

**NORTHWEST  
FLORIDA**  
SENTINEL LANDSCAPE



**Key FY22 Accomplishments**

**Partners Provided \$18.2 Million  
Conserving 8,478 Acres**

**Partners Enrolled  
24,410 acres private land**

**2 Ongoing Coastal Resilience Projects  
12+ Proposed**

**Partners Seeking \$6.6 Million in 5 Proposals to  
NFWF America the Beautiful Challenge  
REPI Challenge &  
USDA Joint Chiefs'  
Landscape Restoration Partnership**

## Northwest Florida Sentinel Landscape March 1 – September 30, 2022 Report

Goal One Information- Support Regional Partnerships	
<b>Goal Name:</b>	
Support Regional Partnerships in the Northwest Florida Sentinel Landscape (NWFSL)	
<b>Associated Sentinel Landscape Goal(s):</b>	
Goal 1: Create a regional partnership platform for the NWFSL, increase recognition of Sentinel Landscapes within Florida, and enhance coordination and problem-solving ability among stakeholders and partners (including landowners, military, state natural resource and agricultural agencies, funding agencies and entities, and NGOs). This will address resiliency and sustainability challenges to military installations, working lands and wildlife.	
<b>Partnering Organizations and Agencies:</b>	
Four dozen federal and state agencies, NGOs, regional coalitions and private landowners.	
<b>Date Initiated:</b>	<b>Anticipated Delivery Date:</b>
March 1, 2022	September 30, 2022
<b>Project Objectives:</b>	
A). Formalize the NWFSL Partnership, establish meeting and communication schedules and standard operating procedures by the end of 2022. Enhance and maintain an online mapping tool for NWFSL partners to use to share data, priorities, information, and progress towards achieving goals with other partners and the public in 2022 through 2024. B). Execute the Florida Sentinel Landscapes Memorandum of Understanding in 2021, and recruit and engage additional partners and actively participate in related meetings and activities in 2022 through 2024.	
Goal One Updates - Support Regional Partnerships	
<b>Key Activities Completed:</b>	
The partners of the NWFSL have met monthly to report on our work groups' discussions and partner updates including funding proposals and collaborative projects under consideration. We have formed three work groups to be our conservation delivery network in achieving our regional resiliency and sustainability goals: Climate Resiliency, Private Lands Stewardship and Natural Systems. The NWFSL Coordinator produces and distributes monthly updates (newsletters) to all the partners of the NWFSL. The NWFSL Coordinator participates in the monthly partners meeting of the Avon Park AFR Sentinel Landscape and the quarterly meetings of the O2O Partnership (proposed Northeast Florida Sentinel Landscape)	
<b>Outcomes and Milestones:</b>	
<p>1. The NWFSL Coordinator facilitated six monthly virtual meetings of the 48 NWFSL Partners (federal, state, regional agencies, partnerships, NGOs, private landowners) in April through September with over 200 participating. We also facilitated five monthly virtual meetings of the Climate Resiliency, Private Lands Stewardship and Natural Systems from May through September with over 300 partners participating. <b>During this period, our NWFSL partners' key outcomes are summarized immediately below and further detailed in the other Project narratives:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Partners submitted \$6.627 million in proposals including three to the NFWF's America the Beautiful Challenge program, one to the REPI Challenge program and one USDA Joint Chiefs' Landscape Restoration Partnership program. Please see the other Project descriptions for details.</b></li> <li>• <b>The State of Florida acquired fee-simple and less-than-fee simple interests conserving 8,478 acres at a cost of \$18,241,662 within the NWFSL from March 1 to September 30, 2022. A 26-acre island in Apalachee Bay was acquired by the Friends of St. Marks NWF and Apalachee Audubon and donated to the USFWS and added to the St. Marks National Wildlife Refuge. Alachua Conservation Trust acquired a 40-acre tract to expand their Dog Island Preserve.</b></li> </ul>	

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- **24,410 acres and 12 private landowners enrolled in land stewardship programs more than doubling the NWFSL 10,000-acre goal.**
  - **Two coastal resilience projects are ongoing and over a dozen are planned or proposed in the NWFSL.**
2. The NWFSL Coordinator produced and distributed six monthly newsletters to 175 NWFSL partners and to the Sentinel Landscapes Coordinators from April through September.
  3. The NWFSL coordinators participate in the monthly partners meeting of the Avon Park AFR Sentinel Landscape and the quarterly meetings of the O2O Partnership (proposed Northeast Florida Sentinel Landscape) to further coordination as per the Sentinel Landscapes in Florida MOU, executed in January 2021. The NWFSL and APAFRSL coordinated on presentations to the Florida Acquisition and Restoration Council on August 12 and the Florida Defense Leadership Summit on September 22. Gave a presentation on the NWFSL at the Land Trust Rally on September 17. The NWFSL coordinators participated seven monthly virtual meetings of the Sentinel Landscapes Coordinators, presented the NWFSL during the March 2 and July 13 REPI webinars, and joined each of other fours REPI webinars held between March and August.

### **Roadblocks and Limiting Factors:**

None at this time. Participation in the monthly partner collaboration and work groups have been robust.

## Northwest Florida Sentinel Landscape March 1 – September 30, 2022 Report

Goal Two Information – Retain Working Lands	
<b>Project Name:</b>	
Retain working agriculture and forestry lands	
<b>Associated Sentinel Landscape Goal(s):</b>	
<p>Goal 2: Retain working agriculture and forestry lands as compatible resilient and sustainable land uses that support the evolving military missions of NWFLS installations and that enhance wildlife habitat. We will establish a NWFLS private lands stewardship coordinator position (as funds become available) that will work with existing statewide and regional partnerships, as well as the other Sentinel Landscapes in Florida to apply a suite of approaches that support long-term compatible land uses in the NWFLS and other Sentinel Landscapes in Florida, and which are responsive to the diverse needs and motivations of working landowners. Specifically, we will expand and accelerate current outreach, technical assistance and financial incentive efforts; we will launch a landowner recognition program; we will collaborate with DACS-Office of Agricultural Water Policy (OAWP) to continue and further the work we are doing to improve/protect water quality and water conservation, and we will implement policy and market-based initiatives to enhance and maintain the financial health and sustainability of agricultural and forestry operations.</p>	
<b>Partnering Organizations and Agencies:</b>	
<p>28 partners - USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service - Florida, USDA Forest Service, USDI Fish and Wildlife Service, Eglin Air Force Base, Naval Air Station Whiting Field, US Environmental Protection Agency, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, Florida Forest Service, Florida DACS-Office of Agricultural Water Policy, Florida Department of Environmental Protection, University of Florida, Florida Defense Support Task Force, Tall Timbers Research Station and Land Conservancy, Gulf Coastal Plain Ecosystem Partnership lead by The Longleaf Alliance, Apalachicola Regional Stewardship Alliance lead by The Nature Conservancy, American Forest Association, Arbor Day Carbon, National Wildlife Federation, Florida Wildlife Federation, Trust for Public Land, Conservation Florida, The Conservation Fund, Alachua Conservation Trust, Florida Farm Bureau Federation, Central Florida Regional Planning Council's Coordinator of the Avon Park AFR Sentinel Landscape; Resource Management Services, North Florida Land Trust, Alachua Conservation Trust</p>	
<b>Date Initiated:</b>	<b>Anticipated Delivery Date:</b>
March 1, 2022	September 30, 2022
<b>Project Objectives:</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A) Conserve at least 6000 acres of working lands before the end of 2024 through voluntary private land stewardship agreements and conservation or agricultural easements.</li> <li>B) Secure compatible land uses on at least 500 acres before the end of 2024 within military safety footprints and other priority areas that may jeopardize military training.</li> <li>C) Develop and initiate a landowner recognition program (e.g., Forest Opportunities for Resource Conservation and Environmental Security (FORCES) or similar) and formally recognize landowners who are contributing to NWFLS goals by the end of 2024.</li> <li>D) Work collaboratively with key stakeholders to identify high-priority policy and market-based initiatives that will support the long-term viability of agricultural and forestry operations. Potential examples include development of favorable tax (e.g., property and income) policies, cooperative agricultural and forestry product marketing, and ecosystem service payment programs (e.g., carbon sequestration and listed species conservation). Implement at least two high-priority initiatives before the end of 2024.</li> <li>E) Work with the coordinators and partners of the other Sentinel Landscapes in Florida to identify and implement opportunities to increase the efficiency, effectiveness and scale of landowner stewardship programs. This work will be initiated at the first semi-annual meeting of Florida Sentinel Landscape coordinators and stakeholders in 2022.</li> </ul>	

## Northwest Florida Sentinel Landscape March 1 – September 30, 2022 Report

### Goal Two Updates - Retain Working Lands

#### Key Activities Completed:

1. Established the 53-member Private Lands Stewardship Work Group and facilitated hosted five monthly virtual meetings.
3. On March 29, 2022, the Florida Governor and Cabinet approved conveyance of an 8.4-acre parcel to the U.S. Department of the Navy, Naval Support Activity Panama City, for military base buffering purposes. DEP and the U.S. Navy are negotiating the terms of the conveyance.
4. The Trust for Public Land has acquired an option to purchase 80.99 acres as an addition to the St. Marks National Wildlife Refuge. TPL has completed its due diligence for the acquisition. Florida DEP and the Trustees for the Natural Resource Damage Assessment (NRDA) have completed a restoration plan, held a public meeting and received public comments. NRDA funding (Phase V.4) will be used to acquire the property.
5. Florida Defense Support Task Force, through its Defense Infrastructure Grant Program awarded the Santa Rosa County Board of County Commissioners \$483,000 to continue restrictive-use easement property purchases around Naval Air Station Whiting Field (NASWF). To date, through multi-year agreements the Navy, Santa Rosa County and State of Florida have spent nearly \$40M to protected over 13,000 acres from incompatible development to prevent encroachment and ensure operational sustainability of NASWF and its assets. NASWF has nearly \$2 million in escrow for future buffering at NASWF. The Clear Creek/Whiting Field and Wolfe Creek Forest Florida Forever projects have been instrumental to the success of the conservation and base buffering projects. The Florida Forest Service will be managing all of the Wolfe Creek Forest protect lands as additions to Blackwater River State Forest.
6. The Trust for Public Land has acquired an option to purchase 81-acre coastal parcel on Dickerson Bay as an addition to the St. Marks National Wildlife Refuge. TPL has completed its due diligence for the acquisition. Florida DEP and the Florida Trustee Implementation Group for the Natural Resource Damage Assessment (NRDA) have approved a restoration plan, and the U.S. Department of Interior is conducting its due diligence review. NRDA funding (Phase V.4) will be used to acquire the property. TPL expects to purchase the property in December 2022 and donate the property to U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in early 2023.
7. The Trust for Public Land in partnership with Santa Rosa County and the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission have applied to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for a Habitat Conservation Plan Land Acquisition Grant. This project will acquire 545 acres to conserve natural habitat, preclude residential development in a vulnerable area and increase stormwater management capacity along the tidally influenced East River in Navarre. Portions of the property are adjacent to Eglin Air Force Base. Long term management of the property will include prescribed fire and invasive species removal and The Longleaf Alliance has agreed to assist on the ground with these efforts.
8. The Trust for Public Land, U.S. Navy, Florida Department of Environmental Protection and the Florida Forest Service are working together to acquire approximately 3,800 acres in multiple tracts to expand Blackwater State Forest and buffer NAS Whiting Field. On December 8, TPL will be requesting the Florida Acquisition and Restoration Council to modify the Wolfe Creek Forest Florida Forever acquisition boundary to include these tracts. TPL anticipates the Governor and Cabinet approving these acquisitions in March 2023 with closings in 2023.
9. The City of Destin has identified a critical need for beach access in the Crystal Beach neighborhood. As part of a multi-year commitment, the city has partnered with Okaloosa County and The Trust for Public Land to acquire key gulf front parcels to expand existing beach access through the acquisition of parcels, demolition of structures and development of public access amenities. Two acquisitions have been completed so far in the Crystal Beach area. The Trust for Public Land holds an option to purchase a 2-acre gulf front parcel in Destin for public beach access with the City of Destin being the owner with an anticipated closing in November 2022.

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10. The Florida Forest Service is negotiating for an approximately 2000-acre conservation easement in Santa Rosa County that will be the first in Florida to be funded through both the Rural and Family Land Protection Program and the Forest Legacy Program.
11. The NWFLS Private Lands Stewardship Work Group has drafted two documents as a first step toward enhancing and expanding private lands work in the NWFLS region. The first is a description of current private lands stewardship programs which will be used as an educational tool for private landowners and others who may not be familiar with these programs. The second is a document that identifies and describes challenges to and opportunities for expanding private lands stewardship work in the NWFLS region. This document will be used by the NWFLS Coordinators and Partners to focus time and resources on overcoming the primary barriers to achieving more private lands conservation, as well as taking advantage of opportunities that will accelerate our progress toward achieving NWFLS private lands goals.

### Outcomes and Milestones:

1. The State of Florida closed on and acquired 8,478 acres for \$18,241,662 consisting of the following tracts within the NWFLS from March 1 to September 30, 2022. Acquisition funding sources are noted last.

Project	County	Closed Date	Closed Acres	Closed Price	Funding Source	Fee Type
a) Wolfe Creek Forest	Santa Rosa	06/29/2022	3,594 acres	\$9,435,353	Agency Funded-Federal, Agency Funded-Other, Florida Forever Land Acquisition Trust Fund 423001-21, Land Acquisition (ARPA) 000286-22	FEE SIMPLE
acquisition buffering Naval Air Station Whiting Field by adding land to the Blackwater River State Forest. Complementing funding from DEP's Florida Forever Program was funding from the Forest Legacy Program, Knobloch Family Foundation and EJK (Emily J. Knobloch) Foundation.						
b) Wakulla Springs Protection Zone	Wakulla	07/21/2022	19 acres	\$162,500	Florida Forever Land Acquisition Trust Fund 423001-22	FEE SIMPLE addition to Wakulla State Forest
c) Wakulla Springs Protection Zone	Wakulla	07/21/2022	20 acres	\$150,000	Florida Forever Land Acquisition Trust Fund 423001-22	FEE SIMPLE addition to Wakulla State Forest
d) Wakulla Springs Protection Zone	Wakulla	07/25/2022	117 acres	\$752,500	Florida Forever Land Acquisition Trust Fund 423001-21, Land Acquisition (ARPA) 000286-22, United States Forest Service Forest Legacy	FEE SIMPLE addition to Wakulla State Forest
e) Wakulla Springs Protection Zone	Wakulla	07/25/2022	23 acres	\$170,000	Florida Forever Land Acquisition Trust Fund 423001-22 and Forest Legacy	FEE SIMPLE addition to Wakulla State Forest
f) Wakulla Springs Protection Zone	Wakulla	07/27/2022	96 acres	\$713,000	Florida Forever Land Acquisition Trust Fund 423001-21, Land Acquisition (ARPA) 000286-22, United States Forest Service Forest Legacy	FEE SIMPLE addition to Wakulla State Forest
g) Wakulla Springs Protection Zone	Wakulla	08/10/2022	30 acres	\$210,000	Florida Forever Land Acquisition Trust Fund 423001-21	FEE SIMPLE addition to Wakulla State Forest
h) Wakulla Springs Protection Zone	Wakulla	08/10/2022	101 acres	\$697,500	Florida Forever Land Acquisition Trust Fund 423001-21, Land Acquisition (ARPA) 000286-22, United States Forest Service Forest Legacy	FEE SIMPLE addition to Wakulla State Forest
i) Red Hills Conservation	Jefferson, Leon	08/30/2022	4,102 acres	\$4,640,809	Florida Forever Land Acquisition Trust Fund 423001-21, Land Acquisition (ARPA) 000286-22	LESS THAN FEE SIMPLE
j) St. Joe Timberland	Franklin	09/19/2022	376	\$1,310,000	Florida Forever Trust Fund	FEE SIMPLE addition to Tate's Hell State Forest
2. On July 25, the St. Marks Refuge Association donated Smith's Island to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service as part of the 83,000-acre St. Marks National Wildlife Refuge. This 26-acre island is an important rookery in Apalachee Bay, that annually records up to 1,500 waterbird nests for species including brown pelicans and American oystercatchers.



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3. On July 27 and August 10, 2022, using \$1.6M Forest Legacy Funding plus state funding, the Florida Forest Service acquired 313.64-acres that are now part of the Wakulla State Forest.

**Roadblocks and Limiting Factors:**

None at this time. Participation in the monthly partner collaboration and work groups have been robust.

## Northwest Florida Sentinel Landscape March 1 – September 30, 2022 Report

Goal Three Information – Natural Systems Resiliency & Sustainability	
<b>Project Name:</b>	
Natural Systems Resiliency and Sustainability	
<b>Associated Sentinel Landscape Goal(s):</b>	
Goal 3: Increase the resiliency and sustainability of natural systems by conserving and restoring habitat and water resources with an emphasis on listed species recovery, prescribed fire, water quality, and water quantity to better adapt to our changing climate.	
<b>Partnering Organizations and Agencies:</b>	
Eight Partners - Arbor Day Carbon, American Forest Foundation, Tall Timbers Research Station and Land Conservancy, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Florida Forest Service, Gulf Coastal Plain Ecosystem Partnership, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, Longleaf Legacy Landscape Program.	
<b>Date Initiated:</b>	<b>Anticipated Delivery Date:</b>
March 1, 2022	September 30, 2022
<b>Project Objectives:</b>	
A). Pursue and support as many as eight partnership project opportunities before the end of 2024 with the goal of at least \$2 million and seek additional funding and partnership opportunities following designation to invest towards longleaf pine restoration, native grassland restoration, hydrological restoration, listed species recovery, at risk species conservation, invasive species control, and prescribed burning, stormwater capture and water re-use infrastructure and resiliency projects. B). Support and implement agricultural and forestry best management practices through collaboration with private landowners on at least 75 resource management plans covering 10,000 acres through 2024. Encourage private landowners to enroll in the FDACS OAWP and Forestry BMPs for water quality and BMPs for wildlife programs through education and outreach on the benefits of BMPs.	
Goal Three Updates – Natural Systems Resiliency & Sustainability	
<b>Key Activities Completed:</b>	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Arbor Day Carbon and American Forest Foundation are working together to convert marginalized pasture and agricultural lands into sustainable forests in the Florida Panhandle and bordering areas in Alabama and Georgia. They are recruiting landowners for pilot project in the NWFLS where they will cover the costs of land preparation, herbicide application, seedlings, and plantings. Their goal is to contract for 5,000-acres this year.</li> <li>2. In 2020, the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) awarded a \$7,066,083 Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) project to Tall Timbers to implement conservation work in the Aucilla and St. Marks River watersheds in Georgia and Florida. In the last year, the initial sign-up for land management cost-share assistance resulted in the enrollment of 21 Florida properties in Leon, Wakulla, Jefferson and Madison counties (Madison County is not within the NWFLS). Cost-shared stewardship projects included prescribed burning, fire line installation, site preparation, planting longleaf pine trees, forest stand improvement and invasive exotic plant treatment.</li> <li>3. Tall Timbers Research Station and Land Conservancy accepted is evaluating applications from landowners to enroll in its Aucilla and St. Marks RCPP Program, which provides financial and technical assistance to private landowners for certain land management activities. The RCPP program has an emphasis on working with “historically underserved” landowners, with nearly one-third of landowners enrolled in the RCPP land management program are farmers or ranchers consisting of veterans, socially disadvantaged, have limited resources or are beginning farmers or ranchers.</li> <li>4. Tall Timbers Landowner Outreach and Engagement Program hosted 11 events for private landowners in the reporting period with 233 landowners within the NWFLS participating. Tall Timbers social media (Facebook)</li> </ol>	

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outreach highlight land conservation/management efforts and opportunities reached 10,947 individuals and 2,460 engagements.

5. The Amphibian and Reptile Conservancy, in partnership with the Gulf Coastal Plain Ecosystem Partnership submitted a \$1.5 M full proposal to the NFWF America the Beautiful Challenge program to restore habitat for the Frosted and Reticulated flatwoods salamander in Escribano Point WMA and St. Mark's NWR.
6. Florida State University submitted a \$427,000 proposal preliminary analysis and planning to clear forest debris from Hurricane Michael and to build a trail system along the northern eastern bluff of the Apalachicola River.
7. The Florida Trail Association submitted a \$1.49 M proposal to the NFWF America the Beautiful Challenge program to plan and design construction of a bridge, approach trails and structures for the Florida National Scenic Trail over the Yellow River to close a 20-mile gap in existing trail segments in Eglin AFB and state lands along the Yellow River.
8. DoD Office of Local Defense Community Cooperation awarded a \$3,493,130 grant via the Defense Community Infrastructure Pilot Program to Walton County in support of Eglin Air Force Base to construct a new fire station to enable wildland firefighting and faster deployment of emergency medical services.
9. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service hire of Katheryn "Katie" Ayers in August as part of the Partners for Fish and Wildlife (PFW) and Fish and Aquatic Conservation (FAC) Programs in Panama City. She will be splitting time between the Partners Program and FAC coordinating/supporting the American Forest Foundation/PFW initiative in Alabama and Florida, the Northwest Florida Sentinel Landscape, and watershed restoration in the Ochlockonee River Basin of Georgia and Northwest Florida.
10. Through a partnership with the City of Niceville and Eglin AFB, Okaloosa County is constructing about 11 miles of reclaimed water line from the Arbennie Pritchett Water Reclamation Facility to the City of Niceville, with additional connection made available for future use at Eglin AFB. This project is being funded by Okaloosa County with additional grant funding from the State of Florida and Northwest Florida Water Management District.

### Outcomes and Milestones:

1. Established the Natural Systems Work Group and hosted five monthly virtual meetings.
2. The Florida Forest Service's Florida Forest Stewardship Program executed 12 voluntary forestry management plans with 12 landowners in nine counties covering 24,409.6 acres of privately owned forest land more than doubling the NWFSL 10,000-acre goal.
3. GCPEP assisted with fire implementation across the landscape with 37 burns on 49,110.6 acres and focused additional efforts on rare species recovery. Rare species recovery centered on the red-cockaded woodpecker, gopher tortoise, reticulated flatwoods salamander, and Florida bog frog. There has been great success with the REPI reticulated flatwoods salamander project on Escribano Point Wildlife Management Area adjacent to Eglin Air Force Base. Results to date with the project are as follows: a) 1612 genetic samples collected; b) 6 new occupied wetlands discovered; c) 74 wetlands surveyed; d) 4,489 Rx burn acres; e) 62.7 wetland clearing acres; f) 57.8 hand clearing; g) 4.9 contracted acres; h) 16.7 acres herbicide lancing; i) Added 8-month seasonal crew.
4. GCPEP's invasive species control work focused on cogongrass, Chinese tallow tree, Japanese climbing fern, Chinese privet, mimosa, and common reed. Much of the control effort is centered on private landowners and local government right ways, particularly road corridors. Agreements have been secured with multiple counties in the GCPEP landscape, allowing for treatment of entire invasive species infestations where private/public lands border local government road/infrastructure corridors
5. Tall Timbers Research Station and Land Conservancy's private lands burn team burned 21 properties totaling 1445 acres in the NWFSL. This program is funded by a Longleaf Legacy Landscape program grant.
6. Tall Timbers Research Station and Land Conservancy enrolled 103,235 acres in the Red Hills Region Feral Hog Control Program in Florida between the Ochlocknee and Aucilla Rivers. TTRS hosted a landowner

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workshop on hog control on April 15, 2022, which 13 landowners within the NWFLS participated (a total of 43 landowners participated).

7. The City of Panama City Beach, with funding assistance from the State of Florida and Northwest Florida Water Management District, as well as significant local funding, completed construction of the 7,350 linear feet Panama City Beach Parkway reuse transmission line along U.S. Highway 98. The project will provide access to reclaimed water to more than 200 existing connections and more than 1,500 new connections. The project will also provide an estimated 400,000 gallons of reclaimed water per day for the Publix Sports Park complex.

**Roadblocks and Limiting Factors:**

None at this time. Participation in the monthly partner collaboration and work groups have been robust.

## Northwest Florida Sentinel Landscape March 1 – September 30, 2022 Report

Goal Four Information – Climate Resiliency	
<b>Project Name:</b>	
Climate Resiliency	
<b>Associated Sentinel Landscape Goal(s):</b>	
Goal 4: Identify, implement and accelerate projects that mitigate coastal risks and increase the climate resiliency of military installations and the landscapes that overlap mission footprints to protect military missions, community infrastructure and habitats.	
<b>Partnering Organizations and Agencies:</b>	
Six Partners - Emerald Coast Regional Council, Enterprise Florida's Florida Defense Support Task Force, Florida Department of Economic Opportunity, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, Florida Department of Environmental Protection, US Fish and Wildlife Service	
<b>Date Initiated:</b>	<b>Anticipated Delivery Date:</b>
March 1, 2022	September 30, 2022
<b>Project Objectives:</b>	
<p>A. Monitor state and federal climate resiliency funding opportunities and build appropriate partnerships with installations and/or local governments to submit proposals for six projects before the end of 2024. This includes supporting estuary programs' development of Comprehensive Conservation Management Plans that enhance equity and military service personnel access to quality-of-life recreational assets across the watersheds.</p> <p>B. Pursue and support 600 projects before the end of 2024 with private forest landowners including those impacted by Hurricanes Sally and Michael to address wildfire risk and reforestation efforts to ensure land use remains compatible with natural resource goals and the military missions in the region.</p>	
Goal Four Updates – Climate Resiliency	
<b>Key Activities Completed:</b>	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Estuary programs have been established for Pensacola and Perdido Bays, Choctawhatchee Bay, and St. Andrews and St. Joseph Bays to create and maintain collaborations among stakeholders including local leaders, businesses, and communities across their watersheds to protect, enhance, and restore these estuarine systems.</li> <li>2. The St. Andrew -St. Joseph Bay Estuary Program submitted the following proposals:               <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Increasing Coastal Resiliency of Springfield, FL through Stream Restoration and Wetland Enhancement to NFWF NCRF requesting \$526,909</li> <li>b. Assessing restoration success and ecosystem services across the Panhandle Region to assist in restoration target setting to the Florida RESTORE Act Centers of Excellence Program for \$1,146,267.</li> <li>c. Using biological indicators to inform stormwater management priorities in the St. Andrew Bay Watershed to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Science Program 2023 requesting \$1,830,569, and</li> <li>d. Collaboratively transforming St. Andrew Bay habitats through Nature Based Solutions to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Transformational Habitat Restoration and Coastal Resilience Grants Under IJA requesting \$4,447,628.</li> </ol> </li> <li>3. The Florida Defense Support Task Force awarded the Emerald Coast Regional Council (ECRC) \$161,810 on May 19 to establish intergovernmental support agreements or other community partnerships as an implementation mechanism to allow military installations to partner with local and state governments and provide a wide variety of services. This includes resilience projects to help achieve NWFLS climate resiliency goals. In 2021 ECRC formed the Emerald Coast Area Resilience Collaborative, executed an MOU, and has held four quarterly partner meetings to date with the NWFLS Coordinator giving a presentation during their summer meeting. ECRC is in the process of awarding a contract worth approximately \$900,000 for services</li> </ol>	

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for a Northwest Florida Military Installation Resilience Review which is projected to be completed in the first quarter of 2024. This project is funded through a grant from the Department of Defense Office of Local Defense Community Cooperation. The Resilience Review will identify vulnerabilities in community infrastructure that may affect the military missions of the bases. The review will also propose solutions to the identified issues and potential funding sources for implementation.

4. With information from our partners, produced and shared a listing of coastal resilience and restoration projects and tracking tools in the NWFLS (download here: <https://defendersofwildlife.exavault.com/share/view/36hpy-dpk182by>).
5. The Coastal Resilience Implementation Plan (CRIP) being developed for Tyndall Air Force Base includes coastal resilience solutions to protect mission critical infrastructure and facilities to mitigate the coastal threats to the installation and its mission. Key elements of the Draft CRIP were presented to the Stakeholder Working Group on Thursday, September 22nd with a request for feedback by October 5th for consideration and inclusion in the Final CRIP, which will be completed in mid-October.
6. The US Fish and Wildlife Service collaborated with sister agencies to submit two proposals for federal funding to bolster ongoing forest debris cleanup and reforestation by the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), Farm Service Agency and the Florida Forest Service. These proposals would provide additional funding targeting private lands, which make up 80% of forest land damaged. These proposals would target Calhoun, Gulf, Bay and Liberties counties where the US Air Force (Tyndall AFB) has low altitude military operation areas. USFWS submitted a \$1.5 million full proposal to the DoD Readiness and Environment Protection Integration (REPI) Challenge Program. This REPI Challenge proposal is addition to a complementary \$1.7 million proposal that the USFWS also submitted in July to the FY23 Joint Chiefs' (USDA Forest Service & NRCS) Landscape Restoration Partnership program.
7. The Scaling Up Nature-based Solution (SUNS), led by The Nature Conservancy, is a two-year-long initiative to find and fund restoration projects and achieve resilience in Bay, Franklin, and Gulf counties. This online mapping tool displays restoration and resilience projects and provides an in-depth explanation of each project's objectives. SUNS was finalized in September and provides targeted opportunities for funding proposals.
8. The Panhandle Dune Ecosystem Project has secured funding from National Fish and Wildlife Foundation and is jointly managed by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The Panhandle Dune Ecosystem Project (PDEP) Team is selecting and prioritize dune sites for restoration by working collaboratively with public land managers, private landowners, and other conservation experts.
9. The Pensacola Bay Living Shoreline Project, located in Escambia County, is a multi-phase, multi-stakeholder project to restore and protect approximately three miles of shoreline at three sites adjacent to the NAS Pensacola coastline. The project includes 15,000 feet of engineered breakwaters submerged offshore, onshore stabilization, creation of 120 acres of emergent marsh and submerged aquatic vegetation as well as 15 acres of sandy upland habitat. The project is 100% designed and currently working through regulatory permitting with Florida Department of Environmental Protection and Army Corps of Engineers. Estimated construction start is summer 2023.
10. The Pensacola East Bay Oyster Habitat Restoration project is funded by NFWF Gulf Environmental Benefit Fund. This involves the construction of 33 individual reefs along approximately 6 miles of the eastern shorelines in East and Blackwater Bays in Santa Rosa County. A priority strategy of the Plan is to "Restore and create reef structures suitable for sustained oyster settlement that enhance ecosystem services in designated restoration areas."
11. Bay County will be conducting Vulnerability Assessment to identify critical assets vulnerable to the impacts of climate change – including sea level rise, intensified storms and flooding. It will be funded by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection's Resilient Florida Program, and NWFLS partner, Florida State University Resilient Infrastructure and Disaster Response (RIDER) Center, will prepare the assessment.

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12. Six universities along Interstate 10, led by Florida State University and Florida A.&M. University, has submitted a proposal to the U.S. Department of Transportation to create Equitable Transportation for Hazards Resilience Center (ETHR). The goal of ETHR is to preserve and improve the critical I-10 artery by enacting necessary adaptations in response to interlinked equity and climate challenges. Connecting the East and West coast with the extensive energy resources of the Gulf, this corridor also services the vital ports of the Lower Mississippi River Basin and supports, and is supported by, an extensive military presence situating it at the heart of our national defense transportation system.
13. The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation awarded 5 grants totaling to \$1,830,000.00 in the NW FL Sentinel Landscape through the Longleaf Landscape Stewardship Fund. The Longleaf Landscape Stewardship Fund is a landmark public-private partnership that expands, enhances, and accelerates longleaf pine conservation across the ecosystem's historical range. The fund supports projects that advance the longleaf pine ecosystem through collaborative and result-oriented actions that contribute to the restoration goals of the America's Longleaf Restoration Initiative.

### Outcomes and Milestones:

1. Tate's Hell State Forest Hydrologic Restoration project covering an extensive 208,000 acres in Franklin and Liberty counties. For the past 10 years this project has improved water quality (surface water flows and runoff), restored natural drainage water patterns and hydrologic connectivity, enhanced wetlands, and restored natural ecological communities through removal of certain logging roads, shrub reduction and tree thinning, invasive species control, and prescribed burning. Partners for this restoration project include the Northwest Florida Water Management District, The Florida Forest Service, USDA, and the FDEP. The project is also receiving funding from the Deepwater Horizon RESTORE Act.
2. Apalachicola Bay System Initiative by the FSU Coastal Marine Lab and FWC has a Management and Restoration Plan focuses on large-scale oyster restoration projects .To protect and restore habitat for oysters, the project aims to restore more than 250 acres of oyster beds and surrounding habitats. The project is currently ongoing and will take around 3-5 years to complete. The restoration team has received a large amount of funding from the Florida Department of Environmental Protection and the Deepwater Horizon RESTORE Act.

### Roadblocks and Limiting Factors:

None at this time. Participation in the monthly partner collaboration and work groups have been robust.