



FUNDED PRIORITIES LIST 3B

Florida Gulf Coast Tributaries Hydrologic Restoration 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 \$3,437,500 in planning funds as FPL Category 1 for the *Florida Gulf Coast Tributaries Hydrologic Restoration Program (THRP)*. In addition, the Council is considering an implementation component for potential future funding as an FPL Category 2 activity, and proposes to reserve \$10,312,500 for this component, pending further review and a Council vote. The *THRP* would utilize the Planning Framework techniques and approaches outlined in the figure below to address environmental stressors in Florida. Florida, through the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP), is the sponsor of this proposed program.

The *THRP* would restore water quality and quantity throughout the Florida Gulf Coast by underwriting a comprehensive suite of linked, high-priority hydrologic improvement projects. Examples include canal plugging, restoring natural dimensions of tidal passes/inlets, restoring/reconnecting wetlands, installing erosion control or water control structures, etc. The *THRP* would improve flow regime dynamics, nutrient cycling, salinity gradients, wildlife habitat and biodiversity, and recreational experiences, and may help reduce algal blooms and fish kills. The FDEP will use a screening process based on approved selection criteria to fund projects under the *THRP*. Selection criteria would focus on restoring the critical drivers and functions of the hydrologic regime.

The program framework allows for administration of project funding that targets projects providing cumulative benefits to the Gulf and linking environmental benefits between selected projects and other restoration projects in a watershed or region. Combining or leveraging projects within a geographic area contributes to large-scale water resource improvements while maximizing each dollar.

Program at a Glance

The *Florida Gulf Coast Tributaries Hydrologic Restoration 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*, stressors such as hydrologic modification will be addressed using the *Restore hydrologic connectivity* technique, the *Restore natural salinity regimes* technique, and the *Land acquisition* technique. Success using restoration of hydrologic connectivity and restoration of natural salinity regimes to *Restore, improve, and protect water resources* may be tracked using acres with restored hydrology as a metric, while success using land acquisition may be tracked using acres acquired in fee.

Comprehensive Plan Goal: Restore water quality and quantity



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