

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-Pepper Creek Restoration						Org and Rank:	
Project Description: The restoration work will address water quality degradation of Pepper Creek, a tributary of the Homosassa River. The degraded water quality of Pepper Creek is the result of untreated stormwater entering the Creek from residential and commercial development in the contributing watershed. The project will include a feasibility and alternatives analysis to identify several stormwater retrofit projects to address untreated stormwater entering the Creek. The alternatives analysis will be followed by design and environmental permitting and construction of several stormwater retrofit projects. The projects will be prioritized based on those that have the highest contribution of nutrients and other pollutants to the Creek.							
Project Location: Citrus County, Homosassa Springs FL							
Responsible Party: Southwest Florida Water Management District				Partners: Florida Department of Environmental Protection-Homosassa Springs Wildlife Park			
NEP:		Project Cost: \$375,000			Dollars Needed \$375,000		
Start: 10/01/2013				Completion: 10/31/2016			
Status of Project Design and Permitting: Budgeted for FY2014							
What Date or Year could Construction Feasibly Begin: May 2015							
Your Proposed Timing of Funding (given permits, phasing, staging, etc.)							
FY	Previous	12/13	13/14	14/15	15/16	16/17	Total
				Feasibility Analysis Design and Environmental Permitting Stormwater Retrofits \$125,000	Construction of Stormwater Retrofit Projects \$250,000		\$375,000
Quantify Environmental Results and How to Measure Them: The retrofit of the existing stormwater discharges will greatly reduce nutrients and other pollutants entering the Homosassa River via Pepper Creek. As part of the feasibility and alternatives analysis, the estimated nitrogen and phosphorus removal can be calculated based on surrounding land uses. The selection of the projects will be based on those with the highest removal potential.							
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 \$376,135.14. 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:6

How much Habitat will be restored and conserved: While no habitat restoration is proposed, the projects will have a direct positive impact to fish and wildlife by removing excess nutrients from the system thereby reducing algae and encouraging native plants to become re-established.

Quantify pollutant reductions: Will be quantified as part of the feasibility and alternatives analysis.

What living coastal/marine resources will be improved and by how much: The improvements will include benefits to the estuarine system.

How will community resilience be enhanced: Community resilience is a measure of the sustained ability of a community to utilize available resources to respond to, withstand, and recover from adverse situations. By improving the quality of stormwater entering Pepper Creek, the ecosystem surrounding the Homosassa Springs Wildlife State Park will be improved by removing nutrients and pollutants from the stormwater entering Pepper Creek.

Additional Justification:

Add any photos or maps that explain project:

