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.