

**Northwest Florida Water Management District  
Governing Board Meeting Minutes  
Thursday, January 11, 2024  
81 Water Management Drive  
Havana, Florida 32333**

**1. Opening Ceremonies**

Called to order at 1:02 p.m.

Savannah Shell called the roll and a quorum was declared present.

Present: George Roberts, Chair; John Alter; Gus Andrews; Ted Everett; Kellie Ralston

Absent: Jerry Pate, Vice Chair; Nick Patronis, Secretary-Treasurer; Anna Upton

**2. Special Thanks and Recognition**

None.

**3. Changes to the Agenda**

None.

Public comment was given by Christy McElroy and Robert Branch regarding potential flooding concerns in Port St. Joe.

**4. Approval of the Minutes for December 14, 2023**

MOTIONED BY KELLIE RALSTON, SECONDED BY JOHN ALTER, THAT THE GOVERNING BOARD APPROVE THE MINUTES FOR DECEMBER 14, 2023. NO PUBLIC COMMENT WAS GIVEN. MOTION CARRIED.

**5. Approval of the Financial Reports for the Month of November 2023**

MOTIONED BY JOHN ALTER, SECONDED BY KELLIE RALSTON, THAT THE GOVERNING BOARD APPROVE THE FINANCIAL REPORTS FOR THE MONTH OF NOVEMBER 2023. NO PUBLIC COMMENT WAS GIVEN. MOTION CARRIED.

**6. Consideration of Grant Funding for Design of an Expanded Groundwater Monitoring Network to Enhance Resiliency Planning and Adaptation**

MOTIONED BY KELLIE RALSTON, SECONDED BY GUS ANDREWS, THAT THE GOVERNING BOARD AUTHORIZE THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH THE FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION TO ACCEPT GRANT FUNDING UP TO \$120,000 AND TO ISSUE A TASK ORDER TO A DISTRICT CONTRACTOR IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$120,000, TO DESIGN AN EXPANDED GROUNDWATER MONITORING NETWORK TO ENHANCE RESILIENCY PLANNING AND ADAPTATION, SUBJECT TO LEGAL COUNSEL REVIEW AND BUDGET APPROVAL. NO PUBLIC COMMENT WAS GIVEN. MOTION CARRIED.

7. Consideration of Contractual Services to Support the Region II Regional Water Supply Plan Update

MOTIONED BY KELLIE RALSTON, SECONDED BY JOHN ALTER, THAT THE GOVERNING BOARD AUTHORIZE THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO EXECUTE CONTRACTS AND TASK ORDERS FOR UP TO \$250,000 FOR CONTRACTED SERVICES TO SUPPORT THE REGION II REGIONAL WATER SUPPLY PLAN UPDATE, CONTINGENT UPON LEGAL COUNSEL REVIEW. NO PUBLIC COMMENT WAS GIVEN. MOTION CARRIED.

8. Stream Debris Assessment Update

Informational purposes only.

9. Workshop on Assessment of Water Flows through the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway and Gulf County Canal

Informational purposes only.

10. Legislative Update

Informational purposes only.

11. Legal Counsel Report

Breck Brannen provided a status update on the case referenced below.

Michael Lee vs. Northwest Florida Water Management District, Walton County Circuit Court Case No. 2023-CA-000266

21. Executive Director Report

Meeting was adjourned at 1:57 p.m.

NORTHWEST FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT  
Financial Report  
Summary Statement of Receipts, Disbursements & Cash Balances  
For Month Ending December 31, 2023

Balance Forward - Operating Funds \$35,032,408.12

Operating Funds Received in current month:

Revenue Receipts, Current	\$2,262,702.48	
Contracts Receivable	2,258,198.53	
Other Deposits/Refunds/Adjustments	25,377.56	
Transfers from Lands Accounts	0.00	
Total Deposits during month		4,546,278.57

Total Deposits and Balance Forward \$ 39,578,686.69

Disbursements:

Employee Salaries	732,311.75	
Employee Benefits	195,745.53	
Employee Flexible Spending Account	0.00	
Contractual Services (Professional)	285,300.83	
Operating Expenses - Services	87,853.17	
Operating Expenses - Commodities	21,475.58	
Operating Capital Outlay	0.00	
Grants and Aids	0.00	
Total Operating Expenses during month		1,322,686.86
Payables, Prior Year	40,616.70	
Other Disbursements or (Credits)	12,145.44	
Total Funds Disbursed by check during month		1,375,449.00
Bank Debits (Fees, Deposit Slips, etc.)	0.00	
Transfer to Cypress Springs Account	0.00	
Total Funds Disbursed		1,375,449.00

Cash Balance Operating Funds at month end \$ 38,203,237.69

Operating Depositories:

Petty Cash Fund	250.25	
Bank of America:		
General Fund Checking	12,084,298.94	
Payroll Account	6,000.00	
Passthrough (EFT) Account	169,706.67	
Investment Accounts:		
Fla. Board of Administration @ 5.6%		
General Fund	3,682,450.98	
Lands Fee Fund	4,378,363.84	
Ecosystem TF	55,771.95	
Water Prot. & Sust. Program TF	102,849.93	
Okaloosa Regional Reuse	1,214,620.23	
Mitigation Fund	16,508,924.90	

Total Operating Depositories at month end \$ 38,203,237.69

NORTHWEST FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT  
Financial Report  
Summary Statement of Receipts, Disbursements & Cash Balances  
For Month Ending December 31, 2023

Land Acquisition Funds:

Fla. Board of Administration @ 5.6%	\$ 305,536.27	
Total Land Acquisition Funds		305,536.27

Restricted Management Funds:

Fla. Board of Administration Phipps Land Management Account @ 5.6%	42,155.62	
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Fla. Board of Administration Cypress Springs R&M Account @ 5.6%	<u>833,791.66</u>	
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Total Restricted Land Management Funds		<u>875,947.28</u>
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Total Land Acquisition, and Restricted Management Funds		<u>1,181,483.55</u>
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TOTAL OPERATING, LAND ACQUISITION, & RESTRICTED FUNDS AT MONTH END		<u><u>\$ 1,181,483.55</u></u>
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Approved: \_\_\_\_\_  
Chairman or Executive Director

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ February 8, 2024

**Northwest Florida Water Management District**  
**Statement of Sources and Uses of Funds**  
**For the Period ending December 31, 2023**  
**(Unaudited)**

	Current Budget	Actuals Through 12/31/2023	Variance (under)/Over Budget	Actuals As A % of Budget			
<b>Sources</b>							
Ad Valorem Property Taxes	\$ 3,900,000	\$ 2,621,575	\$ (1,278,425)	67%			
Intergovernmental Revenues	103,858,182	-	(103,858,182)	0%			
Interest on Invested Funds	88,500	397,295	308,795	449%			
License and Permit Fees	655,000	177,420	(477,580)	27%			
Other	1,212,897	291,888	(921,009)	24%			
Fund Balance	29,136,902		(29,136,902)	0%			
<b>Total Sources</b>	<b>\$ 138,851,481</b>	<b>\$ 3,488,178</b>	<b>\$ (135,363,303)</b>	<b>3%</b>			
	Current Budget	Expenditures	Encumbrances <sup>1</sup>	Available Budget	%Expended	%Obligated <sup>2</sup>	
<b>Uses</b>							
Water Resources Planning and Monitoring	\$ 6,880,363	\$ 610,267	\$ 2,863,737	\$ 3,406,360	9%	50%	
Acquisition, Restoration and Public Works	92,960,048	474,398	30,820,765	61,664,886	1%	34%	
Operation and Maintenance of Lands and Works	7,793,515	1,175,397	4,254,864	2,363,254	15%	70%	
Regulation	4,718,462	868,445	354,099	3,495,918	18%	26%	
Outreach	158,662	38,369	380	119,914	24%	24%	
Management and Administration	2,761,606	504,586	148,218	2,108,803	18%	24%	
<b>Total Uses</b>	<b>\$ 115,272,656</b>	<b>\$ 3,671,460</b>	<b>\$ 38,442,062</b>	<b>\$ 73,159,134</b>	<b>3%</b>	<b>37%</b>	
Reserves	23,578,825			23,578,825	0%	0%	
<b>Total Uses and Reserves</b>	<b>\$ 138,851,481</b>	<b>\$ 3,671,460</b>	<b>\$ 38,442,062</b>	<b>\$ 96,737,959</b>	<b>3%</b>	<b>30%</b>	

<sup>1</sup> Encumbrances represent unexpended balances of open purchase orders.

<sup>2</sup> Represents the sum of expenditures and encumbrances as a percentage of the available budget.

This unaudited financial statement is prepared as of December 31, 2023, and covers the interim period since the most recent audited financial statements.

VOICED CHECKS	12/04/2023	\$ -406.78
CHECKS	12/07/2023	36,148.52
ACH TRANSFERS	12/08/2023	161,379.36
DIRECT DISBURSEMENTS	12/08/2023	63,826.80
CHECKS	12/14/2023	99,081.07
ACH TRANSFERS	12/15/2023	160,744.90
DIRECT DISBURSEMENTS	12/15/2023	8,694.92
VOIDED CHECKS	12/21/2023	-1,430.04
CHECKS	12/21/2023	50,273.15
ACH TRANSFERS	12/22/2023	30,927.74
		<hr/>
		\$ 609,239.64 <hr/>

February 8, 2024  
Date

**NORTHWEST FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT  
ACCOUNTS PAYABLE DISBURSEMENTS**

<b>VENDOR</b>	<b>NAME</b>	<b>CHECK DATE</b>	<b>INVOICE NET</b>	<b>INVOICE DESCRIPTION</b>
5835	1 HOUR , INC	12/7/2023	726.00	SIGN FOR BELLAMY BRIDGE HERITAGE TRL
1616	BLUE CROSS/BLUE SHIELD OF FLORIDA	12/7/2023	674.92	MEDICARE
4748	EAST MILTON WATER SYSTEM	12/7/2023	20.45	WATER - MILTON OFFICE
916	FPL NORTHWEST FLORIDA	12/7/2023	491.68	MILTON ELECTRIC
3193	INSURANCE INFORMATION EXCHANGE	12/7/2023	60.59	BACKGROUND SCREENING
2446	NATIONAL GROUND WATER ASSOCIATION	12/7/2023	395.00	NGWA MEMBERSHIP
423	OKALOOSA CO. TAX COLLECTOR	12/7/2023	11.78	PARCEL
3213	SHI INTERNATIONAL CORP	12/7/2023	277.98	SHAREPOINT WORKFLOW DEVELOPMENT
4832	SUN LIFE FINANCIAL	12/7/2023	5,454.74	SUNLIFE 4 - DENTAL
4832	SUN LIFE FINANCIAL	12/7/2023	57.00	SUNLIFE 5 - PREPAID DENTAL
4834	SUN LIFE FINANCIAL	12/7/2023	958.93	SUBLIFE 1 - AD&D
4834	SUN LIFE FINANCIAL	12/7/2023	2,391.12	SUNLIFE 2 - VOL LIFE
4834	SUN LIFE FINANCIAL	12/7/2023	80.69	EMPLOYEE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM
4833	SUN LIFE FINANCIAL	12/7/2023	752.20	SUNLIFE 3 - VOL LTD
5250	SUN LIFE FINANCIAL - VISION	12/7/2023	574.40	SUNLIFE 6 - VISION
3711	US POSTAL SERVICE-HASLER	12/7/2023	2,000.00	REPLENISH HQ POSTAGE METER
4626	WASTE PRO OF FLORIDA, INC	12/7/2023	187.04	SOLID WASTE HQ
5612	WETLAND SOLUTIONS, INC.	12/7/2023	21,034.00	HYDROLOGIC & WATER QUALITY DAT
<b>TOTAL CHECKS</b>			<b>\$ 36,148.52</b>	
3293	ANGUS G. ANDREWS, JR.	12/8/2023	8,125.00	DFO LEASE AGREEMENT - CONTRACT PO
1617	CAPITAL HEALTH PLAN	12/8/2023	91,430.14	MEDICAL
3405	JOHN B. CROWE	12/8/2023	110.36	TRAVEL REIMBURSEMENT
2702	FISH AND WILDLIFE	12/8/2023	1,758.09	LAW ENFORCEMENT AND SECURITY O
2701	FLORIDA MUNICIPAL INSURANCE TRUST	12/8/2023	38,699.42	SECOND INSTALLMENT FY 23-24
3002	FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY	12/8/2023	490.83	OFFSITE DATA STORAGE
3942	A & W VENTURES, L.C.	12/8/2023	275.00	PORTABLE TOILET FOR PHIPPS PARK
5368	KOUNTRY RENTAL NWF, INC.	12/8/2023	9,380.00	SERVICE FOR PORTABLE TOILETS-C
5146	MICHAEL CORRIE MANNION	12/8/2023	7,130.20	STAFF AUGMENT FOR CUSTOM APP #18-066
4091	THE SHOE BOX	12/8/2023	144.50	SAFETY BOOTS- E. THOMAS
5947	PREVENTIA SECURITY LLC	12/8/2023	75.00	DEFUNIAK SECURITY
4799	STAPLES BUSINESS ADVANTAGE	12/8/2023	55.02	REG BUSINESS CARDS
5218	WAGEWORKS, INC.	12/8/2023	142.80	FSA ADMINISTRATION
5060	EXTREME LOGISTICS GULF COAST, LLC103841	12/8/2023	289.00	RENTAL & SERVICE FOR PORTABLE
5060	EXTREME LOGISTICS GULF COAST, LLC103841	12/8/2023	190.00	RENTAL & SERVICE FOR PORTABLE
5060	EXTREME LOGISTICS GULF COAST, LLC103841	12/8/2023	487.00	RENTAL & SERVICE FOR PORTABLE
5060	EXTREME LOGISTICS GULF COAST, LLC103841	12/8/2023	289.00	RENTAL & SERVICE FOR PORTABLE
5060	EXTREME LOGISTICS GULF COAST, LLC103841	12/8/2023	190.00	RENTAL & SERVICE FOR PORTABLE
5060	EXTREME LOGISTICS GULF COAST, LLC103841	12/8/2023	99.00	RENTAL & SERVICE FOR PORTABLE
5060	EXTREME LOGISTICS GULF COAST, LLC103841	12/8/2023	380.00	RENTAL & SERVICE FOR PORTABLE
5060	EXTREME LOGISTICS GULF COAST, LLC103841	12/8/2023	289.00	RENTAL & SERVICE FOR PORTABLE
5060	EXTREME LOGISTICS GULF COAST, LLC103841	12/8/2023	380.00	RENTAL & SERVICE FOR PORTABLE
5060	EXTREME LOGISTICS GULF COAST, LLC103841	12/8/2023	190.00	RENTAL & SERVICE FOR PORTABLE
5060	EXTREME LOGISTICS GULF COAST, LLC103841	12/8/2023	390.00	RENTAL & SERVICE FOR PORTABLE

**NORTHWEST FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT  
ACCOUNTS PAYABLE DISBURSEMENTS**

<b>VENDOR</b>	<b>NAME</b>	<b>CHECK DATE</b>	<b>INVOICE NET</b>	<b>INVOICE DESCRIPTION</b>
5060	EXTREME LOGISTICS GULF COAST, LLC103841	12/8/2023	200.00	RENTAL & SERVICE FOR PORTABLE
5060	EXTREME LOGISTICS GULF COAST, LLC103841	12/8/2023	190.00	RENTAL & SERVICE FOR PORTABLE
<b>TOTAL ACH TRANSFERS</b>			<b>\$ 161,379.36</b>	
1616	BCBS	12/8/2023	3,022.67	RETIREE
1616	BCBS	12/8/2023	60,669.13	MEDICAL
5944	REFUND NIC	12/8/2023	35.00	WELL PERMIT REFUND 314255-2 OVERPYMNT
5944	REFUND NIC	12/8/2023	100.00	WELL PERMIT REFUND 314583-2 WITHDRAWN
<b>TOTAL DIRECT DISBURSEMENTS</b>			<b>\$ 63,826.80</b>	
<b>TOTAL AP</b>			<b>\$ 261,354.68</b>	
5123	ROBERT G BUSH	12/14/2023	400.00	REFUND WELL PERMIT 315181-1 FOR OVERPAYMENT
5981	CASE PILCHER	12/14/2023	35.00	FCA REGISTRATION FEE REIMBURSEMENT
5828	CHRONOLOG LLC	12/14/2023	480.00	PHOTO -1 YEAR OF SERVICE
916	FPL NORTHWEST FLORIDA	12/14/2023	518.39	MILTON ELECTRIC
5982	GARY CHEW	12/14/2023	35.00	FCA REGISTRATION FEE REIMBURSEMENT
5474	HATCHER PUBLISHING INC	12/14/2023	47.20	LEGAL ADS-WATER USE PERMITS
3003	HAVANA FORD, INC.	12/14/2023	74.66	RUNNING PO FOR MINOR REPAIRS FOR HQ VEHICLES
698	KONICA MINOLTA BUSINESS SOLUTIONS USA	12/14/2023	94.38	KONICA MINOLTA COPIER LEASE RENEWAL AND MAINTENANC
698	KONICA MINOLTA BUSINESS SOLUTIONS USA	12/14/2023	216.86	KONICA MINOLTA COPIER LEASE RENEWAL AND MAINTENANC
698	KONICA MINOLTA BUSINESS SOLUTIONS USA	12/14/2023	177.88	KONICA MINOLTA COPIER LEASE RENEWAL AND MAINTENANC
698	KONICA MINOLTA BUSINESS SOLUTIONS USA	12/14/2023	272.30	KONICAMINOLTA COPIER LEASE
698	KONICA MINOLTA BUSINESS SOLUTIONS USA	12/14/2023	2,406.95	KONICA MINOLTA COPIER LEASE
698	KONICA MINOLTA BUSINESS SOLUTIONS USA	12/14/2023	289.79	KONICA MINOLTA COPIER LEASE
698	KONICA MINOLTA BUSINESS SOLUTIONS USA	12/14/2023	(539.53)	CREDIT MEMO CORRECTIONS
698	KONICA MINOLTA BUSINESS SOLUTIONS USA	12/14/2023	112.08	KONICA MINOLTA COPIER LEASE RENEWAL AND MAINTENANC
698	KONICA MINOLTA BUSINESS SOLUTIONS USA	12/14/2023	205.64	KONICA MINOLTA COPIER LEASE RENEWAL AND MAINTENANC
698	KONICA MINOLTA BUSINESS SOLUTIONS USA	12/14/2023	97.27	KONICA MINOLTA COPIER LEASE RENEWAL AND MAINTENANC
698	KONICA MINOLTA BUSINESS SOLUTIONS USA	12/14/2023	207.57	KONICA MINOLTA COPIER LEASE
698	KONICA MINOLTA BUSINESS SOLUTIONS USA	12/14/2023	100.13	KONICA MINOLTA COPIER LEASE
698	KONICA MINOLTA BUSINESS SOLUTIONS USA	12/14/2023	97.27	KONIKA MINOLTA COPIER LEASE
5965	NIC SERVICES	12/14/2023	667.67	FEE FOR ELECTRONIC PAYMENTS
5085	PATE FARMS, LLC	12/14/2023	88,564.92	2023-2024 DISTRICT ROAD REPAIR
4577	SOUTHERN TIRE MART, LLC	12/14/2023	734.00	TWO FRONT TIRES FOR JD FARM TRACTOR ID # 2195
4577	SOUTHERN TIRE MART, LLC	12/14/2023	41.50	WMD 2425 TIRE REPAIR
4228	SOWELL TRACTOR CO., INC.	12/14/2023	1,133.76	STRING TRIMMERS AND SUPPLIES
110	TALQUIN ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.	12/14/2023	360.87	WATER/SEWER HQ
110	TALQUIN ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.	12/14/2023	88.50	SECURITY LIGHTS HQ
110	TALQUIN ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.	12/14/2023	2,161.01	ELECTRIC HQ
<b>TOTAL CHECKS</b>			<b>\$ 99,081.07</b>	



**NORTHWEST FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT  
ACCOUNTS PAYABLE DISBURSEMENTS**

<b>VENDOR</b>	<b>NAME</b>	<b>CHECK DATE</b>	<b>INVOICE NET</b>	<b>INVOICE DESCRIPTION</b>
4845	CALHOUN COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE	12/15/2023	1,024.00	LAW ENFORCEMENT/SECURITY SERVI
5687	COLLINS LAND SERVICES, INC.	12/15/2023	96,242.52	HURRICANE MICHAEL REPAIR
4032	COMPUQUIP TECHNOLOGIES, LLC	12/15/2023	7,820.00	VPN INSTALLATION SERVICES
3080	STEVEN COSTA	12/15/2023	100.00	TRAVEL REIMBURSEMENT
5999	DOUBLE B TRUCKING LLC	12/15/2023	25,064.76	DISTRICT ROAD REPAIRS
2702	FISH AND WILDLIFE	12/15/2023	1,519.59	LAW ENFORCEMENT AND SECURITY O
3337	FORESTECH CONSULTING	12/15/2023	850.00	LAND MANAGEMENT DATABASE
6008	JACOB KUCALA	12/15/2023	100.00	TRAVEL REIMBURSEMENT
1695	JAMES MOORE & COMPANY	12/15/2023	4,982.00	INDEPENDANT AUDITOR SERVICES
3813	PENNINGTON, P.A.	12/15/2023	3,325.00	LEGAL COUNSEL
3482	SANTA ROSA COUNTY LANDFILL	12/15/2023	15.30	SOLID WASTE/LANDFILL SERVICES
5614	ZACHARY J. SELLERS	12/15/2023	1,019.83	DFO JANITORIAL SERVICES
4091	THE SHOE BOX	12/15/2023	93.50	DISTRICT CLOTHING-TRIPLETT
4091	THE SHOE BOX	12/15/2023	178.50	SAFETY BOOTS-FISHLER & TRIPLETT
4955	TERRY'S HOME & LAWN MAINTENANCE, INC.	12/15/2023	4,481.90	RECREATION SITE CLEAN UP AND M
4955	TERRY'S HOME & LAWN MAINTENANCE, INC.	12/15/2023	200.00	JANITORIAL SERVICES FOR THE MILTON OFFICE
5218	WAGeworks, INC.	12/15/2023	100.00	COBRA ADMINISTRATION
5218	WAGeworks, INC.	12/15/2023	100.00	COBRA ADMINISTRATION
2631	WASHINGTON COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE	12/15/2023	13,528.00	LAW ENFORCEMENT/SECURITY ON DI
<b>TOTAL ACH PAYMENTS</b>			<b>\$ 160,744.90</b>	
5944	REFUND NIC	12/15/2023	100.00	P314831 JOHN WEIKSNER SR. WITHDRAWAL REFUND
5944	REFUND NIC	12/15/2023	50.00	REFUND WELL PERMIT 314895-1 PERMIT WITHDRAWN
5944	REFUND NIC	12/15/2023	1,080.00	P311943 MATTHEW H ZINKE OVERPAYMENT REFUND
2967	BANK OF AMERICA	12/15/2023	5,384.84	NOVEMBER 2023 P-CARD CHARGES
2967	BANK OF AMERICA	12/15/2023	19.99	TALLAHASSEE DEMOCRAT DIGITAL SUBSCRIPTION
2967	BANK OF AMERICA	12/15/2023	11.99	PENSACOLA NEWS JOURNAL DIGITAL SUBSCRIPTION
2967	BANK OF AMERICA	12/15/2023	50.00	REG SUNPASS
2967	BANK OF AMERICA	12/15/2023	177.76	2-IGLOO 100 QT COOLERS FOR SHOP
2967	BANK OF AMERICA	12/15/2023	415.97	AMAZON - LAB SUPPLIES/OFFICE CHAIR
2967	BANK OF AMERICA	12/15/2023	373.86	REG FIELD AND OFFICE SUPPLES-AMAZON
2967	BANK OF AMERICA	12/15/2023	149.95	SAFETY BOOTS: WAITS - AMAZON
2967	BANK OF AMERICA	12/15/2023	398.58	2024 CALENDAR ORDER FOR STAFF AND OTHER OFFICE SUP
2967	BANK OF AMERICA	12/15/2023	481.98	CONFERENCE CHAIRS - AMAZON
<b>TOTAL DIRECT DISPURSEMENTS</b>			<b>\$ 8,694.92</b>	
<b>TOTAL AP</b>			<b>\$ 268,520.89</b>	
5954	BLU RIPPLE INC	12/21/2023	1,632.12	REPLACEMENT CREEK ENTRY STEPS - PITT SPRING
5131	CITY OF DEFUNIAK SPRINGS	12/21/2023	231.70	CITY OF DEFUNIAK SPRINGS WATER/SEWER

**NORTHWEST FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT  
ACCOUNTS PAYABLE DISBURSEMENTS**

<b>VENDOR</b>	<b>NAME</b>	<b>CHECK DATE</b>	<b>INVOICE NET</b>	<b>INVOICE DESCRIPTION</b>
5983	COMPUTER AID INC	12/21/2023	4,054.05	TEMPORARY STAFFING FOR ADMIN
319	THE COUNTY RECORD	12/21/2023	36.75	LEGAL ADS-WATER USE PERMITS
3126	DEWBERRY ENGINEERS, INC	12/21/2023	10,000.00	CONTRACTURAL SERVICES FOR RISK
6009	DEX IMAGING LLC	12/21/2023	67.00	BLACK TONER FOR EFO COPIER
26	FL. SECRETARY OF STATE DIV OF ADMIN SERV	12/21/2023	30.52	FAR AD FEES FOR ITBS, RFPS &PUBLIC NOTICES FOR ASM
2291	GULF COAST ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE,INC	12/21/2023	251.70	ELECTRIC SERVICE - EFO
3003	HAVANA FORD, INC.	12/21/2023	304.95	KEY REPLACEMENTS FOR FLEET VEHICLES
3003	HAVANA FORD, INC.	12/21/2023	304.95	KEY REPLACEMENTS FOR FLEET VEHICLES
3003	HAVANA FORD, INC.	12/21/2023	210.21	RUNNING PO FOR MINOR REPAIRS FOR HQ VEHICLES
4112	IN-SITU, INC.	12/21/2023	963.00	IN-SITU RUGGED TROLL DATA LOGGERS
698	KONICA MINOLTA BUSINESS SOLUTIONS USA	12/21/2023	112.66	KONICA MINOLTA COPIER LEASE RENEWAL AND MAINTENANC
698	KONICA MINOLTA BUSINESS SOLUTIONS USA	12/21/2023	78.65	KONICA MINOLTA COPIER LEASE RENEWAL AND MAINTENANC
698	KONICA MINOLTA BUSINESS SOLUTIONS USA	12/21/2023	200.60	KONICA MINOLTA COPIER LEASE RENEWAL AND MAINTENANC
698	KONICA MINOLTA BUSINESS SOLUTIONS USA	12/21/2023	167.36	KONICA MINOLTA COPIER LEASE RENEWAL AND MAINTENANC
698	KONICA MINOLTA BUSINESS SOLUTIONS USA	12/21/2023	101.93	KONICA MINOLTA COPIER LEASE RENEWAL AND MAINTENANC
698	KONICA MINOLTA BUSINESS SOLUTIONS USA	12/21/2023	97.27	KONICA MINOLTA COPIER LEASE RENEWAL AND MAINTENANC
5802	MURPHY CASSIDY DIESEL REPAIRS	12/21/2023	127.72	MINOR REPAIRS FOR REG VEHICLES
5802	MURPHY CASSIDY DIESEL REPAIRS	12/21/2023	157.60	MINOR REPAIRS FOR REG VEHICLES
423	OKALOOSA CO. TAX COLLECTOR	12/21/2023	5.69	PARCEL REFUND
5444	PENSACOLA SHOE HOSPITAL & BOOT STORE	12/21/2023	159.95	SAFETY BOOTS-BAILEY
5950	PRESS PRINT GRAPHICS LLC	12/21/2023	945.00	ECONFINA WMA SIGNS
5950	PRESS PRINT GRAPHICS LLC	12/21/2023	912.00	ECONFINA WMA SIGNS
6010	STATE OF FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE	12/21/2023	200.00	ANNUAL SPECIAL DISTRICT FEE
3941	TYLER TECHNOLOGIES, INC.	12/21/2023	426.24	CHECK STOCK FOR AP & PR
4358	UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA (IFAS)	12/21/2023	26,108.31	EPA FARMER TO FARMER GRANT
4358	UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA (IFAS)	12/21/2023	1,134.38	EPA FARMER TO FARMER GRANT
4557	VERIZON WIRELESS	12/21/2023	1,138.13	CELL PHONES AND JET PACKS
4038	WINDSTREAM COMMUNICATIONS	12/21/2023	112.71	800 NUMBERS & EFO LONG DISTANCE
<b>TOTAL CHECKS</b>			<b>\$ 50,273.15</b>	
4032	COMPUQUIP TECHNOLOGIES, LLC	12/22/2023	680.00	VPN INSTALLATION SERVICES
45	DMS	12/22/2023	7.40	CONFERENCE CALLS
45	DMS	12/22/2023	1,965.40	DEFUNIAK ETHERNET AND LONG DISTANCE
45	DMS	12/22/2023	623.62	DEFUNIAK LOCAL
45	DMS	12/22/2023	9,855.51	HEADQUARTERS ETHERNET
45	DMS	12/22/2023	1,563.33	HQ LOCAL
45	DMS	12/22/2023	2.30	LAN PORTS AND INTRANET/INTERNET
45	DMS	12/22/2023	97.68	MILTON LOCAL
45	DMS	12/22/2023	11.48	AIRCARDS AND HOTSPOTS
4855	ENVIRON SERVICES INCORPORATED	12/22/2023	2,079.17	JANITORIAL SERVICES FOR HQ
4807	WEX BANK	12/22/2023	1,097.25	WEX GPS TRACKING
4807	WEX BANK	12/22/2023	9,648.90	NOVEMBER 2023 FUEL/ SERVICE PURCHASES
2268	INNOVATIVE OFFICE SOLUTIONS, INC	12/22/2023	837.00	PHONE SYSTEM MAINTANANCE CONTRACT 07-037

**NORTHWEST FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT  
ACCOUNTS PAYABLE DISBURSEMENTS**

<b>VENDOR</b>	<b>NAME</b>	<b>CHECK DATE</b>	<b>INVOICE NET</b>	<b>INVOICE DESCRIPTION</b>
2663	PATIENTS FIRST LAKE ELLA MEDICAL CENTER, P.A.	12/22/2023	49.00	LABORATORY TESTING
5947	PREVENTIA SECURITY LLC	12/22/2023	398.56	BATTERY BACKUP FOR AVS EQUIPMENT IN DFO
4607	QUADIENT LEASING USA, INC	12/22/2023	1,087.65	MAILING SYSTEMS FOR HQ AND DEF
5436	QUADIENT, INC.	12/22/2023	159.69	LATE FEES
5651	SGS TECHNOLOGIE, LLC	12/22/2023	373.33	HOSTING & MAINTAINING DIST WEBSITE CON # 19-022
4091	THE SHOE BOX	12/22/2023	166.00	SAFETY BOOTS-WHITE
4091	THE SHOE BOX	12/22/2023	190.00	SAFETY BOOTS FOR PHILIP GARRETT - MITIGATION
4799	STAPLES CONTRACT & COMMERCIAL, INC.	12/22/2023	34.47	ADMIN SUPPLIES
<b>TOTAL ACH PAYMENTS</b>			<b>\$ 30,927.74</b>	
<b>TOTAL AP</b>			<b>\$ 81,200.89</b>	

PAYROLL  
DECEMBER 2023

\$ 766,209.36

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Chairman or Executive Director

Date

# NORTHWEST FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

## MEMORANDUM

TO: Governing Board

THROUGH: Lyle Seigler, Executive Director  
Andy Joslyn, Deputy Executive Director

FROM: Jack Furney, Director, Division of Administrative Services

DATE: January 24, 2024

SUBJECT: Consideration of Amendment No. 2 to the Fiscal Year 2023-2024 Budget

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### Recommendation

Staff recommends the Governing Board adopt Resolution No. 936 amending the Fiscal Year 2023-2024 budget and allow staff to realign revenues and reserves to maintain the proper balance in each fund.

### Background

Amendment 2 recognizes unanticipated revenue of \$120,000 in state grant funding from the Resilient Florida Trust Fund to enhance data collection and support resiliency planning and adaptation in Northwest Florida. Per Section 373.536(4)(c), Florida Statutes, this amendment has been reviewed and approved by the Executive Office of the Governor. This amendment will increase the District's FY 2023-24 budget in the amount of \$120,000.

#### Summary of Fund Impact to Expense Budget:

<u>Fund Source</u>	<u>Increase</u>	<u>Decrease</u>	<u>Impact</u>
General Fund	\$0	(\$0)	\$0
Land Acquisition Fund	\$0	(\$0)	\$0
Projects Fund	\$120,000	(\$0)	\$120,000
Lands Management Fund	\$0	(\$0)	\$0
Regulation Fund	\$0	(\$0)	\$0
Mitigation Fund	\$0	(\$0)	\$0
	<u>\$120,000</u>	<u>(\$0)</u>	<u>\$120,000</u>



Lyle Seigler  
Executive Director

# Northwest Florida Water Management District

81 Water Management Drive, Havana, Florida 32333-4712  
(U.S. Highway 90, 10 miles west of Tallahassee)

Phone: (850) 539-5999 • Fax: (850) 539-2777

## **RESOLUTION NO. 936 AMENDMENT NUMBER 2 TO FISCAL YEAR 2023-2024 BUDGET**

**WHEREAS**, chapters 200 and 373, Florida Statutes, require the Governing Board of the Northwest Florida Water Management District (District) to adopt a final budget for each fiscal year; and

**WHEREAS**, by Resolution No. 933, after a public hearing on September 28, 2023, the Governing Board of the District adopted a final budget for the District covering its proposed operations and other requirements for the ensuing fiscal year, beginning October 1, 2023, through September 30, 2024; and

**WHEREAS**, in accordance with section 189.016(7), Florida Statutes, the District will post the adopted amendment on its official website within five days after its adoption; and

**WHEREAS**, a budget amendment involves an action that transfers, increases, or decreases to total appropriated Fund amounts in the budget; and

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to section 120.525, Florida Statutes, the District has provided notice of its intention to amend the Budget in the published notification of the Governing Board meeting at which the amendment will be considered; and

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** by the Governing Board of the Northwest Florida Water Management District, that:

Amendment 2 recognizes unanticipated revenue of \$120,000 in state grant funding from the Resilient Florida Trust Fund to enhance data collection and support resiliency planning and adaptation in Northwest Florida.

This amendment is to properly reflect activities to be performed and accurately assign costs with an increase to the total District budget.

**ADOPTED AND APPROVED** this 8<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2024, A.D.

**ATTEST:**

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George Roberts, Chair

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Nick Patronis, Secretary-Treasurer

GEORGE ROBERTS  
Chair  
Panama City

JERRY PATE  
Vice Chair  
Pensacola

NICK PATRONIS  
Secretary  
Panama City

JOHN W. ALTER  
Malone

GUS ANDREWS  
DeFuniak Springs

TED EVERETT  
Chipley

KELLIE RALSTON  
Tallahassee

ANNA UPTON  
Tallahassee

# NORTHWEST FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

## **MEMORANDUM**

TO: Governing Board

THROUGH: Lyle Seigler, Executive Director  
Andy Joslyn, Deputy Executive Director

FROM: Grace Adams, Human Resources Administrator

DATE: January 31, 2024

SUBJECT: Consideration of Employee Health and Life Insurance

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### **Recommendation**

Staff recommends the Governing Board authorize the executive director to negotiate and select employee health and life insurance policies for the year beginning April 1, 2024, and ending March 31, 2025.

### **Background**

The District's current employee health coverage, a dual option plan with Capital Health Plan of Tallahassee (an HMO) and Florida Blue (a PPO) will expire on March 31. Insurance is scheduled to be renewed on an annual basis with the approval of the Governing Board.

In addition to health insurance, the District provides a \$25,000 life insurance policy for employees in authorized positions through Sun Life, Inc. The rates paid by the District for life insurance and accidental death and dismemberment (AD&D) insurance are expected to increase by \$0.019, taking the rate of \$0.38 to \$0.399 for Life and the AD&D remaining the same at \$0.04 per \$1,000. Figures are based on the District's contribution of 100 percent of the rate for coverage of \$25,000.

**NORTHWEST FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT**

**MEMORANDUM**

TO: Governing Board

THROUGH: Lyle Seigler, Executive Director  
Andrew Joslyn  
Danny Layfield, Director, Division of Asset Management

FROM: Carol L. Bert, Asset Management Administrator  
Breck Brannen, General Counsel

DATE: January 16, 2024

SUBJECT: Consideration of Request for Access Easement Across District Lands to  
Benefit the Hodges Parcel; Econfina Creek WMA

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On December 14, 2023, the Governing Board authorized the Executive Director to execute a task order for a boundary survey of the west boundary of the northwest quarter of Section 25, Township 1 North, Range 14 West, Washington County, Florida, to determine the District's west boundary due to an access easement request in this area from Mr. Daniel Hodges/Ms. Susan Stone.

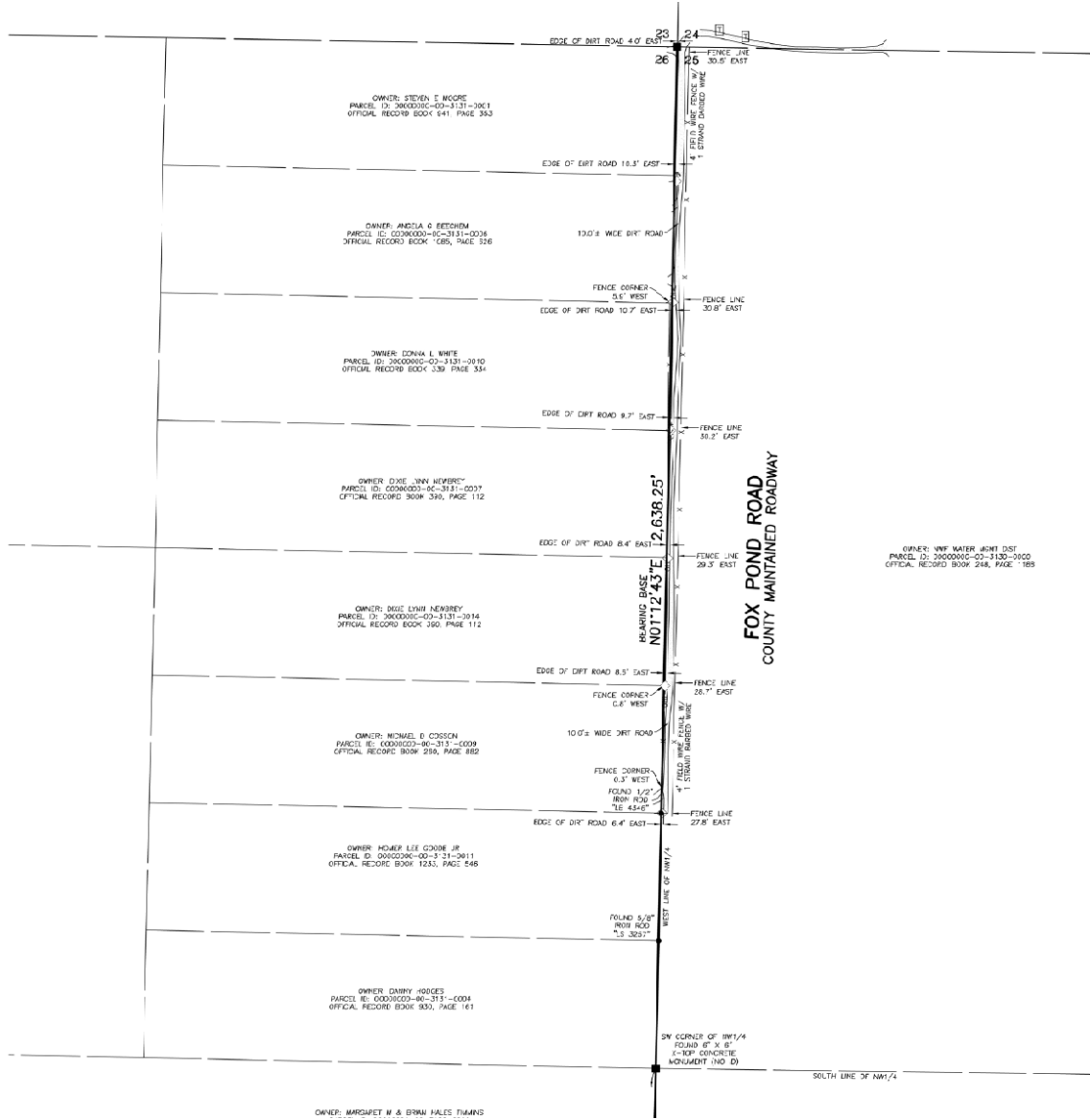
As the Governing Board will recall, this survey is the result of a request from Mr. Daniel Hodges, landowner, and Ms. Susan Stone, potential purchaser of the Hodges parcel, for a 30-foot wide access easement across District property in Section 25 (the vicinity of Fox Pond Road) in Washington County to the Hodges parcel. The road which they request the access easement upon is very close to the west boundary of Section 25 and therefore a survey was needed to determine the District's west boundary and ownership of the existing road. The survey indicates the existing road is 10-feet wide.

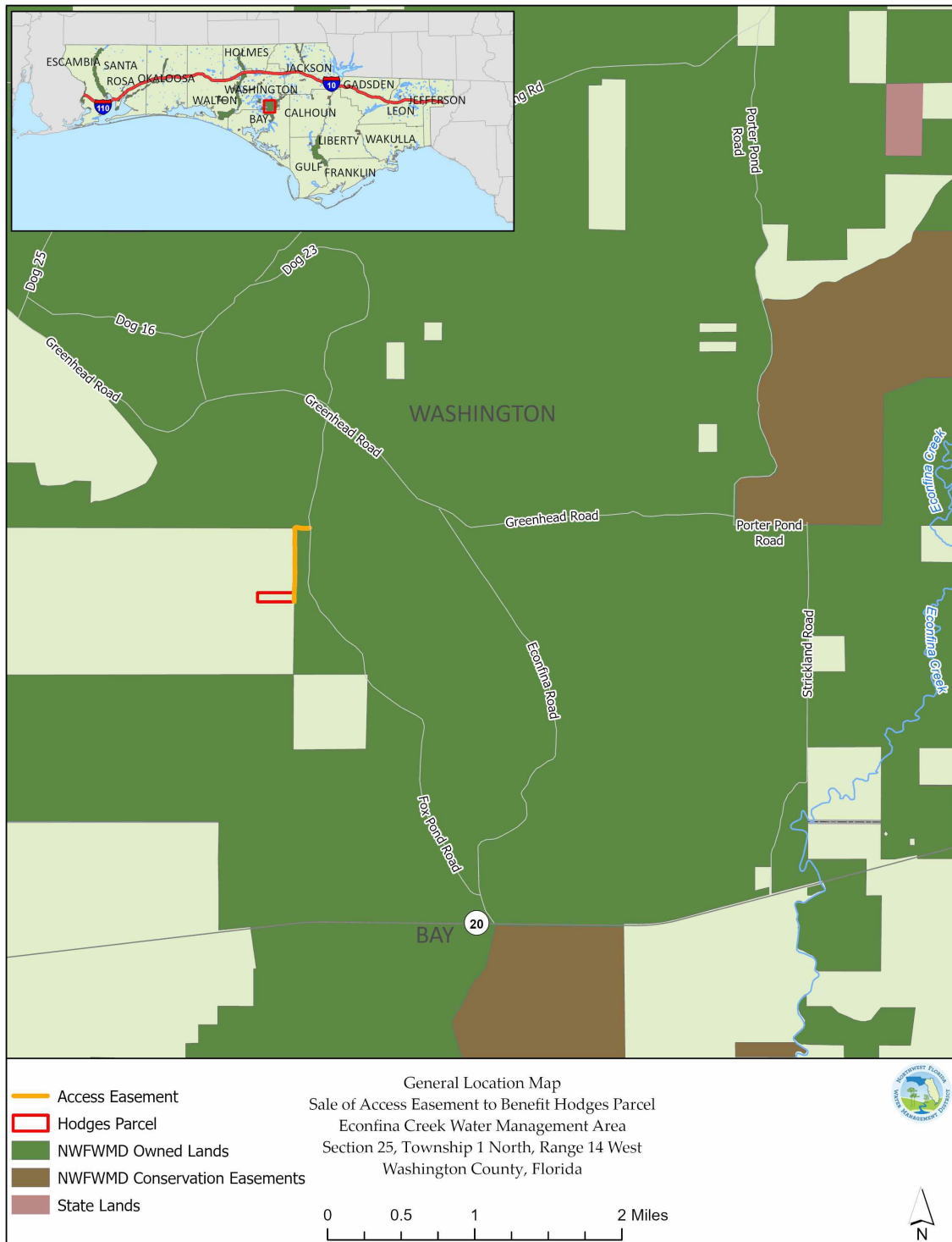
The District has received the survey (shown on the next page) which located the District's west boundary of Section 25 and also determined the District owns the existing road which the access easement has been requested upon.

Having the results of the survey, Staff is bringing this matter back before the Governing Board for its consideration to either grant or deny this access easement request. District staff is not providing a recommendation.

cb









NORTHWEST FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

MEMORANDUM

TO: Governing Board

THROUGH: Lyle Seigler, Executive Director  
Andy Joslyn, Deputy Executive Director  
Danny Layfield, Director, Division of Asset Management

FROM: Benjamin Faure, Chief, Bureau of Land Management Operations

DATE: January 16, 2024

SUBJECT: Consideration of Five-Year Cooperative Management Agreement with the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission for the Sand Hill Lakes Mitigation Bank Property

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**Recommendation**

Staff recommends the Governing Board approve a five-year Cooperative Management Agreement with the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) for the Management of the Sand Hill Lakes Mitigation Bank property (SHLMB), and authorize the Executive Director to enter into an agreement with FWC in an amount up to \$150,000 per year to facilitate this work, subject to approval and adoption of the budget for each fiscal year and legal counsel review.

**Background**

Since 2005, the District has contracted with the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) to assist with the management of the Sand Hill Lakes Mitigation Bank (Fitzhugh Carter) property in Washington County, consistent with requirements of the state and federal wetland mitigation bank permits.

Under this agreement, FWC provides assessments of the property's fish and wildlife resources as they relate to managing the property's allowable public recreation opportunities and fulfilling the permit requirements. This includes, but is not limited to, operation of the fish and wildlife check station; regulation of public access and use; enhanced law enforcement; ongoing fish and wildlife studies and assessments; and assisting the District with maintenance of the facilities and boundary fencing.

The property has been open to public hunting since 2005 and was opened to public fishing in 2007. Recreational activities on this property are highly regulated. The wetland mitigation bank permits allow for public access to the property only through a check station system.

The current agreement between NFWFMD and FWC was renewed in 2019 for an additional five-year term, expiring June 30, 2024.

The Cooperative Management Agreement requires an annual assessment of FWC's activities and the development of an annual work plan and budget for each upcoming fiscal year. In coordination with District staff, FWC develops and updates the attached draft work plan and budget for each FWC fiscal year, which

begins on July 1 and ends on June 30 annually. District staff routinely assesses FWC's work plan progress, and FWC has consistently implemented all activities specified in the work plan.

District staff are requesting a not-to-exceed amount of \$150,000.00 per fiscal year of the five-year operating agreement to support the annual work plan and budget. Over the past four years, the proposed annual work plan budget has ranged from \$111,680.01 to \$147,180.94; however, historically, actual operating costs do not exceed \$100,000.00 and FWC has worked closely with the District to help keep operating costs as low as possible.

Listed below are the previous four fiscal year's work plan approved budget amounts versus actual operating expenditures.

Fiscal Year	Work Plan Governing Board Approval Amount	Actual Costs	Notes
2020-21	\$128,220.00	\$79,607.79	Increase related to Employee Insurance Costs
2021-22	\$129,394.00	\$78,920.46	Increase related to Employee Insurance Costs
2022-23	\$147,180.94	\$58,927.83	Legislative Minimum Wage Increase for Check Station Operators
2023-24	\$111,680.01	Beginning of Fiscal Year - No Expenditures to Date	Modified Work Plan - Removed Wildlife Technician Position

BF/

Attachment: SHLMB Annual Work Plan and Budget for FY 2023-24

**FITZHUGH CARTER TRACT/SHLMB  
DRAFT ANNUAL WORK PLAN AND BUDGET**

**(Hunting and Fishing Programs)**

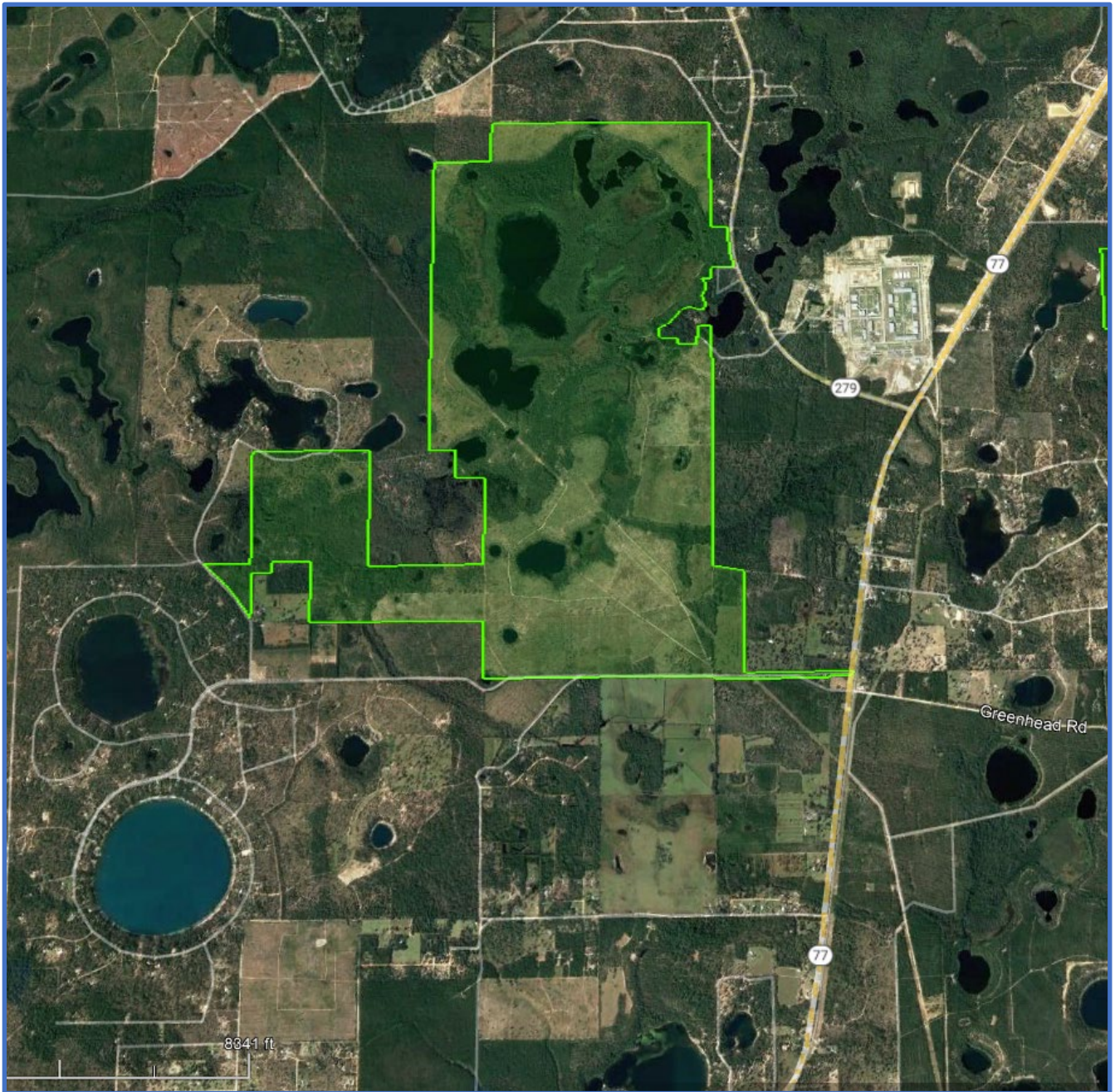
<b><u>Service/Product</u></b>	<b><u>Description</u></b>	<b><u>District Costs/Expenditures</u></b>
Fish and Wildlife Biologist (Biological Scientist III)	Implement a fisheries and wildlife management program in accordance with the Department of Environmental Protection and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers permit requirements for the Sand Hill Lakes Mitigation Bank (SHLMB). Duties include, but are not limited to, site security, identification of violations and ensuring compliance with the hunting and fishing requirements found in the FDEP and ACOE Mitigation Bank Permits. At the discretion of NFWFMD staff: patrol and maintenance of fence lines, reporting and updating the Boundary Breach Catalog/Map, road patch repairs and mowing (mowing will not encroach on wiregrass or other native grass species), maintenance of facilities and equipment to provide management and public recreation access, maintenance of boats and boat ramps, and assist District staff in prescribed burning when available. At the discretion of NFWFMD staff: Coordinates quail surveys, wood duck nest box monitoring, deer surveys, and use creel data to analyze fish populations, and indicate any decline in fish or wildlife populations with possible solutions, maintain the collection of wildlife and fisheries data, and prepare annual reports. Provide supervision of the Fish & Wildlife Check Station Operators, Biological Scientist II, and Technician; coordinate volunteer and educational programs, and relieves check station operators as needed.	Salary & Benefits... <b>\$65,680.<sup>01</sup></b>
Check Station Operators	Man Check Station during scouting, hunting, and fishing days. Duties include providing education and assistance to hunters and anglers checking into and out of check station (customer service/area public relations); collection of biological data from harvested game and fish; monitoring hunter and fisherman pressure (creel surveys and quota hunt use); issuance of angler provisions (boats, oars, PFD's, creel kits); and adherence to fisherman quotas & pond allocation limits.	2800 hrs. @ \$15.00/hr. <b>\$42,000.<sup>00</sup></b>
Estimated Operational Expenses	Boat operation costs during fish surveys, work and safety apparel, education and training, fish & wildlife scientific survey materials, and equipment & supplies.	<b>\$4,000.<sup>00</sup></b>
	<b><u>Total</u></b>	<b>\$111,680.<sup>01</sup></b>

**Sand Hill Lakes Mitigation Bank (AKA Fitzhugh Carter Tract)**



**Washington County, FL**

**2,155 Acres**



NORTHWEST FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

**MEMORANDUM**

TO: Governing Board

THROUGH: Lyle Seigler, Executive Director  
Andy Joslyn, Deputy Executive Director  
Danny Layfield, Director, Division of Asset Management

FROM: Benjamin Faure, Bureau Chief, Land Management Operations

DATE: January 12, 2024

SUBJECT: Consideration of Three-Year Cooperative Services Agreement with the US Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services-Animal and Plant Health Inspection - Wildlife Services (USDA-APHIS-WS) for Nuisance Wildlife Control Services on District Lands.

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**Recommendation:**

Staff recommends the Governing Board authorize the Executive Director to execute a three-year cooperative services agreement with the US Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (USDA) Animal and Plant Health Inspection - Wildlife Services Program (APHIS-WS) to provide nuisance wildlife control services on District lands in an amount up to \$35,958.30 for FY 2023-24, up to \$38,692.83 for FY 2024-25, and up to \$42,436.23 for FY 2025-26, subject to approval and adoption of the budget for each fiscal year and legal counsel review.

**Background:**

Since 2004, the District has contracted with the USDA's APHIS Wildlife Services program to manage wildlife impacts to District lands and mitigation properties as a result of feral swine and beaver activities. This three-year cooperative service agreement includes a work plan and an annual financial plan providing for personnel compensation, vehicle/travel costs, supplies and materials, as well as indirect costs for contract administration. The maximum compensation for the three-year agreement is \$117,082.36 and the breakdown for each fiscal year of the agreement is as follows:

FY 2023-24	\$35,958.30
FY 2024-25	\$38,692.83
FY 2025-26	\$42,436.23
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$117,082.36</b>

In addition to these services, the USDA also provides significant feral swine control services throughout selected NFWMD properties at no cost to the District in conjunction with an African swine fever monitoring program.



**NORTHWEST FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT**

**MEMORANDUM**

TO: Governing Board

THROUGH: Lyle Seigler, Executive Director  
Andrew Joslyn, Deputy Executive Director  
Paul Thorpe, Director, Resource Management Division

FROM: Christina Coger, Deputy Director, Resource Management Division

DATE: January 31, 2024

SUBJECT: Consideration of Funding Request from Gulf County for the Pilot Distributed Wastewater Grant Program

---

**Recommendation**

Staff recommends the Governing Board (1) approve the Gulf County Septic to Distributed Wastewater Treatment System Program project for \$1,672,000, and (2) authorize the Executive Director to enter into an agreement with the county for up to this amount to implement the project, subject to legal counsel review.

**Discussion**

The FY 2023-24 General Appropriations Act included \$2,000,000 for the District to implement a Wastewater Treatment Systems Grant Program, specifically for distributed wastewater systems in areas with waterbodies not meeting water quality standards. The grant program was developed as a pilot program so monitoring data and cost-effectiveness of different treatment systems can be collected and evaluated.

The District solicited funding proposals for the Pilot Distributed Wastewater Grant Program from October 4 – December 5, 2023. One application, from Gulf County, was received. Staff reviewed the application and sent a request for additional information on December 14, 2023. Gulf County provided the additional information needed to evaluate the proposal on January 11, 2024.

Gulf County proposes to initiate a Distributed Wastewater Treatment Systems (DWTS) program to eliminate up to 100 septic tanks in the Indian Pass area. The county will administer the program and utilize a third-party vendor for the operation and maintenance of the systems. The grant will support design, permitting, and construction of the new treatment systems, removal of septic tanks, development of a quality assurance plan for monitoring to evaluate pollutant reductions pre- and post-project and an operational cost incentive toward expenses while the project is under construction. The project is estimated to take 24 months to complete.

Indian Lagoon, and the larger St. Vincent Sound, is an impaired waterbody for bacteria.

Gulf County is a rural and economically distressed county pursuant to s. 288.0656, F.S. and is requesting a waiver of match funding requirements for the project.

NORTHWEST FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT  
PUBLIC HEARING FOR REGULATORY MATTERS  
A G E N D A

District Service Office  
700 US Highway 331 South  
DeFuniak Springs, Florida 32540

Thursday  
February 8, 2024  
1:05 p.m., CT

Note: Appeal from any NFWFMD Final Agency Action requires a record of the proceedings. Although Governing Board meetings are normally recorded, affected persons are advised that it may be necessary for them to ensure that a verbatim record of the proceedings is made, including the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is to be based. Persons with disabilities or handicaps who need assistance or reasonable accommodation in order to participate in these meetings should contact the District at least 72 hours in advance of these meetings to make appropriate arrangements.

PART I

• WATER USE PERMITS

A. Permit Renewal

A-1 Applicant: Judd Mooso, Destin Water Users, Inc.  
App. No.: 2B-091-119-14  
Use: Public Supply

Authorization Statement: This Permit authorizes the Permittee to make a combined average annual withdrawal of 1.77 million gallons per day (102.2 million gallons per month maximum) of groundwater from the Floridan aquifer for public supply use.

Duration Recommended: 5 Years  
Staff Recommendation Approval  
Public Comment Received: No

WATER USE TECHNICAL STAFF REPORT  
08-Jan-2024  
Application No.: 2B-091-119-14

**Owner:** Lockwood Wernet  
Destin Water Users, Inc.  
P. O. Box 308  
Destin, FL 32540  
(850) 837-6146

**Applicant:** Judd Mooso  
Destin Water Users, Inc.  
P. O. Box 308  
Destin, FL 32540  
850-837-6146

**Agent:** Not Applicable

**Compliance Contact:** Judd Mooso  
Destin Water Users, Inc.  
P.O. Box 308  
Destin, FL 32540  
(850) 837-6146

**Project Name:** Destin Water Users, Inc.  
**County:** Okaloosa  
**WRCA:** Water Resource Caution Area of Okaloosa and Walton counties  
**ARC:** N/A  
**Objectors:** No

This Permit authorizes the Permittee to make a combined average annual withdrawal of 1.77 million gallons per day (102.2 million gallons per month maximum) of groundwater from the Floridan aquifer for public supply use.

**Recommendation:** Approval  
**Reviewers:** Skyler Johnson; Cindy Fischler; Scott White

RECOMMENDED PERMIT DURATION AND COMPLIANCE REPORTING:

Staff recommends the permit expiration date be March 1, 2029. The Permittee is required to submit and comply with all information and data pursuant to the conditions set forth in the permit.

**WITHDRAWAL INFORMATION:**

Water Use	Permitted	Requested	Recommended
Average Day (GPD)	1,770,000	1,770,000	1,770,000
Maximum Month (GAL)	102,200,000	102,200,000	102,200,000

**DESCRIPTION:**

Destin Water Users, Inc. (DWU) requests renewal of Individual Water Use Permit (IWUP) No. 2B-091-119-13 for the continued authorization of groundwater withdrawals from the Floridan aquifer for public supply use without changes to the currently permitted withdrawal amounts.

Destin Water Users, Inc. provides public supply to approximately 40,200 residents and is partnered with South Walton Utility Company, Inc. (SWUC) as Water Resource Partners, Inc. Approximately 64% of Destin's current demand is purchased and imported from SWUC Rockhill Inland Well Field (2B-131-5349-3). All additional water needed for future growth will come from the inland wellfield.

Destin Water Users, Inc.'s groundwater withdrawals represent an existing, long-term use of the Floridan aquifer. Considering that no additional withdrawals are requested, no additional impacts to the Floridan aquifer are anticipated. No harm to existing legal uses of water or the water resources is anticipated to occur from the proposed withdrawals. The Permittee is required to continue monitoring hydrologic conditions to assure the conditions for permit issuance will be met for the requested permit duration.

**PERMIT APPLICATION REVIEW:**

Section 373.223, Florida Statutes (F.S.), and section 40A-2.301, Florida Administrative Code (F.A.C.), require an applicant to establish that the proposed use of water:

- (a) Is a reasonable-beneficial use;
- (b) Will not interfere with any presently existing legal use of water; and,
- (c) Is consistent with the public interest.

In addition, the above requirements are detailed further in the District's Water Use Permit Applicant's Handbook. District staff have reviewed the water use permit application pursuant to the above-described requirements and have determined that the application meets the conditions for issuance of this permit.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

It is the determination of the staff that the water use amounts recommended, as conditioned, are reasonable-beneficial, consistent with the public's interest, and will not interfere with any presently existing legal use of water. This determination has been made according to provisions of Chapter 373, F.S., and Chapter 40A-2, F.A.C.

Staff recommends that the applicant be granted an Individual Water Use Permit for a combined average annual withdrawal of 1.77 million gallons per day (102.2 million gallons per month maximum) of groundwater from the Floridan aquifer for public supply use. Staff also recommends that the expiration date of the permit be March 1, 2029, and that the permit be conditioned as per the "Conditions for Issuance" included in Exhibit A of the permit document.

## FACILITY INFORMATION:

**Site Name:** Destin Water Users, Inc.

Well Details								
District ID	Station Name	Casing Diameter (inches)	Casing Depth (feet)	Total Depth (feet)	Capacity (GPM)	Source Name	Status	Use Type
16197	DWU #10	24	490	670	1200	Floridan Aquifer (Undiff)	Active	Public Supply
16198	DWU #2	16	460	662	1300	Floridan Aquifer (Undiff)	Active	Public Supply
16199	DWU #3	16	465	746	1000	Floridan Aquifer (Undiff)	Active	Public Supply
16201	DWU #4R	24	457	746	1000	Floridan Aquifer (Undiff)	Active	Public Supply
16202	DWU #5	16	500	747	850	Floridan Aquifer (Undiff)	To Be Abandoned	Public Supply
16203	DWU #7	16	425	606	750	Floridan Aquifer (Undiff)	Active	Public Supply
300547	DWU #5R	24	500	750	1000	Floridan Aquifer (Undiff)	Proposed	Public Supply

Monitoring Well Details						
District ID	Station Name	Casing Diameter (inches)	Casing Depth (feet)	Total Depth (feet)	Source Name	Status
16204	MO #1	6	496	650	Floridan Aquifer (Undiff)	Active
16205	MO #2	8	920	1083	Lower LS Floridan	Active
15966	IB #4	8	75	95	Sand & Gravel	Inactive

Connection Point Details			
District ID	Station Name	Source Name	Status
330771	ILB Station	South Walton Utility Company	Active

Connection Point Details			
District ID	Station Name	Source Name	Status
330772	N. Emergency	South Walton Utility Company	Active
330773	S. Emergency	South Walton Utility Company	Active

**WATER USE PERMIT**

<b>PERMIT NO.:</b>	<u>2B-091-119-14</u>	<b>DATE ISSUED:</b>	<u></u>
<b>PROJECT NAME:</b>	<u>Destin Water Users, Inc.</u>	<b>DATE RECEIVED:</b>	<u>September 20, 2023</u>

**A PERMIT AUTHORIZING:**

This Permit authorizes the Permittee to make a combined average annual withdrawal of 1.77 million gallons per day (102.2 million gallons per month maximum) of groundwater from the Floridan aquifer for public supply use.

**LOCATION:**

STR: Sections 17, 19, 26, 27, 29, 30 and 8, Township 2 South, Range 22 West; Section 24, Township 2 South, Range 23 West

Okaloosa County

**ISSUED TO:**

Destin Water Users, Inc.  
P. O. Box 308  
Destin, FL 32540

Permittee agrees to hold and save the Northwest Florida Water Management District and its successors harmless from any and all damages, claims, or liabilities which may arise from permit issuance. Said application, including all maps and specifications attached thereto, is by reference made a part hereof.

This permit does not convey to the Permittee any property rights nor any rights or privileges other than those specified herein, nor relieve the Permittee from complying with any law, regulation or requirement affecting the rights of other bodies or agencies.

This permit may be revoked, modified or transferred at any time pursuant to the appropriate provisions of Chapter 373, Florida Statutes, and Chapter 40A-2, Florida Administrative Code.

**PERMIT IS CONDITIONED UPON:**

See conditions on attached "Exhibit A," dated \_\_\_\_\_.

**AUTHORIZED BY:** Northwest Florida Water Management District  
Division of Regulatory Services

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Signature



**"EXHIBIT A"**  
**CONDITIONS FOR ISSUANCE OF PERMIT NUMBER 2B-091-119-14**  
**Destin Water Users, Inc.**  
**DATED \_\_\_\_\_**

**Specific Conditions**

1. This permit shall expire on March 1, 2029.
2. This Permit authorizes the Permittee to make a combined average annual withdrawal of 1.77 million gallons per day (102.2 million gallons per month maximum) of groundwater from the Floridan aquifer for public supply use. The individual facilities authorized to make this combined withdrawal are shown in the table below in the following condition. The total combined amounts of water withdrawn by all facilities listed shall not exceed the amounts identified above.
3. Individual Withdrawal Facility Authorization

Facility ID #	FLUWID	Location SEC,TWN,RNG
DWU #5R	To Be Assigned	Sec.024,T02S,R23W
DWU #7	AAA0465	Sec.026,T02S,R22W
DWU #5	AAA0461	Sec.024,T02S,R23W
DWU #4R	AAG3641	Sec.019,T02S,R22W
DWU #3	AAA0462	Sec.030,T02S,R22W
DWU #2	AAA0464	Sec.029,T02S,R22W
DWU #10	AAG3640	Sec.027,T02S,R22W

4. The Permittee shall include the Individual Water Use Permit number and the well's Florida Unique Identification Number (e.g. AAA0464 for DWU #2) when submitting reports or otherwise corresponding with the District.
5. The Permittee, by January 31 of each year, shall submit a water use report for the previous calendar year (January – December), even if no water is used. The Permittee shall record the data required on Water Use Summary Reporting Form (Form 172). The Permittee, if preferred, may submit the report electronically by downloading the correct form from the District website, filling it out properly, and e-mailing it to [compliance@nwfwater.com](mailto:compliance@nwfwater.com).
6. The Permittee shall install and maintain, in working order, in-line totalizing flow meters at the well heads on all production wells. The Permittee shall install and maintain, in working order, an in-line totalizing flow meter at the well head of well DWU #5R upon completion of the well. The meters shall be maintained to be at least 95% accurate and any meter determined defective must be replaced within 30 days of its discovery. The Permittee, within 30 days of meter installation, shall provide documentation to the District that the required flow meters have been installed and report the initial meter readings.
7. The Permittee, by August 31, 2025, shall remove the pump from inactive well IB #4 and submit documentation of pump removal. The permittee must modify the permit to convert the well to a production well prior to using the well in the future.

8. The Permittee, by August 31, 2027, and at the time of requesting a permit modification or renewal, shall submit documentation of the flow meter calibration and accuracy ratings for all flow meters to the District using the Flow Meter Accuracy Report Form (Form 170). The Permittee, if preferred, may submit the report electronically by downloading the correct form from the District website, filling it out properly, and e-mailing it to [compliance@nwfwater.com](mailto:compliance@nwfwater.com).
9. The Permittee, by August 31, 2027, and at the time of permit renewal or modification shall provide a map showing areas where service is actually provided as well as the overall franchise area allocated to the utility by the county, Public Service Commission or other authorizing entity. Definable areas within a service area that are served by domestic potable wells shall be delineated as non-served unless the area will be supplied by the utility within the term of the permit. The Permittee shall submit the map in digital format compatible with ESRI ArcGIS software, if available.
10. The Permittee, by July 31 every year, shall conduct and submit to the District the results of a comprehensive evaluation of water use practices in the Permittee's service area and a list of measures that provide for the enhancement of water conservation/efficiency measures, reduce water demand and water losses, and prevent exceedance of the authorized amounts. The list shall include but is not limited to:
  - a. The evaluation undertaken to identify/detect leaks and inaccurate flow meters and verify treatment losses;
  - b. The basis of the determinations made;
  - c. Other water conservation practices the Permittee determines are feasible to implement within a year of permit issuance or renewal;
  - d. Any water conservation/efficiency measures planned for future implementation; and,
  - e. Installation of equipment which supports conservation.

The Permittee shall include the measures implemented during the previous year. If the Permittee determines that any of the listed measures are no longer feasible, the report shall describe the specific reasons they cannot be implemented.

11. The Permittee shall submit to the District in a single electronic submittal the following information by January 31, April 30, July 31 and October 31 of each year:

Static water level measurements for monitor wells MO #1 (AAD3731) and MO #2 (AAA8717) conducted during the first two weeks of each month for the previous three months (e.g. measurements for January, February, and March shall be submitted by April 30) using a District approved water level measuring device. Water levels shall be taken following a 24-hour non-pumping period, as much as is practicable, reported as depth-to-water below a pre-defined measuring point. All measurements shall be taken from the same measuring point. If the measuring point is different from land surface elevation, then the Permittee shall provide the measuring point distance above or below land surface. All static water level reports shall include the date and time the well was turned off, date and time the measurement was taken, method and device used, and the water level measurement to 0.01 foot for steel/electric tape and 1.0 foot precision for airline methods, respectively. The Permittee, if utilizing the airline method, shall also report airline length, gauge reading, linear distance of the airline terminus from land surface, and a description of where the airline terminates (e.g. land surface, pump base, pressure gauge, etc.).

12. The Permittee shall collect water quality samples for laboratory analyses from all Floridan production wells (DWU #2, DWU #3, DWU #4R, DWU #5 until abandoned, DWU #5R, DWU #7, and DWU #10) within the first two weeks of January, April, July, and October in each year. Prior to sampling, the Permittee shall purge a minimum of three well volumes and report, with each set of test results: the duration of purging, purge volume, and purge rates used. All sampling and analysis

methodologies used shall conform to standards established in Chapter 62-160, F.A.C., Quality Assurance. Furthermore, all water quality analysis shall be conducted by a laboratory with National Environmental Laboratory Accreditation Program (NELAP) and Florida Department of Health Rule 64E-1, F.A.C., certification for the constituents of concern. The water quality analyses shall include the following constituents: chloride, sodium, and total dissolved solids. The Permittee shall submit results from tests conducted in January, April, July, and October to the District using the Water Quality Report Form (Form 167) by February 28, May 31, August 31, and November 30, respectively, each year. At the time of modification or renewal, the Permittee shall submit a summary and analysis of the water quality data collected for the wells for the entire period of record.

13. The Permittee shall collect water quality samples for laboratory analyses from monitor wells MO #1 (AAD3731) and MO #2 (AAA8717) within the first two weeks of August 2025 and August 2027. Prior to sampling, the Permittee shall purge a minimum of three well volumes and report, with each set of test results: the duration of purging, purge volume, and purge rates used. All sampling and analysis methodologies used shall conform to standards established in Chapter 62-160, F.A.C., Quality Assurance. Furthermore, all water quality analysis shall be conducted by a laboratory with National Environmental Laboratory Accreditation Program (NELAP) and Florida Department of Health Rule 64E-1, F.A.C., certification for the constituents of concern. The water quality analyses shall include the following constituents: chloride, sodium, total dissolved solids, calcium, magnesium, potassium, fluoride, bromide, silica, iron, alkalinity, strontium, and sulfate. The Permittee shall submit results from tests conducted in August to the District using the Water Quality Report Form (Form 167) by September 30.
14. The Permittee shall submit a compliance report by March 1, 2025. At a minimum, the compliance report must include a groundwater model evaluating the impacts of the withdrawals on existing legal uses, offsite land uses, and water resources and associated environmental features, and sufficient information to demonstrate continued reasonable assurance that the Permittee's use of water will continue to meet the conditions for permit issuance set forth in Rule 40A-2, F.A.C., for the remaining duration of the permit. Guidance is provided in Section 3.0 of the Water Use Permit Applicant's Handbook. The compliance report shall include:
  - a. Model Report: All models developed are subject to District approval and must be fully documented in a report and include a description of the conceptual model, model parameters and input data, calibration results, water budget, and model output including drawdown maps for the scenarios listed in Section 3.0 of the Water Use Permit Applicant's Handbook. Model files shall also be submitted.
  - b. No Quantity or Quality Changes: Documentation that continued use of the withdrawal quantities authorized under this permit will not cause quantity or quality changes that adversely impact the water resources, including both surface water and groundwater.
  - c. No Impacts to Existing Legal Uses: Documentation that the continued use of the withdrawal quantities authorized under this permit will not adversely affect existing legal uses and offsite land uses.
  - d. No Impacts to Water Resources: Documentation that the continued use of the withdrawal quantities authorized under this permit will not adversely impact wetlands, springs, surface waters, or groundwater.
  - e. Saline Water Intrusion: Documentation demonstrating that the withdrawals are not predicted to have the potential to cause harmful saline water intrusion.
  - f. Pollution of the Water Resources: Documentation demonstrating that the withdrawals are not predicted to cause harmful water quality impacts to the sources through the induced movement of pollutants.
15. The Permittee, prior to August 31, 2027, shall evaluate and submit to the District the feasibility of providing additional reclaimed water within its service area to users that would provide for a direct

reduction in groundwater withdrawals. The investigation shall be sufficiently detailed to document the findings of the determination. If determined technically, economically and environmentally feasible, the Permittee shall provide an implementation schedule for supplying the reclaimed water. The Permittee shall maximize the use of reclaimed water. Additionally, as the availability of reclaimed increases, the Permittee shall reduce its groundwater withdrawals proportionately.

16. The Permittee shall continue to expand and enhance its reuse system, with the goal to provide for 100 percent beneficial reuse of available wastewater flows to offset groundwater withdrawals. The Permittee, by August 31, 2027, shall provide the District with a progress report regarding the reuse utilization goal.
17. The Permittee shall consider implementation of a requirement or mandate providing for enhanced irrigation efficiency, including alternate days and specific times for irrigation (e.g., odd/even days and 4 p.m. to 10 a.m.). The Permittee shall provide descriptions of any new requirements under consideration which further the goal of enhanced irrigation efficiency and shall provide copies of any such requirement once adopted.
18. The Permittee shall ensure its Water Conservation and Efficiency Program achieves the goals listed below. The Permittee, by March 31 of each year and at the time of permit modification or renewal, shall report to the District its performance regarding each element of the Water Conservation and Efficiency Program during the previous calendar year.
  - a. Achieve and maintain total and real water losses less than or equal to 10 percent of the distribution system, unless the Permittee demonstrates using American Water Works Association (AWWA) methods that a higher loss rate is appropriate for the distribution system. The Permittee shall report water losses each year, compare estimated water losses to the goal(s), and briefly describe ongoing or planned water loss reduction measures.
  - b. Maintain average residential per capita daily water use of 110 gallons or less. The residential per capita water use shall be calculated as the amount of water used by residential dwelling units divided by the residential population served. The residential population served can be estimated as the number of residential dwelling units served multiplied by the average persons per household derived from US Census data. Adjustments to account for seasonal or tourist populations can be made, if adequately documented. The Permittee shall report a summary description of status regarding the per capita use goal.
  - c. Initiation or continued implementation and enhancement of a public education and information campaign to promote water conservation and efficiency. The campaign shall consist of activities such as informative billing, periodic mail outs to customers, website announcements, newspaper notices, etc. Public education and information efforts shall be implemented at least annually. The Permittee shall provide a description of the public education and information campaign. The Permittee shall utilize a strategy designed to regularly reach year-round and part-time residents and tourists. The campaign shall consist of newspaper notices and articles, periodic radio and television announcements, periodic mail-outs to customers and the posting of signs and informational brochures in the rooms of hotels, motels and rental property. The campaign shall be oriented to emphasize the program being implemented and water conservation in general, and on at least an annual basis, shall also specifically inform existing customers of ways to save water, ways to detect leaks, reduce demands, enhance efficiency, and detail the automatic irrigation shut-off requirement of section 373.62, Florida Statutes. The Permittee shall provide a description of the public education and information campaign to the District by March 31 of each year.
  - d. The Permittee shall submit a copy of its rate structure annually. The Permittee shall perform a rate structure evaluation with the intended purpose of creating or maintaining a structure to promote water use efficiency and discourage waste while providing for a lifeline initial rate. Any refinements shall take into consideration the water use characteristics of the service area and provide financial incentives to customers to conserve and use water efficiently.

19. The Permittee, by March 31 of each year, shall report to the District the following information for the previous calendar year:

a.

Use Type	Average Number of Active Meter Connections	Annual Average Water Use (Gallons per Day)
1. Residential (also complete table below)		
2. Commercial and Industrial Uses		
3. Agricultural Uses		
4. Non-Residential Recreational/Aesthetic Uses		
5. Water Sold/Transferred to Other Utilities		
6. Institutional Uses (schools, hospitals, etc.)		
7. Fire Protection and Other Utility Uses		
8. Other _____ (describe)		
TOTAL (Add items 1 through 8)		

b.

Residential Water Service Category	Number of Metered Connections	Number of Dwelling Units	Population Served (if available)	Annual Average Metered Use (Gallons per Day)
1. Single Family Dwelling Units				
2. Multiple Family Dwelling Units				
3. Mobile Home Dwelling Units				
TOTAL (Add items 1 through 3)				

20. In the Water Resource Caution Area, new and expanded uses of the Floridan Aquifer System for golf course, recreation, landscape irrigation, or other non-potable uses, are determined not to be consistent with the public interest and are prohibited under section 40A-2.802(1)(b), F.A.C.
21. The Permittee shall not utilize water to fill or augment the level of water bodies for aesthetic purposes.
22. The Permittee shall encourage and provide for the efficient and non-wasteful use of water, and shall implement water conservation measures, including a proactive leak detection program, designed to enhance water use efficiency and reduce water demand and water losses.

**Standard Conditions**

23. All water uses authorized by this permit shall be implemented as conditioned by this permit, including any documents incorporated by reference in a permit condition. The District may revoke this permit, in whole or in part, or take enforcement action, pursuant to sections 373.136 or 373.243, F.S., unless a permit modification has been obtained to address the noncompliance.
24. The Permittee shall immediately notify the District in writing of any previously submitted information that is later discovered to be inaccurate.
25. This permit does not convey to the Permittee any property rights or privileges other than those specified herein, nor relieve the Permittee from complying with any applicable local government, state, or federal law, rule, or ordinance.
26. The Permittee shall notify the District in writing within 45 days of any sale, transfer, or conveyance of ownership or any other loss of permitted legal control of the project and/or related facilities from which the permitted water use is made. Where Permittee's control of the land subject to the permit was demonstrated through a lease, the Permittee must either submit documentation showing that it continues to have legal control or transfer control of the permitted system/project to the new landowner or new lessee. All transfers of ownership are subject to the requirements of section 40A-2.351, F.A.C. Alternatively, the Permittee may surrender the water use permit to the District, thereby relinquishing the right to conduct any activities under the permit.
27. Nothing in this permit should be construed to limit the authority of the District to declare a water shortage and issue orders pursuant to Chapter 373, F.S. In the event of a declared water shortage, the Permittee must adhere to the water shortage restrictions, as specified by the District. The Permittee is advised that during a water shortage, reports shall be submitted as required by District rule or order.
28. With advance notice to the Permittee, District staff with proper identification shall have permission to enter, inspect, observe, collect samples, and take measurements of permitted facilities to determine compliance with the permit conditions and permitted plans and specifications. The Permittee shall either accompany District staff onto the property or make provision for access onto the property.
29. The Permittee may seek modification of any term of an unexpired permit. The Permittee is advised that section 373.239, F.S., and section 40A-2.331, F.A.C., are applicable to permit modifications.
30. The Permittee shall mitigate any harm caused by withdrawals or diversions permitted herein on legal water uses, offsite land use, and water resources and associated environmental features which existed at the time of permit application. The District reserves the right to curtail permitted withdrawal and diversion rates if the withdrawal or diversion causes harm to legal uses of water, offsite land use, or water resources and associated environmental features that existed at the time of permit application.
31. The Permittee shall not cause harmful saltwater intrusion. The District reserves the right to curtail permitted withdrawal rates if withdrawals cause harmful saline water intrusion.
32. The Permittee's consumptive use of water as authorized by this permit shall not reduce a flow or level below any minimum flow or level established by the District or the Department of Environmental Protection pursuant to sections 373.042 and 373.0421, F.S. If the Permittee's use of water causes or contributes to such a reduction, then the District shall modify or revoke the permit,

in whole or in part, unless the Permittee implements all provisions applicable to the Permittee's use in a District-approved recovery or prevention strategy.

33. The Permittee shall mitigate any harm caused by withdrawals or diversions permitted herein on legal water uses, offsite land use, and water resources and associated environmental features which existed at the time of permit application. Mitigation may include modification of the Permittee's pumping schedule (i.e., duration, withdrawal rates, time of day, etc.), the lowering of the affected pump(s) or the replacement of the well(s) including proper plugging and abandonment of the well(s) that is replaced. The Permittee, upon receipt of an allegation of interference, shall retain the services of an appropriate licensed professional to investigate the alleged interference. The Permittee shall ensure their chosen professional investigates any alleged interference within 48 hours of the allegation being made and provides the conclusions of the investigation to the entity alleging the impact within 72 hours of the allegation being made. If it is determined that the use of a well has been impaired as a result of the Permittee's operation, the Permittee shall complete the required mitigation within 30 days. The Permittee shall be responsible for the payment of services rendered by the licensed professional. The Permittee, within 30 days of any allegation of interference, shall submit a report to the District including the date of the allegation, the name and contact information of the party making the allegation, the result of the investigation made, and any mitigation action undertaken.

**NORTHWEST FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT**

**MEMORANDUM**

TO: Governing Board

THROUGH: Lyle Seigler, Executive Director  
Andy Joslyn, Deputy Executive Director  
Danny Layfield, Director, Division of Asset Management

FROM: Carol L. Bert, Asset Management Administrator

DATE: January 16, 2024

SUBJECT: *Public Hearing 1:10 p.m. CT* - Consideration of Florida Forever Water  
Management District Work Plan

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**Recommendation:**

Staff recommends the Governing Board approve the Florida Forever Water Management District Work Plan.

**Background:**

Section 373.139(3), Florida Statutes, requires the District to adopt, following a public hearing, a Florida Forever Water Management District Work Plan. The District's 2024 land acquisition program will focus on acquiring properties that improve the quality or quantity of water flowing from springs.

/cb



# Chapter 6

## Florida Forever Water Management District Work Plan Annual Report



# Florida Forever Water Management District Work Plan Annual Report

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## Chapter 6. Florida Forever Water Management District Work Plan Annual Report

### Introduction

Section 373.199(7), F.S. requires the Northwest Florida Water Management District (NFWFMD or District) to annually update the Florida Forever Five-Year Work Plan. The 23rd annual update of the plan contains information on projects eligible to receive funding under the Florida Forever Act and Land Acquisition Trust Fund and also reports on land management activities; surplus or exchanged lands; and the progress of funding, staffing, and resource management of projects for which the District is responsible. This plan also applies to land acquisition funds deposited into the Land Acquisition Trust Fund pursuant to s.28(a), Art. X of the State Constitution.

### Florida Forever Program

In 1999, the Florida Legislature passed the Florida Forever Act (section 259.105, F.S.) which has continued the state's long-term commitment to environmental land acquisition, restoration of degraded natural areas, and high-quality outdoor recreation opportunities.

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 these funds include water resource development, stormwater management projects, water body restoration, recreation facilities, public access improvements, and removing invasive plants, among others. The remaining 50 percent must be spent on land acquisition. The table below illustrates actual expenditures for land acquisition using Florida Forever funding.

**Table 6.1 Land Acquisition Expenditures by Water Management Area**

<b>Water Management Area</b>	<b>Acres</b>	<b>Dollars Expended</b>
Perdido River	6,044	\$13,535,865
Escambia River	697	\$ 1,231,692
Yellow River	205	\$ 630,046
Choctawhatchee River	4,269	\$ 6,162,350
Econfina Creek	3,663	\$ 7,977,220
Apalachicola River	1,912	\$ 3,981,132
Chipola River	2,440	\$ 5,922,785
St. Marks River	830	\$ 1,862,050
Ochlockonee River	1,529	\$ 1,951,197
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>21,589</b>	<b>\$43,254,337</b>

Since the inception of the District's land acquisition program, the goal has been to protect the floodplains of our major rivers and creeks. To date, 225,857 acres have been protected for water resource purposes through the land acquisition efforts of the District either in fee simple or through conservation easements.

### Acquisition Planning

The District employs a watershed approach to select and prioritize the water resources and natural systems within the groundwater contribution areas and 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 strategy; and the size, accessibility, and overall condition of each property. Recommendations from interest groups, landowners, local governments, agency representatives, and other interested parties are given full consideration in the acquisition process. Existing water management areas (WMAs) include the Perdido River, Escambia River, Blackwater River, Yellow River, Garcon Point, Choctawhatchee River/Holmes Creek, Econfina Creek, Chipola River, and Apalachicola River.

Subject to receiving funding, the District's acquisition efforts this year will focus on the purchase of fee simple or less than fee simple (conservation easements) projects that protect the quality and quantity of water that flows into and out of springs. The District's acquisition efforts will focus on acquiring fee or less than fee simple interest in properties located within the Jackson Blue, Chipola, Econfina, and Wakulla springs and Spring Creek Spring Group groundwater contribution areas.

In developing the annual update, District staff review projects proposed by DEP's Division of State Lands to minimize redundancy and facilitate an efficient and mutually supportive land-acquisition effort.

### 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.

**Table 6.2 Approved Acquisition Areas**

<b>Rivers &amp; Creeks Originating In Florida</b>	<b>Rivers and Creeks Originating Outside Florida</b>	<b>Springs</b>	<b>Lakes &amp; Ponds</b>	<b>Other Ecosystems, Basins and Buffers</b>
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 other Tributaries of Deer Point Lake	Chipola River	Bosel Springs Chipola River Springs Waddell Springs		West Bay Buffer
Lafayette Creek	Choctawhatchee River including Holmes Creek	Cypress Spring		Sandy Creek Basin
	Escambia River	Hays Springs		Apalachicola Bay and St. Vincent Sound Buffer
	Blackwater River including Juniper, Big Coldwater, and Coldwater creeks	Econfina Creek Springs		
	Ochlockonee River and its major tributaries	Jackson Blue Spring		
	Yellow and Shoal Rivers	Wakulla Spring		
	Perdido River and Bay			

### Groundwater Recharge Areas

Such lands may be designated by the District as recharge areas for the Floridan, sand-and-gravel, and other important aquifers and may be acquired in fee simple or less than fee simple.

### Donated Lands

The District may 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. 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 there is a net positive environmental benefit.

### Mitigation Acquisitions

Under Florida law, unavoidable losses of natural wetlands or wetland functions require "mitigation" through the acquisition or 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 wetland type and proximity to the original wetland impact are often paramount, the District will on occasion acquire or manage isolated tracts.

## **Surplus Lands**

Chapter 373.089, F.S., allows the Governing Board of the District to sell (surplus) lands or interests or rights in lands to which the District has acquired title or to which it may hereafter acquire title. Any lands, or interests or rights in lands, determined by the Governing Board to be surplus may be sold by the District at any time for the highest price, but in no case shall the selling price be less than the appraised value.

District staff conducted an evaluation of all District lands to determine if there were any parcels appropriate for surplus. The parcels recommended for surplus were small, non-contiguous, isolated tracts. The following tracts were declared surplus by the District's Governing Board in 2013.

**Table 6.3 District Surplus Lands**

WMA	Acres	County	Acquired Date	Status
Econfina Creek	10.03	Washington	December 19, 1997	Under Contract
Escambia River	115	Escambia	April 26, 1994	For Sale

## **Note to Landowners**

The District's land acquisition process only involves willing sellers and is usually initiated by landowners offering parcels for sale.

This plan includes a number of areas the District has identified for potential purchase. 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 Asset Management 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.

## **Less Than Fee Methods of Land Protection**

In less than fee purchases, the District attempts to acquire only those rights in property (i.e., development and land use conversion rights) that are needed to accomplish specific resource protection goals. Such less than fee methods can provide a number of public benefits. First, acquisition funding can be conserved, thereby enabling the protection of more land with limited funds. Also, the property continues in private ownership and thus may remain 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 for less than fee acquisition, but the potential benefits make these kinds of transactions the preferred alternative to the District's typical fee-simple land purchases.

## **DEP Florida Forever Priority List**

The Florida Forever Priority List can be found at:

<https://floridadep.gov/lands/environmental-services/content/florida-forever>

## **Critical Wetlands**

The 2022 Florida Legislature enacted a law that requires water management districts to annually identify properties that may be classified as "critical wetlands" for potential acquisition using Florida's Land Acquisition Trust Fund (LATF). In response, the District conducted a systematic review of properties throughout the Florida Panhandle to identify wetland properties considered critically important to protecting or restoring wetlands and water resource values and functions. Letters were sent to the owners of the identified priority parcels, as required by section 373.036, F.S., and the District consulted with affected local governments. An initial list of critical wetlands was approved by the Governing Board on October 12, 2023. To date, the District has not received any LATF funding to purchase critical wetlands. Additional information may be found in the FY 2023-24 Strategic Water Management Plan (<https://nwfwater.com/Data-Publications/Reports-Plans/Water-Management-Plans>).

## **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 the Northwest Florida Water Management District.

## ***Florida Forever Goals and Numeric Performance Measures***

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Reported as of October 1, 2023

### Rule No. 18-24.0022

(2)(d)1. For proposed acquisitions, see the (Florida Forever) Water Management District Work Plan Annual Report in the Consolidated Annual Report.

(2)(d)2. For proposed acquisitions for water resource development projects, see the (Florida Forever) Water Management District Work Plan Annual Report in the Consolidated Annual Report

(3)(a)2. Refer to (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 = <5,000 acres

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 has been provided by additions to Econfinia Creek Water Management Area (1992-2009). Additionally, Florida Forever funding has in the past 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 (project completed in 2009). Funding for water supply development, including construction of water reuse facilities, is primarily provided through State alternative water supply funding, the Water Protection and Sustainability Program Trust Fund, NFWFMD General Fund, and local funding. See the NFWFMD Five-Year Water Resource Development Work Program report and Consolidated Annual Report.

(4)(a)1. NFWFMD lands that are in need of and are undergoing restoration, enhancement, or management by the District.

In need of restoration, enhancement, and management = 769 acres

Undergoing restoration or enhancement = 1,250 acres

Restoration completed = 30,986 acres

Restoration maintenance = 30,986 acres

(4)(a)3. Refer to section 3, (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 = <10,000 acres

(4)(b) Refer to Water Projects in the Five-Year Water Resource Development Work Program of the Consolidated Annual Report for quantity of new water made available through regional water supply plans.

(4)(c) See (Florida Forever) Land Acquisition Work Plan (Table 6.6) of the Consolidated Annual Report for resource-based recreation facilities by type.

## **Land Acquisition Projects**

The Florida Forever Act, particularly section 373.199(3) 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.



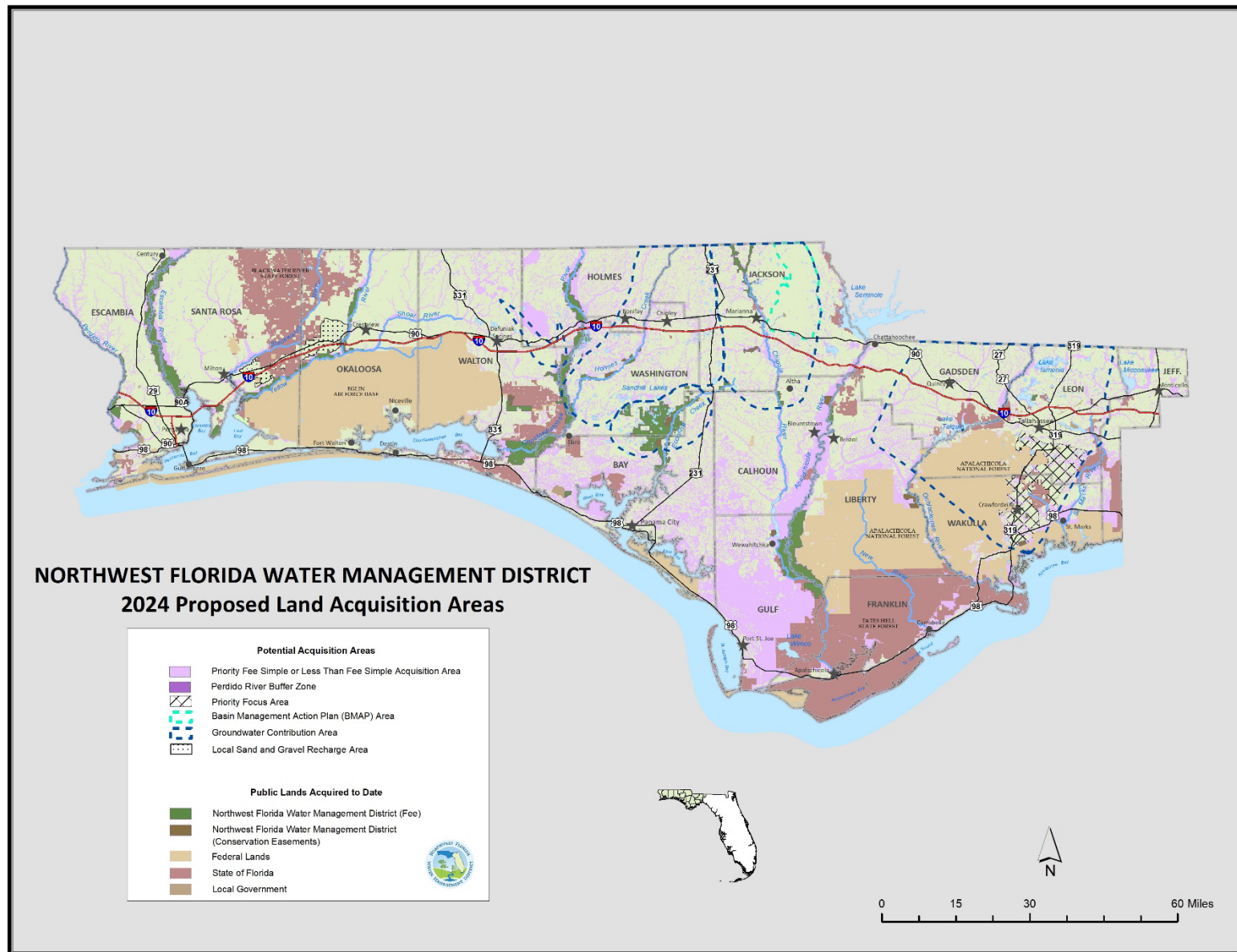


Figure 6.1 Proposed Land Acquisition Areas 2024

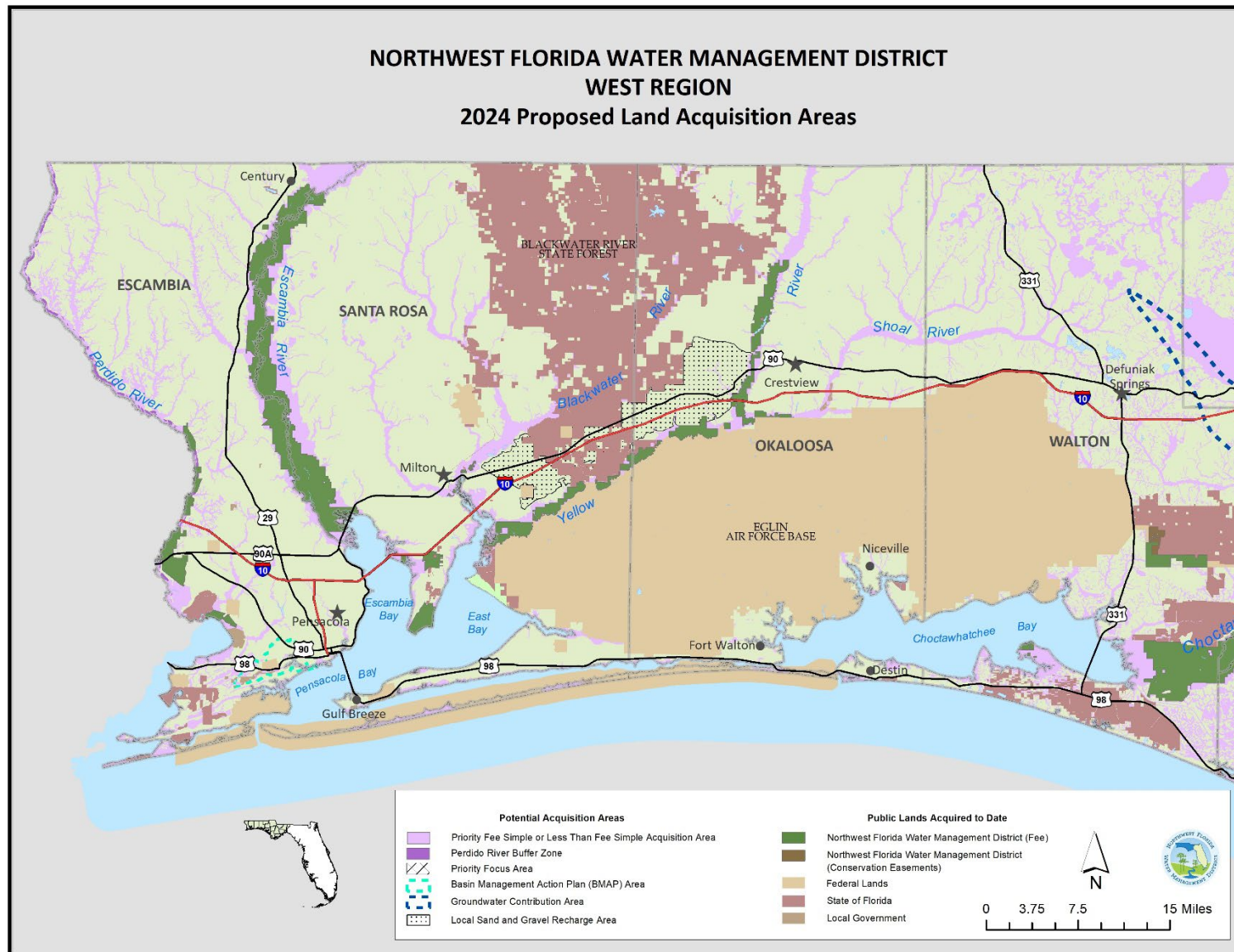


Figure 6.2 Proposed Land Acquisition Areas, 2024, West Region

## ***FLORIDA FOREVER LAND ACQUISITION PROJECT***

### **Perdido River and Bay Basin**

The Perdido River serves as the state line, separating Florida from Alabama (see Figure 6.2). The Perdido River 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, unique to portions of northwest Florida, south Alabama, southern Mississippi, and eastern Louisiana, while the lower end of the river is characteristic of a blackwater stream. The District owns 6,261 acres in fee simple and four 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 enhance water quality protection efforts for the Perdido Bay system.

Purchases within the Priority Fee Simple or Less than Fee Simple Acquisition Area will be concentrated on floodplain parcels 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. Subsidiary embayments within the Perdido Bay estuary include Tarkiln Bay, Arnica Bay, Wolf Bay, Bayou La Launch, and Bayou St. John. Perdido Key separates Perdido Bay, Tarkiln Bay, Arnica Bay, Bayou La Launch, and Bayou St. John from the Gulf of Mexico. Big Lagoon adjoins Perdido Bay to the east, separating it from Pensacola Bay. Currently, the District owns 810.19 acres along Perdido Bay.

Purchases within the Priority Fee Simple or Less than Fee Simple Acquisition Area will be concentrated on floodplain parcels adjacent to the bay which can enhance water quality protection.

### **Public Access**

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

### **Land 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: availability of funds, Governing Board policy, threats to the resource, availability of willing sellers, tract size, general market conditions, and available staff resources.

## ***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 (see Figure 6.2). These, in turn, comprise portions of the Pensacola and Perdido bay watersheds. The Priority Fee Simple or Less than Fee Simple Areas border a major urban area containing residential and commercial development.

Protecting the ecological integrity of this area is important to the quality of water resources in the Pensacola and Perdido bay systems. Acquisition will help limit non-point source pollution and untreated stormwater runoff by preventing channelization. Wetlands and upland buffers will also be preserved, and riparian buffer zones will be maintained. Additionally, public access will be improved, 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 Wetland 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.

### **Local Sand-and-Gravel Recharge Area**

Designated area has groundwater recharge potential.

### **Public Access**

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

### **Land 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: availability of funds, Governing Board policy, threats to the resource, availability of willing sellers, tract size, general market conditions, and available staff resources.

## ***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 discharging into Escambia Bay, the Escambia River corridor (see Figure 6.2) 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 in fee and 19 acres in less than fee along the river.

Purchases within the Priority Fee Simple or Less than Fee Simple Acquisition Area will be concentrated on floodplain parcels 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 activities. Access issues are addressed on a parcel-by-parcel basis.

### **Land 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: availability of funds, Governing Board policy, threats to the resource, availability of willing sellers, tract size, general market conditions, and available staff resources.

## ***FLORIDA FOREVER LAND ACQUISITION PROJECT***

### **Garcon Point Ecosystem**

The Priority Fee Simple or Less Than Fee Simple acquisition area contains a portion of the Garcon Point Peninsula, which borders Pensacola, Escambia, East, and Blackwater bays (see Figure 6.2). 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 the surrounding estuary, as well as harboring a number of rare and endangered species.

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 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.

Purchases within the Priority Fee Simple or Less than Fee Simple Acquisition Area will be concentrated on floodplain parcels adjacent to Escambia and East Bays. Currently the District owns 3,245 acres on Garcon Point.

### **Public Access**

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

### **Land 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: availability of funds, Governing Board policy, threats to the resource, availability of willing sellers, tract size, general market conditions, and available staff resources.



## ***FLORIDA FOREVER LAND ACQUISITION PROJECT***

### **Blackwater River Basin**

Originating in the Conecuh National Forest in Alabama, the Blackwater River (see Figure 6.2) 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 River is considered one of Florida's best-preserved waterways. Currently the District owns 381 acres along the Blackwater River immediately north and south of Milton in Santa Rosa County.

The Priority Fee Simple or Less than Fee Simple Acquisition Area includes considerable floodplain. Purchases within the Priority Fee Simple or Less than Fee Simple Acquisition Area will be concentrated on these parcels. In addition, purchase of lands north and northwest of Eglin Air Force Base (AFB), along the I-10 corridor, would provide approximately 52,000 acres of land that has the potential for future water resource development to supplement the constrained potable water sources in southern Santa Rosa and Okaloosa counties. Acquisitions in this area are consistent with the District's Regional Water Supply Plan for Okaloosa, Santa Rosa, and Walton counties to protect future supply sources.

### **Local Sand-and-Gravel Recharge Area**

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 surface 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 important for future water supply sources. This area encompasses approximately 52,000 acres.

### **Public Access**

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

### **Land Acquisition**

Sufficient lands have been identified to allow for a flexible implementation strategy over the next five years or more. The timing of any given acquisition will depend upon such considerations as: availability of funds, Governing Board policy, threats to the resource, availability of willing sellers, tract size, general market conditions, and available staff resources.

## ***FLORIDA FOREVER LAND ACQUISITION PROJECT***

### **Yellow and Shoal River Basin**

The Yellow River has its headwaters in Conecuh National Forest in Alabama and forms the northern border of Eglin AFB across much of eastern Santa Rosa and western Okaloosa counties (see Figure 6.2). The proposed acquisitions would bring floodplain of the Yellow River in Florida under public ownership. Included in the project is a segment of the lower Shoal River, the largest tributary to the Yellow River. The Priority Fee Simple or Less than Fee Simple Acquisition Area will be given to tracts containing considerable floodplain. Currently the District owns 16,553 acres along the Yellow River.

Although the Yellow and Shoal rivers exhibit good overall water quality, both are fed largely by rainwater runoff and are thus susceptible to pollution from land use activities. The Priority Fee Simple or Less than Fee Simple Acquisition Area would provide water quality protection beginning at the Alabama border. Purchase of lands north and northwest of Eglin AFB, along the I-10 corridor, would provide approximately 52,000 acres of land that has the 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 consistent with the District's Regional Water Supply Plan for Okaloosa, Santa Rosa, and Walton counties to protect future supply sources.

### **Local Sand-and-Gravel Recharge Area**

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 Okaloosa County would protect recharge areas that are important for future water supply sources. This area encompasses approximately 52,000 acres.

### **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**

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: availability of funds, Governing Board policy, threats to the resource, availability of willing sellers, tract size, general market conditions, and available staff resources.



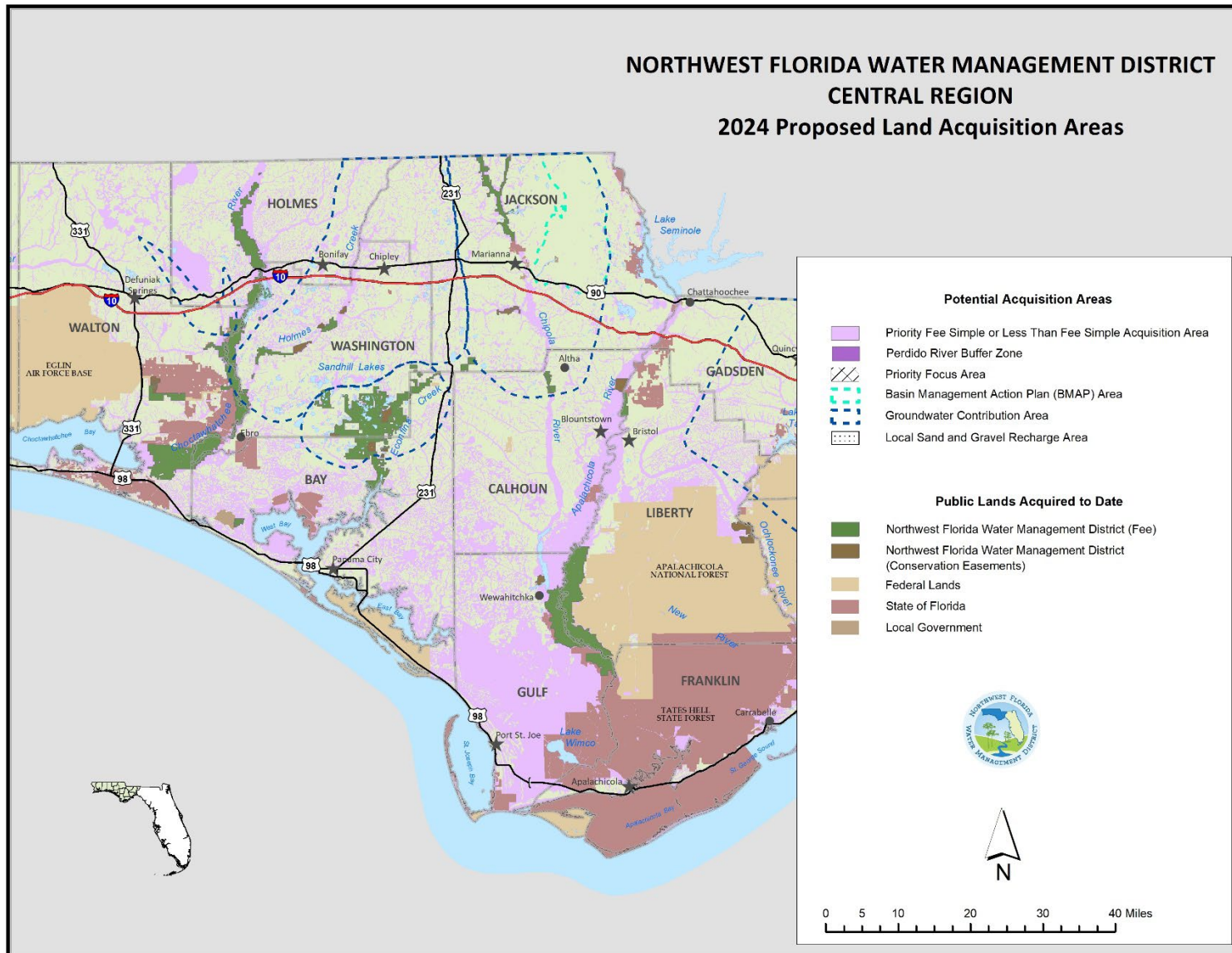


Figure 6.3 Proposed Land Acquisition Areas, 2024, Central Region

## ***FLORIDA FOREVER LAND ACQUISITION PROJECT***

### **Lafayette Creek**

Originating in south central Walton County, the Lafayette Creek drainage basin is located northeast of Freeport (see Figure 6.3). 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. Purchases with the Priority Fee Simple or Less than Fee Simple Acquisition Area will protect a portion of Magnolia and Wolf creeks, both of which are significant tributaries to Lafayette Creek, as well as protect many diverse natural communities and habitat types. Currently, the District owns 3,160 acres along the creek, including 420 acres for DOT mitigation purposes.

### **Public Access**

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

### **Land 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: availability of funds, Governing Board policy, threats to the resource, availability of willing sellers, tract size, general market conditions, and available staff resources.

## ***FLORIDA FOREVER LAND ACQUISITION PROJECT***

### **Choctawhatchee River and Holmes Creek Basin**

Originating in Alabama and flowing into Choctawhatchee Bay, the Choctawhatchee River/Holmes Creek basin encompasses the second largest floodplain in the state (see Figure 6.3). Approximately 3,133 square miles of the watershed is in Alabama and 2,052 square miles is in Florida. The river is 170 miles long with about 88 miles in Florida. Although the river basin exhibits localized water quality problems, primarily due to agricultural land use in the upper basin, the overall water quality is considered good. The river basin encompasses 57 springs on Holmes Creek 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 63,673 acres along the river, creek, and bay in fee and less than fee. Purchases within the Priority Fee Simple or Less than Fee Simple Acquisition Area will be concentrated on parcels containing floodplain along the river and designated tributaries such as Holmes Creek.

### **Groundwater Contribution Area**

In addition, a portion of the Choctawhatchee River and all of Holmes Creek is captured within the Groundwater Contribution Area. Properties within this contribution area may be considered as a potential acquisition, especially those properties improving the quality or quantity of water for springs.

### **Public Access**

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

### **Land 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: availability of funds, Governing Board policy, threats to the resource, availability of willing sellers, tract size, general market conditions, and available staff resources.

## ***FLORIDA FOREVER LAND ACQUISITION PROJECT***

### **West Bay Buffer**

West Bay is the westernmost embayment of the St. Andrew Bay estuary (see Figure 6.3). 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 other lands 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. Potential impacts include the long-term degradation as a result of non-point source pollution, as well as habitat loss and fragmentation. Acquisitions within the Priority Fee Simple or Less than Fee Simple Acquisition Area would help prevent such degradation by preserving intact and extensive ecosystem of forests, scrub, salt marshes, and freshwater wetlands. Preserving the associated wetland and upland communities in the vicinity of the bay protects water quality by providing a substantial riparian buffer and maintaining the natural hydrology in the vicinity of the bay. The District currently owns approximately 719 acres in the vicinity of the West Bay Buffer.

In addition to providing for public use and water resource protection, this acquisition will be consistent with several ongoing initiatives, including the Bay-Walton Sector Plan. These initiatives also 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 activities. Access issues are addressed on a parcel-by-parcel basis.

### **Land 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: availability of funds, Governing Board policy, threats to the resource, availability of willing sellers, tract size, general market conditions, and available staff resources.

## ***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 (see Figure 6.3). Properties 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 diversity encountered in Florida. The project area features high rolling sandhill habitat, steephead ravines, and numerous sandhill upland lakes. Much of the sand hills area is of excellent quality, with a nearly intact ground cover of wiregrass and dropseed. At least 18 species of rare or endangered plants inhabit the sand hills area. The District currently owns 44,458 acres in fee and less than fee, including the 2,155-acre Sand Hill Lakes Mitigation Bank. Purchases will be concentrated on parcels within the Groundwater Contribution Area as well as purchases that improve the quality or quantity of water for springs.

### **Groundwater Contribution Area**

The upper portion of the acquisition project is a significant groundwater contribution area of the Floridan Aquifer and properties within this contribution area may be considered as a potential acquisition, especially those properties improving the quality and quantity of water for springs. The majority of the acreage purchased by the District and targeted for future purchase is one of the most important groundwater contribution 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 residential, commercial, and industrial water uses in Bay County.

### **Public Access**

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

### **Land 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: availability of funds, Governing Board policy, threats to the resource, availability of willing sellers, tract size, general market conditions, and available staff resources.

## ***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 (see Figure 6.3). The creek's basin is characterized by extensive wet pine flatwoods, as well as hardwood forests, salt marshes, 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 doing so, it would preserve water quality and a mosaic of interconnected upland, wetland, stream, and estuarine habitats. Purchases within the Priority Fee Simple and Less than Fee Simple Acquisition Area would 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 activities. Access issues are addressed on a parcel-by-parcel basis.

### **Land 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: availability of funds, Governing Board policy, threats to the resource, availability of willing sellers, tract size, general market conditions, and available staff resources.



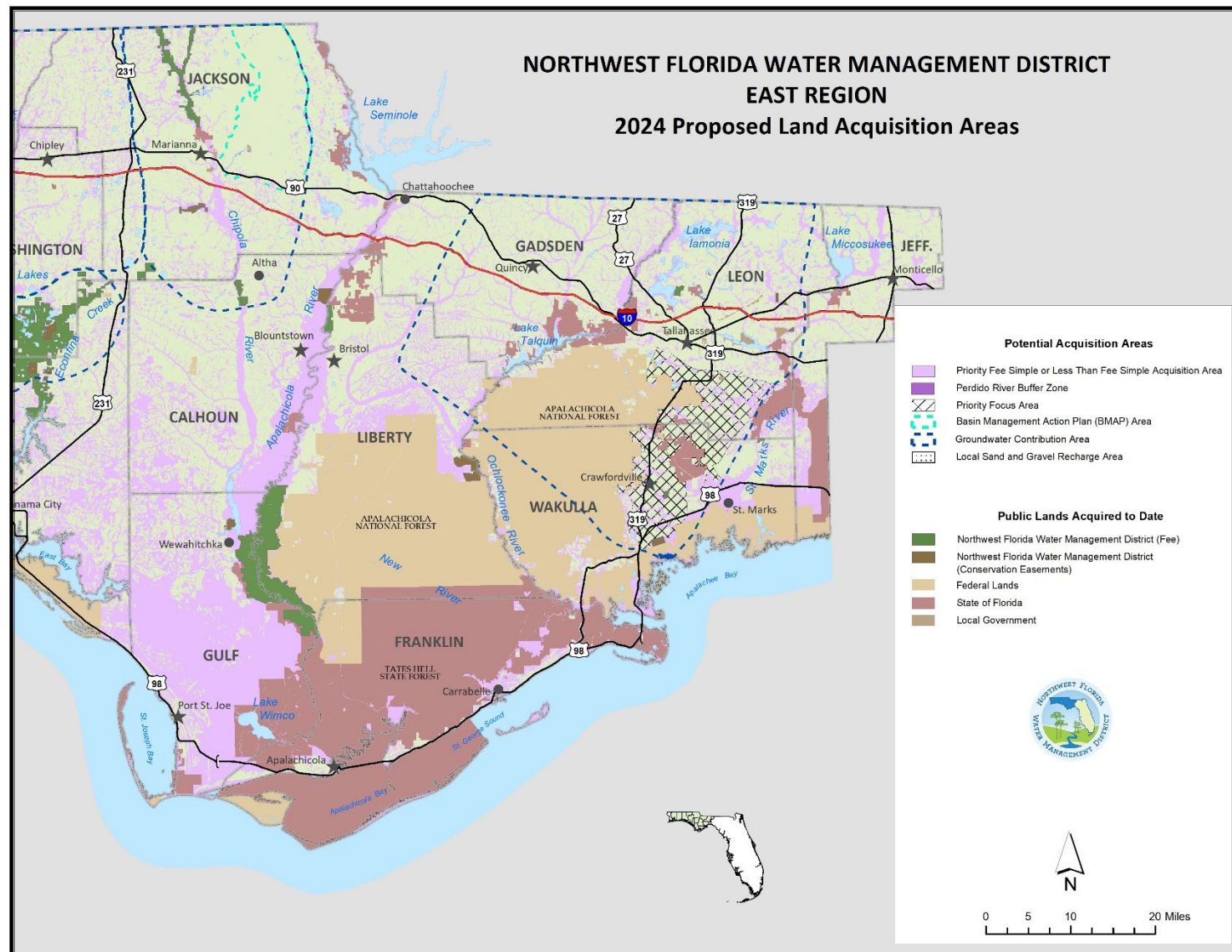


Figure 6.4 Proposed Land Acquisition Areas, 2024, East Region

## ***FLORIDA FOREVER LAND ACQUISITION PROJECT***

### **Chipola River Basin**

Areas along the Chipola River have been identified as a Priority Fee Simple or Less than Fee Simple Acquisition Area. The area lies in Calhoun and Jackson counties (see Figure 6.4). Acquisitions along the Chipola River will help protect miles of the riverbank. In 2009, the District acquired 1,377.76 acres in fee along the Middle Chipola River, including the “Look-N-Tremble” rapids. The District now owns a total of 9,094 acres in fee simple and holds a conservation easement on 1,011 acres in the Chipola River Basin.

An additional area is identified for Priority Fee Simple or Less than Fee Simple Acquisition along the Chipola River. Spring Lake Spring Group is located in central Jackson County. Acquisition of land in the Spring Lake Spring Group area with its numerous springs and tributaries which flow into the Chipola River will provide enhanced water resource protection to the area.

### **Jackson Blue Spring BMAP and Chipola Springs Groundwater Contribution Area (GWCA)**

The Jackson Blue Spring BMAP Area, east of the Chipola River, and the Chipola Springs GWCA, have been identified for fee simple or less than fee simple acquisition to provide protection to Blue Spring and the groundwater contribution area in Jackson County. Properties within this BMAP or contribution area may be considered as a potential acquisition, especially those properties improving the quality or quantity of water for springs.

### **Public Access**

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

### **Land 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: availability of funds, Governing Board policy, threats to the resource, availability of willing sellers, tract size, general market conditions, and available staff resources.



## ***FLORIDA FOREVER LAND ACQUISITION PROJECT***

### **Apalachicola Bay and River**

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 (see Figure 6.4). State and federal agencies, as well as the District, have made extensive investments in acquiring and protecting lands throughout the basin.

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 the integrated forest and wetland community bordering St. Vincent Sound and Apalachicola Bay. The acquisition would limit 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 which would help prevent channelization from new impervious surfaces.

The Apalachicola River begins below Lake Seminole at the confluence of the Chattahoochee and Flint rivers (see Figure 6.4). 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. The District owns 36,823 acres of river floodplain and holds a conservation easement on 1,550 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. Purchases will be concentrated on parcels within the Priority Fee Simple or Less than fee Simple Acquisition Area.

### **Public Access**

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

### **Land 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: availability of funds, Governing Board policy, threats to the resource, availability of willing sellers, tract size, general market conditions, and available staff resources.

## ***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 (see Figure 6.4). Water quality in the river is lowest when it enters Florida and generally improves as it flows closer to the Gulf of Mexico. The Ochlockonee is primarily fed by rainwater runoff and is therefore susceptible to pollution by 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 and state properties. Public ownership of the erosion-prone lands bordering this usually fast-flowing river will reduce water quality degradation. The District presently has 3,675 acres in less than fee holdings 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 activities. Access issues are addressed on a parcel-by-parcel basis.

### **Land 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: availability of funds, Governing Board policy, threats to the resource, availability of willing sellers, tract size, general market conditions, and available staff resources.

## ***FLORIDA FOREVER LAND ACQUISITION PROJECT***

### **St. Marks and Wakulla Rivers**

The Wakulla River originates at Wakulla Spring and flows south approximately 10 miles to join the St. Marks River at the town of St. Marks in Wakulla County (see Figure 6.4). The St. Marks River starts east of Tallahassee as a narrow stream, widens considerably below Horn Spring, and then disappears underground at Natural Bridge. After reemerging as a much stronger river at St. Marks Spring, it flows 11 miles to its confluence with the Wakulla River. The St. Marks River 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. The District presently has 1,500 acres under less than fee acquisition and 131.49 acres in fee simple in the area.

### **Wakulla Springs BMAP and Priority Focus Area**

Within the Upper Wakulla River and Wakulla Springs BMAP, the Priority Focus Area, east of the Apalachicola National Forest, has been identified for fee simple or less than fee simple acquisition to provide protection to the groundwater contribution area in Wakulla County. Properties within this contribution area may be considered as a potential acquisition, especially those properties improving the quality or quantity of water for springs.

### **Land 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: availability of funds, Governing Board policy, threats to the resource, availability of willing sellers, tract size, general market conditions, and available staff resources.

## Florida Forever District Work Plan

As required by section 373.199(2), F.S., a District five-year work plan identifies and includes projects that further the goals of the Florida Forever Act (section 259.105, F.S.). These include priorities identified in approved Surface Water Improvement and Management (SWIM) plans, Save Our Rivers land acquisition lists, stormwater management and water resource development projects, springs and water body restoration projects, and other eligible activities that would assist in meeting the goals of Florida Forever.

From 2003 to 2008, the District provided grant funding to local governments for capital improvements that help implement SWIM projects, water resource development projects, and projects included within stormwater master plans. The program awarded more than \$23 million for 55 stormwater retrofit, restoration, and reuse projects. These grants leveraged significant additional funding, with more than \$52 million in local and other match funding allocated to the approved projects.

No significant appropriations of Florida Forever funds for capital improvements have been made since FY 2008-2009. Table 6.4 identifies conceptual projects considered eligible for future Florida Forever capital improvement funding.

**Table 6.4 Projects Currently Eligible for Florida Forever Funding**

Project	Description	Status	Estimated Cost
Unpaved road sedimentation abatement	Unpaved road stabilization to reduce sedimentation and non-point source pollution; supports water quality improvement and habitat restoration objectives of SWIM plans for all District watersheds	Planning	TBD
Spring habitat restoration	Construction activities to restore riparian and aquatic habitats and shorelines associated with northwest Florida springs and to improve compatible public access	Planning	TBD
Stormwater retrofit facilities	Construction of cooperative stormwater retrofit projects, improving water quality and flood protection in accordance with approved SWIM plans	Planning	TBD
Reclaimed water storage facilities	Construction of reclaimed water storage facilities that contribute to water quality improvement and conservation and protection of water resources	Planning	TBD
Hydrologic, wetland, and shoreline restoration	Restoration of shoreline, wetland, and riparian habitats and hydrologic functions to improve water and habitat quality and to enhance public access, consistent with SWIM plans	Planning	TBD

Project specifics, as noted in section 373.199(2), (3), (4) and (5), F.S., will be provided in the future if projects are able to advance beyond the preliminary planning stage.

Future Florida Forever or special legislative appropriations, and funding from the Land Acquisition Trust Fund, federal grants, local governments, other local matching resources, and potentially other sources

may contribute to the implementation of these projects. Final approval of funding for any project requires District Governing Board approval.

## **Implementation of the 2022-2023 Work Plan**

### **Land Acquisition**

In 2023, the District purchased eight fee simple tracts for springs protection in Washington County to further protect the Econfina Springs Groundwater Contribution Area.

### **Land Management**

In October 2018, Hurricane Michael severely impacted District lands and the District's Econfina Field Office. Recovery from Hurricane Michael became the highest priority for the District's land managers in the central and eastern land management regions. Recovery activities included initial damage assessments, securing of facilities and clearing debris for essential access, planning and implementing salvage timber harvests, clearing roads and firelines, clearing and repairing recreation sites, contracting for various hurricane recovery activities, and coordinating with FEMA. In addition to hurricane recovery, the District completed numerous land management activities during Fiscal Year 2022-2023. Management and restoration efforts included prescribed burns, native species planting, and timber harvesting across the District's 211,714 managed acres. In addition, the District maintains and improves public access and recreational amenities such as boat ramps, primitive campsites, and swimming and picnic areas. In the pages that follow, Table 6.5 and Table 6.6 provide additional information on specific land restoration activities completed during the year. The Fiscal Year 2023-2024 staffing and management budget by WMA can be found in Table 6.7.

To date, the District has conserved and protected 225,857 acres primarily through fee simple acquisition. These lands help promote wetland and floodplain functions, groundwater recharge, surface and groundwater quality, and fish and wildlife habitat, as well as protect natural systems. All District-owned lands are accessible to the public and are managed to provide public access and resource-based recreation.

District lands include the majority of the Escambia and Choctawhatchee river floodplains, as well as extensive lands along the Perdido, Blackwater, Yellow, Shoal, Apalachicola, and St. Marks/Wakulla rivers; Lafayette, Holmes, and Econfina creeks; and on Perdido Bay, Garcon Point, and Live Oak Point. In addition, the District manages and conducts habitat restoration and maintenance on Yellow River Ranch, Live Oak Point, Ward Creek West, and Sand Hill Lakes Mitigation Bank. The District has acquired the majority of the groundwater recharge area for springs that discharge into Econfina Creek and form a crucial component of the groundwater contribution to Deer Point Lake Reservoir.

### **Land Management Accomplishments (FY 2022-2023)**

- District contractors and in-house staff conducted prescribed burns for wildfire-fuel reduction on approximately 10,118 acres of District lands. In addition, vegetation management (herbicide) and habitat enhancements were conducted on 195 acres.
- 4,650 camping permits were issued at 101 reservation-only sites on District lands.
- 30 special resource area permits were issued on District property.
- Two timber harvests totaling 1,513 acres were active, removing offsite sand pine and thinning loblolly and slash pine.

- More than 4,000 acres of District-owned land were surveyed for invasive exotic plants and control measures were implemented for identified problem areas.
- Hurricane debris removal was completed on 913 acres.

### **Restoration**

The District accomplishes water resource restoration through several interrelated programs, primarily Surface Water Improvement and Management (SWIM), Land Management, longleaf reforestation, and mitigation.

Approved NFWFMD plans with substantial restoration components include the following:

- *Apalachicola River and Bay SWIM Plan (2017)*
- *Capital Improvements Plan (Annual)*
- *Choctawhatchee River and Bay SWIM Plan (2017)*
- *Ochlockonee River and Bay SWIM Plan (2017)*
- *Pensacola Bay System SWIM Plan (2017)*
- *Perdido River and Bay SWIM Plan (2017)*
- *St. Andrew Bay Watershed SWIM Plan (2017)*
- *St. Marks River and Apalachee Bay Watershed SWIM Plan (2017)*
- *Tate's Hell State Forest Hydrologic Restoration Plan (2010)*
- *NFWFMD In-Lieu Fee Mitigation Program Final Instrument (2014)*
- *Sand Hill Lakes Mitigation Bank Mitigation Banking Instrument (2006)*
- *East Region Land Management Plan (2019)*
- *West Region Land Management Plan (2020)*
- *Central Region Land Management Plan (2021)*

### **Restoration Accomplishments (FY 2022-2023)**

- The District completed hand planting of 1,799.50 acres of longleaf and slash pine reforestation. These restoration activities improve upland habitat and serve important water resource functions by enhancing water recharge and providing water quality benefits. This work included site preparation and planting of 1,282,842 longleaf and slash pine tubelings within the Choctawhatchee River, Econfina Creek and Chipola River WMA's.
- The District substantially completed shoreline habitat and salt marsh restoration at Live Oak Point in Walton County. The project includes establishment of breakwaters and salt marsh vegetation on over 4,600 feet of shoreline on the south shore of Choctawhatchee Bay. Live Oak Point contains the largest salt marsh system (approximately 1,000 acres) in Choctawhatchee Bay. The marsh has been subject to rapid erosion, with recent shoreline retreat averaging 3-4 feet per year.
- The District continued a stabilization and restoration project at Cypress Spring. Improvements include shoreline stabilization and enhancement, boardwalks and steps at entrance and exit points, and recreation amenities to prevent further degradation of the shoreline from recreational use. The project will improve water quality, restore the historical shoreline that has been impacted by erosion, and prevent destruction of habitat resulting from erosion and recreational use on the spring run and Holmes Creek.

Table 6.5 Restoration, Enhancement, and Maintenance (2023)

Water Management Area	Acres Burned					Acres Planted					Acres Harvested				Acres Treated
	Total	Fuel Reduction	Site Preparation	Growing Season	Wiregrass Propagation	Total	Upland/Wetland Wiregrass and Wiregrass	Longleaf Pine	Slash Pine	Hardwood	Total	Restoration	Thinning	Habitat Restoration	For Invasive, Non-native or Off-site Species
Escambia River	29	29													180
Garcon Point															75
Blackwater River															2
Yellow River															10
Perdido River															245
Choctawhatchee River	4,544	2,195		2,349							10		10		2,700
Econfina Creek	4,186	3,618		568		1,250		1,250			1,503			1,503	500
St. Andrews															25
Carter Restoration	1,359	589		770											
Ward Creek West															
Devils Swamp Restoration															
Chipola River						38			38						64
Apalachicola River															10
Lake Jackson															539
St. Marks/Wakulla Rivers															5
<b>Totals</b>	<b>10,118</b>	<b>6,431</b>		<b>3,687</b>		<b>1,288</b>		<b>1,250</b>	<b>38</b>		<b>1,513</b>		<b>10</b>	<b>1,503</b>	<b>4,355</b>

**Table 6.6 Access and Recreation Management (2023)**

Water Management Area	<div>Picnic Areas</div> <div>Day Use Sites</div> <div>Parking Areas</div> <div>Reserved Camp Sites</div> <div>Boat, Canoe/Kayak Landings</div> <div>Portolet Stations</div>							<div>Horse Trail</div> <div>Canoe Trail</div> <div>Hiking Trail</div> <div>Nature Trail</div> <div>Bike Trail</div> <div>Access Road</div>						Camp Site Reservations	General Purpose (boundary signs)	Information Signs on District Lands	Weather Pavilions and Wildlife Viewing Towers
	Number Maintained							Miles Maintained						Issued	Signs		Maintained
Escambia River		6	11	12	28	11	11			1	2		27	1,329	38	18	20
Garcon Point			2	2						3			1				
Blackwater River		1	3	3		2					1						1
Yellow River			3	3		3			50				36		27	5	
Perdido River		3	3	4	1	4	8	6	15	6	1	10	32	106	33	15	1
Choctawhatchee River		12	15	15	23	14	10		15	11			55	1,277		14	11
Econfina Creek (incl. Carter Tract)		14	22	22	36	14	15	56	22	18	2		269	1,616		28	47
Chipola River		1	4	5	3	2	2		6				11	89			1
Apalachicola River		2	2	2	10	2	1						8	233			13
Lake Jackson		1	2	2			1	7		10		7	9				2
St. Marks/Wakulla Rivers			1	2			1			3	3	3	3		30	4	1
<b>Totals</b>		<b>40</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>72</b>	<b>101</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>69</b>	<b>108</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>451</b>	<b>4,650</b>	<b>128</b>	<b>84</b>	<b>97</b>



**Table 6.7 Projected Funding, Staffing, and Resource Management for FY 2023-2024**

Region	Water Management Area	Acres	Assigned Staff	Total Funding	Funding for Resource Management
<b>Western</b>	Escambia	35,413		\$184,165	\$184,165
	Escambia Conservation Easements	19		\$250	\$250
	Garcon Point	3,245		\$56,840	\$56,840
	Yellow	16,553		\$74,492	\$74,492
	Blackwater	381		\$4,596	\$4,596
	Perdido	6,261		\$167,450	\$167,450
	Perdido Conservation Easements	4		\$250	\$250
	<b>Western Region Total</b>	<b>61,876</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>\$488,043</b>	<b>\$488,043</b>
<b>Central</b>	Choctawhatchee	60,820		\$401,096	\$401,096
	Choctawhatchee/Holmes Conservation Easements	2,852		\$250	\$250
	Econfina	39,580		\$628,901	\$628,901
	St. Andrew/Econfina Conservation Easements	2,722		\$500	\$500
	Ward Creek West	719		\$0	\$0
	Carter Restoration	2,155		\$50,000	\$50,000
	<b>Central Region Total</b>	<b>108,848</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>\$1,080,747</b>	<b>\$1,080,747</b>
<b>Eastern</b>	Chipola	9,094		\$101,358	\$101,358
	Apalachicola	36,823		\$128,480	\$128,480
	Apalachicola/Chipola Conservation Easements	3,370		\$250	\$250
	Lake Jackson	539		\$16,900	\$16,900
	St. Marks/Wakulla Rivers	131		\$8,273	\$8,273
	St. Marks/Wakulla Rivers Conservation Easements	1,500		\$250	\$250
	Ochlockonee Conservation Easements	3,675		\$250	\$250
	<b>Eastern Region Total</b>	<b>55,132</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>\$255,761</b>	<b>\$255,761</b>
<b>Regional Totals</b>		<b>225,856</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>\$1,824,551</b>	<b>\$1,824,551</b>

**Projected Funding, Staffing, and Resource Management for FY 2023-2024 (cont.)**

Other Projects	Acres	Assigned Staff	Total Funding	Funding for Resource Management
Land Management Administration		3	\$2,551,113	\$577,726
IT Initiative			\$551,019	\$281,222
Land Management Database			\$89,304	\$87,000
Brunson Landing Tract (owned by FDEP)	348		\$8,700	\$8,700
Washington County School Board Donation			\$279	\$279
Hurricane Michael District Restoration			\$2,075,392	\$2,000,000
Cypress Spring Recreation Area			\$39,809	\$39,809
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>226,204</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>\$7,140,167</b>	<b>\$4,819,287</b>

MEMORANDUM

TO: Northwest Florida Water Management District Governing Board

FROM: J. Breck Brannen, General Counsel

RE: Legal Counsel Report

DATE: January 30, 2024

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**1. *Michael Lee vs. Northwest Florida Water Management District*, Walton County Circuit Court Case No. 2023-CA-000266**

This is a personal injury suit brought by Michael Lee, plaintiff. Plaintiff alleges that he was riding his bicycle on September 28, 2022, when he was struck and injured by a District vehicle. The complaint was filed in March 2023 and served on June 19, 2023. The complaint was forwarded to the District's liability insurance carrier and a claim was made. The insurance carrier has retained the Coppins Monroe law firm in Tallahassee as defense counsel for the District.

Through defense counsel, the District has answered the complaint, denied the allegations, and raised affirmative defenses.

Responses to the District's initial discovery requests have been received by defense counsel. Plaintiff has served initial discovery upon the District and the District has responded. Depositions of the plaintiff and the District's employee driver were taken on January 10, 2024. The Court has not set a trial date or any other deadlines at this time.