RESTORE Act Ecosystem Restoration Project Proposals

for consideration in the Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Council's Comprehensive Plan 2012

<table>
<tr><td colspan="5">Contact Information: Cathy Olson, Lee County Conservation 20/20 program, colson@leegov.com 239 533-7455</td><td colspan="3">Date of Submittal: 11/1/12</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="5">Name of Project: Charlotte Harbor Buffer Preserve coastal wetland enhancement</td><td colspan="3">Org and Rank: Lee County C20/20 #4</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="8">Project Description: A highly disturbed, but environmentally significant parcel was purchased by the Lee County Conservation 20/20 program since it was immediately adjacent to the Charlotte Harbor Preserve State Park. The parcel is fallow farmland and now contains nearly a monoculture of exotic invasive plants which acts as a seed source for the adjacent state conservation lands. The project will rehydrate the site through a series of ditch blocks and berm cuts and treat the exotic invasive species. Once rehydrated we expect the site to return to functioning wetlands.</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="8">Project Location: Lee County (26.63165 lat / -82.04212 long)</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="4">Responsible Party: Lee County Conservation 20/20</td><td colspan="4">Partners: DEP</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="2">NEP:CHNEP</td><td colspan="3">Project Cost: $300,000</td><td colspan="3">Dollars Needed:$250,000</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="4">Start: Begin permitting in 2012</td><td colspan="4">Completion: 2015</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="8">Status of Project Design and Permitting: In progress: an ecologist/engineer is being selected to design and permit the project</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="8">What Date or Year could Construction Feasibly Begin: 2014-2015</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="8">Your Proposed Timing of Funding (given permits, phasing, staging, etc.)</td></tr>
<tr><td>FY</td><td>12/13</td><td>13/14</td><td>14/15</td><td>15/16</td><td>16/17</td><td>17/18</td><td>Total</td></tr>
<tr><td></td><td>$50,000</td><td></td><td>$250,000</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="8">Quantify Environmental Results and How to Measure Them: 54 acres of exotic invasive plants will be removed and returned to its former wetland system. The exotic invasive plant monoculture will be removed and turned into natural communities which will filter water from the ditch on the northern part of the property. The ditch consists of road and suburban runoff that currently is ditched through the state park. The added filtration on the subject property will help remove pollutants prior to them entering the Charlotte Harbor and the Gulf of Mexico. Additional benefits include the removal of an exotic plant seed sources for the adjacent Charlotte Harbor Preserve State Park.</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="8">Economic Benefits (including ecosystem services): The monoculture of exotic invasive plants will be removed allowing natural filtering of ditched water, a seed source for the adjacent state park will be removed and pollutants will be removed from some of the water flowing into the Charlotte Harbor and Gulf of Mexico.</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="8">Estimated number of Jobs Created or Preserved: 3</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="8">How much Habitat will be restored and conserved?: 54 acres of wetlands</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="8">Quantify pollutant reductions: Water from the ditch on the northern property line will be better filtered by the resulting wetlands and fewer pollutants will reach the Charlotte Harbor and the Gulf of Mexico.</td></tr>
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What living coastal/marine resources will be improved and by how much?: The adjacent state park contains mangroves and salterns. We expect a combination of mangroves, salt marsh and fresh water wetlands to replace the exotic invasive plants once the ditch blocks, and berm cuts are accomplished.
How will community resilience be enhanced? Improving the mangroves and salt marshes will allow the communities to move landward with rising sea levels.
Additional Justification: This project will improve water quality that enters the Charlotte Harbor by filtering the water in the northern ditch. The project will also remove 54 acres of exotic invasive plants adjacent to state owned conservation land and benefit state and listed wildlife which utilize the site and the surrounding lands.

Add any photos or maps that explain project:

Charlotte Harbor Buffer Preserve

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