

Florida Gulf of Mexico Restoration  
Project Submittal Form

**Project Name:**

Florida Gulf Coast Comprehensive Coastal Management Planning

**Contact Information**

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**Project Location** (include map, if possible, and the city, county, long/lat, and watershed)

Florida's Gulf Coast Counties.

**Project Description** (describe all aspects of the project)

The *Florida Gulf Coast Comprehensive Coastal Management Planning* project directly supports the State's Priority Area 2 (Community resilience/living shorelines) and a State of Florida's priority specified in the *Gulf of Mexico Regional Ecosystem Restoration Strategy*.

A Florida Priority within the *Gulf of Mexico Regional Ecosystem Restoration Strategy* is to "Compile, review and summarize 'coastal elements' of Florida's 23 Gulf Coast counties' Comprehensive Growth Management Plans for continuity and consistency in natural resource and community infrastructure protection to aid in Gulf restoration and community resiliency." The Southwest Florida Regional Planning Council, through its Memorandum of Understanding with Florida's other regional planning councils proposes to implement this state priority for community resiliency.

A second project under this category is Comprehensive Management & Resiliency Plans for Pinellas County Coastal Parks and Conservation Areas: Ft. De Soto, Sand Key, Fred Howard, Boca Ciega, War Veterans', Philippe and Wall Springs County Parks. It is proposed by the *Southwest Florida Regional Ecosystem Restoration Plan* for the 10-year plan.

**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):

Estimated needed total project costs for the 2 *Florida Gulf Coast Comprehensive Coastal Management Planning* projects included in the *Southwest Florida Regional Land Acquisition Plan* is \$5,500,000 (see page 38 of the SWFRERP). Individual project descriptions include estimates of matching funds and other contributions.

Of the 2 proposals, the attached *Southwest Florida Regional Ecosystem Restoration Plan* identified 1 project priorities recommended for the first 3 years of the program (see page 14 of the SWFRERP). The requested amount of these projects in the first 3 years is \$500,000.

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

None identified at this time.

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

The Southwest Florida Regional Planning Council has experience working with all of Florida's regional planning councils to develop state-wide approaches. Most notable are the State of Florida Future Land Use map, storm surge mapping and hurricane preparedness planning approaches. Florida's regional planning councils are currently working together for broadband planning and energy assurance. Florida's regional planning councils routinely review comprehensive plan coastal elements and their amendments.

**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]).

The environmental results of the project will include improved resiliency to the coastal zones of the 23 counties, increased "place value" of enriched areas resulting from identified project, the number of changes for improvements recommended to the Growth Management plans.

Park management plans will aid in environmental sustainability and community resiliency by protecting, preserving and conserving the natural resources within multiple coastal regional parks. They will provide for continuity and consistency of planning and management and will improve hazard response and mitigation.

**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).

The 23 Gulf counties will have consistency in policies to protect & sustain the environment. Increased tourism and value resulting in maintaining high quality of life for the environment. The ecosystem services values provided by each counties coastal element will vary with the types of habitats and extent of those habitats protected. In general there will be \$16,248.05 per acre protected. General estimate there will be 1 job created for every 2.3 acres of lands protected and conserved through the improved Coastal Elements.

**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]).

Continuity and consistency in natural resource and community infrastructure protection will aid in the restoration and resiliency of local and regional communities of the Florida Gulf coast. Enhanced quality of life resulting from collaboration and consistency between Economic Development and National Estuaries.

**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).

This project complements county comprehensive plans, required under Florida Statutes. . Projects in the *Florida Gulf Coast Comprehensive Coastal Management Planning* occur within one or more of the Florida Gulf Coast National Estuary Program boundaries can assist in implementing the NEPs federally-approved Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plans. The four Florida gulf coast Water Management Districts develop Surface Water Improvement and Management (SWIM) Plans, of which the project could assist in implementing. In addition, all of these projects are elements of the *Southwest Florida Regional Ecosystem Restoration Plan*, adopted on March 8, 2013.

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

This project complements county comprehensive plans, required under Florida Statutes This project helps to implement NEP Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plans.

**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).

The three-year project can be implemented immediately.

**Public Acceptance** (describe any known or potential public approval or opposition to the project).

All projects contained in the *Southwest Florida Regional Ecosystem Restoration Plan*, including *Florida Gulf Coast Comprehensive Coastal Management Planning*, were reviewed and ranked through publicly-noticed meetings of a Work Group (January 28-29 and February 11, 2013), followed by a Joint NEP Management Board on Feb 20, 2013. The Joint NEP Policy Board, consisting of 39 elected officials, Water Management Governing Board members, and agency leads (listed on page 8 of the SWFRERP) approved the process and resulting plan on March 8, 2013. All meetings were noticed (1) in the Florida Administrative Register; (2) through direct notice to the three National Estuary Program Board members and all applicants; and (3) on the websites of the three NEPs.

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

The Southwest Florida Regional Planning Council (SWFRPC) is uniquely qualified to provide the analysis of the GMP Coastal elements of the 23 Gulf Coast counties. SWFRPC has worked with several of the 11 RPCs throughout the state to coordinate and analyze information for the development of state wide policies & recommendations. In the last year the 11 RPCs have collaborated with Sate DEO to create local economic development plans that support and implement the States 5 year Economic Development Strategy. Through our extensive network we are able to capitalize on the strengths and expertise of all RPC staff. Together we can effectively evaluate our counties and promote improvements that will ensure continuity and consistency in natural resource and community infrastructure protection that will aid in Gulf Restoration and community resiliency.

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

Two documents are attached:

- Attachment 1- Map showing locations of the 2 projects included in *Florida Gulf Coast Comprehensive Coastal Management Planning*.
- Attachment 2- A listing of the 2 projects included in *Florida Gulf Coast Comprehensive Coastal Management Planning*.

The Southwest Florida Regional Ecosystem Restoration Plan (SWFRERP), approved by the Joint NEP Policy Board members on March 8, 2013 has been previously provided to FDEP.