) Governing Board policy, (2) Threats to the resource, (3) Availability of willing sellers, (4) Tract size, (5) General market conditions, (6) Available staff resources and (7) Availability of funds.



2011 Proposed Land Acquisition Areas (East Region)

FLORIDA FOREVER LAND ACQUISITION PROJECT

Chipola River Basin

A new area along the Middle Chipola River has been identified for less-than-fee acquisition. The area is comprised of approximately 2,400 acres in northern Calhoun and southern Jackson counties. Acquisition of this tract will protect over 3.4 miles of the west bank and 4.25 miles of the east bank of the Chipola River. In 2009, the District acquired 1,377.76 acres in fee along the Middle Chipola River, including “Look-N-Tremble”. The District now owns a total of 9,094 acres in fee simple and holds a conservation easement on 810 acres in the Chipola River Basin.

Two additional areas have been identified for less-than-fee acquisition along the Chipola River. The first proposed less-than-fee acquisition is comprised of approximately 6,000 acres in the Spring Lake/Spring Group area located in central Jackson County. Acquisition of the Spring Lake/Spring Group area and its numerous springs, which ultimately flow into Dry Creek, a significant tributary stream to the Chipola, will provide enhanced water resource protection to the area.

The second proposed less-than-fee acquisition contains a core tract of roughly 20,000 acres in the river basin in Calhoun and Gulf counties. The Chipola River is the largest tributary to the Apalachicola River and its mostly spring-fed waters make an important and consistent contribution of sediment-free water to the Apalachicola. The degree of biological diversity of the Chipola appears to be nearly as high as that of the Apalachicola. Priority purchases will be focused along the middle reaches of the Chipola River.

Public Access

All District conservation lands are available for public use. Such uses include fishing, hunting, camping, hiking, boating, swimming, and other recreational and educational activities. Access issues are addressed on a parcel-by-parcel basis prior to acceptance.

Land Acquisition

Approximately 1,025 acres has been identified for possible fee acquisition and 28,400 acres have been identified for possible less-than-fee acquisition. Sufficient lands have been identified to allow for a flexible implementation strategy over at least the next five years. The timing of any given acquisition will be dependent on such considerations as: (1) Governing Board policy, (2) Threats to the resource, (3) Availability of willing sellers, (4) Tract size, (5) General market conditions, (6) Available staff resources and (7) Availability of funds.

FLORIDA FOREVER LAND ACQUISITION PROJECT

Apalachicola Bay/St. Vincent Sound Buffer

Apalachicola Bay has been recognized as a resource of state, federal, and international significance. The bay has extensive fish and shellfish resources, and it supports noteworthy commercial and recreational fisheries and other recreational and economic activities. It has been designated an Outstanding Florida Water, a State Aquatic Preserve, and an International Biosphere Reserve. It includes the Apalachicola Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve and the St. Vincent National Wildlife Refuge. State and federal agencies, as well as the NFWMD, have made extensive investments in acquiring and protecting lands throughout the basin. This project would provide an important addition to these efforts.

Like other northwest Florida estuaries, Apalachicola Bay is vulnerable to impacts associated with development. Such potential impacts include the long-term effects of non-point source pollution and habitat loss and fragmentation. The proposed acquisition would help prevent such degradation by preserving intact the integrated forest and wetland community bordering St. Vincent Sound and Apalachicola Bay. The acquisition would preclude new sources of pollution, prevent habitat loss and fragmentation, and protect the stability and integrity of littoral vegetation. The acquisition would also protect water quality by providing a substantial riparian buffer and precluding new impervious surfaces and channelization.

The land targeted through this project is immediately adjacent to some of the most productive oyster harvesting areas of the Apalachicola Bay system, including the Indian Lagoon, Scorpion and Paradise bars.

Public Access

All District conservation lands are available for public use. Such uses include fishing, hunting, camping, hiking, boating, swimming, and other recreational and educational activities. Access issues are addressed on a parcel-by-parcel basis prior to acceptance.

Land Acquisition

Approximately 5,200 acres have been identified for less-than-fee acquisition. Sufficient lands have been identified to allow for a flexible implementation strategy over at least the next five years. The timing of any given acquisition will be dependent on such considerations as: (1) Governing Board policy, (2) Threats to the resource, (3) Availability of willing sellers, (4) Tract size, (5) General market conditions, (6) Available staff resources and (7) Availability of funds.

FLORIDA FOREVER LAND ACQUISITION PROJECT

Upper Apalachicola River Basin

The Apalachicola River begins below Lake Seminole at the confluence of Chattahoochee and Flint rivers. It has the largest floodplain in the state and is widely regarded as one of the state's most important natural resources. The Apalachicola River supports the highly productive fishery in Apalachicola Bay, and more endangered plant species can be found along the river's upper stretches than in any comparably-sized river in the state. The District owns 35,506 acres of river floodplain and holds a conservation easement on 1,544 acres.

Major habitat types along the Apalachicola River include coastal marshes, freshwater marshes, flatwoods and bottomland hardwood swamp. Water tupelo, Ogeechee tupelo, Bald cypress, Carolina ash and Swamp tupelo have been identified in the floodplain, as well as numerous species of rare fish. Substantial additional acreage of the Apalachicola system is owned by other public agencies and private conservation organizations. Priority purchases will be concentrated on parcels adjacent to existing District lands, other conservation lands and designated tributaries.

Public Access

All District conservation lands are available for public use. Such uses include fishing, hunting, camping, hiking, boating, swimming, and other recreational and educational activities. Access issues are addressed on a parcel-by-parcel basis prior to acceptance.

Land Acquisition

Approximately 51,449 acres have been identified for possible fee acquisition. Sufficient lands have been identified to allow for a flexible implementation strategy over at least the next five years. The timing of any given acquisition will be dependent on such considerations as: (1) Governing Board policy, (2) Threats to the resource, (3) Availability of willing sellers, (4) Tract size, (5) General market conditions, (6) Available staff resources and (7) Availability of funds.

FLORIDA FOREVER LAND ACQUISITION PROJECT

Ochlockonee River Basin

The Ochlockonee River originates in the coastal plain of Georgia and traverses parts of five Florida counties. Water quality in the river is lowest when it enters Florida and generally improves as it moves to the Gulf of Mexico. The Ochlockonee is primarily fed by rainwater runoff, hence highly susceptible to pollution of land use activities. Large parts of the watershed are publicly owned, including Joe Budd Wildlife Management Area, Lake Talquin State Forest and Apalachicola National Forest. The District's primary focus is to acquire less-than-fee rights on privately owned floodplain land separating existing federal/state properties. Public ownership of the erosion-prone lands bordering this usually fast flowing river will reduce the likelihood of water quality degradation. The District presently has 3,675 acres in less-than-fee (conservation easement) in the area.

Public Access

All District conservation lands are available for public use. Such uses include fishing, hunting, camping, hiking, boating, swimming, and other recreational and educational activities. Access issues are addressed on a parcel-by-parcel basis prior to acceptance.

Land Acquisition

Approximately 11,767 acres have been identified for less-than-fee acquisition. Sufficient lands have been identified to allow for a flexible implementation strategy over at least the next five years. The timing of any given acquisition will be dependent on such considerations as: (1) Governing Board policy, (2) Threats to the resource, (3) Availability of willing sellers, (4) Tract size, (5) General market conditions, (6) Available staff resources and (7) Availability of funds.

FLORIDA FOREVER LAND ACQUISITION PROJECT

St. Marks/Wakulla Rivers

The Wakulla River originates at Wakulla Springs and flows south approximately 10 miles to join the St. Marks River at the town of St. Marks. The St. Marks River starts east of Tallahassee as a tiny stream, widens considerably below Horn Spring, and then disappears underground at Natural Bridge. Reemerging as a much stronger river at St. Marks Spring, it flows 11 miles to its confluence with the Wakulla River. While the lower reach of the river below the town of St. Marks is protected and preserved as part of the St. Marks National Wildlife Refuge, much of the remainder of the two river watersheds is threatened by active riverfront development and in the adjacent highlands. The St. Marks supports one of the most heavily used inshore saltwater fisheries in north Florida, the viability of which is largely dependent on the quality of freshwater flowing into the estuarine system. Both the Wakulla Springs State Park and the St. Marks National Wildlife Refuge are major refuges for numerous biological species. Much of the remaining privately owned land is timberland that is under intense development pressure. The District presently has 1,376 acres under less-than-fee acquisition in the area.

BluePrint 2000

In December 2003, the Northwest Florida Water Management District and the City of Tallahassee-Leon County BluePrint 2000 Intergovernmental Agency entered into a five-year Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) to work cooperatively to acquire conservation easements to protect and preserve the water resources of the St. Marks River basin in Leon County. Although this MOA has now expired, the District and BluePrint 2000 successfully purchased conservation easements on a 132.62-acre tract and 194.5-acre tract, both located in Leon County.

Land Acquisition

Approximately 45,456 acres have been identified for possible acquisition. Sufficient lands have been identified to allow for a flexible implementation strategy over at least the next five years. The timing of any given acquisition will be dependent on such considerations as: (1) Governing Board policy, (2) Threats to the resource, (3) Availability of willing sellers, (4) Tract size, (5) General market conditions, (6) Available staff resources and (7) Availability of funds.

Implementation of the 2009-2010 Work Plan

During the 2009-2010 fiscal year, the District completed 2,153.66 acres of fee simple land acquisitions and 109.2 acres of less-than-fee acquisitions. In addition, 1,224 acres of land in the Econfina Creek and Yellow River water management areas were surplus during the 2009-2010 fiscal year. A summary of the acquisition projects are listed below.

- A purchase in 2009 will provide additional protection to the Choctawhatchee River and Holmes Creek. The District purchased 121.5 acres on Holmes Creek in Washington County. This property will be used as a Department of Transportation (DOT) mitigation parcel. It will be used to mitigate for two bridge replacements on Highway 79. The parcel is also adjacent to existing District property and will provide public access for District lands north of Holmes Creek. This property was acquired with Florida Forever funds.
- An inholding containing 160.1 acres in the Econfina Creek basin was purchased by the District in December 2009. The property consists of xeric sandhill uplands and is located between Strickland Road and Econfina Creek, south of Quail Run Plantation in Washington County. Recreational opportunities on the tract include hiking, hunting and nature appreciation. The purchase was made with Florida Forever funds.
- A portion of the middle Chipola River corridor, including Look-n-Tremble rapids, will be protected by a District purchase approved in October 2009. The 1,377.76-acre tract in Calhoun County includes 3.5 miles of river frontage north and south of County Road 274, three perennial streams and seven diverse upland and wetland habitat types. The District plans to make the area available for recreation activities, subject to public input. These may include canoeing, tubing, hiking, fishing, hunting, birding, primitive camping and nature appreciation.
- In January 2010, the Governing Board approved the purchase of 494.3 acres on the Escambia River in Santa Rosa County. The property primarily consists of mixed bottomland hardwood forest, mesic pine/hardwood uplands, slope forest, wet pine flatwoods and several swamp lakes. Acquisition of this tract will protect approximately three-fourths of a mile of the east bank of the Escambia River and will provide public access to another 2,500 acres of adjacent District lands to the southwest for enhanced public recreation. Florida Forever funds were utilized to make this purchase.
- The Governing Board approved the donation of a conservation easement on 109.2 acres in Leon County in the Ochlockonee River basin in April 2010. The District received the development and land use conversion rights through this donation. The property is primarily composed of mixed bottomland hardwood forest, mesic pine/hardwood uplands and a few acres of disturbed longleaf pine/wiregrass habitat. Acceptance of this donation as a conservation easement enhanced the water resource protection/preservation efforts in the Ochlockonee River basin.

The District also completed numerous land management activities during fiscal year 2009-2010. Management and restoration efforts, including prescribed burns, native species planting and timber harvesting, continue across the District's 210,992 managed acres. In addition, the District maintains and improves public access and recreational amenities, such as boat ramps, primitive campsites, and day use (swimming and picnic) areas. In the pages that follow, **Table 1** and **Table 2** provide additional information on specific land restoration activities completed during the year. The projected 2010-2011 staffing and management budget by water management area can be found in **Table 3**.

- In 2010, construction started on Phase 1 of the Econfina Springs restoration project. This substantial spring restoration and recreational facility construction project included replacing a retaining wall around Pitt Spring with natural limestone and vegetation, enhancing the canoe dock, adding a tube launch dock, constructing decks to overlook spring pools, extending boardwalks over sensitive natural areas, building an elevated observation deck at Sylvan Spring, installing a permanent restroom facility and more.
- Design and permitting work was started for Phase 2 (Williford Spring) of the Econfina Springs Complex-Spring Restoration and Protection project.
- Restoration and management continued within the Sand Hill Lakes Mitigation Bank in Washington County. Removal of sand pine plantations, shrub and oak reduction, re-planting of wiregrass, toothache grass and longleaf pines, native and exotic species surveys, fire management, water level monitoring, and exotics removal all continue on the property. The efforts on this property have received very good reviews from the mitigation bank permitting and oversight agencies.
- Through an agreement with Liberty County, substantial work was accomplished toward providing all-weather public access roads on Florida River Island in Liberty County, a popular portion of the Apalachicola River Water Management Area. These improved roads help facilitate public access to approximately 6,000 acres of floodplain lands with excellent hunting, fishing, and hiking opportunities.
- During fiscal year 2009-2010, habitat restoration was completed on 363 acres of District land. Approximately 50,820 longleaf pines, 91,708 slash pines, 13,310 pond cypress, and 16,568 mixed bottomland hardwood trees were planted. Additionally, 614,680 wiregrass tubelings and 77,440 toothache grass tubelings were planted to help restore groundcover species on District-owned properties.
- District staff continue to work with equestrian users to evaluate, develop, and maintain horse trails on the Econfina Creek and Perdido River Water Management Areas. During fiscal year 2009-2010, equestrian trail development was started on the Lafayette Creek tract in Walton County. Virtually all equestrian trail planning, construction, and maintenance is performed by volunteers.
- A "Grand Opening" was held for the recently constructed new canoe/kayak launching facility at Fillingim Landing on the Perdido River Water Management Area in Escambia County. This facility provides public access to an area of the Perdido River that has not had a public launching location for many years.

- The Division of Land Management and Acquisition completed construction of a permanent field office in Milton to house Western Region Land Management staff, equipment and supplies. This facility replaced a rented office that did not have adequate space for the region's equipment inventory. Staff from the Western Region moved into the new field office in September 2010.
- Timber harvests were ongoing or completed on the District's Econfina Creek, Ward Creek West, and Perdido River water management areas. Revenue from timber harvests is used for restoration activities on these lands.
- The new Whitewater Lake camping area was prepared for a 2011 opening. This site will be the District's newest "group camping" site, where reservations are required to secure the site. These group sites are very popular due to the unique "primitive" camping experience that is available to the public at no cost through a simple reservation system.

Table 1: Restoration, Enhancement and Maintenance (2010)

Water Management Area	Acres Burned					Acres Planted					Acres Harvested				Acres Treated
	Total	Fuel Reduction	Site Preparation	Growing Season	Wiregrass Propagation	Total	Wiregrass	Longleaf Pine	Slash Pine	Replanted	Total	Restoration	Thinning	Habitat Restoration	For Invasive, Non-native or Off-site Species
Escambia River											3				3
Garcon Point	31			31							3				3
Blackwater River															
Yellow River	349	342		7							2				2
Perdido River	558	12	541	5		740	78	662			538		532		6
Choctawhatchee River	1289	1182	91		16	16	16				55				55
Econfina Creek	3168	1420	1320	338	90	982		982			331	121	208		2
St. Andrews	256		256			223		223							
Carter Restoration	811	680		131		398	398				87		87		
Ward Creek West	127	127				82	82				219	47	172		
Devils Swamp Restoration						145			145						
Chipola River															
Apalachicola River	27			27											
Lake Jackson	291	246		45											
Totals	6,907	4,009	2,208	584	106	2,586	574	1,867		145	1,238	168	380	619	71

Table 2: Access and Recreation Management (2010)

Water Management Area	Primitive Campsites	Picnic Grounds	Public Parks	Parking Areas	Reserved Group Sites	Boat Landings	Portolet Stations	Horse Trail	Canoe Trail	Hiking Trail	Nature Trail	Bike Trail	Access Road	Group Use Permits	Birding	Nature Trail	General Purpose	Information Signs	Weather Pavilions
	Number Maintained							Miles Maintained						Issued	Maps/Brochures Printed			Installed	
Escambia River	13	9	8	9	1	8	10			1	2		27	25				20	2
Garcon Point				3						3			3					10	
Blackwater River		1				1												10	1
Yellow River	9	2	7	6		4	3		50				47					25	
Perdido River		3	3	4	1	3	4	3	9				32					40	1
Choctawhatchee River	8	9	12	12		10	8		15				43					80	4
Econfina Creek	10	14	8	18	4	4	12	56	22	18	2		23	168				279	8
Chipola River	1			1		2			5.5	1									
Apalachicola River	1	1		1		1	1			2.5									
Lake Jackson			1	2			1			10									
Totals	42	39	39	56	6	33	39	59	101.5	35.5	4		175	193				464	16

Table 3: Projected Funding, Staffing and Resource Management for FY 2010-2011

Region	Water Management Area	Acres	Assigned Staff	Total Funding	Funding for Resource Management
Western	Escambia	35,413		\$456,686	\$380,850
	Escambia Conservation Easements	19		\$1801	\$500
	Garcon Point	3,245		\$124,092	\$68,900
	Yellow/Escribano	17,742		\$346,130	\$298,700
	Blackwater	380		\$134,824	\$110,600
	Perdido	6,261		\$538,834	\$460,650
	Perdido Conservation Easements	4		\$1,281	\$500
	Western Region Total	63,064	3	\$1,603,648	\$1,320,700
Central	Choctawhatchee	60,848		\$1,305,433	\$1,132,225
	Choctawhatchee/Holmes Conservation Easements	1,442		\$28,229	\$25,472
	Econfina	39,112		\$3,161,566	\$2,866,050
	St. Andrew/Econfina Conservation Easements	2,433		\$4,055	\$472
	Ward Creek West	719		\$47,750	\$47,750
	Carter Restoration	2,155		\$231,333	\$191,600
	Central Region Total	106,709	6	\$4,778,366	\$4,263,569
Eastern	Chipola	9,094		\$402,130	\$269,750
	Apalachicola	35,506		\$524,921	\$439,350
	Apalachicola/Chipola Conservation Easements	2,360		\$4,055	\$472
	Lake Jackson	516		\$64,843	\$8,100
	St. Marks Conservation Easements	1,376		\$4,305	\$722
	Ochlockonee Conservation Easements	3,675		\$4,055	\$472
	Eastern Region Total	52,527	2	\$1,004,309	\$ 718,866
	Regional Totals	222,300	11	\$7,386,323	\$6,303,135
	Management Administration		4	\$1,066,003	\$ 615,000
	Grand Total	222,300	15	\$8,452,326	\$6,918,135

APPENDIX

Critical Natural Lands Projects		County ¹	Remaining Acres	Cumulative Acres ²	Work Plan Priority ³
1	Lake Wales Ridge Ecosystem ^{CL}	Lake/ Osceola/ Highlands/ Polk	27,121	27,121	High
2	Wekiva – Ocala Greenway ^{CL, AA, PO}	Lake/ Orange/ Seminole/ Volusia	26,190	53,311	High
3	Bombing Range Ridge ^{CL}	Polk/ Highlands/ Osceola	35,403	88,715	High
4	Apalachicola River	Jackson/ Gadsden/ Liberty/ Calhoun	11,205	99,920	High
5	Panther Glades	Hendry	40,638	140,558	High
6	Wacissa/ Aucilla River Sinks	Jefferson/ Taylor	10,033	150,591	High
7	Upper St. Marks River Corridor	Leon/ Jefferson/ Wakulla	11,030	161,621	High
8	Triple Diamond	Okeechobee	7,997	169,619	High
9	Belle Meade ^{BA}	Collier	6,160	175,779	High
10	Perdido Pitcher Plant Prairie	Escambia	2,471	178,250	High
11	Caloosahatchee Ecoscape	Hendry/ Glades	13,516	191,765	High
12	Longleaf Pine Ecosystem ^{BA}	Hamilton/ Gilchrist/ Volusia/ Marion	11,334	203,099	High
13	Etoniah/Cross Florida Greenway	Clay/ Putnam/ Marion/ Levy/ Citrus	66,399	269,498	High/Medium
14	Pine Island Slough Ecosystem	Osceola	48,847	318,345	Medium
15	Osceola Pine Savannas ^{BA}	Osceola	27,023	345,368	Medium
16	Camp Blanding – Raiford Greenway	Baker/ Bradford/ Clay/ Union	33,861	379,229	Medium
17	Twelvemile Slough	Hendry	8,569	387,798	Medium
18	Devil's Garden	Hendry/ Collier	82,994	470,792	Medium
19	South Goethe	Marion/ Levy	11,699	482,491	Medium
20	Half Circle L Ranch	Hendry/ Collier	11,176	493,667	Medium
21	Kissimmee – St. Johns River Connector	Okeechobee/ Indian River	34,561	528,227	Medium
22	Bear Hammock	Marion	4,677	532,904	Medium/Low
23	Bear Creek Forest	Bay/ Calhoun/ Gulf	100,462	633,366	Low
24	Lake Hatchineha Watershed ^{BA}	Osceola/ Polk	5,443	638,809	Low
25	Wolfe Creek Forest	Santa Rosa	10,090	648,899	Low
26	Pinhook Swamp	Baker/ Columbia	60,416	709,315	Low
27	San Pedro Bay	Madison/ Taylor	45,001	754,316	Low
28	Southeastern Bat Maternity Caves	Jackson/ Alachua/ Marion/ Citrus/ Sumter	579	754,895	Low
29	Shoal River Buffer	Okaloosa	2,089	756,985	Low
30	Upper Shoal River	Walton	12,019	769,004	Low
31	Ichetucknee Trace	Columbia	1,901	770,904	Low
32	Hixtown Swamp	Madison	22,319	793,223	Low
Subtotal: 32 Projects (28%)		40 of 67 counties	793,223 acres	(40%)	
Rank	Critical Historical Resources Projects	County ¹	Rem. Acres	Cum. Acres ²	WP Priority ³
1	Windover Archaeological Site ^{AA}	Brevard	8	8	High
2	Pierce Mound Complex	Franklin	564	572	High/Medium
3	Three Chimneys	Volusia	55	627	Medium
4	Okeechobee Battlefield	Okeechobee	88	715	Medium
5	Battle of Wahoo Swamp	Sumter	856	1,571	Medium/Low
6	Pineland Site Complex	Lee	142	1,713	Low

Subtotal: 6 Projects (5%)		6 of 67 counties	1,713 acres	(0.1%)	
Rank	Substantially Complete Projects	County ¹	Rem. Acres	Cum. Acres²	WP Priority³
1	Estero Bay	Lee	2,386	2,386	High
2	Spruce Creek	Volusia	460	2,846	High
3	Charlotte Harbor Estuary	Charlotte/ Lee/ Sarasota	6,848	9,694	High/Medium
4	South Walton County Ecosystem	Walton	3,238	12,932	Medium/Low
5	Save Our Everglades † ^{CL}	Collier	374	13,306	Low
6	Lochloosa Wildlife	Alachua	5,096	18,402	Low
Subtotal: 6 Projects (5%)		7 of 67 counties	18,402 acres	(1%)	
Rank	Climate Change Lands Projects	County ¹	Rem. Acres	Cum. Acres²	WP Priority³
1	Florida Keys Ecosystem ‡ ^{BA, AA, PO}	Monroe	6,248	6,248	High
2	Caber Coastal Connector	Levy	7,398	13,647	High
3	North Key Largo Hammocks ^{AA}	Monroe	871	14,517	High
4	St. Joe Timberland	Bay/ Franklin/ Gadsden/ Gulf/ Jefferson/ Leon/ Liberty/ Taylor/ Wakulla/ Walton/ Washington	87,341	101,858	High/Medium
5	Northeast Florida Blueway †‡ ^{AA}	Duval/ St. Johns/ Flagler	13,317	115,175	Medium/Low
6	Coupon Bight/ Key Deer	Monroe	1,583	116,758	Low
7	St. Johns River Blueway † ^{AA}	St. Johns	26,202	142,961	Low
8	Florida Springs Coastal Greenway	Citrus	9,931	152,891	Low
9	Terra Ceia ^{BA}	Manatee	1,780	154,671	Low
10	Archie Carr Sea Turtle Refuge ^{BA}	Brevard/ Indian River	274	154,945	Low
11	Dickerson Bay/ Bald Point	Wakulla/ Franklin	2,996	157,942	Low
12	Garcon Ecosystem	Santa Rosa	3,857	161,798	Low
13	Peaceful Horse Ranch	Desoto	4,171	165,969	Low
14	Tiger/ Little Tiger Island	Nassau	1,141	167,110	Low
Subtotal: 14 Projects (12%)		23 of 67 counties	167,110 acres	(8%)	
Rank	Less-Than-Fee Projects	County ¹	Remaining Acres	Cumulative Acres²	Work Plan Priority³
1	Adams Ranch	Osceola	10,304	10,304	High
2	Ochlockonee River Conservation Area	Gadsden/ Leon	3,254	13,558	High
3	Seven Runs Creek ‡ ^{AA, PO}	Walton	26,160	39,718	High
4	Ayavalla Plantation	Leon	5,936	45,654	High
5	Fisheating Creek Ecosystem	Glades/ Highlands	108,974	154,628	High/Medium
6	Lower Suwannee River and Gulf Watershed ^{NP}	Dixie	46,515	201,143	Medium
7	Myakka Ranchlands	Sarasota	11,244	212,387	Medium
8	Big Bend Swamp/ Holopaw Ranch	Osceola	46,842	259,229	Medium
9	Clay Ranch	Putnam	2,458	261,686	Medium
10	Ranch Reserve	Brevard/ Indian River/ Osceola	12,594	274,281	Medium
11	Raiford – Osceola Greenway	Baker/ Union	67,457	341,738	Medium/Low
12	Tiger Cattle Company Ranch	Okeechobee	2,234	343,972	Low

23	Green Swamp	Lake/ Polk	183,021	515,804	Medium/Low
24	Pumpkin Hill Creek	Duval	11,049	526,853	Low
25	Carr Farm/ Price's Scrub	Marion/ Alachua	304	527,158	Low
26	Crossbar/ Al Bar Ranch	Pasco	12,439	539,597	Low
27	Baldwin Bay/ St. Marys River	Duval/ Nassau	9,134	548,730	Low
28	Florida National Scenic Trail	Columbia	6	548,736	Low
29	Lafayette Forest	Lafayette	10,276	559,013	Low
30	Hall Ranch	Charlotte	8,511	567,524	Low
Subtotal: 30 Projects (27%)		36 of 67 counties	567,524 acres (29%)		
TOTAL of 113 projects		63 of 67 counties	1,978,248 acres		

¹ Counties with no remaining acreage to acquire in a project not listed here – see individual project summaries for additional counties in which acquisitions completed.

² Cumulative acres used to calculate in which Priority Group of the Acquisition Work Plan each project will qualify.

³ **Work Plan Priority Groups pursuant to Rule 18-24.006(6):**

High/Med = Portion of project in High Priority Group & portion in Medium Priority Group

Med/Low = Portion of project in Medium Priority Group & portion in Low Priority Group

Projects Included in FY 2010-11 Work Plan: CL = Approved contracts in Closing

AA = Anticipated Acquisitions

† Projects included in work plan due to good faith negotiations that began in 2008 when project was ranked in the A Priority Group.

NP = New Project added to list.

BA = Boundary Amended.

High Priority Group = top 1/3 acreage within each Category

Medium Priority Group = middle 1/3 acreage within each Category

Low Priority Group = bottom 1/3 acreage within each Category

PO = Potential Opportunities

‡ Grant Funds or partner funding also available.