



FUNDED PRIORITIES LIST 3B

Perdido Watershed Water Quality Improvements and Restoration Assessment Program

Funded Priorities List (FPL) 3b is part of a two-phase approach used by the Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Council (Council) to respond to ecosystem needs and take advantage of important partnership opportunities to advance large-scale ecosystem restoration.

The Council is considering approval of \$1.5M in planning funds as FPL Category 1 for the *Perdido Watershed Water Quality Improvements and Restoration Assessment Program*. This program would utilize the Planning Framework techniques and approaches outlined in the figure below to address environmental stressors in Perdido Bay, Alabama, through the Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, is the sponsor of this proposed program.

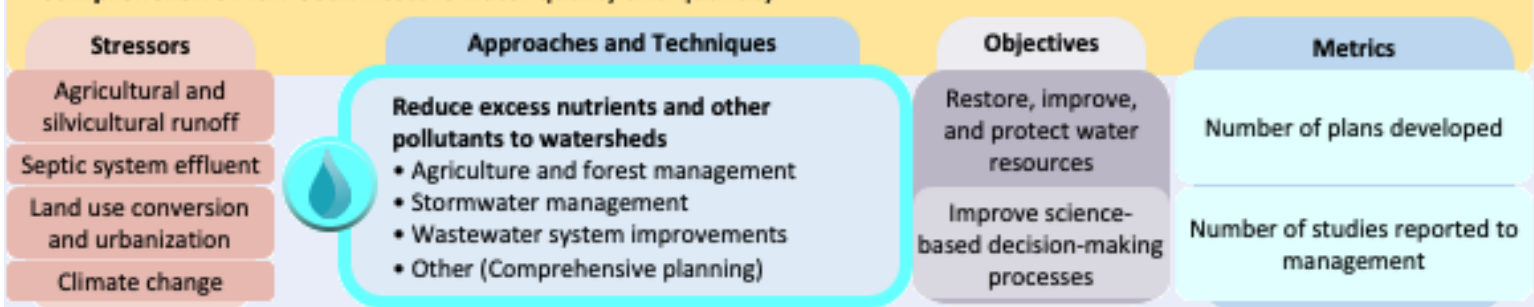
The program would coordinate the location and sequencing of selected restoration projects in the Perdido Watershed that could be expected to improve water quality and habitats. Another component of the program would be the development of a restoration assessment program to support the identification of potential collective impacts to water quality of the co-located projects and other restoration projects within the watershed. Located in Southern Alabama (70 percent of the watershed) and Northwest Florida (30 percent of the watershed), the Perdido Watershed covers approximately 1,100 square miles and is dominated by the 63 mile-long Perdido River.

The Perdido Watershed plays a critical role in the health of the ecosystem of Southeast Alabama and Northwest Florida. The components of the watershed, including the tributaries, floodplains, bayous, and wetlands of the Perdido provide water quality and quantity protection through healthy floodplains, which store and disperse runoff from storms and recharge aquifers. This program would support the identification of benefits at a scale larger than the individual project level. In addition to the anticipated benefits of improved water quality and habitats, this project could also serve as a model for future restoration assessment efforts on the Gulf Coast.

Program at a Glance

The *Perdido Watershed Water Quality Improvements and Restoration Assessment Program* applies Planning Framework approaches and techniques to support Comprehensive Plan goals and objectives. In support of the primary objective, to *Restore, improve, and protect water resources*, and secondary objective to *Improve science-based decision-making processes*, stressors such as agricultural and silvicultural runoff, septic system effluent, land use conversion and urbanization, and climate change will be addressed using the *Agriculture and forest management* technique, the *Stormwater management* technique, and the *Wastewater system improvements* technique. Success using these techniques to *Restore, improve, and protect water resources* may be tracked using the number of plans developed and the number of studies reported to management as metrics. The number of studies reported to management may also track the success of efforts to *Improve science-based decision-making processes*.

Comprehensive Plan Goal: Restore water quality and quantity



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