# **National Coastal Wetlands Conservation Grant Proposal**

# Acquisition of the Mouth of Money Bayou Tidal Creek, Gulf County, Florida



(**Photo:** Debbie Hooper)

U.S. Department of the Interior Fish and Wildlife Service

Florida Department of Environmental Protection Office of Coastal and Aquatic Managed Areas

#### **Executive Summary**

Coastal development and human activities in the coastal zones of the United States have grown enormously since European settlement (Brown, Hickey, Harrington, & Gill, 2001). This development results in the loss of coastal wetlands, which provide critical habitat for numerous species, including threatened and endangered species. Florida's coastal wetlands, greatly affected by these trends, are imminently threatened by development.

This project proposes to acquire and manage, as a part of the St. Joseph Bay State Buffer Preserve, approximately 11 acres encompassing the outlet of the Money Bayou tidal creek in Gulf County, Florida. Money Bayou originates within the St. Joseph Bay State Buffer Preserve (which contains nearly the entire drainage basin) and drains into the Gulf of Mexico. Successful completion of this project will bring a key part of this ecosystem under conservation ownership, preserving connectivity of the system from uplands to the Gulf, helping to protect the critical, dynamic outflow of this system, and preventing further loss and degradation of these coastal wetlands through development. The site proposed for acquisition contains the tidal creek channel, adjacent estuarine and intertidal wetlands, and pine and beach dune uplands. It has exceptional wetland, wildlife, cultural, and recreational values. The acquisition and protection of this site will prevent the loss and degradation of two important, nationally decreasing, coastal wetland habitat types: estuarine intertidal emergent wetlands and marine intertidal wetlands. It provides habitat and/or nesting area for many federal and state listed species. Species including the piping plover (Charadrius melodus), green and loggerhead sea turtles (Chelonia mydas and Caretta caretta), Gulf sturgeon (Acipenser oxyrinchus desotoi), and others will benefit from protection of the high quality onsite coastal wetlands. This site is a popular recreational spot for fishing, crabbing and cast-netting for bait, bird watching, picnicking and general nature observation. It also has special cultural/historical significance.

Goals of the project are to acquire and manage the property as part of the St. Joseph Bay State Buffer Preserve, clean hurricane debris from the site, establish a marsh overlook and bird observation site, install displays that will increase public appreciation of the ecological significance of Money Bayou, the greater Money Bayou marsh ecosystem and its wildlife and rare species, and construct a historical marker to commemorate the African-American history of the site. Protection of this site has strong support, backed by cash and in kind contributions from Gulf County and Friends of St. Joseph Bay Preserves, Inc. While relatively small, it is an ecologically valuable site that is also key to the future hydrological and fire management of the extensive, greater Money Bayou marsh system within the adjacent St. Joseph Bay State Buffer Preserve. This site is imminently threatened by development. Acquisition through the National Coastal Wetlands Conservation Grant Program will ensure the long-term preservation of the area and prevent degradation from development.

## NATIONAL COASTAL WETLANDS CONSERVATION GRANT PROPOSAL

# ACQUISITION OF THE MOUTH OF MONEY BAYOU TIDAL CREEK, GULF COUNTY, FLORIDA

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OMB Number: 4040-0004 Expiration Date: 01/31/2009

*1. Type of Submission:    Prespiciation   *2. Type of Application. * If Revision select appropriate letter(s):   Application   Confunction   Confunction * Other (Specify)	Application f	or Federal Assista	ince SF-424			Version 02			
State Use Only:	Preapplicat  Application	ion	⊠ New     □ Continuation		priate letter(s):				
State Use Only:  6. Date Received by State: [06/01/2009] 7. State Application Identifier:  8. APPLICANT INFORMATION:  *a. Legal Name: Florida Department of Brivironmental Protection  *b. Employer/Taxpayer Identification Number (EIN/TIN):   *c. Organizational DUNS:			Applicant Identifier:						
6. Date Received by State: 06/01/2009 7. State Application Identifier:  8. APPLICANT INFORMATION:  * a. Legal Name: plorida Department of Environmental Protection  * b. Employer/Taxpayer Identification Number (EIN/TIN):	5a. Federal Entity	5a. Federal Entity Identifier:  * 5b. Federal Award Identifier:							
8. APPLICANT INFORMATION:  *a Legal Name: plorida Department of Environmental Protection  *b. Employer/Taxpayer Identification Number (EINTIN):  59-6007353  d. Address:  *Street1: 3900 Commonwealth Boulevard  Street2:  *City: Tallahassee  County: Leon  *State: FL: Florida  Province:  *County: USA: UNITED STATES  *Zip / Postal Code: 32399  e. Organizational Unit:  Department Name:  Florida Dept. of Environmental  f. Name and contact information of person to be contacted on matters involving this application:  Prefix: Dr. *First Name: Vean  Middle Name: M.  *Last Name: Ruffman  Suffix:  Tille: Environmental Specialist  Organizational Affiliation:  State of Florida  *Telephone Number: 850-229-1787  Fax Number: 850-229-1797	State Use Only:			•					
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* b. Employer/Taxpayer Identification Number (EIN/TIN):  [59-6007353]  * d. Address:  * Street1:  [3900 Commonwealth Boulevard]  Street2:  * City:  * Tallahassee  County:  Leon  * State:  Province:  * County:  * USA: UNITED STATES  * Zip / Postal Code:  [2] 2399  • Organizational Unit:  Department Name:  [Plorida Dept. of Environmental  f. Name and contact information of person to be contacted on matters involving this application:  Prefix:  Dr.  * First Name:  Middle Name:  * Last Name:  Ruffman  Suffix:  Tible:  [Environmental Specialist  Organizational Affiliation:  State of Florida  * Telephone Number:  [850-229-1787]  Fax Number:  [850-229-1797]	8. APPLICANT I	NFORMATION:							
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	State of Flo	orida							
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OMB Number: 4040-0004 Expiration Date: 01/31/2009

Application for Federal Assistance SF-424	Version 02
9. Type of Applicant 1: Select Applicant Type:	
A: State Government	
Type of Applicant 2: Select Applicant Type:	
Type of Applicant 3: Select Applicant Type:	_
* Other (specify):	
* 10. Name of Federal Agency:	
U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service	
11. Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Number:	
15.614	
CFDA Title:	
Coastal Wetlands Planning, Protection and Restoration Act	
* 12. Funding Opportunity Number:	
CWG-10	
* Title:	
Coastal Wetlands Planning, Protection, and Restoration Act: National Coastal Wetlands Conservation Grant Program	
13. Competition Identification Number:	
	7 }
Title:	
14. Areas Affected by Project (Cities, Counties, States, etc.):	4
State of Florida, Gulf County, Florida, City of Port St. Joe, Florida	
* 15. Descriptive Title of Applicant's Project:	
Acquisition of the Mouth of Money Bayou Tidal Creek, Gulf County Florida	
Attach supporting documents as specified in agency instructions.	
Add Attachments Delete Attachments View Attachments	

Application 1	or Federal Assistance SF-424	Version 02				
16. Congressio	nal Districts Of:					
* a. Applicant	2 * b. Program/Project 2					
Attach an additio	nal list of Program/Project Congressional Districts if needed.					
	Add Attachment Delete Attachment View Attachment					
17. Proposed P	roject:					
* a. Start Date:	01/01/2010 * b. End Date: 12/31/2010					
18. Estimated F	unding (\$):					
* a. Federal	831,990.00					
* b. Applicant	0.00					
* c. State	355,844.00					
* d. Local	0.00					
* e. Other	16,009.00					
* f. Program Inco	ome 0.00					
* g. TOTAL	1,203,843.00					
b. Program	is not covered by E.O. 12372.					
* 20. Is the App	icant Delinquent On Any Federal Debt? (If "Yes", provide explanation.)    X   No   Explanation					
21. *By signing this application, I certify (1) to the statements contained in the list of certifications** and (2) that the statements herein are true, complete and accurate to the best of my knowledge. I also provide the required assurances** and agree to comply with any resulting terms if I accept an award. I am aware that any false, fictitious, or fraudulent statements or claims may subject me to criminal, civil, or administrative penalties. (U.S. Code, Title 218, Section 1001)    X   **   AGREE  ** The list of certifications and assurances, or an internet site where you may obtain this list, is contained in the announcement or agency specific instructions.						
Authorized Rep	resentative:					
-	r. * First Name: Michael					
* Last Name:	ole					
Suffix:		2.0				
* Title: Sec	retary					
* Telephone Num	ber: 850-245-2011 Fax Number: 850-245-2021					
* Email: michae	el.sole@dep.state.fl.us					
* Signature of Au	thorized Representative: Wall V. July Date Signed: 6/23/09					

OMB Number: 4040-0004 Expiration Date: 01/31/2009

pplication for Federal Assistance SF-424	Version 02
Applicant Federal Debt Delinquency Explanation	
ne following field should contain an explanation if the Applicant organization is delinquent on any Federal Debt. Maximum number naracters that can be entered is 4,000. Try and avoid extra spaces and carriage returns to maximize the availability of space.	er of
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	12

## **SECTION A - BUDGET SUMMARY**

	Grant Program Function or	Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance	Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Estimated Unobligated Funds New or Revised Budge				
	Activity	Number	Federal	Non-Federal Non-Federal			Total
_	(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)	(f)	(g)
1.	Coastal Wetlands Planning, Protection and Restoration Act	15.614	\$ 831,990.00	371,853.00		\$	\$ 1,203,843.00
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2.			, , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,				
3.							
	× ×						
4.							
5.	Totals		\$ 831,990.00	371,853.00		\$	\$ 1,203,843.00

### **SECTION B - BUDGET CATEGORIES**

6. Object Class Categories GRANT PROGRAM, FUNCTION OR ACTIVITY Total							
6. Object Class Categories	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	Total (5)		
	Coastal Wetlands Planning, Protection and Restoration Act						
a. Personnel	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$		
b. Fringe Benefits							
c. Travel							
d. Equipment							
e. Supplies							
f. Contractual							
g. Construction							
h. Other	831,990.00				831,990.00		
i. Total Direct Charges (sum of 6a-6h)	831,990.00				\$ 831,990.00		
j. Indirect Charges					\$		
k. TOTALS (sum of 6i and 6j)	\$ 831,990.00	\$	\$	\$	\$ 831,990.00		
7. Program Income	\$ 831,990.00	\$	\$	\$	\$ 831,990.00		

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SECTION C - NON-FEDERAL RESOURCES									
(a) Grant Program			(b) Applicant		(c) State		(d) Other Sources		(e)TOTALS
8. Coastal Wetlands Planning, Protection and Re	storation Act	\$		\$	355,844.00	\$	16,009.00	\$	371,853.00
9.									
10.									
11.									
12. TOTAL (sum of lines 8-11)		\$		\$	355,844.00	\$	16,009.00	\$	371,853.00
	SECTION	D.	FORECASTED CASH	NE	EDS				
	Total for 1st Year		1st Quarter		2nd Quarter	١.	3rd Quarter	_ ا	4th Quarter
13. Federal	\$ 831,990.00	\$	0.00	\$	831,990.00	\$	0.00	\$_	
14. Non-Federal	\$ 371,853.00		55,000.00		298,663.00		757.00		17,433.00
15. TOTAL (sum of lines 13 and 14)	\$ 1,203,843.00	\$	55,000.00	\$	1,130,653.00	\$	757.00	\$	17,433.00
SECTION E - BUD	GET ESTIMATES OF FE	DE	RAL FUNDS NEEDED	FC	R BALANCE OF THE	PR	OJECT		
(a) Grant Program					FUTURE FUNDING	PΕ			
			(b)First	1	(c) Second		(d) Third		(e) Fourth
16. Coastal Wetlands Planning, Protection and Re	storation Act	\$		\$		\$	10 10	\$	
17.								. [	
18.									
19.									4
20. TOTAL (sum of lines 16 - 19)		\$		\$		\$		\$	
	SECTION F	- (	THER BUDGET INFOR	RM	ATION	1			
21. Direct Charges: 1203843.00			22. Indirect	Ch	arges:				
23. Remarks:	3. Remarks:								

OMB Approval No.: 4040-0007 Expiration Date: 07/30/2010

#### **ASSURANCES - NON-CONSTRUCTION PROGRAMS**

Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 15 minutes per response, including time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. Send comments regarding the burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden, to the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reduction Project (0348-0040), Washington, DC 20503.

PLEASE DO NOT RETURN YOUR COMPLETED FORM TO THE OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET. SEND IT TO THE ADDRESS PROVIDED BY THE SPONSORING AGENCY.

NOTE:

Certain of these assurances may not be applicable to your project or program. If you have questions, please contact the awarding agency. Further, certain Federal awarding agencies may require applicants to certify to additional assurances. If such is the case, you will be notified.

As the duly authorized representative of the applicant, I certify that the applicant:

- Has the legal authority to apply for Federal assistance and the institutional, managerial and financial capability (including funds sufficient to pay the non-Federal share of project cost) to ensure proper planning, management and completion of the project described in this application.
- 2. Will give the awarding agency, the Comptroller General of the United States and, if appropriate, the State, through any authorized representative, access to and the right to examine all records, books, papers, or documents related to the award; and will establish a proper accounting system in accordance with generally accepted accounting standards or agency directives.
- Will establish safeguards to prohibit employees from using their positions for a purpose that constitutes or presents the appearance of personal or organizational conflict of interest, or personal gain.
- Will initiate and complete the work within the applicable time frame after receipt of approval of the awarding agency.
- Will comply with the Intergovernmental Personnel Act of 1970 (42 U.S.C. §§4728-4763) relating to prescribed standards for merit systems for programs funded under one of the 19 statutes or regulations specified in Appendix A of OPM's Standards for a Merit System of Personnel Administration (5 C.F.R. 900, Subpart F).
- 6. Will comply with all Federal statutes relating to nondiscrimination. These include but are not limited to: (a) Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (P.L. 88-352) which prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color or national origin; (b) Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, as amended (20 U.S.C.§§1681-1683, and 1685-1686), which prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex; (c) Section 504 of the Rehabilitation

- Act of 1973, as amended (29 U.S.C. §794), which prohibits discrimination on the basis of handicaps; (d) the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, as amended (42 U. S.C. §§6101-6107), which prohibits discrimination on the basis of age; (e) the Drug Abuse Office and Treatment Act of 1972 (P.L. 92-255), as amended, relating to nondiscrimination on the basis of drug abuse; (f) the Comprehensive Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism Prevention, Treatment and Rehabilitation Act of 1970 (P.L. 91-616), as amended, relating to nondiscrimination on the basis of alcohol abuse or alcoholism; (g) §§523 and 527 of the Public Health Service Act of 1912 (42 U.S.C. §§290 dd-3 and 290 ee- 3), as amended, relating to confidentiality of alcohol and drug abuse patient records; (h) Title VIII of the Civil Rights Act of 1968 (42 U.S.C. §§3601 et seg.), as amended, relating to nondiscrimination in the sale, rental or financing of housing; (i) any other nondiscrimination provisions in the specific statute(s) under which application for Federal assistance is being made; and, (j) the requirements of any other nondiscrimination statute(s) which may apply to the application.
- 7. Will comply, or has already complied, with the requirements of Titles II and III of the Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Acquisition Policies Act of 1970 (P.L. 91-646) which provide for fair and equitable treatment of persons displaced or whose property is acquired as a result of Federal or federally-assisted programs. These requirements apply to all interests in real property acquired for project purposes regardless of Federal participation in purchases.
- 8. Will comply, as applicable, with provisions of the Hatch Act (5 U.S.C. §§1501-1508 and 7324-7328) which limit the political activities of employees whose principal employment activities are funded in whole or in part with Federal funds.

- 9. Will comply, as applicable, with the provisions of the Davis-Bacon Act (40 U.S.C. §§276a to 276a-7), the Copeland Act (40 U.S.C. §276c and 18 U.S.C. §874), and the Contract Work Hours and Safety Standards Act (40 U.S.C. §§327-333), regarding labor standards for federally-assisted construction subagreements.
- 10. Will comply, if applicable, with flood insurance purchase requirements of Section 102(a) of the Flood Disaster Protection Act of 1973 (P.L. 93-234) which requires recipients in a special flood hazard area to participate in the program and to purchase flood insurance if the total cost of insurable construction and acquisition is \$10,000 or more.
- 11. Will comply with environmental standards which may be prescribed pursuant to the following: (a) institution of environmental quality control measures under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (P.L. 91-190) and Executive Order (EO) 11514; (b) notification of violating facilities pursuant to EO 11738; (c) protection of wetlands pursuant to EO 11990; (d) evaluation of flood hazards in floodplains in accordance with EO 11988; (e) assurance of project consistency with the approved State management program developed under the Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972 (16 U.S.C. §§1451 et seq.); (f) conformity of Federal actions to State (Clean Air) Implementation Plans under Section 176(c) of the Clean Air Act of 1955, as amended (42 U.S.C. §§7401 et seq.); (g) protection of underground sources of drinking water under the Safe Drinking Water Act of 1974, as amended (P.L. 93-523); and, (h) protection of endangered species under the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (P.L. 93-205).

- Will comply with the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act of 1968 (16 U.S.C. §§1271 et seq.) related to protecting components or potential components of the national wild and scenic rivers system.
- Will assist the awarding agency in assuring compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended (16 U.S.C. §470), EO 11593 (identification and protection of historic properties), and the Archaeological and Historic Preservation Act of 1974 (16 U.S.C. §§469a-1 et seq.).
- Will comply with P.L. 93-348 regarding the protection of human subjects involved in research, development, and related activities supported by this award of assistance.
- 15. Will comply with the Laboratory Animal Welfare Act of 1966 (P.L. 89-544, as amended, 7 U.S.C. §§2131 et seq.) pertaining to the care, handling, and treatment of warm blooded animals held for research, teaching, or other activities supported by this award of assistance.
- Will comply with the Lead-Based Paint Poisoning Prevention Act (42 U.S.C. §§4801 et seq.) which prohibits the use of lead-based paint in construction or rehabilitation of residence structures.
- 17. Will cause to be performed the required financial and compliance audits in accordance with the Single Audit Act Amendments of 1996 and OMB Circular No. A-133, "Audits of States, Local Governments, and Non-Profit Organizations."
- Will comply with all applicable requirements of all other Federal laws, executive orders, regulations, and policies governing this program.

* SIGNATURE OF AUTHORIZED CERTIFYING OFFICIAL	* TITLE
elleut Canon	Assistant Director, CAMA
* APPLICANT ORGANIZATION	* DATE SUBMITTED
Florida Department of Environmental Protection	6/25/09

Standard Form 424B (Rev. 7-97) Back

#### U.S. Department of the Interior

# Certifications Regarding Debarment, Suspension and Other Responsibility Matters, Drug-Free Workplace Requirements and Lobbying

Persons signing this form should refer to the regulations referenced below for complete instructions:

Certification Regarding Debarment, Suspension, and Other Responsibility Matters - Primary Covered Transactions - The prospective primary participant further agrees by submitting this proposal that it will include the clause titled, "Certification Regarding Debarment, Suspension, Ineligibility and Voluntary Exclusion - Lower Tier Covered Transaction," provided by the department or agency entering into this covered transaction, without modification, in all lower tier covered transactions and in all solicitations for lower tier covered transactions. See below for language to be used or use this form certification and sign. (See Appendix A of Subpart D of 43 CFR Part 12.)

Certification Regarding Debarment, Suspension, Ineligibility and Voluntary Exclusion - Lower Tier Covered Transactions - (See Appendix B of Subpart D of 43 CFR Part 12.)

Certification Regarding Drug-Free Workplace Requirements - Alternate I. (Grantees Other Than Individuals) and Alternate II. (Grantees Who are Individuals) - (See Appendix C of Subpart D of 43 CFR Part 12)

Signature on this form provides for compliance with certification requirements under 43 CFR Parts 12 and 18. The certifications shall be treated as a material representation of fact upon which reliance will be placed when the Department of the Interior determines to award the covered transaction, grant, cooperative agreement or loan.

#### PART A: Certification Regarding Debarment, Suspension, and Other Responsibility Matters-Primary Covered Transactions

CHECK\_X\_IF THIS CERTIFICATION IS FOR A PRIMARY COVERED TRANSACTION AND IS APPLICABLE.

- (1) The prospective primary participant certifies to the best of its knowledge and belief, that it and its principals:
  - (a) Are not presently debarred, suspended, proposed for debarment, declared ineligible, or voluntarily excluded by any Federal department or agency;
  - (b) Have not within a three-year period preceding this proposal been convicted of or had a civil judgment rendered against them for commission of fraud or a criminal offense in connection with obtaining, attempting to obtain, or performing a public (Federal, State or local) transaction or contract under a public transaction; violation of Federal or State antitrust statutes or commission of embezzlement, theft, forgery, bribery, falsification or destruction of records, making false statements, or receiving stolen property;
  - (c) Are not presently indicted for or otherwise criminally or civilly charged by a governmental entity (Federal, State or local) with commission of any of the offenses enumerated in paragraph (1)(b) of this certification; and
  - (d) Have not within a three-year period preceding this application/proposal had one or more public transactions (Federal, State or local) terminated for cause or default.
- (2) Where the prospective primary participant is unable to certify to any of the statements in this certification, such prospective participant shall attach an explanation to this proposal.

# PART B: Certification Regarding Debarment, Suspension, Ineligibility and Voluntary Exclusion - Lower Tier Covered Transactions

CHECK IF THIS CERTIFICATION IS FOR A LOWER TIER COVERED TRANSACTION AND IS APPLICABLE.

- (1) The prospective lower tier participant certifies, by submission of this proposal, that neither it nor its principals is presently debarred, suspended, proposed for debarment, declared ineligible, or voluntarily excluded from participation in this transaction by any Federal department or agency.
- (2) Where the prospective lower tier participant is unable to certify to any of the statements in this certification, such prospective participant shall attach an explanation to this proposal.

#### PART C: Certification Regarding Drug-Free Workplace Requirements

CHECK X. IF THIS CERTIFICATION IS FOR AN APPLICANT WHO IS NOT AN INDIVIDUAL.

Alternate I. (Grantees Other Than Individuals)

- A. The grantee certifies that it will or continue to provide a drug-free workplace by:
  - (a) Publishing a statement notifying employees that the unlawful manufacture, distribution, dispensing, possession, or use of a controlled substance is prohibited in the grantee's workplace and specifying the actions that will be taken against employees for violation of such prohibition:
  - (b) Establishing an ongoing drug-free awareness program to inform employees about--
    - (1) The dangers of drug abuse in the workplace;
    - (2) The grantee's policy of maintaining a drug-free workplace;
    - (3) Any available drug counseling, rehabilitation, and employee assistance programs; and
    - (4) The penalties that may be imposed upon employees for drug abuse violations occurring in the workplace;
  - (c) Making it a requirement that each employee to be engaged in the performance of the grant be given a copy of the statement required by paragraph (a);
  - (d) Notifying the employee in the statement required by paragraph (a) that, as a condition of employment under the grant, the employee will --
    - (1) Abide by the terms of the statement; and
    - (2) Notify the employer in writing of his or her conviction for a violation of a criminal drug statute occurring in the workplace no later than five calendar days after such conviction;
  - (e) Notifying the agency in writing, within ten calendar days after receiving notice under subparagraph (d)(2) from an employee or otherwise receiving actual notice of such conviction. Employers of convicted employees must provide notice, including position title, to every grant officer on whose grant activity the convicted employee was working, unless the Federal agency has designated a central point for the receipt of such notices. Notice shall include the identification number(s) of each affected grant;
  - (f) Taking one of the following actions, within 30 calendar days of receiving notice under subparagraph (d)(2), with respect to any employee who is so convicted --
    - (1) Taking appropriate personnel action against such an employee, up to and including termination, consistent with the requirements of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended; or
    - (2) Requiring such employee to participate satisfactorily in a drug abuse assistance or rehabilitation program approved for such purposes by a Federal, State, or local health, law enforcement, or other appropriate agency;
  - (g) Making a good faith effort to continue to maintain a drug-free workplace through implementation of paragraphs (a) (b), (c), (d), (e) and (f).

B.	The grantee may insert in the space provided below the site(s) for the performance of work done in connection with t	the
spe	fic grant:	

Place of Performance (Street address, city, county, state, zip code)

Gulf County, Florida

Check\_\_\_if there are workplaces on files that are not identified here.

#### PART D: Certification Regarding Drug-Free Workplace Requirements

CHECK\_\_\_IF THIS CERTIFICATION IS FOR AN APPLICANT WHO IS AN INDIVIDUAL.

Alternate II. (Grantees Who Are Individuals)

- (a) The grantee certifies that, as a condition of the grant, he or she will not engage in the unlawful manufacture, distribution, dispensing, possession, or use of a controlled substance in conducting any activity with the grant;
- (b) If convicted of a criminal drug offense resulting from a violation occurring during the conduct of any grant activity, he or she will report the conviction, in writing, within 10 calendar days of the conviction, to the grant officer or other designee, unless the Federal agency designates a central point for the receipt of such notices. When notice is made to such a central point, it shall include the identification number(s) of each affected grant.

# PART E: Certification Regarding Lobbying Certification for Contracts, Grants, Loans, and Cooperative Agreements

CHECK\_\_\_\_IF CERTIFICATION IS FOR THE AWARD OF ANY OF THE FOLLOWING AND THE AMOUNT EXCEEDS \$100,000: A FEDERAL GRANT OR COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT; SUBCONTRACT, OR SUBGRANT UNDER THE GRANT OR COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT.

CHECK\_\_IF CERTIFICATION FOR THE AWARD OF A FEDERAL LOAN EXCEEDING THE AMOUNT OF \$150,000, OR A SUBGRANT OR SUBCONTRACT EXCEEDING \$100,000, UNDER THE LOAN.

The undersigned certifies, to the best of his or her knowledge and belief, that:

- (1) No Federal appropriated funds have been paid or will be paid, by or on behalf of the undersigned, to any person for influencing or attempting to influence an officer or employee of an agency, a Member of Congress, and officer or employee of Congress, or an employee of a Member of Congress in connection with the awarding of any Federal contract, the making of any Federal grant, the making of any Federal loan, the entering into of any cooperative agreement, and the extension, continuation, renewal, amendment, or modification of any Federal contract, grant, loan, or cooperative agreement.
- (2) If any funds other than Federal appropriated funds have been paid or will be paid to any person for influencing or attempting to influence an officer or employee of any agency, a Member of Congress, an officer or employee of Congress, or an employee of a Member of Congress in connection with this Federal contract, grant, loan, or cooperative agreement, the undersigned shall complete and submit Standard Form-LLL, "Disclosure Form to Report Lobbying," in accordance with its
- (3) The undersigned shall require that the language of this certification be included in the award documents for all subawards at all tiers (including subcontracts, subgrants, and contracts under grants, loans, and cooperative agreements) and that all subrecipients shall certify accordingly.

This certification is a material representation of fact upon which reliance was placed when this transaction was made or entered into. Submission of this certification is a prerequisite for making or entering into this transaction imposed by Section 1352, title 31, U.S. Code. Any person who fails to file the required certification shall be subject to a civil penalty of not less than \$10,000 and not more than \$100,000 for each such failure.

As the authorized certifying official, I hereby certify that the above specified certifications are true.

SIGNATURE OF AUTHORIZED CERTIFYING OFFICIAL

Ellen McCarron, Assistant Director

TYPED NAME AND TITLE

DATE

#### NATIONAL COASTAL WETLANDS CONSERVATION GRANT PROPOSAL

<u>Title:</u> Acquisition of the Mouth of Money Bayou Tidal Creek, Gulf County, Florida.

### **Project Description:**

Background: The Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) is the lead agency in the State of Florida for environmental management and stewardship and is tasked with protecting Florida's air, water, and land. The Office of Coastal and Aquatic Managed Areas (CAMA), as a division within DEP, oversees the management of Florida's 41 aquatic preserves, 3 National Estuarine Research Reserves (NERR), the National Marine Sanctuary and the Coral Reef Conservation Program. These protected areas comprise more than four million acres of the most valuable submerged lands and select coastal uplands in Florida.

The St. Joseph Bay State Buffer Preserve (SJBSBP) is managed by CAMA as part of the Apalachicola NERR. The 5,019 acre preserve is located in Gulf County, Florida, a few miles south of the city of Port St. Joe and is bound by St. Joseph Bay to the west and the Gulf of

Figure 1. Location map of SJBSBP.



Mexico to the south (Figure 1). SJBSBP lands have been brought into public ownership to help protect the outstanding water quality and aquatic resources of St. Joseph Bay, the Gulf of Mexico and Apalachicola Bay from the potential negative effects of adjacent upland activities.

Until recently, the lands surrounding the southern portion of St. Joseph Bay and the Gulf of Mexico have escaped the residential and resort development common to similar coastal regions. In addition to being part of the St. Joseph Bay Aquatic Preserve, St. Joseph Bay is designated an Outstanding Florida Water, a marine ecosystem of statewide significance, and an important nursery ground for many recreational and commercially valuable species. Acquiring and protecting shoreline along and water quality within St. Joseph Bay and the Gulf of Mexico is a primary goal of the SJBSBP.



The lands within SJBSBP are of special biological significance and were acquired to preserve a full range of threatened coastal habitats and species. Three globally imperiled plant species; pine woods aster (*Aster spinulosus*), Chapman's rhododendron (*Rhododendron chapmannii*) and telephus spurge (*Euphorbia telephioides*), along with 18 other confirmed rare, endangered, or threatened plant species occur within SJBSBP. Public ownership and essential land stewardship programs help to insure the protection and survival of the many rare species and critical natural habitats found within SJBSBP.

Money Bayou: Money Bayou is a tidal creek that flows through the SJBSBP and empties directly into the Gulf of Mexico. The Money Bayou drainage basin occupies over 1,800 acres within the SJBSBP (Figure 2) including hundreds of acres of emergent estuarine and freshwater marsh that grade into wet prairie interspersed with cypress strands and islands of pine flatwoods in a complex mosaic of habitats. The watershed of the creek is contained within the boundaries of the SJBSBP except for the final 1,800 feet of the creek as it runs toward the Gulf. This portion of Money Bayou runs through coastal dunes and strand and is lined with marsh until it reaches the beach.

The outlet of Money Bayou is a dynamic system, alternately open to the Gulf or closed by sands at the mouth of the creek at the beach. During periods of high freshwater flow the outlet opens and remains open until sands accumulate at the mouth of the creek temporarily blocking flow. The channel of Money Bayou as it moves to the Gulf is not stable. Figure 3 shows how the course of the creek has moved east and west across the beach from the State Road 30A Bridge to the Gulf of Mexico over the last 50 years.

Not only is this area important for the health of the surrounding natural systems and species, but it is also a popular recreational spot for the local community. Recreational fishing, crabbing and cast-netting for bait, bird watching, picnicking and general nature observation are enjoyed here regularly. Locals and tourists alike often stop near the State Road 30A Bridge to take in the sights and share an appreciation for the beach and marsh scenic setting. Money Bayou also has historical significance as the first African-American owned beach resort (see Appendix G).

The beach front of the Money Bayou basin has remained relatively undeveloped until the last 10-20 years. While most of the surrounding beachfront have houses, the area over which the outlet currently follows to the Gulf is undeveloped, likely because of the unstable nature of the Money Bayou channel and because much of the site is wetland.

The final stretch of Money Bayou is not currently protected and, despite seemingly large challenges to development, there have recently been plans to develop the identified parcels. These parcels (located in township 9 south, range 10 west, section 19, Cape San Blas Quadrangle) are currently owned by three separate landowners (Figure 2 & Table 2). A large part of these parcels are wetland, but six parcels do have some area of uplands. These parcels are imminently threatened by development unless the outlet of the bayou is brought into conservation ownership soon.

This proposal includes the acquisition of the seven identified parcels that border the Money Bayou channel as it empties into the Gulf. After acquisition the area will be cleaned up. A marsh overlook and bird observation area with two interpretive kiosks will be developed as well as a historical marker denoting the sites significance. Five parking spaces will be added near the bridge over State Road 30A. The proposed project area includes the channel of Money Bayou, the surrounding estuarine intertidal wetlands, some upland pine flatwoods, an area of coastal dunes and .12 miles of Gulf of Mexico beachfront. In the National Wetland Inventory the wetlands on the project site are classified as estuarine intertidal emergent persistent irregularly flooded (E2EM1P) wetlands (USFWS, 2009a). Closer mapping of habitat types (Figure 4) show marine intertidal unconsolidated shore along the Gulf front and the Money Bayou channel, which is classified as a deepwater, aquatic habitat (estuarine intertidal streambed regularly flooded) (USFWS, 2009a). These wetland or deepwater habitats together make up 66% of the site (Table 3). The rest of the project site (34% or 3.76 acres) is composed of uplands, including almost 2 acres of beach dunes, over 1 acre of pineland (with large slash pines) and slightly more than .5 acres of other coastal uplands.

Figure 3. Money Bayou channel changes over time (map based on aerial photography).

Money Bayou Channel
Year
1942
1947
1953
1990
1990
1989
2004

Project Benefits: Major benefits to acquiring and protecting these important parcels will include:

• Protection of the high quality onsite coastal wetlands all of which are nationally declining types.

- Helping to insure the natural hydrological functioning of the outlet of Money Bayou, which is essential to protecting the ecological function of the extensive upstream estuarine wetlands, by preventing development that would likely interfere with the naturally-migrating channel of the bayou. The project area includes most of the area where the channel has migrated in the past.
- Protection of habitat for threatened and endangered species including nesting sea turtles, piping and snowy plovers, and a contribution to maintaining habitat quality for Gulf sturgeon.
- Protection of habitat for shorebirds, migratory birds and waterfowl as well as many other types of wildlife.
- Protection of fish habitat and nursery area for juvenile fish and crabs.
- Better management of recreational use of the site. Acquisition of the site will allow recreational use to continue but to be better managed for the coexistence of wildlife and human use.
- Ability to commemorate the history and cultural significance of the area as the first African-American owned beach resort.
- Facilitation of prescribed fire for rare plant species in the greater Money Bayou watershed.

*Project Goal*: To preserve in perpetuity the entire Money Bayou marsh system, to facilitate its best management, and to increase public appreciation of the ecological significance and historical legacy of this area.

### Project Objectives:

- Acquire the seven parcels identified at the outlet of the system into the Gulf of Mexico and place under SJBSBP management as an addition to the existing preserve.
- Remove the accumulated debris on the acquired lands.
- Establish a marsh overlook and bird observation site that will allow people to appreciate the northern wetland portion of the site and park safely.
- Install displays that will increase public appreciation of the ecological significance of Money Bayou, the greater Money Bayou marsh ecosystem, the wildlife and rare species of the site, the SJBSBP, and wetlands conservation.
- Construct a historical marker to commemorate the African-American history of the site (see criterion # 13 for additional information).

#### *Methods*:

Acquisition: Should an award be received, CAMA will coordinate with DEP's Division of State Lands (DSL) to complete the acquisition. As there is a narrow timeline to complete all acquisition activities within the grant period, DSL will expeditiously start the appraisal process upon notice of a favorable award (see DSL committal letter in Appendix H.1). Section 259.041, Florida Statutes, and Rule Chapter 18-1, Florida Administrative Code, guide the state's land acquisition processes. In synopsis, since DEP knows the land owners are willing sellers, DSL will prepare a map with sufficient detail about uplands, wetlands, and known encumbrances for each of the parcels to assist in the appraisal process. Two private-sector appraisers will be picked

from a list of approved appraisers maintained by DSL to independently report the appraised value and their assumptions and findings for each of the parcels. The results provided by these two appraisers will then be reviewed by a third independent private-sector appraiser. Once value ranges have been determined, a state acquisition agent will negotiate the terms of acquisition with the land owners. If an agreement is reached on value, the option contract or purchase agreement will be submitted to the Governor and Cabinet for final approval. If approved, a state closing agent will contract for environmental audits, title commitments, and final surveys to consummate the acquisition of the property. Acquisitions usually take between 6 and 12 months to complete.

State match will be supplied from the Florida Forever Trust Fund. The Florida Forever Trust Fund (section 259.1051, Florida Statutes) was established in 1999 and has appropriated \$300 million per year since 2000. As of March 31, 2009, the balance in the trust fund was \$375,737,238. Of this balance, \$205,403,029 is committed under existing contracts for purchase of other lands and capital improvements, leaving an uncommitted balance of \$170,334,209. The uncommitted balance is distributed among several programs in nine agencies. The balance for the program which could be available for this match was \$37,944,329 as of March 31, 2009.

DSL is currently working on several coastal land acquisition projects with Florida Forever Trust Fund money. These projects include land adjacent to the Indian River Lagoon (a National Estuary Program estuary) on Florida's east coast and land on Bald Point at the mouth of the Ochlockonee Bay approximately 60 miles east of the land identified in this proposal. DSL also has plans to acquire property within the Guana Tolomato Matanzas NERR, hopefully in partnership with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration through a Coastal Zone Management grant. Each of these areas is part of larger projects that have been compiled to achieve the wide range goals of the Florida Forever program.

<u>Management Lease:</u> Once the property is acquired by the state, CAMA will sign an interim management letter stating it agrees to manage the property under certain guidelines until the property is fully leased to CAMA. Interim management letters are generally initiated within a week or so of closing. Leases are usually finalized within six months after closing. Interim management letters and leases are handled by DEP's DSL.

If acquired, the project land will be added to the SJBSBP and managed in accordance with the SJBSBP's purpose and goals, thus ensuring preservation of the site into perpetuity. The SJBSBP management goals include the acquisition, conservation, protection, and restoration of important ecosystems and landscapes in order to protect significant surface water, coastal, recreational, fish, and wildlife resources. The SJBSBP provides protection for native species habitat and archeological, cultural, and historic sites, as well as opportunities for natural resource based recreation.

<u>Debris Removal</u>: After the interim management letter is signed, SJBSBP staff will work with the Friends of St. Joseph Bay Preserves, Inc. to organize staff/volunteer cleanup days to clear debris from the bayou channel left by former storms, owners, users, and neighbors including parts of

decks, stairs, docks, and other building materials and household trash. The debris removal should take two staff and four volunteers two days to complete.

Marsh Overlook and Bird Observation Site Development: After all the debris is removed SJBSBP staff will prepare a marsh observation and bird observation site east of the State Road 30A Bridge. Staff will clear shrubby undergrowth from the long fire-excluded pineland along the road and work with Gulf County to design and install five parking spaces in a roadside area that is already cleared of vegetation. This will allow the public safe access to the marsh overlook site.

The bridge over the Bayou currently is heavily used by fishermen and sightseers who stop to view the creek and marsh by parking directly along the road. Construction of this visitor use area with parking sites off the road will increase safety and draw attention to the educational displays on the Money Bayou ecology and wildlife.

<u>Visitor Use and Environmental Education:</u> Concurrent with the development of the marsh overlook and bird observation site, SJBSBP staff will work with the Friends of St. Joseph Bay Preserves, Inc. to develop informational displays designed to increase environmental awareness of the ecological processes and needs of rare species at this site. This will include the design and installation of two informative, educational displays and a historical marker at the marsh overlook site. More information on this aspect of the project is outline in Criterion 12 and 13.

For a budget and rough timeline for each of these steps see Table 1.

Funding: It is estimated that the total expenditure for this project, including the acquisition of the holdings of all three landowners (Table 2), will be \$1,203,843 or less (Table 1). The expenditure for the land purchase portion of the project will be \$1,185,653 or less. Clean up of the site and development of improved recreational opportunities for the public and educational displays will be an additional \$18,190.

The proposed or actual commitment of each grant partner is shown in Table 1. The expenditure at current assessed values will result in an \$831,990 grant request from the National Coastal Wetlands Conservation Grant Program of the U.S. Department of the Interior, Fish and Wildlife Service; and \$353,663 cost sharing by the State of Florida for the acquisition. With rapidly falling real estate values in this region it is very likely that the actual appraised value will be below this estimate. Gulf County, the Friends of St. Joseph Bay Preserves, Inc. and CAMA, will contribute in-kind services related to improving public access and public education on the site, worth \$18,190. Therefore, the federal portion of the project will be 69.1%, the state share 29.6%, and the Friends of St. Joseph Bay Preserves, Inc. and Gulf County 1.3% of the total project cost, making the federal share lower than the 75% maximum request.

Table 1. Budget request and commitments by partners with rough timeline.

	Federal USFWS Request	State	Friends of SJBP, Inc.	Gulf County	Total
Acquisition Related Items (First and Second Quarter)					
Land Acquisition	\$831,990	\$298,663			\$1,130,653
Appraisals and Surveys		\$55,000			\$55,000
	Site Clean	Up (Third Quai	ter)		
Personnel		\$259	\$288		\$547
Supplies		\$210			\$210
Public Access and Education (Fourth Quarter)					
Personnel		\$1,712	\$721		\$2,433
Supplies			\$1,500		\$1,500
Ed. Signs			\$3,500		\$3,500
Construction (Parking Area)				\$10,000	\$10,000
Totals	\$831,990	\$355,844	\$6,009	\$10,000	\$1,203,843
Percentages	69.1%	29.6%	0.5%	0.8%	100.0%

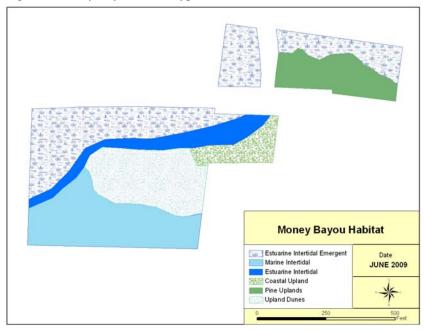
Table 2. Estimated cost of each land parcel.

Land Owner	Parcel No. on Fig.2	Acres	Gulf County Current Listed Just Value	Estimated Cost Per Acre
U.S. Marshall Service, Department of Justice	1	7.45	\$724,800	\$97,289
McEachern	2	0.93	\$252,653	\$271,670
Seybold, Inc	3	0.69	\$2,000	\$2,899
Seybold, Inc	4	0.67	\$37,800	\$56,418
Seybold, Inc	5	0.45	\$37,800	\$84,000
Seybold, Inc	6	0.46	\$37,800	\$82,174
Seybold, Inc	7	0.46	\$37,800	\$82,174
Total		11.11	\$1,130,653	\$101,769 (average)

## **Evaluation Criteria:**

1. Wetland conservation: The acquisition and protection of this site will prevent the loss and degradation of two important, nationally decreasing, coastal wetland habitat types: estuarine intertidal emergent wetlands and marine intertidal wetlands. In the National Wetland Inventory the wetlands on the project are classified as estuarine intertidal emergent persistent irregularly flooded (E2EM1P) wetlands (USFWS, 2009a). Closer mapping of habitat types (Figure 4) show marine intertidal unconsolidated shore along the Gulf front and the Money Bayou channel, which is classified as a deepwater, aquatic habitat (estuarine intertidal streambed regularly flooded) (Cowardin, Carter, Golet, & LaRoe, 1979). These wetland or deepwater habitats together make

Figure 4. Money Bayou habitat types.



up 66% of the site (Table 3). The rest of the project site (34% or 3.76 acres) is composed of uplands, including almost 2 acres of beach dunes, over 1 acre of pineland (with large slash pines) and slightly more than .5 acres of other coastal uplands. 57% of the site (6.34 acres) is composed of nationally decreasing wetland types.

Acquisition of these parcels will ensure the long term preservation of the area and prevent the degradation that would be caused by its

imminent development. 100% of the nationally decreasing coastal wetland on this site will be protected for perpetuity.

Table 3. Breakdown of wetland and other habitat types of the Money Bayou project area.

Habitat Type	Status of Type	Acres	Percentage of Project Area
Estuarine Intertidal Emergent Persistent Irregularly Flooded (E2EM1p)	Nationally Decreasing Type	3.91	35
Marine Intertidal Unconsolidated Shore	Nationally Decreasing Type	2.43	22
Estuarine Intertidal Streambed Regularly Flooded		1.01	9
Upland (1.93 acres dunes; 1.22 ac. Pinelands; .63 other coastal upland)		3.76	34
	Total	11.11	100%

- **2.** *Maritime forests on coastal barriers:* This proposal does not benefit maritime forests on a coastal barrier.
- 3. Long-term conservation: The acquisition of the ~11 acres contained in this proposal will ensure the long-term conservation and protection of these coastal wetland functions. Title to the property (parcels) will be held by the State of Florida, and the parcels will be managed for conservation, in perpetuity, by CAMA as an addition to the adjacent SJBSBP and will tie in with other nearby conservation lands (Figure 5).

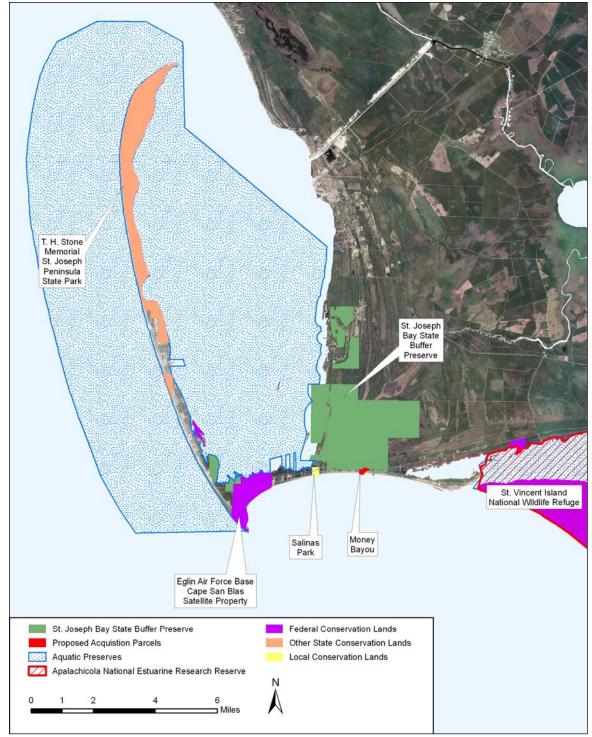


Figure 5. Conservation lands near the project area.

**4.** Coastal watershed management: This project supports the natural resource goals of the watershed-based Surface Water Improvement and Management (SWIM) Program Priority List for the Northwest Florida Water Management District (Northwest Florida Water Management

District, 2006). In this plan the Money Bayou watershed is included in the Apalachicola River and Bay watershed which is the number one priority for the plan. Completion of the project will help accomplish the following natural resource goals and objectives for coastal watershed management as outlined in the Northwest Florida Water Management District SWIM plan:

- 1) Prevent development and encroachment into flood prone areas that has been shown to result in substantial threats to residents and property and that may also diminish floodplain functions, which may further increase flood hazards and harm natural systems. This project preserves the floodplain function of Money Bayou and prevents development that would necessitate the alteration of the floodplain which would harm the natural system and could increase flood hazards.
- 2) Reduce cumulative impacts from development, urban storm water runoff, and other nonpoint sources of pollution that significantly degrade the quality or result in losses of wetlands, shorelines, aquatic habitats, and water-related resources. This project prevents further development in this area and will prevent added contaminated runoff and loss of wetlands by filling like has occurred on adjacent parcels.
- 3) Help protect water supplies that are vulnerable to contamination due to excessive demand or inadequate pollution controls. A public-use water supply well is located 900 feet from this acquisition and only 940 feet from the Gulf. This is one of two public water supply wells that are located on the greater Money Bayou marsh area. These wells are extremely vulnerable to saltwater intrusion. This project will eliminate the demand for water that would come with development of these parcels.
- 4) Help protect and enhance natural systems by acquiring and maintaining ecologically intact systems. This project will complete the protection of an intact, ecologically valuable and otherwise protected watershed.

The Draft Resource Management Plan for the SJBSBP (Department of Environmental Protection, 2006) includes this site as a priority acquisition: "The undeveloped land adjacent to the Money Bayou discharge south of County Road 30A in township 9 south, range 10 west, section 19 is also high priority due to its immediate shoreline protection of Money Bayou, a small watershed contained wholly within the project boundary."

This project also supports the primary goal of the Florida Forever St. Joseph Bay Buffer project: "...to conserve, protect, manage, or restore important ecosystems, landscapes, and forests, in order to enhance or protect significant surface water, coastal, recreational, timber, fish or wildlife resources which local or state regulatory programs cannot adequately protect..." (Department of Environmental Protection, 2003). The Florida Forever program is Florida's premier conservation and recreation lands acquisition program (Department of Environmental Protection, n.d.).

5. Conservation of threatened and endangered species: The project, which will benefit many federally and state listed endangered, threatened, and species of special concern, contains unique and significant diversity. The Money Bayou project site provides important habitat for eight federally listed threatened or endangered animals and one additional federal candidate-for-listing species (Table 4). In addition to these federally listed species, an additional 17 species found in the Money Bayou area are listed as endangered, threatened or species of special concern by the State of Florida (Table 5). Protection of the property will preserve the wetlands, beach dunes and

open water habitat that provide important, high-quality habitat for these threatened or endangered marine turtles, migratory shore birds, and other species.

<u>Federally Listed Species:</u> The Money Bayou project site provides important habitat for seven federally listed threatened or endangered animals and one additional candidate-for-listing species (Table 4).

Table 4. Federally-listed rare and endangered species that utilize, or may utilize, the Money Bayou project area.

			State of	Documented Sitting/Suitable
Scientific Name	Common Name	Federal Status	Florida Status	Habitat
Mammals				
Peromyscus polionotus	St. Andrew beach mouse	endangered	threatened	documented &
peninsularis				suitable habitat
Birds				
Calidris canutus rufa	red knot	candidate		documented
Charadrius melodus	piping plover	threatened	threatened	documented
Reptiles				
Chelonia mydas	Atlantic green turtle	endangered	endangered	documented
Caretta caretta	loggerhead sea turtle	threatened	threatened	documented
Dermochelys coriacea	leatherback sea turtle	endangered	endangered	suitable habitat
Lepidochelys kempii	Kemp's ridley sea turtle	endangered	endangered	suitable habitat
Fish				
Acipenser oxyrinchus	Gulf sturgeon	threatened	species of	suitable habitat
desotoi			special concern	

Marine Turtles – The four sea turtles listed in Table 4 inhabit the Gulf of Mexico near the proposed acquisition. Loggerheads, and occasionally green turtles, nest along the beaches on and near the proposed acquisition. In 1974, a leatherback sea turtle nest was reported on the nearby St. Vincent Island National Wildlife Refuge (USFWS, 1992). In 2008, 39 loggerhead turtle nests, and 54 false crawls were recorded for the six mile stretch of beach that includes the mouth of Money Bayou (B. Eells, personal communication, June 2009). The protection and management of habitat are a few of the goals listed in recovery plans for the four listed sea turtles (National Marine Fisheries Service [NMFS] and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service [USFWS], 1991; NMFS and USFWS, 1992; NMFS and USFWS, 2008; USFWS, 1992). Acquisition of the Money Bayou site into state ownership will allow it to be maintained in its natural state, thus protecting habitat for these species.

Shore Birds – The federally threatened piping plover, the red knot, a federal candidate, and the state-protected snowy plover are just a few shorebirds documented along this area of beach front (B. Eells, personal communication, June 2009) The U.S. Shorebird Conservation Plan, Southeastern Coastal Plains - Caribbean Region Report (USFWS, 2002b) lists the American oystercatcher, snowy plover, piping plover and red knot as species in highest need of conservation attention. Two of the habitat management goals listed in the report are to provide 1) optimal breeding habitat and 2) high quality managed habitat to support migration. Currently the site does not support breeding beach-nesting birds, however it is likely that the area could provide future breeding habitat for species such as the snowy plover. Tidal creek inlet habitat,

like that found at Money Bayou, is favored by migratory wintering piping plovers and may provide important stopover habitat for this species.

The Coastal Bird Conservation Program began shorebird surveys of the Money Bayou site in May of 2009 that will continue through the winter of 2010 to collect data on shorebird species diversity and abundance.

St. Andrew Beach Mouse – James (1992) mentions that the St. Andrew beach mouse historically occupied habitat as far east as Money Bayou. (They are not currently known to be present south or east of Cape San Blas.) While historically St. Andrew beach mouse occupied Money Bayou, it is not known when it last occurred in this area. The acquisition of this property could benefit the St. Andrew beach mouse if it is able to extend its current range south and east along the coastline. Significant erosion may have created a 'break' in the continuous beach habitat and now may preclude the natural distribution into the area of Money Bayou. Protection of this site will preserve potential suitable habitat for future introductions to facilitate the expansion of this endangered species. The draft recovery plan for the St. Andrew beach mouse (USFWS, 2009c) lists reintroductions into suitable habitat as one of its recovery goals.

Gulf Sturgeon – Gulf sturgeon inhabit the coastal waters where the Money Bayou empties into the Gulf. Gulf sturgeon critical habitat (Unit 13, USFWS, 2003) runs adjacent to the Gulf portion of the proposed land purchase. This habitat provides winter feeding and migration habitat for the Apalachicola River Gulf sturgeon subpopulation. Gulf sturgeon are believed to migrate from Apalachicola Bay into the Gulf of Mexico following prevailing currents and exit primarily through two western passes, one of which is Indian Pass, located just east of the proposed property. Suitable water quality components including temperature, salinity, pH, hardness, turbidity, oxygen content, and other chemical characteristics are necessary for normal behavior, growth, and viability of all life stages. Poor water quality is listed in the Gulf sturgeon recovery plan (USFWS & Gulf Marine Fisheries Commission, 1995) as a major limiting factor for this species. Protected lands managed with appropriate best management practices provide more stable water quality conditions than do bayside residential or commercial developments. Therefore, this project will likely benefit the nearby habitat for Gulf sturgeon.

<u>State Listed Species</u>: In addition to the federally-listed species above, there are 4 other species listed as threatened or endangered and 11 species of special concern that are listed by the State of Florida that may utilize the project area. Note that through recover efforts, the peregrine falcon (*Falco peregrinus*) and bald eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*) were delisted in 2009. As with federal recovery plans, most plans for state-listed species denote habitat protection or management as a major goal (American Bird Conservancy, 2004; Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, 2008; USFWS, 2002b).

Table 5. State listed rare and endangered species that may utilize the Money Bayou project area. (Taken from the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission listings.)

Scientific Name	Common Name	State of Florida Status	
Mammals			
Ursus americanus floridanus	Florida black bear	threatened	
Birds			
Ammodramus maritumus juncicolus	Wakulla seaside sparrow	species of special concern	

Scientific Name	Common Name	State of Florida Status
Charadrius alexandrinus	snowy plover	threatened
Cistothorus palustris marianae	Marian's marsh wren	species of special concern
Egretta caerulea	little blue heron	species of special concern
Egretta egretta	tricolored heron	species of special concern
Egretta rufescens	reddish egret	species of special concern
Egretta. thula	snowy egret	species of special concern
Eudocimus albus	white ibis	species of special concern
Falco peregrinus	peregrine falcon	recently delisted
Falco sparverius paulus	Southeastern American kestrel	threatened
Haliaeetus leucocephalus	bald eagle	recently delisted
Haematopus palliates	American oystercatcher	species of special concern
Pelecanus occidentalis	brown pelican	species of special concern
Rynchops niger	black skimmer	species of special concern
Sterna antillarum	least tern	threatened
Reptiles		
Alligator mississippiensis	American alligator	species of special concern

6. Benefits to fish: The area of the Gulf of Mexico where Money Bayou drains to has been identified as essential fish habitat for at least 58 species of fish, crabs, shrimp and sharks (Appendix D). This is an exceptionally rich area located between the Apalachicola Bay and St. Joseph Bay. Essential fish habitat designation for the Money Bayou area includes 6 species of sharks, 3 coastal migratory pelagic species, 43 species of reef fish, 2 stone crab species and 4 species of shrimp. For many of these species the Money Bayou area is important for multiple life stages. This region has an active commercial shrimp and fishing industry and preserving Money Bayou as an intact, unpolluted ecosystem is a significant contribution to preserving these important fisheries and fish species.

Money Bayou is also part of the Critical Habitat designation for Gulf sturgeon, an anadromous, federally-listed threatened fish. See evaluation criteria number 5 above for details.

The onsite wetland habitat is also important for many recreationally and commercially important fish and crustacean species that utilize the area for foraging, shelter and reproduction. Fish species such and striped mullet (*Mugil cephalus*), spotted seatrout (*Cynosion nebulosus*), and crustacean species like blue crabs (*Callinectes sapidus*) and shrimp (*Penaeus* sp.) access the vegetated fringe to forage and hide from predators. The bayou provides a location for blue crabs to mate prior to the females spawning offshore. Completion of this project will also ensure that the shoreline community that creates habitat for these species' functions will remain viable.

7. Benefits to coastal-dependent or migratory birds: Many coastal-dependent or migratory birds utilize the coastal habitats of the outlet of Money Bayou. Money Bayou possesses potential breeding habitat for various beach-nesting shorebirds and also provides excellent feeding and stopover habitat for migratory/wintering shorebirds. The site includes a tidal marsh and creek outfall which passes through dune and front beach habitat and empties into the Gulf of Mexico. The outflow provides ideal foraging and roosting conditions for multiple shorebird and waterfowl species that are often seen there in large numbers. The federally threatened piping plover, the red knot, a federal candidate, and the state-protected snowy plover are just a few

shorebirds documented along this beach front. Appendix E includes migratory, coastal dependant and waterfowl species that use the estuarine intertidal marsh and beach dunes in this area.

USFWS volunteer shorebird surveys have been carried out in this area for many years indicating historic use of the area by many coastal dependent and migratory bird species. In addition, the Coastal Bird Conservation Program will conduct surveys of the site through the fall of 2009 and winter of 2010 to show current use and collect data on shorebird species diversity and abundance.

- 8. Prevent or reduce contamination: The project will prevent and reduce input of contaminants to the coastal wetlands on site and in the associated coastal waters of the Gulf of Mexico in several ways. First, by adding these parcels to the SJBSBP, the site will never be developed for residential use. This is particularly important because no public sewage system is available in this area. Each resident must install a separate septic system. Breaches of septic tanks and drain fields have occurred in the past due to hurricanes and other storm activity contaminating Money Bayou, the Gulf of Mexico, and local beaches. In addition, preventing residential development will preclude the runoff from homes, driveways, parking pads and landscaping that would contaminate the bayou and Gulf, especially during and after storm surge events that flood the ground floor storage of residential units releasing stored toxic materials. Second, the project will protect the wetlands that function to trap suspended sediments and nutrients that run off from surrounding residential areas. Finally, acquiring the property and making it a part of the SJBSBP will allow staff to restore Money Bayou by cleaning out debris left by former storms, owners, users, and neighbors, including parts of decks, stairs, docks, and other building materials and household trash. If acquired, management of public use by the SJBSBP will reduce the accumulation of trash in the future and will allow rapid cleanup after storm events.
- 9. Catalyst for future conservation: SJBSBP was acquired for long-term (in perpetuity) conservation between 1995 and 2002 with state Conservation and Recreation Land trust funds. The Money Bayou project is a key in-holding in the larger protected area of the SJBSBP. The protection and management of this final portion of the Money Bayou tidal creek will facilitate better management of the extensive Money Bayou wetland system on SJBSBP (fire and hydrological management) and is essential to fulfilling the primary goal of the SJBSBP: to protect and preserve the water quality and timing to adjacent water bodies.
- 10. Partners in conservation: This project has strong support from the local Gulf County government and the non-profit Friends of St. Joseph Bay Preserves, Inc., who will assist CAMA and the SJBSBP in the accomplishment of the identified goal and objectives. Cash contributed by the Friends of St. Joseph Bay Preserves, Inc. will monetarily assist in the development of interpretive, educational displays (to be located at the marsh overlook and bird observation area near the State Road 30A Bridge) on the ecologically important aspects of the Money Bayou marshes. Gulf County has committed to contributing the construction of several parking spaces in this same area. The staff that manages the SJBSBP will provide in kind support to clean up the Money Bayou channel after it is acquired, and to manage the property and the education and recreational opportunities associated with this effort into the future.

11. Federal share reduced: The matching ratio for states with dedicated land acquisition programs like Florida (Florida Forever) is 75% federal funds to 25% matching funds. This proposal has a total project cost, including the in-kind match, of \$1,203,843 (Table 1). The 25% match amount is \$300,961, however, the State of Florida is providing a total of \$353,663. An additional \$5,000 cash match is being provided by the Friends of St. Joseph Bay Preserves, making the total cash match \$358,663 which is a 19% increase in the non-federal partner match (19% more than the minimum 25% match).

In addition to this, Gulf County, the Friends of St. Joseph Bay Preserves, Inc. and CAMA are providing in-kind support, to clean up the site, improve public access and public education on the site, worth \$15,049.

12. Education/outreach program or wildlife-oriented recreation: Part of this project is designed to increase environmental awareness and develop support for coastal wetlands conservation. Recreational opportunities consistent with the conservation goals of the management of the site will be provided. A marsh overlook and bird observation site will be prepared near the State Road 30A Bridge. This bridge is used frequently by fishermen and sightseers who park on the roadside to view the creek and marsh. The site will provide parking for five vehicles and will have two interpretive signs and a commemorative historical marker. One sign will show a map of the Money Bayou creek and associated marshes, and explain the ecological importance of the area and the wildlife that can be observed from the overlook. The second sign will demonstrate the importance of coastal wetland conservation and what is needed for the survival of unique, threatened, and endangered species like those listed in criteria 5, 6, and 7. The commemorative historical marker is explained in the historical significance section of criteria 13.

#### 13. Other factors:

<u>Historical significance of site</u>: Money Bayou beach was the first African-American-owned beach resort in Florida. The attached article from the Tour Gulf County Florida website (Appendix G) explains the history and importance of Money Bayou to both the African-American community and the general public. Although the actual structures from this era do not remain, the acquisition of this site will allow for the recognition and commemoration of this unique history. The Friends of St. Joseph Bay Preserves, Inc. are contributing funds to place a historical marker commemorating the African-American history of the site.

Highly threatened habitat protection: Acquiring the proposed parcels will protect, in perpetuity, coastal strand, coastal tidal river or stream, beach surf zone and salt marsh, all highest priority habitat types for conservation in Florida's Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategy (Florida Fish &Wildlife Conservation Commission, 2005).

Help to insure the natural hydrological function of the outlet of Money Bayou: Allowing the natural migration of the Money Bayou channel is essential to provide connectivity from the upstream wetlands to the Gulf, and to insure the continued hydrological and ecological functioning of the entire Money Bayou watershed. The acquisition of this site will prevent, in perpetuity, development that would likely interfere with the naturally migrating channel of the bayou in the future as most of the area covered by past migration is included in the project area.

<u>Facilitation of fire-management of marshes and pine savannas on SJBSBP</u>: Currently the boundary of the SJBSBP runs directly though deep water marshes. This makes it impossible to construct fire lines that would make defensible boundaries and allow proper ecological fire management of hundreds of acres in the SJBSBP. Fire exclusion has caused changes in the greater Money Bayou basin marshes that in the past had more open water areas and were known for their abundance of waterfowl. Today these marshes are thickly vegetated and do not provide as much quality waterfowl habitat. Acquisition of these proposed parcels will enable the SJBSBP to use existing road right of ways as burn zone boundaries, allowing the reintroduction of fire to these fire-dependent marshes and improving habitat for waterfowl and other marsh wildlife.

<u>Rare plant conservation</u>: Acquiring the proposed parcels will allow fire management of the resource management zone that includes the greater Money Bayou marsh system within the SJBSBP which will contribute to the survival of many rare plant species that occur in the upper Money Bayou watershed. This will assist in the long term conservation strategy of several federally listed plant species (*Macbridea alba, Scutellaria floridana, Euphorbia telephioides*) and one species considered "at risk species"(*Cuphera aspera*) that are present in reduced numbers but would be abundant here with proper fire management (USFWS, 2008; USFWS, 2009b). Protection of "at risk" species will decrease the need for future protection under the Endangered Species Act.

# Additional species of concern that are not state-listed but will benefit from the proposed acquisition:

- Gulf salt marsh snake (*Nerodia clarkii clarkii*) Acquisition of these parcels will protect estuarine areas, the preferred habitat for this snake.
- diamondback terrapin (*Malaclemys terrapin*) Acquisition of these parcels will protect the tidal creek with brackish/saltwater, the preferred habitat for this terrapin.
- Northern river otter (*Lontra canadensis*) Acquisition of these parcels will bring into public ownership an area of tidal creek, estuarine and coastal marine habitat that will benefit the river otter frequently seen in the Money Bayou creek area.

# **Appendices**

# **Appendix A. Project Contacts**

**Grant Proposal:** 

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#### Appendix C. Acronyms

CAMA Coastal and Aquatic Managed Areas

DEP Department of Environmental Protection

DSL DEP's Division of State Lands

NERR National Estuarine Research Reserve

SJBSBP St. Joseph Bay State Buffer Preserve

USFWS United States Fish and Wildlife Service

Appendix D. Fish species of Money Bayou and surrounding Gulf waters for which essential fish habitat designation is attributed.

Scientific Name	Common Name	
Sharks (6 Species)		
Carcharhinus isodon	finetooth shark	
Carcharhinus leucas	bull shark	
Carcharhinus limbatus	blacktip shark	
Carcharhinus plumbeus	sandbar shark	
Galeocerdo cuvier	tiger shark	
Sphyrna mokarran	great hammerhead	
Coastal Migratory Pelagic (3 Species)		
Rachycentron canadum	cobia	
Scomberomorus cavalla	king mackerel	
Scomberomorus maculatus	Spanish mackerel	
Reef Fish (43 Species)		
Balistidae - Trig	gerfishes	
Balistes capriscus	gray triggerfish	
Carangidae -	Jacks	
Seriola dumerili	greater amberjack	
Seriola fasciata	lesser amberjack	
Seriola rivoliana	Almaco jack	
Seriola zonata	banded rudderfish	
Labridae - W	rasses	
Lachnolaimus maximus hogfish		
Lutjanidae - Si	nappers	
Etelis oculatus	queen snapper	
Lutjanus analis	mutton snapper	
Lutjanus apodus	schoolmaster snapper	
Lutjanus buccanella	blackfin snapper	
Lutjanus campechanus	red snapper	
Lutjanus cyanopterus	Cubera snapper	
Lutjanus griseus	gray (mangrove) snapper	
Lutjanus jocu	dog snapper	
Lutjanus mahogoni	mahogany snapper	
Lutjanus synagris	lane snapper	
Lutjanus vivanus	silk snapper	
Ocyurus chrysurus	yellowtail snapper	
Pristipomoides aquilonaris	Wenchman	
D1 1 1', 1	vermilion snapper	
Rhomboplites aurorubens	verillinon shapper	
Malacanthidae -	**	
*	**	
Malacanthidae -	Tilefishes	
Malacanthidae - Caulolatilus chrysops	Tilefishes goldface tilefish blackline tilefish anchor tilefish	
Malacanthidae - Caulolatilus chrysops Caulolatilus cyanops	Tilefishes  goldface tilefish  blackline tilefish	

Scientific Name	Common Name	
Serranidae - Groupers		
Diplectrum bivittatum	dwarf sand perch	
Diplectrum formosum	sand perch	
Epinephelus adscensionis	rock hind	
Epinephelus drummondhayi	speckled hind	
Epinephelus flavolimbatus	yellowedge grouper	
Epinephelus guttatus	red hind	
Epinephelus itajara	goliath grouper	
Epinephelus morio	red grouper	
Epinephelus mystacinus	misty grouper	
Epinephelus nigritus	Warsaw grouper	
Epinephelus niveatus	snowy grouper	
Epinephelus striatus	Nassau grouper	
Epinephelus inermis	marbled grouper	
Mycteroperca bonaci	black grouper	
Mycteroperca interstitialis	yellowmouth grouper	
Mycteroperca microlepis	gag grouper	
Mycteroperca phenax	scamp grouper	
Mycteroperca venenosa	yellowfin grouper	
Stone Crab (2 Species)		
Menippe mercenaria	stone crab	
Menippe adina (Cedar Key N)	stone crab	
Shrimp (4 Species)		
Penaeus aztecus	brown shrimp	
Penaeus setiferus	white shrimp	
Penaeus duorarum	pink shrimp	
Pleoticus robustus	royal red shrimp	

Appendix E. Migratory/coastal dependent birds and waterfowl known from adjacent St. Joseph Bay State Buffer Preserve or St. Joseph Peninsula State Park and likely to use Money Bayou site.

Scientific Name	Common Name	Migratory	Coastal Dependent	Waterfowl
Waterfowl				
Aix sponsa	wood duck			Х
Anas strepera	gadwall	X		X
Anas americana	American widgeon	Х		X
Anas discors	blue-winged teal	X		Х
Anas crecca	green-winged teal	X		х
Aythya valisineria	canvasback	X	Х	х
Aythya americana	redhead	X	Х	х
Aythya collaris	ring-necked duck	X		Х
Aythya marila	greater scaup	X	Х	х
Aythya affinis	lesser scaup	X	X	X
Melanitta perspicillata	surf scoter	X	Х	Х
Melanitta fusca	white-winged scoter	X	Х	х
Melanitta nigra	black scoter	X	Х	х
Bucephala albeola	bufflehead	X	Х	х
Bucephala clangula	common goldeneye	Х	Х	X
Lophodytes cucullatus	hooded merganser	X		Х
Mergus serrator	red-breasted merganser	X	Х	X
Oxyura jamaicensis	ruddy duck	Х		X
Loons				
Gavia stellata	red-throated loon	X	Х	
Gavia pacifica	Pacific loon	X	X	
Gavia immer	common loon	X	X	
Grebes				
Podilymbus podiceps	pied-billed grebe	X		
Podiceps auritus	horned grebe	X	X	
Gannets				
Morus bassanus	Northern gannet	X	X	
Pelicans				
Pelecanus erythrorhynchos	American white pelican	X	X	
Pelecanus occidentalis	brown pelican		X	
Cormorants				
Phalacrocorax auritus	double-crested cormorant	X	X	
Herons & Egrets				
Botaurus lentiginosus	American bittern	X		
Ixobrychus exilis	least bittern	X	X	
Ardea herodias	great blue heron		X	
Ardea alba	great egret	X	X	
Egretta thula	snowy egret	X	X	
Egretta caerulea	little blue heron	X		
Egretta tricolor	tricolored heron	X	X	

Scientific Name	Common Name	Migratory	Coastal Dependent	Waterfowl
Egretta rufescens	reddish egret	Х	Х	
Bubulcus ibis	cattle egret (e)	X		
Butorides virescens	green heron	X		
Nycticorax nycticorax	black-crowned night-heron	X	X	
Nyctanassa violacea	yellow-crowned night- heron	x	X	
Ibis				
Eudocimus albus	white ibis	X		
Vultures				
Coragyps atratus	black vulture	X		
Cathartes aura	turkey vulture	X		
Hawks, etc.				
Pandion haliaetus	osprey		X	
Elanoides forficatus	American swallow-tailed kite	x		
Ictinia mississippiensis	Mississippi kite	Х		
Haliaeetus leucocephalus	bald eagle	Х	х	
Circus cyaneus	Northern harrier	Х	х	
Accipiter striatus	sharp-shinned hawk	Х		
Accipiter cooperii	Cooper's hawk	Х		
Buteo platypterus	broad-winged hawk	Х		
Buteo jamaicensis	red-tailed hawk	Х		
Falcons				
Falco sparverius	American kestrel	Х		
Falco columbarius	merlin	Х		
Falco peregrinus	peregrine falcon	Х	Х	
Rails				
Rallus longirostris	clapper rail		Х	
Rallus elegans	king rail	Х		
Rallus limicola	Virginia rail	Х		
Porzana carolina	sora	X	X	
Fulica americana	American coot	X	X	
Plovers				
Pluvialis squatarola	black-bellied plover	X	X	
Pluvialis dominica	American golden plover	X	X	
Charadrius semipalmatus	semipalmated plover	X	X	
Charadrius melodus	piping plover	X	X	
Charadrius vociferus	killdeer	X		
Stilts & Avocets				
Himantopus mexicanus	black-necked stilt	Х		
Recurvirostra americana	American avocet	Х		
Sandpipers & Phalaropes				
Tringa melanoleuca	greater yellowlegs	X	X	
Tringa flavipes	lesser yellowlegs	X	X	
Tringa solitaria	solitary sandpiper	X	X	

C 4 · C · N	C	Min	Coastal	W-4-C
Scientific Name	Common Name	Migratory	Dependent	Waterfowl
Catoptrophorus semipalmatus	willet	X	X	
Actitis macularius	spotted sandpiper whimbrel	X	X	
Numenius phaeopus Numenius americanus	long-billed curlew	X	X	
Limosa fedoa	marbled godwit	X	X	
Arenaria interpres	ruddy turnstone	X	X X	
Calidris canutus	red knot	X	X	
Calidris alba	sanderling	X	X	
Calidris pusilla	semipalmated sandpiper	X	X	
Calidris mauri	western sandpiper	X	X	
Calidris minutilla	least sandpiper	X	X	
Calidris fuscicollis	white-rumped sandpiper	X	X	
Calidris bairdii	Baird's sandpiper	X	X	
Calidris melanotos	pectoral sandpiper	X	X	
Calidris alpina	dunlin	X	Х	
Calidris himantopus	stilt sandpiper	Х	Х	
Limnodromus griseus	short-billed dowitcher	X	Х	
Limnodromus scolopaceus	long-billed dowitcher	X	X	
Gallinago delicata	Wilson's snipe	X	X	
Scolopax minor	American woodcock	X		
Phalaropus tricolor	Wilson's phalarope	X	X	
Gulls & Terns				
Larus atricilla	laughing gull	X	X	
Larus pipixcan	Franklin's gull	X	X	
Larus philadelphia	Bonaparte's gull	X	X	
Larus delawarensis	ring-billed gull	X	X	
Larus argentatus	herring gull	X	X	
Larus fuscus	lesser black-backed gull	X	X	
Larus marinus	great black-backed gull	X	X	
Sterna nilotica	gull-billed tern	X	X	
Sterna caspia	Caspian tern	X	X	
Sterna maxima	royal tern	X	X	
Sterna sandvicensis	sandwich tern	X	X	
Sterna hirundo	common tern	X	X	
Sterna forsteri	Forster's tern	X	X	
Sterna antillarum	least tern	X	X	
Chlidonias niger	black tern	X	X	
Rynchops niger	black skimmer	X	X	
Pigeons & Doves	white wineed down			
Zenaida asiatica	white-winged dove	X		
Coolean & Aria	common ground dove		X	
Cuckoos & Anis	Linal Lillada - Inc			
Coccyzus erythropthalmus	black-billed cuckoo	X		
Cretarlaga autoinestria	yellow-billed cuckoo	X		
Crotophaga sulcirostris	groove-billed ani	X	X	

Scientific Name	Common Name	Migratory	Coastal Dependent	Waterfowl
Owls				
Bubo virginianus	great horned owl		X	
Goatsuckers				
Chordeiles acutipennis	lesser nighthawk	X	X	
Chordeiles minor	common nighthawk	X	X	
Caprimulgus vociferus	whip-poor-will	X		
Caprimulgus carolinensis	Chuck-wills-widow	X		
Swifts & Hummingbirds				
Chaetura pelagica	chimney swift	X		
Amazilia yucatanensis	buff-bellied hummingbird	X		
Archilochus colubris	ruby-throated hummingbird	X		
Archilochus alexandri	black-chinned hummingbird	X		
Selasphorus rufus	rufous hummingbird	X		
Kingfishers				
Megaceryle alcyon	belted kingfisher	X	X	
Woodpeckers				
Sphyrapicus varius	yellow-bellied sapsucker	X		
Colaptes auratus	Northern flicker	X		
Flycatchers				
Contopus virens	Eastern wood-pewee	X		
Empidonax virescens	Acadian flycatcher	X		
Empidonax minimus	least flycatcher	X		
Sayornis phoebe	Eastern phoebe	X		
Myiarchus crinitus	great crested flycatcher	X		
Tyrannus verticalis	Western kingbird	X		
Tyrannus tyrannus	Eastern kingbird	X		
Tyrannus dominicensis	gray kingbird	X	X	
Tyrannus forficatus	scissor-tailed flycatcher	X		
Shrikes				
Lanius ludovicianus	loggerhead shrike	X		
Vireos				
Vireo griseus	white-eye vireo	X		
Vireo flavifrons	yellow-throated vireo	X		
Vireo solitarius	blue-headed vireo	X		
Vireo olivaceus	red-eyed vireo	X		
Crows & Jays				
Corvus ossifragus	fish crow		X	
Swallows				
Progne subis	purple martin	X	X	
Tachycineta bicolor	tree swallow	X		
Stelgidopteryx serripennis	Northern rough-winged swallow	X		
Riparia riparia	bank swallow	X		
Petrochelidon pyrrhonota	cliff swallow	X		

Scientific Name	Common Name	Migratory	Coastal Dependent	Waterfowl
Hirundo rustica	barn swallow	X		
Baeolophus bicolor	tufted titmouse			
Nuthatches				
Sitta canadensis	red-breasted nuthatch	Х		
Wrens				
Thryothorus ludovicianus	Carolina wren			
Troglodytes aedon	house wren	Х		
Cistothorus platensis	sedge wren	X		
Cistothorus palustris	marsh wren		X	
Kinglets & Gnatcatchers				
Regulus satrapa	golden-crowned kinglet	X		
Regulus calendula	ruby-crowned kinglet	X		
Polioptila caerulea	blue-gray gnatcatcher	X		
Thrush				
Sialia sialis	Eastern bluebird	X		
Catharus fuscescens	veery	X		
Catharus minimus	gray-cheeked thrush	X		
Catharus ustulatus	Swainson's thrush	X		
Catharus guttatus	hermit thrush	X		
Hylocichla mustelina	wood thrush	X		
Turdus migratorius	American robin	X		
Mimics				
Dumetella carolinensis	gray catbird	X		
Toxostoma rufum	brown thrasher	X		
Starlings				
Sturnus vulgaris	European starling	X		
Waxwings				
Bombycilla cedrorum	cedar waxwing	X		
Warblers				
Vermivora peregrina	Tennessee warbler	X		
Vermivora celata	orange crowned warbler	X		
Parula americana	Northern parula	X		
Dendroica petechia	yellow warbler	X		
Dendroica pensylvanica	chestnut-sided warbler	X		
Dendroica magnolia	magnolia warbler	X		
Dendroica tigrina	Cape May warbler	X		
Dendroica caerulescens	black-throated blue warbler	X		
Dendroica coronata	yellow-rumped warbler	X		
Dendroica virens	black-throated green warbler	X		
Dendroica dominica	yellow-throated warbler	X		
Dendroica pinus	pine warbler	Х		
Dendroica discolor	prairie warbler	X		
Dendroica palmarum	palm warbler	х	X	
Mniotilta varia	black-and-white warbler	X		

Scientific Name	Common Name	Migratory	Coastal Dependent	Waterfowl
Setophaga ruticilla	American redstart	X	Dependent	valer rowr
Protonotaria citrea	prothonotary warbler	X		
Helmitheros vermivorum	worm-eating warbler	X		
Limnothlypis swainsonii	Swainson's warbler	X		
Seiurus aurocapilla	ovenbird	X		
Seiurus noveboracensis	Northern waterthrush	X		
Seiurus motacilla	Louisiana waterthrush	X		
Oporornis formosus	Kentucky warbler	X		
Geothlypis trichas	common yellowthroat	X	X	
Wilsonia citrina	hooded warbler	X		
Wilsonia pusilla	Wilson's warbler	X		
Icteria virens	yellow-breasted chat	X		
Tanagers				
Piranga rubra	summer tanager	X		
Piranga olivacea	scarlet tanager	X		
Sparrows				
Spizella passerina	chipping sparrow	X		
Spizella pusilla	field sparrow	X		
Pooecetes gramineus	vesper sparrow	X		
Passerculus sandwichensis	Savannah sparrow	X		
Ammodramus savannarum	grasshopper sparrow	X		
Ammodramus henslowii	Henslow's sparrow	X		
Ammodramus leconteii	LeConte's sparrow	X		
Ammodramus nelsoni	Nelson's sharp-tailed sp.	X	X	
Melospiza melodia	song sparrow	X		
Melospiza georgiana Zonotrichia albicollis	swamp sparrow white-throated sparrow	X	X	
Zonotrichia leucophrys	white-crowned sparrow	X		
Cardinals & Grosbeaks	winte-crowned sparrow	X		
Cardinalis & Grosbeaks  Cardinalis cardinalis	Northern cardinal			
Pheucticus ludovicianus	rose-breasted grosbeak	X		
Passerina caerulea	blue grosbeak	X		
Passerina cyanea	indigo bunting	X		
Passerina ciris	painted bunting	X		
Blackbirds	, , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,			
Agelaius phoeniceus	red-winged blackbird	х	X	
Sturnella magna	Eastern meadowlark	X		
Quiscalus quiscula	common grackle	X		
Quiscalus major	boat-tailed grackle	X	X	
Molothrus ater	brown-headed cowbird	X		
Icterus spurius	orchard oriole	X		
Icterus galbula	Baltimore oriole	X		
Finch				
Carduelis pinus	pine siskin	X		
Carduelis tristis	American goldfinch	X		

Appendix F. Fish species likely to use Money Bayou area.

Species	Common Name	Habitat Requirements
Acanthostracion quadricornis	scrawled cowfish	estuarine
Acipenser oxyrynchus desotoi	Gulf sturgeon	estuarine, anadromous
Adina xenica	diamond killifish	fresh
Albula vulpes	bonefish	estuarine
Aluterus schoephi	orange filefish	estuarine
Ameiurus catus	white catfish	fresh
Amia calva	bowfin	fresh
Anchoa cubana	Cuban anchovy	estuarine
Anchoa hepsetus	bay anchovy	estuarine
Anchoa lyolepis	dusky anchovy	estuarine
Anchoa mitchilli	striped anchovy	estuarine
Ancylopsetta quadrocellata	ocellated flounder	estuarine
Aphredoderus sayanus	pirate perch	fresh
Archosargus probatocephalus	sheepshead	estuarine
Ariopsis felis	hardhead catfish	estuarine
Astroscopus y-graecum	Southern stargazer	estuarine
Bagre marinus	gaftopsail catfish	estuarine
Bairdiella chrysoura	silver perch	estuarine
Brevoortia spp.	Gulf menhaden	estuarine
Calamus arctifrons	grass porgy	estuarine
Caranx crysos	blue runner	estuarine
Caranx hippos	crevalle jack	estuarine
Caranx latus	horse-eye jack	estuarine
Carcharhinus isodon	finetooth shark	estuarine
Carcharhinus limbatus	blacktip shark	estuarine
Carpoides cyprinus	quillback	fresh
Centropristis philadelphica	rock sea bass	estuarine
Centropristis striata	black sea bass	estuarine
Chaetodipterus faber	Atlantic spadefish	estuarine
Chasmodes sabarrae	Florida blenny	estuarine
Chilomycterus schoepfi	striped burrfish	estuarine
Chloroscombrus chrysurus	Atlantic bumper	estuarine
Citharichthys macrops	spotted whiff	estuarine
Citharichthys spilopterus	bay whiff	estuarine
Ctenogobius boleosoma	darter goby	estuarine
Ctenopharyngodon idella	grass carp	fresh, introduced
Cynoscion arenarius	sand seatrout	estuarine
Cynoscion nebulosus	spotted seatrout	estuarine
Cynoscion nothus	trout	estuarine
Cyprinella (Notropis) venustus	blacktail shiner	fresh
Cyprinodon variegatus	sheepshead minnow	estuarine
Cyprinus carpio	common carp	fresh, introduced
Dasyatis sabina	Atlantic stingray	estuarine
Dasyatis say	bluntnose stingray	estuarine
Diplectrum bivittatum	dwarf sand perch	estuarine
Diplectrum formosum	sand perch	estuarine
Diplodus holbrookii	spottail pinfish	estuarine
Dorosoma cepedianum	gizzard shad	estuarine
Dorosoma petenense	threadfin shad	estuarine

Species	Common Name	Habitat Requirements
Elassoma zonatum	banded pygmy sunfish	fresh
Elops saurus	ladyfish	estuarine
Enneacanthus gloriosus	bluespotted sunfish	fresh
Esox niger	chain pickerel	fresh
Etheostoma edwini	brown darter	fresh
Etheostoma fusiforme	swamp darter	fresh
Etropus crossotus	fringed flounder	estuarine
Etropus cyclosquamus	shelf flounder	estuarine
Eucinostomus argenteus	spotfin mojarra	estuarine
Eucinostomus gula	silver jenny	estuarine
Eucinostomus harengulus	spotfin mojarra	estuarine
Fundulus chrysotus	golden topminnow	fresh
Fundulus confluentus	marsh killifish	fresh
Fundulus grandis	Gulf killifish	fresh
Fundulus similis	longnose killifish	fresh
Gambusia holbrooki	Eastern mosquitofish	fresh
Gobiesox strumosus	skilletfish	estuarine
Gobionellus oceanicus	sharptail goby	estuarine
Gobiosoma bosc	naked goby	estuarine
Gobiosoma longipala	twoscale goby	estuarine
Gobiosoma robustum	code goby	estuarine
Gymnothorax saxicola	ocellated moray	marine
Gymnura micrura	smooth butterfly ray	estuarine
Haemulon aurolineatum	tomtate	estuarine
Halichoeres bivittatus	slippery dick	estuarine
Harangula jaguana	scaled sardine	estuarine
Hemicaranx amblyrhynchus	bluntnose jack	estuarine
Heterandria formosa	least killifish	fresh
Hippocampus erectus	lined seahorse	estuarine
Hyporhamphus meeki	American halfbeak	estuarine
Hypsoblennius hentz	feather blenny	estuarine
Ictalurus furcatus	blue catfish	fresh, introduced
Ictalurus punctatus	channel catfish	fresh
Labidesthes sicculus	brook silverside	fresh
Lagodon rhomboides	pinfish	estuarine
Larimus fasciatus	banded drum	estuarine
Leiostomus xanthurus	spot	estuarine
Lepisosteus oculatus	spotted gar	estuarine
Lepisosteus osseus	longnose gar	estuarine
Lepomis auritus	redbreast sunfish	fresh
Lepomis gulosus	warmouth	fresh
Lepomis macrochirus	bluegill	fresh
Lepomis microlophus	redear sunfish	fresh
Lepomis punctatus	spotted sunfish	fresh
Lucania goodei	bluefin killifish	fresh
Lucania parva	rainwater killifish	fresh
Lutjanus campechanus	red snapper	estuarine
Lutjanus griseus	gray snapper	estuarine
Lutjanus synagris	lane snapper	estuarine
Megalops atlanticus	tarpon	estuarine
Membras martinica	rough silverside	estuarine

Species	Common Name	Habitat Requirements
Menidia spp.**	silverside	estuarine
Menticirrhus americanus	Southern kingfish	estuarine
Menticirrhus littoralis	Gulf kingfish	estuarine
Menticirrhus saxatilis	Northern kingfish	estuarine
Microgobius carri	Seminole goby	estuarine
Microgobius gulosus	clown goby	estuarine
Microgobius thallasinus	green goby	estuarine
Micropogonias undulatus	Atlantic croaker	estuarine
Micropterus salmoides	largemouth bass	fresh
Minytrema melanops	spotted sucker	fresh
Monocanthus ciliatus	fringed filefish	estuarine
Mugil cephalus	striped mullet	estuarine
Mugil curema	white mullet	estuarine
Mycteroperca microlepis	gag grouper	estuarine
Myrophis punctatus	speckled worm eel	estuarine
Narcine bancroftii	lesser electric ray	estuarine
Nicholsina usta	emerald parrotfish	estuarine
Notemigonus crysoleucas	golden shiner	fresh
Notropis maculatus	taillight shiner	fresh
Notropis petersoni	coastal shiner	fresh
Notropis spp.	unidentified shiner	fresh
Notropis texanus	weed shiner	fresh
Ogcocephalus cubifrons	polka-dot batfish	estuarine
Oligoplites saurus	leather jacket	estuarine
Ophichthus gomesii	shrimp eel	estuarine
Opisthonema oglinum	Atlantic thread herring	estuarine
Opsanus beta	Gulf toadfish	estuarine
Opsopoeodus (Notropis) emiliae	pugnose minnow	fresh
Orthopristis chrysoptera	pigfish	estuarine
Parablennius marmoreus	seaweed blenny	estuarine
Paralichthys albigutta	Gulf flounder	estuarine
Paralichthys lethostigma	Southern flounder	estuarine
Paralichthys squamilentus	broad flounder	estuarine
Peprilus burti	gulf butterfish	estuarine
Peprilus paru	harvest fish	estuarine
Percina nigrofasciata	black banded darter	fresh
Platybelone argalus	keeltail needlefish	estuarine
Poecilia latipinna	sailfin molly	fresh
Pogonias cromis	black drum	estuarine
Pomatomus saltatrix	bluefish	estuarine
Porichthys plectrodon	Atlantic midshipman	estuarine
Prionotus longispinosus	bigeye searobin	estuarine
Prionotus rubio	blackwing searobin	estuarine
Prionotus scitulus	leopard searobin	estuarine
Prionotus tribulus	bighead searobin	estuarine
Rachycentron canadum	cobia	estuarine
Rhizoprionodon terraenovae	Atlantic sharpnose shark	estuarine
Sciaenops ocellatus	red drum	estuarine
Scomberomorus maculatus	Spanish mackerel	estuarine
Selene setapinnis	Atlantic moonfish	estuarine
Selene vomer	lookdown	estuarine

Species	Common Name	Habitat Requirements
Serraniculus pumilio	pygmy seabass	estuarine
Serranus subligarius	belted sandfish	estuarine
Sphoeroides nephelus	Southern puffer	estuarine
Sphoeroides parvus	least puffer	estuarine
Sphyraena barracuda	great barracuda	estuarine
Sphyraena borealis	Northern sennet	estuarine
Sphyraena guachancho	guachancho	estuarine
Sphyrna tiburo	bonnethead	estuarine
Stellifer lanceolatus	star drum	estuarine
Stenotomus caprinus	longspine porgy	estuarine
Stephanolepis hispidus	planehead filefish	estuarine
Strongylura marina	Atlantic needlefish	estuarine, anadromous
Strongylura notata	redfin needlefish	estuarine
Symphurus civitatium	offshore tonguefish	estuarine
Symphurus plagiusa	black cheeked tonguefish	estuarine
Syngnathus floridae	dusky pipefish	estuarine
Syngnathus louisianae	chain pipefish	estuarine
Syngnathus scovelli	Gulf pipefish	estuarine
Synodus foetens	inshore lizzardfish	estuarine
Trachinotus carolinus	Florida pompano	estuarine
Trachinotus falcatus	permit	estuarine
Trinectes maculatus	hogchoker	estuarine, catadromous
Urophycis floridana	Southern hake	estuarine

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Money Bayou



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#### 3. Money Bayou

#### COUNTY ROUTE 30A



Money Bayou running into the Gulf of Mexico

Money Bayou was named for a rumored buried treasure. Local historian Wayne Childers tells this story: in the 1930s Captain Nick Comforter, Cy C. Williams, conductor on the Apalachicola Northe railroad and a number of men from the railroad shop went to search for treasure based on old charts Nick Comforter found showing the wreck of one of Jean LaFitte's ships in 1819. They pulled strings from three pine trees with symbols carved on them and dug where the strings crossed. Eventually the men hired a dragline. Several times they were supposed to have reached the chest but each time it slipped away. Another crew tried to recover the treasure but again once they reached it, the treasur slipped back. Childers reports that one of the workers said "the haints don't want this moved," and that was the end of attempts to reach the treasure.

http://www.tourgulfcounty.org/gulfcounty/site\_003\_MoneyBayou.cfm

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The Jenkins Family, Money Bayou, 1930

The Jenkins family lived in the area and was photographed on Money Bayou in 1930.

Stanley S. Sheip of Franklin County bought the property and built cottages here in the 1940s. He so low it to Alfred and Ruby Andreason, a couple from New Jersey, in 1945. In 1946 the Andreasons open and the Money Bayou Restaurant, the only restaurant between Apalachicola and Port St. Joe. Business on the Money Bayou Restaurant, the only restaurant between Apalachicola and Port St. Joe. Business on the Money Bayou Restaurant, the only restaurant between Apalachicola and Port St. Joe. Business on the Money Bayou Restaurant, the only restaurant between Apalachicola and Port St. Joe. Business on the Money Bayou Restaurant, the only restaurant between Apalachicola and Port St. Joe. Business on the Money Bayou Restaurant, the only restaurant between Apalachicola and Port St. Joe. Business on the Money Bayou Restaurant between Apalachicola and Port St. Joe. Business on the Money Bayou Restaurant between Apalachicola and Port St. Joe. Business on the Money Bayou Restaurant between Apalachicola and Port St. Joe. Business on the Money Bayou Restaurant between Apalachicola and Port St. Joe. Business on the Money Bayou Restaurant between Apalachicola and Port St. Joe. Business on the Money Bayou Restaurant between Apalachicola and Port St. Joe. Business on the Money Bayou Restaurant between Apalachicola and Port St. Joe. Business on the Money Bayou Restaurant Bayou Restau

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Money Bayou slowed with the construction of Highway 98 to the north and the Andreasons decide  $\mathcal{A}$  sell their beachfront property. Whites wouldn't pay them the price they wanted and so perhaps out  $o\mathcal{A}$  spite they decided to sell it to a group of prominent local blacks at a lower price.

Damon Peters, Jr., recalls the spring night after midnight in 1951 when he, his father Damon Peters Sr., his uncle Nathan Peters, Sr., Dr. Francis Michael Hall, and Raymond A. Driesbach purchased the 30 acres of beachfront property with cottages and a restaurant from Alfred and Ruby Andreason for \$30,000. Dr. Hall brought his portion of the purchase price (\$6000) in a shoebox while the others borrowed their portions from the bank. Fearing reprisals for selling to blacks, the Andreasons left town before daybreak.

Money Bayou was the first black-owned beach resort in Florida. The Money Bayou Subdivision was incorporated in 1953. The resort was advertised in *Ebony* and people came from far and near.

CLICK ON THE PHOTOS BELOW TO VIEW MEMORABILIA AND PICTURES FROM THE 1940S AND 1950S



Money Bayou Restaurant flyer (click image to enlarge)



Money Bayou in the 1950s (click image to enlarge)



Money Bayou Subdivision plat (click image to enlarge)

For the first time black families were able to come together at the beach, to relax and to celebrate without intimidation from whites. Families would come by the busload on the weekends and on holidays hundreds of people came. The Money Bayou Beauty Contest was so popular that it was featured in *Ebony*.

http://www.tourgulfcounty.org/gulfcounty/site 003 MoneyBayou.cfm

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Billy Dixson, 2006

Billy Dixson summarizes Money Bayou its heyday in the 1950s and 60s as "entertainment to keep families together." It was a community where resources were pooled and shared and all adults took responsibility for the children.

http://www.tourgulfcounty.org/gulfcounty/site\_003\_MoneyBayou.cfm

Money Bayou Page 5 of 6

### Listen to Billy Dixson's recollections of Money Bayou: *♠Real Network ♠Windows Media Player*

Maxine and Chester Gant, who bought the first lot in the subdivision for \$500 and still live in the house they built on that land today, remember the bands and the dances at the Money Bayou Club The club was open 24 hours a day every day and "the hottest bands around" would come on the weekends and people would dance most of the night. "Honey, some people never saw the water," recounts Mrs. Gant. Sometimes she and Chester would stop right on the highway, smoke cigars, and dance to the music on the car radio. They would slip off from school and come to Money Bayou to picnic careful to return just as school was letting out.

# CLICK ON THE PHOTOS BELOW TO VIEW PICTURES OF MAXINE AND CHESTER GANT



Maxine and Chester Gant with Chester's sister (holding pole), 1967 or 1968 (click image to enlarge)



Maxine and Chester Gant, 2005 (click image to enlarge)

Miss Shaperight and her band stayed in the cottages and Mrs. Gant remembers "that was the first +/ > I'd seen anybody with so few clothes on." Other performers who came to Money Bayou included Jc Tex, Sam and Dave, "Moms" Mabley, and Gene Franklin.

In the late 1980s the Money Bayou Corporation sold the property to a group of doctors from California, The cottages and club were torn down and vacation homes built. Gone were the gloriou days when people danced all night and families shared crabs from the communal pot.

### CLICK ON THE PHOTOS BELOW TO VIEW SCENES AT MONEY BAYOU IN THE 21ST CENTURY:







http://www.tourgulfcounty.org/gulfcounty/site 003 MoneyBayou.cfm

#### **Appendix H. Letters**

#### H.1. Florida Department of Environmental Protection, Division of State Lands



# Florida Department of Environmental Protection

Marjory Stoneman Douglas Building 3900 Commonwealth Boulevard Tallahassee, Florida 32399-3000 Charlie Crist Governor

Jeff Kottkamp Lt. Governor

Michael W. Sole Secretary

June 18, 2009

Chief, Division of Federal Assistance U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service 1876 Century Boulevard Atlanta, GA 30345

Re: Project Appraisal - Acquisition of the Mouth of Money Bayou Tidal Creek

To Whom It May Concern:

The Florida Department of Environmental Protection, Office of Coastal and Aquatic Managed Areas is submitting a National Coastal Wetlands Conservation Grant proposal. The proposal is for the acquisition and management of lots near the mouth of the Money Bayou tidal creek in Gulf County, Florida. It is our understanding that successful acquisition of the lots will bring the entire tidal creek and drainage basin under state ownership and management in perpetuity. Upon notice that the proposal will be awarded funding, my office is prepared to expeditiously proceed with the acquisition process following state procedures. The state is committed to the success of this project and looks forward to hearing of a favorable outcome to the grant proposal.

Sincerely,

Déborah Poppell

Director

Division of State Lands

DP/mh/s

"More Protection, Less Process" www.dep.state.fl.us

#### H.2. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Panama City Office



#### **United States Department of the Interior**

#### FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE Field Office 1601 Balboa Avenue

Panama City, FL 32405-3721

June 9, 2009

Keith Taniguchi Sportfish Grants and Coastal Grants Administration US Fish and Wildlife Service, Southeast Regional Office Division of Federal Assistance 1875 Century Blvd., Suite 240 Atlanta, GA 30345-3319

Dear Mr. Taniguchi,

I am writing to express support for the project entitled, "Acquisition of the Mouth of Money Bayou Tidal Creek, Gulf County, Florida," proposed by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP). The upper reaches of this creek are located in the St. Joseph Bay State Buffer Preserve, publicly-owned land under the management of DEP's Coastal and Aquatic Managed Areas. Its pathway meanders southward through the fresh and brackish waters of Money Bayou Marsh and empties into the Gulf of Mexico.

This site provides good habitat for several federal and state protected species, including the St. Andrew beach mouse, piping plover, and sea turtles. Bringing the property into public ownership would preserve a small but important landscape that includes estuarine wetlands and beach dunes, and would ease coastal development pressure adjacent to the Preserve.

Our Coastal Program in the Florida Panhandle places high priority on protection, restoration, and enhancement of undeveloped coastal areas that provide high quality habitat, and we hope funding is available through the National Coastal Wetlands Conservation Grant Program for this worthy acquisition project.

Sincerely

Melody Ray-Culp

Mody Ray- aux

Florida Panhandle Coastal Program Coordinator

#### H.3. Northwest Florida Water Management District



#### Northwest Florida Water Management District

81 Water Management Drive, Havana, Florida 32333-4712 U.S. Highway 90, 10 miles west of Tallahassee (850) 539-5999 • (Fax) 539-2778

June 10, 2009

Chief, Division of Federal Assistance U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service 1876 Century Boulevard Atlanta, GA 30345

RE: Support of U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service funding for acquisition of Money Bayou

To Whom It May Concern,

The Northwest Florida Water Management District staff strongly supports funding for the acquisition of the properties adjacent to the mouth of Money Bayou under the National Coastal Wetland Conservation Grants Program. With the majority of the Money Bayou drainage basin in ownership by the State of Florida, acquisition of these last few privately held parcels appears critical to the long-term management of the system.

Money Bayou is located within the Apalachicola River and Bay watershed which has been one of the District's top-priority waterbodies in our Surface Water Improvement and Management (SWIM) Program. As such the basin has been the recipient of considerable effort and attention over the last 20 years. Under our SWIM Program, we strive for the preservation of existing natural systems through conservation and protection of water quality and aquatic habitat, particularly for unique or critical habitats like Money Bayou. This effort can often times best be accomplished through acquisition of appropriate lands followed by effective management. Purchase of the remainder of the Money Bayou basin will help insure the continued functioning of these high-quality wetland habitats and will assist in furthering the goals of the District's SWIM Program.

District staff supports this acquisition as part of the ongoing resource management efforts in the area.

Sincerely,

F. Graham Lewis, Ph.D. Senior Environmental Scientist

GEORGE ROBERTS Chair Panama City PHILIP K. McMILLAN Vice Chair Blountstown SHARON PINKERTON Secretary/Treasurer

PETER ANTONACCI Tallahassee STEPHANIE BLOYD Panama City Beach

J. LUIS RODRIGUEZ

STEVE GHAZVINI

TIM NORRIS Santa Rosa Beach JERRY PATE

# BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS GULF COUNTY, FLORIDA

1000 CECIL G. COSTIN, SR. BLVD., ROOM 302, PORT ST. JOE, FLORIDA 32456
PHONE: (850) 229-6106/639-6700 • FAX: (850) 229-9252 • EMAIL: bocc@gulfcounty-fl.gov
WEBSITE: www.gulfcounty-fl.gov
DATE AND TIME OF MEETINGS: SECOND TUESDAYS AT 9:00 A.M., E.T. AND FOURTH TUESDAYS AT 6:00 P.M., E.T.

May 26, 2009

RE: Letter of Support

To Whom It May Concern:

Please accept this letter as an official letter of support from the Gulf County Board of County

Commissioners for the grant application to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service National Coastal Wetlands

Conservation Program as submitted by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection. Acquisition
of the "Mouth of the Money Bayou Tidal Creek" will place the property in public hands, thus protecting
the land. This parcel of land will be a great addition to the St. Joseph Bay State Buffer Preserve.

Again, the Gulf County Board of County Commissioners fully supports this effort and intends to provide five(5) parking spaces at a value of \$10,000.00 on the property along County Road 30-A for the public. As always, if anyone has any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me anytime.

Sincerely,

**GULF COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS** 

Mathen Getus, Jr.

Chairman

CARMEN L. McLEMORE District 1 BILLY E. TRAYLOR

BILL WILLIAMS District 3 NATHAN PETERS, JR. District 4

VARREN YEAGER District 5

#### H.5. Friends of St. Joseph Bay Preserves, Inc.



#### Friends of St. Joseph Bay Preserves, Inc. 3915 State Road 30-A, Port Saint Joe, Florida 32456

Chief, Division of Federal Assistance U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service 1876 Century Boulevard Atlanta, GA 30345

June 1, 2009

To whom it may concern:

As president of the Friends of the St. Joseph Bay Preserves, Inc. I have been asked by the board of directors to write this letter of support for the National Coastal Wetland Conservation Grant proposal "Acquisition of the Mouth of Money Bayou Tidal Creek, Gulf County Florida". The Friends of the St. Joseph Bay Preserves, Inc. is a non-profit 501C(3) charitable organization as defined in the Internal Revenue Code and is a Community Support Organization that supports both the St. Joseph Bay State Buffer Preserve and the St. Joseph Bay State Aquatic Preserve. Both preserves units in the State of Florida Coastal and Aquatic Managed Areas, a part of the Florida Department of Environmental Protection. The Friends of the St. Joseph Bay Preserves, Inc. is hereby committing \$5,000.00 cash as its contribution to conserving the important coastal wetland to be purchased as a part of the grant project.

The Friends of the St. Joseph Bay Preserves are proud to be a part of this project to conserve this historically, culturally, environmentally, and recreationally significant portion of the Money Bayou wetland ecosystem. This purchase is a natural and important extension of the Buffer Preserve that would facilitate management of the Preserve as well as protect an outstanding, beautiful tidal creek as it flows into the Gulf of Mexico. Our commitment of \$5,000.00 cash will be used to develop educational displays regarding the ecology of these important wetlands and their associated wildlife; to develop a public marsh overlook and bird-watching site, and for a historical marker commemorating the historic African-American history of the site. This cash contribution will also be followed by additional in-kind contributions from the Friends of the St. Joseph Bay Preserves of volunteer time and efforts to help clean and maintain the Bayou and surrounding properties (at least 40 hours/in-kind value \$288), and work with St. Joseph Bay State Buffer Preserve staff on the design, construction and installation of the interpretive displays and the marsh overlook area (at least 100 hours/in-kind value \$721). This will total at least \$1,000 of in kind assistance for the establishment of the public use area. In addition the Friends volunteers will help maintain the visitor use area throughout the year.

If we can provide additional information, or be of assistance in any way, please do not hesitate to contact me or any member of the board of directors. Thank you for giving us the opportunity to support this important coastal wetland conservation effort.

John E. Oliver President

#### H.6. Coastal Bird Conservation Program

Chief, Division of Federal Assistance U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service 1875 Century Blvd. Atlanta, GA 30345 5-29-09

To whom it may concern,

This letter is in support of the St. Joseph Bay State Buffer Preserve's acquisition of the mouth of Money Bayou tidal creek. The CBCP strongly endorses the preservation of this site, as so much of the surrounding natural area has been lost to development. Money Bayou possesses potential breeding habitat for various beach-nesting shorebirds and also provides excellent feeding and stopover habitat for migratory/wintering shorebirds. The site includes a tidal marsh and creek outfall which passes through dune and front beach habitat and empties into the Gulf of Mexico. This type of inlet habitat is known to provide abundant food source for shorebirds.

The Coastal Bird Conservation Program (CBCP) has begun weekly shorebird surveys of the Money Bayou site. Currently the site does not support breeding beach-nesting birds, however it is very likely that the area may provide future breeding habitat for species such as the Snowy Plover. Tidal creek inlet habitat like that found at Money Bayou is also much favored by migratory/wintering Piping Plovers and may provide important stopover habitat for this species as well. The CBCP will conduct surveys of the site through fall 2009 and winter of 2010 to collect data on shorebird species diversity and abundance.

Money Bayou is also of value to the local community, as we have already observed during our surveys that the tidal creek is used frequently for recreational fishing. If this site were to become developed, the public would lose access to the area. For all the above reasons, the CBCP is fully in favor of the St. Joseph Bay State Buffer Preserve bringing Money Bayou under their protective wing.

Sincerely,

Margo Zdravkovic

Director

Coastal Bird Conservation Program

Phone 561-504-4251

#### H.7. Barbara Eells

12 June 2009

Chief, Division of Federal Assistance U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service 1875 Century Blvd. Atlanta, Georgia 30345

RE: Support of U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service funding for acquisition of Money Bayou

To Whom It May Concern:

I strongly support funding for the acquisition of the properties adjacent to the mouth of the Money Bayou tidal creek area in Gulf County, Florida. These 12.0 acres of land lie adjacent to the St. Joseph Bay Buffer Preserve and are important to the present and future management of the Money Bayou Marsh system as it would be protected from proposed development in the upper areas of the system. It makes sense that these 12.0 acres be funded and added to the Buffer Preserve land and this can become a reality if you provide the necessary funding for the purchase of this small tract of "vital to habitat" land.

The Money Bayou system, with its marshes, wetlands, coastal dunes and meandering creek, provides habitat for many species of wildlife. These species include "born and living there" species as well as migratory species.

I have two volunteer jobs that have provided me with vital information to relate to you regarding the variety of wildlife that inhabit the area. I am holder of State of Florida Permit #057, for sea turtle activities including species: Caretta Caretta; Chelonia Mydas; Dermochelys Coriacea; and Lepidochelys Kempii. These sea turtles nest on the shores of the Gulf County beaches, with the Loggerhead and Green being the most common species nesting nearest Money Bayou.

My other related volunteer work is shorebird surveying. I have not only observed the American Alligator, otters and blue crabs in Money Bayou, but also many species of birds including the Federally protected Piping Plover and Red Knot. Snowy and Wilson Plovers nest and brood within 3 miles of Money Bayou. The Money Bayou marshes and wetlands and the slow-meandering creek provide much nutrition and shelter/roosting for local as well as many migratory birds. Species that I have observed and documented range from these Federally protected Piping Plovers and Red Knots to State listed (and some Federally) Snowy Egret; American Oystercatcher; Black Skimmer; Brown Pelican; White Ibis; Tri-colored Heron; Little Blue Heron; American Bald Eagle and Peregrine Falcon.

Non-listed species that I have observed include: various species of Hawks; Bufflehead; Great Egret; Great Blue Heron; Spoonbill; Black-bellied Plover; Semipalmated Plover; Semipalmated Sandpiper; Ruddy Turnstone; Spotted Sandpiper; Bonepart Gull; Laughing Gull; Ring-bill Gull; Herring Gull; Royal Tern; Caspian Tern; Gull-bill Tern; Black Tern; Forester's Tern; Common Tern; Black-neck Stilt; Avocet; Willet; Sanderling; and many floating populations: Loons; Mergansers; Lesser and Greater Scaups and Grebe varieties. All of these depend on the diversity of this creek that runs into the Gulf of Mexico. I personally survey only shorebirds, but I know that there are also a variety of marsh birds, song birds and others within the area that is sought to be acquired by the Buffer Preserve.

Thus, it only makes good sense to include this 12.0 Money Bayou acreage into the St. Joseph Bay State Buffer Preserve and into public conservation ownership. Not only would this acquisition be valuable to our various wildlife species who avail of it, but to the future of our human population who would not have to spend valuable time and money in the future to keep it from becoming contaminated by private enterprises. This pristine and beautiful tidal creek area would be protected and properly managed as one entity by the St. Joseph Bay Buffer Preserve.

As the eagle soars,

Barbara A. Eells

Permit #057 State of Florida Permit Holder USFW Volunteer - Shorebird Surveys

Barbara a. Ells

# **Appendix I. Summary Information for Ranking National Coastal Wetlands Conservation Grant Program Proposals**

Title: Acquisition of the Mouth of Money Bayou Tidal Creek, Gulf County, Florida

 Costs:
 Coastal Wetlands Program Request
 \$831, 990

 State
 \$355,844

 Other (Federal)
 \$0

 Other (Non-Federal)
 \$16,009

 Total
 \$1,203,843

Summary: This project proposes to acquire and manage, as a part of the St. Joseph Bay State Buffer Preserve, approximately 11 acres encompassing the outlet of the Money Bayou tidal creek in Gulf County, Florida. Money Bayou originates within the St. Joseph Bay State Buffer Preserve (which contains nearly the entire drainage basin) and drains into the Gulf of Mexico. Successful completion of this project will bring a key part of this ecosystem under conservation ownership, preserving connectivity of the system from uplands to the Gulf, helping to protect the critical, dynamic outflow of this system, and preventing further loss and degradation. The site has exceptional wetland, wildlife, cultural, and recreational values, will provide protection for two important, nationally decreasing, coastal wetland habitat types (estuarine intertidal emergent wetlands and marine intertidal wetlands), 7 federally listed species and 15 state listed species. This site is a popular recreational spot for fishing, crabbing and castnetting for bait, bird watching, picnicking and general nature observation and has special cultural/historical significance.

# (1) Wetlands Conservation: What is the breakdown by habitat type for the wetlands being conserved? (Self-ranked score - 7/7 points)

Habitat type	Number of acres	Percentage of total project area
Declining coastal wetlands	6.34	57%
Stable coastal wetlands	0	0%
Total wetlands	6.34	57%
Other (Estuarine Intertidal Streambed Regularly Flooded)	1.00	9%
Upland	3.76	34%
Total project acres	11.1	100%

### (2) Maritime Forest on Coastal Barriers: What plant species are present that are indicative of maritime forest as defined in the criteria?

This proposal does not benefit maritime forests (as defined in 50 CFR Part 84). (Self-ranked score - 0/7 points)

(3) Long-term conservation: How long will the habitat benefits be provided by the project? (Self-ranked score - 7/7 points)

(10 111 1111111111111111111111111111111	/ · F = =====
	Benefits in perpetuity (number of acres)
Easements	
Fee-title (no restoration)	11.1
Fee-title (that will also be restored)	
Not acquired, Restored only	
Not acquired, Enhanced only	
Other (please explain)	
Total	11.1

# (4) Coastal watershed management: How will this project help achieve the goals of specific management plans and efforts?

(Self-ranked score - 3/3 points)

Management plan or effort	How this project helps implement its goals
Draft Resource Management Plan for the St. Joseph Bay State Buffer Preserve (Department of Environmental Protection, 2006)	The Money Bayou site is listed as a priority acquisition.
Florida Forever 5-Year Plan- St. Joseph Bay Buffer Project (Department of Environmental Protection, 2003)	The Money Bayou area is listed as an essential parcel remaining in the St. Joseph Bay Buffer Project. In addition, one of the primary goals of the St. Joseph Bay Buffer Project is "to conserve, protect, manage important ecosystems, landscapes, in order to enhance or protect significant surface water, coastal, recreational,, fish or wildlife resources".
Surface Water Improvement and Management Plan (Northwest Florida Water Management District, 2006)	-Will prevent development and encroachment into flood prone areasWill reduce cumulative impacts from development, urban storm water runoff, and other nonpoint sources of pollutionWill help protect water supplies that are vulnerable to contamination due to excessive demandWill help protect and enhance natural systems by acquiring and maintaining ecologically intact systems.

### (5a) Conservation of threatened and endangered species: What are the benefits to federally listed species, candidates, or recently delisted species? (Self-ranked total score - 5/5 points)

Common name	Scientific name	Status	Project benefits	Does the project support goals of a Recover plan or HCP? List plan and goal.
St. Andrew beach mouse	Peromyscus polionotus peninsularis	endangered	Protects viable habitat within the species range.	St. Andrew Beach Mouse Recovery Plan. Goal - habitat protection.
Atlantic green turtle	Chelonia mydas	endangered	Protects critical beach habitat for nesting by placing it in state management as conservation and protects water quality in Gulf habitat.	Recovery Plan for the U.S. Population of Atlantic Green Turtle. Goal - protect and manage habitats.
loggerhead sea turtle	Caretta caretta	endangered	Protects critical beach habitat for nesting by placing it in state management as conservation and protects water quality in Gulf habitat.	Recovery Plan for the Northwest Atlantic Population of the Loggerhead Sea Turtle. Goal - manage sufficient nesting beach habitat.
leatherback sea turtle	Dermochelys coriacea	endangered	Protects critical beach habitat for nesting by placing it in state management as conservation and protects water quality in Gulf habitat.	Recovery Plan for Leatherback Turtle in the U.S. Caribbean, Atlantic and Gulf of Mexico. Goals - protect degradation of nesting habitat from sea walls, revetments, sand bags or other erosion control measures; prevent degradation of coastal habitat from industrial and sewage effluents.
Kemp's ridley sea turtle	Lepidochelys kempii	endangered	Protects water quality in Gulf habitat.	Recovery Plan for the Kemp's Ridley Sea Turtle. Goal - protect population in the marine environment. Subgoal - reduce oceanic pollution.
Gulf sturgeon	Acipenser oxyrinchus desotoi	threatened	Protects water quality in Gulf habitat used for winter feeding and migration.	Gulf Sturgeon Recovery Plan. Goal - protect habitat
piping plover	Charadrius melodus	threatened	Provides beach dune and intertidal marsh habitats for breeding and migration support.	U.S. Shorebird Conservation Plan, Southeastern Coastal Plains - Caribbean Region Report. Goals - provide 1) optimal breeding habitat and 2) high quality managed habitat to support migration.
red knot	Calidris canutus rufa	candidate	Provides beach dune and intertidal marsh habitats for breeding and migration support.	U.S. Shorebird Conservation Plan, Southeastern Coastal Plains - Caribbean Region Report. Goals - provide 1) optimal breeding habitat and 2) high quality managed habitat to support migration.

(5b) What are the benefits to State species of concern?

Common name	Scientific name	Status	Project benefits	Does the project support goals of a specific Recovery Plan? List plan and goal.
American alligator	Alligator mississippiensis	species of special concern	Provides intertidal marsh and streambed habitat for feeding.	Conservation plans for biotic regions in Florida containing multiple rare or declining wildlife taxa. Goal - to protect/acquire suitable habitat.
Wakulla seaside sparrow	Ammodramus maritumus juncicolus	species of special concern	Provides intertidal marsh habitat for feeding.	Conservation plans for biotic regions in Florida containing multiple rare or declining wildlife taxa. Goal - to protect/acquire suitable habitat.
			Provides beach dune habitat for breeding and migratory support.	U.S. Shorebird Conservation Plan, Southeastern Coastal Plains - Caribbean Region Report. Goals - provide 1) optimal breeding habitat and 2) high quality managed habitat to support migration.
snowy plover	Charadrius alexandrinus	threatened	Protects beach dune habitat and, through management, would control recreational pressure.	Partners in Flight Bird Conservation Plan for the East Gulf Coastal Plain. Goals - ensure all potential habitat is protected and control recreational pressure.
			Provides marine shore, beach dune and coastal strand habitat for feeding and breeding.	Conservation plans for biotic regions in Florida containing multiple rare or declining wildlife taxa. Goal - to protect/acquire suitable habitat.
Marian's marsh wren	Cistothorus palustris marianae	species of special concern	Provides intertidal marsh habitat for feeding and breeding.	Conservation plans for biotic regions in Florida containing multiple rare or declining wildlife taxa. Goal - to protect/acquire suitable habitat
little blue heron	Egretta caerulea	species of special concern	Provides intertidal marsh and streambed habitat for feeding.	Conservation plans for biotic regions in Florida containing multiple rare or declining wildlife taxa. Goal - to protect/acquire suitable habitat.
tricolored heron	Egretta egretta	species of special concern	Provides intertidal marsh and streambed habitat for feeding.	Conservation plans for biotic regions in Florida containing multiple rare or declining wildlife taxa. Goal - to protect/acquire suitable habitat.
reddish egret	Egretta rufescens	species of special concern	Provides intertidal marsh and streambed habitat for feeding.	Conservation plans for biotic regions in Florida containing multiple rare or declining wildlife taxa. Goal - to protect/acquire suitable habitat.
snowy egret	Egretta. thula	species of special concern	Provides intertidal marsh and streambed habitat for feeding.	Conservation plans for biotic regions in Florida containing multiple rare or declining wildlife taxa. Goal - to protect/acquire suitable habitat.
white ibis	Eudocimus albus	species of special concern	Provides intertidal marsh and streambed habitat for feeding.	Conservation plans for biotic regions in Florida containing multiple rare or declining wildlife taxa. Goal - to protect/acquire suitable habitat.

Common name	Scientific name	Status	Project benefits	Does the project support goals of a specific Recovery Plan? List plan and goal.
peregrine falcon	Falco peregrinus	delisted in FL 6/2009	Provides marine shore, beach dune, coastal strand, intertidal marsh, streambed and pine uplands habitat for feeding.	Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission Peregrine Falcon Management Plan. Goal - to protect and acquire coastal habitat.
Southeastern American kestrel	Falco sparverius paulus	threatened	Provides beach dune and coastal strand habitat for feeding.	Conservation plans for biotic regions in Florida containing multiple rare or declining wildlife taxa. Goal - to protect/acquire suitable habitat.
			Provides beach dune habitat for breeding and migratory support.	U.S. Shorebird Conservation Plan, Southeastern Coastal Plains- Caribbean Region Report. Goals- provide 1) optimal breeding habitat and 2) high quality managed habitat to support migration.
American oystercatcher	Haematopus palliates	species of special concern	Protects beach dune habitat and, through management, would control recreational pressure.	Partners in Flight Bird Conservation Plan for the East Gulf Coastal Plain. Goals- ensure all potential habitat is protected and control recreational pressure.
		Provides marine shore, beach dune, coastal strand and streambed habitat for feeding.	Conservation plans for biotic regions in Florida containing multiple rare or declining wildlife taxa. Goal - to protect/acquire suitable habitat.	
bald eagle	Haliaeetus leucocephalus	delisted in FL 2008	Provides intertidal marsh, streambed and pine uplands habitat for feeding.	Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission Bald Eagle Management Plan. Goal to protect suitable habitat.
brown pelican	Pelecanus occidentalis	species of special concern	Provides marine shore and streambed habitat for feeding.	Conservation plans for biotic regions in Florida containing multiple rare or declining wildlife taxa. Goal - to protect/acquire suitable habitat.
black skimmer	Rynchops niger	species of special concern	Provides marine shore, beach dune, coastal strand and streambed habitat for feeding.	Conservation plans for biotic regions in Florida containing multiple rare or declining wildlife taxa. Goal - to protect/acquire suitable habitat.
least tern	Sterna antillarum	threatened	Provides marine shore, beach dune, coastal strand and streambed habitat for feeding.	Conservation plans for biotic regions in Florida containing multiple rare or declining wildlife taxa. Goal - to protect/acquire suitable habitat.
Florida black bear	Ursus americanus floridanus	threatened	Provides coastal strand and pine uplands habitat for feeding.	Conservation plans for biotic regions in Florida containing multiple rare or declining wildlife taxa. Goal - to protect/acquire suitable habitat.

<sup>\*</sup>Please note: this table only includes Florida listed species that are not federally listed.

(6) Benefits to fish: What are benefits to anadromous, interjuristictional, and other important species?

(Self-ranked score - 5/5 points)

Common name	Scientific name	Status	Project benefits	Does the project help meet specific management goals? List plan and goal.
Gulf sturgeon	Acipenser oxyrinchus desotoi	Federally-listed threatened	Protects water quality in Gulf habitat.	Gulf Sturgeon Recovery Plan. Goal - protect habitat
striped mullet	Mugil cephalus	recreationally and commercially important species	Protects foraging, shelter and reproduction habitat.	
spotted seatrout	Cynosion nebulosus	recreationally and commercially important species	Protects foraging, shelter and reproduction habitat.	
blue crabs	Callinectes sapidus,	recreationally and commercially important species	Protects foraging, shelter and reproduction habitat.	Gulf State Marine Fisheries Commission Blue Crab Management Plan. Goal - provide a management strategy that allows for maintenance of the stocks and provides for stability of the fishery over the long term. Management Objective - to identify and encourage conservation, restoration, and enhancement of essential blue crab habitats.
6 shark species	Carcharhinus isodon, C. leucas, C. limbatus, C. plumbeus, Galeocerdo cuvier, Sphyrna mokarran	species for which essential fish habitat has been designated in the Money Bayou project area	Protects waters and substrate necessary to species for spawning, breeding, feeding, or growth to maturity.	Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act. Goal - to protect waters and substrate necessary to species for spawning, breeding, feeding, or growth to maturity.
3 coastal migratory pelagic species	Rachycentron canadum, Scomberomorus cavalla, S. maculatus	species for which essential fish habitat has been designated in the Money Bayou project area	Protects waters and substrate necessary to species for spawning, breeding, feeding, or growth to maturity.	Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act. Goal - to protect waters and substrate necessary to species for spawning, breeding, feeding, or growth to maturity.

Common name	Scientific name	Status	Project benefits	Does the project help meet specific management goals? List plan and goal.
43 reef fish species	Balistes capriscus, Seriola dumerili, S. fasciata, S. rivoliana, S. zonata, Lachnolaimus maximus, Etelis oculatus, Lutjanus analis, L. apodus, L.buccanella, L. campechanus, L. cyanopterus, L. griseus, L. jocu, L. mahogoni, L. synagris, L. vivanus, Ocyurus chrysurus, Pristipomoides aquilonaris, Rhomboplites aurorubens, Caulolatilus chrysops, C. cyanops, C. intermedius, C. microps, Lopholatilus chamaeleonticeps Diplectrum bivittatum, D. formosum, Epinephelus adscensionis, E. drummondhayi, E. flavolimbatus, E. guttatus, E. itajara, E. morio, E. mystacinus, E. nigritus, E. niveatus, E. striatus. E. inermis, Mycteroperca bonaci, M. interstitialis, M. microlepis, M. phenax, M. venenosa,	species for which essential fish habitat has been designated in the Money Bayou project area	Protects waters and substrate necessary to species for spawning, breeding, feeding, or growth to maturity.	Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act. Goal- to protect waters and substrate necessary to species for spawning, breeding, feeding, or growth to maturity.
2 stone crab species	Menippe mercenaria, M. adina	species for which essential fish habitat has been designated in the Money Bayou project area	Protects waters and substrate necessary to species for spawning, breeding, feeding, or growth to maturity.	Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act. Goal - to protect waters and substrate necessary to species for spawning, breeding, feeding, or growth to maturity.
4 shrimp species	Penaeus aztecus, P. setiferus, P. duorarum, P. robustus	species for which essential fish habitat has been designated in the Money Bayou project area	Protects waters and substrate necessary to species for spawning, breeding, feeding, or growth to maturity.	Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act. Goal - to protect waters and substrate necessary to species for spawning, breeding, feeding, or growth to maturity.

### (7) Coastal-dependent or migratory birds: What are the benefits to specific coastal-dependent or migratory species? (Self-ranked score - 5/5 points)

Common name	Scientific name	Habitat	Status	Project benefits	Does the project help meet the goals of a specific management plan? List plan and goal.
piping plover	Charadrius melodus	beach dune and intertidal marsh	USFWS Bird of Management Concern	Provides breeding and migration support habitat	U.S. Shorebird Conservation Plan, Southeastern Coastal Plains - Caribbean Region Report. Goals - provide 1) optimal breeding habitat and 2) high quality managed habitat to support migration.
red knot	Calidris canutus rufa	beach dune and intertidal marsh	USFWS Bird of Management Concern and Bird of Conservation Concern	Provides breeding and migration support habitat	U.S. Shorebird Conservation Plan, Southeastern Coastal Plains - Caribbean Region Report. Goals - provide 1) optimal breeding habitat and 2) high quality managed habitat to support migration.
snowy plover	Charadrius alexandrinus	beach dune	USFWS Bird of Conservation Concern	Provides breeding and migratory support habitat  Protects habitat and, through management, would control recreational pressure	U.S. Shorebird Conservation Plan, Southeastern Coastal Plains - Caribbean Region Report. Goals - provide 1) optimal breeding habitat and 2) high quality managed habitat to support migration. Partners in Flight Bird Conservation Plan for the East Gulf Coastal Plain. Goals - ensure all potential habitat is protected and control recreational pressure.
American oystercatcher	Haematopus palliates	beach dune	USFWS Bird of Conservation Concern	Provides breeding and migratory support habitat  Protects habitat and, through management, would control recreational pressure	U.S. Shorebird Conservation Plan, Southeastern Coastal Plains - Caribbean Region Report. Goals - provide 1) optimal breeding habitat and 2) high quality managed habitat to support migration. Partners in Flight Bird Conservation Plan for the East Gulf Coastal Plain. Goals - ensure all potential habitat is protected and control recreational pressure.

#### (8) Prevent or reduce contamination: What are the contaminants benefits?

(Self-ranked score - 3/5 points)

Contaminant	Project benefits	Does the project help meet the goals of a specific management plan? List plan and goal.
Fecal coliform (Florida DEP standards state that the parameter for predominantly marine waters: shall not exceed a monthly average of 200, nor exceed 400 in 10% of the samples nor exceed 800 on any one day. Units are number per 100 milliliter and are recorded as Most Probable Number or Membrane Filter depending on type of test.)	The acquisition of this site will prevent, in perpetuity, development that would most likely occur on these parcels otherwise. This will further prevent septic systems being installed on the site and will therefore curtail additional contamination of the Gulf waters.	Standards set in Florida Administrative Code 62-302.530, Surface Water Quality Criteria. Class III: Recreation, propagation and maintenance of a healthy, well- balanced population of fish and wildlife.
Pesticides and herbicides (Florida DEP standards states that the parameter for predominantly marine waters: ranges from .001 max to 1.3 max depending on the chemical. Sixteen chemicals are identified in FAC 62-302.530. Units are micrograms per liter.)	The acquisition of this site will place this property under state conservation management as a part of the SJBSBP. Pesticides and herbicides will not be used to manage the project area, something that would most likely occur should the area be developed.	Standards set in Florida Administrative Code 62-302.530, Surface Water Quality Criteria. Class III: Recreation, propagation and maintenance of a healthy, well- balanced population of fish and wildlife.
Nitrate/nitrite	The acquisition of this site will prevent, in perpetuity, development that would most likely occur on these parcels otherwise. This will further prevent the introduction of nitrate/nitrites into the system via landscaping techniques that would most likely occur should the area be developed.	
Runoff	The acquisition of this site will prevent, in perpetuity, development that would most likely occur on these parcels otherwise. These additional homes, driveways, parking pads and landscaping would cause significant runoff that will be prevented through this project.	
Debris	One of the objectives of this project is to: "remove the accumulated debris on the acquired lands." The removal of the debris will prevent any further contamination that could occur from its presence, and will prevent the accumulation of any debris in the future.	

(9) Catalyst for future conservation: What other conservation efforts that would benefit from this project? (Self-ranked score - 4/4 points)

Projects	Project benefits	Assessment of Need
Management of St. Joseph Bay State Buffer Preserve	Protects outlet of tidal creek with extensive estuarine wetlands within St. Joseph Bay State Buffer Preserve.	imperative
Management of St. Joseph Bay State Buffer Preserve	Acquires "essential" parcels to the St. Joseph Bay Buffer Florida Forever Project.	essential
Management of St. Joseph Day	Allows prescribed fire management of greater	

Money Bayou watershed marsh and uplands within

# (10) Partners in conservation: What are the sources and amounts of financial support being provided by partners?

St. Joseph Bay State Buffer Preserve..

(Self-ranked score - 4/4 points)

Management of St. Joseph Bay

State Buffer Preserve

Organizations/individuals providing match	Monetary value of support \$355,844	
State of Florida DEP	\$355,844	
Gulf County	\$10,000	
Friends of St. Joseph Bay Preserves, Inc.	\$6,009	

# (11) Federal share reduced: Is the Federal match share reduced by contributions from State and other non-Federal sources? To what extent? (See instructions for guidance on the calculation.)

(Self-ranked score - 4/5 points)

Total project costs	\$1,203,843
Required state match	\$300,961
Total match committed (not including in-kind)	\$358,663
Additional cash contribution	\$57,702
Percent increase over required match	19%

<sup>\*</sup>Please note: a combined additional \$13,190 (in the form of in-kind services) have been committed by the State of Florida (SJBSBP), Gulf County, and the Friends of St. Joseph Bay Preserves, Inc. Those funds were not calculated into this formula because the Federal Register states: "...(in-kind match does not count for this criterion)..."

# (12) Education/outreach or wildlife-oriented recreation: What site-specific educational or outreach programs or wildlife-oriented recreation programs or products are made possible by this project?

(Self-ranked score - 3/3 points)

Site-specific programs or products	Audience/Participants	Estimated size of audience/participants
Marsh overlook & bird observation site	General public- residents and tourists; birdwatchers	~4-8,000/yr.
Interpretive sign about Money Bayou ecosystems highlighting tidal creek ecology, importance of hydrology and role of fire for marsh habitats, fish and wildlife	General public- residents and tourists; Birdwatchers	~4-8,000/yr.
Interpretive sign about the importance of coastal wetland conservation and what is needed for the survival of unique, threatened, and endangered species that inhabit this area (emphasis on sea turtles and shorebirds).	General Public- residents and tourists; Birdwatchers	~4-8,000/yr.

essential

Site-specific programs or products	Audience/Participants	Estimated size of audience/participants
Friends of St. Joseph Bay Preserves, Inc. (project partner)	Friends of St. Joseph	
has twice-a-year festivals highlighting St. Joseph Bay	Bay Preserves, Inc.	400/yr.
Preserves. If acquired, they will conduct site field trips and	members; local	400/y1.
presentations as a central part of upcoming events.	residents and tourists	

<sup>\*</sup>Please note: these education and outreach programs and products, along with the involvement of volunteers with the debris removal efforts, will help to meet the Gulf of Mexico Alliance Governors' Action Plan (2009-2014) priority action area of Habitat Conservation & Restoration's focus area of Expanded Partnerships action step: Promote and encourage critical stakeholder participation in both United States and Mexican habitat conservation and restoration efforts.

#### (13) Other factors: What other benefits does the project provide?

(Self-ranked score - 4/4 points)

Other factors	How the project addresses them
Preservation of four of Florida's most highly threatened habitat types	The acquisition of this site will protect coastal strand, coastal tidal river or stream, beach surf zone and salt marsh, all highest priority habitat types for conservation (Florida Fish &Wildlife Conservation. Commission, 2005).
Help to insure the natural hydrological function of the outlet of Money Bayou	The acquisition of this site will prevent, in perpetuity, development that would likely interfere with the naturally migrating channel of the bayou in the future.
Historical	The acquisition of this site will allow for the recognition and commemoration of the unique African-American history of the area as the first African-American beach resort in Florida, with a commemorative, historical marker.
Facilitation of fire-management of marshes and pine savannas on SJBSBP	Firelines cannot be made through existing SJBSBP boundaries that are in emergent marshes. The acquisition of the proposed parcels will enable the SJBSBP to use existing road right of ways as burn zone boundaries, allowing the reintroduction of fire to fire-dependent marshes and improving habitat for waterfowl and other marsh wildlife.
Rare plant conservation	The acquisition of this site will allow fire management of the resource management zone that includes the greater Money Bayou marsh system within the SJBSBP which would contribute to the survival of many rare plant species that occur in the upper Money Bayou watershed.
Additional species of concern that are not state-listed but would benefit from the proposed acquisition	<ul> <li>Gulf salt marsh snake (<i>Nerodia clarkii clarkii</i>) – Acquisition of these parcels will protect estuarine areas, the preferred habitat for this snake.</li> <li>Diamondback terrapin (<i>Malaclemys terrapin</i>) – Acquisition of these parcels will protect the tidal creek with brackish/saltwater, the preferred habitat for this terrapin.</li> <li>Northern river otter (<i>Lontra canadensis</i>) – Acquisition of these parcels will bring into public ownership an area of tidal creek, estuarine and coastal marine habitat that will benefit the river otter frequently seen in the Money Bayou creek area.</li> </ul>
Benefits local community	This site is well known and appreciated by local, Gulf County residents and is a benefit for the local ecotourism based economy (highlighted on Gulf County Tourist Development Council website)

Total self-ranked score for criteria 1-13= 54/64 points

#### Other considerations/tie-breakers:

#### 1) Is the habitat imminently threatened?

- ) - 0			
⊠ Yes □ No			
Threat(s)	Severity	Justifications	
Development upon		Two of the three landowners have parcels listed for sale.	
each of the seven	highest	New owners will most likely want to develop this prime	
coastal parcels		coastal real estate.	
		Gulf County Planning and County Commission has	
		recently seen (and approved) plans for a 13 unit	
		development on one of the parcels.	

# 2) Does the site have unique and significant diversity? $\bowtie$ Yes $\bowtie$ No

ĭ i es ☐ No	
Unique biodiversity	Supportive evidence
This project is located within the central	This site is within the "region of the Southeastern United States
Florida Panhandle, an area classified as one	that contains the highest biodiversity of plants and animals
of the nation's six "biological hot spots" and	within the Nation" (Northwest Florida Environmental
adjoins one of the most productive fisheries	Conservancy, 2009). Additionally, Gulf fisheries are some of
in the world, the Gulf of Mexico.	the most productive in the world as the Gulf of Mexico has been
	ranked the number one region in the nation for seafood harvest
	both in poundage and monetary value (Beck, Odaya, Bachant,
	Bergan, Keller, Martin et al., 2000).

3) What are the costs per acre?

Acquisition				
Land Owner	Parcel No. on Fig.2 of the proposal	Acres	Gulf County Current Listed Just Value	Estimated Cost Per Acre
U.S. Marshall Service, Department of Justice	1	7.45	\$724,800	\$97,289
McEachern	2	0.93	\$252,653	\$271,670
Seybold, Inc	3	0.69	\$2,000	\$2,899
Seybold, Inc	4	0.67	\$37,800	\$56,418
Seybold, Inc	5	0.45	\$37,800	\$84,000
Seybold, Inc	6	0.46	\$37,800	\$82,174
Seybold, Inc	7	0.46	\$37,800	\$82,174
Total		11.11	\$1,130,653	\$101,769 (average)

4a) Are there new sources of funds, lands, or services being applied already owned by the State or third party that are being offered as matc   ✓ Yes   No	1 3 \ 11
4b) What percentage of the funds, lands, or services is new?	100 %.

#### References

Beck, M. W., Odaya, M., Bachant, J. J., Bergan, J., Keller, B., Martin, et al. (2000). *Identification of priority sites*for conservation in the Northern Gulf of Mexico: An Eco-Regional Plan. Arlington, VA: The Nature

Conservancy.

Northwest Florida Environmental Conservancy. (2009). *Biodiversity of the Northern Gulf Coast*. Retrieved June 24, 2009, from http://www.nwflec.com/northwestfloridaenvironmentalconservancypart2/id25.html