

BIG ESCAMBIA CREEK RESTORATION

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Big Escambia Creek is a major tributary of the Escambia River located approximately 29 miles north of Escambia Bay. Over 30 years ago conditions along the lower reaches of the creek changed when a sand mining operation digging too close to the creek combined with an intensive rainfall event caused the creek to change its course and follow the path of least resistance through the sandpits. Since the creek changed its course, the estimated 900 acres of wetlands in and around the old creek channel now had no base flow and were reverting to an upland type habitat. In addition, tons of sediment began to flow downstream into the Pensacola Bay System.



A project was implemented to eliminate the delivery of the sediment and to restore the productivity of the floodplain by diverting the creek back into its original channel. Big Escambia Creek was a \$7.7 million dollar project sponsored by Three Rivers Resource Conservation and Development Program (RC&D), Gulf Coast RC&D, Escambia Soil and Water Conservation District, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the Army Corps of Engineers to restore 1,000 acres of wetlands. The Northwest Florida Water Management District provided \$816,608 in

Florida Forever Grant funds for the project. Construction on the project began in 2003 and was completed in 2005.

Big Escambia 2004



Big Escambia 2009

