

RESTORE Act Ecosystem Restoration Project Proposals
for consideration in the Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Council's Comprehensive Plan
2012

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Name of Project: Homosassa Springs Aquatic Ecosystem Restoration					Org and Rank:		
Project Description: The restoration work entails a two phase restoration project. Phase I- removal of accumulated organic sediments from the spring run within the Homosassa Springs Wildlife State Park (the Park), the Blue Waters area of the Homosassa River, and Mitten Cove. The accumulated sediments reduce water clarity and water quality when disturbed and do not provide a suitable substrate for the establishment and regeneration of desirable submerged aquatic vegetation (SAV). Additionally, manatees are hindered from accessing of the spring run during low water conditions. Phase II- establishment of SAV communities by replanting vegetative mats throughout mitten cove. After planting, Mitten cove will be fenced off for two years to allow for growth of SAV mats. The Park has made considerable accomplishments in eliminating the sources of sediments accumulating in the spring run. Over 2000 feet of lime rock and gravel walkways in the floodplain of the spring run have been removed, and replaced with elevated walkways. Low berms and native vegetation have been established along the banks of the spring run to capture and attenuate stormwater run-off from the park.							
Project Location: Citrus county, Homosassa Springs FL							
Responsible Party: South West Florida Water Management District				Partners: Florida Department of Environmental Protection			
NEP:		Project Cost: \$862,447.00			Dollars Needed \$862,447.00		
Start: 09/10/2004				Completion: 03/31/2007			
Status of Project Design and Permitting: Design and Conceptual plan are complete							
What Date or Year could Construction Feasibly Begin: Construction Complete							
Your Proposed Timing of Funding (given permits, phasing, staging, etc.)							
FY	Previous	12/13	13/14	14/15	15/16	16/17	Total
	\$712,447.00	\$150,000.00					\$862,447.00
Quantify Environmental Results and How to Measure Them: Phase I of the project removed 25,000 cubic yards of accumulated sediment, restoring a total of 4.6 acres of habitat. The accumulated sediment hindered manatees from accessing the spring run during low water conditions and was not conducive to the growth of desirable submerged aquatic vegetation due to re-suspension of sediments in to the water column reducing water clarity and quality. Phase II will reestablish beneficial SAV communities in mitten cove for a restored area of approximately 6 acres.							
Economic Benefits (including ecosystem services): Total value added (Value-added is the sum of employee compensation, proprietor income, other property type income and indirect business							

taxes, values are in 2012 dollars) equals \$865,057.66. Ecosystem services include saltwater fishing which contributes over \$3 million dollars annually to the economy with more than 50 percent of the population (tourist and resident) participating in freshwater and saltwater activities in the area. Additional research show that improved water quality that results in a 17% increase in Secchi disk depths equates to an \$11,155.00 increase in water front property values.

Estimated number of Jobs Created or Preserved: 13

How much Habitat will be restored and conserved: Phase I- removed 25,000 cubic yards of fine grained organic sediments which restored a total of 4.6 acres of springshed habitat. Phase II- will restore an additional 6 acres of habitat by reestablishing SAV communities in Mitten cove.

Quantify pollutant reductions:

What living coastal/marine resources will be improved and by how much: Benthic communities, fish communities (both freshwater and estuarine species) and native plant communities by removal of accumulated sediments. Additionally, endangered manatee species that use Homosassa River as a refuge will also be improved by providing an additional 6 acres of SAV habitat.

How will community resilience be enhanced:

Additional Justification:

Add any photos or maps that explain project:

**Homosassa Springs Aquatic Ecosystem Restoration
Proposed Project Area**



100 0 100 200 Meters  Park boundary