



Gulf Environmental Benefit Fund (GEBF) Florida 2016 Project Pre-proposal

Project Title: Apalachicola Regional Natural Resource Restoration Corps Initiative

Project Location: Apalachicola River and Chipola River Watersheds

Estimated Project Cost: \$250,000

Additional Funding Sources (anticipated source and amount, if applicable): See Attachment 1

Proposed Project Period: January 2017 – December 2017 (40 weeks)

Project Lead Agency/Organizations: Franklin's Promise Coalition/Conservation Corps of the Forgotten Coast

ORGANIZATION	CONTACT	EMAIL and/or PHONE	ROLE
Lead: Franklins Promise Coalition	Joe Taylor	850-323-0176 mail@franklinspromisecoalition.org	Executive Director
Conservation Corp of the Forgotten Coast	Betty Webb	850-323-0567 bettytaylor.webb@gmail.com	Director
Apalachicola National Estuarine Research Reserve	Rebecca Bernard, PhD	850-70-7721 Rebecca.Bernard@dep.state.fl.us	Research Coordinator
St Joseph Bay State Buffer Preserve	Dylan Shoemaker	850-229-1787 Dylan.shoemaker@dep.state.fl.us	Preserve Manager

Pre-proposal Project Narrative

- 1. Project Description:** *Please provide a brief narrative that outlines the conservation outcome(s) of the project and the proposed scope of work for achieving project outcome(s). Briefly describe how the expected outcome(s) will remedy harm to natural resources of a type affected by the Deepwater Horizon oil spill, consistent with the conservation priorities for the GEBF (e.g., barrier islands, beach/dune habitat, coastal marsh, bays and estuaries, coastal and marine living resources).*

The attached list of proposed projects (Attachment 1) encompassed in the overall proposal concept, Apalachicola Regional Natural Resource Restoration Corps Initiative by the Conservation Corps of the Forgotten Coast, will help to restore and protect the natural resources, ecosystems, fisheries, marine and wildlife habitats, beaches, and coastal wetlands of the Apalachicola Region. The Conservation



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Corps crews will focus on restoring habitat and water quality, replenish and protect living coastal and marine resources, enhance community resiliency, and revitalize the area economy.

2. **Strategic Significance:** *Briefly describe the strategic significance and priority of the project, including how the project relates to established or emerging plans. In Florida, specifically identify connections between the project and the plans being considered as part of the state's GEBF Restoration Strategy (visit "View a list of plans" at http://dep.state.fl.us/deepwaterhorizon/nfwf_projects.htm).*

The projects identified within this proposal are an integral part of the immerging Apalachicola National Estuarine Research Reserve *Strategic Restoration Plan* (Attachment 2)

3. **Project Development Work Completed to Date:** *To the extent that preliminary planning or budgeting work for this project has been performed, please briefly describe that work and attach supporting documentation if available. If further planning and development work is required for certain components of the project, please describe the work needs to be performed and when that work is expected to be complete. If an Applicant is invited to submit a full proposal, that full proposal must reflect reasonable management plan, scope and cost certainties regarding the work to be performed. For projects that may require distinct steps to complete, NFWF encourages the submission of separate project proposals for one or more project components. These may include preliminary design, planning and development work needed to inform later project phases.*

Please refer to the attached list of projects completed or underway by the Conservation Corp of the Forgotten Coast (Attachment 3).

4. **Supporting Material:** *In order to assist NFWF with scheduling and coordinating the required consultation and technical review activities should a full proposal be invited, please list any supporting materials that would be expected to be submitted at that time (e.g. engineering and design documents, construction plans and specifications, real estate appraisals, etc.).*

Projects are planned for work to be completed on property managed by the contributing partners, therefore it is not anticipated that further consultation or technical review activities will be required.



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5. Other (Optional): *Provide any further information important for the review of this pre-proposal.*

ATTACHMENT 1



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PROJECT: Trail and grounds development and maintenance

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: The Apalachicola National Estuarine Research Reserve (ANERR) is one of 28 NERRs in the US and Puerto Rico. The NERR focus is on wise estuarine development, conservation and use. These trail projects complement this focus by facilitating public access to varied coastal environments in Franklin County, Florida. These trails and grounds provide opportunities for recreation and increased awareness of coastal areas. The trails encompass a variety of coastal habitats including fresh and saltwater marsh, forested floodplain, oak and pine hammock, and coastal dunes.

Apalachicola Boardwalk Trail

261 7th Street, Apalachicola, Florida 32320

Conduct needed repairs and debris removal on a boardwalk trail and observation platform. Total length 0.30 mile. Total time estimated for repairs is a minimum of 3 crew members for 10 days. Total time for ongoing maintenance, debris and trash removal is 3 crew members for 1 day every 2 weeks.

ANERR Visitor Center Boardwalks and Grounds

108 Island Drive, Eastpoint, Florida 32328

Maintain boardwalks on a biweekly basis to include debris and trash removal and repair of boardwalk and handrails as needed. Total boardwalk length 0.34 mile. Apply decking sealant to newly completed boardwalk section. Maintain and weed native plant garden on a biweekly basis. Mow, weed trim, and trash removal at Millender Park on a biweekly basis. Total estimated required time for ongoing maintenance, mowing, weeding, debris and trash removal is 4 crew members for 1 day every 2 weeks. The sealant application should take a crew of 3-4 working daily for one to two weeks. Since the visitor center is closed to the public on Mondays it is preferred that boardwalk maintenance occur on Monday when possible.

Little St George Island (LSGI) Trails and Campsites

LSGI is accessible only by boat. Total time estimated for ongoing maintenance activities is 4 crew members for 3 days every 6 months. Total time estimated for trail development is 4 crew members for 10 days. Because of the logistics of transporting personnel and equipment to LSGI these estimated work periods must remain flexible. All activities on LSGI are dependent on boat availability and weather conditions.

- Maintenance of existing primitive trails (approximately 3.5 miles) on Little St. George Island as needed (debris clearing, weed whacking, re-blazing)
- Maintenance of 6 primitive campsites on LSGI (weed whacking, garbage removal as necessary)
- Future needs – Trail development on LSGI: 1-2 miles of primitive trail (cutting, blazing, weed whacking, and potential boardwalks over wet areas)
- ANERR will provide boat transportation to LSGI
- ANERR will provide transportation on LSGI via 4WD utility vehicles driven by ANERR staff

At the end of the project, crews will be skilled in construction design, power tool use, low impact boardwalk construction, problem solving skills, teamwork skills, and a better understanding of enhancing the visitor experience at properties managed by ANERR.



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TOOLS NEEDED FROM The Nature Conservancy: personal protective gear needed for operation of cutters and tools

The following apply for all trail projects described above:

- ANERR will provide necessary hand tools, power tools, mowers, trimmers, and cutters
- ANERR will provide materials such as lumber and fasteners as needed
- ANERR will not provide personal protective gear needed for operation of cutters and tools
- ANERR will not provide personal protective gear such as snake boots, waterproof boots or foul weather gear
- ANERR cannot provide funding for the work crew personnel

FUNDING STATUS: ANERR cannot provide funding for the work crew personnel, but ANERR funds materials and supplies for this project. Crews would be responsible for their own transportation to and from ANERR office.

PROJECT DURATION: Ongoing need; could be addressed with sequential crews

NUMBER OF YOUNG ADULTS NEEDED FOR PROJECT: please see individual trail descriptions. A total of 11 if individual groups or 1 group of four that rotates through the each of the projects

PROJECT: Sentinel Site and SET sites marsh boardwalk construction and installation

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: Apalachicola National Estuarine Research Reserve (ANERR), along with other Reserves nation-wide, works in conjunction with NOAA to participate in the Sentinel Site program and achieve Sentinel Site status. The goal of this program is to understand how marshes change in response to changes in inundation levels through time. ANERR currently has 20 sites where Reserve staff routinely monitor changes in marsh surface elevation tables (SETs). Two of these 20 sites are Sentinel Stations and marsh elevations changes are measured at all. Collectively, these sites allow ANERR to conduct fine scale marsh monitoring including vegetation surveys, marsh elevation changes, and water quality. Three sites along the lower river marshes of the Apalachicola River and its distributaries (St. Marks, Little St. Marks, and East River) have sensitive vegetation coverage and marsh destruction on the foot trail occurs every time Reserve staff visit these locations (essentially we are destroying the marsh we are trying to preserve and monitor). ANERR has found a low-impact boardwalk design currently in use at other Reserves that participate in the Sentinel Site program that would work to restore the vegetation at these marsh sites and prevent further damage. This project would enhance and restore approximately 297 meters of lower river marsh area (89 meters at St. Marks, 117 meters at Little St. Marks, and 91 meters at East River) and improve the management of these sites. ANERR would like to partner with Franklin's Promise to have work crews build modular sections of the low-impact boardwalk and subsequently take a number of boat trips up river to install the sections into continuous boardwalk paths through the marshes at these sites.

We recommend crews must be able to work in adverse field conditions (including the summer Florida heat and bugs) and lift 40 pounds. ANERR staff will train crews on boardwalk construction, power tool use, construction planning and design, boardwalk installation, and safe boating skills.



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At the end of the project, crews will be skilled in construction design, power tool use, low impact boardwalk construction, problem solving skills, teamwork skills, and a better understanding of NOAA program guidelines for projects at ANERR.

TOOLS NEEDED FROM The Nature Conservancy: None. ANERR will provide all the equipment, materials, supplies, tools, and boat trips for this project.

FUNDING STATUS: ANERR cannot provide funding for the work crew personnel, but ANERR funds materials and supplies for this project. Crews would be responsible for their own transportation to and from ANERR office.

PROJECT DURATION: As crews are available; preferable to do this project in the fall or winter or very early spring when it is cool. November or December 2015 would be ideal. This project is expected to last approximately 2 to 3 weeks.

NUMBER OF YOUNG ADULTS NEEDED FOR PROJECT: Two to four or more.

PROJECT: St. George Island Sea Turtle nesting surveys

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: Since 2001, Apalachicola National Estuarine Research Reserve (ANERR), in conjunction with the Florida Fish and Wildlife, has monitored sea turtles on St. George Island from the State Park boundary at the East end to Sikes Cut on the West end (approximately 11 miles of beach). St. George Island often hosts the highest concentration of loggerhead turtle (*Caretta caretta*) nests on the northern Gulf of Mexico. Nesting on St. George has been as high as 288 nests in one season (May 1 to October 31). Crews working on this project will follow Florida Fish and Wildlife (FWC) nesting survey protocols; become familiar with Florida's Sea Turtle Conservation Guidelines; conduct morning nest beach surveys at dawn on a daily basis; identify turtle species by tracks; locate, mark, and screen egg clutches; record relevant data; assist in stranding documentation; observe hatching nests; perform hatch success; and record disorientation data. Additionally, as St. George Island is a tourist destination, the crews must be able to interact with the public in a professional manner at all times, including informally educating tourists about sea turtle conservation. We recommend crews must be able to work in adverse field conditions (including the summer Florida heat and bugs), be physically fit enough to walk 5 miles on sand, able to tolerate the Florida heat, and lift 40 pounds. ANERR staff will train crews on sea turtle conservation, biology, field and data protocols, and endangered species management. At the end of the project, crews will be skilled in professional public interactions, data collection, data management, sea turtle conservation and biology, fieldwork protocols, and teamwork within a larger volunteer network.

TOOLS NEEDED FROM The Nature Conservancy: None. ANERR provides all the sampling equipment for this project.

FUNDING STATUS: ANERR cannot provide funding for the work crew personnel, but ANERR funds materials and supplies for this project. Crews would be responsible for their own transportation to and from St. George Island.

PROJECT DURATION: May 1st 2016 to October 31st 2016 and yearly every season



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NUMBER OF YOUNG ADULTS NEEDED FOR PROJECT: a minimum of two, but the more the better. The crew would integrate into the established "St. George Island Volunteer Turtles" network and the more people available, the shorter the distance of beach everyone needs to cover for nesting surveys (i.e. divide and conquer). Crews able to commit for the entire nesting season would be ideal.

PROJECT: Little St. George Island (LSGI) Dock Repair

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: The historic Government dock, which serves as a public access point on Little St. George Island, is in the process of being reconstructed after being damaged in storm events in 2004/2005. Staff are looking to have the additional 400' of pilings installed in November 2015. Once the pilings are installed, staff will need assistance with completing the dock structure which will include but is not limited to: placing the stringers, marine hardware, hurricane clips, decking materials, etc. LSGI is accessible only by boat. At the end of the project, crews will be skilled in construction design, power tool use, dock construction, problem solving skills, teamwork skills, and a better understanding of restoration processes at ANERR.

TOOLS NEEDED FROM The Nature Conservancy: Personal protective gear for working with chainsaws and cutters. Personal protective gear such as snake boots, waterproof boots, foul weather gear. ANERR will provide all hand tools and power tools, all materials and fasteners, and boat transportation to LSGI as well as 4WD transportation on LSGI with an ANERR driver.

FUNDING STATUS: ANERR cannot provide funding for the work crews, but funding for materials and boat trips is provided. Crews would be responsible for their own transportation to and from the ANERR office.

PROJECT DURATION: Total time estimated for this activity are dependent on weather and tides. Because of the logistics of transporting personnel and equipment to LSGI, these estimated work periods must remain flexible. Staff are estimating work will take place 3-4 days per week for a period of 2 months or until the project is completed and work will begin in April 2016.

NUMBER OF YOUNG ADULTS NEEDED FOR PROJECT: At least four although depending upon boat availability there may be a limit on a crew size of four individuals on certain LSGI trips

PROJECT: St. Joseph Bay State Buffer Preserve invasive/exotic plant management

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: This project will help enhance approximately 8 acres and improve the management of approximately 5,019 acres of upland pine flatwoods. This project will involve the removal of the invasive/exotic plants that are found within the Preserve. There are different methods of removal with the predominate ones being hand pulling and chemical application. The removal of these plants will enhance the maintenance program for these different species.

We recommend crews must be able to work in adverse field conditions (including the summer Florida heat and bugs). Buffer Preserve staff will train crews on safe and proper equipment operations. At the end of the project, crews will be skilled in land management, species conservation, species



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identification, invasive species removal, problem solving skills, teamwork skills, and a better understanding of conservation guidelines for projects at the Buffer Preserve.

TOOLS NEEDED FROM The Nature Conservancy: The Franklins Promise group will need to be properly Florida Department of Environmental Protection agency (FDEP) trained for safe and proper chemical usage and spraying. The Franklins Promise group will need to supply all of their staff with proper personal protective equipment (PPE) which is required for the job. The Preserve staff will supply them with the equipment and hand tools they will need in the field.

FUNDING STATUS: The Buffer Preserve cannot provide funding for the work crews, but funding for materials is provided. Crews would be responsible for their own transportation to and from the Buffer Preserve.

PROJECT DURATION: The exotic plant removal season is almost year round within the Buffer Preserve. A lot of the work ranges from the end of September through November and May through June of each year. The timeframes will depend on weather and staff usually works for 5-6 hours.

NUMBER OF YOUNG ADULTS NEEDED FOR PROJECT: There would not be a cap on the number of Franklins Promise group staff that would be able to attend any of the invasive/exotic plant treatment days, as long as the staff member meets the required FDEP training requirements.

PROJECT: St. Joseph Bay State Buffer Preserve long leaf pine restoration

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: This project will help enhance approximately 200 acres and improve the management of approximately 5,019 acres of upland pine flatwoods. This restoration project will allow for the young long leaf pines to have an open canopy and regain their growing potential. The reason for this work is because the Preserve has two types of dominate pine trees, Long Leaf Pine and Slash Pine. There are far more Slash Pine trees then Long Leaf Pine trees. The Long Leaf Pine trees grow a lot slower and in the Preserve, are not very tall and the Slash Pine trees grow tall and grow fast. Therefore, the Slash Pine trees shade out the Long Leaf Pine trees and stunt their growth and ultimately will shade them out completely and cause them to die. This project involves the removal of Slash Pine trees that are in close proximity to the Long Leaf Pines, to allow more sunlight to get to the Long Leaf Pine trees. One of the main management goals of the Preserve is to restore the Long Leaf Pine trees back to their original state; this project takes a big step in that direction.

The Franklins Promise group will need to be properly trained in the use of safe and proper chainsaw and felling technics. This training can be obtained through the Florida Forest Service (FFS) or other agencies that offer this type of training.

We recommend crews must be able to work in adverse field conditions (including the summer Florida heat and bugs). At the end of the project, crews will be skilled in land management, species identification, species conservation, restoration practices, problem solving skills, teamwork skills, and a better understanding of conservation guidelines for projects at the Buffer Preserve.

TOOLS NEEDED FROM The Nature Conservancy: The Franklins Promise group will need to supply all of their staff with proper personal protective equipment (PPE) which will consist of gloves, eye and ear



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protection. The Preserve staff will supply them with the other PPE equipment and tools they will need in the field.

FUNDING STATUS: The Buffer Preserve cannot provide funding for the work crews, but funding for materials is provided. Crews would be responsible for their own transportation to and from the Buffer Preserve.

PROJECT DURATION: This restoration project is ongoing throughout the year. The timeframes will depend on weather and staff usually works for 5-6 hours.

NUMBER OF YOUNG ADULTS NEEDED FOR PROJECT: There would not be a cap on the number of Franklins Promise group staff that would be able to attend any of the tree removal days, as long as the staff member meets of the required chainsaw training requirements.

PROJECT: St. Joseph Bay State Buffer Preserve fire restoration

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: This project will help enhance approximately 1,000 acres and improve the management of approximately 5,019 acres of upland pine flatwoods. The Preserve has had many years of fire exclusion, which has caused a lot of the Preserve's ecosystem to become unhealthy. The trees are stressed by overcrowding, fire-dependent species have disappeared and flammable fuels have built up and become hazardous next to private property and homes. Prescribed fire has benefited the Preserve in the past by helping reduce hazardous fuels and improve habitat for native threatened and endangered plant and animal species. There are only 3 certified burn team members within the Preserve and for the Preserve to continue this effort we must reach out to many different agencies for burn staff and help.

We recommend crews must be able to work in adverse field conditions (including the summer Florida heat and bugs). Buffer Preserve staff will train crews on safe and proper equipment operations. At the end of the project, crews will be skilled in fire management, safe burning skills, species conservation, restoration practices, problem solving skills, teamwork skills, and a better understanding of conservation guidelines for projects at the Buffer Preserve.

TOOLS NEEDED FROM The Nature Conservancy: The Franklins Promise group will need to be properly Florida Department of Environmental Protection agency (FDEP) trained and supply all the FDEP personal protective equipment (PPE) which is outlined in the Fire Management Standards located at this website: <https://www.fdepnet.org/content/drp/fire-management>. Hand tools would be supplied by the Buffer Preserve on the day of the burn.

FUNDING STATUS: This would include the necessary purchase by TNC of all proper FDEP required prescribed burning PPE. The Buffer Preserve cannot provide funding for the work crews, but funding for hand tools is provided. Crews would be responsible for their own transportation to and from the Buffer Preserve.

PROJECT DURATION: The prescribed burns that happen within the Buffer Preserve range from mid-December through June of each year. These burns start no earlier than 9:00am and ignition stops no later than one hour after sunset.



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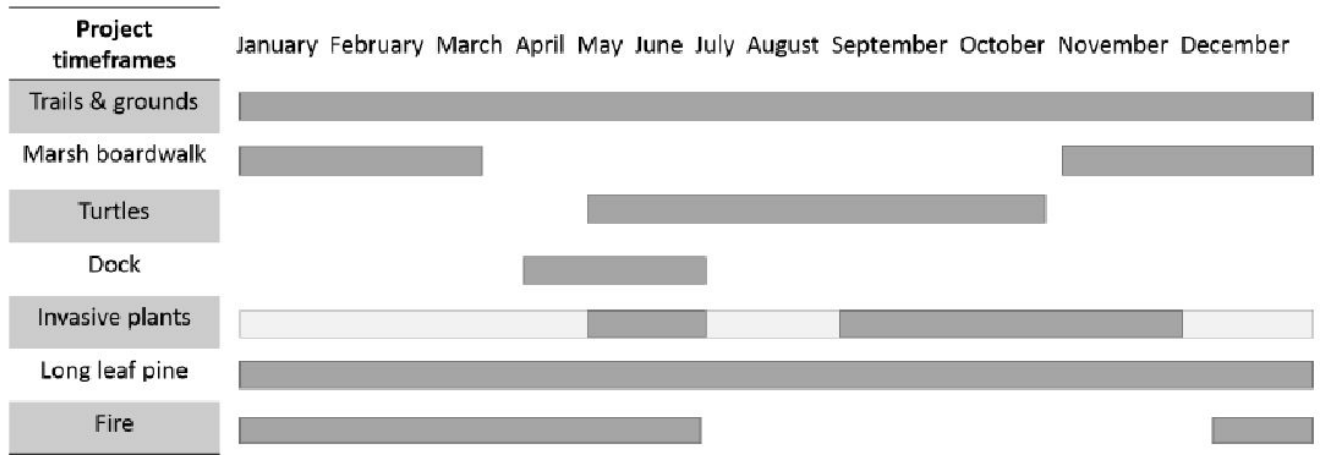


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NUMBER OF YOUNG ADULTS NEEDED FOR PROJECT: There would not be a cap on the number of Franklins Promise group staff that would be able to attend any of the prescribed burns, as long as the staff member meets of the required FDEP training requirements.



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ATTACHMENT 2

Apalachicola National Estuarine Research Reserve – DRAFT FIVE YEAR METRICS

Note: To be used by NOAA to evaluate ANERR program growth above and beyond normal activities of ANERR.

Metric 1

Track the implementation of Best Management Practices (Behavior Change/Conservation Education)

Goal: Increase awareness and application of Best Management Practices, specifically the use of Living Shorelines within the watershed.

Management Plan Goals: 3.3; Objective 3.3.1 (a,c,d,)

Issue 3: Changing land use patterns within the ACF watershed and potential hydrologic changes with the system.

Goal 3.3: Facilitate the use of sustainable land use planning strategies and Best Management Practices for areas adjacent to ANERR.

Objective 3.3.1: Provide information on best management practices (BMPs) to direct residential and commercial development projects in the watershed (increased density, development related to working waterfront – ports, marinas, boating, and fisheries).

Integrated Strategies:

- a) Work with local, regional, state, and national organizations on rules, statutes and laws.
- c) Provide reasonable alternatives to local governments and developers that help to minimize impacts from habitat and land use changes.
- d) Promote science-based strategies through training programs, technical assistance, demonstration sites, websites and public outreach, including the Green Industries Best Management Practices Training Program.

Performance Measures:

- Number of Living Shoreline classes
- Number of trainers (Living Shoreline experts)
- Living shoreline permitting process is simplified
- Number of living shorelines or length of shoreline

Strategies:

- Produce short videos (work with Northwest Florida Aquatic Preserves) less than 2 minutes in length
- Produce brochures that increase stewardship within the Reserve boundaries on living shorelines, bay friendly living, and low impact development.
- Work with DEP Regulatory office and Water Management District on streamlining living shoreline permitting process



- Hold regional Living shoreline summit. Encourage the creation of statewide living shoreline brochure and technical webpage
- Increase ANERR staff capacity to train on living shorelines
- Find funding and willing partners to start Grasses in Classes program
- Utilize existing Living Shorelines as demonstration locations
- Engage the public/volunteers in implementation of new Living Shorelines (ex Marshall House/Little St. George Island)

Metric 2

Visibility/Recognition: Awareness of the Reserve

Goal: Increase the Reserve's presence by communicating the Reserve's mission through various media outlets.

ANERR Management Plan Goals:

Issue 1: Public use of and access to Reserve-managed lands and waters

Goal 1.1: An informed public that is aware of environmental issues and has a sense of stewardship for resources within ANERR.

Issue 6: Community involvement, engagement and support

Goal 6.1: Increase capacity and support for the Reserve through opportunities that engage community members and students directly in Reserve activities.

Objective 6.2.1: Increase public awareness of the Reserve's natural and cultural resources.

Integrated Strategies:

Performance Measures:

- # of articles in local newspaper
- Website hits (after website has been changed)
- # of Friends on Facebook
- # of likes on Facebook
- # of new FOR memberships
- # of visitors
- # of relevant meetings
- Trip Advisor reviews
- Comments collected at the Nature Center

Strategies:

- Develop annual communications plan
- Continue targeted lectures and events
- Produce at least three exhibits in transitional space at the Nature Center per year
- Electronic counter of visits – more accurate count - Record Millender Park usage
- Continue diversity of exhibits including art



- Diversity of workshops (art and science)
- Have volunteers capture data on visitors and how they found us
- Have staff capture data on use of Multipurpose Room/Facility
- Targeted advertising strategies based on visitor feedback
- Develop new video for the Reserve
- Develop various videos that tell “our story” – YouTube channel- share links on website, etc.

Metric 3

Student engagement in system-wide watershed issues (K-12, Undergraduates and Graduates)

Goal: Educate students on management issues within the watershed; increase stewardship; empower students to be stewards of their place (Apalachicola Bay)

ANERR Management plan goal: 3.1.1 (g); 3.3.1 (f); 6.1.1

Issue 3: Changing land use patterns within the ACF watershed and potential hydrologic changes with the system.

Objective 3.1.1: Monitor change by identifying the physical, chemical and biological characteristics of Apalachicola Bay through regular sampling.

g) Develop outreach and educational programs for teachers to help educate students (the next generation) about the importance of maintaining water quality and the detrimental effects of reduced water quality.

Objective 3.3.1: Provide information on best management practices (BMPs) to direct residential and commercial development projects in the watershed (increased density, development related to working waterfront – ports, marinas, boating, and fisheries).

f) Incorporate education themes into K-12 program venues that address use of BMPs at home and school where teachers and students can be involved in protecting water quality. Use tools such as Enviroscope to demonstrate.

Issue 6: Community involvement, engagement and support

Objective 6.1.1: Increase opportunities for students and volunteers to assist with monitoring, restoration, invasive species removal, native plantings, education and other programs.

Performance Measures:

- Student participation in volunteer activities
- Outreach materials produced by students (# of video views)
- Student Contributions (career paths, publications)
- Number of student researchers
- Dorm use/lab use
- Research assistance days
- Symposium attendance.



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Strategies:

- Follow up with students (FOR scholarships, GRFs, other students) – where are they now?
- Mentoring program
- Estuary Explorers
- Develop formal internship program
- Billboard (locally) communicating stewardship message
- Highlight student research – State of the Bay Symposium
- Look for funding to sustain Graduate Research Fellowship



Metric 4

Estuary Explorers

Goal: Empower students to expand multi-year education and foster stewardship of resources.

ANERR Management Plan Goal: 6.1.1

Issue 6: Community involvement, engagement and support

Goal 6.1: Increase capacity and support for the Reserve through opportunities that engage community members and students directly in Reserve activities.

Objective 6.1.1: Increase opportunities for students and volunteers to assist with monitoring, restoration, invasive species removal, native plantings, education and other programs.

Performance Measures:

- # of students
- Continuity of the program/participants (# of 6th, 8th, 10th and 12th graders)
- Summer camp participation
- # of video hits

Strategies:

- Target this year's 5th graders and 10th (oyster settlement)
- After school and weekends
- Utilize field trips to engage students– kayak, Little St. George
- Summer camp
- Partner with FSU marine lab
- Seniors drive program
- Experiential videos designed to communicate stewardship –short and intended to be SHARED within the watershed
- Focus group (needs assessment follow-up) with teachers
- TOTE
- Partner with Project Impact (afterschool programs)/student diversity

Metric 5

Volunteers, Interns and Conservation Corps members

Goal: Expand the Reserve's capacity to implement its mission through the use of volunteers, interns and conservation corps groups.

ANERR Management plan goal: 6.1; 6.1.2

Issue 6: Community involvement, engagement and support

Goal 6.1: Increase capacity and support for the Reserve through opportunities that engage community members and students directly in Reserve activities.

Objective 6.1.2: Build partnerships with volunteer organizations, researchers, stakeholders and others that ensure community involvement in accomplishing Reserve activities.



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Performance Metrics:

- # of volunteers (individuals)
- # of hours
- # of groups
- # of projects completed
- Presentations/ outreach materials

Strategies:

- Develop plans for each group: volunteers, interns, conservation corps groups
- Solicit new groups/individuals underrepresented (stakeholders)
- Identify specific short-term projects for each group
- Develop fellowship program to assist sea turtle nest monitoring personnel
- Identify incentives for participants: housing, course credit
- Develop capacity (Nature Center or website) to match potential volunteers with appropriate projects.

Metric 6

Community-based Restoration

Goal: Build capacity and support for community-based restoration planning and implementation.

ANERR Management plan goal:

Goal 6.1: Increase capacity and support for the Reserve through opportunities that engage community members and students directly in Reserve activities.

Objective 6.1.1: Increase opportunities for students and volunteers to assist with monitoring, restoration, invasive species removal, native plantings, education and other programs.

Performance Metrics:

- # of trainings on restoration science
- # of restoration projects implemented with community input/involvement

Strategies:

- Increase expertise in restoration methods
- Increase expertise in evaluation of restoration projects
- Build the capacity to support the implementation of a Grasses in Classes program
- Partner with local businesses to create and implement shell reclamation program
- Support Shoreline Restoration Efforts

Metric 7



Increase Stewardship through Increased knowledge

Goal: Increase stewardship of the Reserve's resources through increased knowledge. Offer ecology courses targeted toward decision-makers, appointed leaders, professionals and residents.

ANERR Management plan goal:

Goal 1.1: An informed public that is aware of environmental issues and has a sense of stewardship for resources within ANERR.

Objective 1.1.1: Increase public awareness of opportunities to access and enjoy Reserve-managed lands and waters.

Performance Metrics:

- # of participants
- Attendee Follow up assessment – 6 months later – have you utilized what you learned?
- Website/Facebook hits

Strategies:

- Create and implement Bay Friendly Living campaign
- Create and offer courses on oysters, living shorelines, marine debris reduction, Bay-friendly living, estuaries 101
- Build relationships with decision makers, professionals and residents.
- Field programs for public (bay tidal and beach cart/crew) – engage the public out in the field as opportunities present themselves



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PROJECTS

Completed or Planned

ATTACHMENT 3

Project Number	Project Name	Vendor Name	Vendor Code
001-15	Apalachicola Nature Trail Construction	City of Apalachicola	COA
002-15	Holy Family Senior Center Community Garden	City of Apalachicola	COA
003-15	Creek Scipio Marsh Trail Restoration	ANERR	ANR
004-15	Marsh Protection Boardwalks	ANERR	ANR
005-15	Prescribed Burn Preparation and Debris Removal	St Joe Buffer Preserve	BUF/TNC
006-15	Oyster Monitoring Stations	FL Fish and Wildlife	FWC
007-15	SGI Dune Walkovers/Boardwalks Planned	Franklin County	FCC
008-15	Franklin Square Recreation Center Repair	City of Apalachicola	COA
009-15	Old Fire Station Cleanout and Repair	City of Apalachicola	COA
001-16	Wire Grass Seed Cleaning	The Nature Conservancy	TNC
002-16	Project Impact Sand Box/Playground Construction	City of Apalachicola	COA
003-16	Battery Park Equipment Removal	City of Apalachicola	COA
004-16	Pine Sapling Planting	The Nature Conservancy	TNC
005-16	Alligator Point Dune Walkovers/Boardwalk Planned	Franklin County	FCC



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