

# **Land Management Restoration Accomplishments**

## **During Fiscal Year 2016-2017 (October 1, 2016 – September 30, 2017)**

- The restoration project for Cotton Landing along Holmes Creek was completed in 2017 and opened to the public with a ribbon-cutting ceremony on August 22, 2017. At a total cost of more than \$190,000, this project included improvements for an ADA access ramp, canoe and kayak launch and access steps and shoreline restoration. Other improvements include stormwater facilities, enhanced parking, rail fencing and landscape plant installation.
- The streambank restoration project was completed at the James tract off Highway 20 in Bay County in 2017. Restoration included shoreline restoration using geo-technical bags. In addition, the adjacent floodplain was planted with native vegetation.
- Two cooperative projects to restore the eroding shorelines and address stormwater impacts along Holmes Creek were completed in FY 2016-2017. These projects include Live Oak and Hightower Springs landings. These projects were constructed by Washington County with funding assistance from the District.
- The District completed hand planting of 691 acres of longleaf pine reforestation. These restoration activities enhance groundwater recharge, improve groundcover and wetland functions, and offset wetland losses caused by FDOT projects. This project involved the planting of 501,666 longleaf pine tubelings within the Econfina Creek and Escambia River WMAs.
- The District conducted prescribed burns on approximately 5,143 acres of District lands, as well as vegetation management (herbicide) and habitat enhancements on 1,964 acres.
- The District implemented the timber management database and growth and yield modeling to better strategize timber harvests for optimal revenue generation.
- 10 timber harvests totaling 4,506 acres were active, removing offsite sand pine and thinning loblolly, longleaf, and slash pine.
- More than 4,500 acres of District-owned land were surveyed for invasive exotic plants, and control measures were implemented for all identified problem areas.