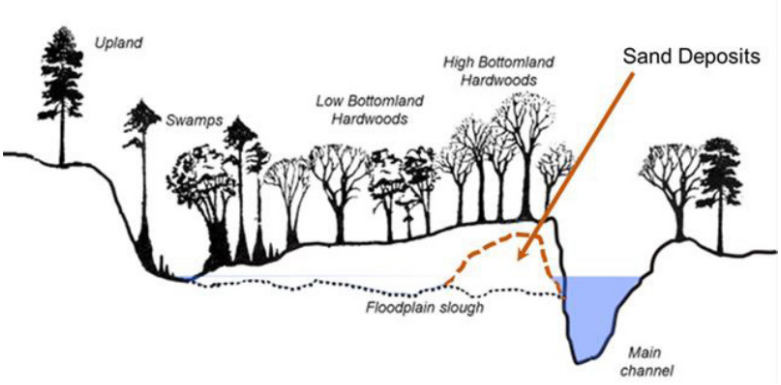
NFWF | Gulf Environmental Benefit Fund

FLORIDA

Apalachicola River Slough Restoration - Phase I

This project restored the connection of three slough systems in the Apalachicola River watershed. River sloughs are important for transporting freshwater to floodplains and 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 resulting in a reduction in nutrient transport that negatively affects downstream habitat quality. In addition to restoring hydrologic connectivity on three sloughs, the project also developed 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, and project goals also address restoration needs identified in multiple conservation plans. The Apalachicola Bay system is biologically diverse and important to fisheries in the southeastern United States. Completion of river slough restoration activities has improved freshwater flow into critical estuarine habitats, restored floodplain habitat, and increased fisheries productivity in the Apalachicola Bay.



The above graphic shows a diagram of a typical floodplain cross section and the sediment that will be removed to restore floodplain hydrology. | Credit| Apalachicola Riverkeeper

AT A GLANCE

RECIPIENT:
Apalachicola Riverkeeper

FINAL AWARD AMOUNT:
$5,540,148

PARTNERS:
University of Florida

Apalachicola National Estuarine Research Reserve

LOCATION:
Apalachicola and Chipola Rivers

AWARD DATE:
November 2019

STATUS:
Closed

PROGRESS UPDATE:
Project closed in September of 2026.



The Gulf Environmental Benefit Fund (GEBF), administered by the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, 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 GEBF and view a comprehensive project map go to **www.nfwf.org/Gulf**