



NFWF

Gulf Environmental Benefit Fund

RECIPIENT

The Nature Conservancy
Florida Fish and Wildlife
Conservation Commission

AMOUNT

\$12,225,000

PARTNERS

Florida Department of
Environmental Protection

LOCATION

Gulf County, FL

AWARD DATE

August 2018

STATUS

Active

FLORIDA

Lake Wimico Acquisition and Management

This project will acquire and manage a 20,161 acre parcel that surrounds Lake Wimico, a shallow natural lake in southern Gulf County. The property is composed of extensive estuarine and freshwater marsh, cypress swamps and some pinelands that flow into Apalachicola Bay. Acquisition of the property will expand the Box-R Wildlife Management Area (Box-R WMA) and the Apalachicola River Wildlife and Environmental Area (ARWEA). Preservation and management of the Lake Wimico parcel will protect water quality and freshwater flows into the Apalachicola River, Apalachicola Bay, and Gulf of Mexico, enhancing habitat for migrating fish (including Gulf sturgeon) and the historic Apalachicola Bay oyster fishery.

Outcomes of this project are in line with the priorities defined in the Florida Restoration Strategy and Surface Water Improvement and Management plans for Apalachicola – Chipola Watershed. This project will help implement and begin to address some of the top priority natural resource outcomes identified for this watershed as outlined in the Florida Restoration Strategy.



Credit | Kierstyn Cox- TNC



Above, an aerial view of the proposed property which will be incorporated into the existing Box-R WMA and ARWEA overseen by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC).

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.