



RESTORE ACT
Direct Component
Multiyear Implementation Plan

Levy County

Prepared By:



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Orlando FL, 32801

RESTORE ACT Direct Component Multiyear Plan Narrative

Department of the Treasury

OMB Approval No. 1505-0250

Directions: Use this form for the Initial Multiyear Plan and any subsequent amendments to an accepted Multiyear Plan. For amendments, include only new and/or materially modified activities.

Multiyear Plan Version (Initial or Amendment Number):	Initial
Date of Initial Multiyear Plan Acceptance:	N/A
Date of Last Multiyear Plan Revision Acceptance:	N/A

Eligible Applicant Name:	Levy County Government
Name and Contact Information of the Person to be contacted (POC) on matters concerning this Multiyear Implementation Plan:	
POC Name:	Tisha Whitehurst
POC Title:	Grant Coordinator
POC Email:	grants@levycounty.org
POC Phone:	352-486-3396

NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION:
1. A description of each activity, including the need, purpose, objective(s), milestones and location. Include map showing the location of each activity.
All supplemental information will be located at the following website: http://www.levycounty.org/restoreact.aspx
Project 1: Project ACE (Ambassadors for Conservation Education)
Description: The project consists of a series of Open House access days at Seahorse Key, a 165 acre island off Cedar Key that is part of the Cedar Keys National Wildlife Refuge, to encourage local residents and visitors to experience and enjoy Levy County's marine resources. Eight well-publicized events will be staffed by local experts. Light refreshments and transportation will be provided. The University of Florida and Santa Fe College operate the Seahorse Key Marine Lab in partnership. The project is consistent with the Cedar Keys Wildlife Refuge Conservation Plan that governs both Santa Fe College and University of Florida at Seahorse Key that requires both entities to engage the public and provide an increase awareness of the importance of the Gulf of Mexico and the islands. (Per Objective 3.4 of the plan includes providing wildlife observation, interpretation, and photography opportunities throughout the year for 30,000 visitors annually, while protecting important coastal habitat and water quality.) Natural resources will be protected by engaging more visitors in coastal awareness activities at Seahorse Key during Open Houses and enabling environmental restorations through resource protection at other times of the year. Open house events at Seahorse Key are designed to attract new visitors to Levy County to increase the number of tourism and seafood consumption. Marketing and advertising will extend to the North Central Florida region and beyond. The use of themes for Open Houses will enable the focus on targeted audiences that may have never visited the area. This proposal can be considered a first phase in an ambitious plan to expand visitor access to Seahorse and Cedar Keys.
Eligible Activity: Implementation of a federally approved marine, coastal, or comprehensive conservation management plan, including fisheries monitoring

According to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number. The valid OMB control number for this information collection is 1505-0250. Comments concerning the time required to complete this Information collection, including the time to review instructions, search existing data resources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information, should be directed to the Department of the Treasury, Office of Gulf Coast Restoration, 1500 Pennsylvania Ave., NW, Washington, DC 20220.

Need: Lay the foundation to increase the awareness of the importance of the Gulf of Mexico.

Purpose: The purpose of this project is to host Open House events that will be consistent with the Memorandum of Understanding conservation plan.

Objective: The objective of this project is to attract larger crowds to the well-publicized open house events to spread as much awareness for the importance of the Gulf of Mexico to Levy County and Cedar Key.

Milestones: Marketing and advertising, completion of eight open house events.

Project 2: Inner Marina Maintenance Dredging

Description: The project consists of dredging and building support infrastructure improvements within the Inner Marina. FDOT plans to raise the C Street channel bridge four feet, which places the City in a unique position to restore its facilities to accommodate larger vessels in greater numbers than previously possible.

Eligible Activity: Infrastructure projects benefitting the economy or ecological resources, including port infrastructure

Need: Dredging of the Inner Marina is paramount to the continuation of tourism and local aquaculture industry. The marina is now available for only limited use dependent on tide due to high silting. This is directly impacting charter industry and local fishermen. Without near term action, Marina clients may vacate the Marina causing additional harm to the local economy. The development of support infrastructure in the form of water and electric connections for new slips and docks will provide the ability for the community to sustain and grow the vital related tourism, fishing, and commercial aquaculture industries. New facilities will provide greater public access and reduce stress on limited launch facilities. Current facilities are crowded and limit ability to increase users and revenue which results in negative impacts to the community, city and county economies. Additional information can be found at the Levy County Restore Act website: <http://www.levycounty.org/restoreact.aspx>.

Purpose: The purpose of this project is to dredge and build supporting infrastructure improvements within the Inner Marina.

Objective: The objective of this project is to increase access to the Gulf in the Inner Marina and increase the economic viability of tourism and commercial interests within Levy County.

Milestones: Engineering, design, permitting, construction, dredging.

Project 3: Withlacoochee Gulf Preserve Equipment and Materials

Description: This project is aimed at securing materials and equipment to enhance the visitors' experiences at the Withlacoochee Gulf Preserve (WGP) to facilitate a greater understanding of the importance of implementing conservation management plans to protect the natural resources of the Nature Coast. The 4500 sq. ft. Ellie Schiller Education Center will be equipped with virtual information aids, quality microscope stations to assist researchers and enquiring minds. Field equipment and supplies will be provide to enhance hands-on specimen gathering for visitors and field trip excursions. The WGP will promote their Education Center during their monthly informational programs and their newsletters with over 500 interested followers.

Eligible Activity: Promotion of tourism in the Gulf Coast Region, including recreational fishing

Need: Having proper resources on-site will provide an enhancement of visitors' experiences.

Purpose: The purpose of this project is to provide equipment and materials to the Withlacoochee Gulf Preserve's Ellie Schiller Education Center.

Objective: The objective of this project is to increase tourism of the Withlacoochee Gulf Preserve.

Milestones: Material Acquisition, Material Setup, Promotion of project at monthly informational programs.

Project 4: Lower Withlacoochee Environmental Study

Description: The Lower Withlacoochee River is now on the FDEP Impaired Waters List (303d). Associated degradation has resulted in the reduced biological productivity and adverse economic impact. Withlacoochee Aquatic Restoration (WAR) will be a sub recipient for the subject project study to identify causes of the degradation and potential restoration alternatives. Specifically conducting a 2-year monthly sample analysis for water, sediments, system flow and bathymetric evaluation. The project is complementary to the state's ongoing data collection programs and supports legal obligations to preserve adopted water quality standards of Outstanding Florida Waters. This will accelerate identification of restoration options, which may include remedy of pollution by point and non-point sources and/or reduced system flow. Phases 1 and 2 of three phases have been completed. WAR will complete Phase 3 with the requested funding. This phase includes the determination of remediation/restoration project based on the information gathered in Phases 1 and 2. Expenses for supplemental investigation prompted by Phase 2 data collection, if any, will be minor and funded by WAR.

Eligible Activity: Planning assistance for future restoration projects.

Need: The Lower Withlacoochee River is on the FDEP Impaired Waters List (303d). Associated degradation has resulted in the reduced biological productivity and adverse economic impact.

Purpose: The purpose of this project is to complete a comprehensive analysis of causal factors for diminished biological productivity in the Lower Withlacoochee River through examination of historical data (Phase 1), project data collection (Phase 2) and develop remediation/restoration projects (Phase 3) relevant to findings.

Objective: The objective of this project to identify causes of degradation and develop future restoration projects

Milestones: Sign sub-recipient agreement. Sub-recipient awards contracts. Draft report. Final report. Documentation of success.

Project 5: Clam Trail in Cedar Key and Surrounding Area

Description: This project will consist of large 5-foot tall fiberglass clams (starting at 4) painted and decorated by local artists and will be located along streets, at local businesses, and within county and state parks. Each clam will have a fact plaque that includes important information about the clam's ecological and economic benefit to the coastal communities and waters of Levy County. Visitors to the Clam Trail will be guided by a trail map, which will provide locations of the clams and additional specific location information. People who follow the trail will find "clam clues" and "water wisdom" about shellfish, and how they improve coastal environments. Several approaches of how to follow the trail will be provided in the maps. Fact cards can be collected along the way. Visitors who collect the cards from all clams will be able to redeem a them for a waterproof, plastic container at selected businesses or chambers of commerce. To keep the information current and provide for additional trail maps and fact cards beyond the scope of the proposed project, advertising space could be solicited to offset future costs (design and printing). New clams could be added to the trail through sponsorship. The Cedar Key Aquaculture Association (CKAA) and the University of Florida IFAS Shellfish are in the process of obtaining official property agreements with the City of Cedar Key and Levy County to place the clams on public property.

Eligible Activity: Promotion of tourism in the Gulf Coast Region, including recreational fishing.

Need: The Cedar Key Aquaculture Association (CKAA) and the University of Florida IFAS Shellfish extension specialist have a proven track record in implementing and completing many projects, which have provided education and created awareness of industry to the public.

Purpose: The purpose of this project is to construct 5-foot tall fiberglass clams that will be located along streets, at local businesses, and within county and state parks. Each clam will be decorated by local artists and have a fact plaque that includes important information about the clam's ecological and economic benefit to the coastal communities and waters of Levy County.

Objective: The objective of this project is to produce a fun, educational and public art place where visitors can come and learn about nature, biology and the circle of life, which will promote ecotourism, restaurants and other local businesses.

Milestones: Design, construction, installation.

Project 6: Cedar Key Wastewater Improvements

Description: The Cedar Key Water and Sewer District desires to replace the District's aerial wastewater pipe crossings over Gulf waters that have the potential for contaminating those waters. Specifically, there are wastewater collection pipes attached to Bridges 1, 2 and 3 leading into Cedar Key. This project plans to bury these pipes beneath bridges 1, 2 and 3 with the use of directional drilling to avoid any possibility of the pipes being damaged by storm or collision and spilling wastewater into Cedar Key's pristine Class II waters.

Eligible Activity: Infrastructure projects benefitting the economy or ecological resources, including port infrastructure.

Need: The clam aquaculture and oyster harvesting industries are vitally important to Cedar Key, and both rely on pristine Gulf waters. A wastewater leak into these waters could shut these industries down for indeterminate periods of time, and have potentially devastating impacts on the entire economy of Cedar Key. A leak would also have an indirect, but no doubt substantial impact on recreational fishing and tourism, two other vital industries to Cedar Key's economic wellbeing.

Purpose: The purpose of this project is to upgrade the District's wastewater collection facilities where those facilities are over Gulf waters by burying the wastewater pipelines beneath bridge 1, 2 and 3.

Objective: The objective of this project to avoid any possibility of the pipes being damaged by storm or collision and spilling wastewater into Cedar Key's pristine Class II waters.

Milestones: Engineering, design, permitting, construction.

Project 7: Cedar Key Aquarium at Nature Coast Biological Station

Description: Cedar Key Aquarium proposed to build and operate a moderate scale marine aquarium and environmental education center in Cedar Key. Operation of such a facility would provide long term positive impact for Cedar Key/Levy County through job creation in both the tourism industry and commercial seafood industry. Nature Coast Biological Station is under the umbrella of UF/IFAS and the station will be used by all departments in IFAS, which is the University of Florida Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences which is one of seven colleges at the University and other colleges at UF. The facility would also provide unprecedented opportunities for environmental education specific to our ecosystem. This would be accomplished by targeting two primary groups: 1) Adults and families through paid admission 2) Kindergarten through 12th grade by partnering with existing educational components. All specimen would be taken from and representative of our local marine ecosystem. Plans call for touch tanks and interactive exhibits. Touch tanks would display rays, horseshoe crabs, whelks, fiddlers, etc. This area would also include exhibits depicting and explaining the local commercial seafood industry including clamming, oystering, and crabbing. The research and educational portion of the facility will include an auditorium with audiovisual capabilities and a laboratory. Work to be funded through RESTORE Act

includes base floor retrofits to allow for installation of an aquarium and completion of third floor interior construction to provide meeting and training space for the public. Additional information can be found at the Levy County Restore Act website: <http://www.levycounty.org/restoreact.aspx>.

Eligible Activity: Promotion of tourism in the Gulf Coast Region, including recreational fishing

Need: An aquarium would increase the public's ability to easily view and learn about coastal habitats and marine life, an experience that would normally require logistically challenging field trips. Initial exposure to marine life in an aquarium could lead to increased stewardship of coastal resources by helping the public build a connection with organisms that inhabit our coastal area.

Purpose: The purpose of this project is to build and operate a moderate scale marine aquarium and environmental education center in Cedar Key.

Objective: The objective of this project is to provide long term positive impact for Cedar Key/Levy County through the promotion of tourism. The project would also provide unprecedented opportunities for environmental education specific to our eco system for repeat tourism.

Milestones: Engineering, design, permitting, construction.

Project 8: Outdoor Electronic Touchscreen 24/7 KIOSK

Description: The project consists of a 24/7 electronic touch-screen KIOSK, along with a table, benches, trash and recycling containers that would be located under a covered porch attached to the front of the Withlacoochee-Gulf Area Chamber of Commerce (Chamber) Building. The Chamber will be the subrecipient of the funds and responsible for procurement and maintenance of the KIOSK. The Chamber owns the existing land and will own and operate the KIOSK. Appropriate signage, landscaping, dawn-to-dusk lighting, as well as motion-activated video surveillance camera would also be installed. There will be no sub recipient, but there will be contracted labor. Chamber officers and volunteers would maintain the area and ensure that all information is appropriately updated and the area is kept clean and inviting.

Eligible Activity: Promotion of tourism in the Gulf Coast Region, including recreational fishing.

Need: The Chamber has been working diligently to establish partnerships in the area to promote ecotourism, but has no staff to assist visitors once they arrive.

Purpose: The purpose of this project is to install an outdoor electronic touch-screen KIOSK to provide timely and accurate information to tourists in an easily accessible fashion, encouraging repeat tourism.

Objective: The objective of this project is to promote eco-tourism in the Inglis/Yankeetown/South Levy area.

Milestones: Material acquisition, material installation, setup and activation.

2. How the applicant made the multiyear plan available for 45 days for public review and comment, in a manner calculated to obtain broad-based participation from individuals, businesses, Indian tribes, and non-profit organizations, such as through public meetings, presentations in languages other than English, and postings on the Internet. The applicant will need to submit documentation (e.g., a copy of public notices) to demonstrate that it made its multiyear plan available to the public for at least 45 days. In addition, describe how each activity in the multiyear plan was approved after consideration of all meaningful input from the public and submit documentation (e.g., a letter from the applicant's leadership approving submission of the multiyear plan to Treasury or a resolution approving the applicant's multiyear plan).

Activities with potential eligibility for funding through the multiyear plan were solicited for submittal to the County's Restore Act Committee (RAC). Meetings of the RAC were public and advertised as such. The multiyear plan was made available through the Levy County website from January 8, 2018 to February 21, 2018. Comments were received via email and standard mail with the public comment period advertised throughout the County. Public comments totaled 137 with one comment objecting to the plan. All other comments were in favor of individual projects, the plan generally, and/or editorial in nature. Editorial comments were taken into consideration and incorporated into the report as needed to provide additional clarification. The comment received in opposition to the plan was reviewed and a response was provided to the commenter; however, no changes were made to the plan as a result. Additional information, including notices, meeting minutes, and a history of the RESTORE Act process can be found at the Levy County Restore Act website: <http://www.levycounty.org/restoreact.aspx>.

3. How each activity included in the applicant's multiyear plan matrix meets all the requirements under the RESTORE Act, including a description of how each activity is eligible for funding based on the geographic location of each activity and how each activity qualifies for at least one of the eligible activities under the RESTORE Act.

All eight projects are located within the Gulf Coast Region, meeting the geographic requirements.

Project 1: Project ACE (Ambassadors for Conservation Education)

Implementation of a federally approved marine, coastal, or comprehensive conservation management plan, including fisheries monitoring – By following the Memorandum of Understanding of the Cedar Keys Wildlife Refuge Conservation Plan that governs both Santa Fe College and University of Florida at Seahorse Key that requires both entities to engage the public and provide an increase awareness of the importance of the Gulf of Mexico and the islands.

Project 2: Inner Marina Maintenance Dredging

Infrastructure projects benefitting the economy or ecological resources, including port infrastructure – By dredging and building supporting infrastructure improvements to serve docks and slips within the Inner Marina.

Project 3: Withlacoochee Gulf Preserve Equipment and Materials

Promotion of tourism in the Gulf Coast Region, including recreational fishing – By providing equipment and materials to attract more visitors.

Project 4: Lower Withlacoochee Environmental Study

Planning assistance - By completing a comprehensive analysis of causal factors for diminished biological productivity in the Lower Withlacoochee River through examination of historical data (Phase 1), project data collection (Phase 2) and develop remediation/restoration projects (Phase 3) relevant to findings.

Project 5: Clam Trail in Cedar Key and Surrounding Area

Promotion of tourism in the Gulf Coast Region, including recreational fishing – By promoting the clam's ecological and economic benefit to the coastal communities and waters of Levy County.

Project 6: Cedar Key Wastewater Improvements

Infrastructure projects benefitting the economy or ecological resources, including port infrastructure

– By upgrading the District’s wastewater collection facilities which are over the Gulf waters and have the potential for contaminating those waters.

Project 7: Cedar Key Aquarium at Nature Coast Biological Station

Promotion of tourism in the Gulf Coast Region, including recreational fishing – By the construction of the modern scale marine aquarium and education center.

Project 8: Outdoor Electronic Touchscreen 24/7 KIOSK

Promotion of tourism in the Gulf Coast Region, including recreational fishing - By installing an outdoor electronic touch-screen KIOSK to provide timely and accurate information to tourists in an easily accessible fashion, encouraging repeat tourism.

4. Criteria the applicant will use to evaluate the success of the activities included in the multiyear plan matrix in helping to restore and protect the Gulf Coast Region impacted by the Deepwater Horizon oil spill.

Project 1: Project ACE (Ambassadors for Conservation Education)

The success of this project will be evaluated on the completion of eight open houses benefitting the restoration and protection of the natural resources of the Gulf and the number of tourist visits.

Project 2: Inner Marina Maintenance Dredging

The success of this project will be evaluated based on the 58,350 CY of dredging over the five year project length and percentage of increased use of the Inner Marina.

Project 3: Withlacoochee Gulf Preserve Equipment and Materials

The success of this project will be evaluated based on an increase in tourist visits by five percent per year.

Project 4: Lower Withlacoochee Environmental Study

The success of this project will be evaluated by the creation of a water quality assessment report which addresses solutions to water quality impairments and necessary restoration options to address those issues.

Project 5: Clam Trail in Cedar Key and Surrounding Area

The success of this project will be evaluated based on an increase of 5,000 tourist visits per year.

Project 6: Cedar Key Wastewater Improvements

The success of this project will be evaluated on the completion of 300 feet of pipeline buried for bridge 1, 400 feet for bridge 2 and 400 feet for bridge 3 for a total of 1,100 feet of buried pipeline.

Project 7: Cedar Key Aquarium at Nature Coast Biological Station

The success of this project will be based on an increase of approximately 20,000 tourist visits per year in Cedar Key and Levy County.

Project 8: Outdoor Electronic Touchscreen 24/7 KIOSK

The success of this project will be evaluated based on the continued usage of the kiosk and confirmed by data gathered on each use.

5. How the activities included in the multiyear plan matrix were prioritized and list the criteria used to establish the priorities.

Prioritization was determined based on funding availability and the allotment schedule determined by the Treasury. Based on the projects submitted, the RESTORE Act Committee elected to fund the maximum number of projects with the available amount for each year. Then the remaining projects would receive funding in the following years. Projects were ranked based on a grading criteria by giving a score of 0-5 for each RESTORE Act eligible activity, then totaling this score and ranking appropriately. Projects were solicited through newspaper ads and the county's RESTORE Act website, submitted via an email address through a consultant and were reviewed and ranked by the RESTORE Act Advisory Committee. In order to ensure the Committee was comprised of members with diversified backgrounds, as well as the expertise necessary to perform the responsibilities, one member from the following organizations and institutions were composed:

Board of County Commissioners Chair or Designee - John Meeks
School Board Representative - Chris Cowart
Higher Education Institution (College/University) - Dr. Rayanne Giddis
Aquaculture Representative - Leslie Sturmer
Economic Development Representative - David Pieklik
Tourism Industry Representative - Denny Voyles
Citizen Representative - Jolie Davis
Citizen Representative - Jack Schofield
Citizen Representative - Dr. Richard Streeter

Additional information can be found at the Levy County Restore Act website: <http://www.levycounty.org/restoreact.aspx>.

6. If applicable, describe the amount and current status of funding from other sources (e.g., other RESTORE Act contribution, other third party contribution) and provide a description of the specific portion of the project to be funded by the RESTORE Act Direct Component.

No other funding sources are proposed.



RESTORE ACT Direct Component Multiyear Plan Matrix — Department of the Treasury OMB Approval No. 1505-0250

Applicant Name:		Levy County, Florida							
1. MULTIYEAR PLAN VERSION (INITIAL OR AMENDMENT NUMBER):		Initial	2a. DATE OF INITIAL MULTIYEAR PLAN ACCEPTANCE (mm/dd/yyyy):		N/A	2b. DATE OF LAST MULTIYEAR PLAN ACCEPTANCE:		N/A	
3. CUMULATIVE DIRECT COMPONENT ALLOCATION AVAILABLE FOR DISTRIBUTION TO APPLICANT:			\$892,090.46		4. TOTAL ALLOCATIONS PLUS KNOWN FUNDS NOT YET DEPOSITED IN TRUST FUND FOR DIRECT COMPONENT:			\$3,621,372.59	
5. Primary Direct Component Eligible Activity Further Described in Application (Static Field)	6. Activity Title (Static Field)	7. Location (Static Field)	8. Estimated Total Funding Contributions For Proposed Activity(ies)(refer to Instructions)				9. Proposed Start Date mm/dd/yyyy	10. Proposed End Date mm/dd/yyyy	11. Status (refer to Instructions)
			8a. Direct Component Contribution	8b. Other RESTORE Act Contribution	8c. Other Third Party Contribution	8d. Total Contribution			
Implementation of a federally approved marine, coastal, or comprehensive conservation management plan, including fisheries monitoring	Project ACE (Ambassadors for Education)	Cedar Key & Seahorse Key	\$333,901.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$333,901.00	08-2018	08-2022	
Infrastructure projects benefitting the economy or ecological resources, including port infrastructure	Inner Marina Maintenance Dredging	City of Cedar Key Marina	\$640,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$640,000.00	04-2021	04-2026	
Promotion of tourism in the Gulf Coast Region, including recreational fishing	Withlacoochee Gulf Preserve Research Equipment and Materials	Withlacoochee Gulf Preserve	\$23,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$23,000.00	08-2018	08-2019	
Planning assistance	Lower Withlacoochee River Environmental Study	Lower Withlacoochee River	\$75,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$75,000.00	08-2018	08-2020	
Promotion of tourism in the Gulf Coast Region, including recreational fishing	Clam Trail in Cedar Key & Surrounding Area	Cedar Key, Florida	\$53,500.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$53,500.00	08-2018	08-2023	
Infrastructure projects benefitting the economy or ecological resources, including port infrastructure	Cedar Key Wastewater Improvements	Cedar Key, Florida	\$86,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$86,000.00	08-2018	08-2019	
Promotion of tourism in the Gulf Coast Region, including recreational fishing	Cedar Key Aqarium at Nature Coast Biologicals Station	Cedar Key, Florida	\$300,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$300,000.00	08-2018	08-2020	
Promotion of tourism in the Gulf Coast Region, including recreational fishing	Promoting Eco-Tourism in Levy County via Outdoor Electronic Touchscreen 24/7 Kiosk	Withlacoochee-Gulf Area Chamber of Commerce Inc	\$34,175.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$34,175.00	08-2018	08-2019	

