

Land Management Restoration Accomplishments

During Fiscal Year 2018-2019 (October 1, 2018 – September 30, 2019)

- In October of 2018, Hurricane Michael significantly damaged more than 87,000 acres of District-owned land over a six-county area (Bay, Calhoun, Gulf, Jackson, Liberty, and Washington), impacting three riverine corridors (Econfina Creek, Chipola River, and Apalachicola River) and leaving more than one million tons of vegetative debris. This impact included approximately 60,000 acres of floodplain, approximately 27,000 acres of uplands, 88 miles of obstructed channels, 399 miles of public access roads, 128 miles of hiking trails, and 29 designated camping and public recreation sites. This devastating hurricane also severely impacted the District's resource restoration activities. The following years, through Fiscal Year 2026, have been heavily focused on hurricane debris reduction and recovery efforts in uplands, vegetative fuel management, road repairs and the repair and reopening of District recreation sites within the Econfina Creek, Chipola River and Apalachicola River Water Management Areas.
- The District completed hand planting of 1,962 acres of longleaf 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 planting of 1,424,412 longleaf pine tubelings within the Choctawhatchee River, Econfina Creek, and Chipola River WMA's.
- The District conducted prescribed burns on approximately 5,506 acres of District lands, as well as vegetation management (herbicide) and habitat enhancements on 1,270 acres.
- The District completed growth and yield modeling for its pine timber resources to better strategize timber harvests for optimal revenue generation.
- Seven timber harvests totaling 3,221 acres were active, removing offsite sand pine and thinning loblolly and slash pine. Out of this total, 1,332 acres of timber harvests were salvage harvests that were implemented to remove pine timber downed by Hurricane Michael.