

**St. Joe Bay Buffer Florida Forever Project/ St. Joe Bay State Buffer Preserve/
St. Joe Bay Aquatic Preserve**

- **County:** Gulf
- **Project acreage (remaining acres):** 3,263
- **Project's estimated cost (remaining acres):** \$22,188,000.00²
- **Habitat values:** Bay front uplands and coastal wetlands that fronts one of the least affected coastal bay systems in Florida, including a small area of private bay bottom and a contiguous natural system with significant botanical and wildlife value. Natural communities include beach dune, estuarine coastal salt marsh, baygall, flatwoods and scrub. St. Joe Bay fresh water marshes salt marshes and seagrasses are major spawning and nursery grounds; pristine coastal wetlands, with minimal restoration or enhancement anticipated.
- **Wildlife values:** Provides habitat and/or nesting area for many federal and state listed species. Species including the piping plover (*Charadrius melodus*), green and loggerhead sea turtles (*Chelonia mydas* and *Caretta caretta*), Gulf sturgeon (*Acipenser oxyrinchus desotoi*), and others will benefit from protection of the high quality coastal habitat.
- **Connectivity:** Portions of the project connect with St. Joe Bay Buffer Preserve and with St. Joe Bay Aquatic Preserve.
- **Restoration:** Minimal restoration is anticipated given the high-quality of the natural communities in the project.