US Department of Agriculture

The Apalachicola Project Phase 1: Restoring Apalachicola Bay and Region
This USDA proposal seeks $15 million to support the highly effective partners of the Apalachicola Regional Stewardship Alliance (ARSA) in initiating Phase I of a longer term, landscape level project to restore the Apalachicola Region, with the primary goal of enhancing both the water quality and quantity of the Apalachicola Bay and its watershed while also improving the nationally significant habitats provided by its wetlands and upland forests alike. USDA requests a Phase 1 (5 year) grant of $15million to be utilized by its agencies and partners as follows:

Strategy 1 Hydrologic Restoration - $7million to the Florida Forest Service and Apalachicola National Forest for a) implementing already approved hydrologic restoration of Tate's Hell State Forest and b) development of additional hydrologic assessments and a Decision Support Tool;

Strategy 2 Ecosystem Restoration - $5million to enable ARSA's Ecosystem Restoration Team with current leadership from The Nature Conservancy to implement a range of ecological improvements including prescribed fire, isolated wetland restoration and invasive species control on the Apalachicola National Forest, two National Wildlife Refuges, multiple state-owned lands, a military installation, and private lands identified in Strategy 3;

Strategy 3 Private Forests - $3million to the Florida Forest Service to a) mount a targeted social marketing and outreach effort with assistance and a match of $427,063 from the American Forest Foundation (AFF) to engage and advise private forest landowners in the active management of their lands, and b) to enable the Florida Forest Service as well as the Florida Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission and the Natural Resource Conservation Service to provide interested forest landowners with additional technical and financial assistance needed for increased forest establishment and stewardship. Requested funding amount: $15,000,000.