



Gulf Environmental Benefit Fund Update

June 28, 2016

Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission

Office of Strategic Initiatives

National Fish and Wildlife Foundation

- Chartered by Congress in 1984
- 501(c)(3) organization with a 30-member Board approved by Secretary of the Interior
 - Includes USFWS Director & NOAA Administrator
- Established the Gulf Environmental Benefit Fund (GEBF) in 2013 to receive the BP & Transocean criminal recoveries (\$2.544B)
 - Does not include Halliburton voluntary donation
 - \$356M for projects in Florida
 - Transocean payout: \$21M over 3 years
 - BP payout: \$335M over 5 years



www.NFWF.org

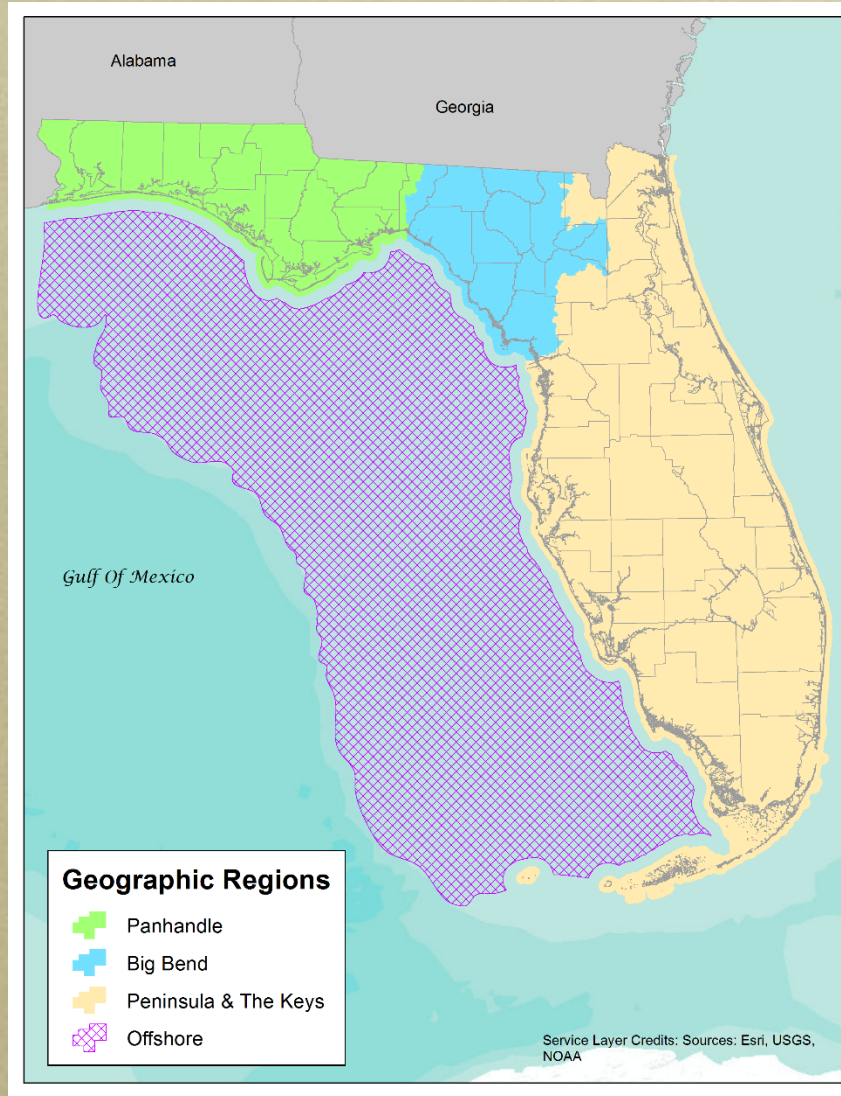
NFWF GEBF Funding Priorities

- **Restore and Conserve Coastal Habitat**
 - Barrier islands & beach/dune habitat
 - Coastal marshes
- **Restore and Maintain Coastal Bays and Estuaries**
 - Coastal bays & estuaries
 - Nearshore habitats and coastal buffers
- **Enhance Populations of Priority Living Resources**
 - Oysters
 - Gulf Coast birds
 - Red snapper & other reef fish
 - Sea turtles
 - Marine mammals



Priorities will be refined over time based on planning

GEBF in Florida



- Majority of GEBF projects will be concentrated in Panhandle and Big Bend
- Peninsula, Keys, and Offshore regions eligible for restoration of living resources



Funded Projects, 2013-2015

To date, NFWF has awarded approximately \$70 million for 21 projects in the State of Florida, including:

- Fisheries assessment
- Shorebird and sea turtle conservation
- Water quality improvements
- Oyster reef restoration
- Marine mammal stranding response enhancements
- Benthic assessment and mapping
- Coastal dune lake restoration



2016 Proposed Projects

NFWF has invited full proposals for:

- Enhanced Assessment for Recovery of Gulf of Mexico Fisheries Phase IV
- Enhancement of Sea Turtle Stranding Response Capacity in Florida
- Recovery and Resilience of Oyster Reefs in the Big Bend of Florida
- Restoring Florida's Shorebird & Seabird Populations



Photo: UF IFAS



GEBF Restoration Strategy

- Multi-year effort to plan remaining GEBF investments in Florida
 - Initial central planning tasks underway: evaluate existing natural resource plans for priorities; categorize projects in state project portal
 - Also includes submerged habitat assessment conducted by FWRI and SWIM plan updates for SRWMD and NFWFMD
 - Structured around the three NFWF GEBF funding priorities (Coastal Habitat, Coastal Bays and Estuaries, Living Resources)



The screenshot shows the NFWF Gulf Environmental Benefit Fund Restoration Strategy page. It includes the NFWF logo and title, a list of recipients (Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, Suwannee River Water Management District, Northwest Florida Water Management District), a partner (Florida Department of Environmental Protection), an amount of \$4,514,048, and a location (Florida Gulf Coast). It also features a map of Florida highlighting the Panhandle and Big Bend regions, and a map of the Gulf Coast showing the project area. Text describes the project as a multi-component, multi-year effort to restore and conserve natural resources, coordinated by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission and the Florida Department of Environmental Protection.

NFWF | Gulf Environmental Benefit Fund

FLORIDA
Florida Gulf Environmental Benefit Fund Restoration Strategy

This multi-component, multi-year project is an integrated planning effort that will serve as an overarching framework for restoring and conserving the natural resources of Florida's Gulf Coast through the Gulf Environmental Benefit Fund (GEBF). A significant component of the work involves estuary-based planning for six key watersheds in the Panhandle and Big Bend regions: Perdido, Pensacola, Choctawhatchee/ St. Andrew, Apalachicola/ Chipola, Ochlockonee/ St. Marks, and Suwannee. This project will identify and develop priority restoration projects for future funding consideration under the GEBF.

The effort will be coordinated by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) and the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, with technical assistance from the Northwest Florida Water Management District, the Suwannee River Water Management District, and FWC's Fish and Wildlife Research Institute. These partners will work together to assess existing plans and data sources to identify priority natural resource outcomes, update significant watershed planning done to date, complete assessments of seagrass habitat and living resource needs and carry out effective public engagement to aid in the identification of restoration priorities and projects.

This project provides Florida with an opportunity to establish a large-scale restoration strategy for the Gulf Coast, in particular for the Panhandle and Big Bend regions, which will produce recommendations for meaningful and measurable conservation outcomes, engage technical experts and key stakeholders, and ultimately lead to science-based, cost-effective activities which address injury to habitats and species affected by the Deepwater Horizon oil spill.

This project will develop a prioritized restoration strategy for coastal habitats and living resources of the Florida Gulf Coast.

The Gulf Environmental Benefit Fund, administered by the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF), supports projects to remedy harm and eliminate or reduce the risk of harm to Gulf Coast natural resources affected by the 2010 Deepwater Horizon oil spill. To learn more about NFWF, go to www.nfwf.org.

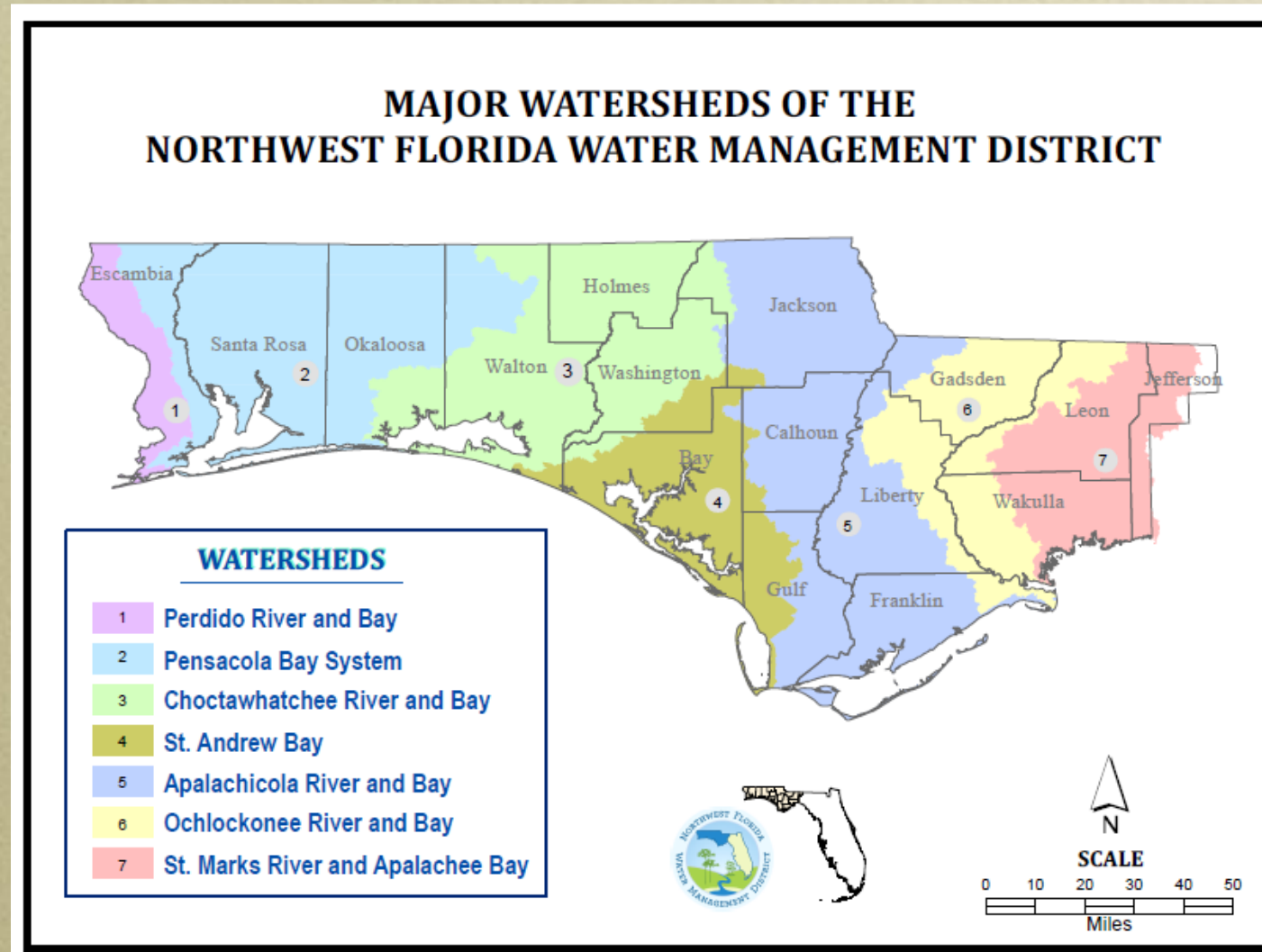
SAV Assessment

- Assess conditions in six estuaries in the Panhandle and Big Bend to determine what factors may be preventing SAV recovery
- Develop a spatial model to provide managers and scientists an assessment of local conditions in each estuary and the potential of success for seagrass restoration projects



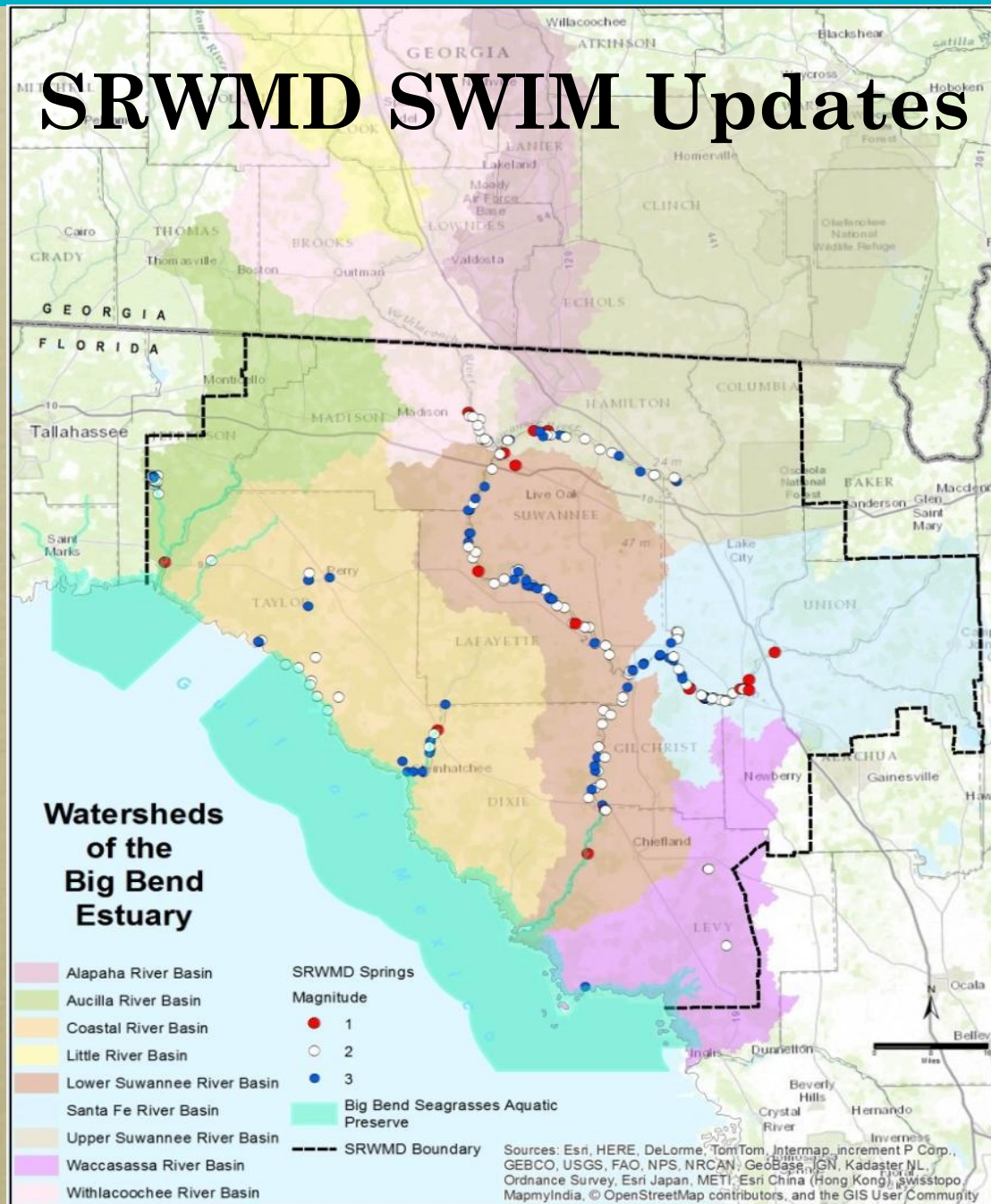
www.myfwc.com/research/habitat/seagrasses/projects/roadblocks/

NWFWMD SWIM Updates



www.nfwwater.com/Water-Resources/SWIM/SWIM-Plan-Updates

SRWMD SWIM Updates



Restoration Strategy Timeline

- Draft Restoration Strategy under development for use in 2017 GEBF cycle
- Series of videos focusing on 1) GEBF background, 2) overview of the GEBF Restoration Strategy, and 3) the finalized approach of the GEBF Restoration Strategy will be developed and posted at www.deepwaterhorizonflorida.com
- Final Restoration Strategy to be used for 2018 GEBF cycle and maintained as a living document for remainder of GEBF lifetime in Florida



Questions?

deepwaterhorizonflorida.com

