

SUPPLEMENTAL COPIES
OF THE STATE OF FLORIDA
LAND ACQUISITION
REPORTS
FOR THE
APALACHICOLA RIVER
1980 – 1987



No 1981 report was published. Several pages of the 1982 report for the Lower Apalachicola River are missing from archive copies, and therefore could not be included here. The table of contents page numbers refer to the boldface page numbers in the lower right-hand corner of this compilation.

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LOWER APALACHICOLA
RIVER EEL ADDITION

1. PROJECT SUMMARY

Name	County	Acres	Total Estimated Price	Estimated Price/Acre
Lower Apalachicola River EEL Addition	Franklin	12,600-	\$1,700,000 State	\$278
		14,367	\$1,800,000 Federal	

Recommended

Public Purpose: Recommended for purchase as E.E.L. Also qualifies as Outdoor Recreation Land and use and protection as a Natural Floodplain, Marsh, or Estuary.

Value: Rates very high for ecological and archaeological value.
Rates high for recreation value.

Ownership Pattern: Manageability and usability rate high. Proposal is adjacent to existing E.E.L. property and access is available by land and by several boat landings.

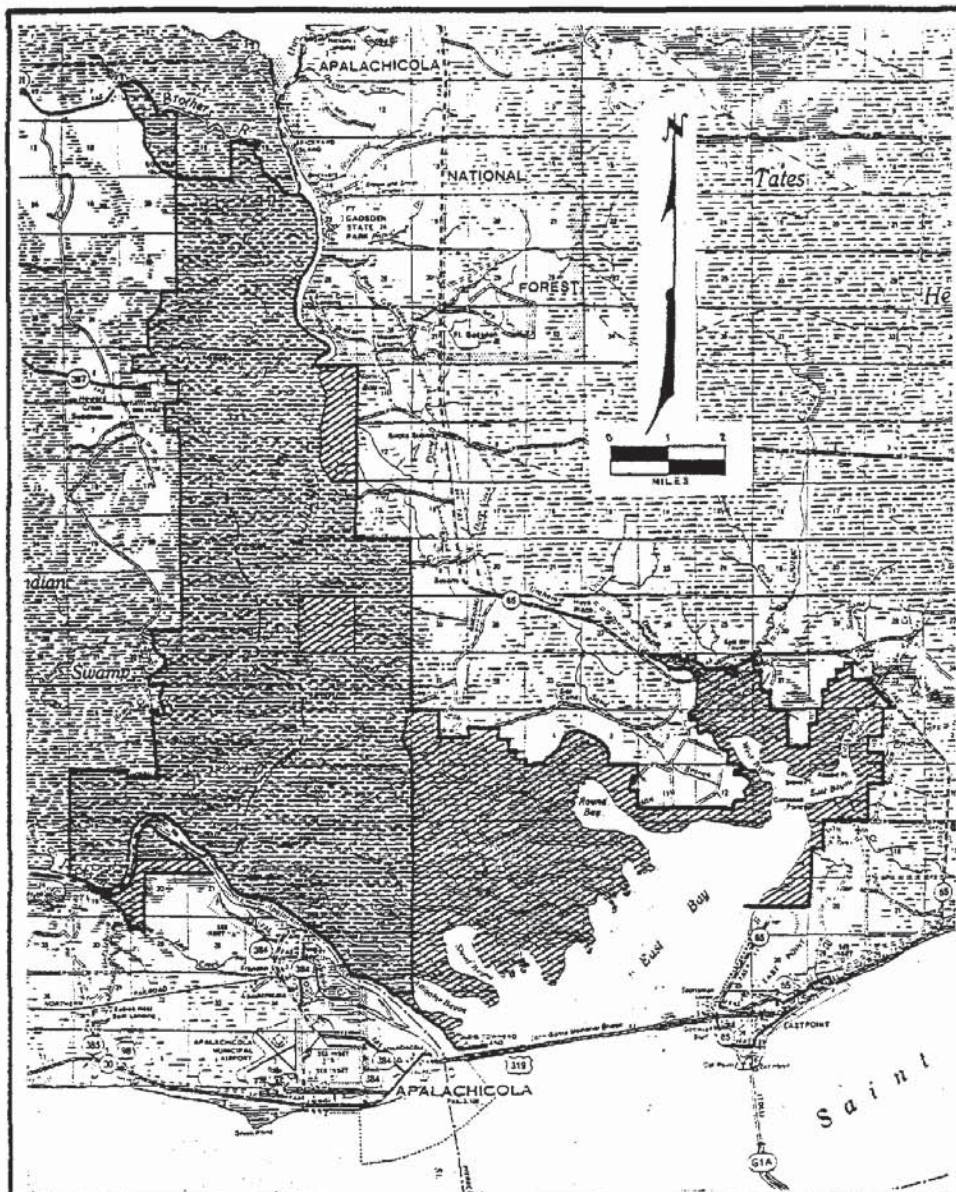
Vulnerability: This entire proposal is part of a fragile and delicate balance of ecosystems and is extremely vulnerable.

Endangerment: Endangerment rates moderate. There are no known developments planned for this tract but the potential for logging in fringe areas does exist.

Location: Has high value for statewide, regional, and local significance. The largest major riverine ecosystem in Florida.

Cost: Owners expressed willingness to sell in past; no recent contacts however.
\$1.8 million federal grant is available to help with purchase. Leaving approximately \$1.7 million for State funds.
Management as part of the existing E.E.L. tract should cost approximately \$8,000 per year.

Other Factors: Purchase of this tract is necessary for the completion and proper management of the existing E.E.L. area.



VICINITY MAP

— PROJECT BOUNDARY

STATE LAND

AREA PROPOSED FOR ACQUISITION

FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

PROPOSED ADDITION TO
LOWER APALACHICOLA
E.E.L. PROJECT

FRANKLIN

COUNTY

3. Merits

a. Favorable

- 1) Adjacent to an existing E.E.L. tract thereby facilitating management.
- 2) One of the largest riverine systems in Florida.
- 3) Important to protection of Apalachicola Bay Fisheries Industry.
- 4) Contains a wide variety of archeological sites.
- 5) Federal matching funds are available for acquisition and management

b. Unfavorable - A portion of the project is already partially protected by state and federal wetland regulatory authority.

4. Public Purpose

This project qualifies for acquisition as Environmentally Endangered Lands (EEL).

5. Management, Guidance and Agency(s)

Lower Apalachicola River Addition will be part of the Apalachicola River and Bay National Estuarine Sanctuary whose purpose is to provide for research and education in a natural setting. Compatible recreational uses including hunting, sport and commercial fishing, and hiking will be permitted, as well as forest management and archaeological and historic study. Management by the Sanctuary Management Committee, consisting of Franklin County, the Game and Freshwater Fish Commission, the Department of Environmental Regulation, and the Department of Natural Resources is recommended.

6.a. Conformance with EEL Plan

The Lower Apalachicola River Additions has been designated an EEL project, and it is in conformance with the EEL plan.

The Lower Apalachicola River Additions qualify under the EEL plan's definition of environmentally endangered lands in that:

1. the naturally occurring, relatively unaltered flora, fauna and geologic conditions can be preserved by acquisition;
2. the area is of sufficient size to materially contribute to the natural environmental well-being of a large area (especially in conjunction with the adjacent existing EEL lands);
3. the area, if preserved by acquisition, is capable of affording significant protection to natural resources of both regional and statewide importance (i.e., the oyster industry); and
4. human activity (i.e., lumbering, draining, etc.) in the area will result in irreparable damage to the inherent natural integrity.

Criteria for the establishment of priorities among candidates for acquisition are also provided in the EEL plan. These criteria consist of six land priority categories and eleven general considerations. The Plan directs that highest priority for acquisition be given to areas representing the best combination of values inherent in the six categories but not to the exclusion of areas having overriding significance in only one category. The six categories are:

1. Lands of critical importance to supplies of freshwater for domestic use and natural systems
2. Freshwater and saltwater wetlands
3. Unique and outstanding natural areas
4. Natural ocean and gulf beach systems
5. Areas that protect or enhance the environmental values of significant natural resources
6. Wilderness areas

The Lower Apalachicola River Additions project qualifies in the first, second and fifth categories with only marginal exclusion from the sixth.

In summary the Lower Apalachicola River Additions, including portions of the Apalachicola River floodplain and Apalachicola Bay marsh, contributes significantly to the water quality in both the river and the bay.

b. Conformance with State Land Management Plan

This project conforms with the conceptual state lands management plan.

c. Unavailability of Suitable State-owned Lands

The lands in this project are adjacent to similar presently state-owned lands. If acquired, this project would be incorporated into the present public lands to enhance the management and preservation of water quality in the Apalachicola Bay and River.

7. Project Costs

a. Acquisition

Acquisition cost is estimated at \$1,600,000 state and \$1,900,000 federal.

8. Sales History

Due to the complexity of this multi-owner project as well as staff and time limitations, it was not possible to research the title data for the last six years. However, Chapter 253.025, Florida Statutes, requires title insurance or an abstract of title with title opinion prior to approval by the Board of Trustees of any final agreement for purchase. Chapter 375.031, Florida Statutes, requires the seller to provide a disclosure containing a list of financial transactions dating back to January 1, 1970. A complete sales history, therefore, will be completed on each parcel before it is acquired.

3. Public Purpose

This project qualifies for acquisition as Environmentally Endangered Lands (EEL).

4. Management, Guidance and Agency(s)

Lower Apalachicola River Addition will be part of the Apalachicola River and Bay National Estuarine Sanctuary whose purpose is to provide for research and education in a natural setting. Compatible recreational uses including hunting, sport and commercial fishing, and hiking will be permitted, as well as forest management and archaeological and historic study. Management by the Sanctuary Management Committee, consisting of Franklin County, the Game and Freshwater Fish Commission, the Department of Environmental Regulation, and the Department of Natural Resources is recommended.

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c. Unavailability of Suitable State-owned Lands

The lands in this project are adjacent to similar presently state-owned lands. If acquired, this project would be incorporated into the present public lands to enhance the management and preservation of water quality in the Apalachicola Bay and River.

6. Project Costs

a. Acquisition

Acquisition cost is estimated at \$1,963,500 state and \$1,800,000 federal.

b. Management

Management cost is estimated at \$62,083 for one year.

7. Sales History

Due to the complexity of this multi-owner project as well as staff and time limitations, it was not possible to re-search the title data for the last six years. However, Chapter 253.025, Florida Statutes, requires title insurance or an abstract of title with title opinion prior to approval by the Board of Trustees of any final agreement for purchase. Chapter 375.031, Florida Statutes, requires the seller to provide a disclosure containing a list of financial transactions dating back to January 1, 1970. A complete sales history, therefore, will be completed on each parcel before it is acquired.

PROJECT SUMMARY

Name	County	Acres	Best Estimate of Value
Lower Apalachicola River EEL Addition	Franklin	9373	\$3,263,700

Recommended

Public Purpose: Recommended for purchase as E.E.L. Also qualifies as Outdoor Recreation Land and use and protection as a Natural Floodplain, Marsh, or Estuary.

Value: Rates very high for ecological and archaeological value.
Rates high for recreation value.

Ownership Pattern: Manageability and useability rate high. Proposal is adjacent to existing E.E.L. property and access is available by land and by several boat landings. A planning map has been done by the Bureau of Surveying and Mapping to establish a mean high water line in order to determine acreage. There are 14 owners of which 5 are willing to sell.

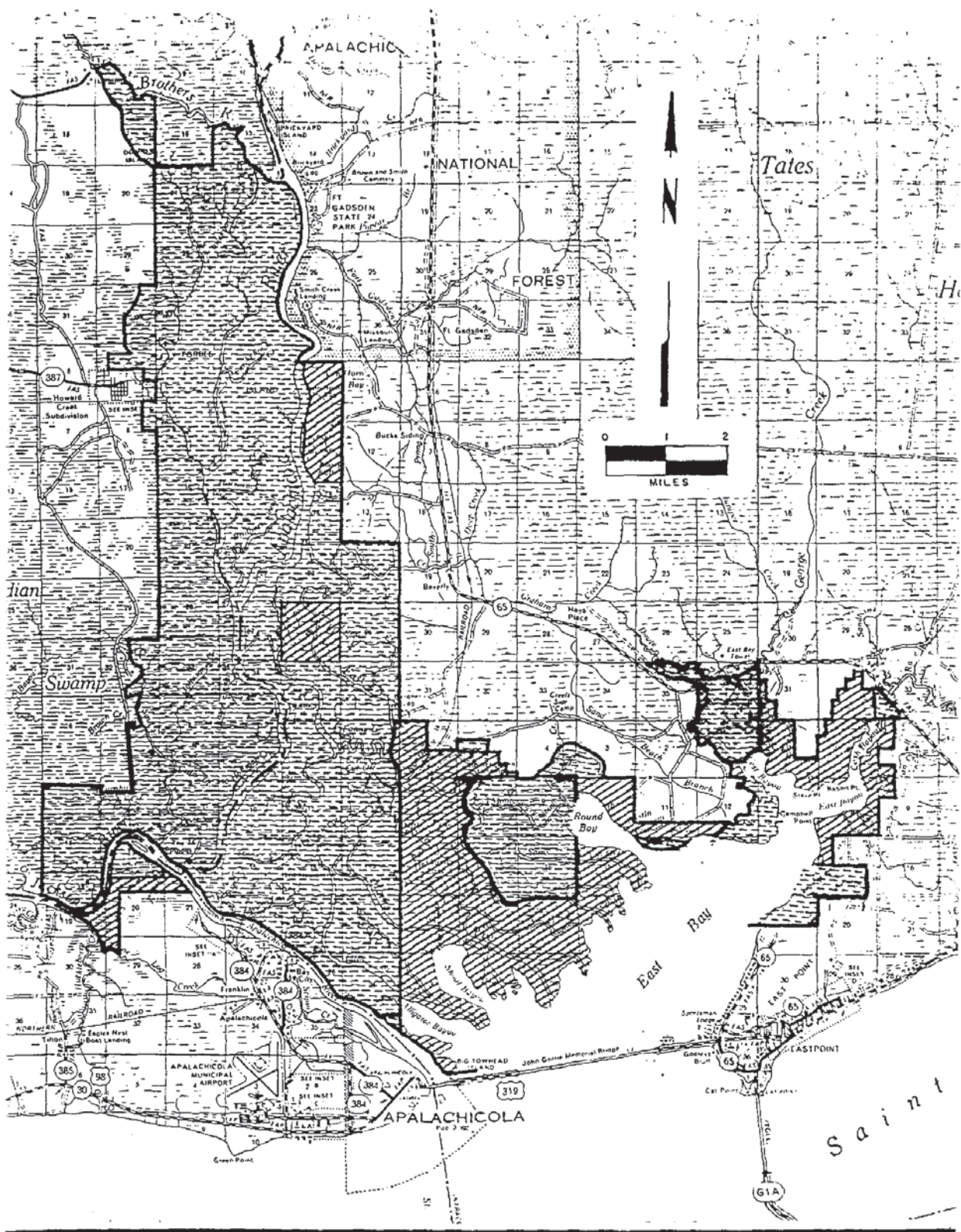
Vulnerability: This entire proposal is part of a fragile and delicate balance of ecosystems and is extremely vulnerable.

Endangerment: There are no known developments planned for this tract but the potential for logging in fringe areas does exist.

Location: Has high value for statewide, regional, and local significance. The largest major riverine ecosystem in Florida.

Cost: Federal Funds have been used to purchase much of the state-owned property.

Other Factors: Purchase of this tract is necessary for the completion and proper management of the existing E.E.L. area.



VICINITY MAP

- PROJECT BOUNDARY
-  STATE LAND
-  AREA PROPOSED FOR ACQUISITION

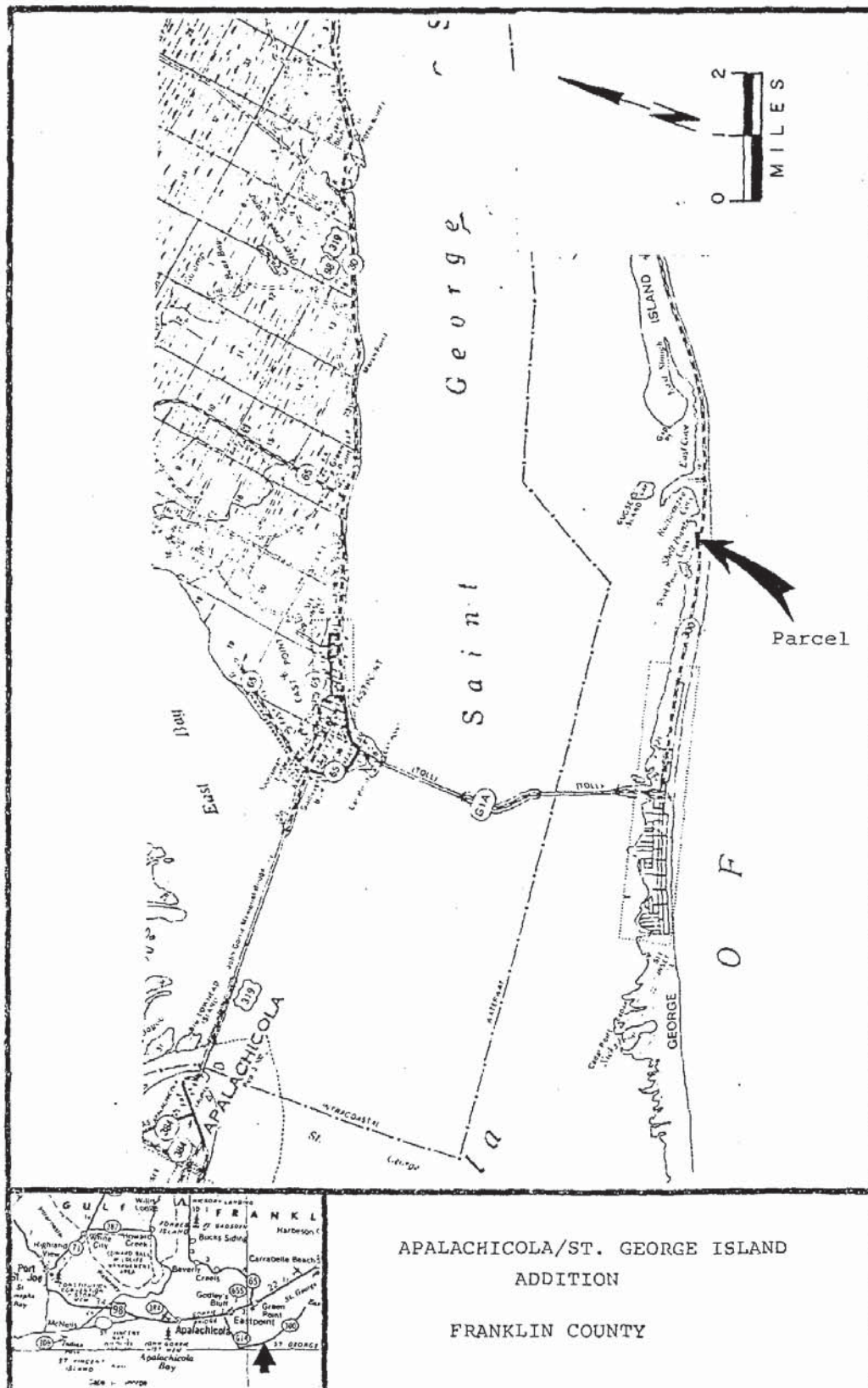
FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

PROPOSED ADDITION TO LOWER APALACHICOLA E.E.L. PROJECT

Page 11

FRANKLIN

COUNTY



3. Public Purpose

This project qualifies for acquisition as Environmentally Endangered Lands (EEL).

4. Preliminary Management Statement

Please see attached sheet.

5a. Conformance with EEL Plan

The Lower Apalachicola River Additions has been designated an EEL project, and it is in conformance with the EEL plan.

The Lower Apalachicola River Additions qualify under the EEL plan's definition of environmentally endangered lands in that:

1. the naturally occurring, relatively unaltered flora, fauna and geologic conditions can be preserved by acquisition;
2. the area is of sufficient size to materially contribute to the natural environmental well-being of a large area (especially in conjunction with the adjacent existing EEL lands);
3. the area, if preserved by acquisition, is capable of affording significant protection to natural resources of both regional and statewide importance (i.e., the oyster industry); and
4. human activity (i.e., lumbering, draining, etc.) in the area will result in irreparable damage to the inherent natural integrity.

Criteria for the establishment of priorities among candidates for acquisition are also provided in the EEL plan. These criteria consist of six land priority categories and eleven general considerations. The Plan directs that highest priority for acquisition be given to areas representing the best combination of values inherent in the six categories but not to the exclusion of areas having overriding significance in only one category. The six categories are:

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5. Areas that protect or enhance the environmental values of significant natural resources
6. Wilderness areas

The Lower Apalachicola River Additions project qualifies in the first, second and fifth categories with only marginal exclusion from the sixth.

In summary the Lower Apalachicola River Additions, including portions of the Apalachicola River floodplain and Apalachicola Bay marsh, contributes significantly to the water quality in both the river and the bay.

b. Conformance with State Land Management Plan

This project conforms with the conceptual state lands management plan.

Apalachicola River and Bay National Estuarine Sanctuary
Management Plan

Executive Summary

In accordance with its designation as a National Estuarine Sanctuary, the primary management goals for the Apalachicola River and Bay are to 1) preserve and perpetuate the natural resources, and 2) promote the sanctuary as an ideal site for both scientific research and public environmental education projects. The management program will also encourage those public recreational and consumptive activities in the Sanctuary which are compatible with the primary management goals. The management program will be in conformance with the state lands management plan and National Estuarine Sanctuary program policy.

The management plan for the Sanctuary describes the objectives, administrative policies, and programs developed to achieve the aforementioned goals. Sanctuary resource management will be developed and accomplished through the cooperative efforts of the many local, state and federal agencies having vested interests in all or part of the designated area. These agencies include Franklin County and local resource users, the Florida Department of Natural Resources, the Florida Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission, the Florida Department of Environmental Regulation, Florida Division of Forestry, Florida Division of Archives, History and Records Management, Florida State University, U. S. Army Corps of Engineers, U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administrative. Input from each of the aforementioned agencies was received during development of the management plan. Each of these groups also has the opportunity to provide further input into sanctuary management via a six member advisory Sanctuary Management Committee consisting of one representative each from the Department of Natural Resources, Department of Environmental Regulation, Franklin County, local resource users and the scientific community.

Sanctuary designation was conferred on the Bay and Lower River area by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration which also awarded the Department of Natural Resources matching grants to assist in the acquisition of sanctuary lands and initiate operations (i.e., employ a manager).

The objectives of resource management and protection pertain to preserving the natural community associations and hydrological regime through use of appropriate management procedures (e.g., control burning, reseeding areas, exotic species control, vehicular traffic control), restoration techniques as necessary and practical (e.g., reforestation, removal of barriers to water flow) and environmental monitoring (e.g., water quality). The scientific research program is principally concerned with gaining new information on the dynamic interaction of the River, Bay and Gulf to enhance management of the area.

Currently a variety of public recreational and commercial opportunities occur within the sanctuary area. These include, but are not limited to, boating, swimming, hiking, fishing, nature study, bird watching, primitive camping, oystering, crabbing, and shrimping. The environmental education program is aimed at persons interested in such opportunities in the sanctuary environment. Through such informative vehicles as field trips, brochures and seminars, the public will gain a better understanding of the need for a successful management program and the value of the irreplaceable resources they have.

c. Unavailability of Suitable State-owned Lands

The lands in this project are adjacent to similar presently state-owned lands. If acquired, this project would be incorporated into the present public lands to enhance the management and preservation of water quality in the Apalachicola Bay and River.

6. Preacquisition Budgeting

a. Acquisition

Cost for acquisition is estimated to be \$3,263,700.

7. Sales History

A sales history is complete and available in the Division of State Lands.

#5 LOWER APALACHICOLA

1. PROJECT SUMMARY

NAME	COUNTY	ACRES	BEST ESTIMATE OF VALUE
Lower Apalachicola River EEL Addition	Franklin	7,800	\$2,732,500

A. RECOMMENDED PUBLIC PURPOSE: Recommended for purchase as EEL. Also qualifies as Outdoor Recreation Land and use and protection as a Natural Floodplain, Marsh, or Estuary.

B. RESOURCE VALUE: Rates very high for ecological and archaeological value. Rates high for recreational value.

C. OWNERSHIP PATTERN: Manageability and useability rate high. Proposal is adjacent to existing E.E.L. property and access is available by land and by several boat landings. A planning map has been done by the Bureau of Survey and Mapping to establish a mean high water line in order to determine acreage. There are 14 owners of which 5 are willing to sell.

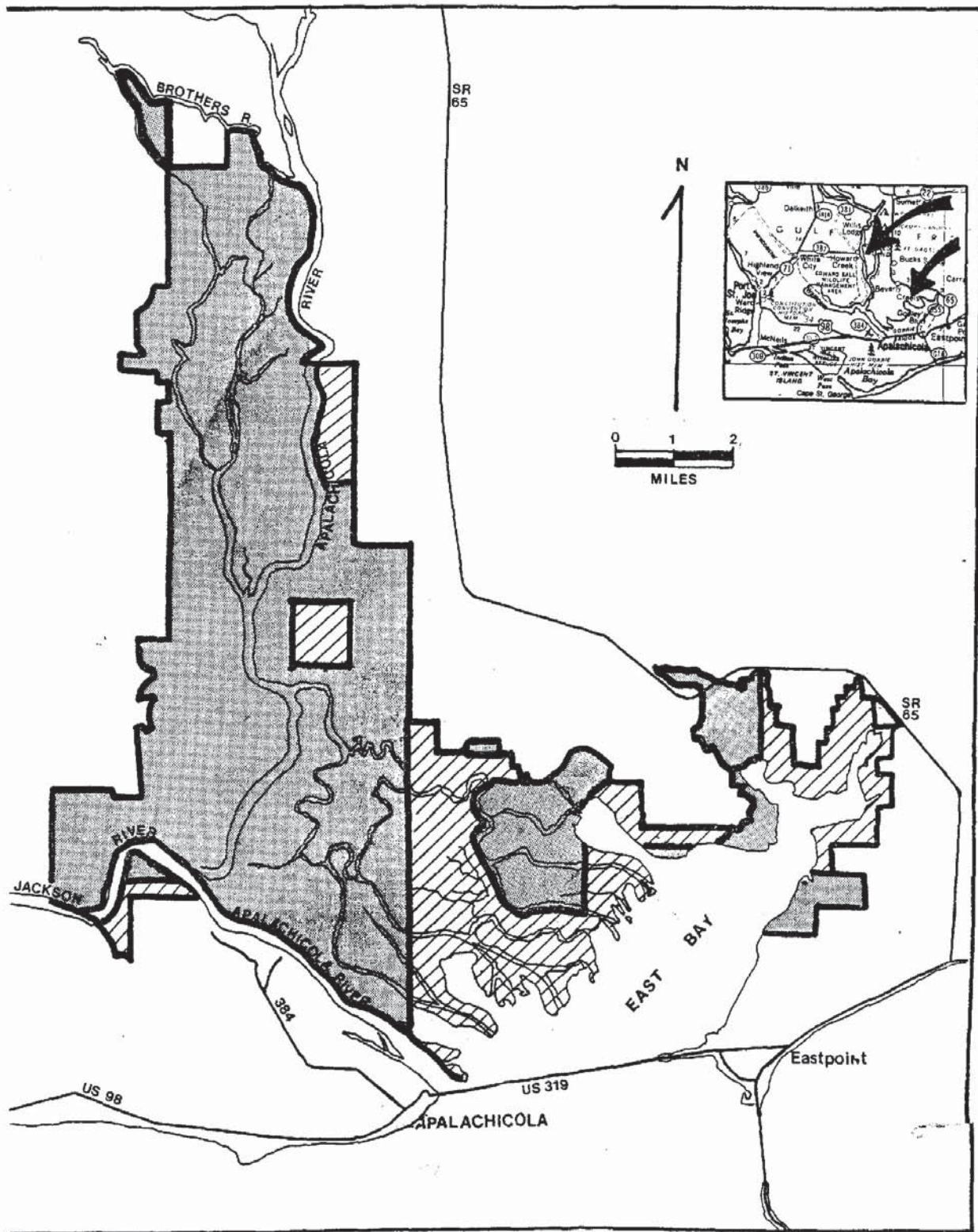
D. VULNERABILITY: This entire proposal is part of a fragile and delicate balance of ecosystems and is extremely vulnerable.

E. ENDANGERMENT: There are no known developments planned for this tract but logging in the upland watershed is done.

F. LOCATION: Has high value for statewide, regional, and local significance. The largest major riverine ecosystem in Florida.

G. COST: Federal Funds have been used to purchase much of the state-owned property.

H. OTHER FACTORS: Purchase of this tract is necessary for the completion and proper management of the existing E.E.L. area.



PROPOSED ADDITION TO LOWER APALACHICOLA

-  PROJECT BOUNDARY
-  STATE LAND
-  AREA PROPOSED FOR ACQUISITION
- FRANKLIN COUNTY

3. PRELIMINARY MANAGEMENT STATEMENT

Please see attached Executive Summary.

4. CONFORMANCE CRITERIA

a. Conformance with EEL Plan

The Lower Apalachicola River Additions has been designated an EEL project, and it is in conformance with the EEL plan.

The Lower Apalachicola River Additions qualify under the EEL plan's definition of environmentally endangered lands in that:

1. the naturally occurring relatively unaltered flora and fauna and geologic conditions can be preserved by acquisition;
2. the area is sufficient size to materially contribute to the natural environmental well-being of a large area (especially in conjunction with the adjacent existing EEL lands);
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Criteria for the establishment of priorities among candidates for acquisition are also provided in the EEL plan. These criteria consist of six land priority categories and eleven general considerations. The Plan directs that highest priority for acquisition be given to areas representing the best combination of values inherent in the six categories, but not to the exclusion of areas having overriding significance in only one category. The six categories are:

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6. Wilderness areas.

The Lower Apalachicola River additions project qualifies in the first, second and fifth categories with only marginal exclusion from the sixth.

In summary the Lower Apalachicola River Additions, portions of the Apalachicola River floodplain and Apalachicola Bay marsh contributes significantly to the water quality in both the river and the bay.

b. Conformance with State Lands Management Plan

This project is in conformance with the conceptual State Lands Management Plan.

c. Unavailability of Suitable State Lands

The lands in this project are adjacent to similar presently state-owned lands. If acquired, this project would be incorporated into the present public lands to enhance the management and preservation of water quality in the Apalachicola Bay and River.

6. PREACQUISITION BUDGETING

- a. Cost for acquisition is estimated to be \$2,732,500.

Apalachicola River and Bay National Estuarine Sanctuary
Management Plan

Executive Summary

In accordance with its designation as a National Estuarine Sanctuary, the primary management goals for the Apalachicola River and Bay are to 1) preserve and perpetuate the natural resources, and 2) promote the sanctuary as an ideal site for both scientific research and public environmental education projects. The management program will also encourage those public recreational and consumptive activities in the Sanctuary which are compatible with the primary management goals. The management program will be in conformance with the state lands management plan and National Estuarine Sanctuary program policy.

The management plan for the Sanctuary describes the objectives, administrative policies, and programs developed to achieve the aforementioned goals. Sanctuary resource management will be developed and accomplished through the cooperative efforts of the many local, state and federal agencies having vested interests in all or part of the designated area. These agencies include Franklin County and local resource users, the Florida Department of Natural Resources, the Florida Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission, the Florida Department of Environmental Regulation, Florida Division of Forestry, Florida Division of Archives, History and Records Management, Florida State University, U. S. Army Corps of Engineers, U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administrative. Input from each of the aforementioned agencies was received during development of the management plan. Each of these groups also has the opportunity to provide further input into sanctuary management via a six member advisory Sanctuary Management Committee consisting of one representative each from the Department of Natural Resources, Department of Environmental Regulation, Franklin County, local resource users and the scientific community.

Sanctuary designation was conferred on the Bay and Lower River area by the National-Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration which also awarded the Department of Natural Resources matching grants to assist in the acquisition of sanctuary lands and initiate operations (i.e., employ a manager).

The objectives of resource management and protection pertain to preserving the natural community associations and hydrological regime through use of appropriate management procedures (e.g., control burning, reseeding areas, exotic species control, vehicular traffic control), restoration techniques as necessary and practical (e.g., reforestation, removal of barriers to water flow) and environmental monitoring (e.g., water quality). The scientific research program is principally concerned with gaining new information on the dynamic interaction of the River, Bay and Gulf to enhance management of the area.

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#5 LOWER APALACHICOLA

1. PROJECT SUMMARY

NAME	COUNTY	ACRES	BEST ESTIMATE OF VALUE
Lower Apalachicola River EEL Addition	Franklin	7,800	\$2,732,500

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C. OWNERSHIP PATTERN: Manageability and useability rate high. Proposal is adjacent to existing E.E.L. property and access is available by land and by several boat landings. There are 14 owners of which 5 are willing to sell.

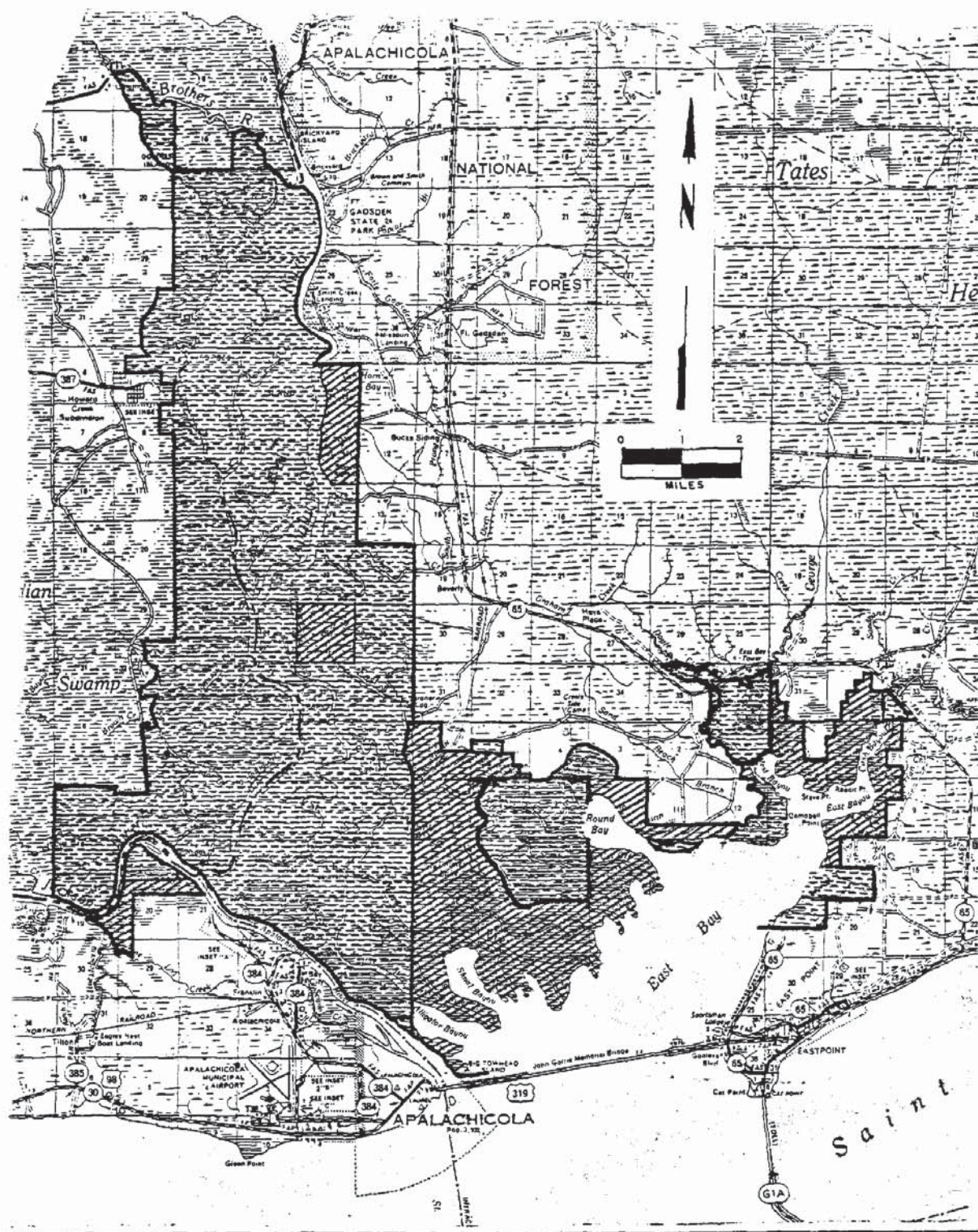
D. VULNERABILITY: This entire proposal is part of a fragile and delicate balance of ecosystems and is extremely vulnerable.

E. ENDANGERMENT: There are no known developments planned for this tract but logging in the upland watershed is done.

F. LOCATION: This project is of statewide, regional, and local significance, and includes the largest major riverine ecosystem in Florida. These lands are within the designated boundaries of the Apalachicola National Estuarine Sanctuary.

G. COST: Federal Funds have been used to purchase much of the property.

H. OTHER FACTORS: Purchase of this tract is necessary for the completion and proper management of the existing E.E.L. area. The Land Acquisition Selection Committee has initiated preparation of a project design for the entire river and bay system.



VICINITY MAP

- PROJECT BOUNDARY
- STATE LAND
- AREA PROPOSED FOR ACQUISITION

FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

PROPOSED ADDITION TO LOWER APALACHICOLA E.E.L. PROJECT

FRANKLIN

COUNTY

3. PRELIMINARY MANAGEMENT STATEMENT

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b. Conformance with State Lands Management Plan

This project is in conformance with the conceptual State Lands Management Plan.

c. Unavailability of Suitable State Lands

The lands in this project are adjacent to similar presently state-owned lands. If acquired, this project would be incorporated into the present public lands to enhance the management and preservation of water quality in the Apalachicola Bay and River.

6. PREACQUISITION BUDGETING

- a. Cost for acquisition is estimated to be \$2,732,500.

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#5 LOWER APALACHICOLA

1. PROJECT SUMMARY

NAME	COUNTY	ACREAGE (Not Yet Closed)	ESTIMATE OF VALUE (Remaining to be Purchased)
Lower Apalachicola River EEL Addition	Franklin	7,800	\$2,732,500

A. **RECOMMENDED PUBLIC PURPOSE:** Recommended for purchase as EEL. Also qualifies as Outdoor Recreation Land and use and protection as a Natural Floodplain, Marsh, or Estuary.

B. **RESOURCE VALUE:** Rates very high for ecological and archaeological value. Rates high for recreational value.

C. **OWNERSHIP PATTERN:** Manageability and useability rate high. Proposal is adjacent to existing E.E.L. property and access is available by land and by several boat landings. There are 14 owners of which 5 are willing to sell.

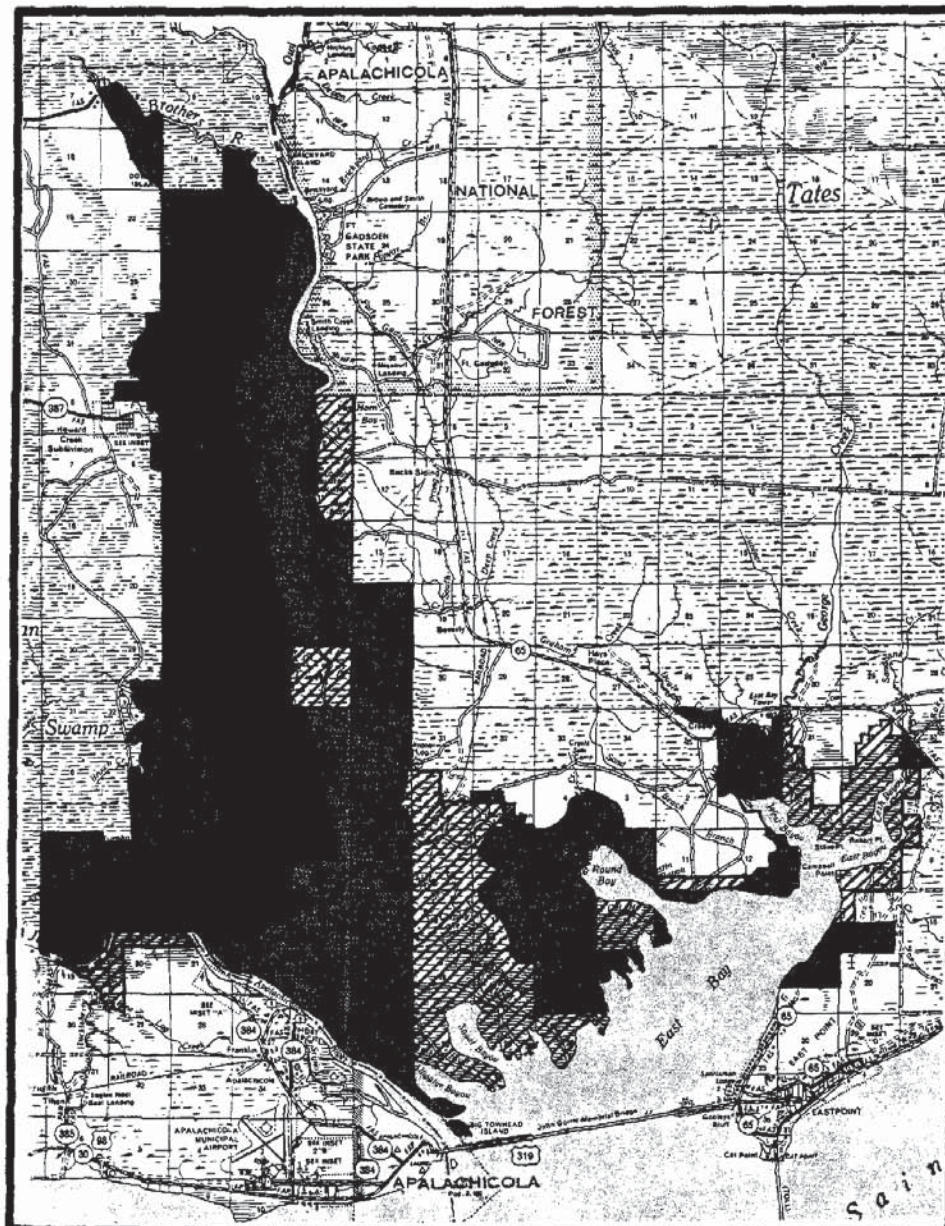
D. **VULNERABILITY:** This entire proposal is part of a fragile and delicate balance of ecosystems and is extremely vulnerable.

E. **ENDANGERMENT:** There are no known developments planned for this tract but logging in the upland watershed is done.

F. **LOCATION:** This project is of statewide, regional, and local significance, and includes the largest major riverine ecosystem in Florida. These lands are within the designated boundaries of the Apalachicola National Estuarine Sanctuary.

G. **COST:** Federal Funds have been used to purchase much of the property.

H. **OTHER FACTORS:** Purchase of this tract is necessary for the completion and proper management of the existing E.E.L. area. The Land Acquisition Selection Committee has initiated preparation of a project design for the entire river and bay system.



LOWER APALACHICOLA
FRANKLIN COUNTY

- STATE OWNED
- PROJECT AREA

3. PRELIMINARY MANAGEMENT STATEMENT

Please see attached Executive Summary.

4. CONFORMANCE CRITERIA

a. Conformance with EEL Plan

The Lower Apalachicola River Additions has been designated an EEL project, and it is in conformance with the EEL plan.

The Lower Apalachicola River Additions qualify under the EEL plan's definition of environmentally endangered lands in that:

1. the naturally occurring relatively unaltered flora and fauna and geologic conditions can be preserved by acquisition;
2. the area is sufficient size to materially contribute to the natural environmental well-being of a large area (especially in conjunction with the adjacent existing EEL lands);
3. the area, if preserved by acquisition, is capable of affording significant protection to natural resources of both regional and statewide importance (i.e., the oyster industry); and
4. human activity (i.e., lumbering, draining, etc.) in the area will result in irreparable damage to the inherent natural integrity.

Criteria for the establishment of priorities among candidates for acquisition are also provided in the EEL plan. These criteria consist of six land priority categories and eleven general considerations. The Plan directs that highest priority for acquisition be given to areas representing the best combination of values inherent in the six categories, but not to the exclusion of areas having overriding significance in only one category. The six categories are:

1. Lands of critical importance to the supplies of freshwater for domestic use and natural systems.
2. Freshwater and saltwater wetlands.
3. Unique and outstanding natural areas.
4. Natural ocean and gulf beach systems.
5. Areas that protect or enhance the environmental values of significant natural resources.
6. Wilderness areas.

The Lower Apalachicola River additions project qualifies in the first, second and fifth categories with only marginal exclusion from the sixth.

In summary the Lower Apalachicola River Additions, portions of the Apalachicola River floodplain and Apalachicola Bay marsh contributes significantly to the water quality in both the river and the bay.

b. Conformance with State Lands Management Plan

This project is in conformance with the conceptual State Lands Management Plan.

c. Unavailability of Suitable State Lands

The lands in this project are adjacent to similar presently state-owned lands. If acquired, this project would be incorporated into the present public lands to enhance the management and preservation of water quality in the Apalachicola Bay and River.

5. PREACQUISITION BUDGETING

- a. Cost for acquisition is estimated to be \$2,732,500.

6. Executive Summary

In accordance with its designation as a National Estuarine Sanctuary, the primary management goals for the Apalachicola River and Bay are to 1) preserve and perpetuate the natural resources, and 2) promote the sanctuary as an ideal site for both scientific research and public environmental education projects. The management program will also encourage those public recreational and consumptive activities in the Sanctuary which are compatible with the primary management goals. The management program will be in conformance with the state lands management plan and National Estuarine Sanctuary program policy.

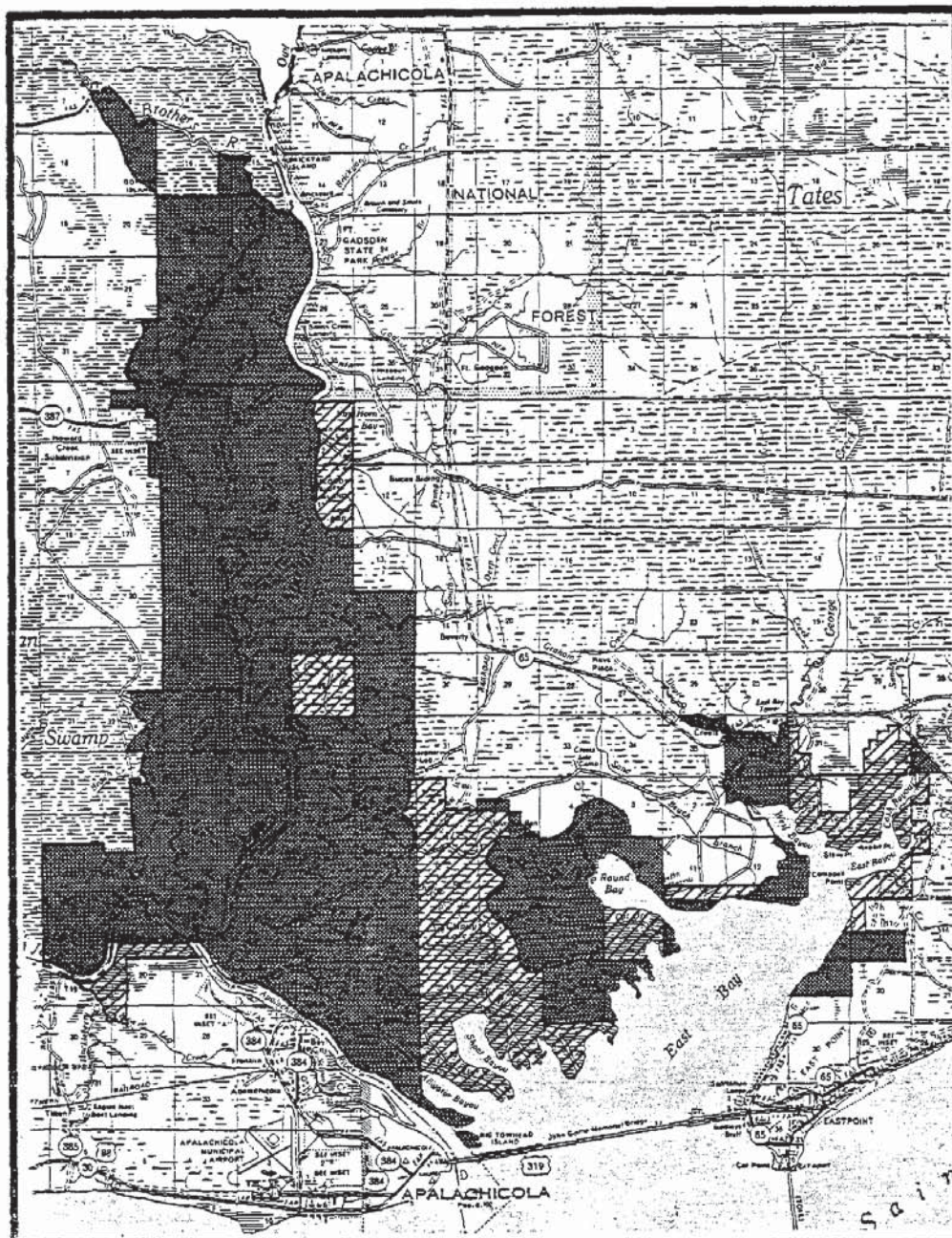
The management plan for the Sanctuary describes the objectives, administrative policies, and programs developed to achieve the aforementioned goals. Sanctuary resource management will be developed and accomplished through the cooperative efforts of the many local, state and federal agencies having vested interests in all or part of the designated area. These agencies include Franklin County and local resource users, the Florida Department of Natural Resources, the Florida Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission, the Florida Department of Environmental Regulation, Florida Division of Forestry, Florida Division of Historic Resources, Florida State University, U. S. Army Corps of Engineers, U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. Input from each of the aforementioned agencies was received during development of the management plan. Each of these groups also has the opportunity to provide further input into sanctuary management via a six member advisory Sanctuary Management Committee consisting of one representative from the Department of Natural Resources, Department of Environmental Regulation, Franklin County, local resource users and the scientific community.

Sanctuary designation was conferred on the Bay and Lower River area by the National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration which also awarded the Department of Natural Resources matching grants to assist in the acquisition of sanctuary lands and initiate operations (i.e., employ a manager).

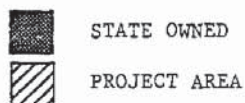
The objectives of resource management and protection pertain to preserving the natural community associations and hydrological regime through use of appropriate management procedures (e.g., control burning, reseeding areas, exotic species control, vehicular traffic control), restoration techniques as necessary and practical (e.g., reforestation, removal of barriers to water flow) and environmental monitoring (e.g., water quality). The scientific research program is principally concerned with gaining new information on the dynamic interaction of the River, Bay and Gulf to enhance management of the area.

Currently a variety of public recreational and commercial opportunities occur within the sanctuary area. These include, but are not limited to, boating, swimming, hiking, fishing, nature study, bird watching, primitive camping, oystering, crabbing, and shrimping. The environmental education program is aimed at persons interested in such opportunities in the sanctuary environment. Through such informative vehicles as field trips, brochures and seminars, the public will gain a better understanding of the need for a successful management program and the value of the irreplaceable resources they have.

#4 LOWER APALACHICOLA



LOWER APALACHICOLA
FRANKLIN COUNTY



PROJECT NAME	COUNTY	ACREAGE (Not Yet Purchased or under option)	TAX ASSESSED VALUE
#4 Lower Apalachicola	Franklin	7,800	\$ 3,037,000

RECOMMENDED PUBLIC PURPOSE

Qualifies as Environmentally Endangered Lands (EEL) and "other lands," since parts of the project would protect a floodplain, marsh, and estuary, and other parts would be suitable for outdoor recreation.

MANAGER

The Division of Recreation and Parks of the Department of Natural Resources is assisted in an advisory capacity by the Apalachicola National Estuarine Research Advisory Council. The Council is composed of representatives from the Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission, the Department of Environmental Regulation, the Florida Senate Grant Extension Program, the Department of Education, the Northwest Florida Water Management District, the Division of Forestry of the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, the Apalachicola Bay Resource Users, the Research and Education interest, the Franklin County Commission, the Franklin County School System, and the Research Institution.

PROPOSED USE

Addition to and buffer for the Apalachicola National Estuarine Research Reserve.

LOCATION

In Franklin County, northwest Florida, approximately 60 miles southwest of Tallahassee. This project lies within Florida's Senate District 3 and House Districts 8 and 9.

RESOURCE DESCRIPTION

This project provides an essential addition to existing State owned lands on the lower Apalachicola River that were acquired through the Environmentally Endangered Lands program. The maintenance of the marsh and floodplain in a natural condition provides significant protection to the Apalachicola estuary - the most productive bay/estuary in the State.

OWNERSHIP

There were 28,000± acres purchased under the EEL program. There are approximately ten remaining owners which are considered unwilling sellers.

VULNERABILITY AND ENDANGERMENT

This entire proposal is part of a fragile and delicate balance of ecosystems and is extremely vulnerable.

There are no known developments planned for this tract but silviculture in the upland watershed is common.

ACQUISITION PLANNING

Project lies within the Apalachicola River and Bay resource planning boundary. See Apalachicola River and Bay project summary under OTHER.

ESTIMATED COST

Acquisition

Assessed value for 1986 was approximately \$3,037,000. Tax assessed value, taking into consideration agricultural exemptions was approximately \$554,000.

LOCAL SUPPORT AND GENERAL ENDORSEMENTS*

Resolutions.....	0
Letters of general support.....	1
Letters of support from local, state and federal public officials.....	0
Letters of support from local and areawide conservation organizations.....	0

* Older EEL files are not included in these totals.

OTHER

This project is within a Chapter 380 area of Critical State Concern. It is also adjacent to a waterbody classified under the Special Waters Category of Outstanding Florida Waters.

MANAGEMENT SUMMARY

In accordance with its designation as a National Estuarine Research Reserve, the primary management goals for the Apalachicola River and Bay are to (1) preserve and perpetuate the natural resources, and (2) promote the Reserve as an ideal site for both scientific research and public environmental education projects. The management program will also encourage those public recreational and consumptive activities in the Reserve which are compatible with the primary management goals. The management program will be in conformance with the state lands management plan and National Estuarine Research Reserve program policy.

The management plan for the Reserve describes the objectives, administrative policies, and programs developed to achieve the aforementioned goals. Reserve resource management will be developed and accomplished through the cooperative efforts of the many local, state, and federal agencies having vested interests in all or part of the designated area. These agencies include Franklin County and local resource users, the Department of Natural Resources, the Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission, the Department of Environmental Regulation, the Division of Forestry of the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, the Division of Historical Resources of the Department of State, the Florida State University, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. Input from each of the aforementioned agencies was received during development of the management plan. Each of these groups also has the opportunity to provide further input into Reserve management via a six member advisory Reserve Management Committee consisting of one representative from the Department of Natural Resources, Department of Environmental Regulation, Franklin County, local resource users and the scientific community.

Reserve designation was conferred on the Bay and Lower River area by the National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration, which also awarded the Department of Natural Resources matching grants to assist in the acquisition of Reserve lands and initiate operations (i.e., employ a manager).

The objectives of resource management and protection pertain to preserving the natural community associations and hydrological regime through use of appropriate management procedures (e.g., control burning, reseeding areas, exotic species control, vehicular traffic control), restoration techniques as necessary, and practical (e.g., reforestation, removal of barriers to water flow) and environmental monitoring (e.g., water quality). The scientific research program is principally concerned with gaining new information on the dynamic interaction of the River, Bay, and Gulf to enhance management of the area.

Currently a variety of public recreational and commercial opportunities occur within the Reserve area. These include, but are not limited to, boating, swimming, hiking, fishing, nature study, bird watching, primitive camping, oystering, crabbing, and shrimping. The environmental education program is aimed at persons interested in such opportunities in the sanctuary environment. Through such informative vehicles as field trips, brochures, and seminars, the public will gain a better understanding of the need for a successful management program and the value of the irreplaceable resources they have.