

Draft Funded Priorities List 3a



Perdido River Land Conservation & Habitat Enhancement, Alabama

The Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Council (Council) proposes to approve \$1.7 M in planning funds, Funded Priorities List (FPL) Category 1, for the Perdido River Land Conservation and Habitat Enhancements project. In addition, the Council proposes the implementation component of this project as a priority for potential funding, FPL Category 2, with \$26.3 M budgeted for implementation of this project, pending a future Council vote.

Through its collaboration process, the Council has identified this project as a priority, and proposes to approve planning funds for the Perdido River Land Conservation and Habitat Enhancements project, which if implemented, would involve the future acquisition, conservation, and management of coastal habitat in Alabama. In addition, the Council proposes to identify the implementation component of this project as a priority for potential funding, and budget funds for future acquisition, conservation, and management activities. Alabama is the sponsor of this proposed project.

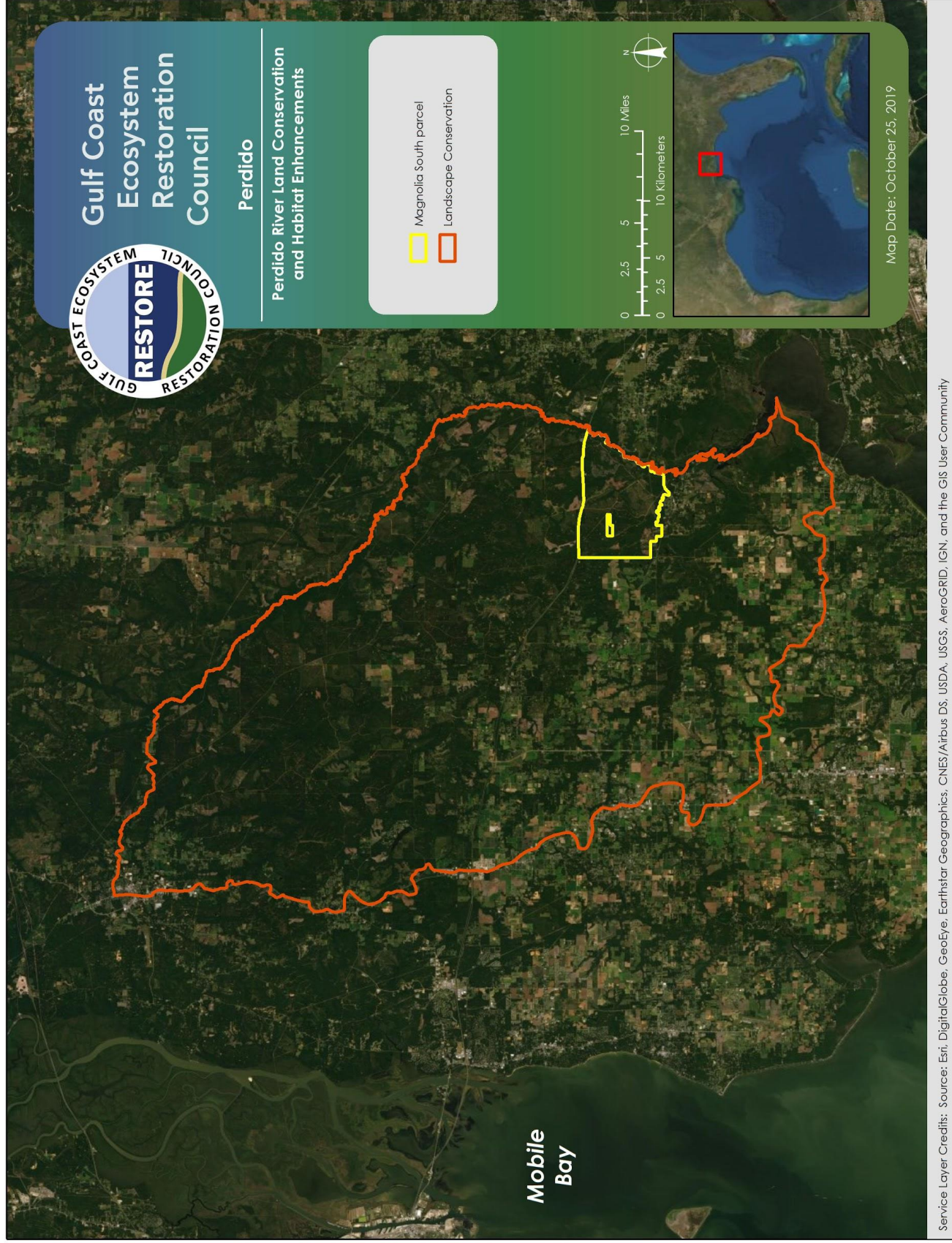
The State is seeking parcel(s) that would supplement an existing 17,337 acres in public ownership in Alabama, and roughly 12,400 acres in public ownership in Florida. Alabama has identified a potential parcel for acquisition, referred to as Magnolia South, and is engaged in conversations with the owner. Should this property not be available, the State of Alabama would consider other suitable parcel(s) for acquisition and management. In addition to acquisition, the State would conduct habitat management and stewardship on the tract which could include prescribed burning, invasive species removal, longleaf pine restoration, and protection and habitat enhancements for species including the gopher tortoise. Education and outreach activities, including installation of signage and an educational display about the Perdido watershed would be conducted. Acquired land would also be available for recreational use by the public and become part of the Perdido Wildlife Management Area. Suitable property would contain inland forested wetlands, riparian buffers (stream buffers), and tributaries of both the Styx and Perdido Rivers.

Project at a Glance

The Perdido River Land Conservation and Habitat Enhancements project applies Planning Framework approaches and techniques to support Comprehensive Plan goals and objectives. The land acquisition technique and the habitat management and stewardship technique will address land use change and urbanization, habitat fragmentation, and silvicultural runoff, supporting the primary objective to restore, enhance, and protect habitats. Success in meeting this objective may be tracked using acres acquired in fee, acres under improved management, and number of management plans developed as metrics. The metric number of educational displays installed may also be used to track success in meeting the secondary objective to promote natural resource stewardship and environmental education.



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Region of the Perdido watershed where the State of Alabama will consider acquisition and conservation management of approximately 10,000 - 12,000 acres of habitat. The smaller area outlined in yellow, the Magnolia South parcel, may be suitable to meet project goals.