

Land Management Restoration Accomplishments

During Fiscal Year 2020-2021 (October 1, 2020 – September 30, 2021)

- The District completed hand planting of 951 acres of longleaf pine reforestation and 68 acres of 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 699,864 longleaf and slash pine tubelings within the Econfinia Creek and Chipola River WMA's.
- The District completed stabilization and restoration of approximately 150 linear feet of streambank at Econfinia Blue Spring using planted coir log retaining walls. To prevent further degradation of the shoreline from recreational use, existing concrete steps were replaced and an access boardwalk was installed. The project will improve water quality, restore historical shoreline impacted by erosion, and prevent destruction of habitat resulting from erosion and recreational use on Econfinia Creek.
- The District completed stabilization and restoration of approximately 140 linear feet of streambank at Seven Runs Creek using planted coir log retaining walls. To prevent further degradation of the shoreline from recreational use, existing wooden steps into the creek were replaced, and an additional set of steps installed. The project will improve water quality, restore historical shoreline impacted by erosion, and prevent destruction of habitat resulting from erosion and recreational use on Seven Runs Creek. 29
- The District initiated shoreline habitat and salt marsh restoration at Live Oak Point in Walton County. When complete, the project will include 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 conducted prescribed burns on approximately 14,352 acres of District lands, as well as vegetation management (herbicide) and habitat enhancements on 1,009 acres.
- Seven timber harvests totaling 1,234 acres were active, removing offsite sand pine and thinning loblolly and slash pine.
- More than 6,100 acres of District-owned land were surveyed for invasive exotic plants and control measures were implemented for identified problem areas.
- District staff managed and completed debris removal on 1,625 acres of forested area impacted by Hurricane Michael in Econfinia Creek WMA and Chipola River WMA that were

severely impacted by the hurricane. Substantial recovery and rebuilding work continued with large-scale clearing of impacted timber stands. Removal of debris helped mitigate fuel loads for potential forest fires and potential flooding issues.

- District staff applied for, secured, administered, and completed a grant of \$121,473 from the Arbor Day Foundation for longleaf pine seedlings planted on the Chipola River and Econfina Creek water management areas.
- The District received \$7,000 through a National Fish and Wildlife Foundation grant that is administered locally by The Nature Conservancy to purchase 50,000 of the longleaf pine seedlings mentioned above.