



# FUNDED PRIORITIES LIST 3B

## Develop Ecological Flow Decision-Support for Mobile River and Perdido River Basins

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.

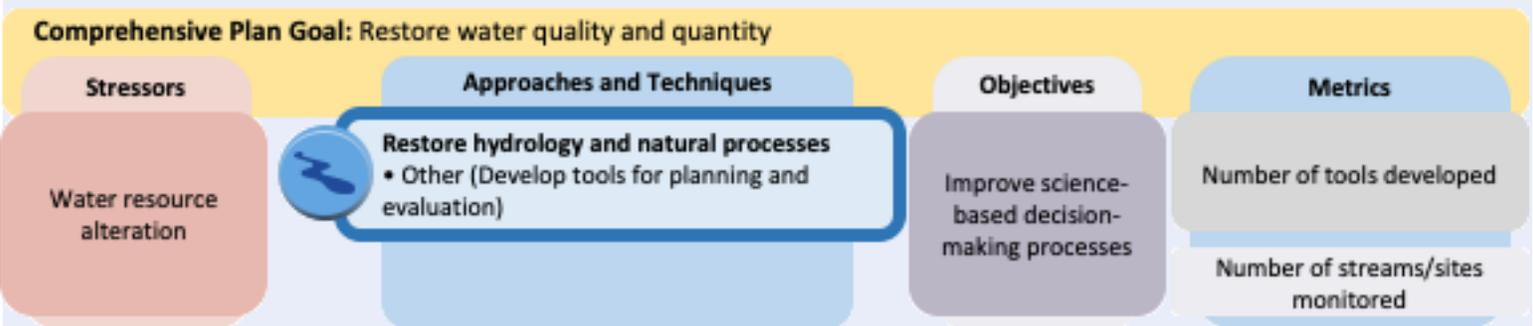
The Council is considering approval of \$3.4M in planning funds as FPL Category 1 for the *Develop Ecological Flow Decision-Support for Mobile River and Perdido River Basins* project. This project would utilize the Planning Framework techniques and approaches outlined in the figure below to address environmental stressors in the Mobile and Perdido River Basins. The U.S. Department of the Interior, through the U.S. Geological Survey, is the sponsor of this proposed project.

The project will create a decision support model to provide information on freshwater inflows to streams, bays, and wetlands of the Mobile and Perdido River Basins. The Operational Analysis and Simulation of Integrated Systems (OASIS) model will be used to simulate the routing of water through watersheds in the river basins, providing a tool for resource managers to evaluate questions of concern, such as the influence of water resource alteration on restoring and conserving habitat, water quality, and living coastal resources. New gaging stations will be installed to fill critical freshwater inflow data gaps and support data needs for future monitoring assessments.

The Alabama Water Agencies Working Group and other water resource managers have identified a critical need for data on inflows and models to understand how the timing and delivery of flow affects downstream ecological resources. The project will provide modeled outcomes on various water-use strategies and supporting data and information for use by state and local agencies to guide water resource management activities and to identify future restoration areas on which to focus.

### Project at a Glance

The *Develop Ecological Flow Decision-Support for Mobile River and Perdido River Basins* project applies Planning Framework approaches and techniques to support Comprehensive Plan goals and objectives. In support of the primary objective to *Improve science-based decision-making processes*, stressors such as water resource alteration will be addressed using a technique other than those presented in the Planning Framework: *Develop tools for planning and evaluation*. Success using this technique to *Improve science-based decision-making processes* may be tracked using the metric of the number of tools developed. The number of streams/sites monitored may also be used to track efforts to *Improve science-based decision-making processes*.



# Develop Ecological Flow Decision-Support for Mobile River and Perdido River Basins

