

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):	Amendment #1
Date of Initial Multiyear Plan Acceptance:	June 30, 2017
Date of Last Multiyear Plan Acceptance:	June 30, 2017

Eligible Applicant Name:	Okaloosa County, Florida
POC Name:	Jane Evans
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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.

Amendment #1 is comprised of Okaloosa County Board of County Commissioner needs: 1) Choctawhatchee Bay Estuary Program; 2) Stormwater Program (Design and Permitting); and 3) Road Stabilization Program. Each program is initially to span five years. Program costs are estimates and project grants will include project oversight costs by the County.

1) Choctawhatchee Bay Estuary Program

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: The funds will be used to develop the Comprehensive Conservation Management Plan (CCMP) necessary to support the Choctawhatchee Bay Estuary Program (CBEP) and identified projects as funds are available. The CBEP is modeled after the National Estuary Program and the development and implementation of a CCMP has proven to be a tried and true method of ensuring the success of all 28 of the existing National Estuary Programs and will be used to ensure the same success for the CBEP. Once the CCMP has been completed then a Workplan will be developed for each project. At which point a Workplan has been developed, for a RESTORE eligible projects, funds will be used for its implementation. In addition, if necessary, a portion of the funds may be used for salaries of the estuary program staff who are tasked with implementing the approved CCMP.

NEED: Choctawhatchee Bay is a critically important estuary to the economy, community, and way of life of Okaloosa County and neighboring counties as well. It provides fish and wildlife resources, including seagrass habitat, which supports numerous fish and invertebrate species. In addition, it is a popular place for recreational activities and tourism. Choctawhatchee Bay and several of its adjacent beaches are listed as impaired for nutrients and/or bacteria by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection under section 303(d) of the Federal Clean Water Act. These impairments negatively impact the health of the Bay's seagrasses and limit its recreational value.

PURPOSE: The purpose of this project is to improve the waters, habitats, living resources and economy of the Choctawhatchee Bay watershed. The CCMP will develop specific actions to implement key provisions of the Clean Water Act; namely, in this case, to restore and maintain the water quality and ecological integrity of the Choctawhatchee Bay Estuary. Additionally, the CCMP will advance Goal 2 of the Environmental Protection Agency's Strategic Plan for FY 2014-2018, Protecting America's Waters, but will also contribute to the EPA's goals for Cross-Agency Strategies and its Core Values of science, transparency and Rule of Law.

OBJECTIVES: This request is to fund the following activities in approximately the first two years:

- 1) Work with the Choctawhatchee Bay Estuary Coalition (CBEC) Policy Board and Board of Directors to draft a Request for Proposals for the development of the CCMP.
- 2) Present draft RFP at a public workshop and consider public input on the final version of the RFP.
- 3) Work with Okaloosa County Purchasing Department to advertise the RFP.
- 4) Develop selection criteria and selection panel.
- 5) Hire consultant to develop the CCMP.
- 6) Public workshops to evaluate stakeholders' response to draft CCMP.
- 7) Adoption of CCMP by members of the CBEC.

And activities following this adoption during the remaining five year span:

- 8) Based on a Workplan of a RESTORE eligible project contained in the CCMP, implement that project.

MILESTONES: Adoption of CCMP by CBEC; Completion of a project Workplan; Implementation of a project. Milestone 2 and 3 would be repeated by RESTORE eligible project until allocated RESTORE Direct Component funds are exhausted.

LOCATION: See Choctawhatchee Bay Estuary Program Area and Conservation Lands map.

2) Stormwater Program (Design and Permitting)

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: The funds will be used for design and permitting of Stormwater improvement projects in Okaloosa County for as many listed as the funding allows. In November, 2018 Okaloosa County voters approved a half cent sales tax for infrastructure improvements. The improvements include \$23 Million for construction of Stormwater improvements over the next 10 years. While collection of sales tax funds will begin in January 2019, actual dollars for construction funding are scheduled several years in the future. In addition, Gulf Consortium Spill Component Funds for Coastal Stormwater Retrofit Program have been approved in the State Expenditure Plan; however, those funds are scheduled to be available in 2020 – 2023. The Okaloosa County Direct Component funds will be used for design and permitting of these improvements.

NEED: The stormwater management system in parts of Okaloosa County is old and pre-dates current Stormwater management design guidelines and regulations enforced by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) and the Northwest Florida Water Management District (NFWFMD).

PURPOSE: The purpose of this program is to design the new construction or rehabilitation of stormwater treatment facilities. These designs will then be used in the execution of projects under separate funding.

OBJECTIVES: This request is to fund the contractual services (consultants) to provide plans and specifications for bidding, along with necessary permitting, for the following projects, for as many of these as the funding allows:

- 1) Bayshore Area
- 2) Beachview Drive
- 3) Echo Circle Area
- 4) Griffith Mill Road
- 5) Indian Lakes Area
- 6) Lancaster Drive
- 7) Lloyd St. / Mayflower Area
- 8) Mooney Road
- 9) Northridge Area
- 10) Overbrook Area
- 11) Santa Rosa Blvd.
- 12) South Avenue
- 13) Union Avenue
- 14) West 98 Area
- 15) Willow Bend/Green Acres Area

MILESTONES: Provide Design for Stormwater project; obtain necessary permits for Stormwater project. Milestones 1 and 2 will be repeated by project until allocated RESTORE Direct Component funds are exhausted.

LOCATION: See Stormwater Program map. In addition, an Interactive Web Page has been set up to map and describe the locations of the stormwater projects. See the link below:

<http://gis.myokaloosa.com/salestax/storymap.html?appid=d24d666fb9a147a5a75aa63fb9d66aeb>

3) Road Stabilization Program

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: The funds will be used toward a Road Stabilization program to convert dirt roads to paved for as many listed as the funding allows. This project includes paving 3 miles from the approximately 15.87 miles of road paving candidates in Okaloosa County Districts 1 and 3. Unpaved road crossings were identified as impaired primarily due to existing or potential for sedimentation resulting from undersized and improperly positioned culverts and bare soils, ditches and outlets.

The majority of the roads included in this project are located in Blackwater and Yellow River and will eventually deposit into Blackwater Bay. The County has identified these roads not only based on proximity to water bodies but also based on strategic planning related to mobilization of County maintenance vehicles and crews. This project list will substantially reduce the number of roads in need of paving, thus allowing the dirt road crews and maintenance vehicles to be deployed in other areas of the County. The proposed paving in District One and District Three has been identified by Northwest Florida Water Management District as a potential contributor of sediment in the runoff to Yellow River, Blackwater, Shoal River, and Blackwater Bay and is currently Okaloosa County's top priority in paving.

The Yellow River is a large, soft water river, which flows through Alabama and Florida into Pensacola Bay and the Gulf of Mexico. Historically considered a relatively undisturbed system, the Yellow River is increasingly impacted by human population growth and development. Excessive sedimentation resulting from bank instability and unpaved road crossings is believed to be the primary factor causing degradation and imperilment of river habitat and biological communities in the basin. Impaired river corridor and unpaved road sites were often clustered near each other, affected by a common feature such as a single unpaved road, and were at or near priority ecological resources and designations throughout the basin.

NEED: Sediment from most of these roads runs off into Yellow River Watershed, Blackwater Watershed, Shoal River, and Blackwater Bay, and has a detrimental effect on water quality, marine life, and sea grasses. Soil particles are loosened and carried away from the road by water, wind, traffic, or other transport means. Eroded soil that ends up in streams and rivers can reduce channel capacity, causing more frequent and severe flooding, destroy aquatic and riparian habitat, and adversely affect water quality. Suspend sediment can irritate the gills of fish, smother fish spawning and feeding grounds, reduce desirable shoreline, cause algal blooms, reduce levels of dissolved oxygen and diminish recreational and aesthetic values of the water body.

PURPOSE: The purpose of this project is to pave identified dirt roads that contribute to runoff into Yellow River Watershed, Blackwater Watershed, Shoal River, and Blackwater Bay, for as many listed as the funding allows.

OBJECTIVES: The objective of this project is to reduce the sediment erosion into Yellow River and Blackwater Watershed through strategic road paving. The dirt roads will be paved to normal county paving standards. These standards include: the installation of erosion control and other BPM's necessary for specific roadways or roadway segments; the repair, replacement, or extensions of culverts, headwalls, and other drainage and utility related features; the compaction of six inches (6') of base material graded aggregate. The installation and compaction of asphalt that meets or exceeds the specifications of Section 300 of the latest edition of the Florida Department of Transportation Standard Specifications For Road and Bridge Construction, asphalt will have a compacted thickness of not less than one and a half inches (1.5"), the total width of the asphalt is typically twenty to twenty- two feet (20 -22') but may vary depending on specific site conditions or limiting factors; the grading of roadway shoulders and roadside ditches and swales for proper drainage, installation of all necessary roadway signage and stripping, and the stabilization of all disturbed areas with sod, seeding and mulching, or other means as necessary.

MILESTONES: Provide Final Design; obtain necessary Permits; Advertise and award bid; and Construction. Milestones 1, 2, 3 and 4 will be repeated by project until allocated RESTORE Direct Component funds are exhausted. All roadways in this program do not have adequate right-of-way. It is anticipated that some roadways will not reach final design if residents are not willing to negotiate the right-of-way necessary for construction. Proof of ownership will be provided with each application.

LOCATION: See Road Stabilization Program map.

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).

The Amendment was approved to proceed to the 45-day Public Review and Comment period (February 21 to April 7, 2019) by the Board of County Commissioners on February 19, 2019, during their normal Board Meeting. The review period was advertised on February 25, 2019, in the Northwest Florida Daily News, and posted on the RESTORE Act page of the Okaloosa County website. The narrative, matrix and maps were posted for the entire review period. The comments were directed to be submitted to the Grants & RESTORE Manager email.

There were no comments submitted by email to jevans@myokaloosa.com nor by any other means; therefore, there are no comments to address.

Amendment #1 was approved by the Board of County Commissioners on April 16, 2019 to be submitted to the United States Department of the Treasury for acceptance.

3. How each activity included in the applicant's multiyear plan narrative 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.

Choctawhatchee Bay Estuary Program: This activity, through the development and adoption of the CCMP then the development of a project Workplan and implementation of a RESTORE eligible project is restoration and protection of the natural resources, ecosystems, fisheries, marine and wildlife habitats, beaches and coastal wetlands of the Gulf Coast Region and is therefore an eligible activity under the RESTORE Act. The entire state of Florida is included within the coastal zone therefore this activity is eligible for RESTORE Act funding with respect to geographic location as the CCMP will address issues in the Choctawhatchee Bay Estuary in the Florida Counties of Walton & Okaloosa, both of which are eligible for RESTORE Act funding.

Stormwater Program (Design and Permitting): This activity is for planning assistance on the design and permitting for stormwater improvements and is therefore an eligible activity under the RESTORE Act. All stormwater projects will replace or enhance infrastructure that benefits the economy with construction jobs and benefits ecological resources. The projects designed are located within Okaloosa County.

Road Stabilization Program: This activity is for infrastructure projects benefitting the economy or ecological resources, including port infrastructure and is therefore an eligible activity under the RESTORE Act. The projects in the program are located within Okaloosa County.

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

Choctawhatchee Bay Estuary Program: Success for this activity will be the completion of the stakeholder and community approved Comprehensive Conservation Management Plan as a road map for the Choctawhatchee Bay Estuary Program's future projects designed to restore and maintain the water quality and ecological integrity of the Choctawhatchee Bay Estuary.

Stormwater Program (Design and Permitting): Success of this activity will be the acceptance of plans and specifications for stormwater projects and the any related permitting.

Road Stabilization Program: Success for this activity will be a completed project which reduces sedimentation in the surrounding watershed.

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

After an extended period of accessing the County's priorities, the Board of County Commissioners at their September 17, 2017, Board Meeting made a motion to request funding for these programs.

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.

While not a matching portion of this amendment, the following are additional sources of funds for the three programs:

Choctawhatchee Bay Estuary Program is an approved project on the State Expenditure Plan and will receive Spill Impact Component funds through The Gulf Consortium, Inc. Okaloosa County is actively pursuing federal, state and private funding for this program. These other funding sources will not be combined with Direct Component funding. Any funding for the CBEP provided by Spill Impact Component funds or any other source will be distinct, separate, and complimentary projects to those funded by the Direct Component.

Stormwater Program (Design and Permitting): The Coastal Stormwater Retrofit Program is an approved project on the State Expenditure Plan and will receive Spill Impact Component funds through The Gulf Consortium, Inc. In addition, stormwater projects will be funded by the Okaloosa County Half-Cent Sales Sur Tax. No third party funds will be used for the (Design and Permitting) phase of the Stormwater Program projects that are funded by Direct Component.

Road Stabilization Program: There are no other funds in Okaloosa County set aside for this program; however, an Okaloosa County Commissioner is a member of the Pensacola and Perdido Bay Estuary Program Policy Board. Funds from that Estuary Program may be dedicated to Okaloosa County projects which affect that watershed. No third party funds will be used for road stabilization projects that are funded by Direct Component.