



NFWF

# Gulf Environmental Benefit Fund

**RECIPIENT**

Apalachicola Riverkeeper

**AWARD AMOUNT**

\$5,357,000

**PARTNERS**

University of Florida

Apalachicola National Estuarine Research Reserve

**LOCATION**

Apalachicola and Chipola Rivers

**AWARD DATE**

November 2019

**STATUS**

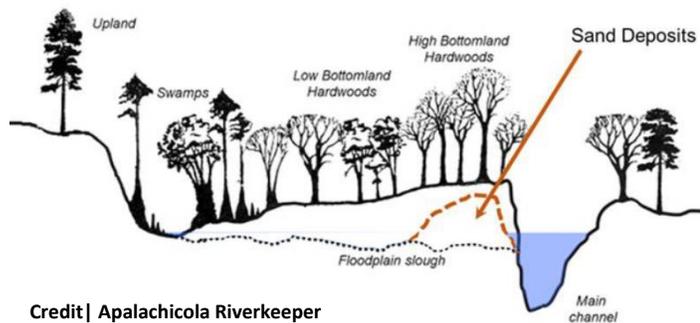
Awarded

**FLORIDA**

## Apalachicola River Slough Restoration - Phase I

This project will restore the connection of three slough systems in the Apalachicola River watershed. River sloughs are important in transporting freshwater to floodplains and in controlling the storage and release of freshwater and nutrients into the river and ultimately to Apalachicola Bay. Due to past alterations sloughs have filled with sediment, severing the connection between the river and receiving areas fed by the sloughs resulting in a reduction in nutrient transmission and flow that negatively affects downstream habitat quality. This project will dredge sediment and re-establish hydrologic connectivity through three river sloughs. In addition to restoring three sloughs, the project will also develop an Apalachicola River Slough Restoration Plan to further assess current conditions and quantify the benefits of implementing large-scale slough restoration in the lower Apalachicola River system.

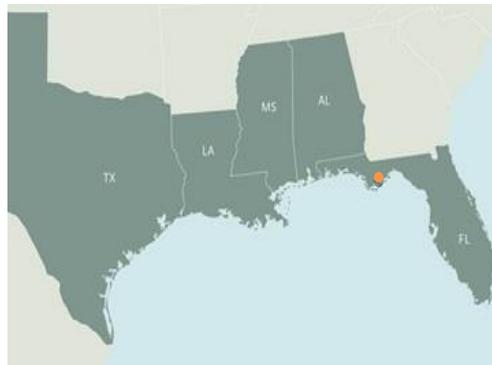
The Apalachicola Watershed and Bay are identified as priority conservation areas in the Florida GEBF Restoration Strategy. Project goals also address restoration needs identified in multiple conservation plans. The Apalachicola Bay system is one of the most biologically diverse and important to fisheries in the southeastern United States. Completion of river slough restoration activities will improve freshwater flow into critical estuarine habitats, restore floodplain habitat, and increase fisheries productivity in the Apalachicola Bay.



Credit | Apalachicola Riverkeeper

GEBF funds will restore sloughs within the Apalachicola River pictured below. The graphic to the left shows a diagram of a typical floodplain cross section and the sediment that will be removed to restore floodplain hydrology.

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](http://www.nfwf.org).



Credit | David Reeves