

Natural Resource Damage Assessment (NRDA)

Restoration Project Information Sheet

A General Information

Organization Okaloosa County			
Contact Name (First Last) John Hofstad		Title Public Works Director	
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Organization Website www.co.okaloosa.fl.us			

B Project Information

Project Name Choctawhatchee Bay Water Quality Initiative			
Location (e.g. John Smith National Wildlife Refuge) South Okaloosa County - Choctawhatchee Bay & Tributaries			
State(s) (Use 2-letter abbreviations separated by commas) FL		County/Parish Okaloosa	Watershed/Basin Choctawhatchee Bay
Latitude (decimal degrees)	Longitude (decimal degrees)	Project Size (Choose one) 15 miles acres tons	Affected Area 37,240 acres

C Project Description

Please provide more information about the proposed project. (Limit 2,750 characters.)

The Choctawhatchee Bay Water Quality Initiative is a program designed to improve the water quality of the inshore waters in and around the Choctawhatchee Bay watershed.

Choctawhatchee Bay is an impaired Florida water body that outlets into the Gulf of Mexico. Covering an area of approximately 37,000 acres in Okaloosa County, this water body serves a vital economic role for the County. The Bay and its tributaries (Santa Rosa Sound, Cinco Bayou, Garniers Bayou, and Rocky Bayou) provide a valuable recreation source for County residents and area tourists, while the watershed supports recreational fishing and limited shellfish harvesting. For these reasons, it is important to safeguard the Bay against harmful pollutants.

Okaloosa County has 51 documented saltwater stormwater outfalls into the Choctawhatchee Bay Watershed. Stormwater exiting these outfalls carry harmful pollutants including: fecal coliform, enterococcus, nitrogen, phosphorous, hydrocarbons, floating and suspended debris, and sediments. These constituents accelerate the degradation of the waterbody, thereby threatening the recreational and economic use of the resource.

The County intends to install stormwater separators at multiple saltwater outfall locations throughout the Bay to reduce continued pollutant loading. A typical separator installation costs approximately \$100,000 utilizing out-sourced contractors. Each location will require an engineering analysis and design. In addition, each proposed site will need to be permitted through the Florida Department of Environmental Protection. Staff estimates that the cost of the program including engineering, design, permitting, and construction will be approximately \$5,000,000.

The County's current stormwater Capital Improvement Plan budget allocation for projects is approximately \$500,000 annually, a portion of which could be dedicated to this project.

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Restoration Project Information Sheet (continued)

D Project Type(s)	(Check all that apply)		
	☐ Restoration	☐ Debris Removal	☒ Maintenance/Management
	☒ Protection	☐ Land Acquisition	☐ Education
E Project Habitat(s)	(Check all that apply)		
	☐ Upland	☒ Marine/Estuarine Wetlands	☒ Beach/Dune
	☐ Riverine	☐ Freshwater Wetlands	☒ Subtidal (Nearshore/Offshore)
F Resource Benefit(s)	(Check all that apply)		
	☒ Marine Mammals	☒ Shellfish	☒ Water Column
	☒ Birds	☐ Terrestrial Wildlife	☒ Sediment/Benthos
	☐ Reptiles/Amphibians	☐ Corals	☒ Shoreline
	☒ Fish	☐ Vegetation	☒ Human Use (Recreational, Cultural)
	Will the project directly benefit State- or Federally-listed species? If so, please list them. If not, please indicate N/A. Manatees		
G Project Status	Property/Resource Acquisition Completed		Time to Implementation 1 year +
	Project Planning/Design Not Started		Time to Project Completion 1-5 years
	Project Permitting Not Started		
	Is this project included under a regional or statewide plan? Yes If so, please list: Part of State-wide effort to improve the quality of impaired waters		
H Project Costs	Estimated Cost \$5,000,000.00	Funding Available \$500,000.00	
I Project Partners	Partner 1 Organization City of Fort Walton Beach		
	Partner 1 Contact Michael Beedie	Partner 1 Involvement Collaboration with Construction	
	Partner 2 Organization		
	Partner 2 Contact	Partner 2 Involvement	
	Partner 3 Organization		
	Partner 3 Contact	Partner 3 Involvement	

Disclaimer:

The submission of project information does not guarantee project funding. Projects will be evaluated using criteria identified in OPA, NEPA, implementing regulations, and related laws. Selection and funding determinations will be made by the Trustee Council.