

Draft Funded Priorities List 3b

Proposal Abstract

Sponsor: Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources

Proposal: Perdido Watershed Water Quality Improvements and Restoration Assessment Program

Alabama, through the Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (ADCNR), is requesting \$1.5M in Council-Selected Restoration Component funding for the proposed Perdido Watershed Water Quality Improvements and Restoration Assessment Program. This would include planning funds as FPL Category 1. The program will support the primary RESTORE Comprehensive Plan goal to restore water quality and quantity through activities to coordinate the location and sequencing of selected restoration projects in the Perdido Watershed that could be expected to improve water quality and habitat, as well as restoration assessment program to monitor the potential collective impacts to water quality of the co-located projects and other restoration projects within the watershed.

Located in Southern Alabama and Northwest Florida, the Perdido Watershed covers approximately 1,100 square miles and is dominated by the 63 mile-long Perdido River. This 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. In addition to the anticipated benefits of improved water quality and habitats, this program could also serve as a model for future restoration assessment efforts on the Gulf Coast. Program duration is 3 years.