



Brett J. Cyphers
Executive Director

Northwest Florida Water Management District

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May 29, 2020

The Honorable Noah Lockley, Jr., Chair
Franklin County Board of County Commissioners
33 Market Street, Suite 305
Apalachicola, Florida 32320

Dear Chair Lockley:

The purpose of this correspondence is to provide an update for local government leaders and other interested parties about the status of wetland and related habitat protection in northwest Florida. Wetland Environmental Resource Permitting (ERP) has been implemented in northwest Florida since November 1, 2010. Additionally, the Northwest Florida Water Management District (NFWFMD) began in 1996 to implement a regional wetland mitigation program to support Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) projects.

As of December 31, 2019, impacts to approximately 366 acres of wetlands have been permitted across northwest Florida through the District's ERP program, and impacts to nearly 522 acres have been permitted to support FDOT projects. Through this date, multiple NFWFMD programs have together protected over 168,200 acres of wetlands and restored over 33,000 acres of wetlands and adjacent protective uplands. Within Franklin County, approximately seven acres of wetland impacts have been permitted, corresponding with approximately 617 acres of restoration and nine acres of preservation. Additional information is provided in the enclosed table.

Please note that the areas indicated here reflect impacts, preservation, and restoration associated with Northwest Florida Water Management Programs only. Significant additional areas of habitat have been protected and restored by other public agencies and private nonprofit organizations.

For more information on Northwest Florida Water Management District resource restoration programs, please contact Paul Thorpe at (850) 539-5999 or Paul.Thorpe@nwfwater.com. Additional information on the District's ERP, regional wetland mitigation, and land management and acquisition programs is available online at <https://www.nwfwater.com/>.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Carlos Herd".

Carlos D. Herd, P.G.
Director, Division of Resource Management

CDH/pt

Enclosure

GEORGE ROBERTS
Chair
Panama City

JERRY PATE
Vice Chair
Pensacola

JON COSTELLO
Tallahassee

TED EVERETT
Chipley

BO SPRING
Port St. Joe

Cumulative Habitat Impacts, Preservation, and Restoration Northwest Florida Water Management District Programs

County	Wetlands Permanently Impacted (Acres) ¹	Habitat Area Restored and Enhanced (Acres) ²	Habitat Area Preserved (Acres) ³
Bay	204	6,304	4,224
Calhoun	7	1,612	1,610
Escambia	64	3,679	16,724
Franklin	7	617	9
Gadsden	5	11	331
Gulf	6	51	15,248
Holmes	10	233	10,915
Jackson	18	794	7,715
Jefferson	0	1	0
Leon	26	663	514
Liberty	6	555	24,450
Okaloosa	26	367	9,319
Santa Rosa	69	866	30,696
Wakulla	16	0	345
Walton	317	5,993	22,148
Washington	108	11,721	24,043
Total ⁴	887	33,468	168,294

¹ Impacts permitted through December 31, 2019 through the Northwest Florida Water Management District (NFWFMD) Environmental Resource Permitting program (beginning November 2010) and for Transportation projects mitigated by the NFWFMD Regional Mitigation Program (beginning July 1996)

² Area restored or enhanced through December 31, 2019 to compensate for impacts permitted through the NFWFMD ERP program, through the Regional Mitigation Program, and through other NFWFMD restoration projects

³ Wetland habitat and buffer area protected through December 31, 2019 to compensate for impacts permitted through the NFWFMD ERP program, through the Regional Mitigation Program, and by the NFWFMD land acquisition program

⁴ Figures may not sum due to rounding.