



FUNDED PRIORITIES LIST 3B

Apalachicola Regional Restoration Initiative: Strategies 2 & 3

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.

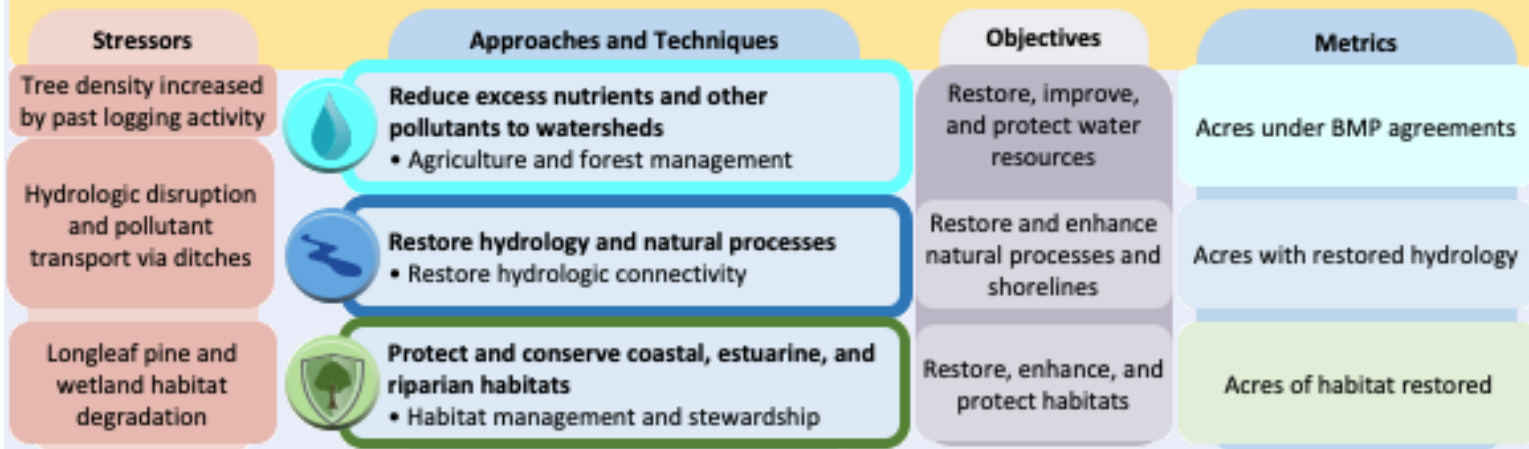
The Council is considering approval of \$5M in implementation funds as FPL Category 1 for the *Apalachicola Regional Restoration Initiative (ARRI): Strategies 2 & 3*. The *ARRI Strategies 2 & 3* would utilize the Planning Framework techniques and approaches outlined in the figure below to address environmental stressors in Florida. The U.S. Department of Agriculture, through the U.S. Forest Service, is the sponsor of this proposed project.

The program is an extension of the Tate's Hell Strategy 1 project funded in the Council's 2015 Initial FPL. The *ARRI Strategies 2 & 3* include collaborative, landscape-level projects focused on restoring longleaf pine, coastal ecosystems, and hydrology within the Apalachicola Region of Florida. Activities include improvement to water quality and quantity, outreach to public landowners, monitoring, and targeted education to minority students. Under Strategy 2, project partners will implement ecological restoration activities including: (1) region-wide restoration of longleaf habitat, (2) targeted silvicultural treatments of dense pine forests, (3) hydrologic restoration to reconnect freshwater habitat in high priority watersheds, (4) increased regional prescribed fire, (5) invasive species treatments, and (6) imperiled wetland restoration. Under Strategy 3, the Florida Forest Service will lead a partnership to advise private forest landowners in active management and restoration and educate landowners on stewardship and sustainable forest management. These combined restoration efforts will help restore and conserve critical habitat, water quantity and quality, and benefit the economy.

Program at a Glance

The *Apalachicola Regional Restoration Initiative: Strategies 2 & 3* 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 increased tree density and pollutant transport along ditches will be addressed using the *Agriculture and forest management* technique. In support of the primary objective as well as the secondary objective, to *Restore and enhance natural processes and shorelines*, hydrologic disruption will be addressed using the *Restore hydrologic connectivity* technique. In support of the primary objective as well as the secondary objective, to *Restore, enhance, and protect habitats*, longleaf pine and wetland habitat degradation will be addressed using the *Habitat management and stewardship* technique. Success using each of these techniques to accomplish its primary and (if applicable) secondary objective may be tracked using the following metrics, respectively: acres under BMP agreements, acres with restored hydrology, and acres of habitat restored.

Comprehensive Plan Goal: Restore water quality and quantity



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