

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: Six Mile Cypress Slough Preserve North wetland enhancement					Org and Rank: Lee County C20/20 #5		
Project Description: Six Mile Cypress Slough Preserve North was purchased largely since it is the headwaters of the Six Mile Cypress Slough Preserve. Unfortunately, the wetlands on site have been dramatically drained due to surrounding construction and rerouting of water. Currently, on site wetlands are water poor by approximately 1- 1.5 meters. The project will reroute ditches both on and off site to rehydrate wetlands on site, reduce stormwater runoff into the Orange River and reduce suburban flooding.							
Project Location: Lee County (lat 26.64462/long -81.79364)							
Responsible Party: Lee County Conservation 20/20				Partners: SFWMD			
NEP: CHNEP		Project Cost: \$1,600,000			Dollars Needed: \$1,200,000		
Start: in process				Completion: 2017			
Status of Project Design and Permitting: In progress. An engineer/ecologist has been hired. Pre-application meetings have been held with the SFWMD and permitting has begun.							
What Date or Year could Construction Feasibly Begin: 2013							
Your Proposed Timing of Funding (given permits, phasing, staging, etc.)							
Previous	12/13	13/14	14/15	15/16	16/17	17/18	Total
	\$100,000	\$500,000	\$500,000	\$300,000	\$200,000		
Quantify Environmental Results and How to Measure Them: The project will redirect water to the preserve, restoring some of the previous watershed flows. The Orange River will receive less water (it currently receives much more water than it did historically). The cypress heads on the preserve will benefit from additional water; currently they are not receiving enough water. Pollution loads reaching the rivers and ultimately the Charlotte Harbor will be reduced since they will settle on site (much of the stream pollutants will be taken up by the vegetation)							
Economic Benefits (including ecosystem services): The onsite wetlands will be rehydrated, pollution loads entering the Orange River will be reduced, and will largely settle within the swales and on the preserve. Hydroperiods within the cypress domes will be improved. Neighborhood flooding will be reduced.							
Estimated number of Jobs Created or Preserved: 16							
How much Habitat will be restored and conserved?: 1,219 acres							
Quantify pollutant reductions: Nitrogen and Phosphorous will be taken up by plants on site and not be carried to the rivers and enter the Charlotte Harbor. Likewise other pollutants will settle on the preserve.							
What living coastal/marine resources will be improved and by how much?: Currently the Orange River receives too much water both because development has increased the timing and speed of water through ditches and the hardscape. Water that previously flowed south has been redirected to the north. This project will reduce the flows that enter the Orange River. The							

Orange River is a tributary of the Caloosahatchee River; one of the major rivers that flows into the Charlotte Harbor Estuary and Gulf of Mexico.

How will community resilience be enhanced? The project will provide a place for water to be directed and reduce the amount of neighborhood and coastal flooding.

Additional Justification: A \$300,000 South Florida Water Management District grant has been awarded. Lee County has dedicated \$100,000 to the data collection, design and permitting for the project. Design and permitting has begun and construction is expected to begin in 2013 and will continue into 2015.

Add any photos or maps that explain project:



