

Bayou Chico Restoration (E-46)

General Information

Project Description:

In the 1800s the natural bottom of Bayou Chico was described as “white sand lying beneath crystal clear waters.” Over the past many decades the white sand bottom has been covered up by a number of both natural and manmade materials. Of these materials not all were considered pollutants however the “pollutants” are the issue of greatest concern. Minimal pollutants have entered the Bayou in many years with one exception. In 2010 we had BP oil migrate into the Bayou in relatively small quantities from the spill. Though this contribution is not insignificant a greater contribution was from the Vessels of Opportunity (VOOs) which resided in Bayou Chico during the oil cleanup process. Unfortunately no vessel decontamination site was ever set up to clean the oil residue from the hulls of the VOOs leading to constant discharge of oil into the Bayou which tended to decompose and sink to the floor of the submerged land.

For this reason we feel strongly that even though the proposed restoration projects seek to restore the floor of Bayou Chico to pristine condition found in the 1800s which is beyond the scope of the negative impact from the BP oil spill they are appropriate in scope and nature. Perhaps even more so than other proposed projects because of the direct nature of the BP oil spill impact on Bayou Chico.

We wish to recognize our support for the first proposal of this nature submitted by the Northwest Florida Water Management District Florida Potential Restoration Projects (List 2) Natural Resource Damage Assessment project E-38 Bayou Chico Estuarine Restoration. Though the NFWFMD does not necessarily agree with our assessment we believe that the scope of the proposal will fall short of the funds needed to complete the task and wish to propose adding an additional \$10,000,000 to insure the completion of this project. We wish this proposal to be considered as a second phase to E-38 Bayou Chico Estuarine Restoration.

Organization Name:

Bayou Chico Association

Activity(s):

Restoration
Maintenance/Management
Debris Removal

Habitat(s):

Marine/Estuarine Wetlands
Subtidal (Nearshore/Offshore)
Beach/Dune
Freshwater Wetlands

Geographic Information

State: FL

County/Parish: Escambia

Watershed/Basin: Bayou Chico Watershed

Affected Area (acres) 260

Location Description: Bayou Chico Pensacola, Florida

Location Overview: (lat: 30.405658, long: -87.257376)

Status

Property/Resource Acquisition: Not Started

Project Planning/Design: In Progress

Project Permitting: Not Started

Time to Implementation: 1 year +

Time to Project Completion: 1-5 years

Included in Regional Plan? No

Cost

Estimated Cost: US \$10,000,000.00