

FLORIDA GULF OF MEXICO RESTORATION

PROJECT SUBMITTAL FORM

Form Purpose and Instructions:

- To assist the project proposal and review process, please complete this Submittal Form. Completion of the Form will contribute to the appropriate information being completely and accurately submitted for each project.
- Take as much space as needed for each question, but please keep responses as focused as possible. It may assist you to review all the questions before addressing any one question.
- Please submit one Form per project, if you have multiple projects - please submit one Form for each project.
- Please submit completed Forms to Restoration.Projects@dep.state.fl.us. Once your Form is successfully submitted, you will receive a confirmation email from the Florida Department of Environmental Protection.

Project Name:

Contact Information *(Include at least one name, phone number, email address, and organization name if applicable):*

Project Location *(Include a map, if possible, and the city, county, longitude/latitude, and watershed):*

Project Description *(Describe all aspects of the project):*

Estimated Project Costs *(Describe the estimated costs of the project, including any assumptions for contingency and ongoing operations/maintenance. Identify other secured funding sources such as matching funds, in-kind contributions or state/federal dollars. In addition, if possible, complete and submit the Cost Appendix Sheet associated with this Form):*

Other Funding *(Indicate if the project is submitted for any potential funding or if it may be used to leverage additional funding, if so please describe the funding source [e.g. State/Federal Grants]):*

Technical Feasibility *(Describe the technologies involved and any relevant past experience or proven success with similar projects):*

Environmental Benefits *(Describe the nature, magnitude, and timing of any environmental benefits attributable to the project. If possible, describe potential environmental performance measures [e.g. pollutant reduction]. Please address any potential environmental impacts associated with implementing or maintaining the project [e.g. loss of a habitat or conversion of habitat from one type to another during implementation]):*

Economic and Social Benefits *(Describe the economic and social benefits including those related to the project's improved ecosystem services and any estimates on jobs created or preserved):*

Community Resilience *(Describe if the project assists Florida's ability to anticipate, withstand, or recover from hazards or threats [e.g. hurricane preparedness, establishing living shorelines]):*

Conflicts or Complements to Existing Efforts *(Describe any ongoing activities in the project implementation area, if the project is part of another plan, and why the project does or does not interfere with that work. Please consider how the project may complement existing local, regional, and state efforts/plans/objectives):*

Complies with Federal, State, Local, and Tribal Laws/Regulations *(Describe any concerns or potential conflicts):*

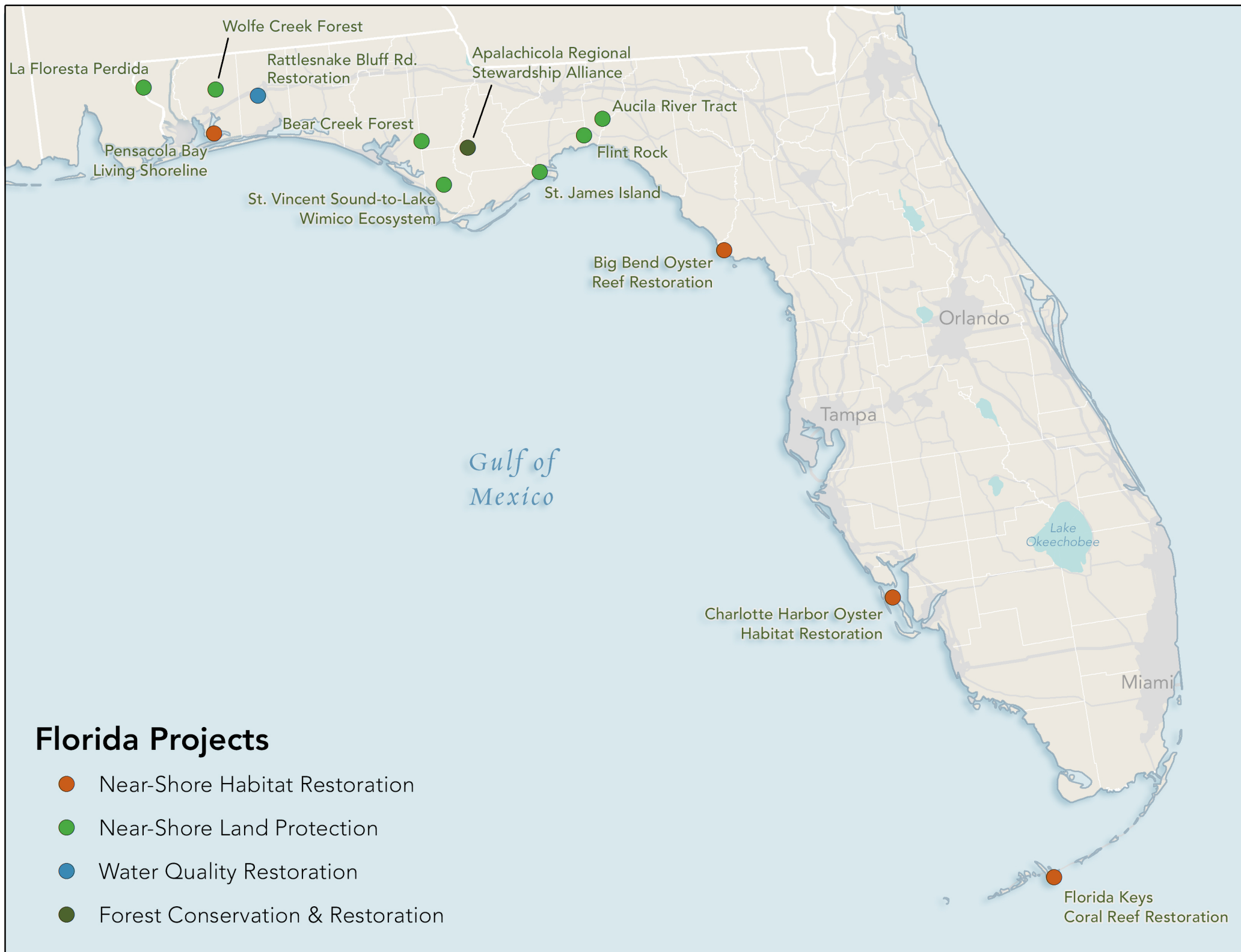
Readiness for Implementation *(Describe if the project has had any design or permitting work started or completed [attach permits or design work]. Please address any issues that may delay start or finish of the project):*

Public Acceptance *(Describe any known or potential public approval or opposition to the project):*

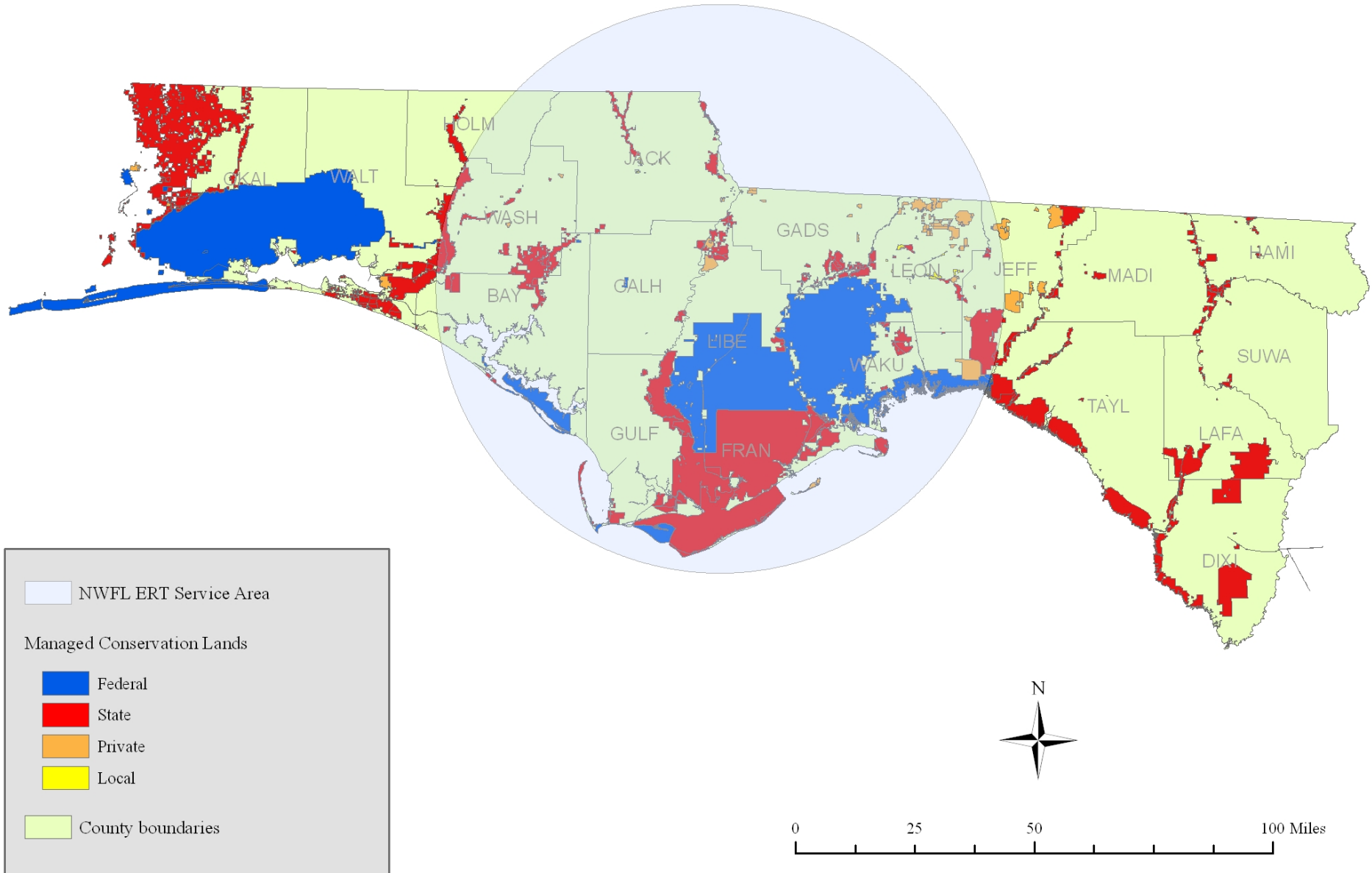
Additional Information you wish to provide *(Please include any maps, designs, drawings, photos, or background resources that may assist in completely and accurately understanding the project):*

Cost Appendix Sheet	
Cost Item	Cost Estimate
Planning	
Planning Subtotal:	
Construction	
Construction Subtotal:	
Monitoring	
Monitoring Subtotal:	
Project Cost	
Subtotal:	
TOTAL:	

Estimated Costs by Year	
Year 1	
Year 2	
Year 3	
Year 4	
Year 5	
Year 6	



Apalachicola Regional Stewardship Alliance Ecosystem Restoration Team



LETTERS OF SUPPORT

Following are several letters of support for the Apalachicola Regional Stewardship Alliance Ecosystem Restoration Team model from state and federal ARSA members.



FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND CONSUMER SERVICES

COMMISSIONER ADAM H. PUTNAM

February 18, 2013

To Whom It May Concern:

The Florida Forest Service (FFS) supports The Nature Conservancy's 2013 Longleaf Stewardship Fund grant request to the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation to increase and enhance longleaf pine acreage around the Apalachicola area in northwest Florida. This goal is a priority of the Florida Forest Service and other natural resource stakeholders as reflected in the *Florida Forest Action Plan* strategies for longleaf pine ecosystems. If funded, this project would complement ongoing FFS programs in the Florida Panhandle.

FFS current efforts include providing private landowners with longleaf pine management information and incentives for eligible applicants through Farm Bill programs including Environmental Quality Incentives Program, Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program, Conservation Reserve Program and the FFS administered Southern Pine Beetle and Longleaf Legacy Landowner Incentive Programs. Additionally, the FFS is a longstanding participant in the Apalachicola Regional Stewardship Alliance, a valuable long-standing collaborative for active resource management. The FFS is working diligently to expand longleaf acres in Florida and promote the use of longleaf ecosystem tools such as prescribed fire, invasive species management, and improved efficiencies in ground cover restoration. The Nature Conservancy's proposed project will accelerate that effort.

I look forward to this additional collaborative opportunity to enhance longleaf ecosystems in cooperation with The Nature Conservancy.

Sincerely,

Adam H. Putnam
Commissioner of Agriculture

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "James R. Karels".

James R. Karels, Director
Florida Forest Service

JRK/bss
cc: Brian Pelc



Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission

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(800) 955-8771 (T)
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MyFWC.com

February 8, 2013

Suzanna Sessine
David O'Neill
National Fish and Wildlife Foundation
1133 Fifteenth Street, NW Suite 1100
Washington, D.C. 20005

Dear Ms. Suzanna Sessine and Mr. David O'Neill:

I am writing on behalf of the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) in support of the Longleaf Stewardship Fund project being proposed by the Florida Chapter of The Nature Conservancy (TNC) on behalf of the Apalachicola River Stewardship Alliance (ARSA), the Apalachicola Longleaf Initiative (ALI).

ARSA is a partnership of land managers in the Apalachicola Region spanning 10 counties in the Florida panhandle from Holmes and Bay counties east to Leon and Wakulla counties and from the Florida-Georgia line south to the Gulf of Mexico. Members include federal and state agencies, non-governmental organizations, research centers as well as university researchers and private landowners. ARSA has been a driving force of many conservation efforts in this region; including increasing prescribed burn abilities of the partners, increasing exotic/invasive plant control, on both public and private lands, and now working to increase the ability of partners to conduct longleaf restoration on conservation lands throughout the "significant geographic area" which the members of ARSA administer.

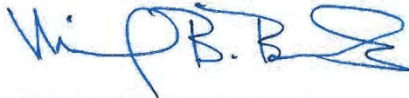
FWC supports the project as it is proposed by TNC and has lead management authority on Box-R Wildlife Management Area (WMA), located in Franklin County, FL. Box-R WMA is included in the proposal as receiving \$37,000 for longleaf pine planting on 300 acres of degraded mesic and wet flatwoods on the area. Much of Box-R WMA was heavily disturbed by previous ownership and is now slash pine plantation. FWC's ability to achieve the goal of natural community restoration on the area would be enhanced by funding from National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF). FWC plans to provide a 1:1 match over the course of two years for this project through in-kind services, comprised of agency personnel time conducting site preparation and prescribed burns to enhance longleaf pine habitat.

Funding by the NFWF of this project will assist in the enhancement, protection and management of conservation lands managed by several different agencies; and will be the primary source of outreach and education to private land owners in the region. This outreach and education will help foster the philosophy of longleaf restoration on private lands as well as public lands. The reintroduction of prescribed fire and longleaf pine to these areas will increase the region's ability to "weather the

Suzanna Sessine
David O'Neill
Page 2
February 8, 2013

times" of climate change and will enhance the natural resources which are so vital to the region ecologically, culturally, and economically. It is a pleasure to be included in this project, thank you for your time and consideration of this proposal.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "M. B. Brooks", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Michael B. Brooks, Leader
Wildlife and Habitat Management Section
Division of Habitat and Species Conservation



Jonathan P. Stevenson
Executive Director

Northwest Florida Water Management District

81 Water Management Drive, Havana, Florida 32333-4712
(U.S. Highway 90, 10 miles west of Tallahassee)

Phone: (850) 539-5999 • Fax: (850) 539-2777

February 12, 2013

Mr. David Printiss
The Nature Conservancy
Northwest Florida Program
10394 NW Longleaf Drive
Bristol, FL 32321

Dear David,

I am writing to express the District's support for the Apalachicola Longleaf Initiative project proposal for NFWF funding. If funded, our agency will directly benefit from a number of the project components; most importantly the prescribed fire assistance provided through the Ecosystem Restoration Team (ERT), and the direct assistance with purchase of longleaf pine tubelings for our 2013-2014 longleaf restoration efforts.

As you may know, our agency's traditional source of funding for land management and restoration efforts (the state of Florida's Water Management Lands Trust Fund) has not been funded in recent years, so we have been limited in our ability to contract for prescribed burning or undertake in-house burns. Anticipated budget shortfalls in FY 2013-2014 may also threaten or delay our ability to plant longleaf on the acreage that is ready for this restoration activity.

As I have expressed previously, the ERT model is a perfect fit for the District's prescribed burning needs and we support all efforts to continue this valuable program. We look forward to continuing our relationship and to getting more acres burned with ERT assistance, and we are hopeful that funding can be provided for longleaf restoration and the other NFWF proposal components. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions. Thanks!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Tyler Macmillan".

Tyler Macmillan
Chief, Bureau of Land Management Operations.

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NICK PATRONIS
Panama City Beach



Florida Department of Environmental Protection

Marjory Stoneman Douglas Building
3900 Commonwealth Boulevard
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-3000

Rick Scott
Governor

Jennifer Carroll
Lt. Governor

Herschel T. Vinyard Jr.
Secretary

February 7, 2013

Brian Pelc
The Nature Conservancy
625 North Adams Street
Tallahassee, Florida 32301

Dear Mr. Pelc:

Please accept this letter as my statement of support for the proposed Nature Conservancy Apalachicola (TNC) Apalachicola Longleaf Conservation Initiative National Fish National Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) grant application. It is my understanding that these grant funds would in part, allow the Florida Park Service to continue with important Sandhill natural community restoration at Torreya State Park. This project is a priority goal for Torreya State Park, and has been identified as such in the approved 2012 Management Plan for this unit.

As a result of State of Florida conservation lands purchases in the 1990s, the Florida Park Service became responsible for management and restoration of over 10,000 acres of new conservation property in Liberty and Gadsden Counties. These lands were added to the existing Torreya State Park. Unfortunately, due to state budget constraints, line-item funding for wildland management and restoration has become severely curtailed. The present Sweetwater Tract of Torreya contains over 4300 acres of restorable Sandhill habitat. In spite of these challenges, and with the capable assistance of the TNC Apalachicola Bluff and Ravines Preserve, we have been able to restore and manage over 1200 acres the Sweetwater tract to date. This project represents the largest example of a natural community restoration in the Florida State Park system.

Further, the NFWF grant funding would assist in addressing the threats of incompatible fire, incompatible forestry practices, altered fire regimes, invasive plants, habitat destruction or conversion, altered community structure, and altered species composition in Sandhill and Upland Pine habitats by increasing the capacity for prescribed fire management by government agencies and on private lands; forest

Mr. Brian Pelc
February 7, 2013
Page 2

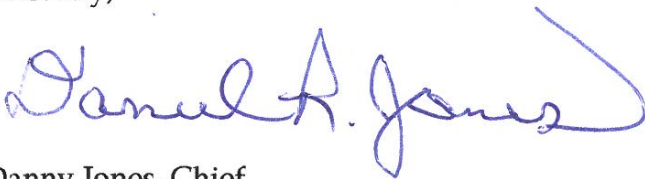
restoration including restoration of native pine species; and coordinating interagency invasive plant detection, management, and control.

Our partnership with TNC, facilitated via the Apalachicola Regional Steward Alliance (ARSA) MOU, Torreya and other local state parks have been able to meet or exceed their annual prescribed burning objectives. Our ARSA membership has also allowed us to network with other regional land management agencies during periodic meetings. Relevant discussions and on-site visits have been very useful in keeping abreast of the latest issues and techniques to properly address wildland fire, exotic plant control and related issues.

The Apalachicola Longleaf Conservation Initiative (ALCI) is housed within the Northwest Florida Program (NWFL) of The Nature Conservancy (TNC). NWFL has been working to support both restoration and prescribed fire in the Apalachicola River region since the late 1980s. In recent years, staff at the NWFL flagship preserve- the Apalachicola Bluffs and Ravines Preserve (ABRP)- have refined groundcover restoration to the point of having the capacity to restore as many as 200 acres of Sandhill natural community per year. Furthermore, the prescribed fire team portion of the ALCI has is now averaging over 20,000 acres of federal, state and private prescribed fire assists per year.

It is my hope that the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation will focus serious consideration to the proposed TNC Apalachicola Longleaf Conservation Initiative grant proposal. These funds would represent a very positive and constructive contribution to wildland habitat restoration and management in north Florida. If I can provide any additional information, please feel free contact to contact me.

Sincerely,



Danny Jones, Chief
Bureau of Parks District 1 Administration



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Apalachicola National Forest
Apalachicola Ranger District
P.O. Box 579
Bristol, FL 32321
850/643-2282

Wakulla Ranger District
57 Taff Drive
Crawfordville, FL 32327
850/926-3561

November 5, 2012

David Printiss, Northwest Florida Program Manager

The Nature Conservancy

10394 NW Longleaf Drive

Bristol, FL 32321

Dear Mr. Printiss,

David, I would like to thank you for your support during the FY 2012 prescribed fire season. The assistance The Nature Conservancy crew provided to the prescribed fire program on the Apalachicola National Forest (ANF) has been outstanding. Your crew assisted with 6 burns totaling 9,927 acres of prescribed fire on the ANF. On the majority of these prescribed fires your crews help was critical for meeting the staffing levels and having the ability to burn more than one unit per day. These burns would not have happened without your assistance. Your crews performed well, were dependable and professional, and could be counted on for their assigned tasks. I welcome and appreciate assistance from our cooperators (TNC) in accomplishing our burning objectives and goals for the year. It's comforting to know there are cooperators you can count on that are dedicated to ecosystem management as we are here on the ANF. I look forward to future cooperation on prescribed fires and other projects that will benefit both our agencies and the ecosystems we manage.

/s/ *Marcus A. Beard*

Marcus A. Beard
District Ranger
Apalachicola National Forest





**FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION**

MARJORY STONEMAN DOUGLAS BUILDING
3900 COMMONWEALTH BOULEVARD
TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA 32399-3000

RICK SCOTT
GOVERNOR

JENNIFER CARROLL
LT. GOVERNOR

HERSCHEL T. VINYARD JR.
SECRETARY

November 6, 2012

David Printiss, Program Director
The Nature Conservancy
Northwest Florida Program
10394 NW Longleaf Drive
Bristol, FL 32321

Dear David:

Thank you for the tremendous and continuing support that your fire team is providing to the Florida Park Service's prescribed fire program. In the current year, you provided support on 11 burns, helping us to treat 2,591 acres at 3 different park units.

Your team's support made a tremendous difference in not only accomplishing these 11 burns but your team provides a multiplier effect that let us spread our limited fire staff between more parks on any particular day. We typically need to burn at more than one park when the weather is suitable, and there is simply not enough staff to go around. Your team has made the difference in being able to handle multiple burns on numerous days. Your team is critical to the success of our fire mission, and we certainly hope that your team will continue to be available.

Your staff also provides support in many other aspects of fire, not in just getting acreages burned. The interactions that your team affords to our staff provide great lessons in interagency cooperation and different perspectives on meeting the same resource management goals. We believe that the team model that you are using is a very viable model and believe it could be expanded to cover many more areas in Florida. Thank you for your continued support. We look forward to continuing this successful relationship.

Sincerely,

Rosi Mulholland
Division Fire Coordinator
Florida State Parks



United States Department of the Interior
FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

Saint Marks National Wildlife Refuge

P.O. Box 68
St. Marks, Florida
(850) 925-6121
(850) 925-6930 FAX



November, 13, 2012

David Printiss, Northwest Florida Program Manager

The Nature Conservancy

10394 NW Longleaf Dr

Bristol, FL 32321

Dear Mr. Printiss,

David,

I would like to again thank you for your support over the previous year. The assistance The Nature Conservancy fire crew provided the North Florida Refuges Complex has been outstanding. Your crew assisted with 9 prescribed fires on the St. Marks and St. Vincent National Wildlife Refuges for 11,021 acres. On these prescribed fires your crews help was critical for meeting the staffing levels set in the prescribed fire plan, many of these fires would not have happened without your assistance. Your crew performed well and could be counted on for their assigned tasks. Your willingness to participate on multi-day burns and overnight on St. Vincent NWR made the execution of the prescribed fires much easier to accomplish. I look forward to future cooperation on prescribed fires. The ability to work together has been a benefit for both our agencies and the ecosystems we manage.

Greg Titus
District Fire Management Officer
District 4 - Florida Gulf Coast Refuges
gregory_titus@fws.gov



Jonathan P. Stevenson
Executive Director

Northwest Florida Water Management District

81 Water Management Drive, Havana, Florida 32333-4712
(U.S. Highway 90, 10 miles west of Tallahassee)

Phone: (850) 539-5999 • Fax: (850) 539-2777

November 5, 2012

Mr. David Printiss
The Nature Conservancy
Northwest Florida Program
10394 NW Longleaf Drive
Bristol, FL 32321

Dear David,

I am writing to express our appreciation for the prescribed fire assistance that your Ecosystem Restoration Team (ERT) provided to the District this year. On eight separate days the ERT assisted with prescribed burns totaling 503 acres. Without the ERT resources, most of these burns would not have been completed due to our staffing limitations. The ERT allows us to field two burn teams on good weather days, essentially doubling the resources we have at our disposal to complete priority burns.

I realize that 503 acres over eight days equals some relatively small burns, but as you may know, we employ contractors to accomplish many of our larger burns and save the smaller, but often more complicated burns for District staff. These are often wildland-urban interface burns, initial burns on unburned stands and burns with heavy fuel loading. The sensitive nature of these burns dictates a careful approach and often results in smaller burn units.

The ERT model is a perfect fit for the District's prescribed burning needs and we support all efforts to continue this valuable program. We look forward to continuing our relationship and to getting more acres burned with ERT assistance. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions. Thanks!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Tyler Macmillan".

Tyler Macmillan
Chief, Bureau of Land Management Operations.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
325TH FIGHTER WING (ACC)
TYNDALL AIR FORCE BASE FLORIDA

Colonel David E. Graff
Commander, 325th Fighter Wing
501 Illinois Ave, Suite 1
Tyndall AFB FL 32403-5549

Ms. Suzanne Sessine
National Fish and Wildlife Foundation
1133 Fifteenth St, NW, Suite 1100
Washington, DC 20005

Dear Ms. Sessine

On behalf of the 325th Fighter Wing at Tyndall Air Force Base (AFB), I fully endorse the Nature Conservancy's Longleaf Stewardship Fund 2013 project initiative. Longleaf ecosystem restoration is a cornerstone of our Integrated Natural Resources Management Plan (INRMP) and our participation in this effort will support sustainment of our forestry efforts.

Partnerships and teamwork provide the synergy needed to advance our efforts in today's constrained environments. My staff has worked closely with Apalachicola Regional Stewardship Alliance to identify important opportunities that may assist Tyndall Air Force Base's military mission while simultaneously advancing longleaf conservation in the areas surrounding the base. With the support of ARSA, and Nature Conservancy Initiative, we can mitigate threats such as urban sprawl, ecosystem service losses and invasive exotic species on base and in the surrounding communities.

If you have questions, please contact our point of contact, Mr. Daniel Childs, Base Forester, at (850) 283-2822.

Sincerely

for 
DAVID E. GRAFF, Colonel, USAF

cc:
Brian Pelc, The Nature Conservancy

United States Department of Agriculture



Natural Resources Conservation Service
Florida State Office
2614 NW 43rd Street
Gainesville, FL 32606

P.O. Box 141510
Gainesville, FL 32614

Phone: 352-338-9500
Fax: 352-338-9574
www.fl.nrcs.usda.gov

January 31, 2013

Mr. David Printiss
Program Director, The Nature Conservancy
Northwest Florida Program
10394 NW Longleaf Dr
Bristol, FL 32321

Dear Mr. Printiss:

On behalf of USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service, I wish to express my support for your Apalachicola Longleaf Initiative (ALI). NRCS is continuing our long tradition of helping private land owners, managing our nation's natural resources and building capacity to withstand future challenges. Initiatives like ALI compliment the mission of NRCS and strengthen the role of conservation within this important geographical area.

I especially appreciate the effort by the Apalachicola Regional Stewardship Alliance (ARSA) to provide technical expertise to private landowners in the Apalachicola River watershed. This region of Florida has a strong history of private timber production, providing a strong economy to our state and way of life to North Florida residents. I am aware of the local knowledge among ARSA members and see a tremendous benefit that professional land managers can bring to the proposed workshops, field trips and one on one interactions with private landowners.

I am confident that the same technical expertise that will be available to private landowners has been applied in the design and implementation planning on all aspects of the ALI proposal. The agencies responsible for converting the acres of off-site pine to longleaf as outlined in the proposal have years of experience successfully managing and restoring longleaf habitat in North Florida. Furthermore the investment in these acres will be multiplied by the decades of smart management that ARSA members can provide.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Roney Gutierrez", is written over a faint, larger blue outline of the same signature.

RONY GUTIERREZ
Acting State Conservationist

cc: Jeff Norville, Area Conservationist for Area 1, Marianna, FL
Jeff Woods, Assistant State Conservationist for Programs, Gainesville, FL
Mimi Williams, Acting SRC, Gainesville, FL

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