

# NRDA and NFWF – ESCAMBIA COUNTY

## Natural Resource Damage Assessment (NRDA)

To date, Escambia County has participated in all phases of the NRDA Early Restoration program funding. During Phase I, Escambia County received \$5.6 million for the following 5 projects, all of which have been completed:

- Pensacola Beach Dune Restoration – restored 4.2 miles of natural shoreline vegetation
- Mahogany Mill Public Boat Ramp – construction of new boat ramp
- Perdido Public Boat Ramp – construction of new boat ramp
- Galvez Landing Public Boat Ramp – repairs to existing boat ramp
- Navy Point Park Public Boat Ramp – repairs to existing boat ramp

In late 2012, FDEP announced the availability of Phase II NRDA Early Restoration funding for turtle and bird nesting habitats totaling \$6.3 million spread across Escambia, Santa Rosa, Okaloosa, Walton, Bay, Gulf and Franklin counties. These are regional cooperative projects expected to take a total of five years to complete.

Phase III NRDA Early Restoration funding was announced in December 2013 and seven projects were funded in Escambia County, as follows:

- Perdido Key Dune Restoration (\$611,234) – approximately 6 miles of dune vegetation restoration
- Perdido Key State Park Boardwalk Improvements (\$588,500) – replacement of six boardwalk segments for two public beach access points
- Florida Gulf Coast Marine Fisheries Hatchery / Enhancement Center (\$18,793,500) – construction and operation of saltwater sportfish hatchery in Pensacola
- Bob Sikes Pier, Parking, and Trail Restoration (\$1,023,990) – fishing pier improvements and additions
- Big Lagoon State Park Boat Ramp Improvement (\$1,483,020) – expansion and improvements to boat ramp
- Pensacola Bay Living Shoreline (\$10,828,063) – salt marsh habitat creation and shoreline stabilization
- Gulf Islands National Seashore Beach Enhancement (\$10,836,055) – remove asphalt and road base materials scattered over hundreds of acres of beach

Phase III also includes five regional cooperative projects benefiting Escambia County:

- Gulf Islands National Seashore Ferry (\$4,020,000) – purchase of two ferry boats for new ferry service
- Escibano Point Recreational Enhancements (\$2,576,365) – public access improvements and recreational enhancements
- Northwest Florida Oyster Cultch Placement Project (\$4,698,375) – placement of oyster cultch over 210 acres
- Florida Panhandle Scallop Enhancement (\$321,138) – increase scallop populations in panhandle bays
- Florida Artificial Reef Creation and Restoration (\$2,280,000) – enhancement of several artificial reefs in Florida Panhandle

## **National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF)**

On November 14, 2013, the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) announced the award of more than \$100 million from its Gulf Environmental Benefit Fund (Gulf Fund) to 22 projects in the states of Alabama, Florida, Louisiana, Mississippi and Texas. The projects, developed in consultation with state and federal resource agencies, are designed to remedy harm and reduce the risk of future harm to natural resources that were affected by the 2010 Deepwater Horizon oil spill. In Florida, \$15.7 million was allocated to projects. The following projects were awarded in Escambia County specifically:

- Corrine Jones Park Government Street Regional Stormwater Pond - \$2.1 million
- Bayou Chico Sediment and Nutrient Load Reduction Projects - \$11 million

The following are NFWF regional cooperative projects that benefit Escambia County:

- Statewide Gulf of Mexico Fisheries Assessment Phases I & II - \$6 million
  - Restoration and Management of Escrimano Point Phases I & II - \$3.2 million
  - Panhandle Coastal Bird Conservation - \$3.2 million
  - Florida Gulf Coast Shorebird Conservation - \$1.49 million
  - West Florida Benthic Habitat Mapping and Assessment - \$4.48 million
- ❖ In total, Escambia County is expected to receive \$49.76 million in NRDA funding and \$13.1 million in NFWF funding. An additional \$38.56 million funds regional cooperative projects that benefit Escambia County.