

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

Contact Information: Cathy Olson, Lee County Conservation 20/20 program, colson@leegov.com 239 533-7455					Date of Submittal: 11/1/12		
Name of Project: Bob Janes Preserve wetland restoration					Org and Rank: Lee County C20/20 #7		
Project Description: Lightered Canal was dug historically to drain farm fields on the Babcock Ranch. The agricultural fields are no longer in use on Bob Janes Preserve, the Lee County portion of the Babcock Ranch Preserve. This project will redirect water from the artificial Lightered Canal into the former farm fields, allowing the water to sheet flow across the land rather than shoot into tributaries and ultimately the Caloosahatchee River. This hydrological fix will improve the timing of water reaching the Caloosahatchee River, reduce pollutants in the river, reduce downstream flooding and provide wildlife habitat in the former agricultural fields.							
Project Location: Lee County (lat 26.75197 / long -81.62799)							
Responsible Party: Lee County Conservation 20/20				Partners: SFWMD			
NEP: CHNEP		Project Cost: \$500,000			Dollars Needed: \$300,000		
Start: 2013 design and permitting				Completion: 2015			
Status of Project Design and Permitting: A design team is in the process of being selected							
What Date or Year could Construction Feasibly Begin: 2016							
Your Proposed Timing of Funding (given permits, phasing, staging, etc.)							
FY	12/13	13/14	14/15	15/16	16/17	17/18	Total
		\$100,000	\$200,000				
Quantify Environmental Results and How to Measure Them: Much of the drainage in the area has been redirected into alternate watersheds via manmade ditches and canals like the Lightered Canal. This project will restore sheet flow across former agricultural fields, providing for more natural sheet flow and reducing flows that are too high for the tributaries accepting water from the Lightered Canal. Natural communities will rebound in the former agricultural fields, providing for better wildlife habitat.							
Economic Benefits (including ecosystem services): The Caloosahatchee River and ultimately the Gulf of Mexico will receive cleaner water at more historic timing. Currently the water is shunted down the lightered Canal through several tributaries. This flow is not natural. This project will reintroduce sheet flow and some of the water will be returned to historic tributaries. The timing of the water into the Caloosahatchee will be more natural and some of the pollutants and sediments will filter out as the water sheet flows across the land.							
Estimated number of Jobs Created or Preserved: 5							
How much Habitat will be restored and conserved?: 1,948 acres							
Quantify pollutant reductions: Pollutants and sediments from farming in Charlotte County (to the north) will settle out in the former farm fields rather than running off through Lightered Canal.							

What living coastal/marine resources will be improved and by how much?: Water in the Caloosahatchee River and Gulf of Mexico will be enhanced by the more natural water flow and timing of the water flows.

How will community resilience be enhanced? The fallow farm fields will go through natural succession and provide for community resilience. Some of the water currently flowing through Lightered Canal will be redirected and allowed to sheet flow across the land, allowing more natural flows in the surrounding creeks.

Additional Justification: This project seeks to remedy water flows on one of the largest recent state/county conservation acquisitions. The project has numerous partners: Lee County Conservation 20/20, Lee County Natural Resources, and the South Florida Water Management District.

Add any photos or maps that explain project:

