

Land Management Restoration Accomplishments

During Fiscal Year 2022-2023 (October 1, 2022 – September 30, 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 partially 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- District staff managed and completed Hurricane Michael debris removal on 913 acres of impacted District Lands within the Econfina Creek, Chipola River, and Apalachicola River water management areas.