

# Land Management Restoration Accomplishments

## **During Fiscal Year 2021-2022 (October 1, 2021 – September 30, 2022)**

- 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 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 initiated stabilization and restoration of approximately 550 linear feet of spring bank at Cypress Spring using planted turf mats as needed. To prevent further degradation of the shoreline from recreational use, boardwalks and steps at entrance and exit points will be constructed. 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.
- Permitting and contracting took place to implement a living shoreline at the District's Dutex Tract in Escambia County on the north shore of Perdido Bay. Construction is expected to begin in the spring or summer of 2023. Initial construction of breakwaters and planting of marsh species will occur along 3,980 feet of shoreline to protect salt marsh from ongoing erosion. A second phase, not yet scheduled, will extend the planned living shoreline by 2,760 feet to protect freshwater marsh and uplands. Full completion will yield a total of 6,740 feet of protected shoreline.
- District contractors and in-house staff conducted prescribed burns for wildfire-fuel reduction on approximately 5,061 acres of District lands. In-house staff conducted site prep burns on 127 acres of District lands. In addition, vegetation management (herbicide) and habitat enhancements were conducted on 814 acres.
- Two timber harvests totaling 2,564 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 1,232 acres of forested area impacted by Hurricane Michael in Econfina Creek WMA, Chipola River WMA, and the E. Guy Revell, Jr., Nature Trail Conservation Area 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 secured, administered, and completed work for a grant of \$240,010 from the Arbor Day Foundation for longleaf and slash pine seedlings to be planted on the Chipola River and Econfina Creek water management areas.
- The District received 69,000 longleaf pine seedlings valued at approximately \$10,971 through a National Fish and Wildlife Foundation grant that is administered locally by The Nature Conservancy. In addition, the District received \$12,800 towards tree planting through this same grant.